

Slovenian / Hungarian Folk Dancers

Hello Andrea,

I look forward to meeting you at the folk dance event in the Galleria on May 9, 2009. In the meantime we would be happy to post any of your news releases on our website.

I had a very enjoyable visit to the Hungarian Heritage Museum last week. Please tell the volunteers I said hello.

Szép napot

Phil Hrvatin

Andrea Meszaros
meszarosandyneni@hotmail.com

Subject: FW: Need names for photo
To: phrvatin@yahoo.com
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Dear Philip,

Katalin Gulden forwarded your email to me for response. Let me begin by saying that I just wrote to Mark Tomc of the Slovenian dancers...we are beginning to finalize the May 9th afternoon program that will showcase Hungarian and Slovenian folk dance...I hope you will be able to attend. The program will begin downstairs in a Galleria space that has parquet floors, and then the "reception" portion will be held upstairs at the Museum.

The volunteers on the photo are as follows: from the left- Mr. Balazs Bedy. Mrs. Sara Remenyik, Mr. Viktor Falk, Mrs. Katalin Gulden and Mr. George Buza.

Send me your mailing address and I'll drop a copy of our newsletter in the mail for you. Also, I would like to send our invitation that we send our membership for this program to your attention too, perhaps so that you could post it on your website...

Best Regards,

Andrea M. Meszaros
President
Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society



Federation of Slovenian National Homes 48th Annual Awards Banquet

On Saturday, March 21, 2009, the Federation continued the tradition of honoring a group of outstanding community activist at the Federation of Slovenian National Homes Slovenes of the Year Awards Banquet.

Photos of the event can be found on the ClevelandSlovenian.com photo gallery
<http://www.clevelandslovenian.com/photos/2009-03-21.shtml>



GOOD NEWS FOR ST. VITUS PARISH

On Saturday, March 14th, 2009, St Vitus Parish was informed by Bishop Richard Lennon that St. Vitus Parish will continue to minister to Slovenian people and to the neighborhood community. The same good news was announced at the Immaculate Conception and St. Paul Croatian Parishes.

This weekend we are providing our parishioners with the main part of the Bishop's letter in the form of a bulletin insert. Kindly read it very carefully, because in the letter, among other things. Bishop Lennon is instructing parishes of future work which he expects the surviving parishes to accomplish by working together on things, which will require collaboration from the three parishes. In short, we take satisfaction in the Bishop's recognition of the many accomplishments of St. Vitus Parish in the past, and at the same time he is putting the three parishes on notice that pastors and their parishioners have to work together more effectively than in the past.

We also congratulate Father John Kumse and St Mary's parishioners on the good news that they are staying open like St. Vitus. The two pastors and parishioners will continue to work together and cement that special friendship which already exists between St. Vitus and St. Mary's parishioners.

VESELA NOVICA ZA ŽUPNIJO SV. VIDA

V soboto 14. marca je škof Richard Lennon obvestil župnijo, da bo župnija Sv. Vida še naprej služila potrebam Slovencev in soseščine. Slična dobra novica je bila naznanjena pri župnijama Immaculate Conception in hrvaški St. Paul .

Ta vikend je faranom na razpolago glavni del škofovega pisma v prilogi oznanilo. Skrbno ga prečitajte, ker med drugim škof Lennon poučuje župnije o bodočem delu katero škof pričakuje od obstoječih župnij in katero bo zahtevalo sodelovanje vseh treh župnij. Na kratko, smo zadovoljni, da škof priznava mnogo preteklih dosežkov svetovidske župnije, istočasno pa opozarja vse tri župnije, da morajo župniki in župljani v bodoče bolj učinkovito sodelovati.

Čestitamo č.g. Janezu Kumšetu in župljanom Marije Vnebovzete ob dobri novici, da bodo kot Sv. Vid tudi oni ostali kot župnija. Oba župnika, kakor župljani, bomo nadaljno sodelovali in utrjevali posebno prijateljstvo katero obstoja med farani Sv. Vida in Marije Vnebovzete.

(SEE FLOW RATE, WEATHER, &
TOURNAMENT UPDATES AT BOTTOM OF PAGE)



TOURNAMENT SIGN UP (Lunch included):

[Add to Cart](#)

REMEMBER: You need a current, valid Ohio State Fishing license to participate. You can order one online at [Ohio DNR's web site](#). In case of bad weather, stay tuned to this page for more information.

