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# Young Adults, contact your Lodge secretary to participate in the 2024 Young Adult Conference

by COURTNEY KOENIG  
 Fraternal Director

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — This year's SNPJ Young Adult Conference (YAC) is scheduled the weekend of June 14-16 at the SNPJ Recreation Center. The Young Adult Conference is a weekend long program designed for 18- to 30-year-old SNPJ members to learn about membership benefits, and to voice their ideas, opinions and concerns regarding the Society. It is also an opportunity to participate in a volunteer project.

YAC delegates are elected by their Lodges; those interested in attending the conference should contact their Lodge secretary. Delegates are elected during a meeting of their Lodge, and the 2024 YAC delegate election deadline is just around the corner.

The Society pays for delegate transportation, lodging and meals throughout the weekend. The 2024 conference will include a community service project; a brief meeting is also scheduled. The chairperson for this year's conference is

Daniella Volpe (158).

Conference eligibility is based on birthdate. All Young Adult Conference delegates and surrogate delegates must have reached their 18th birthday by June 14, 2024, and can be no older than 30 as of June 16, 2024. Delegates and surrogates must be active SNPJ members with a life insurance or annuity policy currently in force or paid-up with the SNPJ.

SEE YAC 2024  
 ON PAGE 4

## briefly

### Home Office closed as we celebrate the New Year

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — The SNPJ Home Office will be closed Monday, Jan. 1, 2024, in celebration of the New Year. Regular office hours, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., will resume Tuesday, Jan. 2. We wish all SNPJ members and friends the very best in the new year!

### Lodge 776 opening 2024 with a Jan. 14 meeting

**BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.** — Lodge 776 members will hold their first meeting of 2024 on Sunday, Jan. 14, at the SNPJ Recreation Center starting at 2 p.m. All Lodge members are invited and encouraged to attend.

**RICH DOMBROSKY**  
 Lodge 776 Recording Secretary

### Policy owners, register for the new SNPJ Portal

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

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

We hope you enjoy your new SNPJ Portal experience!

PERIODICAL MATERIAL

## THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are Feb. 1 and March 1. All material must be received by noon on Monday, Jan. 15, for the Feb. 1 issue, and by Monday, Feb. 19, for the March 1 issue. If you're concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to [prosveta@snpj.com](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com) or submit your material via the publications area of our website, [snpj.org](http://snpj.org).



**Mia M. Brately**  
 Born June 27, 2023  
 Euclid, Ohio, Lodge 158

The members of SNPJ Loyalties Lodge 158 welcome Mia Michele Brately as the newest addition to the Lodge. Mia is the daughter of Mike and Ashley (Russ) Brately (158); granddaughter of Bob and the late Karen (Kovach) Russ (158), and Ken and Peggy Brately; and great-granddaughter of Millie (158) and the late Don Kovach (158), and the late Ray and Delia Russ (158). We welcome Mia to the Society and extend our best wishes to her entire family.



follow SNPJ on  
**Facebook!**

## And the winner is...

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

**Roberta Kurta**, Lodge 715, Universal, Pa.

Congratulations, and thank you for participating!



# Sygan Lodge 6, Strabane Lodge 138 host the 2024 Winter Classic in Feb.

by COURTNEY KOENIG  
 Fraternal Director

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — It's that time of year again for some friendly competition as Sygan Lodge 6 and Strabane Lodge 138 co-host the 2024 SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament.

The tournament will be rolled the weekend of Feb. 16-18. Men will bowl doubles and singles

Friday evening and Saturday at Sygan Lodge 6, while the women will bowl doubles and singles Saturday at Strabane Lodge 138. On Sunday, the men will bowl their team event at Strabane Lodge 138 and the women will bowl their team event at Sygan Lodge 6.

SEE 2024 WINTER CLASSIC  
 ON PAGE 2

# The Society mourns the passing of former Region 8 Vice President Bro. Jacob Chesnic

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH  
 SNPJ National President/CEO

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — The Slovene National Benefit Society sadly announces the Nov. 1, 2023, passing of former Region 8 Vice President and former SNPJ Lodge 723 President Bro. Jacob R. "Jake" Chesnic, 100, at Trailpoint Village, South Bend, Ind. He was an 82-year SNPJ member.

Bro. Chesnic was born May 30, 1923, in Osage, W. Va., a son of the late Jacob and Matilda (Zupon) Chesnic. He spent his childhood and teen years in Strabane, Pa., then resided in Euclid, Ohio, following his service in WWII. He had been a resident in South Bend since 2005, moving from Menifee, Calif.

After graduating from the former Chartiers Twp. High School in 1939, Jake enlisted in the U.S. Navy. A WWII veteran, he served with the 77th Naval Construction Battalion (the Navy Seabees) from 1942-1946 in the Solomon Islands, New Hebrides, Australia, and the Phil-

ippine Islands.

Jake married Elfie Kapel on Sept. 20, 1947, and together they raised their family of three sons and a daughter. He retired in 1983 from Lincoln Electric Company in Cleveland, where he was employed as a tool and die maker for 30 years.

Jake was enrolled in the SNPJ as a juvenile member of Strabane Lodge 138 in 1925. Following his move to Cleveland at the conclusion of WWII, he became a member of SNPJ Lodge 142, then transferred to SNPJ Lodge 158 in Euclid. He was also a member of the Euclid Veteran's Club.

After retiring, he and Elfie moved to Menifee, Calif., in 1984, transferring their SNPJ memberships to Lodge 723 in Fontana, Calif., and becoming active members of the former Fontana Slovene Hall.

SEE Bro. JACOB CHESNIC  
 ON PAGE 6



**Bro. JACOB CHESNIC (723)**  
 • 1923 – 2023 •





# PROSVETA

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# Gostilna Chef Dinner on the Heritage Center schedule in Feb.

by KATHY PAULENICH (776)  
SNPJ Heritage Center Director

**BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.**—Happy New Year to all! SNPJ Heritage Center Committee members extend happy, healthy wishes for 2024 to everyone in SNPJland. We hope you're looking forward to participating in the many events that SNPJ offers this year.

The first event to mark on your calendar is the return of the Gostilna Chef Dinner. The dinner is planned Thursday, Feb. 29, at the newly remodeled and updated SNPJ Lodge 106 Hall, 255 W. Allegheny Rd. in Imperial, Pa.

The doors will open at 6 p.m.; attendees will be welcomed by button box music performed by Darryl Valencic, Frank Valencic and David

Pendel. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. for a cost of \$75. Jure Žmauc, chairman of the Slovene American Business Association (SABA), will bring the chef from Slovenia to prepare the meal.

The chef for this dinner will be Boštjan Volk, a young chef who is the recipient of the 2023 European Young Chef Award (EYCA). His mentor, professor and chef Mojca Polak, will accompany him. This will be a very enjoyable evening that you don't want to miss!

Slovenian wine on each table is included in the price of the meal. We'll conclude the evening with more Slovenian music by our guest button box performers.

Pittsburgh-area Heritage Center

Committee members Tracey Belle, Joan Gaspersic, Mary Jo Hartman, Kristina Lickert and Sue Mals have met with Joe Evanish and Hannah Chauvet, the manager at the Imperial Hall, to plan the dinner and divvy up the responsibilities. Kristina Hartman Lickert will be taking the reservations. You can e-mail [khartmanlickert@gmail.com](mailto:khartmanlickert@gmail.com) or call/text (412) 862-0413.

Another event to mark on your calendar is Heritage Center Weekend, June 7-9 at the SNPJ Recreation Center. We kick off the weekend with music in the Gostilna featuring Patty C and the Guys from 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday is a busy day with a balina tournament in the morning, a paint-and-sip activity in the late afternoon, and bingo in the evening. The annual

picnic is scheduled Sunday afternoon featuring the Western Pa. Button Box Club alternating with a band to be announced.

We're still in the planning stages for this event, and there are a few more activities that are being considered. I'll keep you updated on this event as we proceed into 2024.

As information for those curious about Kurentovanje in Cleveland, the main festival and parade will be held Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the St. Clair Slovenian Home. It's a great event!

And for you snowbirds in Florida, don't miss Florida SNPJ Days at the SNPJ Lodge 603 Hall in Samsula on Friday, Feb. 23, and Saturday, Feb. 24, with music by Frank Moravcik.

# Lodge 786 extends appreciation to former president during annual holiday celebration

by TERESA KOCI  
Lodge 786 Secretary/Treasurer

**ORANGE COUNTY, Calif.**—Christmas cheer came early this year, on Dec. 3, for Orange County Lodge 786 members and guests.

The tables and appetizers were set before everyone arrived, and polka tunes – performed by talented accordianists Stan Blout, Eddie Rodick and Ken Dowling – and Christmas carols soon filled the air. Our very own Fred Mlakar got a few squeezes with his bellows while also attending to his presidential duties of the day.

Lodge members conducted a brief meeting with elections, and ended on a high note of celebrating Arnold Koci and his 60 years of SNPJ membership. In addition, Arnie was honored for his 25 years as president of the former Los Angeles Lodge 615, and another 20 years as president of the now-thriving Orange County Lodge 786. That's a total of 45 years of presidential service to the SNPJ local Lodges, not to mention he was one of the founding members of the Orange County Lodge.

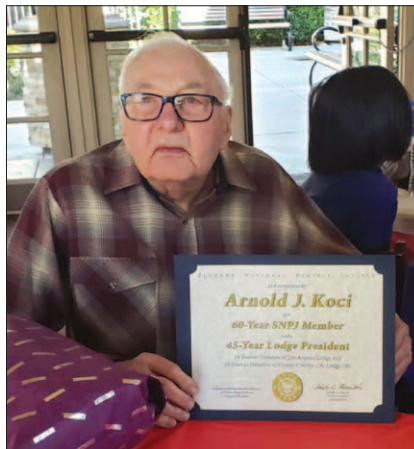
Arnold and his wife, Jean, have been strongholds of leadership within the Southern California Slovene community, and we deeply appreciate their lifelong efforts. Congratulations – we are all eternally grateful, Arnie!

The Christmas party continued with the arrival of Santa, bearing gifts for youth members and guests in attendance. Before Santa (John Govednik) arrived, he memorized every youth's interests and brought them to light, personalizing each gift presentation with humor and animation.

Santa Govednik made a great impression not only on the young kids, but with the teenagers as well, which isn't a small task. It was a wonder so many cameras were on Santa, who stole the show and rightly so. Thank you, Santa!

