



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 13, 2013, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 32

## Small Nations' Poetry Reading 2013

On **Thursday, September 12, 2013**, representatives of the embassies of six small nations gathered in the **Abramson Recital Hall at the American University Katzen Center for the 2013 Small Nations Poetry Reading to read poetry from their respective countries.**

For the sixth time, ambassadors from Austria, Bulgaria, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malta and Slovenia presented poetry in both English and in their native languages. This year's topic was Women in Poetry.



From left: Slovenian Ambassador Dr. Cerar, Austrian Ambassador Hans Peter Manz, Bulgarian Ambassador Elena Poptodorova, Ambassador of Lichtenstein, Claudia Fritsche, Maltese Ambassador Marisa Micallef and Ambassador Mr. Gudmundur A. Stefansson of Iceland.

Austrian Ambassador Hans Peter Manz presented a poem by one of the most significant Austrian writers of postwar years, Ingeborg Bachmann. Bulgarian Ambassador Poptodorova read a poem titled Fair Pair of Eyes by poet Peyo Yavorov. Ambassador

Mr. Gudmundur A. Stefansson of Iceland presented a poem by Jonas Hallgrímsson, Iceland's greatest modern poet. The Ambassador of Lichtenstein, Claudia Fritsche, who also had opened the first Small Nations Poetry Reading back in 2003, read a poem by Beryl



Schlossman, titled Ghosts and Lovers in Late Summer, and Maltese Ambassador Marisa Micallef presented the poem Gaea by the contemporary poet Maria Grech Ganado.

Slovenian Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar read a poem by the Slovenian writer, essayist, translator and political activist Edvard Kocbek (1904 – 1981), titled Scent of a Woman (Vonj po ženski) in Slovenian and its English translation.

Kocbek's work displays the influence of modernism and its aesthetics colliding with the tragic history of his country. His poems, which are almost epic in form, but vulnerably lyrical in content, convey the sense of correspondence which places the most intimate love relationship in a larger social and spiritual perspective and historical sense.

Kocbek's works in English include: The Lipizzaners (Ljubljana: Association of Slovene Writers, 1989), At the Door at Evening (Dorion,



Slovenian Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar reading a poem titled Scent of a Woman by Edvard Kocbek .

Quebec & Ljubljana: The Muses' Co., Aleph, 1990), Embers in the House of Night: selected poems of Edvard Kocbek (Santa Fe, New Mexico: Lumen, 1999), and Nothing Is Lost: Selected Poems (Princeton, Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2004).

The poetry reading was followed by a reception featuring

food provided by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain and wines from participating countries. Guests also had a great opportunity to learn about each participating nation by visiting country tables and to talk to representatives from various embassies.

## BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

# Slovenian Startup Wins TechCrunch Prize

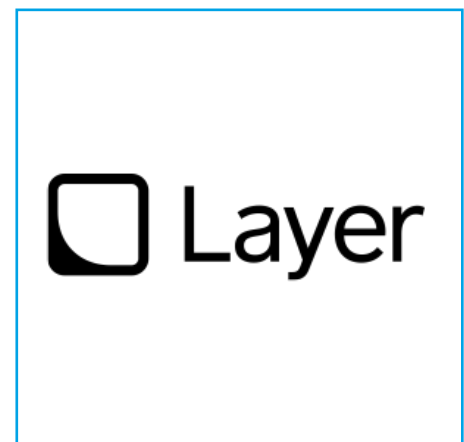
On Wednesday, September 11, Mobile communications platform Layer, a startup company founded by Slovenian entrepreneur Tomaž Štolfa in March of this year, won in San Francisco the prestigious Techcrunch Disrupt competition.

The company, which is developing a messaging, voice, and video platform that can easily be integrated into mobile apps, was first in the competition of 29 startup companies vying for the

prize and walked away with the \$50,000 prize and about \$1.5m in seed capital from a number of venture funds, including Bloomberg Beta and Crunchfund.

The technology is aimed at developers looking for a simple way to integrate communications into their apps.

