



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

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## Wine Tasting event and Presentation of Ljubljana with ICDC



Address by Ambassador Dr. Cerar'. Next to him is Ms. Petra Stušek, acting director of Tourism Ljubljana.

**The Embassy of Slovenia in cooperation with the International Club of DC organized on Friday, October 24, a wine tasting event, which included a tourist presentation of Slovenia's capital. The around 100 guests were first addressed by the Ambassador, Dr. Božo Cerar, who introduced the main interesting features of the country, including the viticulture and winemaking.**

He outlined that vineyards cover 83





Vines from different regions of Slovenia were introduced.

The guests could also enjoy Slovenian culinary specialties.

square miles (1% of the total land area) of Slovenia and, since they are spread over distinct wine regions with diverse geological composition, the wine selection offers a palette of tastes.

Ms. Petra Stušek, acting director of Tourism Ljubljana, then presented Slovenia's biggest city and its 2000-years-old history. It was in late 14 A.D. that the construction of the Roman colony of Emona (Colonia Iulia Aemona) on the site of the present-day Ljubljana was completed. 2000 years

later, in 2014, in celebration of the anniversary, the capital of Slovenia is hosting a vibrant program of events, exhibitions, and experiences.

The wine presented at the tasting, and also available in many restaurants and wine bars in Ljubljana as well as in the U.S., was mainly from the Goriška Brda region of Slovenia. Besides the Colliano wines (Colliano Cuvee White, Colliano Cuvee Red, sparkling Colliano Ribolla Gialla, and Colliano Peneča Rebula) the tasting also featured

wines by Santomas (Cabernet Sauvignon), Kocijančič Zanut (Merlot) and Edi Simčič (Giocato Pinot Grigio) wine makers. Next to the wine selection, the guests could also enjoy Slovenian culinary specialties such as Carniolian Pork Sausage, Karst Prosciutto Ham, sirovi štruklji cheese rolls, apple strudel, Bled cream slices, sweet tarragon potica roll, Brkini cheese, and, from Ljubljana, Prešeren's chocolate pralines. The wine was kindly provided by <http://www.laureateimports.com/>.



Presentation by Ms. Petra Stušek.

Some 100 guests attended the event.

## Embassy of Slovenia at the GWU Global Village Event

Embassy of Slovenia, on Sunday, October 26, participated at AIESEC DC Global Village event, which took place at the George Washington University Yard. The 2nd annual event was organized by AIESEC DC, in partnership with the GWU Program Board, the G.W. Office for Study Abroad and Student Exchange, and the Student Association at The George Washington University (SA). Next to the Embassy of Slovenia, 16 student organizations, 14 embassies, 7 performance groups and 4 cultural organizations promoted cultural diversity, showcased their respective traditions and food with students on the campus.



Visitors at the Slovenian booth at GWU Yard.

## Trick-or-Treat on Embassy Row

On Friday, October 31, the Embassy of Slovenia participated in Trick-or-Treating on the Embassy Row.. The embassy was visited by around 100 guests, including, costumed Ninja Turtles, the Statue of Liberty, a lion, a monkey, a zebra, several nurses and doctors, Peter Pan, Little Red Riding Hood, Mindy Kaling, Spiderman, and even Supreme Justice Antonin Scalia.

Next to the Embassy of Slovenia, Bulgaria, Dominican Republic, Greece, South Korea, Marshall Islands, Niger, Papua New Guinea, United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan offered Halloween treats and sweets to the visitors, mainly students from George Washington University, Georgetown University, American University, and Catholic University of America.



Guests could try Slovenian treat - potica.

## Second visit to the Hearst Elementary School

As part of the Embassy Adoption Program, Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek from the Embassy of Slovenia on Tuesday, October 28, for the second time visited fifth-grade students at Hearst Elementary School. This time the students learned how to count in Slovenian and tell their age, they colored the Slovenian flag and took a quiz on fun facts they had learned about the country.

The Embassy Adoption Program is designed to combine embassy officials, teachers, and students from participating schools in order to expand the students' knowledge of different countries worldwide.



Learning numbers in Slovenian language.

## Slovenia Presented at the NCS International Luncheon

Slovenia was recently presented at the Washington National Cathedral School's International Day Luncheon. The goal of the international luncheons organized by the Parents Association is to introduce the girls to the culture of different countries and regions around the world. A lunch for the entire school (grades 4 - 12) on October 30 focused on the Southeastern Europe, including Slovenia. A large poster and various brochures featuring Slovenia's hiking, skiing, and cultural attractions were very popular among the participants. International Committee of the Parents Association even donated two copies of each item to the teachers at the National Cathedral School for use in their classrooms.



The organizing committee.

# FDI Summit 2014 International Development Conference in Ljubljana



Panel discussion in cooperation with Amcham Slovenia hosted by Ms. Ajša Vodnik.

