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Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving 2017

I, our Board of Directors and all of the staff at the Home Office, wish you and your family a happy and prosperous Thanksgiving in 2017 and in the future.

Our Society continues to be at the strongest financial condition in its 127 year history. However, we do face issues that we must address in the future.

Our insurance policies and annuities continue to provide security and our annuity interest crediting rates remain outstanding, better than most of our competitors and far better than banks or credit unions.

However, many of our long-time members have not shared these outstanding benefits with their family members or friends.

This has resulted in many of the historic names on our membership roles disappearing as succeeding generations do not become members of our Society. There are many reasons, but one major reason is that our current and older members are not promoting the First Catholic Slovak Union with their family and friends.

This has led us to market our products through independent insurance agents. We are not alone, as most fraternal societies are seeing this same trend.

Invest in the FCSU and tell your kids and their kids and extended family and friends! Do them a favor! It pays.

You may have noticed that there has not been an article from me for several weeks. In June I had double by-pass surgery. I was out of the office for two full weeks then came back slowly. I did not miss any Executive Committee or Board meetings as Chair during this time.



Andrew M. Rajec



The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all Members on Thanksgiving.

- Rev. Thomas A. NastaChaplain
- Andrew M. RajecPresident
- Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. Vice-President
- Kenneth A. Arendt Executive Secretary
- George Matta II Treasurer



Attention, ALL FCSU College:-bound Seniors:

- Don't let a scholarship opportunity fly away! The FCSU is now accepting applications for its 2018 Scholarship Program.

See page 12 for details

Christmas Coloring Contest Begins

In This Issue
Hey, Kids. Sharpen your crayons!
It's time once again for
the annual National
Christmas Coloring
Contest.



See pages 4 - 5 for details.

Inside

Editorial/Commentary	2
Branch Announcements	14, 16 - 17
District Announcements	15
Slovak	21-24

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Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies, Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B., Father Killian Loch, O.S.B.

November 26, 2017 – Christ the King

In the Gospels Jesus uses the image of a kingdom many times to illustrate what the new life which he came to inaugurate will be like. While we have systems of government today that are elected by the people and not inherited from generation to generation we can nonetheless see the relevance of the kingdom image, unifying as it does an entire people under the leadership and providence of a benevolent ruler. Through the



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

history of the Church many Catholic nations in fact had kings, and the Church itself took on some features of a monarchy.

When we celebrate the solemn feast of Christ the King at present we look not to earthly dominion as the fulfillment of the Church's mission, but rather to the conversion of all peoples to the kingdom of Christ which he himself said "is not of this world" (John 18:36). Reflecting on Christ the King and his realm today's readings bring us to consider the final judgment which will signal the completion and perfection of the Kingdom. That the feast of Christ the King occurs at the end of the Church year (Advent begins next week) signals our belief that our Lord's Kingdom will only come in its fullness at the end of time.

To prepare us for the end time the Church turns back to the prophet Ezekiel, who is speaking of the return of God's chosen people to their former realm of Israel and the fearsome judgement that will accompany this homecoming. The same prophetic words can be applied to the Christian people, for before entering into God's Kingdom we too will be subject to a judgment which is perfectly just and which allows for no appeal.

The second reading from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians explains that God's power to act as a true King and just Judge is manifested through the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Briefly, Paul tells us that Christ's resurrection means two things for us: first, the fact that he was raised means that we too—whose nature he assumed—will be raised. Secondly, he teaches us that Christ's resurrection is definitive proof of his victory over sin and death: "then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. The last enemy to be destroyed is death" (1 Cor 15:24-26).

With all of this in mind, we must ask: How can we be judged worthy to stand with the "sheep" at the resurrection and enter the Kingdom of God? The Gospel's fearsome last judgment scene provides an answer by outlining the moral consequences of being a disciple of Christ and reminding us how we must respond as those who have accepted the dominion of Christ our risen King, truly living as citizens of his Kingdom. If the Gospel sounds harsh, we should remember that earlier in the same Gospel Jesus said "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven" (Matt 7:21).

This sobering but ultimately hope-filled picture is affirmed elsewhere in the Bible when Saint Paul teaches that those who are members of Christ and who stand in the hope of the resurrection must live as though they are united with Christ always—they are to live in newness of life even in the present day (see Rom 6:4-11). Hoping to become full citizens of the Kingdom of Christ we rejoice in the love of our God whose justice is unflinching, whose will is benevolent—and whose mercy endures forever.

December 3, 2017 – First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63: 16B – 17, 19B; 64: 2 – 7

I Corinthians 1:3 – 9

Mark 13; 33 – 37

We begin Advent with the same message that we heard a couple of weeks ago near the end of the church year. This Gospel sums it up with two words, "watchful and alert." We don't know when the Lord is coming so watch and be ready to greet and welcome him. In our human experiences how we are watchful and alert is determined in part by the one we are waiting for. If we are waiting for a person who acts like a tyrant, is never satisfied and always highly critical, then we stay alert and watch so as to be prepared for the unpleasant experience that we anticipate at his arrival. If the one we are waiting for is a person of reason and fairness we anticipate his arrival by doing our best.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

What does it mean to you when Jesus tells us to be watchful and alert? If we perceive Jesus as a judge who holds every fault against us, somewhat like Santa Claus who is making his list, we can be filled with anxiety and fear about his Return in Glory. If, however, we see Jesus as the Divine Physician who longs to heal us so much that he died on the cross so that we could be spared eternal punishment. This image can fill us with humility, contrition and gratitude for his healing as we await his glorious return. The readings today call us to be watchful and alert by allowing God into our lives so as to help us with the ongoing conversion that brings us closer to the Lord each day.

Isaiah uses a beautiful image to get across our relationship with God. He calls God, "Father" and describes our relationship as one in which; "we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands." God gently fashions us and molds us with his own hands. He smooths away the rough edges and carefully molds us into his image and likeness. We each have rough edges and we can have the attitude that it is better to hide them from God and escape his wrath, then to let him see them. Of course we cannot hide anything from God. When we freely confess these we invite the hand of God to touch us and fashion us and heal us.

Saint Paul begins the First Letter to the Corinthians with the warm greeting and encouragement over all the good things the Lord is doing for them. It's a greeting that we should receive for all our efforts to be faithful. In his letter he continues to instruct them and to also correct them. It is Paul's way of helping the Corinthians to be watchful and alert. It is also the church's way today to help us. We need the continued opportunities of growth and conversion so as to be watchful and alert.

As we begin Advent we have the choice of how we wait for the Lord. We can be sitting in the courtroom waiting to be judged and sentenced, or we can be waiting in the doctor's office waiting for the physician to treat and heal us. Both of these require one to be alert and watch. Hopefully we will approach Advent waiting for the Divine Physician. This involves knowing ourselves well enough that we are honest about our need to visit the doctor's office, rather than pretending that there is nothing wrong, or we can take care of it ourselves. Be alert and watchful of those parts of our lives that need the healing touch of Jesus and expectantly wait for his coming.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY OF THE WEEK BEFORE THE ISSUE DATE, unless otherwise stated below because of special holiday scheduling. Copy that is not received by this deadline will not necessarily appear in the following Wednesday's issue.

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6	MONDAY, NOV. 27
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17	MONDAY, JAN. 8
WEDNESDAY, FEB 14	MONDAY, FEB 5

Correspondents who are announcing events should allow ample time for them to be received by the readership, taking into account the publication schedule and the extra time in the postal system.

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SS Cyril & Methodius Servant Leadership Award

On October 29, 2017, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA awarded the Servant Leadership Award to 31 outstanding high school Juniors and Seniors from the dioceses of Harrisburg PA, Scranton PA, Trenton NJ and Bridgeport, CT. The ceremony took place at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. Over the past 15 years, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have honored over 990 teens in the Dioceses of Bridgeport (CT), Charleston (SC), Chicago (IL), Gary (IN), Harrisburg (PA), Milwaukee (WI), Pittsburgh (PA), St. Louis (MO), Scranton (PA), Syracuse (NY), and Trenton (NJ) with the Servant Leadership Award.

The Servant Leadership Award recognizes distinguished high school juniors and seniors who are joyful witnesses, compassionate proclaimers, and enthusiastic builders of the Kingdom of God. The focus of the award is on teens who remain active in their faith and parish beyond Confirmation, and who actively serve in their parish, school and community.

Receiving the award were: Katherine Arway, Robert Beck, Samuel Bellis, Heather Beverage, Sarah Castellan, Lawrence Czeponis III, Michaela Elsen, Erin Evans, Lydia Gould, Stephen Gresh, Elijah Hoffman, Phillip Hutnick-Kenenitz, Justin Ickowitz, Francesca Kalie, Aaron Keehan, John Kerris, Brooklyn Kuijpers, Katelynn Kuijpers, Benjamin McFadden, John Morris, Hannah Nolter, Joseph Ricco, Michele Schiano-di-Cola, Erika Serafin, Camilla Shreiner, Zack Smith, John Snyder, Colette Southerton, Lilly Strader, Katlynn Weidensaul, Alexa Willoughby.

Each teen was given the opportunity to select one person as a mentor who has encouraged them to generously use their time and talents as a follower of Jesus. The mentors selected were parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, youth ministers, scout leaders, Deacons, Sisters and Priests, who have been role models for the teens. Mentors recognized by the teens have made a difference in their lives by modeling servant leadership as a way of life in their family, parish, and community.

At the ceremony the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius also honored four adults who received the Father Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award in the ministries of evangelization, education, elder care and ecumenism. Father Jankola was a priest from the Diocese of Scranton who was instrumental in recognizing the need for religious sisters to educate children and founded the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1909.

The 2017 Father Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Awards went to:

Evangelization—Rev. Gerard Heintzelman

Father Heintzelman was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Evangelization. Father Gerard Heintzelman has taken to heart Jesus' command to "Go out to all the world and tell the Good News." From the time of his ordination in 1959 to the present, Father Jerry never misses an opportunity to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Father Heintzelman was the first full-time Catholic Chaplain at Geisinger Medical Center from 1964-1970, which began 42 years of service in the health care ministry. He also served as Chaplain at Hershey Medical Center, Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Care at Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, CA, and currently serves as Chaplain at Maria Hall in Danville.

Education—Sister Donna Marie Ivanko, SS.C.M.

Sister Donna Marie was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Education. Sister Donna Marie has been an educator for more than sixty years, serving from preschool through high school. She served as Principal at Saint Cyril Academy in Danville, and for the past seventeen years served and continues to serve as Principal of Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten in Danville where she transforms education as she welcomes young children and their parents into a new world of learning. Sister Donna Marie has also served on numerous Boards in the Danville area.

Ecumenism—Dr. Magdalen Benish

Dr. Magdalen Benish was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Ecumenism. Dr. Benish has been a lifetime volunteer. At her parish of Saint Andre' Bessette in Wilkes-Barre, she serves in a variety of capacities. She is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion both in her parish and at Geisinger Medical Center South as well a home visitor to the elderly. She is active in social concerns, and is active in



Student recipients of the 2017 Servant Leadership Award.

President's Message

continued from page 1

I am happy to say that I am in full recovery and have changed my diet along with lots of exercise.

I obviously have reason to give thanks to the Lord this Thanksgiving.

In other news, there was a complaint filed by a member, Robert Kristofik, with the Supreme Court against myself and Ken Arendt seeking, among other things, to remove myself and Ken Arendt from office.

There will be more information on the results of the Supreme Court hearing in the next Jednota issue.

Have a bountiful and blessed Thanksgiving.

Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Thanksgiving Greetings 2017

Many of us will spend Thanksgiving Day watching parades and football games, sharing a special meal, and perhaps a fourth, shopping.

At the same time, countless people residing in Texas, Florida, California, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are still living with the reality and emotional stress of losing their homes and livelihoods due to hurricanes and multiple wildfires. Survivors of the massacre that happened in Las Vegas at an outdoor concert will forever have second thoughts about attending any future events.

In addition, there are so many others who day after day know only loss in their lives - the poor, the addicted, and the unemployed.

Yes, it is hard to be thankful when loss or sorrow is first and foremost in one's life, but it is not impossible. There are things to which we can express gratitude, even in moments of trial. Such as:

- The Gift of Life. No matter what we may have lost, we continue to live and be nurtured by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

- The Sacrament of Penance. We have said or done things in the heat of the moment we later regret. Experiencing the mercy of God through the confessional, one can learn to be grateful to be free of harboring thoughts of anger.

- Solidarity. Wherever a tragedy happens to one group, people from so many other areas are always willing and able to lend their assistance thru donations of money and possessions, and prayer. No one is really ever alone and isolated. Each of us is one with the rest of humanity.

Regardless of any immediate situation before us that involves hurt or loss, Thanksgiving Day is an invitation to remember goodness, especially the goodness of God, for his mercy endures forever.

God bless you and Happy Thanksgiving.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Tom Nasta
National Chaplain

many organizations. She was also instrumental in establishing a museum at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, honoring the scientific contributions of Rev. Joseph Murgas.

Elder-care—Dr. Greg Burke

Dr. Burke was the recipient of the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award for Elder Care. Dr. Burke has been practicing medicine for 29 years and is Medical Director of Emmanuel Center in Danville, PA. He is a member of the Catholic Medical Association and authored a comprehensive examination of conscience for physicians, which he previously published, and about which he gave a presentation at the 2016 CMA annual conference in Washington, DC. At Geisinger Medical Center, Dr. Burke is the lead patient experience director.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.



Receiving Lifetime Servant Leadership Awards from General Superior of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M.: (L - R); Rev. Gerard Heintzelman for evangelization; Sister Donna Marie Ivanko, SS.C.M. for education; Dr. Magdalen Benish for ecumenism; and Dr. Greg Burke for elder care.

FCSU 2017 Christmas Coloring Contest

Christmas Candles

by Evalene Stein

When the Christ-child comes again
Softly down the street to-night,
Twinkling through the window pane
Let our candles shed their light.

Though the clouds are dark above
And the golden stars are dim,
We can tell Him of our love
If we set a light for Him.

Oh, the blessed Christ-child dear,
In His robe of shining white,
Let our candles give Him cheer
As He passes by to-night!

A



B



C

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Veselé Vianoce a Šťastný Nový Rok!

RULES

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
4 – 6 year olds – picture A
7 – 9 year olds – picture C
10 – 12 year olds – picture B
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures may be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. **Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
6. Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2017.**
7. Mail to:
 Rudy Ondrejco
 Fraternal Activities Director
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

*Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2017
 Please print legibly*

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Certificate Number: _____ Branch Number: _____
 (MUST be filled in)

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

PRIZES

Winners in each Region and age group will receive the following:
1st Place –\$50 Gift Card
2nd Place –\$35 Gift Card
3rd Place –\$25 Gift Card
Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card



Christmas Oplatky – 2017

Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 23 until December 15, 2017.

The Oplatky, five in one package are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$5.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$7.00 and upward depending upon the number of packets ordered and the cost of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to Jankola Library is expected before receiving an order.

For more information or to place an order contact

Sister Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606 or
 write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum
 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698

Save the Date

The Slovak-American Cultural Center presents

The Slovak Ball

25th Annual

Sat, Feb 10, 2018

For tickets:
 973-357-1209
 SlovakAmericanCC.org

*The Royal Manor
 Garfield, NJ*

slovak.eu

Learn Slovak online and for free

A Successful Oktoberfest in NYC

On Sunday, October 22, 2017, over 100 people - FCSU members, parishioners, and guests - enjoyed a lively Oktoberfest in the gym of St. John Nepomucene Church in New York, NY. The event, with food service provided by Branch 716, started at 12:30PM. Attendees enjoyed afternoon of good food and fraternal fun, with live music for dancing and listening pleasure. A great time was had by all!

- Photos courtesy of Joan Skrkon, Acting Secretary, Branch 716



Branch 716 members and St. John Nepomucene parishioners enjoying themselves



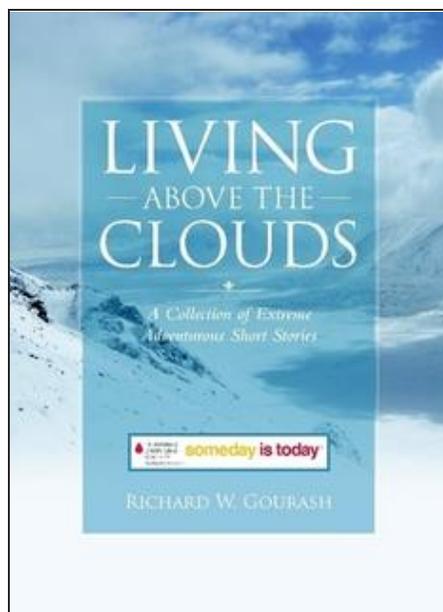
(L - R) Jednota members: Anna Korcak, Jan Skrkon, Father Baker, Sabina Sabados, and Joan Skrkon



Book Corner

Living Above the Clouds: A Collection of Extreme Adventurous Short Stories

By Richard W. Gourash



From a young boy growing up on the outskirts of Pittsburgh, PA, Richard W. Gourash's travels have taken him from plains to mountaintops, climbing some of the many steep ranges in North America. He's been through the Western United States, Alaska, and Northern Canada—through some of the most rugged mountains of the northern hemisphere. In *Living Above the Clouds*, he shares a collection of adventure short stories that detail his excursions to the most extreme, dangerous, and remote situations in the world. From his first western big game trip to Colorado to hunt elk and mule deer, to looking for Fannin rams in the Yukon Territory, Gourash sketches the details and adds vivid descriptions to paint a visual as he marches through time. The narratives included in *Living Above the Clouds* convey Gourash's deep passion for the outdoors and the challenges nature presents. It inspires

others to go the extra mile, climb higher, and take on challenges, to realize their own dreams of adventure.

Available in hardcover (\$44.50), softcover (\$34.95) and as an e-book (\$9.95), the book contains over 80 colored photos. It can be purchased by going to www.LuLu.com and searching the title, *Living Above The Clouds*.

For each book sold, a donation will go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in honor of the author's dad. Richard Gourash is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 60, McKeesport, PA.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Finding Her Voice in a World Without Sound

Mandy Harvey has a lot to be grateful for this Thanksgiving, and it goes beyond the fact that the deaf singer recently earned a fourth-place finish on the TV series "America's Got Talent." You might be asking, "How can a deaf person be a singer?" During a "Christopher Closeup" interview about her memoir "Sensing the Rhythm," Mandy told me that her years of musical training growing up help immensely. She also uses electronic tuners that give her a visual cue when she hits the right note. Then she practices for hours, learning to recognize how certain notes vibrate in her throat, chest, or nasal cavity.

Ten years ago, Mandy was attending college to become a vocal music teacher when she completely lost her hearing over several months and fell into a deep depression. While her faith could have helped her deal with this tragic detour, her Bible study peers made her feel worse by telling her that God wasn't restoring her hearing because she didn't have enough faith.

Mandy said, "Instead of praying for me to have strength or wisdom to make good decisions or patience, they kept praying for a miracle that wasn't happening and then blaming me when it didn't." In the end, Mandy's conversations with her father, a minister, led her to understand that God was helping her move forward, not punishing her: "I wish we could all understand that the world is broken, that life is messy, and bad things happen...We're supposed to hold each other's hands and say, 'We're gonna get through this together. What can I do for you?'"

