



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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A Taste of Slovenia with International Club of DC

On Friday, November 22, the Embassy of Slovenia, in cooperation with the International Club of DC, organized a cultural evening that featured Slovenian culture, art, music, cuisine, and wine.

The well-attended event began with hors d'oeuvres, where guests could enjoy a glass or two of Slovenian wine from the Štajersko region, before attending a short presentation of Slovenia, given by the Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Ondina Blokar Drobič, followed by a short movie depicting the enchanting Slovenian

culture, nature, tourism, and trade. More than one hundred attendees were also greeted by the president and founder of International Club of DC, Mr. Sanjaya Hettihewa, President and Founder of International Club of DC, which promotes cross-cultural connections and international understanding through various programs and events.



Nejc Kuhar and Mak Grgić presented contemporary film music and compositions by Nejc Kuhar himself.

The highlight of the evening was a concert by two of Slovenia's talented and promising young guitarists, Nejc Kuhar and Mak Grgić, who presented themselves with interpretations of contemporary film music, and compositions by Nejc Kuhar himself. After the exciting performance, the attendees were invited to enjoy a buffet of traditional Slovenian delicacies like





Carnolian sausage with cabbage, trout, potato salad, Prekmurska gibanica cake, Bled cream cake, along with drinks from the open bar. The evening concluded in a pleasant atmosphere of lively conversation among International Club of DC members, other guests, and the diplomatic personnel of the Embassy of Slovenia.

The event was attended by more than one hundred guests.

EMBASSY ADOPTION PROGRAM

Visit to Janney Elementary School

Within the Embassy Adoption Program, on Monday, November 25, 2013, Nuška Zakrajšek and Tina Rušt from the Embassy of Slovenia made their third visit to a fifth-grade class at Janney Elementary School. To refresh the students' memory, a short movie about Slovenia was shown, after which the students were presented with a short quiz to see how much they have already learned about their adopted country. During the lesson, the students also discussed with the embassy representatives the Karst phenomena, learned about the Proteus (human fish) and the Lipizzaner horses, and



numerous hot and mineral springs in Slovenia. The children also found out that over 1% of living organisms on Earth and 2% of all

continental species live in Slovenia, which places Slovenia among the most biologically rich and diverse areas in Europe. At the end of the lesson, they were presented with souvenirs bearing Slovenia's logo "I feel Slovenia".

As part of the "Slovenian New Year's decoration in our home" project by Slovenian graphic and fashion designer Nina Nemec, the students of Janney Elementary School also made winter ornaments that will be sent to and displayed in Slovenia.



Ornaments will be displayed in Slovenia.

Concert of Mak Grgič and Nejc Kuhar at the National Gallery of Art

Internationally recognized Slovenian musicians Mak Grgič and Nejc Kuhar performed in concert on Sunday, November 24 at the National Gallery of Art West Garden Court within the NGA Seventy-Second Concert Series.

Born in Slovenia, Mak Grgič is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the USC Thornton School of Music in California as a student of Prof. Scott Tennant. Invited to venues worldwide, he has performed at major performing arts centers, and this was his second evening concert at the National Gallery of Art in Washington during which he performed music by J.S. Bach and Slovenian composers.

The concert, well-attended by around three hundred people, world-premiered a composition by the young Slovenian composer Nina Šenk titled *...entourer II....*, in which Grgič was joined on stage by cellist Jay Campbell. Grgič and Campbell also performed Kuhar's composition "Carpe GuiCell", since Kuhar is acknowledged all over Europe not only as an



Standing ovations for Mak Grgič and Nejc Kuhar at the NGA.

excellent guitarist but also as a distinguished composer. His composition "Six Miniatures, for each season one" has won him 1st prizes in two international competitions and, in 2009, his ensemble piece was awarded 3rd prize at the prestigious Gustav Mahler Competition in Austria.

Mak Grgič and Nejc Kuhar jointly perform as guitar Duo Prokofiev. The duo presented at the National Gallery Kuhar's own composition "Niagara Falls with

Water", which was praised by the Washington Post: »Kuhar's two pieces — "Niagara Falls With Water" and "Carpe GuiCell" — were eclectic and fun, the former involving some hand percussion and performance art (two players on one instrument, then one player moving through the hall), the latter a homage to the 18th century, consisting of a somber pavane followed by a gentle Slovenian waltz. «

INFORMATION

Agreement on Social Security

Upon request by some of our readers, the embassy wishes to inform you that the Government of Slovenia and the

Parliamentary Foreign Relations Committee have both agreed to the proposal to conclude and Agreement on social security

with the United States. The two sides are planning to meet and start negotiations as soon as possible.