Save the date: Lodge 786 will hold a social 2024 planning meeting at the home of Ken and Teresa Koci, 14 Dion in Laguna Niguel, on Sunday, Jan. 21, starting at noon. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share; the main dish and beverages will be provided.

Everyone is welcome to attend! An RSVP is helpful to Teresa via e-mail to [teresamkoci@gmail.com](mailto:teresamkoci@gmail.com) or a call/text to (949) 246-1983.



**ARNOLD KOCI** was recognized as a 60-year SNPJ member, and honored for 25 years of service as president of the former Los Angeles Lodge 615 and 20 years of service as president of Orange County Lodge 786.



Santa (John Govednik) with Youth Circle 104 members [from left] **ANNIKA, ISIAH** and **EVANDER LAWSON**.



Accordianists [from left] Ken Dowling, Eddie Rodick, Stan Blout and Fred Mlakar performed during the Orange County Lodge 786 Christmas party held Dec. 3.



While attending the Loyalites Lodge 158 Christmas party, **JOEY O'BOYLE** (158) had the opportunity to hold Jungle Terry's dove, Ivory.

# Loyalites Lodge looking forward to the year ahead

by DANIELLA VOLPE  
Lodge 158 Treasurer

**EUCLID, Ohio**—Happy New Year from Loyalites Lodge 158! We hope you had a very merry Christmas and wish you all the best in 2024. As you start on that list of New Year's resolutions, be sure to make room for all of your favorite SNPJ activities. Before we talk about those, however, we need to talk about the end of the year.

First off, we have some belated birthdays to celebrate: Rory Maynard on Dec. 2, and our very own Lodge Secretary Jan Srdel on Christmas Day. Sorry we missed you in the last issue, but we hope you had great days spent with family and friends.

We want to say a huge "thank you" to everyone in attendance at our annual Christmas party. We hope you all had a great time with Old St. Nick and Jungle Terry with all of his little critter friends.

If you want to keep up with the Loyalites, follow us on Facebook as well as on our website, and as always you can find information every month right here in PROSVETA.

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

# SNPJ bowlers head to Lodges 6, 138 for the Winter Classic Tournament

**2024 WINTER CLASSIC**  
FROM PAGE 1

The SNPJ Winter Classic is open to all SNPJ members. You can find the entry form on page 8 of this issue or on the SNPJ website, [snpj.org](http://snpj.org), under the

athletic tournaments section. So grab a doubles partner, form a four-man team, and get those entries in! Just a short eight-mile car ride separates these two active SNPJ Lodges, and we're looking forward to a weekend

full of fun, fraternalism and friendly competition.

Be sure to stop by Sygan Lodge 6 on Friday evening for entertainment by Cool Change from 7 to 10:30 p.m. On Saturday, the fun continues at

Strabane Lodge 138 with entertainment provided by Veseli Fantje from 7 to 11 p.m. Food will be available for purchase at both Lodges throughout the weekend. All SNPJ bowlers are invited and encouraged to participate!

## Have something for Up-and-Coming?

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

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

Site \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Complete and return to:  
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# Up-and-Coming...

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

- JAN. 1 .....Happy New Year's Day dance hosted by the Westmoreland County Federation of SNPJ Lodges at the Yukon Slovenian Hall, Yukon, Pa.; 2-5 p.m. Music by the Skovenski Band. For additional information contact Lois Denning at (412) 554-7404.
- JAN. 2, JAN. 16 & JAN. 30 .....Bingo at Sygan SNPJ Lodge 6 in the Sunshine Room. The doors open at 6 p.m.; games start at 7. Packs of 10 games sold prior to play for \$10; special cards sold individually.
- FEB. 13 .....Bingo at Sygan SNPJ Lodge 6 in the Sunshine Room. The doors open at 6 p.m.; games start at 7. Packs of 10 games sold prior to play for \$10; special cards sold individually.
- FEB. 16-18 ....SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament co-hosted by Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 and Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138. Entertainment is scheduled at both Lodge halls throughout the weekend.
- FEB. 27 .....Bingo at Sygan SNPJ Lodge 6 in the Sunshine Room. The doors open at 6 p.m.; games start at 7. Packs of 10 games sold prior to play for \$10; special cards sold individually.
- MAY 25 .....CAL Don Gorjup Golf Open at Rolling Green Golf Club, Huntsburg, Ohio. For details contact Rick Gorjup at (440) 354-5001.
- JUNE 14-16 ... SNPJ Young Adult Conference at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For registration and event details contact Fraternal Director Courtney Koenig at 1-800-843-7675 ext. 144, or e-mail [ckoenig@snpj.com](mailto:ckoenig@snpj.com).
- JULY 12-14 ..... The 41st Slovenefest and the 66th Miss SNPJ Pageant at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For additional information phone the Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.



# We've Got You COVERED



by GINA WISE  
SNPJ Marketing Manager

## How to be a hero

I recently met an old friend for dinner. We have been friends since elementary school, but we don't get to see each other as much as we'd like. We caught up and reminisced.

We talked about our careers, our families, our hobbies, and our plans for the future. We also talked a lot about getting older. We both agreed that it wasn't easy to deal with the changes that come with aging. But what we weren't prepared for *the most* was having to watch our parents decline physically and mentally.

My friend shared that her stepfather is suffering from dementia. She told me it's heartbreaking to see him forget things and lose his independence, as her mom is trying to come to grips with his diagnosis and care for him while suffering from her own advanced COPD.

I told my friend that I understood how she felt. For as long as I can remember, my dad has *always* been the first one to jump in and help anyone with anything they needed. Need to remodel a house? Dad (with hammer in hand) to the rescue! Need a ride to the doctor, church, or the grocery store? Dad (in a gassed-up car) to the rescue! Need a babysitter? Dad (with stepmom in tow *[wink]*) to the rescue!

Because of how much he does for his family and his community, my stepsisters and I often refer to him as "Superman." When we held his 75th birthday party, I photoshopped a picture of my dad's head on Superman's body and had the bakery put it on his cake. Everyone at the party commented on what an appropriate picture it was!

While he's still the first to offer help, dad must be more selective about the projects he takes on now. It's too easy now to take on more than he can handle. He is quicker to tire and needs more assistance these days. After decades of being the hero to everyone around him, we're now looking out for him, his safety, and his well-being.

I am aware enough to realize that dad sees all these same changes. During a visit to his house this past spring, he felt compelled to show one of my stepsisters and me where the important papers and passwords were, just in case. As he flipped through the folders in his cabinet, he said, "We have pre-paid some of our funeral expenses, and we both have small life insurance policies to cover the remainder."

My stepsister and I glanced at each other, both sets of eyes starting to well: tears for the eventual reality coming our way, and grateful tears that he had planned ahead. Despite any current ailments and advanced age, he was still taking care of us. Superman wanted to be certain that his kids didn't have to bear the cost of his or my stepmom's funeral. It was a valuable lesson.

To be a hero, you don't need to be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, be faster than a speeding bullet, or more powerful than a locomotive. If you want to be a hero, speak with your local SNPJ agent or call the SNPJ Home Office at 1-800-843-7675 to learn more about our life insurance plans and the benefits they provide.

Your loved ones won't need to have a hard conversation after you are gone about where the funds to cover your final expenses will come from. Your loved ones won't need to set up a GoFundMe page and pray they get enough to cover your final expenses. Your loved ones will consider your life insurance policy Superman's (or Superwoman's) final gift to them.

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



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## Digital info points now stretch across Slovenia

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — As of mid-November, a total of 222 digital information points are available across Slovenia, at least one in each of the country's 212 municipalities. A joint project of the Ministry for Digital Transformation and the Chamber of Craft and Small Business (OZS), the information points serve to improve digital literacy by providing support for digital services offered in Slovenia.

Following the launch of the first 62 digital information points in October, the remaining 160 opened just a month later. Most points are located at highly-frequented public spots and are wheelchair accessible. Each municipality has at least one digital information point; the city municipalities of Ljubljana, Maribor, Kranj, Koper and Celje have several.

At every information point, trained professionals provide advice and practical help to visitors who require assistance with the use of electronic ID cards, e-services (such as e-Administration and e-Taxes) and e-signatures. Assistance is also provided regarding cybersecurity, as well as the use of Slovenia's public administration and public pension websites.

The information points are open five days a week. Service is also planned for Italian and Hungarian speakers in bilingual areas.

## Slovenia's oldest library opens to the public

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — In late November, the library at the Franciscan Monastery in Ljubljana's Prešeren Square opened to the public 790 years after this institution, the longest continuously operating library in Slovenia, was first established. A new museum was also launched to showcase some of the library's rare items.

The Franciscan Library boasts approximately 70,000 units, and according to library custodian, guardian and museum curator Jan Dominik Bogataj, it is the largest among the monastic and private libraries in Slovenia. It features as many as 20,000 older, antiquarian units; a collection of approximately 150 medieval documents, the oldest of which dates from 1265; and approximately 117 incunabula [early printed books].

Among the library's treasures, Bogataj highlighted an edition of Jurij Dalmatin's (1547-1589) Slovenian translation of the Bible signed by Slovenian protestant reformer Primož Trubar (1508-1586), along with the first copy of "The Baptism on the Savica" (Krst pri Savici), the epic-lyric poem written by France Prešeren, which includes a dedication by the author.

The new museum consists of two units: a treasury, which houses the most valuable items and books, and a gallery, where the most characteristic works of art from the 16th to the 20th centuries are on display.

Marjan Čuden, the superior of the Slovenian Franciscan Province, pointed out that the library kept not only theological books, but books on crafts, medicine and other sciences as well in order to serve the people.

The opening ceremonies included an address from Slovenian President Nataša Pirc Musar, who said that the opening marked a new chapter in the long history of the Franciscan Library. Noting the symbolic value of the event, not least because the Slovenian language appeared for the first time in written form in religious texts, President Pirc Musar highlighted the openness of the Franciscans, which allowed contact with other languages and countries, as evidenced by the numerous documents and books housed in the library.

Pirc Musar described the Slovenian Catholic Church "as one of the most important guardians and custodians of Slovenia's cultural heritage."

## Improved conditions along the Drava River

**MARIBOR (STA)** — As part of a four-year project, a number of measures designed to preserve the environment and improve the quality of life along the Drava River in northeastern Slovenia were recently completed. The Drava-Natura 2000 project resulted in riverbanks being cleaned up, grasslands improved, and interpretation centers opened.

