

St. Vitus Church
6019 Lausche Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44103
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BENEFIT DINNER AT ST.VITUS. PALM SUNDAY. APRIL 5, 2009



St. Vitus Parish, established in August 1893 as the first American Slovenian Roman Catholic parish in the state of Ohio and Diocese of Cleveland, will have a benefit dinner on Palm Sunday APRIL 5, 2009 at St. Vitus Auditorium, 6111 Lausche Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103. The dinner will consist of chicken or breaded boneless pork chops. Cost will be \$12 adult and \$6 for child 12 years or younger.

Parish or affiliated organizations of St. Vitus Altar Society, St Vitus Holy Name Society and St. Vitus KSKJ Lodge #25 along with families involved in the "Mihevc Grant" scholarship program are co-sponsoring this dinner. Menu includes choice of chicken or breaded boneless pork chops, home-made soup, mashed potatoes, vegetable, salad, bread, choice of desert, and coffee or milk. Dinners will be served continuously from 11:00AM until 1:30PM. Sit-down and take-out dinners will be available. Take-out dinners will be available in the auditorium social room.

The American Slovenian Catholic Union (KSKJ) via its "Matching Grant Funds Program" will provide a matching grant from this event is to support the Slovenian Museum and Archives (SMA), Cleveland, Ohio. The SMA is a non-profit (501c3) organization whose mission is to preserve and share Slovenian ethnic identity and its various migration experiences in a sophisticated, multi-functional and interactive dwelling. The general public is invited to attend this benefit dinner on April 5, 2009. Mass schedule is 9:00AM and 10:30AM. The traditional Slovenian "butare" (decorative and ornamental bundles of branches, greenery, etc symbolizing Palm Sunday and the beginning of spring) and Slovenian national attire will be part of the 10:30AM Mass. For ticket or other additional information contact the parish house at (216) 361-1444 or in the evening call Joe Hocevar at (216) 881-9586. Tickets will also be available at the door on April 5, 2009.

Spomladsko dobrodelnjo Kosilo pri fare sv. Vida na 5. aprila 2009

Zdruzena drustva fare sv. Vida, Drustvo Najsvetejsega Imena, Oltarno drustvo, in KSKJ drustvo st 25, bodo na Cvetno nedeljo, 5. aprila 2009, pripravila skupno kosilo v solski dvorani od 11:00 dop., do 1:30 popoldne. Postregli bodo ocvrto svinjsko ali pisko pecenko. Dar je \$12 za odrasle in \$6 za otroke. Nakaznice dobite v predprodaji v farni pisarni (tel st 216-361-1444) ali clanih teh treh organizacij (poklicite tel. st 216-881-9586 Joe-a Hocevra-a), da se poslužijo te prilike. V Druzabni sobi bo tudi na razpolago kosilo, ki ga boste lahko vzeli domov.

Vsakdo, prosimo, naj pride in podpre to skupno prizadevanje! Prisrcno ste vabljeni, da pridite to kosilo 5. aprila 2009. Ta kosilo je tudi <<KSKJ Matching Grant>> in <<grant>> od KSKJ bo za podprati novi slovenski muzej in arhiva v Cleveland -u, Ohio-u. Slovenski muzej in arhiv (SMA) je nepridobitna ustanova, katere namen je na razlicne nacine in v mnogih oblikah ohranjati kulturno dediscino in s tem narodno zavest Slovencev v Ameriki in Clevelandu.

CityMusic Cleveland Concert May 6, 2009 in St. Vitus Church

St. Vitus Parish is pleased to announce again that CityMusic Cleveland (CMC), a professional chamber orchestra established in 2004 in northeast Ohio and consisting of its "Heaven and Earth: Music of Franz Schubert and Charles Ives" concert on May 6, 2009 at 7:00PM in St. Vitus Church. James Gaffigan is the music director of CMC. In addition, "Quire Cleveland" will provide the vocal accompaniment. Quire Cleveland was founded in 2008 as a professional choral ensemble with emphasis on performing choral masterpieces of the late Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque eras, and beyond and is under the direction of conductor-scholar Peter Bennett.

Schubert's "Little Stabat Mater in G Minor" and "Mass No. 2 in G Major" will be performed as well as Ives' Symphony No. 3 (Camp Meeting) and Washington's Birthday. There is no admission charge for the concert but good-will offerings are welcomed. Secured parking will be provided.

James Gaffigan was appointed Music Director of CityMusic Cleveland at the beginning of the 2005-06 season and in 2006 was also named the Associate Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony. His undergraduate studies were completed at the New England Conservatory while his Master's Degree in Conducting is from Rice University (TX).