Ambassador Dr. Cerar Speaks at the ASEEEES Annual Convention

The Society for Slovene Studies, which in 2013 celebrates its 40th anniversary, held its annual conference in Boston, November 21-24, 2013. The meeting, which was held in conjunction with that of the Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies, featured four Slovene panels* and six others, in which Slovene-themed papers were presented.

A roundtable held on November 22, titled "Current Developments in Slovenian Foreign Policy: Croatia, E.U. Enlargement, and Other Challenges," brought together Toby Applegate, a geographer; Charles Bukowski, Director of the Institute of International Studies at Bradley University; James Gow of King's College, London, where he is Professor of International Peace and Security Studies, and Slovenia's Ambassador to Washington, Dr. Božo Cerar. The roundtable moderator was Dr. Carole Rogel, a historian from Ohio State University.

Dr. Bukowski presented an overview of developments since the last foreign policy roundtable held in Washington, DC, two years ago. He assessed them in terms of more than a decade of foreign policy highlights relating to Slovenia. Dr. Applegate introduced aspects of cultural geography into the conversation. Ambassador Dr. Cerar elaborated on the larger trends and accomplishments



While in Boston, Ambassador Cerar met with a group of young Slovenian professionals, Ph.D. students and entrepreneurs. (Photo credit: David Fartek)

of Slovenia's foreign relations, expanding particularly on Slovenian-Croatian relations in the last decade. Dr. Gow took the discussion to Slovene-Serb relations, which he maintained were improving since the fall of Milošević. The speakers' presentations brought lively discussion with the audience, which spilled over from the allotted time.

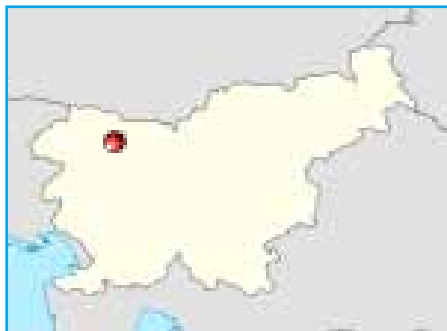
Later in the afternoon, Ambassador Cerar addressed a special meeting of the Society for Slovene Studies members where he talked about the possibility of introducing a literary award in the U.S. in the name of the Slovene-American writer Louis Adamic (1898-1951). While visiting Boston, Ambassador Dr. Cerar also met with Slovene scientist Dr. Anton Mavretič, who worked for the MIT Center for Space Research under contract for NASA from 1972 to 1979 and contributed to the Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 projects, as

well as with young Slovene professionals and entrepreneurs in the Boston area.

*The three not mentioned here are: "Children at War and Revolution;" "The Promises and Realities of 'Europe': Minorities, Migrant Laborers and Democratization in Slovenia and Croatia;" "The Space of Slovene Literary Culture." The paper titles and presenters' names may be found in the Convention program and also in the current Society for Slovene Studies newsletter #73. See SSS website: www.slovenestudies.com.



Lesce



Lesce is an industrial town in the municipality of Radovljica in the Upper Carniola region of Slovenia. Lying at an altitude of 493 m (1613 ft.), it has approximately 2800 inhabitants, and is second largest town in the municipality. Lesce is one of the earliest-mentioned settlements in the region, first noted in a Bishops of Brixen document from the year 1004, alongside Bled and Bohinj.

In the center of the old town, there is a three-nave pilgrimage church, dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin. Originally a Gothic church with remnants of 14th-century



Lesce. (Source of the photos and the text: Krajevna skupnost Lesce at <http://www.lesce.si/>)

frescoes on its exterior, it was extensively changed in the 17th century in the Baroque style. The church is known for its frescoes in the dome of the presbytery, painted by Franc Jelovšek. The bell tower stands separate from the church, which makes it unique, since in Slovenian sacral architecture almost every bell tower is attached to the church.

In 1850, there were only about 10 houses in Lesce. But when in 1870 the railway came into the town, that was the start of tourism in Lesce, mainly because of its location near Bled, which at that time was a popular spa town in central Europe, promoted by a Swiss hydropath, Arnold Rikli. In 1923, the chain factory Veriga was opened in Lesce, which brought about a significant increase in the town's population

In the late 1950s, the Šobec campground was opened. It is the biggest campground in Slovenia and also one of the best in the country. It is the main provider of accommodation in the municipality and a really popular tourist destination because of its unique location in a pine tree forest and on the left bank of the river Sava Dolinka. Near the campground, there are also wetlands and a stream, carved into the rock.