PURCHASE LUNCH:

Select the portion size for lunch and add to cart to complete your order:

Meal Portion:

Adult \$10.00

[Add to Cart](#)

Saturday April 4, 2009 2009 SLO-TROLL

Steelhead Fishing Tournament & Luncheon

On the Saturday before Palm Sunday, fly fishers will gather to see who can hook the biggest, most beautiful Steelhead of the day. The contest begins at 7:30 am and lasts until noon, followed by a hearty fish and chip meal for the whole family, and Slovenian Smoked Sausage for those non-fish eaters.

Come for just fishing, just lunch, or both!

\$15 entry for fishing contest (includes lunch)
\$10 for lunch



Only 12 spots for adult anglers!
No limit to lunch, but R.S.V.P. so cooks can prepare accordingly.

**Register by April 1, 2009 at
www.CLE-SLO.com/fishing.**

In the event of unfavorable weather, please visit
www.CLE-SLO.com/fishing.

There will be Prizes and Raffles!

Slovenska Pristava's Grand River is directly between two of Ohio's best Steelhead hot spots.

The Call for the Application to the Art Colony 2009

Art colony for the Slovenians abroad and all over the world - 2009

The Association Slovenska izseljenska matica is organizing a traditional art colony for all academic or amateurish painters who are Slovenians by birth but they live abroad or in a foreign country.

This year the art colony is going to take place in two picturesque Slovenian localities, in Most na Soči (The Bridge on Soča River) and in Goriška Brda.

In each place seven painters will be creating under the professional guidance of a mentor. The colonies will take place successively, the first one with the beginning on 13th of June and until 21st of June, 2009. After the finished colony there will be organized an exhibition of paintings in the visiting place. Every participant of the colony leaves one of their created works to the organizer Slovenska izseljenska matica (SIM) into their permanent property. The organizer covers the expenses of food, accommodation, canvas and colour. The candidates come to the place, where the art colony will be held, on their own expenses.

All who are interested in participation in the art colony are politely invited **to send your applications until 1. 5. 2009 on the address:**

Združenje Slovenska izseljenska matica
Cankarjeva 1/II,
p.p. 1548
1001 Ljubljana

The applications are also admitted on the e-mail address:

vesna.vuksinic@zdruzenje-sim.si

Introduce yourself in the application and obligatorily add at least two photographs of your works, which will be in case of a larger number of the applications the criterion for the participation.

Sincerely invited!

Super Button Box Bash Number 27 to Feature 15 Button Box Bands

The date is set for an afternoon and evening of pure button box music and the voices of Circle 2 SNPJ Slovenian Junior Chorus on Sunday, April 5th, 2009 at Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, OH 44119.



The Bash highlights not only polka bands, but of course the children of Circle 2, who will perform at 3PM in the Upper Hall. This is the one big event that the children work so hard towards each year and look forward to the day-long event.

Fifteen outstanding button box bands are set to perform, including outstanding solo players, will entertain from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., in two halls.

The event is sponsored by the Slovenian Junior Chorus of Youth Circle 2, SNPJ, and the young choir will perform at 3 p.m., on the main stage. The chorus is under the direction of Shirley Ivancic Stall.

The Button Box Player of the Year, as voted by the Polka Hall of Fame, Ron Likovic will perform at 3:45 p.m., and later team up with Kathy Hlad in the lower hall at 6 p.m. Fred Ziwich, who has been voted Button Box Player of the Year three times (1998, 2000, and 2005) will play at 5 p.m., in the lower hall. Pennsylvanian Ron Pivovar and friends will entertain in the lower hall as well.

The Button Box Band of the Year 2008, Western Pennsylvania SNPJ Button Box Club, from Sygan, PA, will be spotlighted at 4 p.m. in the upper hall. Other out-of-town button box bands are: Northern Home of Michigan and Mahoning Valley Button Box Club from Youngstown.

The schedule also features the best of the local bands including the Fairport Jammers, Buttonnaires, Euclid Squeezeboxers, Happy Timers, the Hoboes, Magic Buttons, Northern Ohio Players, the Polka Pirates, and the Circle 2 Band, featuring Anthony Culkar and Frank Culkar.

Admission in advance is \$6, at the Polka Hall of Fame box office, or \$7 at the door. Musicians with instruments admitted free and children free. Food and beverages are available for purchase.

FOOD & WINE

Welcome to Food & Wine!



