



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 10, 2014, VOLUME 10, NUMBER 30

## Annual Honorary Consuls' Meeting at the Embassy



A group photo of the honorary consuls together with the embassy staff.

The Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia hosted on Friday, October 3, the annual meeting of the honorary consuls of the Republic of Slovenia in the United States and Mexico. The event was also attended by Consul General from Cleveland, OH, Mr. Jure Žmauc, and by three candidates for the positions of Slovenian honorary consuls.

In his introductory remarks, Ambassador Dr.

Cerar outlined the current development in Slovenia and in Slovenian foreign policy and emphasized embassy's appreciation of the consular assistance that honorary consuls offer to Slovenian citizens, their endeavors to enhance business, scientific, educational and cultural relations between Slovenia and the United States and their work hand in hand with the Slovenian community

in the U.S. The ambassador especially thanked to newly appointed honorary consul Ms. Petra Mitchell, who next to the opening of the consulate in Pittsburgh, managed a visit of Slovenian business delegation in Pennsylvania. On the occasion, the corps paid respect with a minute of silence to Mr. Richard B. Wilkens III, who for 18 years served as a Slovenian honorary





consul in Houston, Texas.

The gathering was also an opportunity for the consuls to present their activities throughout the year, including their work promoting Slovenia in their respective states as business and tourist destinations. After presentations and discussion of bilateral relations between Slovenia and the U.S. in economic cooperation, science and technology, education,

culture, public diplomacy and consular affairs, the participants also debated the current developments in Slovenia and in Slovenian foreign policy regarding the transatlantic relations.

The network of honorary consuls in the U.S. currently consists of Mr. Thomas J. Brandi (California), Mr. Srečko Vidmar (Colorado), Dr. Gregory S. Chan (Florida), Mr. Paul N. Steinfeld

(Georgia), Mr. Ronald Joseph Zlatoper (Hawaii), Dr. John P. Vidmar (Illinois), Mrs. Barbara K. Nelson (Kansas), Ambassador Yousif B. Ghafari (Michigan), Mr. Miro Medved (Minnesota), Dr. Lydia Mihelič Pulsipher (Tennessee), and Ms. Petra Mitchell (Pennsylvania).

Serving in Mexico are honorary consuls Mr. Ariel Lopez in Mexico City, and Mr. Danijel Muršec in the state of Querétaro.



As traditionally, the meeting took place on the first Friday in October.

Consuls presented their activities throughout the year,

## ASEF East Coast Chapter Inaugural Event at the Embassy

The American Slovenian Educational Foundation (ASEF) held the inaugural event of its East Coast Chapter on Thursday, October, 2 in Washington, DC. Hosted by the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the U.S., Dr. Božo Cerar, the event was attended by around 100 guests: members of the diplomatic corps, academia, professors, researchers and scientists, representatives of Slovenian organizations and societies in the U.S., Slovenian community members from Washington, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, and Texas, Slovenian honorary consuls and members of business community, and their U.S. counterparts.

Following the introductory remarks by Ambassador Dr. Cerar, the foundation was introduced by founding members of ASEF: Mr. Tom Brandi, who also serves as an honorary consul of the Republic of



Address by Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar, who also on the occasion opened an exhibition by one of the leading Slovenian graphic designers, Jože Domjan.

Slovenia in San Francisco, and Rev. Peter Rožič, S.J., of Santa Clara University, both of whom with their everyday endeavors work hard to enhance American and Slovenian education activities. Ms. Bernardka

Kovačič Fitzsimmons, President of SUA Branch 108, on behalf of SUA Branches 93 and 108, presented a painting donated to ASEF by Slovenian-American artist from New York, Miro Zupančič, for the fund-raising event that will take place in a few months in San Francisco. Afterwards, Mr. Mark Vlastic and Dr. Lee Peterlin, representing the ASEF East Coast initiative, described the priorities of the newly established chapter. The wine for reception that followed was provided by the representative of the Slovenian community in the U.S. at Slovenian government's council for Slovenians Abroad, Mr. John Kamin.