The biggest sources of help in Mandy's life were her parents. They encouraged her to create opportunities for herself by taking American Sign Language classes and getting involved with the local deaf community. Then one day, her father asked her to try playing and singing music with him, like they had done throughout her childhood. He just wanted to see if there could still be a place in her life for her true passion. She discovered there was.

Mandy's willingness to follow the opportunities that God put in her path led her to "America's Got Talent" in 2017. Why did she audition? She explained, "Singing at this point is very much for other people. I don't get to hear it as it comes out, so I'm singing for you, to encourage you and make you smile." And like so many people were a source of God's light to Mandy when she was in darkness, she is now the same for them: "People [are] telling me their stories and their pain and they're not giving up because of something that I said. Them not giving up will encourage other people to not give up, and it's going to have a ripple effect."

Mandy is not only grateful for the blessings she has experienced, but for the fact that she gets to be a blessing to others while doing what she loves. It's a journey she's traveling with God at her side. She concludes, "I don't see God as a bully with a stick anymore. I aim to see him as a Father, as somebody who cries with you when you fail or struggle - and someone who is encouraging you when you get back up...That's the beautiful thing about having a relationship: it's an everyday learning experience, and I feel like I have a lot more faith and trust than I ever did."

Fr. Francis Fuga: Priest, Publisher, and Prototype Designer of the Modern Slovak Flag

Daniel Černý

The name of Father Francis Fuga is inscribed with golden letters in the history of the Slovak Greek Catholics in Canada, but he also deserves recognition among Slovaks and descendants of Slovaks everywhere for his achievements – including providing the design idea for what was to become the modern flag of an independent Slovakia.

Fr. Francis Fuga was born František Figa (his name was later changed) on June 9, 1923 in Vinné, Slovakia, close to the city of Michalovce in the Eastern region of Košice and near the famous Byzantine Catholic pilgrimage site of Klokočov. His was a Roman Catholic family and Fr. Fuga was raised and later ordained in the Latin Rite. In 1946 he was sent for further studies to Rome where he was ordained a priest on March 4, 1950, by Cardinal Traglio. After ordination, he served as a priest in northern Italy, and was thinking about joining the Carthusian order when he was called to the Oriental Congregation to Rome, and offered work among the Slovak Greek (Byzantine) Catholics in Canada. Fr. Fuga made the decision to make the journey to North America and changed rites, influenced by his friendship with Fr. Michael Lacko, SJ who was a spiritual benefactor of the Slovak-Canadian Greek Catholic community at that time.



A fresco of the late Fr. Fuga from the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Hamilton, Ontario.

Ministering to the Faithful in Canada

On April 25, 1954, he was installed as pastor of the Hamilton parish of Ss. Peter and Paul, which just a few short months later was renamed the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Bishop Isidore Borecky. The Bishop's dedication of the new parish name was so reflective of the dedication of the Klokočov shrine that Fr. Fuga took it as a divine sign his Canadian church was going to become another spiritual center for Slovak Greek Catholics. Fr. Fuga then wrote to Rome to the Oriental Congregation, asking a permission to organize odposts – pilgrimages – in honor of the Mother of God of Klokočov. A response came, in which Cardinal Coussa in agreement with the Pope Pius the XII, granted this permission and stated: "The veneration of the Mother of God of Klokočov will be an assurance of the success among the Slovak Greek Catholics."

The odpost of Hamilton parish in 1976 included a blessing of an interior iconography, created by Mr. Igor Suchačev, a Russian iconographer from Toronto. Based on the request of Fr. Fuga he placed six Slovak saints - Cyril, Methodius, Gorazd, Climent of Ochrida, Svorad and Benedict - in the apse. These saints have scrolls with their respective quotations written in Slovak. In the back of the church are depictions of Marian shrines of Slovakia.

Father Fuga was named Monsignor in 1974. In November of that same year, he was appointed dean of the Slovak parishes within the Ukrainian Eparchy of Toronto.

On September 14, 1975, Bishop Borecky granted Fr. Fuga the title of Mitred Archpriest with the title Right Reverend and the right to wear the signs of this dignity: a pectoral cross (worn on the chest as a constant remembrance of having the cross of the Savior in his heart), an epigonation (a square piece of cloth worn on the hip as a symbol of a spiritual sword) and a mitre (worn on the head as both a crown of thorns and a crown of glory). Fr. Fuga was the first Slovak priest so honored in this way.

After the creation of the Slovak Eparchy of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Canada, he was appointed as its Protosyncellus, or Vicar General of this new bishopric.

Spreading the Good News & Keeping Ties to Slovakia

In addition to his long and devoted priestly service to Slovak Byzantine Catholics in Canada – where among his first orders of business was to ensure all liturgical readings were in modern Slovak – Fr. Fuga established his own printing house to be able to publish and distribute materials throughout the country and abroad. His printing apostolate for Slovaks included magazines, brochures and flyers, religious posters, and even wall calendars. Perhaps the best known of his works was a series of three books that featured memoirs of Slovak immigrants (1961, 1963, and 1967) entitled Slovenská otčina (Slovak fatherland).

He also remained very active in the life of his former countrymen. In 1974 Fr. Fuga was appointed chairman of Matica Slovenska Abroad. It was during these years with Matica that he came up with the proposal for a Slovak flag – the Slovak coat of arms on a traditional white-blue-red tricolor. His design would become the prototype for the modern one, although Fr. Fuga had placed the Slovak coat of arms in the center, while the current flag has it to the left.

Final Days

In the beginning of 1975 Fr. Fuga became seriously ill – the heavy price he was paying for his printing apostolate. He had contracted cancer, presumably from the constant breathing in and handling of the lead ink that was commonly used in printerries back then. Many people prayed for his health. God heard the prayers of his people, and Fr. Fuga lived for another 10 years.

He died thirty years ago on November 9, 1987 and was buried in Hamilton. A memorial plaque in his honor was erected in his native Slovak village of Vinné. His name was given also to the local elementary school there.

Priest, publisher, prototype designer – Father Fuga remains a beautiful example of a devout son of his homeland, his adopted country, and his church, living with his whole heart for the Slovak nation and the Byzantine Catholic Church, which he accepted as his own.

May his memory be eternal! Večná mu pamiatka!

About the Author

Daniel Černý was born in Kosiče, Slovakia, in 1983. He currently lives and works in the capital city of Bratislava. He received his PhD in 2014 from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, with a doctoral thesis on *The History of the Slovak Greek Catholics in Canada before the creation of their own Eparchy*. He continues writing in his spare time, focusing on Slovaks and their diaspora, especially those of the Byzantine rite. His articles have been published by the Slovak Academy of Sciences (Jan Stanislav Institute of Slavistics), and can be found in numerous other publications and on web pages, both home and abroad – most recently in the 2017 Slovakia, published annually by the Slovak League in America.

Lisa and Allan Nowak on their wedding day, November 5, 2016.



Happy Anniversary Lisa and Allan Nowak

Branch 24's Lisa Nowak celebrated one year of marriage with her husband Allan this November. They were married on November 5, 2016, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in South Euclid, OH, with a reception held at Nighttown in Cleveland Hts., OH.

The happy couple resides in Macedonia, OH.

- Submitted by Lisa Nowak

St. Matthew's Branch 45 September Picnic in Upstate New York

On Saturday of September 23, 2017, the members of St. Matthew's Branch 45 organized a traditional late summer picnic for all branch members, family members, and special guests. The event was held on property owned by Antonia and Dusan Krajkovic in Mountandale, NY. The Krajkovics, along with Jan and Anna Zeman, prepared great traditional food, deserts, and beverages for a fabulous picnic feast enjoyed in the spectacular mountain retreat on a beautiful sunny day. It was a great Saturday afternoon.

The Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of St. John Nepomucene, and guests from Slovakia representing the Slovak TV station LUX then took a tour of the nearby Slovak Country Club Village.

We hope that in the future, this beautiful Slovak summer picnic will become an annual tradition.

- Submitted by Jozef Jurasi, Branch 45 Activities Coordinator



(L - R) Jan Kadlecik, Anna Zemanova, Maria & Milan Zakovic, Zelmira & Anton Kucharovic, Zuzana Zemanova, Joseph & Maria Jurasi, Anna Korcak, Jana Zrebna, Antonia Krajkovic, Marian Varga, Jozef Korcak, Jan Zeman, Rev. Richard D. Baker, and Dusan Krajkovic.



(L - R) Seated: Anna & Jozef Korcak, Milan Zakovic, Anton Kucharovic, Jan Zeman, Rev. Richard D. Baker, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Jana Zrebna, Joseph & Maria Jurasi, Maria Zakovic, and Dusan Krajkovic. Standing: Antonia Krajkovic, Anna Zemanova, Marian Varga, and Slavo Zrebny.



(L - R) Magda Vanco, Anton Kucharovic, Rev. Richard D. Baker, Anna Korcak, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Jozef Korcak, Maria Jurasi, Jan Kadlecik, Slavo & Jana Zrebny, and Joseph Jurasi.

The 2017 Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Conference in Pittsburgh

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

On October 17-21, 2017. The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) hosted its 16th Genealogical and Cultural Conference at the Airport Hyatt Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA.

The CGSI promotes family research and cultural/historical information about the lands and nationalities of the former Czechoslovakia. These include peoples with the following backgrounds in alphabetical order: Bohemian (Czech), Carpathian German (from Slovakia), German-Bohemian (Böhmisch), Hungarian (Magyar), Jewish, Moravian, Ruthenian (Rusyn), Silesian, and Slovak.

The topics presented covered all aspects related to the history and cultures of the peoples of former Czechoslovakia -- history of the region, immigration, and how-to-do sessions about researching one's family. The sessions were led by leading writers, genealogists, researchers, and historians whose aim is to assist attendees who wish to know more about the region and how to assemble their own family histories. Those attending also received an informative booklet (Program and Syllabus) with summaries of all the presentations, useful for future reference.

The conference also had a huge hall with an array of books, music, folk materials, and exhibits for display and for purchase. CGSI's Traveling Library allows attendees to consult important books and relevant online websites to assist with research on history and genealogy. Popular works included the 1651 Religious census and the 1653 Berni Rula census, both covering only Bohemia, as well as gazetteers and atlases. A Networking room provided for assistance in translating, small group discussions, and sharing information with other researchers.

Wednesday Tours, October 18

Before the CSGI conference commenced, attendees were offered the opportunity to take tours of the various neighborhoods in the Pittsburgh area. One bus tour covered Slovak neighborhoods while another toured Rusyn areas. A third "Babushkas and Hardhats Tour" included a presentation at the Bost Building (headquarters for the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers), a tour of the Pump House (site of the 1892 violent Homestead Strike), and a guided look at the Carrie Furnaces at the former U.S. Steel Homestead Works. The group concluded with a visit to the Tour-Ed coal mine museum and a presentation of mining stories in Tarentum, PA.

Presentations

Each day at the CGSI conference offered a wide range of choices to attend, with four selections for each hour and fifteen minute session. As a sample, the first presentations covered topics such as Pennsylvania Vital Records, Cuisine as a Reflection of Historical Changes in the Czech Nation, Coal Mine Culture, WWI in the Slovak Lands.

I presented two talks, one a "Crash Course in the Slovak Language," and another on the "Traditional Slovak Customs in the Autumn," which included Harvest Time, Halloween in Slovakia today, and the traditions of All Saints and All Souls Day. Much of the information was previously published in several of my Jednota articles from 2016 and 2017,

This summary will cover one of the presentations which I attended and the main conclusions of the author.

The Great War in Slovakia

Ronald Matvijak offered a fine overview and maps of the battles which occurred in the Slovak Carpathians from November 1914 to April 1915. In addition to his extensive research, he actually visited many sites from the battlefields and cemeteries, and walked the actual path of the armies from Galicia in present-day Poland into northeastern Slovakia. He noted that scholars in Slovakia had neglected researching Slovakia's role in the First World War until quite recently. Thus restoring the graveyards and writing the history has been a relatively recent occurrence.

When war broke out, Austria-Hungary drafted and mobilized about 400,000 men from Slovakia. They would comprise 4% of Austro-Hungarian army. Soldiers from Slovakia would fight against Russian soldiers in Serbia, Romania, Slovenia and Italy. Slovaks would lose 70,000 lives over the course of the Great War.

Soon after the war erupted in the summer of 1914, the Third Austro-Hungarian Imperial and Royal Army set up its headquarters Svidnik in case of a Russian attack. The 8th Russian Tsarist Army proceeded to launch a three-pronged attack into eastern Slovakia, with the ultimate aim of penetrating through the mountains into the Hungarian plain and reaching Budapest and Vienna. The Russian offensive moved into what are today the districts of



The director's table at the October 21 Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Banquet in Pittsburgh, PA



Branch 38's Lisa Alzo with prestigious CzSI Genealogical Society Award 2017

Bardejov, Svidník, Stropkov, Medzilaborce, Humenné and Snina.

The western-most attack aimed at taking Bardejov and Humenné via the Dukla Pass, which they seized on November 28-29. Another prong moved toward Medzilaborce, and the eastern-most attack moved south toward Snina via Nová Sedlica.

Although the Russian army initially made progress, the Austro-Hungarian forces managed to hold out and defended the main towns, but not before the Russians occupied 82 villages. Several were completely destroyed by the intense combat. Civilians suffered from starvation, as livestock was decimated and their stores of foods were seized by the armies. The Austro-Hungarian Army unfairly treated Rusyns as potential spies because of the proximity of their language and religion to the invading forces.

What became known as the Carpathian Winter War failed for the Russians primarily due to an unfriendly, mountainous geography with steep terrains, and inclement winter weather. They penetrated no more than about 30 miles into Slovakia. Narrow valleys and small mountain paths made it difficult for both sides to travel or supply troops. The winter proved especially nasty as heavy snow hindered movement. When the snow started melting during a thaw, the freezing temperatures returned and another snowstorm dropped nearly another foot of snow. By April-May, the Russian forces would retreat from their failed quest to reach the Hungarian plain.

Both sides suffered horrific losses, and civilians were often caught in the crossfire. Basing strategies on aggressive attacks, the Austro-Hungarian Army had not studied strategic defense and employed outdated tactics from the 1860s. Logistics, the supplying of troops with needed essentials, was sorely lacking.

As a result, by April 1915, Austria-Hungary lost about 60% of its professional army and an even greater number of officers. Adding to the quality of the losses was the fact that Austria-Hungary lost many of its multi-lingual officers. Trying to command a multinational force without the benefit of a common language of communication would hurt future effectiveness. In fact, so many soldiers had spent time in America and returned to Hungary that English would become the most common language used to command troops!

This was one of many informative and interesting lectures at the conference. Many others on Czech, Rusyn, and Slovak history and customs made for an invigorating experience. In addition, Lisa Alzo, Michal Razus, and other notable genealogists offered concrete suggestions on how to start research on one's family, and how to continue in more advanced research to find out more about families, the places they came from, and their making a new life in the New World.

Friday October 20

Friday's Events commenced with the Opening Session at 8:00 a.m. Lisa Alzo delivered the Keynote Address after a singing of the Czech, Moravian, Slovak, Carpatho-Rusyn national anthems and the American Star Spangled Banner. A native of Duquesne, Pa., Alzo showed why Pittsburgh was such an ethnic polyglot of peoples from the lands of former Czechoslovakia and discussed the smoky and dirty environment in which they lived and worked. Appropriately, she received a prestigious award on Saturday for her contributions to CGSI and genealogical research.



Branch 493's Robert Magruder with Branch 553's Dr. Michael Kopanic at the banquet

continued on page 9

Genealogical Society

continued from page 8

The Parade of Kroje (Folk Costumes)

Friday evening concluded with a regular event at every conference - the Parade of Kroje (Folk Costumes). The Parade of Kroje is a colorful fashion show in which many participants had the opportunity to model full or partial folk dress from Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Slovakia and the Sub-Carpathian Rus area. Many of the towns and villages of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire and Czechoslovakia wore very unique styles of colorful folk costumes. Helene Baine Cincebeaux, the editor and publisher of the newsletter Slovakia, introduced the various groups and individuals in what has become an ongoing feature at CSGI conferences.

Entertainment on Saturday October 21

After another series of informative lectures, the conference concluded with a banquet of pirohy and halupky (stuffed cabbage) followed by a performance of local Slovak and Rusyn folk groups. In a first time joint appearance, PÁS (the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Ensemble) and the Slavjane Rusyn Folk Ensemble put on a fabulous show of song and dance. The two musical groups blended nearly flawlessly thanks to the cooperation of their directors, Angie Lipchick and Dean Poloka. The resounding ovation showed how much they were a real crowd pleaser.

Conclusion

The conference was a huge success and everyone attending noted that it was well worth their time, as they enjoyed themselves as they learned. Credit belongs to the many volunteers who helped make the event possible, and particularly to Paul Makousky, the Conference Chair.

Having attended many past conferences, I can assure our readers that these are very well-planned, superbly organized, and very worthwhile events which enrich our understanding of our ethnic heritage and provide us with the tools to pursue our own family history. Whether a beginner, or someone with a longtime interest in the history of Czechoslovakia and its peoples, one is sure to learn a great deal, find some great contacts, meet new friends, and enjoy an overall very pleasant experience.

The next CSGI conference will be in two years in Lincoln, Nebraska, which is near many Czech settlements and farms dating from the late 19th century. Obviously, there will still be many presentations on Rusyn and Slovak topics, as well as Czech, German and other peoples.

Whatever one's interests in genealogy, many of the sessions are general as well as specific, offering something for everyone from the beginner to a seasoned researcher. And one gets not only to learn about ways to discover more one's own family and learn fascinating information, but also to make many new friendships, some of which can last a lifetime.

Besides the personal joy of finding out more about who we are, there are added benefits to attending a CSGI conference that are hard to put a price tag on. For now, and even after we pass away in this life, what better gift can leave our progeny and extended family than a history of where we came from. Genealogy is about discovering ourselves, and the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International's conferences are a marvelous way to start and/or continue that quest.

For further information, see the CSGI Genealogical Society website. It is well worth joining. See <http://www.cgsi.org/>.

Those interested in reading a good book about Slovak immigration to America may purchase a copy through CSGI. The translated book is entitled The History of Slovaks in



The Pittsburgh Area Slovaks (PAS) and Slavjane Folk Ensemble

America by Konštantín Čulen. Professor Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. and Steven G. Potach both edited the book, and the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International published it in 2007. One may write the CSGI if interested in purchasing it, or visit the website on books available: <http://www.cgsi.org/store/item/40284>.