The EUR 6.2 million (\$6.74 million) project, which covered the area between Limbuš (near Maribor) and Središče



ob Dravi on the border with Croatia, was launched in December 2019 in an effort to preserve nature and enhance the quality of the environment for endangered animals and plant species, and for humans as well.

As explained by a representative from the Podravje-Maribor Regional Development Agency, which coordinated the project, "The Drava is the most important river in the Podravje region and has a big impact on the lives of everything living here – plants, animals and people."

However, the measures aimed at plants and animals also benefit the local residents by contributing to flood prevention, agriculture, tourism and education.

As part of the project, six hectares (roughly 15 acres) of dry meadows were restored and 38 hectares (94 acres) of land "given" back to nature. A channel was deepened, ponds were created for amphibians, and a passage was created between the Drava and its tributaries. In addition, two educational trails, three interpretation centers and two open-air educational areas were opened, and a short animated film was produced about the project.

## Aquaponics greenhouse operating in Lendava

**LENDAVA (STA)** — An aquaponics greenhouse that is expected to produce 9,000 heads of lettuce per month and raise five to six tons of fish annually was launched in mid-November by the Hungarian minority in Slovenia near Lendava, in the far northeast of the country. The greenhouse is a part of a 29-hectare (roughly 72-acre) model farm located in the village of Banuta.

"This is [not only] one of the first examples in Slovenia, but also in Europe," said Jože Meh, who initiated the project. The facility does not operate fully yet; the team is awaiting the arrival of state-of-the-art vertical plant cultivation equipment from Malaysia, which is due to arrive soon, according to Meh.

Given the climate conditions, excessive use of pesticides and imports from other countries, Meh believes that aquaponics is one of the solutions to improve both self-sufficiency and dietary needs by adding more fish and vegetables. "No pesticides, artificial fertilizers or chemicals will be used in the new greenhouse," he said.

Aquaponics is a sustainable method of food production, combining fish farming and vegetable growing by converting ammonia from the fish into nitrates for plant fertilization via an organic filter. "Plants use up the nitrates and filter the water which is then returned to the fish tank through a circulatory system. The water circulates constantly throughout the entire process, which means the greenhouse uses up to 95 percent less water than other systems," Meh explained.

While quite widespread in America and Australia, aquaponics is in its early stages in Europe. Meh is convinced that this and other similar projects will pave the way for wider use of such systems.

## Slovenia's Triglav glacier split and thinning

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — Measurements taken at the end of September show that the glacier below Triglav, Slovenia's highest mountain, has split into two parts over the past year and has also shrunk and thinned, with the imminent threat of the glacier disappearing. The glacier under the Skuta peak, the third-highest peak in the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, is in better shape.

"Geographers who conducted the latest measurements of the only two remaining glaciers in Slovenia were surprised by the results," Miha Pavšek from the Anton Melik Institute of Geography told the press.

Pavšek, who headed the measurement team, noted that the Triglav glacier has split into two parts and the separate patches of melting ice are covered with gravel, so the ice is practically invisible. Combined, the two ice patches measured less than 0.2 hectares (less than a half acre), which is the smallest area recorded to date. Pavšek assessed with certainty that the current generation will be one of the last to see the remains of the glacier in person.

Measurements of the glacier below Mt. Skuta show better results: the area

has remained the same as last year, 1.2 hectares (roughly three acres). "Unlike the Triglav glacier, I dare say that [the Mt. Skuta glacier] will persist for at least a few more years," Pavšek said; adding, however, that these were only the last remains or patches which he actually labeled "chunks of ice."

He noted that where geographers measured more than five meters (16.4 feet) of ice on the Triglav glacier last year, this year they found only rocks, which speaks further of the glacier's current state. The snow and temperature conditions for the glacier were not favorable in 2023: The average air temperature at Kredarica below Triglav in September and October was four degrees Celsius higher than the long-term average.

Pavšek also said that the 2023 melting season was the warmest in the last 68 years, and about the same as in 2022. For the first time since 1955, two consecutive record-warm melting seasons have been recorded at Kredarica.

The glacier measurements taken in 2022 were more extensive as georadar measurements were also performed to obtain data on the thickness and volume of the glaciers. A large number of ice, old snow and glacier water samples were also taken.

Analyses showed that the Triglav glacier ice was around 300 years old at its deepest point, while the dating of the crust under the glacier indicated that the glacier was present some 13,000 to 23,000 years ago. "The question remains whether the glacier has persisted continuously since then or only since the Little Ice Age, which took place from the mid-15th to the end of the 19th century," Pavšek said.

## Slovenian Wine Festival included a digital tasting

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — Wine lovers sampled the best offerings from 120 winemakers and chefs during the 25th Slovenian Wine Festival held at the Cankarjev Dom Centre in mid-November. New this year: the presentation of an international digital wine tasting project.

Slovenia's largest annual wine-related event brought together winemakers from all of the country's wine-growing regions, along with winemakers from Austria, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Croatia, Italy, Catalonia and Serbia. Event visitors were able to taste more than 550 wines.

The program also featured the "Digital Wine Tasting," an international project organized by the Biotechnical Educational Centre in Ljubljana. This new event was created by partners from Italy, Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, Switzerland and the Netherlands, and further developed into an online teaching platform for organizing remote wine tastings.

"After having shipped their wines, companies and clients meet together online to interact with each other and enjoy a virtual wine tasting," according to the project website. An evaluation of the wine samples was held prior to the Slovenian Wine Festival by a seven-member jury, who examined 147 samples. Awards were presented to the winners during the festival.

## Some 24,000 cultural events held in 2022

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — On average, 67 cultural events were held in Slovenia every day in 2022, for a total of 24,347 events, the Statistics Office reported the week prior to the Merry Day of Culture, celebrated annually on Dec. 3.

Cultural events attracted 3.6 million visitors in 2022, averaging 149 visitors per event. The most well-attended events were theatre and dance productions, attracting more than a third of all visitors. The average Slovenian spent EUR 218 (approx. \$240) attending cultural events in 2022.

The average event ticket price was EUR 10 (approx. \$11) for theatre and opera performances, and for events hosted by cultural centers; the average price for concerts was EUR 17.5 (approx. \$19). Admission was free for roughly 28 percent of all cultural events.

Museums and galleries hosted 1,005 exhibitions, attracting 2.2 million visitors. More than 860,000 visitors attended the nearly 39,000 educational events offered, which include workshops and guided tours. Most of the museums and galleries, nearly 84 percent, were at least partly accessible to the physically disabled.

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

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# Friendsgiving celebration, elections highlight the Lodge 449 annual meeting

by TINA RIGLER  
Lodge 449 Secretary/Treasurer

**CICERO, Ill.** — Cicero Neighbors Lodge 449 held a Friendsgiving lunch and their annual meeting on Nov. 19, 2023. Members in attendance brought a side dish for the Friendsgiving meal; the Lodge paid for the main entrée of fried chicken. All of the food was delicious, including the apple and pumpkin pies.

After our stomachs were full, the meeting began with nine members present. Robert Rigler was appointed acting vice president in the absence of Meredith Maresh.

Secretary Tina Rigler read all communications received

from the Home Office and gave a financial report. An annual audit will be scheduled prior to the next meeting.

As a notice to all Lodge members, Lodge 449 will be meeting four times in 2024. The meetings scheduled for 2024 will be held at 1 p.m. on the following dates: March 10 (a bowling event will follow the meeting at a location to be determined), June 9 (meeting and backyard picnic at the Rigler home), Sept. 15 (meeting and activity to be held at Puttshack in Oak Brook, Ill.), and Nov. 17 — Friendsgiving and collection of food, etc., to donate to a local charity (the annual meeting at the Rigler home).

Election of officers was held with the following officers elected: President Justin Rigler, Vice President Meredith Maresh, Recording Secretary Edward Dabrowski, Secretary/Treasurer Tina Rigler, Sergeant-at-Arms Lanie Maresh, and auditors Vince Rigler, Jan Maresh and Jason Rigler. Congratulations to all officers!

Our Lodge representatives to the Chicago District Federation include delegates Edward Dabrowski, Tina Rigler and Vince Rigler, and alternates Justin Rigler, Lanie Maresh and Jason Rigler.

Lodge members selected our four activities for 2024 to

be held on the same day as the regularly scheduled meetings, if possible. Our first activity will be scheduled on March 10 at a bowling alley to be determined. Lodge members, friends and guests will be participating in two games of bowling. The location will be announced in a future PROSVETA issue.

Tina Rigler reported on the Chicago District Federation. The annual Christmas party, planned for Dec. 2, 2023, was canceled due to low anticipated turnout. The next Federation meeting, the annual meeting, will be held Feb. 24.

Justin Rigler and Marija Rigler won the meeting awards.



SNPJ Lodge 449 members enjoyed a Friendsgiving meal in November prior to electing officers for the coming year.

I wish all members a happy and healthy 2024, and look forward to seeing our members at our next meeting on Sunday, March 10, starting at 1 p.m. with bowling to follow. Please phone Tina Rigler at (708) 257-8312 for the location of the bowling alley, then plan to join us!

# Lodge 581 Slovenian language classes start in Feb.

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI  
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

**ST. MARYS, Pa.** — SNPJ Lodge 581 members will hold their first meeting of 2024 at the Wildwoods beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 21.

The officers will be sworn-in by President Pat Moore, and plans for the year's activities will be discussed.

Following the meeting, the Polka Boosters will host a dance featuring the Larry

Lewicki Band from 2 to 5 p.m.

Several Lodge members have signed up for the Zoom beginners Slovenian language lessons starting in February with a teacher from Slovenia. We are still accepting students

of any age. Please phone Marcia Bleggi at (814) 335-4983 to register.

The 2024 schedule promises to be filled with activities. Attend our first meeting of the year to offer your ideas.

# For Lodge 153, a change of meeting day in 2024

by WILMA VUKOVICH  
Lodge 153 Recording Secretary

**YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio** — The Lodge 153 November meeting was held at Shepherd of the Valley club room in Poland, Ohio.

Our newly elected officers include President Michelle Phillips, Vice President Mary Lou O'Reilly, Secretary/Treasurer Diane L. Chermely Tanner, Sergeant-at-Arms Stephen Pavlich, Recording Secretary/Reporter Wilma Vukovich,

and auditors Stephen Pavlich, Michelle Phillips and Wilma Vukovich.

Condolences are extended to the families of Henry Vukovich who passed away June 25, 2023, at the age of 90, and Antoinette Steinke who passed Oct. 5, 2023, at the age of 89. Happy birthday wishes go out to all members celebrating birthdays in November, December, January and February.

Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming

meeting dates in 2024. The meetings will be held at the Shepherd of the Valley club room in Poland on March 20, May 15, Aug. 21 and Nov. 20. Please note that the meeting day has been changed from Tuesday to Wednesday. The meetings will begin at 7 p.m. All members are all welcome and encouraged to attend.

The annual Lodge 153 Christmas party, our biggest event of the year, was held Dec. 3, 2023, at the Shepherd of the

Valley club room. We enjoyed a fantastic dinner followed by homemade desserts provided by the guests. After the meal was complete we welcomed Santa Claus, who delivered gifts to youth members and the Lodge officers. Tickets were sold, and gifts brought by the guests were awarded to the lucky winners.

Our thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Christmas party a huge success.

Happy New Year to all!

# April 30 the deadline for 2024 YAC delegate elections

YAC 2024  
FROM PAGE 1

Regular delegates to the Young Adult Conference represent their own Lodge and have a voice and a vote during the conference. Surrogate delegates will become regular delegates if another Lodge approves them to serve as their regular delegate, thus gaining voting rights. All delegates, both regular and surrogates, will receive room and board.

SNPJ will pay 100 percent of the travel costs (including airfare) for regular delegates, including surrogate delegates who become regular delegates of another Lodge. The surrogate must receive approval from the other Lodge. The deadline is nearing for 2024 Young Adult Conference

delegate elections for regular Lodge delegates.

Surrogates who do not have the approval of another Lodge should be prepared to pay half of their airfare when making flight arrangements with Travel Search, the Society's designated travel agency. SNPJ will not pay for rental vehicles.

If traveling by automobile, you will be reimbursed for mileage not to exceed 1,000 miles round-trip. Regular delegates, including surrogate delegates who become regular delegates of another Lodge, will be reimbursed 100 percent of their mileage. The surrogate must receive approval from the other Lodge to serve as their regular delegate. Surrogates who do not have the approval of another Lodge will be re-

imbursed half of their mileage unless they bring another surrogate and/or regular delegate with them in the vehicle.

Lodge secretaries will receive the Young Adult Conference Delegate Election Forms in the mail. There are some important deadline dates that Lodge secretaries and any members interested in attending this conference should be aware of.

Lodges must turn in their Young Adult Conference Delegate Election Forms by April 30. Any eligible member interested in attending the Young Adult Conference must contact their Lodge secretary to ensure that their name is included on the election form. Be sure to provide your e-mail address to your Lodge

secretary; correspondence about the conference will be handled electronically as much as possible.

Once the election forms are received at the SNPJ Home Office, all delegates will receive an introductory packet by e-mail. This packet will include a general information sheet, a tentative agenda for the weekend, and a Young Adult Delegate Registration Form. The registration form must be completed by the delegate and returned to the SNPJ Home Office no later than May 15.

Return of the registration form completes the YAC registration process. All delegates must turn in a registration form by the deadline date; otherwise, they may be replaced by an alternate or surrogate delegate.

## Official Proceedings

### Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting Jan. 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Evanish with Sis. Pintar and Bro. Lawrence in attendance.

Approved the minutes from the Nov. 17, 2022, meeting.

Approved the amount of \$13,090 at the recommendation of the Recreation Center Committee for the replacement of two valves in the water tower at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

President Evanish reported on the interviews that he had with candidates for a part-time Fraternal Director. We reviewed the applications and resumes.

Sis. Pintar reported that the 1099s for 2022 are currently being worked on.

Reported that we accepted renewal of the employee health care benefit.

Approved a payment of \$625 to SNPJ Lodge 138 to co-sponsor the SNPJ float in the Canonsburg 4th of July parade.

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

### March 14, 2023

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

Approved the minutes from the Jan. 18, 2023, meeting.

Discussion on future educational ideas for the National Board and discussed agenda items for the upcoming meeting.

Sis. Pintar reported on the multi-factor authentication that was completed by year end and discussed the upcoming switch-over for the e-mail accounts.

President Evanish reported on the forestry management project ongoing at the Recreation Center and provided an update on the waste treatment plant.

Reported that we hired Connie Sanders to work full-time in the Insurance Administration Department.

Approved a donation of \$100 to the Westmoreland County Federation for the Pretty in Pink fundraiser.

Approved a cultural donation of \$200 to SNPJ Lodge 603 for Florida SNPJ Days.

Approved Society grants of \$500 each to SNPJ Lodges 6 and 138 for hosting the Winter Classic Bowling Tournament.

Approved a donation of \$75 to West Allegheny Musical Theatre for a half-page ad in their musical program book.

Approved a donation of \$100 to the American Slovenian Polka Foundation for a golf hole sponsorship.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

JOSEPH C. EVANISH  
National President/CEO

KAREN A. PINTAR  
National Secretary/COO

# PROSVETA Crossword

U.S. Presidents (#0124) by StatePoint Media

## ACROSS

- Biased perspective
- Male sibs
- Monday Night Football audience
- Tapiridae representative
- Rock opera version of "La Bohème"
- Object of worship
- Opposite of alpha
- Spumante
- Novice
- \*Unanimously elected President
- Gusto
- Eggy drink
- Jig music, pl.
- Stashed in a hold
- Penniless
- Wood turning device
- Toll payment, e.g.
- Not slouching
- Like nay-sayers
- Of many years
- Malaria symptom
- Instagram post
- River, in Spanish
- Bell-bottoms bottom
- Dodge
- Unexpected
- The Cat in the Hat's headgear (2 words)

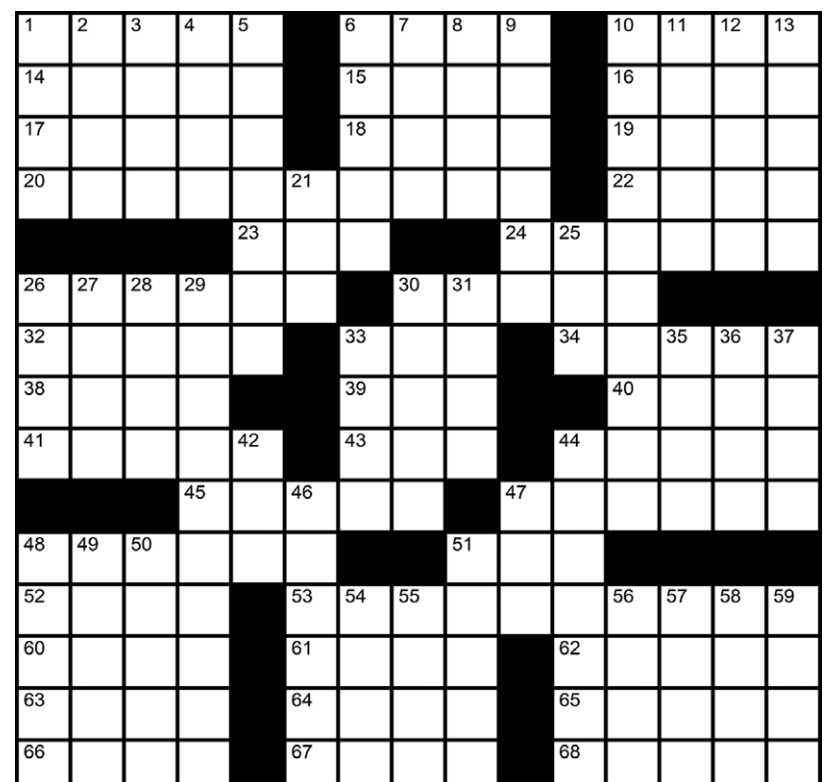
- Campbell's container
- International Civil Aviation Organization
- \*President Hayes' first name
- "Through" in a text?
- Pelvic bones
- Plural of #54 Down
- Andrew Sean Greer's 2018 Pulitzer Prize winner
- Reverse action
- Mother-of-pearl
- \*Lake off Ohio, the state known as "the Mother of Presidents"
- Baseball's "The Say Hey Kid"
- Navigate

## DOWN

- \*Present tense of #26 Across
- Tibetan priest
- "Singes" in "La Planète des singes"
- Nearly
- Apprentice
- Name on apple cider vinegar bottle
- R in R&R
- Cognizant of
- "Sophie's Choice" protagonist
- \*F in JFK
- Bye, to Emmanuel Macron
- Relating to Scandinavia

- Casino bandits
- Sign of assent
- \*Civil Rights Act of 1957 signer
- Dueler's blow
- Hyperbolic tangent
- Football great Graham
- \*Executive Mansion, colloquially (2 words)
- Misrepresent
- Make over
- \*One of four presidents to have never been elected
- "Goodness gracious!"
- "Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me" band, The \_\_\_\_\_
- High school student, usually
- Spermatozoa counterparts
- Not marathons, pl. (2 words)
- Central court in domus
- Certain frat house letters
- Ownership document
- Autumn color
- Zoroaster follower
- Pandemonium
- Elbow-wrist connection
- Not a slob
- Like certain Stanley
- A third of thrice
- Steak choice
- Whitetail, e.g.

The solution to puzzle #0124 will run in the Feb. 1 issue.



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## SNPJ Membership Anniversaries January 2024

### 80-Year Members

Lodge	Member
5	June R. Kosich

### 70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
1	Walter P. Witkovich	518	Frances J. Bourton
174	Francis R. Malinovsky	584	Mary Motley
304	Barbara R. Jessen	723	Lillian Juvan

### 60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
117	Wayne T. Kosmerl	559	Robert L. Perme
138	Joanna Stiffler	584	Karen J. Sullivan
142	Judith L. Breen	603	Robert L. Reichel
142	Mary A. Young	604	Thomas A. Felz
218	Joseph A. Stephan	749	Edward H. Patosky
225	Nancy L. Berrigan	786	Charlene M. Lebeda
277	Dolly A. Shevets	A01	Bonita L. Oliveira

### 50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Kurt K. Gensler	218	Jack S. Skerij
2	Robert D. Stubler	274	Vivien R. Morris
6	Ronald D. Monaco	277	Nancy L. Upperman
6	Laurel A. Kassouf	559	Jeanne P. Hanik
34	Janna K. Skufca	559	Janet I. Geary
87	Annette L. Bencloski	564	Gary F. Murphy
89	John Kinkela	584	Dean S. Korach
120	Denise M. Jarzomkowski	584	Dale A. Anderson
126	Barbara A. Pickett	584	Mary J. Shannon
138	Donald J. Progar	584	Kathleen J. Maki
138	Kathleen M. Rheam	629	Ronald J. Junecko
142	Margaret M. Ferrante	643	Janet Mirto
142	Timothy Pogacar	643	Cynthia M. Mihalik
158	Denise M. Murphy	665	Robert Straus
158	Doreen Polivchak	677	Cheryl A. Megahan
174	William M. Portzer	721	Steve Vukmarovich
207	George C. Jones	A02	John D. Stasko

## Lodge 559 slates a March meeting to open the year

by KAITLYN CHIAPPETTA  
Lodge 559 President

**CHICAGO** — Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays, ate delicious food and spent time with loved ones.

