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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## NEWSLETTER

MAY 16, 2014, VOLUME 10, NUMBER 18

# E.U. Open House at the Embassy of Slovenia

The Delegation of the European Union to the United States and the embassies of the 28 E.U. member states opened their doors last Saturday to Washington public during the eighth Annual E.U. Embassies' Open House Day. This annual event is a highlight of the Washington May calendar and is celebrated during the European Month of Culture. This year was special due to the fact that on May 1 Slovenia marked the 10th anniversary of joining the European Union. Beside Slovenia, also welcomed in



The line in front of the embassy.

2004 were Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Slovakia.

More than 4000 people visited the Slovenian embassy on Saturday, May 10, 2014, between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The guests had an opportunity to learn about the best Slovenian tourist attractions, taste Slovenian culinary specialties

such as "potica" (walnut-roll cake), baked by Rocky Mountain Potica from Colorado and Sophie's Catering from Ohio; "jabolčni zavitek" (apple strudel), Carniolian sausage by Ažman's from Cleveland, and pumpkin seed oil Kocbek by the Tri-Wines company from New York. Making of the apple strudel and potica was demonstrated

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The reception room at the embassy was crowded throughout the day.



Sylvia Onusic, PhD next to Aleš Goričan in a costume of a Roman soldier from 2000 years ago when Ljubljana was called Emona.

by Bajda sisters: Rosie Antilla, Albina Medved, and Nadi Bajda, who came to Washington from Minnesota and used the recipes of their other sister Paula Mavec.

The guests could also taste Slovenian wine of producer Edi Simčič from Goriška Brda, furnished by Smucker's Farm of 14th and V streets in Washington, admire an exhibition of paintings by the 94-year-old Slovenian from

Virginia, Minnesota, Al Zaverl, and listen to traditional music performed on the accordion by Alex Gergar from Bethlehem, PA, Kara Maruszak, from Cleveland, OH; John Stark, from Aurora, MN; and Frank Vidergar, from Silver Spring, MD.

The visitors could also learn about Emona, the Roman 2000-year-old city, present-day capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana, and

could pose for a picture with a Roman soldier, an inhabitant of old Emona. The interesting features of Ljubljana were presented by Tourism Ljubljana and their representatives Špela Paternošter and Aleš Goričan. The Lectar Inn from Radovljica demonstrated throughout the day how gingerbread hearts are made, and its owner, Jože Andrejaš, played harmonica for



Alex Gergar (Bethlehem, PA) and Kara Maruszak (Cleveland, OH) playing in front of the embassy.



Mojca Andrejaš making a gingerbread heart.



Smucker's Farm from 14 and V street in NW Washington, D.C. introduced wine by Edi Simčič from Goriška Brda region.



Frank Vidergar (Silver Spring, MD) and John Stark (Aurora, MN) entertaining guests on the embassy's terrace.

the occasion. Moreover, the whole Andrejaš family was dressed in costumes from the 18th century, when their gingerbread shop was established in this historic town in the Gorenjsko region of Slovenia.

Next to admiring traditional and authentic Slovenian costumes, the visitors could also view original household items, artwork and implements

displayed on the embassy premises by the SNPJ Heritage Museum from Pittsburgh, PA. Slovenian Union of America SUA Branch 93 from New York and their President Tanya Vajk on this occasion conducted an online class of Slovene, and SUA Branch 108 with President Bernardka Kovačič Fitzsimmons exhibited traditional beehive

panels and other traditional items as well as an 85-year-old issue of the U.S. Slovenian magazine Zarja. Also in attendance was National V.P. of the SUA for Culture and Heritage, Mary Lou Deyak Voelk (Branch 23), who came for the occasion from Alabama. Children could listen to traditional Slovenian stories, play in the special kids' corner



Nadi Bajda introduced Bease in Kids' Corner.



The event wouldn't have been as successful if it hadn't been for the dedication of numerous volunteers. On the photo is Johanna Bajc.



I feel Slovenia in the E.U.



President of the Slovenian Union of America Branch 108 Bernardka Kovačič Fitzsimmons with her daughter Juliana Fitzsimmons.

and enjoy painting with Beesels, presented by Nadi Bajda. At the event, the Flaška company also exhibited its products, and the visitors could admire Rogaška crystal and Idrija lace.

