

Organ Dedication at St. Cyril's Church in New York City

On Sunday, February 7, 2010 a concert to dedicate the new church organ was performed at the Church of St. Cyril in New York City. This special event was called Slovenian Cultural Day 2010. The professional performers consisted of Gašper Konec on the piano and organ, and Lenart Krečič on the saxophone. Mr. Konec began the concert with two compositions by L. Boellman and C. Saint-Saens that explored the entire dynamic capabilities of the organ and other musical sounds of which the organ was capable.



Following this was a wonderful arrangement of the Slovenian folk songs: "Staro leto je minilo" and "Ne jouci za mene, mati" specially arranged for organ and saxophone by Lenart Krečič. I have never heard the combination of organ and saxophone in any concert before this, and can say that it was beautiful and fascinating.

The second part of the concert was performed downstairs at the altar. Mr. Konec was at the piano and played works by Schubert and Schuman and once again, played a piano-saxophone arrangement of "Nade mi več rasla" with Lenart Krečič, and arranged by him also. Mr. Konec then surprised everyone with a ragtime selection by Jaroslav Jezek entitled "Tri straznici". This superb piece reminded one of the late ragtime composer, Scott Joplin at his very best.

This concert was very well planned with a wide range of musical styles performed by two world class musicians that would be valued on any international stage. Both young musicians, Gašper Konec and Lenart Krečič are natives of Ljubljana. Mr. Konec came especially for this concert. Mr. Krečič obtained his college degrees from New York City. He is a major jazz performer and teacher and resided in New York City.

The audience rewarded these musicians with a standing ovation.

Submitted by Rosalie Olinski, Music Critic

Phil Perme Writes Again

Many readers of the Ameriška Domovina may recall the interesting travel articles written by Cleveland's own by Phil Perme. The good news is that Phil is still traveling and writing about his experiences. We are happy to post Phil's latest travelogue titled "Slovenia in May 2009 – Elmer and Phil Permes' 11 Day Tour"

Click the link below to read his latest adventure.

<http://www.clevelandslovenian.com/PDFs/travel/Elmer-and-Phil-Permes-11-Day-Tour--Trip-2009-Slovenia.pdf>



Letters

From: ziga rajteric ziga.raj@gmail.com

To: info@clevelandslovenian.com

March 21, 2010

Dear Slovenians in CLEVELAND

I am writing you because we are 3 friends from Slovenia, who are planning to travel and work in the USA. We have J-1 visa so we can work from 24.May - 24 September 2010.

We would be very happy if you could give us some information about how and where is the best way to search for a job. How much money do we need for 1 month of living in States and what should we visit.

Thank you for all your information.

Sincerely,

Ziga Rajteric
(Nejc Osredkar)
(Dasa Potocnik)

Spoštovani!

Sem zastopnik Gasilskega društva Škofljica. To društvo ima namen kupiti zemljišče, katerega zemljiškoknjižni lastnik je Peter Menart. Znano mi je zgolj, da se je sedaj že pokojni Peter Menart rodil

v okolici Višnje gore in da se je po letu 1902 preselil v Združene države Amerike. Prosim vas, če mi lahko kakorkoli pomagate pri iskanju njegovih morebitnih dedičev.

Hvala za pomoč in lepo pozdravljeni!

Odvetnik Peter Železen, Ob pošti 31, 1291 Škofljica, Slovenija

SLOVENIANS IN FLORIDA CELEBRATING St. VALENTINE'S AND MARDI GRASS

By Katarina Tepesh

Mrs. Marija Visinski, affectionately known as Marica, recently hosted a terrific event for close to fifty Slovenians living on the west coast of Sunshine State of Florida.

Sharing her good fortune is by now a Visinski trademark. Marica recently recovered from a major operation and decided it was time to celebrate by introducing various Slovenians to each other. We happily gathered on Valentine's Day and two days later again, to mark the Mardi Grass or 'pust'. We were thrilled to have among us two talented and well-known musicians, Toni Klepec from Girard, Ohio and Tomaz Burkat from Novo Mesto, Slovenia. Dancing polka and sing-along followed with our favorite Slovenian songs.

