



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

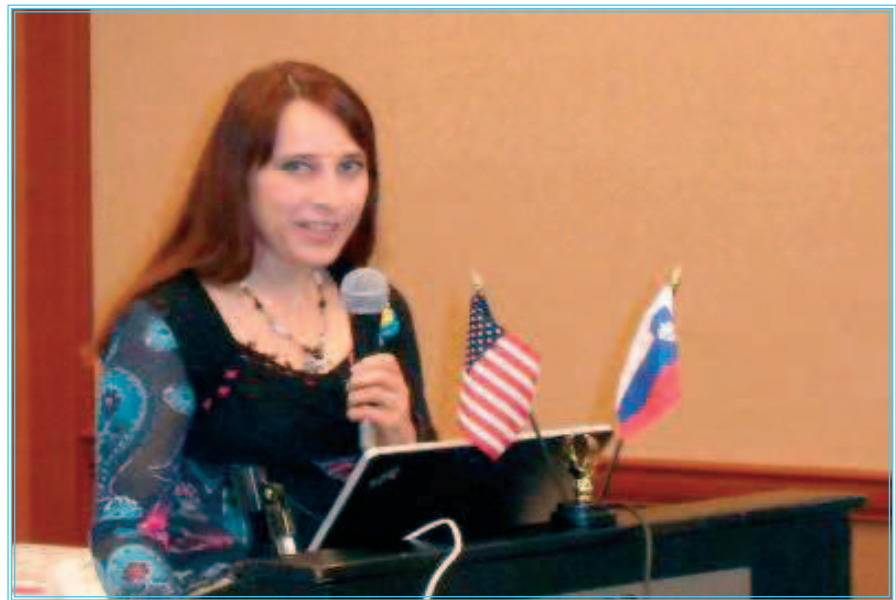
# NEWSLETTER

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## Slovenian Literary Folklore in U.S.

On Tuesday, March 6, 2012, a research fellow at the Institute of Slovenian Ethnography in the Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Dr. Barbara Ivančič Kutin, presented on the premises of Slovenian World Congress in the framework of the series *Večeri izza kongresa (Evenings from beyond the Congress)* her project titled **Collecting Literary Folklore among Slovenian Immigrants in the United States.**

The purpose of her three-week field-work and presentations in three states of the U.S., which took place last year, was to establish contact with Slovenian



Dr. Barbara Ivančič Kutin.

organizations and individuals that would help her collect material for her project and begin her field work as well as to meet with individuals who can tell a characteristic fairy tale, anecdote, saying, etc.

During her stay in Cleveland, Chicago, or Lemont, Joliet, and Milwaukee, she interviewed over 60 people and recorded over 60 hours of raw sound-materials, and collected many folk stories, a fairy tale, jokes, anecdotes, personal

remembrances and life stories.

She presented her research projects and methodology in lectures at the Slovenian Museum and Archives in Cleveland, OH, and the National Convention of the Slovenian Women's Union of America in Milwaukee, WI.

Dr. Ivančič Kutin expects to publish her work in book form in the series *Glasovi (Voices)* (edited by Dr. Marija Stanonik), where thus far 40 books of narrative



folklore from different parts of Slovenian ethnic space have been published. Still missing is precisely the folk-tale tradition of Slovenians worldwide, which Dr. Ivančič Kutin tackled with the presented research project.

Once transcribed and edited, her material will be a useful resource for further folkloristic as well as ethnological, linguistic,

sociolinguistic, sociological, historical, and other research.

At the event, the introductory remarks were given by the chairman of the Slovenian World Congress, Dr. Boris Pleskovič, and the lecturer was introduced by Dr. Marija Stanonik, her research advisor at the Institute of Slovenian Ethnography and long-time collaborator. Dr. Zvone Žigon,

former consul general in Cleveland, OH, now working at the Office for Slovenians Abroad, conveyed to the participants greetings from the Minister for Slovenians Abroad, Ljudmila Novak.

After the Ivančič Kutin's presentation, young folk singers Samo Kutin and Mateja Gorjup performed a few Slovenian folk songs in a duet.

## CULTURE

# Colloquial Slovene

Help is on the way for anyone comfortable with English who wants to learn the Slovenian language. 'Colloquial Slovene', authored by Professor Marta Pirnat-Greenberg, was published by England-based Routledge Revivals and is available on line and at most bookstores.

