

KSKJ VOICE

**STEPPING UP
PROGRAM RETURNS**

**MARIJA POMAGAJ
CELEBRATIONS**

KSKJ DAY

Photo: 2019 National Bowling Tournament



We're celebrating KSKJ Life's 125th Anniversary all year long – and we want to hear from you!

In honor of our 125th Anniversary, we'd like to feature members and families that have been with KSKJ Life over the years.

What does KSKJ mean to you? What memories do you have of attending KSKJ events? Do you have a photo of yourself at a KSKJ event? We'd love to hear from you!

Please email fraternal@kskjlife.com with your name and your history with KSKJ Life, or visit kskjlife.com to fill out the online submission page. Letters and photographs can also be mailed to the home office.

KSKJ VOICE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF KSKJ LIFE, AMERICAN SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC UNION, IN THE INTEREST OF ITS MEMBERS

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CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL!



A MESSAGE FROM THE KSKJ LIFE HOME OFFICE
JOIN HANDS MONTH AND KSKJ DAY



Winston Churchill once said, "From what we get; we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life." Giving back has always been at the heart of who we are as a fraternal organization. Over the years, our generous members have contributed to their local communities in a variety of ways, including organizing fundraisers for local charities, cleaning cemetery grounds, serving at nursing homes, food pantries, homeless shelters, schools and churches—the list goes on and on.

As we come together this spring to once again "join hands", we are reminded of the importance of community and the positive impact our deeds can have on both ourselves and others. Join Hands Day originated in the fraternal world as a way for adults and youth to team up and help make a difference in their communities through service projects. Many KSKJ Life lodges around the country have already started planning a Join Hands volunteer activity this spring (see page 13 for a list of events). For our members who want to give back to their communities but may not be close in proximity to a lodge or who are unable to participate with a lodge sponsored event this year, we invite you to unite together as one membership during the month of May to improve your community or pay it forward to those who need it most.

We are challenging our members to join hands with others – friends, family, neighbors, teammates – to do a good deed (or two!) and share it with us. Need ideas? Pick up litter in your neighborhood or park, serve at a food pantry, plan a yard sale or lemonade stand and donate proceeds to your favorite charity, spend an afternoon at a nursing home, run errands for a house-bound neighbor, walk a dog at your local animal shelter, or be a friendly greeter at church. Don't forget to grab your kids or grandkids to join in on the fun.

We'll be sharing weekly ideas on how you can participate via Facebook and Instagram, so don't forget to "like" our page. We'll be sharing members' activities and how they are paying it forward.

Each member who shares their volunteer activity will go into a drawing for a chance to win a free gift and \$125 to their charity of choice. You can share by using #kskjlife #joinhands2019 to your own social media account or let us know how you impacted someone or your community – big or small – by emailing fraternal@kskjlife.com.

In the spirit of Join Hands month, KSKJ Life will be hosting a "KSKJ Day" on May 25th to thank those who served and continue to serve our country by sponsoring a food truck that supplies free groceries to veterans in Northern Chicago, IL. Midwest Veterans Closet (MVC) was the chosen charity from our National Supporting Soldiers Campaign in December 2018; because of the generous donations from our wonderful members, MVC was able to use those funds for the food truck which directly impacts local veterans. For those who are in the Northern IL/ Southeast WI area and would like to volunteer on KSKJ Day, please contact fraternal@kskjlife.com.

Fraternally, Cathi Davis

Communications & Fraternal Services Coordinator



Pictured is Dennis Mivshek, Lodge 79 Officer, helping Midwest Veterans Closet pass out free groceries to veterans in 2018.

CELEBRATING LODGE ANNIVERSARIES

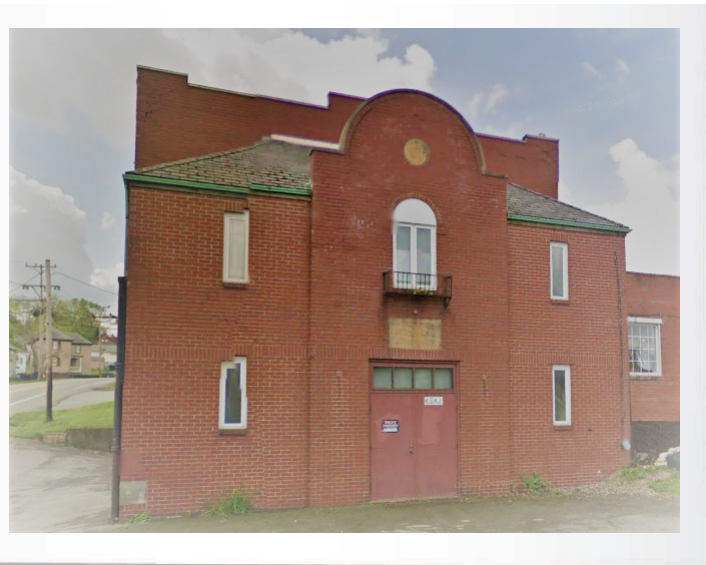
Lodge #153 of Strabane, PA is celebrating a milestone anniversary of 105 years this month!

The organization of St. Jerome Lodge No. 153 took place on April 19, 1914, at the home of Anton Bevec, Sr. Thus, No. 153 was admitted to the KSKJ on May 2, 1914. Founding members were: John Pelhan, Frank Kirn, Anton Krasna, Anton Bevc, Sr., Mary Bevc, Frank Vende, Josephine Delost, and Anton Tomsic. Officers elected at that time were: Frank Kirn, president; John Pelhan, secretary; Michael Tomsic, treasurer; and Anton Sipel, lodge representative.

On December 4, 1935 it was unanimously expressed by the membership that a new home and headquarters be built for St. Jerome Lodge. The edifice was completed on September 7, 1936, with great satisfaction. Top KSKJ officers of the Pittsburgh area present at the time were joined by Ivan Zupan, Glasilo editor, and National President Anton Grdina of Cleveland, Ohio, in expressing their compliments at this great accomplishment.

Present day activities include community activities for adult and juvenile members, including polka dances, Matching Funds fundraisers, Join Hands projects, as well as federation membership.

Present day officers are: Frank Valencic, President; Beverly Rosselle, Financial Secretary and Communications; Joyce Iannarelli, Fraternal Activities Coordinator and Treasurer, Darryl Valencic, Vice President and Lodge Membership Chair; Darlene Marcischak, Recording Secretary; Kenneth Vogrig, Auditor and Sergeant at Arms; Marjorie Valencic, Auditor; Theresa Halaburda, Auditor; and Rev. George DeVille, Spiritual Advisor. Congratulations, Lodge #153, on 105 years!



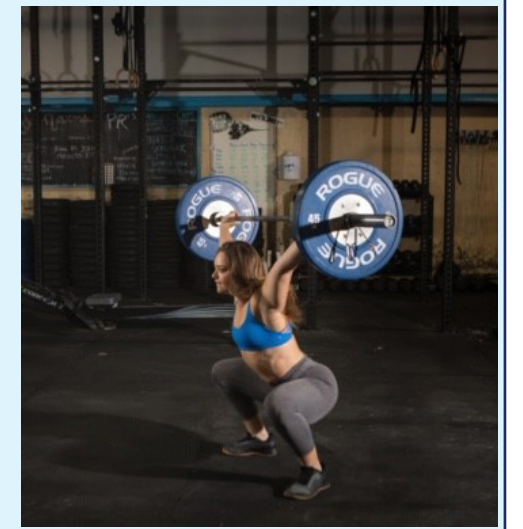
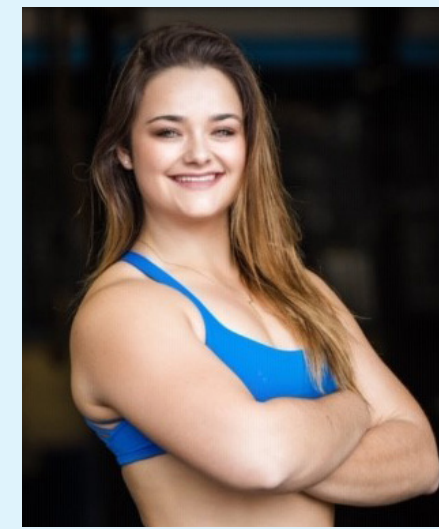
Pictured is St. Jerome's hall in Strabane, PA.