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International
 P.O. Box 16225
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55116-0225
 Call (651) 964-2322 to record a question or to record a message.
 E-mails
 General questions: info@cgsi.org
 Research: research@cgsi.org
 Membership: membership@cgsi.org
 Publications: publications@cgsi.org

Additional Sources Consulted

"The First World War - The Fights in the Carpathian Mountains in 1914-1915," Slovak National Museum, exhibit from Feb.18, 2015 to March 18, 2015, <http://www.snm.sk/?current-exhibitions-11&clanok=the-first-world-war-the-fights-in-the-carpathian-mountains-in-1914-1915> (Accessed November 6, 2017).
 Velká vojna a územie Slovenska 1914 - 1918 (The Great War and the Territory of Slovakia 1914 - 1918), <http://www.velkavojna.sk/news.php> (Accessed November 6, 2017).



WWI-era Rusyn Map

Reminder For All Branches

Among the requirements to complete in order to qualify for your Branch stipend, under Bylaw Section 14. RULES GOVERNING LOCAL Branches, is the following:

14.01 General Rules

a) Branch: and district meetings must be held in the close proximity of the hub of its members. The meetings shall be held at least semi-annually, one of which must be for the elections of officers, who shall assume their duties upon election.

Notice of each of these meetings shall be published in the Official Organ at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting.

Ludovít Fulla – Slovak National Artist

Sylvia Marcinko Chai

To see Ludovít Fulla's artwork is to love it! Born in Ruzomberok, Slovakia in 1902 (died in Bratislava in 1980) he is considered Slovakia's best twentieth century artist and the establisher of Slovak Modernism in art. Yet, what he captures so well in his artwork is the heart and soul of the Slovak peasant. Ludovít Fulla was a painter, graphic artist, illustrator, stage designer, and art teacher.

Ludovít Fulla studied art at a private school with Gustav Maly in Bratislava for one year. In 1922-1927 he attended the School of Applied Arts in Prague and studied with Professor Hofbauer and Professr Kysela. It was in Prague that Fulla became acquainted with the European avant-garde modernist art trend. Fulla studied the works and principles guiding the art work of Wassily Kandinsky, Marc Chagall, Pablo Picasso, and Paul Klee.

He also became good friends with an art student who was seven years older, Mikulas Galanda from Turcianskych Tepliciach.

After graduation Ludovít Fulla taught at a municipal school in Senica, then at the high school in Malacky. From 1929 - 1939 Fulla was a professor at the School of Arts and Crafts in Bratislava, where by chance he was able to continue his friendship and association with Mikuláš Galanda.

During this time Fulla and Galanda wrote a manifesto called "Private Letters of Fulla and Galanda" in which they spelled out the need to finish with the old, non-communicative and old fashioned art and artistic methods, and start a new path responsible for transforming art into the characteristics of the life of the individual and society in the 20th century.

Fulla didn't really want to throw out all the old. He wanted to incorporate a mixture of styles. Through his personal artwork, his teaching, and his manifesto Fulla was very important in establishing Slovak Modernism in art. He was also gaining respect in the art world of major metropolitan areas.

However, not everyone in Slovakia liked these new ideas of modernism in art. In the following years Fulla had to deal with health issues that took quite a toll on him. In 1943 Fulla went to Martin where he worked as a graphics illustrator, primarily with Matica Slovenska.

In 1949 Fulla received a contract from the newly formed Bratislava School of Fine Arts. While living in Martin Fulla commuted to Bratislava a few days a week. The other days his assistant, Ernest Zmetak substituted for Fulla. By 1952 this working relationship fell apart. On the other hand, work for Fulla as an illustrator kept piling up. The most noteworthy of these projects was the realistic illustrations for the book Slovenske Rozpravky (Slovak Folktales) edited by Pavl Dobinsky. From 1952-1956 Fulla worked as a freelance artist in Bratislava.

Fulla's personal style relied on surface and decoration. He synthesized rational and emotional elements by using his vast knowledge of folk art and East Slavonic iconography, world Modernism, and brilliant color. Fulla's work can be recognized by his love of bright red, orange, and yellow and the folk iconography always present in his works. He loved to mix styles of various artistic time periods.

From 1956 to 1962 Ludovít Fulla worked in Žilina, where he established his personal gallery. During this time period he created Zuzana a starci, Zima na predmestí či Prvý máj. In 1962 personal tragedy hit Fulla, the death of his beloved wife. Fulla returned to his family home in Ruzomberok. There he painted Otcenas, Rybari na Vahu, Zima v starej Ziline.

Fulla's work appeared in exhibitions in Bratislava, Žilina, Warsaw, Prague and Kosice. In 1936, Louis Fulla was rewarded a bronze medal for stage designs at the Triennial of Applied Arts in Milan. In 1937 Ludovít Fulla won the Grand Prix for painting Song and Work at the World Exhibition in Paris. In 1963 the Slovak Republic gave Ludovít Fulla the title of National Artist.

Ludovít Fulla donated much of his artwork to the state and The Slovak National Galley in Ruzomberok, Slovakia, was built and designed to house these works. The workshop and living quarters of the artist can also be viewed there. In addition to the permanent exhibition of Ludovít Fulla art, a new exhibition of over 100 paintings and sculptures created by prominent Slovak artists of today, and cultural and educational programs are held every year in the gallery.

Fulla's artistic output continued into old age. He lived out his last few years in a sanatorium in Bratislava where he died on April 24, 1980. Ludovít Fulla is buried with his wife in the cemetery in Ruzomberok.

Ludovít Fulla uniquely combined the ideas of European avant-garde painting with the inspiration of Slovak folk art, iconographic painting, and children's artistic expression. The result was an original and authentic artistic language, characterized by a combination of rational, constructive shape and intense, emotional color. Enjoy his work!



Fero Gibala, bronze bust of Ludovít Fulla, Ružomberok, Slovakia



In the alley with a handful of kids: (L – R) Back Row: Marty Zemanek; Michele Mager, USS secretary; Kenneth Arendt, USS vice president; Leonard Zilko, USS president; Helen Zemanek; Marge Kurta, USS auditor; and John Katricak, USS auditor.



A packed bowling alley.



(L – R) Michele Mager, Marge Kurta and Helen Zemanek waiting to serve children and parents

Halloween, USS Style

On Sunday October 29, 2017, the United Slovak Societies (USS) sponsored a children's Halloween bowling party for the local lodges at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH. The children bowled a few games then received treat bags, pumpkins, pizza and cupcakes. A terrific time was had by all.

- Submitted by Michele Mager, secretary, United Slovak Societies; member, FCSU Branch 228. All photos courtesy of Michele Mager.

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Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at www.fcsu.com

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ~ HOLIDAY HOURS

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on the following days:

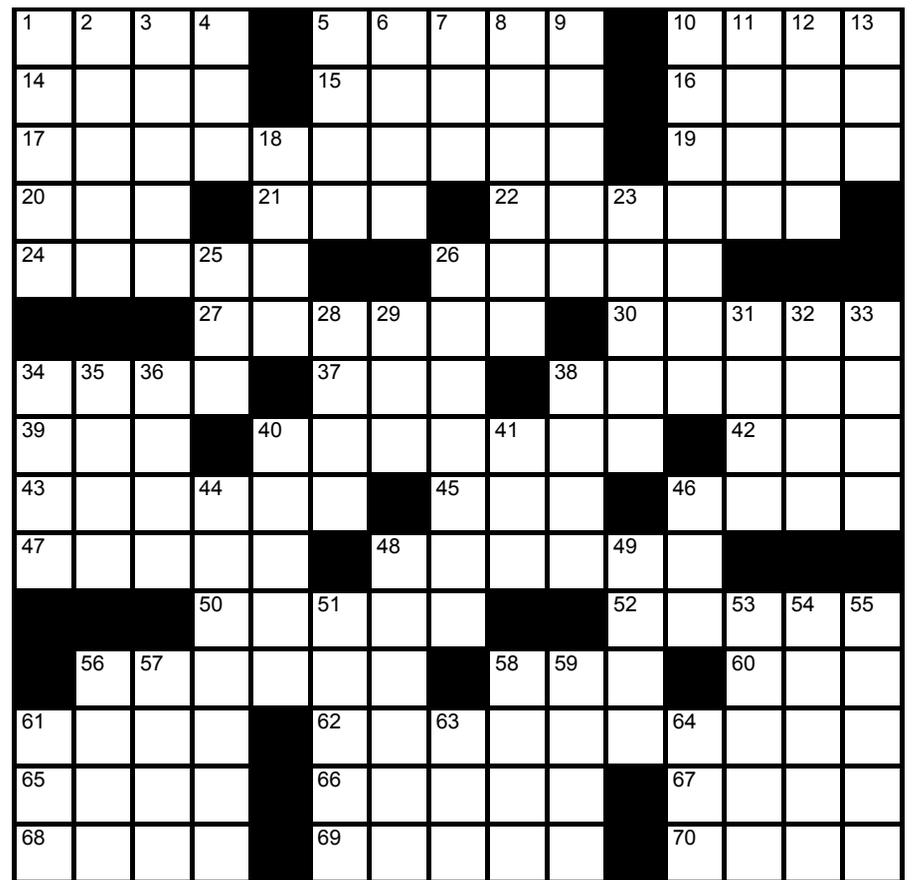


November 23 & 24, 2017 in observance of Thanksgiving Day

December 25 & 26, 2017 in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2017

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
December 6	November 27

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2018

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
January 17	January 8
February 14	February 5
March 7	February 26
March 21	March 12
April 11	April 2
April 25	April 16
May 9	April 30
June 6	May 29 (to accommodate Memorial Holiday)
June 20	June 11
July 18	July 9
August 22	August 13
Sept 19	Sept 10
October 17	October 8
November 14	November 5
December 12	December 3

Across

- 1 Twinge
- 5 Soda fountain treats
- 10 Curly cabbage
- 14 Brainchild
- 15 Alaskan native
- 16 Pelvic bones
- 17 Medical isolation
- 19 At hand
- 20 Final (Abbr.)
- 21 Sign before Virgo
- 22 Thin ice, e.g.
- 24 Spirit of a people
- 26 Ticked off
- 27 City near Los Angeles
- 30 Russian favorite
- 34 Emcee
- 37 Dot follower
- 38 Pavement
- 39 Tokyo, once
- 40 Samurai, e.g.
- 42 Jeans brand
- 43 Deodorant type
- 45 Commotion
- 46 Secluded valley
- 47 Clean-up tool
- 48 Paradise
- 50 Discontinue
- 52 Polled
- 56 Rio ____
- 58 Prescription checker (Abbr.)
- 60 Gardner of film
- 61 Joint problem
- 62 Stargazer
- 65 Ashtabula's lake
- 66 Piece of cave art
- 67 Out of shape
- 68 Give temporarily
- 69 Gumption
- 70 Adherents (Suffix)

Down

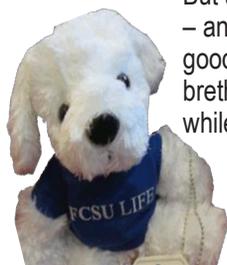
- 1 Provoke
- 2 Grownup
- 3 Poet's "below"
- 4 Needlefish
- 5 Lion's pride
- 6 Singing voice
- 7 Muumuu accessory
- 8 Siberian feature
- 9 Hearty entree
- 10 Realm
- 11 Downwind
- 12 Make-up artist?
- 13 Corn serving
- 18 Likewise
- 23 At no time
- 25 Select
- 26 Thankless wretch
- 28 Gripe
- 29 Hockey great Bobby
- 31 Wooded hollow
- 32 Patella's place
- 33 Egyptian solar deity
- 34 Basil, e.g.
- 35 Bouquet
- 36 Alone
- 38 Henhouse
- 40 Restroom sign
- 41 Chapel vow
- 44 Found
- 46 Federal watchdogs (Abbr.)

- 48 Exhausts
- 49 Nobelist Pavlov
- 51 Monroe's successor
- 53 Domesticates
- 54 Media attraction
- 55 Pub game
- 56 Horror film staple
- 57 Destroy
- 58 Kukla, ____ and Ollie
- 59 Handout
- 61 Hair goop
- 63 Prefix with angle
- 64 Japanese sash

See Solution on Page 15

Hi, Kids & all Those Young at Heart:

Hope all is well out your way. Time sure flies as we roll toward that favorite eating day of the year: Thanksgiving! Check out that crazy get up they put me in – on the front cover, no less. Sheesh. But anyhow, I'm wishing you and yours the best Turkey Day EVER – and here's a few fun factoids to pass around the table with all the good fixings (which, BTW, I need to represent my fellow four-legged brethren and remind you to drop a morsel or two to man's best friend while you are enjoying that fine feasts)



Your pal (voj priatel'),
Chewy

Thanksgiving Fun Facts



Q: Is turkey the real cause of feeling sleepy after a Thanksgiving Day meal?

A: Turkey does contain Tryptophan which could make us feel sleepy; however, sleepiness is likely caused by the over-consumption of alcohol and food, especially desserts.



Q: Is Thanksgiving the biggest drinking night of the year?

A: Yes, more alcohol is consumed on Thanksgiving than any other holiday of the year. So be careful on the roadways if you're traveling Thursday evening.



Q: Did the pilgrims officially declare Thanksgiving as a public holiday?

A: No, Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a public holiday in 1863.



Q: Why did the Pilgrims first celebrate Thanksgiving?

A: The feast they celebrated in 1621 in Plymouth was the result of a good harvest.

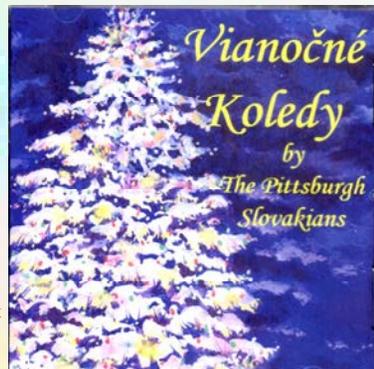
Approximately 46 million turkeys are eaten on Thanksgiving every year!

Historians believe the Pilgrims served wild game and vegetables, instead of turkey, at the first Thanksgiving.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade began in 1924 with only 400 employees.

Pilgrim means foreigner or traveler from afar!

The state of California consumes the most turkey!



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From the desk of the Executive Secretary
Kenneth A. Arendt

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Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2018



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- ♦ Reduce your stress level
- ♦ Improve your flexibility, strength, and stamina

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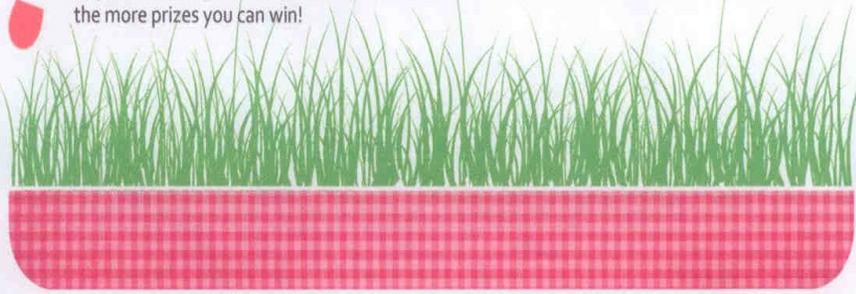
Rules:

1. The objective of the Best Foot Forward Walking Program is to reach milestones to be eligible for level awards. The pursuit of the milestones leads to a healthy way of life.
2. Participants **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
3. A member can start the program at any time during the year.
4. Tally sheets should be sent in periodically **throughout the year**.
5. Walking minutes from January 1, 2017, and forward will be used to determine the milestones.
6. Awards will be given in October & April.
7. Awards will be based on the number of minutes you walked.
8. Pedometers may be used to track steps. (20 minutes of light cardiovascular activity = 1,000 steps.

Milestone	Award
900 minutes	Hat
1800 minutes	Hip pack
2700 minutes	Water Bottle
3600 Minutes	Ice/heat bandana

1 **STEP ONE**
Register: Fill out the registration form and mail to:
Best Foot Forward
FCSU Activities
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
To receive your welcome kit.

2 **STEP TWO**
Just **START WALKING!**
Log your walking minutes. The more you walk, the more prizes you can win!



Best Foot Forward Walking Program

Setting a goal to make physical activity part of your daily routine will improve your overall health.

Name: _____

Branch Number: _____

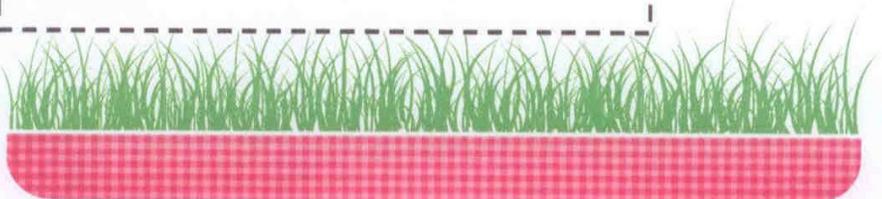
Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mail to:
Best Foot Forward
FCSU Activities
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207



For additional sign up forms, tally sheet, and program details, go to <http://www.fcsu.com/events/>

FREE

Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) - the very foundations of our Society have been built on values that honor and protect our loved ones. The FCSU portfolio of insurance and annuity products itself, they point out, is designed with the financial protection of loved ones in mind, as well.

Now, as a member of the FCSU, you can receive a valuable tool for free that allows you to help your loved ones once again. Inside the pages of this personal record keeper are easy ways to record and centralize all the pertinent information for processing your estate – from personal, medical and financial information to life insurance policies, real estate holdings and other assets to final wishes for your family.

To request your free copy of the First Catholic Slovak Union Estate Planning Booklet, please call at 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682).



Is your FCSU profile up to date?

Help us serve you by making sure we have all your latest information on file – address, phone, email, beneficiary

Call the Home Office and Update Your Profile Today at: 1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

Or go to <http://www.fcsu.com/update-profile>

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 2, will hold a meeting Tuesday January 9 for election of Delegates for the upcoming 51st convention in August 2018. The meeting will be held at Kretzlers at 7pm. Please RSVP to Joanne Lako at 412-766-3222.

Joanne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 3P – HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Joseph Society, Branch 003P, will meet at Good Shepherd Church, 87 S. Hunter highway Drums, on December 3, 2017 at 9:45 am. Election of officers for 2018 will take place as well as election of delegates and alternates for 2018 convention. Following the meeting, members are invited to enjoy a breakfast buffet prepared by the parishoners of Good Shepherd Church. Anyone needing directions can call M. Koval at 570-454-0004.

Michael Koval, Secretary

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2018, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, President, 67 9th St. Wyoming, PA.

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities. The agenda will include election of delegates for the 2018 FSCU National Convention in Cleveland, OH.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Please call Marion Rubino if you plan to attend 570-693-0399.

Mary Jo Rubino, Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 6K, will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, January 7, 2018, at 12 noon at Al's Restaurant, 1603 N. Bloomington St., Streator, IL. On the agenda: election of officers for 2018 and election of four (4) delegates to the 51st Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union which will be held August 4 – 8, 2018, in Cleveland, OH. All members in good standing are urged to attend to be considered for an office or as a delegate. A luncheon and afternoon of fraternalism will follow the meeting. For more information, contact Paul Chismar at (815) 822-8851 or Robert and Stella Elias, Sr. at (815) 672-1764.

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 7 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 9:00 A. M. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin St. Houtzdale, PA. Election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Joseph C. Cervenak, President

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, will hold its semiannual meeting with an audit and election of officers at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 10, at the Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Ave, Olyphant.