The event was the second one after the inaugural fund raising event of this non-profit organization, which took place in February in San Francisco. The Foundation's goal is to offer high-impact grant and endowment



The foundation was introduced by founding members of ASEF: Mr. Tom Brandi, who also serves as an honorary consul of the Republic of Slovenia in San Francisco, and Rev. Peter Rožič, S.J.. East Coast Chapter was presented by Mark Vlastic and Dr. Lee Peterlin.

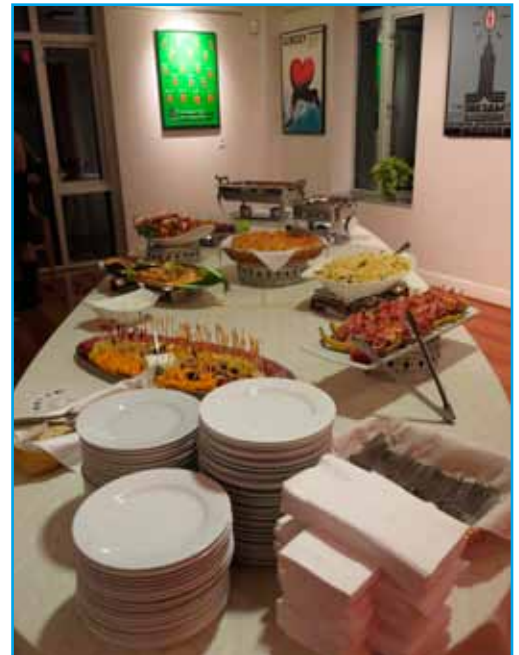
programs, and teaching and learning materials. Since its establishment on February 23, the foundation has grown greatly and welcomed to its advisory board many distinguished members. As recently as in the spring, ASEF awarded its first 3 grants: two at Stanford University and one at Santa Clara University. The guests were able to meet on Thursday the ASEF research fellows at Stanford, Ms. Marinka Žitnik, a Ph.D. student in computer science at University of Ljubljana, and Mr. Niko Colnerič, a Ph.D. student in data mining challenges and high-dimensional data analysis. For more information about ASEF see: - <http://www.ase-fund.org/>



Ms. Bernardka Kovačič Fitzsimmons together with Mr. John Kamin, presented a painting donated to ASEF by Slovenian-American artist Miro Zupančič.

## CULTURE

# Opening of Jože Domjan Exhibition at the Embassy



Also at the American Slovenian Educational Foundation inaugural event, an exhibition by one of the leading Slovenian graphic designers, Jože Domjan, was opened on

Thursday, October 2. In his overview exhibition, on display are images from book covers, calendars, and drawings' designs, with emphasis on theater posters.

Jože Domjan, a graduate of the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, has been working as a designer for more than 40 years. In 1995, he established 'Triartes', a visual communications studio.



For decades, he has been present on the international scene with numerous solo exhibitions, awards, publications in top professional magazines, catalogues and anthologies at home and abroad.

“The designer Jozse Domjan may well be considered as one of the leading Slovenian poster designers. In his forty years of creative practice, he left an indelible mark in the

field of cultural posters and, in particular theater posters, which, due to their persuasive conceptual design, not only address the individual on the street and represent at the same time his/her first contact with the theater performance, but as well give sense to the role and meaning of the poster as a communication medium.” This is the quote describing Domjan’s work by Cvetka Požar, Ph.D., in

her book *Design Oeuvre In The Context Of The Development Of Slovenian Cultural Posters*.

The exhibition, titled *Eye.Thought.Hand./Oko.Misel.Roka.*, which showcases his work from 1973 to 2013, was previously presented in Novo Celje Castle in Žalec, Slovenia as a part of much bigger showcase. It will remain open to visitors of the embassy until mid-December.



# Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar Lectures in Salisbury



Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar inaugurated the Ambassador lecture series on Monday, October 6, in the Holloway Hall Auditorium of Salisbury University. He acquainted some 150 students and faculty with the activities of the International Criminal Court and spoke about the pathway of the international criminal justice from Nuremberg to Kampala and beyond.