Lodge	Years with KSKJ in 2019	Date Admitted into KSKJ
Lodge #1	125 years	6/10/1894
Lodge #2	125 years	4/2/1894
Lodge #7	125 years	4/2/1894
Lodge #20	124 years	2/13/1895
Lodge #25	124 years	5/21/1895
Lodge #29	123 years	2/2/1896
Lodge #42	122 years	4/30/1897
Lodge #44	122 years	8/22/1897
Lodge #50	120 years	11/30/1899
Lodge #52	119 years	5/6/1900
Lodge #53	119 years	11/17/1900
Lodge #59	117 years	3/4/1902
Lodge #63	117 years	10/16/1902
Lodge #65	116 years	1/19/1903
Lodge #69	116 years	8/17/1903
Lodge #79	115 years	12/18/1904
Lodge #104	113 years	12/28/1906
Lodge #108	112 years	2/14/1907
Lodge #110	112 years	3/7/1907
Lodge #115	112 years	5/14/1907
Lodge #136	109 years	5/16/1910
Lodge #143	108 years	7/19/1911
Lodge #144	108 years	9/10/1911
Lodge #146	107 years	4/1/1912
Lodge #150	106 years	2/28/1913
Lodge #153	105 years	5/2/1914
Lodge #169	98 years	7/1/1921
Lodge #170	97 years	4/14/1922
Lodge #171	97 years	6/1/1922
Lodge #196	94 years	8/1/1925
Lodge #197	94 years	9/24/1925

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT IZZY LEHANE, LODGE #236

Izzy Lehane, daughter of officer Mary Pecavar Lehane and granddaughter of dearly missed Franci Pecavar, is a very strong young woman. At any St. Francis lodge event you will see Izzy helping out without being asked. Izzy was a gymnast for 13 years. Her CrossFit journey began three years ago. In February of 2018 she moved on from CrossFit to Olympic Weightlifting. She is in the 64 kilo weight class and her two elements are the Snatch and the Clean and Jerk. On May 19th, 2018, she competed in her first competition and qualified for the American Open. Izzy has been part of the American Open finals and will be hitting the national stage May 9-12 in Memphis, TN. Follow Izzy on her journey on Instagram: @izzylehane.

*Respectfully submitted,
Diana Fir Gremett*



**KSKJ LIFE WISHES
ALL MOTHERS
A JOYFUL AND
BLESSED MOTHER'S
DAY THIS MONTH!**



LODGE 136 CELEBRATES KSKJ LIFE'S 125 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mary of Perpetual Help Lodge 136, Willard WI celebrated KSKJ Life's 125th Anniversary on April 6, 2019. The event started with a potluck meal at 5pm followed by an evening of music. Lonie G, a local DJ and performer kept the evening going with her music and karaoke. Many people sang such as members Matthew Rakovec, Jessie Rakovec and Bethany Gosar along with Lonie G's two nieces and Zachary and Lela Deavers, children of Melinda Deavers our Lodge Treasurer.



Matt Rakovec, Jessie Rakovec, Lonie G help the little girls sing "Supercalifragilisticexpealidocious."



Matt Rakovec impressed the crowd with his singing.

Along with the music there was a bucket Raffle with the proceeds going to the "House of Mercy", a local place that gives homeless parents and children a place to live while they get a chance to get back on their feet.

The need is so great, even locally in our small communities that they have to put people on a waiting list, a sad testament to our current world. The Bucket raffle raised \$287.00 with baskets of Easter supplies; gardening supplies; a large picnic basket with fine dining supplies; Poticas; hunting supplies; home décor basket with picture frame, blanket and etc; and a Ragged Ann Basket.



Attendees enjoying their food.



The raffle items were a hit at the event.

Pictures include Matt Rakovec singing; Matt, Jessie, Lonie and the little girls singing, and the pictures of the potluck meal. Thank you to all that attended. Our lodge was honored to help celebrate the 125 Years - have a great year KSKJ Life!

*Submitted by,
Lonna Rakovec*

KSKJ LIFE MEMBER STORIES

As part of our 125th Anniversary, we asked our members and their families that have been with us over the years to share their own, unique KSKJ Story. Each month we will feature a couple of the submissions received. Thank you Mary Anne Lisjak Hunt and Mary Grcar for sharing your KSKJ stories with us!



Mary Anne Lisjak Hunt

**Pittsburgh, PA
Lodge #50**

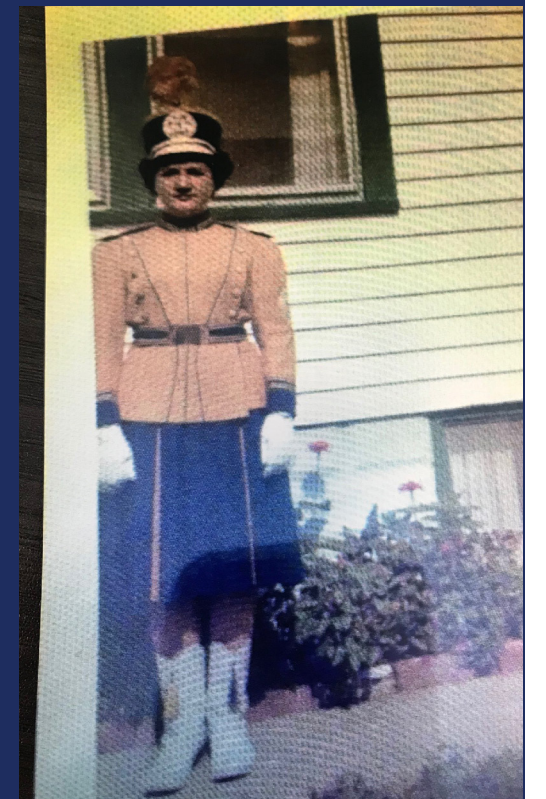
My family has been with KSKJ since my grandparents. My father was a national board member and all of my family held positions in the local lodge, 163. We went to many bowling tournaments and dinners through the years, but my fondest memory is of the convention in Colorado Springs when my husband & I went as delegates. I had old members who knew my Dad write to him in my souvenir booklet. I can't tell you how happy that made him when I gave it to him. Soon after that he got Alzheimer's and ultimately passed away. I am still so happy that I could give him that gift while he still had his fond memories of KSKJ.



Mary Grcar

**Cleveland, OH
Lodge #169**

I am very proud to be a member of KSKJ Life for over 65 years. I joined KSKJ after moving to the US with my parents, Marija and Vili Bitenc, in March of 1951. After joining KSKJ, I became a St. Joseph Cadet. I remember Mr. Ferra picking up 5 other girls and myself and to taking us to the Svetec Funeral Home on E. 152 Street. We stood honor guard for the deceased members of Lodge 169 there. During practice weeks, Mrs. Grosel would teach us what to do and how to do it. It was very nice time of my life; I enjoyed meeting good people and paying respect to our deceased members. I am still a member to this day, along with my husband and children.



NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT RECAP

The KSKJ National Bowling Tournament was held in Joliet on April 6-7th, with St. Francis #29 graciously serving as the host lodge. This year's tournament was more than just another Athletic event, it also had a charitable flair to it, bringing awareness and raising funds for "Cornerstone Services" in Joliet. Louie Derlinga, an officer and member of St. Francis passed away in July of 2018. Louie was associated with Cornerstone for many years, and he loved to bowl and he loved his lodge. To honor Louie, 15 of his friends from Cornerstone were invited to bowl with us, and happily joined in. The tournament officially got underway when his sister Terri Derlinga rolled out the ceremonial first ball. Raffle proceeds from the weekend amounted to nearly \$1,000 and will be presented to Cornerstone in Louie's memory on behalf of St. Francis #29 and KSKJ Life. While bowling was the reason for us to gather in Joliet that weekend, it's the people, the relationships, and the sense of community that will keep us coming back for years to come. Hope you will join us in Milwaukee next year as St. John #65 has volunteered to be the host lodge.