A commitment to privatization and continuing reforms was delivered by Slovenian officials at a high-level conference dedicated to foreign direct investment in Ljubljana on Wednesday, October 22. The FDI Summit Slovenia 2014, an international development conference, highlighted the current situation in the Slovenian economy and defined the key measures for recovery from the ongoing challenges and the support for sustainable growth going forward. In addition to long term stabilization of public finances, the key issue for further development was associated with the acquisition of adequate resources for investments. In this context, the focus of the Summit was the role of foreign investors in raising the competitiveness of the Slovenian economy and improving the quality of corporate governance.

More than 20 prominent speakers, among them a

number of CEOs of renowned domestic and foreign companies in Slovenia, potential investors and the most important Slovenian political decision-makers attended the event. "The new government is ready to push ahead with strategically considered privatization," Prime Minister, Miro Cerar, told the annual conference. While key infrastructure will remain in state ownership, business stakes will be sold based on an asset management strategy that is being drafted.

Moreover, PM Cerar announced that the government was committed to reforms which will make Slovenia a more appealing destination for foreign investors. The government priorities include balancing public finances and completing bank restructuring to provide for a stable financial system. Expanding on this, Finance Minister, Dušan Mramor, said the government was planning

sweeping measures to help companies and improve the business environment, although it would first focus on sorting out public finances in line with E.U. debt and deficit rules.

The minister said that the government's first task would be to make "Slovenia a macroeconomic success story". A lot has already been done but Slovenia must still fulfil requirements under the E.U.'s procedures on macroeconomic imbalances and excessive deficit. The pledges by government officials were welcomed by several business representatives attending the event, who addressed the necessity of privatization, and outlined that the essential goal of the state must be to define a basic and effective development strategy, strategic projects within a clear framework based on clear criteria to define the role of foreign capital. (Source: STA, Faculty of Economics)

# Bachelor's, Master's Theses and Doctoral Dissertations Competition

The Government Office for Slovenes Abroad has announced the Award-Giving Competition for Bachelor's and Master's Theses and Doctoral Dissertations on topics:

(a) Slovenes in neighboring countries

**(b) Slovenes in emigration/abroad.**

The aim of the competition is to promote research studies by undergraduate and postgraduate students on issues related to Slovenes in neighboring countries and abroad. The ultimate goal is to raise awareness of the importance of preserving Slovene identity in the mother-country as well as outside its borders.

Candidates from the Republic of Slovenia and abroad may apply. Authors of Bachelor's and Master's theses or Doctoral dissertations dealing with topics related to Slovene communities outside the borders of the Republic of Slovenia that have been successfully defended at any university in or outside Slovenia may apply to this competition. Considered will be theses in the following languages: Slovenian, Croatian, Bosnian, Serbian (Latin script), Italian, German, English, Spanish. If the thesis is not written in English, it has to include a summary in Slovenian (60 – 150 lines).

The authors of theses or dissertations that have already been entered into other similar competitions may also apply. Taken into account will be theses or dissertations that have been defended **in the period from November 1, 2013, to October 31, 2014.**

The awards will be distributed in the following way: three for theses or dissertations dealing with the topic of Slovenes living in neighboring countries, and three for theses or dissertations dealing with Slovenes living abroad; the award for the best written paper in either field will amount to 800 euros (approx. \$1,040), and awards in the amount of, respectively, 600 and 400 euros (approx. \$780 and \$520) will be given to the second and third best paper.

As an exception, the Commission may grant a special award in the amount of 400 euros for the best paper at the lower level of the Bologna program of studies. Upon the expert committee's proposal, the Office may decide to increase the number of the awards in one of the categories, but the total number of awards shall not exceed the total number of awards to be distributed (i.e., 6 awards) or the total amount of the fund of 3,600 euros. The 400 euros award for the Bologna paper is counted separately. At the winners' request, the Office will issue recommendations for publication of the best theses or dissertations.

The expert committee will evaluate the Bachelor's and Master's theses and Doctoral dissertations dealing with various topics on Slovenes living in neighboring countries or abroad, based on the following criteria: the originality of the topic, the approach, the applicability of papers in relation to the preservation of Slovene identity outside the borders of the Republic of Slovenia and its connection with the motherland, professionalism,

and complexity and interdisciplinarity of papers.

By participating in the competition, the authors are deemed to have given their consent for the papers to be kept in the archive of the Office and/or in Slovenian Migration Institute (part of SAZU – Slovene Academy of Sciences and Art research Center) – for the topics about Slovenians abroad – and/or at the Institute for Ethnic Studies – for the topics about Slovenians in the neighboring countries.

The candidates should send or deliver one copy of their papers bound together and equipped with a hard cover, the certificate of successful defense of the respective paper (the date of defense must be evident) and a short curriculum vitae including basic personal data and contact address (including e-mail address and telephone number) to the Government's Office for Slovenes Abroad address **(Erjavčeva 15, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia, please add: ATT. "ZA NAGRADNI NATEČAJ")**.

