



Branch 14 members Kathy Lanzara (l) and Alexis Dvorak place flags on the graves of veterans during the branch's Join Hands Day event.



Branch 14 Auditor Richard Jacob and his wife Susan also helped during the branch's Join Hands Day project at Woodland Cemetery.

Branch 14 Cleveland, OH

by Richard E. Sarosi

Happy 4th of July to our veterans and our military personnel in the USA and overseas. Thank you for your service. We hope that everyone's summer is off to a great start. For those members with green thumbs, may your gardens be rich in vegetables.

Branch 14 held its Join Hands Day project on Saturday, May 19. This year, our members placed American flags on the graves of veterans in Woodland Cemetery, one of the oldest cemeteries in Cleveland. It was established in 1851, with the first burial taking place in 1853. A total of 87,794 interments have taken place there. We placed flags on the graves of those who died in the Civil War, a Medal of Honor recipient, the U.S. Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.) who fought in the Civil War and the Spanish American War soldiers. The 103rd Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry from 1862-1864 have been laid to rest in this cemetery. May all the veterans rest in peace.

Woodland Cemetery was part of the former Hungarian community that settled lower Buckeye Road, and we found many Hungarians whose final resting place is in the cemetery. We also found several graves of gypsy kings and queens. There are many graves of the abolitionists who assisted in the

movement of slaves from the south to freedom in Canada.

While locating the graves of the veterans, we saw many ornate grave markers and mausoleums. Unfortunately, time and the harsh Cleveland weather have worn down the inscriptions of the stones, tree roots have moved grave markers and vandals have done much damage.

Branch 14 member Michelle A. Day is president of the Woodland Cemetery Foundation-Cleveland. She is spearheading efforts to restore the cemetery and the veterans' grave markers, add grave markers to graves without one, maintain the grounds, plant flowers and more.

The cemetery hosts tours and other programs throughout the year.

The branch members participating in our project were surprised by the history of the cemetery, the beauty of the old grave monuments and the interesting group of people who took part in this activity.

I had the pleasure of meeting Bedford H. Forte--"Skeeter," as he is known--is 94 years old and a WWII veteran who helps place flags on the graves of his fellow veterans.

We thank those who fought for our country, preserving the rights that we cherish so much and hold close to our hearts.

Members of Branch 14 traveled and went back in time and to the Arabian Nights, when we attended the Broadway production of Aladdin May 23 at Playhouse Square in Cleveland. The production was Dis-

ney at its best--the colors, costumes, the "how did they do that?" clothes transformation, and, of course, the magic carpet that flew through the Arabian sky with Aladdin and Jasmine surrounded by the starry sky. Aladdin sang a moving "Proud to be Your Boy" in tribute to his parents who could not see the man he had become. The Genie and Aladdin were a powerful twosome in "Somebody's Got Your Back."

When the Genie sang "Friend Like Me," you wish that you did have a friend like him. The singing and dancing, the Genie's home and so much more provided for an entertaining night. When Aladdin and Jasmine took their magic carpet ride, it was "A Whole New World" that unfolded before them.

Branch 14 meetings are held at the Bethlen Hall of The First Hungarian Reformed Church, 14530 Alexander Road, Walton Hills. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 5, at 7:00 p.m. Branch 14 adult members and guests are welcome to attend the meeting.

Summer activities in the Greater Cleveland Hungarian community are being scheduled for our entertainment and enjoyment. Please attend and have fun. Upcoming activities in the Cleveland area include:

- The Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden Golf Outing and Dinner at Barrington Country Club on Wednesday, July 18.
- The Third Gala Organ Concert for the benefit of the Cleveland Hun-