



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 13, 2012, VOLUME 8, NUMBER 15

## Slovenska Miza in Seattle, WA

**Slovenska miza (Slovene Table) is an association founded in 2011 by a small community of Slovenes and Slovene language and culture enthusiasts, who live in the greater Seattle area in the State of Washington.** Members of the association are mostly recent immigrants and expats from younger generations, although there are some who are second- or third-generation American Slovenes.

Slovenska miza welcomes anyone interested in Slovenian language, culture and tradition. Some of its members have short- or long-term plans to return and work in Slovenia; others are interested in collaboration with their Slovenian homeland in various professional areas,



culture and science. They put much effort into nurturing Slovene language and culture within the greater Seattle community, which is particularly important for those members who are raising families. One of the missions of the association is also promotion of Slovenia as an interesting tourist destination.

Among other activities, the association provides a venue for professional networking and information-sharing among its members. Slovenska miza tries to reach out to those Slovenes who have recently moved in the State of Washington and to

help them adjust to their new American environment.

Slovenska miza often works in partnership with the University of Washington - Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures to organize cultural events to maintain Slovene language and raise the general profile of a small but remarkable country that has much in common with the Puget Sound Region. The association organizes at least three events a year; celebrating Slovenian Cultural Day in February, Slovenian National Day in June and St. Martin's Day in November.



## Seeking Ambassadors to Promote Doctoral Study in the E.U.

PromoDoc, a European Union-supported initiative, is seeking 25 Ambassadors to increase awareness of doctoral-level study in Europe. Over a 13-month period, PromoDoc Ambassadors will advise prospective U.S. and Canadian students on living in Europe and selecting and applying for doctoral studies in the E.U.



Specifically, PromoDoc seeks applicants who possess:

- A doctoral degree
- Knowledge/experience of doctoral education in Europe
- Knowledge of the European Union
- Willingness to serve as a resource to prospective U.S. and Canadian students interested in pursuing doctoral-level study in Europe
- Enthusiasm and motivation
- Close links to higher education in the U.S. or Canada, fostering access to U.S. and Canadian students
- Willingness to research and

help advice students on doctoral program opportunities in the E.U.

Applicants can be of any nationality, must be based in the U.S. or Canada from September 2012-October 2013 and available to attend a training session in New York City on September 27 and 28, 2012 (travel and lodging expenses will be reimbursed). Ambassadors receive a small honorarium for the services provided.

Further information and the application form can be found on the PromoDoc website: [www.promodoc.eu/ambassadors-network](http://www.promodoc.eu/ambassadors-network). The application deadline is April 30, 2012.

## Lapanja on Podium Among Big Names of Ski Racing

Lila Lapanja, a first-year member of the U.S. Ski Team's Development Team and former member of the Sugar Bowl and Diamond Peak ski teams, was the top junior racer at the Nature Valley U.S. Alpine Championships. She was among the best in women's combined, and finished second overall, competing against top members of the A Team. The 17-year-old also was fourth overall and the second junior in Thursday's slalom, and 17th overall in both giant slalom and super giant.

Lila Lapanja has been a member of the U.S. Ski Team since she won Western Region honors, namely, the overall slalom title and the Kyle Warren Jr. slalom title in 2011. The nomination was also a result of her slalom silver medal at the J2 nationals and her third place



Junior women's slalom podium including silver medalist Lila Lapanja, gold medalist Mikaela Shiffrin and bronze medalist Paula Moltzan at the Nature Valley U.S. Alpine Championships at Colorado's Winter Park Resort. (courtesy of USSA/Tom Kelly)

among juniors in combined at the 2011 Putnam Investments U.S. Alpine Championships at Winter Park, CO.

A racer, Lila Lapanja is coached by her father, Vojko

Lapanja, who is Slovenian and is a former member of the Yugoslavian national ski team. After moving to the U.S. in 1991, he was a Sierra Nevada College champion racer.

# Olimje

The village of Olimje (originally, Olimia) is located in the fertile and peaceful valley at the foot of the Rudnica Mountain. A fairy tale-like countryside and many welcoming farmhouses outline the beauty of this area. In 2009, the village was awarded golden medal for most orderly village of Europe (Entente Florale Europe competition).