A social and fellowship will follow the concert in the parish auditorium with light food and refreshments. CityMusic Cleveland performed in St Vitus Church in 2007 and 2008 with support from a number of local grants. The general public is invited to this unique concert and cultural event. For additional information contact the parish house at (216) 361-1444.

Koncert CityMusic Cleveland pri fara Sv. Vidu na 6. maja 2009

Poklicni komorni orkester <<CityMusic Cleveland,>> ustanovljen leat 2004, bo na 6. maja 2009 ob 7. uri zvecer priredil svoj letnji koncert pri cerkve Sv. Vida v Cleveland -u, Ohio-u.

Nam tem koncertu bodo izvajali glasbo Schubert-a (Stabat Mater v G min. in tudi Masa v G maj.) in Charles-a Ives-a (Symphony st. 3 in Praznik Washington). Vsi glasbeniki so poklicni umetniki, ki igrajo in ucijo v tem delu Ohio . Njih namen je ponuditi in vzbuditi cut za klasicno glasbo med sirsim občinstvom brez visoke vstopnine. Vstopnine za koncert na 6. maja ne bo, dobrodoslii pa bodo prostovoljni prispevki.

Dirigent tega komornega orkestra je James Gaffigan, ki je bil na ta mesto imenovan leta 2005 in je bil postal izreden dirigent San Francisco Symphany. Mesani pevski zbor <<Quire,>> ustanovljen leta 2008, bo predvajali Schubert-a "Stabat Mater v G min.>> in "Masa v G maj.>> s komorni orkester CityMusic Cleveland. Dirigent pevski zbor je Peter Bennett.

Po koncertu bodo gostom postregli z prigizkom v farni dvorani. Za vec informaciji poklicite na tel. st (216) 361-1444. Vsi lepo vabljeni!

Novice 25. februarja 2009

S. Kuhar, 6019 Lausche Avenue , Clev. , Ohio 44103

Letters

Rich

I read the article about your efforts to preserve Slovenian and Slovenian-American music in the Cleveland Slovenian newsletter.

I'm not in Cleveland, or even from Cleveland, but Phil Hrvatin keeps me informed.

I'm from Joliet, Illinois, where my grandfather, Joe Perush, led a polka band at our family's tavern.

I have collected old 78s from friends and family members and had them dubbed onto CD. I'll be happy to send you copies. Should I send them to your address in Frederick, at the end of the article?

(As coincidence would have it, I also live in Maryland, in Arnold, north of Annapolis. Up until a year ago I was in your part of the state, Germantown.)

This is a great thing you are doing. Have you considered donating CDs to the Library of Congress or the Smithsonian?

Best of luck with the project.

Jim Berard
410-757-5536 (home)
202-226-5064 (office)
jberard@aol.com

* * *

Dear Sirs,

I am looking for Mrs. Karolia Moze, who moved to Cleveland from Slovenia many years ago. I will be very thankful if you can forward any information about her or her family.

Thank you very much. Greetings from Slovenia

Manca Juvan
juvan.manca@gmail.com

News from the Slovenian Hall in San Francisco

Hi Phil,

Our Pust celebration on February 21, 2009 was a big success. We had about 160-seated guests. Dinner featured antipasto, salad, zolce, blood sausage, pork roast, beans, sauerkraut, potatoes, wine, dessert, coffee.

Dinner was followed by dancing to the Joe Bajuk group.

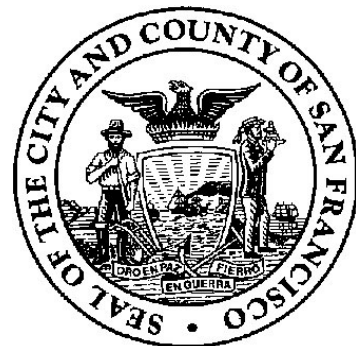
I was so busy in the kitchen that I really didn't have much time to circulate and take pictures. I've attached what I do have.

- Picture of Robin Talmadge - head cook.
- Picture of Phyllis Wood, Chairman, SNPJ Supervisory Comm.; Nino Dodic, Pres. of SNPJ SF Lodge 304; Eric Wood, Pres. Fontana Lodge 723; Audrey Dodic, Auditor, Lodge 304.
- Picture of sausages drying on tables



Hope this OK.

Diane
dbrahney@comcast.net



The City Exposed: MIKE KEPKA

*Mike Kepka / San Francisco Chronicle & SF Gate
March 1, 2009*

Slovenian Mardi Gras. A recent Thursday, 12:32 p.m.: Without concern for their slimy hands and soiled aprons, they give each other a quick glance. After spending hours tying 680 pounds of blood sausage into foot-long links, Franci Pecavar and Chris Shobar have a renewed appreciation for their heritage. Once a year, the now-scattered Slovenes who used to thrive in Potrero Hill come home to the Slovenian Hall. They come together to make blood sausages for one last fat-filled feast before the Lenten fast. In New Orleans, they call it Mardi Gras. In Slovenia, the celebration is called Pust. They wake up early, cook, drink homemade wine and make a bloody mess, but it seems the most important part of tradition is coming together.



