



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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100 Years of Slovenian Parish in Fairfield, CT

The Slovenian parish of the Holy Cross in Fairfield, CT, and St. Joseph KSKJ Lodge #148 celebrated their 100th anniversary on Sunday, June 9, 2013 with a jubilee mass, attended by Slovenes from Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts and even Illinois and Kansas, as well as many parishioners and benefactors.

The solemn mass was concelebrated by Rev. Alfred F. Pečarič and Fr. Bogdan Kolar from Ljubljana.

On behalf of the Slovenian Embassy, Deputy Chief of Mission Ondina Blokar Drobič congratulated the Slovenian



The parish was relocated in 1960s under the leadership of the Pastor Rev. Aloysius Hribšek.

community in Connecticut on its 100th anniversary. She expressed sincere compliments to the Slovenian Americans in Connecticut and to members of the Holy Cross parish for their outstanding work and valuable role in nurturing the friendship between the peoples of Slovenia and the United States, preserving the Slovenian language and

heritage. Prior to the celebration, Ms. Blokar Drobič met with parish and KSKJ representatives, and also with businessmen to discuss possibilities for cooperation between Slovenia and Connecticut.

On this occasion, Ms. Blokar Drobič also presented to the American Slovenes in Fairfield recognition from the





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Minister for Slovenians Abroad, Ms. Tina Komel, for their endeavors through the decades to preserve Slovenian identity and for maintaining Slovenian culture. According to the words of Mr. Anton Malenšek, a foreman of St. Joseph Society, the Slovenian parish nowadays has around 230 members, many of them representing the 2nd, 3rd or even 4th generation of Slovenian immigrants.

Over the decades, the parishioners of the Holy Cross have faced many challenges. At first, the Bridgeport West End Slovenian community, which immigrated to the U.S. at the beginning of the 20th century, celebrated Mass in the basement of the French Church of St. Anthony. However, on June 13, 1913, John J. Nilan, Bishop of Hartford, formally established the new parish of the Holy Cross and named Father Michael Golob its first pastor. By the spring of 1915, the parish had its own building on Pine street

in Bridgeport. The church was dedicated in November of 1915 and Father Golob served as its Pastor until his death in 1950, when Father Andrew Farkas was appointed the second pastor of the Holy Cross.

In 1964, since the West End had been designated a Redevelopment Area, the Holy

Cross was designated to be torn down. After the unfortunate death of Father Farkas in 1967, Bishop Curtis appointed Father Aloysius Hribšek to be installed as the third Pastor of the Holy Cross Church. Father Hribšek, in 1970, after negotiations between the diocese and the city, succeeded to relocate the parish to Fairfield. The new church was dedicated on November 26, 1972, thus preserving the only Slovenian parish in New England. In May 1981, the new Parish Center was dedicated. Still very much vibrant, in 2012 the Center was renamed honoring Rev. Aloysius Hribšek.

The Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, is pleased to congratulate the members of the Holy Cross parish on its 100th anniversary, and to recognize on this joyous occasion the KSKJ 148 St. Joseph Lodge for its long and proud history as a center of faith and culture for the Slovenian Americans in Connecticut. Iskrene čestitke!



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Global Young Leaders Visit Slovenian Embassy

The participants in the Global Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC, visited the Slovenian Embassy on Wednesday, June 12, to learn about the country and its role in the international community. A group of outstanding high school juniors and seniors from all around the world who came to the United States for 10 days was addressed by Nuška Zakrajšek, Culture and Public Diplomacy Officer, and Borut Blaj, First Secretary.

After presenting historical, cultural and political highlights of Slovenia, they also informed the visitors of the role and purpose of a diplomatic and consular representation and offered an understanding of the role that the diplomatic community plays in promoting world cooperation.

The GYLC is a unique leadership development program, which brings together outstanding young people from around the world to build critical leadership skills in a global context by



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offering students the opportunity to learn from and exchange ideas with some of the world's top business leaders, policy officials, lobbyists, journalists, diplomats and academics.

The GYLC is sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council and has been inspiring students to become outstanding citizens and leaders within their respective communities already for 25 years.

CULTURE

Art Reception for Sukyo Mahikari at the Embassy

The Embassy of Slovenia hosted on Friday June 7, 2013, an art reception that benefited Sukyo Mahikari, a community-service not-for-profit organization in Washington, DC.

The event featured a beautiful array of diverse artwork created by artists Myra Maslowsky, the event curator; Lourdes Alfonso, Linda Lowery, Michelle Ayn Potter, Cynthia Smith, and Joyce Wellman and was organized by Bruce McBarnette, Esq., president of Summit Connection LLC, former TV anchor and current WEEA Radio news director, as well

as Ingrid Parris-Hicklin, and Roderick and Leslie Woods-Hulse.

