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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 25, 2013, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 38

## U.S. - Slovenia Business Bridge Conference

**The Investment and Development Conference U.S.-Slovenia Business Bridge took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia on October 17-18, 2013, attended by more than 800 participants. The conference was the second of its kind with such a broad range of participants and supporters in attendance.**

Organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovenia – AmCham Slovenia, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana, and the SPIRIT - Public Agency for the



Opening address by President of the Republic of Slovenia Mr. Borut Pahor.

Promotion of Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Development, Investment and Tourism, the two-day event was opened by President Borut Pahor and later addressed by Prime Minister Alenka Bratušek and Joseph A. Mussomeli, U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia.

The agenda was focused, on the one hand, on opportunities for Slovenian companies in the U.S. and, on

the other, on presenting Slovenia as an attractive destination for U.S. and international investors. The aim was to help strengthen U.S.-Slovenian business ties and highlight opportunities for increasing trade and investment. Emphasis was also put on informing the participants about the TTIP-Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, currently negotiated between the E.U and the U.S.

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The event provided to U.S. investors and companies an ideal platform for interacting directly with high-level Slovenian Government officials and obtaining from companies already present in Slovenia first-hand information on the investment climate and current trends. On the other hand, up-to-date information and recommendations were provided for Slovenian companies about how to enter the U.S. market and develop business in this complex environment of great opportunities. In her address, Prime Minister Alenka Bratušek said that U.S. investors and consumers did already know about the excellent Slovenian companies and products, referring to ski manufacturer Elan, ultralight-aircraft maker Pipistrel, and pharmaceutical products. At the same time, she outlined that there was still a lot of as yet unexploited potential for boosting cooperation, particularly in foreign direct investment.

The role of high-tech innovation for business and investment opportunities was also in focus of the conference, which featured Slovenian Centers of Excellence COBIK, PoliMat and EN-FIST. Geographically, the conference focused on opportunities in two U.S. states: Colorado and Ohio. Executive director of the Akron (Ohio) BioMedical incubator, Zev Gurion, outlined that the entrepreneurs must play a key role in the innovation process while the government must ensure a supportive environment. In attendance were also Consul General from Cleveland, Jurček Žmauc, on behalf of the S-ABA Slovenian-American Business Association, and Honorary Consul of Slovenia in Colorado, Lucky Vidmar. Other special high-level guest speakers included Dr. Jernej Pikalo, Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia and, from the U.S., Joseph P. Quinlan, Managing

Director and Chief Market Strategist at the U.S. Trust – Bank of America Private Wealth Management; Elena Bryan, Senior Trade Representative at the U.S. Mission to the European Union, and Joshua Harris, Political, Economic and Commercial Chief at the U.S. Embassy to the Republic of Slovenia.

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



CULTURE

Boris Pahor's Necropolis available at Storyville app in U.S., Canada and U.K.

An excerpt from the novel Necropolis by the 100-years-old Slovenian writer Boris Pahor will be available from Tuesday, October 22 at Storeyville app, and the commentary on the novel will be accessible at: [www.storyvilleapp.com](http://www.storyvilleapp.com)

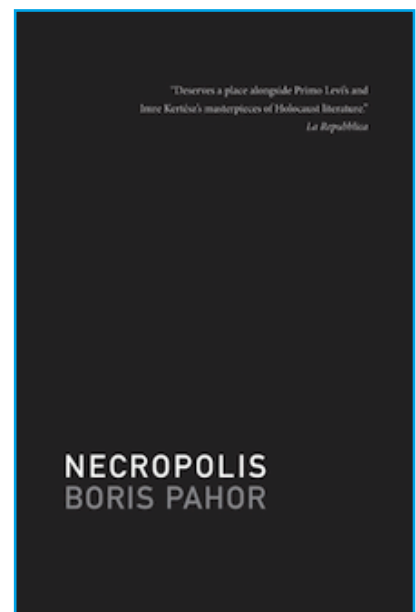
The actual story, translated into English by Michael Biggins, can be read by purchasing the app at itunes and Kindle. Itunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/storyville/>

[id327765993?mt=8](http://id327765993?mt=8)  
Kindle: <http://www.amazon.com/Storyville/dp/B005KTMN3I>

Readers can also post their comments on the novel and/or Mr. Pahor on the following facebook pages and twitter accounts:

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StoryvilleApp?ref=hl>

Twitter: [@storyvilleapp](https://twitter.com/storyvilleapp)



# Slovenia at the 26th U.N. Day Celebration in Chevy Chase, MD

On Friday, October 25, the Embassy of Slovenia joined the Oneness-Family School in Chevy Chase, Maryland, for the annual celebration honoring the United Nations Day. Beside the representatives of the Embassy of Slovenia, nearly 60 ambassadors and diplomats from Washington embassies attended the celebration, at which around 40 different countries were represented.