More information is available at: <http://techcrunch.com/2013/09/11/and-the-winner-of-techcrunch-disrupt-sf-2013-is-layer/> (Source: STA)



## Public Tender for Scholarships for Slovenes Abroad

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia has approved public tender for awarding of scholarships to Slovenes abroad for undergraduate study in the Republic of for the academic year 2013/2014.

These scholarships are awarded to applicants who meet the general conditions of the Scholarship Act and under the conditions and in the amount that is set by the Public Fund, with the upon prior consent of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

**Under this tender, scholarships are awarded to:**

- Scholars who have already been granted scholarships for Slovenians abroad and continue their studies in the academic year 2013/2014;
- Candidates who are

applying for the first time for scholarships for Slovenians abroad.

The total amount of funds available for scholarships under this tender for the academic year 2013/2014 amounts to €600,000 (approx. \$798,600). The amount of the basic scholarship for the academic year 2013/2014 amounts to €150 (approx. \$200) per month, or €1,800 (approx. \$2,400) for the entire academic year.

**The following supplements may be awarded to the scholarship:**

- Supplement for residence outside the dormitory or student residence in private accommodation, which is not subsidized, in the amount of €50 (approx. \$67) per month.
- Supplement for students from the Porabje region

(Hungary) of €80 (approx. \$106) per month.

- Supplement for Slovenians abroad (except for Slovenians in the neighboring countries) in the amount of €50 (approx. \$67) per month..

- Supplement for compulsory health insurance, except for nationals of the European Union Member States, in the amount of €24.31 (approx. \$32 per month).

**Deadline:**

- **September 20, 2013** – for candidates who apply for scholarships for Slovenians abroad for the first time,;
- **September 27, 2013** – for scholars who had already been awarded a scholarship for Slovenians abroad.

For more information, please contact: Ms. Maja Deisinger at [Maja.Deisinger@sklad-kadri.si](mailto:Maja.Deisinger@sklad-kadri.si)

TOURISM

## Beekeeping

Beekeeping has always been a part of Slovenian culture and one of the oldest and most traditional rural activities due to the fact that Slovenian climate and landscape with its diverse flora provide excellent conditions and forage to the bees.

In the past, Slovenians have had excellent, talented beekeepers, who greatly contributed to the global body of beekeeping knowledge. Already in the 18th century, when Austrian Empress Maria Theresa founded



a beekeeping school in Vienna, Slovenian-born Anton Janša (1734-1773) was the first teacher of beekeeping at this school (1734-1773). He was renowned as a great theoretician and practitioner and even wrote two books in German on beekeeping: *A Treatise on Bee-swarmling* (1771) and *A Full guide to Beekeeping* (1775). Exceptional credit for developing Slovenian beekeeping also goes to the priest and teacher Peter Pavel Glavar (1721-1784) and to Anton Žnideršič (1874-1947). One hundred years ago, Slovenian beekeepers and bee merchants even controlled the trade in Carniolan bee colonies and queens all over the world.

Nowadays, Slovenia is the only European Union member state to have protected its native bee, the Carniolan bee. This indigenous Slovenian species is regarded as the second most widespread bee breed in the world and it is famed for its docility, hard work, calm character, utilization of forest forage; and excellent sense of orientation. Its advantage lies in its rapid spring development, good cleaning instinct, disease resistance and frugality because it over-



Beekeeper`s vehicle in the field (Source: [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info), photographer: Aleš Fevžer)

winters in colonies with a relatively low number of bees.

In the days when people still had no refined sugar, there was hardly a farm in Slovenia that did not keep bees in addition to its other domestic animals. Honey was the only sweetener available, and beeswax was an indispensable material for candle making. Today, the Slovenian honey, produced by Carniolan bees, is a protected geographical indication.

Slovenia produces around 2,000 metric tons of honey a year,

which is sufficient for domestic needs and even used for export. Slovenian beekeepers can boast a relatively rich selection of different honeys (flower honey, forest honey, acacia honey, linden honey, spruce honey).

Apart from the honey, Slovenian beekeepers make a whole range of other characteristic products: beeswax, pollen, royal jelly and propolis.

