

KSKJ VOICE



**THANKSGIVING
BLESSINGS**

**SUPPORTING
SOLDIERS**

LODGE ANNIVERSARIES

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Photo: Lodge #150 members Chris, Elaine, Liz and Adam at Ramseyer Farms in Ohio.



CHANGES TO THE KSKJ VOICE PUBLICATION

Beginning in 2020, The Voice publication is intended to transition into a bi-annual, high-level national news publication. The traditional Lodge News section will no longer be included in this publication as lodges continue to expand local communication utilizing different mediums for events and meetings. Lodge meeting and event details, as well as other lodge news, will come directly from the local lodge to ensure timely and accurate information, although lodge and member highlights will still be a part of the 2020 publication.

The home office will distribute a monthly e-newsletter and will continue to publish local lodge events on our website as well as on the Activities page on Facebook (@kskjactivities).

To receive the monthly e-newsletter, please contact the fraternal department at fraternal@kskjlife.com or submit your request on our website kskjlife.com (Note: must have valid email address).

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

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KSKJ LIFE



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A MESSAGE FROM KSKJ LIFE'S SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS AND TRADITIONS



As we approach this wonderful time of Thanksgiving, I was reminded of a line that I just read, "Heaven is open for reservations." I thoughtwell not right now, but a good reminder at least to reserve a place when the time comes so I won't be told we don't have your name on the list. Making a reservation is pretty

simple... Live your life to the fullest, be joyful and know that the Lord is your friend and savior.

Thanksgiving then becomes a way of validating what we believe...that God is at the center of our lives. Everything we have comes from Him and we are blessed to have what we have...Let us never forget some of those things we may take for granted: Faith, Freedom, Family, Friends. We are given all these and Thanksgiving acts as a small way to let God know that we appreciate His love and generosity.

It is a time for prayer. But prayer just gets us to halftime, FAITH gets us to Victory. Our faith tells us that God loves us and blesses us...While we say thank you for what we have, we pray for all those who serve in the military who will not be with their families at Thanksgiving. We ask God to protect them and give comfort to their families. KSKJ Life members are in my thoughts as well as in my prayers. As you enjoy this Thanksgiving....remember that Heaven is always open for reservations. And soon we will be looking forward to the great season of Advent and Christmas. God Bless you in a special way at this time.

Reverend Richard Gielow
KSKJ Life Spiritual Advisor



10 meaningful and fun family Thanksgiving traditions you can start this year

Turkey, football and the Macy's Day Parade may be Thanksgiving go-tos, but the holiday can have so much more depth when you incorporate some truly unique family Thanksgiving traditions that will stick with people for years to come. "Thanksgiving should be made up of rituals and customs we all remember forever," says Jordan Stringfellow, owner of Jordi & CO Events, a Los Angeles-based event planning company. "Passing on family traditions to our children and sharing them with a table full of blended friends and family is one of the most satisfying things a parent can do."

Looking to add fun Thanksgiving traditions to your family's holiday repertoire? Here are 10 meaningful and creative ideas the whole family will cherish.

1. Pass around a journal

"A favorite Thanksgiving tradition I learned from a client was 'pass the journal,'" says Stringfellow. "Simply pass a blank journal around the Thanksgiving table, asking all the guests to write at least one thing that they are thankful for. For kids too young to write, have an adult transcribe. Over the years, fill the book with comments and enjoy reading them aloud at Thanksgiving celebrations. It is truly wonderful to read how gratitude reflections change over time."

2. Volunteer

One of the best Thanksgiving traditions for families? Volunteering together! Thanksgiving is a great time to give back to your community and help those in need — and it's one of the richest customs you can incorporate into your family's holiday. How and where you choose to volunteer depends on the age of your children, but there are tons of ways to give back — simply research local volunteer opportunities in your area. Local soup kitchens, volunteering to serve a church supper [or even run a Turkey Trot, which typically benefits a local charity], are great ways to give back during the Thanksgiving season.

3. Kick off the holiday season

These days, the December holiday season kicks off the second the last bite of pumpkin pie is eaten. Don't try to fight it. Embrace it.

Continued on next page

A MESSAGE FROM THE KSKJ LIFE HOME OFFICE

THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS AND TRADITIONS

Continued from page 3

“Every year, my sister gets matching Christmas pajamas for all the kids and they all get them on Thanksgiving night,” says Jaclyn Santos, of Hazlet, New Jersey. “It’s so much fun. They all take baths and showers together, put on their jammies and usually have a disco dance party for the adults.”

4. Leave room at the table

Whether it’s due to location or strained relationships, fact is, not everyone has a place at a Thanksgiving table. Do your part to change that in whatever small way you can.

“What’s the point of a beautiful Thanksgiving table and delicious food if you can’t share in it?” says Stringfellow. “Extend an invitation to an elderly neighbor whose family can’t visit or a coworker who’s far from home – and if they opt to stay home, take them a plate.”

If doing the latter, though, Stringfellow advises towing a sensitivity line. “It’s important to be sensitive to the recipient,” Stringfellow says. “You don’t want to insult them or make them feel like they’re the object of charity. Sometimes this is best done by simply leaving the gift at the door and ringing the bell.”

5. Personalize the table

Sure, there are a zillion Pinterest images of stunning Thanksgiving tablescapes, but instead of having everything just so on Thanksgiving, aim to mix it up – literally.

“Some of the most beautiful Thanksgiving tables I’ve seen bring family stories to life by mixing and matching dishes, napkins and serving trays,” says Stringfellow. “Instead of reaching for the fancy china set, choose pieces with history – and be sure to tell stories about where you were when you collected it, who gave it to you and why it’s special.”