The end of the year meant that Lodge 559 held our annual toy drive during our last meeting, held in November, to kick off the season. Members donated to the Toys for Tots pick up at the McCook Bohemian Restaurant. We were glad to collaborate with our preferred meeting location on this event!

We enjoyed gathering one last time for the year, and I especially enjoyed getting my fruit dumpling fix. We were glad that Jennifer Matiassek, Frank Michalak, Anne Cretnik

and Sandy Vidmar joined our Lodge officers for this festive gathering.

Our November meeting also included our annual elections and meeting date selections for the upcoming year. All officers were re-elected: President/Recording Secretary Kaitlyn Chiappetta, Vice President/Sergeant-at-Arms Geri Matiassek, Secretary/Treasurer Melanie Matiassek, and auditor Mike Vidmar.

Now that the busy season is over, we're looking forward to the upcoming year. Our 2024 meetings are scheduled on the second Friday of the month starting at noon at the McCook Bohemian Restaurant on the following dates: March 8, May 10, Sept. 13 and Nov. 8.



Lodge 559 partnered with the McCook Bohemian Restaurant for their annual toy drive donation to Toys for Tots.

Our first meeting will include a food drive, so please attend the March 8 meeting to participate, or send a donation to our Lodge secretary to participate from a distance. Be sure to check our Facebook page, @SNPJLODGE559, for announcements of any changes.

## SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the months of October & November 2023

SNPJ Lodge 745, Grass Valley, Calif..... \$500	SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. .... \$40	Tom & Kim Jentges, Belgium, Wis..... \$25
SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. .... \$40	<i>In memory of Nancy Karch</i>	<i>In memory of Charles Kasseckert</i>
<i>In memory of Joan Grumski</i>	SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. .... \$40	
	<i>In memory of Marge Morgenstern</i>	

## Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting Teleconference meeting held Jan. 25, 2023

The teleconference meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by Chairman Clifford with Sis. Anderson and Brothers Hervol, Evanish and Lawrence in attendance.

Chairman Clifford motions to nominate Bro. Hervol as committee chairman, second by Bro. Evanish. The committee unanimously elects Bro. Hervol Finance Committee Chair.

A motion was made by Bro. Clifford, second by Bro. Evanish, to approve the minutes of the Oct. 27, 2022, and Nov. 9, 2022, meetings. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Bro. Clifford, second by Bro. Evanish, to approve the report of bond purchases and disposals for the fourth quarter

2022. Motion approved.

Reviewed the portfolio and transactions for the period.

Joined by phone conference at 2:30 p.m. with Wellington Management Company representatives Andrew Paone and Geoff Austein-Miller.

Discussion and questions on capital markets review by Geoff Austein-Miller.

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

The committee thanked the Wellington representatives for the presentation and ended the phone conference at 3:15 p.m.

Discussion on the Finance Committee Rules of

Procedure. Motion by Sis. Anderson, second by Bro. Clifford, to adopt with no changes. Motion approved.

Reviewed the Statement of Investment Policy and Fixed Income Portfolio Guidelines. Moved to present the policy and guidelines to the National Board with no amendments. Motion by Sis. Anderson, second by Bro. Evanish. Motion approved.

The next meeting will be determined.

Motion to adjourn at 3:24 p.m. by Bro. Clifford, second by Sis. Anderson. Motion approved.

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

### Report of the Secretary for the period Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2022

Sales or Full Calls:	Disposal Date	Security Description	Coupon	Par Value	Consideration	Maturity Date
	12/21/2022	Citicorp Inc	4.400%	\$375,000	\$369,405	6/10/2025

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

## Keep your e-mail address with the SNPJ Home Office up to date

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — Does the SNPJ have your current e-mail address?

The SNPJ Home Office periodically sends out e-mails to advertise the many benefits we offer our members. You can receive information about our fraternal programs, events at the SNPJ Recreation Center, athletic tournaments, and product updates through e-mail.

In order to receive this information, we need your current e-mail address. If we don't have your e-mail address, we ask that you send an e-mail to the Home Office addressed to [pcushman@snpj.com](mailto:pcushman@snpj.com). We will then be able to update your contact information.

We try to keep in touch with all of our members as often as possible, and e-mail is a very cost-efficient and timely way to deliver information.

# SNPJ Scholarship Award Program

## A potential benefit of \$3,200 for Society members



### ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for an SNPJ Scholarship, the student must meet the following requirements:

- Be an SNPJ member for at least two years
- Have a \$5,000 minimum permanent life insurance policy in place (\$2,000 if purchased prior to January 1996)
- Enroll as a full-time (at least 12 credit hours) or part-time (at least 6 credit hours) student at an accredited college, university or trade school

**TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS:** All requirements **MUST** be satisfied in order to qualify for the following scholarships:

#### REGULAR:

- Member for at least 2 years
- \$5,000 permanent insurance (\$2,000 if purchased prior to 1996)
- 1040 Tax Form (*income level not to exceed \$20,000 per dependent/per family*)
- Maintain 2.5 GPA (out of 4.0) or above
- Annual SNPJ-Approved Activity

#### ACTIVITY (JOSEPH C. UMECK):

- Member for at least 2 years
- \$5,000 permanent insurance (\$2,000 if purchased prior to 1996)
- Extensive SNPJ Activity\*
- Maintain 2.5 GPA (out of 4.0) or above
- Age 30 or under

#### ACADEMIC:

- Member for at least 2 years
- \$5,000 permanent insurance (\$2,000 if purchased prior to 1996)
- Maintain 3.2 GPA (out of 4.0) or above
- Age 30 or under
- Annual SNPJ-Approved Activity

#### Full-Time Student

- Attend school as a full-time student
- Minimum of 12 credit hours/semester

#### Part-Time Student

- Attend school as a part-time student
- Must declare a major (six to 11 credit hours/semester)

**SNPJ Approved Activity:** Participation at social and athletic events, attend the SNPJ Young Adult Conference, attendance or service at meetings and conferences, attend or volunteer at special Lodge events, write an article to be published in *PROSVETA*, participate in an SNPJ athletic tournament (bowling, golf, balina, bean bag toss, etc.), help organize a youth activity at your Lodge, hold an office in your Lodge, work as a counselor for Youth Roundup (must be interviewed and selected by Fraternal Department), volunteer to work during Slovenefest at the SNPJ Recreation Center, participate in an SNPJ-organized activity, perform community service on behalf of SNPJ (must be approved by Fraternal Department), recommend a new member to SNPJ.

### APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Carefully review all SNPJ scholarship requirements.
2. Select the scholarship type for which you qualify.
3. Complete the scholarship application and deliver to your Lodge secretary for signatures.
4. Return the signed application, along with the following items, to the SNPJ Home Office by the August 1st deadline:

- Copy of your last grade report or transcript (Transcripts do not have to be originals, but must show student name, semester, GPA, and number of credit hours completed).
- Short essay about fraternalism, the principles of SNPJ, and how they work in our Society and its Lodges.
- Brief history of your life, high school accomplishments, past awards and achievements, and college plans.
- Copies of your parents' and your 1040 tax forms for the previous year (if applying for the SNPJ Regular Scholarship).
- Copy of the Lodge secretary's letter (if applying for the SNPJ Activity Scholarship).

Please make sure all of the applicable items listed above are included when mailing your application. Failure to provide all required information at one time may result in denial of your application.

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

- **Full-time Students:** Payments of \$400 each installment are made twice a year (first installment: February/March; second installment: August/September) totaling \$800 per year. Applicants will receive payments for not more than eight (8) installments which may include graduate school.
- **Part-Time Students:** Payments of \$200 each installment are made twice a year totaling \$400 per year. Part-time applicants who have declared a major shall receive payments equivalent to the TOTAL amount the full-time student receives for a maximum of 16 semesters.
- Selection of students to receive the scholarship awards will be based on evidence of the applicant's school record, personality, character, SNPJ Approved Activity, the applicant's need for financial aid or academic achievement, and on the recommendation of the local Lodge of which he/she is a member.

Applications, renewal forms and the SNPJ Scholarship Program brochure are available online at <https://snpj.org/membership/scholarships/>

Applications for SNPJ Scholarship Awards should be sent to the National President  
APPLICATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1 of each year. RENEWAL DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1 and AUGUST 1. Mail to:

**Joseph C. Evanish, National President/CEO**

**SLOVENE NATIONAL BENEFIT SOCIETY Scholarship Committee • 247 West Allegheny Rd. • Imperial, PA • 15126-9774.**



SNPJ fraternal sympathies

**BRO. CHARLES A. KASSECKERT**  
• LODGE 584 •

**MILWAUKEE** — The members of Lodge 584 sadly report the July 10, 2023, passing of Bro. Charles A. "Chuck" Kasseckert, 53, of West Allis, Wis.

Bro. Kasseckert was born Sept. 23, 1969, a son of the late Kenneth and Josephine (Yamnik) Kasseckert.

A 36-year SNPJ member, Chuck served as treasurer of the former SNPJ Jolly Allis Lodge 686 in West Allis from 1996-2002, and as secretary/treasurer from 2003-2019, when Lodge 686 merged with SNPJ Badgers Lodge 584. He also served as a Lodge 686 delegate to the 2006 SNPJ Quadrennial Convention held at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

Chuck is survived by his brother, Craig (Erica) Kasseckert; his nieces, Abbie and Natalie; and by other relatives and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and a nephew, Tyler Kasseckert.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Bro. Kasseckert on July 13 at St. Rita Church, West Allis. Interment followed in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Milwaukee.

The family suggests memorial donations to the SNPJ Scholarship Fund, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126; or to the National Lymphedema Network.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 584 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Kasseckert's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

**SIS. MARJORIE SEWASKY**  
• LODGE 721 •

**ALIQUIPPA, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 721 sadly report the Aug. 26, 2023, passing of Sis. Marjorie Sewasky, 91, of Center Twp., Pa., in Concordia at Villa St. Joseph, Baden, Pa.