Professor Pirnat-Greenberg has taught Slavic languages at the University of Kansas since the early 1990s. The publishers asked her to update the Slovenian language textbook for their Colloquial series. She has been working since 2008 on a self-study course that includes a book and two Compact Discs, and is a step-by-step approach to written and spoken Slovene, intended for someone with no previous knowledge of the language.

Whether you are a business traveler or about to take an adventurous holiday, it is possible to get up and running with this rewarding course. Born just north of Ljubljana in Domžale, Professor Pirnat-Greenberg studied Slavic languages at the University of Ljubljana and in Prague where she met her husband, Dr. Marc Greenberg.

As Acting Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the 30,000-student University of Kansas, Dr. Greenberg is a Slavic Dialectologist specializing in the Slovene language. Together, the pair has played a large part in making the Slavic Languages department at KU one of the most prominent in the U.S.

Professor Pirnat-Greenberg wanted to make her course and CD reflect the most commonly spoken Slovenian. "I interviewed 16 native speaking Slovenians living in England", she remembers, "often talking to them in the middle of the night because of the time difference." She wanted the Slovenian spoken in Ljubljana. "For a country of two million, we have many dialects," says the professor. The dialects of the Prekmurje region in the northeast and of northeastern Italy can be," she says, "very hard to understand."

Professor Pirnat-Greenberg wanted her book to reflect everyday life in Slovenia and spent several summers photographing



Marta Pirnat-Greenberg, the author of a new book on learning the Slovenian language.

village life there. Included in the book are her photos from such as A weekend in the mountains to those of the ornate post office of Maribor, so that her students get the true flavor of the country whose language they are about to learn. Book and CD retail for \$72. Book available from [www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com).

# International Women's Day

International Women's Day originated in the early nineteenth century labor movements calling for women's rights and equality, including demands for universal suffrage, the right to hold public office, women's right to work, the right to vocational training, and freedom from job discrimination.

In 1975, the United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day on March 8th. This day was selected in memory of the 1911 fire in a textile factory in New York when women protested against inhumane working conditions and more than 140 women lost their lives.

In some countries International Women's Day, women receive flowers and chocolate. The day serves as a day to reflect on women's economic, political and social achievements and on the changes that are still needed to procure a world in which both women and men can thrive equally.

In Slovenia, the fight for women's equality started in 1897, when a women's newspaper, *Slovenka*, started to be published. As early as the nineteenth century, the women's movement in Slovenia problematized the public status of unmarried mothers and their children, and *Slovenka*, among other feminist newspapers, covered the stories of persecuted unmarried mothers and their children.



During the first half of the 20th century, the women's movement became actively engaged in this issue. A year after the establishment of *Slovenka*, the first women's club, the Female Teachers' Society of Slovenia, was established. Society members and their sympathizers demanded the abolition of unequal treatment and discrimination of women.

Eventually, women in Slovenia were granted the universal right to vote for the first time in 1945.

Another example of greater Slovenian women's empowerment was the creation of the Women's Section of the Slovene Sociological Society which opened up in 1984. Additionally, a group concerned with greater women's political participation, the influential Women for Politics, came into existence in the 1990s. Many groups addressing issues such as domestic violence or sexual

abuse also emerged in the 1990s.

All of these movements and groups led to the establishment of the Bureau of Women's Politics, the first governmental body of its kind in Slovenia. The name was later changed into Office for equal opportunities as it widened its responsibilities.

Slovenia has come a long way in terms of women's rights and equality with legislation in place to protect and promote women's rights and participation in the workplace and political life although some discrimination both in workplace and more so at home, still remains.

While women are underrepresented in government, in the last National Assembly election the share of women Members of Parliament improved significantly, and for the first time in the history of independent Slovenia, women represent almost a third of MPs: i.e. 29 of 90.

## International Women of Courage Awards

On Tuesday, March 6, American Women for International Understanding (AWIU) hosted 5th Annual Celebration dinner at the historic National Press Club in Washington, DC, at which the AWIU presented awards to women who have shown exceptional courage and leadership in advocating human rights. The reception was attended also by the Slovenian Ambassador Roman Kirn.