Additionally, don’t worry about fancy Etsy-bought place cards. Instead, have the kids put their beloved art skills to good use.

“Making homemade place cards is something everyone can enjoy – and it makes the table that much more special,” says Stringfellow.

6. Have a special breakfast

While, yes, dinner is the meal on Thanksgiving, why not have a special breakfast, too? “Every Thanksgiving morning, we sit down to a family breakfast of homemade pancakes,”

says Denise Mackey, of Rochester, New York. We didn’t mean for this to turn into a tradition, but over the years, it’s seemed to happen! It sets a nice pace for the day – as opposed to our usual mornings, which are spent running around!”

7. Go for a morning family walk

Sure, a rosy-cheeked morning walk is good for working up an appetite for the much-anticipated smorgasbord, but also... it’s just a nice way to connect to nature and to each other. It’s the perfect beginning to a busy – and often stressful! – day.

8. Give kids an important job they do each year

Serving dessert? Making coffee? Setting the table? Help kids feel like an important part of the festivities by giving them “their” job each year.

“When I was younger, my mom would always let my brother and I set the table on Thanksgiving,” says Kristen Gallo, of New York. “I’m not sure how great it came out, but I remember feeling so proud when all the grownups would make a fuss over how nice the table looked.”

9. Have a table toast

Let’s not forget what the most important part of Thanksgiving is: being thankful. If passing around a journal feels a little too formal for your family, have a roundtable toast.

“Asking each guest to raise their glass – even if it’s a sippy cup full of milk – and make a toast about what they’re thankful for is a great way to start Thanksgiving dinner,” says Stringfellow. “Also, while it’s touching, don’t be surprised if elicits big time laughs!”

10. Play a thankful game

Turn everyone’s gratuudes into a little friendly competition with a “thankful game.” It’s a family Thanksgiving game, posted on Reddit, that has everyone writing down what they’re thankful for on a piece of paper, putting it in a jar and then having everyone guess whose is whose.

Sure to get everyone cracking up? You bet. Now that’s something to be thankful for.

- Nicole Fabian-Weber

CELEBRATING LODGE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Blessed Virign Lodge #50 of Pittsburgh, PA, who is celebrating a milestone anniversary of 120 years this month!

Established on September 18, 1899 in Allegheny (NS Pittsburgh), Blessed Virign Lodge #50 was admitted into the KSKJ on November 30, 1899.

Lodge No. 50’s first officers were: George Mravintz, president and lodge representative; Joseph Flajnik, vice president; Michael Husic, financial secretary; George Runtic, recording secretary; George Flajnik, Sr., treasurer, George Flajnik, Jr., Matt Perusic, and Joseph Krusec, auditors; Matt Perusic and Frank Berkopec, marshals; and John Stanko, banner-bearer.

Merger of this lodge with the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Lodge No. 210 of Universal, Pennsylvania, took place on February 1, 1983 (Lodge No. 210 had gained admittance to the KSKJ August 27, 1926).

Father George Trunk, in his valuable history titled, “America and the Americans”, wrote on 1912: “About 1903, Allegheny (Pittsburgh) had more than 600 Slovenian inhabitants, and by 1912 there were more than a thousand. They worked in factories and were members of the Slovenian church in Pittsburgh. They had KSKJ lodges; St. Roch No. 15 and Sorrowful Mother No. 50. St. Roch is no longer in existence. It had been organized March 26, 1894, just a month previous to the founding of the KSKJ.”

Present day activities include Placing Flags on the Veterans graves at Allegheny Cemetery as our annual Join Hands Day project, Palm Sunday Brunch, Summer Picnic, and Christmas Party. Along with these events, we have partnered with local organizations to do charitable collections.

Present day officers include: Robert Lokar, Jr., president Albert Suhadolnik, Jr., financial secretary and treasurer, Ashley Mikulan, fraternal activities coordinator and communications, Kristine Mikulan, vice president, Mary Ellen Suhadolnik, recording secretary, Donald Mikulan and Edward Hudak, auditors, and Margaret (Shaeffer) Mulkerrin, lodge membership chair.

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

Submitted by Ashley Mikulan



Lodge #50 Officers at their 2019 annual picnic pictured with donations collected for The Education Partnership.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Juliana Fitzsimmons, member of Bishop Baraga Lodge #257 in Washington D.C., reflects on her recent mission trip experience to Apopka, Florida.

Looking back on this year, I am really grateful for the opportunity to have gone on the Catholic University of America's Service, Justice and Immersion mission trip to Apopka, Florida. In this month of Thanksgiving, I want to express my appreciation to KSKJ Life Lodge #257 for sponsoring me to participate in this unforgettable and interesting learning experience during spring break 2019.

A group of 14 of us embarked on our mission trip after finishing mid-terms. Our first stop was in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where we stayed in the Catholic Student Center for one night. On our second day we woke up bright and early and drove the whole day until we reached the HOPE Center in Apopka, FL. Here we met three lovely ladies named Liliana, Carmen, and Sister Ana. They spoke briefly to us and warmly welcomed our group before we were sent off to our host family's homes in the nearby Apopka area.

I was paired with another CUA student to stay with the family of Julietta, Luis, and their three children. Everyday throughout the week we helped prepare meals and ate with the families, and also did the work that the locals do every day. We pulled weeds in the nearby pea farm, took care of plants at a local nursery and became completely immersed in the everyday lives of our host families. For me, this meant living in a home where Spanish was primarily spoken. The five-year-old daughter Mia was born here, thus being the only member of my host family to have citizenship and had only gone to school here in the US. Mia was a lot of fun and would let me know what was going on through the perspective of a five-year-old. I helped her do her homework during one of the nights of our stay. She thought it was great fun to do up my hair in cute ribbons and ponytails, and laughed along at our silliness.