Nuška Zakrajšek, Cultural and Public Diplomacy Officer of the Embassy of Slovenia, greeted the guests and gave a presentation about the history and culture of Slovenia as Bruce McBarnette presented the featured artists. The event was sponsored by the Embassy of Slovenia, which donated its space for the event; the Washington DC Chapter of Sukyo Mahikari; Summit Connection LLC; and Roger Nakazawa, Sharon Deardorff, and Olu Yemsi.



Eva Petrič, Gr@y matter – Language of Shadows, Art Installations in Bergdorf Goodman windows

Andy Warhol was there, and Cy Twombly as well and many many other artists, and now Slovenian Eva Petrič is there or, better said, her shadows. Where: in the legendary windows of the prestigious Bergdorf Goodman on New York's 5th avenue, between 57th and 58th Street. They will remain there until June 24, attracting each week the eyes of one-and-a-half-million people, who glimpse at these legendary windows according to the now shown documentary Scatter my ashes at Bergdorf's.

How did Eva's shadows find their way there? "My Angel dissected; my travelling installation at the Centro Cultural Borges in Buenos Aires caught the attention of Mr. David Hoey, the chief curator of Bergdorf Goodman windows," explains Eva Petrič, multimedia artist from Slovenia with exhibitions all around the world. He offered to her art photographs on acrylic glass plates all of the sixth main windows on 5th avenue, where they replaced the punk installations prepared by the Metropolitan Museum in connection



In the spotlight of the prestigious Manhattan location, Eva Petrič's Gr@y matter – language of shadows installations caught attention already on their first day: CBS decided to feature them in their Watch fashion issue magazine in September.



Prada, Valentino, Dior ... and Eva Petrič's Shadows.

with their current exhibition From Punk to Couture.

"The images displayed now in the Bergdorf Goodman shop windows stem from my project Gr@y Matter - language of shadows, in which I explore the communication ability of shadows. To translate the language of shadows into the language of emotions, I borrowed the periodic table of elements from the natural sciences, where I replaced chemical elements with my analog and in dark room manipulated images of shadows visualizing emotions," explains Eva Petrič and adds: "In many respects, emotions are similar to shadows: we all have them whether we are aware of them or not, whether we like them or not. Primary emotions enabled us

to survive as a species. Yet today we often push them into the shadow. My aim is to expose the potential of shadows for expressing emotions, which we all have regardless of our age, sex, race, cultural background, religion and social position."

Poet, author and multimedia artist Eva Petrič is the recipient of the 2010 Vordemberge-Gildewart Grant and of the 2011 Pfann Ohmann Preis, Vienna. She was one of the ten nominees to represent Slovenia at the 2013 Venice Biennale of Art. Her visual work was displayed at 28 solo exhibitions and at 38 group exhibitions in Slovenia, Argentina, Austria, China, Germany, Italy, the Philippines, Spain, Serbia and the U.S. as well as at the 2012 Beijing International Art Biennale.

Vipava Valley



The Vipava Valley offers possibilities for outdoor activities and recreation throughout the year because of its mild climate. (Photo courtesy: TIC VIPAVA; Oton Naglost).

This picturesque valley, named after the Vipava River, is surrounded by the high plateaus of Trnovski gozd, Hrušica and Nanos in the north and by the Vipava Hills merging with the Kras (Karst) in the south. The valley was settled already in the Stone Age. The Copper, Bronze and Iron Ages left their own traces, but the main legacy was left by the Romans, who had brought there its main agricultural treasure – the grape vine. The beloved wine, combined with the delicious culinary specialties of the area, still excels in the stone cellars of the local farmhouses.

The vineyards of the Vipava Valley were described by Janez Vajkard Valvasor in *The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola* already in 1689. In 1894, the first viticulture cooperative on Slovene territory was established

in Vipava and, in the village of Slap, the first Slovene school of agriculture functioned between 1873 and 1886.

Ancient knowledge and modern approaches place the winegrowers of Vipava among the most excellent wine producers. In private cellars and in one of the largest Slovene cooperative wine cellars in Vipava, wines such as Ribolla, Sauvignon, Malvasia, Welschriesling, Chardonnay, Yellow Muscat and Pinot Blanc, accompanied by excellent red wines such as Merlot, Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, are matured. Especially popular is the white wine, made mostly of local grape varieties, and locally called »Vipavec«.

In the town of Vipava, which developed beside numerous springs of the Vipava River, the natural heritage is enriched by cultural attractions. The oldest one is Old Castle (Stari grad), which dates back to



In the past, Zemono mansion was used as a holiday residence and a hunting lodge.