In addition, among us were three priests who offered blessings and a short prayer before dinner. A long time resident of Florida and, like Marica, a beloved member of our community, Father Aloysius Hribsek brought with him two prominent guests from Slovenia. Dr. Bogdan Kolar and Dr. Janez Vodigar, both professors at the School of Theology at the University of Ljubljana and both members of the Society of Don Bosco (Salesians). They mingled and greatly contributed to the success of the event. We especially appreciated Dr. Kolar's good nature by telling us a few jokes.

Marica herself playfully entertained the guests along with multi talented Tomaz with comedy skits celebrating pust. For the last two years, Tomaz is studying for Master Degree from Music Composition with Dr. Michael Sydney Timpson at the University of South Florida, Tampa. Tomaz received his Bachelors degree in Clarinet performance in Slovenia (The Music Academy in Ljubljana, Professor Alojz Zupan). In addition, Tomaz studied Music Composition privately for five years with Professor Samo Vremšak. He also had a few important concerts with his music, where he received some good professional reviews in newspapers, "Delo", "Večer", etc. Tomaz also played with his father's music group, "Henček" for 25 years, where he received many important musical experiences as well.

While enjoying sunny and cool winter weather in Florida, Marica, a part time Florida resident, or as we call them Snowbirds, lives in a beautiful home surrounded by bushes of lovely rosemary. Marica is blessed with great family and friends where peace and goodwill prevails.

Spoštovani predsedniki in predstavniki slovenskih društev, ravnatelji slovenskih šol in učitelji slovenščine!

Slovenska konferenca SSK prireja že 14. tabor slovenskih otrok po svetu. Prosim Vas, da informacijo o taboru posredujete članom staršem in njihovim otrokom, ki bi jih morda zanimala udeležba na poletnem tečaju slovenskega jezika ter bi radi bolje spoznati slovenske navade in običaje, ob tem pa še preživeli čas v družbi sovrstnikov rojakov iz drugih držav.

V nadaljevanju pošiljam letošnje vabilo za tabor v elektronski obliki. Na naši spletni strani www.slokongres.com je nekaj osnovnih informacij o taboru (poleg vabila tudi prijavnica, ki jo je mogoče natisniti) za vsa ostala vprašanja pa sem Vam na voljo na e-naslovu: luka.klopčič@slokongres.com ali na telefonski številki 00386 1 24-28-552. V kolikor bi želeli, da vabilo posredujemo še komu, ki bi ga tovrstni tabor utegnil zanimati, nam prosim sporočite njegov kontaktni naslov (e-naslov ali poštni naslov).

Z lepimi pozdravi iz Slovenije,

Luka Klopčič, strokovni sodelavec

Svetovni slovenski kongres

March 16, 2010

To: info@clevelandslovenian.com

From: Lucija Lapuh lucija_lapuh@yahoo.com

Modern emigration from Slovenia – questionnaire

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Lucija Lapuh, a student of Geography at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana. Data that I would like to receive from this questionnaire will be an important source of information for my thesis with the title Geographical view of contemporary emigration from Slovenia.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE IS DESIGNED FOR SLOVENIANS WHO ARE LIVING ABROAD AT THE MOMENT AND HAVE MOVED THERE (because of study, work, self-interest ...) AFTER THE INDEPENDENCE OF SLOVENIA (1991-2010).



<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BR6SZ5F>

It was sent to individuals living abroad, Slovenian associations, students on the exchange and organisations, which were asked to send it forward.

I POLITELY ASK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND AT THE SAME TIME I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR ANSWERS. It will take you around fifteen minutes. The questionnaire is anonymous.

If you know somebody else who is living abroad and has moved from Slovenia after 1990, I kindly ask you to forward him/her this questionnaire. The more solved questionnaires there are, the more representative data I can get.

If you are interested in the results of the survey, they will be shown in the thesis with the title Geographical view of contemporary emigration from Slovenia, written by Lucija Lapuh, published in Cobiss, at the Department of Geography at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana. However, you can contact me on my email address: lucija_lapuh@yahoo.com.

Lucija Lapuh



16. marec 2010

To: info@clevelandslovenian.com

From: Lucija Lapuh lucija_lapuh@yahoo.com

Sodobno izseljevanje iz Slovenije – anketni vprašalnik

Spoštovani!

