



# The Spire

St. Stanislaus Alumni  
& Friends Newsletter

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 1  
8 PAGES

JANUARY 2026



## Alumni Picnic Committee & Workers



Klima Picnic Site • Saturday, August 10, 2025

Names L to R: Ron Zeszut, Bernadette (Larca) Smietana '63, John Sklodowski, Sharon (Sielaty) Kozak '70, Tina (Sielaty) Krosky '60, Donna Ciborowski '70, Clare Larca '65, Bill Dix '60, Iris Pieschalski, Matt Zielenski, Kim Sklodowski, Denise Schultz, CCC '86, Norm Pieschalski, '60, Jim Sadowski '68

Missing from Photo by Bob Sledz: Linda Golubski, Donna (Larca) Burovac '60, Karen (Matus) Neuman '68

**WHAT A TEAM!! Read the Picnic Story and Check out the photos on Page 3**

### St Stanislaus Alumni & Friends - Rainy Day Fund - Call for Support

\_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$75 \_\_\_\$50  
\_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATION: ES- \_\_\_\_\_ HS- \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To:

St. Stans Alumni

The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus

3649 East 65 Street

Cleveland, OH 44105



# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CORNER

Have you noticed that Halloween decorations seem to be almost as prevalent as Christmas decorations? Once the inflatable Halloween yard decorations come down, yards stay pretty much empty until the Santas and angels and lights come out for Christmas. Is it that turkeys aren't cute? Pilgrims are not culturally sensitive? Cornucopias aren't a thing anymore? Whatever the reason, retailers have Christmas decorations out almost before we have finished eating our Halloween candy.

Poor Thanksgiving. Relegated to one day of overeating and gathering, and then pushed to the side while trees and ornaments and gift shopping take over. Not for us, though. We believe Thanksgiving is an important holiday, filled with blessings, and gratitude, and love. Thanksgiving to us is not just about the family gathering with everyone's favorite recipes. It is about the feeling of joy as we look down the Thanksgiving table and see the many people surrounding us. It's the daily please and thank you's we teach our children. It's the phrase, "I appreciate you" that has entered modern chat.

Thanksgiving is not just a day. It is a lifestyle. Filled with faith, we are thankful for God. Blessed by the angels, we are grateful for family and friends. Simple small acts of kindness remind us that to be thankful is to be aware of the people around us. Can I help? Did they help me? Was someone there to smooth the edges of pain when I needed it?

We give this message to our children every day. Be kind. Be nice. Be helpful. Be open to the presence of God in every day life... for that is what we should be most grateful for.

Peace and all good~ Deborah Ann Martin, EdD, Principal



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## RAINY DAY FUND -- RESULTS SINCE JULY 2025 SPIRE

*Thank you for all your support to our fund. **Your Generosity is Greatly Appreciated***

The following 25 Rainy Day Donors allowed us to increase our working fund by \$2760.00

*What Our Alumni Has Done  
Since the July 2025 Spire* →

**\$1000 - SSES Student Wardrobe Needs**

**\$200 - Nov '25 Illuminated Fleche Above Shrine Church**

**\$500 - SSES Religion Books \$500 White Copy Paper for SSES**

### **PACESETTER (\$500 +)**

Jan ( Karash) Swift '58

Florence ( Karesh) Nowocin '60

George '61 & Kim Chase

### **LEADER (\$150-499)**

Thomas Priebe '60

### **STAR (\$100-149)**

Eileen ( Halter) Rini '58

Alan Mosinski '68

Michelle Peck ES '70

Nancy (Hrach) Yehyawi '61

Ron ES '49 & Wanda Halinski

### **BENEFACTOR (\$50-99)**

Camille ( Boguski) Toman '62

James Syrowski '66

Ron Wilinski '65

Donna ( Michalski) Lantos '66

Jerry Ratusnik '68

Felicia (Kusmierczyk) Madden '67

Donna ( Roginski) Heid '61

Ralph Konkowski ES '44

### **PATRON (\$25-49)**

Norma (Dombrowski) Ciesicki '62

Anna Lesniak '42 (*In Poland*)

Sharon Kozak ES '66 CCC'70

Carol Orzech ES '57 SHS '61

Steve Hujarski '65

Deb Grale

Bryan & Grace Istenes

Robert Macaluso

Allan Burke '65

### **Alumni Three-Fold Overall Goals:**

- Appreciate and Savor our **PAST**
- Live In and Enjoy the **PRESENT**
- Work to Help the **FUTURE** of St. Stanislaus Parish and School as Well as Our Alumni Development.



