



November/December 2023

WPL

WILLIAM PENN LIFE

INSIDE:

Schedule of branch family Christmas parties

Recipes for the holiday season

Our 2023-2024 scholarship recipients



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Convention Year Simplified Issue Single Premium Whole Life Special

YES, I am interested in applying for this special insurance program

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

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Email Address: _____

Are you an existing member of WPA? YES / NO (Circle One) • Do you use tobacco? YES / NO (Circle One)

DISCLAIMER: I have not been declined or refused a table rating by William Penn Association or any other insurance carrier since January 1, 2022, subject to MIB inquiry.

Signature Required: _____

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Email: btew@wpalife.org • Fax: 412-586-4067

Editor-in-Chief

George S. Charles, Jr.

Associate Editors

Cassandra Holmes

Diane M. Torma

Steven F. Charles

Managing Editor

Graphic Designer

John E. Lovasz

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Your comments are always
welcome. Contact us at:

William Penn Life

William Penn Association

709 Brighton Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Ph: 412-231-2979, ext. 135

E-mail: jlovasz@wvpallife.org

Official publication of William Penn
Association. Office of publication:
709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA
15233 Phone: (412) 231-2979.

Third Class U.S. Postage Paid. Indi-
ana, PA Permit No. 12

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Schedule of branch family Christmas parties



Nationality Rooms to host holiday open house

In the spirit of an open house tradition and to foster connections among neighbors, members of the University of Pittsburgh's Nationality and Heritage Room Committees will welcome guests into the Cathedral of Learning for an afternoon of exploration and engagement Sunday, Dec. 3, from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Guests will be invited into the 31 rooms, which will be decorated for the season, and have the opportunity to participate in traditional crafts and cultural demonstrations.

In the Cathedral of Learning Commons, guests will enjoy traditional foods and baked goods as they listen to world and holiday music and shop for handcrafted and cultural wares and other items that represent the cultural diversity of the Nationality and Heritage Rooms.

St. Nicholas will make an appearance for photos with children and families.

The event is free and open to the public. Food and gift items will be available for purchase.

For information, visit <https://www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu/events/holiday-open-house>.

WPA Holiday Baskets spread holiday cheer

Every year, WPA members and branches open their hearts and share the fraternal spirit with their neighbors in need by participating in our Association's Holiday Basket program. We call on all our branches to continue this tradition of giving.

The Association will reimburse our branches up to \$50 per basket for a maximum of four baskets per branch, for a total reimbursement of up to \$200.

Our branches did an amazing job last year, distributing a total of 89 baskets of non-perishable food and other items worth a total of \$5,321.63 to people and families in their local communities. We challenge our members and branches to do even better this year. WPA sincerely appreciates your continued good will and support.

All Holiday Basket reporting forms, receipts for goods purchased and any photos you wish to share in our magazine are due at the Home Office by Dec. 15.



CONGRATULATIONS to Joyce Nicholson, Vice Chair of the WPA Board of Directors (right), who was recently elected President of the Ohio Fraternal Alliance (OFA) for the 2023-2025 term during the OFA annual meeting in October. "I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead," she said. "Together, the OFA Board of Directors will accomplish extraordinary things that will make a lasting difference." A memorial service was held during the meeting, remembering those who have served Ohio's fraternal societies but had passed within the year. Three candles were lit in memory of WPA members: Leslie Polgar, former auditor of Branch 28 Youngstown; Mark Moore, former president of Branch 189 Alliance; and Violet Sarosi, former coordinator of Branch 14 Cleveland. Pictured with Mrs. Nicholson at the memorial service are WPA Chair of the Board Katherine E. Novak and WPA member Harry Nicholson who was elected to the OFA Board of Directors.

In brief...

■ The Hungarian Club of Chicago is accepting applications for its annual scholarship program. The program is open to both full-time and part-time students. Deadline for applications is Dec. 31, 2023. For more information, email the Hungarian Club at info@hungarianclubof-chicago.com.

■ The Hungarian Arts Club of Detroit will host its Fehér Rózsa Bál (White Rose Ball) on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, at a new location, Lovett Hall in Dearborn. For information on becoming a debutante or an escort, call Linda Enyedi at 248-352-0927.

■ Congratulations to Kat Kazantseva and Rose Campagna, both of Ohio, each of whom won a \$50 Amazon gift card in a raffle sponsored by WPA at the Hungarian Festival in Parma, OH in September. The festival is the largest Hungarian festival held in Ohio.

■ The next issue of *William Penn Life* will be a combined January/February 2024 issue which should be delivered to members' homes by Feb. 1.

2023 Branch Family Christmas Parties

<u>Branch</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location & Reservation Information</u>
0001.....	Bridgeport, CT.....	Dec. 14.....	6:00.....	Testo's Restaurant, 1023 Brooklawn Ave., Fairfield Call 203-929-9425 or email jamesballas@att.net for reservations.
0008.....	Johnstown, PA.....	Dec. 3.....	2:00.....	Visitation Social Hall, 1127 McKinley Avenue, Johnstown Call 814-242-1111 for reservations.
0014.....	Cleveland, OH.....	Dec. 2.....	11:30...	Mentor Presbyterian Church, 5885 Hopkins Road, Mentor Call 216-970-2769 for reservations.
0019.....	New Brunswick, NJ..	Dec. 16.....	2:00.....	Bayard St. Presbyterian Church, 107 Bayard Street, New Brunswick Call 732-873-1158 for reservations.
0026.....	Sharon, PA.....	Dec. 10.....	1:00.....	North Park Lounge, 8701 Babcock Boulevard, Pittsburgh Call 412-779-9279 or email btew40@yahoo.com for reservations.
0027.....	Toledo, OH.....	Dec. 9.....	12:00...	Timbers Bowling Lanes, 1246 Conant Street, Maumee Call 419-460-7214 for reservations.
0028.....	Youngstown, OH.....	Dec. 2.....	12:00...	Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, 517 S. Belle Vista Avenue, Youngstown. Call 330-540-3327 for reservations.
0044.....	Akron, OH.....	Dec. 9.....	9:00.....	Golden Corral Buffet, 2819 South Arlington Road, Akron Call 330-670-5367 for reservations.
0051.....	Passaic, NJ.....	Dec. 3.....	1:00.....	Amore Ristorante, 140 Rifle Camp Road, Woodland Park Call 973-222-4273 for reservations.
0088.....	Rural Valley, PA.....	Dec. 3.....	2:00.....	William Penn Social Hall, 132 West Main Street, Rural Valley
0089.....	Homestead, PA.....	Dec. 16.....	1:00.....	Spins Bowl Pittsburgh, 5840 Buttermilk Hollow Road, Pittsburgh Call 412-352-7077 or email tothmaskarinec@gmail.com for reservations.
0129.....	Columbus, OH.....	Dec. 9.....	2:00.....	Columbus - Grove City Elks, 2140 Sonora Drive, Grove City Call 614-875-9968 for reservations.
0132.....	South Bend, IN.....	Dec. 10.....	3:00.....	Barnaby's The Family Inn, Pizza Kitchen, 3724 Grape Road, Mishawaka Call 574-256-5281 for reservations.
0159.....	Phoenixville, PA.....	Dec. 9.....	1:00.....	Chick-fil-A, 14 West Lightcap Road, Pottstown Email midnight2ups@aol.com for reservations.
0216.....	Northampton, PA.....	Dec. 9.....	1:00.....	Chick-fil-A, 14 West Lightcap Road, Pottstown Email midnight2ups@aol.com for reservations.
0226.....	McKeesport, PA.....	Dec. 3.....	12:00...	Free Hungarian Reformed Church, 101 University Drive, McKeesport. Call 412-566-7191 or email jiganchuk@gmail.com for reservations.
0249.....	Dayton, OH.....	Dec. 10.....	12:00...	Scene 75 Entertainment Center, 6196 Poe Avenue, Dayton Call 937-938-0198 for reservations.
0336.....	Harrisburg, PA.....	Dec. 9.....	11:00...	Verhovay Home Association, 1012 South 29th Street, Harrisburg Email verhovayhomeassn@gmail.com for reservations.
0349.....	Weirton, WV.....	Dec. 2.....	9:00.....	Zalenski's Family Eatery & Pub, 547 Cadiz Road, Wintersville Call 740-264-6238 for reservations.
0590.....	Cape Coral, FL.....	Dec. 17.....	12:00...	Rotary Park at Suntree Heron Pavilion, 6495 US 1, Rockledge Email JLVK714@aol.com for reservations.
0800.....	Altoona, PA.....	Dec. 3.....	5:00.....	Prime Sirloin Buffet, 501 Municipal Drive, Duncansville Call 814-943-7471 for reservations.



Happy Holidays!

What a year it has been for us all. Being a chef, I look forward to this time of year to celebrate the holidays. I never have to worry about what I will be doing because I always offer my services to help prepare meals and menus and offer recipes to those looking to try new and old things for the festive season. I extend my best wishes to you, your family and friends. May you enjoy the blessings and happy occasions this time of year.

While you put together your menus for the holidays, I have chosen six recipes, including Turkey Chili for after Thanksgiving, a variation on last year's recipe for Delmonico Potatoes, along with Soft Dinner Rolls, Cranberry Orange Bread, Apple Cake and a Quiche Lorraine for breakfast on Thanksgiving and/or Christmas morning. It has been my pleasure to be in the kitchen for you and wish everyone a Prosperous and Healthy 2024!



Turkey Chili



Delmonico Potatoes



Quiche Lorraine

Turkey Chili

¼ cup olive oil
7 pounds ground turkey
4 onions, chopped
2 green peppers, chopped
2 red peppers, chopped
8 cups water
½ #10 can diced tomatoes
½ #10 can kidney beans
¼ cup garlic, minced
15 ounces tomato paste
½ cup chili powder
1 tablespoon paprika
½ tablespoon oregano
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 tablespoon cumin
2 tablespoons chicken base
1 teaspoon black pepper
1 tablespoon sugar

Heat the oil in a large pot or tilting skillet on medium heat. Place the ground turkey in the pot and cook until evenly brown. Stir in the onions and peppers cooking until they are tender. Pour water into the pot, then add the chicken base stirring well. Stir in the diced tomatoes and tomato paste, then add the kidney beans and garlic. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to low and simmer for 30

minutes. Stir often to keep chili from sticking to bottom of pot. Taste to correct seasonings. Serve with shredded cheddar cheese.

Delmonico Potatoes

3 cups half & half
½ pound white cheddar cheese
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon white pepper
½ teaspoon mustard powder
2 pounds yukon gold potatoes
½ cup bread crumbs
¼ stick butter
½ cup flour

Using the butter and flour, make a roux. Add salt, white pepper and mustard to the roux. Heat up the half & half and thicken with the roux. Add in the cheese and stir over low heat until smooth. Keep stirring so the mixture does not burn.

Peel and cook potatoes then cut into ¼-inch slices. Layer the potatoes in a casserole dish greased with butter. Pour the cheese mixture over the top of potatoes, garnish with bread-crumbs, then bake at 350°F for 30 to 35 minutes until golden brown. Serve hot.

William Vasvary, CEC, ACE, MBBQ, (Chef Béla) is a chef/instructor in the Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management program at the Community College of Philadelphia. He also hosts "The Chef's Cook" on CCP-TV Channel 53 in Philadelphia, which can also be seen on YouTube.

Quiche Lorraine

8 ounces bacon, diced & cooked
4 ounces Swiss cheese, shredded
2 pie shells
8 eggs
2 pints milk
8 ounces heavy cream
Salt & pepper, to taste

Place half of the bacon and cheese in each pie shell.

In a bowl, combine the eggs, milk and cream, then season with salt and pepper, blending into a smooth custard.

