

The Louisville Historian

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Old World Meets New World: A Far-Flung Corner of the Austro-Hungarian Empire Found in Louisville, Colorado

by Bridget Bacon, Museum Services Supervisor

In the early twentieth century, Louisville was quite the diverse place. Its residents hailed from countries from around the globe and regularly spoke languages other than English. And as records of Louisville's Italian restaurants serving tamales or Hispanic families cooking spaghetti can attest, they even adopted each other's cultural and culinary practices. Immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire who came to Louisville in search of work opportunities in the late 1800s and early 1900s were a part of this ethnic and racial diversity. In fact, in 1930 over eight percent of Louisville residents were born in Austria-Hungary or had a parent who was, making this the fourth largest immigrant group in town at that time.

Between 1867 and 1918, the Austro-Hungarian Empire dominated the literal and figurative landscape of Europe. Take a look at a map of the time and you'll see why: Austria-Hungary was enormous, diverse, and influential, taking up a significant portion of Central and Eastern Europe. During its existence, the Empire occupied lands that today make up all or part of thirteen different nations. The countries today that in their entirety were part of Austria-Hungary are:

Austria
Hungary
Czech Republic (Czechia)
Slovakia
Slovenia
Croatia
Bosnia and Herzegovina



In a photo of Louisville women preparing chickens for chicken dinners to benefit the St. Louis Church in about 1940, almost all of the women were of Italian heritage, but the viewer's attention is drawn to the woman wearing white headwear at the center of the photo. She has been identified as Mary Sirokman Kasenga, who was born in Louisville to a Slovak family in 1891. This is a detail of the larger photo.

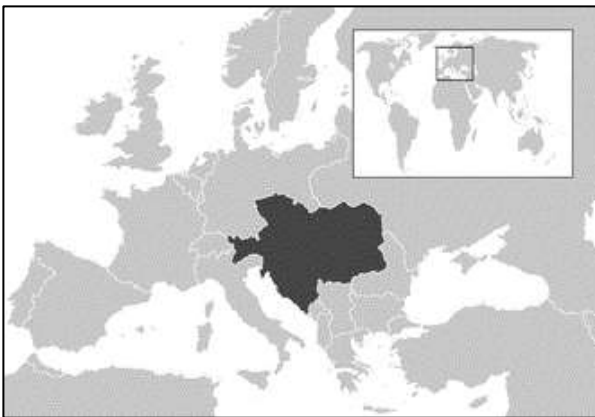
The Empire also contained parts of these present-day countries:

Serbia
Montenegro
Poland
Ukraine
Italy
Romania

People from virtually all of these places found their way to Louisville.

Some of Louisville's residents from Austria, such as members of the Lackner, Eder, Foidl, Doerfler, and Kroell families, were among Louisville's earliest residents and were already living in two-year-old Louisville at the time of the 1880 census.

However, most of the immigrants from Austria-Hungary to Louisville came later, and from what are now Slavic countries. Slavic people immigrated to Louisville from places that are today known as the countries of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Poland, and Ukraine. (The countries of Bulgaria, Russia, Belarus, and Macedonia are also home to Slavic populations, but were not part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.) Some of these countries with Slavic populations were later parts of other sovereign states, such as Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, after having been part of Austria-Hungary. Not only did Slavic immigrants from these nations bring customs, sensibilities, food, and languages to Louisville, but they also faced significant prejudice.



Austria-Hungary as shown on a map of Europe. Image credit: Wikipedia.

Newspapers in communities all over the state of Colorado in the late 1800s expressed intense hostility towards "the Slavs," whom they often lumped together with "the Italians" and "the Huns" and viewed together as being highly undesirable types of immigrants. Pueblo's *Colorado Daily Chieftain* certainly didn't pull any punches when it ran this item in 1891 that was very similar to what was being editorialized in other Colorado newspapers. It stated, "The present undesirable nature of the immigration from Europe to the United States is accounted for by the recent discovery of the fact that during the past twenty

years the center of immigration from Europe has been steadily moving east and southeast," and went on to say:

The result of this condition of affairs is that instead of an immigration composed of the Anglo Saxon, Celtic, Teutonic and Scandinavian races we are receiving hordes of Italians, Huns, Slavs and Poles, the most ignorant, vicious and debased of all of the European races. Those who come here are of the most degraded classes, a skilled mechanic is a curiosity among them, criminals of the worst kind are common, but few of them can read or write and drunkenness, brutality and superstition abound. These are exactly the kind of people who are not needed in the United States and the government officials should spare no efforts to keep them out.