Throughout the day, the guests were addressed from time to time by the Ambassador, Dr. Božo Cerar. They also could learn about Slovenian tourist attractions

and talk to embassy staff about history, economy, and politics of Slovenia. Also, Ms. Sylvia Onusic, who annually organizes "Taste Slovenia" tours to various regions of Slovenia, presented her tourist program, and Slovenia Travel (Darja Gačnik) from New York, and Roads Less Traveled Tours (Andrew Villone) provided their travel information.

Promotional films on Slovenia attracted a great number of people, many of whom were photographed with the embassy staff in national costume. The event wouldn't have been as successful if it hadn't been for the dedication of Slovenian diplomats with their spouses, local staff, the interns and numerous volunteers: Taylor and Marian



Traditional outfit from Gorenjsko region of Slovenia.



Slovenia's national flag is white, blue and red and bears the coat of arms in the shape of a shield. In the middle of the shield is the outline of Mount Triglav.



Bled by Albin Zaverl. His exhibition will be on display at the embassy till June 20.



"Slovene Conversation Online – Pogovorna slovenščina preko spleta" is a project developed by volunteers of the Slovenian Union of America.

Cluff, David and Kathy Sullivan, John and Patricia Kelly, Dušan Plut, Lea Plut-Pregelj, Greg Rudl, Clement Jaidzeka, Joe Heitz, Erik Lundgren, Martin Nyberg, Enea Gjoza, Kristine Sedey, Ruth Krosin, Carol Maruszak, Kristin Hicks, Janeise Webster, Kelly Paras, Amy Currier, Johanna Bajc, Sandra Mihelič, Frank Stanonik, and Mark Sfiligoj.

The European Month of Culture is being celebrated in Washington, DC, for the second time. The E.U. member states have put on an unprecedented performance series, featuring musical performances, art exhibits, film screenings, and lectures at the National Gallery of Art, on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, in the Phillips

Collection, at American University, E.U. Embassies and Cultural Institutes, and other venues. For event details and Slovenian events, please visit: <http://www.euintheus.org/event/tags/slovenia/>

**SAVE THE DATE:** In 2015, the E.U. Open House event will take place on Saturday, May 9.



The Lectar Inn from Radovljica demonstrated throughout the day how gingerbread hearts are made.



In the embassy's lobby.



Many visitors pinned the places in Slovenia they had already visited.



Original household items and artwork were displayed by the SNPJ Heritage Museum from Pittsburgh, PA.



Jože Andrejaš playing Slovenian folk songs on harmonica.



More than 4000 people visited Slovenian embassy on May 10 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.



Everybody could get the Slovenian stamp in the E.U. Open House passport.



People could read on the posters about the geography and history of Slovenia.



Paintings by Albin Zaverl.



Potica tasting.



Throughout the day, Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar addressed the audience several times. On the right is Rogaška crystal and Idrija lace display.



Demonstration of apple strudel making by Bajda sisters.



Aleš Goričan and Špela Paternošter presenting Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia.

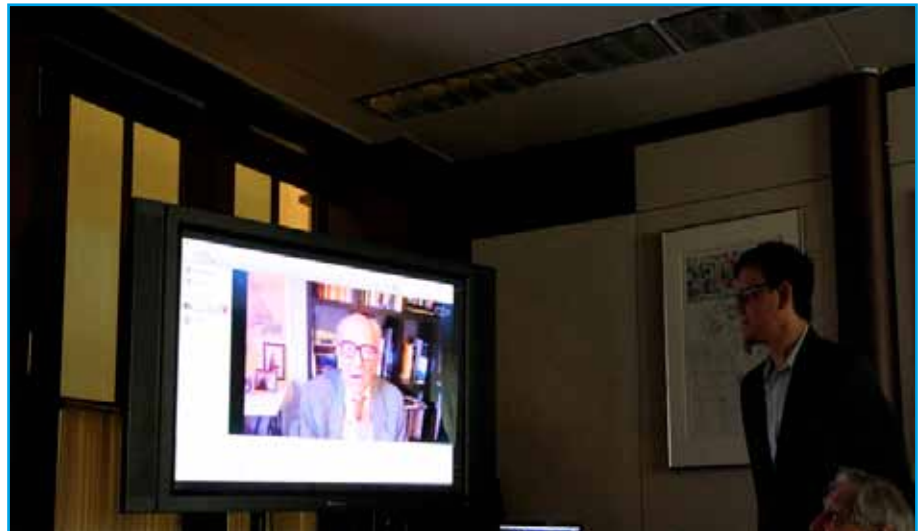


A group photo with the Ambassador.