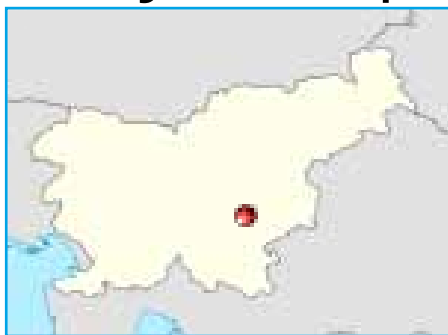
The level of the paper (e.g., BA - Bologna I, MA - Bologna II) should be clearly evident from the application.

Only papers sent or delivered by **December 12, 2014** (inclusive) will be accepted; the results of the competition will be announced by the end of April 2015. The award-giving ceremony is expected to be held in spring/summer of 2015.

**Additional information** may be obtained at the following telephone number: (001)(386)(1) 230-8011 (every workday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., CET – 3:00 and 9:00 U.S. EST).

or by e-mail: [zvone.zigon@gov.si](mailto:zvone.zigon@gov.si)

# Šmarješke Toplice



The municipality of Šmarješke Toplice, with its 12 sq. miles (34.2 sq. km) and around 3300 inhabitants, is part of the Dolenjska region of Slovenia. With its wavy landscape, quiet and green nature, thermal water, tourism tradition, rich gastronomic offer and natural environment with few industries, it has a great potential to become one of the most important, self-sustaining tourist destinations in Slovenia and Europe.

Tourist industry of Šmarješke Toplice developed principally with the discovery of



Šmarješke Toplice spa.

the source of a thermal spring. The main development took place after 1926, when the promotion of medical services with thermal water started. Nowadays, wellness and thermal center Terme Šmarješke Toplice is a world-known medical institution. The beauty of the nature and the salubrity of the climate are further enhanced by the healing effects of the

local thermal spring. Its positive characteristics are exploited by a top medical team for treatment of cardiovascular diseases. Along with medical services, there developed also »family« and »bussines« tourism. Šmarješke Toplice, with its picturesque and peaceful nature, historic and cultural sights, and authentic gastronomic offer, satisfies a wide range of tourists.



Klevevška Toplica spring.



Tradition of baking home made bread in Šmarješke Toplice.

The neighborhood offers great conditions for various kinds of recreation, cycling, Nordic walking, hiking, horse sports, swimming, etc.

The area of Šmarješke Toplice, more specifically the hill of Vinji vrh, was inhabited already in prehistory. The Celts were settled there, a road of the Roman Empire went at the foot of Vinji vrh and, by the time of the migration of peoples, the Slaves, too, had settled there. Some very rare and special archeological objects (exhibited also in the Archaeological Museum in Vienna) were found there, which only testifies how important that area was in history and it still is. In view of the area's historical importance, the House of living heritage (Hiša žive dediščine) will be opened in Bela Cerkev in 2015, with a permanent exhibition of archeological subjects, and featuring culinary and ethnological events.

Dolenjska region is known for its vineyards and another specialty – vineyard cottages. Šmarješke Toplice was among the first to offer this



Vineyards in autumn.

unique private accommodation to visitors. Staying in these unique cottages, the guests are able to enjoy peace in mind-relaxing surroundings in the midst of intact nature and beautiful views.

Other natural and historic features in the area can be found in the village of Klevevž. The earliest written record of the village, dating back to the second half of the 13th century, mentions it as a residence of

the bishops of Freising in the Dolenjska Region. In the area, under a nearby knoll rest the ruins of the Klevevž castle, the Radulja creek forms a picturesque gorge of with waterfalls, there are caves with a unique thermal spring, and the Klevevška Toplica spring (hypothermal spring with temperatures from 70 to 77°F). Source and more info: E-mail: [info@smarjeske-toplice.si](mailto:info@smarjeske-toplice.si) ; Web: [www.smarjeske-toplice.si](http://www.smarjeske-toplice.si) ; [www.tic.smarjeske-toplice.si](http://www.tic.smarjeske-toplice.si)



A tourist train in Šmarješke Toplice.



Nordic walking is very popular among tourists.



**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 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.

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

Kaja Draksler (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.](#)

## **LECTURE SERIES: SEPTEMBER 8, 1943 - THE SURRENDER OF ITALY AND SLOVENIA BY DR. VLADIMIR RUS**

The Slovenian-American Heritage Foundation invites all to attend the fifth talk in the 2014 Lecture Series. The Foundation is extremely pleased that Dr. Vladimir Rus will present a discussion on how Italy's surrender from World War II impacted the future of Slovenia.

When: [Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, Ohio](#)

The program is free and open to the public. A coffee and strudel social will follow the lecture. More information: Anthony W. Hiti, President of the Slovenian American Heritage Foundation at (216) 696-3460 x 306

## **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>