



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 9, 2015, VOLUME 11, NUMBER 22

## Science and Education Showcase & Reception Celebrating 50 Years of U.S. - Slovenia Fulbright Exchanges

**On October 1, the Embassy of Slovenia marked 50 Years of the Fulbright exchange program with the U.S. with a reception that was part of a larger day-long program aimed at strengthening cooperation in science and education between the U.S. and Slovenia on in Washington, DC.**

The program started with an afternoon scientific and educational showcase with

renowned Slovenian experts in science and education. The event featured Davor Orlic, Project Manager of Knowledge 4 All Foundation and Mitja Jermol, UNESCO OER Chair, both representatives from Jožef Stefan, the leading Slovenian scientific research institute, who presented the OpeningUp Slovenia initiative. The forum, furthermore, featured a diaspora showcase presented by Društvo VTIS - Association of Slovenes Educated Abroad, which was



Prof. Jure Leskovec.

moderated by VTIS president Igor Cesarec. The program also included a presentation of educational exchange programs by the American Slovenian Educational Foundation, given by Jure Leskovec, computer scientist and an associate professor at Stanford, who introduced his area of expertise as well. Students, researchers, academics, and businesspeople from both countries attended the showcase, as well as honorary consuls of the Republic





Dr. Tadeja Gračner in VTIS President Igor Cesarec.

Science and education workshop participants.

of Slovenia in the U.S. and Mexico, who were scheduled to attend their annual meeting at the embassy next day.

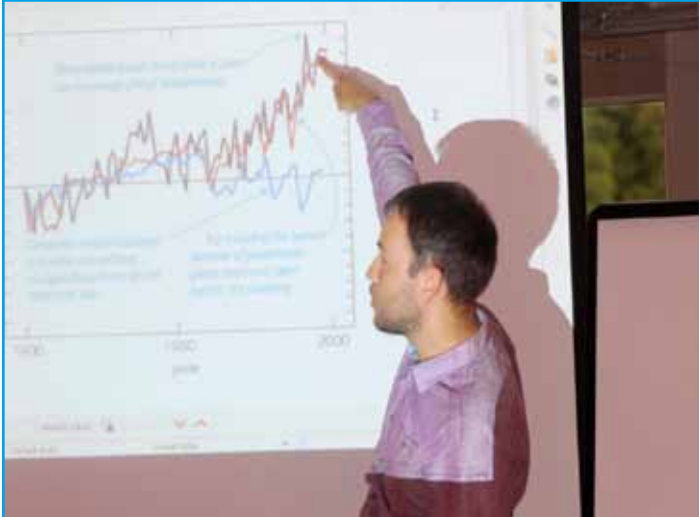
The afternoon forum was followed by a networking reception celebrating 50 years of the U.S.-Slovenia Fulbright exchange program. With the help of the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana, and the U.S. State Department, the Slovenian embassy in Washington tried to reach out to all Fulbright alumni of the past 50 years who studied or did research in Slovenia and vice versa – Slovenes who were fortunate

to gain academic experience in the U.S. Many of them joined the event and some even took a plane ride to participate in the program!

The keynote speakers at the evening reception were the Slovenian ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Božo Cerar, and Marianne Craven, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Academic Programs at the Department of State. Guests included not only American and Slovenian alumni of the Fulbright program, but also representatives of the White House and the State

Department, former U.S. ambassadors to Slovenia, science attachés from various E.U. member countries, representatives of NGOs and think tanks working on international exchanges, and Slovenian scientists in the U.S.

Almost 400 Slovenians have taken part in the program since 1965 when the first generation of Slovenian scholars received Fulbright scholarships. Almost the same number of American students, professors, researchers and scientist spent their Fulbright days in Slovenia. Another 500



Astrophysicist Dr. Andrej Prša.

Address by Ms. Marianne Craven, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Academic Programs.

Slovenes participated in other exchange program funded by the U.S. government. Among them was (in 2003) also the present Slovenian ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Božo Cerar, who participated in State Department's International Visitors Leadership Peace and Security Program.