Since 2007, the U.S. Secretary of State has sponsored the International Women of Courage (IWOC) Awards, held annually in conjunction with International Women's Day. Award winners are nominated by United States embassies around the world and are selected for their work in transforming their societies by their tireless and heroic efforts in challenging circumstances. Secretary of



From right: Ambassador Kirn, Ms. Zin Mar Aung from Burma and Ms. Kirn.

State Hillary Rodham Clinton, on Thursday, March 8, hosted the 2012 International Women of Courage Awards Ceremony, with First Lady Michelle Obama as special guest

The 2012 honorees are:  
The Honorable Maryam Durani,

Kandahar Provincial Council Member (Afghanistan), Major Pricilla de Oliveira Azevedo, police officer, Rio de Janeiro Military Police (Brazil); Zin Mar Aung, political activist and NGO co-founder (Burma); Jineth Bedoya Lima, investigative journalist (Colombia); Hana Elhebshi, architect and political activist (Libya); Aneesa Ahmed, gender-based violence (GBV) activist and former Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs (Maldives); Shad Begum, human rights activist and founder/executive director of Anjuman Behbood-e-Khawateen Talah (the Union of Women's Welfare) (Pakistan); Samar Badawi, political activist (Saudi Arabia); Hawa Abdallah Mohammed Salih, human rights activist (Sudan); and The Honorable Safak Pavey, Member of Parliament (Turkey). For more information about AWIU, please see [www.awiu.org](http://www.awiu.org).



Performance of Women's Orchestra.

## Goodyear Dunlop Sava Tires

Goodyear Dunlop Sava Tires is one of those rare companies that have come out of the global economic crisis with a triumph. A member of the global Goodyear Corporation, which operates 54 factories in 22 countries, has increased both, revenues and profit, while at the same time making significant investments that have further strengthened its brand name and favorable market position.

The company's story of success began in 1998 when one of the world's leading tire manufacturers, Goodyear, and Sava d.d. entered into a joint venture, Sava Tires d.o.o., which on July 1 1998, started its march toward becoming one of the most thriving companies in Slovenia. Since 2004, Sava Tires has been 100 % owned by Goodyear.

The company employs over 1400 people and constantly places among the largest, most successful and most respected Slovenian companies. The factory in Kranj is one of the most complex Goodyear factories in Europe and is



Goodyear Dunlop Sava Team.

focused on manufacturing high-performance and ultra-high-performance tires, while its production line is based on passenger car and truck tires. The brands made in the Slovenian company are Goodyear, Dunlop, Fulda, Sava, and Debica, all highly acclaimed and trusted trademarks.

In 2010, the company increased its production as the number of tires manufactured reached 7.12 million, which was nearly 1.5 million more than the year before. Since 1998, investments worth over €170 million have been made, nearly €11 million of them in 2010, which resulted in enhanced productivity, increased safety at work, improved working conditions, and emphasized environmental awareness. Its commitments to environmental

protection are visible in its economical use of water, energy, and waste, while one of its most important achievements has been the reduction of the usage of solvents to zero.

Goodyear Dunlop Sava Tires is also actively engaged in the local community, initiating ecological campaigns for children such as Pozor(!)ni za okolje, road safety campaigns such as Safety Ambassadors, and supporting local fire departments and ambulances. The company's efforts were recognized in 2011 when it received a special FDI award (Foreign Direct Investor of the Year, organized by The Slovenia Times and JAPT) for long-term commitment. Also, the campaign Pozor(!)ni za okolje received the Prizma award for excellence in corporate communication.



## Public Enterprise Quarterly Journal

The International Center for Promotion of Enterprises welcomes submissions for the 19th volume of the Public Enterprise Quarterly Journal (ISSN 0351-3564).

The mission of the Journal is to promote research and analysis in the field of public/state-owned-enterprise economics and in closely related fields of social sciences by stressing topics like public

enterprise governance, including performance measurement, management and monitoring systems, privatization and restructuring, corporate social responsibility and policy development.

Authors are invited to submit their papers for the next thematic issue of the Journal, which will cover the following subjects: Public/state-owned enterprises efficiency,

The role public/state-owned enterprises play in development, Internationalization process, Crisis management.