MaryLou Stefanick
KSKJ Life National Board of Directors



Lodge 44 members were excited to bowl: George Bozzetti, Mary Lou Casey, Joyce Bozzetti, Mary Franko.



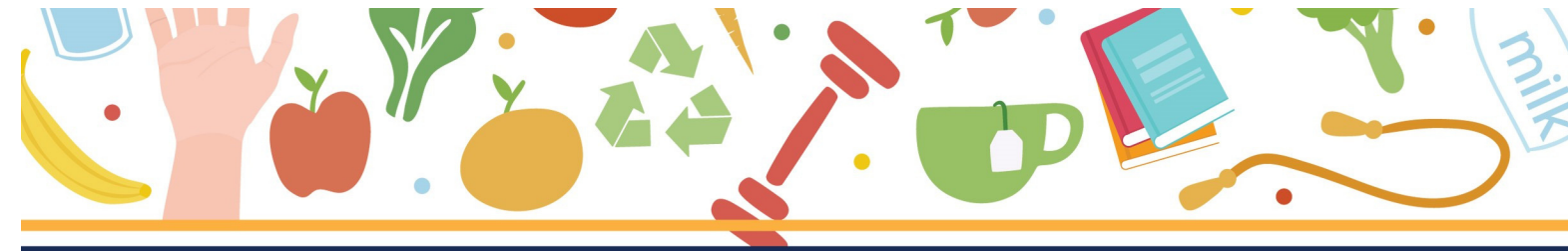
"The Sisters" team from Lodge 63 traveled from Cleveland, OH to participate in the 2019 bowling tournament.



Members of Cornerstone showed up with smiles to bowl and support Louis Derlinga.



Team "Spare Me", consisting of Lodge 52 members from Indianapolis, sported their homemade jerseys at the bowling tournament.



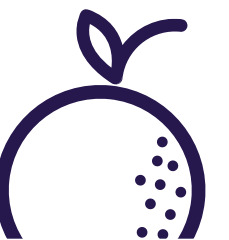
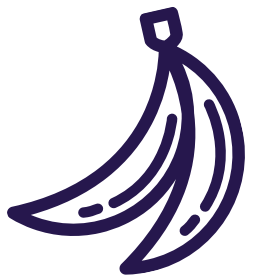
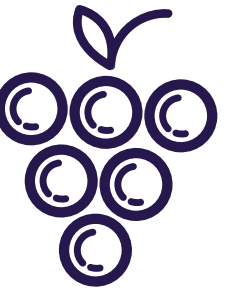
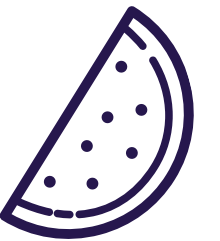
KSKJ LIFE UP a better you STEPPING a better future

KICK-OFF JUNE 2019

STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE TO IMPROVE YOUR DAILY HABITS AND INTRODUCE NEW WAYS TO ENHANCE YOUR LIFE AND YOUR COMMUNITY.

- Exercise
- Plant a garden
- Read a book
- Volunteer
- Update your insurance policy
- Reduce-Reuse-Recycle

Stay tuned for exciting details!



Save the Date - The Waukegan Lodges will be hosting the annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 22, in Waukegan, IL.

KSKJ LIFE'S HISTORY OF GIVING BACK

Gregg Vershay of St. Joseph Lodge # 2, Joliet, IL, was involved in completing research last year for a World War I memorial, commemorating the St. Joseph Parish World War I veterans on the 100th anniversary of the armistice. The memorial located at the St. Joseph Cemetery grotto in Joliet, IL is a fitting tribute to their service, dedicated on the centennial anniversary of the armistice. Several photos from the dedication are shown below.



Pictured is Deacon Doug Starasinich (left) and Father Timothy P. Andres O. Carm (pastor of St. Joseph Church).



The memorial monument in St. Joseph Cemetery grotto.

While pursuing research for the memorial, Gregg came across past articles detailing the early relief efforts of KSKJ Life. Below are some article snippets from the Joliet Herald news, detailing some of the early efforts of KSKJ members. The Yugoslav relief effort could be the first project that went beyond the needs of the immediate communities, which continues today in KSKJ's contributions to the greater community. In early 1919, KSKJ Life was especially instrumental in this relief effort and the distribution of aid to the Yugoslav people. One hundred years later, KSKJ Life maintains its mission of community service, as seen with KSKJ Life's recent hurricane relief donations.

In April of 1919, the National Yugoslav Relief Society began a campaign to raise funds for aid that would be sent to war torn Jugoslavia. This new country, created as part of the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary, was in dire need of food, clothing and other daily necessities.

As Slovenia had become part of Jugoslavia, it was only natural that the leaders of Joliet's Slovenian community would join city leaders to oversee the campaign locally. Rev. Plevnik was again a driving force in this action along with officers of the Grand Carnolian Slovenian Catholic Union (KSKJ Life) including Joseph Dunda, Joseph Zalar, and Joseph Sitar. They sought donations throughout the city; especially, in the communities which had family in Jugoslavia.

According to the Joliet Herald News, "[a] total of 134 boxes were packed and shipped by Joliet families. The total weight of the boxes is 20,781 pounds and the value is estimated at \$12,894. The freight charges which totaled \$3,116 were paid by Joliet people."



Ron Pullman, nephew of John Pullman (listed on the monument) placing the wreath at the dedication site.

KSKJ LIFE'S HISTORY OF GIVING BACK

Joseph Sitar would be one of three men chosen to travel and distribute aid throughout Jugoslavia. His journey and the story of the relief effort were chronicled in the Joliet Herald News.

Joliet Herald News – April 2, 1919

STARVING ONES IN JUGO-SLAVIA APPEAL FOR AID

Joliet's Citizens Called on to Do Their Bit to Save the Suffering Joliet's answer to the call for help from the starving people of Jugo-Slavia is to be formulated at a meeting to be held in the Association of Commerce rooms at 8 o'clock Thursday evening. For there are hundreds of Jugo-Slavs in Joliet, mainly poor people employed in the mills and to these have been coming heart-rending appeals from their folks at home begging for a morsel of food to keep them alive.

Joliet Herald News – April 9, 1919

JUGO-SLAV DRIVE TOTALS \$3,000

Jugo-Slav campaign workers made additional gains in the last 24 hours. From partial reports of 19 committees out of 32, a total of \$3,080.00 is shown. There are 13 committees yet to hear from and it is confidently expected Joliet's quota will be raised in the four days' drive.

Chairmen of the various committees report that the merchants and people of Joliet are responding liberally to the somewhat sudden call to aid the suffering people of Serbia.

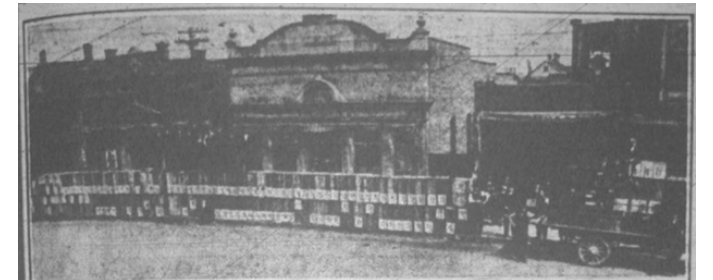
Joseph Sitar has been chosen by the Jugo-Slav people of Joliet to go overseas with the cargo of supplies and food, and is doing so at his own expense. Aboard there will be an official Jugo-Slav and Red Cross committee to direct the distribution of the goods and see that the needy are taken care of.

Joliet Herald News-May 5, 1919

JOLIET'S CONTRIBUTION TO RELIEVE DISTRESS IN STRICKEN JUGO-SLAVIA

Row upon row of large boxes are waiting in New York until further shipments are added before the cargo is placed upon a vessel bound for overseas. One hundred and thirty-four of them are the donations sent from Joliet in response to suffering Jugo-Slavia's appeal for clothes, food and other necessities for her suffering thousands.

Less than a month ago this district was asked to raise \$20,000 as its portion of relief money with which to buy supplies for needy Jugo-Slavs.



