

SLOVENSKA ŠOLA PRI SV. VIDU
ST. VITUS SLOVENIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL
6019 LAUSCHE AVE.
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44103

Spoštovani!

Prosim da sledeče objavite. Za uslugo vam
najlepša hvala. Lepo pozdravlja,
Barbara Beyer 440-259-4904 Tajnica
Slovenske Šole Pri Sv. Vidu 7. januarja. 2009



Kosilo Slovenske Šole pri Sv. Vidu

Slovenska Šola pri Sv. Vidu vabi na svoje vsakoletno kosilo, ki bo v nedeljo 15. februarja, 2009 v šolski dvorani. Kuharice bodo postregle z domačo juho, pečenimi piščanci ali svinjsko pečenko z vsemi prikuhami. Postrežba bo od 11:00 do 1:00 popoldne. Cena za odrasle je \$12, za otroke \$6. Kakor prejšna leta, boste kosilo tudi letos lahko vzeli domov. V tem primeru pridite v društveno sobo. Nakaznice za kosilo imajo starši otrok Slovenske Šole in pri vratih na dan prireditev. Vsi lepo vabljeni in dobrodošli!

St. Vitus Slovenian School Benefit Dinner

The St. Vitus Slovenian Language School annual benefit dinner of pork roast or chicken is being held Sunday, February 15, 2009 in the St. Vitus Auditorium. The meal will be served between 11:00 am and 1:00pm. Take outs will also be available in the social room. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Tickets may be purchased in advance from Slovenian School parents or at the door on the day of the event. Come join us for this community event and help support our school!



Who: Mezzo-soprano Bernarda Fink, born to Slovenian parents in Buenos Aires,

What: Recital of works by Schubert and Dvořák

When: Sunday January 11, 2009

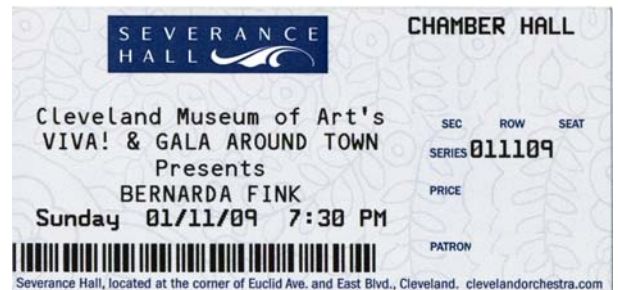
Where: Reinberger Chamber Hall at Severance Hall Cleveland, Ohio

Why: The concert was part of the Cleveland Museum of Art's Viva! & Gala Around Town series.

Clevelanders had the rare opportunity to enjoy a wonderful performance by Argentine born Slovenian singer Bernarda Fink. After her performance Ms. Fink was greeted by many of her Slovenian admirers in the Smith Lobby at Severance Hall.

Recital Program Guide

http://www.cleslo.com/News_Culture.html



Thank you to Michael McKay, Manager, Office Operations Performing Arts, Music and Film The Cleveland Museum of Art 11150 East Boulevard Cleveland, OH 44106-1797 Tel: 216-707-2284 www.clevelandart.org/perform who provided the program guide for our site.

- Phil Hrvatin -



Bernarda Fink expertly lures listeners into Schubert, Dvorak art songs

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Donald Rosenberg

Plain Dealer Reporter



DON ROSENBERG

Art songs place performers and listeners in the most intimate of musical relationships. A story about lost love or other poetic subjects is sung to eager recipients. We listen to every word, even in a language we might not know, and take in every physical gesture as if they are matters of revelation and trust.

A stellar example of a singer intimate in the ways of the art song is Bernarda Fink, an Argentine mezzo-soprano keenly attuned to subtlety, inflection and contrast. With pianist Anthony Spiri as superb collaborator, Fink reveled in these gifts Sunday in Reinberger Chamber Hall at Severance Hall during a recital of works by Schubert and Dvorak. The concert was part of the Cleveland Museum of Art's Viva! & Gala Around Town series.

