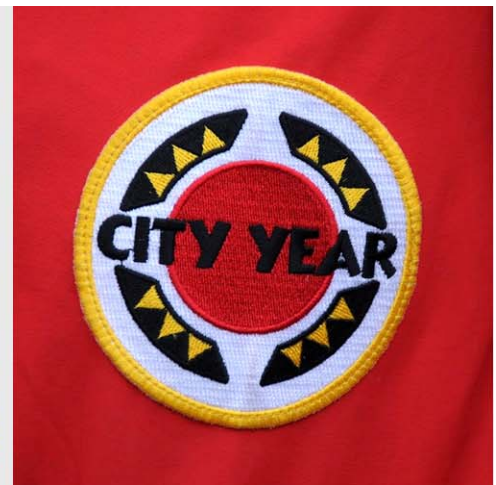


Make a Difference Day in the Cultural Gardens by City Year

<http://blog.culturalgardens.org/index.php/category/slovenian-garden/>

October 27th, 2009 | Post Author: Bill Jones

City Year-Cleveland, along with Cleveland State University's Center for Leadership and Service brought over 40 volunteers to the Cultural Gardens on Saturday, October 24, 2009 for their 19th national "Make a Difference Day" volunteer efforts. The difference they made in the Gardens after four hours must be seen to be believed. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation salutes City Year-Cleveland and CSU's Center for Leadership and Service for making a world of a difference in the Cultural Gardens. Thanks to Philip Hrvatin of the Slovenian Cultural Garden we have pictures of just some of those volunteers.



Photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/pjhcle/CityYearClevelandSlovenianCulturalGarden>



Slovenia

BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR

International Religious Freedom Report 2009

Source: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127337.htm>

October 26, 2009

The Constitution provides for freedom of religion, and other laws and policies contributed to the generally free practice of religion.

The Government generally respected religious freedom in practice. There was no change in the status of respect for religious freedom by the Government during the reporting period. There were isolated reports of minor societal abuses or discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice.

The U.S. Government discusses religious freedom with the Government as part of its overall policy to promote human rights.

Section I. Religious Demography

The country has an area of 7,827 square miles and a population of 2 million. According to the 2002 census, 58 percent of the population is Roman Catholic, 2 percent is Muslim, and 2 percent is Orthodox Christian. Groups that constitute less than 1 percent of the population include evangelical Protestants, "other Christians," "other Protestants," "Oriental" religions, "other religions," agnostics, and Jews. In addition, 3 percent of the population is classified as "believers but belonging to no religion," and 10 percent as "unbelievers/atheists"; 16 percent gave no reply in the census, and 7 percent are classified as "unknown."

The Orthodox and Muslim populations generally correspond to the immigrant Serb and Bosniak populations, respectively.

Section II. Status of Government Respect for Religious Freedom

Legal/Policy Framework

The Constitution provides for freedom of religion, and other laws and policies contributed to the generally free practice of religion. The law at all levels protects this right in full against abuse, either by governmental or private actors. The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion as well as inciting religious discrimination and inflaming religious hatred and intolerance.

The Religious Freedoms Act, which entered into force in 2007, codifies the Government's respect for religious freedom, legal status and rights of churches and other religious communities, rights of members, process of registration with the Government, rights of registered churches and religious communities, and responsibilities of the Government's Office for Religious Communities. The National Council (the upper house of Parliament) challenged the constitutionality of the act shortly after it came into force. At the end of the reporting period, the Constitutional Court was reviewing the act's constitutionality.

The Government observes the following religious holidays as national holidays: Easter Sunday and Monday, Pentecost, the Assumption, Christmas, and Reformation Day. Members of religious communities whose important religious festivities do not coincide with those work-free days have the right to use their regular annual leave on their holy days.

The Constitution and military law provide for conscientious objection to military service based on "religious, philosophical, or humanitarian belief."

There are no formal requirements for recognition of religious groups by the Government, and activities of religious communities are unrestricted regardless of whether they register with the Government. However, religious communities must register with the Office for Religious Communities if they wish to be legal entities, a status that entitles such groups to rebates on value-added taxes. According to the Religious Freedoms Act, religious communities must have at least one hundred adult members and must have operated in the country for at least 10 years to register. Religious communities must submit a basic application to the Office for Religious Communities providing proof that these two requirements are met as well as the names of the community's representatives in the country, a description of the foundations of the community's religious beliefs, and the organizational act of the church or community. Religious communities registered under the previous law were automatically registered under the new law. The Office for Religious Communities did not receive any new applications during the reporting period.

According to the Office for Religious Communities, it has been government policy since 1991 to pay the social insurance contribution for clergy and other full-time religious workers that is normally paid by an employer. The Religious Freedoms Act directs the Government to pay social insurance contributions for one religious employee per one thousand members of a recognized religious community.