Pour the custard equally over the two shells, filling to the top of each. Bake at 350°F to an internal temperature of 160°F, approximately one hour.

Apple Cake

3 cups all-purpose flour
2 cups sugar
3½ teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
1½ tablespoons vanilla extract
4 eggs
½ cup orange juice
1 cup vegetable oil
3 apples, peeled & shredded
Baking pan spray

Using an electric mixer, combine the first five ingredients and blend well. Add the eggs one at a time to obtain a thick mixture. Add the orange juice, blending well, then add the oil and con-

tinue blending until very smooth. Add the shredded apples and blend until smooth.

The pumpkin pie spice and cayenne combine to enhance the flavor of the cake and make it linger on the palate.

You can use any variety of apples, but not red delicious.

Coat a bundt pan with baking spray and pour in the batter, then bake at 325°F for 55 minutes.

After done, let cake cool then invert on a plate, slice and serve to your guests.

Soft Dinner Rolls

1½ cups warm milk (100°F)
4 tablespoons butter, melted
1½ tablespoons active dry yeast
1 tablespoon granulated garlic
½ tablespoon dried thyme
½ cup sugar
1¼ teaspoons salt
4 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon butter, melted

In a mixing bowl, combine the warm milk, 1 tablespoon of sugar and the yeast; stir lightly to blend ingredients.

In a separate bowl of a mixer, combine the flour, remaining sugar, salt, granulated garlic and dried thyme and use the dough hook to blend the dry ingredients very well.

Now, pour in the milk and yeast mixture and blend on low speed for 10 minutes to create a dough. Knead the dough another 5 minutes, then set aside in an oiled bowl covered lightly with plastic wrap to rise in a warm place until double in size.

When the dough is double in size, about 2 hours, turn out on a lightly floured surface. Cut the dough into even pieces, about 15 to 24.

Roll each piece into a ball and place in a 9 x 13-inch oiled casserole dish OR a parchment-lined sheet pan.

Proof the rolls another 45 min-

utes, then bake the rolls at 375°F for about 20 to 25 minutes until the tops are golden brown.

Remove rolls from oven and brush tops with melted butter.



Cranberry Orange Bread

Cranberry Orange Bread

1½ cups sugar
½ cup butter
2 eggs
2 tablespoons orange zest
4 cups all-purpose flour
1½ teaspoons salt
1½ teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
1½ cups orange juice
2 cups fresh cranberries, chopped

In a mixing bowl, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. When the eggs are well blended, add the orange zest.

In another mixing bowl, combine the flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda, blending well. Add the dry ingredients to the wet in 4 equal portions, mixing at low speed until well blended. Now, stir in the cranberries and blend well.

Spray 2 aluminum loaf pans and evenly divide the batter between them. Bake at 350°F for 60 minutes or until a cake tester inserted into the middle of the cake comes out clean.

Remove from oven and cool in pan for 15 minutes before placing on a cooling rack.



Moving forward

WPA looks to the future following a successful convention

PITTSBURGH -- William Penn Association held its 40th General Convention Sunday, Oct. 8, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh - Green Tree.

During the meeting, the 60 elected and ex-officio delegates attending the Convention adopted revisions to the Association's By-Laws, elected six members to the Board of Directors, bid a happy retirement to two dedicated members of the Board, and raised thousands of dollars for William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation.

The Convention's schedule of events began Saturday, Oct. 7, with delegate registration and the opening of the delegate hospitality suite. After receiving their credentials and welcoming gifts at registration, many delegates and their guests visited the hospitality suite, where they could enjoy sandwiches, snacks and light refreshments while meeting their fellow delegates, renewing old friendships and making new friends.

Later that evening, members of the Creden-

tials, Resolutions and Nominating Committees met separately to lay the groundwork for the remainder of the Convention.

The Convention was officially called to order Sunday, Oct. 8, by Katherine E. Novak, Chair of the WPA Board of Directors and Chair of the Convention. In a united display of patriotism, all in attendance joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting's opening session featured greetings from National President George S. (Pete) Charles Jr. He praised the members of the WPA for their hard work, loyalty and dedication which have helped the WPA to not only survive but also thrive during its 137 year history. He noted many challenges lay ahead for the Association, but concluded those challenges could be met successfully with the continued loyalty and support of our members.

National Vice President-Treasurer Diane M. Torma offered a brief review of the financial strength of the Association.



In yet another show of unity, the Convention elected by unanimous ballot both the Board of Directors and Alternate Directors.

Re-elected to the Board were: Michael J. Chobody of Branch 88 Rural Valley, PA; Debra A. Lewis of Branch 129 Columbus, OH; Joyce E. Nicholson of Branch 349 Weirton, WV; Katherine E. Novak of Branch 28 Youngstown, OH; James W. Robertson of Branch 336 Harrisburg, PA; and Richard E. Sarosi of Branch 14 Cleveland, OH.

The new Board was sworn into office by retiring Vice Chair David M. Kozak. He along with retiring Vice Chair of the Board Anne Marie Schmidt were honored for their many years of dedicated service to the Association. Each received a gift of appreciation on behalf of the Association from Chair Novak and National President Charles.

The new Board later met in a special session during which it re-elected Ms. Novak as Chair of the Board and Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Nicholson as Vice Chairs. The Board also re-elected the current slate of National Officers and, in accordance with the revised By-Laws, gave them new titles.

George S. Charles Jr. will serve as President/Chief Executive Officer; Cassandra Holmes as Chief Administrative Officer; Diane M. Torma as Chief Financial Officer; and Steven F. Charles as Chief Operating Officer.

The delegates also took time to remember

the distinguished members and friends of WPA who had passed away since the last Convention in 2019, taking a moment of silence to reflect upon those who remain now in memory only.

Throughout the Convention, delegates were unified in their support of the William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation, which provides grants to young members seeking a higher education. A total of \$22,155 was raised for the Scholarship Foundation. About two thirds of that total (\$14,025) came in the form of donations and pledges. The remainder was raised through the sale of ads for the Convention souvenir program book (\$8,130).

Delegates and guests had several opportunities to socialize with each other. In addition to the Saturday afternoon hospitality room, delegates and guests enjoyed a luncheon on Sunday afternoon and were invited to a post-Convention reception at the hotel.

The Convention adjourned with all eager to resume the work necessary to help WPA not only survive but thrive in the years ahead.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Association's revised By-Laws, along with the minutes from the Convention, will be published in the January/February 2024 issue of William Penn Life.

Below: Delegates prepare to be sworn in as the 40th General Convention convenes.



40th General Convention

To the delegates, employees and guests who attended our 40th General Convention, we extend our sincere thanks and deepest appreciation for your continued support and dedication to our Association, its mission and our members.



Holiday arts and crafts with friends

Making homemade ornaments is always on our list of things to do before Christmas. So, why not get together with some friends and create your own **glue art Christmas ornaments** this holiday season? These ornaments will certainly be your new favorite decorations to hang on the tree. Bonus: tie one onto a wrapped gift and give it to someone you love. They will cherish it forever!

Now, let's have some fun with glue and a do-it-yourself Christmas craft ornament that is soooo simple. Kids of all ages will enjoy making these! Plus, this craft uses super simple and budget-friendly supplies.

Our thanks to Sarah McClelland and Little Bins for Little Hands at <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/christmas-glue-ornaments/> for this great holiday season idea!

What you need:

- Plastic container lid
- White glue
- Food coloring
- Dish soap
- Toothpicks
- String or holiday ribbon



What you do:

- Wash your lid and then fill it with glue.
- Add several drops of food coloring. The more drops, the darker the color.
- Dip your toothpicks into the dish soap and then touch and drag them through the food coloring drops. Make cool designs – think hearts or snowflakes!
- Make a loop with a piece of string, place it into your glue and let it dry overnight.
- Hang your cool handmade ornament on your tree! Don't forget: write your name and the year on the back!

Here are some fun holiday jokes to share with your friends as you make your ornaments:

- *How do sheep say Merry Christmas to each other? Fleece Navidad.*
- *What do Santa's elves learn in school? The elf-abet.*
- *What did the gingerbread man put on his bed? A cookie sheet.*

Sharing is caring! Help us build up our community on Facebook and Twitter by sharing photos safely @WPALife and #wpalife. Make sure you tag #winterholidays #artsandcrafts #WPALife and share us with family and friends.

2023-2024 grant recipients

William Penn Association members attending accredited colleges, universities, technical schools and trade schools as full-time undergraduate students are eligible to apply for grants through the William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc. To date, our Scholarship Foundation has awarded 6,949 grants totalling \$3,245,200. This year, the Foundation awarded grants to 140 students, including 65 first-time recipients, totalling \$178,000. All of this is made possible by the generosity of our members and friends through direct contributions, through the purchase of “leaves” on our Scholarship Foundation’s Tree of Knowledge, and through support of various fundraising activities conducted throughout the year. We congratulate all our member scholars, especially this year’s new recipients honored here.



DAVID A. BONIFIELD
Br. 296 Springdale, PA



JOSHUA S. BORLAND
Br. 296 Springdale, PA



IAN C. BRAHOSKY
Br. 8036 Scottsdale, PA



NOLAN J. BRAHOSKY
Br. 8036 Scottsdale, PA



JEREMY S. BRAUSCH
Br. 14 Cleveland, OH



JON E. BRAUSCH
Br. 14 Cleveland, OH



JACOB D. BRODERICK
Br. 352 Coraopolis, PA



ELIZABETH M. CARPENTER
Br. 48 New York, NY



LANCE J. CATLOS
Br. 352 Coraopolis, PA



CAMEO E. CEDARLEAF
Br. 249 Dayton, OH



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Br. 18 Lincoln Park, MI



LIBBY R. COLES
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MADISON A. M. CONFER
Br. 44 Akron, OH