Sis. Sewasky was born Oct. 22, 1931, in Toronto, Ohio, a daughter of the late Donald and Lois (Cusick) Doran.

A 54-year SNPJ member, she was also a member of Mary Queen of Saints Parish-St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, Center Twp.

Marjorie is survived by three daughters, Tanya Bonnato (Wayne Smart), Tamara Perez (Jose Pequeno), and Nicole Sewasky (Patrick Morgan Jr.); four grandchildren, Dani-

elle Bonnato (Larry Phillis), Alicia Bennett, and Dakota and Dylan Perez; seven great-grandchildren; a brother, R. Douglas (Linda) Doran; three sisters, Kathleen Morabetto, Virginia (Arthur) Myers, and Donna (David) Schultz; a sister-in-law, Catherine Doran; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Elmer Sewasky; a son-in-law, Victor Bonnato Jr.; sisters and brothers-in-law Chamaine and Thomas Core, and Juanita and Francis Patterson; brothers and sisters-in-law James and Victoria Doran, and Gerald and Barbara Doran; and a brother, Richard Doran.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Sewasky on Aug. 31 in St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. Interment followed in Woodlawn Cemetery, Aliquippa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 721 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Sis. Sewasky's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

**SIS. ANTOINETTE J. STEINKE**  
• LODGE 153 •

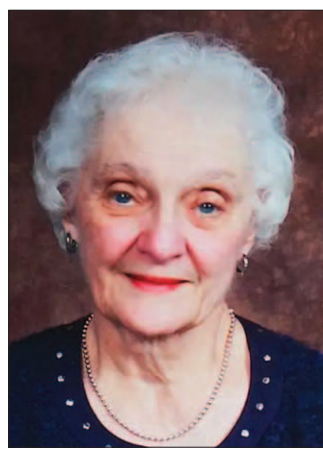
**YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio** — The members of Lodge 153 sadly report the Oct. 5, 2023, passing of Sis. Antoinette J. Steinke, 88, formerly of Boardman, Ohio, at her home in Lexington, Ky.

Sis. Steinke, known by her family and friends as "Toni," was born Oct. 24, 1934, in Youngstown, the daughter of the late Helen and Anthony Fabian. She was a 1952 graduate of Chaney High School.

She worked as a secretary for Tip Top Bakery before marrying and becoming a wonderful mother to her three children. After her children were grown, she worked part time in the office for Lake Park Cemetery.

A 71-year SNPJ Lodge 153 member, she dedicated many years of service to the Lodge, holding various positions including Lodge president. She also enjoyed volunteering for the Lodge 153 annual dances and Christmas parties.

Antoinette was very proud of her Slovenian heritage. She and her late husband, Ed, would dance their Sundays away at the SNPJ Recreation Center as they both loved to dance to the music of polkas and waltzes. For several years they also volunteered to work



Sis. ANTOINETTE J. STEINKE (153)

the gate at Slovenefest, where they enjoyed meeting people from across the country. Polka music brought her joy up to the very end of her life.

She was very active as a member of Prince of Peace Church, serving on altar care and singing in the choir.

She was a beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother, and her smile will be sorely missed.

Mourning her passing, Antoinette leaves her two daughters, Barbara (Bob) Oakley and Carol (Bill) Walker; a daughter-in-law, Gail Steinke; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; a brother, Anthony (Ilene) Fabian; sisters-in-law Edna (Ray) Slanco and Mary Lee Steinke (Gus, deceased); as well as several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 62 years, Edward Steinke; a son, Edward Steinke Jr.; and a sister, Helen Kohler.

A memorial service for Sis. Steinke was held Nov. 3 at Davis-Becker Funeral Home, Boardman. Interment followed in Lake Park Cemetery, Youngstown.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 153 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Steinke's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

**SIS. TESSIE C. RADOSY**  
• LODGE 138 •

**STRABANE, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Nov. 9, 2023, passing of Sis. Tessie C. Radosy, 99, of Canonsburg, Pa., in Washington Hospital.

Sis. Radosy was born June 11, 1924, in Canonsburg, a daughter of the late George and Helen Olszewska Skowirski.

Tessie lived her entire life in Canonsburg, where she

attended Canonsburg schools and had been employed at the former RCA plant. She worked for the ABC Gift Shop, and at Flanery Bolt in Bridgeville, Pa., where she reamed gun barrels for the military during World War II. She was also employed at Verland in Sewickley, Pa., for 12 years.

A 52-year SNPJ Lodge 138 member, she had been a faithful member of the former St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church, and a member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and the Polish National Alliance.

Tessie was an avid bowler, she liked crafts, and she was still playing bingo until one week before her passing.

On Nov. 9, 1947, she married Joseph Radosy, who preceded her in death on Jan. 13, 1964.

Left behind to cherish her memory are her son, Joseph (Roxanne) Radosy of Canonsburg; her daughter, Rebecca Leopold of Powhatan Point, Ohio; four grandchildren, Joy (Chris) Curfman, Cynde Mitchell (Corey), Nathan (Bailey) Naramore, and Natalie Naramore; eight great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; and several nieces and nephews.

She was the last of her immediate family. Deceased, in addition to her husband and parents, are her three sisters, Adele Buncic, Loraine Doheny and Gerry Statler.

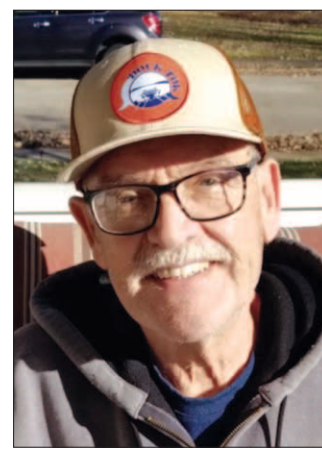
A Catholic Blessing Service for Sis. Radosy was held Nov. 14 at Salandra Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc., Canonsburg. Interment followed in St. Patrick Cemetery, Canonsburg.

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

**BRO. NEIL A. TIPTON**  
• LODGE 2 •

**LA SALLE, Ill.** — The members of Lodge 2 sadly report the Nov. 11, 2023, passing of Bro. Neil Alan Tipton, 68, at his home in Peru, Ill., surrounded by his family.

Bro. Tipton was born Aug. 13, 1955, in Ottawa, Ill., a son of Lloyd C. and Edith (Petre) Tipton. He was a 1973 graduate of La Salle-Peru Township High School and retired as an oiler/lube tech at Illinois Cement. He married the former



Bro. NEIL A. TIPTON (2)

Leesa Jakse on July 12, 1975.

Neil enjoyed collecting petroliana, antiques, refinishing old cars, and spending time with his friends. His greatest joy was his grandchildren.

A 37-year SNPJ Lodge 2 member, Neil was also a member of USW Local 657, where

he served on the bargaining committee, and Zion United Church of Christ in Peru.

He is survived by his wife, Leesa, of Peru; two sons, Matthew (Heather) Tipton of Simpsonville, S.C., and Nathan (Adriana) Tipton of Columbus, Ohio; four grandchildren, Maggie, Molly, Logan and Eloise; and a sister, Eileen (Leo) Trujillo of Peru. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Harold and Darrell Tipton.

Funeral services for Bro. Tipton were held Nov. 15 in Hurst Funeral Home, La Salle. Burial followed in Peru City Cemetery.

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

*SNPJ suffers the loss of former Region 8 VP Bro. Jacob Chesnic*

**BRO. JACOB CHESNIC**  
FROM PAGE 1

During his 21 years in California, Jake served as vice president of Lodge 723 from 1989 through 1990, and as Lodge 723 president from 1991 through 2003. He was elected to the Fontana Slovene Hall Committee in 1986 and began his tenure as Slovene Hall president in 1991.

Over the years he was recognized as the Lodge 723 Adult Member of the Year and as the Fontana Slovene Hall Man of the Year. He was also a representative to the California Fraternal Congress, serving as a director for four years.

Attending the 1998 SNPJ Quadrennial Convention as a delegate from Lodge 723, Jake was elected SNPJ Region 8 Vice President. He retained his position for a second term before retiring from the SNPJ National Board on Dec. 31, 2004. Even after retiring from the National Board and moving to South Bend, Jake remained in contact with his many friends at Lodge 723 and with several members of the SNPJ Home Office staff.

Bro. Chesnic is survived by his daughter, Jan Baker of Rocky River, Ohio; three sons, Richard "Rich" (Cheryl) Chesnic of Indianapolis, William Chesnic of Spring Lake, Mich., and James (Renae) Chesnic of Mentor, Ohio; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; a brother, David Chesnic; and his companion, Gail Nolan of South Bend. Jake was very proud of his family and enjoyed spending time with them.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Elfie, on Sept. 15, 1996; two sisters, Virginia Braddock and Louise Chesnic; and his grandson, Jacob R. Chesnic.

Private graveside services and burial were conducted Nov. 14 in Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, Mich.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the SNPJ Scholarship Fund, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126-9774.