I noticed Mia was struggling to read, so I picked up one of the children's books on her shelf that was in English and tried my best to teach her correct pronunciation, and to help her understand the phonics and spelling. Her mom quietly sat down and listened as I read to her because she also needed help understanding the pronunciation and spelling of words. I recognized that since Mia is only five, she will eventually understand English and become fluent, but her mom is still trying to grasp the English language despite living here for over ten years.

The experience helped me better understand the complexities of immigration and citizenship on family life, and to better value my citizenship and education I have received here in the United States. Thanks again to my home Lodge #257, Washington, DC for supporting my CUA service trip earlier this year.

Submitted by Juliana Fitzsimmons



Juliana and Mia having fun with ribbons.



Juliana with her host family.



CUA students pulling weeds at a pea farm in Apopka, FL.

Do you know someone like Juliana who is dedicated to helping others and always lends a hand to their community? Consider nominating them for the KSKJ Life Service Award!



2019 KSKJ LIFE NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

KSKJ Life is now accepting online nominations for the 2019 KSKJ Life National Service Award through December 31. Any KSKJ Life member (age 13 and older) who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to service and volunteerism in his/her community can be nominated. The honoree will be chosen in January 2020, and KSKJ Life will make a \$250 donation to the charity of his/her choice. Visit kskjlife.com for more information and to make a nomination.

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KSKJ LIFE REPRESENTED AT CAPITOL HILL

On September 23-25, CEO Tony Mravle represented KSKJ Life at the Fraternal Alliance Executive Summit, held in Washington, D.C. at Capitol Hill. The Fraternal Alliance Executive Summit was a premiere opportunity for fraternal CEOs to participate in peer-to-peer education, discussing high-level topics and strategies to operate businesses more effectively. The convenient location close to the Capitol provided easy access to legislators for discussions that support member organizations and advocate for fraternal benefit societies. Members of Congress or State Legislators respond best to their local constituents, making grassroots advocacy imperative.

As a fraternal benefit society, our main goals are to provide financial security while helping build stronger communities through volunteerism and member engagement. Fraternalism came about in the late 1800s to assist the large number of immigrants coming to America. One of their more significant needs was to provide for families' financial well-being in the event of untimely death of the breadwinner. Although a conventional life insurer could also provide these services, fraternalism was unique in that they united people through a common bond such as religion, ethnicity, or occupation.

Moreover, the mission of fraternalism has been to support their communities. Fraternalism provides fertile ground for relevant, important, and meaningful community service activities that make a difference in the lives of individuals and enhance the quality of life.

American Fraternal Alliance (AFA) President and CEO Joe Annotti put it best when he said, "...being a fraternal is so much more difficult than any other business model. You have to run a well-managed financial services company which offers consumers relevant and competitively-priced products in a way that they want to access them. And you have to help members maximize the impact of their service activities in a way that transforms "organic" volunteerism into "organized" volunteerism to make important and long-lasting contributions to the community."

Attending these trips to Capitol Hill to vouch for the fraternal system and to help make an even more vibrant community in the future is an important task. So, the next time someone asks what a fraternal benefit society is, you can say that your society helps secure its members' financial futures and helps build stronger communities through volunteerism and member engagement.



KSKJ Life CEO Tony Mravle (second from right) pictured with other fraternal executives at the Fraternal Alliance Executive Summit in Washington D.C.



SUPPORTING SOLDIERS

SOCKS FOR SOLDIERS



Providing Support to Service Members and Veterans

This year, we are partnering with Operation Care Package to provide socks to military troops who are deployed in remote areas where they don't have access to basic supplies, such as socks. Through January 12, 2020, we are asking members to collect **UNWORN individual pairs of men's and women's white or black crew socks** and donate them at an upcoming local lodge event. For every local lodge who participates, we will donate \$50 to Operation Care Package on behalf of each lodge.

Not close to a participating lodge but want to be a part of this national initiative? Here are ways you can help:

1. **Donate as an individual and ship directly to the KSKJ Life Home Office**
2. **Organize a collection drive and ship directly to KSKJ Life Home Office**
3. **Send a monetary donation* to KSKJ Life Home Office – Attn: Supporting Soldiers**

*Monetary donations will be matched per dollar (maximum \$100 per member) up to \$5,000. A one-time donation of the total collected funds will be delivered to the charity.

We want to see your socks!!

Post a photo of your donations on your social media pages using the hashtags #ShowUsYourSocks and/or #KSKJLife and you'll automatically be entered for chance to win a pair of commemorative KSKJ socks!

Every cash donation received will also be entered to win!

Random winners will be chosen and notified throughout the campaign.



All donations must be received by 1.12.2020



Collected socks can be sent to: KSKJ Life, 2439 Glenwood Ave. Joliet, IL 60435

To learn more about Operation Care Package, visit www.operationcarepackages.org

JOIN KSKJ LIFE AT THE 9TH ANNUAL
YALC
 YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
JUNE 25-27, 2020
CHICAGO, IL

5 GREAT REASONS TO ATTEND THE YALC

- 1. Network/Fraternalism** - Connect with other KSKJ Life young adults from around the country. It's what fraternalism is all about!
- 2. Resume Builder** - Develop your professional and leadership skills with informative workshops.
- 3. Community Impact** - Make a positive difference in the surrounding community through the YALC's service project.
- 4. Learn about Financial Security & KSKJ Life** - Learn tips on how to build your financial future and the history of KSKJ Life.
- 5. It's Fun!** You'll be in the heart of downtown Chicago, walking distance to the Magnificent Mile, Millennium Park, Navy Pier, etc. There's no shortage of fun things to do with other YALCers!