Boxes containing more than \$16,000 worth of supplies in readiness for shipment from headquarters of the Grand Carnolian-Slovenian Catholic Union, North Chicago street.

Local Quota Filled. Two weeks later saw the quota filled, the boxes packed and ready for shipment. Joseph Sitar was chosen from this district to represent Joliet in the committee which is to travel to Jugo-Slavia with the boxes. He will leave between May 10 and 15 to fill the mission of distributing food and clothes.

Joliet Herald News – September 11, 1919

In a letter to Joseph Zalar, 602 North Hickory Street, also actively identified with the work, Mr. Sitar told of the distribution of food and other commodities, principally clothing and medical supplies, in Laibach, the capital city of Carnolia, where, he said the inhabitants thronged the relief commission offices with tears of gratitude streaming down their faces.

The supplies which were purchased with subscriptions from all over the United States, including a generous contribution from Joliet, were brought to the famine stricken country thru the instrumentality of the relief commission. During the war more than 175,000 children were cared for by relief organizations.

Joliet Herald News – December 15, 1919

SITAR TELLS OF JOLIET AID TO WAR SUFFERERS

Envoy to Jugo-Slav Countries Back After Relief Mission

DESCRIBES CONDITIONS IN EUROPE

Supplies Contributed By Local Citizens Bring Joy to Destitute

Joseph Sitar, who arrived in Joliet Saturday night after an absence of nearly seven months in the Jugo-Slovenian countries, distributing boxes of shoes and clothing among the villagers along the Adriatic from Trieste to Belgrade, today gave out a message of thanksgiving from people overseas to their countrymen in America who contributed to the campaign that brought relief to thousands of families in Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia.

MEMBER MEMORIAL

Our prayers go out to the families of our recently passed members. Claims have been paid and a donation to the KSKJ Life Educational Grant Fund has been made on behalf of each.

MAY & APRIL 2019

- Lodge #1 - Marko Koscak, Roaring Brook Twp, PA
- Lodge #1 - Gary E. Mills, Alma, MI
- Lodge #1 - Allen F. Otrin, Phoenix, AZ
- Lodge #7 - Barbara J. Anderson, Aurora, CO
- Lodge #7 - Douglas S. Chrisman, Pueblo, CO
- Lodge #20 - Leslie L. Gillin, Adrian, MI
- Lodge #20 - Jackolyn M. Kilbourn, Lowell, MI
- Lodge #20 - Royal B. Rondeau, Neenah, WI
- Lodge #20 - Jack Rauch, Champion, MI
- Lodge #25 - Richard H. Crosser, Lisbon, OH
- Lodge #25 - Beverly J. Hoover, New Philadelphia, OH
- Lodge #25 - Mark A. Peercy, Beach City, OH
- Lodge #25 - H. Lynne Prince, Carrollton, OH
- Lodge #25 - Naomi Young, Union, OH
- Lodge #29 - Leonard B. Bastian, Freeport, IL
- Lodge #29 - Lorraine Burzawa, Joliet, IL
- Lodge #29 - Theresa R. Conner, Kaukauna, WI
- Lodge #29 - John Nemanich, Palatine, IL
- Lodge #29 - Robert J. Rolih, Joliet, IL
- Lodge #42 - Gerald R. Huey, Albion, PA
- Lodge #42 - Agnes Macmahon, Levittown, PA
- Lodge #42 - Dorothy Tercek, Forest City, PA
- Lodge #42 - Mildred A. Weaver, Mechanicsburg, PA
- Lodge #44 - Rudolf G. Novak, Chicago, IL
- Lodge #50 - Leroy R. Balmer, Beaver Falls, PA
- Lodge #50 - Joyce Brady, Duncannon, PA
- Lodge #50 - Pauline L. Caliar, Verona, PA
- Lodge #50 - Evelyn G. Giron, Greensburg, PA
- Lodge #50 - Peggy A. Heicher, Middletown, PA
- Lodge #50 - William J. Lorkovic, Cochran, PA

- Lodge #50 - Alice C. Mali, Pittsburgh, PA
- Lodge #50 - Frank A. Tuminello, Pittsburgh, PA
- Lodge #50 - Mary Yakich, Wayne, PA N
- Lodge #52 - Karen S. Myers, Rockville, IN
- Lodge #52 - Julia M. Shannon, Indianapolis, IN
- Lodge #52 - Terri J. Tipton, Marion, IN
- Lodge #52 - Carole L. Query, Evansville, IN
- Lodge #63 - Joseph G. Janezic, Chardon, OH
- Lodge #63 - Joseph J. Mramor, Philadelphia, PA
- Lodge #63 - Michael W. Spencer, Mt. Vernon, OH
- Lodge #65 - Matilda Skibinski, Milwaukee, WI
- Lodge #79 - Richard R. Koller, North Chicago, IL
- Lodge #108 - Thomas L. Banic, Sebring, FL
- Lodge #108 - James G. Hanley, Aurora, IL
- Lodge #110 - Frank M. Maurer, Barberton, OH
- Lodge #115 - Robert J. Black, Wichita, KS
- Lodge #115 - Rodney W. Hayes, Galena, KS
- Lodge #136 - Anthony F. Kokaly, Sussex, WI
- Lodge #143 - Florence O. Smorkol, La Salle, IL
- Lodge #143 - Mary Virant, Peoria, IL
- Lodge #150 - Lawrence E. Thompson, Ashland, OH
- Lodge #153 - Claudia M. Mowery, Berwick, PA
- Lodge #153 - Stanley Simoncic, Bridgeport, OH
- Lodge #153 - Geraldine M. Wilson, Pittsburgh, PA N
- Lodge #169 - Joseph P. Bohinc, Madison, OH
- Lodge #169 - William F. Manieri Sr., Willowick, OH
- Lodge #196 - Sonja K. Suomela, Duluth, MN
- Lodge #197 - James E. Zehowski, Little Falls, MN
- Lodge #226 - Anthony Drobnik, Schaumburg, IL
- Lodge #236 - Reynaldo E. Giron, Lindsay, CA
- Lodge #236 - Michael V. Irvin, Yucaipa, CA
- Lodge #612 - W. Jay Gregg Jr., Saint Bonifacius, MN
- Lodge #620 - Leona M. Brown, Peoria, AZ
- Lodge #621 - Robert E. Lemmons, Bedford, IN
- Lodge #622 - Vernon B. Bundy, Des Moines, IA
- Lodge #624 - Thomas Baker, Gulfport, MS
- Lodge #624 - Mary E. Brogan, Mansfield, OH
- Lodge #625 - Nelva L. Ware, Oberlin, LA

IN MEMORY OF

Victoria Zelenik - Lodge #53

Mary Chamernik - \$25.00

JOIN HANDS MONTH

KSKJ Life Join Hands events across the nation will be occurring beginning this month! From placing American flags on veterans' graves in time for Memorial Day to visiting with nursing home residents, numerous KSKJ Life members will be participating in this worthwhile cause. The following is a list of lodges who will be participating in a Join Hands project. Contact your local lodge for more details if you'd like to participate as well!

Lodge #	City/State	Date of Project	Place of Project	Description
2	Joliet, IL	Friday, May 10th	Sunny Hill Nursing Home	Weeding and planting flower beds
50	Pittsburgh, PA	May 20-22	Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville	Placing flags on the graves of veterans
63	Cleveland, OH	Saturday, May 18	Slovenian Cultural Gardens	Prepping beds and planting annuals
108	Joliet, IL	TBD	St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery	Placing American flags in the Grotto & hanging up a poppy wreath at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
144	Sheboygan, WI	Saturday, May 18	Greendale Cemetery	Cleaning the grounds
150	Cleveland, OH	TBD	St. Mary's Church	Volunteers meet each Saturday from 8:30 - 10:30am to distribute fresh produce to those in need
153	Strabane, PA	Saturday, May 25	Miraculous Medal Church in Meadow Lands	Distributing food at the food pantry
169	Cleveland, OH	Saturday, May 18	Soldiers and Sailors Monument	Planting and gardening
171	Duluth, MN	Saturday, May 4	Stowe Elementary School & St. Elizabeth's Church	Clean the grounds around the church and school
219	Euclid, OH	TBD	Slovenian Home on Neff Road	Assisting Mass with the residents, then honoring the volunteers with a Pizza Party
226	Cleveland, OH	Saturday, May 4	Slovenian National Home	Cleaning up the grounds, gardening.