To emphasize the cultural ties between the two countries, the ambassador opened on this occasion an exhibition by the Slovenian American artist

Gary Bukovnik. The exhibition, entitled Forever Spring, was curated by Ms. Olga Merela, director of the Bonfoey Gallery in Cleveland, OH. Born in Cleveland to a Slovenian family, Gary Bukovnik has lived in San Francisco for over 30 years. Primarily using the mediums of watercolor, monotype and lithograph, Bukovnik fuses sensual vitality with fluid yet powerful colorations, creating floral images of great depth and intensity. Bukovnik's work

is represented in numerous public collections, such as the Art Institute of Chicago; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Brooklyn Museum; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; the Library of Congress; the Philadelphia Museum of Art; and the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco. The exhibition will be on view until December 18.



Reception marking 50 years of Fulbright program with Artist Gary Bukovnik. Slovenia.

## DIPLOMACY

# Annual Meeting of the Honorary Consuls

On Friday, October 2, the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia hosted the annual meeting of the honorary consuls of the Republic of Slovenia in the United States and Mexico. Slovenia has appointed 13 non-professional/honorary consuls in the U.S. and 2 in Mexico, which the embassy in Washington is responsible for. Their role is to provide necessary assistance to Slovenian nationals and

legal entities in their respective states, to provide information about Slovenia, its economy and its culture, and to facilitate and establish economic contacts and contacts in the fields of culture, science, education and sport.

In his remarks, given at the annual meeting, Ambassador Dr. Cerar first thanked the honorary consuls for their service and dedication to expand cooperation in various

fields between Slovenia and the U.S. and Slovenia and Mexico. He also thanked them for consular assistance to Slovenian citizens and for their commitment to the Slovenian community in the U.S. and Mexico. Furthermore, he outlined the priorities of the Slovenian foreign policy, briefed them on the economic indicators for Slovenia, and explained the latest guidelines for their work.

Next to the ambassador,



The gathering was also an opportunity for the consuls to inform on their activities throughout the year. From left: Hon. Consul Diaz, Hon. Consul Wilkens, Hon. Consul Nelson, Hon. Consul Medved and Hon. Consul Chan.

participating embassy staff in the meeting were also: Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Vladimir Kolmanič; Economic Counsellor, Mr. Gorazd Renčelj; Political Counselor and Science Attaché, Mr. Borut Blaj; Consular Officer, Ms. Tjaša Tanko; and Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek, who handles cultural, public diplomacy and education portfolios. The event was also attended by Mr. Borut Žunič, consul general ad interim from Cleveland, OH, where Slovenia has opened the only professional consular post outside Washington, DC area.

The gathering was also an opportunity for the consuls to inform on their activities throughout the year, including their work promoting Slovenia in their respective states as business and tourist destinations and efforts to strengthen the ties between the two countries in science and technology, education, culture, public diplomacy and consular affairs.

The network of honorary consuls in the U.S. currently consists of Mr. Thomas J. Brandi (California), Mr. Srečko Vidmar (Colorado), Dr. Gregory S. Chan

(Florida), Mr. Paul N. Steinfeld (Georgia), Rear Admiral Ronald Joseph Zlatoper (Hawaii), Dr. John P. Vidmar (Illinois), Mrs. Barbara K. Nelson (Kansas), Ambassador Yousif B. Ghafari (Michigan), Mr. Miro Medved (Minnesota), Mr. Erik Horvat (New York, New Jersey), Dr. Lydia Mihelič Pulsipher (Tennessee), Mrs. Sandy Wilkens (Texas) and Mrs. Petra Mitchell (Pennsylvania). The two honorary consuls serving in Mexico are: Ambassador Alejandro Diaz (Guadalajara) and Mr. Ariel López (Mexico City).



In his remarks, given at the annual meeting, Ambassador Dr. Cerar first thanked the honorary consuls for their service. Slovenia has appointed 13 non-professional/honorary consuls in the U.S. and 2 in Mexico.

## Prime Minister Dr. Miro Cerar Addresses U.N. General Assembly



PM Dr. Cerar addresses United Nations General Assembly.



Meeting with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Slovenian Prime Minister, Dr. Miro Cerar, departed for New York on September 24 to attend the 70th U.N. General Assembly session. First, on September 25, he took part in a U.N. development summit discussing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and co-chaired, with Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves, an interactive dialogue session of the Summit dedicated to the issue of poverty and hunger. On September 27, he attended the meeting of global leaders on gender equality and women's empowerment. On September 28, he joined a welcome reception hosted by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon - for heads of delegations, as well as a reception given by U.S. President Barack Obama. On September 29, he attended a high-level event on the fight against terrorism and violent extremism and, on September 30, a high-level event on migration, and a preparatory conference for the World Humanitarian Summit.