# ALUMNI PICNIC - 2025



Sunday Aug 10, '25 was a HOT day temperature wise BUT for the St Stan's Alumni & Friends attending it was VERY comfortable all day, to be with old friends and a regular breeze at Klima's in Cuyahoga Heights was great. Eighty-Two folks attended, the food was great, after expenses and Klima's rent — there was a profit of \$916. Baskets provided by Clare '65, Donna '60, Bernie '63, Diane '69, Ingrid, and a watercolor painting by Iris were raffled. (The gifted characteristic artist "Willy") was busy making free copies of attendees on the spot! If you missed it, you missed a good & memorable time.

All of this was possible because of the  
Picnic Committee and workers.

**THANK YOU!**



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## ***WE LOVE THE RED CHIMNEY —BEST RESTAURANT IN TOWN***

On Wednesday August 6, 2025 the headline on the front page of The Neighborhood News was:  
Red Chimney Restaurant, Apartment Above Gutted By Blaze; Vows To Rebuild

*The fire broke out Tuesday August 5th in a second floor apartment above the restaurant. Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer said her office and Slavic Village will do everything in its power to help them rebuild. Pete & Louie Skantzos and their entire team have felt the love and support shown to them, and it fuels their determination to rebuild.*

*On Saturday September 6th, hundreds attended a Fundraising Dinner for the owners and workers of Red Chimney at the Lincoln Post 13. Fundraiser to benefit the laid off workers.*



*(Photo by Tony Brancatelli)*

### ***St. Stans Parish Historian Rob Jagelewski on “Red Chimney History”***

**Red Chimney, neighborhood treasure was down but not out**

**BY ROB JAGELEWSKI**

The Red Chimney Restaurant, at the corner of Fleet Avenue and East 65 Street, was shut down after a fire upstairs in the building. The downstairs restaurant suffered water damage and needed reconstruction. Many neighborhood individuals stepped up to make a re-opening a viable conclusion.

The Red Chimney is a neighborhood institution that began in the 1970's under different ownership. Joe Koffol and John and Linda Turk, who owned Grabowski's store across the street teamed up to re-model the old Montowski's Hardware building into the Red Chimney Restaurant. This was also at the beginning of the Slavic Village Association. Pete and Lou Skantzos are the current owners of the restaurant. When it first opened the Red Chimney was opened twenty-four hours a day. Many policemen and women would eat at the restaurant When there was a wrestling event downtown or at the Richfield Coliseum many famous wrestlers including Hulk Hogan ate at the Red Chimney. The latest brush with the famous for the Red Chimney came when a portion of the new Superman movie was filmed at the business. Nathan Fillion, the Green Lantern was seen eating and watching television at the counter.

Many neighborhood people and those from outside the neighborhood would meet up for good food and fellowship. The employees knew many regulars and the owners have always been friendly. Food portions were a good size and the sampling of Polish food was good. The main ingredient for the Red Chimney was the fellowship amongst the diners. People would plan to eat there every week or some ate there every day. The employees were friends with customers and vice versa.

Here's hoping that the Red Chimney's revival is a success and it can continue to be the neighborhood mainstay that it has been and continues that into the future.



*This Guy is hopeful to be ordering  
at his favorite restaurant :  
“City Chicken”  
or “Blueberry Crepes”  
with good friends.*

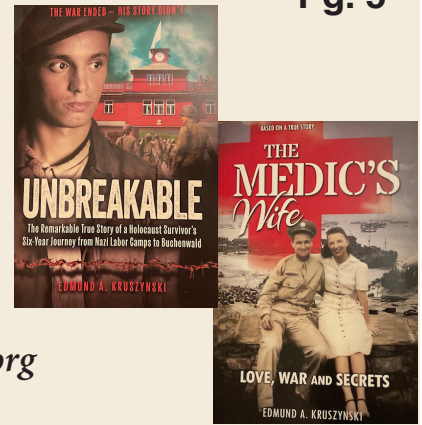


## NEW BOOK -

New book release — “UNBREAKABLE” — by Edmund Kruszyński,  
Great author of — “THE MEDIC’S WIFE” —  
*highlighted the July ‘2025 Spire.*

Edmund is a cousin of Rich Kruszyński ‘61 and Bob Krane ‘58  
(see *Spire* story July 2018).

