



# NEWSLETTER

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## Ambassador Attends Slovenian Festival in Indianapolis



Ambassador Dr. Cerar addressing the audience.

The Indianapolis Slovenian society organized on August 31, 2014, the annual celebration of the Slovenian heritage at the Slovenian National Home Picnic Grounds. The festival was attended by Dr. Božo Cerar, the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the U.S., who by invitation by the SNH president Joe Lampert joined the vibrant Slovenian community in Indiana for the event that celebrated Slovenian traditions, food, and music.

This year marks 96 years since the establishment of

the Slovenian National home in Indianapolis, which was formed in Haughville neighborhood, where also stands Holy Trinity Slovenian Catholic church. The presence of Slovenian community in the area is one of the reasons that Indianapolis has had since 2001 a sister-city relationship with Piran, Slovenia.

The purpose of the relationship was to create cultural, educational, and business exchanges. Especially

successful is the cooperation between the University of Primorska and Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). The Indianapolis–Piran Sister City committee on September 6 participated at the Indianapolis Sister Cities Festival with a cultural booth. For the occasion, the committee also helped to organize a concert by the renowned Slovenian accordionist Marko Hatlak.



## Welcome to DCM Vladimir Kolmanič

At the beginning of September, Mr. Vladimir Kolmanič, assumed his position as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Mr. Kolmanič did his undergraduate studies in English and German, and later studied at the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana. He started his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1992. Most recently, he served as the head of the Department for North and Latin America and

the Caribbean at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ljubljana. His previous assignments include ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Greece and counselor at the Slovenian embassy in Kairo, Egypt. Mr. Kolmanič has been appointed for four years. We wish him good luck and greater achievements as he starts his tenure in Washington, where he is accompanied by his wife Vesna.

DCM Kolmanič with his wife Vesna.



## CULTURE

## Violinist Lana Trotošček's Performs at the Embassy



Some 100 guests attended the event.

In cooperation with The Embassy Series, the Embassy of Slovenia, on Tuesday, September 9th, organized a concert by one of the most renowned Slovenian violinists, Lana Trotošček. More than 90 guests were welcomed

by the Deputy Chief of Mission, Vladimir Kolmanič, whereas Jerome Barry, the founder of The Embassy Series, presented the activity of this leading organization in the field of cultural diplomacy. The Embassy Series

has since 1994 worked with over 200 ambassadors, hosted over 600 concerts in 73 different embassies involving more than 800 international artists from 80 countries and over 300 artists from the D.C. area.

During the musical evening, which also offered a taste of Slovenian wine and cuisine, the winner of international competitions and prizes, Ms. Trotošček presented works by Beethoven, Franck, Gerschwin and Slovenian composer Lucijan Marija Škerjanc. Playing a violin from the 18th century she was accompanied by Ukrainian pianist Anna Shelest.

Born in Ljubljana, Lana started to play the violin when she was four. At the age of 17, she was taken under the auspices of Ruggiero Ricci. She made her debut in 2012 with the Mariinsky Theater Orchestra under the



Introductory remarks by DCM Vladimir Kolmanič.

Address by Mr. Jerome Barry.

baton of Valery Gergiev, a performance received with both a standing ovation and ecstatic reviews. Lana has given recitals in the United Kingdom, where she

has performed at Wigmore Hall, King's Place, Cadogan Hall, St. John's Smith Square, St. Martin-in-the Fields. Elsewhere in Europe, she has played at the Konzerthaus

in Vienna, at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Muziekgebouw Frits Philips in Eindhoven and elsewhere in Germany, Spain, Portugal, France, Finland, Sweden, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, China, UAE and the U.S. Future engagements include concerto performances with Yuri Bashmet and the Moscow Soloists, Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Keri Lynn, RTV Orchestra Slovenia, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and recital in the Wigmore Hall in 2015.