An 1897 *Rocky Mountain News* article attempted to educate readers on the history and politics of Austria-Hungary, explaining (pretty accurately) that it consisted of an area almost two and a half times the size of Colorado containing about 45 million people speaking "dozens of languages and hundreds of dialects." However, newspapers also called out Slovaks in particular as being an undesirable group whose members were already coming to the U.S. in large numbers. Some papers ran ostensibly helpful articles explaining to their readers who exactly the Slovaks were and where exactly they came from. A 1903 article reprinted in the *Denver Post* stated, "The Slovak does not know the meaning of the word citizen . . . he is just force and muscle, with all the roots of his heart in the little village across the sea, and with his brain wherever the stronger brain leads him . . ."



John Balent of Slovakia, seen wearing a coat and tie in front of the door, managed baseball in Louisville and ran a Front St. saloon where Slovak immigrants could be sure to find others who spoke the same language.

Despite encountering some hostile attitudes, many from Austria-Hungary found work and receptive communities in Colorado. In Louisville, a sizeable group of Slavic residents, and especially those from Slovakia, congregated. Others from Austria-Hungary, such as the Czech Beranek family, also settled in nearby Lafayette or Superior.

The complicated relationship between the Empire and the countries within it can make genealogical research using early-1900s federal census records difficult. This is especially true when determining places of origin. Census records may indicate “Austria,” “Hungary,” or “Austria-Hungary” as being the place of birth of a resident or their parents, but the actual place of birth could have been a village in present-day Croatia, for example. For genealogical research, it is important to try to find specific village names associated with a family by searching in obituaries, naturalization records, or other records, and then use online resources to look up the village location to see what country it is in today. A look at what an ancestor’s native language was listed as can also provide clues. For example, the 1920 census shows Mike Sekulich of Superior as having been born in “Austria,” but it listed his mother tongue as being “Croatian.” Indeed, his village of origin was in what is now Croatia.



George Sirokman, a coal miner in Louisville, was one of the organizers and the first commander of the Louisville Post of the American Legion in 1924. He was a veteran of World War I and had seen combat in France’s Argonne Forest. He was the younger brother of Mary Sirokman Kasenga, seen on the first page. Their parents

were among Louisville’s first immigrants from what is now Slovakia.

By the time of Louisville’s 1896 directory, which was the first residential directory for the town, several Slovak families were already residents. They included the Sirokman, Litavec, Poydock, and Stritchko families. Mining work and pro-union activity brought together many of Louisville’s different immigrant groups because they shared

similar economic interests. Another source of community for many of those coming from Austria-Hungary was the St. Louis Catholic Church, which many Italian, Slavic, Austrian, and Hispanic residents (and others) attended. Members of different ethnic groups started to intermarry, especially if they shared a common religion, such as when Anna Jasko, from a Slovak family, married Frank Rizzi, from an Italian family, in 1924. And similar to some of the Italian families coming to the Louisville area, some Slavic families went into farming or combined farming and mining.

The exact place in Austrian-Hungary where one was coming from determined whether one went to the northern or southern ports of Europe. Austrians, Czechs, and Slovaks had a shorter trip to Hamburg or Bremen, which were the major German ports from which one could depart to go to United States ports. Immigrants from Slovenia and Croatia were more likely to board ship in Trieste (which, though now part of Italy, was part of Austria-Hungary) or Fiume (now called Rijeka and located in Croatia).



In 1900, Thomas Haszier and Franciska Filiczky, both Slovaks from Austria-Hungary, met on the ship sailing from Bremen, Germany to Galveston, Texas. A Galveston newspaper reported that they married right away upon arrival, with an immigration inspector as master of ceremonies. Seen here in their wedding photo, they then continued on their way to Louisville, where they lived at 545 Grant.

Some of Louisville’s residents from Austria-Hungary changed their names to look and sound more American. These included members of the Mudrak family changing their name to Mudrock, Hornyak becoming Harney, Petruny becoming Petrun, Pojdak changing to Poydock, and Papez becoming Papish.

Some neighborhoods in Louisville had names like “Little Italy” and “Frenchtown” based on the common national origins of most original residents.

Slavic people in Louisville similarly congregated in one particular neighborhood, though it does not seem to have had a specific name. This neighborhood consisted of the 500 and 600 blocks of Lincoln and Grant, and to a lesser extent Jefferson and La Farge Avenues (all south of Pine Street). Nearly every house was owned by a Central or Eastern European family from Austria-Hungary, especially Slovaks. Strolling down Lincoln from Pine, you'd encounter the homes of the Sirokman, Petrun, Waschak, Motichka, Pecolar, Zinge, and Strichko families. A block over on Grant, you could drop in on the Mudrock, Haszier, Udovich, Harney, Kasenga, Nortnik, Papish, Lasnik, and Bodnar families. And if you walked over to Jefferson and La Farge, still south of Pine Street, you'd see the homes of the Poydock, Bosko, Brletich, Softich, Filip, and Kasik families.