At state-licensed schools, lessons with the goal of educating children in a particular religion are forbidden, as are prayer meetings. The Government partially finances teacher salaries at religiously affiliated schools. Licensed schools may not display religious symbols, but students are permitted to wear religious symbols. At unlicensed private religious schools, religious lessons generally are mandatory.

The Government finances small grants for recognized religious organizations.

Individuals can file informal complaints of human rights violations, including violations of religious freedom, by national or local authorities with the Human Rights Ombudsman.

Restrictions on Religious Freedom

The Government generally respected religious freedom in practice. There was no change in the status of respect for religious freedom by the Government during the reporting period. Muslim community leaders expressed concern that their community continued to be unable to provide adequate religious services in hospitals. Although the Ministry of Health adopted regulations on spiritual/religious service in hospitals in October 2008, by the end of the reporting period, the Ministry had not approved the Islamic Community's five candidates to provide religious services and counseling to hospitalized Muslims.

The Islamic Community and city officials made some progress towards the establishment of a mosque and Islamic cultural center in Ljubljana. The Islamic Community completed the purchase of land for the mosque on December 31, 2008. In April 2009 Ljubljana's mayor promised that the city would pay half of planning expenses for construction, and the Islamic Community expected to complete architectural plans by September 2009, with construction to begin shortly thereafter. The mayor rejected a January 2009 attempt by a city council member to require a referendum on the mosque. The city council member appealed the decision to the Administrative Court, which rejected the appeal in June 2009.

By March 2008 the Government had adjudicated 1,006 (84.5 percent) of 1,191 Catholic denationalization claims for properties--church buildings and support buildings, residences,

businesses, and forests--that were nationalized after World War II. Catholic claims were only a small portion of the total number of denationalization claims (39,642), of which by July 2008 the Government had settled 38,584 (97.3 percent).

At the end of the reporting period, there had been no restitution of Jewish communal and heirless properties confiscated or nationalized during and after World War II. In 2007, acting on a tender awarded by the Ministry of Justice, the Institute of Contemporary History researched a report on such properties. Also in 2007 the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) funded a separate report that was researched by two experts affiliated with the Institute for Ethnic Studies. The Ministry of Justice stated that the Institute of Contemporary History finished its report in spring 2008 but would not publish or translate it into English until the WJRO had completed its own report. At the end of the reporting period, neither report had been published. The Ministry of Justice, the WJRO, and the Jewish Community of Slovenia planned to discuss restitution after both reports were complete. There were no reports of religious prisoners or detainees in the country.

Forced Religious Conversion

There were no reports of forced religious conversion, including of minor U.S. citizens who had been abducted or illegally removed from the United States or who had not been allowed to be returned to the United States.

Improvements and Positive Developments in Respect for Religious Freedom

On January 27, 2009, the Government observed its first Holocaust Remembrance Day.

On September 7, 2008, the Jewish community, supported by local government officials, held the third annual European Day of Jewish Culture festival, which the President attended and which received broad media coverage.

Section III. Status of Societal Respect for Religious Freedom

There were isolated reports of minor societal abuses or discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice. Interfaith relations were generally amicable, although there was little warmth between the Catholic Church and foreign missionary groups that it viewed as aggressive proselytizers.

In November 2008 vandals defaced graves located in the mountains of the northwestern region; the graves contained the remains of Muslim soldiers, mostly Bosnians, who fought in World War I. The vandals spray-painted symbols of Serbian nationalism on the traditional Muslim wooden grave markers.

Jewish community representatives reported some prejudice, ignorance, false stereotypes, and negative images of Jews within society.

The Government promoted tolerance and antibias education through its programs in primary and secondary schools and made the Holocaust a mandatory topic in the primary and secondary contemporary history curriculum.

Section IV. U.S. Government Policy

The U.S. Government discusses religious freedom with the Government as part of its overall policy to promote human rights. The U.S. Embassy held extensive discussions with the Government on the topic of property denationalization and restitution of heirless and communal Jewish properties confiscated or nationalized after World War II. In addition, the Embassy made informal inquiries into the status of the mosque construction project. Embassy representatives met with members of all major religious communities and concerned government officials to discuss religious freedom. The Embassy also provided a small amount of financial support to the European Day of Jewish Culture.



U. S. Senator George Voinovich and Slovenian Consul General Jure Žmauc

U. S. Senator George Voinovich and Slovenian Consul General Jure Žmauc had their official meeting on November 2, 2009. The meeting took place in Senator Voinovich's Cleveland office at the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building. Both men had the opportunity to talk about their past assignments and discuss their visions of the future.