Campside Šobec. (Photo credit: <http://sobec.si/eng/>)



Lesce - Bled Airport.

There is also an airport, Lesce-Bled, operated by a Public Commercial Institution ALC Lesce-Bled. For experienced and ambitious glider pilots, Lesce-Bled can be an ideal starting point for long-distance flights in the direction of Italy, Austria

and even further to Germany, France and Switzerland. Ridges and mountains close to Lesce allow early take-offs. Pilots can then follow the Alps in a northwesterly direction. High speeds are attainable due to the ridges.

The Aero Club ALC Lesce-Bled has more than 300 member-pilots. It is the only European airport with two world records to its name, held by Mihael Thaler and Boštjan Pristavec.

Mihael Thaler broke the world speed record in the FAI 15m class, when, on 6 July 1999, he flew a 100 km (62 mi.) triangle with an average speed of 181.4 km/h (112.7 mph). In 2004, Boštjan Pristavec broke the world record in the ultra-light sailplane class. His average speed, in the Slovenian sailplane Apis, was 118.44 km/h (73.6 mph). The record still holds to this day.

In the past, Lesce also held one of the first ski jumping competitions in the world, on a 50-meter high ski jump in the outskirts of the town. Lesce is also the hometown of the Slovenian ski jumpers Vinko Bogataj and the 1991 world champion Franci Petek.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Consular Hours in New York City

The consular officer from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, will hold consular hours and provide consular services (authentications, certifications, passport applications, etc.) in New York City **on Friday, December 13**, at the premises of the **Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations, located at 630 Third Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017**

(Please note the new address!).

To schedule an appointment, please, fill out the form available at the embassy's website and send it to the Embassy of Slovenia at vwa@gov.si by **December 10, 2013**, to allow the embassy enough time to verify your data.

The embassy will suggest the time of your appointment and give you further information on the documentation you need to bring along. You may

also visit the embassy website <http://washington.embassy.si/> (Consular Affairs, Visas) for documents required for most consular services.

Please note that the consular fee must be paid with a money order made out to "Embassy of Slovenia". Cash, personal checks or credit cards will not be accepted.

Due to security reasons, prior appointment is needed to enter the premises of the Mission.

Government Office For Slovenians Abroad -- Public Invitations For Tenders For Financial Support in 2014

Based on the Act on Relations between the Republic of Slovenia and Slovenians abroad (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 43/06, 76/10) and the Government Decree on financial support for maintenance and development of the Slovene identity outside the Republic of Slovenia (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 139/2006), the Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians Abroad, on November 22, 2013, published two Public Invitations for Applications.

Public Invitations for Applications cover:

(1) Area A: Financial support in 2014 for Slovenian autochthonous national community in the neighboring countries; and

(2) Area B: Financial support in 2014 for Slovenians living abroad.

Both Public Invitations for Applications aim to stimulate

activities among Slovenians living abroad, that:

- consolidate and maintain their national, linguistic and cultural identity
- pave the way for their interaction and mutual connection
- enable them to maintain their links with the Republic of Slovenia
- enable the maintenance of the structures and activities of Slovenian autochthonous national community in neighboring countries, as well as those of other Slovenians living abroad.

Public Invitations for Applications grant eligibility for applying for financial support to applicants who are individuals or legal entities located outside of the Republic of Slovenia, as well as those located in the Republic of Slovenia, whose activities in the Republic of Slovenia aim to connect with and care for Slovenians abroad.

The documentation for the above mentioned Public Invitations for Applications is available on the website of the Government Office for Slovenians Abroad, which can be found at http://www.uszs.gov.si/nc/si/medijsko_sredisce/novica/article/737/2911/.

Interested parties can also obtain the documentation in person at the Office's headquarters on weekdays between 9:00 and 14:00 hours, and at any of the Republic of Slovenia's embassies or consulates general, during their office hours.

The deadline for filing the applications is up to and including **December 27, 2013**.

For any additional clarifications and information, please contact the Government Office for Slovenians Abroad via email: urad.slovinci@gov.si or check its website at: <http://www.uszs.gov.si>

TO DO LIST

Composer Dušan Bavdek and Academia Ljubljana at the Phillips Collection

In 2009, The Phillips Collection joined forces with embassies in Washington to create a unique concert series in which leading European composers introduce their works with performers they select. The series is co-sponsored by The Phillips Collection and the George Washington University. Now in its fifth season, this year the opening Leading European Composers concert features the music of Slovenian composer Dušan Bavdek, performed by musicians from the Academy of Music in Ljubljana.