William F. Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

St. Joseph Society Branch 19K will hold its annual meeting at 10:00AM on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at the home of Jacqueline Zack, 15 Brookhedge Road, Trumbull, CT.

We will have election of officers at this meeting and the election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH. We will distribute our annual donations to our charities.

The members of Branch 19 wish all the members of the First Catholic Slovak Union a Holy and Happy Christmas Season and a Healthy New Year.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, is providing special members only pricing for the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija Dinner Sunday, December 10, 2017 at St. Andrew Abbey 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland,

OH. Mass is at 12:00 (noon) with dinner to follow [Editor's note: please see page 20 of this issue for details].

Ticket prices are \$10 for branch members, \$20 for non-members. Reservations are required and available by calling Activities Director Susan Lang at 216-577-9699 after 6:00PM. Please make checks payable to Branch 24. The deadline is Tuesday, November 21, 2017.

Robert J. Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2017, at 1:00PM at the Hungarian Business Club, 15805 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137. The branch will hold election of officers at this meeting. Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting; for reservations, please call Branch Activities Director Susan Lang at 216-577-9699.

Robert J. Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2018, at 1:00PM at the Hungarian Business Club, 15805 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137. The branch will hold election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention at this meeting. Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting; for reservations, please call Branch Activities Director Susan Lang at 216-577-9699 after 6PM.

Robert J. Kopco, President

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michaels, Branch 35, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. at 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA. The agenda will include election of branch officers, discussion of branch activities and election of delegates for the upcoming 2018 FCSU National Convention.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2017, at 7:00 pm at 3409 Eisenhower Drive, White Oak, PA 15131. The agenda will include officers' reports and discussion on 2018 fraternal social activities. At this meeting, we will be electing branch officers and electing delegates to the 2018 National Convention. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend, and all visitors are welcome.

If anyone is interested in FCSU Annuities or Life Insurance, please call Florence Matta at 412-466-7460.

**Logan Haselhoff, President
Florence Matta, Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch #40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 21, 2018, at 2:00 PM at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, IL. All members of Branch 40 are urged to attend the meeting. Convention delegates will be elected at the meeting. Election of branch officers will take place as well. Lunch will follow. Please make reservations by calling (815) 672-6682 before January 18th.

Timothy Graves, Secretary

BRANCH 41 – YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society Branch 41 will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday December 16th at 3PM. in the lower meeting hall of St. Casimirs' rectory, 239 Nepperhan Ave., Yonkers.

Stephen J. Kubasek, Jr., President

BRANCH 41 – YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society Branch 41 will hold an election of delegates to the 51st Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union at a meeting to be held on Saturday December 30th at 3PM in the lower meeting hall of St. Casimirs' rectory, 239 Nepperhan Ave., Yonkers.

Stephen J. Kubasek, Jr. President.

BRANCH 45- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch

45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75KJ will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at 10:00AM at the residence of Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA, 1782. Agenda items include: the presentation of the fiscal year-end reports: nomination and election of officers for the coming year will be held and any additional branch business will be entertained, including the 2018 National Convention. All interested members should make an effort to attend his semi-annual meeting.

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold its fall meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion, Post 411, Church Street, Jessup, PA. The agenda will include election of officers for 2018.

Stella Skovira, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 108 – CONNELLSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Apostle Society, Branch 108 will hold a meeting on Sunday December 17, 2017 at 1:00 PM at 1916 Second Street, S. Connelville PA. Election of Officers will take place at this meeting.

Dolores Kocis, President

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

St John the Baptist Branch 112 will hold an annual meeting on Sunday, December 3 at 1 PM at Palermo Restaurant. The agenda will include: Election of officers, officers' reports, election of delegates to the 2018 convention and new business. Please call Karen Sterling 570-640-1796 by November 26, 2017, if you plan to attend or if you have any questions.

Karen Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

During the month of November, we remember those members of our branch who during this past year have gone to their eternal rest. Please pray for them.

Dorothy Tesar	George Pavlak
Florian Isztok	Helen Kolodziej
Edward Bucz	Richard Grecnik
Ken LaPorte	Joseph Massura
Agnes Pastiak	Stephen Kolada
Robert Bomba	

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 157 – N. CATASAWQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 157 will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2017, at 11:30AM at the Jednota Hall, 5th & Grove, N. Catasawqua, PA. On the agenda: election of branch officers for 2018 and a discussion of the upcoming National Convention in Aug. Following the meeting, the branch will have its Christmas party, with Santa arriving at 1:30PM.

On Wednesday, December 27, 2017, the branch will hold a general meeting to discuss branch business and upcoming activities. This meeting will also be held at Jednota Hall, 5th & Grove, N. Catasawqua, PA. It will begin at 6PM.

Gregory M. Harakal, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at 9:00AM at the Uniontown Country Club, at 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

Officers' reports will be given and upcoming events and branch activities will be discussed. Arrangements for Christmas donations will be made and election of officers will be held. Election of delegates to the 51st International Convention in

Cleveland, OH, will also take place. Regional Director James Marmol will advise us of activities from the Home Office. All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the brunch meeting. Call for reservations by November 28, 2017, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 173 – GREATER WILKES-BARRE/ WYOMING VALLEY AREA - PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, will hold its annual meeting on December 3, 2017, at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA, beginning at 12:00 pm.

General Business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, and insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

In addition officers will be elected for the new year and delegates will be elected from Branch 173 to the 51st convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in Cleveland, OH, on August 4 to August 8, 2018.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570-403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

John A. Ungvarsky, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

There will be a special meeting of Branch 181 on Sunday, December 3, 2017 immediately following the

Vilija for the election of delegates to the 51st International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Cleveland on August 4 - 8, 2018. The Vilija will be held at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg, PA. Members interested in becoming a delegate should attend. For more information or directions call 724-547-0803.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 invites you to attend our monthly branch meetings which are held the 1st Thursday of every month (except June & July) in the upstairs Social Hall, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. So for the rest of 2017: Dec. 7th with Election of Officers.

We look forward to your presence at the monthly meetings held in the banquet hall directly following the BOD's meeting at 7pm. If you are not local to attend, please send your ideas to me @ vschaub123@gmail.com as we are compiling memorabilia for our 125th Anniversary in 2020.

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 213 – VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at 1:00PM. The meeting will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA, 16059. On the agenda: election of branch officers and general branch business. All members are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, will hold an election of delegates to the 51st Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union at our meeting to be held on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. The Convention will be held in Cleveland, OH, from Saturday August 4th through Wednesday August 8th, 2018, at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel. We currently expect to be permitted to seat eight (8) delegates at the Convention to represent our Branch and will also elect alternates to serve if a delegate is unable to attend the Convention. We hope to have all delegates and alternates decided upon at this meeting so the certification process can begin immediately after the meeting.

Once again, I challenge our younger members to consider being a convention delegate and becoming even more involved in our organization. It is a truly special experience that is interesting, fun and gives

continued on page 16

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 1 – THE REV. MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT

The Rev. Matthew Jankola District 1 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at 11:00AM at the home of Jacqueline Zack, 15 Brookhedge Road, Trumbull, CT. We had to move our September 10, 2017 meeting from our usual meeting place with little advance notice and we want to give District 1 members a chance to attend the District 1 meeting.

We will have election of officers for 2017-2018. We will plan our agenda for the coming year and our participation in the 2018 National Convention.

We hope to see many members at this District 1 meeting.

Laura Minese, Secretary

DISTRICT 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Begin the evening with Mass at 4 P.M. in the Chapel. Our traditional, festive Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner will follow in the dining room. Door prizes will be awarded and the Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain. Please plan to attend and help us preserve this beautiful custom. Tickets: \$25 ages 12 & over and \$10 ages 3 to 11. Tickets are limited. Reserve early by calling Vice President, Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712 prior to November 17.

The George Onda District will hold a special meeting on Saturday, December 9, 2017 to elect a District Convention Delegate (and an Alternate) to attend the 2018 FCSU National Convention. We will meet in the Formation Room at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, PA following the 5PM Mass.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 2 will host the next district meeting on Sunday, November 26 at 1 PM. The meeting will be held at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall at 529 Grant Avenue Extension in West Mifflin. We will discuss social and business activities for 2018. Officers for 2018 will be elected. Matters concerning the upcoming national convention, including election of the district delegate, will also be on the agenda.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. The national convention is coming next year; be careful to fulfill all requirements for sending delegates.

While we look forward to seeing everyone at the FCSU district meetings, remember there are many other local Slovak events that also merit your attention:

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: November 6 – Slovak Immigrants to America, December 4 – Slovak Show-& Tell. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net. Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. Spring classes are for beginners. Children's classes in the summer.

** Slovak Heritage Day at the Pitt Cathedral of Learning – Sunday, November 5 – noon to 5. Slovak seminars, entertainment, food and vendors.

** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730. The program is also streamed live at www.wpitam.com.

** You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook. The National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids also has a Facebook page. Check out your family's hometown in Slovakia. Even a small village may have a Facebook page.

** Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See www.slavic.pitt.edu

** If you're interested in study abroad, Slovakia has a number of major universities; some have programs taught in English. Check out www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php. Plan a Christmas trip to see the animated, hand-carved Nativity.

** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next meeting in Nebraska in 2019. "Nasa Rodina," their quarterly publication, has many interesting articles on Slovak history and genealogy. See www.cgsi.org.

** FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com. Many interesting Slovak-related links may be found at fcsu.com/resources.

** The September 13 issue of the Jednota has an interesting account of the Senko's recent trip to Slovakia. The April 19 issue has a list of stipend requirements.

If anyone knows of additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice, they should email information to the secretary.

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary
manasta@verizon.net

DISTRICT 7-THE REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT

Attention! All branches, the meeting that was scheduled for Oct.22 at 2:00 PM was rescheduled for Dec 10 at 2:00 P.M. at the St. Michael Church in Beaverdale, PA. Due to mix up with the hall. Election of officers, and election of delegates for the convention will be held. Very sorry for any inconvenience it may have caused. There is a luncheon afterward. All branches are invited to attend; any questions please call 814-322-1052.

Sharon Allison, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK

Mark your calendars our first meeting of 2018 will be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave, Akron, OH 44311 on January 21, 2018 at 2 pm. We will be electing delegates to the upcoming Convention. Please plan to attend and learn more about convention activities and issues we may be addressing at the convention. Our Society is only as strong as its members –take an active part and help keep our Society strong.

If you plan on attending, please call Linda Hanko @330-706-0151 or 330-690-9611. We need a headcount for refreshments. Please RSVP one week before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 12 – THE MONSIGNOR ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, December 3, 2017, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andre Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. There will be an election of officers and discussions relative to district business and election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH. Members of the various branches are urged to attend. Any questions, call Joseph Tarquinio at (724) 929-9788. We from District 12 wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 –THE REV JOSEPH KOSTIK DISTRICT

Reminder: The district will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 6:00PM at our Lady of Sorrows. There will be election of officers at this meeting. We are taking reservations for the District Christmas Party on December 19, 2017, at 6:00PM at Rachel's Restaurant, 54 Westchester Drive, Austintown, OH. Tickets are \$25 each. Immediately following the party, the district will hold a meeting for the election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH All members and guests are welcome. Call Barb Hosa at 330-286-2969 for reservations. Thank you.

Barb Hosa, President

DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT

Prince Pribina District will hold Annual Meeting on Saturday November 18, 2017. The meeting will be held at 11:00 AM at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. On the agenda will be: officer reports and financial report, election of officers for the year 2018 and election of the District Convention Delegate to the 2018 FCSU National Convention. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate and have their concurrent Annual Meeting.

Paul Skuben, President

DISTRICT 16 - THE MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT

The Msgr Stephen Krasula District 16 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017 in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, New York, NY immediately following the 10:15 Slovak Mass. On the agenda will be branch reports, financial report, election of officers and discussion of plans for future activities in 2018. We urge members of Branches 41, 45 and 716 to attend and participate in this meeting. Representatives from other Districts are also cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. The Slovak Mass at 10:15 will be in remembrance of Jozef Bilik, past President of Branch 716 FCSU.

Joan Mary Skrkon, Secretary

DISTRICT 19 – THE MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

On Sunday Dec 10, 2017, the annual meeting for Monsignor Michael Shuba District will be held at 1:30PM, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall. Address: 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, Ontario.

At this meeting the election of officers for the district will be held, as well election of delegates to the upcoming Convention in August 2018.

Lunch will be available, please RSVP to Mike Kapitan at 416-543-4111

Respectfully,

Anne Mitro, Secretary

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 9

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

a sense of accomplishment knowing that you are directly contributing to the operational direction taken by the FCSU for the next four (4) years. Please contact Tom Zuffa at 440-320-6523 or Len Zilko at 440-988-3236 if you are interested in becoming a convention delegate candidate and, of course, come to this very important meeting.

As a reminder, our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are scheduled. The Branch will hold its annual election of officers, by-law review and election of two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors at each December meeting. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. You are sure to find many items of interest.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2018, at 11:30AM at Panera's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include election of officers and election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Albina Senko at 412-343-5031.

Albina Senko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold their annual meeting at the Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant in Coitsville, OH, on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at 2PM. We will have election of officers for the coming year 2018, followed by a luncheon – with reservations to be made by calling 330-755-8316.

We would like to extend our wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday Season to all members.

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

The branch will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2017, at 1:00PM at Bedford Trails Restaurant, Coitsville, OH. On the agenda: election of officers and general branch business.

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 266 - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday December 3, 2017 at 9:45 am in Good Shepherd Church at 87 S. Hunter Highway Drums. Delegates and alternates will be elected for the 2018 convention as well as branch officers for 2018. After the meeting attendees are invited to enjoy a breakfast buffet sponsored by the Good Shepherd parishioners. Anyone needing directions can call R. Lazar.

R. Lazar, Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist, Branch 276, will hold their next meeting on Sunday, November 19, 2017, at 1:00PM at St. Patrick's Church Hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, PA. We will be discussing coming events for the New Year and will also be having election of officers for 2018. Delegates for the National Convention to be held next year will also be elected. If you would like to become an officer please attend this meeting. We look forward to seeing new people.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

Branch 290 will hold a meeting on December 6, 2017. The meeting will start at 6:30PM. On the agenda: election of branch officers and election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland. Please attend. Call Joe Minarovich as to the location at 732-469-5256. Thank you.

Joe Minarovich, President

BRANCH 292 – WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, FCSU, Branch 292

KJ, will hold their semi-annual meeting and Christmas Party at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, December 17, 2017 at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, Pa. 15963. A buffet dinner will follow the meeting. All members are asked to attend these events. The Officers extend to all wishes for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Edward T. Surkosky, F.I.C., President

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 313, St John the Baptist, will hold a meeting on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 11:30 am. The meeting will be at Southfork Restaurant, 14631 South LaGrange Road, Orland Park, IL. Members are invited to come and meet their officers and enjoy a complimentary fraternal luncheon. For further information, please call Ken at 773 463 2686.

Please remember President Joseph Bugel in your prayers. He passed away on September 12, 2017.

Ken Jurinek, Vice President

BRANCH 320 – STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at 11:00AM, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Frances may be reached at (724) 929-9788. On the agenda will be the election of officers, along with election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH. Members are urged to attend. May baby Jesus grant you the happiest of holidays.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Branch 367 will be holding its next meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. The meeting will be held at O'Gillies Pub, 200 E. Askren Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, at 2 PM in the afternoon. All members are invited. Election of 2018 officers and election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention will be held. If planning on attending please call Audrey Balazik, President at 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006. To all our members and their families we wish you a blessed and happy holiday season.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 372 – BEVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 372, St. Joseph Society, will hold its annual meeting at the home of President Michael Hudak, 829 Cameron Ave., Beaverdale, PA, on Sunday, November 26, 2018, at 2:00PM. Election of officers for 2018 and other important agenda items will be discussed.

Michael Hudak, President

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, November 19, 2017, at 1:00PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA. On the agenda: election of branch officers, and election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention. All members are welcome. For reservations, please call Mary Ann Nalevanko at 1-724-834-6386.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 401 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. Location will be at the East Vandergrift Slovak Club, 304 McKinley Ave., East Vandergrift, PA., 15629. This meeting will include election of branch officers as well as election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. ALL Br. 401 members, new and old, are cordially invited to attend. Please consider attending as we are striving to grow and become more active in our communities. Refreshments will be available after the meeting and of SPECIAL NOTE: the Pgh. Steelers don't play until 4:25p.m.!! Peace and Fellowship to all....

Patrick Froncek, Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 1:30 PM the **Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.** All members of Branch 410 are

invited to attend.

Election of officers for the year 2018 will be held at this meeting. Those who are interested in being a delegate to the 51st International Convention being held in Cleveland, Ohio, from Saturday, August 4 to August 8, 2018 are requested to attend this meeting. Election of delegates to the convention will be voted on and completed at the Dec. 14th meeting.

Call for reservations by Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 724-425-2576.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 425 – BARBERTON, OHIO

St. Marks Society, Branch 425, will be holding its annual meeting on Sunday, November 26, 2017, at the home of Paul Slota, 1371 Eastern Road, Rittman, OH. The meeting will take place at 1:00PM. Election of officers will take place. To RSVP please call 1-330-825-3534.

Jeannette Willis, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 450, will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, November 18, 2017.

The meeting will begin at 11:00 AM at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio 44129. (between Brookpark and Snow Rd.)

On the agenda will be officers' reports, the 2017 financial report, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the branch. The election of branch officers will take place at this meeting.

All members are urged to attend. Refreshment will be served after meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2017, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of Financial Secretary Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral PA, 15731. The agenda will include financial reports, election of officers, payment of bills, donations, membership, etc. All members are cordially invited to attend and to participate in the discussion of obtaining new members.

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, will hold its Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, Election of FCSU 2018 Convention delegates, and Christmas Luncheon on Saturday November 25, 2017.

Location: Mabenka Restaurant, 7844 S. Cicero Avenue, Burbank, IL 60459. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship and refreshments. The meeting will start at 2:00PM. Afterwards, attendees will enjoy a Christmas luncheon.

If you plan to attend, please contact the Financial Secretary by Wednesday, November 22, so that we can give the restaurant an accurate head count. Call Bob at (773) 558-5956 or (502) 244-6643.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

The branch will hold its next meeting on November 19, 2017, at 2PM at the J club 485 Morgan Ave, Akron, OH. On the agenda: election of branch officers. If anyone is interested in running for office please send your name and what office you would like to hold to Grace Bacot at 485 Morgan Ave, Akron 44311.

Other events at the J Club:

Spaghetti Dinner on Dec 6th. 4:30 to 7 pm \$8

Christmas Villa Dec 10th starting @4pm; dinner at 5pm followed by music from the Barberton Button Box Band. Cost is \$15 per person. Advance tickets sales only. Children 16 and under are free. Call the Club for tickets at 330-773-4978.

Come and start the Christmas season by celebrating our Slovak Heritage through traditions.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandie Klucar, Secretary

BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart of Jesus Branch 580 will hold a meeting on November 19, 2017, after the 9:30 Mass in the Holy Trinity Social Hall, 529 Grant Ave Ext. West Mifflin, PA, 15123.

