



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1, 2013, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 39

## FRU-FRU Puppet Theatre at the Euro Kids Festival

**Kids Euro Festival, the largest children's performing arts festival in the United States, returned to the Washington area with performances from October 16 to November 13, transforming the metro region into a European cultural playground. The sixth annual Kids Euro Festival is one of the country's largest performing arts festivals for children, with more than 200 free events in various locations**



FRU-FRU Theatre at the Library of Congress.

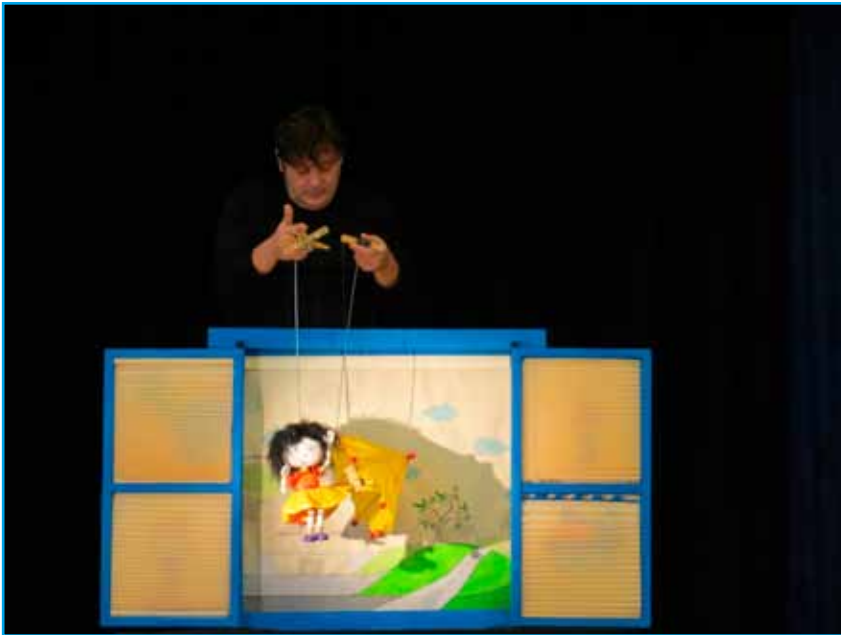
**in Washington and including venues in Maryland and Virginia.**

The Festival artist list comprises some of Europe's most talented performers for children, featured in diverse and imaginative live shows of puppetry, dance, music, theater, magic, and storytelling. Also, several films and workshops are showcasing favorite stories from all the E.U. Member States. The Festival is staged every year

through the collaboration of the 28 Washington-based European Union Member embassies and 30 major local cultural institutions.

Slovenia was represented this year in the festival by the FRU-FRU Puppet Theatre from Ljubljana. In its twenty years, this family theater has become a repertory theater with shows for all ages and with more than 250 performances every year. The FRU-FRU Theatre regularly performs throughout





Marjan and Irena Kunaver established the FRU - FRU theatre 20 years ago.

Slovenia and abroad, and has gained international recognition by winning awards at several festivals throughout Europe. Its shows try to combine popular children's stories with suitable puppet images. Its combination of acting, puppetry and live music unveils the magic world of objects, which come to life.

From October 27 to October 30, puppeteers Irena

Rajh Kunaver, Marjan Kunaver and Anže Virant entertained the audiences at the Hill Center in the Old Naval Hospital, the Kennedy Center, and the Library of Congress. Moreover, the children of the Janney Elementary School, Charles Sumner School and Brookland Education Campus at Bunker Hill had the chance to enjoy the show My Umbrella can also be

a Balloon, Too! (Moj dežnik je lahko tudi balon)

Premiered already in 1996, the show, based on a poetic story by Slovenian writer Ela Peroci. is about a girl who is looking for her lost ball. However, the key element of the show is the drive of imagination and the transition from the two-dimensional to the three-dimensional, which encourages the youngest audience to participate actively in the creative play.

The video of the performance on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage is available also online at:

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/explorer/videos/?id=M5632&type=A>

A complete 2013 schedule of the festival is available at:

<http://kidseurofestival.org/>  
More about the FRU-FRU Theatre is available at: <http://www.frufu.si>



The show is based on a story by Ela Peroci titled 'Moj dežnik je lahko balon.'



