



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 4, 2013, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 35

Megaron Chamber Choir Tours the U.S.

Following several performances in Canada, the singers of the Megaron Chamber Choir from Ljubljana, Slovenia, started their U.S. tour in Cleveland, OH, performing at St. Mary's Church on September 30.

The mixed choir of 40 singers was founded in 2003 from alumni of the Diocesan Classical High School in Šentvid-Ljubljana and has since performed all around Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Poland and Canada, achieving great success in several prestigious



Megaron Chamber Choir and its conductor Damijan Močnik performing at St. John's.

competitions. In the 10 years of its existence, it worked with renowned conductors such as Valerij Gergijev and Robert Sund and orchestras such as The Munich Symphony Orchestra and the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra.

Damijan Močnik, an outstanding Slovenian contemporary composer, has been its artistic director and

conductor since its beginnings. On its Canada-U.S. tour, the choir was joined by Ms. Martina Batič, assistant to the director of the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra and chief choral conductor of the Slovenian Chamber Choir.

On Wednesday, October 2, Megaron Chamber Choir performed in Bethlehem, PA, at the St. John's Windish



Evangelical Lutheran Church, founded in 1910 by immigrants from the Prekmurje region of Slovenia. The event was organized by the Bethlehem-Murska Sobota Sister Cities Association and the Slovenian community in Bethlehem. The concert, attended by around 200 people, was followed by a reception that offered traditional Slovenian food as well as some Pennsylvanian culinary specialties.

Prior to the concert, in the afternoon, the singers also met with a group of Lehigh University students that visited Slovenia in May as part of Matindale Student Associates Program.

On Thursday, October 3, the choir inaugurated Salisbury (MD.) University's fall World Artists Experiences series in Holloway Hall Auditorium in front of more than 300 people. The concert presented choral arrangements of Slovenian folk songs as well as contemporary compositions, music by Slovenian Renaissance composer Jacobus Gallus and



Reception following Bethlehem concert was an opportunity for Slovenian community in PA to meet with members of the choir.

even American traditional songs.

On Friday, October 4, Megaron performed in Annapolis, MD, in Ginger Cove Retirement home and in Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts and World. This event, attended by around 700 people, was presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Slovenia and the president and founder of World Artists Experiences, Ms. Betty McGinnis. The evening also featured

a short film that highlighted Slovenian tourist attractions, and the visitors could also learn more about the country from the free tourist brochures.

The choir's last performance was scheduled at the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington on Saturday, October 5, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Slovenian Union of America's Branch 108.



Artistic director of Slovenian Chamber Choir Martina Batič who was for several years also the chief conductor of Ljubljana National Opera Chorus, joined Megaron for the tour.



Prior to the evening concert, the members of the choir enjoyed the tour of Annapolis, guided by Ms. Annie Tennes of Watermark Journey (www.watermarkjourney.com).

Embassy of Slovenia at EuroNight 2013

For the sixth year in a row, the European Union member-country embassies in Washington organized the EuroNight. This annual cultural festival gave to around 1700 guests the opportunity to discover diverse European traditions, presented by respective European member-states' countries. The event was hosted by the Embassy of France on Friday, September 27, evening.

More than twenty E.U. embassies showcased their respective traditions and culinary specialties. Throughout the evening, guests could enjoy live music while taking a cultural tour of Europe. During more than three hours of cultural immersion, each country offered memorabilia, travel guides and souvenirs.



Slovenia was promoted with various brochures on the country and tourism attractions, including hiking trips, wine routes and spa resorts.

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“kranjska klobasa” sausage and the “potica” walnut roll cake, served by the embassy representatives wearing the traditional costume of the Gorenjska region.



Around 1700 guest attended the sixth edition of EuroNight.



Ambassador Dr. Cerar also joined the event.

Embassy of Slovenia at G-Fest

The Embassy of Slovenia, on Saturday, September 28, afternoon, participated in the G-Fest: Global Languages and Cultures Festival, organized in Washington, D.C. by the New York University in partnership with the Global Language Network.

