



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

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## Ambassador Dr. Cerar Visits Lemont and Joliet

**Ambassador Božo Cerar paid his first visit to Illinois on November 16 and 17 to address the participants of the semiannual business conference of the Slovenian American Business Association (S-ABA), hosted by the Slovenian Catholic Cultural Center in Lemont, IL. On the occasion, he also met with Slovenian community members in Lemont and Joliet.**



Ambassador addresses S-ABA business conference participants.

While visiting Lemont, the ambassador was welcomed by the SCCC president, Ms. Tina Hozjan Ruda, and enjoyed a performance by Slomšek Slovenian School students. He also met with the participants of the teaching seminar held by Ms. Mihaela Knez and Ms. Damjana Kern, both of whom have co-authored many books and teaching materials for Slovenian as the second

language. The business conference, titled "Slovenia: Business Opportunities for U.S. Companies" and built on the success of the first business conference held in Cleveland in November 2013, brought together businesses from Slovenia as well as the Chicago region.

The ambassador addressed the participants and the S-ABA leading team, which



has since 2012 endeavored to increase economic cooperation between the two countries. The speakers at the conference included consul general from Cleveland, Mr. Jure Žmauc, S-ABA president Jože Kokal, Dean Kravos of HIDRIA, and Franci Pliberšek of MIK Celje. Father Peter Rožič spoke as a representative of the American–Slovenian Educational Foundation and Prof. Luka Zibelnik as a representative of the Society for Slovene Studies.

The ambassador also visited the Slovenian Union of America headquarters in Joliet, where he met with Ms. Bonnie Pohar Prokup and other leading members of the SUA. He commended the numerous activities of the organization, which will soon celebrate 90 years since its establishment as Slovenian Women’s Union and especially their efforts to digitalize the SUA’s archive.



S-ABA business conference took place on the premises of the Slovenian Catholic and Cultural Center in Lemont, IL.

He also met with Mr. Rudi Krašovec, the president of KSKJ – American Slovenian Catholic Union, the oldest and biggest Slovenian association in the U.S., founded already in 1894, which next to its activities as a benefit society and fraternal organization also endeavors

to preserve Slovenian culture, language and heritage across the U.S. through its numerous branches. The ambassador’s visit to Chicago area was made possible with the help and assistance of the Slovenian honorary consul for Illinois, Mr. John Vidmar.



Ambassador at SUA headquarters.



Ambassador and KSKJ national president Rudi Krašovec.

# Traditional Slovenian Breakfast Day

For the third consecutive year, the Traditional Slovenian Breakfast project took place on November 21 in kindergartens and primary schools throughout Slovenia. During the first school period, children breakfasted on brown bread, honey, butter, milk, and apples, all of which were of organic and of local origin. The third week of November was first declared by the Slovenian government as Day of Slovenian Food in 2012.

The Embassy of Slovenia in Washington introduced the traditional Slovenian breakfast this year to the Hearst Elementary School students, who participate in the Embassy Adoption Program. The fifth-grade class enjoyed the traditional Slovenian breakfast goods prepared and served by the embassy staff. Students also became acquainted with Slovenian traditional ways of harvesting, wheat threshing and



Ms. Vesna Kolmanič and fifth grade students of Hearst ES.

milling, making bread in a brick oven, traditional butter making, beekeeping, and organic fruit growing.

Originally initiated by the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, the project is supported also by the Ministry

of Agriculture, Forestry and Food; the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports; the Ministry of Health, and other partners, including farmers, agricultural companies, food-processing companies and beekeepers, who donate their organic produce for the project.

The project aims to educate, inform and raise awareness of children in kindergartens and elementary schools -- and the same time also of the general public -- particularly of the importance of eating breakfast, of benefits of locally grown food, of agricultural activities for the environment, and of beekeeping for agricultural production and economic activity. It is also important to raise public awareness of youth of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, including health-enhancing physical activity and sports.



Nov 21 is celebrated as Slovenian Food Day.

## VTIS Event in New York

Društvo v tujini izobraženih Slovencev - VTIS (Association of Slovenes Educated Abroad) organized an event in New York, which was part of the global series "Slovene Science Around the World". The event took place on Saturday, November 15, 2014, at New York University, with around 40 people attending: Slovene researchers, academics, students and those employed in the private sector and the media, as well as others interested in the work of Slovene researchers and experts in the United States.