These photos from 1948 County Assessor cards are images of Slovak-owned houses south of Pine.

Above, a woman believed to be Katherine Puskar Harney (born in Slovakia in 1878) stands by a structure on her property at 620 Grant. In the photo below, the Petrun home at 600 Lincoln is seen. This house was recently landmarked as part of Louisville's Historic Preservation Program.



Out of all of the immigrants from Austria-Hungary coming to Colorado, Slovaks and Slovenes may be the best known for having left their marks on Colorado communities. Pueblo, Colorado had one of highest concentrations of Slovene Americans in the United States. They were drawn to Pueblo by available work at the Colorado Fuel & Iron Steel Mill. Globeville, north of downtown Denver, was home to many Slavic immigrants who came to Colorado. They found work there at the Globe Smelting and Refining Company, in packing

houses, and with the railroad. Some Louisville residents lived in these communities before or after coming to Louisville. For example, John Rotar, a Slovene, worked at the Steel Works in Pueblo in about 1919 before coming to Louisville.



Louisville's neighborhood of Little Italy on the east side of the railroad tracks was a place where many Italian families lived and owned property early on, but it soon became home to Slovak and Hispanic families as well. Here, members of the Bosko family stand behind their home on Cannon in Little Italy. The parents in the photo, Michael and Katie Bosko, came from Slovakia.

Slavic immigrants from Austria-Hungary found community in Colorado lodges and benefit societies that were founded to help them learn English and provided life insurance. According to James M. Kedro in "Czechs and Slovaks in Colorado, 1860–1920," (*Colorado Magazine* 54, No. 2, 1977) and articles in the *Louisville Times*, a lodge of the National Slovak Society and a lodge of the Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union were both established in 1896 in Louisville. Well into the second half of the 1900s, Louisville residents were still active members of such organizations as National Slovak Society, the Slovene National Benefit Society, and the Mile High Czech Lodge. According to the *Louisville Times* in 1979, the Louisville lodge of the National Slovak Society had 85 members at its peak (likely in the early 1900s) and still had five members in 1979.



This elaborate certificate, an excerpt of which is shown here, was given to Joseph Dravecky of Louisville when he joined the National Slavonic Society.

For many of the immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, food was an important part of their particular cultural identities. So for a lot of families in Louisville, “home cooking” included such dishes as goulash, pierogis, potato dumplings, pork and sauerkraut dishes, stuffed cabbage, smoked sausage, strudel, noodle and cabbage dishes, nut roll and nut horns, and poppy seed roll.

Louisville’s “spaghetti economy” of the 1950s and 1960s led to a need for cooks at the many restaurants serving Italian-American food, especially the Blue Parrot and Colacci’s. Members of the Frause, Zinge, Kranker, and Dravecky families who came from Austria-Hungary were among those who went to work to help cook for the large number of people coming to Louisville to eat Italian-American food.

John Waschak (1919-2011) was born in Slovakia and came to Louisville as a young person. He was elected mayor of Louisville and served from 1974 until 1980. This photo is from about 1978.



Above all, a characteristic that immigrants coming to Louisville (whether from Austria-Hungary, Mexico, Italy, England, France, or elsewhere) had in common was being largely cut off from their homes of origin. There were financial and other reasons why most never returned for visits. One exception was in 1960 when Marie Kasik returned to her home village outside of Prague in then-Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) for a two-month visit. According to the *Louisville Times*, she hadn’t seen her 93-year-old mother since she had come to the U.S. 38 years earlier, in 1922. Even reaching out with a phone call was expensive and difficult to arrange. A touching *Louisville Times* article from 1962 shared the following about two Mihevc brothers, one of whom had come from Slovenia to Louisville and the other of whom had remained there:

Two brothers spanned a distance of about 6,500 miles and a period of 52 years to talk to each other when Frank Mihevc called his brother,

Tony Mihevc, in Yugoslavia . . . Mr. Mihevc had not seen or talked to Tony, who is the youngest member of the family, since leaving Yugoslavia 52 years ago to come to America. . . Knowing Tony was quite ill, Frank decided to call him.

