



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Opening of the Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia in Pittsburgh, PA



On Thursday, May 15, the ambassador of Slovenia, Dr. Božo Cerar, opened a new Slovenian consulate in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, led by honorary consul, Mrs. Petra Mitchell.

In his keynote speech, the ambassador underlined three main reasons that drove Slovenia to open the consulate in Pittsburgh:

First, the consulate reaffirms the importance of Slovenia's historic ties with this part of the United States through the Slovenian

From left: Ambassador Dr Božo Cerar, Mayor of Pittsburgh, Bill Peduto, Honorary Consul Petra Mitchell and Consul General Jure Žmauc.

community in the region. The vitality of this community is attested by the activities of its organizations in the Pittsburgh and Bethlehem areas among others.

Second, Slovenian business has a strong interest in closer links with one of the economically most dynamic and propulsive parts of the

U.S. In this context, the ambassador emphasized the importance of the Slovenian business delegation of about 15 companies that had met with Pittsburgh-area businesses earlier that day.

Last but not least, in Mrs. Petra Mitchell, Slovenia has found an excellent honorary consul for the region. An





Some 140 invitees attended the opening of the new consulate.

Some 140 invitees attended the opening of the new consulate, including: Congressmen Mike Doyle (14th Congressional District) and Tim Murphy (18th Congressional District); the Mayor of Pittsburgh, Bill Peduto; Allegheny County Executive, Rich Fitzgerald, as well as some of the region's most prominent business leaders, members of the Pittsburgh consular corps and other community leaders.

Both Congressmen and Mayor Peduto expressed positive expectations for the further development of cooperation with Slovenia and were unanimous in their praise of the work and dedicated service of the new honorary consul. Mayor Peduto issued a special proclamation on the occasion of the opening of the consulate.

engineer by education, honorary consul Mitchell heads Catalyst Connection, a private nonprofit corporation that helps industrial transformation after the decline of the steel industry in the region.

An accomplished business leader herself, Mrs. Mitchell is expected to play a vital role in facilitating business cooperation between Slovenia and the Pittsburgh region.

BUSINESS

Slovenian Trade Mission Visits Ohio and Pennsylvania

In the second week of May, a business delegation of 15 Slovenian companies visited Cleveland, Akron (OH) and Pittsburgh (PA). The mission, consisting of the companies Avbreht & Zajc, Creatoorlabs, Doctrina, D-IMEX, Donar, Fibmarkt, Insol, Kolektor Etra, MZK Elektro, Numip, SMM, Talum, Tecos and TKK Srpenica, was organized in partnership with the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovenia (AmCham Slovenia), public agency Spirit Slovenia, the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, the Consulate General in Cleveland, and the Slovenian American Business Association (SABA).



Business delegation with Honorary Consul Petra Mitchell. (Photo: www.amcham.si)

In a week-long program, the delegation attended three business forums with B2B sessions and other opportunities for networking with local businesses. It also held meetings with business leaders from the Slovenian

communities in Cleveland and Pittsburgh. The delegation visited the headquarters of two regional industrial giants with operations in Slovenia: Goodyear, and Westinghouse. They were welcomed in the town halls in Cleveland and Akron, and they

also had a chance to witness the opening of the new Slovenian consulate in Pittsburgh.

A number of business-to-business links were established during the mission, and talks on the follow-up activities have already started.

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Minister Erjavec and ICC President Song support the Court's Jurisdiction

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a two-day international seminar on May 15 and 16 at the Brdo pri Kranju estate, titled "Turning the Kampala Amendments into Reality." The seminar was part of a campaign supporting the exercising of jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) over the crime of aggression (<http://crimeofaggression.info/>) and was the first event of its type organized for the countries of the Eastern European Group (EEG). Its purpose is to encourage countries to ratify the changes to the Rome Statute, by which the the ICC will be the first international court since the courts in Nuremberg and Tokyo to be empowered to investigate and convict individuals for the crime of aggression.