Reinberger is an ideal venue for such an artistic experience. Audience members sit close enough to the stage to become extensions of the sonic narrative. The hall's warm, clear acoustics ensure that each detail will be heard as if a personal conversation is taking place.

Fink knows how to draw listeners into the miniature dramas she is singing. She balances utmost elegance with a bold sense of tension and release. Where others might exaggerate, Fink prefers to understate, though she can generate ample heat when the emotional temperature rises.

The focus and beauty of her timbre allow Fink to penetrate the core of a song. She devoted the first half of her concert Sunday to a diverse selection of Schubert pieces, ranging from odes to nature to melancholic expressions of lost love.

Spiri's kaleidoscopic, shapely pianism set the atmospheres for these vibrant Schubertian encounters. Occasionally relying on the printed music, Fink gave tender and forceful life to the multitude of lyrical verses, including six songs set to Goethe texts.

Schubert relies upon performers to pay meticulous attention to his compact marriage of music and words. Fink and Spiri were eloquent co-conspirators as they ventured through the affecting terrain into which this composer poured much of his soul.

To two song cycles by Dvorak, Fink brought enormous wisdom and spontaneity. The mezzo sang these pieces from memory, enabling her to send the Czech texts directly to all ears.

Dvorak's "Five Biblical Songs" show the composer's deep commitment to sacred sources, including a setting of "The Lord's Prayer" infused with his special melodic freshness. His "Gypsy Songs" are dark, impassioned and exuberant, which Fink acknowledged in performances imbued with concentrated fervor.

The encores were folk songs, one by Dvorak and another in the language of Fink's heritage, Slovenian. They made a disarming end to a cherishable occasion.

To reach Donald Rosenberg:

drosenberg@plaind.com , 216-999-4269

December 14, 2008

Father Victor Cimperman and Father Joseph Boznar enjoying a conversation at the St. Vitus Altar Society annual dinner.

Photo: Phil Hrvatin



ATTENTION CLEVELAND SLOVENIAN SKIERS AND BOARDERS!!!!

Cleveland Slovenian Ski Club is entering its third season. This year we are organizing two ski trips.

The first trip is a one day ski trip to Holiday Valley, in Ellicottville, NY, on Saturday, February 7th, 2009. Cost is \$75 and includes round trip motor coach to Holiday Valley and an 8 hour full access lift pass. The cost for children between the ages of 6-11 is \$65. Non- skiers/non-boarders, and all children 5 and under, have the option of paying \$30 for round trip bus fare only. Children 5 and under ski for free.

Ski / board rentals are available at Holiday valley for an additional charge.(Cost of ski rental starts at \$24, \$19 for ages 11 and under. Cost of a snow board rental is at \$29 and \$25 for ages 11 and under.)

Bus departs at 6:00 a.m. from the Lakeland Community College parking lot near 306 in Mentor, OH. All day parking is permitted and Hello all,

Just a quick reminder to get your registration in for the 2009 Cleveland Slovenian Ski trips as soon as possible. We are having a great ski season so far and hopefully it will last through the rest of the season. I have attached the registration forms and all the trip information. Please send in your forms as soon as possible.

Franci francsever@gmail.com

SLOMSEK SLOVENIAN SCHOOL Lemont, Illinois
SECOND SEMESTER WILL BEGIN
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 2009 AT 10:00 AM

New students are welcome! For more information, please e-mail secretary@slovenian-center.org

TONY PETKOVSEK GRATEFUL FOR THANKSGIVING TURNOUT

By Alice Kuhar

A perfect weekend weatherwise and polkawise brought the usual folks from over 20 states, Canada, the Netherlands and all of greater Cleveland to Tony Petkovsek's Thanksgiving radio promotion at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Cleveland.