In his address, Ambassador Dr. Cerar expressed Slovenia's strong support of the International Criminal Court. He said that Slovenia's priorities include respect for human rights, the rule of law, and peaceful policies. Further, he advocated dialogue on the challenges facing the ICC. He underlined the preventive role of the ICC, pointing out that nobody is above the law, and

emphasized Slovenia's endeavors in promoting the universality of the Rome Statute, which calls for accountability for the most serious crimes of international concern: genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. He also recalled the historic importance of the amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression adopted in Kampala in June 2010. Once the amendments are ratified and implemented, the ICC will become the first international court to prosecute the crime of aggression since the trials at Nuremberg and Tokyo following World War II.

Prior to the lecture, the ambassador met with the faculty members, including the provost, Dr. Diane D. Allen, and Dr. Maarten Pereboom, dean of the Fulton School of Liberal Arts and Professor of History at Salisbury University. The event was sponsored by Salisbury University's Cultural Affairs Office and its director, June Krell-Salgado, and World Artists Experiences.



Prior to the lecture, the ambassador had lunch with the faculty.

# Slovenian Artist Barbara Jurkovšek Exhibits in VA



The Wilson Hughes Gallery International Artist Series, which brings artists from around the globe to Roanoke Valley, features, from September till the end of November, Barbara Jurkovšek. The Slovenian artist first introduced her paintings from her "Albino United Extended" project on September 26. Jurkovšek has created hybrid animals as a central motif and showed references in contemporary art, pop culture,

kitsch and science. The displayed creatures depicted in the paintings are meant to seem both innocent and grotesque. She imagines them as symbolic of a scientist's quest for the key to immortality, showing that tampering with nature puts at risk not just humankind but other animal species. She gave an artist's talk regarding her work on Friday, October 3, 2014 within the Art by Night series.

Barbara 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 her 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 the Union of Slovene Fine Arts Associations. In 2012, Jurkovšek was Artist in residence in London, hosted by Ministry of Culture of the Republic Slovenia, 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.

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International Artist Series features Slovenian artist  
*Lecture to take place October 3.*

The ever popular Art by Night continues this fall and the European country of Slovenia will be represented in October through the Wilson Hughes Gallery International Artist Series which brings artists from around the globe to the Roanoke Valley. The featured artist for 2014 will be Barbara Jurkovšek, of Slovenia, a small and beautiful country located just south of Austria and east of northern Italy. 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.

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 Master degree in painting (MFA) at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana.

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Jurkovšek works in the media of painting, sculpture, graphics, calligraphy and scientific illustration. She lives and works as a professional fine artist in Slovenia. Her visit to Roanoke is supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, and the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, D.C.

Barbara Jurkovšek, Slovenian artist

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

## Astronaut Sunita Williams Visits Slovenia



Sunita Williams. (Photo: M. Smerke)

Sunita Williams, a U.S. astronaut of Slovenian ancestry, addressed a ceremony at Brdo pri Kranju Conference Center on October 6 welcoming new inductees of the Slovenian Engineering Academy. Slovenian Engineering Academy has granted on the occasion 7 new associate memberships, 13 new full memberships and 1 new honorary membership -- astronaut



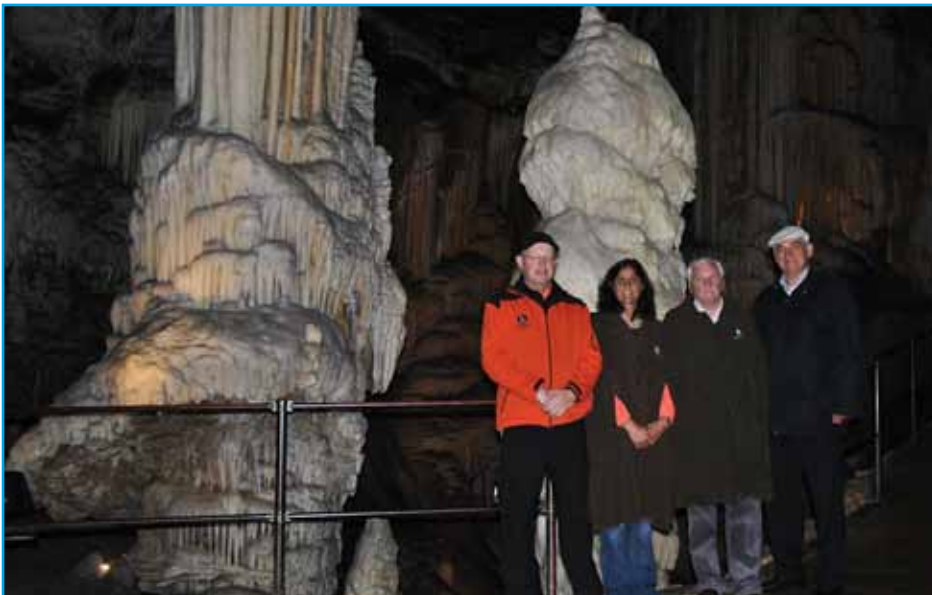
New inductees of the Slovenian Engineering Academy. (Photo: M. Smerke)

