



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 24, 2014, VOLUME 10, NUMBER 32

## Ambassador Dr. Cerar Visits Knoxville, TN

On a beautiful Sunday evening in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in Knoxville Tennessee, Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar was the guest of honor at the Third Annual Wine and Culinary event at the Slovenian Consulate for Tennessee, headed by Honorary Consul, Dr. Lydia Mihelič Pulsipher.

The ambassador spoke briefly to the more than 100 guests who attended, telling them of what Slovenia and Tennessee have in common – similar landscapes, folk cultures, wood handicrafts, an emphasis on sustainability in food production and consumption, and a love of



Just before Ambassador Dr. Cerar's address. In the photo is also Dr. Lydia Pulsipher.

music. He also spoke about the potential ways in which present and future economic and cultural exchanges can benefit both Slovenia and Tennessee.

Those attending the event were able to taste 20 different wines, mostly from Slovenia and a few from Croatia. All the wines came from small-scale artisan wineries. The Slovenian wineries represented were Bjana, Batič, Kabaj, Štoka, Kristančič,

Sanctum, and Santomas. The wine presentation attracted a lot of interest, with many guests expressing a desire to be able to purchase these wines in Tennessee.

In addition to wine tasting, the guests were provided with canapés prepared by Chef Drew McDonald, mostly inspired by Slovenian recipes. The offerings included pečena divjačina (roasted deer meat),





Maja Djorčev Roy presenting Slovenian wines.

sirovi štruklji (traditional cottage cheese rolls), krofi doughnuts, domači kruh z olivami (olive loaf), polenta s skuto (fried wedges of polenta with cottage cheese), and other tasty treats among which were tarragon-skuta potica sweet roll and walnut-honey potica sweet roll prepared by Honorary Consul Dr. Lydia Pulsipher.

The pleasant evening

was enhanced by the talents of Slovenian accordionist Marko Hatlak, who was brought to the event by a special grant from the Slovene Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Culture. Mr. Hatlak was soon surrounded by fervent fans who were mesmerized by what many said was the most accomplished accordion music they had ever heard.



Accordionist Marko Hatlak performed at six occasions while in Knoxville.

On Monday, October 20th, the Ambassador remained in Knoxville to give a well received lecture at the University of Tennessee Law School, entitled "The International Criminal Court from Nuremberg to Kampala and Beyond." The talk generated many questions. He also met with Mayor of Knoxville, Madeline Rogero, to explore future economic exchanges, and presented a late afternoon informal seminar on Slovenia and its foreign policy for interested academics.

Accordionist Marko Hatlak performed at five other occasions while in Knoxville: a school of music for children, a neighborhood festival, a university international music class, a radio show that is broadcast internationally (Blue Plate Special on WVDX –noon Oct. 23) and a Tango milonga at Williamswood Castle. He permanently changed Tennessee perceptions of just how sophisticated and enjoyable accordion music can be. (by Dr. Lydia Pulsipher and Maja Djorčev)



Ambassador Dr. Cerar's lecture at the University of Tennessee Law School,



## ITF Director Visits the U.S.

Director of International Trust Fund ITF Enhancing Human Security Ambassador, Damjan Bergant, visited New York and Washington this week. In New York, he met with the representatives of the U.N. and some U.N. member states and in Washington, D.C., with the representatives of the State Department and several international institutions. ITF is a humanitarian, non-profit organization devoted to the elimination of threat from post-conflict and disruptive challenges, including landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and the illicit ownership and use of small arms and light weapons

(SALW), in Southeast Europe and other affected regions in the world.

Established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in March 1998 (public entity of private law), the initial purpose of ITF was to help Bosnia and Herzegovina in the implementation of the peace agreement and to provide assistance and support in relation to post-conflict rehabilitation. Since its inception, ITF has expanded its activities to include the elimination of landmine problems and helping landmine survivors with comprehensive rehabilitation across the region of Southeast Europe.

As the European Commission acknowledged ITF as the reference model of regional organization in mine action, ITF was asked by mine-affected countries and donors to expand operation to other mine-affected regions and countries.