Prime Minister Dr. Miro Cerar addressed the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Wednesday, September 30. In the general debate of the anniversary session, held on the theme "the road ahead for peace, security and human rights", Prime Minister Dr. Cerar underlined Slovenia's commitment to promoting human rights and the rule of law, and stressed that Slovenia would continue to advocate for progressive approach to human rights issues and strive to enhance international norms and standards.

On Thursday, P.M. Miro Cerar in a meeting with the U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon discussed the recent developments in the Western Balkans, including the migrant crisis. The flow of refugees pouring out of conflict zones in the Middle East and North Africa now also to Europe was in the focus of the debate in New York. The Secretary-General underlined the importance of a Europe-wide

response and reaffirmed the support of the United Nations in meeting related challenges. In addition to meeting the Secretary-General, P.M. Dr. Cerar also met with General Assembly President Mogens Lykketoft of Denmark, held other bilateral talks as well as attended several side events.

Along with the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Karl Erjavec, traveled to New York to attend the general debate and take part in ministerial meetings of the Group of Friends on the Responsibility to Protect, and the Group of Friends of Mediation. He also addressed the open debate of the Security Council on the preservation of international peace and security and a ministerial marking the 20th anniversary of a nuclear arms ban treaty. During his visit, MFA Erjavec held a number of bilateral meetings and attended several side events dealing with issues such as restraining the use of the veto in cases of mass atrocities, and the OSCE's peace-keeping operations.

## Velenje Museum



Velenje Castle. (Photo by Blaž Verbič)



The House of Minerals. (Photo by Blaž Verbič)

**What better way to learn about Slovenia's history, art and heritage than by visiting various museums spread throughout the country? When making a list of things to do in Slovenia, do not forget about interesting galleries and museum collections. We will do our best to introduce as many as possible in our newsletter.**

The Velenje Museum is housed in the Velenje Castle, which is known as one of the best-preserved castles in Slovenia. While the castle was first mentioned in 1270, it acquired today's appearance in the 16th century when the owners of that time completely renovated it and changed the half fortress-like castle into a renaissance residence. After the Second World War, when the castle became socially-owned property, most of its interior was destroyed and the building began to decay. In 1957, the Velenje Coal Mining Company founded the Museum of Slovene Coalmines, which was placed in Velenje Castle. Soon, new

collections were being created and an intensive restoration of the castle took place.

Velenje Museum today covers the area of three Šaleška valley's municipalities (Velenje, Šoštanj, and Šmartno ob Paki) and offers the visitors of Velenje Castle eleven permanent collections and gallery exhibitions and always some interesting temporary exhibition. Besides the collections which take a visitor through the local history, we should mention the African collection of František Foit, one of the most important African collections in Slovenia, the mastodon collection, and the collection of Slovene contemporary art. The palaeontological collection of the remains of the mastodon skeletons consists of the finds of two species of mastodon, the predecessors of today's elephant, which lived in the Šaleška valley about two million years ago. The exhibition Between Romanticism and Baroque presents the area of the Šaleška valley from the 12th century, when it was first

mentioned in written sources, to the end of the 17th century. An old store and an inn are the reconstructions of a general store and an inn from the beginning of the 20th century. The exhibition How Velenje Became a City presents the story of Velenje, the youngest city in Slovenia, and its fast development after the Second World War, when from the small rural borough under the Velenje Castle a contemporary city was born in only a few years and became widely known as "a miracle of socialism". The exhibition, Šaleška valley 1941–1945, talks about the Second World War period. In the castle chapel in the northwest defense tower there is baroque art from the church of St. George in Škale, which was demolished in the mid-20th century due to the mining of coal and the consequent sinking of the ground. Beside the contemporary Slovene art, the gallery exhibits of the museum include also the collections of the painter Lojze Perko and the sculptor Ciril Cesar.

Velenje Museum also includes various separate units in the Šaleška valley dealing with interesting topics: the Museum of the Leather Industry in Slovenia, located in Šoštanj, which in a pleasant atmosphere tells the story of leather tanners, industrial workers and former life in the Šaleška valley. There is also a pearl of Slovene rural architecture – the 400-years-old Kavčnik homestead in Zavodnje above Šoštanj and also the Gril

homestead with a vegetable and herbal garden, a bee house, an orchard and a vineyard in Lipje pri Velenju. It contains also the House of Minerals with over five thousand minerals from all over the world, and two memorial rooms at, respectively, Topolšica and Graška gora. The memorial room in Topolšica commemorates the signing of partial German capitulation on May 9, 1945, while the one in Graška gora is devoted to the legendary 14th Partisan division.