Mike Kepka / The Chronicle

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/object/article?f=/c/a/2009/03/01/LV4O164HJ8.DTL&o=0>



"Rooster's Breakfast" at Gene Siskel Film Center

The Slovenian Consulate General invites you to visit European Union Film Festival, which will be held at Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago.

This year, Slovenia will be represented by film Rooster's Breakfast - Petelinji zajtrk by Marko Naberšnik.

The first screening will be on Sunday, March 8th, at 3 p.m., with Consul General dr. Zvone Žigon introducing the film, and Slovenian wine served after the showing.

The second screening is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, at 8. pm.

And a little detail: players use mostly Prekmurje dialect !

"Petelinji zajtrk" v Gene Siskel Film Centru

Slovenski generalni konzulat vabi vse rojake na Filmski festival Evropske unije, ki bo tudi letos v Gene Siskel Film Centru v Chicagu.

Letos bo Slovenijo predstavljal film Petelinji zajtrk v režiji Marka Naberšnika.

Film bo prvič prikazan v nedeljo, 8. marca, ob 3. uri popoldan. Obcinstvo bo pred filmom pozdravil Generalni konzul dr. Zvone Žigon, po filmu pa boste lahko poskusili slovensko vino.

Drugi termin filma je četrtek, 12. marec, ob 8. uri zvečer.

Pa še podrobnost: igralci v večini govorijo v prekmurščini !

Dr. Zvone Žigon

Consul General Republic of Slovenia



What in the world are you eating?

Finding slivovka in someone else's food history

25 February 2009 | 11:32 - By Phil Lees

I moved house last week and I'm beginning to reconstruct the food history of its owner through the fragments that he left behind. It's my own pathology rather than him abandoning anything edible.

The previous owner built the house when he was young in the early 1940s and lived in it until his death. From the name on the title, he was from the Balkans which is about as much as I want to establish about him concretely without crossing the line into stalking and a relative taking out a restraining order. But for some reason, I can't stay away from establishing how he ate. Maybe it has something to do with the French gastronome Brillat-Savarin's aphorism about [being what you eat](#).

Maybe it is a remnant of my obsessive childhood interest in unearthing dinosaurs.

The kitchen had barely been used; I doubt that the oven had even been opened in years. It is the first time that I have ever seen a build up of dust on the inside of an installed oven. It was bought in the late 1960s but there is no patina of black filth; the rotisserie attachment within has never pierced flesh and looks as it did the day that it came home from the showroom. Parts of the previous oven from the early 1940s, a megalith in enamel-coated cast iron, were dismantled and buried in the back yard. There are parts missing. I tried to rebuild it as an archeological exhibit and failed.



Along with the iron oven, in the backyard he left behind a whole orchard: two healthy apricots, a struggling disfigured lemon, a fig, tamarillo, nectarine and 12 plum trees. What does somebody do with a vast quantity of plums, all coming into season in a single hit?

A single bottle of homemade plum brandy was secreted under the bench in the mouldering garage and tucked away in the corner of the only internal cupboard inside the house were two mini bar-sized bottles of the Slovenian plum brandy, slivovka. One has a crane in flight on the bottle and no other hints to its origin; the other emblazoned with the logo of Turististično Društvo Dimnice Slivje. From what I can gather from Google Translate, the label on the second refers to the [tourist society for the smoking cave in the village of Slivje, Slovenia](#). I can only surmise that the plums on the bottle refer to plum brandy and the town's logo.

Slivovka is made by crushing and fermenting plums and some of their kernels in a vessel for a few months. Some recipes specify the use of whole plums, others recommend pitting and crushing the fruit to a pulp. The resulting purple alcoholic mash is then distilled and clarified, the eventual liquor coming out at a hefty 50% alcohol. An identical plum brandy is made across Central and Eastern Europe. It does not taste much like plums but does give the sensation of being set alight from the inside.

Home distillation of alcohol in Australia is illegal without an excise license. You can own a still with a capacity of up to five litres, use it to purify water or make essential oils and do anything but make tasty slivovka with it. As soon as you make booze, [you must procure a license and owe the Australian Government 65 dollars per litre of pure alcohol](#). I'd love to know how this is policed by the Tax Office.

So I've moved into the house of an expatriate Slovenian bootlegger. He didn't eat much but drank well.