More information about Embassy Series is available at: <http://www.embassyseries.org/>



## FOREIGN POLICY

# 9th Bled Strategic Forum (BSF)

The Bled Strategic Forum (BSF), Slovenia's top foreign policy event, wrapped up on Tuesday, September 2, following two days of debates dedicated to restoring trust in international relations and promoting regional cooperation. Attended by over 500 participants from the world of politics, business, academia and other areas of

public life from 65 countries, including representatives of the European Union, the U.N., NATO, the OECD and other international organizations, the forum, with this year's topic The Power of Trust, heard a call for overcoming the cracks which have appeared in the fabric of global trust during the recent crisis.

The annual deliberations at Bled, therefore, centered on potential for restoring trust through enhanced regional cooperation and collaboration between politics, business, academia, NGOs and think tanks. The key aim is to "to prove that despite globalization, technology, digital tools and fast, dramatic changes, good old trust is

still the basic soft power that makes it all possible: solidarity between generations, security for individuals and states, business contracts, and international relations”, stressed Slovenian foreign minister Karl Erjavec. Following minister Erjavec’s remarks, guests were welcomed by Milan Brglez, Speaker of the National Assembly, and Janez Fajfar, Mayor of Bled.

The participants sought to fulfil this aim in more than ten panels tackling issues of good leadership, demographic change, and cooperation in Central and Southeast Europe and Western Balkans, new technology, and cybersecurity. Following the central topic of the forum, the business segment focused also on building of trust, which minister Erjavec labelled as “the core value of all business activities” as he addressed over 100 business representatives attending the proceedings.

The Business Bled Strategic Forum was tied in with the Young Bled Strategic Forum as a part of which teams of business students were given the task of coming up with new ideas for the management of Slovenia’s forests. The prize went



A panel on regional cooperation. (Photo: BSF)

to a team from the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, which collected the EUR 2,500 prize for a plan for leasing land from private forest owners and reinvesting profits in a technology park specializing in forestry and wood processing know-how.

The forum also afforded Slovenian officials a chance to hold bilateral talks with visiting political and business officials. Mr. Hoyt Yee, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian

affairs, held talks with President Borut Pahor on the margins of the Bled Strategic Forum. He stressed that the U.S. “greatly appreciates” cooperation with Slovenia through NATO, where “we are able to work side-by side with our soldiers in some of the most difficult places in the world”. However, he also said that he would like to see even greater and stronger commerce and trade between the two countries.



Address by Minister of Foreign Affairs Karl Erjavec. (Photo: BSF)



Slovenian President Borut Pahor greets visiting US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe Mr. Hoyt Yee. (Photo: <https://www.facebook.com/slovenia.usembassy>)

## ASEF Meeting with President Pahor



Director of American Chamber of Commerce in Slovenia, as a member of the ASEF Advisory Board. Mrs. Vodnik said she was "truly excited to actively cooperate with ASEF, because I believe that this is a great way to connect U.S. and Slovenia through science, education, opening opportunities for young people and creating friendly relations."

The American Slovenian Education Foundation enhances American and Slovenian education activities, uniting Slovenian scholars and educators globally. The Foundation offers high-impact grant and endowment programs, teaching and learning materials, as well as foreign exchange of students and faculty. The ASEF vision is to expand, globalize and personalize education in Slovenia and in the Americas in order to help shape citizens, educators and leaders of excellence, character and service. To get involved please see: <http://www.asef-fund.org/>

From left: father Peter Rožič, Jure Leskovec, President Borut Pahor, Mark Vlasič and President's Chief of Staff Alja Brglez.