JACOB J. DATEMA
Br. 18 Lincoln Park, MI



CAROLYN E. DUMM
Br. 800 Altoona, PA



CASSIDY J. FRANCE
Br. 14 Cleveland, OH



BETHANY N. GIBSON
Br. 89 Homestead, PA



JOCELYN A. HORVATH
Br. 14 Cleveland, OH



JOHNATHAN D. KOROSY
Br. 189 Alliance, OH



JONATHAN S. KOULIANOS
Br. 28 Youngstown, OH



JENNA N. LEONARD
Br. 14 Cleveland, OH



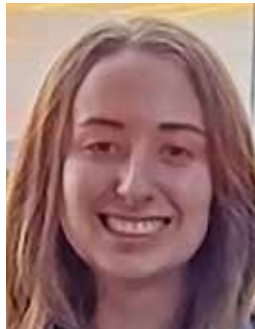
RYAN A. MISLAY
Br. 28 Youngstown, OH



JAMES D. PATRICK
Br. 14 Cleveland, OH



KEVIN P. RHOADS
Br. 8114 Clarion, PA



ABIGAIL J. RUFFLE
Br. 129 Columbus, OH



GAVIN A. RYDER
Br. 44 Akron, OH



KAIA A. TRAPHAGEN
Br. 189 Alliance, OH



RAVEN N. WILLIAMS
Br. 76 Philadelphia, PA

New recipients not pictured

Madison M. Benedict, Br. 352 Coraopolis, PA
Jenna M. Bennis, Br. 14 Cleveland, OH
Micah L. Bentley, Br. 44 Akron, OH
Marlie E. Berger, Br. 129 Columbus, OH
Brock A. Boomsma, Br. 14 Cleveland, OH
Charles J. Brausch, Br. 14 Cleveland, OH
Madison R. Casagrande-Fragola, Br. 296 Springdale, PA
Daniella L. Cene, Br. 28 Youngstown, OH
Marin M. Cooney, Br. 800 Altoona, PA
Skye N. Csulik, Br. 44 Akron, OH
Grace N. DeCarolis, Br. 88 Rural Valley, PA
Kylie A. Denham, Br. 159 Phoenixville, PA
Monica N. Forte, Br. 226 McKeesport, PA
Matthew J. Fry, Br. 89 Homestead, PA
Lucinda C. Garza, Br. 34 Pittsburgh, PA
Madelyne J. Glasgow, Br. 336 Harrisburg, PA
NaJa N. Haynes-Williams, Br. 590 Cape Coral, FL
Hunter A. Kanouse, Br. 18 Lincoln Park, MI
Alyssa I. Kosovan, Br. 28 Youngstown, OH
Darius E. Kosovan, Br. 28 Youngstown, OH
Joel B. Krasznai, Br. 14 Cleveland, OH
Jennifer M. Kurko, Br. 44 Akron, OH
Thomas S. McDonough, Br. 26 Sharon, PA
Arthur M. Morvai, Br. 296 Springdale, PA
Rachel M. Morvai, Br. 296 Springdale, PA
Roger W. Neil, Br. 14 Cleveland, OH
Evan E. Novak, Br. 14 Cleveland, OH
Devan T. Palomaki, Br. 28 Youngstown, OH
Abbie C. Petrarca, Br. 89 Homestead, PA
Benjamin H. Pfingstler, Br. 88 Rural Valley, PA
Jenna I. Pfingstler, Br. 88 Rural Valley, PA
Alexandra K. Pilyih, Br. 296 Springdale, PA
Samantha M. Smallwood, Br. 28 Youngstown, OH
Natalie M. Toth, Br. 216 Northampton, PA
Tyler M. Van Varick, Br. 19 New Brunswick, NJ
Austin F. Winger-Kailer, Br. 28 Youngstown, OH
Lance A. Wytko, Br. 28 Youngstown, OH

Congratulations!

Recipient Updates

We asked our renewal recipients to tell us about their experiences in college. Here is what some of them had to say.

LUKE J. BOBOSKY – Br. 26 Sharon, PA

Luke, a junior at Case Western Reserve University studying finance and economics, says his WPFA, Inc. grant “has greatly impacted” him. As president of the fly fishing club, which Luke started, he has introduced more students to this sport while helping local clubs preserve waterways. Luke organizes and photographs weekly outings for the disc golf club as its social media coordinator. He is also an active member of the mountain bike club and of Trout Unlimited.

JON E. BRAUSCH - BR. 14 CLEVELAND, OH

Jon is currently in his third year at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy, one step closer towards graduating with a bachelor of science degree in maritime technology, as well as earning an Unlimited Tonnage Third Mate's License. He is looking forward to working on the ships that fuel our country's economy, and thanks William Penn Association for helping him reach his goals.

MORGAN A. CALLA – Br. 34 Pittsburgh, PA

Morgan is determined to complete her undergraduate degree in three years. She successfully completed courses at community college which she applied toward her current studies at the University of Alabama. She has also completed a summer internship at ZF as a quality intern. Morgan is a member of Alabama's honor college, Zeta Tau Alpha (a fraternal collegiate society for women), Professional Women in Communication and Business and Women in Operational Management. Morgan also studied abroad this past summer.

KAYELYN D. CROFFORD – Br. 28 Youngstown, OH

Kayelyn is a sophomore majoring in geology and minor-ing in chemistry at Youngstown State University. During the summer, she worked as a YMCA day camp counselor, ensuring that the youth in her charge experience the best summer ever. During the school year, Kayelyn has an after-school staff position making sure that children complete their homework and have some fun, too. As a freshman, she participated in the Choose Ohio First Research Program, studying storm water runoff management practices and presenting her findings at conferences. Kayelyn has also been named to YSU's president's and dean's list. Outside academics, she earned her second degree blackbelt in Kenpo karate, a type of fusion martial art. She also volunteers teaching new students of all ages. Kayelyn says: “I will be continuing my research opportunities for the rest of my time at YSU with new and exciting projects,” and plans “to hold myself to the same standards until I graduate and beyond.”

EMILIA R. FELLESTEIN – Br. 14 Cleveland, OH

A zoology major now in her junior year, Emilia has been enjoying her college experience at Ohio Wesleyan University. Emilia participates in OWU's pet pals, Rhythms and Tap and roller skating clubs. As a participant of the Global Scholar program, Emilia anticipates using the experiences she's garnered towards studying abroad during the spring 2024 term in either Ireland or Australia.

RACHEL L. HORVATH – Br. 28 Youngstown, OH

A sophomore at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Rachel studies theology and catechetics and music ministry. She has joined the Handmaids of the Lord Household, which she describes as a sorority that focuses on Jesus. In her spare time, Rachel enjoys playing her guitar and ukelele, as well as singing and writing songs. She anticipates studying abroad this coming January.

JUSTIN J. LEONARD – Br. 14 Cleveland, OH

A junior finance major at Bowling Green State University, Justin has been on the dean's list and joined the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity where he is a new member educator as well as their social chair. Currently, Justin is Mr. Desirable, which is the sweetheart for the Delta Zeta sorority.

LOGAN C. LINDENMUTH – Br. 296 Springdale, PA

A Seton Hill University senior, Logan's major course of study is in computer science with cyber security as his minor. Logan is the founder of Seton Hill's Outdoors Club, and he enjoys being a member of the university's esports and the men's track and field team.

AUSTIN J. MITKO – Br. 89 Homestead, PA

Austin attends Frederick Community College and is a general studies major. He has attained dean's list status and is employed by Vanish Brewery.

JUSTIN T. NOWAKOWSKI – Br. 34 Pittsburgh, PA

A sophomore studying mechanical engineering at Purdue University, Justin belongs to student-run Purdue Formula SAE, an organization aiming to build an open-wheel formula-style car to compete against other schools across the world. He is also a member of the McCutcheon Grand Prix team, where he is a relief driver for dormitory racing, competing in Purdue's annual grand prix. “I am extremely interested in getting involved in the motorsport industry out of college,” he says. “In an attempt to further my education and chances for success in the future, I am currently in the process of acquiring some work experience over the summer with the IMSA (International Motor Sports Association) Pilot Series team.”

ALEXANDRA M. OCHS – Br. 8114 Clarion, PA

A Saint Francis University senior, Alexandra is double-majoring in environmental chemistry and ecology while staying active in campus life. As vice president of Saint Francis' Student Activities Organization, she planned and hosted Homecoming 2022. She oversaw community events, academic presentations and educational trips for the Chemistry Club as its president. As a work study peer mentor, Alexandra assists at-risk first-year students with their study skills. She also serves as an event leader for ROCK (Rural Outreach, Chemistry for Kids). This group brings science activities to underprivileged schools, grades K-12, that otherwise would not be available. Alexandra is also the treasurer and PR chair for her Omega Zeta Nu academic sorority. This past summer, Alexandra traveled to Ambialet, France, where she studied fermentation and environmental chemistry. As a STEM student, Alexandra says she "often found it intimidating to be a woman who loves science." Having credits in research, as well as a scientific publication in process, she adds: "Do not be afraid to chase after what you're passionate about, and then inspire others to do the same."

SARAH E. OCHS – Br. 44 Akron, OH

In her sophomore year at Ohio Dominican University, Sarah is a business major. She is a member of the university's honors program and women's basketball and golf teams.

ENESE PIGNICZKY – Br. 14 Cleveland, OH

Enese is a junior at Cleveland State University studying middle childhood education. In her second year as an assistant scout master for the Cleveland-area Hungarian Girl Scouts troop, Enese's responsibilities include organizing activities, from half-day outings to weekend-long sleepaway events for children of various ages. These experiences have led Enese to oversee and mentor a group of leaders for the scout groups' small activities. Enese took a three-week tour to Hungary and Transylvania as a member of a folk dance group. While on tour, the group interacted with the locals in Miskolc, Hungary.

ISABELLA M. PILYIH – Br. 296 Springdale, PA

Isabella has reached her senior year at Penn State University Behrend Campus. She participates in varsity bowling at Penn State and is a member of SAAC (Student Athletic Advisory Committee). Mechanical engineering is Isabella's major course of study.

ABIGAIL R. POLAKOWSKI – Br. 18 Lincoln Park, MI

In her sophomore year at Grand Valley State University, Abigail continues to enjoy campus life. During her first year, she joined Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity focusing on community service. She also stays active in Grand Valley's cross country and track and field clubs. A mechanical engineering major, Abigail is looking forward to getting a job at the engineering building, giving tours to incoming freshman.

PAIGE H. SEVITS – Br. 14 Cleveland, OH

A Youngstown State University junior with an accounting major and marketing minor, Paige has enjoyed her time away at YSU and is looking forward to her two remaining years of undergraduate study. In April 2023, Paige received the honor of induction into the National Society of Leader-

ship and Success. She is putting her course of study to good use by attending meetings with Youngtown State's chapter of the Association of Women in Math and networking with their membership, as well as attending a professional development summit and networking with local employers.

PEYTON A. SHORTHOUSE – Br. 28 Youngstown, OH

Peyton is a sophomore at John Carroll University, majoring in biology on a pre-medical track and double-minoring in leadership development and Spanish and Hispanic studies. Peyton has received a pre-approved early acceptance seat in the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. At John Carroll, she is active in the Leadership Scholars program as well as the Choose Ohio First Scholars Cohort. Peyton's plans for the summer of 2023 included an immersion trip to London to shadow physicians at the Cleveland Clinic. She anticipates going to the University of Galway in Ireland during her junior year. Peyton may also have the opportunity to visit Honduras to provide triage and basic medical care. While in the area, if time allows, she may also participate in a tropical field biology course to study the Costa Rican rainforest.

CONNOR D. SWANSON – Br. 590 Cape Coral, FL

In his sophomore year as an engineering major at Lake Sumter State College, Connor has been involved in the college's honors program. Connor explains that the program has held several charity events supporting local mental health programs. He is also looking forward to working on his program-related individual research project. "The support I have received from William Penn last semester helped me take more courses and focus on learning," he said. "Thank you so much."

BRIDGET A. SZABO – Br. 28 Youngstown, OH

Now in her junior year at Youngstown State University, Bridget is majoring in computer science with minor studies in math and electrical engineering. Bridget also plays for YSU's marching and pep bands.

KATHERINE R. WADE – Br. 720 Dedham, MA

Katherine is a Springfield College sophomore majoring in communication science and disorders focusing on rehabilitation and disabilities studies. Applying her academic skills, you could find Katherine in the college swimming pool volunteering with the Special Olympics Team. While providing swim instruction and encouragement to the team, she saw the team members all the way through to the 2023 Springfield College Swimming qualifier event.

NICHOLAS A. WOGAN – Br. 28 Youngstown, OH

Nicholas began his college career at Youngstown State University with an eye on being involved, and he is continuing on that path. A sophomore nursing student, he has been named to both the president's and dean's lists and is a member of YSU's Honors College. Nicholas volunteers monthly at the United Way Saturday of Caring food give away. Also, as part of Youngstown Cityscape, Nicholas is making a difference with his volunteer clean up efforts at Wick Park. He is also a softball tournament volunteer. "I have been most appreciative of the financial help I have received from the William Penn scholarship," he says.

Branch 1 Bridgeport, CT

By Jim Ballas

Fall is here. As I write this, we are in peak foliage season. The yellow, orange and red colors are in the trees everywhere. But soon, the leaves will fall and that means the cold winter along with snow is right around the corner. Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

This year's Christmas party will be similar to last year. We will have a branch Christmas dinner party on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 6:00 p.m. at Testo's Restaurant, 1023 Brooklawn Ave., Fairfield, CT. In addition to fellowship and dinner, there will be a brief branch meeting. Contact Branch Coordinator Jim Ballas at 203-929-9425 if you would like to attend or email him at jamesballas@att.net by Dec. 5.