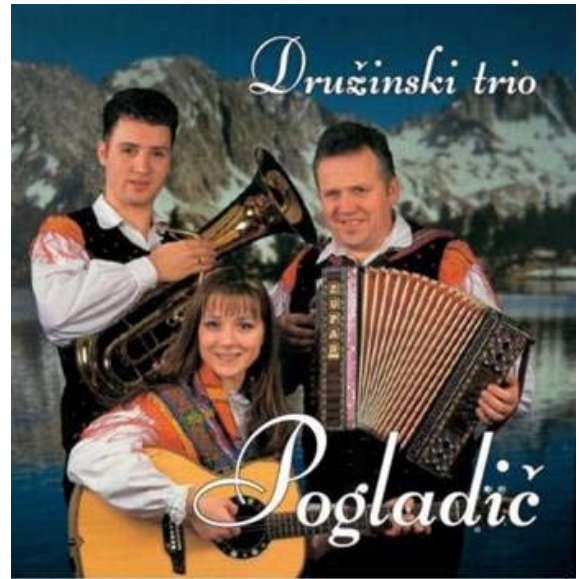
Source: <http://www.sbs.com.au/blogarticle/109169/Finding-slivovka-in-someone-else-s-food-history/blog/Mouthful>

A letter from the Pogladic Family Trio from Slovenia:

First, please accept our warm greetings.

I learned of your organization thought the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont, IL, where we performed three years ago on New Year's Eve. I have also visited your web site. A little over a year ago, we met Milan Ribic and I hope that he remembers us. At this time, we would like to introduce our family band to you.

We are a family musical ensemble from Vojnik near Celje. Our group consists of my father, Frank (diatonic accordion), my sister Mojca (guitar, vocals) and myself, Milan (bass, guitar, clarinet, keyboards, and baritone vocals). We all sing. This year our group welcomed another member, Dani, who is replacing Mojca at the moment, as she is on maternity leave. Due to his great vocals and playing, Dani will be staying on with our group. We play national-pop (polka) and pop music, sing traditional folk songs and offer humor in our performances. We have recorded and put out five independent projects which are well known among the Slovenian public. During our 15 year activity, we have played abroad in Austria, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and the United States. We have been to the US three times, and performed at the Slovenian Parish in Fairfield, CT, and at the Slovenian Cultural Center in Lemont. Recently, we returned from our third tour of Australia where we played around Sydney in December. We have a lot of experience performing abroad and we always received great reviews.



More information about our band can found on our web site: www.trio-pogladic.com or on www.youtube.com (trio Pogladic).

I would imagine that you receive many offers from performers who would like to play for the Cleveland Slovenian audience. In the event that you may have some musical or cultural festival or any other performance opportunity this year, I can guarantee good music and a great show by our group.

In hopes of future cooperation and friendship, best regards,

Milan Pogladic
Vojnik
February 23, 2009

Pozdravljeni, Slovenski rojaki !

Najprej prejmite prav priscrne pozdrave od ansambla družinski trio Pogladić iz Slovenije.

Za vaso uspesno organizacijo in aktivni klub sem izvedel od rojakov v Slovenskem kulturnem centru Lemont-Chicago, kjer smo pred 3.leti igrali pri njih na Silvestrovanju, ogledal pa sem si tudi vaso internetno stran. Pred dobrim letom dni smo se spoznali osebno tudi z g. Milanom Ribic in upam, da se me spominja. Sedaj pa bi se vam na kratko predstavili, da nas bolje spoznate.

Smo družinski ansambel, ki prihajamo iz Vojnika pri Celju. V ansamblu igramo oca Franc na diatonicno harmoniko, sin Milan,

(bariton, bas - kitara, klarinet, klaviature) ter hčerka Mojca, ki veselo igra na kitaro, vsi trije tudi pojemo. To leto smo pridobili še enega člana Danija, ki trenutno nadomesca nasa Mojco zaradi porodniškega dopusta, bo pa zaradi dobrega vokala in igranja ostal v nasi zasedbi. Igramo narodno-zabavno in zabavno glasbo, zapojemo stare ljudske pesmi in poskrbimo za humor, dokaz zato, da smo za več mesecev naprej zasedeni je resnost in kvaliteta. Posneli in izdali smo tudi 5. lastnih projektov, ki so dobro poznani v slovenskih medijih in med publiko. Poleg igranja v nasi domovini, smo v nasem 15 letnem aktivnem delu preigrali že veliko po tujini (Avstrija, Nemcija, Nizozemska, Švedska, 3 x USA-CT (Slovenska cerkev Fairfield), USA-IL (Slovenski kulturni center Lemont)). Pred kratkim smo se tudi vrnili iz nase tretje turneje v Avstraliji, kjer smo pod okriljem Slovenskega društva Sydney nastopali na več mestih v decembru 2008. Imamo že res dosti izkusenj z igranji v tujini in vsepovsod so bili odzivi zelo odmevni in dobri.