The focal point of this picturesque landscape is the monastery complex Olimje of the Minorite Brothers. Its core, the Olimia castle, was built in the 11th century but the whole complex was finished in the 17th century when Pauline monks added a church and a botanical garden, which extends out in front of the monastery complex. In the garden, visitors can become acquainted with the medicinal effects of the many plants which grow in Slovenia's gardens, pastures, swamps and forests. In one of the castle towers, there was soon installed

the monastery's pharmacy, embellished with frescos, which is one of the oldest preserved monastic pharmacies in Europe that still offer a great variety of home remedies and cures.

Just above the monastery complex stands the Ježovnikova farm of rustic tourism, Slovenia's most famous and largest deer-breeding farms, where deer and mouflon move freely over eight hectares (20 acres) of land in large herds. Right at the top of the hill, the rustic style tavern features a spacious terrace, where authentic local specialties are served. Authentic Slovene wine and food, as well as various types of homemade chocolate and beer, are offered to guests at affordable prices.

If you are more sports-type of a person you should know that Olimje is known by its hiking and cycling trails. There are about 20 bike and hike paths available that are suitable for all age-groups. Those on



The Olimia Castle.

foot may prefer the interesting Europe walking paths E7, which are part of the Atlantic-Black Sea route that crosses Slovenia in a west-east direction. The Štajerska (Styria)-Zagorska mountain path links the land on both sides of the Sotla river, the border between Slovenia and Croatia. The main educational path (Rudnica–Virštanj) includes many beautiful views allowing visitors to see most of the Kozjansko Park and is suitable for visitors of average physical fitness.

For those who are not that much into cycling and hiking or who want to try something new, there is also golf, tennis, or swimming and spa facilities in Terme Olimia. A world of treats with Slovenian unique pralines awaits you in nearby Chocolate Boutique Syncerus, offering a variety of chocolate flavors, making sure that visiting Olimje leaves you with sweet impressions.

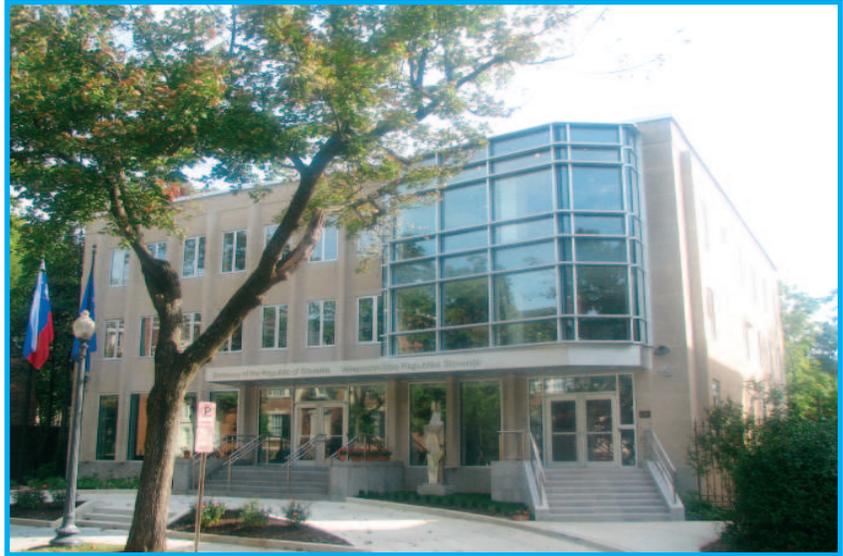


The Monastery's Pharmacy.

## EU Open House - Volunteers Needed

On May 12, 2012, diplomatic representations of Member States of the E.U. and the E.U. Delegation in the United States in Washington, DC, will celebrate Europe Day by organizing the sixth annual E.U. Open House day. Embassies of all 27 member-countries and the E.U. Delegation will open their doors, from 10 am to 4 pm, showcasing their art, culture, and food, and introducing the European Union to the public.

Experience the best of Europe without a jet lag. Join us for a day of family fun, music, dancing, kids'entertainment, exhibitions, vacation planning, and more.



Last year, over 2500 people visited the Slovenian Embassy, and this year even more people are expected. The event has gained extreme popularity and success, and we

would like to offer anybody the opportunity to do his part.