Sunita Williams. The honors were presented by the President of the Slovenian Academy of Engineering, Prof. Stane Pejovnik, and the minister of science, Prof. Stanka Setnikar Cankar.

Sunita Williams, NASA astronaut of Indian-Slovenian descent, born in 1965 in Euclid near Cleveland, last visited Slovenia in May 2013, when she was decorated

by President Borut Pahor for her promotion of science among young Slovenians. This was her fourth visit to Slovenia, where her great-grandmother on her mother's side, Marija Bohinjec, was born.

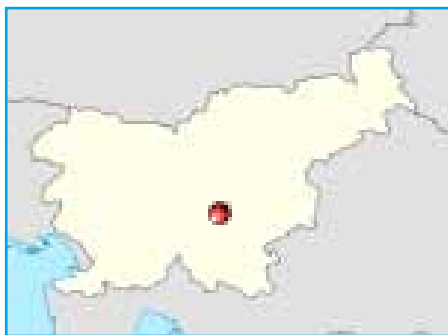
Sunita flew to the International Space Station for two expeditions, spending a total of 322 days in space and 50 hours outside the spacecraft in seven walks. On her first mission, in 2006, she spent 195 days in space, setting a record for women astronauts. Her second time in space was last year, when she joined the International Space Station on board the Russian Soyuz to become the second woman in history to take charge of the space station. She holds several spaceflight records, including total number of spacewalks by a woman (seven) and total cumulative spacewalk time by a female astronaut (50 hours and 40 minutes). Sunita is the third astronaut of Slovenian descent to fly to space, joining in this Ronald Sega and Jerry Linenger.



Sunita also visited Postojna Cave. (Photo: <https://www.facebook.com/PostojnaCave>)



## Ivančna Gorica



Ivančna Gorica, situated half-way between Ljubljana and the town of Novo mesto, is a small urban settlement surrounded by the gently rolling hills of the Dolenjska region of Slovenia. The settlement has a rich and interesting history. Right in its center, where there was once a crossing of ancient roads, stands a Roman milestone.

The area's history and art are on display at the nearby Stična Monastery, founded in 1136 by Peregrine the 1st, Patriarch of Aquileia. In the Middle Ages, the monastery was an important cultural center of the province of Carniola, which comprised a large part of what is now Slovenia. Since then, the monastery has undergone several modifications and additions, hence its Baroque and Rococo features. The interior, painted in fresco by Janez Ljubljanski and Fortunat Bergant, houses well-preserved antique church furnishings as well as furnishings designed by the 20th century architect Jože Plečnik. Today, the monastery is once again a religious and cultural center. It houses the Museum of Christianity in Slovenia, whose collections reflect the history of Christianity and the development of the Order of Cistercians.

Even older than the Stična



Ivančna Gorica (Photo: Arhiv Občine Ivančna Gorica/Ivančna Gorica Municipality Archives)

Monastery is the ancient parish of Šentvid pri Stični, known today as a cradle of choral singing. The village's modern vibrancy is due to its motocross track and a light-aircraft airport offering glider and light-aircraft flights over the area. The Gradišče nad Šentvidom hill (519 meters, 1703 ft.) overlooks the village. The Lavričeva koč mountain hut is a popular hiking destination.