Več o nasem ansamblu (turneje, video, slike,...) si lahko ogledate na nasi spletni strani www.trio-pogladic.com ali na www.youtube.com (trio Pogladić).

Verjamem, da imate dosti ponudb ostalih glasbenih skupin, zato vam lahko kljub temu zagotavljam dobro glasbo in dober nastop nasega ansambla v slucaju, ce boste potrebovali glasbo za kakšen nastop oz. festival v letosnjem letu. Seveda se vam zato prav lepo tudi priporocamo.

V upanju na sodelovanju z Vami, vas vse prav lepo pozdravljam !



Milan Pogladić
V Vojniku, 23.2.09
Nasvidenje !

March 1, 2009 11:00 am
EVA PETRIČ: THIS BOX IS A SPACE

A year and a half after exhibiting her photography work in the Hall of St. Cyril, Eva Petrič returns to NYC to present her work again, this time as a performance artist as well as a poet and a writer.

Last year her first book of poetry *This Space is a Box* was published by the Drava in Austria and this year her first novel *They All Ate Sushi* was published by Didakta in Slovenia, in Slovene and English. Eva Petrič will present both works in the form of a multilingual performance. All are cordially invited to meet this young artist who spent her formative high-school years in New York City. Admission is free.

The Church of St. Cyril
62 St. Mark's Place (E 8th St.)
New York, NY 10003



March 5 - 7, 2009
NEW BALKAN FILM

"This multidisciplinary conference considers contemporary Balkan film made after [the tumultuous final decade of the 20th century]. For while events in the region may have calmed, directors from the region continue to leave their mark. The conference features six films released within the last five years, to be screened in the presence of, and in conversation with, their directors. It also brings together scholars from Columbia University with an international group of critics drawn from the disciplines of film studies, literary, cultural and gender studies, sociology, and art history. Together, they will discuss new trends, transformations, and concerns of a new generation of Balkan filmmakers." (Columbia University Press Release)

The following Slovene events will be a part of the conference. For more information on conference programming please go to www.harrimaninstitute.org

March 6, 9:30 am – 11: 15 am

Panel: Urban Spaces and "Planet Yugoslavia," chaired by Andrey Shcherbenok, Columbia University and Mitja Velikonja, University of Ljubljana.

Room 569, Alfred Lerner Hall
2920 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

March 6, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Screening of *Estrellita* (2007), with a talk by the director Metod Pevec.

Altschul Auditorium

March 7, 10:00 am – 11:45 pm

Panel: Projecting Politics, with a talk by Svetlana Slapšak (Institutum Studiorum Humanitatis, Ljubljana and

Editor-in Chief, ProFemina) titled, "Balkan films in Balkan Cultures: Projecting Gender on the Screen of Patriarchy."

[Altschul Auditorium](#)

March 7, 6:00 pm

Discussion with the directors featured in the conference: Ognjen Sviličić, Metod Pevec, Aida Begić, Srdan Golubović, Thanos Anastopoulos, chaired Richard Pena, Columbia University.

[Altschul Auditorium \(Room 417\)](#)

[International Affairs Building.](#)

[420 W 118th St](#)

[New York, NY 10027](#)

March 5th - March 8th, 2009

MIHA ŠTRUKELJ AT VOLTA NY

Slovene artist Miha Štrukelj will exhibit at Volta NY, one of the world's leading art fairs for contemporary new art. "Štrukelj is a visual artist working primarily in painting and also focusing on drawing and site-specific work for the last two years. He examines the process and the boundaries of painting and explores urban environments and their perception. He has recently received three awards – the Pollock-Krasner Grant 2008, the Henkel Drawing Award 2008 and the working scholarship of the Slovenian Ministry of Culture... He is currently artist-in-residence at ISCP in New York." (ny.voltashow.com)

[Volta NY](#)

[7 West 34th Street](#)

[New York, NY 10001](#)

[web: ny.voltashow.com](http://web:ny.voltashow.com)

www.miha-strukelj.com

March 15, 2009 11:00 am

SLOVENE CULTURAL HOUR: SLOVENE MUSIC IN AMERICA

Author, film writer, and Slovene scholar Joseph Valenčič will speak on the historical and contemporary Slovene music and musicians in the United States.

[The Church of St. Cyril](#)

[62 St. Mark's Place \(E 8th St.\)](#)

[New York, NY 10003](#)

March 28, 2009 10:00 am

STRUDEL MAKING DEMONSTRATION

The Slovenian Women's Union of America, Branch 93-NYC will present a demonstration of traditional strudel making. Light refreshments will be served. To attend, please RSVP by Friday, March 27th to 201-947-6336 or e-mail izalokar@yahoo.com.