The Oneness-Family School students (ages 2-14) represent close to 50 nationalities. The event is one of the highlights of their school year. The children spend weeks studying and preparing for the United Nations Day by making displays, art and costumes to present different countries.

During the program on October 25, the students



The event is one of the highlights of the Oneness-Family school year.

offered several performances of music, dance and drama, related to the message of peace among the United Nations. Their presentation was followed by a ceremony, in which representatives of the countries

carried their national flags in a procession of nations. After the program, the delegations toured the school, admired the students' displays in classrooms and joined an international luncheon.

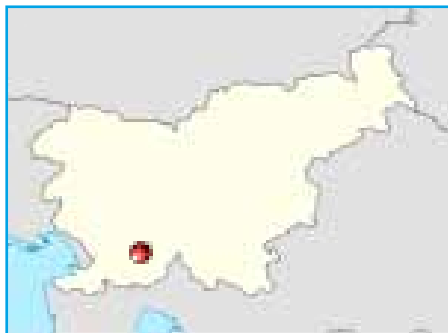


Beside the Embassy of Slovenia, around 40 different countries were represented at the event.



Representative from the Embassy of Slovenia Ms. Tina Ruš together with Mr. Riad Habul, Attaché at the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

# Pivka



The small town of Pivka lies in the Pivka Basin in the Karst region of Slovenia. Originally named in the 13th century Villa Sancti Petri super Piucha, the settlement has since had several names, and was given its current name, Pivka, after World War II.

The territory has been inhabited since prehistoric times and Slavic tribes settled in the area approximately 1000 years ago. Throughout the centuries, many empires, kingdoms and countries have tried to subordinate and fortify the broader area of the Postojna Gate (also known as the Gate of Italy) as this has always represented



Park of Military History in Pivka  
(Photo: <http://www.parkvojaskezgodovine.si/>)

one of the most important strategic points in Europe.

In the 18th century, after the reconstruction of several roads, furmanstvo (wagon driving) flourished. The completion of the railway from Vienna to Trieste in 1857, and of its branch Šempeter – Rijeka a few years later, brought industrialization to Pivka.

The period was followed by more than two decades of Italian fascist occupation and forced assimilation attempts. In autumn of 1943, the inhabitants massively joined the national liberation movement and uprising of Primorska. Still today, large concrete military fortifications in the Primož and Habjan hills that were part of the enormous Alpine defense wall, testify of those times.

The Pivka River is a sinking river, which gave the name to both the entire basin and its municipal center. Changeable and impetuous, it sometimes withdraws into the subterranean world full of caves and at times floods fields and meadows far from its river bed.

The river also shaped the underground Pivka Cave that provides an entrance to the extensive Postojna cave system. Located in the Pivka Basin is the Parska Golobina Cave known for its archaeological finds from the Neolithic Period.

Pivka's abundance of water can also be noticed in 17 intermittent lakes, which fill up in the hollows of the eastern basin ridge after heavy rainfalls. The best known are Lake Petelinje and Lake Pačje, which retain water for most of the year and are completely dry only during the driest seasons.



Pivka Cave and Black Cave. (Photo: [www.pivka.si](http://www.pivka.si))

In the middle of dry grassland increasingly overgrown with junipers and pines, or grassy forest plains above charming villages, visitors can truly feel the vastness of secluded tranquility. The historical St. Martin's Church is interesting due to its presbytery with Gothic ribbed arches and frescoes from 1462, and the Šilentabor ruins, where a castle and a fort for protection against the Turks were built in 1471 stand as a reminder that, in the 15th century, the population suffered from violent Turkish invasions and infectious diseases.

Since the area around Pivka has always been characterized by its strategic position, different peoples and armies migrated across the area over centuries. The Park of Military History, which is housed in the old Pivka barracks, attracts visitors from near and far with a national armored artillery exhibition, a Yugoslav P-913 submarine and various other interesting exhibits, and collections. More about the museum can be found at: <http://www.parkvojaskezgodovine.si/>

## FRU FRU THEATRE at the Kids' Euro Festival 2013



A celebration of European arts for kids at the largest children's performing arts festival in the United States, with 250 free performances, workshops and films! Slovenia's FRU FRU Theatre will present a puppet show: *My Umbrella Can Also Be a Balloon!* (*Moj dežnik je lahko balon*) by Ela Peroci. The show is the winner of five stars as "Best Children's Show" (1999) at the Edinburgh's legendary Fringe Festival. For ages 3 to 10; duration: 30 min. All performances are free. Registration is required.