This conference is open to all KSKJ Life members between the ages of 18-25. More details, including registration information, will be available on our website soon.

KSKJLIFE.COM/YALC

**HONORING
 ALL WHO SERVED**

VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11

KSKJ Life extends our deepest gratitude today and every day to our dedicated military personnel, and the families that support them.

MEMBER MEMORIAL

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

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2019

- Lodge #01 - Dorothy J. Harris, Portage, MI
- Lodge #01 - Robert Nauheimer, LaGrange, IL
- Lodge #02 - Margaret Licatesi, Auburn, CA
- Lodge #20 - Sandra L. Chesebro, Fife Lake, MI
- Lodge #20 - Ivers Sellers, Detroit, MI
- Lodge #25 - Josephine Verdi, Highland Heights, OH
- Lodge #29 - Cynthia L. Carroll, Freeport, IL
- Lodge #29 - John L. Lesnik, Lockport, IL
- Lodge #42 - Bruce L. Adams, Carlisle, PA
- Lodge #42 - Ricardo Arcelay, Philadelphia, PA
- Lodge #42 - Gerald R. Barner, Bellefonte, PA
- Lodge #42 - Mary K. Johnson, Philadelphia, PA
- Lodge #42 - William F. Pristavec, Stockbridge, GA
- Lodge #42 - Jerome J. Slick, Forest City, PA
- Lodge #44 - Nancy C. Frakes, Beardstown, IL
- Lodge #44 - Stanley H. Hartle, Assumption, IL
- Lodge #50 - Lawrence Veselich, Butler, PA
- Lodge #52 - Norma G. Bullington, Evansville, IN
- Lodge #52 - Louis Milharcic, Speedway, IN
- Lodge #52 - Danny J. Velikan, Ypsilanti, MI
- Lodge #52 - Gerald V. Worden, Corunna, IN
- Lodge #52 - Ida B. Daugherty, Lafayette, IN
- Lodge #52 - Patricia D. Franco, Dyer, IN
- Lodge #52 - Rhea P. Hopkins, Fort Wayne, IN
- Lodge #52 - Odis L. McMullin, Vincennes, IN
- Lodge #53 - Joseph F. Miks Jr., Indian Head Park, IL
- Lodge #59 - Shirley M. Marshall, Rochester, MN
- Lodge #59 - Florence M. Prebarich, St. Louis Park, MN
- Lodge #59 - Bernard C. Hill Sr., Summerfield, OH
- Lodge #63 - Albina Seme, Garfield Heights, OH
- Lodge #65 - Daniel R. Cheeks, Racine, WI
- Lodge #65 - Lillian M. Gorenc, Wauwatosa, WI
- Lodge #69 - Barbara J. Sears, Libby, MT
- Lodge #74 - Leo W. Heberlein, Liberty, IL
- Lodge #79 - Fred Hill, Tampa, FL
- Lodge #104 - Clent L. Wallace, Aurora, CO
- Lodge #108 - Olga M. Sebalj, Joliet, IL
- Lodge #110 - Richard D. Bretean, Alliance, OH
- Lodge #115 - Ceolah Jones, Oxford, KS
- Lodge #115 - Nicholas C. Viscek, Stilwell, KS
- Lodge #143 - Philip Ferentchak, Frankfort, IL
- Lodge #143 - Elaine M. Rost, Geneva, IL
- Lodge #146 - Tommy J. Derringer, Van Wert, OH
- Lodge #150 - James T. Navarre, Wellington, OH
- Lodge #153 - Margaret L. Bouche, Norristown, PA
- Lodge #153 - Joanne Cocivera, Rydal, PA
- Lodge #169 - Jessica M. Morris, Wooster, OH
- Lodge #169 - Anthony Trampus, Willoughby Hills, OH
- Lodge #170 - Donald E. Gyorkas, Las Vegas, NV
- Lodge #226 - Sondra S. Lambert, Oak Hill, OH
- Lodge #236 - Anna Saryan, Los Angeles, CA
- Lodge #608 - Raymond L. Ridgeway, Sacramento, CA
- Lodge #620 - Josephine K. Hart, Mesa, AZ
- Lodge #622 - Reuben G. Washington, Des Moines, IA
- Lodge #623 - Shirley M. Crowe, Irvine, KY
- Lodge #623 - Rayetta S. Erwin, Danville, KY
- Lodge #623 - Donnie R. Thurman, Glasgow, KY
- Lodge #624 - Mary L. Parker, Mosspoint, MS
- Lodge #625 - Troy J. Potts, Mount Pleasant, TN
- Lodge #625 - Lori D. Jarrell, Gallatin, TN

IN MEMORY

- Margaret Berzin - Mary Chamernik- \$30.00
- Edgar Stoddard - Mary Chamernik- \$25.00

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

CALIFORNIA

LODGE #236

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

LODGE UPDATE

During this season of being thankful, we are blessed that Jozi Plut is recovering slowly day by day! It has been so wonderful seeing her back at mass and events. Thank you to all KSKJ members, as your positive thoughts and prayers are most appreciated by Jozi!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 8 is our annual Santa Party at the Slovenian Hall in San Francisco.

Please join us for 9:15am mass at Church of the Nativity. After mass we will enjoy this wonderful fraternal event! If you can only join us for the party, it will begin at 11:30am.