Next to the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, more than twenty embassies and other organizations presented their respective cultures in the international festival, namely, the Embassies of Saudi Arabia, Uruguay, Brazil, Bangladesh, Kenya, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Zambia, Uzbekistan, Haiti, Sri Lanka, the Republic of Bulgaria, and Serbia, and the Association of the Tanzanian Community, the Alliance Française, Italians in D.C., the Polish Library in D.C., the National Museum of Language, the Vietnamese



The focus of the G-Fest was on showcasing ethnic and cultural diversity by celebrating unique worldly traditions.

Literature and Artistic Club, the Friends of Georgia, JJIC of the Embassy of Japan, American Councils for International Education, Pillerkaar Estonian Dancers of the Washington, D.C.

and Afghan Education for Better Tomorrow.

The afternoon also featured language lessons of Russian, Spanish and Hindi as well as performances by Pillerkaar Estonian Folk Dancers, Saharadance, tetra Boys from Mexico, Slaveya Women's Vocal Ensemble, and Duke Taylor from Hawai'i. The focus of the G-Fest was on showcasing ethnic and cultural diversity, celebrating unique worldly traditions and encouraging cultural exchange and understanding.

More than five hundred guests stopped by the interactive Slovenian booth to learn about the customs in Slovenia and its geographic and history highlights, and to taste Slovenian food and learn about the country's tourist attractions.



More than five hundred guests stopped by the Slovenian booth to learn about the country.

Slovenefest in Kansas City

The rains stopped just in time for a beautiful evening in Kansas City, Kansas, for the fifth annual Slovenefest, a celebration of more than 100 years of Slovenian culture on historic Strawberry Hill. The festival was held at Holy Family Parish with proceeds benefiting the church and featuring authentic Slovenian food, drinks and music. Once again, the opening mass and procession were led by pastor, the Rev. Peter Jaramillo, and opening ceremonies featured the playing of both the United States' and Slovenian national anthems. The organizers estimated the crowd at 750 to 800. Three orchestras played during the evening, including Polka Hall of Fame member Don Lipovic and his band.

Youth from the St. Veronica Lodge #115 under the direction of Julie Schneller worked the children's games and raffles. Inside the Majak Hall, Chris Wolf was master of ceremonies for the silent auction, which featured gift baskets, oil paintings of the church



Ladies of the John Anzicsek family manned the cultural table, featuring T-shirts, aprons and CD's of the church choir singing Slovenian folk and religious songs.

and a signed jersey from the Kanas City Chiefs football team.

Special guests this year from the U.S. Army Command and General College in nearby Fort Leavenworth were Captain Miha Rijavec and his wife Jasna. The captain, a former aide-de-camp to Defense Chief, Brig. Gen. Dobran Bozic, is also a veteran

of deployments in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Event co-chairs were Robert Serra, Robert Lasatelic and Richard Schutte. A special salute goes to the women of the parish, who provided the delicious food, especially the potica and the apple strudels. (Honorary Consul Barbara Nelson)



Slovenian Honorary Consul Barbara Nelson stands with Captain Miha Rijavec and his wife Jasna.



Four-year old Oliver Nelson displays his winnings from the putting contest.

Consular Hours in New York City

The consular officer from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, will hold consular hours and provide consular services (authentications, certifications, passport applications, etc.) in New York City on Friday, October 18, 2013, at the premises of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations, located at 630 Third Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017. **(Please note the new address of the Mission!)**

To schedule an appointment, please, fill out the form available at the embassy's website and send it to the Embassy of Slovenia at vwa@

gov.si by October 15, 2013, to allow the embassy enough time to verify your data.