Around 200 children of Jenney Elementary School in Tenlytown enjoyed the show.



## Women's Foreign Policy Group Event at the Embassy

On October 30, 2013, Robin Wright, a journalist, author, foreign policy analyst, USIP Senior Fellow, and Wilson Center Distinguished Scholar, discussed "What's Next in the Middle East: Iran, Syria and Egypt" at a Beyond the Headlines event at the Embassy of Slovenia. Her talk compared the current developments in the three countries, and the possible future transformations, focusing on the implications of the Middle East region and their perspectives from the United States.

In his introductory remarks, Ambassador Dr. Cerar welcomed the guests, stressed the importance of such debates, which bring understanding of the world events to the wide public, and opened the meeting. He was followed by Ms. Patricia Ellis, president and co-founder of the Women's Foreign Policy Group, who presented the keynote speaker, who has throughout her career reported from more than



Robin Wright next to Patricia Ellis, president and co-founder of the WFPG during the discussion.

140 countries on six continents for The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, The Sunday Times of London and CBS News among others.

In her address, Ms. Wright spoke about the Arab revolts, the political Islam and identified issues that might define the next

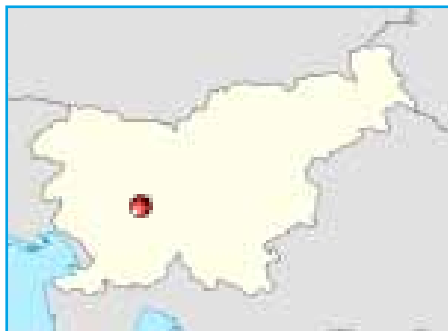
decade, when the Middle East's transformation will be a major policy challenge for the United States. Ms. Wright also discussed the new trends in the U.S.–Iran relations, also as a consequence of changing demographics. She welcomed Iran's willingness to discuss a compromise on its nuclear program and its endeavors to extend a hand to its counterparts through social media. Regarding Egypt, she outlined the importance of some geopolitical changes in the region.

At the end of the lecture, several other issues were raised by the audience, such as the role of the U.S. in the region, and also comments and opinions on the importance of the stability in the Middle East. The evening was concluded with a pleasant reception for over 40 representatives of various NGOs, think tanks, universities, the American administration, and the diplomatic corps.



Over 40 representatives of various NGOs, think tanks, universities, the American administration, and the diplomatic corps attended the event.

# Logatec and Planinsko Polje



The town of Logatec lies in central Slovenia – in the heart of Notranjska – at the meeting point of two large geographical macroregions: the Alpine and the Dinaric. The oldest written records of Logatec date back to around 425 A.D., when a famous Roman road map (cursus publicus) was made and, in the late 16th century, copied as the Tabula Peutingeriana. The map shows a settlement or road station called Longaticum, located between the villages of Hrušica and Vrhnika. However, archaeological finds in Matjaž's Chambers (Matjaževe Kamre) bear evidence of early human presence in the area already



Logatec. (Photo: [www.logatec.si](http://www.logatec.si))

in the Palaeolithic period, at the time of the early and late Stone Ages. Moreover, in the vicinity of the nearby village Medvedje Brdo, fossil footprints were found in the rock and are known as dinosaur footprints.

Since the Middle Ages, Logatec was a carters' settlement, which is still evident today by the architecture of large wayside farms, and remained

such until the construction of the railway. With its dominant position at the entrance to the town, the Napoleon linden tree avenue is a unique characteristic of Logatec. According to oral tradition, it was planted around 1805 in celebration of the wedding of Napoleon Bonaparte and Marie-Louise, daughter of the Austrian Emperor Francis II.

After 1857, when transport services ceased, logging and wood trade, including wood sawing became more important. In 1875, the development of the town was also affected by the transfer of the local administration, court and tax office from Planina to Logatec. Throughout the history, Logatec was one of the most important strategic points in crossing from the Apennine Peninsula to Central Europe (such as the defense system Claustra Alpium Iuliarum within the Roman Empire). Logatec was also a border town during both world wars and was part



The Napoleon linden tree avenue is a unique characteristic of Logatec. (Photo: Renata Gutnik for [www.logatec.si](http://www.logatec.si))





Planinsko Polje stretches across 11 km<sup>2</sup> (abt. 10,000 sq. feet).  
(Photo: Andrej Korenč for [www.logatec.si](http://www.logatec.si))

of a defense network of the Rapallo border: the Alpine Wall and the Rupnik Line.