Each year since the early 1960's and more recently since 1990 many organizations and individuals packed the major downtown venue on both Thursday and Friday to support the Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club and the polka parties for the longest running daily polka and Slovenian show on WELW 1330AM and www.247PolkaHeaven.com

Twenty Cleveland-style bands were booked and rotated at the Marriott Grand Ballroom as well as in the Erie Superior side room and even in the main lobby of the facility between St. Clair and Public Square. Jam sessions were another feature in addition to receptions in various rooms of the tour bus leaders plus the top 25th floor hospitality suite.

U.S. Senator George Voinovich, showing his personal friendship to Tony Petkovsek, left his own family gathering in northeast Cleveland to attend right on Thanksgiving night. The former Cleveland mayor and Ohio Governor has been known to visit Tony's events.

Highlight of entertainment came mid Friday evening when the Mi Smo Mi young men's chorus debuted along with the colorful Kres folklore dancers.

On the Saturday afternoon the Polka Hall of Fame hosted the 21st Awards Show for the first time at St. Clair Slovenian Home and then later the Meet the Winners dance following Bishop Edward Pevec's Polka Mass at the Marriott concelebrated by polka priest Fr. Frank Perkovich of Minnesota.



The holiday weekend events, Thursday and Friday are in direct support of Tony's daily radio shows heard Monday thru Friday from 2:00pm – 4:00pm and Saturdays Noon – 2:00pm

Photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/philip.hrvatin/PetkovsekThanksgiving>

A Note from Mimi Kozina Cupar

2009/1/13 <maryfkozina@aim.com>

Hi Emanuela,

My name is Mimi Kozina Cupar. I am your mom's cousin's daughter. I received message from phil Hrvatina regarding your survey. I went online to complete and it is no longer there. Is it too late? I didn't know till yesterday that you are Tilika's daughter. It has been a long time since I went to Maribor. I remember meeting you years ago when you were little. Let me know if there is anything else you need. Say hello to your family.

lep pozdrav mimi

-----Original Message-----

From: emanuela šlebinger <emanuela.slebinger@gmail.com>

To: maryfkozina@aim.com

Sent: Tue, 13 Jan 2009 2:53 pm

Subject: Re: survey

Hi Mimi,

I can't believe we found each other on the Internet. I hope you and your family are doing fine. I phoned your aunt Slavica yesterday to help me get my survey across. That page allows me to see only 99 responses for free so I had to change the link. **The new link is:**

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228PDLTZJPW>

Thank you for taking part in my survey. Please, be free to send the link to other Americans of Slovene origin you know.

Lepe pozdrave iz Lenarta.

Here is a picture from your last visit in Lenart.

Regards,
Emanuela



Tomaz Salamun, Slovenian poet, will be reading his poetry at the **Art Institute of Chicago**



February 13, 2009
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Fullerton Hall
No Admission

Tomaž Šalamun is a Slovenian poet. He was born in 1941 in Zagreb, Croatia, and raised in Koper, Slovenia. He has published 30 collections of poetry in his native Slovenian language. Šalamun spent two years at the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop in the 1970s and has lived for periods of time in the United States since then.

For a time, he served as Cultural Attaché to the Slovenian Embassy in New York. He has had ten collections of poetry published in English, including *The Selected Poems of Tomaž Šalamun* (Ecco Press, 1998); *The Shepherd, the Hunter* (Pedernal, 1992); *The Four Questions of Melancholy* (White Pine, 1997); *Feast* (Harcourt, 2000), "Poker" (Ugly Duckling), "Row!" (Arc Publications), "The Book for My Brother" (Harcourt), and "Woods and Chalices" (Harcourt). He lives in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and is married to the painter Metka Krašovec.

For additional information contact"

"Secretary - Slovenian Catholic Center" rzizek@ameritech.net

www.artic.edu/aic/collections/exhibitions/360degrees/events/8



Ancient vine nursed back to life

By Kester Eddy

Published: December 10 2008 02:00 <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2a68abd4-c65b-11dd-a741-000077b07658.html>

In late September, Tone Zafosnik, at 81 years of age and an otherwise-retired vintner, collected his basket and began harvesting the grapes of his favourite vine.