Papers should be submitted in Word (.doc) format at [suzana.saptefrati@icpe.si](mailto:suzana.saptefrati@icpe.si). Papers must not have been submitted to or accepted for publication by any other journal. More information is available at <http://www.icpe.si/>. The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2012.

## EDUCATION

### Slovene Courses

The Center for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language offers a good range of Slovene language courses, which vary in length and intensity and run throughout the year. The Center offers various ways of learning Slovene in a stimulative environment, with experienced teachers and using high-quality materials. It has 30 years of experience in the organizing of courses, and thousands of satisfied participants.

The courses are intended for all levels (beginning, intermediate, and advanced) and are carried out in small groups with between 8 to 12 participants. More information: [www.centerslo.net](http://www.centerslo.net).

#### Courses in 2012

- Intensive Course: June 4–8, 2012, Monday–Friday, 5.00–8.30 pm, 20 hours



- Summer School: July 2–27, 2012 (2–13 July 2012, and 16–27 July 2012), Monday–Friday, 9.00 am–12.30 pm, 40–80 hours

- Let's Taste Slovene: September 6–November 8, 2012, Thursday, 6.00–8.30 pm, 30 hours

- Intensive Course: September 17–21, 2012, Monday–Friday, 5.00–8.30 pm, 20 hours

- Autumn School: October 1, 2012–January 17, 2013, Monday–Friday, 9.00 am–12.30 pm, 220 hours

- Afternoon Course: October 1, 2012–January 17, 2013, Monday and Thursday, 6.00 pm–8.30 pm, 80 hours

- Morning Course: October 2, 2012–January 17, 2013, Tuesday and Thursday, 10.00 am–12.30 pm, 80 hours

- Intensive Morning Course: November 12–23, 2012, Monday–Friday, 9.00 am–12.30 pm, 40 hours

## Gregorjevo - St. Gregory's Day

St. Gregory's Day, March 12, is the Slovene version of February 14 Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day as we know it today is a very recent holiday in Slovenia, but our country has known St. Valentine for a long time, only not in relation to romance. According to tradition, St. Valentine comes on February 14 to bring the keys to all the roots (traditional saying: Sveti Valentin ima ključ od korenin), meaning that nature begins to awaken. In some parts of Slovenia, people even begin to work in the fields on St. Valentine's Day.

St. Gregory's Day, however, is the day when the birds mate and "marry" as we say (traditional saying: Na gregorjevo se ptički ženijo). Spring is here and love is in the air. Up until World War II, people would dress as brides, grooms and wedding guests on this particular day and go from house to house, collecting gifts.



This day has not been only about love, however. By this time, days had become longer, and shoemakers and tailors, whose work depended on light and had to light candles when darkness fell, could now work by light of day. They no longer needed the light of candles, so there arose the tradition of people putting "light" onto water. They made Chinese lantern-like lights and put them in water streams - brooks and rivers – and watching them float away.

When World War II broke out, the tradition was forgotten, but it's starting to come to life again in some parts of the country.

The iron-forging villages of Kropa and Kamna Gorica have preserved the following age-old iron-forging custom. On St. Gregory's day's eve, the iron-foundry pool in the village of Kropa and the Lipnica creek in the village of Kamna Gorica are illuminated with candles affixed to the floating art creations of local children. In the last decade, this custom has moved to urban and suburban environment, to Mengeš and Ljubljana. On the evening before St. Gregory's Day, mostly children gather along the Gradaščica creek in Trnovo, a neighborhood in Ljubljana, to launch various kinds of boats made of paper or wood into which lit candles are placed. These floating lights are called "Gregorčke" or "little arks of St. Gregory". To enhance the fairytale atmosphere still further, numerous torches and bonfires are lit on the banks of the Gradaščica.



People on the banks of Gradaščica celebrating gregorjevo.

## Petrik Law Firm

Petrik Law Firm is a has been admitted to the NY Slovenian-American law office State Bar as an Attorney and based in New York City. The firm holds a Master of Laws degree in specializes in obtaining work-related and family-based visas and green cards, and in providing legal advice to small businesses. Petrik Law also understands the need of established Slovenian companies to receive extensive legal advice. For that purpose, Petrik Law cooperates with large and midsize law firms to assure full coverage of business legal issues.