The article noted that the call ended up costing only \$12 due to interference during the 30-minute call, and stated that Frank, who was 70 years old, then received a letter from Tony letting him know that Tony “had understood every word his brother had said in the telephone conversation as though they were in the room together.”

The Museum’s research into Louisville’s residents who came from lands of the Austro-Hungarian Empire has added another dimension to how we think of Louisville history. Please let the Museum know if you have more stories or information about these families to share.

Digitized newspapers used for this article were viewed at the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection website and at GenealogyBank.com.

Louisville History Foundation News

The Louisville History Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit that helps support the Louisville Historical Museum and local history projects. The Foundation directors are sincerely grateful to all who have made recent monetary donations in support of the Museum and the preservation and sharing of Louisville history. In February, the board directors approved the addition of a new director, Jane Coyle. Welcome to Jane!

The board also elected officers for 2023. David Marks is the Chair; Jennifer Henderson is Vice Chair; Cory Nickerson is Secretary; and Loren Laureti will continue as Treasurer.

LOUISVILLE HISTORY FOUNDATION

Jane Coyle
Jennifer Henderson
Loren Laureti
Gordon Madonna
David Marks
Cory Nickerson

Upcoming Programs and Events

The Museum invites the public to join us for these upcoming programs. For more information, visit the Museum website. All Museum programs are free.

Museum Participating in First Fridays

downtown: Did you know that the Museum has a different theme for each First Friday? These are free, indoor-outdoor evening events with engaging themes based in Louisville history and held in the lovely Museum Courtyard, and the Museum buildings are open, too! Drop in between 6 and 8 PM and check out the other participating downtown businesses and organizations (including the Louisville Public Library) as well. Here are the Museum's topics for June through August:

Friday, June 2 – “Louisville’s Dancing Days”

Friday, July 7 – “Louisville Soda Parlor”

Friday, August 4 – “On Air: Radio Shows”

Landmarked Building Bingo | Month of May

May is Historic Preservation Month! Louisville is home to a variety of historic buildings and architectural styles, each with its own story to tell. Pick up a free bingo board at the Louisville Public Library, Historical Museum, or City Hall during the month of May, and then take a stroll through downtown

Louisville to find some of these buildings. If you find five in a row, you can bring your completed board to Louisville City Hall for a prize anytime during the month of May!



Louisville Landmark Plaque Ceremony

Thursday, May 25, 6 PM

Meet at the Louisville Historical Museum Courtyard, 1001 Main St., for light refreshments followed by a walk to two properties landmarked in 2022, 600 Lincoln Ave. and 612 Jefferson Ave.

Saturday, June 10, 9 AM – Walking Tour, “Historic Trees of Downtown Louisville.” Join Chris Lichty, City Forester, as he leads a tour about historic and significant trees in Louisville. This tour is cosponsored by the Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Dept. and the Louisville Historical Museum. The tour will depart from the Historical Museum at 1001 Main St. This is a free in-person event, but registration is required. Space is limited; please go to the City or Museum calendar online and reserve a ticket for each attendee.



Saturday, June 24, 9 AM – Walking Tour, “Louisville on La Farge.” A few blocks of La Farge Avenue hold a wealth of history about families who settled in Louisville around the turning of the 19th to 20th Century. Join Louisville Historical Museum volunteer Diane Marino for a walking tour of historic La Farge Avenue. The tour will depart from the Historical Museum at 1001 Main St. This is a free in-person event, but registration is required. Space is limited; please go the City or Museum calendar online and reserve a ticket for each attendee.



The St. Louis Catholic Church was active at its old location on the southwest corner of La Farge and Walnut for about sixty years, from about 1880 until 1940. It is no longer standing, but its activities were an important part of the La Farge neighborhood and history!

The Museum Remembers Virginia Caranci

The Museum honors the memory of Virginia Caranci, who passed away in February. Among other things that she did for Louisville, she was instrumental in getting Coal Creek Golf Course, Avista Hospital, and Monarch High School to become part of the Louisville community.



She was also the person most responsible for the establishment of the Louisville Historical Museum in 1986. She served on the Historical Commission for 30 years, from when the Commission was first created in 1979 until 2009, serving as Chair for many of those years. In 1983, she went to City Council to ask the City to purchase the newly-available Main Street property for a Museum campus, then she worked with the other members of the Historical Commission and other volunteers to actually start the Museum from scratch. For the Commission members in those early years before the City hired the Museum's first staff member, this meant restoring the buildings, accepting artifacts and photos from donors for the collection, giving tours to visitors, fundraising, and starting the membership program and the *Louisville Historian* quarterly publication. The Museum is grateful to Virginia for her vision and hard work. Today, the Louisville community shares her legacy by valuing history and supporting the museum that she helped to start.