Warm wishes from our lodge to yours,

Submitted by Diana Fir Gremett

COLORADO

LODGE #7

PUEBLO, CO

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 8 & 9 – 2nd Annual Craft Show.** Calling all vendors looking to sell your product! We are hosting our 2nd Annual Craft Show on November 8th and 9th at St. Joseph's Hall on 917 East "B" Street. Interested? Contact 719-561-8617 or 719-214-6483.
- **November 17 – Beat the Minnesota Vikings Fundraiser.** St. Joseph's Lodge #7 is hosting its Broncos "Beat the Vikings" Raffle on Sunday,

November 17, 2019 at St. Joseph's Hall on 917 East "B" Street, where everyone is welcome to come watch the game and enjoy delicious Klobasi sandwiches. In conjunction with the fundraiser, Lodge #7 will also be celebrating the 125th KSKJ Life anniversary as well. Raffle tickets will be \$30 and will feature two \$1,000 prizes, one \$500 prize and five \$100 prizes. In addition, there will be a raffle drawing for various gift baskets donated by members within the lodge. The drawing will be at halftime, and the WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN. Tickets are available by contacting Danny Golob at (719) 250-9805. Come help us celebrate 125 years!

- **December 1 – Ugly Sweater Cookie Exchange at St. Joseph's Hall**
- **December 15 – Annual Meeting with Children's Christmas Party.** Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Richard Gielow, C.M. at 10:30am with the Annual Meeting to follow. The Children's Christmas Party will begin at 2:00pm.

Follow us on Facebook (@stjosephslodge7) and stay up to date on all Lodge #7's events happening throughout the year!

Submitted by Angela Perez

ILLINOIS

IL FEDERATION

ILLINOIS AREA

ILLINOIS FEDERATION MEETING

The Illinois Federation will hold a meeting and raffle on Friday, November 8th at 7:00pm at the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont (14252 Main St., Lemont, IL 60439). The Annual Scholarship Fund Raffle will be drawn that night (winners will be notified). Refreshments will be provided after the meeting. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Mike Vidmar

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

COMBINED JOLIET LODGES

JOLIET, IL

JOLIET LODGES UPDATE

Happy Halloween my friends!

On Tuesday, September 10th, the combined Joliet KSKJ Life Lodges held their quarterly meeting at T&C Lanes. Members from Lodge #29 and Lodge #108 were in attendance for the night's meeting.

Congratulations go out to the following people, who were the winners of the Youth/Sports Fund Raffle. The July winners were Amy & Ken Mihelich and Bernice Ramsak. Your August winners were Bill Potochnic and Dan Mihelich. And your September winners were Georgette Vota and Dora McCormick.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The kids Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 14th at Haunted Trails from 10:00am to about 1:00pm. We need volunteers to help with the kids Christmas party. So, if you have time that day, your help will be very much appreciated. Due to a prior commitment that day, Alan & I will not be there to help with the kids Christmas party.

Once again, volunteers are needed to help with the stuffing of Christmas cards for the 80 & over, as well as, putting labels & stamps on the envelopes. Pizza will be served for those that show up to help. This project will be done at our quarterly meeting in December.

Lodge #29 will have their Halloween party from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at the Croatian Club. The Illinois Federation meeting will be held on Friday, November 8th at 7:00pm, Slovenian Cultural Center. The Illinois Federation raffle will be held at the meeting. All tickets are to be turned in prior or at the meeting.

The next quarterly meeting of the combined Joliet KSKJ Life Lodges will be on Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00pm at T&C Lanes. Also, nominations & election of officers will be held.

Since there is no further news to report I'll sign off for now.

*Submitted by Pauline Mihelich
Recording Secretary/Reporter
Joliet KSKJ Life Lodges*

LODGE #2

JOLIET, IL

LODGE UPDATE

St. Joseph Lodge #2 invited St. Francis Lodge #29 to our September 15th Wine Tasting event at St. Joe's Park. Besides trying various wines and sharing delicious appetizers, the officers of both lodges presented a check for \$9,725.00 to Cornerstone Services. The money was raised on May 4th when the two lodges joined together in sponsoring a Mexican dinner in honor of Louis Derlinga.



Officers from Lodges 2 & 29 gathered to present a Matching Funds check to Cornerstone.

LODGE UPDATE

Members of Lodge #2 are encouraged to join us for our final two meetings of 2019. The meetings will be on Sunday, November 3 and Sunday, December 1. Both meetings will take place at St. Joe's Park Legion Room at 1:00pm. The election of officers will take place at the December meeting along with a delicious meal.

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Lynn Miller

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #29

JOLIET, IL

LODGE OFFICERS ELECTIONS

Please come to our last meeting of 2019 and election of officers for 2020 on Sunday, December 1, 1:00 p.m. at St. Joe's Park. On that day we would like to collect new and unused items from the following Wish List for Guardian Angel Community Services:

- Bath towels
- Paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex
- Lysol Disinfectant wipes/spray
- Dish soap & liquid hand soap
- Ziploc bags – quart & gallon size
- Dish towel/sponges
- Scotch Brite cleaning dish wands
- Paper plates, plastic silverware, cups, bowls
- Swiffer wet/dry refills
- Garbage bags – 13 gallon size
- Batteries (AA & AAA)
- Dryer sheets
- Band Aids
- Fabric softener
- Women's deodorant, shampoo & conditioner
- H.E. powder laundry detergent
- Gift cards – Target, Meijer, Wal-Mart, Dollar Tree, Grocery Stores

LODGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Holiday Party is planned for Sunday, January 5, 2020, at 176 West Banquet Facility on the Frontage Road in Joliet beginning at noon with cocktails. We will have a meeting at 12:30pm followed by buffet at 1:00pm. The cost for members is \$15 each, guests are \$20, children aged 4-12 are \$5 and under 3 are free. RSVP and make arrangements to prepay to Judy Corum at 815-725-3553 or jmcorum@ameritech.net by December 27.