Tasting Room | BY RAY ISLE,
SENIOR WINE EDITOR

POSTED FEBRUARY 6, 2009 AT 5:26 PM EST

Mad Geniuses of Wine

Source: <http://www.foodandwine.com/blogs/tasting-room/Chefs>

A funny and characteristically sharp [post](#) by Alder Yarrow of [Vinography](#) about the assorted crackpots of the wine world called to mind the dinner I had just the other night with Ales Kristancic, the off-the-wall visionary behind the Slovenian winery [Movia](#). (Yarrow mentions him as well.) The dinner was at the [James Beard House](#), and the guest chef was [Tony Mantuano](#) of Chicago's [Spiaggia](#)—a terrific cook and also one of the most sane, even-tempered, likeable people I've ever run into in the chef world. He's a contrast, of course, to Ales, with whom I spent close to a week in Slovenia recently, and who's a ribald, intense, shaven-headed crazy man, albeit in the best possible way.

Kristancic is devoted to the idea of *terroir*, the expression of place through the vehicle of wine (in a sense), and his wines are remarkable. Once in a while they can be more remarkable than they are good, but mostly they're eye-opening both in terms of their quality and their idiosyncratic character. For instance, with Mantuano's wood-roasted diver scallop served with walnut pesto and lemon, Kristancic poured a pair of Ribolla Giallas, his 2006 Movia Rebula (\$29, [find this wine](#)) and his 2006 Movia Lunar (\$45, [find this wine](#)). The first was supple, full of stone-fruit notes, and silky in texture; the other, luminously orange, seemingly oxidized beyond repair, but, when tasted, fresh and intense, with an almost tannic tactile feel in the mouth, and bright apricot and pear notes. It's unusual stuff—because, as Ales told me, "It's just Ribolla and it's expression. What the juice wants to be. No more. We touch the wine one time—to put the wine in the barrel—and only one time more, the second time, when we decant the wine out of the barrel with a tube." So: native yeasts, natural fermentation, unfiltered, untouched, and if that weren't enough he buries the barrels 25 feet underground while the wine ages (the reason for that has something to do with the moon).

There were other wines with the dinner, of course, and, this being Ales, other bars to go to after the dinner. When I bowed out of the festivities sometime past midnight, he was drinking gin-and-tonics and talking about heading to a Bulgarian dance club. I didn't even know there were Bulgarian dance clubs in New York.

<http://www.movia.si/>



Koledar | Calendar

The Center for Slovenian Studies (Center za slovenske študije): in cooperation with Cleveland State University and Lakeland Community College, would like to invite the entire Slovenian Community to the following events which are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tuesday, March 24 | 7:00 pm | Recher Hall, 20713 Recher Ave, Euclid, Ohio

Slovenian-American Heritage Foundation Lecture Series.

Luka Zibelnik, Professor of the Slovenian Language at CSU and Lakeland Community College, will introduce the Slovenian-language film "Pot. Morda," a biography of Primož Trubar, the father of the Slovenian written language. Slovenia celebrated the 500th anniversary of his birth in 2008.

Wednesday, March 25 | 3:00 pm | Main Library room 501, Cleveland State University

Koline: The Annual Winter Pig Slaughter in Slovenia

Luka Zibelnik, visiting Slovenian lecturer from the University of Ljubljana, will discuss the history and rituals associated with Koline, the annual pig slaughter that takes place each winter in Slovenia. Originating from ancient pagan rituals, Koline are still widely practiced in Slovenia, a region known for its sausages and other pork dishes. Mr. Zibelnik will discuss regional variations of Koline and how the ritual has impacted the cultural and culinary development of the area over the centuries.

The lecture will conclude with a reception featuring Slovenian cuisine.

This lecture is presented as part of the "Food and Culture" lecture series sponsored by the Cleveland State University Department of Modern Languages

Tuesday April 14 | 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm | Location: H-1095, Lakeland Community College

Lakeland Community College, International Issues Forum.

Luka Zibelnik Professor of Slovenian, Lakeland Community College and Cleveland State University, will speak on the history of the beginnings of Slovenian written language.

Saturday, April 25 | 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm | Performing Arts Center, Lakeland Community College

Lakeland Community College will host the 6th Annual International Folk Festival of Lake County.

Slovenia, its culture, language, heritage, and food will be the sole focus of this year's festival. Program and Displays.

BEGINNING SLOVENE AT INDIANA IN SUMMER 2009

Indiana University's Summer workshop in Slavic, East European, and Central Asian Languages (SWSEEL)

June 19-August 14, 2009

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) will fund the teaching of first year Slovene, Polish, and Czech (in addition to Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Macedonian, and Romanian). Tuition for SWSEEL courses in these six languages will be waived for graduate students specializing in East European studies in any discipline.