Nothing unusual, one might think, except that the crowd in attendance - about 500 people, including the press, gathered just a stone's throw from the river Drava, in Maribor, Slovenia's second city - indicated that this was no ordinary grape harvest from no ordinary vine.

"I've spent thousands of hours tending *stara trta* - "the old vine" in Slovenian - and driven thousands of miles for it. People jokingly call it my mistress," says Mr Zafosnik. *Stara trta*, now a strong, healthy growth, is in the Guinness Book of Records, recognised as the world's oldest vine at over 400 years of age. Spreading itself some 25 metres along the wall of an even older house in Lent, Maribor's trendiest district, it is a tourist attraction of growing importance.



But it was not always so. "When I first went to examine the vine in 1980, it was dying. Nobody had looked after it for a decade or more. The area then was very run down and inhabited by gypsies." However, the vine did have guardians, even if they used unorthodox methods.

"A big group of Roma came out of the basement, shouting, and stopped me," Mr Zafosnik recalls. In spite of the lack of official interest, a local police officer who knew the vine was very old, had made a deal with the residents: if they protected the vine, they could stay in their home. "I must give them credit - the Roma did their job with zeal," he says.

Given clearance to proceed, Mr Zafosnik, then a researcher at the Ljubljana Institute of Agriculture, began to revive the stricken plant, and in 1986 the harvest was sufficient to make the first wine. An earlier microscopic examination of the grain by a forestry expert had dated the vine between 350-400 years old.

Mr Zafosnik's efforts began to attract some official attention, but it was only a chance meeting with the new mayor of Maribor in 1990 that precipitated the next big step - the application to the Guinness Book of Records for the oldest vine in the world.

"In London, they did not know where Slovenia was back then. And they demanded so many documents, which all had to be translated and certified. They said they would investigate, then we heard nothing for ages," he says.

At the same time, Mr Zafosnik began offering saplings to other cities.

"We went to Tours, in France. There was a big ceremony arranged for the planting, but the French could hardly believe that little Slovenia . . . could possibly be the home of the world's oldest vine."

Official recognition for the vine came from London in 1998, though it was still some years before an entry appeared in the Guinness Book of Records. "That was a big step," he says.

Today, saplings from *stara trta*, a regional variety of grape known as *modra kavcina*, which grows mainly in Croatia and south-eastern Slovenia, are sprouting at a hundred sites from Japan to Argentina. Wine from the grapes has been given to Bill Clinton, Emperor Akihito of Japan and Pope John Paul II. Franc Kangler, the current mayor of Maribor, says the city and the country is "very grateful" to Tone Zafosnik. "Many years ago he saved it by making sure it survived its worst times, and he is still nurturing it and loving it with all his care," he says.

At his home, on the outskirts of Maribor, Mr Zafosnik displays an official certificate as "the keeper of the vine". He has never been paid for his work, but says that is of no matter.

"I'm just pleased we've saved *stara trta*," he says.

December 30, 2008

Koper, Slovenia - A Great Day Trip

By [Jason Green](#)

Koper is a Slovenian city that is right on the border with Italy. Koper was originally built on an island very near the shore. Now the island is a peninsula as a straight that has been filled in. The Golden Age of Koper was during the 15th and 16th centuries and was controlled by the Venetian Republic. Currently Koper is



Slovenia's only port city and it is a business and industrial center.

Koper

Koper is the largest city on the Slovenia coast and there are several attractions, many restaurants, a small beach, and a recreational center. There is also a lot of shopping near the marina. Koper is a great day trip and if you are traveling from Italy onto Croatia, which

is a country I highly recommend visiting, it is right on the way and a great place to stop and check out. If you plan on staying overnight there are many hotels, both large and small, as well as private accommodations, which can be had for a good price.

