



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 25, 2014, VOLUME 10, NUMBER 26

## Ambassador Dr. Cerar Visits Minnesota

**This past weekend, Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar visited the Slovenian community in St. Stephen, Minnesota. The visit was organized by the Slovenian honorary consul in the North Star State, Mr. Miro Medved and his wife Karen.**

The ambassador's first stop was in Virginia, MN, to visit Albin Zaverl, Slovenian artist whose paintings were exhibited in the Slovenian Embassy a month ago. Mr. Zaverl, who is 95 years old, could not make the trip to Washington in May for the opening of the exhibit, so ambassador Cerar thanked



Ambassador Dr. Cerar was given the key to the city of Ely by Mayor Petersen.

him in his home in Virginia for sharing his work for the display at the embassy.

The ambassador together with the honorary consul Medved continued on to Ely, MN, which is in the northeastern part of the state and inhabited by people of Slovenian descent. He was greeted at a reception at Vermillion College and given the key to the city by Mayor Petersen.

From there, they went to Creek Ridge Lodge for dinner where they were greeted by Slovenian music provided by the Barich Brothers ensemble. Before dinner, Ambassador Dr. Cerar made a short speech and complimented them for maintaining their pride of Slovenian heritage.

Early Saturday morning, they continued on to St. Stephen, MN, to participate in the 100th





Hon. Consul Miro Medved, Dr. Frank T. Udovich, and Ambassador Dr. Cerar



After dinner in Ely, Ambassador joined several people in singing Slovenian folk songs.

anniversary of the incorporation of the city. Although the city was not incorporated until 1914, it was first settled by Slovenian immigrants in the mid-1850s. Six miles before the city limits, a 5-motorcycle escort was waiting to escort the car in to the city. Upon arrival to the city, Ambassador Dr. Cerar was greeted by a loud 3-gun salute, a waving Slovenian flag and a

cheering crowd. The ambassador was the Grand Marshall of the parade and rode in a beautiful white carriage drawn by a team of decorated horses. After the parade, he delivered a speech from the grandstand, in which he praised the inhabitants for the pride in their Slovenian heritage. He also presented Mayor VanderWeyst with a certificate of Recognition by the

Minister for Slovenes Abroad for the Slovenian community and their persistence in maintaining Slovenian customs and pride. After his speech, the ambassador met with Edward Peternell, a 102-year-old Slovenian, who was born in St. Stephen and is a direct descendant of Slovenian immigrants and who also rode in the parade in a 102-year-old vehicle.



Ambassador Dr. Cerar met with 95-year-old artist Albin Zaverl, who works and lives in Virginia, MN.



Ambassador gave 102-year-old Mr. Peternell a certificate of recognition.

# Embassy of Slovenia Hosts Future World Leaders

The Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia hosted the second group of Global Young Leaders Conference participants on July 23, afternoon. The students came to Washington from 16 countries: Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Jordan, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, the U.S., and Zimbabwe.

The conference was organized by the U.S.-based organization Envision, which has already since 1985 been offering experimental programs for motivated high school students and in which approximately 800,000 students from more than 145 countries have already participated. The main aim of the program is to gain the real-world leadership experiences and skills that students need to succeed in college and in their future career. During the program, the students visit several institutions, such as the House of Representatives



Students in front of the embassy,

and the Senate, where they are addressed by their Members.

This year, the Embassy of Slovenia participated for the second time in the program. Two groups of students were addressed by Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek, who is at the embassy in charge of press, public diplomacy and cultural affairs. First, the students were given information on the history of the embassy building,

everyday work of a diplomat, and the role of diplomatic and consular representations. This was followed by a lecture on Slovenia's political system, national insignia, country's history and its international relations. At the end, after a Q and A session, the students could taste "potica", a typical Slovenian dessert, and take a picture in front of the embassy building.



## Beti Bricelj Exhibits in Dallas, TX

The exhibition, titled 'From Slovenia, Venezuela, and Dallas With Love', opened at the renowned Museum of Geometric and MADI Art, in Dallas, Texas, on July 18. The exhibition features hard-edge geometric abstractions by artists from three continents. Paintings by Beti Bricelj and Israel Guevera, and work of sculptor Jeff Robinson will be shown through October.

At the opening on July 13, Slovenian artist Beti gave a talk and led the discussion about her work and how it has developed since 1998. Her works are deep explorations of movement through the geometry of carefully considered shape, color, and composition. The paintings are very carefully executed in all aspects and clearly indicate a commitment to a unique artistic exploration.