The village of Muljava is well known as the birthplace of Josip Jurčič, the author of the first Slovenian novel, *The Tenth Brother* (1866). Everything about the author's life and work can be learned by visiting his birth house in Muljava, open to visitors today as a museum.

Another place of historical interest is the small town of Višnja Gora, whose present appearance



Muljava. (Photo: [www.visitljubljana.com](http://www.visitljubljana.com))

is reminiscent of its past as a small medieval town. Parts of its medieval town wall, restored in 2014, and a defensive tower are still preserved.

In the vicinity of the village of Krka is the source of the beautifully green Krka River. The river flows from the 220-meter-long Krka Cave, famous for its thousands-of-years-old dripstones and an endemic salamander, the olm (*Proteus anguinus*). Guided tours of the cave are available from April to October.

While in the past the Krka River was a source of water power for the flour and sawmilling industries, its scenic banks and rapids are now mainly used for tourism and recreation; however, one of the mills is still in operation. The river is nowadays particularly attractive for swimmers, kayakers, and fishermen fishing for rainbow and brown trout, huchen, grayling, common nase, sheatfish, and pike.

Ivančna Gorica's surrounding area also offers opportunities for other outdoor activities: alpine skiing on the slopes of Polževo, cross-country



Zagradec in Krka Valley. (Photo: Arhiv Občine Ivančna Gorica/Ivančna Gorica Municipality Archives)

skiing, hiking along the Jurčič Trail, and the E6 and E7 European long-distance footpaths, hiking and cycling along the Loop Path called "Comfortable and Homelike", horseback riding, and tennis.

The staple events on the area's annual calendar include the Jurčič Hike in spring, the Week of Culture and Slovenian Choirs Meeting held in Šentvid pri Stični in June, Anna's Fair, which takes place in Višnja Gora at the end of July, a September youth gathering

in Stična, and the Lavrič Hike, which takes place in October.

Ivančna Gorica and its surrounding area offer many places to enjoy the typical local cuisine; these include traditional 'gostilna' restaurants, guest houses and tourist farms, and scenic vineyards, providing quality wines of the Lower Sava Valley Wine Region of Slovenia. Traditional foods like 'žganci' -- shredded buckwheat spoon bread served with sauerkraut, cracklings, stew or milk and dry-cured meat products are served in numerous places. One can also make some great mushroom gathering forays into the surroundings, which make everything taste even better.

More detailed information about the attractions and events held in the Municipality of Ivančna Gorica is available at the Municipal Tourist Association of Ivančna Gorica ([turisticna.zveza@siol.com](mailto:turisticna.zveza@siol.com), T: +(3861) 781-2130) and Institute for Culture and Tourism "Comfortable and Homelike" ([turizem@ivančna-gorica.si](mailto:turizem@ivančna-gorica.si), T: +(3861) 781-2128).



Stična (Photo: Irena Mlakar)

**SLOVENIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION LECTURE SERIES: THE LIFE AND WORKS OF BORIS PAHOR, BY LUKA ZIBELNIK**

In his presentation, Luka Zibelnik will discuss the amazing literary opus of one of Slovenia's most influential writers, Boris Pahor. The talk will focus on Pahor's best known, prize-winning and most translated work, Necropolis. A Nobel Prize nominee, holocaust survivor, and writer of a multitude of books, celebrated his 101st birthday this year. Necropolis is a relatively hidden jewel of literature, which describes Pahor's inner thoughts and memories at a visit of Natzweiler-Struthof, one of the concentration camps in which he was imprisoned during WWII.

When: [On Tuesday, October 14, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, Ohio](#)

A coffee and strudel social will follow the lecture.

More information: Anthony W. Hiti, AIA, President, Slovenian American Heritage Foundation; tel. [\(216\) 696-3460 x 306](tel:2166963460).