All previous *Spire* issues located on parish website — [www.ststanislaus.org](http://www.ststanislaus.org)




## SLAVIC VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY


The Slavic Village Historical Society presents  
a fresh take on our city's past

### CLEVELAND HISTORY HOURS


Book and Author Fall-Winter Speakers Series




**Jim Sweeney**  
Thursday, November 13th at 7pm  
**CLEVELAND: STRANGER THAN FICTION**  
This former Plain Dealer journalist and author of WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH DEAD MAN'S CURVE? And other really good questions about Cleveland will tackle headscratchers like: How can people still love the Browns despite the crummy football? Why all the bridges over the Cuyahoga? Why is it called Whiskey Island? More.



**Alan Dutka**  
Thursday, December 11th at 7pm  
**A HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS IN CLEVELAND**  
This prolific history chronicler will reflect on the changing ways our ancestors celebrated our most beloved holiday, from the early French explorers to Mr. Jingeling.

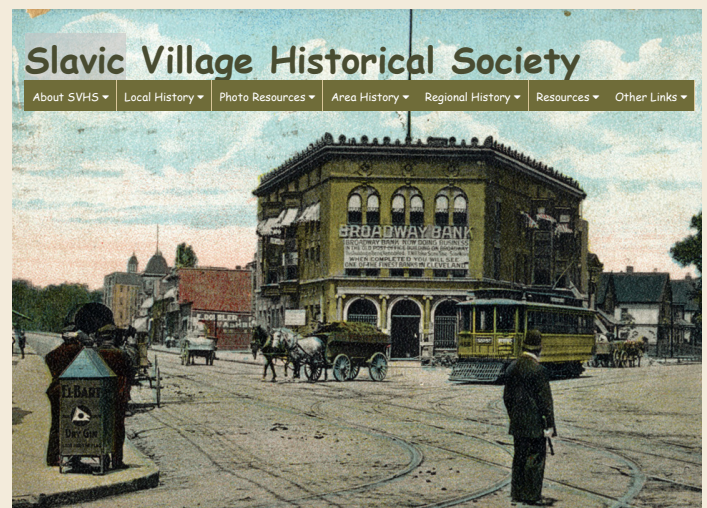


**Christopher Roy**  
Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 7pm  
**OTTO MOSER'S RESTAURANT & VAUDEVILLE AGE**  
Learn about the fascinating time from 1885 to 1930 when 60+ live theaters filled downtown Cleveland. Mr. Roy's book, Mr. Moser's Neighborhood, has recently been published.



**Clarence Bozeman**  
Thursday, February 12 at 7pm  
**DRIVING DR. KING**  
This lifelong Clevelander will recall his memorable experiences as the personal chauffeur of America's civil rights champion, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

All presentations are free and open to all residents and friends of Greater Cleveland. Talks take place in the parlor of the Historical Society's museum, located in the former convent of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, **6804 Lansing Avenue**, Cleveland, Ohio 44105. Light refreshments served. Secure Parking accessed from Worley Avenue. Additional street parking on Lansing Ave. The Historical Society encourages attendees to register early at [www.slavicvillagehistory.org](http://www.slavicvillagehistory.org).