MARIJA POMAGAJ



On May 24th we celebrate the feast day of Maria Pomagaj, Our Lady Help of Christians, long observed by Slovenian people locally and abroad. Maria Pomagaj is the Slovenian depiction of Mary, Help of Christians. This painting pictured is located in St. Vitus Church in Brezje Slovenia. It was a popular pilgrimage site with a painting of Mary based on a well-known version in Innsbruck, Austria. In 1800, a chapel featuring the Virgin Mary was added to the church. In 1814, painter Leopold Layer painted frescos and the Slovenian rendition of Mary Help of Christians. In 1863, the first known miracle attributed to Our Lady of Brezje occurred and many prayers began to be answered. This caused an increase in the popularity of Brezje as a pilgrimage site. In 1907, the bishop, with approval of Pope St. Pius X, crowned the Christ Child and Mary. In 1988, Pope St. John Paul II gave the church the title of Basilica and he visited Brezje in 1996. At the 41st International Eucharistic Congress, the Coordinating Committee of Slovenian Participants passed this resolution, "Every year in May on the eve of the Slovenian Participants passed this resolution, "Every year in May on the eve of the feast of Our Lady of Brezje, Our Patroness and Protector of Slovenian heritage, we light a candle and spend the evening in meditation. We reflect on the Christian values and traditions that guided our people through the centuries, that mold us today and through us the nation where we live." In this spirit, Joliet Lodges in Illinois and Cleveland Lodges in Ohio invite you to join in honoring the feast of Marija Pomagaj. All Slovenians, Slovenian organizations and friends are welcome to come join the celebration as an important part of our heritage.

Marija Pomagaj Vigil Mass
Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Church - 416 N. Chicago St., Joliet, IL
Reception sponsored by Joliet KSKJ lodges to follow

May Devotions in honor of our Lady of Brezje
Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine on Chardon Road in Euclid, OH

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

ILLINOIS

LODGE #2

JOLIET, IL

50 YEAR MEMBERS

Lodge #2 would like to congratulate our 50-year members: Paul Modzelewski, Mary Rugroden, John Schreiber, Ronald Simonic, Sharon Sukley and Rose Vergo. A brunch was held at Merichka's restaurant on March 17th to celebrate this milestone.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Darla Tomac will head our Join Hands Day event in May. We will be weeding and planting flower beds at Sunny Hill Nursing Home. This has been an annual event for our lodge. The residents and staff of Sunny Hill are very appreciative of our help. Grab your garden gloves and join us on Friday, May 10 at 9:00 A.M! We'll meet on the lower terrace.

Our Matching Funds project is a Mexican dinner being held on May 4th at St. Joe's Park. We're joining forces with Lodge #29 to raise money for Cornerstone Services in memory of Louis Derlinga. Thanks to Sylvia Churnovic's delicious recipes and cooking skills, Diana Tyda's organization, and the combined hard work of all the Lodge 2 and 29 volunteers, this will be a successful event. Special thanks to Big John Churnovic and the Slivo Express for the entertainment and to all the members who donated raffle items.

The next meeting of St. Joseph Lodge #2 will be our annual steak fry held on Thursday, June 6 at 5:00 at St. Joe's Park. Steak dinners, with all the fixings, will be \$10 for members. Children will be able to enjoy hotdogs at no charge. Guests are welcome. Guests meals are \$15. You can RSVP to Diana (815-557-73250) or Sylvia (815-353-1161) by May 30th.

Lynn Miller

LODGE #29

JOLIET, IL

MATCHING FUNDS EVENT

Come on out for the "Bring on the Fiesta Mexican Dinner" on Saturday, May 4, at St. Joseph Park from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Cash bar and music by Big John & the Slivo Express. This is a joint 2019 Matching Funds event sponsored by our Lodge and St. Joseph Lodge No. 2 to benefit Cornerstone Services in Joliet in memory of Louie Derlinga. Call or text Kathy Lovati at 815-954-6220 for tickets which are \$10.00 per meal. Carry-outs available.



A bowler from a young age - Tournament held in memory of Louie Derlinga and to benefit Cornerstone Services

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Such a wonderful turn out for our Bowling Tournament the weekend of April 6-7. Many thanks for the hard work of Melissa Medved and Kathy Lovati for organizing the weekend held in Louie Derlinga's memory who had been a bowler from a young age and participated in many KSKJ Tournaments at home or away. There

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

was a get-together on Friday night at the Bowling Alley, followed by team bowling Saturday afternoon, a dance at the Croatian Cultural Club on Saturday night and ending with singles & doubles on Sunday. Nice to see everyone enjoying themselves.



Terri Derlinga throwing out the first ball on April 6 at Town & Country Lanes in loving honor of her brother



L-R: Sisters Kathy Lovati & Judy Corum serving smokies at the Bowling Tournament. Even though Kathy wasn't able to bowl she still wore her babushka!

UPCOMING EVENT

SAVE THE DATE for our Lodge Steak Fry – Friday, July 26, 5:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Park. More information to come.

May is the month to honor all Mothers and Happy Memorial Day!

*Karen (Ramsak) Coleman
Reporter*

LODGE #44

S. CHICAGO, IL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lodge 44 will head to the South Side on Friday, June 14th to watch the Sox take on Yankees at Guaranteed Rate Field. Ticket, transportation, meal and drinks will be included. First pitch is at 7:10pm and we will stay for fireworks after the game. To purchase your ticket, contact George Bozzetti (708-334-5434) or James Rossi Jr. (219-902-0230).

Come out and compete in this year's Bocce Tournament that will be held on September 14th at O'Hara's Tavern, 3541 E 106th St, Chicago, IL 60617. Contact James Rossi to be sure your team is included in this year's tournament.

Our next meeting will be June 2nd at 11:00am at the Calumet Yacht Club, 4025 E 102nd St, Chicago, IL 60617. Please contact George if you are planning on attending. We do need a head count to be sure there is enough food.

Angela Rossi

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #79

WAUKEGAN, IL

MATCHING FUNDS UPDATE

The hopeful Olympians, the grateful students, and the supportive staff at Warren Special Recreation Association (WSRA) show their appreciation to St. Mary #79 of Waukegan for the \$3,300 donation made on behalf of the lodge's recent Matching Funds event. WSRA staff member and St. Joseph #53 lodge officer Amber Bodame, stated that the money will be used towards purchasing some new athletic equipment as well as scholarship money for Special Olympics.



MaryLou Stefanick

LODGE #143

JOLIET, IL

MATCHING FUNDS RECAP

Hundreds of people came out in support of KSKJ Life member and home office employee Karen Marino at the spaghetti dinner fundraiser that was held in her honor on March 30th at the Croatian Cultural Club in Joliet. Lodge #143 teamed up with Karen's family to make this a KSKJ Life Matching Funds event. \$10,000 was raised, and KSKJ Life is matching \$2,000. Dozens of raffle prizes were generously donated along with numerous delicious desserts for the sweets table. Karen was recently diagnosed with colon cancer and the funds raised will be used to help with her medical costs.



Dozens of scrumptious desserts were generously donated for the bake sale



The Croatian Cultural club was filled with Karen's family and friends.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Just one of the many fabulous items that were raffled off



Family and friends of all ages helped out with the dinner

LODGE MEETING

Our next lodge meeting will take place on Thursday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Joliet Public Library – Black Road Branch (Meeting Room F). Come grab a cup of coffee and a sweet treat at the Book and Bean Cafe (located in the library), and join us for fellowship, new business and member updates. If you are unable to physically attend, you may join via conference call! To attend remotely, please call (712) 770-4827 - enter Access Code 912758.

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for our next matching funds event: Mammo-Palooza! Mammo-Palooza is a benefit event to support Mammo Strong Inc., which provides charitable support to help children and their families in the areas

of health, education and amateur sports in memory of Matthew "MAMMO" Mammosser, who was a classmate of some of our lodge members.