Over the past 16 years, the ITF has grown into a renowned organization, raising over \$381 million for mine-action activities. These funds have enabled the implementation of more than 3000 projects. More information on ITF projects and activities: <http://www.itf-fund.si/>, where one can also get involved as a donor.

OCTOBER 24

## Slovenia at the 26th U.N. Day Celebration in MD

On United Nations Day, October 24, the Embassy of Slovenia joined the Oneness-Family School in Chevy Chase, Maryland, for the annual celebration honoring the anniversary of the day in 1945 when the Charter of the United Nations entered into force.

The event was attended by representatives of over 60 Embassies located in the U.S. capital. The Embassy of Slovenia was represented by Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek, who carried the flag of the country at the Flag Ceremony along with other diplomats. The guests were entertained with a cultural program that included songs and dances from various regions of the world, and an exhibition of students' works. After the program, the delegations



Slovenian flag was presented at the flag ceremony by Ms. Zakrajšek.

toured the school, admired the students' displays in classrooms

and joined an international luncheon.

# Visit of the Hearst Elementary School

As part of the Embassy Adoption Program, this year, the Embassy of Slovenia for the sixth year “adopted” a school class. This year, the embassy is bonded with the fifth graders of the Hearst Elementary School in Northwest Washington, DC. The program, offered by DC Public Schools in conjunction with the Washington Performing Arts Society, has already every year since 1974 paired embassies with classes throughout the DC Public Elementary School system.

The program is designed to combine embassy officials, teachers, and students from participating schools in order to expand the students’ knowledge of different countries worldwide. Teachers work with their students to help them learn about their adoptive country, and representatives from each embassy provide frequent cultural visits to their adopted



Learning about the national insignia.

classes, giving the students a personalized understanding of their nation’s culture, history, geography, language and even cuisine.

On Tuesday, October 21, Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek, public diplomacy and cultural affairs

officer from the Embassy of Slovenia, made her first visit to a fifth-grade class at Hearst ES. To open the first day of the year-long program, a short movie about Slovenia was shown, during which the students could refresh their recollection of what their teacher, Ms. Shawna Johnson, had already taught them. Throughout the presentation, the children were highly interactive and inquisitive of Slovenian geography and history, which made the lesson even more dynamic. In the upcoming school year, the students will, in several sessions from October through April, learn more about the Slovenian government, arts, food and traditions. They will also visit the embassy premises and, at the end of the school year, present at a special event to the Slovenian ambassador and diplomats what they had learned.



Learning where Slovenia lies in Europe.

# Government Office For Slovenians Abroad -- Public Invitations For Tenders For Financial Support In The Year 2015

Based on the Act on Relations between the Republic of Slovenia and Slovenians abroad (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 43/06, 76/10) and Government Decree on the granting of financial support for maintenance and development of the Slovene identity outside of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 139/2006), the Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians Abroad published two Public Invitations for Applications on October 17, 2014.

Public Invitations for Applications cover: (1) Area A: Financial support in 2015 for Slovenian autochthonous national community in the neighboring countries; and (2) **Area B: Financial support in 2015 for Slovenians living abroad.**

Both Public Invitations for Applications aim to stimulate activities among Slovenians living abroad, that: consolidate and maintain their national, linguistic and cultural identity, pave the way for their interaction and mutual connection, enable them to maintain their links with the Republic of Slovenia, enable the maintenance of the structures and activities of Slovenian autochthonous national community in neighboring countries, as well as those of other Slovenians living abroad. Public Invitations for Applications grant eligibility to apply for financial support to applicants who are individuals or legal entities located outside of the Republic of Slovenia, as well as those located in the Republic of Slovenia, whose activities in the Republic of Slovenia aim to connect with and care for Slovenians abroad.

The documentation for the above mentioned Public Invitations for Applications is available on the website of the Government Office for Slovenians Abroad, which can be found at <http://www.uszs.gov.si/>. Interested parties can also obtain the documentation in person at the Office's headquarters on weekdays between 9:00 and 14:00 hours, and at any of the Republic of Slovenia's Embassies or Consulates General, during their office hours.