In the photo at top, Virginia Caranci is seated while Lois Tesone stands behind her, on the occasion of the reception for the 25th anniversary of the Museum in 2011. The photo at left shows a young Virginia, with her grandparents, Frank and Rose Jordinelli, in the late 1930s.

Memorial Donations

Thank you so much for these recent memorial donations.

In Memory of Virginia DeRose Caranci (1931-2023)

Bridget Bacon
Diane K. Bailey
Teresa M. Beers
John & Sherry Benedetti
Elaine Biella
George Brown
Janet & Daniel Brown
Betty Buffo
Susan K. Carlson
Doug Conarroe & Dana Coffield
Robert & Darleen Del Pizzo
Memory Delforge
Richard & Darlene DelPizzo
Judy DeNovellis
Dino & Leslie DiCarlo
Paula Elrod
Daniel & Barbara DiSalle
Adam & Donna Elnicki
Shirley Elrod
June Enrietto
David & Mary Carol Ferrera
Kristine Foy
James & Rose Gilbert
Gloria Green
Glen & Anna Hansen
Tom & Patricia Kennedy
John Kranker
Adrienne Kupfner
Michael & Marilyn LaSalle
Rob & Carol Lathrop
Loren Laureti
Tim & Patricia Lester
Robert & Joan Luxner
Robert & Rosalie Lynn
Diane Marino
Larry & Kathy Martella
Dan & Nellie McConville
Jean Morgan
Mary & Kirk Moses
Don & Ricky Pickett
Joyce Ross & Family
Marie Slavec
Bruce Steinbaugh

Thomas & Judith Steinbaugh
 T.J. Sullivan
 Janice M. Tesone
 Rich & Norma Trevino & Family
 Ron & Patricia Varra
 Wayne & Gail Zarlengo
 Will & Jane Zurliene

In Memory of Kevin Bailey

Catherine Bailey

***In Memory of Thomas Mudrock
 (1947-2019)***

Janice Mudrock

***In Memory of Erin Crew
 (1974-2014)***

Janice Mudrock

***In Memory of Kenneth L. Duran
 (1958-2022)***

Juanita Duran Razo
 Susan & Joe Lucero
 Veronica Duran
 Rebecca & Louie Montoya
 James Paul Razo
 June & Keith Nichols

In Memory of Frank "Skip" Domenico

Stephanie Milow

***In Memory of John Madonna, Jr.
 (1918-2022)***

Bridget Bacon
 Diane Marino
 Larry & Kathy Martella
 Don & Ricky Pickett



***Thank You to Volunteers
 By Jason Hogstad, Museum Staff***

The Museum held a volunteer potluck on April 4 to kick off our spring programming season. It was, quite appropriately for Colorado, snowing most of the day. Nevertheless, our dedicated team braved the weather to enjoy each other's company. We're so grateful to everyone who attended!

The Museum recently held an interpretation training for volunteers helping with summer programs. Next, we'll hold an Oral History Program training on Saturday, May 20 at 3:30 PM in the Louisville Public Library's second floor Board Room. If any volunteers are interested in attending these trainings, please reach out to Jason Hogstad at jhogstad@LouisvilleCO.gov. You can also contact Jason if you're not a volunteer with the Museum and you would like to be.

And finally, thank you to our many volunteers who support us in so many ways.

Collections and Research

Vanessa De Los Reyes	Amy Marks
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Programming Volunteers

Michelle Baker	Tara Manning
Cate Bradley	Diane Marino
Memory Delforge	Vicki Quarles
Christy Gray	Joanie Riggins
Becky Harney	Chris Torrence
David Hosansky	Sloane Whidden
Carolyn Anderson Jones	Carol Williams
Kelly Keena	Corrie Colvin Williams

Oral History Volunteers

Leslie Aaholm	Ady Kupfner
Noelle Gatto	Jean Morgan
Barbara Gigone	Betty Solek

Rose Garden Beautification

Marty McCloskey

“Louisville in Tune” in the Museum’s Front Windows

By Gigi Yang, Museum Staff

It’s springtime and music is in the air! In fact, music has always been in the air in Louisville. Immersed in the hard history of coal mining, it’s easy to forget that many of Louisville’s early residents arrived with rich cultural and musical traditions from their home countries. Alongside the clamor of coal mines and train whistles, the streets and homes of Louisville were filled with the sounds of trumpets, drums, pianos, violins, accordions, songs in Welsh, Italian and Spanish, and even opera. Louisville was home to skilled musicians of all ages who shared their talents and nurtured others, ensuring that music accompanied every social occasion and family gathering.