Due to the change in funding status for these languages, we are extending the funding application deadline for Czech, Polish, and Slovene. The application for these languages will reopen Monday March 30 and close on April 13, 2009. Qualified graduate students applying for these language courses by that date will receive ACLS funding and can compete for FLAS fellowships.

Apply now through the SWSEEL website: <http://www.indiana.edu/~iuslavic/swseel/>

Indiana University's 59th Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European, and Central Asian Languages

June 19th - August 14th, 2009

Bloomington, Indiana

For more information, visit the SWSEEL website:

www.indiana.edu/~iuslavic/swseel/ <<http://www.indiana.edu/~iuslavic/swseel/>>

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Pat O'Connell
Editorial Assistant
Slovene Studies: Journal of the Society for
Slovene Studies
c/o Bowling Green State University

SLOVENE
STUDIES

JOURNAL OF
THE SOCIETY FOR
SLOVENE STUDIES

Commission for Slovenians Abroad

On October 15, 2008 the National Assembly of the Government of Slovenia established the Commission for Relations with Slovenes in Neighboring and Other Countries. The Commission is responsible for monitoring the state of affairs of autonomous Slovenian minorities living in neighboring and other countries. Their mission is to inform the National Assembly of general and specific issues encountered by Slovenians living in neighboring and other countries and to promote the elimination of problems encountered by those Slovenians.

Members of the Commission for Slovenians Abroad are the following deputies:

Miro Petek, President	Slovenian Democrats Party
Mirko Brulc, Vice-President	Social Democrats Party
Gvido Kres, Vice-President	Slovenian People's Party
Samo Bevk	Social Democrats Party
Laszlo Goncz	Hungarian National Communities Group
Miran Jerič	Liberal Democracy of Slovenia
Franco Juri	ZARES New Politics Party
Janja Klasinc	Social Democrats Party
Marijan Križman	Social Democrats Party
Srečko Prijatelj	Slovenian National Party
Aleksander Zorn	Slovenian Democrats Party
Mag. Franc Žnidaršič	Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia
Franc Pukšič	no party affiliation

Address:

National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia
Šubičeva 4
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia, EU

Telefon:

President Miro Petek	011 386 1 478 9538
Secretary Dr. Katja Jerman	011 386 1 478 9938
Administration	011 386 1 478 9626
Main Number:	011 386 1 478 9400

Email:

miro.petek@dz-rs.si
katja.jerman@dz.rs.si

Web site: <http://www.dz-rs.si>

Commission for Slovenians Abroad

Državni zbor Republike Slovenije je 15. oktobra 2008 ustanovil Komisijo za odnose s Slovenci v zamejstvu in po svetu. Komisija je pristojna za spremljanje in obravnavo problematike avtohtonih slovenskih manjšin v sosednjih državah in Slovencev po svetu, njena naloga pa je poročanje Državnemu zboru Republike Slovenije o pomembnih zadevah s tega področja ter priprava predlogov sklepov in odločitev.

Na poslance - člane komisije se lahko obrnete tudi neposredno.

Člani komisije so naslednji poslanci v Državnem zboru RS:

Miro Petek, predsednik	Poslanska skupina Slovenske demokratske stranke
Mirko Brulc, podpredsednik	Poslanska skupina Socialnih demokratov
Gvido Kres, podpredsednik	Poslanska skupina Slovenske ljudske stranke
Samo Bevk, član	Poslanska skupina Socialnih demokratov
Laszlo Goencz, član	Poslanec madžarske narodne skupnosti
Miran Jerič, član	Poslanska skupina Liberalne demokracije Slovenije
Franco Juri, član	Poslanska skupina ZARES
Janja Klasinc, članica	Poslanska skupina Socialnih demokratov
Marijan Križman, član	Poslanska skupina Socialnih demokratov
Srečko Prijatelj, član	Poslanska skupina Slovenske nacionalne stranke
Aleksander Zorn, član	Poslanska skupina Slovenske demokratske stranke
Mag. Franc Žnidaršič	Poslanska skupina Demokratične stranke upokojencev Slovenije
Franc Pukšič	Nepovezani poslanec

Naslov: Državni zbor Republike Slovenije
Šubičeva 4
1000 Ljubljana

Telefon: predsednik Miro Petek (011-386)1-478 9538
sekretarka dr. Katja Jerman (011-386)1-478 9938
tajništvo komisije (011-386)1-478 9626
Državni zbor, tel. centrala (011-386)1-478 9400

Elektronska pošta: miro.petek@dz-rs.si, katja.jerman@dz-rs.si
Spletne strani Državnega zbora: <http://www.dz-rs.si>.