There are many monuments, old palaces, and quite a few churches in Koper. There are a few tourist offices in Koper, mainly around the marina, and you can pick up some info on all that Koper has to offer. The main place to start may be Titov trg and most of the roads in the city lead to this main square. It is nice on all sides having a town hall, a cathedral, the Praetorian Palace and the Logia kavarna, which has a great coffeehouse in an old Venetian building.

Praetorian Palace

The palace is located on the south end of Titov trg and it has a Venetian Gothic and Renaissance style. The palace was constructed in the 15th century built from 2 older houses dating from the 13th century. The Praetorian Palace was the palace of the mayor and the façade of the palace features many shields and coat of arms.

There is a great archway leading to the small cobbler street of Cevljarska ulica. Inside the palace you can find the Tourist Information Office.

The Loggia is at the northern end of Titov trg and was constructed in 1463 and was renovated in the 17th century with 5 arches facing the square and then there were more arches added that face Verdi Street. In 1555 a terra cotta statue of the Virgin Mary was erected. Now the ground floor of the building is a posh coffee shop, which is a great place to have a drink and look over the square.



A great thing to do in Koper is to wander around the old city center, which is made up of narrow alleys with many small restaurants, cafes, and shops.

Just up from Koper you can find the Socerb Castle, which sits on the Karst Ridge. At the castle you can get great views of the bay of Trieste and the Slovenian countryside.

Other attractions in Koper include the Rotunda of St John the Baptist and Muda Gate.

In the marina there are many restaurants, cafes, and a few bars. This is where most of the shopping is as well, as there are many clothing, jewelry, and souvenir shops in the area. During the summer you can relax on the small coastal area and lay down a towel on the many small piers. Across from the marina there are a couple of huge casinos if you are feeling lucky.

While Koper is not really a main destination it is a great place to check out for a day or so, especially if you are traveling from Italy and Croatia and vice versa. Trieste has an airport and Ryan Air has flights that land there originating in Stansted.

<http://www.tipsfromthelist.com/article4517.html>

National Gallery Promises Rich and Attractive Programme

Ljubljana, 6 January
The National Gallery in Ljubljana has prepared a rich and attractive programme" for the 2009 season, which will open with a memorial exhibition upon the 100th anniversary of birth of Slovenian painter and graphics artist Zoran Music (1909-2005), National Gallery director Barbara Jaki has told STA.



Narodna galerija je osrednja nacionalna ustanova za stavejšo umetnost v Sloveniji, ki hrani največjo zbirko likovnih del na slovenskem ozemlju od visokega srednjega veka do 20. stoletja.

According to Jaki, Music was vitally connected with the National Gallery in his latest period and this connection, as well as several of Music's works from this period, will be presented in the gallery.

An extensive interdisciplinary exhibition on Francesco Robba (1698-1757) and his Fountain of Three Carniolan Rivers, which has been restored and put on permanent display in the National Gallery last September, will follow.

In April, the gallery will host the National Museum from Warsaw with the most important Polish authors from the turn of the 19th century, while the famous Uffizi Museum from Florence will present in October the dilemma between reason and sentiment, the fundamental dilemma from the end of the 18th, with an exhibition of self-portraits. According to Jaki, Slovenian heritage will be presented with two exhibitions - an artistic profile of the northeastern region of Prekmurje from romanticism to modernism and an exhibition of drawing in Slovenia between realism and the Second World War.

The new season will conclude with an exhibition on sculptor Alojz Gangl, the author of the monument to poet and author Valentin Vodnik at the Ljubljana market and the monument to scholar Janez Vajkard Valvasor in front of the National Gallery.

The exhibition entitled "Slovenian Impressionists and Their Time 1890-1920", which opened last year and will be on show until 8 February, has so far been seen by 70,000 visitors, said Jaki, adding that the gallery expected another 20,000.

"The fact that other exhibitions with similar topics did not see such a record visit tells that our decision to present impressionist painting in a wider artistic, social and historical context was the right one," said the director.