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

**DEATHS REPORTED**  
For the month of November 2023

LODGE NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
A01 Margaret A. Wory	01-27-2023	New Brighton, Pa.
A02 Gerda H. Bummer	09-20-2023	Gibsonia, Pa.
2 Robert J. Skowera	05-10-2023	Lostant, Ill.
6 Leona R. Petach	04-23-2023	Pittsburgh, Pa.
6 Joseph G. Gates	07-19-2020	Bridgeville, Pa.
8 Lucille H. Smagur	10-11-2012	Chicago, Ill.
8 Mary A. Siminski	10-18-2023	Portage, Ind.
31 Marge Morgenstern	10-23-2023	Sharpville, Pa.
41 Audrey J. Bartus	11-09-2023	Jeannette, Pa.
87 Patricia A. Bobnar	07-20-2023	Kealakua, Hawaii
153 Antoinette J. Steinke	10-05-2023	Lexington, Ky.
158 Helen Ashmus	12-14-2022	Mentor, Ohio
158 Arthur Nardy	09-25-2023	Willowick, Ohio
207 Judy M. Farrell	09-03-2023	Butte, Mont.
218 Victoria E. Courtier	09-05-2023	Forest Hill, Calif.
225 Albin J. Terlip	02-02-2023	Frontenac, Kan.
274 David L. Debevits	10-06-2023	Sidman, Pa.
274 Bernard M. Brown	09-23-2023	Dunlo, Pa.
277 Paul Vlacancich	05-14-2023	Struthers, Ohio
371 Madge H. Schumacher	02-10-2023	Seattle, Wash.
564 Milo D. Steinhoff	11-03-2023	Autrain, Mich.
576 Thomas F. Scheid	10-15-2022	Willowick, Ohio
604 Marie Hudson	07-01-2023	Cleveland, Ohio
614 Helen L. Prijatelj	09-29-2023	Painesville, Ohio
629 Nicholas Klasnick	09-02-2023	Pittsburgh, Pa.
665 Joseph Palumbo	09-14-2023	Mt. Lebanon, Pa.
665 Stephen T. Ujic	02-20-2023	Pittsburgh, Pa.
677 Rudolph R. Bernick	09-22-2023	Ypsilanti, Mich.
689 Martha A. Bero	07-13-2023	Salt Lake City, Utah
715 Linda M. Betti	08-06-2020	Prospect, Pa.
715 Ellen J. Dodaro	10-11-2023	Mentor, Ohio
721 Marjorie Sewasky	08-26-2023	Monaca, Pa.
723 William R. Ooms	02-03-2018	Rialto, Calif.
723 Frances Harmon	10-22-2023	Broomfield, Colo.
729 Vivian R. Conn	10-09-2023	Star Junction, Pa.
729 Ines Grachen	11-02-2023	Bentleyville, Pa.
745 Annetta Robinson	10-22-2023	Elko, Nev.
749 Sylvia L. Latchney	01-06-2023	Johnstown, Pa.
749 Genevieve Berezonsky	08-15-2023	Johnstown, Pa.
749 James Mihelcic	07-17-2023	Central City, Pa.
782 Helen A. Yaworski	10-24-2023	Tarentum, Pa.
782 James A. Ritenour	10-27-2023	Connellsville, Pa.

KAREN A. PINTAR  
National Secretary/COO

**PROSVETA 2024 Publication Dates**

JANUARY 2024	MAY 2024	SEPTEMBER 2024
1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
28 29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30
FEBRUARY 2024	JUNE 2024	OCTOBER 2024
1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4 5
4 5 6 7 8 9 10	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
11 12 13 14 15 16 17	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
18 19 20 21 22 23 24	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
25 26 27 28 29	30	27 28 29 30 31
MARCH 2024	JULY 2024	NOVEMBER 2024
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
APRIL 2024	AUGUST 2024	DECEMBER 2024
1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30 31

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



# Generous donations continue as Fontana Lodge 723 members close the year

by PAMELA RICHTAR PANDZA  
Lodge 723 Recording Secretary

**FONTANA, Calif.** — The final meeting of 2023 for Fontana Lodge 723 was held Dec. 7 at the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda, Calif. The facility provides us with an excellent private meeting room as part of the agency's community services.

Prior to the meeting, Lodge members studied the collection of items assembled to be donated to the Toys for Tots program. It is amusing to watch adults ponder and evaluate the fun and worthiness each toy promises. Some among us looked ready to open a package and resort to the joys of younger days.

We amassed a sizable collection of pop-tops, which is an ongoing project of the Lodge.

Refreshments were set out for everyone to sample the savory and the sweet. President Black called the meeting to order when it was determined that it was time to get to business.

The bulk of the meeting consisted of discussion and brainstorming on the topic of the mix-up of official accounting numbers associated with the former Slovene Hall and Lodge 723. The two entities were separate, but at some point, due to the similarity in names and multiple ways to officially identify the Lodge,

an error was made and perpetuated through many years. The matter is being handled by the Lodge officers with the support of professional assistance. It has been a tangle to unravel, requiring dedicated investigation.

Moving along on the agenda, 50-year member Alan Sustarsic and 80-year member Annie Davis were recognized.

For nomination of Lodge officers, members were not vigorously vying for any positions, to say the least, especially since clearing up banking business has become so involved. The current officers were given an endorsement to serve in 2024. The only change was Phyllis Wood in place of Maria Sego on the audit committee since Maria was not present and the team wished to get moving on their job.

A vigorous discussion involved choosing when to have Lodge meetings in the coming year. Driving at night, traffic, work schedules, and weekend activities were considered. At last, Sunday afternoons appeared to be most appealing. Dates were set, with at least the first date set in stone.

All meetings will be held at 1 p.m. with the location to be announced. The dates are Feb. 4, April 7, June 2, Oct. 6 and Dec. 8. The February meeting will be held at the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda;

more information will follow on the remaining dates.

End-of-the-year donations were approved. The Lodge will donate \$5,000 to the Ronald McDonald House to support their work helping families with children receiving medical treatment in the Inland Empire area of Southern California. The body also approved a \$1,000 donation to the SNPJ Scholarship Fund in memory of the late Jacob Chesnic's work for Lodge 723 and the Slovene Hall. Goodwill projects for 2024 were also discussed.

Ailing Lodge members and friends were noted, as well as the final demise of the Slovene Hall on Cypress Avenue since the City of Fontana, which purchased the hall, decided not to rehabilitate the property and the building no longer exists. We can only hold the memories dear.

Reflections of the good times there will appear in a future *PROSVETA* issue. You may still add your story by sending it to Pamela at [slowcrow@msn.com](mailto:slowcrow@msn.com).

Members discussed the scenarios used by the television show "The Amazing Race" which were filmed in Slovenia. On the show, ordinary citizens in two-person teams compete in challenges based on activities indicative of a designated country. The stunts chosen for the Slovenia segment related to



Fontana Lodge 723 members **PHYLLIS WOOD, MARCIA LEATHERS, ERNIE BLASICH, SHERRI BLACK, FRANK OOMS** and **KRSTJE PANDZA** with some of the Toys for Tots donations assembled to live the holidays for local children. Also displayed are the pop-tops collected by members and a Christmas potica baked by Bojan Šavrič – a delicacy for the hungry Lodge members.

beekeeping, hay-racking, a ski jump facility, and more. My personal favorite was a glider experience from Lesce Air Field beneath the Karavanke mountains.

A few years back, I myself went on this aviation adventure. A plane tows the glider up to a certain altitude and then releases the rope, at which time it gets quiet and the pilot sitting directly behind the passenger controls the craft to take advantage of upward air currents, coming quite close to sheer cliffs. The flight has a novice passenger thinking

about the level of control of the pilot and hoping that his experience will serve the situation well.

My pilot answered a mobile phone call while we were gliding very close to the mountain, and he laughed and joked with a Slovenian friend about an upcoming outing. I hoped he was simultaneously paying good attention to our flight!

Soon we were gliding above Lake Bled surrounded by peaks of the Julian Alps, and I dropped any concerns and just took in the marvelous sights.

It was great fun to see the

contestants in "The Amazing Race" having a familiar experience. Lodge members at the meeting who had seen the television episodes felt that Slovenia was well represented, and the residents came across as genuine and intelligent. You can watch the segments on YouTube presented in the Lodge 723 Facebook links.

Let us hope that 2024 sees progress toward peace and an improved state of the world... its physical health and a decent life for all its inhabitants. There is nowhere else to go, at least not yet!

# Admiring Slovenia, from two wheels

by MARTY MLAKAR  
Lodge 723

**FONTANA, Calif.** — In 1981 I traveled to Slovenia with my father, Joe Mlakar, to visit relatives in the Visevek/Stari Trg area. My father had made the effort over the years to take each of my siblings to visit in order to keep the connection open and the family relationship alive. As it has worked over the years, we have stayed in contact with them, and some of the family have visited us here in the U.S.

After three weeks of visiting and sightseeing what was then Yugoslavia, we headed north over the Alps. Driving the Alps in a car and viewing all the scenery was amazing.

Along the way, we stopped at a sidewalk café for lunch, enjoying a plate of goulash and a beer. Seated next to us was a couple who were riding a motorcycle. Motorcycle enthusiast that I am, I thought this would be the ultimate ride through these twisty roads and great scenery, so the seed was planted all those years ago.

Fast forward to retirement, when there is both time and the means to fulfill this bucket list item. Researching tour groups and bike rentals, I received advice from a friend about a tour group based in Ljubljana. Adriatic Moto Tours fit the bill and time frame, offering a two-week ride covering the Dolomites and Julian Alps. After contacting a few interested friends, the plan was set.

The course followed all small, back roads through countless small villages and towns. Our ride group consisted of five members from the U.S.; one from Canada; two from England; four Australians; our guide, Luca; and a chase vehicle driven by Primož.

When we left Ljubljana, we headed northeast over a mountain pass to Stainz, Austria, then back over another pass to Jeruzalem, Slovenia – this is beautiful wine country! We traveled southwesterly to Novo Mesto, continuing further southwest into Croatia, and boarded a ferry across the Adriatic Sea to the island of Lošinj for a two-day stay at a fantastic resort in Veli Lošinj.

Heading north, we caught another ferry to the Istria peninsula for a walk around the ancient town of Pula; further north we stopped in Motovun, Croatia, for the night.

Motoring even more north toward the alpine roads, we went through Lipica, Slovenia, and saw the famous stallions. We then toured the Škocjan Caves and traveled on to Brda, Slovenia. Ever twisting through the mountains, we crossed into Italy through the Dolomite Alps and stayed in Corvara for the night.

After our overnight in Corvara, it was all hairpin, alpine riding toward Kals Am Grossglockner, Austria. These areas are a mecca for motorcycle enthusiasts – more bikes than cars on the roads.

Riding a little further north around some rocky peaks, we then headed south to Bovec, Slovenia. Here we spent a day rafting on the Soča River, then rode to the highest paved road in Slovenia, Mangart mountain, for an incredible view. We spent our last day of the ride traveling though Lake Bled and Lake Bohinj to view some more stunning scenery that stretched all the way back to Ljubljana.

This brief description of the two weeks can hardly scratch the surface of the amazing scenery and countries we traveled through. The new friends we made, along with the beauty of the countries we passed through, are a lifelong memory.

Adriatic Moto Tours is a first-class outfit, and our guide, Luca, was a wealth of information. He spoke the languages of all the countries we visited, and is an amazing rider. And our chase driver, Primož, was always on top of the motorcycles and everybody's needs.

After the ride I met with my sister, Teresa Koci, and my aunt, Ronnie Boucher, to visit relatives we have enjoyed staying connected with.



[Above] **MARTY MLAKAR**, parked roadside, overlooking the Adriatic Sea at the resort in Veli Lošinj on the island of Lošinj, Croatia.