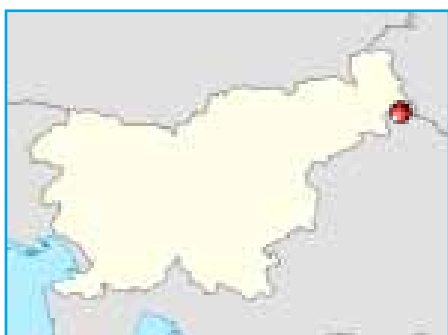
The embassy will suggest the time of your appointment and give you further information on the documentation you need to bring along. You may also visit the embassy website <http://washington.embassy.si/> (Consular Affairs, Visas) for documents required for most consular services. Please note that the consular fee must be paid with a money order made out to "Embassy of Slovenia". Cash, personal checks or credit cards will not be accepted.

Due to security reasons, prior appointment is needed to enter the premises of the Mission.



TOURISM

Lendava



Lendava lies in the Prekmurje region and is the easternmost town in Slovenia. Situated at an intersection of several major arteries, the settlement was called Halicanum by the Romans and was their outpost on the Poetovio–Savaria route (today Ptuj–Szombathely). The town of Lindva, named after the local river, was first mentioned in records dating



Lendava with the castle in the back. (Photo: www.slovenia.info)

from 1192, when the estate spanning almost the entire area of southeastern Prekmurje was bought by the Hahold family, which was renamed Bánffy in

mid-13th century.

Lendava first grew into a market in the 14th century, then a parish in 1334. The Bánffy were succeeded by the House of

Eszterházy in 1644. The area was under Hungarian and Turkish rule most of the 17th century.

In 1867, Lendava became a town and administrative district seat. An Evangelical Lutheran community was established in 1902, and there was a strong Jewish community there up until the beginning of World War II. The building of the Lendava synagogue, along with that in Maribor, is unique in Slovenia. Built in 1966, nowadays houses a permanent memorial exhibition for the Jews of Lendava.

There are numerous other interesting cultural monuments that attest to the area's colorful past. The Lendava castle was first mentioned in documents dating back to 1192, but the structure that could be seen today was erected in the 18th Century. Since 1973, the castle has been home to the Gallery-Museum of Lendava.

A permanent local history exhibition, titled "Museum of Citizenry, Typography and Umbrella Manufactory", was



Lendava Thermal Spa. (Photo: www.slovenia.info)

given its own home in the former bourgeois house on Glavna ulica 52, built at the outset of the 20th Century. The city has been known for its umbrella manufacturing as well as for the printing business, that goes as far back as 1573.

The first Catholic church of Lendava, built at the end of the 12th century, was destroyed by the Tatars. At the beginning of the 16th Century, János Bánffy ordered the building of a monastery along with a church in the northern part of the city. The Turks later tore down this church. As the church patrons, the Eszterházy dynasty built a smaller church on the spot of its predecessor. Later on, in the years between 1749 and 1751, they built St. Catherine's church, which still stands to this day.

The Holy Trinity Chapel built in 1727/28, is positioned among the vineyards above the town of Lendava that has a long tradition of viticulture. In the past, the spot was strategically very important for the protection

of the city, especially during Turkish invasions.

Hot springs were discovered in Lendava by coincidence in 1965 when, rather than oil, hot water was brought to the surface. Due to the high content of paraffin (which colors it green) the water from Lendava spas differs significantly from other thermal waters in this part of Europe and it is beneficial especially for musculoskeletal conditions.

The town is also known for its culinary specialties. In 2011, the city of Lendava was proclaimed the world capital of "bograč", a stew made with three different kinds of meat, onions, vegetables and herbs, typical for the region. This spring, the biggest culinary event, Bogračfest, was organized in Lendava already for the tenth time.