When: Sunday, October 27 at 1:00 p.m.

Where: Hill Center, Abraham Lincoln Hall, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20003

When: Monday, October 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, 2700 F St, N.W., Washington, DC 20566

When: Tuesday, October 29, time TBD

Where: Ross Elementary School, 1730 R St., N.W., Washington, DC 20009 and Petit Scholars, 2940 12th St. N.E., Washington, DC 20017

When: Wednesday, October 30 at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Library of Congress, Young Reader Center, Thomas Jefferson Building, Room LJ G31 (ground floor), 10 First St. S.E., Washington DC 20540

More information and registration: <http://kidseurofestival.org/slovenia-perf/> and <http://kidseurofestival.org/my-umbrella-is-a-balloon-too/>

## Martinovanje in New York

Slovenian Union of America's New York City branch is hosting martinovanje (St. Martin's feast), a traditional folk festival that celebrates the year's new wine.

When: 12 noon, Sunday, November 10, 2013

Where: 62 Saint Mark's Place, New York, NY 10003 (8th Street between 2nd and 1st Avenues)

Admission: \$20 per person.

RSVP [vajkusa@aol.com](mailto:vajkusa@aol.com)

### **Martinovanje in Cleveland**

Cleveland Štajerski-Prekmurski Klub is hosting martinovanje (St. Martin's feast), a traditional folk festival that celebrates the year's new wine.

When: [Saturday, October 26, 2013 at 6:00 p.m, dinner at 6:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Slovenian National Home at 6409 St. Clair Ave. in Cleveland, OH.](#)

Admission: [\\$30 per person.](#)

Tickets: [Tonica Simicak at \(440\) 256-6716](#) or [Mimi Cupar at \(440\) 551-0171.](#)

### **Concert by Percussion Duo Drumartica**

After great success at the prestigious competitions in Luxembourg (IPCL) and Bulgaria (PENDIM), the Slovenian duo has played in the United States, Russia and all around Europe in important halls such as the Hermitage Theater in St. Petersburg, Carnegie Hall in New York, Auditorio de Tenerife in the Canary Islands, and the Berlin Philharmonie. During the 80 minutes long program with two marimbas and a vibraphone, they will perform a mixture of classical music arrangements and contemporary music pieces, some of them written especially for them. The concert is the first one of the EUNIC -- European Institutes of Culture -- Concert Series.

When: [Friday, November 8, 2013 from 7:30 PM](#)

Where: [Austrian Cultural Forum, 3524 International Court, NW, Washington, DC, 20008](#)

Tickets: <http://eunic-drumartica.eventbrite.com/>



### **14th Annual Grape festival in CA**

The Southern California Slovenian Community, through the California federation of SNPJ Lodges, will celebrate the 14th Annual Grape festival. Music by the fabulous Mlakar Bro Orchestra.

When: [Sunday November 3, 2013](#)

Where: [Slovene Hall, 8425 Cypress Avenue, Fontana, CA](#)

More information: [Jean Koci at \(949\) 495-0097](#)

### **Festival of Wine and Winemakers in CA**

When: [Saturday, November 9, 2013](#)

Where: [Slovenian Hall, 2101 Mariposa Street, San Francisco, CA 94107](#)

Admission: [\\$35](#)

For reservations contact: [Jozi Plut, 7 Cranfield Ave, San Carlos, CA 94070 \(650\) 654-2099.](#)

Reservation due by November 5.

## [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 [November 21](#), and [December 3](#). Admission is free to the museum and presentation.

Further information may be obtained by contacting [minershallmuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:minershallmuseum@yahoo.com).

## [Third Annual Slovenian Fall Film Night in CA](#)

When: [Friday November 1, 2013 at 7 p.m.](#)

Where: Slovenian Hall at, 2101 Mariposa St., San Francisco, CA.

More information: Honorary Consul Thomas J. Brandi at [tjb@brandilaw.com](mailto:tjb@brandilaw.com) and <http://www.slovenianhall.com/>.

## [Thanksgiving Polka Party Weekend in Cleveland, OH](#)

The National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum presents the 50th Annual Thanksgiving Polka Party Weekend at the [Downtown Marriott Hotel](#) in Cleveland, Ohio, [November 28, 29 and 30, 2013](#). The Polka Hall of Fame annual Awards Show takes place Saturday, November 30, at [Euclid Auditorium in Euclid, Ohio](#).

For more information visit <http://www.polkafame.com/> or contact Joe Valencic at [jvalencic@yahoo.com](mailto:jvalencic@yahoo.com) or (216) 496-4646.

## [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:](#)

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