**Kollander
World Travel, Inc.**

Travel to Slovenia on a Hosted Tour!

More and more Americans are hearing about the beauty of Slovenia. At the same time, more people are discovering some Slovenian ancestry, family connection, or sometimes a boastful neighbor. Add to this the stories travelers bring back of their experiences in Slovenia and neighboring countries and you can see why there is still a lot of interest in our custom tours to this wonderful area of the world.

We are pleased to offer a great line up of diverse travel options for those considering travel to Europe and especially Slovenia this year. Our direct connection with Adria Airways gives us access to their most discounted fares – within Europe and across the Atlantic. Reliable car rentals combined with our reserved rates at nearly every hotel in the country give independent travelers the flexibility and discount rates they seek when touring on they're own.

Those desiring a more in-depth experience look for our escorted tours where expert local guides give you the history and nuances of each location we visit – and each new dish we sample as well! In 2009 we are pleased to have 4 excellent choices that are hosted by experienced travelers that know how to share their love of travel with you.

The Slovenian Women's Union Secrets of Slovenia May 8 – 19, 2009

Veteran traveler and acknowledged 'Slovene-ophile', Bonnie Prokup wore several hats when considering the itinerary and daily details we have planned for this trip. As an officer for SWUA, she wanted to be sure to achieve the best possible value for the membership and tour participants. As an airline industry veteran, she understood the value of choosing a good airline like Austrian Air due to its reliability in these times. And most important, as a lover of all Slovenian culture, she wanted add those uniquely Slovenian ingredients that the solo traveler would never uncover; special meals prepared in traditional ways (a celebration of Slovenian women cooking!), small villages preserving ancient life styles, and of course great local musicians celebrating the good life in the evening!

May is a beautiful time to visit Slovenia. The coast is warm, not hot and the larger crowds of tourists are at least a month away! Flowers are everywhere. Warmed by the prevailing Mediterranean winds the blooms are at least a month ahead of the American Midwest. It's not too early for fresh vegetables from the many organic farms and hot houses that dot the countryside we will be touring. In Bohinj, the spring brings fresh cheese from the cows and goats that are busy eating the fresh grasses on the hill sides. And, what luck, the grapes from last fall's harvest have been busy working all winter and are just ready for testing!

For those interested, we have only about 6 spaces left on this tour as of this writing and the brochure is available on our website or by calling the office.



Kollander World Travel, Inc.

Villages and Festival of Slovenia June 18 – 30, 2009

Travel with Dr. Steve and Shirley Kapsch as they return again to visit the thriving villages of the Slovenian countryside. The Kapsch's hail from the Iron or Vermillion Range of Minnesota which immersed them in Slovenian American culture and an appreciation of the old country. This tour will mark their 4th trip to Slovenia in the past few years and friends around the country are ready to share their local delights with the group.

Along with our expert local guide you'll have a full two weeks in Slovenia with people you know, focusing on the homelands of the early Slovenian settlers of North America. This is a chance to learn more about the people of Slovenia, their lifestyles, their values, and their beautiful land. We'll take in the Jurevanje festival in Crnomelj, visit a local winery near Novo Mesto, and tour the key cities of Ljubljana, Portoroz and the Karst, Idrija, Bovec, and of course Alpine Lake Bled. This is an in-depth tour that features most meals in local and regional highlight restaurants along the way.

This tour offers a great overview combined with an unusual amount of contact with local villages and people making a difference in the countryside of today's Slovenia.

Memories of Slovenia

with Breda Loncar and Tony Petkovsek September 16 – 26, 2009

As a partner in Kollander World Travel, 3rd generation Slovenian-American Tony Petkovsek has managed to share his love of Slovenian style music and culture on dozens of trips and tours to Slovenia – and is always ready to lead another group of travelers back over. In contrast, Breda Loncar was born in Slovenia, immigrated to the US as a child and has only visited the country one time. From her hard work as the editor of the Slovenian American Times, she knew she had to visit the country again and witness the progress and the honored traditions first hand.