## Boris Pahor Presented at the Library of Congress

On May 13, The Library of Congress hosted a lecture about one of the most influential contemporary Slovenian writers, Boris Pahor, and his book *Necropolis*. The event was part of the European Month of Culture, which was organized by the E.U. embassies in Washington. The centenarian Nobel Prize nominee, holocaust survivor, and writer of a multitude of books (translated into many languages), was presented to the interested public in a lecture by Luka Zibelnik.

After the talk, which mainly dealt with his most known work, *Necropolis*, the listeners were able to talk to the writer himself via Skype. The author surprised them with his clarity and positive attitude, and answered all of their questions. *Necropolis* is a relatively hidden jewel of literature, which describes Pahor's inner thoughts and memories while he is visiting Natzweiler-Struthof, one of the concentration camps in which he was imprisoned during WWII. Fragmentation and



Listeners were able to talk to the 101 years old writer via Skype.

nonlinear story makes the novel a completely different experience for the reader, who understands the crematorium world a lot better through masterfully used metaphorical language than would be possible through the linear and diary-like narrative.

The next day, a documentary about Boris Pahor, produced by RTV Koper-Capodistria, titled *The Stubborn Memory* (Trmasti spomin) was

screened at the Slovenian embassy. The documentary, which received an Erasmus EuroMedia award and a medal of excellence in 2010, showcases the key moments that marked the author's life, and present the core of his literary creation. The film was made as a part of the project "Sons of Two Nations - Great Men of Slovenia", which presents the lives of people who have made an impact on the multicultural area between Italy and Slovenia. *The Stubborn Memory* was directed by Tomaž Burlin, who was also the co-author and co-scriptwriter, together with Neva Zajc.

"*The Stubborn Memory*" has been previously presented at the seventh annual international film series *Bridges to the World*, organized by the World Artists Experiences. The series ran for five weeks from the first week of February through the second week of March at five venues throughout the state of Maryland and in Reading, Pennsylvania. Each film was introduced, screened, and followed by a discussion.



The event took place at the European Division conference room in Thomas Jefferson Building.



## Slovenian Language Class at the Embassy

In the evening of May 13, Luka Zibelnik, instructor in Slovenian language and culture at Cleveland State University, and his wife and assistant Erika Zibelnik held a »survival« Slovenian language class at the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington. The lecture was well attended, and the listeners learned several phrases that they could use in both informal and formal situations when meeting a Slovenian speaker.

Zibelnik also presented the new online classes, which were offered last year through Cleveland State University. The classes were made for people who cannot attend regular classes due to time or space restrictions. An internet-based



The class was taught by Luka and Erica Zibelnik.

series of classes, which can be accessed from anywhere in the U.S., has therefore been constructed. In the last two semesters, the class had

more than 50 new students, who learned the basics of the language. More information on classes and how to enroll at [l.zibelnik@csuohio.edu](mailto:l.zibelnik@csuohio.edu).