In the photo above, Louisville young people are holding their musical instruments. Phil Romeo is seen second from the right.

This spring, stop by the Museum to view the "Louisville In Tune" exhibit in the front windows of the Jacoe Store and discover more about Louisville’s historical musical landscape. You can even scan QR codes or come inside to hear examples of the kind of music that Louisvillians played, danced to, and lived by.

Donations to the Museum’s Collection and Records

The Louisville Historical Museum recently accepted the following donations during the months of February through April. Thank you to the donors!

Shirley Elrod – photos and other items relating to the donor’s father, John Waschak (1919-2011), who served on the Louisville City Council and as mayor.

Anne Dyni – photos and slides relating to Louisville history, many of which she took when she was researching Boulder County history for her books and lectures as a local historian.

Ed Helmstead – digital photos (including the one shown here) of him painting the lettering on the Louisville Grain Elevator building in 2022 based on the original lettering that appears in historic photos of the building. Ed is a sign painter who has painted many downtown signs.



Juanita Razo – digitized historic photos showing members of the Duran, Lorenzi, and related families.

Victoria Malcolm – items that belonged to Joseph Malcolm, consisting of two ledgers from his insurance business in Louisville and a photo showing him and other soldiers during their service in the Spanish-American War.

Bob Bryan – prints and digitized historic photos from the related Scarano/Scran, DelPizzo, and Brierley families.

Clint Petrun – digitized historic photos from a family photo album relating to the Petrun, Sirokman, and Ferrari family of Louisville, including the one shown here of six unidentified young women and a boy.



Gail Elias – for the Reference Collection, a copy of the 2022 book she authored, *A Soldier's Story: Remembering "Boulder's Boys" of the Great War.*

The Museum Corner
by Bridget Bacon,
Museum Services Supervisor

I recently announced that am going to retire this summer after having managed the Louisville Historical Museum since 2004! This experience has been an extraordinary part of my life, and I am very proud of what we have achieved together to collect, preserve, and share Louisville history and to demonstrate its relevance to visitors and residents today. Thank you to Sharon Nemechek, Gigi Yang, Jason Hogstad, and Summer King; my other colleagues on the City staff; the Louisville Historical Commission; the Louisville History Foundation; Museum volunteers and members; the Louisville City Council; and above all, the Louisville community. Members of the community are invited to my retirement party to be held on the Museum campus in the late afternoon on Friday, June 23 – more information to come!

I am so pleased to announce that Gigi Yang, who has worked at the Museum since 2018 as a Museum Associate specializing in Collections & Exhibits, has been selected to manage and lead the Museum as the new Museum Services Supervisor. She brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and accomplishments. Congratulations, Gigi!

Thank you to those who have helped the Museum with programs! Lad Curtis from the Boulder Amateur Radio Club provided resources and talked with Museum visitors during the First Friday in March on "Radio Waves and Telephone Lines." In April, Keith Keller from the Historic Preservation Commission spoke with visitors about Louisville's Historic Preservation Fund and landmark program during the First Friday on "Funding the Future: A History of Taxes in Louisville." Thank you!

Did you know that in the ten years between 1990 and 2000, the population of Superior, Colorado grew from 255 to over 9,000? Thank you so much to Campbell Gibson for meeting with the Museum

staff regarding census research that he is working on.

Thank you to Clint Petrun, Mark Petrun, and Marcia Petrun! During a March visit to the Museum, they exchanged family information about the related Petrun, Sirokman, and Ferrari family with the Museum staff. Their relatives from Louisville included Paul Petrun and Mary Sirokman Petrun, who came from Slovakia; in 1920, their son Michael Petrun married Della Ferrari, who was from an Italian family in Louisville.

The Museum staff learned more about Louisville's Hispanic history through two memorable occasions meeting with members of Hispanic families! Thank you to Juanita Duran Razo, Sharon Arroyas Maes, and Elsie Gomez Chavez for meeting with the Museum staff to talk about the experiences of their families. Thank you also to members of the Barron family from California. Antonio and Jennie Barron and their children were a Hispanic family who lived on Lincoln Avenue in Louisville in the early 1930s and then returned to Mexico. Sandra Cuellar, a descendant of this family, visited the Museum nearly 10 years ago, then set up another visit this spring, this time bringing her mother and sisters with her.

Our Museum team took full advantage of these opportunities to learn more and to exchange information with these families!

Thank You for Your Monetary Donations!