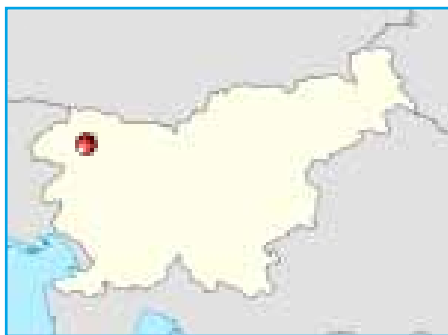
The deadline for filing the applications is up to and including November 17, 2014 (for Area A) and **December 1, 2014** (for Area B).

For any additional clarifications and information, please contact the Government Office for Slovenians Abroad via email: [urad.slovenci@gov.si](mailto:urad.slovenci@gov.si) or check its website at: <http://www.uszs.gov.si>





# Studor



Studor is a small village close to the foot of the mountain with the same name in the Upper Bohinj Valley (Zgornja bohinjska dolina). The village, made up of a compact cluster of houses, is very well known for the double hayracks at its entrance. It is also famous for the Oplen house museum, which showcases a traditional homestead, built in the beginning of the 19th century. In the village, there is also a ranch with Islandic horses, the Mrcina Ranch, which offers a visitor a chance to explore Bohinj on horseback.

In the past, farmers from Studor village had a few fields in the narrow valley, and made their living by breeding cattle and with forestry. The community of Studor reaches to Tosc, Velo Polje and Triglav mountains, and it comprises the lands on Komna plateau and under the Bogatin and Vogel mountains. In summer, the cattle were gradually moved to the mountain pastures of Blato, Blatce, Tosc, Velo Polje, Jezero, Jezerce, Laz, Viševnik, Dedno Polje, Govnjač, Ovčarija, Razor, Na Kraju, Ukanc and Vogar.

In the summer time, the farmers would mow grass on the steep hill-side meadows and those in the valley, and



Studor hayracks.

prepare the hay for the long winter months. For drying larger batches of hay in the ever rainy Bohinj, one of the largest groups of hayracks in Slovenia -- a group of double hayracks (in Slovenian: toplars, and called stogi by the locals) -- was set up below the village. These hayracks are, however,

not ornamented with carvings like the toplars in the Dolenjska region, but are masterfully crafted. Between the hayracks and the villages of the valley, there are nowadays walking and cycling paths.

The Oplen homestead, with a "black kitchen", lies in the compact core of the village of



The black kitchen in the Oplen homestead.

Studor, surrounded by orchards. Under a wide-shingled roof of the homestead, a kind of extended home, built two centuries ago, are the living quarters and the outbuilding. In the three-part house, on one side of the winding stone hall with the three black kitchen fireplaces (stove, cooking fireplace, one for preparing feed for the animals), there is a wooden residential part, a smaller basement, and a habitable attic. These served as a storeroom and an extra bedroom. Next to the kitchen is the passage to the stable, and, in front of the entrance, the dirt track to the barn. Under the eaves, there was enough space for a pile of firewood. Such Alpine houses in the valleys, where winters were severe, made work in the house and with the cattle easier. People from Bohinj could make wooden shoes and wooden vessels for minced lard, and the women did knitting.

The Mrcina ranch offers horseback riding on Iceland



The Oplen House.

ponies and Lipizzaner horses. A trip to nature starts at the village of Studor and leads past Stara Fužina, the Zois Castle and the remains of the former Zois Ironworks, and across the Hudičev most bridge, where the canyon of the Mostnica river starts.

The ride continues on the road to the Voje Valley and

a short break at the Hlipova lodge, only a few steps from the Mostnica waterfall. The greater part of the trail runs through the wonderful landscape of the Triglav National Park, one of the oldest European parks.

(Source and photos: [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info))



Horseback riding is a popular sport in Studor mountain behind Studor village. Studor.



**PUPPETEER NIKA SOLCE AT THE KIDS EURO FESTIVAL 2014**

Enjoy the amusing antics of the witty fox, as it tries to play tricks on its forest friends the rabbit, Mr. Wolf, and others, in these humorous Slovenian folk tales. Through folk songs and puppetry, Nika Solce of Puppet studio Lutkarnica brings these stories from Slovenia to life in an enchanting, interactive performance. For children ages 2 and up.

