Ambassador Dr. Cerar Visits Slovenian Diaspora in Wisconsin

On September 13, Ambassador Dr. Cerar visited the Slovenian community in Wisconsin to attend the annual “Vinska trgatev” picnic at Triglav Park, located in a picturesque setting in Milwaukee. He was greeted by the President of the Slovenian Triglav Cultural Society, Karl Dovnik, Jr., and joined the members of the local Slovenian community in celebrating the grape harvest. Triglav Park was established in 1945 by Slovene refugees, who have been for the past 70 years continuing to carry their Slovenian legacy, culture and traditions.

While in Milwaukee, Ambassador Dr. Cerar also attended a Mass at the Slovenian parish of, St. John the Evangelist, with the Slovenian choir singing at the service under the direction of Mici Bregant and Pastor Fr. Michael Merkt. After the Mass, he joined a breakfast meeting with officers from the various Slovenian organizations. He also met with the artistic directors of Theatre Gigante and, the next day, with representatives of the Slovenian Arts Council, Jeff Martinka and Dolores Ivanchich. The Slovenian Arts Program, directed by the Slovenian Arts
Council, was established in 1928 with support from the Frank and Mary Ermenc Memorial Fund at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.

Ambassador Dr. Cerar toured UWM with Ewa Barczyk, Associate Provost and Director of UWM Libraries, and met with Rebecca Littman in the music library, to which he donated a collection of music by the Slovenian renaissance composer Jacobus Gallus Petelin. The UWM library has the largest collection of Slovenian music in the U.S.

The ambassador also met with Jovanka Ristic of the American Geographical Society Library and was greeted by Provost and Vice Chancellor Dr. Johannes Britz and Dean Dr. Scott Emmons, as well as by some members of the Slavic languages department.

At the end of his trip, he gave a lecture at UWM on Slovenia’s support of the International Criminal Court and the international endeavors to end impunity for perpetrators of the most serious crimes within its scope. His lecture, “The International Court: From Nuremberg to Kampala and Beyond,” was well attended and followed by an interesting Q and A session.

The logistic support for the ambassador’s trip as well as help with his program was provided by Ms. Helenca Frohna.

More information about the park: http://www.triglavpark.com/
More information about the Slovenian Arts Program: http://www.slovenianartsprogram.org/
Lana Trotovšek Performs at the Embassy and with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra

On Friday, September 11, Slovenian violinist Lana Trotovšek and Ukrainian pianist Anna Shelest impressed embassy guests with their outstanding performance. The cultural evening was organized in cooperation with the Embassy Series and featured also the opening of the exhibition America, my way by photographer Matej Sitar as well as the presentation of its Destination Luxury Slovenia service by the Imperial Travel Agency.

More than 90 guests were welcomed by the Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar, whereas Jerome Barry, the founder of The Embassy Series, presented the activity of this leading organization in the field of cultural diplomacy. The Embassy Series has since 1994 worked with over 200 ambassadors and hosted over 600 concerts in 73 embassies, involving more than 800 international artists from 80 countries and over 300 artists from the DC area.

During the musical evening, which also offered a taste of Slovenian wine and cuisine, a winner of international competitions and prizes, Ms. Trotovšek, together with Ms. Shelest, presented music by Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Johannes Brahms, Enrique Granados Campiña, Fritz Kreisler and Béla Bartók. She played on a Pietro Antonio dalla Costa violin made in 1750 on loan from a benefactor, Mr. Jonathan Stone.

After her concert in Washington, Lana travelled to Michigan, where on September 18 she played with Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. She made her U.S. symphony orchestra debut in Miller Auditorium with Brahms’s famous Violin Concerto.
TOURISM

“Destination Luxury Slovenia”

On Thursday, September 10, Ambassador Dr. Cerar hosted in his residence a Destination Luxury Slovenia soiree, which featured presentation of the leading Slovenian boutique tourism designers and their partners.

The presentation of the Destination Luxury Slovenia service by Imperial Travel, introduced to the invited guests Slovenia as a luxury tourism destination. The advantages include combination of modern infrastructure along with beautiful and diverse nature, genuine hospitality, exquisite food and wine, and numerous options for boutique and unique accommodation, which provide sophisticated guests with unsurpassed luxury.

Imperial Travel’s General Managing Partners, Matej Valenčič and Matej Knific, presented Luxury Slovenia as a highly accomplished service, which boasts quality, exceptional service and perfect balance between price and top-quality luxury. Luxury Slovenia organizes trips to Slovenia from Washington, DC. In cooperation with International Club of DC, the second group this year departed from Dulles Airport on September 24. More information about Luxury Slovenia can be found at: http://www.luxuryslovenia.eu

America, my way is a series of Polaroid photos from Matej Sitar’s journey across the American continent. More information about his work can be found at: www.matejsitar.com.