Muzej Velenje  
Ljubljanska 54  
3320 Velenje  
[www.muzej-velenje.si](http://www.muzej-velenje.si)  
[info@muzej-velenje.si](mailto:info@muzej-velenje.si)

## CULTURE

# Lectures on Plečnik's Architecture by Prof. Peter Krečič



Poster for the lecture.

Three Bridges in Ljubljana, by Plečnik.

Slovenian Arts Council at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee hosted on Friday, September 25 a lecture by the art historian and Plečnik expert, Prof. Peter Krečič. The lecture, entitled Jože Plečnik: A Modern Classicist, was part of UWM's 2015/2016 Architecture Lecture Series. In the well-attended event, followed by a reception, Prof. Krečič explained the huge impact the Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik had on the modern identity of Slovenia's capital, Ljubljana. On this occasion,

the Slovenian Arts Council also prepared an exhibition about Plečnik's work at the university's library.

Prof. Krečič then travelled to Minnesota, where he gave a lecture on Monday, September 28. He was hosted jointly by Twin Cities Slovenians, The University of Minnesota College Of Design, and the University of St. Thomas Art History Department. His presentation was illustrated by an extensive selection of slides of Plečnik's works, including buildings, bridges, and public

spaces in Ljubljana, Prague, and Vienna. The lecture was followed by a question- and-answer session and a reception.

Krečič has been director of Ljubljana's Museum of Architecture since 1978 and has taught at the Faculty of Architecture and the Faculty of Design in Ljubljana. He has lectured extensively in Europe and in the U.S., has given presentations at the UCLA, the Catholic University, Princeton, and the University of Minnesota.

# Eva Petrič Exhibits at the Ricco/Maresca Gallery in NY



Opening night.



Eva Petrič and Frank Maresca.

On September 17, Ricco/Maresca Gallery in Chelsea, New York, presented a series of contemporary and vintage photographic self-portraits—many of which predate the selfie—by artists across the spectrum. The exhibition entitled “ME” features canonical names such as Pierre Dubreuil, Constantin Brâncuși, Edward Steichen, André Kertész, Berenice Abbott, Weegee, Allen Ginsberg, Andy Warhol, Francesca Woodman, and “outsider” Vivian Maier, as well as contemporary photographers such as Marianna Rothen and new emerging artists

Sara Salaway and Kaia Miller.

Among the artworks included in the exhibition is also an artist book entitled *Shadows&Puppets*, the language of E@motion RE-acting, by Slovenian artist Eva Petrič. The book includes black-and-white analog photographs as well as color photographs, and its purpose is to explore the language of emotions through the endeavor to visualize feelings on feeling. The book is a hybrid of a literary story, switching between a fairytale and a contemporary email diary. The text itself is a hybrid between images and

sentences, laid out on paper of different colors and textures in ways where sentences form visual images.

The exhibition “ME” and Eva Petrič’s book *Shadows&Puppets*, the language of E@motion RE-acting, will be on view until October 31. More information: <http://www.riccomaresca.com/exhibitions-current/>

Eva Petrič’s participation in the opening of the exhibition was supported by the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, DC. the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture of Slovenia.





### **SLOVENIA AT THE KIDS EURO FESTIVAL: PUPPET SHOW THE MOUSE WAS MAKING PORRIDGE**

The Embassy of Slovenia cordially invites you to the eighth annual edition of the Kids Euro Festival. The festival, featuring free performances - puppet shows, magic, cinema, music and workshops, will take place in Washington, DC from October 24 to November 8, 2015.

Slovenia will be represented by Ms. Jelena Sitar Cvetko and Mr. Igor Cvetko of the Zapik Puppet Theatre with the show The Mouse Was Making Porridge (Miška kaško kuhala). Kids Euro Festival is brought to you by the 28 European Union Member States and The Delegation of the European Union in Washington, in collaboration with various American cultural organizations.