Our branch participated in the Holiday Basket program this year. We prepared four food baskets, each including a \$75 gift card for the recipients to supplement with meats or fresh foods. The baskets will be given to four needy families for the holidays. Our branch contributed \$25 for each gift card in addition to WPA Home Office contribution of \$50 each.

We wish everyone Season Greetings, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Branch 8 Johnstown, PA

By Alexis Yuhaz Kozak

Greetings! The past few months have been a whirlwind.

We started out with visiting our friends at the Harrisburg branch golf outing. They had a beautiful day and were perfect hosts.

Then, it was time to prepare for the Slavic Fest. The Fest is getting bigger and better every year. We made over 700 palacsinta, and they were a hit, along with our



Members of Branch 1 prepared four baskets of donated food as part of WPA's Holiday Basket program.

"Peasant Bowl," a fancy name for kielbasa and *lecsó*. Thank you, Ursula, for that creation. They both were sell outs.

We could have never done all this without the help of Joe and Debra Oliver, Charlene Hritz, Allegra Slick, David and Deb Magro, Dorothy Kedves, Judy Grasa, Charlie Turney and our boss, David Kozak.

We had the honor of welcoming some out-of-town guests to the Slavic Fest: WPA Chair of the Board Kathy Novak, Vice Chair Joyce Nicholson and her husband Harry and retired Vice Chair Anne Marie Schmidt and her husband Mark. Thanks so much for making the trip to experience our event. We all hope you come back next year.

Lastly, there was the WPA General Convention. This was a bitter-sweet event for David and me as David was finishing his final term as a member of the Board. WPA has become more than a family to us. We have every intention of staying as active with WPA as they allow. You just cannot leave a good thing go.

It was so nice seeing our old friends and meeting new folks, too, at the Convention.

We extend special thanks to Charlie Turney for all your help.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The branch Christmas party will be held Sunday, Dec. 3. This year, we are doing things a little bit differently and it is imperative that you call in with your RSVP to David

Kozak at 814-242-1111. Hope you can make the date!

Best wishes to all for a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas with your family and loved ones. Prayers for peace in the world.

For your life insurance or annuity needs, please give me a call at 814-242-0000.

Branch 9 Hazleton, PA

By Dora S. McKinsey

Greetings from Branch 9!

My, where has the time gone? The year 2023 is almost over with 2024 right around the corner. Time is going by faster and faster. Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon be here. Branch 9 officers would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays! As last year, the branch will be sending out gift cards to all branch juvenile members. We also wish our Jewish members a Happy Hanukkah, which falls on Dec. 7.

December 21 is the first day of winter and the day with the shortest amount of daylight. It's that time of year to bring out the heavy coats, gloves, scarves and boots! Hopefully, this winter will not be too snowy. I can dream, can't I? If you are traveling for the holidays, please be careful so as to reach your destination safely.

With inflation rising, now would also be a good time to review your insurance coverage to make sure your loved ones are adequately provided for. If you would like to



Branch 8 members prepare kielbasa and lecsó (left) along with 700 palacsinta (right) for the annual Slavic Fest held in Johnstown, PA.

review your coverage, please contact Branch Coordinator Sara Barra at s_mckinsey@hotmail.com. She will be able to assist you in answering all your questions. She can also be of assistance if you need to change your beneficiary or your mailing address. It's important to keep WPA informed of any address changes so that you continue to receive premium notices, *William Penn Life* and any other information sent out to members.

Parents need to report address changes for juvenile members who have the Juvenile Term to Age 25 plan of insurance so that when the child turns age 25, a letter can reach them informing them of their right to convert to permanent insurance with no health questions asked. This is a very important feature of that plan.

Stay safe and healthy. See you next year!

Branch 14 Cleveland, OH

By Richard E. Sarosi

Since my last article, a number of events have taken place in the Hungarian community. Here is a quick run through.

On Aug. 27, the Cleveland Cul-

tural Gardens hosted One World Day. The Hungarian Garden was looking its best and welcomed a large number of visitors through the Székely-Kapu gate, which was gifted by the former Verhovay Aid Association. The history of William Penn Association is present in Cleveland, the Hungarian Community that settled there and the establishment of the Hungarian Cultural Garden.

The American Hungarian Friends of Scouting held its annual picnic on Sept. 3. It was a comfortable day, and the picnic was very well attended. The Scout dancers were wonderful in their costumes. It was good to see familiar faces in the crowd. Alan Szabo was available to answer questions. WPA Chair Kathy Novak and National Sales Director Sherrie Coburn were also present.

The Hungarian Cultural Center of Northeastern Ohio held its annual Fall Festival on Sept. 10. The Hungarian dance groups from St. Margaret and the Cleveland Hungarian Scouts performed in their beautiful costumes. The music of Harmonia played through the new speaker system that was installed, and they sounded great. The delicious Hungarian menu

included classic fried bacon dripping on rye bread with tomatoes, onions, bell peppers, mild/medium hot peppers, cucumbers and pieces of crunchy bacon...better known as *szalonna sűtés*. We also enjoyed *kolbász* and *lacipecsenye* sandwiches.

The Hungarian Cultural Garden held its second annual beer tasting and Hungarian dinner at The Immigrant Son Brewery on Sept. 21. A four-course dinner included Hungarian *lecsó*, *Segedin (Székely Gulyás)*, Chicken Schnitzel with potatoes and kale and *Dobos Torte* for dessert. Each course was paired with a beer that was produced in the brewery. All proceeds went to the restoration of the garden fountain and reflecting pool.

On Oct. 6, the Chagrin Documentary Film Fest hosted a Hungarian night, featuring the world premiere of the Hungarian film *56/Z*. The film focuses on art students at the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design (MOME) who were given the task of creating their interpretation, through art, of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. One of the students inquired: "What do I do with a subject with which I have no connection whatsoever?" The results were quite interesting. It is amazing to see what final projects developed in the eyes and mind of such a young group of students.

WPA convened its 40th General Convention on Oct. 8. Thank you for the vote of confidence on being reelected to the Board of Directors for four more years. It was nice to see friends from other branches and states who attended. We look forward to seeing everyone in four years at the 41st WPA Convention. Thank you to the helpers who made this convention a success.

The *Gulyás Cook-Off* at the Hungarian Cultural Center of Northeastern Ohio was held on Oct. 8. Twelve chefs brought their finest *gulyás* to be tasted and

judged. The chefs used a variety of meats as the base for their stew, including pork, beef, lamb, turtle or chicken. Some used potatoes or dumplings. Special seasonings, table decorations and music made for an enjoyable afternoon in spite of the cooler weather. Awards were presented by a panel of judges and crowd favorites were also crowned.

The Cleveland Hungarian Museum held its 27th Vintner Dinner and Dance on Oct. 13. A delicious dinner was served, with each course being paired with a wine. Harmonia provided reception, dinner and dancing music. A raffle followed with the proceeds going to the museum. Chair Novak presented a gift from WPA. Branch 14 members Frank Dobos was honored for his activity in the Hungarian community.

Congratulations and best wishes to the students of Branch 14 who received WPA scholarships this year. New recipients from our branch were Jenna M. Bennis, Brock A. Boomsma, Charles J. Brausch, Jeremy S. Brausch, Jon E. Brausch, Cassidy J. France, Jocelyn A. Horvath, Jenna N. Leonard, Roger W. Neil, Evan E. Novak and James D. Patrick.

Branch 14 members Abigail and Katie Kraynak are keeping us up-to-date on their school activities. Abby attends Bowling Green State University, majoring in forensics and for senior year is studying in Australia. Katie graduated from Kent State University with honors after three years of study. She majored in history. Abby and Katie were tapped for Phi Beta Kappa at their respective schools. Congratulations and best wishes.

The Branch 14 Christmas party will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, at Mentor Presbyterian Church, 5855 Hopkins Road, Mentor, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. We will have Dr. U R Awesome and his bubble show, lunch and Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Our final branch meeting of the year will be held Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 7:00 p.m. at St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 36125 Aurora Road, Solon, OH.

Please call Branch President Caroline Lanzara at 216-970-2769 or Branch Secretary/Treasurer Richard Sarosi at 440-248-9012 with questions regarding the meeting dates listed above.

We remember those members who have passed away or may have recently lost a loved one. Our hearts are heavy with the passing on Aug. 29, 2023 of former Branch 14 Coordinator Violet E. Sarosi, mother of Branch 14 President Caroline Lanzara and Richard E. Sarosi, National Director and Branch 14 Secretary/Treasurer.

We extend our condolences to the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Hartman, mother of Branch 14 Vice President Cynthia A. Savitski, who passed away on Oct. 29, 2023. Aunt Betty was the godmother of Richard E. Sarosi. May our moms and all those who are no longer among us, rest in peace.

Get well wishes are being sent to all who might be feeling under the weather. Please keep them in your prayers and thoughts.

Happy birthday and anniversary wishes are sent to all who are celebrating a November/December birthday and/or anniversary.

Members having news to share about themselves or family members can reach me at *RichSaro@att.net* or at 440-248-9012.

NEXT DEADLINE

The next issue of William Penn Life will be a combined January/February issue.

All submissions for that issue will be due in our office by January 5, 2024.

Branch 18 Lincoln Park, MI

By Barbara A. House

Happy fall, everyone! We had a very warm summer, as many of you did. I welcome fall and, yes, even winter with open arms. If I had my way, I would winter at home. Someday.

It was always nice to read Tibor's info on Hungarian and European affairs and happenings. We are so overdue for a trip. I have so many friends and family there who are truly missed. Maybe there is a trip in our future.

Your cabbage and noodles looked great, Chef Béla. I like cottage cheese, too. Everyone loves your recipes. You are appreciated.

Kathy Megyeri's article on aging was superb. A little scary, but great. I had a total knee replacement in August. I learned firsthand just how much help you truly need. What an awakening. Rehab is longer and harder than you expect. I had some great therapists. There are not enough of them. Thanks, Kathy, for all the info. Really helpful.

Heartfelt sympathy goes to Richard Sarosi and Caroline Lanzara on the death of their mother, Violet. She was quite a special lady and will be missed. We saw a lot of wonderful friends at the beautiful service by Rev. Krasznai. You are in our prayers.

We have lost some very special

people over the last few months. Recently, it was Tamás Markovits. Tamás was a teacher at the WPA Hungarian language camps. He helped for many years. He was in his element there; all he wanted to talk about was Hungary. And talk he did. We miss you, Tamás, more than you know. He was also a branch auditor for many years, but more importantly, a wonderful friend. A beautiful memorial for Tamás was held in October at the Hungarian American Cultural Center where he once served as president. Rest in peace, Tamás.

More recently, we lost Branch Secretary Pauline Frost Kulcsar. She stepped up to the job after Rose Antal. Pauline fought cancer for three years. You would have never known it until the end. What a fighter. Rest in peace, Pauline; you are missed and loved.

Please remember all our deceased members and their families in your prayers.

Our annual Soaring Eagle trip was held Oct. 11 and 12. We will do another one in the spring.

Congratulations to Zachary and Harmony Haas on their Sept. 16 wedding. Zachary is the son of Victoria Haas and the grandson of Branch Treasurer Carol Truesdell. Lots of love and best wishes.

Congratulations also to branch member John Blazo and Christina Poyma on their June 17 wedding. John is the son of Cathy Bateson and grandson of Joan Wanat. Love and best wishes you, too.

We surprised Carol Truesdell at her 80th birthday party on Sept. 30. We had a great time seeing so many friends. Happy birthday, my friend, and many more.

Happy birthday and anniversary to all those celebrating.