Presented as part of the Kids Euro Festival, a two-week festival of free family events and performances throughout Washington, D.C. presented by European Union Members and local arts organizations. To learn more and register visit: <http://kidseurofestival.org/>

When: **Tuesday, November 4** at 2:30 p.m.

Where: **Takoma Park Library, 416 Cedar St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012**

More information: <http://kidseurofestival.org/slovenia-perf/>

When: **Friday, November 7** from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Where: **Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003**

More information: <http://hillcenterdc.org/home/programs/2118>

When: **Saturday, November 8** from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Where: **Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008**

More information: <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/events-and-programs/family-fun-days/kids-euro-festival-about-fox-and-other-forest-animals>  
<http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/events-and-programs/family-fun-days/kids-euro-festival-about-fox-and-other-forest-animals-0>



**CONCERT BY GLASBENA MATICA CHORUS IN OH**

Under the direction of Angela Perrine, with Michael Cercek at the piano, the Glasbena Matica Slovenian Singing Society presents an unforgettable evening of song. The chorus takes "Center Stage" with selections from its repertoire of famous musical stage productions. You'll enjoy arrangements from well known shows and operas from Broadway, Italy, and Slovenia. These celebrated stage productions include "Fiddler on the Roof," "West Side Story," "South Pacific," and "The Student Prince." From the Slovenian stage, you'll hear numbers from "Melodija Srca (A Melody from the Heart)," "Planinska Roža (The Mountain Flower)," and "Gorenjski Slavček (The Highland Nightingale)." Favorites by Lojze Slak and the Avsenik Brothers will add to the listening pleasure.

When: **Saturday, November 15** at 5:30 p.m.

Where: The grand auditorium of the **Slovenian National Home, at 6417 St. Clair Avenue, in Cleveland, OH.**

Admission to the concert and dance that follows is \$15 per person. Tickets are available from chorus members and the Polka Hall of Fame, 605 East 222nd Street in Euclid, Ohio, (216) 261-FAME. For more information, contact Lori Sierputowski at (440) 449-5643.



## **"VTIS UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: SLOVENE SCIENCE AROUND THE WORLD".**

Društvo v tujini izobraženih Slovencev - VTIS (in English: Association of Slovenes Educated Abroad) is organizing an event called "VTIS United States of America: Slovene Science Around the World".

The event will feature short presentations of the work of Slovenes who are active at universities and research institutes in and around New York City. The goals of the event are to showcase the talent and promote the scholarly work of Slovene experts in different fields, to facilitate cooperation and networking among Slovene students, researchers, academics, businesspeople and other members of the Slovene community in New York City, as well as to encourage the strengthening of the links between Slovenia and USA.

The event will take place on Saturday, [15th November 2014, from 4pm until 6.30pm at NYU, Kimmel Center, Suite 406, 60 Washington Square South, New York City.](#)

5 Slovene researchers and young academics will be presenting their scholarly work in 15-minute long "lightning talks" and answer questions from the audience. They are:

- Dr. Arne Baruca, Professor of Marketing, Sacred Heart University
- Dr. Veronika Dolar, Professor of Economics, Long Island University
- Miha Habič, Researcher and PhD student in the field of Mathematics, City University of New York
- Dr. Ana Hočevar, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the field of Theoretical Neuroscience, Rockefeller University
- Dr. Tatjana Trček, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the field of Developmental Genetics, New York University

The speakers will present their work in English, as we are expecting non-Slovene participants. The presentations will be followed by a networking reception.

To RSVP, please visit the following page: <http://goo.gl/forms/u1naWdVa2K> (in English) or <http://goo.gl/forms/636U4o15Gw> (in Slovene). To get more information about the event or the Association in general, please visit our website at <http://www.drustvovtis.si/> (in Slovene) or contact us on [info@drustvovtis.si](mailto:info@drustvovtis.si).

## **CONSULAR HOURS IN LEMONT, IL**

Consular hours with Consul General from Cleveland, Mr. Jure Žmauc, will be held on Monday, [November 17, 2014, starting at 5:00 p.m.](#) Please contact the Consular's office at (216) 589-9220 or the [Slovenian Catholic Center](#) at (630) 243-0670 to schedule your appointment.

## **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>