Schedule of performances (all free!):

Saturday, October 24 at 4 p.m. (performance in the Slovene language) at the Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

RSVP to: [office.vwa@gov.si](mailto:office.vwa@gov.si)

Sunday, October 25 at 11:00 a.m. at the Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20008

REGISTER AT: <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/events-and-programs/family-fun-days/kids-euro-festival-mouse-was-making-porridge>

Sunday, October 25 at 3:00 p.m. at the Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20008

REGISTER AT: <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/events-and-programs/family-fun-days/kids-euro-festival-mouse-was-making-porridge-0>

Tuesday, October 27 at 11:00 a.m. at Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20003

For a school group - Not open to the public

Tuesday, October 27 at 2:00 p.m. at Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20003

REGISTER AT: <http://hillcenterdc.org/home/programs/2568/>

Wednesday, October 28 at 11am at Mann Elementary School, 4430 Newark St NW, Washington, DC 20016. Not open to the public.

Sunday, November 1 at 7 p.m. at The Children's Inn at NIH, 7 West Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814. For hospital patients and families only. Not open to the public

More information and registration: <http://kidseurofestival.org/the-mouse-was-making-porridge/>



**SLOVENIA AT THE KIDS EURO FESTIVAL: STORYTIME WITH THE AMBASSADOR:  
LITTLE MOUNTAIN-FISH GOES TO SEA**

As part of the Kids Euro Festival, Dr. Božo Cerar, the Ambassador of Slovenia, will read his newly published children's book "Little Mountain-Fish Goes to Sea/Gorska ribica gre na morje", which tells the story of a curious little fish living in a mountain creek and the adventures that happen on its journey down the river to the sea.

Text: Dr. Božo Cerar

Translation: Vladimir Pregelj

Illustrations: Miro in Metka Zupančič

When: **Monday, November 2 at 1:00 p.m.**

Where: **Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave SE, Washington, DC 20540**

More information: <http://kidseurofestival.org/little-mountain-fish-goes-to-sea/>



**GARY BUKOVNIK'S EXHIBITION: FOREVER SPRING**

Cleveland born and educated, Gary Bukovnik has lived in San Francisco for over thirty years. His work is represented in diverse public and private collections around the world. Working in watercolor, monotype, lithograph and metal sculpture, Bukovnik in his work fuses sensual vitality with fluid colorations, creating floral images of tremendous depth and intensity.

Bukovnik's work is well known throughout galleries across America, and his work has been shown internationally in Italy, Spain, Luxembourg, Japan and, most recently, in China. His work is represented in various public and private collections, including The Brooklyn Museum, NYC; Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC; The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC; and The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH. Gary is also represented in The List Collection, NYC; Fine Arts Museums, San Francisco; Bank of America; AT&T; Clorox; Neiman Marcus; and the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Los Angeles.

When: **Ongoing through December 18;** Monday through Friday during business hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: **Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008**

Admission free.

For more information see: <http://garybukovnik.com/> and <http://www.bonfoey.com/>

## **READING BY ALEŠ ŠTEGER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

With his poetry, novels, and essays appearing in The New Yorker and other international magazines, Aleš Steger is the most translated Slovenian author of his generation. This reading (in German, English and Slovene) and discussion will address the flâneur concept in German literature and the role poetry plays in people's lives today in Berlin, the new/old European poetic capital. Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Slovenia.

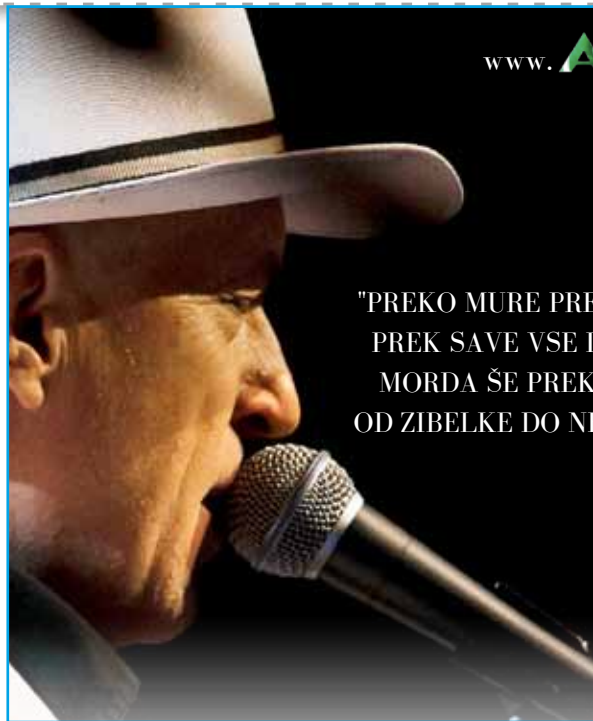
When: **Friday, November 6, 2015 from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM (EST)**

Where: **Goethe-Institut Washington, 812 7th St NW, Washington, DC 20001**

More information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reading-ales-steger-berlin-tickets-15313275419?aff=erellivorg>



Aleš Šteger.