[The Church of St. Cyril](#)

[62 St. Mark's Place \(E 8th St.\)](#)

[New York, NY 10003](#)

[web: www.swuanyc.org](http://web:www.swuanyc.org)

Application Deadline:

April 30, 2009

OPEN CALL: SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia announces a limited number of scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year (10-1-2009 to 9-30-2010). The scholarships are open to foreign students who wish to come to Slovenia as a visiting student for up to 10 months (depending on quota and selection). The main purpose of the scholarships are to support foreign students who wish to undertake a part of their postgraduate study on an individual basis under the supervision of a Slovene professor.

Priority will be given to the citizens of countries with bilateral agreements or if the direct exchange of government scholarships exists on a reciprocal basis. The duration of the stay period can range from three months to ten months. Scholarships can be awarded for any field of study offered by Slovene institutions of higher education.

For more information, please contact the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Technology at scholarships@cmepius.si or go to www.cmepius.si

June 29 - July 24, 2008

Application deadline: May 31, 2009

CENTRE FOR SLOVENE AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: SUMMER SESSION

The Centre for Slovene as a Second Language offers two and four week courses at three levels: beginning, intermediate, and advanced. Courses run in the morning with elective languages courses offered in the afternoon.

Summer School activities also include a varied social program, where students can become acquainted with Slovene culture, history and contemporary reality while at the same time coming into close contact with the Slovene language and its speakers in its natural linguistic environment outside the classroom.

University of Ljubljana
Faculty of Arts
Centre for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language
Courses of Slovene
Kongresni trg 12
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Tel.: + 386 (0)1 241 86 48

For more information go to www.centerslo.net or e-mail center-slo@ff.uni-lj.si.

Editor's Note: To inquire about being listed in Kažipot, please contact the Consulate General of Slovenia in New York at (212) 370-3006 or clara.drew@gov.si

Back issues of Kažipot are available on the Consulate General's website at <http://newyork.consulate.si>.



Events

Exhibition of photographs by Slovenian Consul General in Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Zvone Žigon. Embassy of Slovenia.



Perfect, by dr. Zvone Žigon

March 1 - This Box is a Space, Eva Petrič, 11:00 a.m., The Church of St. Cyril, 62 St. Mark's Place, New York, NY 10003.

March 4 - Small Nations Poetry Reading. Grosvenor Auditorium at National Geographic, Washington, DC, at 7:00 p.m.

March 6 - La Grande Fete de la Francophonie.



Showcase of 35 countries' (including Slovenia's) arts and crafts, food specialties, and cultural traditions of the francophone world. Music guest the famous Haitian group Tabou Combo. **La Maison Française, 4101 Reservoir Road, NW – Washington, DC 20007.**

Lakeland Community College Representing Slovenia

Washington, DC, February 19 – 22, The 24th National Model NATO conference took place at Howard University in

operations, especially in Afghanistan and Kosovo, NATO enlargement, and relations between NATO and Russia. They also learned about other aspects of Slovenia's foreign policy.



Political Counselor Mr. Andrej Medica (third from left) with students from Ohio

Washington, DC. Delegations from more than twenty colleges and universities across the United States participated at the competition, each representing one NATO member state. Delegations simulated NATO proceedings, especially in the North Atlantic Council, Political Affairs Committee, Defense Planning Committee, Nuclear Planning Group, and others.

The Embassy would like to congratulate the delegation of Lakeland Community College for receiving two awards at the competition: "Best Delegation in the Committee" for their participation in the Nuclear Planning Group, and "Honorable Mention – Best Overall Delegation" for their portrayal of Slovenia across all committees and councils.

This year, Slovenia was represented by a delegation of the Lakeland Community College from Kirtland, Ohio. A group of students, headed by Dr. Jennifer Forster, visited Slovenian Embassy prior to the competition to discuss Slovenia's positions on different topics, such as NATO

NCIV makes a Traditional Visit to Slovenian Embassy

[National Council of International Visitors](#), a non-profit organization founded in 1961, with members in 91 cities across the United States, hosted an annual meeting in February 2009 in Washington.

For the past eight years, many foreign distinguished countrymen have visited the United States as guests of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitors Program (IVLP). Among them have been some distinguished Slovenians.



This program is arranged by members on the NCIV, some 80,000 volunteers, citizen diplomats, who generously host the international visitors.

As part of their annual meeting, NCIV organizes yearly visits to foreign representations. Slovenian Embassy has traditionally hosted a reception for the NCIV members, who have express interest in the country. This year, Slovenian Embassy had a pleasure of hosting NCIV, continuing with the tradition of this strong and lasting relationship, acknowledging importance and privilege of this international cooperation.