The two honored Alumni of St. Vitus Slovenian School in Cleveland decided to work together to design and lead a tour that covers the classic cities and scenes of Slovenia that fill our memories. We'll begin in the mountains at the placid waters of Alpine Lake Bled. The views of Triglav mountain within the pristine national park awe every visitor. We'll sample the fare of alpine sheppards in Bohinj and the world famous dinners of Avsenik's Gostilna with live music. We continue to the border with Italy near Novo Gorica where so much WWI history took place. Today the hilly region supports world famous vineyards that are giving Slovenia a top name among the world's wines. Traveling around the limestone laden Karst region we learn how the system of underground rivers has shaped the land and the people as we tour one of the immense caverns in the area. Of course this rugged region also shapes the tastes and the world's best 'prsuit' or dried ham does its miraculous curing in the cold dry air.



Kollander World Travel, Inc.

Maribor and Ptuj in eastern Slovenian hold treasures from the medieval era of Slovenian history as a kingdom under the rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. One of the well preserved castles houses an excellent museum showcasing nearly 1,000 years of Slovene culture and history. As a testament to Slovenia's sustainability, the 400 year old grape vine in Maribor is widely considered to be the world's oldest! In Velenje we'll see how the coal miners of the region earned their lively hood – many of whom took the trade to America when they settled here.

Local friends and officials will greet the group in Ljubljana as we discover the capitol city, from its ancient castle overlooking the old town to its modern, thriving University and city center. Our hotel near the old city center allows for easy access to the pedestrian zone and the inviting shops and cafes along the way. As we travel from the oldest villages and farms to the cosmopolitan city we'll make memories of Slovenia that will last a life time.

Country Roads of Slovenia with Brane Vidmar October 8 – 16, 2009

Hundreds of Kollander Group travelers have experienced the wonderful work of our good natured and professional tour manager: Brane Vidmar. He has lead groups throughout the world and always earns the greatest praise for what he imparts to the tour and the experience.

We are very fortunate to have him available to lead an exploration that will uncover the best the country has to offer. Brane uncovers everything, from local craftsmen, rustic Gostilnas and restaurants as we travel between the unique wine growing regions of Slovenia. Local climate, culture, migration, and the soil have shaped the flavors of the vines and the people of Slovenia and our tour uncovers the diversity as we travel from west to east. We begin the northern gateway region formed by Alps at Lake Bled. Here the rugged terrain and fertile valleys favored sheppards and cheeses and wild mushrooms. Goriska Brda on the Italian border is being called the Slovenian Tuscany for its relaxed lifestyle and "slow food" tradition with 4 and 6 hour meals. The fisherman and merchants of coastal Slovenia combine Venetian traditions with spicier influences from the south for delicious seafood and white wines.

Heading inland and east we find the rolling breadbasket of Slovenia near Novo Mesto and the old heart of Slovenia, the towns of Maribor and Ptuj are built over giant underground cellars constructed hundreds of years ago to preserve the developing wine. Local music is shared over harvest stories and hearty regional food. Further east in the Bizeljsko region, champagne grapes have found their niche in the pockets of rich soil at the edge of the plains to the north. Here villages remain unchanged from hundreds of years ago. After visiting a world renowned cellar we head to the relaxing mineral water spas of Smarjeta Toplice.



Kollander World Travel, Inc.

Brane Vidmar has studied the foods and history of wine as well as the long and varied history of the Slovenian people and is by most accounts, the most qualified guide in Slovenia. During the last day in Ljubljana he will be sure to explain all the historical sites and shopping opportunities as well!

ADRIA AIRWAYS to Ljubljana

We are pleased to announce that the national air carrier of Slovenia has finalized negotiations with several transatlantic air carriers regarding discounted airfares to Slovenia and beyond. For the 1st time, we are able to offer 'thru tickets' at discounted prices from nearly every major city in the USA to Ljubljana – and every other city served by Adria Airways! Previously, 2 tickets were sometimes issued to get a better price, butre-checking luggage in Europe and the chance of a miss-connect due to weather and other delays were concerns.

The new agreements allow for luggage to be checked all the way to and from your destination and some of the current “super specials” we are seeing are really amazing. Among the reputable airlines involved are: Continental, United, Lufthansa, Austrian Air and of course Adria Airways. If you are still contemplating travel this summer – these new fares are worth considering.

We would be happy to hear from you regarding our services. If you would like complete descriptive brochures for these and other tours featuring Slovenia, Croatia, Europe and anywhere in the World you'd like to travel, please feel free to call, email or visit our website.

We look forward to hearing your travel stories upon your return.

Michael Benz
Kollander World Travel
mbenz@kollander.com
1-800-800-5981

Luka Zibelnik

Luka Zibelnik, visiting Slovenian lecturer from the University of Ljubljana, will discuss the history and rituals associated with Koline, the annual pig slaughter that takes place each winter in Slovenia. Originating from ancient pagan rituals, Koline are still widely practiced in Slovenia, a region known for its sausages and other pork dishes. Mr. Zibelnik will discuss regional variations of Koline and how the ritual has impacted the cultural and culinary development of the area over the centuries.