Election of officers will take place. All members are welcome.

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 581 – GARY-WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2017, at 1PM at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., Hobart, IN. The agenda will be election of officers, election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH, insurance premiums for children to be paid for the first year, and the upcoming play.

RSVP Ann, 219-947-2793 or George, 219-926-2410

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 591 – CHICAGO HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

There has been a merger between Branch 591K Chicago Heights, IL and Branch 493K Chicago, IL.

All members of Branch 591K will now hold membership in Branch 493K. This merger has taken place as of November 02, 2017.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

ROBERT M MAGRUDER
604 SUNNYGATE PLACE
LOUISVILLE, KY 40223
(502) 244-6643

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, December 3 Polka Dance - 3pm-6pm; food available for purchase

Saturday, December 9 Kid's Christmas Party - 1pm; please call Tatra Hall to sign up your child, this is a free event.

Sunday, December 17 Monthly Branch Meeting - 2pm; election of officers will take place, please make sure to attend.

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday .50 off

Hours are Mon-Fri, 1pm-8pm, Sat 12noon-8pm
Come down and enjoy yourself. All events take place at Tatra Hall 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights 231-733-2575

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 600 – VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 600K Vandergrift, PA and Branch 401K North Apollo, PA. All members of Branch 600K will now hold membership in Branch 401K.

This merger has taken place as of October 16, 2017.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

PATRICK J FRONCEK
PO BOX 178
1223 WYSOCKI AVE
NORTH APOLLO, PA 15673-0178
(724) 664-8216

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 3:00 PM at 141 Bellevue Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. The agenda will include the future convention and corresponding election of delegates; also a discussion of events during the current year.

Sylvia J. Vehec
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at noon at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. There will be an election of officers along with election of dele-

continued on page 17

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 16

gates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH. Members are urged to attend. Any questions, call Joseph Matinko at (724) 747-7332. Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 701 – VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 701K Vandergrift, PA and Branch 401K North Apollo, PA. All members of Branch 701K will now hold membership in Branch 401K.

This merger has taken place as of October 17, 2017.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

PATRICK J FRONCEK
PO BOX 178
223 WYSOCKI AVE
NORTH APOLLO, PA 15673-0178
(724) 664-8216

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 706 – DYER, INDIANA

St. Anthony Society, Branch 706, will hold its second semi-annual meeting on Saturday, December 16, 2017, at the residence of Branch Secretary, Lynda Tanis, at 3:00PM. On the meeting agenda, we will discuss: the Slovakia Christmas Tree at the Museum of Science and Industry, coordinated by Chairman, Mark Fayta, and Co-Chairman, Amber Miller; the Easter Coloring Contest, organized by Barbara Fayta; and the Spring District 2 Outing, arranged by Lynda Tanis. Members of the Branch, including members of Branch 40, previously met on November 4 at the Museum of Science and Industry to set-up the Slovakia Tree for the 2017 Christmas Around the World Exhibit. Amber Miller purchased new garland for the tree and Barbara Fayta and Lori Seida handmade new candy ornaments. Mark Fayta gave directions to update some of the older wooden sled ornaments to portray some of Slovakia's castles, reflecting more of Slovakia's Heritage. Members of the Branch also attended the Museum's Dinner on November 21, an appreciation event for the volunteers who've helped setup the Christmas trees. In addition, we will be praying for those who we have lost in our District, especially the well-respected and loved, Joseph Bugel. He will be greatly missed.

Please email Lynda Tanis at: Lynda.tanis@comcast.net by Monday, December 8, if you would like to attend or would like to send any information to be reviewed at the meeting.

Lynda Tanis, Branch Secretary

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 will have its winter meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 2:00PM. It will be at the home of Julius Remenar, Financial Secretary. His home is located at 8977 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. Election of officers will be held. All members are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will celebrate Mass at 11:00 am on December 17, 2017 for deceased members of our branch. The election of officers for 2018 will be held at this annual meeting following the Mass. Also on the agenda is the election of delegates for the 51st International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The Mass and annual meeting will be held at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 738 will be holding our semi-annual meeting on Monday, December 4, 2017, at 6:30PM at the VFW on Whitaker Way in Munhall, PA. The meeting will include a celebration of Christmas and a review of the annual audit. Also we will have election of officers for 2018. We will begin discussion about delegates for the next National Convention in August of 2018, as well. All members are invited to attend. Please join us and become in-

involved in your branch and its future.

Patricia Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officers' Reports, a 2017 financial report, approval of the 2018 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of 2018 Branch Officers and the election of 2018 Convention Delegates in advance of the 2018 FCSU National Convention to be held in Cleveland, OH, will also take place.

Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

The annual meeting will follow the Slovak Mass in the Church Social Hall.

Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

Members who need policy assistance in regards to a change of address or to change a beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone 248-714-9620.

I can also provide you a no obligation quote for insurance coverage for any family member including grandchildren with just a birth date.

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at AMICIS RISTORANTE, 1700 W. Elizabeth Avenue in Linden, NJ at 3:30pm. The agenda will include election of officers, as well as discussion of plans for next year's activities, including election of Convention delegates. A Christmas holiday dinner will follow the meeting. (\$30.00 for non-members). Please call Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by December 1st if you plan on attending.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will hold its next meeting on December 10, 2017, at the home of Rosemary Heald, 379 Quarry Lane, NE, Warren, OH, 44483. The meeting will start at 4:00PM, with election of branch officers and a discussion of the February 2018 Feast Day Dinner at the church on the agenda. For more information, contact William Hrusovsky at 330-372-1948 or at hrusovskyw@embarqmail.com.

William Hrusovsky, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 785 - MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

On Sunday Dec 10, 2017, the annual meeting for Jednota Branch 785 will be held at 2:30pm, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall. Address: 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, Ontario.

At this meeting the election of Officers for the branch will be held, as well election of delegates to the up coming National Convention in August 2018.

Lunch will be available; please RSVP to Milan Zoldak 647-350-0604

Regards,

Sharon Tomas, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold their Annual Slovak Mass On Saturday Dec. 23, 2017 at 12 noon, at St. John Paul II Polish center located at 3999 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda Ca. 92886.

Lunch will be served after the mass along with the presentation of gifts for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Christmas.

Also following the festivities Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review officers' reports, hold elections to elect new officers, and discuss branch activities.

We hope to see you there and would like to wish everyone A Merry Christmas and A very special New Year.

Fraternally Yours,

Milan Konko, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its Annual Meeting on November 18, 2017, at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Meeting will start at 11:00 AM with agenda as follow: Membership Drive with focus on benefits cherished from FCSU, Financial Report, election of Branch 844 officers for 2018 as well as the Branch Convention Delegate for the 2018 FCSU National Convention.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 11am at Regos Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. All members attending will be treated to lunch. Non-branch members cost of the lunch will be \$16. Reservations are required for a seating count. Please leave a message at 412-341-1577 with your name, phone number, and how many branch, and non-branch members will be attending.

Along with celebrating the birth of Our Lord, we will hold a meeting after lunch. Election will take place for the branch officers for 2018 as well as the election of delegates for the 2018 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU.

The Convention will be held in Cleveland, OH, from Saturday August 4th through Wednesday August 8th, 2018, at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel.

Branch 853 extends to all, wishes for a safe, happy and Holy Christmas Season.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention all Branch 853 members:

Branch 853 members who are paying for an educational program are eligible for the yearly Branch Educational Stipend.

If you are interested in receiving an application, please email FCSUBRANCH853@gmail.com with your request or mail for an application for the stipend at Branch 853 Educational Stipend, 2670 Crosby Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216. All requirements for the stipend must be fulfilled and provided by the applicant and be submitted by mail.

Stipend will not be greater than the cost of the course.

Branch 853 encourages all types of educational enrichment to apply for the stipend - from formal classroom costs to adult fun enrichment classes (i.e. - cooking classes, yoga classes, or other types of fun learning).

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 855 - PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 855,

will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017.

The meeting will be held at 1:30PM at St. Charles Borromeo Church Parish Activity Center [Borromeo Room], 5891 Ridge Road; Parma, Ohio 44129.

The agenda includes the election of officers and discussion of activities for 2018. The election of delegates and alternates will also be held at this meeting. Anyone interested in serving as a delegate or alternate, please contact Linda at 440-886-0206 prior to the meeting.

Please contact Linda Kolesar at 440-886-0206 by November 24, 2017, if you plan to attend.

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 855 - PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855 will hold an officer's and general meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 2:00PM at the residence of Branch Financial Secretary Michael Kolesar at 7917 Whitehaven Drive, Parma, OH, 44129. The agenda includes a discussion of the upcoming 2018 Convention and a newly elected officer orientation, and development of a strategic plan for the Branch.

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

Branch 856 will hold a special meeting January 8, 2018 at 1:00pm at the Thomas Jefferson Library 7415 Arlington Blvd. Falls Church, VA, 22042. At this meeting will be elections of branch officers for 2018 and election of delegates for the 51st International Convention scheduled for August 2018 in Cleveland, OH. The officers of Branch 856 would like to welcome members of Branch 326 that were just merged with Branch 856 in Washington, DC and area. We would like to meet and see you attend our meetings. Please feel free to call or write me if I can help you with your needs. My address is: Katherine Nowatkoski 806 Blackfriars Loop, Cary, North Carolina 27519. Phone: 919-651-0363 or e-mail knowa000@hotmail.com

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA. At that meeting there will be the election of officers for 2018 as well as the election of delegates to the 2018 Convention.

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary

Upcoming Events at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club located at 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH, 44055 will host the following events:

Stedry Vecer, Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner

Sunday December 3rd 5:30p.m.

cocktails, 6:00p.m. dinner

Entertainment by Ed Klimczak

Advanced Tickets only \$20 the event is open to the public, cash bar

Contact Len Zilko at 440/988-3236

Save the Date and stay tuned for further details

Silvester Steak Fry

Sunday December 31st 5-9p.m.

The United Slovak Societies is comprised of the members of the local lodges in Lorain OH.

These Lodges include; St. Ann's Branch #114 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, St. John the Baptist Lodge #228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, National Slovak Society Assembly 160, Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111 and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union Branch #77.

- Submitted by Michèle S. Mager, Member, FCSU Branch 228
Secretary, United Slovak Societies Member,
Board of Directors, American Slovak Club



OBITUARIES



Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Maria M. Harcar, Wife of FCSU Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Passed Into Eternal Life November 1, 2017

Maria M. Harcar, 74, of Streator passed away Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at her residence in Streator, IL.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:30 A.M. Monday, November 6, 2017, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, Streator. Msgr. Philip Halfacre officiated.

Visitation was from 2:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. Sunday, November 5, 2017, at the Solon-Telford Funeral Home, Streator. The rosary was recited at 5:00 PM. Burial was in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Streator. Pallbearers were Karl Kiss, Tim Graves, Ralph Redd, Jim Woodward, Jim Harcar, and Paul Higdon.

Born July 10, 1944 in Hungary she was the daughter of Sandor and Veronika (Hemrich) Kiss. She married Andrew R. Harcar Sr. on July 21, 1962 at Immaculate Conception Church, Streator. He survives in Streator.

She is also survived by daughters, Veronica M. Manzella of Normal and Theresa M. (Tim) Graves of Streator; a son, Andrew R. Harcar Jr. of Streator; grandchildren, Matthew Manzella, Jennifer Manzella and Emma Graves; sisters, Jolanka (Jack) Redd of Streator, Veronika "Anna" (Don) Elias of Streator and Freida Lukach of Streator; and a brother, Karl (Linda) Kiss of Bloomington, IL.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, John Kiss and a son in law, Richard



Manzella.

Born in Hungary, Maria came to the United States in 1956. She attended Streator grade schools and graduated from Streator High School.

Through the years, she worked for both Baldwin's Grocery Store and Opdykes. She sold Avon and also owned and operated L & H Venetian Blind Service for over 20 years.

She was a member of the former St. Stephen's Church which is now St. Michael the Archangel Church. She was an officer of Branch 40 of the First Catholic Slovak Union and belonged to the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, United Commercial Travelers, and the St. Stephen's Altar and Rosary Society. She also served for 26 years as an election judge.

Maria was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother who was extremely proud of her children! Her grandchildren were the light of her life as they would always bring a smile to her face! She will be sadly missed by her loving family and friends.

Memorials may be directed to the charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be left for the family at <http://www.solontelford.com/>

- Submitted by Theresa Graves

KENNETH G. HOPKINS BRANCH 112 – MAHANNOY, PENNSYLVANIA



Kenneth G. Hopkins, age 73 years, of Raritan Township, NJ, died Tuesday, September 5, 2017, at the Hunterdon Medical Center, Raritan Township, NJ.

Born in Ashland, PA., September 8, 1943, son of the late Kenneth C. and Susan Zurko Hopkins, he had formerly resided in Bound Brook, NJ and had resided in the Flemington area since 1977.

Ken was formerly employed by Johns-Manville Corp; then was a warehouseman for Mack Trucks and later for Pathmark Stores until retiring. Ken was a member and of Deacon of the Flemington Presbyterian Church; member of Darcy Lodge 37, F&AM of Flemington, NJ; the Croton Rod & Gun Club; and was also a member of the Hunterdon County Board of Elections. He also served in the United States Army during the Vietnam Era.

Surviving are his wife of forty-six years, Cecelia Bonacci Hopkins; two sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Shelly Hopkins of Middletown, DE. and Kenneth M. and Alicia Hopkins of Flemington, NJ; a brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Eileen Hopkins of Shenandoah, PA.; and six grandchildren, Isabella, Brooklynn, Jackson, Paige, Emma and Mackenzie.

Funeral services were held Saturday, September 16, 2017, at 11:00 AM in the Flemington Presbyterian Church, Flemington, NJ, where calling hours were held the previous afternoon and evening. Interment was private.

- Submitted by Cecelia Hopkins

EDWARD A. OSWALT BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

Edward A. Oswalt died peacefully on Sep-

tember 8, 2017 in Virginia Beach, VA, at the age of 77.

Ed was born on July 17, 1940, in Graceton, PA. He graduated from The Pennsylvania State University in 1962 with a degree in Accounting and completed a post-graduate training program with Sears in Pittsburgh, PA. He then joined the US Navy where he served on the USS Enterprise out of Norfolk, VA, and participated in Operation Sea Orbit – an around the world cruise. He married Regina Sferro in 1964 and returned to the US to start working for Sears where he would remain for 31 years. While advancing his career at Sears, he took positions in CT, ME, VT, NY, MA, PA and ultimately the Sears Tower in Chicago, IL. After his retirement from Sears, he relocated to Virginia Beach in 1995 where he became a CPA and worked for Nexcom and the Department of Defense.

In addition to a fulfilling professional career, Ed also saw the value in volunteering his time for his community. He was treasurer of his sons' hockey organizations: the Wintersport Royals and helped start teams at both Upper Moreland HS and Penn State-Abington campus. He was an active and dedicated member of the Star of the Sea Church, serving on the finance committee. He was the Treasurer for the Hampton Roads chapter of the PSU Alumni Association and the Knights of Columbus. He also volunteered for the Croatan Civic League and held many positions on the board including President. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and was an enthusiastic Penn State football fan, participating in Homecoming Parades and attending many tailgates and games in State College and even travelled to Ireland to support the Nittany Lions. Ed was also a talented artist spending his free time painting or drawing. He took great pleasure in painting murals for his children's rooms, grandchildren's nurseries and his favorite local eatery Nick's.

Ed is survived by his wife Regina L. (Sferro); his sons, Mark E.(Kathy) Oswalt, Leesburg, VA and Brian S.(Dana) Oswalt,

Lower Burrell, PA and daughter Mara (Charlie) Stengler, Alexandria, VA; grandchildren Mark and Justin Oswalt, Eliza, Ian and Quinn Oswalt, and Addison and Hayden Stengler; great grandchild Rylee; sisters Mary Lou Aimino and Regina Blausler and brother Gerald Oswalt. He was predeceased by his sister Monica Slansky and parents Albert and Helen Oswalt.

A Celebration of Life and Gathering of Family and Friends was held the morning of Saturday, October, 7, 2017, at The Star of the Sea Church, with a reception that followed in the parish hall.

- Submitted by Regina Oswalt

RAYMOND J. KACHUREK BRANCH 308 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO



A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, January 20, 2017, at 10:30AM at St. Joseph Church in Austintown, OH, for Raymond J. Kachurek, 89, who died Monday, January 16, 2017, at Omni Manor.

"Ray" was born March 11, 1927, in Youngstown, a son of Joseph and Mary Novotny Kachurek.

Ray was a truck driver for over 40 years, retiring in 1988. He was employed with Lyons Transportation Line and he was also a driver for Penn Care Medical Supply in Niles for many years. He also had Ray's Christmas Trees for 35 years and R & P Player Piano Service.

Ray graduated from Chaney High School and then as a very proud American, at the age of 17, enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II, serving in the Philippines.

Ray loved spending time with his family, traveling the United States with his wife, Pat, in their motor home and wintering with her in Florida for 25 years.

He especially enjoyed his daily meetings with good friends at McDonald's in Austintown. Ray also enjoyed bowling, fishing

and playing horseshoes. He was a charter member of St. Joseph Church and a member of Teamsters Local No. 377.

Ray's wife of 64 years, the former Patricia Ann Husted, whom he married Feb. 19, 1949, died June 21, 2013.

He is survived by his sons, Joseph Kachurek of Youngstown and Michael (Sandy) Kachurek of Austintown; his daughters, Janet "Lulu" (Jim) Zambataro of Brecksville and Lori (Mark) Detwiler of Boardman; his sisters, Rita Johnston of Austintown and Mary Lou (Bill) Hudak of Youngstown; his grandchildren, Lisa Kachurek, Ashley (Tim) Takat, Jason (Liz) Protain, Nicky, Christopher and Jimmy Zambataro, Jessie (Justin) Conrad, Carlyn (Ben) Pecchia, Sunny (T C) Osman and Sasha Detwiler; his great-grandchildren, Michael, James, Audrey, Mitch, Logan, Tyler, Emmitt, Cassie and Christian; and many nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents and wife, Ray was preceded in death by his sons, Gene and James Kachurek; and his brothers and sisters, Agnes White, Michael Kachurek, Helen Semeraro, Martha McClain and Joseph Kachurek.

Friends called in the afternoon and evening of Thursday, January 19, 2017, at the Lane Family Funeral Homes, Austintown Chapel, in Youngstown, OH and the following Friday morning at the funeral home where closing prayers were recited.

- Submitted by Lori Detwiler

MARY TUREL BRANCH 373 – WEIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA



Mary S. Turel was born on April 21, 1925 in Steubenville, OH. She passed away peacefully on October 4, 2017, at her home in Hilliard, OH. Mary was a graduate of Steubenville High School, Class of 1942. After

continued on page 19

News From Slovakia

Young Slovaks Receive Respected Award and Meet Prince Edward

Bratislava, November 3 (TASR) - As many as 53 young people from Slovakia were presented with the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) in Bratislava on Thursday (November 2) for successfully completing the DofE educational program.