Logatec has a rich cultural history, which is evident in the many different items of cultural heritage, of which more than 200 units have been recorded in the national register. Today, it is still possible to admire the architecture of the Notranjska villages, squares and churches in Logatec. The mansion in

Gorenji Logatec and several well preserved wayside farms and adjoining buildings show a rich building heritage.

There are several variants relating to the origins of the name Logatec. The first is that the name is derived from the Latin word Longaticum or from the German name Loitsch. The second says that it comes from the word log, which is the stem of the name Logatec. In

the Slovene language, the word log means a (marshy) meadow near water, usually partly overgrown with trees, a likely origin since the area is covered by marshlands.

Almost half of the territory of the municipality of Logatec is protected by the regimes of nature protection, which generally overlap and are largely concentrated in the south of the municipality from Planinsko Polje to Logatec, Kalce and Hotedršica. These areas include ecologically important sites, which, in general, relate to the karst world and its phenomena, which are outstandingly featured especially in Planinsko Polje.

Planinsko Polje is a typical karst field of the Notranjska region. It stretches across 11 km<sup>2</sup> (abt. 4.25 sq. miles). The bottom is rather flat and exposed to periodical floods of the Unica river (which later changes its name to Ljubljanica), which flows from Planinska Cave and slowly meanders, disappearing in numerous sinkholes on the other side of the field. When the sinkholes cannot absorb enough water, occasionally causing the river to overflow and flooding meadows and fields as well as the road connecting the villages on either side of the field.

Today, roads and paths are elevated and can still be used in the case of minor flooding; however, in the past, people could travel during floods from settlement to settlement only by boat. Extremely high flooding was recorded in 1820 and 1923, at which time Jakovški Hill became an island, with water covering all the roads that led to it.



Unica river flows from Planinska Cave and slowly meanders, disappearing in numerous sinkholes on the other side of the Planinsko Polje field. (Photo: Rafael Marn for [www.logatec.si](http://www.logatec.si))

The Unica is one of the most popular European rivers for grayling fishing. It also harbors other species of fish, including pike, brown trout and carp. Among the more important flora of Planinsko Polje are tufted hair grass, great burnett, common plantain, southern adder's tongue, marsh gentian, leathery hog's fennel and sundew. This is the only Slovene habitat of the endangered amethyst meadow squill, which needs several years to grow and develops light blue flowers.

The most common tree species in the surrounding forests are pine and fir, complemented by deciduous trees - beech in particular. The

most common animal species is deer. The forests in the hinterland of Planinsko Polje are the habitat of the brown bear and lynx as well.

There are 78 different species of butterflies living in Polje, among which one can find endangered species, such as the rare large blue southern festoon and marsh fritillary. Planinsko Polje also offers favorable nesting conditions to numerous birds, and is the perfect resting spot for migrating birds, such as white and black stork, grey heron, great egret, a number of goose species, and kingfisher, which find an abundance of food in the flooded areas. Occasionally, Planinsko Polje also harbors

the white-tailed eagle. Because of corncrake, which is an endangered species across the world, Planinsko Polje has been designated as an internationally important bird area.

Logatec is also a paradise for speleologists, since there are about 450 registered caves. The Lanski peak near Laze and Jakovica is a special Slovenian feature. It has 50 caves per square kilometre on average, while the Slovenia average is 5 times smaller.

More information about Logatec are available at: [www.logatec.si](http://www.logatec.si)

## SPORTS

# Tina Maze Voted Skier of the Year by Journalists

As announced also in the Washington Post, Slovenian skier Tina Maze, who last winter season won overall World Cup championship, had been voted skier of the year by the international association of ski journalists. The journalists chose the 30-year-old Maze for the Skieur d'Or - Serge Lang Trophy, an annual award named for the founder of Alpine skiing's World Cup in the 1960s. A record-breaking 2012/13 season in alpine skiing brought Tina Maze 2,414 points for the Overall World Cup, SG and GS titles, a gold and two silver World Championship medals. Maze not only broke the overall record among women and men, she has also become the best-paid skier of this season.