**Interview Series:
Mr. Joseph Ronald
Zlatoper - Zap
Honorary Consul**

Excerpt of the interview **I am proud on Slovenia and my roots!** by Brane Šalamon, *Nedeljski dnevnik, February 22, 2009.*

Zap, as his friends call him, is a retired United States Navy four star admiral who served as Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT) from 1994 to 1996. He is, beside Ferdinand

J. Chesarek's title Army General, the highest ranking living officer with Slovenian roots in the US military. Mr. Zlatoper has been proudly serving as Honorary Consul of Slovenia in Hawaii since 2003. He is married to Barry Lane Oliver and has two sons, Ashley D. and Michael J.



*Joseph R. Zlatoper, retired
Commander in Chief of the U.S.
Pacific Fleet*

How much do you know about your ancestors from Slovenia?

My parents were born in US, but their parents were born in Slovenia. My parents taught me a lot about ancestors in Slovenia. My cousin also traveled to Slovenia with a purpose to find our ancestors, but what I remember mostly are our encounters in my childhood. On Sundays our parents and grandparents would sat down at a table and bring back the memories, discussing about their "former country" Slovenia. My grandfather Joseph Bajda and my grandmother Katherin Zlatoper could tell a lot about how it used to be. In my youth I also found out more about my ancestors because I was born in Cleveland, in the state of Ohio, where so many

Slovenians live. Even today I fill special connection to Cleveland because of so many Slovenians there. Do you know how exactly? Once or twice a year a Slovenian butcher from Cleveland sends me those real Slovenian sausages and meat so I can enjoy with my family in eating real Slovenian food.

Did your parents talk Slovenian?

Sure they did and also my mother Ann, who is 93 of age now, still speaks Slovenian; however she uses Slovenian just on rare occasions since she otherwise has no one to talk to in Slovenian. I was also interested in Slovenian language but I never found enough time to dedicate myself into learning it more. Besides, when I visited Slovenian I figured out that most of young people speak English very good.

What do you think is important for us to know about our history and our ancestors?

What is most important to know about people and their history is that we live in fast changing world. We all have to be ready for changes and are prepare to adopt, but of course that is not possible without certain knowledge about history and our ancestors. We need to understand not only the history but also the culture of places from where our ancestors came from. It happened so that I visited Slovenia and Ljubljana just last year and I spend a wonderful week in Ljubljana. I also visited village called Dobovec, where my grandmother came from, and I also went to Logatec, where my grandfather was from. I

am proud on Slovenians and your history and I have to point out that I think Slovenians are the most educated in the whole Europe.

But young Americans know so little about Slovenia?

Yes, that is true, not many young Americans know Slovenia, which I do not think is so surprising since Slovenia is independent only for eighteen years, besides it has only two million inhabitants. For American conditions that is not a lot, however I do find it very important that youngsters themselves build cultural and social bridges between East and West. In this way they recognize how important Slovenia is as European country, where there is a lot of optimism and desire to develop, but we should not forget also about important Slovenian culture.

In the US military you build and extraordinary career. How come you decided to work for the military in the first place?

I started my career as army pilot on aircraft carrier. The decision was basically very simple. I did a very interesting job of army pilot and I served to our country at the same time. And for that, it was worth it. Even today I am pointing out that serving an army does not only mean the protection of US, but it means also the protection of the western civilization as a whole.

It is well-known fact that you support Slovenia wherever possible and that you helped us in negotiations to enter NATO. In your opinion, what can be a role of such a small country in such a

huge organization as NATO is?

For a very, very long time I have been a huge advocate and supporter of Slovenia and now I am also your Honorary Consul in Hawaii. I noticed that knowledge about Slovenia in the world is on much higher level now after you did such a great job during the EU Presidency. Before Slovenia joined EU, I worked very hard, hand in hand, with your ambassador in Washington D.C., so that Slovenia could become a member of NATO. A role of small countries, as Slovenia is, in such a big organization, as NATO is, could be bigger than you imagine. Every member of NATO binds itself to support and protect every other member of NATO, which helps to create a very strong bond that would otherwise be impossible to create. This bond is very important for countries that have common goals and ideals.

In your free time you like reading, jogging, playing basketball and tennis, and as every real Slovenian you also like skiing.

Yes, as most of Slovenians I also like snow and skiing. Skiing is also very popular among Americans, as well as Slovenians. I had a chance to ski for example in American federal states as Vermont, Idaho, California and New Mexico. But if I want to go skiing I firstly have to travel five hours with plane till American mainland and then further on to ski resort. Unfortunately, there are not many occasions for me to go skiing, because that takes time. For you everything is so close.

Slovenia – US Parliamentary Friendship Group Established

The National Assembly cooperates with other parliaments through Parliamentary Friendship Groups set up for individual countries.

