



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

JUNE 21, 2013, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 24

## Flag-Raising Ceremony in Bethlehem, PA

**The 17th traditional flag-raising ceremony on the occasion of the National day of the Republic of Slovenia took place on the Payrow Plaza at the City Hall in Bethlehem, PA, on June 21. The celebration was led by Eugene Novak, the president of the Bethlehem–Murska Sobota Sister City Association and attended by numerous members of the Slovenian community and other citizens of Bethlehem.**

After the presentation of Slovenian and American national anthems led by former president



The 2013 Flag-Raising Ceremony included Stephen Antalics, a retired Lehigh University professor, who raised the Slovenian flag and City Councilman of Slovenian ancestry Bob Donchez who raised the American flag.

of BMSSSA Frank E. Podleiszek and Betty Sylva, accompanied by Mary T. Pongracz, and the flag raising, Robert Donchez, a nominee for the next Mayor of Bethlehem, congratulated the Slovenian community on the 22nd anniversary of independence and Mr. Dennis Reichard brought the best wishes of Bethlehem's mayor John Callahan.

Keynote speaker at the event was the representative of the Embassy of Slovenia, Nuška Zakrajšek, who expressed sincere compliments for outstanding work and valuable role of Slovenian community in Bethlehem, PA, moreover Bethlehem – Muska Sobota Sister City Association in nurturing the friendship between the peoples





Address by Mr. Dennis Reichard on behalf of City of Bethlehem.



The celebration took place on the Payrow Plaza at the City Hall in Bethlehem, PA, and was attended by numerous members of the Slovenian community and other citizens of Bethlehem.

of Slovenia and the United States, preserving Slovenian language and culture.

Bethlehem, established in 1741, became home to many Slovenians, which came mostly from Prekmurje region. St. John's Windish Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded in Bethlehem by Slovene immigrants already in 1910, whereas the foundation stone for Roman Catholic church of St. Joseph was set in 1914. Both premises have served in

the past century also as a place where a strong and vital Slovenian community has nurtured their heritage. Thanks to the first president of the association professor Stephen Antalics, Slovenian community organized itself in the association and in 1996 established sister city relationship with Murska Sobota. Since then, the cities cooperate on political, cultural and educational issues.

One of the goals of the Association is to encourage student

exchanges through the efforts of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Lutheran Synod. Thus in July a group of students from Bethlehem will visit their peers in Murska Sobota, whereas in May, a group of Lehigh University students visited Slovenia through the Martindale Student Associates Program.

More information on Bethlehem – Murska Sobota Sister City Association one can find at: [www.bmssca.org](http://www.bmssca.org)



On the photo: Eugene Novak, the president of the Bethlehem–Murska Sobota Sister City Association next to former president of BMSSSA Frank E. Podleiszek and Betty Sylva.



The ceremony was followed by a luncheon in Saucon Valley Acres, where one could try a cake made for the occasion that represented Slovenian flag.

## Radenci



Panoramic view on Radenci and Mura river. (Photo is a courtesy of [Radenci Tourist Office](#).)

The town of Radenci lies in the northeastern part of Slovenia in an area surrounded by cornfields and vineyard-covered hills along the Mura river, one of the longest rivers in Slovenia (known also as the river of floating mills).

In the oldest recorded mention of Radenci, in 1436, the settlement appears under the name of Radein. Radenci became well-known as a healing resort in 1833, when a medical student, Karel Henn, visiting the village discovered in an area an underground rumbling. In 1869, he decided to buy the land and capture the burbling water. He named the first bottle of mineral water he filled, Radenska. Already in the 19th century the bottles were being supplied to the imperial court in Vienna and the papal court in Rome. Today, Radenska

is a worldwide brand, known by its logo of three hearts, which symbolize the unique mineral water with natural CO<sup>2</sup> content.

Later on, a health resort was established on the site and welcomed its first guests in 1882. The health resort, which can still be visited today, is very unique due to its tradition and its health, wellness and relaxation program. All treatments are based on drinking the mineral water or inhaling its vapors. Local producers of wine, honey and oil regularly show and sell their wares in the Radenci Health Resort. The resort also organizes tastings of local wines in conjunction with events such as the Sparkling Wine Night gala or The Night of St. Martin.

Radenci is also known for other attractions, one of them being the Chapel of St. Ann. The entrance of the church has an inscription,



Mineral spring in Radenci. (Source: [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info); Photographer: Dani Mauko).



“Three hearts marathon” in Radenci has been taking place since 1981. (Photo: is courtesy of [www.sava-hotels-resorts.com](http://www.sava-hotels-resorts.com))



Worldwide known Radenska mineral water. (Source: [www.radenska.si](http://www.radenska.si))

marking the year 1895. The neo-Gothic chapel’s artifacts in the transept have been donated by Henna Roman, widowed daughter of Karel Henn. Another interesting sacral monument is the modern church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, built in 1986.

The best known marathon in the area, organized in Radenci and called the “Three hearts marathon”, has been taking place since 1981 and attracting every year several thousands of people from around the world.

Every June, visitors of Radenci can also attend the cycling marathon, entitled »Z biciklom kre Mura« (By Bicycle along the Mura). The marathon is the best way to discover along the way the natural and cultural sights and cuisine of this region.

## TO DO LIST

### 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>.

### Slovenia & Bach on Capitol Hill

Vibrant contemporary chamber music from Slovenia and J.S. Bach, with guest soprano Patrice Michaels and pianist Jeffrey Chappell, along with composer Brina Jež and violinist Branko Brezavšček, special guests from Ljubljana.

When: [Wednesday, August 3 at 8 p.m.](#), [Friday, August 5 at 8 p.m.](#), [Sunday, August 7 at 8 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Mark’s Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill at 3rd and A streets SE](#)

Suggested donation: \$20, \$17 seniors, \$12 students. 16 and under free.

More information: [www.chcmf.org](http://www.chcmf.org).

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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.

### Participation in a Study of American-Slovenian Music

The Institute of Ethnomusicology, a component of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, located in Ljubljana, is dedicated to the collection, preservation and research of the Slovenian folk-music tradition. Given the unique character of the musical heritage of Slovenian immigrants in the U.S., the institute has identified it as a subject of great interest.

A study has been designed and approved by the Institute, and American-Slovenians of all ages are invited to participate. The primary means by which the study will be pursued is through the use of a questionnaire. The questionnaire seeks to discover how the ties to Slovenian distinctive ethnic heritage are maintained in America through music.

You are invited to complete the questionnaire, which can be accessed by clicking on the following link or pasting it into your browser:

<http://anketnik.zrc-sazu.si/index.php/858462/lang-en>