The eminent guests, taking part in the discussion included the Slovenian Foreign Minister, Karl Erjavec, the ICC President, Sang-Hyun Song, the U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Miguel de Serpa Soares, Slovenian Constitutional Judge and member of the U.N. International Law Commission, Dr. Ernest Petrič, and the President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome

Statute, Ambassador Tiina Intelmann. The participants were addressed by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon via video. The event was organized by the Slovenian Foreign Ministry in cooperation with Liechtenstein and the Global Institute for the Prevention of Aggression.

At the opening, Minister Erjavec underlined the preventive role of the ICC. He said that Slovenia's priorities include respect for human rights, the rule of law, peaceful policies and the prevention of genocide. "We are confident that the ICC can prevent such things, especially the worst human rights violations, genocide and aggression."

The ICC President Song said it is important that the Court

receive the opportunity to judge crimes of aggression, namely, the actions of political or military leaders who are responsible for the worst forms of force used against another country. "Aggression is not a crime in itself, but it often leads to other atrocities, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity. It represents the biggest danger to international peace and security," said Judge Song. He called upon countries to support the ICC in its efforts, and to advocate its universal authority.

The ICC President thanked Slovenia for its long-standing and strong support of the International Criminal Court, and for its contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims.



Participants of the seminar with MFA Erjavec. (Photo: STA)

Slovenia Has Lost a Good Friend

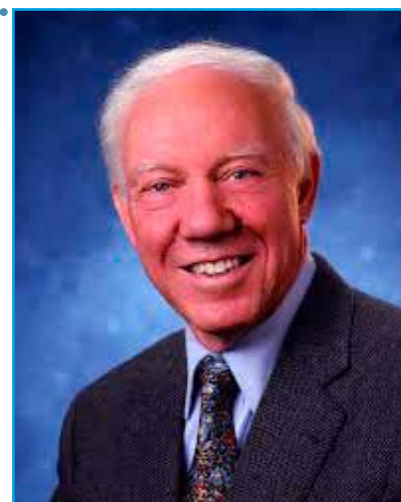
Coverage of the death of a great American patriot, former congressman Jim Oberstar (D-Minn.), captured much of his intelligence and wit and his decades of service to his country ["Minnesota lawmaker was influential in the House," obituaries, May 4]. Not mentioned, however, was that he was a proud Slovenian American who cherished his ethnic heritage.

In 2005, President Janez Drnovsek awarded him Slovenia's highest honor for a foreigner, in recognition of support for Slovenia's leadership in removing land mines from the former Yugoslavia. On that occasion I accompanied Mr. Oberstar to the area near

Ribnica, where his family had come from and where a former Slovenian president, a former prime minister and countless parliamentarians celebrated his Slovenian heritage. In the course of a memorable evening of Slovenian song and dance, and native food and schnapps and wine, Mr. Oberstar chatted in Slovenian with his hosts and led them enthusiastically in many Slovenian folk songs.

The United States and Slovenia have lost a great statesman and a son of the people.

By **Thomas B. Robertson, Oakton**, U.S. ambassador to Slovenia from 2004 to 2007. The opinion was published in



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

Washington Times on May 20. Available online at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/slovenia-has-lost-a-good-friend-in-jim-oberstar/2014/05/20/914d232e-dd1c-11e3-a837-8835df6c12c4_story.html

CALL FOR ENTRIES

EURAXESS Science Slam

EURAXESS Science Slam North America 2014 is the second edition of a contest giving researchers in North America the chance to showcase their research projects to their peers and the wider public in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere.