Mr. Matej Knific and Mr. Matej Valenčič, representatives of Imperial Travel, market leader in providing unique tourism experience in Slovenia, also attended the event.
The annual MS Society Ambassadors Ball, a premier event in the Washington, DC, fall social season, took place on Tuesday, September 8 at the Washington Marriott-Marquis hotel. The 37th Ambassadors Ball welcomed ambassadors and their spouses, Members of Congress, and esteemed business and philanthropic leaders.

The highlight of the event, attended by Ambassador Dr. Cerar, was a silent auction, for which Slovenia donated a box of 12 bottles of the exquisite Slovenian wine, pinela, produced by the Batič vineyard from Vipava Valley. The distinctive white wine, soon won by one of the bidders, came in bottles uniquely designed by Oskar Kogoj and imported by Emil Gaspari from New York.

Funds raised from this and other items will support programs and services for individuals affected by MS (multiple sclerosis), as well as MS research worldwide. Last year, the Society contributed over $52 million to more than 380 research projects around the world, and through its comprehensive nationwide network of programs and services helped more than one million people affected by MS.

Lecture by Father Marko Rupnik in Washington

Dr. Nataša Govekar and father Marko Rupnik.

The audience at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine.
On September 9, the world-renowned Slovenian mosaic artist, Father Marko Rupnik, and his colleague, Dr. Nataša Govekar, led a discussion on the importance of liturgical art in churches at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine. Father Rupnik and his Centro Aletti team are in process of installing the mosaics he designed for the new Redemptor Hominis chapel at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC.

Father Rupnik and his Centro Aletti workshop did their first mosaics in at the request of Pope John Paul II in the Redemptoris Mater chapel in the Vatican in 1999. Today, his work can be found in over 130 shrines and churches all over the world, including Fatima, Portugal; Lourdes, France; and the St. Pio of Pietrelcina Shrine in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy. Like Father Rupnik, Dr. Nataša Govekar was also born in Slovenia. Her specialty is theological and iconographical research for Centro Aletti’s mosaic installations.

FAREWELL

Farewell to Consul General Jurček Žmauc

After six years of service in Cleveland, Consul General Jurček Žmauc ended his tenure in the U.S. on July 31. Throughout his time at the post he has built a very good rapport with officials, business people and Slovenian communities throughout his Consular District spanning ten states: Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. He assisted numerous Slovenian citizens either in his office or during consular hours elsewhere.

During his post Jurček worked hard to strengthen the economic, trade and investment links between Slovenia and the U.S., especially in the states of Ohio, Illinois, Colorado, Minnesota and Pennsylvania. He was instrumental in establishing S-ABA (Slovenian - American Business Association). In recognition to his leading role he was recently selected as the new president of S-ABA. He was dedicated to the expansion of scientific, educational, social and cultural ties between Slovenia and the U.S. He helped organize numerous cultural and public diplomacy events. He collaborated with Cleveland State and other universities and local colleges, and with the Center for Slovenian Studies, headed by Prof. Luka Zibelnik, and the Slovenian Sunday school.

He supported activities of Slovenian media and organizations and strengthened the cooperation with the leadership of the Slovenian Women’s Union, SNPJ, KSKJ, AMLA and other Slovenian societies. He, furthermore, supported the work of the Slovenian Museum and Archives, Slovenian National Home, Slovenian Home for the Aged, the Polka Hall of Fame in Euclid, Slovenska Pristava and other Slovenian organizations.

As his colleagues, we hold him in high regard for his hard work, spirit of devotion and diligence, which made important contributions to the development of Slovenia-U.S. relations. We wish him, his wife Janja and all his family all the best in their future endeavors and greater achievements as he begins a new chapter of his professional career.

Consul General ad interim in Cleveland, OH, is counsellor, Mr. Borut Žunič.
XIV. 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 the 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. Accepted will be submissions in any of the following languages: Slovene, Croatian, Bosnian, Serbian (in Latin script), Italian, German, English, and Spanish. Works in a language other than Slovenian must have attached an abstract in Slovenian (60 to 150 lines).

As an exception, the Commission may award a special prize in the amount of 400 euros for the best undergraduate paper within the framework of lower step of the Bologna study program. The theses or dissertations that have been entered into other similar competitions may also apply. The theses or dissertations that were/will be defended in the period from November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2015 will be taken into account.

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 in the amount of 800 euros (approx. $900), and two awards in the amount of respectively, 600 and 400 euros (resp. approx. $675 and $450) will be given to the second and third best paper. On the basis of 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 should not exceed the total number of the awards to be distributed (i.e.6 awards) or the total amount of the fund of 3,600 euros.