The pieces are individual puzzles that are built to carefully interlock, while at the same time indicate a movement, a motion, a flow. They are precise



Mrs. Dorothy Masterson - Director of the Museum and Beti Bricelj.

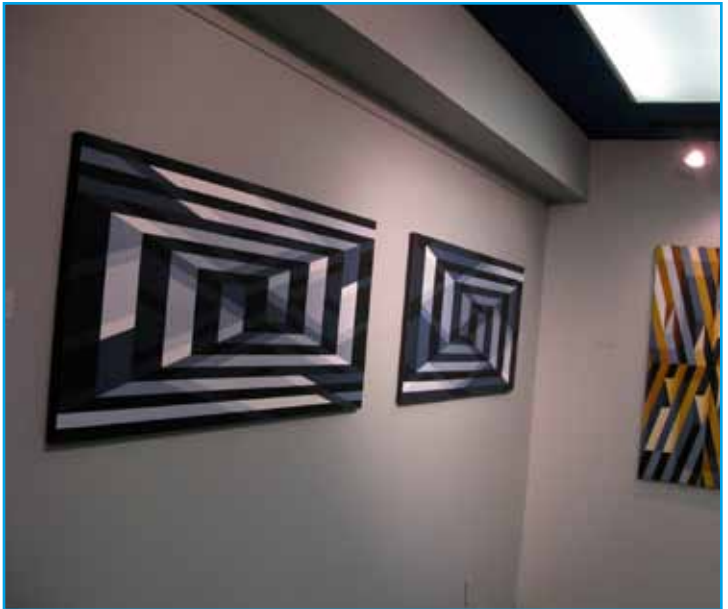
but never static. It is possible to enter the works visually, to feel the dynamic space created by the geometry and to gain an understanding of the logic within each piece. The planes within the compositions sometimes tilt and spin, sometimes refract and reflect, and always reveal a sensitivity to the effective use of color and shape to manipulate perceived space.

Beti Bricelj was born in 1974 in Postojna, Slovenia. In 2000 she graduated from Fine Arts on Arthouse – College of Visual Arts in Ljubljana. In her diploma thesis, she focused on the elements of Aboriginal Art in the abstraction of three holy colors. After completing her undergraduate studies, she continued her education in Australia where she lived for a year. She accepted the invitation of an Australian government organization to participate in a research of the Aboriginal culture organized by the Department for Aboriginal Affairs, South Australia, Adelaide, from 1998 to 1999.

Beti Bricelj participated in numerous independent and joint exhibitions in Slovenia and abroad. Since 2002, Bricelj has been a member of the Union of Slovene Fine Arts Associations. She lives and works in Postojna.



Opening of the exhibition.



Beti Bricelj's work as exhibited at The Museum of Geometric and MADI Art in Dallas, TX

EMBASSY STAFF

## Farewell to Consular Officer Ms. Tjaša Deleja Balja

After four years, Ms. Tjaša Deleja Balja, consular officer at the Embassy of Slovenia, ended her posting in Washington on July 25. As a First Secretary, Ms. Deleja Balja was not only exceptional as a consular officer, but also well versed in security and administration affairs. She provided support to Slovenian citizens in the U.S. and offered assistance to those Americans and citizens of other countries who wanted to travel, work or live in Slovenia. She was the contact point for honorary consuls of the Republic of Slovenia in the U.S. and Mexico, and helped Slovenian organizations and clubs in the U.S. by providing them with various information.

Ms. Tjaša Deleja came to the U.S. directly from New Delhi, India, where she worked for four years at a Slovenian



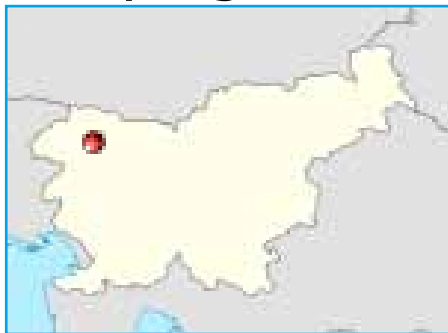
Tjaša Deleja Balja visiting Antelope Canyon in Page, AZ.

diplomatic post. Prior to that, she worked at the Slovenian Ministry of Defense and the Foreign Ministry, to which she is returning to continue her career.

Ms. Deleja Balja was an excellent member of our team, known

both for her professionalism and hard work, and, most importantly, to all of us she was a great colleague and friend. She surely will be missed. The staff would like to wish her all the best in her future professional and personal endeavors.