Photo provided by George Brown Cleveland assistant to Senator Voinovich george_brown@voinovich.senate.gov

U. S. Senator George Voinovich on the air with Tony Petkovsek

October 26, 2009 Cleveland Radio host Tony Petkovsek interviews U. S. Senator George Voinovich on his daily polka radio show. The senator took the opportunity to speak about several state and local issues on Ohio's ballot November 3, 2009



Tony Petkovsek, Senator George Voinovich and Phil Hrvatin outside of Tony's E. 185th Street radio studio at Kollander World Travel.

Photo by George Brown

<http://www.welw.com/programming/TPpolka.html>


Congratulations Mike Polensek

A 31 year Cleveland City Council veteran, Councilman Michael D. Polensek has had the honor to serve nine terms as Ward 11's representative and is the "Dean" of Cleveland City Council. He has represented Cleveland's Ward 11 since January 1982. On November 3, 2009 Mike was elected to his tenth term in Ward 11. This record is unprecedented in the history of Cleveland City Council.



Mike Polensek at his victory party at Collinwood Slovenian Home

**CLEVELAND
WARD 11
COUNCILMAN**



**MICHAEL D.
POLENSEK**

Cleveland City Hall
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 220
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216) 664-4236
ward11@clevelandcitycouncil.org
www.clevelandcitycouncil.org



FARMER'S DINNER

Fundraiser for the new Pristava pool
Saturday, November 7, 2009

The board of Slovenska Pristava invites you to Lausche Lodge for a farmer's dinner to benefit our new pool. The dinner will consist of goulash and polenta, dessert and coffee for \$12.00.

Molitve will begin at 3pm at the chapel. Dinner will be served at 4pm.
Stay and enjoy the fall evening with music, drinks and friends.

Only pre-sale tickets will be sold. Please contact Elizabeth Zalik for your reservations at 440-537-1941. www.slovenskapristava.org

Cleveland area photos from Phil

Lakeview Cemetery & Murray Hill
<http://picasaweb.google.com/pjhcle/LakesideMurrayHill>

Cleveland Metropark Euclid Reservation
<http://picasaweb.google.com/pjhcle/FallColorsInTheEuclidMetropark>

Dobrodošli!

Book Signing and Lecture



Tone Kuntner was born on May 13, 1943 to a large farming family in *Tratah v Slovenskih goricah*. He attended elementary school at *Marija Snežna* in *Zgornja Velka*, and graduated from the classical high school in Maribor. He went on to study performing arts in Ljubljana, graduating in 1968. From that time, until his retirement in 2005, he worked as a dramatic actor in the Ljubljana City Theatre, and performed in countless productions in Slovenian radio, film and television. He was also professor of creative writing at Slovenia's Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television. Mr. Kuntner is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Prešeren Award and the Borštnik Award. He is the author of some 20 books of poetry.

The Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia
and
The Slovenian Museum and Archives

welcome you to a lecture, book signing and reception
featuring special guest:

Tone Kuntner

renowned actor, poet, and author

Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 7:00 pm

at the Slovenian Museum and Archives
6407 St. Clair Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44103

Mr. Kuntner will present and discuss his new book,
Moj Svet – My World,
available for purchase at this event.

RSVP to johanna.bajc@gov.si or 216-589-9220.



GENERALNI KONZULAT REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE
THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



The 15 page Society for Slovene Studies October 2009 newsletter is now online:

<http://www.slovenestudies.com/misc/letter66.pdf>

SOCIETY FOR SLOVENE STUDIES

LETTER

SOCIETY FOR SLOVENE STUDIES
c/o Dept. of GREAL
Bowling Green SU
Bowling Green, OH 43403

Joseph Derdzinski
Editor, *SSS Letter*
Department of Political Science
The United States Air Force Academy

No. 66

<http://www.slovenestudies.com>

October 2009

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THE SOCIETY AT THE AAASS

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SLAVIC STUDIES ANNUAL CONVENTION, BOSTON, 12–15 NOVEMBER 2009

A number of papers, as well as entire panels, listed below, will be presented on Slovene topics. Please make special note of our annual business meeting, on Friday, 13 November at 5:00 P.M. and the Central Europeanists' reception at 7:30 P.M. the same evening. If you wish to go to the reception, please confirm to Veronica Aplenc (vaplenc@yahoo.com). The cost is \$25.