At the winners’ request, the Office will issue a recommendation for the best theses or dissertations to be published.

The expert committee will evaluate the Bachelor’s and Master’s theses and Doctoral dissertations dealing with various topics in relation to Slovenes living in neighboring countries and 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, 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.

Method of application and deadline:

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 its submission must be evident) and a short curriculum vitae (including personal data and details of e-mail contact) to the Government’s Office for Slovenes Abroad address (Komenskega 11, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia).

From the application it must be clear what type of work is involved – a diploma at the lower, higher step of the Bologna study program, a Master’s degree, a scientific Master’s degree...

Only papers sent or delivered by December 12, 2015 (inclusive) will be accepted; the results of the competition will be announced by the end of April 2016. The award-giving ceremony is expected to be held in spring/summer of 2016.

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) or by e-mail: zvone.zigon@gov.si
Scholarships from Kerže trust funds for Slovenian students at the University Of Southern California Thornton School Of Music

The Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles shall grant scholarships to students from music schools in Slovenia. These scholarships are from and made possible by:

1) Therese Kerze Cheyovich Endowment Fund
2) Frank Kerze and Florence Kerze-Dunphy Scholarship Fund for the Study of Music.

The two trusts were established by the Kerže family with the aim to provide an opportunity for Slovenian students to receive the education and training at the USC Thornton School of Music, to familiarize them with U.S. culture and to provide opportunities to gain U.S. exposure of their musical talents. Extremely proud of their Slovenian origin, the Kerže Family wanted in this way to honor their Slovenian ancestry.

The scholarships from Therese Kerze Cheyovich Endowment Fund will be awarded to one or more qualified students of music to support their undergraduate or graduate studies leading to a certificate and/or a Bachelor’s, Master’s and/or doctoral degree at the USC Thornton School of Music. Once awarded a scholarship from the fund, a returning candidate can continue to receive the scholarship each year until s/he completes his/her academic program. Scholarship funds may be awarded for tuition, fees, and living expenses. The donor of this particular scholarship preferred that recipients play the cello as their primary musical instrument.

In order to receive scholarships, candidates must apply for and be accepted into the applicable degree and/or certificate program pursuant to the policies of the USC Thornton School of Music.

The application deadline to be considered for admission to the fall semester of 2016 is: December 1, 2015

Please note that the application and audition requirements differ from program to program. For specific department application and audition requirements, please select the appropriate program. You can find all requirements by program at: https://music.usc.edu/admission/appreqs/

In general, the requirements include:
- online application for admission
- prescreen recording
- resumé which should list musical, professional and academic experience
- repertoire list – to be submitted with online application
- supporting documents (e.g. academic transcripts, SAT scores for undergraduate students etc.)
- statement of purpose – motivation letter
- letters of recommendation

The application fee is $85, additional $20 fee applies for the prescreen recording.

The following additional application materials are required from all international applicants:
- Confidential Statement of Financial Support (please refer to the possible funding from the Kerže trusts)
- English Language Test Requirement - TOEFL/IELTS
- Transcripts and Certified English Translations from all schools attended
- Certified copy of English translation of all relevant documents (e.g., certified copy of passport)

Please double check the requirements and department applications at: https://music.usc.edu/admission/

The first selection done by
the selection committee will be based on the prescreen recording submitted by the applicant by the **December 1, 2015 deadline**. Following this initial review, an invitation will be extended to a select group of applicants to perform a live audition on the USC campus in Los Angeles; Live auditions typically take place in late January and early February. The successful applicants will be offered one of the scholarships in the spring.

For any additional questions please contact Ms. Darinka Trček at  EducationUSA@sklad-kadri.si and Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek at: Nuska.Zakrajsek@gov.si, or contact Kit Bellamy, Associate Director for Graduate Admission at keb@thornton.usc.edu or Brittany Seits, Associate Director for Undergraduate Admission at seits@thornton.usc.edu, both at USC. Also, please inform the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington about the submitted application at vwa@gov.si

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### CALL FOR ENTRIES

**Slovenian Award for Social Responsibility HORUS 2015**

You are kindly invited to apply for the Slovenian Social Responsibility Award - Horus 2015. The call is aimed at enterprises (micro, small, medium, large, and social enterprises) and institutions, entrepreneurs with Slovenian roots, doing business outside Slovenia, and journalist, as well as other organizations and individuals who practice social responsibility. We are searching for and awarding comprehensive (requisitely holistic) approaches to social responsibility practiced by legal entities and individuals.