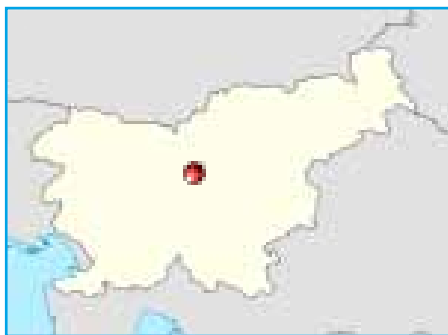
Representatives of the American Slovenian Education Foundation (ASEF), Prof. Jure Leskovec, Prof. Peter Rožič, SJ, and Prof. Mark Vlasic met on September 1, 2014, with Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia, on the sidelines of the Bled Strategic Forum. President Pahor expressed his support for the creation of the ASEF and stressed the importance of international educational exchange as a way building upon the strong relationship between the United States and Slovenia. The President expressed the hope that the Foundation "will not only enable closer cooperation of young intellectuals and Slovenian scientists abroad but also strengthen economic and cultural ties between the two countries." In addition, ASEF recently announced the appointment of Joseph A. Mussomeli, U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, as a member of the

ASEF Advisory Board. Ambassador Mussomeli is committed to supporting reciprocal relations between the peoples of the United States and Slovenia, especially in the area of educational exchange. In addition to ambassador Mussomeli's, the ASEF also announced the appointment of Mrs. Ajša Vodnik, Executive



Jure Leskovec meeting with President Pahor.

# Lukovica



The municipal area of Lukovica (1995) extends over the geographical area of the Črni graben valley, with the Tuhinj and Moravče Valleys to the north and south, respectively. An important part in the formation of the valley was played by the Radomlja River, which flows over the dark Permian slate rock that gives the soil its characteristic black color – and the area its name, 'Črni graben' (Black Dale). The municipality extends from Prevoje in the west to Trojane in the east, where it borders on the Savinja Valley. This is also the historical border between the regions of Gorenjska (Upper Carniola) and Štajerska (Styria).

The characteristic oblong shape of the Črni graben – the valley is 24 km (15 miles) long and, on average, only 4 km (2.5 miles) wide – has prevented the development of a single socio-political, economic and cultural centre. Instead, numerous clustered settlements grew up along its main road, for example: Prevoje, Šentvid, Lukovica, Krašnja, Blagovica, Šentožbolt, and Trojane. On the north bank of the Radomlja, numerous villages, dispersed settlements and secluded farms can be found: Rafolče, Zlato Polje, Koreno, Krajno Brdo, Češnjice...



Fountain in the center of the town. (Photo credit: [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info))

The development of the Črni graben is closely linked to the transport route which has crossed the Radomlja valley since ancient times (e.g. the Ancient Roman road connecting the settlements of Aquileia, Emona, Atrans, and Celeia). Today, the entire stretch of Črni graben is split in two by the Ljubljana-Celje highway. This has had a considerable impact on the natural environment; it does, however, continue the tradition of transport typical for the area. The highway drives the development of the municipality by connecting major regions of Slovenia. Lukovica is where the

Savinja Valley and the Štajerska region border on the Ljubljana Basin. Trojane, the easternmost town of the municipality, connects the Zagorje Valley and the Zasavje region to what is, in economic terms, the most important transport artery in the country. One could say that the municipality of Lukovica connects the whole country.

Lukovica has a rich history, which is reflected in its cultural heritage. Among the many cultural monuments, the Brdo Castle plays a significant role. On the way through the valley of the Radomlja, very near the castle,



Gradišče lake. (Photo: <http://www.lukovica.si>)

visitors can revel in other priceless architectural monuments: St. Luke's Church in Spodnje Prapreče, a unique example of Gothic church architecture in Slovenia; St. Agnes' Church in Golčaj above Blagovica with its Renaissance-panelled ceiling; and St. Margaret's Church in Gradišče near Lukovica, with its Gothic frescoes. Southeast of the settlement, at the Gradiški grič foothill, there is the Gradišče lake, which represents the wet retarding basin on the Drtijščica creek. The greatest feature and quality of this area is a dynamic relief, where the steep surfaces are covered by forests and the southern slopes, which are less steep, are covered by meadows with strips of trees, bushes and overgrown ravines. The bottom of the valley is mostly a marshy terrain with abundant marsh vegetation. The Drtijščica creek is enclosed by strips of forests. The biological diversity of the area and its remoteness from urban centers allow the area to be used for recreational and sporting



Church of St. Agnes. (Photo: <http://www.lukovica.si>)

activities in a natural environment. This is complemented by other tourist attractions in the wider surrounding area and by the relaxed inhabitants of the nearby settlements and of Slovenia generally, regardless of age. Lukovica celebrates its feast day on September 4, the birthday of the great Slovenian writer and notary Janko Kersnik.