ARCHIVE OF THE JOURNAL SLOVENE STUDIES NOW ON LINE

All issues of *Slovene Studies*, 1997–2005 are now available on line at:
<https://digital.lib.washington.edu/ojs/>

Spoštovane bralke in bralci spletnega medija ClevelandSlovenian.com

Respected readers of ClevelandSlovenian.com

The lecture of the Slovenian academic, ethnologist and cultural anthropologist, former dean and full professor of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ljubljana and former chairperson of the Ethnology Department, **dr. Božidar Jezernik** was held in the Main Classroom of the **Cleveland State University**. The auditorium was nearly full for the professor's lecture about his



October 26, 2009 dr. Božidar Jezernik at Cleveland State University: Photo by Barbara Martinčič Zibelnik

historical views on the elusive name and description of the region called Balkan. He described the cultural and political surroundings of the name and showed the connotations that came together with the denotative meaning of the word, which changed greatly throughout history. Of course the denotative meaning varied hand in hand with the positive or negative attitude of the historians, politicians and others towards the Balkans. The lecture was superbly supported by the depicting postcards from the professor's own collection, through which the audience could better comprehend the complexity of this topic.

A great deal of discussion followed during the question and answer session. Among the satisfied guests there were the

General Consul of Republic Slovenia **Jure Žmauc**, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at CSU **prof. dr. Gregory Sadlek**, distinguished American Slovenian and receiver of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, **dr. August Pust**, Chairperson at Bowling Green State University, **prof. dr. Timothy Pogacar** and many other professors, students and members of the Cleveland Slovenian community.

I would like to thank Cleveland State University, especially the College of Liberal Arts and Social Science's Dean's office and the office of the Department of Modern Languages, who made this visit and lecture possible. However the greatest acknowledgement goes to the prof. dr. Jezernik, for the generous visit and support of the Lecturate of the Slovenian language at CSU and LCC, the Center for Slovenian Studies and the Slovenian Museum and Archives. We look forward to the cooperation with him and the department of Ethnology in the near future.

Lep pozdrav,

Luka Zibelnik

Lecturer in Slovenian language
University of Ljubljana
Cleveland State University
Lakeland Community College

l.zibelnik@csuohio.edu



prof. dr. Timothy Pogacar, dr. August Pust, Dean prof. dr. Gregory Sadlek, prof. dr. Božidar Jezernik, Consul General RS Jure Žmauc, Luka Zibelnik: Photo by Barbara Martinčič Zibelnik

Slovenian Genealogy Society International, Inc.
Community Driven Genealogy Research

Anyone interested in *Slovenian* genealogy/history is invited to attend a meeting of the

OHIO CHAPTER OF THE SLOVENIAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

at the new SGSI Research Library located at the

SLOVENIAN MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

6407 St. Clair Avenue

Cleveland, Ohio 44113

6:00pm reception 7:00pm meeting / presentations

FEATURING

renowned Slovenian historians/genealogists

DR. STANISLAV JUZNIC who will unveil his newest book, *From Wildwoods and Back—The Development of Gottscheer Land and Nearby Valleys of Osilnica, Suchen, and Polland*

and

PETER HAWLINA, noted Slovenian genealogist who will be available at the Museum on Monday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to meet individually (at no charge) with interested researchers.

Come prepared with your family's information.

To make an appointment to meet with Mr. Hawlina,
call **440-655-3954** or email sgsipres.rmj@ameritech.net.

**SLOVENIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION
SLOVENSKO AMERIŠKI KULTURNI SVET**

2009 LECTURE SERIES

***THE DEVELOPMENT OF SLOVENIAN
ARMED FORCES***

Colonel Andrej Kocbek

**7:00 PM – Monday, November 9, 2009
Slovenian Society Home (Lower Hall),
20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, Ohio**



The Slovenian-American Heritage Foundation invites all to attend the final talk in our 2009 Lecture Series. The Foundation is extremely pleased that Colonel Andrej Kocbek will discuss the development of Slovenia's Armed Forces. The program, which is free and open to the public, will take place on Monday November 9th at 7:00 PM in the Lower Hall of the Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue in Euclid. A coffee and strudel social will follow the lecture.

In his presentation, Colonel Kocbek will discuss the development of the Slovenian Armed Forces from its formation prior to Slovenia's 1991 war for independence up to its current role as a member of the NATO Alliance.

Colonel Kocbek is currently the Republic of Slovenia's National Liaison Representative at NATO's Allied Command Transformation (ACT) headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia. His distinguished military career includes a key role leading Slovenia's Territorial Defense Forces during the 1991 war for independence from Yugoslavia. For his exceptional service during this critical period, Colonel Kocbek was awarded the Honorary Medal of Freedom in 1992, the highest state decoration that can be granted by the President of the Republic of Slovenia. Since then, he has held several posts within Slovenia's Ministry of Defense including Head of the 710th Conscripts Training Center, Superintendent of the School for Non-Commissioned Officers, Director of the Center of Military Schools, Defense Counselor to the Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the European Union, Defense Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia to the Benelux Countries, Advisor to the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces and Assistant to the Chief of General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

Colonel Kocbek received his training at the Faculty of Social Science, University of Ljubljana with a BS in Defense Studies, School for Reserve Signal Officers in Belgrade, Military Academy – Course for Signal Battalion, NATO Defense College, Rome – Partnership for Peace Officers Course and Command and Staff School – General Staff Course.