Blessings to all for a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

*Submitted by Karen (Ramsak) Colman
Lodge Reporter*



Lodge 29 officers presenting Matching Funds check to representatives of Cornerstone in memory of Louis Derlinga.

LODGE #44

S. CHICAGO, IL

BOCCE TOURNAMENT

This past month our annual bocce tournament took place at O'Hara's in Chicago. There was plenty of food and laughter as teams battled it out for the Bocchetti Cup. There was even a mini court for those who couldn't stand and play! Everyone put up a good fight, but in the end Thumbs Up defended their title. Congratulations again to Thumbs Up on their 4th Cup win!



2019 Bocchetti Cup Champions: Team Thumbs Up.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

WAUKEGAN LODGES CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

Get into the holiday spirit on Sunday, December 8th from 11:00am - 1:00pm at our annual Lodge Christmas Carnival hosted with St. Mary's Lodge #79 at Bertrand Lanes in Waukegan. Christmas Carnival invitations will be in the mail soon!! Enjoy fun and games and crafts followed by lunch and goodies with Santa Claus! We look forward to seeing you there.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to our very own Dana Lainio - she was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Loras College (Iowa) this month. She has an impressive array of accomplishments throughout her collegiate career, which include being the 2007 All American and National Shot Put champion. In the same year she was selected as the NCAA Central Region Athlete of the Year and the Field Events Most Valuable Player. Dana is a third generation KSKJ Life member and serves as an officer in our lodge.

We would love to have more members consider getting involved in planning and participating in lodge events and community volunteering efforts. Please join our meetings with your fresh ideas and suggestions - even think about stepping up as a lodge officer! Join us in November and December to help us jump start the new year in 2020! Election of officers will be held at our annual meeting in December.

Peace,

Submitted by Victoria Drinka, Secretary

LODGE #108

JOLIET, IL

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Sunday, November 3rd, St. Genevieve Lodge #108 will have their monthly meeting at Ferdinand Hall starting at 1:00pm. Pizza will be served afterwards.



KSKJ members Jim and Dotsi Rossi playing their own mini bocce game.

LODGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's family Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 7th. We will be back again this year at Calumet Yacht Club. Please RSVP to George Bozzetti (708-334-5434) or myself (219-718-7599) if you will be attending. There will be food and entertainment and a possible visit from the man in red if there are going to be some good girls and boys present.

We will have a short meeting before the party to vote on officers for next year and to start planning the 2020 calendar. Please join us so your voice is heard. As always, if there are any other questions, comments or concerns before, please feel free to reach out to George or myself.

Submitted by Angela Rossi

LODGE #53

WAUKEGAN, IL

LODGE UPDATE

We are fast approaching the end of 2019! Our Miller Park outing was a great day...for the most part! We had good weather, good food, good company; it was too bad the Cubs lost but hey, hey, hey...there is always next year!

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

REMINDER – St. Genevieve Lodge #108 will hold their annual lodge Christmas party and business meeting on Sunday, December 1st at Al's Steakhouse from 1:00pm to about 3:30pm. Cost to members is \$10.00 and \$15.00 for guests. If you are planning to attend, please mail in your payment to St. Genevieve Lodge #108, c/o Alan Mihelich, 1808 Waters Edge Drive, Minooka, IL 60447. RESERVATION DEADLINE IS 11/27/19.

A short business meeting will be held so that we may have nominations and election of officers for 2020.

After our luncheon and business meeting, we will honor our 50 year member, Lauren Wicevic for having 50 years of continuous membership with St. Genevieve Lodge #108 KSKJ. Congratulations to her.

We will be collecting canned good and other staples, as well as any monetary donations for the Guardian Angel Community Services. This is a project that we have been doing for a very long time. They are always appreciative of our donations.

Well, that's it for now. Until we meet again.

*Pauline Mihelich – Lodge President
St. Genevieve Lodge #108, KSKJ Life*

LODGE #143

JOLIET, IL

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for a casual night of music, food and dancing at the Croatian Cultural Club in Joliet, including the musical stylings of fellow lodge members Ray Koncar and the Boys. The event will take place on Sunday, November 24th from 6:00 p.m to 10:00 p.m. The Croatian Cultural Club is located at 15032 Clement St. in Joliet.

LODGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual lodge Christmas Party will take place on January 5, 2020 from 1:00-3:00 pm at Crest Hill Lanes (905 Theodore St., Crest Hill, IL 60435). Join us for bowling, pizza, friendship and fun!! More details coming

in December's Voice.

*Submitted by Lauren Baltz
Voice Reporter*

MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA FEDERATION

MINNESOTA AREA

DINNER DANCE

The Minnesota Federation of KSKJ Lodges put on a dinner/dance Friday night, September 6th. The Singing Slovenes & Alpine yodeler Kerry Christiansen entertained. A Slovenian meal was served to around 150 happy participants. A lovely time was had by all - thank you to everyone who helped out with the preparations before and night of.

Submitted by Rosemary Mattson



Katherine Trampusch served apple strudel.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #171

DULUTH, MN

LODGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

HO!! HO!! HO!!