Sandor and Olga Kulcsar are a whole lot proud and a little sad. In August, they dropped off their oldest son, Alex, in Budapest, Hungary, where he attends college. Alex is a wonderful student, and I know he will make a wonderful doctor.



Congratulations to Branch 18 member John Blazo and his new bride Christina Poyma who were wed on June 17.

The Kulcsars have two other sons, Daniel and Norbert. A nicer family you will never find. Good luck, Alex; we miss you.

Welcome home Krisztina Kortvesi, after seven weeks in Hungary. That was a long time and you were missed. Glad to have you back in time to represent Branch 18 as a delegate at the WPA General Convention in October. Jennifer Sullivan and Krisztina were great representatives. They are young and very interested in keeping WPA and their Hungarian heritage alive. Thank you for your support.

Get well wishes to all those in need.

Congratulations to Branch 18 member Abbagale "Abbee" Bolger, granddaughter of members Joe and Wanda Gall. Abbee is a freshman at Lafayette High School in Oxford, MS where she is a member of the swim team. At the state championships in October, Abbee competed in four events and medaled in three, taking gold in the 500-meter freestyle, silver in the 200-meter individual medley and silver as the anchor of the 400-meter relay team. Look out for her in a future Olympics! Good luck, Abbee; we are all so proud of you.

Congratulations also to Abbee's brother Logan, age 12, who has won the state championship in mathematics three years in a row.

Way to go, Bolger family! We are so proud of those kids. Keep up the great work!

By the time you read this, Tommy, Abigail and I will be in Florida. Yes, Abigail is still the queen of our house. Standard poodles are a totally different breed from other poodles. What a handful, but greatly loved.

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you before I write my next article. I have nothing to report unless you tell me what's happening. What great news do you have to share? What are you celebrating? Do you need special prayers or a phone call? Please let me know. Contact me at 313-418-5572.

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving, celebrating with your loved ones. May you enjoy a blessed and Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Branch 19 New Brunswick, NJ

By Evelyn Bodnar

The officers of Branch 19 organized a free Thanksgiving dinner for the New Brunswick community at the Bayard Street Presbyterian Church. The turkey, side dishes and desserts were all donated. Vice President Joseph Bodnar and his wife, Branch Auditor Maureen Bodnar, led a group of 15 volunteers who helped prepare and serve about 150 guests.

We are now preparing for a free toy giveaway to be held Dec. 16 at noon at the church, located at 107 Bayard Street, New Brunswick. Last year, 700 children received a substantial gift. All the toys are new and wrapped. The children will meet Santa, have their photo taken and enjoy refreshments. Joseph and Maureen Bodnar, Jen-

nifer Orlick and Kathy Shimmel are organizing this event. Rev. Bodnar and I will also be there to greet all the guests.

Following the distribution of gifts, WPA officers and members will gather in the church hall for our annual Christmas party.

Wishing everyone a great holiday season.

Branch 28 Youngstown, OH

By Kathy Novak

Holiday greetings to everyone! May this wonderful time of the year bring everyone much love and happiness.

The Cleveland Hungarian Museum held its 27th Vintner Dinner Dance on Oct. 13 in Broadview Heights, OH. WPA National Director Richard Sarosi and I had the privilege to represent WPA at this event and were acknowledged during the program honoring WPA member Frank Dobos.

The Ohio Fraternal Alliance held its annual meeting on Oct. 14 in Independence, OH. During the meeting, WPA Vice Chair of the Board Joyce Nicholson was elected as the OFA's president. Congrats!

The Youngstown American Hungarian Federation hosted a program on Oct. 29 commemorating the Hungarian Revolution and the Freedom Fighters of 1956. The program, held at the Franciscan Friary, included prayers, poetry and songs. Maria Schauer of Branch 28 read from the diary of a young Freedom Fighter.

Once again, we thank the WPA Convention Committee and Home Office staff for the professional job in preparing the 40th General Convention. We appreciate their commitment and leadership over the past four years and congratulate the new Board of Directors and officers who were chosen to serve the next four years.

We have a goal to grow and strengthen our membership as we



Maria Schauer of Branch 28 reads from the diary of a young Freedom Fighter during a commemoration of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 hosted by the Youngstown American Hungarian Federation.

look forward to continued success for WPA.

I personally would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Board for another four years and to have the honor to serve as its chair.

Thank you to WPA for sponsoring the Holiday Basket program. Branch 28 made donations to several local community service organizations.

Branch 28 will host its family Christmas party on Dec. 2. It will be great to see many familiar faces and new ones. More details and photos will be shared in the next issue.

Congratulations once again to all of this year's recipients of a WPA scholarship grant. Best of luck as you continue your education.

The Nationality Classrooms at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning is once again hosting a holiday open house this December. The rooms will be decorated in the traditions of dozens of cultures around the world. Attendees are invited to view the rooms and enjoy entertainment and purchase food in the grand hall.

Happy retirement to WPA National Directors Anne Marie Schmidt and David Kozak. You both have been vital parts of the Association for many years. We appreciate your service.

Best wishes to all those celebrating a birthday or anniversary during the holiday season.

Get well wishes go out to all of those not feeling up to par.

It's always hard to lose a loved one, but more so during this time of year. Sincere sympathy to all who recently experienced the loss of a loved one.

Blessings of this beautiful time of year to all of our members. May 2024 bring good health and happy times to you, your family and your friends.

For any of your life insurance or annuity needs, please call Alan at 330-482-9994 or Kathy at 330-746-7704.

Branch 34 Pittsburgh, PA

By Marguerite McNelis

We hope everyone had a happy and blessed Thanksgiving, and we wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Happy belated Marine Corps birthday wishes to my grandson and to all Marines. Even though Veterans Day was Nov. 11, we need to remember every day that freedom is not free. Thank a veteran and say a prayer for them and all our servicemen and women here and overseas.

We congratulate our new scholarship recipients: Libby Coles and Lucinda Garza. We are very proud of you!

Happy and healthy birthday wishes to everyone celebrating their birthdays in November and December.

If you have news you would like to share, please contact Marguerite McNelis at 412-421-6031.



The annual Branch 88 bacon fry and wiener roast was held Sept. 24. We didn't let the rain disrupt our event, so after relocating our charcoal cookers it was "party on." Our members really look forward to making "Hungarian pizza," especially those who aren't Hungarian. It was another enjoyable Branch 88 event. - by Dennis Chobody

Branch 44 Akron, OH

By Elizabeth Darago

On Sept. 17, three Branch 44 officers attended the 100th anniversary celebration of the Akron Hungarian American Club (*Magyar Ház*). There was great food, music and dancing celebrating 100 years. We also greeted other Branch 44 members in attendance at this very special occasion. Congrats, Hungarian American Club, and here's wishing you 100 more years!

Speaking of parties, our branch's family holiday party is Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Golden Corral Buffet, 2819 S. Arlington Road, Akron. There will be a brunch buffet, door prizes, a raffle and presents for all children...and ELEK THE ELF!

Please bring a boxed/canned

food item for the Holiday Baskets.

If you know of an individual or family in need of a Holiday Basket, contact any branch officer, or call/text 330-604-1264 before Dec. 11.

Also, please bring clean plastic food bags for the Stadlers' Homeless Blanket Project. Officer Cheryl Stadler will be bringing one of her completed sleeping mats to the party for you to see.

Holiday party admission is \$13 for adult members or \$25 for two; and \$15 for adult non-members. Juvenile members are free, but non-member juveniles are \$10 each. We'll have gifts for all juveniles in attendance.

Come join the fun. Call 330-670-5367 by Dec. 2. If you get our voicemail, leave your name and number for a call-back.

There will be a short branch business meeting during the party.

As 2023 comes to an end, the officers and members of Branch 44 wish all WPA branches and the Home Office a fantastic 2024. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Need life insurance??? Call Alan Szabo at 330-482-9994.

Branch 89 Homestead, PA

By Mark S. Maskarinec and Lisa S. Toth-Maskarinec

Happy holidays, everyone. Fall is a very busy season here at Branch 89. Our golf outings are a year-round endeavor, so we've begun gathering things we're going to need and looking for ways to separate ourselves from other charity golf outings. We'll be sure to keep you updated as the time gets closer.

Also, we continue to make weekly Panera Bread deliveries to the Locust Grove Senior Citizens Center, which over the years has been the retirement residence of many Branch 89 members. The residents enjoy the pastries very much. We have also been donat-

ing various items from Dave and Buster's. You'd be surprised how a small item can have a big impact.

We were proud to once again represent Branch 89 at the WPA General Convention. There were some sad moments upon discovering that some old friends were not able to be there due to poor health, but we also saw some friends that we hadn't seen in quite a while.

Special congratulations to Branch 89 friend Joyce Nicholson on becoming a vice chair of the Board. A perfect position for a truly lovely person.

We also spent a lovely time at the hotel lounge watching our beloved Steelers win with the help of Cassie Holmes and her husband Jeff, along with a very young hockey player waiting to play in his upcoming school hockey match. Although for some reason, the game was broadcast in Spanish. Why it couldn't be in Hungarian or Irish beats me?

Branch 89 also participated in the Walk for Sight on the North shore of the Allegheny River. The walk raises funds and awareness for research to help people suffering from retinal blindness. There is currently no cure and very little can be done to offset this condition. Also in attendance was Branch 89 mascot and prior walk



Branch 89 Vice President Mark Maskarinec joins Dawn Mille during this year's Walk for Sight in Pittsburgh.

Pet Spirit Award winner Fairway Toth-Maskarinec. Fairway and Mark made it through the entire walk while Lisa stayed back at the Everett-Hurite booth staying dry. Slight rain drops didn't stop us.

We also were happy to share in the 120th anniversary celebration of the First Hungarian Reformed Church of Homestead. A truly wonderful day for a special church. It was great seeing so many friends in the church on Oct. 29.

Thank you to Tiss McClean for stepping in and reading a special letter about Oct. 23, 1956. The letter was written by Branch 89 friend Bishop Koloman K. Ludwig. Bishop Ludwig was due to be present for the anniversary, but health problems prevented him from attending.

One of the guest organists, Pavel Bogachenko, wrote and performed a special piece of music in celebration of the event.

Everything truly was special, and Lisa did a great job pulling everything together. She even managed to get letters from former ministers and the children of some ministers.

Afterwards, we went to Grand View Golf Club for a truly wonderful luncheon where Rev. Dr. Daniel J. Borsay (former minister of the Homestead Church) gave the invocation and delivered a few words about his time at the church some 35 years ago. We thank everyone who helped celebrate this special day.

We hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. We spent the holiday hosting Mark's two brothers, Mike from Tennessee and Marty and his wife Kathy from Illinois. A wonderful time was had by all.

Next on our branch's schedule is our Christmas Baking Project. See the ad on page 29, and know that we will ship.

Our annual Christmas party will be on Saturday, Dec. 16, at noon at Spins Bowl. It will be cosmic bowling, and we also have obtained the



Members and guests of Branch 129 gathered for a fun afternoon of baseball and fellowship Sept. 23 when they attended a Columbus Clippers game.

services of a balloon man which everyone always enjoys.

Get well wishes go to Branch Auditor Justin T. Toth as he battles some serious eye issues.

Belated birthday wishes to Branch 89 member Janet J. Phillips who celebrated her birthday on Nov. 6. Also, happy birthday to branch member Michele Wittpenn on Dec. 8. Both celebrated their birthdays with brunch at Dorothy 6. A fun time was had by all.

Deepest sympathies go to the family of our longest active WPA member, Ruth Watson. Ruth was honored at one of our earlier golf outings. She will be missed, as will recently deceased members Walter Imhoff, Elmer Knizner, Beatrice Manso and Patricia Temple. May they rest in peace.