The attendees were first welcomed by Igor Cesarec, President of Društvo VTIS, who stressed the importance of presenting the scholarly work of Slovene experts to a wider audience. He also described the work of VTIS, which serves as a platform for Slovenes educated abroad to connect and cooperate with each other. It also represents their interests, and endeavors



Welcoming remarks by Mr. Igor Cesarec.

to strengthen the ties between Slovenes abroad and Slovenia. In the first presentation, Dr. Arne Baruca, Professor of Marketing at Sacred Heart University, spoke about his research on the impact of celebrities on self-representation on the internet. This was followed by an economic

analysis of the causes of obesity, presented by Dr. Veronika Dolar, Professor of Economics at Long Island University, and Miha Habič, a PhD student and researcher in the field of mathematics at the City University of New York, presented his work on infinite time computability.

In the musical performance that followed, Žan Tetičkovič, multi-award winning Slovene drummer and a student at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, was joined by his jazz trio in performing two songs. Dr. Ana Hočevar, a postdoctoral researcher in the field of Computational Neuroscience at Rockefeller University, described her research on the recognition of faces in non-human primates. The final presentation, on the establishment and maintenance of germ-cell lineage in fruit flies, was given by Dr. Tatjana Trček, a postdoctoral researcher in the field of genetics at New York University.



Some 40 people attended the event.

The presentations were followed by a reception, where the attendees had the opportunity to network and discuss further the presenters' research.

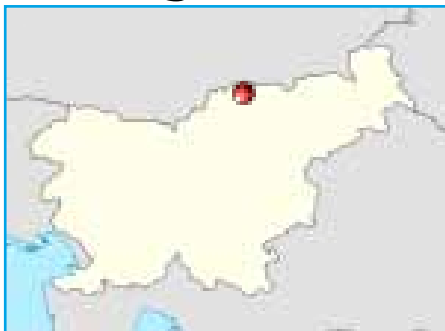
You can see the media coverage of the event by RTV Slovenija here: <http://4d.rtvsl.si/arhiv/odmevi/174304970> (from 37:00 onwards). You can follow the activities of VTIS on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/dvtis>) and Twitter (@DrustvoVTIS). If you are eligible for membership (i.e., if you are or were a Slovene citizen who studied or performed research outside of Slovenia), you are invited to join the Association here: <http://www.drustvovtis.si/clanstvo/>.



Musical performance.

## TOURISM

### Dravograd



Among the widespread woods of Mt. Košenjak, the Pohorje massif and Črneška gora, at the juncture of the Drava, the Mislinja, and the Meža valleys lies Dravograd, one of the oldest documented market towns in Slovenia. In the area of 105 sq. km (40 sq.mi.), live about 9000 inhabitants. Dravograd has grown from an old market town lying below an ancient castle to a modern settlement, divided between the river Drava banks. The town, which once had a tollhouse, later became a quay



Dravograd.

on the Drava and later a big railway crossing. The Dravograd community holds many traces of history. The famous Romanesque church of St. Vitus (one of the few churches with the bell tower facing east), the remarkable Libelice ossuary, the museum collection recording the

Nazi violence, and the Bukovje mansion with an exhibit on the 1991 battles for independence in Koroška are distinctive. The most interesting part of Dravograd's landscape is the area of the Košenjak-Velka Regional park. At the beginning of 2014, Dravograd was bestowed upon

the title of "The most tourist-friendly town in Slovenia," based on expert opinion and a Dnevnik newspaper editorial in »Dnevnikova izvidnica 2013/2014«.

Settlements, mountains and rivers constitute the wealth of features that people in Dravograd have lived with for generations. Throughout these features are dispersed hiking, thematic or recreational pathways for walkers, hikers, cyclists and curious researchers, who want to discover the diversity of surroundings and the roots of the local culture. Many hundred-years-old linden trees decorate the landscape. Forty of these trees are protected as a dendrological monument. A local geological specialty -- and also a world rarity -- is a mineral called »dravit«. Another point of interest is the ornithological reserve of Lake Dravograd, which provides shelter to more than 150 different species of birds.

A special place in Dravograd has the Bukovje mansion. It was built in the



The Romanesque church of St. Vitus is one of the few churches with the bell tower facing east.

18th century and it is located in beautiful surroundings, between the right bank of river Drava and forest backdrop of Pohorje. Recently, the mansion is gaining the image of unique cultural and congress center of Dravograd and Carinthia. Places in mansion and its surrounding area have comparative advantages of protocol facilities. Such, that culture and nature are offering: preciously cultural historical

heritage, stylish furnished hall and salons, multipurpose classrooms, peace, freshness and silence of the castle park, of nearby forests and river.