It is open to researchers of all nationalities and from all fields of research. Every participant at the final slam to be held in Toronto on October 22, 2014, will present a topic related to his/her research to an audience of nonexperts. The performances of the participants will be judged by the audience and the jury

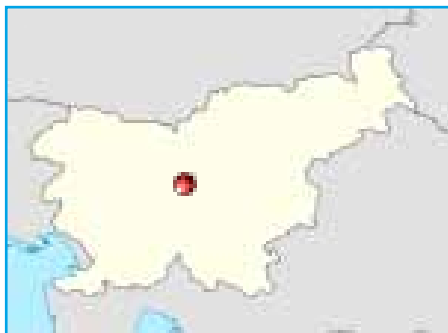
based on conceptualization, style and originality. The winner will be awarded a free trip to Europe where he or she will attend a science-communication workshop along with the winners of the other EURAXESS Science Slams organized in ASEAN, Brazil, China, India, and Japan. He/She will also have the opportunity to go to a European research institution of his/her choice!

For full details on how to participate and the Terms and Conditions please check: http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/links/events/north_



[america/science_slam](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/links/events/north_america/science_slam)
Online submission of slam candidacies is open until **August 10, 2014**.

Ljubljana Celebrates 2000 Years of the Ancient Roman City of Emona



It was in late 14 A.D. or perhaps a year later, that the construction of the Roman colony of Emona (Colonia Iulia Aemona) on the site of the present-day Ljubljana was completed with the help of a large donation from the Roman emperors Augustus and Tiberius. 2000 years later, in 2014, in celebration of the anniversary, the capital of Slovenia is hosting a vibrant program of events, exhibitions, and experiences. Emona, built on a Roman model, was situated on the site of



Reconstruction of Emona. (Photo courtesy: Ljubljana Tourism; Photographer: Matevž Paternoster)

today's city center of Ljubljana. Governed in accordance with Roman political and religious principles, it was probably inhabited by around 5,000

colonists, whose occupations were agriculture, trade, and crafts. Due to its geographical position the city played an important role in the Roman Empire's system of defense. It flourished from the 1st to the 5th century A.D.

The remains of the ancient Emona, uncovered during the archaeological excavations in the past decades, are today showcased in three archaeological parks and as fragments woven into the city streets. Remains of a residential building with floor heating and well preserved mosaics are on display in the archaeological park the Emona House. The remarkably preserved southern city wall, renovated by the great Slovene architect Jože Plečnik, can be seen in the Mirje area. The remains of



Roman camp. (Photo KD Vespesjan, Photographer: Miha Franca)

mosaics and a baptismal pool in the archaeological park of the early Christian center near the Cankarjev dom cultural and congress center bear witness to the religious life of the citizens of Emona. Nowadays, a visitor can trace the remains of Emona in modern Ljubljana on special guided tours of Roman Emona by Ljubljana Tourism (May through September 2014). The tours are a truly Roman experience, where the visitors are to put on Roman attire and walk through the remains of Emona accompanied by a Roman legionary and a tour guide dressed as a Roman. Moreover, the evening tours take place in the light of flaming torches!

The main event of the anniversary year, scheduled to take place from August 22 to 24, has been dubbed "Ave, Emona!". Ljubljana's Kongresni trg square and Zvezda park will be occupied by costumed members of historical societies from Slovenia and abroad, who will build a Roman camp and demonstrate what life was like 2000 years



Roman wall in Ljubljana. (Photographer: Dunja Wedam)

ago as well as a number of ancient Roman skills and arts: from military formations and gladiator fights to dances and cooking. Children will be able to join Roman-themed workshops, a Roman market will be selling handicrafts, and various Roman refreshments will be served at a Roman taberna.

Ljubljana's museums, galleries and outdoor venues will

host a number of Emona-themed exhibitions. The City Museum of Ljubljana will showcase the exhibition "Emona: A City of the Empire" (May 29, 2014 to May 30, 2015), which will shed light on the city's life and heritage. The National Museum of Slovenia's new permanent exhibition "Roman Stories from Where the Worlds Meet" (from July 2014) will bring together



Emona House. (Photographer: Dunja Wedam)



Emonec (Photographer: Tomaž Lauko)

archaeological finds from the time when the territory of the present-day Slovenia was part of the Roman Empire. Cankarjev dom cultural and congress center is hosting the exhibition *Aquae Iasae* (May 21, 2014 to October 26, 2014), which showcases the extraordinary archaeological finds from Varaždinske Toplice in Croatia. From May 28 to September 14, 2014, Ljubljana Castle will host an exhibition on Ljubljana's urban development.