Parliamentary Friendship Group with the United States of America has recently been established in the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. The Chair of the group is Mr. Dejan Levanič, Social Democrats. You can access the full list of the group members through the [Slovenian National Assembly website](#).

Luka Gregorc Shows Aggressive Style in South Florida Tennis Tournament

By North American correspondent for Ekipa, Dr. Mitch Smith

Delray Beach, Florida "I didn't want to leave anything on the court. I might lose, but it would be by going all out – even if I made 60 unforced errors. I didn't want to be out there just getting the ball back in."

That was what Lindsay Davenport said when she won the women's draw at the U.S. Open back in 1998.

The same spirit might seem to apply to Luka Gregorc, who competed last week at the Delray Beach International Tennis Championships.



In a hard-fought first round qualifying match against American Eric Nunez, and despite some lapses in the quality of his game, Gregorc never let up, never lost his aggressive edge.

Gregorc's strong serve helped him to a lead after the first set, winning six games to three.

When the third set also went to a tie-break, there was a point at which the match was in peril, when Nunez had the lead at 5-4. However, his aggressive style held out as Gregorc took the next three points to close the match 6-3, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (5).

"It was a tough match," Gregorc admitted afterwards, adding "but I always believe I can win. I just remind myself that it's not over till it's over ... and try to remember not to take anything for granted."

"I think Luka got a little nervous and got thrown off his game a little bit," said his coach, Marcos Ondruska, afterwards. "He's still gaining experience, and there's some adversity he encounters that throws him off, but the more he faces tough situations the better he will get."

Though a fierce competitor whose "edge" includes a modified Mohawk-style haircut, Gregorc showed a notable sense of class and

sportsmanship when coming up short against his opponent's drop shot in the first game of the second set. "Nice shot," he called out after failing to get to the net in time to return the shot.

Following the win, Gregorc, a member of the Slovenian Davis Cup team, advanced to second-round qualifying play, where he fell to Giovanni Lapentti 6-2, 6-4.

Overall, Ondruska, a former player who was ranked no. 27 at the peak of his own career, felt pleased with Gregorc's play. "He needs to continue to focus on executing. Despite some ups and downs, he knows what he has to do and how to go about it. Four years ago he was ranked no. 850 and now he's up to no. 217. I would say we've definitely met or exceeded our goals for the past year, and look to continue his progress this year."

In all, 32 players faced off in qualifying play in the hard-court event to earn four spots in the 32-man main draw with a total purse of \$500,000. The eventual winner will take home some \$80,000 in prize money.

EVENTS: Small Nations Poetry Reading

A growing Washington tradition now in its fifth year, the **Small Nations Poetry Reading** brings together the ambassadors of nine countries - **Austria, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco, and Slovenia.**

The ambassadors read poetry from the countries they

represent, in English and in their native languages, reflecting a different theme each year.

For this year's reading, the poems selected will be related to the environment, and the event will be followed by a reception.

- **Date: March 4, 2009**
- **Time: 7 p.m.**
- **Location: Grosvenor Auditorium at National Geographic, Washington, DC, USA**
- Price NG Members/\$15, General Public/\$18

You can [BUY TICKETS here](#) .



Logo by Patrick Truby

EVENTS: This Box is a Space

A year and a half after exhibiting her photography work in the Hall of St. Cyril, Eva Petrič returns to NYC to present her work again, this time as a performance artist as well as a poet and a writer.

Last year her first book of poetry *This space is a box* was published by the Drava in Austria and this year her first novel *They all ate sushi* was published by the publishing house Didakta, Slovenia, in Slovene and English. Eva Petrič will present both works in the form of a multilingual performance. All are cordially invited to meet this young artist who spent her formative high-school years in New York City.

- **Date: March 1, 2009**
- **Time: 11:00 a.m.**
- **Where: The Church of St. Cyril, 62 St. Mark's Place, New York, NY 10003**



Admission is free.

Volunteers Needed

On **May 9, 2009**, representations of EU Member States will celebrate European Day by organizing now traditional **EU Open House**.

For few hours, Embassies of 27 countries and EU Commission Representation in Washington DC will open their doors, showcasing their art, culture, food, and introducing European Union to visitors from the area. The event attracts every year more and

more people, in 2008 we recorded more than 50.000 guests total.

The event has gained extreme recognition and success, and we would like to offer everybody an opportunity to do his part. If you would like to volunteer with Slovenian Embassy, or any other EU member representations, give us a call or write us an [email](#). **Please sign up by April 1, 2009.**

The weekly e-Newsletter is produced by the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington. The archive of the e-Newsletter is available [online](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe to the e-Newsletter please send an e-mail to: vwa@gov.si.