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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 28, 2014, VOLUME 10, NUMBER 37

## Ambassador Dr. Cerar Attends Launching of Economic Journal on Slovenia



Ambassador Dr. Cerar addresses around 300 students, researchers, faculty members, parents of the students and other guests at the gala.

**Ambassador Dr. Cerar, on November 20, joined Lehigh University students and faculty members at the Martindale Society's Annual Meeting and Gala at Harmonie Club in New York.**

Directed by Professor J. Richard Aronson since its inception in 1980, The Martindale Center for the Study of Private

Enterprise at Lehigh University has developed experience-based programs to promote understanding of interconnected world economy and global society. Each year, the Center selects a country of study and inducts twelve students to the Martindale Student Associates Program. Their mission is to visit the country and later produce

academic papers on various topics relevant to the country's socio-economic system, suitable for publication in the economics journal Perspectives on Business and Economics.

Lehigh University's Martindale Student Associates did a research trip to Slovenia in May 2013. The choice of the country was encouraged by Arkady

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I FEEL  
SLOVENIA



Cover of the journal.



Ambassador with the students that did their research trip to Slovenia at the presentation.

Voloshin, a Lehigh professor of mechanical engineering, who works closely with Professor Igor Emri from the Center for Experimental Mechanics at the University of Ljubljana, and by Stephen Antalics, a retired Lehigh Professor, who founded the Bethlehem-Murska Sobota Sister City Association.

Prior to the trip to Slovenia, their research project began with a visit to Washington, D.C., for briefings at the European External Action Service, the U.S. Department of State, and the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, who offered a number of presentations to help prepare the group for a

ten-day research trip to Slovenia in May. As a result of their 2-year efforts, the students presented their final papers about business and economic issues of Slovenia at the gala where a journal titled "Reinventing Slovenia – Challenges and Opportunities", was launched.



The event was attended also by Stephen Antalics, a retired Lehigh Professor, and first president of the Bethlehem-Murska Sobota Sister City Association.



Ambassador Dr. Cerar next to Prof. Aronson, founder and longtime director of the Martindale program, and Mrs. Aronson.

## 13 Short Films from 13 E.U. Countries in Washington

The Goethe-Institut Washington, the European Union National Institutes of Culture (EUNIC) in Washington, D.C. and the European Union Delegation to the United States developed the idea of celebrating the tenth anniversary of the eastward expansion of the European Union by assembling a selection of short films from the 13 newest member states: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia.

The selection was screened on Monday, November 24 at the Goethe Institut in Washington, DC. The program, titled "Faces of Europe", included a Lithuanian film, "Europa, the film "Neighbor" from Cyprus and an animated film by Bulgarian, Zlatin Radev, titled Can Film which uses allegory to address political systems. Also shown were Slovakia's Marjolena Boonstra's powerful portrait of a Roma family, titled "White Man, White Men", the film "Day after Day" from Hungary, "Choir



Tour" of Latvian production, Croatian found-footage film "We the People", Estonian short film "Oleg", about the life of soldiers at the end of the Soviet era, and "Inventory" by Paweł Łoziński from Poland.

The Czech Republic participated with "Summer of the Long Flights", which patterns its use of the grotesque and sociopolitical. The screening also included "Plangent Rain" from

Malta, the films "Alexandra" from Romania, and "Obsession" (Obsedenost), directed by Marina Gržinić and Aina Šmid from Slovenia, an experimental performance work about the history of video art in Eastern Europe.

Prior to the screening in Washington, the films were presented on November 21 and 22 at Boston University's College of Communication.



## Astronaut Šega Visits Slovenia

Former U.S. astronaut of Slovenian descent, Dr. Ronald Michael Šega, this past week paid a visit to Slovenia, during which he was received on Monday by President Borut Pahor and Speaker Milan Brglez. He was also a guest of honor at a lunch marking the 15th anniversary of the Slovenian AmCham.

The former NASA astronaut spoke with president Pahor about his career. He noted to Speaker Brglez that he was not connected to Slovenia only through his family roots, but also through scientific connection with the Ljubljana University and the Jožef Stefan institute.

Šega, whose origins are from Loški Potok, also met with President Pahor and addressed the American Chamber of Commerce event on Tuesday, when AmCham launched a



President Borut Pahor receives Ronald Michael Šega, former U.S. astronaut of Slovenian descent.

campaign aimed at promoting cooperation between the U.S. and Slovenia. The "Believe in Slovenia" campaign was opened as part of the 15th anniversary celebrations at a ceremony in Ljubljana featuring business representatives from Slovenia

and abroad, politicians and diplomats. With the campaign the organization presented the life stories of extraordinary Americans with Slovenian roots who believe in Slovenia.

Šega became an astronaut in 1991 and spent a total of 17 days in space. He was a member of the STS-60 mission in 1994, the first mission of the Shuttle-Mir Program, which carried the first Russian cosmonaut to fly aboard a Space Shuttle. In 1996, Šega was part of the STS-76 mission, the third Shuttle mission to dock with the Russian Space Station Mir.