Her amazing achievements place Tina Maze among the best alpine skiers in history and best athletes in Slovenia. Maze cruised to her 22nd podium finish three weeks ago to match the record of the Austrian skiing champion Hermann Maier, who managed

the same feat in the 1999/2000 season. This season, Maze won 11 races, which puts her third in the history of women's alpine skiing, placing only behind Switzerland's Vreni Schneider (14 wins in the 1988/89 season) and Lindsey Vonn of the U.S. (12 wins in the 2011/12 season).



## Subscription to Slovenian American Times (SAT)

Slovenian American Times (SAT), a bilingual monthly publication fostering communications vital to Slovenian communities, is edited by Breda Loncar, Mara Cerar Hull and Martina Jakomin. It publishes Slovenian news from the United States and other countries, especially Slovenia, perceptive editorials and expert health and financial columns, and includes Slovenian music, sports, food, children's materials, political

and cultural commentaries, ads, obituaries and much more.

The October issue continues the series on amazing accomplishments of Slovenian American inventors and innovators and also lists some splendid achievements of Slovenians in Australia and Europe. SAT is also richly illustrated with photos, many in color. **Annual subscription is only \$40 (\$50 outside of the U.S.). To subscribe, contact: telephone: (440)**

**833-0020**; on line: [www.SlovenianAmericanTimes.com](http://www.SlovenianAmericanTimes.com), or by mail: SAT, 33977 Chardon Road, Suite 120, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094.



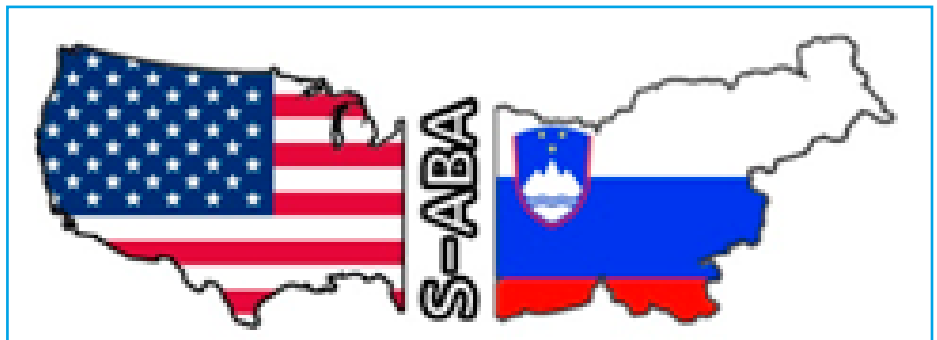
ANNOUNCEMENT

## "SLOVENIA – U.S. - Business Bridge" – Investment and Development Conference in Cleveland, OH

On behalf of the Slovenian American Business Association in Cleveland, we would like to invite you to attend the "SLOVENIA – U.S. - Business Bridge" – Investment and Development Conference that will take place on **November 14th, 2013 from 4 - 8 PM in Cleveland, Ohio.**

The conference will highlight opportunities for U.S. and international companies, about investors in Slovenia while also introducing the U.S. market to Slovenian Companies.

The conference will be the first of its kind featuring a broad range of business professionals and investors in the U.S. in addition to interested business people from Slovenia. It is a logical continuation of the AmCham conference which was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia in October 2013.



The goal of the conference is to help strengthen ties between Slovenia and U.S. businesses and highlight opportunities for increasing trade and investment. The conference will give U.S. investors and companies the opportunity to interact directly with representatives from the Slovenian embassy in Washington D.C. and the Slovenian consulate in Cleveland. The conference will include insightful information from Slovenian companies that

are already present in the U.S. and in Slovenia on the current European investment climate and business trends.

The conference will also provide up to date information and recommendations for U.S. companies on how to enter the Slovenian market and develop their businesses internationally. For further information please RSVP via email [spela.smuk1@gov.si](mailto:spela.smuk1@gov.si) or phone (216) 589-9220 by no later than **November 8, 2013.**

### 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/>



### 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)

### 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).

## **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 [javalencic@yahoo.com](mailto:javalencic@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:**

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)