Univerza v Ljubljani



Sem Lucija Lapuh, absolventka geografije na Oddelku za geografijo Filozofske fakultete v Ljubljani. Pišem diplomsko nalogo z naslovom Geografski vidiki sodobnega izseljevanja iz Slovenije. Uporabila bom metodo spletne ankete.

ANKETA JE NAMENJENA SLOVENCEM, KI TRENUTNO ŽIVIJO V TUJINI IN SO SE TJA PRESELILI (zaradi študija, dela, lastnega interesa ...) PO OSAMOSVOJITVI SLOVENIJE (1991-2010).

Če poznate koga, ki živi v tujini in se je iz Slovenije preselil po letu 1990, vas lepo prosim, da mu posredujete anketo, saj bom z več izpolnjenimi vprašalniki dobila bolj reprezentativne podatke.

Podatki, ki jih želim dobiti s tem anketnim vprašalnikom, bodo zelo pomemben vir informacij pri moji diplomski nalogi.

Anketa je objavljena na: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BR6SZ5F> .

VLJUDNO VAS PROSIM ZA SODELOVANJE IN SE HKRATI ZAHVALJUJEM ZA VAŠE ODGOVORE.

Rezultati raziskave bodo objavljeni na spletni strani Oddelka za geografijo Filozofske fakultete v Ljubljani: <http://geo.ff.uni-lj.si/index.php?q=zanimivosti/aktualno-na-podrocju-raziskovanja/studentske-raziskave/geografski-vidiki-sodobnega-izsel> .

Lep pozdrav!

Lucija Lapuh
lucija_lapuh@yahoo.com



Redefining global health diplomacy

The role of innovative technologies, new actors, economic constraints, and changing global health priorities

Location: Wednesday, April 7, 2010
Embassy of Slovenia
2410 California Street, NW, Washington DC 20008

- 13.30 Registration and Coffee: Arrival of Guests
- 14.00 **Welcome by H.E. Ambassador Roman Kirn**
- 14.05 **Dr. Mateja de Leonni Stanonik, MD, PhD**
Chair, Organizing and Scientific Committee
Global Health Diplomacy: Empowerment through global dialogue
- 14.15 – 14.45 **Dr. Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA, US Surgeon General**

***The role of health diplomacy in the US:
The US Surgeon General's View***
- 14.45 – 16.55 Panel Presentations & Discussion

Chair:
Dr. Jim Sherry, MD, PhD; Professor and Chair of the Department of Global Health, George Washington University (GWU)

Panel Speakers:

Dr. Andrzej Rys, MD, *Director of Public Health and Risk Assessment in the European Commission*
- Issues in global health diplomacy within the EU

Dr. Jon Andrus, MD, Deputy Director of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization & Professor of Global Health, GWU
- Importance of revised International Health Regulations (IHR) as a global health governance mechanism and framework for capacity building

Dr. Jeff Sturchio, PhD, President and CEO, Global Health Council
- Priorities attached to Global Health Diplomacy, both in the US and developing countries

Dr. Roger I. Glass, MD, PhD, Director, NIH Fogarty Int'l Center
- Training needs in Global Health Diplomacy (tbc)

Dr. Mateja de Leonni Stanonik, MD, PhD, GWU Department of Neurology & Global Health, International Virtual e-Hospital Foundation
- Innovation in Global Health and Development as a Paradigm shift in Global Health Solutions: Implications for the Political and Professional World-Stage
- 16.55 – 17.00 **Closing Remarks by Dr. Mateja de Leonni Stanonik, MD, PhD & Smita Baruah, MA, Director, Global Health Council**
- 17.00 - 19.00 **Reception**

Salon Lecture Series: Innovation in Global Health and Development

Focus:

- Introduce and define global health diplomacy
- Present paradigm shifts in global health diplomacy
- International Health Regulations (IHR) as global health governance mechanism and framework for capacity building
- Assess complexities of global health and development
- Examine the range of priorities attached to Global Health Diplomacy, both in the EU, US, and developing countries
- Identify training needs in Global Health Diplomacy

Global health diplomacy aims to capture the multi-level and multi-actor negotiation processes that shape the global policy environment for health and science. Global health policy impacts the health and well being of individuals throughout the world. The facts are that a) we are living in a globalized world; b) that health is increasingly seen as a key factor in achieving international goals; and c) new technologies are playing an important role in providing new ways of addressing health issues and their importance will grow in the future. Therefore the broad constituency of those concerned with global challenges need to be aware of these developments. In the words of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Jonas Stoere: "Health is simply too important to be left to the Health Ministers, and development is too important to be left to the Finance and Economic Ministers alone."