Brdo is a settlement overlooking Lukovica, the centre of the region. Despite its small size, it boasts buildings and institutions of both local and

national significance, such as the Brdo Castle, where the author and politician Janko Kersnik (1852-1897) lived and worked; the Janko Kersnik Primary School; the Church of the Assumption; and the Beekeeping Center of Slovenia, which offers a variety of apicultural products at the main office of the Slovenian Beekeepers Association. These are all situated in a scenic area that includes a pond and even a chestnut tree avenue next to the castle.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **KALORAMA HOUSE AND EMBASSY TOUR**

The annual open house walking tour of the gorgeous residences and the Embassy of Slovenia located in the Kalorama neighborhood.

When: [Sunday, September 14 from 12 \(noon\) to 5 p.m.](#)

Where: [Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008](#)

More information and ticket buying options to at <http://www.woodrowwilsonhouse.org/events>

### **SLOVENIAN ARTIST BETI BRICELJ EXHIBITS IN DALLAS, TX**

From Slovenia, Venezuela, and Dallas With Love, an exhibition featuring hard-edge geometric abstractions by artists from three continents. The paintings of Beti Bricelj, Israel Guevera, and work of sculptor Jeff Robinson will be shown through October.

When: [Ongoing - October 2014](#)

Where: [Museum of Geometric and MADI Art, 3109 Carlisle Street, Dallas, TX 75204-1194](#)

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

**WRITER ANDREJ BLATNIK AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

The European Division of the Library of Congress, in partnership with the Embassy of Slovenia, will present Slovenian writer Andrej Blatnik, who will discuss his latest book in English, *Law of Desire*, published by Dalkey Archive Press. Blatnik, an Associate Professor of Publishing Studies at the University of Ljubljana, will also share a few observations on publishing and reading habits in Southeast Europe. You can find more about him at: [www.andrejblatnik.com](http://www.andrejblatnik.com)

When: [Thursday, September 24, 2014 at noon](#)

Where: [European Division conference room, LJ-250 \(2nd floor, Thomas Jefferson Building\)](#)

More information: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/calendar/calendar.html>

**A WORKSHOP WITH THEREMIDI ORCHESTRA in NY**

Use basic electronics to create your own instruments and sounds. Then perform live! The ten members of Theremidi Orchestra (TO) will guide and assist participants during a five-day, hands-on and theoretical workshop.

When: [September 10 to 15, 2014](#)

Hours: [September 10 through 12, 6 to 9 p.m.; September 13, 2 to 6 p.m.; September 14, optional; September 15, TBD](#)

Venue: [Eyebeam, 34 35th St., Unit 26, Brooklyn, NY, 11232](#)

More information: <http://www.eyebeam.org/events/ct-swam-eyebeam-present-sound-happens-in-the-group-a-workshop-with-theremidi-orchestra>

**BARBARA JURKOVŠEK EXHIBITS IN ROANOKE, VA**

The highlights of the 10th annual edition of the Rural Route Festival include a 50th anniversary The Wilson Hughes Gallery International Artist Series, which brings artists from around the globe to the Roanoke Valley, will in October feature Barbara Jurkovšek. Jurkovšek, a painter, will give an artist talk regarding her work [at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 3, 2014](#), at the [Wilson Hughes Gallery](#) located at [117 Campbell Avenue](#) in the downtown arts district of Roanoke.