Indispensable part of Dravograd's history presents a small village Libeliče. Its people are known to Slovenes mainly for the unique historic event after the Carinthian plebiscite. A deep national feeling and a great wish to unite with the mother nation made rebels out of the boys and men of Libeliče, who forced the international community and the Austrian state to allow an exception in the history of Europe: the exclusion from one country and annexation to the other, to their mother nation. Up to the present days Libeliče has remained a rural village with no industry. The locals are proud of their history. With ossuary, the plebiscite museum, the collection of peasantry, the black kitchen, the forest educational trail and above all with their kindness the people of Libeliče attract numerous tourists and visitors.



The Bukovje mansion was built in the 18th century.

Other interesting tourist points in the area are church of the Holy Spirit in Ojstrica with unique ceiling painting, church of St. Peter in Kronska gora with two bell towers, ruins of the old castle Dravograd and Pukštajn, Drava cycling path, Dravograd theme route, Nature trail Dravograd-Grad, Path for heart, rafting tour on the Drava river. Source and ore information: [www.dravograd.si](http://www.dravograd.si), [www.dravit.si](http://www.dravit.si), e-mail: [ticrodravograd@dravit.si](mailto:ticrodravograd@dravit.si)



Church of the Holy Spirit in Ojstrica

## UPCOMING EVENTS - DC

### **Slovenian film CLASS ENEMY at the AFI–EU Film Festival**

Now in its 27th 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, including Slovenia's 2013 Oscar® Selection, Class Enemy (Razredni sovražnik).

Synopsis: When an easygoing homeroom teacher goes on maternity leave, she is replaced by Robert, a no-nonsense German teacher with certain ideas about how students should behave. Things fall apart after a student commits suicide following an especially demeaning interaction with the authoritarian teacher, and the tight-knit senior class rebels against his humiliating methods and the "system."

The film is based on actual events that occurred in the high school of debut filmmaker Rok Biček, whose morally complex feature has been celebrated on the international film festival circuit. Presented in Slovenian and German with English subtitles.

When: [Sunday, December 21 at 9:45 a.m.](#)

Where: [AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910](#)

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

### **CONCERT BY KAJA DRAKSLER AT THE KENNEDY CENTER**

The Embassy of Slovenia presents jazz pianist and composer Kaja Draksler, in a program featuring her original works and free improvisations. Draksler is a graduate of The Conservatory of Amsterdam and the Prince Claus Conservatory, and has studied privately with Vijay Iyer and Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz Jason Moran.

Where: [Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage, 2700 F St NW, Washington, D.C. 20566](#)

When: [Wednesday December 17 at 6 p.m.](#)

Free entrance.

## **MIKLAVŽEVANJE IN WASHINGTON**

As he has the world over for more than seven centuries, St. Nicholas soon will come again to children of all ages in the Washington area. The Bishop Baraga Society, Lodge #257 of the KSKJ (American Slovenian Catholic Union), invites you, your family, and friends to join us at the 50th annual Slovensko Miklavževanje - Slovenian Saint Nicholas' Celebration.

When: [Saturday, December 6, 2014](#)

Time: Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Program begins at 5:30 p.m.

Where: [North Chevy Chase Christian Church, 8814 Kensington Parkway, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815](#). Enter basement hall from rear parking lot.

Admission: Free to children under age 14, members of the Bishop Baraga Society, and other KSKJ lodges. A donation of \$3.00 is requested from others to help defray costs.

## UPCOMING EVENTS - NYC

### **SLOVEN"SKI" WEEKEND @ WINDHAM MTN RESORT**

When: [Friday and Saturday, January 30 and 31, and Sunday, February 1, 2015](#)

Where: [Windham Mountain Resort, New York](#)

Saturday: Nastar Championship @10:30 a.m, lunch @ 12 noon, dinner @ 7:00 p.m.

Special NOTE: This year: minimum number of skiers on Fri & Sun: 15; minimum number of skiers and racers on Saturday is 20, to get group discount rates.

Those interested, ASAP call or email Ivan Kamin at [\(718\) 424-2711](tel:7184242711) or [jfkamin@verizon.net](mailto:jfkamin@verizon.net)

### **A CONCERT BY KAJA DRAKSLER AND MATISS ČUDARS IN NEW YORK**

Kaja Drakslar (organ) and Matiss Čudars (electric guitar) will be playing (more or less) improvised music they already presented on a tour this summer in Slovenia. The performance will be followed by Slovenian wine tasting.

Where: [St. Cyril's Church, 62 St Marks Pl, New York, NY 10003](#)

When: [Sunday, December 14 at 11:30 a.m.](#)

### **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.

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>