[Left, top] Marty at the border crossing of Croatia and Slovenia with fellow riders Jim Ralph, Tom Ashton and Ed Dazzo.



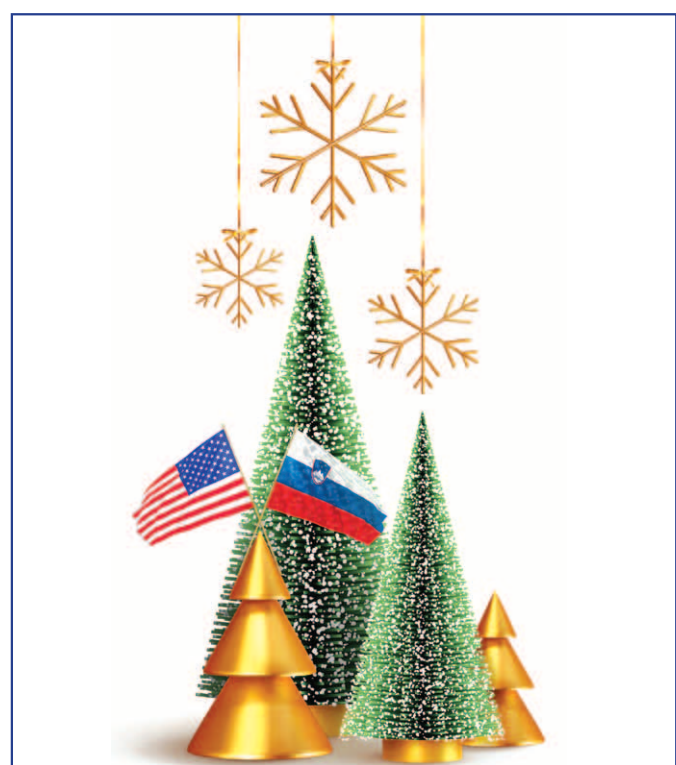
[Left, middle] The riders navigating one of hundreds of hairpin curves over the 15 mountain passes in both the Dolomite and Julian Alps.



[Left, bottom] Luka Aucin, the tour guide for the group, as the riders crossed into Austria.



[Below] Marty on the road up Mangart mountain, near Bovec; the highest paved road in Slovenia.



The Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland extends its warmest wishes in celebration of the Slovenian Independence and Unity Day, Christmas holidays and the New Year! Let it be healthy, happy and successful!

Generalni konzulat Republike Slovenije v Clevelandu iskreno čestita ob praznovanju dneva samostojnosti in enotnosti, božiča in novega leta! Naj bo zdravo, srečno in uspešno!



## PROSVETA Crossword HOLIDAY MOVIES (#1223) solution

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

### Important figures to consider...



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

If your coverage is over 5 years old, contact SNPJ for a policy review.

1-800-843-7675





## San Francisco Lodge 304 preparing for Pust dinner

by MICHELLE VON MERTA-SUSTARICH  
Lodge 304 Secretary

**SAN FRANCISCO**—SNPJ Lodge 304 celebrated Slovenian Christmas on Dec. 4, 2023, in collaboration with San Francisco's KSKJ members and Club Slovenia. A lunch buffet was served to more than 80 Slovenian-Americans in attendance, all local to the Bay area. This was our largest Christmas gathering in years!

Continuing the holiday festivities, Lodge 304 officers

went to House of Prime Rib to celebrate the end of the year. In addition to this activity, we are pleased to announce that our annual Pust dinner will be served Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Slovenian Hall in San Francisco. If interested in attending Pust, please contact Lodge 304 Secretary Michelle Von Merta-Sustarich by e-mail to [snpj@lodge304@gmail.com](mailto:snpj@lodge304@gmail.com).

Be sure to check our Lodge Facebook page, SNPJ Lodge 304 San Francisco, for updates.



[Above, from left] San Francisco Lodge 304 Secretary MICHELLE VON MERTA-SUSTARICH, Treasurer CHRIS SHOBAR, auditor ROBIN TALMADGE and President ROBERT BEVC at the Slovenian Christmas festivities.

[Below] SNPJ Lodge 304 officers enjoyed dinner at House of Prime Rib to celebrate the end of the year.



## Riders in the Sky draws a crowd from Southern California SNPJ Lodges

by FRED MLAKAR  
Lodge 786 President

**ORANGE COUNTY, Calif.**—Just prior to a much-anticipated Nov. 1 performance of Grammy-award winning Joey Miskulin and Riders in the Sky, members and guests of SNPJ Lodges 723 and 786 gathered at the home of Ken and Teresa Koci for socializing, appetizers and libations, including Ken's tasty home-brewed pivo, while local accordion heroes Ernie Blasic and Frank Rote provided warm-up entertainment.

We then carpooled to the Coach House Concert Hall in San Juan Capistrano where we were seated at a reserved

table. After enjoying dinner and the opening folk-rock band, the Riders took the stage. Miskulin made us feel special with a Slovenian greeting. The joyful program of traditional and original songs, yodeling and comedy transported us back to simpler times of singing cowboys, such as Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, and Sons of the Pioneers.

After the performance we had the opportunity to meet and greet Joey "the Cowpolka King," Ranger Doug, Woody and Too Slim, all of whom autographed CDs and posters, and posed for photos "the Cowboy Way."



[Above] Lodge 723 and Lodge 786 members and friends socializing at the home of Ken and Teresa Koci prior to the Nov. 1 Riders in the Sky performance.

[Below] The group at the Coach House Concert Hall in San Juan Capistrano, awaiting dinner and Riders in the Sky.



## Help chase winter away during the annual Cleveland Kurentovanje Festival

by KARA MARUSZAK  
Lodge 142

**CLEVELAND**—With the holidays behind us and the weather outside quite frightful, we need your help to chase away winter! So get out your cowbells and join SNPJ at the 12th annual Cleveland Kurentovanje Festival and Parade on Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Ave. in Cleveland.

The Cleveland Kurentovanje Festival is a multi-day festival filled with cultural and festive events culminating in a day-long parade and festival celebration on Saturday complete with costumes,

ethnic food and drink, musical and cultural performances, and Kurents – the mythical creatures who are believed to chase away winter and usher in spring.

Last year an estimated 15,000 people participated in Kurentovanje. More information is available at [www.clevelandkurentovanje.com](http://www.clevelandkurentovanje.com).

SNPJ Region 3 Vice President Don Srnick is organizing an SNPJ float for the parade and everyone is invited to participate. The parade steps off at noon from the Saint Martin de Porres High School gymnasium and concludes at the Slovenian National Home.



The SNPJ float from the 2023 Cleveland Kurentovanje Parade and Festival. To participate in the 2024 parade, contact Kara Maruszak or SNPJ Region 3 Vice President Don Srnick.

Last year, the SNPJ float featured a number of impressive costumes, and we hope participants will again wear their festive Slovenian or Kurent attire. Additionally, musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments to help us march to a polka beat!

If you would like to participate in the parade or have any questions, please contact Kara Maruszak at (440) 655-9376 or Don Srnick at (440) 283-9373.

## Indy Lodge 34 hosting the SNH dinner in March

by JERRY WATSON  
Lodge 34 Secretary/Treasurer

**INDIANAPOLIS**—*Dober dan!* SNPJ Lodge 34 members held their fourth quarterly meeting of 2023 on Dec. 8. Our 2023 Lodge officers were re-elected to serve in 2024.

After our meeting, many members enjoyed celebrating the holiday season at the Slovenian National Home Christmas party. Our Lodge donated more than 80 krofe for the party, and many members assisted during the evening.

This is the time of the year that our members get together to remember the old days. For example, Randy Stanfield

and I have been friends forever. Our mothers, Sylvia and Stella, were best friends. At the party, Randy also enjoyed spending time with Lodge President Mary Dragan and Jozef Watson.

Our first quarterly meeting for 2024 will be held Friday, March 8, at the Slovenian National Home, 961 N. Warman in Indianapolis, starting at 7 p.m. Please join us at this meeting. Our Lodge will be providing the Friday night dinner at the SNH—Jozef will be making his famous gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup; desserts will also be served.

*Srečno novo leto 2024!*



SNPJ Lodge 34 members JERRY WATSON, RANDY STANFIELD, MARY DRAGAN and JOZEF WATSON enjoyed the holiday atmosphere during the Indianapolis SNH Christmas party.

## SUA Slovenian Literary Award competition accepting entries

Slovenian Union of America  
Press Release

**JOLIET, Ill.**—For nearly a century, the Slovenian Union of America (SUA) has been dedicated to preserving the legacy of our Slovenian heritage. Writing has played an essential role in sustaining our culture and our communities, and the SUA Slovenian Literary Award honors those who continue this vital tradition.


Entries for the Sixth Annual Slovenian Literary Award will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2024. The competition is open to first-time writers as well as published authors. Applicants are welcome to register, provide a 100-word biography, and submit their work via an online form.

The Slovenian Literary Award competition is open to writers of all genres of creative

writing: short stories, novels, poetry, memoirs, creative nonfiction, personal essays, narrative nonfiction, and screenplays. Musical compositions will not be considered. Submitted works written in Slovenian are acceptable; however, a translation may be requested.

Up to three submissions per writer will be accepted, only one of which may be book-length. Applicants may live anywhere, but must have a connection to the Slovenian culture or heritage. Only individual writers 18 years and older may enter. SUA membership is not required.

All works will be judged by a committee that includes writers. Winners will be announced in June 2024. For more information contact [slovenianliteraryaward@gmail.com](mailto:slovenianliteraryaward@gmail.com).



### A CENTURY in the making

Proud of your SNPJ membership? Then you owe it to yourself to delve deeper into SNPJ history through the pages of *An Inspired Journey – The SNPJ Story: The First One Hundred Years of the Slovene National Benefit Society*. This richly-illustrated chronicle of SNPJ history compiled and written by SNPJ Publications Editor Jay Sedmak is available for purchase.

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

## SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament February 16-18, 2024

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

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

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

*Submit bowlers' names by position in lineup*

Four Person Team Event Entry fee \$64 per team Sunday Only	Lodge No.	Highest Average 2022-23
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

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

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

Return form, along with fees of \$16 per person, per event, to:  
Den Brand  
405 Forbes St., Bridgeville, PA 15017  
e-mail: [dhbrand3517@gmail.com](mailto:dhbrand3517@gmail.com)  
Make checks payable to **SNPJ Lodge 6**  
**ENTRY DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

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

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



SNPJ 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.