# Camping in Slovenia



Slovenia is a country for visits and for holidays; it is a place where you will never get bored, regardless of the season. Guests seeking peace, beautiful nature in all its diversity, mountains, lakes, sea, health resorts, historical cities and towns, castles and churches will find Slovenia charming and attractive. Due to its natural diversity, Slovenia's campgrounds are ideal starting points if you want to plan your holidays by yourself, enjoy taking trips on the spur of the moment and, most importantly, want to spend your holidays in unspoiled scenery where you can enjoy the sound of rustling trees



Camping Šobec.

and singing birds. To keep your children busy and happy, many campgrounds have children's playgrounds, some have wading or children's swimming pools, and some offer special organized activities for children.

Travelling with a tent in Slovenia is particularly popular among the young, but is

also favored by nature lovers of more mature years who value comfort, cleanliness and peace. These can be enjoyed at numerous campsites around the country, some with five-star ratings and facilities that could never be equaled by indoor accommodation at the same price. Camper vans and caravans are also welcomed at campsites, while some sites in Slovenia are designed specifically for them.

In Slovenia, there are at the moment more than 70 campsites, which can be found in the outskirts of towns, and in the green, invigorating countryside. Many are situated along rivers and lakes or by the sea, and are ideal for lovers of water sports and angling. There are also plenty of hiking and biking trails in their vicinity, while many campsites have also all manner of sports facilities: beach volleyball, golf, basketball, five-a-side football, badminton,



Bohinj.

table tennis and tennis. There are always picnic areas, but in some places the use of open fires is restricted. A good number of campsites boast shops and restaurants either on site or nearby. In short, campsites can offer great activity holidays, but are also attractive to those seeking peace and relaxation.

This week we will present three campgrounds, which are located in the northwestern part of Slovenia, namely, Camping Bled, Camp Danica, and Camp Šobec.

**Camp Bled** is classified as environmentally friendly and is rated in the highest category of campsites, which offers all the necessary facilities and equipment for a comfortable and enjoyable stay. It is located at the foot of the Julian Alps at the edge of the Triglav National Park, whose unspoiled scenery attracts fans of recreation and relaxation in nature. The campground, spreading over 15 acres, has the capacity for 920 guests and is ideally located in the immediate vicinity of Lake Bled and only over a mile from the center of the town of Bled. It is particularly suitable for families with children and anyone looking for an active holiday or relaxing break. In addition to the campground's varied program, there are also children's playgrounds, a mini-zoo and areas for table tennis, badminton, basketball and beach volleyball. The campgrounds guests receive special discounts at some of the businesses in Bled.

**Camp Danica**, located in Bohinjjska Bistrica, is situated in a delightful small forest by the Sava Bohinjka River. Its attractive



Camping Bled.

location makes Camp Danica a perfect place to discover the beauties of Bohinj. It spans 10 acres and has a capacity for up to 700 guests. The campground includes tennis courts, table tennis and badminton areas, and a new children's playground. In addition to swimming and fishing in the Sava River and Lake Bohinj, campground guests can also enjoy numerous nature-friendly sports, particularly rowing, sailing, wind-surfing, rafting, hydro-speeding, canoeing, kayaking, paragliding, hang-gliding, mountain biking and horseback riding. Encompassed within the Julian Alps and the Triglav National Park, the area offers numerous possibilities for hiking, mountaineering and rock climbing.

**Camp Šobec**, near the town of Lesce, is nestled in the shade of a pinetree forest between the Šobec lake and Sava Dolinka river. Stunning views of Julian Alps and Karavanke mountains, framed by ever present water and trees,

give character to this unique campsite. With its wide range of services and facilities, this five-star campground is a perfect place for a camping holiday.

The popular summer tourist route from Eastern Alps to the Adriatic sea (the European A2 highway from Villach in Austria to Ljubljana in Slovenia) is only 1 mile away, while the world famous Lake Bled is within walking distance from the campsite. The campsite offers 400 neatly kept tent pitches, stretched across 37 acres. Bungalows in Camp Šobec are built of wood in the traditional alpine style and provide an ultimate upgrade of camping lifestyle.

Countless natural and cultural sights give the guests an opportunity to explore the Gorenjska region, and especially the Triglav National Park.

(Sources: [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info), <http://www.camp-danica.si/en/>, <http://sobec.si/eng/> )

**SLOVENIAN ARTIST BETI BRICELJ EXHIBITS IN DALLAS, TX**

From Slovenia, Venezuela, and Dallas With Love, an exhibition featuring hard-edge geometric abstractions by artists from three continents. The paintings of Beti Bricelj, Israel Guevera, and work of sculptor Jeff Robinson will be shown through October.