Visit This Wonderful Website:  
<http://www.slavicvillagehistory.org>

Slavic Village Historical Society  
**GLENN SOBOLA**  
located in the former convent of  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church  
6700 Lansing Ave.  
Open by appointment @  
216-271-0691  
[www.slavicvillagehistory.org](http://www.slavicvillagehistory.org)



← Glenn Sobola at The St. Stanislaus Polish Festival



**The GREETERS STORY — 3 questions answered;****Q#1.—** What is an Alumni Greeter?**Ans.-** We are the welcoming face for the entrance to the food and bar area, be happy!**Q#2.—** What do they do?**Ans.-** Find out if someone is new to the festival, give them more help time. • Pass out the Festival Book to all who want one, have the booklet open to the page showing menu items & cost for while they wait in line. • Point out the two food lines— same food on either side.**Suggest:** That they get a tray and carry out containers for “food to go” while in line — **FILL UP THE TRAY WITH FOOD—** pay with cash or credit card at the end. • Point out Restroom location. • Call attention to the really ‘good bakery’ for sale and the bar area. • Encourage visitors to go upstairs to the gym for dancing & various booths. • Thank them for attending on their way out, be happy!**Q#3.—** How can I become an alumni greeter ?**Ans. -** Some folks have an attitude of “I never want to see those characters from school ever again”- then being a greeter is NOT in your future. But— if you are outgoing and personable, like to meet old and new friends for a 2.5 hour welcoming greeter shift, then this may be a great chance for you in October 2026.

Give Editor Bob Sledz a call at: 440-333-7827, or sledzbob@yahoo.com .











Thomas Madden - Husband of Felicia ( Kusmierczyk) '67

Dolores Solinski Badar - Wife of Larry AAPT

Michelle Terwilliger - Teacher St. Stans Elementary 5th Grade

William Swincicki

Cliff Kneblewicz '59

Barbara Witkiewicz '59



Cliff Kneblewicz '59

Patricia (Karolick) Cibulskas '56

Loretta Whitfield (88 years old)

Joy (Abramowski) Chmielewski '69

To inform the alumni about the death of a member please contact:  
Alice (Smolinski) Kulwicki at 216-398-5390 or Donna (Roginski) Heid at dheid1961@gmail.com

## WE SAVE WHAT WE CHERISH ..... Editor Bob '61 Reflection

Over the years most of us have a tendency to hold onto what we feel is meaningful in our life. Certainly family photos and letters, but overall girls may save special jewelry or favorite recipes; guys might hold onto certain old baseball cards, comic books or team jerseys. This may be an attempt to help us savor special memories & times.

With this in mind, I reflected on a special cluster of my older books I see passing by a hallway shelf several times a day, and usually think "I'm glad I still have them all here with me". This SPECIAL CLUSTER is just a corner of several shelves loaded with science reference books that I used over 35 years teaching high school science at Garfield Heights.



This cluster of books that gives me a warm feeling is actually from SSHS Religion Class Texts titled "Our Quest For Happiness". ( I didn't steal them! We were told by our homeroom teachers at the end of each year to take them home from our locker -or- they would be "taken care of". So I kept them.) Also on the hall shelf is my CRUSADE -Bible & Catholic Heritage Stories. I subscribed to them starting in 1955 at Sts. Peter & Paul Elementary — I have a complete set saved in binders.

I do take these old cherished books off the shelf and enjoy looking them over every once in a while even today. You would think that if books like these were of great interest to me as a youth — I should have done better than getting my usual "C or C-" as the grade for Religion on my report card while in school. Oh well.

All of this religious exposure from over the years has left its mark and in my case call it "love of Life". This CLUSTER OF BOOKS REFLECTION makes me think of the old Oscar winning movie CITIZEN KANE and the importance the old sled "Rosebud" to the W. R. Hearst character in the closing scene of the film.

**\*\* Do you have a cherished item story to share with us at the Spire ?**

Send it to me at [sledzbob@yahoo.com](mailto:sledzbob@yahoo.com) or write to the St. Stan's Parish office ( attn. Alumni ).

Fairchild Printing Co.  
5807 Fleet Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44105  
216-641-4192  
Official Printers of  
The *Spire* Newsletter

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
Bob Sledz, Chairman & Editor  
Ingrid Sledz, Compositor & Designer  
[sledzbob@yahoo.com](mailto:sledzbob@yahoo.com)  
440-333-7827

Rectory and Parish Office:  
216-341-9091  
[www.ststansislaus.org](http://www.ststansislaus.org)  
Previous *Spire* Issues  
located on website

Contact Information:  
The Shrine Church of  
St. Stanislaus  
3649 East 65 Street  
Cleveland, OH 44105