Dear Phil,

Attached are several the photos from my talk about Koline. There were around 40 people, mainly students at that attended my presentation at Cleveland State University. The audience also included professors and deans from Cleveland State and Lakeland Community College. Raddell's Sausage shop <http://raddellssausage.com> provided the food that was paid by the Modern Languages at CSU. People were very content because of the food and I hope because of the lecture.



My intermediate students and I translated the movie Trubar's Pot from Slovenian to English, which was added my presentation in the form of subtitles. There were around 80 people at the Slovenian Society Home on Recher Ave. There was a lively question and answer period, which followed the presentation.

Lep pozdrav,
Luka



Events

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



Perfect, by Dr. Zvone Žigon

March 30 – Vlado Kreslin, concert. Slovenian musician at Busboys and Poets, Monday, March 30, 9.00 pm, Langstone Room, 2021 14th Street, NW, DC. Free, open to public.



May 9 – EU Open House. EU Embassies and EU Commission open their door to general public for the third year in a row. Washington, D.C., from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Free bus shutles provided.



Slovenian Embassy Hosts European Institute's Transatlantic Roundtable



Washington DC, March 25 –

On Wednesday, the Embassy of Slovenia hosted the European Institute's Transatlantic Roundtable on Finance and Trade entitled "How to Approach Trade Relations in View of the Financial Crisis: The EU-U.S.-China Triangle".

Participants from different professions and embassies were first welcomed by the political counselor Andrej Medica and later engaged in a lively discussion with three panelists: Mauro Petriccione, DG Trade Director for Bilateral Relations Including the U.S. and China of the European Commission; William Craft, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Trade Policy and Programs, Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs of the United States Department of State; and Tihomir Stoytchev from the Embassy of Bulgaria. The discussion was moderated by the President of the European Institute Joëlle Attinger.



The discussion was moderated by the EI President Joëlle Attinger (in red).

While there is a shared view on what are the main issues in today's global trade, there were many divided opinions about the next Doha round, the U.S. "Buy American" policy and others. Nevertheless, both the EU and the U.S. look optimistically on the future G-20 meeting, which will take place on April 2 in London.

Sister Cities International

Washington, DC, March 20

– On Friday, the Board of Directors and members of the Honorary Board of Directors of the Sister Cities International, visited the Slovenian Embassy as part of their annual national Spring Meeting, held in Washington, DC.

The reception presented an opportunity for exchange of ideas of future relationships and forging new ties between cities in the United States and Slovenia to promote the mission of peace through people.



Chairman Mr. Mike Hyatt presents a gift to Slovenian Embassy's Chargé d'Affaires, Ms. Miriam Možgan.

At present, Slovenian cities with Sister Cities International relationships in the US are: Ljubljana (sister city Cleveland, OH), Maribor (sister city Pueblo, CO) and Piran (sister city Indianapolis, IN).

Seatrade Shipping Convention 2009

Miami Beach, FL - Slovenian exhibitors, as in previous years, took part at this year's Seatrade Shipping Convention that took place in Miami, Florida, during March 16-19. This year Boris Popovič, the mayor of Koper, joined the Slovenian exhibitors and had a short meeting with Dr. Gregory S. Chan, the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia in Florida, to whom the mayor introduced the city of Koper and the Port of Koper.

They also discussed the promotion of Koper and the Port of Koper for economic relations. Dr. Chan will visit Slovenia in May, therefore mayor Popovič kindly invited him to visit Koper and offered to show him the city and the port.



From left: Honorary Consul Dr. Chan, mayor Mr. Popovič, Sandra Zupan, and Mr. Aldo Babič of Luka Koper.

Students from University of Maribor visit the Embassy

Washington, DC, March 20 - A group of students from the University of Maribor, Department of Criminal Justice and Security, visited the Embassy of Slovenia as part of their study trip to the US.

The students were accompanied by Dean Dr. Gorazd Meško. Chargé d'Affaires Miriam Možgan acquainted them with the embassy's organization and work, and briefed them on Slovenian-American relations.



Možgan with students from the University of Maribor.

Interview Series: Dr. David Turk, M.D.

Dr. David Turk, a Slovenian surgeon, who specialized in urology, lives in Cleveland and is an active member of the Slovenian community.