When: [Ongoing - October 2014](#)

Where: [Museum of Geometric and MADi Art, 3109 Carlisle Street, Dallas, TX 75204-1194](#)

More information: <http://www.geometricmadimuseum.org/>

**SLOVENIAN FILM KARPOTROTTER IN RURAL ROUTE FESTIVAL IN NYC**

The highlights of the 10th annual edition of the Rural Route Festival include a 50th anniversary presentation on restored 35mm of Parajanov's legendary Ukraine/Carpathian-set *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*, a new DCP Director's Cut restoration of the British cult classic, *Wicker Man*, and a rare 16mm print of the great ethnomusicologist, Alan Lomax's film on British May Day celebrations, *Oss Oss Wee Oss*.

Cutting-edge new films include Josephine Decker's *Butter on the Latch*, alongside the North American Premiere of Ukrainian documentary, *Krasna Malanka*, the one-of-a-kind mythological fiction about one of the most unique ethnic groups within Russia, *Celestial Wives of the Meadow Mari*, the World Premiere of renowned fashion casting director, Daniel Peddle's *Sunset Edge*, and the **new documentary on Yugoslavian Black Wave director, Karpo Godina, *Karpotrotter***.

Festival dates: [Aug. 8-10 at the Museum of the Moving Image](#), with closing night at Brooklyn Grange flagship rooftop farm, L.I.C.

Full program of the festival is available at <http://ruralroutefilms.com/2014-festival/>

Tickets: <http://www.movingimage.us/films/2014/08/08/detail/rural-route-film-festival/>  
<http://ruralroute.ticketleap.com/ruralroute/>

SAVE THE DATE

**September 9 @ 7:30 pm: Lana Trotovsšek, violin, Anna Shelest, piano, at the Embassy of Slovenia**

The winner of international competitions and prizes, Slovenian violinist Lana Trotovsšek was a pupil of Ruggiero Ricci. She made her debut in 2012 with the Mariinsky Theater Orchestra under the baton of Valery Gergiev; the performance was received with both a standing ovation and ecstatic reviews. Lana has given recitals in the United Kingdom, where she has performed at Wigmore Hall, King's Place, Cadogan Hall, St John's Smith Square, and St Martin-in-the Fields. Elsewhere in Europe, she has played at the Konzerthaus in Vienna, at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Muziekgebouw Frits Phillips in Eindhoven, and also in Germany, Spain, Portugal, France, Finland, Sweden, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, China, UAE and the U.S. Program: Beethoven (*Spring Sonata*), Skerjanc, Franck, Gershwin.

Presented in cooperation with the **Embassy Series**.

More information and tickets: <http://www.embassyseries.org/performances/lana-trotovssek-violin-anna-shelest-piano/>





Lana Trotošek and Anna Shelest.

Andrej Blatnik.

## SAVE THE DATE

### **September 14: Kalorama House and Embassy Tour**

The annual open house walking tour of the gorgeous residences and the Embassy of Slovenia located in the Kalorama neighborhood. More information and ticket buying options to follow at <http://www.woodrowwilsonhouse.org/events>

### **September 25 @ noon: Writer Andrej Blatnik at the Library of Congress**

The European Division at the Library of Congress, in partnership with the Embassy of Slovenia, presents Slovenian writer Andrej Blatnik, who will discuss his latest book in English, *Law of Desire*, published by Dalkey Archive Press. Blatnik, an Associate Professor of Publishing Studies at the University of Ljubljana, will also share a few observations on publishing and reading habits in Southeast Europe. You can find more about him at: [www.andrejblatnik.com](http://www.andrejblatnik.com)

More information about the event will follow at: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/calendar/calendar.html>

### **September 26 @ 6:30 pm: Slovenia at EURONIGHT at the Embassy of France**

For the seventh year in a row, the European embassies in Washington, DC, are proud to present "Euro Night!" on Friday, September 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. The Embassy of France hosts the 2014 edition, featuring more than 20 European Union embassies, each showcasing its respective culture, traditions and culinary specialties. Throughout the evening, enjoy live music while taking a cultural tour around Europe, feasting on national dishes and discovering European traditions!

More information to follow.

The weekly Embassy Newsletter, produced by the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, is available on: [www.washington.embassy.si](http://www.washington.embassy.si).  
Send us your comments or request for a subscription on: [vwa@gov.si](mailto:vwa@gov.si)  
Editor: Nuška Zakrajšek, Language consultant: Vladimir Pregelj