A photographic exhibition, "The Remains of the City", will be mounted in the open air venue along the Jakopič promenade in the Tivoli park in July and August. Ancient ruins are also the theme of the photographic exhibition "Vestiges" by the world renowned photographer



Early Christian Center. (Photographer: Dunja Wedam)

Joseph Koudelka, held at the Jakopič Gallery from May 20 to September 3, 2014. You are welcome to join the

celebrations and experience the Roman Emona first hand! For more information visit www.visitljubljana.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

European Parliamentary Elections 2014

On the day of the European Parliamentary Elections, the polling stations for Slovenian citizens will be established at the following locations with operating hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.:

- Slovene Home for the Aged (organized by the Consulate General of Slovenia in Cleveland, OH), 18621 Neff Road, Cleveland,

OH 44119

- Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008

More information in Slovene is available at: http://washington.embassy.si/index.php?id=814&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=20287&tx_ttnews%5B

[backPid%5D=51&cHash=8b9c36ed9cd6249fd2310850513a795e](http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/si/strani/potrjene-liste-kandidatov-volitve-v-evropski-parlament-2014)

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>

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](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%5Btt_news%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 PREDAL 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

**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/>

DOBRODOŠLI DOMA – WELCOME HOME 2014

For the fourth successive year, the Government's Office for Slovenians Abroad, together with the Minister for Slovenians abroad, Mr. Gorazd Zmavc, will sponsor the annual meeting of all Slovenes under the slogan "Welcome home." The meeting will feature various cultural events and workshops.

When: Saturday, July 5, 2014

Where: Skofja Loka, Slovenia (The town is located cca. 20 miles from the capital Ljubljana and is easily accessible by public transport.)

More information and the program can be found at: <http://www.dobrodoslidoma.si/>

E-mail your questions to: pr.urad.slovinci@gov.si

N'TOKO AT THE NEW MUSIC SEMINAR IN NEW YORK

N'toko is an experimental hiphop artist from Slovenia. He became well known for his passionate performances and technical skills, winning 3 national freestyle championships. He has spent the last 10 years on the road, and released 2 albums in Japan. In Slovenia, his socially conscious lyrics have made him a spokesperson for a generation. N'toko will be featured at the New Music Seminar in New York City's annual music, music business, and music technology conference for international collaboration and high-level discussions [on June 8-10, 2014](#).

For the program and tickets see: <http://www.dromnyc.com/events/3280/new-music-seminar-nights#.U3zL5IF5P1v>

For more information on N'toko see: <https://www.facebook.com/freentoko>
<http://www.ntoko.si/>; <https://soundcloud.com/ntoko>

SUMMER EVENTS TO HIGHLIGHT SNPJ FARM'S 75TH

Celebrate [75 years of SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, OH](#) with a summer-long series of Sunday polka dances, dinners and special events. Dancers and music lovers have enjoyed the finest in Cleveland Slovenian-style polkas and waltzes under the tall trees of SNPJ Farm ever since America's Polka King, Frank Yankovic, played for the first picnic in 1939. Every Sunday, the SNPJ Farm features one of the best-known names in polka music, plus the finest in down-home dining.

This year, in addition to dances and dinners, you can check out a variety of summer Sunday events in honor of SNPJ Farm's anniversary, from the 75th season opening dance on June 1 to the Slovenian Grape Festival on September 21,; Craft Fair (June 8); Polka Mass and Collinwood Reunion (June 22); Jeff Pecon and Joey Miskulin (July 6); Casual Polka Party (July 13); Balina Tournament (July 27); and Button Box Contest (August 3).