Bandleaders Art Perko and Del Sinchak to Be Inducted into the Polka Hall of Fame

All-Time Hits and Trustee Honorees Also Announced

EUCLID, OH -- Two polka bandleaders are to be inducted into the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame at the annual awards ceremony on November 28, 2009. Del Sinchak of Youngstown, Ohio, and the late Art Perko of Cleveland were voted for their lifetime achievements by the membership of the Hall of Fame and announced at the October meeting. Two all-time Cleveland-Style hits were also chosen by voters, "The Waltz of Love," with music by Stan Blout, and "Glas Harmonike" (The Sound of the Accordion), composed by Lojze Slak of Slovenia. The Board of Trustees added six honorees to the Polka Hall of Fame Honor Roll.

Accordianist Art Perko brought national acclaim to the Cleveland-style polka sound with his popular recording of "Peanuts Polka" in the 1960s. His band was one of the top Cleveland-based polka ensembles from the late 1950s into the 1990s. Art recorded five albums. He passed away in 2008. Del Sinchak first led a polka band in Youngstown as a teenager in the 1950s. He has been honored by the Polka Hall of Fame for Best Album and twice for Band of the Year. From his nine albums, Del's best-known polka composition is "Roseann." The accordionist also hosted a weekly polka radio show for many years.



Art Perko

The Polka Hall of Fame trustees placed five individuals and an organization on their Honor Roll for contributions to polka music. The SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, has hosted summer Sunday polka dances since 1939 when America's Polka King Frank Yankovic performed for the opening. Polka promoter Greg Drust has hosted a weekly polka show on Milwaukee radio for nearly two decades. Since the 1970s, Kathy Hlad has been one of the leading women performing the diatonic "button box" accordion, in her hometown of Cleveland and internationally. Ron Luznar is Mr. Polka Man in Florida, having led a band and hosted a weekly radio hour for 40 years. Saxophonist Johnny Spetich devoted a half century of musical service to his brother Frankie's top polka band in Barberton, Ohio, and appeared on twenty albums. The late Mirk Yama was one of the leading bass players in the golden age of polka. As a member of the Johnny Pecon Orchestra, he played on nationwide hits, like "Sweet Polka Dot," and later appeared with the Jeff Pecon Orchestra.

Both all-time Cleveland-style hits this year are waltzes that became standards soon after their first recordings were released in the early 1970s. Stan Blout wrote the lyrical "Waltz of Love" for his orchestra with vocalist Jack Tankovich. Slovenia's legendary accordionist Lojze Slak introduced

his wistful composition, "Glas Harmonike" (The Sound of the Accordion) in 1973. Both songs have been performed and recorded by orchestras in the United States, Canada and abroad.

The 22nd annual National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame awards ceremony takes place on Saturday afternoon, November 28, in the Slovenian National Home auditorium, 6409 St. Clair Avenue, in Cleveland, Ohio. This year's all-star program features an international theme with Slovenian, Italian, German and Polish polka presentations. A reception and dance follows at the downtown Marriott Hotel. The awards show is the high point of the annual Thanksgiving polka music weekend hosted by radio personality Tony Petkovsek.



Del Sinchak

The National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum was founded in 1987 by musicians and leaders of Slovenian and ethnic organizations. The museum traces the story of the city's home-grown sound from its roots in Slovenian neighborhoods to nationwide popularity with audio exhibits, historic photographs and original instruments, including an accordion belonging to Frank Yankovic, America's Polka King. The archive preserves 3,000 vintage recordings, dating back to 1916. Each year, the organization's 1,500 worldwide members vote for top musicians and best album.

The Polka Hall of Fame and Museum is located in the historic former Euclid City Hall, 605 East 222nd Street, in Euclid, Ohio. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5:00, and Saturdays, 10:00 to 3:00. Admission is free. Polka CDs, DVDs and gifts are sold in the museum store and on-line. As a nonprofit organization, the Polka Hall of Fame relies on fundraising and memberships. For more information, call (216) 261-

FAME, toll-free (866) 66-POLKA, or check the website, www.clevelandstyle.com.

Joe Valencic, Trustee





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Slovenia Ranked Seventh in National Geographic Survey

The sixth annual stewardship survey to appear in *Traveler*, conducted by National Geographic Society's Center for Sustainable Destinations, ranks Slovenia seventh on the list of 'Best-Rated Places.'

The condition of any destination is a mix of what local governments, residents, and businesses can control—pollution, cultural quality and authenticity, tourism management—and what they cannot, such as natural disasters and global economic meltdowns.