Vlado Kreslin.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS - NEW YORK**

### **CONCERT BY VLADO KRESLIN IN NEW YORK**

Vlado Kreslin is one of the most influential Slovenian musicians, whose distinctive style combines elements of folk, pop and rock music, American blues and even gypsy music. He shared stage with R.E.M., Bob Dylan, Allan Taylor, Sean Cannon of the Dubliners, The Walkabouts, Andy Irvine and many more. Over the years, he toured Australia, Argentina, Uruguay, Canada, Germany, Austria, Spain, Bosnia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Croatia, Greece, Italy and the U.S.

When: **Friday, October 23, 2015; doors open at 7:00 p.m.**

Where: **RiverPlace Lounge, 650 west 42nd street, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10036**

Space is limited. Entrance is free but reservations are a must. Suggested donation: \$20 per person to cover organizational expenses.

RSVP: [tina@aventurin.si](mailto:tina@aventurin.si) or call: 917 843 8485

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1911657135725976/>

## **FATHER PEDRO OPEKA IN NEW YORK**

Father Pedro Opeka is a legend among humanitarian revolutionaries. Born in Argentina to Slovenian parents, Father Pedro has been a missionary in Madagascar since 1970, striving to improve the lives of one of the poorest populations on earth. He has received the Legion of Honor from France and nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. Still he continues to labor in Madagascar. In November, he will visit New York.

When: [Monday, November 2 at 6:00 p.m. \(Mass in the church\); 6:30 p.m. \(reception in the hall\)](#)

Where: [St. Cyril's Parish](#) at 62 St Mark's Pl., New York, New York 10003

Admission free, no RSVP is required.

## **TRANSMISSIONS - AN EXHIBITION FEATURING WORKS BY THE OHO GROUP AT MOMA IN NEW YORK**

Transmissions: Art in Eastern Europe and Latin America, 1960–1980 focuses on parallels and connections among artists active in Latin America and Eastern Europe in the 1960s and 1970s. During these decades, which flanked the widespread student protests of 1968, artists working in distinct political and economic contexts, from Prague and Ljubljana to Buenos Aires, developed cross-cultural networks to circulate their artworks and ideas.

When: [September 5, 2015 to January 3, 2016](#)

Where: [The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019-5497; The Joan and Preston Robert Tisch Exhibition Gallery, sixth floor](#)

More information: <https://www.moma.org/visit/calendar/exhibitions/1588>

## UPCOMING EVENTS - OHIO

### **MARTINOVANJE IN CLEVELAND**

Štajerski–Prekmurski Klub of Cleveland invites you to the Martinovanje event to celebrate the new wine. Martinovanje marks the wine christening and opening of the 2015 wine barrels. The dinner-dance event will be held at St. Clair Slovenian National Home. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and a sumptuous dinner by Jože Tavčar and crew will be served at 6:30 p.m. Music will be provided by Cleveland's Alpine Sextet.

When: [Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Clair Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH](#)

Reservations: Call Tonica Simičak (440) 256-6716 or Mimi (Kozina) Cupar (440) 551- 0171.

### **GLASBENA MATICA CONCERT AND DANCE IN CLEVELAND**

The Glasbena Matica Slovenian Singing Society invites you to an evening of "Remembering Musical Friends" on Saturday, November 21, 2015. Cleveland's legendary Slovenian chorus appears in a concert tribute to the people who inspire singers, musicians and music-lovers.

Listen to songs made popular by Frank Yankovic, Johnny Pecon, and Mary Udovich and Josephine Lausche, among others. There are also salutes to personalities who recently departed, including Slavko Avsenik, Paul Yanchar, Frank Ivancic, and Bishop A. Edward Pevec. You'll enjoy favorite Slovenian and American tunes. Angela Perrine directs the chorus and Michael Cercek accompanies it on the piano. After the concert, dance with Patty C and the Guys, the Button Box Band of the Year.