Another special feature of Slovenian beekeeping that has gained international recognition is in the area of folk art – this being the art of painting wooden beehive front panels with fascinating images, something not known anywhere else in the world. The beginnings of this folk art can be traced back to the middle of the 18th century. Slovenia’s museums have preserved a good number of original paintings from which countless replicas have been made – new beehive panels done in the antique style are among the more original Slovenian tourist souvenirs. More information is available at Beekeepers’ Association of Slovenia at [http://www.czs.si/turizem\\_en/](http://www.czs.si/turizem_en/).



The painted wooden front panels of beehives became a rural art form in Slovenia – hives, painted in various colors and bearing interesting scenes are today recognized as an open-air art. ([www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info), photographer: Dunja Wedam)

**"The Discreet Charm of Legitimacy: The United Nations, Crisis Management and Reform"**

Danilo Türk, former president of Slovenia, former Slovenian ambassador to the United Nations and U.N. Security Council member, will discuss this topic.

When: [September 16, 2013 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [SAIS, 1619 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036](#)

More information: <http://www.sais-jhu.edu/events/2013-09-16-173000-2013-09-16-190000/discreet-charm-legitimacy-united-nations-crisis-managemen>

**The FDI Summit Slovenia 2013**

The FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) Summit Slovenia 2013, an executive-level business conference devoted to the investment environment and opportunities in Slovenia, will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on September 17, 2013. This business networking event is an outstanding opportunity to make new contacts with the leading business people in the region, top government officials, existing international investors in Slovenia and those interested in entering the Slovenian market and developing business in the wider region.

More information is available at: <http://www.fdi.si/>

**EURONIGHT**

For the sixth year in a row, the Embassy of France will host the traditional EURONIGHT event. The 2013 edition will feature more than 20 European Union embassies, each showcasing its respective culture, traditions and culinary specialties.

When: [Friday, September 27, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Road, NW, Washington, DC 20007](#)

More information and tickets: <https://euronight2013.eventbrite.com/>

**Chamber Choir Megaron in the U.S.**

The mixed 40-member MEGARON choir consists of alumni who came up through the ranks of several choruses at the Saint Stanislaus Classical High School in Sentvid-Ljubljana. MEGARON has won many competition awards, and has over its 10 year existence toured Austria, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Slovakia, Poland and Canada.

MEGARON's renowned conductor is Damijan Močnik, who has gained international recognition for his work as a composer. Its guest conductor is Martina Batič, a chief conductor of the Slovenian Chamber Choir. The program will encompass the works of a variety of Slovenian composers and Slovenian folk music.

Free entrance.

When: [Monday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Mary's on 15519 Holmes Avenue in Collinwood, Cleveland, OH](#)

When: [Wednesday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. John's Windish Evangelical Lutheran Church at 617 E. 4th St., Bethlehem, PA](#)

More information: <http://www.bmssca.org/> or Kathy Novak at [churchlady21@aol.com](mailto:churchlady21@aol.com)

When: [Thursday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Holloway Hall, Salisbury University, Camden Ave., Salisbury, MD](#)

More information: <http://www.worldartists.org/waehome/index.cfm>

When: [Friday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, 801 Chase Street, Annapolis, MD](#)

More information: <http://www.worldartists.org/waehome/index.cfm>

## 5th Annual Slovenefest in Kansas City

When: [September 28, 2013](#)  
Where: [Kansas City, Kansas.](#)

Holy Mass starts at 4:00 p.m. in Holy Family Church at 274 Orchard Street. Festivities will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Msgr. Mejak Hall, Gym, & School Grounds, 513 Ohio, Kansas City, Kansas. Music & Dancing will feature The Don Lipovac Orchestra with Brian McCarty & Hrvatski Običaj. The evening will include authentic Slovenian dinner, big silent auction, children & adult games, cultural booth and souvenirs. For more information contact (913) 371-1561 or [www.holyfamilychurchkck.com](http://www.holyfamilychurchkck.com)

## 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](mailto:jfkamin@verizon.net)

## 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 October 2013](#)  
Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20008](#)