Slovenia wins praise for being "savvy about balancing tourism with cultural and historical preservation." Ljubljana, the capital, is "colorful, vibrant, and architecturally appealing," and "Slovenia's Alps and wine country remain among the most sustainable and authentic places to visit in Europe."

Some of the comments by a panelist expressed the view of Slovenia as "a magnificently scenic country with excellent environmental stewardship."



One independent panelist lauded the country as "one of the best destinations in the 'old style' of European travel."

—Photograph by James P. Blair, National Geographic Stock

It has a high level of integrity in both its natural and constructed beauty. The residents have an outstanding respect for and care of visitors. Since its independence, the country has been on an almost incredible upward climb. I would point to the effective restoration of the forests, rivers, and lakes; the art and architecture; the ethics and joy of the people; and the wondrous parks, caves, and mountains, » and “Slovenia is one of Europe’s best walking destinations,

with well-maintained and well-signed path networks to suit all levels of walkers. Customer-service standards have improved immeasurably in recent years and local cuisine is gradually improving, with less emphasis on cheap pizzas and meat-heavy dishes. Ljubljana is one of Europe’s most attractive small capital cities; it has the feel of Prague ten years ago. There is a palpable sense of local identity, although opportunities to experience genuine local culture outside the capital city are limited.”

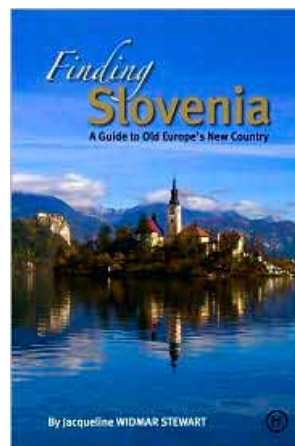
EMBASSY'S BOOK SERIES, 2009 - 2010
In Celebration Of Ljubljana's Selection as
Unesco World Book Capital 2010

The Embassy will be organizing book presentations and readings throughout 2009 and 2010 in celebration of Ljubljana’s selection as UNESCO World Book Capital 2010.

First in the Embassy's Book Series 2009 – 2010
November 5, 2009, 6 PM

A first in the Embassy’s Books Series 2009 - 2010 will be a presentation of a travel guide *Finding Slovenia: A guide to Old Europe’s New Country* by American Slovenian author Jacqueline Widmar Stewart (Embassy’s Newsletter featured an interview with Jacqueline on August 7). The book begins with prehistory on Slovenian soil, and continues with a short history of Slovenes since then. Most of the book is dedicated to the beautiful world of high mountains, national parks, breathtaking ravines, impressive plateaus, tumbling mountain rivers, picturesque lakes and vineyards, a country boasting fine wines and excellent food. What has been best in this land, both past and present, will be presented by Slovenian Tourist Board, Slovenian official tourist agency, which will offer an insight into natural and cultural sights of Slovenia worth visiting.

Finding Slovenia, published by Mladinska knjiga in Slovenia, has recently been chosen the Award-Winning Finalist in the Travel category of the National Best Books 2009 Awards, sponsored by USA Book News.



Report on the Global Health Forum 2009: Connecting Through Innovation & Partnerships

The 4th annual science event, the GLOBAL HEALTH FORUM 2009, was held on October 22 and 23, 2009, in Washington, DC. Panelists identified and discussed strategies in health technology, innovations in primary care, and telemedicine's global impact on healthcare.

The Embassy would like to thank Mateja de Leonni Stanonik, MD, PhD, of the Department of Neurology at the George Washington University, who served as the Scientific and Organizing Chair of the Global Health Forum 2009.

Ambassador Roman Kirn highlighted that the international community realizes the need for a common response to the several global issues including health security. These issues do not stop at national borders and demand the action of all countries and its individuals. Therefore, Slovenia and the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington are ready and willing to offer the knowledge and expertise to reduce imbalances in access to health globally, to support international collaboration and stability, and promote economic development across nations. One of the actions on the governmental level that addresses such global issues is the newly established Department for Global Challenges at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. de Leonni Stanonik noted in her opening address that our world has become a global institution with various partnerships of many individuals, regions, and countries as main players. Dr. de Leonni

Stanonik who also serves as the Vice President of the International Virtual e-Hospital and is an expert on (re)building healthcare systems with the help of telemedicine noted that advanced technologies in healthcare are in the process of transforming the way medicine is practiced world-wide and emphasized the role of health diplomacy when implementing the concept of the international virtual e-hospital in the developing world.

Speakers of the first panel The Essence of Healthcare: Local and Global Perspectives address the issues of Mental health of immigrant and refugee populations, Improved surveillance and public health of South America, U.S. Health Care Reform and The Neglected Tropical Diseases.