The owner is Tanja Makovec-Petrik, a lawyer educated in both Slovenian and American legal systems. She



Tanja Makovec Petrik.

## CONSULAR AFFAIRS

### Legislative Referendum on Family Law

The National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia has called for a legislative referendum on Family Law, which will take place on March 25, 2012.

The referendum will take place at the representations of Slovenia in Cleveland, New York City and Washington D.C., from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm local time. Until March 9, 2012, voters will be able to check their information (name, address) in the electoral roll and, in case of incorrect data, request a correction. Voters intending to vote at the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington may call the consular office at (202) 386-6613 or (202) 386-6614

(Monday-Friday, 9 am-12 noon ) to check their information.

Slovenian citizens with registered permanent residence in the United States can vote in person at the above listed representations or by mail by registering with the National Voting Commission by March 10, 2012 (unlike in the case of elections, no referendum material will be sent automatically by mail).

Slovenian citizens with registered permanent residence in Slovenia and visiting or temporarily residing in the United States can vote in person at the listed representations or by mail. In either case, voters have to register with the National Voting Commission by March 10, 2012.

In order to register, a completed and signed registration form, which can be found at [www.dvk.gov.si](http://www.dvk.gov.si), must be sent directly to the National Voting Commission. All registration forms must be received by March 10, 2012, and can be sent by mail to Državna volilna komisija, Slovenska cesta 54, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia, by fax to (011) (3861) 433-1269, or by e-mail to [gp.dvk@dvk-rs.si](mailto:gp.dvk@dvk-rs.si) (due to the signature requirement, only scanned documents may be e-mailed).

More information can be found at the National Voting Commission's web page [www.dvk.gov.si](http://www.dvk.gov.si)



**Slovenian Sports Club Family Rollerskating Party**

Adults and kids of all ages welcome! Cost: \$6/person – includes rental of roller, in-line , or speed skates.  
 When: Sunday, March 11, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm  
 Where: Lombard Roller Rink, 201 W. 22nd St., Lombard, IL 60148 Note that the roller rink is not located on Butterfield Rd. It is on 22nd St., which is approximately 1 mile north of Butterfield Rd.  
 More information: [www.slovenian-center.org](http://www.slovenian-center.org), Lombard Roller Rink Phone: (630) 953-2400; RSVP to Jeanie Gregorich: [tfgregorich@yahoo.com](mailto:tfgregorich@yahoo.com) or 630-967-8508.

**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 - April 2012  
 Where: Embassy of The Republic of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

**Memories of A City: Miha Štrukelj**

For his first solo exhibit at the gallery, Slovene artist Miha Štrukelj will create an installation of murals and small drawings on panels throughout the gallery to address the limitations and confines of the gallery space.  
 When: Ongoing – March 11, 2011  
 Where: 139 Eldridge Street, New York, NY 10002  
 More information: (212) 255-9707, email: [info@lmakprojects.com](mailto:info@lmakprojects.com), web: [www.lmakprojects.com](http://www.lmakprojects.com), [www.miha-strukelj.com](http://www.miha-strukelj.com)

**All-Star Accordions exhibition**

For the first time, the accordions of legendary polka bandleaders are brought together on display. The exhibition celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show with award-winning musicians performing in person.  
 When: Opening Wednesday, March 21, 2012. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. Admission free.  
 Where: National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum  
 More information: call (216) 261-FAME, toll-free (866) 66-POLKA, or check [www.polkafame.com](http://www.polkafame.com).

**Wine Tour of leading Slovenian wineries**

A tour is scheduled just after Vievinum, an international wine festival in Vienna. The program is being offered by Unique Slovenia in partnership with former Honorary Consul General of Slovenia Mark Ryavec.  
 When: June 5-9, 2012  
 More information: <http://www.unique-slovenia.si/si/novice/101/22/vec/slovenia-wine-tour/>

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

Conductor: Vladimir Ashkenazy. Slovenian members of the orchestra: Irena Rovtar (flute), Klemen Glas (French horn), Jože Rošer (French horn).  
 When: Friday, April 13, 2012 at 8.00 pm  
 Where: Chapel Hill, NC: Memorial Hall, University of North Carolina  
 When: Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 4.00 pm  
 Where: Washington, DC: Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
 More information: [www.euyo.org.uk](http://www.euyo.org.uk)