The 8th Annual Mammo-Palooza will be held on Saturday, August 3rd, 2019 at St. Sava Picnic Grounds, 3457 Black Rd., Joliet, IL. There will be plenty of music, kids activities, food and drinks, and volunteer opportunities. Stay tuned for more information.

Lauren Baltz

MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA AREA NEWS

DULUTH, MN

MINNESOTA FEDERATION MEETING

The Minnesota Federation Meeting and Dinner celebrated the 125th Anniversary of KSKJ on Sunday, April 7, 2019. A commemorative anniversary cake was served for dessert following the dinner. Fun was had by all. Happy anniversary to KSKJ Life!



Members of the Eveleth, Gilbert, and Duluth Lodges of the Minnesota Federation gather for a picture around the KSKJ 125th Anniversary Cake

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



The Minnesota Federation Meeting and Dinner celebrated the 125th Anniversary of KSKJ with a commemorative cake.

Frank Bucar

LODGE 171

DULUTH, MN

BOWLING AND PIZZA PARTY

KSKJ Lodge #171 Members enjoyed a Bowling & Pizza Party on Saturday, April 7th, at Skyline Lanes in Duluth. An enthusiastic group of both kids and adults showed up to bowl, eat pizza, and enjoy each other's company.



Youth members had a great time with Bowling, Pizza, and Arcades.



It was quite difficult for Brenda and Frannie to pass up a "Photo Op" at the Bowling & Pizza Party.

Frank Bucar

LODGE #197

ST. CLOUD, MN

MATCHING FUNDS EVENT

St. Stephen Lodge #197 held a Matching Funds event on Saturday, April 6th in Little Falls, MN. Guests enjoyed a spaghetti/pasta dinner to benefit St. Francis Music Center, an award winning community music school for the performing arts located in central Minnesota. The organization promotes the belief that music and the arts are a key to nonviolence, to celebrating our many



KSKJ Lodge #171 Members enjoying fraternalism at the Bowling & Pizza Party

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

cultures, and to finding the good in humanity. The event raised over \$2,200 for the music center, to be matched by KSKJ Life for another \$2,000.



Jim Bisek, Lodge 197 Financial Secretary, eating with attendees and helpers from St. Francis Music Center.



Michael Retka, Fraternal Activities Coordinator for Lodge 197, mingling with guests and volunteers.



Gene Retka visiting with attendees.

Jim Bisek

OHIO

OHIO AREA NEWS

CLEVELAND, OH

OHIO KSKJ OBSERVANCE: OUR LADY OF BREZJE

On Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 7:00 P.M., all are invited to meet at the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine on Chardon Road in Euclid, Ohio for our annual May devotions in honor of our Lady of Brezje, Patroness of Slovenia. May 24th is the actual feastday of Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians, long observed by Slovenian people here and abroad. The annual observance sponsored by the Ohio Federation of KSKJ Lodges came about at the 1976 International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, PA, where the Slovenian participants resolved to celebrate the feastday of Marija Pomagaj with a prayer service.

The prayer service will include the recitation of the Rosary at 7:00 P.M. followed by a Mass, Homily, the singing of the Slovenian Litanies to the Blessed Virgin Mary and Benediction.

Please reserve this evening for this devotion to Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians.

Fraternally yours,
Joseph V. Hocevar

LODGE 25

CLEVELAND, OH

IN MEMORIAM

Ludmila (lood-mill-a) Hanzel (Hon gel) Glavan, known to all as Millie, passed away March 10, 2019. She was a 60+ year member of KSKJ and secretary for Lodge 172 Sacred Heart of Jesus for many years, before being transferred to St. Vitus Lodge #25 thereafter.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Her life was filled with faith, love of family, and love for her Slovenian heritage. She always smiled, found the best in everyone, and made each person she met feel special.



Millie started her life in 1921 in Ljutomer, Yugoslavia, now Slovenia, as the second youngest of 12 brothers and sisters. Her father, whom she adored, was a leather merchant with hides processed at their home. Her mother was a very religious person. Feast days, not birthdays, were huge celebrations. At her father's behest, Millie moved to Ljubljana in her teens to attend the Ursuline high school and a 2-year business college—developing her lifelong love of learning. She lived with her older sister Pepca, an accomplished seamstress who taught her the craft. Millie was very creative and used her talent to sew clothes for others to augment the family income, later making her own children's clothes. She loved to sing, and throughout her life would often joyfully break into song in her beautiful operatic voice while working around the house. She enjoyed the arts and drawing, and continued her artwork well into her 90s, painting a prized robin watercolor which hung in her nursing home bedroom.

In 1942, while working at a government office she met her husband-to-be, Mirko (mere-ko), a radio operator for King Peter in the Yugoslav Navy. He asked her out, but Millie had plans to attend Mass, so she asked him to join her. While he initially declined, his interest got the better of him and, to her surprise, he came into the church and knelt in the pew behind her.

World War II was in full swing and a revolution was raging in Slovenia. Millie had access to daily intel in her position

which suggested that her safety was at risk, and her sister recommended that she go to Austria until things settled down. One Sunday early in May 1945, Millie went to St. Nicholas Cathedral with its beautiful ornately carved doors and prayed before Mary at the side altar, asking for her protection. She had a very deep faith and prayed the rosary daily throughout her life. Her advice always was 'to pray.' With God's help there was no obstacle she could not handle.

She began her journey with just a rosary in her pocket and a small suitcase, crossing the Austrian border and becoming a refugee. In the Lienz refugee camp, Millie became reacquainted with Mirko. Soon after, both were transferred to a camp in Spittal, and on November 3, 1946, Millie and Mirko joined their lives together for better or worse. According to Millie, they married not for money, but for spiritual support. Life in the camp was hard. Food was scarce and accommodations were tight. They shared one of the eight rooms in barrack #52 where Millie gave birth to their first two children, Bog and Mary, between 1947 and 1948. Concerned about their future, they learned that they could go to the United States with sponsorship and, after a two-week journey crossing a turbulent Atlantic on the Omar Bundy, they looked out to see the Statue of Liberty. Soon after, they arrived by train in downtown Cleveland and met their sponsor, Mr. Seme, who helped to arrange housing and a job for Mirko.

Millie and Mirko had three more children between 1951 and 1955, Millie, Helen, and Franc. Given her love of learning, Millie ensured that all five children received an excellent education, sending them all to the Ascension Parish School, Catholic high school, and college. Life was difficult and money was tight, yet Millie had the ability to stretch finances and meals using the fruits and vegetables grown in their tiny but productive city garden. There were always birthday celebrations and holidays filled with traditional foods and special cakes, baked and decorated by Millie.

Millie instilled Slovenian traditions and family values in her children and grandchildren. She would read to her children as they sat on the floor around her chair while Mirko worked long hours. She shared stories of her life growing up and rhymes and tales of Slovenian folklore. She gave her heart to her 14 grandchildren and loved her 25 great grandchildren, though not all of them were

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

able to get to know her.

Millie was secretary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus lodge of the KSKJ Slovenian fraternal order for many years and enjoyed the work of maintaining the finances and records in her orderly fashion. In her 70's, she announced she had a job handling the books for the local Meals on Wheels and was proud of how she managed to reorganize and clean up their records.

In 1989, they moved to Buckeye Lake, near Columbus, where Mirko passed away in 1991. Widowed, she knew she had to be strong and continued to live a full and independent life into her 90's. She became very involved with her church, taking care of the altar flower arrangements. Within the senior community, she enjoyed friendships, dinners, visits, and the many activities. She was always positive and encouraged others.

Millie has now completed her final journey to spend eternity with God in Heaven and has rejoined Mirko, who has waited 28 years for her. She was the most loving and kind person one could ever meet. She instilled many Slovenian traditions in us all. She loved to mend and iron your clothes and made the best strudels. From her days in the DP camp until the end, she was always a fighter with God's help.