Silver and bronze awards were given to youngsters aged between 14-24 at a ceremony attended by Britain's Prince Edward, the youngest of the four children of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

Prince Edward, who took part in the program himself when he was young, was visiting Slovakia for the first time.

"When I look back at the time when I received this award ... I still remember the feeling of satisfaction and of success when I completed my expedition, and I also felt relieved," he said at the ceremony.

In a short speech Prince Edward encouraged the young people to continue in their efforts and try to go even further by winning gold awards. He also told the audience that his favorite part of the program was the expedition, which was the main reason why he joined the program in the first place. Mandatory school trips to rainy Scotland were rather boring for him, as he dreamt of experiencing something more adventurous. At that time, he was advised to take part in the DofE program, in which he eventually managed to obtain the highest gold award.

The DofE awards young people for completing a series of self-improvement exercises in four key areas: volunteering, sporting activities, skills and expeditions. An additional fifth area, the Residential Project, involves broadening one's horizons in an unfamiliar environment.

Among the Slovak awardees was, for example, the visually impaired Alzbeta Polakova, who after a break of three years managed to overcome her fear and learn to cycle again - this time with the assistance of a tandem.

The DofE's National Office in Slovakia was set up two years ago. Thanks to its successful start and growth, it ranked among the three fastest growing offices in the world in 2016 and was selected as a case study in the London Foundation's Annual Report.

"There are currently more than 150 local centers and 600 volunteers involved in the program, and we expect that more than 2,000 young people will have joined the program by the end of the year," said the DofE's National Office Director for Slovakia Marian Zachar.

Presidential Garden Obtains New Tulip Variety from Dutch Embassy

Bratislava, November 3 (TASR) - The Presidential Palace garden in Bratislava has acquired a completely new variety of tulip, with Dutch Ambassador to Slovakia Henk Cor Van der Kwast and head of the President's Office Stefan Rozkopal planting the first two bulbs of the hybrid tulip in the garden on this date.

The Dutch Embassy has presented Slovakia with the new tulip type, whose name will only be announced in the spring, to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Slovak Republic.

A total of 2,400 new hybrid tulip bulbs will be planted in the garden. "Their uniqueness will lie in their color, but I can't say more at the moment. You'll see in April," said the Dutch ambassador.

Slovakia is set to mark the 25th anniversary of its founding in the spring of 2018, the same time at which the new tulips are expected to bloom.

According to Van der Kwast, over the past 25 years the Netherlands and Slovakia have cooperated and become important partners. "We consider Slovakia to be an active player in the EU," he said, adding that his country wants to continue strengthening the relationship between the two countries in the future.

The new type of tulip has already been registered, but its name, which will be connected to Slovakia somehow, will be announced in April.

Flower cultivation specialist Jos Beelen from Dutch company JUB told TASR that developing the new tulip variety has taken many years. "It takes 20 years in total to bring a new tulip type on the market, so it's a long and time-consuming job," he said.

UFO Tower above Danube in Bratislava to Offer 'Skywalk' for Tourists

Bratislava, November 1 (TASR) - Bratislava should soon acquire a new "adrenaline-charged" tourist attraction - a 'Skywalk' on an observation platform of the iconic UFO tower on SNP Bridge more than 82 meters above the Danube River.

A funicular pod travelling at a speed of up to two meters per second will connect the UFO restaurant with a beach beneath the bridge. The season should begin in April of next year, but tickets for Skywalk will be up for grabs as of late 2017.

"There's only one [other] such project in Europe, in Tallinn. You couldn't find any other similar project in Europe," said Lukas Dobrocky, executive director of Bratislava Region Tourism.

"Accompanied by a professional instructor, Skywalk allows visitors to walk on a [circular] platform spanning 360 degrees, secured by two mechanisms to a steel rope. It will be possible at three checkpoints to try such things as free hanging and sitting on the platform, for example," said the creator of the project Henrich Bartovic.

Slovak and Austrian Experts to Focus on Plastic Waste in Danube River

Bratislava, November 1 (TASR) - A project called PlasticFreeDanube is due to be launched by Slovak and Austrian experts in order to acquire information on the contamination of the Black Sea with plastic from the Danube River, Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV) communications department chief Stanislav Scepan announced on this date.

Data will be collected by observing the stretch of the Danube River between Vienna and the Gabčíkovo (Trnava region) Hydroelectric Power Plant.

"The Danube River as the main tributary has direct effects on the Black Sea. Earlier studies have revealed that the annual flow of plastic into the Black Sea from the Danube River stands at 530-1,550 tons," said Scepan, adding that SAV's specialists in identifying plastic will be involved in the project, which is due to last until 2020.

The project should include the drawing up of an action plan for combating the contamination of Danube River by plastic waste and should also contribute towards boosting public awareness of the problem.

OBITUARIES

continued from page 18

graduating, she worked as the office manager of the Fort Steuben Hotel for several years. On June 9, 1947 she married Stanley M. Turel. Mary worked alongside Stanley for more than forty years, operating the Stanley M. Turel Funeral Home, first in Dillonvale, OH, and then in Toronto, OH.

Mary was an active member of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church in Toronto, OH, where she organized a creative group of quilters known as "The Piecemakers." Throughout her life, Mary enjoyed knitting, crocheting, sewing and quilting. Together, Mary and Stanley raised 2 daughters, Barbara and Lynne Ann. After retirement, Mary and Stanley relocated to Hilliard to live near their daughters. Mary was a member of St. Agatha Roman Catholic Church in Upper Arlington, OH.

Mary loved her two daughters, Barbara and Lynne Ann, and their husbands, Fred and Greg. She was extremely proud of her two grandchildren, Annie and Brian. She found great joy in the giggles of her two great-granddaughters, Zoey and Eliza. After moving to Hilliard, Mary enjoyed her new friends at the Lakes at Mill Run, especially the "April Birthday Bunch." Mary never forgot her oldest and dearest friend of 50 years, Theresa. In her final months of life, Mary was very grateful for the kindness and compassion that she received from her caregivers, Sharyn and Jenn. Mary was preceded in death by her husband Stanley Turel, parents Walter and Anna (Miga) Satkowski, brother Alfons Satkowski, and sister Phyllis Gielata. She is survived by daughters, Barbara (Fred) Schroeder and Lynne (Greg) O'Neill; grandchildren, Ann (Curtis) Onofri and Brian O'Neill; and great-granddaughters, Zoey and Eliza Onofri. Friends called Friday, October 6, 2017, afternoon and evening at the Egan-Ryan Funeral Home Northwest Chapel, Columbus, OH. Funeral Mass was held 10AM on Saturday, October 7, 2017, at St. Agatha Church Upper Arlington, OH. Entombment followed at Union Cemetery, Columbus, OH.

- Submitted by Lynne O'Neill

JOHN CHAPKO BRANCH 900 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

John Chapko entered into eternal life on August 6, 2017, at the age of 86. A long-time resident of South Milwaukee, John was married to Barbara (Nee Starks) for 62 years. Loving father of Michael (Ida), Karen (Mark) Fairbanks, Nancy, and Terry (Paige Shuman). Cherished grandfather of Carly, Amanda, Julia (Michael), Natalie (Jason), Jonathan, Timothy, Tanner, Kendall, and Brendan. Proud great-grandfather of Amelia. He is further survived by other relatives and friends.

Born in Carrollville, WI, on September 14, 1930, the youngest of John and Magdalena's eight children,

John's early years were spent happily with family and friends at St. Matthew Catholic Church, Otjen School, and Weiss' Farm. John served his country as a member of the US Air Force (1951-53). A skilled machinist, John completed an apprenticeship with Allis Chalmers, earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Industrial Engineering Technology from Milwaukee School of Engineering, and retired from a long career with General Electric where he proudly served as a member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. John was a loving and caring husband, father, and grandfather. He lived honestly and taught by example. He was strong in faith and in commitment.

Though graced with gentle humor, he treated all with respect and kindness. A child of the depression, he understood the value of a dollar yet was generous to those in need. He approached age and infirmity with a quiet dignity. He will be deeply missed and in our hearts forever. Family greeted friends on Wednesday afternoon, August 16, 2017, at St. Matthew Parish, Oak Creek, WI, followed by a funeral service.

- Submitted by Dr. Nancy Chapko

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 2:30 PM and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta II, Treasurer
Damian Nasta, Regional Director (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUGUST MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the August 2017 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt Sr., to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, found everything in order, and answered the Committee's questions.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report by telephone to the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his/her review. Following the report, Mr. White answered the Board's questions.

Larry White led a discussion regarding new investment opportunities that we may take advantage of in the future.

The President stated we will review the suggested changes to our current investment policy at the Board of Directors meeting in December.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of August for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

Monthly Disbursements

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of August:

Disbursements for the month of August 2017:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 265,740.27
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 17,796.73
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer gave a written report on the investment update to the Board of Directors at the Board of Directors Meeting and answered the Board's questions.

The President stated that representatives from UBS, MAI and Clutterbuck Fund will attend the October Executive Committee Meeting and present a review of our investments and introduce new investment opportunities.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:Annuity Rates:

The President led an extensive review of the current annuity rates. It was decided the rates remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting in October.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have 282 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products, in addition to frequent phone contacts by Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents.

The Vice President stated that our in-house marketing team is working with the marketing firm on completing a promotional video. The Vice President stated we will have a preliminary video to view at the Board of Directors meeting in March. This video will be available in both English and Slovak.

The Executive Secretary stated that our extensive recruitment program to increase our number of independent agents is still in progress. Emails along with postcards are being sent to possible agents in the states we are licensed in to inform them who we are, our rates, and the products we offer. We hope to run this program in the 27 states we are licensed in.

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the IRS approval for FCSU to act as a passive or non-passive nonbank trustee or custodian of health savings accounts and as a passive or non-passive nonbank custodian of Coverdell education savings accounts. The Home Office is in the process of setting up the plans with a target of January 2018 or earlier if possible. There must be staff training before implementation. A description of the plans will be sent to the Board of Directors before being marketed.

The Vice President gave an update on the 2017 Membership Meet, a 7 day cruise to the Eastern Caribbean aboard Allure of the Seas being held November 12-19, 2017. He stated we have an excellent turnout and is in the process of planning activities.

The Vice President stated he is in the process of creating an incentive program for our agents to increase our annuity and insurance sales.

MIDDLETOWN PROPERTY:

The President led a review of the proposals we received on our property in Middletown. The President stated we are in the process of reviewing the proposals we received on the property and hope to start negotiations before our Board of Directors Meeting in December.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by George F. Matta II to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Vice President Andrew Harcar, Sr., closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Save the Date!

Slovenská Vilija

Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Supper

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Noon Mass with Vilija Following

Sponsored by Saint Andrew Abbey

the Slovak Institute and the

Cleveland Slovak Radio Club

Featuring Lučina Slovak Folklore Ensemble

Accordionist Ralph Szubski

Fabulous Basket Raffle!



Pre-sale tickets required: \$20.00

Call 216-721-5300 x 100 before

November 28th to

Order tickets. Seats are limited.

No sales at the door.



Správy zo Slovenska

Fotograf zo Stropkova A. Belovežčík získal hlavnú cenu súťaže Slovak Press Photo

Hlavnú cenu Grand Prix za najlepšiu fotografiu v prestížnej novinárskej súťaži Slovak Press Photo 2017 získal Andrej Belovežčík zo Stropkova. Tento voľný fotograf najviac zaujal medzinárodnú porotu svojim čiernobielym radostným záberom Praha 2017 - Staromestské námestie. Laureát s ňou zvíťazil aj v kategórii Každodenný život. Na slávnostnom vyhodnotení šiesteho ročníka súťaže si vo štvrtok v Zrkadlovej sieni Primaciálneho paláca v Bratislave prevzali ceny ďalší úspešní autori. Sériou záberov z tureckého referenda o rozšírení právomocí prezidenta Áno Erdoganovi, nie demokracii získal prvú cenu voľný fotograf Robert Barca v kategórii Aktualita. Druhý skončil Tomáš Benedikovič (Denník N) so snímkami Veľké protikorupčné pochody, tretí Michal Smrček (Plus jeden deň) nazval svoju reportáž štrajkujúcich zamestnancov za vyššie mzdy Festival Volkswagen.

Na košickom letisku sa budú vzdelávať piloti vrtuľníkov z celého sveta

Na košickom letisku bude od decembra pôsobiť doškolať stredisko pre pilotov vrtuľníkov Slovak Training Academy (STA). Pre školenia bude využívať aj štyri vlastné americké vrtuľníky Black Hawk. Študenti z celého sveta budú mať k dispozícii spolu 15 vrtuľníkov, vrátane štyroch amerických Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk, ako aj špeciálny simulátor. „Výučba bude prebiehať v zmysle európskej legislatívy. Sme radi, že môžeme zabezpečovať teoretickú výučbu pre projekt STA. Aj vďaka tomuto projektu môžeme pokračovať v dlhoročnej tradícii vzdelávania leteckého personálu v Košiciach,“ povedal Stanislav Szabo, dekan Leteckej fakulty Technickej univerzity v Košiciach, ktorá na projekte spolupracuje.

Štvrtinu pracovných miest obsadzujú cudzinci

Na Slovensku aktuálne pracuje až 46-tisíc cudzincov a celkovo je v domácej ekonomike zamestnaných približne 2,5 milióna ľudí. „Trend narastajúceho počtu zamestnancov z cudziny bude pri súčasnom hospodárskom raste aj naďalej pokračovať“, uviedol minister práce Ján Richter. V súčasnosti chýba na Slovensku až 20-tisíc IT špecialistov, ktorých nie je možné získať len jednoduchým, zaškolením nezamestnaných. Cudzinci majú po 15 rokoch nárok aj na penziu.

U detí si žltáčku nemusíte všimnúť

Od začiatku roka zistili v Bratislave 126 chorých na žltáčku typu A, čo je najviac za posledných 14 rokov! V Košickom kraji diagnostikovali v rovnakom období až 164 ľudí nakažených týmto typom hepatitídy, v Banskobystrickom kraji ich bolo 90. Hygienici potvrdili aj štyri ochorenia na žltáčku v troch bratislavských škôlkach a jednej vo Svätom Jure.

Trojka by mala byť spustená pred MS v hokeji 2019

Generálny riaditeľ RTVS Jaroslav Rezník chce spustiť tretí televízny kanál o rok skôr, ako slúbil v projekte, s ktorým uspel v tohtoročnej voľbe v parlamente. Trojka by tak mohla začať vysielať už v roku 2019. Rezník to oznámil nedávno členom Rady RTVS. Ten sa chce snažiť v priebehu roka 2018 nastaviť finančné parametre verejnoprávnej inštitúcie tak, aby bolo možné tento cieľ splniť. V RTVS vzniká päťčlenný projektový tím, ktorý bude tretí kanál pripravovať. Programový riaditeľ RTVS Tibor Búza členom rady uviedol, že v prípade Trojky nepôjde o plnoformátový kanál zameraný výlučne na šport. Ďalší kanál by tak mal byť zameraný okrem športu aj na zdravý životný štýl.

Najväčšie dielo Majstra Pavla z Levoče vyobrazili na poštovej známke

Najväčšiemu dielu Majstra Pavla z Levoče, ktorým je drevený gotický oltár sv. Jakuba, je venovaná nová poštová známka. Vo štvrtok ju uviedli do života v Levoči a pripomínať bude 500. výročie dokončenia tohto najvyššieho oltára svojho druhu na svete. Znáмка má rozmery 44,4 x 54,4 milimetra v rátnate perforácie. Na známke venovanej dielu Majstra Pavla je zobrazený detail Madony s dieťaťom, po stranách sú vyperforované sochy svätcov s rozmerom viac ako 22 milimetrov. Autorom výtvarného návrhu poštovej známky, pečiatky ako aj rytiny je František Horniak.

Vysoké školy sa hlásia k proeurópskej a proatlantickej orientácii

Slovenská rektorská konferencia (SRK) podporuje vyhlásenie troch najvyšších ústavných činiteľov - prezidenta SR Andreja Kisku, predsedu Národnej rady SR Andreja Danka (SNS) a premiéra Roberta Fica (Smer-SD) k prioritám členstva SR v Európskej únii a v Severoatlantickej aliancii. Kiska, Danko a Fico sa v pondelok zhodli na tom, že SR dokáže byť vplyvnou a sebaavedomou krajinou iba v rámci súdržnej Európskej únii. Traja najvyšší ústavní činitelia v prijatej deklarácii vyhlasujú, že budú spoločne dbať o jasnú a zodpovednú komunikáciu proeurópskej a proatlantickej orientácie SR, a to navonok v zahraničí aj voči občanom SR.

Génius z Levíc šokuje vedecký svet

Mladý Slovák Marek Buchman (24) pôvodom z Levíc bol pri zrode displeja iPhone X, pomenovali po ňom asteroid a v súčasnosti pracuje ako doktorand v americkom Texase na vývoji nových, mimoriadne toxických látok, ktoré by mohli predstavovať dôležitý krok vpred k revolučnému spôsobu liečby rakoviny.

Horiacou sviečkou v okne si veriaci pripomenuli nenarodené deti

Spomienka na nenarodené deti, ktoré zomreli pri spontánnom alebo umelom potrate, bola cieľom projektu Sviečka za nenarodené deti. Organizovalo ju občianske združenie Fórum života, ktoré si už 15. rok na tieto deti spomína počas štvrtkovej Pamiatky zosnulých, ľudovo nazývanej Dušičky. K dispozícii boli dva druhy sviečok – plastová a sklenená vonná. Ich kúpou v rámci oficiálnej verejnej zbierky vo farnosti, škole alebo spoločensťve ľudia podporia projekty zamerané na ochranu ľudského života a jeho dôstojnosť od počatia po prirodzenú smrť.

Slovenský milionár T. Chrenek plánuje postaviť nemocnicu v Prahe

Slovenský milionár Tomáš Chrenek sa rozhodol pre výstavbu novej nemocnice v hlavnom meste Českej republiky Prahe. Ide o súkromnú investíciu rodiny Chrenekovcov. Detaily investície zatiaľ spoločnosť nezverejňuje. Úlohu developera na seba berie Chrenekova česká spoločnosť Supernius Development, ktorá je 100-% dcérou slovenskej firmy Supernius so sídlom v Bratislave. Jej akcionárom je rodina milionára pôvodom z Nitry, ktorý dlhodobo žije v ČR. Chrenekovi cez bratislavskú firmu ovládajú aj najväčšiu súkromnú nemocničnú sieť v Česku Agel, ktorá pôsobí pod rovnakou značkou aj na Slovensku.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Slovenská Biblia získala celosvetovú cenu za dizajn

Najnovšie vydanie Svätovojevskej Biblie získalo prestížne svetové ocenenie Red Dot Award, ktoré sa udeľuje za komunikačný dizajn. Výsledky tohtoročnej ankety i odovzdávanie cien sa uskutočnilo v piatok 27. októbra v Berlíne.