Current & Upcoming Events

December 11- January 30: Transpositions. Video art exhibition 'Transpositions' and mosaic prints 'Vortex' and 'Swimming the Dark' by **Nataša Prosenc**. Embassy of Slovenia, Washington, DC. For viewing, please call in advance.



Visitors viewing Prosenc's video art.

February 5 – March 15: America. Shapes, Shadows, and Colors. Exhibition of photographs by Slovenian Consul General in Cleveland, Ohio, dr. Zvone Žigon.

Dr. Chan the New Slovenian Honorary Consul in Florida

Republic of Slovenia has appointed Dr. Gregory S Chan, Ed.D. as a new Honorary Consul of Slovenia, with a jurisdiction in the State of Florida.

Dr. Chan holds several positions at the St. Thomas University in Florida; he is a

Provost of the University and Chief Academic Officer since 2005, he has held a position of a Vice President for Academic Affairs since 2001, and is also active in the role of Professor of Education and Business Administration at the St. Thomas University.



Dr. Gregory S. Chan, Ed.D

Dr. Chan has a record of successes and achievements in education and administration over a period of thirty years at all levels of public and private education. From 1978 to 1988, Dr. Chan was a teacher, district central office administrator and director, and high school Principal in Washington State. From 1999 to 2001, Dr. Chan served as Associate Professor, tenured Professor, Department Chair, Executive Assistant to the President, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Programs, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs of Central Washington University.

Having such an impressive career, dr. Chan is also well know for his personal and friendly engagement with students, and has been highly successful in his support of an academic renewal on the University.

Republic of Slovenia has had an opportunity to cooperate with dr. Chan, and the newly established affiliation with dr. Chan as a Slovenian Honorary Consul is seen as highly beneficial for Slovenian community in Florida, as well as for an overall relationship between Slovenia and the US.

Embassy of Slovenia wishes dr. Chan many successes in future, and is congratulating him to becoming a Honorary Consul of Slovenia.

Big River Man at Sundance

Park City, UT, January 16 - Slovenian record swimmer, Martin Strel, started on February 1st, 2007, an incredible feat of endurance – a swim of a complete length of the Amazon river, all 3274 miles of extremely dangerous waters. He succeeded. It took him 66 days.

Martin Strel swam the Amazon River, like the Mississippi, the Danube, and the Yangtze before that, to highlight pollution in the world.



A still from the film *Big River Man*

Strel was followed on this sporting event by a film crew, whose film, *Big River Man*, has now gained an entry into a world famous film festival Sundance.

'A film like no other, *Big River Man* is the story of Martin Strel, the four-time world record holding endurance swimmer, and his insane attempt to be the first person to swim the world's most hostile and dangerous river, the mighty Amazon. Framed by the crisis ridden, spectacular Amazonian Rain Forest, *Big River Man* is a hilarious and psychological thrill ride that simultaneously surprises and enlightens.'

(source: www.bigriverman.com)



Big River Man will premiere at Sundance on Friday, February 16. Martin Strel, accompanied by his son Borut Strel, who acts as Martin's expeditions' manager, and also appears as a narrator in the film, will attend the festival, taking place in Park City, Utah.

The film is part of Competition Category, and we wish *Big River Man* a great success!

For more information, visit <http://festival.sundance.org/2009>

Pokrajina št. 2/ Landscape No. 2 at the Santa Barbara Film Festival

Santa Barbara, January 22 -

International film festival in Santa Barbara, California, now in its 24rd year, will host Slovenian film *Pokrajina št. 2* (Landscape No. 2) by Vinko Moederndorfer.



Still from *Pokrajina št. 2*.

Pokrajina št. 2 is Moederndorfer's second feature film. The film is a story of post-WWII executions of Nazi collaborators, and deals with a common traumatic experience, shared by all European nations.

The plot of the film starts with a stealing of a priceless painting, by a common thief Sergej, whose greed gets the best of him, when he mistakenly takes a mysterious document that refers to some shady dealings near the end of World War II.