During this holiday season, Branch 89 asks that you take time to remember those less fortunate than you. It's a very warm feeling you get when you brighten someone's day.

Merry Christmas one and all and a very happy, healthy New Year from all of us at Branch 89.

Branch 129 Columbus, OH

By Debbie Lewis

Hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving Day spent with family and friends. We also wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As the end of 2023 is here, we would like to wish all of our members and their families love, peace and happiness this holiday season and beyond. May you all be blessed with good health.

Please reach out to important people in your lives that you haven't been in contact with. It can be a lonely time of the year, especially for the elderly and shut-ins. You never know the impact that a visit, phone call, text or card will do to lift someone's spirits during the holidays and after.

We had our branch baseball outing with 40 members and guests attending the Columbus Clippers game on Sept. 23. It was a beautiful afternoon for baseball. We ended up winning the game in the bottom of the 9th inning after trailing the whole game. All the kids and adults in attendance had a fun time, and it was a great



For their Join Hands Day project, members of Branch 226 decorated duffel bags to be given to foster children in the McKeesport, PA area.

fraternal event shared with family and friends.

December important dates include: branch meeting (Dec. 6), branch Christmas party (Dec. 9), first day of winter (Dec. 21), Christmas (Dec. 25) and New Year's Eve (Dec. 31).

We congratulate our Branch 129 new scholarship recipients for 2023: Marlie Berger and Abigail Ruffle. The renewal students are Dylan Boso and Emma McKibben. Good luck to all as you continue your education. Anyone who would like to support the WPFA Scholarship Foundation can send your donation to the WPA Home Office. Thank you for all your past and continuing donations.

Our next branch meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 12:30 p.m. at Plank's on Broadway, 4022 Broadway, Grove City. Hope to see you there.

The branch Christmas party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Columbus-Grove City Elks, 2140 Sonora Drive, Grove City. Reservations are due by Dec. 2. Please call Debbie Lewis at 614-875-9968 or 614-214-1840.

We congratulate all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in November and December. Congratulations to all who have new additions to their families.

Get well wishes to all who have been ill or hospitalized.

We extend our sincere sympathy to all who have recently lost a loved one. Please keep them and all members in your thoughts and prayers.

If you have any news you would like to share about yourself or family or need information on life insurance or an annuity, please contact Debbie Lewis at 614-875-9968 or e-mail DAL9968@aol.com.

Branch 132 South Bend, IN

By John E. Burus

I wish all William Penn members a safe and happy holiday season. Cherish the ones you love as things can change in an instant.

The next Branch 132 meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 5:00 p.m. at the Martin's Supermarket Deli (second floor) on Ireland Road, South Bend.

The 13th annual Branch 132 Christmas party will be on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Mishawaka Barnaby's Pizza Pub (corner of Grape and Edison roads). Please call 574-256-5281 to let us know how many adults and children will be attending. Please do not hesitate to leave a message. The headcounts are for reserving tables and planning gift bags for the children. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided. Children will receive gifts and candy.

Branch 226 McKeesport, PA

By Judit Ganchuk

We wish happy birthday and happy anniversary to all who celebrate in November and December!

Have a safe and happy Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa to all who celebrate.

We pray for the family and friends of Richard J. Batcher, Craig F. Madigan and Gerard J. Stefanek. We pray for those who have passed away and ask that you please keep their family and friends in your prayers. For many, the stocking on the mantel is as empty as their hearts this holiday season.

We are sending warm wishes to members Goldie Szarka and Shirley Marczinko, former Branch President Malvene Heyz and former Branch Vice President Janet Sparico. Get well wishes go out to those still in the hospital: Carolyn Halas and Judit Borsay. We are thinking of you and all those who are under the weather and sending prayers to give you strength and courage each day.

Our branch pledged a donation to the WPFA Scholarship Foundation during the WPA General Convention. Congrats to our newest student recipient of a Scholarship Foundation grant, Monica N. Forte! Best wishes on your college journey.

Remember, your student must be a WPA member for at least four years to be eligible for a grant from the WPFA Scholarship Foundation. Are all of the children in your family covered for this scholarship grant program?

For our Join Hands Day project, we decorated duffel bags at our September meeting so that foster children can carry their clothes and toys as they travel from home to home. Too many foster children have to use a garbage bag for their belongings. According to the Family Care for Children and Youth



Are your beneficiaries up to date?

That's a question you should ask yourself at least once a year. Regularly checking the beneficiaries listed on your life insurance certificates is the only way to ensure that the people you want to receive the benefits of your life insurance are the ones who will receive it.

Think about the changes that have occurred in your life since you purchased your life insurance. Getting married, having children, losing a loved one and getting remarried are all life changes that affect your responsibilities. Do the beneficiaries listed on your life insurance certificates reflect such changes?

If you need to update the beneficiaries listed on your certificates—either primary or secondary beneficiaries—contact your WPA representative. Or, call our Home Office at 412-231-2979.

website, there are 25,000 children in Pennsylvania living without their families and needing supportive, structured homes. Through the “Foster Love” website, the branch purchased blank duffel bag panels, and Foster Love sent us everything needed to decorate the panels.

Our branch participated in the annual Holiday Baskets program and was able to donate to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (they had a huge diaper giveaway in October in McKeesport), The Intersection (located in McKeesport on 7th Avenue), Women's Place of Pittsburgh, and Auberle here in McKeesport. Auberle is a local nonprofit organization that provides a variety of social services, such as foster care. Two of our Hungarian folk dancers have also worked in the Auberle office in years past.

Our branch's Christmas party is planned for Sunday, Dec. 3. We'll publish photos in the next issue. We collected hats, gloves and mittens for children in the McKeesport Head Start pre-school program.

Our branch's general meetings are held quarterly, and our next meeting is planned to be held Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Please attend so we can plan bigger and better things with you and your family in mind.

Want to go green and stop getting the magazine by mail? Get it by email instead! Let me or John Lovasz know and you could potentially save thousands of trees (give or take a few). And sign up for the WPA EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) program so the payment amount will be automatically removed from your bank account. Contact the Home Office for more information.

Another thing for your ever-growing to-do list: keep your beneficiaries on your life insurance or annuity up-to-date. You have time to discuss these ideas with your family around the holiday season,

but don't wait too long!

Do you have good news you'd like us to share? Call or text message the branch at 412-566-7191 or find our private Facebook group online. If you're on Facebook, we'd love to have you join our group. Make sure to like the main William Penn Association page on Facebook, too!

“Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.” (William Arthur Ward, 20th century American writer.)

On behalf of Branch 226, we wish you a blessed and wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year, or in Hungarian: *Kellemes karácsonyi ünnepeket és boldog új évet kívánunk!*

Branch 249 Dayton, OH

By Mark Schmidt

We're enjoying the cool weather and all the football games. Locally, we have a claim to NFL fame.

The Dayton Triangles (from the name of the park they played in) were charter members of a league called the American Professional Football Association (APFA) until 1922 when it was renamed the National Football League.

On Oct. 3, 1920, the Triangles won what could be considered the very first NFL game, with a 14–0 defeat of the Columbus Panhandles at Triangle Park.

They continued to play here until July 12, 1930. The franchise moved to Brooklyn and was renamed the Brooklyn Dodgers; then moved to New York City, Dallas, Baltimore and finally Indianapolis where they were renamed the Colts.

There were several Hungarian players of note on the first team. So, when you watch your favorite NFL team, remember where it all started.

It seems that this year just



Despite an all-day rain, members and guests enjoyed the annual bacon roast hosted by Branch 296 this September.

started, but no; here we are at the end of another year. Halloween and Thanksgiving have come and gone and Christmas is just a few weeks away.

We've had a lot going on locally. The Magyar Club held its Heritage Dinner and Dance Nov. 11. A delicious meal of cabbage rolls, chicken *paprikás*, paprika potatoes and all the fixings was served as we listened and danced to George Batyi and the Gypsy Strings. It doesn't get much better than that.

Branch 249 held its last meeting of the year on Nov. 18 to go over 2023's events and to plan for 2024.

I hope this article reaches you before Dec. 3 so you can go to the Magyar Club of Dayton's Christmas Dinner at the Presidential Banquet Hall. The food is great and the comradery isn't bad either.

The following week on Dec. 10 is Branch 249's mostly highly anticipated event of the year, especially by the kids. I know because our grandson made his mom put it on the calendar. Branch 249's Children Christmas Party will be held at Scene 75. We will have a party room from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. for pizza, chicken tenders, fresh fruit, veggies and cheese with pop provided. Young members will be given prepaid game cards to allow them to play the games, activities and rides. Make sure that you RSVP soon to 937-938-0198 to lock in your spot. We have limited seating. I hope to see you there.

May all your wishes come true

to all the November and December birthday people. It's OK to have that second piece of cake.

Same to all of the wedding anniversary couples. I know my blushing bride and I will have two!

Congratulations to Cameo Cedarleaf for receiving a WPFA Scholarship Foundation grant. We wish you the best in your studies!

Since this is traditionally the time of year for families and friends to come together, it makes losing a loved one all the harder. May the Good Lord give you peace and understanding in your grief.

Please don't get sick, especially at this time of year, and if you have, may you quickly get well. Remember to get those vaccines!

Please remember the reason for the season this holiday. Christian, Jew, Muslim--whatever religion you celebrate, this time of year is special and holy.

Try not to sweat the small stuff. Don't waste energy on things that ultimately do not matter. It doesn't have to be perfect for it to be wonderful. Instead focus on the big picture and enjoy life to the fullest. No one has ever argued their way to happiness.

Give your friends and family the best gift of all, yourself. Cook, bake, eat, drink and celebrate this season. This year will never come around again. Be a kid again. Look wide-eyed at everything and celebrate.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Branch 296 Springdale, PA

By Mary A. Kelly-Lovasz

By the time you read this, both our branch bacon roast and family branch Christmas party have passed.

Our bacon roast was dampened by a misting rain but not the spirits of those determined to gather by the fire pit, taking a turn with the delicious rye bread and fresh bacon. Despite the chilly temperatures and sporadic mists, a number of friends gathered and enjoyed the terrific food and camaraderie. Let's hope for better weather next year when we can get those cornhole games going!

Since our branch Christmas party was earlier than usual, and has not happened just yet, I will write about it for the next issue.

A recent story in the *Valley News Dispatch* reported that our local school district plans to open a closet space where students can obtain personal care items and articles of gently used clothing for themselves, at no cost, with no questions asked. The Allegheny Valley School District plans to create these spaces, which will be called the "Kilowatt Klostet" in both the Acmetonia Elementary and Springdale Junior/Senior high school buildings.

After discussing this newspaper article at our October meeting, our branch membership agreed to bring donations of these types of

items for students in need to our next meeting, to provide assistance to the local community.

As the year winds down, there is still time to send in your donation for the WPFA Scholarship Foundation. Your donation is tax-deductible and goes directly to deserving students who greatly appreciate everyone's support.

Branch 296 congratulates the following new students who applied and received scholarships from the Foundation: David Bonifield, Joshua Borland, Madison Casagrande-Fragola, Arthur Morvai, Rachel Morvai and Alexandra Pilyih. Have a terrific year at your university or trade school, and we wish you great success when you complete your studies!

For the months of November and December, we wish all of our Branch 296 members happy birthday, especially Kathleen Panaro, Diana Borland and Noreen Fritz. To those who married during these months, we also wish you a happy anniversary.

Let's not forget those members recovering from illnesses or surgeries. We are amidst holiday celebrations, and some of you may not be feeling as well as you would like. Rest and recover, as you need it. That means the same for all caregivers, too.

As a suggestion, if you know of anyone who could use a boost, writing a friendly note, paying a visit or giving that person a call may be just what they need.