With profound social, political, and economic changes rapidly challenging global health, the aim of this Salon Event is to provide opportunities to understand the epidemiologic trends in world health, the architecture of global health governance, and the effects of globalization on global and national health policy.

Save the date:

Second Salon Event Innovation in Global Health & Development

May 6, 2010 Headquarters of the EU Delegation to the USA

Advanced Technologies, Healthcare Systems, & Healthcare Research in the Developing Countries

Salon Lecture Series: Innovation in Global Health and Development

Main objective:

"Meeting of the minds" on issues involving global health and development

Slovenian American TIMES

SLOVENSKI AMERIŠKI ČASI

What's all the buzz about???

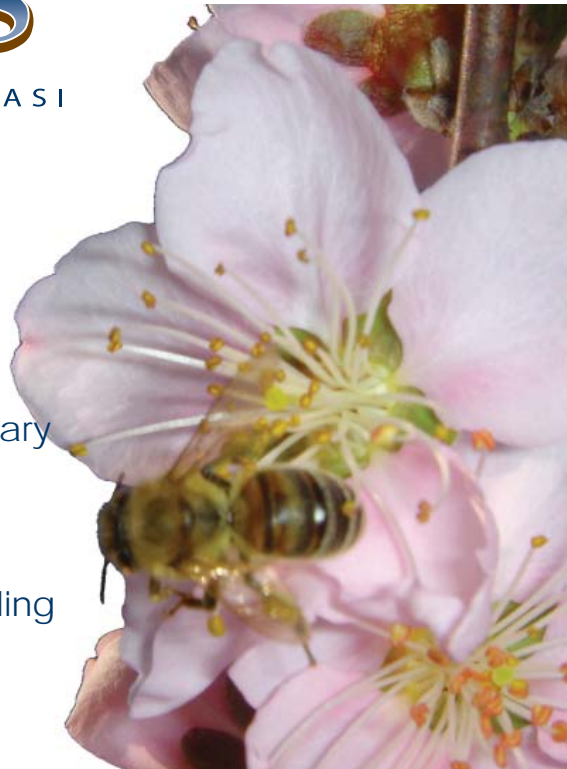
COMING IN THE APRIL ISSUE:

What do Anton Janša and Marie Antoinette have in common?

If you know what butara and žegen mean, you are most probably Slovenian! But have you seen contemporary pictures of these traditions?

SEE IT ALL IN THE APRIL ISSUE

The April issue offers a variety of interesting articles including the origin of Beekeeping in Slovenia, the world-famous Carniolan bee, the story behind the painted beehive fronts, and much more.



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14. TABOR SLOVENSКИH OTROK PO SVETU

Libeliče, od 24. do 31. julija 2010

Dragi mladi rojaki!

Slovenska konferenca SSK letos že štirinajstič organizira Tabor slovenskih otrok po svetu. Tabor bo potekal v času **od 24. do 31. julija 2010** v Libeličah na Koroškem, prebivali pa bomo v domovih Centra šolskih in obšolskih dejavnosti (CŠOD). Namenjen je druženju mladih slovenskih rojakov, ki živite izven Slovenije, starih od 10 do 15 let. Taborniško življenje je organizirano po skupinah, v katerih je do 6 otrok, ki prihajajo iz različnih držav, vsaka skupina pa ima svojega vodjo – animatorja. Na taboru boste v medsebojnem druženju spoznavali kulturno in naravno dediščino Slovenije ter vsako dopoldne utrjevali znanje slovenskega jezika. Pogovorni jezik na taboru je slovenski, organizatorji pa spodbujamo udeležence, da ga tudi v medsebojnih pogovorih kar čim bolj uporabljamo. Na taboru ste dobrodošli tudi otroci, ki (še) ne govorite ali ne razumete slovensko.