Moederndorfer's film won best film award at the 11th Festival of Slovenian film in Portorož, as well as best directing, best supporting actress (Maja

Martina Merljak), set design (Duško Milavec), photography (Dušan Joksimović), and best original score (Borut Kržišnik).

24rd Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF), taking place from January 22 to February 1, 2009, will feature over 200 films, including 21 world premieres, and 29 U.S. premieres. *Pokrajina št. 2* is presenting Slovenia among other 40 countries, taking part at this year's SBIFF.

GWU Neurology and Ljubljana Neurology Join Forces Officially

With the arrival of a new member to the Department of Neurology at the George Washington University in 2007, Dr. Mateja de Leonni Stanonik, MD, Ph.D., new strides were made to start an official connection with the Institute of Neurology and Department of Neurology at the Medical Center in Ljubljana.

Dr. de Leonni Stanonik had done research work previously with her colleagues in Ljubljana, therefore the connections and friendships were already present. The Chairman of GW Neurology, Prof. dr. John Kelly, MD, who's wife's parents were both Slovenian, as well as all of the faculty members strongly supported the idea.

Dr. de Leonni Stanonik proposed the collaboration to the Head of Neurology in Ljubljana, Prof. Dr. David Vodusek, MD, PhD, who was honored, and graciously accepted.

GW Department of Neurology operates a Stroke Certified Center at the GW University Hospital and holds specialty clinics in different neurological diseases; most notable are the ALS Center, the Epilepsy Center, Dementia clinics.

There is ample room for collaboration in clinical work as well as research, but also in the area of neurological graduate medical education, says Prof. Perry Richardson, MD, the Residency Program Director for GW Neurology.

»As the new Neurology University Hospital opens in Ljubljana in March of 2009, the facilities between the departments will enable virtual long-distance education series of lectures, cooperation in rendering Second Opinions, and possibly evaluation of patients by using the advanced technologies in telemedicine where interventions may also be performed across the Atlantic Ocean« states dr. de Leonni Stanonik.

U.S. Travel Authorization Mandatory as of 12 Jan

Ljubljana, December 17 - Like the citizens of all countries included in the US visa-waiver program, Slovenian nationals wanting to travel to the United States will be required to apply online for a travel authorization as of **January 12, 2009**. The travel authorization is valid for two years, and for unlimited

number of trips, and would replace the current green I-94 forms.

Those wishing to travel to the United States will have to fill in online their personal data, data from their passport and answer a few security questions, which travelers have so far been required to fill in the I-94 forms upon entry to the US.

The easiest way to access ESTA is via the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana website:
<http://slovenia.usembassy.gov>

The system is safe and **free-of-charge**.

Center for Slovene as a Foreign Language

Centre for Slovene as a Second/ Foreign Language at the Department of Slovene Studies at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, has been organizing Slovene Language courses for over 25 years. The primary mission of the programs is to provide high-quality language teaching of Slovene language to all those who wish to learn the language, and whose native language is not Slovenian.



The majority of people, joining these courses, are interested in a combination of language-learning while learning and experiencing the vibrant and contemporary culture and society of Slovenia. The three main language courses, offered by the Center for Slovene language, are:

ONE-YEAR SLOVENE LANGUAGE COURSE:

an intensive language course, lasting a full academic year from the beginning of October to the end of May. Courses are offered for all levels or participants.

15th WINTER SCHOOL OF SLOVENE LANGUAGE:

26.1 - 6.2.2009: For people who want to learn as much as possible in as short time as possible (10 or 58 hours of lessons over a two week period). The program includes lectures, workshops, cultural events, sport activities and field excursions.

SUMMER SCHOOL:

2 or 4 week summer course for anyone willing to immerse themselves fully in the Slovene language, culture and society as well as enjoying an unforgettable summer vacation with like-minded people.

For further information visit the Center's website at <http://www.centerslo.net>.