What is your medical specialty? Urology.

What is the name of your practice and what do you do?

My practice is known as Southwest Urology, Inc. I have 6 partners in the corporation. We have a total of 9 physicians, a nurse practitioner, and a physician's assistant. We are a full service urology clinic with our own surgical center, and radiology, laboratory and pathology services. In addition, we have partnered to form the Northern Ohio Regional Cancer Center where we offer state-of-the-art prostate cancer treatment. As a urologist, I manage disorders of the kidney, bladder and prostate. My particular focus is minimally invasive surgeries such as laparoscopic, robotic, and laser surgery. I am a national instructor of robotic surgery for Intuitive Surgical, Inc. To date, I have performed over 300 robotic prostatectomies and, overall, 10,000 surgeries. I am a Clinical Assistant Professor of Urology at Case Western Reserve University.

In addition, I am currently the Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Medina Hospital in Medina, Ohio.

How is your practice connected to Slovenians in Cleveland?

I am connected to Slovenians in Cleveland because many Slovenian people come to see me as patients. I speak fluent Slovenian and I can communicate easily with some of the older immigrants who feel more comfortable speaking in the Slovenian language.

Do you have contacts in business or education with Slovenia?

Yes. I have performed surgery in Slovenia. Last July 4th, I performed surgery on three patients in Maribor in order to demonstrate a procedure I invented called "laser vaporization of the prostate under local anesthesia." I have been in contact with Dr. Meta Zorc and have been a guest of hers at her renowned cardiac institute in Izola. In addition, I will be a guest speaker at the World Slovenian Congress on May 28, 2009.

What part of your work do you experience as the most rewarding and challenging?

The most rewarding part of my work is the ability to surgically cure cancer. I feel a special bond with my patients and they have all become my friends. The most challenging aspect of my career is when I have to witness patients suffer or succumb to their illness.

How would you describe your connection with Slovenia?

I have a deep love for Slovenia. My ties to Slovenia

can be seen in both my personal life and my work. For example, I have pictures from Slovenia that decorate the examination rooms in my office. Also, studies have shown that surgeons are generally more relaxed when they are listening to music they like, thus I always play Slovenian polka music during my surgeries. Even the license plate on my car reads "Slovene." With regard to my personal life, my wife is from Škofljica, Slovenia, and I have four boys who speak fluent Slovenian. Our family life revolves around our Slovenian customs and traditions.

What is your involvement in Cleveland's Slovenian community?

I am president of the health care section of the Cleveland Slovenian Businesspersons Association. I enjoy singing with the St. Vitus church choir every Sunday. My wife is a teacher at St. Vitus Slovenian School and my boys attend the Slovenian school. We are members of Slovenska Pristava in Harpersfield, Ohio and we often spend weekends there. In addition, I am the director of the annual Camp Pristava.

Do you travel to Slovenia often and do you plan on going soon?

I travel to Slovenia every year with my family. It is our annual family trip and we look forward to going every year. In addition, I will be going to Slovenia for the World Slovenian Congress at the end of May.

Are there any particular connections between Cleveland and Slovenia that you want to especially point out?

There are a lot of talented people in the Cleveland Slovenian Community and we particularly enjoy helping other Slovenians. There are many organizations that are actively involved in promoting Slovenia and strengthening Slovenian relationships. It is critical that we maintain our cultural and business ties. Speaking from a health care standpoint, we are blessed to have a very strong medical community here in Cleveland, and many physicians from Slovenia come here for conferences and education. On the other hand, I enjoy visiting Slovenian hospitals and being involved with Slovenian conferences. I particularly cherish all the Slovenian physician relationships I have made over the years.

EU Open House

On **May 9, 2009**, diplomatic representations of EU Member States in the United States will celebrate European Day by organizing the third annual **EU Open House** day, under a slogan *Shortcut to Europe*.

For a few hours, Embassies of 27 countries and the EU Commission Delegation in Washington, DC, will open their doors, showcasing their art, culture, food, and introducing the European Union to visitors from the area. The event attracts more and more people each year. In 2008 we recorded a total of over 50,000 visitors.

Embassies have prepared an extensive and interesting program, which you can find on the official EU Open House web site www.europe-in-dc.com.

Volunteers Needed

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 with the Slovenian Embassy or any other EU member representation, please give us a call or send an [email](#).

Please sign up by mid-April, 2009. The volunteers coordination meeting is planned for Monday, May 4, 2009.



SHORTCUT TO EUROPE
EU Embassies' Open House
Saturday, May 9, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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.