Maybe 2023 was the year that you or someone you know experienced a loss. It could have been the deaths of family members or friends or even a beloved pet. The loss of a job or the experience of a strained relationship are also considered sources of grief, anxiety or depression. Sometimes we are not aware of our neighbor's struggles. Considering November and December as a time of remembrance, gratitude and goodwill, this is our opportunity to take stock on

how the year went for us, and to be mindful of how the year went for others. This can also be your prompt to reach out to those who need some support.

If you have any personal milestones that you would like me to share in future branch news, you may contact me at 724-274-5318 and I will include them.

As you know, Noreen Fritz, FIC, LUTCF, our WPA agent, is available to answer your annuity and insurance questions. You may contact her at 412-821-1837 or by email at noreen.fritz@comcast.net.

Here's wishing each of you bountiful blessings throughout the Hanukkah and Christmas seasons. May they be filled with peaceful and joyful memories.

Branch 349 **Weirton, WV**

By Joyce Nicholson

Merry Christmas! And Happy New Year from our branch to you! We wish everyone a year full of happiness, good cheer, good health and an abundance of joy for you and your loved ones. It's hard to believe that 2023 is just about over. It is true that the older you get, the faster time flies. But 2024 promises to be the beginning of a new chapter with lots of new opportunities to discover. I can't wait!

Well, another William Penn Association General Convention--the 40th to be exact--is in the books. It was good to see the delegates and many Home Office employees in attendance. Everything went seamlessly and was quite enjoyable. I thank you for your commitment to WPA as we embark on the next four years of dedication, collaboration and teamwork to perpetuate awareness and interest in William Penn Association. I am honored to have been voted in as a WPA Board member, and subsequently chosen to be a vice chair.



Branch 349 Vice President Harry Nicholson fills the Friendship House's Little Library with books donated by the branch.

In September, Harry and I attended the Branch 296 bacon roast at Riverside Park in Oakmont, PA. It's always good to catch-up with everyone, visiting the picnic. It's such a beautiful setting, but this year the weather didn't cooperate. It sprinkled occasionally, but didn't dampen the spirits of those present.

Also in September, we ventured to see the Slavic Festival in Johnstown, PA for the first time. The entertainment was great. So many ethnicities were performing on two stages with dancing, music or singing. The food was delicious and the museum of Johnstown's history was impressive.

This edition's interesting fact... or is it fiction? Joe Magarac is a legendary American folk hero created for the steelworkers in Pittsburgh, PA. His surname means "donkey" in south Slavic languages. He is variously described as Hungarian, Serbian, Croatian or Bohemian in stories by some immigrants. He was said to be made of steel and could work faster and harder than any human.

Joe Magarac has been depicted in various forms of media, such as murals, statues, comic books and



William Penn Association was a proud supporter of the Johnstown (PA) Slavic Festival, which included a performance by the Pittsburgh Slavic Dancers (above).

even a Kennywood Park amusement ride. He is considered a symbol of strength and endurance, but also a reminder of the harsh conditions that the steelworkers faced in the past. He is sometimes compared to Paul Bunyan, another mythical American hero who performed extraordinary feats.

We wish happy birthday to branch members who got short-changed by having a birthday so close to Christmas.

Happy anniversary to those celebrating wedded bliss this month.

Our prayers go out to those

who may have lost someone close recently. May your loved one rest in peace.

If you have any news you wish to share with us, or would like more information about our branch activities, please call me at 740-264-6238 or email at jen567476@yahoo.com.

You can call on Alan Szabo for all your insurance needs at 330-482-9994.

To all our friends, relatives and members, please continue to stay safe and healthy.

Branch 800 Altoona, PA

By Joan B. Ballash

Wishing you all a glorious Christmas! Express gratitude for the blessings bestowed on you and your loved ones. Even if you are in the midst of difficult times, come together as family and friends. Be thankful for the true gifts of love, mercy and forgiveness you have received from our Lord Jesus Christ and extend these to others. Spread the word.

Happy belated November birthday to Branch Treasurer and Coordinator Bob Jones. Best wishes to all those celebrating a birthday, anniversary, graduation, engagement, new baby, recovery from surgery and any other noteworthy occasion.

It is heartbreaking to lose a loved one at any time of the year, but it is particularly painful to lose someone during the holiday season when people look forward to spending joyful times together. We offer condolences to those who are grieving the passing of a loved one.

Get well wishes go out to all those suffering from illness. We pray you will be able to benefit from proper treatment and return quickly to health.

This past Nov. 11, we honored our veterans. We offer our sincere thanks to the men and women of our nation who serve in the military.

If you have news to share, call 814-931-1712.

If you have any questions regarding life insurance or annuities, please call Bob Jones at 814-932-6809.

Branch 800 meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at Our Lady of Lourdes Education Center, 873 - 27th St., Altoona. All adult members are invited to attend.

The First Hungarian Reformed Church of Homestead
and William Penn Association Branch 89 invite you to enjoy their

Holiday Cookies, Kifli & Rolls

COOKIES: \$20/Dozen

Lady Locks
(Vanilla, Chocolate or Raspberry)
Peanut Butter Blossoms
Peppermint Meltaways
Pecan Tassies
Raspberry Almond
Thumbprints

Seasonal Thumbprints
Pizzelles (Anise)
Oatmeal Cream Pie
(with Marshmallow Icing)
Sugar Cookies
(Christmas Trees, Snowmen
or Christmas Bulbs)

KIFLI: \$20/ Dozen

Apricot or Nut

ROLLS: \$25/ Each

Apricot, Nut
or Poppyseed

**Chocolate-Covered
Pretzel Rods
with Sprinkles
\$10 / Dozen**

COOKIE TRAYS: 4 Dozen = \$70.00

Orders due Dec. 10 • Pick up Dec. 21 from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Pick up at the church, 416 E. 10th Ave., Munhall, PA

To order: call Lisa at 412-352-7077 or email tothmaskarinec@gmail.com

Orders shipped out of state via FedEx for arrival on the Thursday before Christmas.

All proceeds benefit The First Hungarian Reformed Church of Homestead



William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation

Tree of Knowledge

Helping our young members meet the challenges of modern educational economics requires great effort by all our members and friends. Towards this end, the WPFA Scholarship Foundation has created the **Tree of Knowledge**. The Tree is mounted in the second floor foyer of the WPA Home Office. Those making donations through this program will be recognized with individual “leaves” on the tree, which can be used to honor and remember loved ones. Donations are being accepted at three levels: Gold (\$1,000), Silver (\$500) and Bronze (\$250). Those wishing to purchase a leaf may use the form below. Please help our tree “grow” and allow us to continue to assist young members reach their educational and professional dreams.

I want to help the Tree of Knowledge grow. Please accept my tax-deductible contribution of:

☐ \$1,000 - Gold Level ☐ \$500 - Silver Level ☐ \$250 - Bronze Level

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Leaf Inscription - Maximum of 4 lines with 20 characters per line (including blank spaces):

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____

Line 4: _____

Please make checks payable to “William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc.” and mail to:

William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233-1821

Holiday cookie table

Raise your hand if you were lucky to grow up in a house where your mother would spend the days leading up to the holiday season in the kitchen churning out dozens of sweet, yummy cookies. Close your eyes and think back. Can you smell the aroma wafting through your house? Didn't you feel a little cozier from the warmth emanating from the oven?

Nowadays, many people forgo the work of baking Christmas cookies themselves, instead making a trip to their local bakery to pick up a tray piled high with a variety of cookies. There's nothing really wrong with that, and, in fact, oftentimes those bakery cookies are superior to the ones you could make at home.

Still, there's something missing if you rely on the bakery to satisfy your holiday cravings. Afterall, how many bakeries would let you walk into their kitchen and help them roll out

the dough? And don't even think about asking them if you could lick the remnants of the icing off the spatula!

Holiday cookies are more than a treat, they're a tradition. Your ancestry doesn't matter--nearly every nationality has at least one customary sweet treat served primarily (if not exclusively) during the holiday season.

So, to celebrate this sweet time of the year, this issue's puzzle contains the names of some of our favorite holiday cookies. There are 15 clues, but we could have easily listed a hundred more.

One question: If the calendar says it's the 25th day of December and no one has baked any cookies, is it still Christmas? Well, of course it is, but it certainly would be a little less merry.

Here's wishing you and all those you love a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

WPA PUZZLE CONTEST #205 OFFICIAL ENTRY

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

"Holiday Cookie Table" Word List

Biscotti	Linzer Stars	Snickerdoodles
Gingerbread	Meltaways	Snowcaps
Iced Oatmeal	Pinwheels	Stained Glass
Kifli	Pizzelles	Sugar Cookies
Lady Locks	Rum Balls	Thumbprints

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

WPA Certificate No.: _____

RULES

ALL **WPA members** are eligible to enter.

Complete the word search puzzle correctly.

Mail your completed puzzle, along with your name, address, phone number, email address, and WPA Certificate Number, to:

WPA PUZZLE #205
709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Entries must be received at the Home Office by **Jan. 31, 2024**.

Four winners will be drawn from all correct entries on or about Feb. 6, 2024, at the Home Office. Each winner will receive \$50.

Puzzle Contest #202 WINNERS

The winners of our Puzzle Contest #202 were drawn Oct. 6, 2023 at the Home Office. Congratulations to:

Dennis L. Roland Sr., Br. 336 Harrisburg, PA
Nancy C. Murphy, Br. 352 Coraopolis, PA
Sharon L. McLaughlin, Br. 18 Lincoln Park, MI
Rosemary V. Benson, Br. 44 Akron, OH

Each won \$50 for their correct entry.



VIOLET E. SAROSI

CLEVELAND, OH -- Never did I think that Aug. 29, 2023, would have such an impact on me, Caroline and our remaining family. I never thought that I would be with my mom when she passed away and that this day would end like this.

Where do I begin to share my mom with you? How do I describe her 97 years with all its ups and downs?

My mom loved her Hungarian heritage and its culture, language and food. She made sure our family was immersed in it.

Mom and my dad, who passed away last year, lived in several locations in the area surrounding Buckeye Road before moving into the funeral home that was operated by dad and my uncle.

Mom had three children: Caroline, the oldest; Kathleen; and Richard, "the baby," as she referred to me. Kathleen had hydrocephalus (fluid on the brain). Mom and our family members cared for Kathy until she passed in 1976, just before her 25th birthday.

Mom and dad knew schooling was important and made sure we studied and were exposed to many things like music, art and theater. Faith was important, too, and we were in church nearly every week, and Mom always encour-

aged us to help others.

My mom provided me with dance lessons in preparation for my sister's wedding. As I got older, we attended functions where mom and I would dance, which now I will miss. When she started to have difficulty walking, she enjoyed tapping her fingers on the table or bouncing her feet.

In all of her years, she always made herself presentable, putting on makeup. She had the best facial expressions, and she was often complimented on the fragrances she wore.

On that August day, I went to visit mom at Anna Maria Nursing Home. Her early stages of dementia, coupled with the stroke she suffered on July 9, had an awful effect on her state of mind and well being.

I prayed with her and told her: "Mom, it is okay if you must go," as her breathing became more shallow. Mom took a few more breaths and then she was gone.

Mom's ashes were buried on Oct. 28, 2023. It was a light rainy day as we assembled at the cemetery. The sun was trying to break through the clouds and the rain stopped for a short while. Mom once told me that it rained on their wedding day. The rain stopped when they got to church, started again while they were in the church, but stopped again when they exited and waited until they got into the cars.

Some 76 years later, and it was the same kind of day, the day when mom, dad and Kathy would be together again.

Later that day, as the sun was beginning to set, a rainbow was trying to shine through a break in the clouds. I think it was a sign that things were going to be okay.