Where: [The Phillips Collection, 1600 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009](#)

When: [Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.](#)

More information and tickets: <http://www.phillipscollection.org/events/2013-12-12-lec-bavdek.aspx>

10-year old Slovenian pianist Mak Mihevc in Carnegie Hall

10-year old Slovenian pianist Mak Mihevc recently won third prize at the prestigious competition American Protégé International Concerto Competition. Together with the prize came the privilege to perform at American Protégé Winners Recital in Carnegie Hall. His previous achievements include: first prize at the international competition in Grado, Italy (Concorso internazionale per pianisti "Premio Isola del Sole"), first prize at the international Competition in Treviso (Concorso Internazionale di Esecuzione Musicale, Città di Treviso), and first prize at the international Competition in San Donà di Piave (Concorso Internazionale di Esecuzione Pianistica "Città di San Donà di Piave").

When: **November 30, 2013 at 8 p.m.**

Where: **Carnegie Hall, 881 7th Ave, New York, NY 10019**

Tickets are available at: <http://www.carnegiehall.org/Calendar/2013/11/30/0800/PM/American-Protége-Winners-Recital/>



Slovenian film DUAL at the 26th Annual AFI – EU Film Festival in Silver Spring

Now in its 26th year, the AFI European Union Film Showcase continues its tradition of bringing the best in European cinema to Washington audiences. This year's selection of more than 50 films includes award-winners, international festival favorites, local box-office hits and debut works by promising new talents, plus many countries' official Oscar® submissions for Best Foreign Language Film. Slovenia will be represented by the film The Dual (Dvojina).

"A delicately crafted charmer of a film, for a while Nejc Gazvoda's colorful, funny and insightful film feels like a lesbian equivalent of BEFORE SUNSET as two young women wander the warm nighttime streets of Ljubljana, talking, having fun and gradually coming under each other's spell." –Mark Adams, Screen Daily.

Synopsis: Iben is a free spirited Dane, stopping through Slovenia on the way to a holiday in Greece. When her flight is delayed, she crosses paths with Tina, the straitlaced bus driver who picks her up at the airport. As the two spend the evening together, sparks begin to fly.

Official Selection, 2013 Karlovy Vary Film Festival. DIR/SCR Nejc Gazvoda; SCR Janez Lapajne; PROD Aleš Pavlin, Andrej Stritof. Slovenia/Croatia/Denmark, 2013, color, 102 min. In Slovenian and Danish with English subtitles. NOT RATED

When: **Saturday, December 14 at 11:00 a.m.; Monday, December 16 at 9:45 p.m.**

Where: **AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910**

More information: <http://www.afi.com/silver/eushowcase/>

Live Music Show by Emil Memon

When: [Sunday, December 1, 2013, starting at 9:20 p.m.](#)

Where: [17 Meadow Street, Brooklyn, New York 11206](#)

More information: <http://brooklyn.com/event/electronic-rock-at-paper-box/>
<http://www.reverbnation.com/emilmemon>

Feast of St. Nicholas - Evening with Bishop Pevec

The Slovenian American Heritage Foundation extends a warm invitation to the annual Feast of St. Nicholas – An Evening with Bishop A. Edward Pevec.

When: [Friday, December 6, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [The Center for Pastoral Leadership \(Borromeo Seminary\), 28700 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, OH](#)

More information: [Anthony W. Hiti, President, Slovenian American Heritage Foundation \(216\) 696-3460 x 306.](#)

Concert of Sacred Songs at St. Vitus Church in Cleveland.

The St. Vitus Christmas Choir, consisting of nearly 60 soprano, alto, tenor, or bass singers, will perform its annual Concert of Sacred Songs, sung in English, Italian, Latin, and Slovenian. The choir will be accompanied by a string quartet, with Mr. William F. Patrick, master organist, performing on the restored church Holtkamp organ with 1,500 wooden and metal pipes. The choir is under the direction of Mr. John Srsen.

When: [Sunday, Dec 29, 2013, following the 10:00 a.m. mass](#)

Where: [St. Vitus Church, 6019 Lausche Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103.](#)

More information: [Stane Kuhar, \(216\) 361-1444; email: \[skuhar@hotmail.com\]\(mailto:skuhar@hotmail.com\)](#)

Ansambel Saša Avsenika in Cleveland, OH

Slovenska Pristava, Slovenian National Home and The Slovenian Hour present the grandson of the legendary Slavko Avsenik, who continues the Avsenik tradition. In February, Sašo Avsenik will introduce his sound to North America; however, his Cleveland, OH, concert will be the only one in the U.S.

When: [Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [The Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, OH](#)

Tickets: [\(440\)537-1941](#)

\$20 pre-sale | \$25 at the door | students \$10.