*Submitted by,
Mary Vavpetic*

LODGE 63

CLEVELAND, OH

BOWLING EVENTS

A big thank you to the Joliet lodges for hosting the National Bowling Tournament (our lodge sent 1 men's and 1 woman's team); even if we didn't win a great time was had by all. Speaking of bowling don't forget about our youth bowling event on Saturday April 27 from 1pm -3pm at the Slovenian East 80th Lanes; this event is open to all \$5.00 per child includes bowling, hot dog, beverage, and chips. Please RSVP by April 25th to Jean at 440- 781-3075 (call or text).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us at our Join Hands event, Saturday May 18, 10am at the Slovenian Cultural Gardens our lodge will be prepping beds and planting annuals. If you have never been to the garden this would be a great opportunity. This is also a great opportunity for young adults needing service hour's as well. The gardens are located at 820 East Blvd, Cleveland 44108.

Our lodge will be hosting a 50 year member and lodge officer appreciation dinner on Saturday, June 1, 2019, 2pm at Maria's Restaurant 4502 St. Clair, Cleveland Ohio. All are welcome but reservations are a must by May 28; members that have not attended 2 meeting this year and non-members will be required to pay 50% of their tab per lodge policy voted and passed a few years back.

Mark your calendar for more upcoming events:

April lodge meeting – Monday April 30 – Slovenian Home 6:30pm

All Hands Event – Saturday May 18, 10am – Slovenian Cultural Garden (bring your gardening tools)

50 year Member and Lodge officer Appreciation Dinner – Saturday June 1- Maria's Restaurant

4 Lodge Picnic – Sunday July 14 – Odd Fellows Picnic Grounds, Glenwillow Ohio

Happy Spring!

Jean Marincic

LODGE 146

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

We had a busy start to April - we managed to have 2 events on the same day!

The weekend of April 6-7th was the National Bowling Tournament. We had 4 members from our lodge in attendance - one of whom was a brand-new member - Rosie Kocin. Sanchez. Rosie is married to Mark Kocin. Mark stepped up and joined our board as an officer upon the untimely passing of his mother.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

His father is active as a member as well. Since there was no bus to the tournament, we met on the turnpike so that I would not be driving alone. A fun time was had by all at that event.



Rosie is our new member, and she is modeling the Tournament SWAG that was given to all bowlers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events for our lodge - we will have a meet and greet at Quaker Steak and Lube on Friday, May 24th at 6 pm. Friday, January 28th, we will have our annual putt-putt event. This will be held at Mr. Divot's, which is located on York Road, near Royalton Road. We will meet there at 7:00pm.

The month of May traditionally brings about a lot of celebrating - we have Mother's Day (happy belated to all our mothers out there), first communions, and graduations. Here's wishing all our members who are celebrating a special occasion this month a joyous occasion.

See you around!

Josie Kmet

LODGE 150

CLEVELAND, OH

NEWS UPDATE

St. Anne's Lodge #150 would like to wish you all a very Happy Spring! Remember that April showers bring May flowers. So let's get active, enjoy the beautiful weather and take time out of your busy day to smell the flowers. On Sunday, April 7th, we recognized our KSKJ Life 50 Year Members at a delightful celebration dinner. Congratulations to honorees: Anthony Kastelic, Cynthia Munko, Janet Orosz, Kenneth Safranek and Carol Zmarzly. Thank you for your loyalty and support.



L-R: Elaine Peskar, President of St. Anne's Lodge #150 and Janet Orosz, 50 Year Member Honoree



In front of St. Raymond's Cathedral in Joliet. We did not all plan to be at the same Mass, but we all ended up there!

Event #2 was on April 7th as well. This was the joint 50-year member dinner at Santo's Restaurant in Middleburg Hts. All reports are that a good time was had by all attendees. The food was great and the space very nice. We joined lodge #150 in this event. One of their 50-year members was able to make it to the event. We had 2 members celebrating 50 years with KSKJ. One of them - Kathleen Phillips - does not have a current address or contact information. Our other 50-year member, Suzanne Lowery Mims, is now living out of state.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE BASEBALL GAME

In conjunction with Christ the King Lodge #226, we are planning an exciting activity for a Lake County Captains baseball game. Please join us on Saturday, August 31 at Classic Park in Eastlake for a 7pm game. This is Fan Appreciation Night and includes fireworks after the game. Chuck Potenga, Lodge #226, has reserved the Officers Club Suite, which holds 25-50 fans. Your reservation for this fun event includes your game ticket and a game day buffet. Food will be served for an hour and a half and is all you can eat. The menu consists of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips, cookies and non-alcoholic drinks. The cost for KSKJ members of Lodge #150 and #226 will be \$9.00 (each lodge will subsidize the difference). The cost is \$35 for a non-member guest. If you are interested, please contact Elaine Peskar (440-243-0312) or Chuck Potenga (440-582-5169) by June 1st.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lodge #150's upcoming meetings on May 14th and June 4th will be held at 6:30pm at Olympia Sweet Treats and Grill at 11606 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio. Please join us for a "Meet and Eat".

July 14 - Four Lodge Picnic at Oddfellows Farm

August 3 - Porky Pig Softball Tournament & Pig Roast

Elaine Peskar

LODGE 169

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will honor our new 50-year members on Thursday, May 23 at Dubrovnik Gardens in Eastlake. If you'd like to join us that evening, contact Marty Marsic or John Nemeec (216-541-7243) by May 18.

Saturday morning, May 18, we will volunteer with

planting and more at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument downtown as part of the Join Hands Day effort. Please let us know if you'd like to give a couple hours to help.

Our lodge team (15+ strong) is preparing for the Run/Walk for Hunger on May 11 through downtown Cleveland. If you'd like to join us, there may still be time. Contact Greg Clack or me.

On May 23 we will honor our Lady of Brezje, as every year at Lourdes Shrine on Chardon Road. See the Ohio Federation notice in this issue.

Our next lodge is June 20 at 6:30 at the Collinwood Slovenian Home on Holmes Avenue. Join us!

Wishing you all a great spring and good health.

John Nemeec

LODGE #219

EUCLID, OH

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Lodge 219 will celebrate KSKJ Life's 125th anniversary with a Communion Mass and luncheon on Sunday, May 19th. We will meet at Sts. Robert Williams Catholic Church in Euclid, Ohio for the 11:00am mass. The luncheon will be held at Applebee's restaurant on Willow Grove Road in Willoughby at 12:30pm. Those planning to attend the luncheon please send your \$5.00 member reservation to Joanne Ash at 7709 Joseph St. Kirtland, OH 44094 by May 13th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have two 50-year members to honor. We will join the volunteers at the Slovenian Home on Neff Road to assist them in Mass with the residents and then honor the volunteers with a Pizza Party for our Join Hands project (date to be announced). Our next meeting is June 9th at 1:00pm in Gateway Manor, Euclid, Ohio. We will be serving refreshments - and don't forget about the door prizes!

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

There will be no meeting in July or August. All mothers and caregivers, have a Blessed and Happy Mother's Day.

*Elizabeth Kusar
Fraternal Sec./Treas.*

LODGE #226

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

Happy Spring KSKJ Members! I'm starting to see buds on the trees and the temperatures are starting to rise a bit. It's been a long winter and I am ready for the change to warmer weather.

Warmer weather means there are several events coming up starting with our annual Join Hands Day at the Slovenian National Home. This day of giving back is a great way for our youth to earn service hours and provides volunteer experience for those scholarship applications. We hope you can join us on May 4 at 10:00 AM at the Slovenian National Home. Bring garden gloves and tools as much of what we do involves cleaning up the grounds.

We've also added our annual 4-Lodge Picnic to the calendar. It will be held at Oddfellows on July 14. Mark your calendar now for this fun summer event!

Two other special events to consider attending are: FAITH. FAMILY. AND (SOMETIMES) FOOTBALL. ELVIS GRBAC GUEST SPEAKER AT ST. VITUS, April 28 after the 9:00AM Mass in the lower church hall. There is no admission but a free-will offering will be taken and donated to Joseph House of Cleveland Inc., a not-for-profit tax exempt organization that resettles immigrants coming to Cleveland as well as a clothing distribution ministry to all in need. Lodge 226 is a sponsor for this event.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING. Andrew Rudmann, to be ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the archdiocese of New Orleans, will have a First Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 10AM in St. Vitus Church. This will be an All Parish Mass; and the only Mass that day.