## Enroll in Slovenian online classes 101 or 201 in the Fall

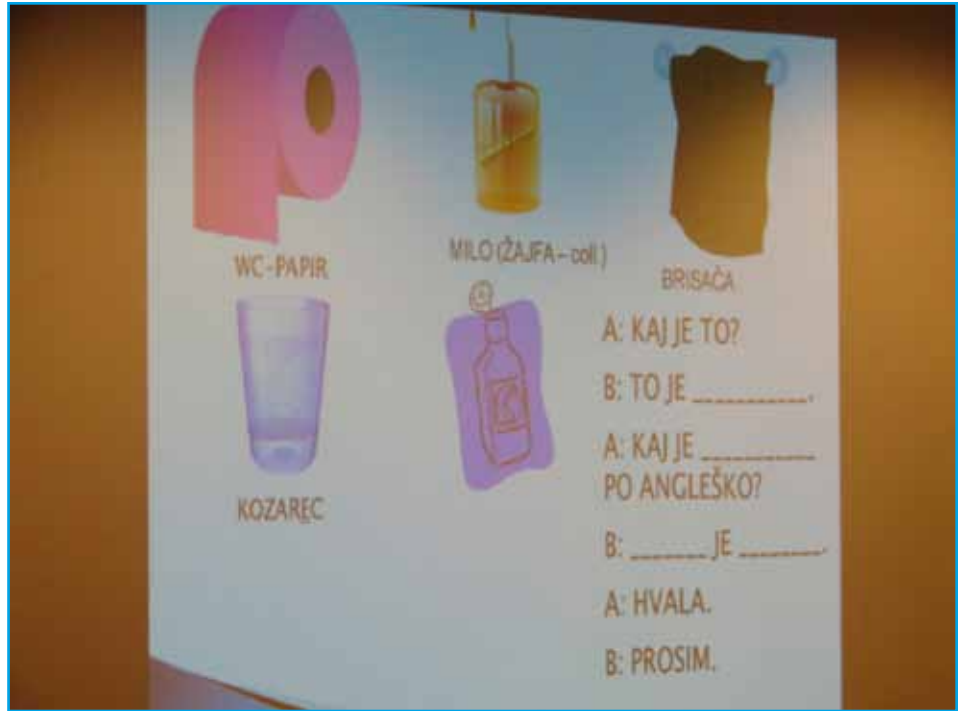
Need to take a language course for your degree? Do you want the possibility of learning at your own pace, and in any location you choose? If you want more freedom and flexibility in your courses then try Slovenian Language online!

This course has been created to be accessible from any location, and on any device (computer, cell phone, tablet, iPad, etc.). It gives you the opportunity to rewind and have the entire course in the palm of your hand! Weekly assignments give you the flexibility of choosing when to log-in, and when to do your homework.



Classes are offered at Cleveland State University under the title SLN 101 or SLN 201. Take the course at home, at school, work, outside, or any other location that allows you internet access! Classes are offered for credit points (3CP) or continuing education (\$400). People from all around the U.S. can enroll in these classes, so enroll quickly. For more proficient speakers or students who finished the SLN 101 and 102, the SLN 201 will be offered as well.

Also, there are three in-class courses offered at Lakeland Community College and the CSU.



For more information contact Luka Zibelnik at [luka\\_zibelnik@yahoo.com](mailto:luka_zibelnik@yahoo.com)  
 For a TEGRITY class presentation of this course go to: <https://tegr.it/y/1dvhd>  
 For a YOUTUBE example go to: <http://youtu.be/OCX0Wk6fZ7A>

## 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, May 23, 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, NY. 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](mailto:vwa@gov.si) by May 21, 2014, 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.



# James (Jim) Oberstar

On Saturday, May 3, 2014, former Congressman James L. Oberstar died at his home in Potomac, Maryland. As a U.S. Congressman, he represented the people of the 8th District of Minnesota for 36 years until 2010. He was a Democrat and the longest-serving member of Congress in Minnesota's history. Slovenia owes a great deal to the late congressman. Since Slovenia's decision for independence in 1991, he was its great advocate and supporter, who helped present the "Slovenian story" to the U.S. Administration and, later, promoted American recognition of Slovenian sovereignty and independence, and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. His contacts, his

advice and readiness to help were priceless.

He supported Slovenian endeavors to join NATO, not just on a declaratory level, but with concrete steps, and thus to become a member of the transatlantic family and be responsible for its own security. He was always, without exception, ready to listen and offer advice and information when it came to visits and conversations of various Slovenian representatives with interlocutors in U.S. Congress and Administration.