**CONVERSATIONS IN CULTURE: "SLOVENIA: LOVE THE COLORS OF ACCORDION"**

Slovenian accordionist Marko Hatlak explores the versatility of the accordion in a solo concert featuring baroque, contemporary and folk music. Hatlak's unique, original interpretation of each individual piece, regardless of the style, evokes an emotionally thorough and authentic experience in the audience. At one moment we witness energetic melodies in the rhythm of the tango, at the next we travel with him to the hidden corners of the Balkans from their northern fringes to their southern borders on the wings of folk music. His performance of baroque and contemporary music opens up the immeasurable depths of harmonies of the composing genius J. S. Bach, and innovative compositions of the present time. (In conjunction with the Embassy of Slovenia).

When: [Wednesday, October 15, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Delegation of the European Union, 2175 K Street, NW, Washington, DC \(use entrance on 22nd Street\)](#). Free admission.

More information: <http://www.euintheus.org/event/slovenia-love-the-colors-of-accordion/>



**MARTINOVANJE IN CLEVELAND BY ŠTAJERSKI–PREKMURSKI KLUB OF CLEVELAND**

Štajerski–Prekmurski Klub of Cleveland invites you to its Martinovanje to celebrate the new wine. The French have Beaujolais Nouveau Day to celebrate one new wine, the Slovenians have Martinovanje to celebrate the tapping of all new-wine barrels. The dinner-dance event will be held at St. Clair Slovenian home with doors opening at 6 p.m. and a sumptuous dinner by Josey Cerer and crew served at 6:30 p.m. Music will be provided by guests "Europa" from Toronto, who play all styles of music.

When: [Saturday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Clair Slovenian home , 6409 St. Clair Ave, Cleveland, OH 44103](#)

## **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.](#)

## **POLKA HALL OF FAME MUSIC AWARDS AT DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND**

For the first time, the Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show will be staged in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel in Downtown [Cleveland, Ohio](#), on Public Square, Saturday, November 29, 2014. The gala Awards Show will be the high point of the three-day Thanksgiving Polka Party Weekend hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum, Thursday, Friday and [Saturday, November 27, 28 and 29](#), at the Marriott.

Two long-time polka musicians will be inducted at the Awards Show, Cleveland musician and radio host Denny Bucar and the late accordionist and bandleader Don Lipovac of Kansas City. Both were voted in for their lifetime achievements by the membership and board of the Polka Hall of Fame and announced at a preview meeting on October 9. They will be honored at the stage event on November 29, along with six individuals to be added to the Trustee Honor Roll. Winners will also be announced in nine categories, including Polka Band of the Year, Polka Musician of the Year, and Polka Album of the Year.

The Polka Hall of Fame is located at 605 East 222nd Street in Euclid, Ohio, in the historic former Euclid City Hall. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 11:00 to 4:00. Admission is free. For details, contact (216) 261-FAME or [www.polkafame.com](http://www.polkafame.com).

## **PSALMS IN NEW YORK performed by CARMINA SLOVENICA**

"Chorus can take over from us and experience for us our innermost and most spontaneous feelings and attitudes, inclusive of crying and laughing." Žižek.  
The choir manifests a collective body and, as an organism, reflects a human desire to merge. At the same time, it manifests social phantasms. The collective becomes an individuum and an individuum becomes a part of the collective. A non-individual voice, a sound of the multitude of voices -- a choir, the whole union of bodies in a crowd creates an illusion of humanity as a single human being. Analogical of this monology (the choir works as a single character), the choir on stage (the choir works as a multitude) works as a mirror and partner of the audience. In Toxic Psalms, the Chorus represents the views of the contemporary society holding up certain moral and cultural standards -- much like the media does in our daily lives.

Choregie project by Karmina Šilec.

When: [January 8–11, 2015](#)

Where: [St. Ann's Warehouse, 29 Jay Street, Brooklyn 11201](#) -- just east of the Manhattan Bridge (aka DUMBO) <http://www.stannswarehouse.org/directions.php>

More information: [http://www.stannswarehouse.org/current\\_season.php?show\\_id=100](http://www.stannswarehouse.org/current_season.php?show_id=100)  
[http://www.stannswarehouse.org/current\\_season.php?show\\_id=100](http://www.stannswarehouse.org/current_season.php?show_id=100)

Watch the trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qshuAZwC4Kw>