Presently, he is professor of systems engineering and Vice President for Energy and the Environment at the Colorado State University Research Foundation. He received a doctorate in electrical engineering from University of Colorado in 1982.



Celebration of the 15th anniversary of AmCham Slovenia

# Slovenska Bistrica



Slovenska Bistrica is a great place to learn about history, while it can also serve as a starting point for getting acquainted with the municipality stretching from Pohorje all the way to the hillsides of Dravinjske gorice. The rich and interesting cultural heritage of this area tells countless stories about the creativity of its people, their activities, progress, and the events that have shaped the cultural landscape of this region through time. Numerous archaeological finds are evidence that this area became settled very early. The



Downtown of Slovenska Bistrica.

landscape is dotted with still preserved castles and mansions, along with remains of old forts, and with numerous churches and other religious sites. Also preserved are many cultural monuments from more recent periods, while ethnographic sites and numerous permanent collections tell stories about

the work and life of the people of this area. The municipality of Slovenska Bistrica, hence, offers an immense collection of diverse and lively stories...

Pristine nature, clear waters, clean air... These are some of the expressions that are often encountered in tourist brochures, and they most certainly apply to the municipality of Slovenska Bistrica as well. Most of it is covered with the forests of Pohorje, which can be described as a mighty green hat of oxygen. This rich and healthy natural environment, with its diversity of animal and plant species, attracts numerous visitors and offers plenty of opportunities for year-round outdoor recreational and educational activities, where every contact with nature is a deeply rewarding experience.

Traditional events, folklore, and traditional home-made products all play an important part in preserving the cultural heritage of the area.



Black lake in Pohorje.

There are many individuals and associations in the municipality of Slovenska Bistrica which are working hard to preserve this part of the ethnic traditions of this region, mostly through making embroidery items, ceramic products, jewelry made from wood, local stones and minerals, unique knitwear, fashion accessories, photo ceramics, painted glass items, various items from stone and aluminum etc.

Ethnic traditions are preserved also by many cultural, artistic and tourist associations, whose members play music, sing and dance at various events, and make invaluable contributions by collecting and recording this part of the folk traditions, and by introducing others to the vast wealth of traditional knowledge at numerous events at home and elsewhere.

Slovenska Bistrica is on one of the oldest Slovenian towns. Interesting town squares, picturesque portals, historic buildings in various styles, which are standing the



Slovenska Bistrica castle.

test of time, narrow alleys, town walls, churches and castles full of artistic beauty...

Towns, which have always been crossroads of different cultures and provided shelter to their inhabitants and trade opportunities to numerous merchants, are nowadays great starting points for various trips to their picturesque surrounding countryside. Slovenska Bistrica is no exception. With its story,

it charms many a visitor as well as the incidental traveler.

The principal cultural center of the town and the municipality is the Slovenska Bistrica castle, an important historical monument, first written reference to which dates back to 1313. Originally the official property of the provincial prince, it became private property in 1578, when it was bought by the Vetter von der Lilie family. Toward the end of the 17th century, it was taken over by the Wildenstein family, and in 1717 it was bought by the Counts of Attems, who managed it until 1945. Since 1985, the castle has been carefully renovated. The castle halls host numerous permanent collections, which can be visited throughout the year. The castle guides will show you the famous frescoes of Knights' hall, painted by Franz Ignaty Flurer, who is also the author of frescoes in the central staircase, the chapel and most of the rooms on first floor.



Church of St. Joseph on a hill above Slovenska Bistrica.

**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).

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.

**WINE TASTING WITH INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF DC**

Embassy of Slovenia Wine Tasting -- Discover the history, culture, art, and natural beauty of Slovenia. A short presentation about Slovenia will be introduced by the acclaimed writer Jacqueline Widmar Stewart, author of "Finding Slovenia" guide.

When: [Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C.](#)

More information, tickets and registration: <http://www.internationalclubdc.com/Events/EventDetails.aspx?EventGUID=D0B34BE1-D8FA-45B9-BFD0-99D2F4530EB0>

**N'TOKO IN BALTIMORE**

Miha Blažič, better known by his stage name N'toko, a Slovenian rapper, is well known for his socially critical lyrics, which earned him acclaim in the underground hip-hop scene.

When: [Saturday, November 29 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Club K, 2101 Maryland Ave, Baltimore, Maryland 21218](#)

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1488064321462507/?ref=22>

**GRAMATIK in NYC**

Gramatik, an electronic artist from Portorož, Slovenia, is wrapping up the #GramatikLYM tour with the biggest NYC show yet. His current genre falls under a mixture of hip-hop, glitch, electro, and dubstep.

When: [January 23 and 24, 2015](#)

Where: [Best Buy Theater, 1515 Broadway, New York City, NY 10036](#)

More information: <http://www.gramatik.net/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MENTLjubljana/photos/a.234000130134677.1073741828.232984166902940/305337683000921/?type=1&theater>

## **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:718-424-2711) 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>