In 1762, the Lanthieri family built a Baroque mansion on the present main square in Vipava. (Photo courtesy: TIC VIPAVA).

the 12th century. In 1762, the Lanthieri family built a Baroque mansion on the present main square in Vipava. Moreover, the Gothic church of St. Stephen was reconstructed in the Baroque style and is an important art-historical monument. The public cemetery in Vipava contains two original Egyptian sarcophagi,

brought from Egypt by the diplomat and Egyptologist Anton Laurin.

The renewed Zemono mansion nearby was built in the Renaissance style by Vipava lord Francesco Antonio Lanthieri in 1683. Its appearance is that of a villa based on Venetian architectural principles of that

period. Almost all the rooms are decorated with significant, Baroque frescoes, depicting secular, allegorical (the elements: fire, air, and water are depicted) and fantastic motifs. In the past, it was used as a holiday residence and a hunting lodge. The renovated building is nowadays surrounded by a park and vineyards, and features a wedding hall and a restaurant (former mansion kitchen) on the ground floor.

Among the most beautiful monuments of the past in the Vipava Valley is also the village of Vipavski Križ. The settlement was first mentioned in written documents dating to the 13th century. The houses in the village are clustered inside a defense wall around a castle from the late 15th century. In 1636, a Capuchin monastery with a rich library was founded in the town, nowadays opened to visitors. (Source: TIC Vipava; More information: tic.vipava@siol.net)



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The vineyards of the Vipava Valley were described by Janez Vajkard Valvasor in *The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola* already in 1689. Winegrowers of Vipava are nowadays placed among the most excellent wine producers.

Annual Flag Raising Celebration in Bethlehem, PA

Organized by Bethlehem/Murska Sobota Sister Cities Association.

When: [Friday, June 21, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.](#)

Where: [City of Bethlehem, Payrow Plaza, 10 E. Church St., Bethlehem PA](#)

More information: www.bmssca.org

SNPJ Slovenefest

Slovenefest, a three-day annual event held the second weekend of July at the SNPJ Recreation Center in the Borough of SNPJ, PA, brings together thousands to enjoy the ethnic food, music, culture and fun of Slovenia.

When: [July 12, 13 & 14, 2013](#)

Where: [The SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Enon Valley, Pennsylvania](#)

More information and detailed schedule of events at: <http://www.slovenefest.com/schedule>.

Festival "A Salute to Slovenian Cultural Expressions" in Ely, MN

This second annual salute to Slovenians at Vermilion College includes expressions of the music, cuisine, literature and faith. A day-long festival features how Slovenians in America maintain their identity through the arts. Special guest Joe Valencic will present two Slovenian films: "Bogdan Grom," a portrait of the 94-year-old New York artist, and "Shanghai Gypsy," the award-winning feature by director Marko Naberšnik. Admission to the films is free.

Among the activities, high school students will deliver a historical overview of the Slovenian people and recite poetry by Slovenian authors. An exhibit on Bishop Friderik Baraga will be installed by the St. Louis County Historical Society.

Where: [Vermilion Community College, 1900 Camp Street, Ely, Minnesota](#)

When: [Friday, July 12, 2013, beginning at 9:00 a.m.](#)

To follow tradition, the Slovenska Miza (Slovenian Table), a buffet of authentic Slovenian foods, will take place at the Creek Ridge Lodge on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m., complete with dancing to Slovenian music. Creek Ridge Lodge is at 1752 Creek Ridge Trail, east of Ely.

Polka! The Movie -- Film Presentation

Twin Cities Slovenians invite you to a special screening of Polka! The Movie -- a documentary about how Slovenians have had an impact on American music. Joe Valencic, President of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum, wrote and narrated the film for TV Slovenia. On the occasion, he will share behind-the-scene stories on the making of the documentary.

When: [Sunday, July 14, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Roseville Library, 2180 Hamline Ave N, Roseville, MN 55113](#)

More information: <http://www.twincitiesslovenians.org/>

When: [Wednesday, July 10, 2013 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center \(the Depot\), 506 W. Michigan St., Duluth, MN](#)

More information: [St. Louis County Historical Society at \(218\) 733-7580 or](#)

history@thehistorypeople.org

This presentation will be hosted by the St. Louis County Historical Society, with light refreshments provided. Before the screening, Joe will present "Slovenians in American Music," a tribute to Slovenians who have contributed to America's musical heritage, from jazz and rock to opera and polkas. The event is made possible in part by the American Slovenian Polka Foundation, the parent organization of the Polka Hall of Fame, and a grant from the Office for Slovenes Abroad of the Republic of Slovenia.