Special recognition goes to Congressman Oberstar for his active support of the International Trust Fund for Demining. He was actively engaged in fundraising and earmarking assets for the Trust fund and has never lost an



The late congressman. James Oberstar was very proud of his Slovenian heritage.

occasion to show his support for the cause of mine clearance and assistance to land-mine victims. For all these reasons, Slovenia will always be in his debt, but most of all, we highly appreciate how proud he was of his Slovenian heritage. Son of a Slovenian mother, he never lost an opportunity to tell any American -- or anyone else -- about Slovenia, its history, its language, its culture. His contribution to the preservation of Slovenian heritage in the U.S. and to the relations between the two countries will always be cherished.

On behalf of the Slovenian Government, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Karl Erjavec, expressed his condolences to the Congressman's wife and family and the Ambassador, Dr. Cerar, attended his funeral.



Former Ambassador of Slovenia to the U.S. Roman Kirn, Congressman James Oberstar and Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota at the reception in honor of James Oberstar in 2011 at Ambassador's residence.

## European Parliamentary Elections 2014

The President of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, has called by a decree for elections to European Parliament on May 25, 2014. This will be the third E.U. election for Slovenian voters since the country joined the E.U. in May 2004. In the European Parliament, Slovenia has eight representatives, who serve for a five-year term.

Citizens with permanent residence abroad received their ballots along with the instructions at their respective postal addresses. The lists of candidates for the representatives for the European Parliament are available at: <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/si/strani/potrjene-liste-kandidatov-volitve-v-evropski-parlament-2014>

For more information about the elections in Slovenian go to:

[http://washington.embassy.si/index.php?id=814&tx\\_ttnews%5Bttnews%5D=20287&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=51&cHash=8b9c36ed9cd6249fd2310850513a795e](http://washington.embassy.si/index.php?id=814&tx_ttnews%5Bttnews%5D=20287&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=51&cHash=8b9c36ed9cd6249fd2310850513a795e)

## Referendum on Archives Act

The referendum on the Act amending the Protection of Documents and Archives and the Archival Institution Act will be held on June 8, 2014. The polling stations will also be established in the United States at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC and the Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland, Ohio, and are to be

open on **June 8, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Citizens with permanent residence in the U.S. and Slovenian citizen temporarily living outside Slovenia and wishing to cast their vote must register by May 23 on a special registration form available at <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/si/strani/referendum-2014-obrazci-za-volivce>

More information on the referendum can be found at:

[http://washington.embassy.si/index.php?id=814&tx\\_ttnews%5Bttnews%5D=20977&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=51&cHash=6051f290b6525ce9672d3fd3c03be4c4](http://washington.embassy.si/index.php?id=814&tx_ttnews%5Bttnews%5D=20977&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=51&cHash=6051f290b6525ce9672d3fd3c03be4c4). Please note that the information is in Slovene.

### **SPEECH BY PROF. ŽIGA TURK: "Echoes of the Past in the Future of Europe"**

Dr. Žiga Turk is a Professor at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He holds a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering, M.Sc. in Computer Science, and a Ph.D. in technical sciences. In addition to his academic career, Dr. Turk was twice a minister in the Government of Slovenia and served as Secretary General of the Felipe Gonzalez's Reflection Group on the Future of Europe. In 2007-08, he was chief negotiator for Slovenia's accession to the OECD.

When: [Wednesday, May 28 at 10:00 a.m.](#),

Where: [Center for Transatlantic Relations, BOB 736, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 - Room 736.](#)

More information: <http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ecd50dd626cf374511464e688&id=0ea9d80eb9&e=efe1b1c3b7>

**SOPRANO IRENA PRED A AND PIANIST NEJC LAVRENČIČ AT THE KENNEDY CENTER**

The Slovenian operatic soprano and recognized pianist will perform works by Lipovsek, Ipavec, Skerjanc, Simoniti, Lajovic, Puccini, Massenet, and Verdi. Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Slovenia within the European Month of Culture Program. Free entrance.

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

Where: [The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, 2700 F Street, NW Washington, DC 20566](#)

More information: [http://www.kennedy-center.org/explorer/artists/?entity\\_id=112888&source\\_type=B](http://www.kennedy-center.org/explorer/artists/?entity_id=112888&source_type=B)

**MUSIC BY COMPOSERS FROM BULGARIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, MALTA, AND SLOVENIA AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART**

National Gallery of Art Chamber Players perform music by Nejc Kuhar, further Stedron, Psaila and Dikov. Free entrance.