Thank you to the following people and businesses for their generous monetary donations, other than memorial donations, to the Louisville History Foundation. Funds that the Foundation raises help support the Museum and the preservation and sharing of Louisville history.



Sandra Cuellar
Delta Dental of Colorado (matching gift)
Jeff & Amy Harr
Rob & Katie Melich
Petrun/Sirokman/Ferrari Family
Gerald & Constance Pontasch
Julie Schumaker & Mike Kay

Museum Outreach Update

By Summer King, Museum Staff

It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to an end! As we reflect on the 2022-2023 school year, we are grateful to all the schools that chose to make a field trip to the Louisville Historical Museum a part of their education plan and curriculum. In September, the Museum welcomed the 2nd grade classes of Coal Creek Elementary for the first field trip inside the historic Jacoe Store, Tomeo House and Jordinelli House since 2019. In November, the Museum welcomed the 2nd grade classes of Louisville Elementary, and this spring, we welcomed the 3rd grade classes of Fireside Elementary!

We feel privileged to bring the hardscrabble history of Louisville to life for these students, who ask insightful questions and make amazing connections between life in Louisville 100 years ago and today. For one thing, we usually determine that children in Louisville did a lot more chores 100 or even 50 years ago than children do today!

One of the Museum staff's favorite experiences actually happens after a field trip, when individual students return with their parent or grandparent, and proudly serve as their family's own tour guide, passing on the knowledge they learned on their field trip.

2022 & 2023 Pioneer Awards

**Presented by the
Louisville Historical Commission**

The Louisville Historical Commission selected Debbie Krueger and Janet Russell to receive the 2022 and 2023 Pioneer Awards, respectively. This award is presented annually to a person or persons who have contributed to the welfare and interest of the Louisville community. Chair John Honan presented the awards at the Louisville Chamber of Commerce awards dinner in January to these two women who, each in their own way, helped shape Louisville history by establishing downtown organizations and starting memorable ongoing community events that draw residents and visitors downtown and bring people together.

2022 Pioneer Award Recipient: Debbie Krueger



Debbie Krueger was one of the original founders of the Downtown Business Association and helped to create many of the things that make downtown Louisville the prosperous and fun locale we know today. Debbie Krueger was herself a downtown business owner, having owned the Crazy Horse 2

Salon in downtown Louisville from 1988 to 2012. In 1993, along with Cheri Ruskus, she started the Downtown Business Association largely in response to proposed improvements to Main Street and its sidewalks.

That set the stage and the DBA took off from there, playing an active role in keeping the character of downtown while making it a vibrant business spot as well. Debbie played many roles in the DBA, from picking up trash after events to serving as president and bringing new events and ideas to downtown. Like any good leader, she is quick to give credit to the many members of the DBA and others who worked with her along the way. In fact, even now she is encouraging us all to be active neighbors and working to improve our community.

2023 Pioneer Award Recipient: Janet Russell



Janet Russell and her business, Creative Framing Art Gallery, which until recently was located on Main Street downtown, have been at the heart of the Louisville arts scene for over 25 years.

Janet was the force behind the establishment of the Louisville Arts District and the First Friday Art Walks that have provided continued engagement and energy downtown. The Art Walks drew crowds to downtown Louisville eleven months a year (every month except January) and brought attention to not only the arts in Louisville but also the downtown business community. The Louisville Arts

District has also been behind fundraising programs to bring art into the community, such as by updating the “Via Artista” alleyways between Main Street and Front Street.

Janet’s dedication to the arts community has served to make Louisville a better and more vibrant place. We wish Janet the best of luck at Creative Framing’s new location in the Christopher Plaza on S. Boulder Rd. in Louisville. Louisville’s “First Fridays” are continuing to take place in downtown Louisville on the First Friday of the month with enthusiastic support and participation by the Historical Museum, Louisville Public Library, and downtown businesses and organizations.

***Don't Miss an Issue of
The Louisville Historian!***

Museum membership is a must for those interested in Louisville’s unique history and cultural character! Members receive the quarterly *Louisville Historian* with substantive articles about Louisville history.

A yearly membership is \$20 for an individual and \$35 for a family. Annual membership for businesses is \$125. Visit the Museum website at www.louisvilleco.gov/museum to pay online or to print out a form to send in.

The Museum has started managing the membership program, while the Louisville History Foundation raises funds to help support the Museum and preserve and share Louisville history. Please direct your memberships to the Museum and your donations to the Foundation. Thank you!