„Cena je o to vzácnejšia, že knihy bývajú v dizajnerských súťažiach oceňované iba výnimočne, ešte prekvapujúcejšie je fakt, že je to teraz práve Biblia,“ konštatoval autor grafického návrhu Juraj Demovič.

Riaditeľ Spolku svätého Vojtecha Ivan Šulík vníma ocenenie ako potvrdenie toho, že má význam vydávať nielen hodnotné, ale aj pekné knihy. Podčiarkol tiež medzinárodnú spoluprácu na diele. „Okrem slovenského štúdia grafického dizajnu sa na tvorbe podieľalo české štúdio vizuálnej komunikácie i finska tlačiareň,“ ozrejmil Šulík.

Ocenená Biblia vyšla v roku 2016. Špecifikom je jej prehľadnosť, veľký typ písma i široké okraje. Keďže ide o rodinný typ Biblie, jej súčasťou je rodinná kronika.

Do súťaže Red Dot Award bolo tento rok prihlásených 8051 dizajnerských projektov od tvorcov z 50 národov celého sveta. Najlepšie z nich vybrala 24-členná odborná porota a až do 14. januára 2018 budú vystavené v Múzeu komunikácie v Berlíne.

TASR

Na Teologickej fakulte TU uviedli memoáre Mons. Františka Revesa

V aule Aloisianum na Teologickej fakulte Trnavskej univerzity v Bratislave sa 20. októbra 2017 uskutočnilo slávnostné uvedenie memoárov Františka Revesa. Pod názvom Živého ma nedostanete! Spomienky Františka Revesa ich zostavil Mons. Imrich Tóth, rektor Slovenskej katolíckej misie vo Francúzsku.

Prítomných privítal Ján Ďurica SJ a programom sprevádzal a umelecky ho spestril Jozef Šoltés z Mnichova. S prednáškou vystúpila prof. Emília Hrabovec, svoju osobnú spomienku na Františka Revesa predniesol Dr. Jozef M. Rydlo a nakoniec sa prítomným prihovoril samotný zostavovateľ memoárov Imrich Tóth, ktorý pripravil bohatú a zaujímavú prezentáciu s množstvom fotografií a dobových prameňov.

Podujatie sa uskutočnilo pod záštitou Slovenskej katolíckej misie v Paríži, Únie slovenských spisovateľov, umelcov a kultúrnych tvorcov žijúcich mimo územia Slovenska, Slovenského ústavu v Ríme a Teologickej fakulty Trnavskej univerzity.

TK KBS



V Brodskom odhalili pamätnú tabuľu pripomínajúcu dvoch kňazov

V Brodskom na budove farského úradu odhalili pamätnú tabuľu pripomínajúcu dvoch významných kňazov. Z tejto obce neďaleko Kútov prevádzali počas komunizmu kňazi Titus Zeman a František Reves budúcich kňazov do zahraničia. Nedelňá slávnosť sa konala aj pri príležitosti uloženia relikvie blahoslaveného Titusa Zemana v chráme.

Po uložení relikvie blahoslaveného Titusa Zemana v chráme veriaci v procesii kráčali k farskej budove, kde pomocný biskup bratislavskej arcidiecézy Jozef Haľko odhalil a požehnal pamätnú tabuľu. „Nech Boh požehná túto pamätnú tabuľu a nech zveľaďuje a upevňuje našu nábožnosť,“ povedal biskup Haľko. „Som rád, že si pripomíname také veľké osobnosti a kňazov, záchrancov duchovných povolani práve tu na tomto mieste. Bola odhalená pamätná tabuľa aj Revesovi, aj Titusovi. Tu sa stretávali, odtiaľto organizovali tieto úteky cez rieku Moravu a prechádzali odtiaľto,“ povedal duchovný správca Slovenskej katolíckej misie v Paríži Imrich Tóth.

Na slávnosti bol i skalický dekan Roman Stachovič. „Ja sa teším, že máme v dekanáte, pretože Brodské patrí do skalického dekanátu, relikviu blahoslaveného don Titusa Zemana. V tejto obci boli veľké tlaky. Boli tu tajní ŠTB-áci, prenasledovaní mnohí a teraz sa zviditeľnilo to dobro, ktoré sa urobilo aj táto fara, že sa zachránila. Je to historická budova vzácna, teraz keď tu máme aj túto pamätnú tabuľu,“ povedal. „Mám radosť z toho a že celá tá slávnosť bude na povzbudenie a posúdenie viery farnosti. Treba sa dnes veľmi modliť za nové kňazské povolania. Predovšetkým aby zotrvali a vydržali,“ pridal sa Peter Krajčík, správca farnosti.

TKKBS/Rádio LUMEN

Slovensko si pripomenulo 110. výročie tragédie v Černovej

Pokračovanie zo str. 23

Výsledkom bolo 15 mŕtvych a desiatky zranených, z toho niekoľko ťažko. Uhorské úrady obvinili z organizovania nepokojov vyše 55 ľudí, z ktorých potom 40 odsúdili súhrnne na 37 rokov žalára a rôzne peňažné pokuty a zhabanie majetku. Najmladšia odsúdená mala 16 rokov.

Tragédia v Černovej odhalila pravdu o propagovanej „príkladnej slobode v Uhorsku“ a upozornila vtedajšiu svetovú verejnosť na národnostný útlak v cisárskej ríši. Proti zásahu uhorských žandárov protestovali viaceré významné osobnosti v zahraničí, napr. nositeľ Nobelovej ceny za literatúru, nórsky spisovateľ Bjornstjerne Björnson, britský publicista a historik Robert William Seton-Watson a ruský spisovateľ a filozof Lev Nikolajevič Tolstoj.

Černovský kostol posvätil napokon Andrej Hlinka na sviatok Petra a Pavla 29. júna 1910.

Obete černovskej tragédie pripomína pomník na miestnom cintoríne, ktorý dala vybudovať Slovenská liga amerických Slovákov pri príležitosti 25. výročia masakry.

Poslanci NR SR pri príležitosti 100. výročia tragédie v Černovej schválili 26. októbra 2007 uznesenie, v ktorom odsúdili všetky formy násillia štátnej moci voči svojim občanom. V uznesení NR SR sa udalosti v Černovej ponímajú nielen ako historická krivda na Slovákoch, ale v prvom rade ako memento, ktoré bude navždy pripomínať hodnotu demokracie a princípy vzájomnej tolerancie, úcty a porozumenia medzi národmi, zaručujúce v prostredí Európskej únie taký právny stav, aby už nikdy nedochádzalo k národnostnému útlaku, potlačovaniu ľudských práv, zneužívaniu štátnej moci ani asimilácii akejkoľvek národnostnej menšiny.

Slovenská pošta vydala 27. októbra 2007 pri príležitosti 100. výročia černovskej tragédie známku zobrazujúcu portrét britského novinára Roberta Setona-Watsona a ružu, symbol mesta Ružomberok. Išlo o tretiu známku venovanú udalostiam v Černovej. Prvú známku Černová 1907 vydala Slovenská pošta v roku 1997, ďalšiu B. Björnson v roku 2002.

TASR

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Výročná schôdza okresu Princa Pribinu - Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu bude mať výročnú schôdzu v **sobotu 18. novembra 2017**. Výročná schôdza začne o 11:00 hod. v Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Na programe sú správy funkcionárov a finančná správa, voľba funkcionárov na rok 2018 a delegáta okresu Princa Pribinu na Konvenciu IKSJ v roku 2018. Členovia všetkých spolkov v okolí sú pozvaní a doporučujú sa základným organizáciám v Distrikte IKSJ vykonať súčasne výročné voľby.

Paul Skuben, predseda

Ročná schôdza Spolku č. 844 IKSJ v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Oznamujeme členom, že ročná schôdza Spolku č. 844 IKSJ v Los Angeles bude v **sobotu 18. novembra 2017**, v Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Schôdza začne o 11:00 hod. Na programe je finančná správa, voľby úradníkov na ďalšie obdobie a plán činnosti na rok 2018 ako aj zvolenie delegáta na Konvenciu IKSJ v roku 2018.

Milan Konkol, tajomník

Ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKS

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ v New Yorku bude v **nedeľu 3. decembra 2017** o 12:00 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančné správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie za tým budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame, o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi. Ďakujem s pozdravom,

Maria Jurasi, pokladníčka

Aktivity v Slovenskej záhrade vo Winter Park, Florida

Slovenská záhrada (SZ) v mestečku Winter Park, v blízkosti Orlanda, je v tomto čase jediným centrom slovenského života vo Floride. Každoročne usporiada niekoľko kultúrnych a spoločenských podujatí, ktoré prilákajú Slovákov aj zo vzdialenejších miest vo Floride, ba aj z iných amerických štátov.

Na **sobotu, 9. decembra** pripraví vedenie SZ bohatú predvianočnú večeru (viliu) s tradičnými štedrovečernými pochúťkami. Začiatok o 2. hod. popoludní. Slovenská záhrada pozýva na tieto podujatia širšiu slovenskú verejnosť, vrátane sezónnych návštevníkov zo „severu“. Informácie o týchto podujatiach a o členstve v SZ možno dostať na tel. č. 407-677-6894, alebo cez e-mail: slovakgarden@centurylink.net

Výročná schôdza Okresu Msgr. Krasuľu č. 16

Výročná schôdza okresu Mons.Štefana Krasuľu č. 16 sa bude konať v **nedeľu 10. decembra 2017** na fare Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 E 66th Street, New York, NY, hneď po slovenskej sv. omši o 10:15. Na programe budú hlásenia spolkov, finančná správa, voľby úradníkov na ďalšie obdobie a plán činnosti na rok 2018. Pozývame všetkých členov spolkov 41, 45 a 716, aby sa zúčastnili tejto schôdze. Zástupcovia iných Okresov sú tiež vítaní. Po schôdzi bude občerstvenie. Slovenská sv. omša o 10:15 bude za Jozefa Bilíka, bývalého predsedu spolku č. 716 IKSJ.

Slovenský ples v Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ.

Slovensko-Americké Kultúrne Stredisko vás srdečne pozýva na podujatie roka - 25. výročný slovenský ples v **sobotu 10. februára 2018** v The Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ. Koktejlová hodina začína o 19.00 hod., po ktorej nasleduje večera a tanec. Živá hudba orchestra Express Band. Organizátori pripravujú zaujímavý program a bohatú tombolu. Vstupenky na tel. čísle 973-357-1209. Bližšie informácie na adrese: slovakamericanc.org

Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka

Jankolova knižnica opäť ponúka tradičné Vianočné oplátky

Tradičné slovenské vianočné oplátky, sú opäť k dispozícii túto sviatočnú sezónu od Sestier SS. Cyrila a Metoda v Jankolovej knižnici a Slovenské múzeum v Danville, Pa. Objednávky prijímajú od 23. októbra do 15. decembra 2017. Oplátky stoja \$5,00 za balík. Okrem toho, za manipuláciu a poštovné je \$7,00. Ďalšie informácie sú k dispozícii v Jankolovej knižnici alebo u

Sestry Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M., riaditeľka tel. 570 275-5606 alebo napíšte do Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

Slovenská liga oznamuje

Slovakia – ročník 2017

Slovenská liga oznamuje, že v týchto dňoch vyšiel ďalší ročník *Slovakie – ročník 2017* (Volume XCVIII). Toto vydanie má 171 strán a obsahuje bohatý výber príspevkov na rôzne témy so vzťahom na slovenskú históriu, kultúru a literatúru. Slovakiu si možno objednať za \$10.00. V tejto sume je zahrnuté aj poštovné. Adresa Slovenskej ligy: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St, Passaic, NJ 07055. Tel. 973 472 8993. Fax: 973 835 3723.

1. zbor SLvA v NYC pozýva na oslavu 110. výročia SLvA 10. decembra

Najstarší zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike – 1. zbor v New Yorku, pripravuje oslavu 110. výročia existencie Slovenskej ligy v **nedeľu 10. decembra t.r.** v spoločenskej hale slovenského kostola Sv. Jána Nepomuckého (First Ave a 66th Street).

Výbor 1. zboru pripravuje v spolupráci s predstavenstvom Slovenskej ligy zaujímavý program. Slávnosť sa začne o 12.30. hod. popoludní. Na oslave sa bude podávať ľahší obed a občerstvenie. Vstup na oslavu je voľný.

Koncert Lúčnice v budove Spojených národov v NYC

Pri príležitosti 72. výročia založenia Organizácie Spojených národov slovenský ľudový súbor Lúčnica mal slávnostný koncert v hlavnej zasadacej sieni OSN, Lúčnica sa tu predstavila s celovečerným programom a predviedla svoje tradičné tance ako Šarišský parobci, Povalasky od zeme, Širákový tanec, Na detvianskych lazoch a iné. Účastníci odmenili jednotlivé výstupy nadšeným potleskom. Najväčší potlesk získala hra na fujare s cymbalovým doprovodom. Koncert sa konal v rámci Dňa Spojených národov, ktorý sa každoročne oslavuje 24. októbra, v deň výročia vzniku OSN.

Účastníkov v preplnenej zasadacej sieni privítali asistentka gen. tajomníka OSN Alison Simale a veľvyslanec SR Michal Mlynár. Krátke príhovory mali aj námestníčka gen. tajomníka Amina J. Mohamed a predseda 72. gen. zhromaždenia OSN Miroslav Lajčák.

Daniel F. Tanzone, predseda
Nina Holá, tajomníčka



Vianočný bazár vo Washington, DC

Na pôde Zastupiteľského úradu SR vo Washington, DC sa **4. novembra 2017** uskutočnil tradičný Vianočný bazár s cieľom prezentovať slovenské tradície a slovenských výrobcov. Na podujatí sa zúčastnilo takmer 1500 návštevníkov nielen z Washingtonu, ale aj okolia.

Slovenskí výrobcovia sa prezentovali ručne vyrábanými vianočnými ozdobami so širokou škálou farebnosti a druhov, ponúkali slovenské víno, medovinu a tradičné medovníky. Zastupiteľský úrad SR vo Washington, DC prezentoval slovenskú kuchyňu kapustnicou a vareným vínom. Deti z American Sokol Washington zaspievali slovenské vianočné koledy, ktoré mali veľký úspech a podporili vianočnú atmosféru.

Finančný výtazok z Vianočného bazáru bude odovzdaný českej a slovenskej škole, ktorá funguje v rámci American Sokol Washington. Friends of Slovakia (nezisková organizácia) predajom slovenskej keramiky, umeleckých diel získala finančné prostriedky na štipendium pre slovenských študentov. Na základe pozitívnych ohlasov ZU Washington plánuje zorganizovať predmetné podujatie aj budúci rok.

MZV SR



The traditional Slovak Christmas Bazaar was opened on November 4, 2017 in Washington, D.C.

In Memoriam

Zomrel známy slovenský Jednotár, Stephen C. Matula

Vo Virginii zomrel v stredu 20. septembra 2017, vo veku 97 rokov, známy aktivista a Jednotár, Stephen C. Matula. Narodil sa 4. decembra 1919 v Middletown, PA rodičom slovenského pôvodu.

Nebohý Stephen navštevoval Štátnu univerzitu v Pensylvánii a absolvoval Univerzitu Georgea Washingtona. Slúžil v armáde vzdušných síl počas druhej svetovej vojny a kórejskej vojny. Do dôchodku odišiel ako vyšší úradník vo Federálnej leteckej správe (FAA). Bol naďalej aktívny v slovenských organizáciách, najmä v JEDNOTE, kde bol členom Spolku číslo 856 IKSJ a pôsobil ako predseda 40 rokov vo Washington, DC.

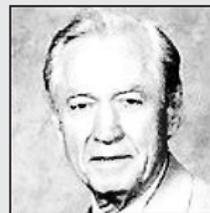
Pred smrťou ho predišli jeho rodičia, Stephen E. Matula a Mary Kopkas Matula; a súrodenci, Robert Matula, Agnas Matula, Anne Matula a Joe Matula.

Prežila ho milujúca priateľka, Marie E. Parkerová; Joan M. Toohey, Joseph A. Mihalčík, Kathryn M. Moore, Terri M. Hoover a ich rodiny; priatelia, Stuart Jamison, Carlos Videla, Bob Heina a ďalší priatelia z kostola Najsvätejšej Trojice vo Washington, DC.

Rodina a priatelia mali možnosť si uctiť nebohého v utorok 26. septembra 2017 v pohrebnom dome Murphyh Funeral Homes, 1102 West Broad Street Falls Church, VA 22046. Pamätná svätá omša sa uskutočnila v stredu 27. septembra 2017, v katolíckom kostole Svätej Trojice vo Washington, DC, kde sa za tým zišla rodina, priatelia a známi.

Vojenský pohreb nebohého brata Matulu sa konal so všetkými vojenskými poctami vo štvrtok 28. septembra 2017. Pochovali ho do rodinnej hrobky na katolíckom cintoríne v Saint Mary's Cemetery v Middletown, PA.

Namiesto kvetov pošlite dary na pamiatku Stephen C. Matula do Štipendijného fondu JEDNOTA, C/O First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Rd, Cleveland, OH 44131.



GLOBSEC Tatra Summit 2017 na Štrbskom Plese

Hlavnou témou dvojdňovej konferencie GLOBSEC Tatra Summit 2017, ktorá sa nedávno konala na Štrbskom Plese, bolo prehlbovanie integrácie v Európskej únii (EÚ). V rozhovore to konštatoval prezident organizácie GLOBSEC Róbert Vass.

Tento ročník bol podľa neho výnimočný, keďže sa konal v Tatrách a s menším počtom ľudí, ktorí však majú vplyv na budúcnosť Európy. „Tento formát sa osvedčil, ukazuje sa, že menší a intímnejší summit dovoľuje otvorenejšiu debatu. Myslím si, že to bolo veľmi úspešné, posilnila sa európska komunita a prišli nové návrhy a myšlienky na integráciu,“ priblížil.

Za kľúčové považuje vyjadrenie z hľadiska európskej politiky, že sa dramaticky prehĺbi viacrýchlostná EÚ. „Tomu sa už nevyhneme, je to nevyhnutnosť. Ako povedala francúzska ministerka pre Európu, krajiny, ktoré budú pripravené, pôjdu hlbšie a tie, ktoré nie sú pripravené, rozumieme tomu, ale nemôžu blokovať proces hlbšej integrácie,“ vysvetlil Vass. Slovensko pri diskusiách jasne prezentovalo, že chce byť súčasťou jadra EÚ.

Jednou z kľúčových vecí, ktoré budú musieť byť podľa Vassa dokončené, je eurozóna. „Banková únia ešte nie je dokončená, práve tu prichádzali mnohé odporúčania, napríklad aj od nášho ministra financií, ako má eurozóna vyzerat,“ zdôraznil Vass. Podľa neho je tiež dôležité, že Tatra Summit sa odohrával tesne po nemeckých voľbách, krátko po francúzskych voľbách a v čase, keď sa v Európe diskutuje o tom, ako má vyzerat budúcnosť európskej integrácie. „Ak chceme byť súčasťou jadra európskej integrácie, musíme doňho prispieť veľmi aktívne,“ zdôraznil.