The second main focus of this conference was information/health technology and telemedicine. The panel Science, Technology & Health Diplomacy was opened by the keynote address by William Kennedy Smith, MD, the President of the Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR). Dr. Kennedy Smith revealed to us his successful practice of helping landmine victims with telemedicine and other technologies, especially in the area of tele-rehabilitative services.

Participating in the Forum as panelists or moderators were health experts from eleven academic, research, and international institutions in the United States.



Dr. de Leonni Stanonik giving opening remarks at Global Health Forum

Slovenian Doctors Attended the Bone and Joint Global Network Conference in Washington

WASHINGTON, October 23 - Dr. Radko Komadina, Dr. Duša Hlade Zore and Dr. Samo Fokter from the Celje Hospital participated in the 2009 Bone and Joint Global Network Conference held in Washington, DC, between , October 21 and 24. Slovenian Ambassador Roman Kirn invited the three distinguished Slovenian specialists to visit the Embassy and to attend the Global Health Forum, which was then taking place at the Embassy.



Ambassador Kirn with participants from Celje Hospital.

The conference, hosted by the USBJD, brought together the official Bone and Joint Decade National Action Network (NAN) representatives from 56 countries, members of the administration, government policymakers, health care providers, patients, and patient advocates. The Global Network Conference was an education and strategy planning meeting, which stressed the significant burden of disease posed by musculoskeletal conditions and the reasons why raising awareness and engaging in advocacy are important means of advancing prevention and treatment.

The Bone and Joint Decade is an international collaborative movement sanctioned by the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for people with musculoskeletal conditions and to advance the understanding, prevention and treatment of these conditions. Musculoskeletal conditions include back pain, arthritis, osteoporosis, traumatic injuries, and childhood conditions. Currently, 63 national governments, including Slovenian, and more than 750 patient advocacy and health professional organizations endorse the efforts of the BJDs, which have formed National Action Networks (NAN) like the USBJD.

Families - you still have plenty of time to catch many many beautiful performances, coming from all around European Union, gathered right here, in Washington, DC!

From October 15 through November 10



Slovenia will offer to kids a fun puppet-theater story, **The Gigantic Balloon**, by Andrej Rozman-Roza, telling the young audience how “*nothing is impossible for the imagination.*” Oscar, age 6, discovers through his imagination that even a little bag can turn into a big balloon, which carries him up in the sky and brings him safely home in the evening.

The Gigantic Balloon performances are scheduled for November 4 at 9:30 am and 11:30 am at the Goethe Institut, November 5 at 6:00 pm at the Kennedy Center, and November 7 at 3:00 pm at the Shakespeare Theatre (reservations required).



The 2009 American Film Institute's European Union Film Showcase, the signature fall cultural event for Washington, DC, movie lovers and the area's embassy community, will formally kick off November 5. The opening night feature presentation will be MAMMOTH [Mammut], a Swedish/Danish/

German coproduction written and directed by Lukas Moodysson (LILYA 4-EVER) and starring Michelle Williams (BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN) and Gael García Bernal (THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES).

Landscape No. 2

by Vinko Möderndorfer will be Slovenia's film this year .

The film can be viewed on Tuesday, **November 10 at 9:15 PM** and Thursday, **November 12 at 9:15 PM.**

Indianapolis International Festival

The annual Indianapolis International Festival, where Slovenia will be represented by the Slovenian community in the Indianapolis area, will be held November 19 through 22, 2009. In keeping with the 2009 festival theme of "Inspiring Places," the Slovenian cultural booth will focus on four regions: Primorska, Gorenjska, Central/Ljubljana, and Posavje.

In addition, visitors to the festival, will have an opportunity to experience a modern artistic expression

of Slovenia through a current Slovenian blockbuster film Petelinji zajtrk (Rooster's Breakfast) by Marko Naberšnik.

The film, which tells a story of people from the northeastern part of Slovenia, a region also promoted at the festival, will be shown on November 19.

This event promises to be one of the better efforts to promote Slovenian culture and over one hundred years of Slovenian presence in Indianapolis.



Slovenian American Heritage Foundation Lecture Series

The Slovenian-American Heritage Foundation invites all to attend the final talk in its 2009 Lecture Series. The Foundation is extremely pleased that Colonel Andrej Kocbek will discuss the development of Slovenia's Armed Forces. The program, which is free and open to the public, will take place on Monday November 9th at 7:00 PM in the Lower Hall of the Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue in Euclid, OH. A coffee and strudel social will follow the lecture.

In his presentation, Colonel Kocbek will discuss the development of the Slovenian Armed Forces from its formation prior to Slovenia's 1991 war for independence up to its current role as a member of the NATO Alliance.