Duluth, MN - St. Elizabeth Lodge #171 will have their annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 7th at 5:30p.m. in St. Elizabeth's church hall. Members, please bring a potluck to share. The lodge will provide ham, hot dogs and refreshments. Also, please bring winter clothing, gloves, hats, socks, jackets for Families-In-Need and canned goods for the food shelf. For more information, please call Mary White at 218-626-2333 or Sharon Bucar at 218-626-1928.

Submitted by Frank Bucar

LODGE #196

GILBERT, MN

MATCHING FUNDS

Our first Matching Funds event was a "Gala Event" in coordination with Marquette School on May 3rd at the Holy Spirit Catholic social hall in Virginia, MN. Funds raised were dedicated to the Marquette new school playground. Five members helped set up and Leo and Yvonne Skrbec and Marianne Nanti attended the fundraiser.

Our second Matching Funds event was held September 19th at Miner's in Virginia. The chili feed was first started by St. Michael's Health & Rehabilitation center. St. Michael's was recently sold to a for-profit company. The Quad cites and the Virginia Rotary Club partnered for the Chili Cookoff Fundraiser. Money raised will be used to support projects in the Quad cities area. Our lodge and KSKJ Life's donations will be used to support the Occupational Development Center. Part of the funds will be used specifically for the bowling, food and prizes at the annual bowling party for adults with special needs that the center hosts.



Heidi Coldagelli helping serve.



Frank Erjavec and his daughter Ryna stayed until the last song.



The Singing Slovenes pictured with Kerry Christiansen.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

We are working with Ashley Samargia to finalize the paperwork for this event. Karl, Yvonne and Colleen helped out at the event, serving cookies, water and helping with the cleanup.



Pictured is Colleen Finc and Karl Oberstar, Jr.



Yvonne Skrbec prepping the dessert table.



A large and eager crowd attended the Matching Funds event to support Marquette School.

JOIN HANDS

We planted the planter and the two gardens that are currently in front of St. Joseph's Church. Karl Oberstar and Robert Finc cleaned the 10 Commandments and glued on the front panel. The grass was also trimmed around the garden. Yvonne Skrbec helped with the planting.

LODGE UPDATES

Congratulations go to Justin Schutte and Bryce Waino, who were our two members graduating this year.

The lodge chose to donate money to the Catholic Youth Conference's Mission Trip and Camp Survive (\$100 each). \$100 was also given to the Gilbert 3rd of July event. The annual "Veteran Fishing" event was held at Lake Vermilion on July 10th. A lodge donation of \$100, combined with an additional \$100 from a member, were donated for this worthy cause.

Leopolda Schutte is our Lodge Person of the Year for 2019. We met at Wondering Pines for a nice dinner to honor Lee Schutte on June 5th.

The Minnesota Federation held an "Iron Range Evening Slovenian style" event on September 6th in Eveleth. Music was provided by The Singing Slovenes and Kerry Christiansen. A nice meal was included. We helped with the food and setup and provided a raffle basket.

Nine people from our lodge attended a tour on the Vista Queen on September 15th for friendship and pizza. It was a lovely evening.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be holding our Annual Youth and Adult Activity Christmas Party on Sunday December 8th, starting at 12:00pm (Noon). Our election of 2020 Lodge Officers will also take place at this time.

*Karl Oberstar, Jr.
Lodge 196 President*

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

OHIO

LODGE #25

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATES

Just a brief note for our annual meeting and Christmas party, which will take place on December 8th. The meeting will start at 1:00pm and the party will follow, approximately 2:00pm.

Also, please make a note for our annual dinner honoring our 50-year members. This will take place on March 8th after the 10:30am Mass; dinner will start approximately 12:00pm (noon). Please give a call to myself (John Turek) and let me know how many you have attending. Deadline for reservations is March 2nd as we need this count for the cook. RSVP number is 216-531-0230.

*Submitted by John Turek
Financial Secretary*

LODGE #63

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be meeting Monday, October 28th - 6:30pm at the Slovenian National Home 3563 East 80th, dinner will be served. Our November meeting will be Monday, November 25th - 7:00pm call in call. The call in number and access code are as follows: 1-605-472-5422 access code 749363 we look forward to seeing and hearing you at these meetings.

Our Annual Meeting (12:00pm) and Children's Christmas Party (1:00pm-3:00pm) will be Sunday, December 1st, 2019. All are invited to attend the party from 1:00-3:00pm at Slovenian Home and East 80th Lanes (3563 East 80th Street, Cleveland 44105).

Please RSVP to Jean Call or text 440-781-3075 so we can plan food and beverages accordingly.

We will be starting a bi-monthly Lodge Newsletter in 2020: please forward your email address to **kskjst.lawrence63@gmail** if you would like to receive the newsletter and let us know by which means you would like to receive it – electronically (email) or post office (US postal service). Thank you in advance.

As I may not get another article in before a Blessed Thanksgiving and a Joyous Christmas to all.

Najboljše želje (Best Wishes),

*Jean Marincic
440-781-3075*

LODGE #146

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING EVENTS

September has come and gone. The hallmark of the month was our annual hay ride. We went to Ramseyer Farms in Wooster and had a great turnout. People came in waves, but we did manage to have a group hayride. Regardless, everyone enjoyed themselves and had a great time. As you can see, we had people of all ages. The weather was perfect - no rain, some sun and an enjoyable temperature. I did see one bonfire, but the weather was too perfect to sit.