On Saturday evening, September 20, a gala dinner dance is to take place to salute the SNPJ Farm. The festivities close on Sunday, October 26, with a Polka Brunch. [SNPJ Farm is located on Heath Road, off Chardon Road \(Route 6\) in Kirtland, Ohio](#), three miles east of State Route 306. You can also rent SNPJ Farm for picnics, anniversaries and special events. For details, call (440) 256-3423 or (440) 943-1191.

For the full program see: <http://clevelandslovenian.com/CLESLO/index.php/events/60-newsflash-catgory/118-upcoming-events?format=pdf>

For more information contact: Joe Valencic, President of Cleveland Federation of SNPJ Lodges at jvalencic@yahoo.com

SLOVENIAN-AMERICAN SINGING STARS ON TWO NEW CDS

Two new CDs pay tribute to Eddie Kenik, June Price, Anton Schubel, and other American Slovenian singers who made their mark on the Cleveland music scene. Cecilia Dolgan returns to Cleveland to premiere "The Golden Voices of Glasbena Matica," a two-CD set of vocal concerts from 1961 and 1962, at the Polka Hall of Fame, on [Thursday, June 12, at 7:00 p.m.](#) Cecilia will share behind-the-scenes stories on the staging of the two benefit concerts and the glory days of Glasbena Matica, when the ensemble staged full-scale operas in Slovenian.

The Polka Hall of Fame is located in the historic old [Euclid City Hall at 605 East 222nd Street in Euclid, Ohio](#). For more information about the CD premiere, call the Polka Hall of Fame at (216) 261-3263 or e-mail PolkaShop@aol.com.

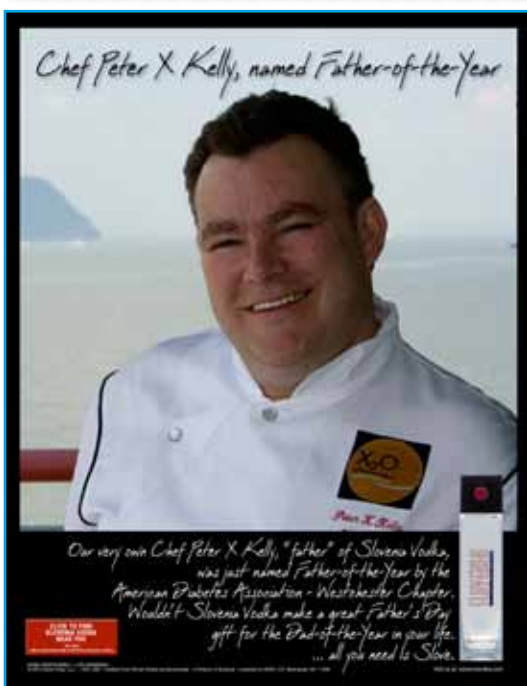
SLOVENIA VODKA DECLARES INDEPENDENCE FOR FATHER'S DAY

Chef Peter X. Kelly, the creator and "father" of Slovenia Vodka, is to be awarded another honor, this time not culinary. Chef Kelly is to be awarded Father-of-the-Year honors by the American Diabetes association – Westchester Chapter, at a dinner to be held [June 12, 2014, at the prestigious Trump National Golf Club](#). To recognize this wonderful honor, SLOVENIA Vodka has created an ad featuring Chef Kelly announcing this award and suggesting that each of us may know a "dad-of-the-year" deserving of a bottle of Slovenia Vodka for Father's Day.

[Also in June, on the 25th](#), is taking place another celebration: the anniversary of the declaration of independence of Slovenia. To celebrate this event, SLOVENIA Vodka has created a special Independence Day ad commemorating June 25, 1991, featuring a group celebrating the independence on a mountaintop with the Slovenian flag.

Father's Day and Independence Day, both perfect days to toast independence, the ones we love, and to toast Na zdravje!

For more information contact Mr. Emil Gaspari: emil@sloveniavodka.com



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/>

SLOVENESKI WEEK IN FRANCE, MARCH 2015

When: [Friday, March 13 to Saturday, March 21, 2015](#)

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

[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>