***Thanks to New and
Renewing Members!***

<i>New Members</i>	
Lannette Brockman Family	Amy Huckaby
Nikolas Burlew Family	David & Susan Levy
Anne Burton	Colleen & Charles Mallon
Luz Espona Family	Joe Mestas
Nick Facemire Family	Petrun Family
Cheryl Hoyt	Carol & Dave Wooley

<i>Renewing Members</i>	
Dave & Shelley Angell	Jackie Lueras Meranda Family
Barney/deLassus Family	Chris & Christine Mestas
Brackett Family	Stephanie Milow
George Brown	Janice Mudrock
Mark Cathcart Family	Louise Nance Family
Gary Damiana	Marti Nash
Debbie & Jeff Davies	Billy O'Donnell
Delorey Family	Carol Oakes
Sandra Ross DeLossa Family	Elayne Oligschlaeger
Leanne Dillon	Gerald & Constance Pontasch
Bruno & Pamela Elari	Irene Ray
Brad Emrick	Sarah Reed Family
Manuel & Kathy Escamilla	Marilyn Scherer
John Fisher Family	Reggie & Chris Schmidt
Jeff & Amy Harr	Mike Kay & Julie Schumaker
Linda Harris	Brad Seago & Allison Reeds
Sheila Hausbeck	Michael Shibao
Dale Johnson	Kathy Small
Jacqueline Johnson	Jan Snyder
Steve & Judy Knapp	Perry Steele
Nancy Kochevar	Tom & Ann Stoffel
Aaron & Kristin Lentz	Julia Stone
Gordon Madonna Family	Maggie & Myron Varner
Gwenne & John Maiorca	Debbie Vogelsberg
Sharlene Mazza Family	Helen Warembourg Fam.
Rob & Katie Melich	Dan Wilson
Dan & Heather Mellish	Joan Dalby Yust Family
Jerald Zarrett	

Regrets

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of regular members Virginia Caranci and Frank “Skip” Domenico.

LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Shelley Angell
Paula Elrod
Jonathan Ferris
John Honan
Scott McElroy
Joe Teasdale

Historical Museum Staff

Bridget Bacon, Museum Services Supervisor
Jason Hogstad, Museum Associate – Volunteer Services
Summer King, Museum Associate – Outreach Services
Gigi Yang, Museum Associate– Collections & Exhibits

Historical Museum Tours, Contact Information, and Services

Museum Hours: The Museum welcomes walk-in visitors! Groups and schools may request tours by appointment using the Museum's online group tour form.

The Museum's regular hours are:

Tuesdays	10-3
Wednesdays	1-6
Thursdays	10-3
Fridays	10-3
Saturdays	10-3

Donations: Do you have a donation to offer to the Museum? If you would like to ask about an artifact donation or have a specific research inquiry about Louisville history, please contact the Museum at museum@louisvilleco.gov or 303-335-4850. The best days to bring in items for consideration are Wednesdays and the third Saturday of each month.

About: The City of Louisville owns the Louisville Historical Museum as part of the Department of Cultural Services, with Sharon Nemechek as Director of Cultural Services. The Museum is located at 1001 Main Street. Its mailing address is 749 Main Street, Louisville, CO 80027.

Website: Keep up to date on information about the hours of operation for your visit at the Museum website, www.louisvilleco.gov/museum.



Thank you to all of the Museum's Business Members!

740 Front
Acme Fine Goods
Alternating Current Press
Assorted Goods & Candy
Atomic Forge & Welding, Inc.
Balfour Senior Living
Berkelhammer Tree Experts, Inc.
Berryhill Design Group
BK Media Group, Inc.
Bolder Insurance
Boulder Valley CPAs PC
Coal Creek Collision Center
Cory Nickerson – 8z Real Estate
Creative Framing & Art Gallery
Crystal Springs Brewing Co.
DAJ Design, Inc.
E & L Team at RE/MAX Elevate
Eleanor and Hobbs
Eric Olson Master Jeweler
FirstBank
Fox Property Management
The Gstalter Louisville Law Group PC
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Louisville Chamber of Commerce
Louisville Cyclery
Louisville Realty Associates, LLC
Louisville Tire and Auto Care
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Robert P. Muckle, MD, PC
Old Friends
Old Santa Fe Mexican Grille
Parco Dello Zingaro
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Premier Members Credit Union
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Seward Mechanical Systems
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The Society of Italian Americans
Stewart Architecture
Trailhead Wealth Management
Tri-City Elks
True Alignment
Zaremba Graphic + Web Solutions

*Louisville Historical Museum
749 Main Street
Louisville, CO 80027*

Return Service Requested

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