The call was published on June 15, 2015 by IRDO - Institute for the Development of Social Responsibility, PRRS - Slovenian Society for Public Relations, and SPIRIT Slovenia, a public agency, in partnership with numerous professional organizations. The honorary patron of Slovenian Social Responsibility Award HORUS 2015 is Borut Pahor, the President of the Republic of Slovenia.

The application deadline is September 25. For more information and application forms, please see the website: [http://www.horus.si/ang-index.html](http://www.horus.si/ang-index.html)

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### UPCOMING EVENTS - NEW YORK

**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](https://www.moma.org/visit/calendar/exhibitions/1588)
EXHIBITION AMERICA BY PHOTOGRAPHER MATEJ SITAR AT THE EMBASSY OF SLOVENIA

America, my way is a series of Polaroid photos from Matej Sitar’s journey across the American continent. Instead of showing well-known images, he has focused on the personal view of the individual. The title America, my way represents two meanings. First, it depicts the geographical content of the pictures and second, more importantly, it reveals a journey of becoming more aware of one’s surroundings and finding a way of presenting it.

When: September 11 to 29, during business hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Free entrance. 
Where: Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008
More information at: http://www.matejsitar.com/america

LECTURE BY SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK: MORE ALIENATION, PLEASE! A CRITIQUE OF CULTURAL VIOLENCE

Slavoj Žižek is one of Europe’s most influential intellectuals. His thinking is rooted in the European Enlightenment, with a strong basis on German Idealism, Hegel, Marx, and Lacan.

The lecture is an opening speech for the transatlantic dialogue: ICONOCLASH presented by EUNIC Washington DC. Slavoj Žižek’s participation has been made possible with the support from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia and the Goethe-Institut.

When: Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 pm
Where: New York University, 1307 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20005 (Metro: McPherson Square)
Free entrance.
RSVP: https://events.nyu.edu/#event_id/70030/view/event
More information: http://washington-dc.eunic-online.eu/?q=content/slavoj-zizek-more-alienation-please-critique-cultural-violence

Slavoj Žižek.
READING BY ALEŠ ŠTEGER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

With his poetry, novels, and essays appearing in The New Yorker and other international magazines, Aleš Šteger 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

IRENA TOMAŽIN AND MIHA CIGLAR TO PERFORM AT HIGH ZERO FESTIVAL IN BALTIMORE

High Zero is the premier festival of Improvised, Experimental music on the East Coast, being fully devoted to new collaborations between the most inspired improvisers from around the world. Festival’s 16th edition will be held during 24–27 September 2015 in Baltimore and will feature Slovenian vocalist Irena Tomažin and sound artist and innovator Miha Ciglar.

More information: http://www.highzero.org/2015_site/schedule/
UPCOMING EVENTS - WISCONSIN

JOZE PLEČNIK: A MODERN CLASSICIST - A LECTURE BY PROF. PETER KREČIČ
UWM's Slovenian Arts Council offers a free lecture by Dr. Peter Krečič on Friday, Sept 25 at 4:30 p.m., with reception to follow. The Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik (1872-1957) had a huge impact on the modern identity of Slovenia's capital, Ljubljana. A student and later colleague of Viennese architect Otto Wagner, Plečnik's unique designs are associated with the Vienna Succession/Art Nouveau style.

An art historian, Krečič has been Director of Ljubljana's Museum of Architecture since 1978 and has taught at the Faculty of Architecture and Faculty of Design in Ljubljana. He has lectured extensively in Europe and in the U.S., has given presentations at UCLA, Catholic University, Princeton, and the University of Minnesota.
Part of UWMs 2015/2016 Architecture Lecture Series.

When: Friday, September 25th at 4:30 pm
Where: UWM School of Architecture and Urban Planning - Lecture Hall #170, 2131 E. Hartford Ave., Milwaukee. WI.
No RSVP is required.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS - MINNESOTA

JOŽE PLEČNIK: A MODERN CLASSICIST - A LECTURE BY PROF. PETER KREČIČ IN MN

The University of Minnesota College of Design, the University of St. Thomas Art History Department, and the Twin Cities Slovenians will be jointly hosting a free lecture by Dr. Peter Krečič on Monday, September 28t. Born in 1947 in Ljubljana, Krečič is an expert on the works and legacy of Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik. His presentation will be illustrated by extensive slides of Plečnik’s works, including buildings, bridges, and public spaces in Ljubljana, Prague, and Vienna. There will be a question and answer session after the presentation and a reception with the presenter.

When: Monday, September 28, 6:00 p.m.
Where: 100 Rapson Hall, University of Minnesota, 89 Church Street SE, Minneapolis MN
No RSVP is required.