A social gathering and opportunity to meet Rev. Rudmann in St. Vitus Parish Auditorium will occur after the First Mass of Thanksgiving. Rev. Rudmann is a member of Lodge 226.

Now that we've looked forward, we should also take some time to look back over the past month or so. Below is a picture or two from our March Lodge Meeting and Fish Fry held at The NASH. Everyone had a great time and as usual the fish was delicious!



We hope you can join us for our next meeting on May 10th which is also a Night at the Races at The NASH. See below for details.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 4 - 10:00 AM (Slovenian National Home) Join Hands Day

May 10 - 6:00 PM (The NASH) Lodge Meeting and Night at the Races

Jun 2 - 12:00 PM (Slovenian National Home) Lodge Meeting

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

** July 14 - 4-Lodge Picnic at Oddfellows - Details to Come **

July 20 - 10:00 AM (St. Bernard Golf Course) Dave Koprowski Memorial Golf Outing

Aug 31 - 7:00 PM (Lake County Captains Stadium) Lake County Captains Game. Join us in the Officers Club for a night of baseball and fireworks. Christ the King Lodge Members: \$9.00. \$35.00 for non-member guests. Evening includes an all-you-can-eat menu of burgers, hot dogs, sides, chips, and cookies. Please contact Chuck Potenga (cpotenga@wowway.com or 440-582-5169) for additional details and to RSVP. (Maximum number: 50 people.)

Sept 1 - 12:00 PM (Slovenian National Home) Lodge Meeting

Oct 6 - 12:00 PM (Slovenian National Home) Lodge Meeting

Nov 3 - 12:00 PM (Slovenian National Home) Lodge Meeting

Nov 24 - 10:00 AM (St. Vitus Church) Mass following by Christ the King Celebration Dinner

Dec 1 - 10:00 AM (Slovenian National Home) Lodge Meeting

Dec 1 - 12:00 PM (Slovenian National Home) Youth Christmas Party

Tamara Zupancic, Voice Reporter

PENNSYLVANIA LODGE #42

STEELTON, PA

LODGE HOLIDAY PARTY

St. Aloysius Lodge #42 held their children's Christmas party at Chocolate World in Hershey, PA. The children saw the 4D Chocolate movie, went on the chocolate tour ride, created their own candy bars and were treated to a delicious dinner. In the evening all members went on the Hershey trolley and saw the amazing attraction of

outdoor lights called Sweet Lights. Thank you to Anne Hubler and Ron Graves for planning this wonderful day for the kids & their families. Below are some pictures from the day's activities.



Lodge 42 members gather for a group shot outside Chocolate World.



Youth members enjoyed spending time with Santa



Pictured is Anne Hubler, Lodge 42 member, at Chocolate World..

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Christine Iozza and Jeff Dermes with their specialty bars!

Submitted by Barbara Gallagher

LODGE #50

PITTSBURGH, PA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for our Join Hands Day Celebration, which will be held at Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville placing flags on the graves of veterans. We will be doing this May 20th thru the 22nd. Please RSVP to Ashley (kskjlifelodge50@yahoo.com) if you plan on joining. The more the merrier so feel free to bring along a friend or two.

Don't forget to SAVE THE DATE for our annual Lodge 50 Summer Picnic. Our picnic will be held on Sunday July 28th from 1:00pm to dusk at Middle Road Community Park. Further details will follow.

Ashley Mikulan
Fraternal Activities Coordinator

LODGE #153

STRABANE, PA

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Lodge #153 is celebrating KSKJ Life's 125th Anniversary

with a fundraiser dance and social on Saturday, May 11, 2019. Details are below.

Location - Lodge Home at the corner of Alexander Avenue & Chartiers Street, Strabane, Pa.

Time - 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Cost - \$10.00 Admission

Food & non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. BYOB

Featuring music by Veseli Fantje - Frank & Darryl Valencic

Contact Beverly Rosselle at (724)873-0914 for further information.

JOIN HANDS

Our lodge will be participating in a Join Hands Day event on Saturday, May 25th from 9:00 - 11:00 am at the Miraculous Medal Church in Meadow Lands, PA. We'll be distributing food at the food pantry. Come out and join us for a great cause.

Beverly (Pleskovich) Rosselle
Financial Secretary

WISCONSIN LODGE #65

MILWAUKEE, WI

LODGE UPDATE

Many thanks to the Joliet Lodges that hosted the National Bowling Tournament earlier this month. It was reported that all who attended had a great time and enjoyed the hospitality and camaraderie.

ATTENTION ALL #65 MEMBERS! We are scheduled to host the National Bowling Tournament in 2020. Tentative dates are April 19 and 20 or April 26 and 27. We will need help in making this a memorable time for all. It's not too early to at least plan teams and to offer any help where needed.

We are working on our Join Hands Day Event.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

We will be filling birthday bags for needy families to be able to make children's birthday a special event. We are looking for donations of cake mixes, frosting mixes, candles and children's birthday cards. Please help us make a child know his or her birthday is a day for celebration. We need your help from all ages to help prepare these bags. Come help for a great cause!

As you've heard, KSKJ is celebrating 125 years. There will be one big event in Joliet on August 17, but we in Milwaukee are planning a summer celebration. Plans are in the making now and will be posted on our website. Come attend our May meeting on May 1, 2019, held in the St. John the Evangelist Rectory Meeting Room at 6:30 pm and find out more details.

I'm sure many of you are looking forward to getting out on the golf course. How about getting a foursome together and going to Waukegan, Illinois for the Annual KSKJ Golf Outing on June 22, 2019, which will be held at the Bonnie Brook Golf Course. If you are interested call Jim Stoltmann at 414-699-1106 for more information. Are you going to graduate from high school this year? Are you currently attending college? Applications for the St. John the Evangelist #65 KSKJ Educational Grant will be available soon. Please call Agnes Lobacz if you would like one. 414-321-9779

Greeting to all of our sick and shut ins. Have a safe and enjoyable spring and summer.

Mici Bregant

LODGE #136

WILLARD, WI

LODGE UPDATE

Greetings from Willard: Mary of Perpetual Help enjoyed their KSKJ Life 125th Anniversary Party on April 6th with a potluck supper and music by Lonie G.

On April 14th we had our "Hunting and Fishing" Jamboree. We started with a potluck lunch, then gave out prizes for the game, then door prizes and bingo. Our winners were: Gun Hunting Deer- 1st place Buck-Bob Trunkel, 2nd place- Greg Gosar; Bow Hunting Deer-

1st place Buck- Mary Briski, 2nd place- Ed "Bing" Perko, 3rd place- Bob Trunkel; Bow Hunting 1st place Doe-Mary Briski, 2nd place- John Gosar; Fishing- 1st place Walleye and 1st place Perch went to Fletcher Trunkel; Turkey 1st place Bing Perko and 1st place Beaver- Bing Perko. Members please remember to register your Hunting and Fishing trophies for 2019. We give prizes for Deer, Bear, Game fish for adults and children and rough fish for children, Turkey, Geese, Duck and Beaver. The only requirements are you need to be a member of Lodge 136 and you have to get it within your own state.



Youth members having fun at the Jamboree.



A hungry crowd getting ready to eat.

Our 2nd Matching Funds Event will take place in June so watch the June issue of the Voice. We will co-sponsor a rummage sale with the Willard Historical Society. If you have any questions about what our lodge does contact Lonna Rakovec at 715-267-7105 or email genelonna@hotmail.com.

Lonna Rakovec - Financial Secretary

KSKJ LIFE HOME OFFICE

2439 Glenwood Avenue

Joliet, IL 60435



WE REMEMBER

KSKJ Life would like to acknowledge all our service men and women who sacrificed everything for our country's freedom.

KSKJ Life has proudly supported veterans since 1894.

KSKJ Life, American Slovenian Catholic Union, is an Illinois fraternal benefit society located at 2439 Glenwood Ave; Joliet, IL 60435.
2019.05.V.MEM



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