When: [May 28 at 12:10 p.m.](#)

Where: [National Gallery of Art \(West Building\), 6th and Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20565](#)

More information: <http://www.euintheus.org/event/music-by-composers-from-bulgaria-the-czech-republic-malta-and-slovenia/>

**EMBASSY ADOPTION PROGRAM'S EU CELEBRATION**

The EAP students at Washington's Beers ES, Capitol Hill Montessori EC, Eliot-Hine MS, Garfield ES, Houston ES, and Janney ES offer performance art, alongside professional artists. In cooperation with Washington Performing Arts Society and the embassies of Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Slovenia. Free entrance.

When: [May 31 at 3:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Embassy of Austria, 3524 International Ct NW, Washington, DC 20008](#)

Register at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/european-month-of-culture-embassy-adoption-programs-eu-celebration-tickets-11320583169?aff=es2>

## **DESIGNER SANJA GRČIĆ'S IN NEW YORK**

Following a very successful presentation in RSPOP-up New York in 2011 and in January 2013, when she presented in the U.S. the collection Inside Straight, Slovenian designer Sanja Grcić is coming back to NYC with her collection "Transformers".

When: [May 17 – June 1](#) (Tuesday – Saturday from 12 noon. to 7 p.m. and on Sundays from 12 noon to 6 p.m.)

Where: [362 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 112017](#)

More information: <https://www.bijoutique.net/>

## **THEATRE SHOW STOLI (CHAIRS!) AT THE FESTIVAL LOS COSMICÓMICO DE TEATRO ALTERNATIVO IN ZACATECAS, MX**

Slovenian theatre group Out of de Boks and the director Mateja Kokol will present the show Chairs! by Eugène Ionesco.

When: [Friday, May 30 at 8:30 p.m.](#) at Teatro Seguro Social and [Saturday, May 31 at 9:30 p.m.](#) in Teatro Calderon.

Workshop with the director will take place on May 27 at 11 a.m.

Where: [Zacatecas, Mexico](#)

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/chairsperformance>

<http://ljz.mx/2014/05/07/anuncian-celebracion-del-festival-cosmicomico-de-teatro-alternativo/>

<http://matejakokol.wordpress.com/>

## **SLOVENSKI WEEK IN FRANCE, MARCH 2015**

When: [Friday, March 13 to Saturday, March 21.](#)

Where: In the largest ski mountain range in the world. [Courcheval, Meribel, Meribel Mottaret, Val Thorens, Orelle, St. Martin de Belleville, Brides les Bains, La Tania.](#)

Cost is \$2,790.00 per person double occupancy (check for special room arrangements) plus ski pass; discounts for families, juniors, and seniors, and free skiing for seniors over 75 yrs.

Maximum spots on this trip is 36, minimum is 26. Space held only till June 2. Land only \$1,940\*, air \$850\*

For more information contact: John F Kamin 61-32 75th Place, Middle Village, NY 11379 Tel: (718)424-2711; e-mail: [Jfkamin@verizon.net](mailto:Jfkamin@verizon.net)

[Due is May 29, 2014.](#)

Special note: Meribel is hosting World Cup Finals for men and women in all ski categories starting on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. Other than the Winter Olympics, this is the biggest and best ski competition in the world.

## **3rd AVSENIK MUSIC WORKSHOP**

The 3rd annual Avsenik music workshop for Slovenians abroad will take place in Slovenia **July 2 - 4, 2014**. Airfare for people living overseas is covered. That's a pretty good deal! Be quick to sign up for limited spaces. You need to be able to sing or play one of the following instruments: accordion (keyboard, diatonic or chromatic), clarinet, trumpet, guitar, tuba, double bass, bass guitar. This workshop is not for beginners as you will be performing at the famous Avsenik restaurant with other musicians.

More information can be found at: <http://shop.avsenik.com/sl/glasbena-sola/258-glasbena-delavnica-za-glasbenike-iz-izseljenstva>