Jurkovšek's project "Albino United Extended" creates hybrid animals as a central motif and has references in contemporary art, pop culture, kitsch and science. Barbara Jurkovšek was born in 1981 in the capital city of Slovenia, Ljubljana. In 2006, she graduated in painting and art theory (BA) from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. During 2007- 2008, she studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Lecce in Italy. In 2009, she obtained a Master's degree in painting (MFA) at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. Jurkovšek has had 26 solo and over 50 group exhibitions at home and abroad and has received numerous awards for her work. She is also a recognized member of Union of Slovene Fine Arts Associations. Jurkovšek was Artist in residence in London, hosted by Ministry of Culture of Republic Slovenia in 2012, and was an Artist in residence at Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, France, the following year. Jurkovšek works in the media of painting, sculpture, graphics, calligraphy, and scientific illustration. She lives and works as a professional fine artist in Slovenia.



## **CHILDREN'S HOUR AT SAINT CYRIL'S IN NEW YORK**

Children of all ages, from the very young to their grandparents, are invited to read Slovenian books and sing Slovenian nursery rhymes, and paint, and decorate cupcakes. Lunch will also be served!

When: [Sunday, September 21, 2014, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.](#)

Where: [Saint Cyril, 62 Saint Mark's Place, after the 10:30 Slovenian Mass.](#)

## **MARTINOVANJE IN NEW YORK**

Once again, SUA Branch 93 and the New York Slovenian community hope to welcome you and your families to this traditional Slovenian "Thanksgiving" feast of the new wine and of Saint Martin. Alex Gergar from Bethlehem will play the accordion for the occasion.

When: [Sunday, November 9, 2014, from 11a.m. to 2 p.m.](#)

Where: [Saint Cyril, 62 Saint Mark's Place, after the 10:30 Slovenian Mass.](#)

## **CONCERT "IN TIME OF WAR" ON THE OCCASION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWI**

In a concert, a new piece by Slovenian musician, Daniela Candillari, will have its first performance. Daniela Candillari is a musician working and living in NYC since September 2012. Born in Serbia, her work as a pianist, conductor, and composer has taken her across Europe, North America and Asia. During this concert, audiences can also hear music by Jacques Brel as well as selections of music improvised on poetry about New York City. Ms. Candillari will be joined in performance by Samantha Malk, mezzo soprano, and Kelli Ruttle, actress. Song cycle "In Time of War" was written in memory of WWI.

When: [Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 7 p.m.](#)

Where: [Spectrum, 21 Ludlow St., New York, NY 10013](#)

For more information see: [www.danielacandillari.com](http://www.danielacandillari.com)

## **6th ANNUAL SLOVENEFEEST IN KANSAS CITY**

Holy Family Catholic Church, 274 Orchard Street, Kansas City, Kansas presents its 6th Annual Slovenefest [on Saturday, September 27, 2014](#). The celebration begins with Holy Mass at 4:00 p.m. followed by Festivities 5:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m. at Msgr. Mejak Hall, Gym, & School Grounds, 513 Ohio, KCK. Music & Dancing featuring: The Brian McCarty Band & Hrvatski Obicaj. Authentic Slovenian Dinner, Big Silent Auction, Mega Money Raffle, Children & Adult Games, Cultural Booth & Souvenirs. Slovenefest 2014 is dedicated in memory of accordion legend, Don Lipovac. Contact the church office at 913-371-1561, Richard Schutte at 913-669-3677, or [holfamilychurchkck.com](http://holfamilychurchkck.com) for more information. All proceeds to benefit Holy Family Church.

## **September 26 @ 6:30 pm: Slovenia at EURONIGHT at the Embassy of France**

For the seventh year in a row, the European embassies in Washington, DC, are proud to present "Euro Night!" on Friday, September 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. The Embassy of France hosts the 2014 edition, featuring more than 20 European Union embassies, each showcasing its respective culture, traditions and culinary specialties. Throughout the evening, enjoy live music while taking a cultural tour around Europe, feasting on national dishes and discovering European traditions! More information to follow.