-- **Richard E. Sarosi**

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers Mrs. Sarosi and all our recently departed members.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

- | | |
|--|--|
| 0001 BRIDGEPORT, CT
Barbara D. Boucher
Ilona Garbin
Hollis C. McKee
Elizabeth A. Robinson
Charles J. Strba
Julia H. Tirone
Theresa M. Vasko | Raymond J. Mannarino
Robert J. Turk
0051 PASSAIC, NJ
Margaret Klisch
David Lawrence
Laura M. Lemos |
| 0009 HAZLETON, PA
Edward J. Bonk
Paul Wilczynski | 0076 PHILADELPHIA, PA
George Neal
Irma T. Volk |
| 0014 CLEVELAND, OH
Joseph J. Jeromos
Ernest Moldvay
Margaret E. Nosal
Violet E. Sarosi
Dolores J. Soltesz | 0089 HOMESTEAD, PA
Walter N. Imhoff
Elmer M. Knizner
Beatrice C. Manso
Patricia M. Temple
Ruth U. Watson |
| 0015 CHICAGO, IL
Rita A. Burns
Betty Mae Steinhauer | 0132 SOUTH BEND, IN
Barbara L. Colpaert
Louis Demeter |
| 0018 LINCOLN PARK, MI
Steven M. Adkins
Gloria R. Armelagos
Stephen Baranyai
Bernice Bouley
Pauline A. Frost-Kulcsar
Dale T. Futo
Jozsef Kiss
Marjorie Martin
Mary M. Papp
Jason J. Reim
Olga M. Wansa
Katherine R. Weaver
Melvin J. Winslow | 0159 PHOENIXVILLE, PA
Yvonne M. Lake
0189 ALLIANCE, OH
Helen M. Hahlen
Kimberly I. Stoffer |
| 0019 NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ
Dorothy J. Abbate
Evelyn E. DeMayo
A. Bruce MacDonald
Linda M. Mansue
Ruth McKoy-Nettingham
John J. Williams | 0209 ST. LOUIS, MO
Janice J. Rumfelt |
| 0026 SHARON, PA
Janet L. Allebach
David R. Chiafullo | 0226 MCKEESPORT, PA
Joan M. Kuczler |
| 0028 YOUNGSTOWN, OH
Phyllis Anderson
Roy K. Bacorn
Elaine M. Hellman
Marlane M. Passarelli
William A. Whitehouse | 0278 OMAHA, NE
Mark W. Haven
Leo J. Spes |
| 0034 PITTSBURGH, PA
Joseph F. Deitzel
Mary C. Ellery
David W. Flanigan
Bernadette Mikolics
Elizabeth L. White | 0296 SPRINGDALE, PA
George M. James
Robert J. Lucas
Thomas F. Manley
Julia D. Mehal |
| 0044 AKRON, OH
George W. Yager | 0352 CORAOPOLIS, PA
Alice A. Chudicek
June M. Elmore |
| 0048 NEW YORK, NY
Laurice Bethea | 0383 BUFFALO, NY
Donald Jennings |
| | 0400 CHARLOTTE, NC
Carolyn L. McPherson |
| | 0525 CAPE CORAL, FL
Lottie M. Cohen
Helen Domokos
Steven John Domokos
John T. McAllister |
| | 0705 MAYVILLE, WI
Wallace K. Hedtkke |
| | 0720 DEDHAM, MA
Nicholas L. Bellofatto
Lorraine M. Boudreau
Bruce J. Dias
John D. Enloe
Grace M. McLean
Rita M. O'Brien
Lillian M. Petrashewicz |
| | 0800 ALTOONA, PA
Shawna N. Shomo |
| | 8036 SCOTTDAL, PA
Patrick C. Bayles
Jacob W. Hall |
| | 8114 CLARION, PA
William A. Rice |

Donations

Donations Through Premium Payments

SEPTEMBER 2023

Branch - Donor - Amount
 19 - Buda Kun-Szabo - \$9.50
 28 - Kiran P. Golhar - \$10.00
 89 - James M. Ujevich - \$10.00
 89 - Michelle A. Antochow - \$10.00
 129 - Thomas A. Shepard - \$10.88
 705 - Richard F. Orbon - \$7.28
 705 - Katherine A. Orbon - \$4.87

TOTAL for Month = \$62.53

OCTOBER 2023

Branch - Donor - Amount
 8 - Michael G. Wess - \$20.00
 14 - Emily A. Zvosec - \$10.00
 19 - Attila Kun-Szabo - \$10.00
 19 - Buda Kun-Szabo - \$10.00
 28 - Jennifer A. Palotsee - \$25.00
 28 - Michael A. Kroner - \$8.92
 28 - Darcie L. Johnson - \$25.00
 34 - John R. O'Toole - \$25.00
 89 - Veronica A. Ujevich - \$7.53
 159 - Kelly J. Scherfel - \$3.39
 352 - John W. Bush - \$10.00
 705 - Katherine A. Orbon - \$1.27

TOTAL for Month = \$156.11

Additional Donations

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

Donor - Amount
 (In Memory of, if applicable)
 Diane & Marty Malloy - \$50.00
 (Violet Sarosi)
 Joyce Nicholson - \$25.00
 (Violet Sarosi)
 Joyce & Harry Nicholson - \$150.00
 Katherine E. Novak - \$25.00
 Katherine E. Novak - \$100.00
 (Violet Sarosi)
 Sharon V. Olson - \$50.00
 (Violet Sarosi)
 James W. Robertson - \$75.00
 James W. Robertson - \$100.00
 (Violet Sarosi)

Anne Marie & Mark Schmidt - \$50.00
 (Violet Sarosi)
 Diane Torma - \$50.00
 (Violet Sarosi)
 Karen Walker - \$50.00
 (Violet Sarosi)
 Br. 296 Springdale, PA - \$86.00
 (Proceeds from Bacon Roast
 50/50 raffle)
 Br. 349 Weirton, WV - \$100.00
 WPA Cookbook Sales - \$185.00

TOTAL = \$1,096.00

Tree of Knowledge Leaves

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

GOLD LEAF (\$1,000.00)
 The Wilson Group
 BRONZE LEAF (\$250.00)
 Timothy Klodnick

TOTAL = \$1,250.00

Donations Received from the 40th General Convention

Received as of November 14, 2023

Donor - Amount
 (In Memory of, if applicable)
 Judit Borsay - \$50.00
 (Mr. & Mrs. George Charles, Sr.)
 Patricia S. Boso - \$200.00
 (Margaret & Charles Boso,
 Brad Boso)
 Ernest L. Burus - \$100.00
 (John P. "Janos" Burus)
 John E. Burus - \$100.00
 (Janos P. Burus)
 Lynn M. Charles - \$100.00
 (George & Irene Charles)
 Dennis & Kathy Chobody - \$200.00
 Michelle K. Chobody - \$100.00
 Michelle A. Day - \$50.00
 (Irene Day)
 Marcia K. Gagner - \$100.00
 Perry J. Ganchuk - \$50.00
 Cassandra Holmes - \$100.00
 (Donna Griffin)

Barbara & Tom House - \$100.00
 (Violet Sarosi)
 Krisztina Kortvesi - \$100.00
 (Katalin Toth)
 Alexis C. Yuhas Kozak - \$200.00
 (Sandor Yuhas)
 David S. Kozak - \$100.00
 (Sandor J. Yuhas)
 Caroline H. Lanzara - \$50.00
 (Violet & Ernest Sarosi)
 Emily E. Nicholson - \$50.00
 (Nick & Teresa Toth)
 William H. Nicholson - (\$50.00)
 (Nick & Teresa Toth)
 Mary Rose Purton - \$25.00
 (Ruth & Jim Fabian)
 Marian I. Rubin - \$100.00
 (Ernest J. Mozer, Sr.)
 Cynthia A. Savitski - \$100.00
 (Charlie & Elizabeth Hartman)
 Miklos R. Schauer - \$50.00
 Anne Marie Schmidt - \$50.00
 (My Parents Albert & Annie
 Kertesz)
 Mark C. Schmidt - \$50.00
 (Branch 249 Dayton, OH
 Deceased Members)
 Cynthia L. Smith - \$50.00
 (Tom Smith)
 Jennifer Sullivan - \$200.00
 (Stephen Danko)
 Darlene Szatmari - \$200.00
 (Stephen Danko)
 Diane & John Torma - \$300.00
 (Andrew McNelis, Endre
 Csoman & Jack Kelly)
 Lisa S. Toth-Maskarinec
 & Mark S. Maskarinec - \$100.00
 (Ruth & Elmer Toth
 & Mary Ann Maskarinec)
 David L. Vargo - \$100.00
 (Colin Vargo)
 Diane M. Walker - \$200.00
 (Margaret & Charles Boso,
 Brad Boso)
 Donald L. Walker - \$100.00
 Br. 8 Johnstown, PA - \$100.00
 (Deceased Members)

Br. 14 Cleveland, OH - \$100.00
 (Deceased Members of
 Branch 14)
 Br. 15 Chicago, IL - \$500.00
 Br. 88 Rural Valley, PA - \$1,000.00
 (Deceased Members)
 Br. 89 Homestead, PA - \$100.00
 (In Honor of Branch 89
 President John S. Toth, Jr.)
 Br. 129 Columbus, OH - \$100.00
 (Deceased Members)
 Br. 132 South Bend, IN - \$100.00
 (Janos P. Burus)
 Br. 226 McKeesport, PA - \$50.00
 Br. 249 Dayton, OH - \$50.00
 (Branch 249 Deceased
 Member Mary Demus)
 Br. 296 Springdale, PA - \$100.00
 (Branch 296 Deceased
 Members)
 Br. 336 Harrisburg, PA - \$200.00
 (Deceased Members)
 Br. 349 Weirton, WV - \$50.00
 (Deceased Branch 349
 Members)

TOTAL = \$6,775.00

Tree of Knowledge Leaves

From the 40th General Convention
 Received as of November 14, 2023

GOLD LEAF (\$1,000.00)
 Verhovay Home Assn. (2 Leaves)
 Br. 88 Rural Valley, PA
 BRONZE LEAF (\$250.00)
 Christine K. Baldyga
 Joseph D. Chobody
 Maris A. Glass
 David M. Kozak
 Debra & James Lewis
 Betty Ann Nagy
 James W. Robertson
 Richard E. Sarosi
 Br. 18 Lincoln Park, MI (8 Leaves)
 Br. 51 Passaic, NJ
TOTAL = \$7,250.00

Help us help our youth

Since 1972, William Penn Association has awarded our young members more than \$3 million in scholarship grants. It is only through the generosity of people like you that WPA can continue to offer this support to our children seeking to improve their lives through education. With your help, our children can transform the world and our communities. With your help, we can make an impact on the future. Make your donation payable to "WPFA Scholarship Foundation, Inc." and mail to: **WPFA Scholarship Foundation, Inc., 709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233-1821.**





November/December 2023

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Referral Fees

\$10 to \$20

WPA Recommender Program

Earn cash rewards when you refer new members to WPA. We will pay adult members age 16 and older **\$20** for each first-time applicant they recommend who is issued any WPA permanent or term life insurance plan. You can also earn rewards for recommending new life insurance plans to current members. WPA will pay you **\$12** for each current member you recommend who is issued a new permanent life insurance plan. You can also earn **\$10** for each current member you recommend who is issued a WPA term life plan. To claim your Recommender reward, send us the names and addresses of everyone you know who would enjoy the many fraternal benefits that come with membership in WPA. **Family of sales agents living at the same address as the agent do not qualify for a Recommender Reward.*

Please Print

WPA RECOMMENDER

Your Name: _____

Branch No.: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

WPA Representative/Agent: _____

Name of Prospective Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail to: Recommender, William Penn Association, 709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233