Source and more information: www.slovenia.info, <http://www.lendava-vabi.si>



Bograč stew. (Photo: Aleš Fevžer, www.slovenia.info)

Lecture by Anthony W. Hiti on Charles F. Schweinfurth

The Slovenian-American Heritage Foundation is organizing the fifth talk in the 2013 Lecture Series. Anthony Hiti, the President of the Foundation and a principal in the architecture firm Herman Gibans Fodor, Inc. in Cleveland, will present a lecture, followed by discussion, on Charles F. Schweinfurth, Cleveland's leading architect during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

When: [Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at 7 p.m.](#)

Where: [Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, Ohio](#)

Free entrance. A coffee and strudel social will follow the lecture.

Kids Euro Festival 2013

This fall, Washington will host the Kids Euro Festival, one of the country's largest performing arts festivals for children, with more than 200 free events around the city. Kids Euro Festival is staged through the cooperation of the 28 Washington-based European Union embassies and 30 major local cultural institutions.

[Slovenia's FRU FRU Theatre](#) will present a puppet show: [My umbrella is also a Balloon](#) (Moj dežnik je lahko balon) by Ela Peroci.

When: [October 16 - November 13, 2013](#)

Where: [various venues in Washington, Maryland, and Virginia](#)

More information, schedule of the performances and registration: <http://kidseurofestival.org/>

SlovenSki Calendar for 2014 Ski Season

SlovenSki Weekend

Where: WINDHAM MOUNTAIN, NEW YORK

When: Friday, January 31 to Sunday, February 2, 2014.

Slovenian GS Ski Race championship on Saturday.

SlovenSki trip #1 (Presidents Week)

Where: SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

When: Monday, February 17 to Sunday, February 23, 2014.

Total cost \$1,495.00 from LaGuardia, NY to Boise, Idaho.

6 nights lodging at Sun Valley; 3 bedroom condominiums, 5-day ski pass.

Kids under 15 stay and ski FREE.

Call for air info from other airports: Cleveland, Toronto, Chicago

SlovenSki trip #2

Where: ASPEN / SNOWMASS, COLORADO

Top of The Village 3 bedroom Condominiums, ski in, ski out.

When: Monday, March 24 to Sunday, March 30, 2014

Snowmass is home of 2014 Nastar Nationals Ski Championships during last week of March.

More information and application:

John F. Kamin a.k.a. Ivan Kamin

Government Council for Slovenians abroad Representative, USA

61-32 75th Place, Middle Village, NY 11379

Tel: (718) 424-2711, Cell: (917) 723-2456, Email: jfkamin@verizon.net

[Exhibit The Slovenes of Southeast Kansas in Franklin, KS](#)

An exhibit titled "The Slovenes of Southeast Kansas" will be held at the Miner's Hall Museum in Franklin, Kansas, from October 1 through the end of the year. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Presentations and talks related to the Slovenes will be held on October 20, November 21, and December 3. Admission is free to the museum and presentation.

Further information may be obtained by contacting minershallmuseum@yahoo.com.

[The Dance Galley Festival in NYC](#)

The festival will feature 25 choreographers in three different programs, including the Slovenian Astrid von Ussar.

Schedule: The Dance Gallery - Main Program
Friday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 13 at 3 p.m.

Dance Gallery UP Close (Evening of Intimate Works)
Saturday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Level UP (Evening of Commissioned Works)
Sunday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m.

More information: www.vonussardanceworks.org and www.dancegalleryfestival.com



[The Visual Identity of Slovenia – Design for a State exhibition](#)

This touring exhibition presents the range of designs elaborated for the young state and its institutions by one of Slovenia's top designers, Miljenko Licul. Over the course of his artistic career, Licul has created a number of great works of visual culture that are closely related to the identity of the nation and the state, and are, by any means, the most recognizable visual images of Slovenia's identity to have been created over its 22-year history as a sovereign state. Licul designed the banknotes for Slovenia's former currency – the tolar. Working together with Maja Licul and Janez Boljka, he also designed Slovenia's euro coins. Miljenko Licul is also responsible for the visual image of Slovenia's biometric passport, ID and health insurance cards, and driver's license. Licul also designed a series of postage stamps with ethnographical motifs.

When: [Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., closing in December 2013](#)

Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20008](#)