Pictured is Kelley Sommer's family and Greg Snyder's family at the hayride.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Pictured is Tim Klodnick, Shari Klodnick, Ed, Andrew, Tom and Jessi Kmet, Brooke, Bridget, Marie, Theresa and Frank Bremenour.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We are doing another Matching Funds event - this will benefit the El Salvador mission at St. Barnabas Church. The Matching Funds will be a bake sale the weekend of October 26/27 on the church grounds. Pre-order deadline of whole pies is October 21st. See the St Barnabas website for details (stbarnabas.org).

Our next Lodge meeting will be Friday, November 15. It will be held at Quaker Steak and Lube on Canal Road in Valley View. We will be discussing the election of officers at this meeting, as well as upcoming events for the first part of next year. All are welcome. Please meet there at 6:00pm.

Sunday, December 1st will be our annual Christmas party and the Election of KSKJ officers/lodge meeting. The meeting starts at 12:15pm. The Christmas Party is from 1:00-3:00pm. Santa Claus will visit! Gifts for all KSKJ Life children (up to 16). Food, bowling, and fun for all!

Submitted by Josie Kmet

Recording Secretary

LODGE #150

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATES

St. Anne's Lodge #150 would like to wish our members and their families a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving! Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19th at 6:30pm at Olympia Sweet Treats and Grill in Strongsville. We will be accepting nominations for our 2020 officer positions. Please contact Elaine Peskar at 440-503-8312 or kskjlife150@gmail.com if you are interested in a position. Election of officers will be held on December 1st at 12:00 Noon, prior to the Christmas party.

Our Annual Three Lodge Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 1st from 1-3pm at the Slovenian National Home, 3563 East 80th (The Nash). Please join us for refreshments, bowling, and a visit from Santa. Members of Lodges #150, #63 and #146 please RSVP to your respective lodge. Parents: please include your member child's name and age (up to age 16) to insure they receive a gift. Lodge #150 members please contact Elaine Peskar.

Lodge #150 will again be selling Our Town and All Around coupon books. They are only \$28 and make great Christmas gifts. Please contact Elaine Peskar for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 16 - Slovenian National Home, East 80th (The Nash) 100th Anniversary Dinner/Dance
- November 24 - St. Mary's Church Fall Festival, starting at 1:00pm, following a Polka Mass at Noon. St. Mary's is located at 15519 Holmes Avenue, Cleveland
- December 1 - #150 Meeting and Election of Officers at Noon, KSKJ Life Christmas Party 1:00-3:00pm at The Nash

Submitted by Elaine Peskar

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #169

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Just as we partnered with Collinwood Slovenian Home for their 100th anniversary celebration in August, for our second Matching Funds event this year we are supporting the 100th Anniversary Dinner Raffle of the Slovenian National Home on E. 80th in Slavic Village. The event is on Saturday, November 16. Doors open at 4:00pm, with dinner at 6:00. A main board with dinner is \$60; couples are \$85. Joe Novak's group will provide the entertainment. For tickets contact Tony at 440-591-0868 or John at 216-541-7243.

Our Lodge 169 Christmas party will be at 3:00 PM on Sunday, December 8, at St. Mary's in Collinwood. Mark your calendars!

The next lodge meeting is Thursday, November 21, at 6:30 PM at Collinwood Slovenian Home on Holmes Avenue.

Wishing all of you a happy Thanksgiving and continued blessings!

Submitted by John Nemeč

LODGE #226

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, November 3rd at 12:00pm Noon - Lodge Meeting at the Catholic War Vets (next to St. Vitus Church).
- Sunday, November 24th - 10:30am Mass followed by Lunch - All lodge members and their families are cordially invited to attend mass as a group on Christ the King Sunday, November 25.

- We will attend the 10:30am mass at St. Vitus Church (6019 Lausche Ave.) then enjoy a home-cooked lunch at St. Vitus Auditorium (6111 Lausche Ave.) to honor our 50-year members and scholarship winners. Due to the preparation involved and to assist the cook in planning, please call with your reservation to Erika Kurbos at 216-383-1212.
- Sunday, December 2nd - 10:00 AM - Lodge Meeting and the election of officers.
- Sunday, December 1st - 12:00 PM - Join us for our annual Children's Christmas Party in the lower hall of the Slovenian National Home. Celebrate the holiday season with crafts, games, refreshments, singing and even a chance to tell Santa Claus what is on your Christmas list! An invitation with all the details will be mailed to youth members in the near future. We are in need of teen volunteers to help man the stations. So even if you are past the age of sitting on Santa's knee, we hope those looking for service hours will consider helping us with the event. If you have any questions, please email either Beth Paskey (bpaskey@ameritech.net) or Tamara Zupancic (tisinmentor@hotmail.com) or call 440-488-2904.

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The deadline for the Antonia and Frank Segal Christ the King Scholarship is October 31st. The application can be downloaded from our Facebook page or contact any of our lodge officers for an application. Applications must be returned to Erika Kurbos by the deadline.

WE ARE SOCIAL

Are you active on Facebook? So is Lodge 226! Follow KSKJ Lodge 226 (@kskjcleland226) to receive lodge updates and see photos of our events. It's a great way to stay connected with the lodge.

I encourage all members to reach out to me via email (include the words: Lodge 226 in the subject line) if you have any news or photos to share. My email is tisinmentor@hotmail.com.

Submitted by Tamara Zupancic

KSKJ LIFE HOME OFFICE

2439 Glenwood Avenue

Joliet, IL 60435



Count Your Blessings



Happy Thanksgiving

from



1-800-843-5755 | kskj@kskjlife.com

Life Insurance

Annuities

KSKJ Life is an Illinois fraternal benefit society located at 2439 Glenwood Ave., Joliet, IL 60435. V.11.2019