If you would like to volunteer at the Slovenian Embassy, please send an e-mail to: [nuska.zakrajsek@gov.si](mailto:nuska.zakrajsek@gov.si).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Seminar for the Teachers of the Slovene Language

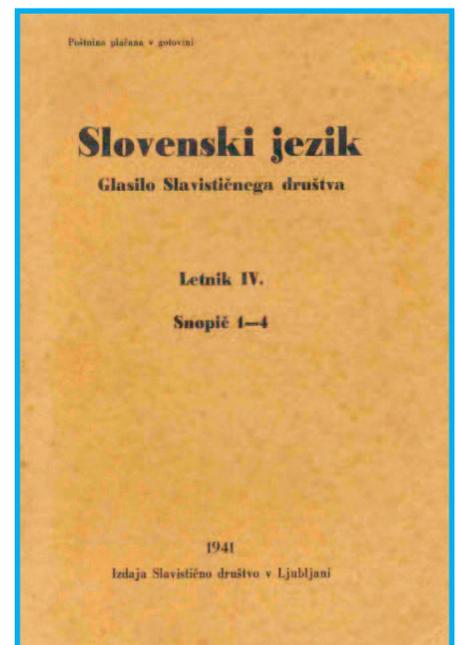
The Government Office for Slovenians Abroad and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sport, in cooperation with The National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, organize a seminar for teachers of the Slovene language and other subjects taught in Slovene in the U.S. and Canada.

This seminar for teachers of the Slovene language and culture will take place from August 1 to 10, 2012. The anticipated number of the seminar participants is 10 to 15 persons.

Candidates have to fill a registration form available here and send it to Urad Vlade RS za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu (address: Komenskega 11, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia). The registration form must be sent also by e-mail to [urad.slovinci\(at\)gov.si](mailto:urad.slovinci(at)gov.si).

Completed registration form should not be scanned. The registration deadline is May 7, 2012.

The candidates who have not yet participated in such seminar will be given priority.



**Photo Exhibition Afghanistan (Un)Ordinary Lives**

The photo exhibition is a collection of Manca Juvan's work on Afghanistan and presents a more nuanced image of the country, one which tells more than just the news coming from reporters. The photos were taken on several trips to Afghanistan between 2003 and 2009.

When: Ongoing - May 2012

Where: Embassy of The Republic of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

**Small and Smart: Contemporary Slovenian Architecture in Film**

In conjunction with The Museum of Architecture and Design (MAO), Ljubljana, Slovenia, and the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, the DAC -- District Architecture Center announces its next event -- Small and Smart; six recent Slovenian architectural projects, each (re) presented by a five-minute film. The Small-and-Smart film series was screened at MAO, Ljubljana, as part of Designing the Republic, a comprehensive exhibition of architecture and design in Slovenia, 1991-2011.

When: Wednesday, April 18, 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Where: DAC – District Architecture Center, 421 7th Street NW, Washington, DC

To register go to: <http://www.cvent.com/d/ccqpv5>

**Concert by Marjan Zgonc and Tomaž Vrhovnik**

A special two-hour performance with a 30-minute intermission. The first hour will be a vocal performance and the second hour will be a musical performance. After the concert, there will be music for dancing. Admission fee is \$10.

When: Friday, April 27, 2012 at 7:00 pm

Where: Slovenian Catholic/Cultural Center, 14252 Main Street, Lemont, IL 60439

More information: [www.slovenian-center.org](http://www.slovenian-center.org)

**FUYO – European Youth Orchestra: 27 countries - 1 language**

Conductor: Vladimir Ashkenazy. Slovenian members of the orchestra: Irena Rovtar (flute), Klemen Glas (French horn), Jože Rošar (French horn).

Where: Washington, DC: Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

When: Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 4:00 pm

When: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 8:00pm

Where: New York, NY: Stern Auditorium, Carnegie Hall

When: Friday, April 20, 2012 at 8:00 pm

Where: Boston, MA: Symphony Hall

When: Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 7:00pm

Where: Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Auditorium

When: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 7:30pm

Where: Evanston, IL: Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University

More information: [www.euyo.org.uk](http://www.euyo.org.uk)

**Lučka Koščak: Angels**

"The sculpture of Lučka Koščak is definitely something special inside the Slovenian Art space (and in general), because we can't define it within the context of either traditional or even less of modernistic or postmodernistic sculpture... The peace that the sculptures express is not meant to be for them, but for us. The calmness that they shine with is not the calmness of timelessness, but the calmness of this very moment that we live in..." (Mojca Grmek, Art Critic)

Where: St. Cyril's Gallery, 62 Saint Mark's Place, New York, NY 10003

When: Wednesday, April 27, 2012 at 7:00 pm

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

When: Saturday, May 12, 2012 at 11:00 am