Na konferencii sa okrem iného hovorilo aj o úlohách strednej Európy v tomto kontexte. Zároveň tu prebehlo prvé stretnutie na túto tému medzi predstaviteľmi Vyšehradskej štvorky (V4), Francúzska a Nemecka po nemeckých voľbách. Tam bolo podľa Vassa vidieť, že názory v rámci V4 na budúcnosť európskej integrácie sú rozdielne.

TASR



Róbert Vass

Výsledky volieb 2017 do vyšších územných celkov na Slovensku

Štátna volebná komisia potvrdila zvolených predsedov krajov

Štátna komisia pre voľby a kontrolu financovania politických strán potvrdila výsledky sobotňajších 4. novembra volieb do vyšších územných celkov. „Štátna volebná komisia potvrdila výsledky volieb,“ vyhlásil na tlačovej konferencii predseda štátnej komisie Eduard Bárány.

Predsedami krajov sa tak oficiálne stali Juraj Droba (Bratislavský kraj, 20,42 %), Jozef Viskupič (Trnavský kraj, 42,90 %), Jaroslav Baška (Trenčiansky kraj, 49,98 %), Milan Belica (Nitriansky kraj, 34,10 %), Erika Jurinová (Zilinský kraj, 43,67 %), Ján Lunter (Banskobystrický kraj, 48,53 %), Milan Majerský (Prešovský kraj, 40,36 %), Rastislav Trnka (Košický kraj, 37,8 %). Účasť za celé Slovensko bola 29,95 %.

Priebeh volieb Bárány označil za korektný a pokojný. „Založili legitimitu tých, ktorí boli vo voľbách zvolení,“ poznamenal. Ocenil aj kroky polície v prípade tzv. volebnej korupcie. Pripomenul, že štátna volebná komisia riešila desiatky podnetov, ktoré sa týkali prevažne podozrení z porušenia volebného moratória. Vzniknuté problémy podľa neho nezasahovali celý systém volieb, boli len lokálne.

TASR

Košice sú prvé slovenské mesto, ktoré sa stalo Kreatívnym mestom UNESCO

Košice sú od utorka 31. októbra súčasťou Siete kreatívnych miest UNESCO (UNESCO Creative Cities Network) v oblasti mediálneho umenia. Do klubu vstúpili spoločne so 64 mestami z celého sveta. V oblasti mediálneho umenia sú členmi mestá ako Linz, Austin, Tel Aviv, Lyon, Saporó a najnovšie okrem Košíc aj Toronto, Čangša, Guadalajara a portugalská Braga.

Košice sú prvé slovenské mesto, ktoré sa stalo Kreatívnym mestom UNESCO. „Je to ďalší významný príspevok k naplneniu dlhodobej vízie, aby sa Košice stali mestom na celý život. Chceme dosiahnuť, aby mladí ľudia z tohto mesta nemuseli odchádzať za prácou do Bratislavy alebo do zahraničia, ale aby ju nachádzali tu. Práve kreatívna ekonomika a jej rozvoj má významný potenciál vo vzťahu k vytvoreniu nových pracovných príležitostí,“ uviedol vedúci komunikačného referátu košického magistrátu Jozef Marko.

Prihlášku do UNESCO Creative Cities Network pripravila nezisková organizácia Creative Industry Košice (CIKE). „Od roku 2013, kedy sme si prvýkrát v Masterplane pre kreatívnu ekonomiku stanovili cieľ stať sa členom Siete kreatívnych miest UNESCO, sme urobili množstvo krokov, ktoré viedli k úspechu,“ povedal riaditeľ neziskovky Michal Hladký.

Organizácia Creative Industry Košice navrhla niekoľko aktivít, ktoré presvedčili UNESCO, že Košice si zaslúžia niesť titul Kreatívne mesto. Ide napríklad o vytvorenie Kreatívneho centra, ktoré bude zamerané na mediálne umenie ako jedno z piatich kľúčových odvetví, vytvorenie mestskej hry či oceňovanie mladých umelcov z partnerských miest a s ním spojené budovanie otvorenej galérie mediálneho umenia v Košiciach.

„Začnú sa vytvárať projekty, ktoré budú prepájať IT sektor alebo digitálne technológie s kreatívou a kultúrou. To znamená, že bude viac aktivít, ktoré sú založené na nových médiách. Bude viac medzinárodných aktivít. Veľmi pravdepodobne sem bude chodiť veľa medzinárodných umelcov a produkcií,“ doplnil Hladký. Najbližším podujatím, na ktorom budú môcť Košičania aj návštevníci mesta spoznávať mediálne umenie a vidieť príklady umelecko-technických presahov, je festival Art & Tech Days, ktorý sa uskutoční v dňoch 22. až 26. novembra.

TASR

Slovensko si pripomenulo 110. výročie tragédie v Černovej

Slovenská republika (SR) si 27. októbra tohto roku pripomenula 110. výročie tragických udalostí v Černovej z roku 1907. Poslanci Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky (NR SR) Zákonom o štátnych sviatkoch, dňoch pracovného pokoja a pamätných dňoch z 20. októbra 1993 a v znení neskorších predpisov rozhodli, že Deň černovskej tragédie bude pamätným dňom SR.

Obyvatelia obce, ktorá už tvorí súčasť Ružomberka, sa pred 110 rokmi vzopreli rozhodnutiu úradov o vysviacke nového černovského kostola, pätnásť z nich zaplatilo za svoj nesúhlas životom, niekoľko desiatok bolo zranených. Udalosti v Černovej a strelba žandárov do zástupu nevinných ľudí vyvolali ostré reakcie nielen doma, ale aj za hranicami vtedajšieho Rakúska-Uhorska.

Rok 1907 bol pre Černovčanov ťažkým rokom. Robotníci z tovární, pltníci a drobní roľníci si so svojimi ženami za pomoci peňažných zbierok stavali na vršku pri dedine kostol, aby nemuseli chodiť na omše do štyri kilometre vzdialeného Ružomberka. Na vybudovanie chrámu prispel veľkou mierou rímskokatolícky ružomberký farár, černovský rodák Andrej Hlinka, ktorý z celkových nákladov 80.000 korún potrebných na stavbu vykryl 60.000 korún zo zbierok a svojho súkromného majetku.

Základný kameň bol posvätený 20. apríla 1906, na jeseň 1907 čakala na posviacku dokončená stavba. Obyvatelia chceli, aby im nový svätostánok vysvätil Andrej Hlinka. Toho však v tých časoch spišský biskup Alexander Párvy pre politické aktivity suspendoval, pozbavil fary a zakázal mu vykonávať kňazské povolanie.

Kostol v Černovej mal podľa rozhodnutia cirkevnej vrchnosti posvätiť farár - dekan Martin Pazúrik 27. októbra 1907. Černová sa vzoprela. Úrad hlavného slúžneho v Spišskej Kapitule vyslal v sobotu 26. októbra do obce skupinu žandárov s príkazom „porobiť poriadky“. Na uliciach bol však pokoj. Obyvatelia Černovej začali prejavovať nevoľu v nedeľu 27. októbra. Do obce prišla ďalšia skupina žandárov. Keď zástup ľudí obkolesil prichádzajúce koče a žiadali, aby z obce odišli, vypukol zmätok. Vtedy veliteľ 15-člennej skupiny žandárov vydal bez predbežného varovania rozkaz: „Strieľať!“

Pokračovanie na str. 21



Foto: wordpress.com

Udalosti z Černovej pripomína v cintoríne pamätník a na mieste tragédie pamätná tabuľa.

The 110 anniversary of the Cernova Massacre was observed at the memorial in the village on October 27, 2017

Reč predsedu Matice Slovenskej v Černovej 28. 10. 2017

Pred 110 rokmi sa tu strieľalo a tiekla krv za našu slobodu a nezávislosť.

To, že sme my, Slováci, už „za vodou“ – na rozdiel od iných, napríklad Kataláncov – je aj zásluha muža, ktorý to „zavinil“, bol odsúdený za agitáciu za práva vlastného národa. Andrej Hlinka.

Nám vtedy pomohli otvárať dvere a oči Európe cudzinci: Björnson, Scotus Viator a ďalší. Vďaka nim utrpenie a smrť nevinných Slovákov bola predstupňom k samostatnosti, aj keď to ešte roky trvalo.

Dnes sme tu preto, aby sme vzdali hold Černovčanom a Hlinkovi.

Keby dnes Hlinka žil, čo by nám povedal?

Možno by nás povzbudil na spôsob Hurbana či Štúra: najprv musíme byť dobrými Slováckmi a až potom Európanmi. Najprv sa musíme starať a postarať o Slovákov, aby mohli žiť a pracovať doma, aby sa neopakovala história s desaťtisícami a stotisícami vandrujúcich Slovákov po svete.

Alebo je našim údelom okysličovať krv susedov, Európy i veľkej Ameriky? Toto je naše poslanie aj v treťom tisícročí? Na to myslel sv. Ján Pavol II. či evanjelizátor David Wilkerson z Ameriky, keď prorokovali veľkú úlohu Slovákov v tomto tisícročí?

No nie je našou úlohou aj zastať sa iných?

Práve dnes a práve tu – Kataláncov? Nemali by byť Slováci prvými, čo by mali pozdraviť slobodné Katalánsko? A pripomenúť, že dejiny sa neustále opakujú najmä z tej zlej strany. Veď na ceste k našej samostatnosti v rokoch 1938/1939 pražská vláda mocensky hrdúsila slovenskú autonómiu ťažko získanú 6. októbra 1938.

A tak mi dovoľte vyhlásiť: **Želáme Kataláncom, aby svoj cieľ dosiahli! Prosíme slobodný svet, aby podporil slobodu národa na Pyrenejskom ostrove! Žiadame Madrid, aby netasil zbrane, ale rokoval a bol veľkorysý!**

Verím, že rovnako a práve z tohto miesta by dnes hovoril Andrej Hlinka! Nebál by sa toho, čoho sa báť netreba: delenia Slovenska.

Katalánci nie sú totiž národnostná menšina, nemajú svoj štát mimo svojich hraníc. Sú starým národom, ktorý túži po samostatnosti rovnako, ako sme my túžili až do 1. januára 1993, keď sme svoj cieľ dosiahli.

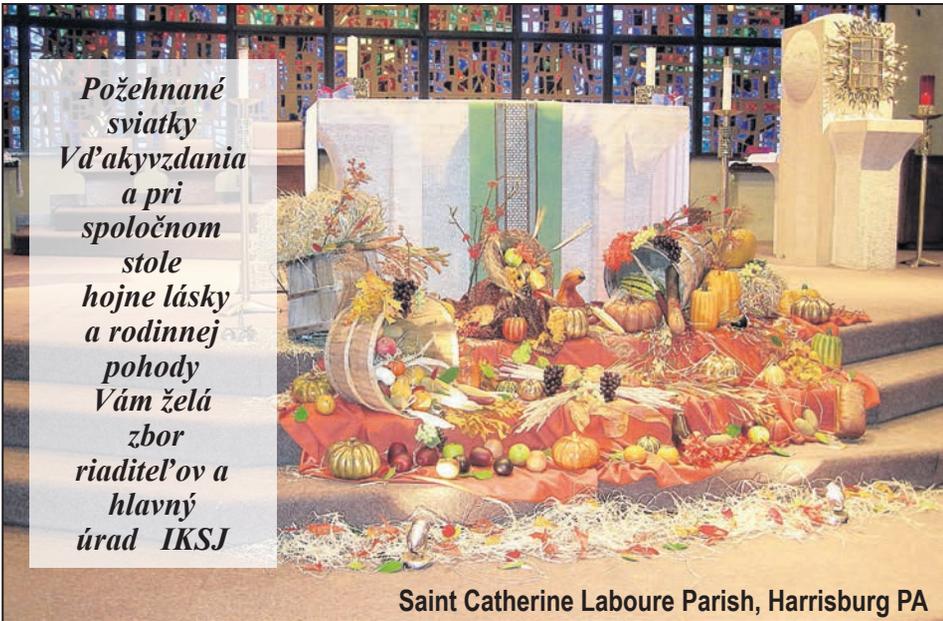
A preto ešte jedna výzva: **Neprenasledujme mužov, ktorí vtedy stáli pri kolíske našej slobody. Odpusťme im, ak im odpustiť treba, lebo tá vec, ktorú dnes máme, totiž vlastný štát, stojí za odpustenie.**

Skladáme hold černovským obetiam, vážime si svoju slobodu, ktorú vystlali aj ich obe, doprajme však slobodu aj iným!

Marián Tkáč



VĎAKYVZDANIE 2017



Požehnané sviatky
Vďakývzdania
a pri spoločnom stole
hojne lásky a rodinnej pohody
Vám želá zbor riaditeľov a hlavný úrad IKSJ

Saint Catherine Laboure Parish, Harrisburg PA

Vďaka Ti Pane Bože, za všetko čo máme, za všetky tie dobrodenia, ktoré z štedrosti Tvojej požívame.

Ďakujeme Ti za všetky plody zeme, ktoré do našich komôr, stodôl pozvážame. Zvlášť, ale ďakujeme, za tradičného upečeného moriaka, keď pred jedlom, naša ďakovná modlitba sa odrieka.

Vďaka Ti, za náš každodenný peceň chleba, ktorý požívame z Tvojich rúk z neba.
Vďaka Ti, za krčah čerstvého mlieka,

keď deň, do nedeľného šatu sa oblieka. Ďakujeme Ti za kus slaniny a vyudenú šunku, aj za ten pohár čerstvej, studenej vody v hrnku.

Ďakujeme Ti za dobré, jablká, hrušky, orechy, za misu šošovice, zemiaky a za maminé varechy. Ďakujeme Ti Pane, za hojné a šťastné vinobranie, s vďakou a láskou, prijímame Tvoje Božie požehnanie.

Jozef Smák



Na snímke z recepcie sú zľava: europoslanec Eduard Kukan, veľvyslanec Michal Mlynár, Zdenka Kukanová, Jarmila Lajčáková, Andrea Mlynárová a minister Miroslav Lajčák.

Recepcia na počesť Eduarda Kukana

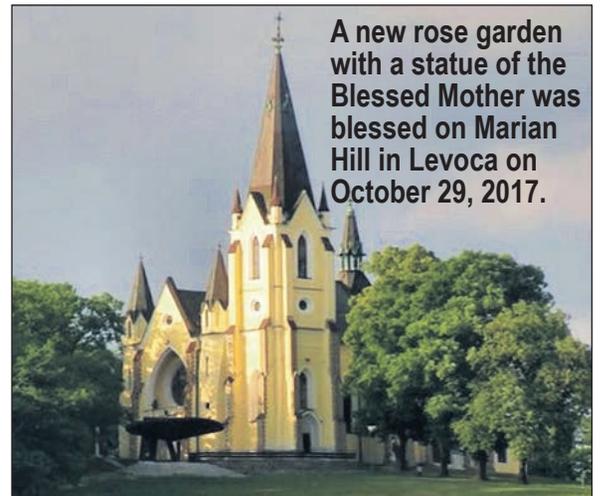
Europoslanec Eduard Kukan bol v polovici októbra na pracovnej návšteve v New Yorku, kde mal viaceré stretnutia a prednášku na pôde Spojených národov. E. Kukan bol 10 rokov ministrom zahraničných vecí SR, najdlhšie v jej histórii. V súčasnosti je už druhý termín poslancom Európskeho parlamentu, kde zastáva významné funkcie.

Veľvyslanec SR pri Spojených národoch Michal Mlynár usporiadal recepciu na jeho počesť, na ktorej boli prítomní predstavitelia slovenského života v New Yorku a viacerí diplomati. Na recepcii sa zúčastnil aj minister zahraničných vecí SR a teraz predseda Generálneho zhromaždenia Spojených národov Miroslav Lajčák s manželkou.

Ján Holý

Na Mariánskej hore je nová ružencová záhrada so sochou Panny Márie

Ani sychravé počasie neodradilo Levočanov ani početnú výpravu pútnikov z Kozároviec od účasti na nedeľnej slávnosti 29. októbra 2017, ktorou sa skončila tohtoročná sezóna na Mariánskej hore. Záver pútnického roka na tomto milostiplnom mieste ozvláštnila posviacka ružencovej záhrady so sochou Panny Márie z čínskeho mramoru. Obrad vykonal spišský biskup Mons. Štefan Sečka, hlavný celebrant pontifikálnej svätej omše v Bazilike Navštívenia Panny Márie.



A new rose garden with a statue of the Blessed Mother was blessed on Marian Hill in Levoča on October 29, 2017.

Zhromaždeniu sa v kázni prihovorel dekan, farár a rektor levočských bazilik Mons. František Dluhoš. Zbilancoval duchovne bohatý, na významné udalosti neobyčajne úrodný rok levočskej mariánskej svätyně: „Ďakujem Všemohúcemu Bohu a našej levočskej Panne Márii za ich bdelosť, ochranu a pomoc pri tvorbe tohto nádherného, lež práve tak náročného, ťažkého diela. Vytvorenie monumentálnej sochy a príslušných stavebných komponentov si vyžiadalo hektolitry potu a nezrátateľné množstvo svedomitých majstrov a robotníkov. Spájame sa v nádeji, že ich námaha a úsilie nezostane bez veľkorysého ocenenia Darcu všetkých darov. Levočská Panna Mária bude odtiaľ vítat svojich verných synov i dcéry na najvhodnejšom priestranstve, na ktorom sa pútnikom z kroka na krok približuje bazilika.“

V závere svätej omše odovzdal Mons. F. Dluhoš osobný dar – sošky levočskej Panny Márie autorovi projektu ružencovej záhrady Michalovi Benčatovi a zhotoviteľovi sochy Petrovi Mesárošovi. S chrámovými spevmi na slávnosti účinkovali ženská folklórna skupina Lipka a zbor Tebe spievame z Kozároviec.

TK KBS

Tradičný piknik Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 v Upstate New York

Členovia Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v sobotu 23. septembra 2017 zorganizovali tradičný letný piknik pre všetkých členov, rodinných príslušníkov a pozvaných hostí na pozemku Antonii a Dušana Krajkoviča v spolupráci s rodinou Jana a Anny Zeman. Za veľmi pekného, slnečného počasia v horskom prostredí obidve spomínané rodiny pripravili chutné slovenské jedlá, nápoje a domáce koláče. Zároveň všetci spoločne sme strávili príjemné sobotňajšie odpoľudnie.

Otec Richard D. Baker a hostia zo Slovenska, ktorí pracujú pre Slovenskú televíziu Lux, si prezreli dedinku v Slovak Country Club.

Verím, že v peknej tradícii našich letných piknikov spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ budeme aj naďalej pokračovať na budúci rok.



Na snímke zľava: Ján Kadlečík, Anna Zemanová, Mária a Milan Zakovič, Želmira a Anton Kucharovič, Zuzana Zemanová, Joseph & Mária Juráši, Anna Korčák, Jana Zrebna, Antonia Krajkovič, Marian Varga, Jozef Korčák, Ján Zeman, Rev. Richard D. Baker a Dušan Krajkovič.

Mária Juráši, pokladníčka