When: [Saturday, November 21, 2015](#). Doors open at 4:00 with refreshments, sandwiches and dinner specials available. The concert begins at 5:45. Patty strikes up the band after the show at 7:00.

Where: [Slovenian National Home, at 6417 St. Clair Avenue, in Cleveland, OH.](#)

Admission to the concert is \$17; under 12 free. Tickets are available from chorus members and the Polka Hall of Fame, 605 East 222nd Street in Euclid, OH (216) 261-3263.

## **THANKSGIVING POLKA WEEKEND IN CLEVELAND**

Treat yourself to a spectacular festival of music and dancing at the 52nd annual Thanksgiving Polka Party Weekend, presented by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 26, 27 and 28, 2015. The Downtown Cleveland Marriott Hotel becomes America's polka headquarters with the finest Cleveland-Style entertainers, plus Denis Novato, the world button accordion champion in a rare U.S. appearance. The high point is the 2015 Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show in the Grand Ballroom on Saturday, November 28. Twenty-three Cleveland-Style and Slovenian-Style orchestras and entertainers play for three days of dancing. The line-up includes the Frank Stanger Orchestra (2014 Band of the Year) and Milwaukee's Jeff Winard Band in a salute to Frank Yankovic, America's Polka King, featuring Banjo Bobby Yankovic, Frank's son. Music is Thursday from 3:00 to midnight; Friday from 1:00 p.m. to midnight; and all Saturday evening after the 6:00 p.m. Polka Mass with Minnesota's Father Frank Perkovich and the Joey Tomsick Orchestra. Featured polka bands are led by Dick Tady, Eddie Rodick, Jeff Pecon, Del Sinchak, Mikey Dee, Joey Tomsick, Aaron Dussing, Joshua Kay, Linda Lee Brown, Frank Moravcik, and Ed Klancnik. Among the spotlight performers are the Chardon Polka Band, Fritz's Polka Band, Nashville's Joey Miskulin, Hank Thunander, the Fairport Jammers, Frank Svet, the Button Box Divas, and Patty C and the Guys (2014 Button Box Band of the Year).

This year's theme, "A Century of Polka," celebrates the 100th birthdays of Frank Yankovic and Johnny Pecon and remembers the music of Slovenia's Slavko Avsenik. Annual awards in polka excellence are presented as well as Polka Hall of Fame lifetime inductees. Featured talents include Denis Novato, Jeff Pecon and Jeff Winard. The All-Star Polka Big Band is under the direction of Tom Mroczka.

When: [November 26, 27 and 28, 2015](#)

Where: [Downtown Cleveland Marriott, 127 Public Square in Cleveland, OH](#)

For dance and show tickets, call the [Polka Hall of Fame](#), (216) 261-FAME, toll-free (866) 66-POLKA, or [polkashop@aol.com](mailto:polkashop@aol.com).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS - WISCONSIN**

### **PIANIST ANA ŠINKOVEC TO PERFORM IN WISCONSIN**

Ana Šinkovec Burstin is a four-time master's graduate from conservatories in Ljubljana, Brussels, Bergamo and Paris, and has studied with many eminent teachers, including Eugen Indjic, Dmitri Bashkirov, Vladimir Ogarkov, Karl-Heinz Kammerling. Ana is the recipient of international prizes, including 1st prize at the Nikolai Rubinstein International Competition in Paris. Since 2012, Ana has been regularly invited to play as a soloist with domestic and international orchestras. Ana performed Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Scriabin's Piano Concerto in Ljubljana, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 in London at St. John's Smith Square; last March, she made her debut with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and performed Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in the U.K. Her performance as a guest soloist with Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra in Wisconsin is her U.S. debut.

When: [Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts, 826 North 8th Street, Sheboygan WI 53081](#)

More information: <http://sheboygansymphony.org/concerts/2015-2016-season/russian-to-the-finnish>

## **CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS OF SEPTEMBER 24 ISSUE**

In the article about Ambassador Cerar's visit to Cleveland, the caption of the second photograph on left on page 2 was incorrect. During his visit, Ambassador Dr. Cerar met with Dr. Edi Gobec and his wife Ms. Milena Gobec. The Embassy of Slovenia regrets the errors.