Colonel Kocbek is currently the Republic of Slovenia's National Liaison Representative at NATO's Allied Command Transformation (ACT) headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia. His distinguished military career includes a key leadership role in Slovenia's Territorial Defense Forces during the 1991 war for independence from Yugoslavia. For his exceptional service during this critical period, Colonel Kocbek was awarded the

Honorary Medal of Freedom in 1992, the highest state decoration that can be awarded by the President of the Republic of Slovenia. Since then, he has held several posts within Slovenia's Ministry of Defense, including Head of the 710th Conscripts Training Center; Superintendent of the School for Noncommissioned Officers; Director of the Center of Military Schools; Defense Counselor to the Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the European Union; Defense Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia to the Benelux Countries; Advisor to the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces; and Assistant to the Chief of General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

Colonel Kocbek received his training at the Department of Social Sciences University of Ljubljana, with a BS degree in Defense Studies; School for Reserve Signal Officers in Belgrade, Military Academy – Course for Signal Battalion; NATO Defense College, Rome – Partnership for Peace Officers Course and Command and Staff School – General Staff Course.
7:00 PM – Monday, November 9, 2009, Slovenian Society Home (Lower Hall), 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, Ohio

Slovenia Ranks 20th on the World Prosperity Index

Ljubljana, October 28 - Slovenia ranks 20th on the world prosperity scale, a report published on Tuesday by UK-based research institute Legatum has found. Finland leads the world, followed by other Scandinavian countries, while Zimbabwe is last, behind Yemen and Sudan.

The prosperity index is based on a definition of prosperity that combines economic growth together with measures of happiness and quality of life. The research looked at factors related to economic fundamentals, entrepreneurship, education, democratic institutions, governance, health, personal freedom, and security.

“Slovenia was propelled to its position through its performance on education, security, and its govern-

ment's capacity for fostering economic growth,” the report says.

Slovenia ranked highest -- eighth -- out of 104 countries, in security and education. The report says that Slovenia's crime rate is low, making the majority of citizens feel safe.

In democratic institutions, Slovenia ranks 16th, mostly because these institutions are relatively young, while in health and governance, it ranks 24th. In personal freedom, it ranks 33rd.

Six of the top 10 countries in the 2009 prosperity index are located in Europe: Finland, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and the Netherlands. The United States ranks 9th.

Promotion of Slovenia in Canada and the USA

Slovenian Tourist Board (STB) will, like in recent years, attend an annual event: Visit Europe Media Exchange in Canada and USA.

The event intends to bring together European national and local tourist boards as well as other offerers of touristic services on one side and American and Canadian journalists on the other. The gatherings will be organized



by the European Travel Commission and will take place on November 2 in New York, November 4 in Toronto and on November 6 in San Francisco. The purpose of the event is for Europe, to introduce itself on the North American market as a destination consisting of many different countries, regions, cities and towns, museums and events. More information at: www.visiteuropemediaexchange.com

New Slovenian Defense Attaché at the Embassy of Slovenia

Colonel Ladislav Graber is the newly appointed Slovenian Defense Attaché at the Slovenian Embassy, with a jurisdiction including United States, Argentina, and Canada.

Colonel Graber, whose previous duty was Deputy Chief of Verification Center of Slovenian Armed Forces, has assumed the post for four years. Prior to his last assignment, Colonel Graber served with

the Intelligence Service from 1991 to 1994 and, later, as a member of the General Staff SAF at the Department of International Cooperation.

He will be joined in Washington, DC by his spouse, Mrs. Ana Graber. Colonel Graber and Mrs. Graber have a daughter Helena, and son Boris, who are students at the University of Ljubljana.

Slovene Diplomats in the Marine Corps Marathon In Washington, DC!

Sunday, October 25 - The 37th Marine Corps Marathon, which is also known as "The People's Marathon, brought together 30,000 runners this year.

Slovenian Embassy was very successfully represented by three fast runners, Irena Lukač, Economic Counselor; Mateja Kavaš, Political Counselor; and her spouse, Bojan Kavaš. After dashing through the National Mall, and crossing Potomac to Virginia, they all finished the race at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial with an excellent time.

Irena, Mateja and Bojan followed the lead of former Slovenian Ambassador to the United States., Samuel Žbogar, who ran the marathon in 2007. Ambassador Žbogar ran four marathons, along with the Washington's marathon, he participated also in marathons in Austin, TX, Knoxville, TN, and Cleveland, OH. By running marathons, Žbogar was raising funds for rehabilitation of young mine survivors, jointly with the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) and its partner, the Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI).



Embassy's winning trio, Bojan, Mateja and Irena.

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.



Network of Slovenes by connecting professionals, training entrepreneurship and reanimating Slovene culture.

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