Programske vsebine:

- šola slovenskega jezika in kulture (v skupinah glede na predznanje slovenščine)
- spoznavanje Libelič in okolice (vodeni izleti in ogledi)
- ustvarjalne delavnice (likovna, glasbena, kuharska)
- srečanja s sodobnimi rokodelci in domačo obrtjo danes
- spoznavanje slovenskih ljudskih plesov in običajev
- pogovori o aktualnih temah med mladimi
- družabne in športne igre

Prijave

Za vsa morebitna vprašanja ali informacije smo Vam na voljo vsak delovnik od 8.00 do 15.30 ure na telefonski številki 00386 1 24-28-550 ali e-naslovu: luka.klopcic@slokongres.com. Prijave zbiramo **do 15. maja oz. do zapolnitve prostih mest** na naslovu: Svetovni slovenski kongres, Cankarjeva 1/IV, 1000 Ljubljana, e-pošta: **tabor@slokongres.com**.

Prispevek za taborjenje znaša 150

EUR vključuje pa: polni penzion (zajtrk, kosilo, večerjo in malico), bivanje v počitniškem domu, animacijo, pohode, delavnice, prevoze z avtobusom, ogleda in vstopnine. Pričakujemo, da bodo starši oz. predstavniki društev sami poskrbeli za prihod otrok na mesto tabora.

V veselem pričakovanju tvoje prijavnice te lepo pozdravljam!

Luka Klopčič
za SK Svetovnega slovenskega kongresa



14TH YOUTHCAMP FOR SLOVENIAN CHILDREN FROM ABROAD

Libeliče, from 24th until 31st of July 2010

Slovenian World Congress organizes the 14th youthcamp for teenagers of Slovenian origin from abroad. It will take place **from 24th to 31st of July** in Libeliče, very close to Austrian border.

The main purpose of the Youthcamp is to bring Slovenia closer to minds and hearts of youngsters who live abroad. Divided in small groups of 6 teenagers and one group leader, we discover the beauty of landscapes and different cultural monuments, culture and national identity of Slovenia, learning slovenian language in a relaxed atmosphere. Organizers and group leaders encourage the use of slovenian language among participants. Teenagers with no previous knowledge of slovenian language are also most welcome to the camp. Making new friendships with peers who share a common bond, but come from all around the globe is an adventure and a great life experience.

ACTIVITIES:

- Lessons of Slovenian language (divided in groups according to their knowledge of slovenian language)
- Discovering the Libeliče and its vicinity (excursions and sightseeing)
- Practical workshops (singing, cooking...)
- Meeting the modern craftsmen
- Learning slovenian customs and regional dances
- Discussions with guests about youth problems
- Sports and games

Who can participate?

Young Slovenians from abroad aged from 10 to 15. Please, contact us if you are over or below this age.

Attendance fee per participant: **150 EUR (195 USD)** includes full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner), entrance fees, transportation on excursions, workshop materials and accommodation in youth hostel. We expect parents, relatives or representatives of the organizations will bring children to the hostel, where the camp is taking place. Send application forms to: **Slovenian World Congress Cankarjeva cesta 1/IV, 1000 Ljubljana** or e-mail address: **tabor@slokongres.com**.

For more information please contact us by **phone (00386 1 24-28-552)** or **e-mail (luka.klopčič@slokongres.com)**.

With best regards!

Luka Klopčič,
Slovenian World Congress



LIBELIČE



SVETOVNI SLOVENSKI KONGRES

SLOVENIAN WORLD CONGRESS

14. TABOR SLOVENSKIH OTROK PO SVETU

14. YOUTHCAMP OF SLOVENIAN CHILDREN FROM ABROAD

(Libeliče, 24. julij – 31. julij 2010)

PRIJAVNICA / APPLICATION FORM

IME IN PRIIMEK / NAME AND LAST NAME

DATUM ROJSTVA / DATE OF BIRTH

SPOL / GENDER

ULICA, HIŠNA ŠTEVILKA / FULL HOME ADDRESS (STREET, NUMBER)

POŠTNA ŠTEVILKA, KRAJ / ZIP CODE, STATE

DRŽAVA / COUNTRY

**ŠTEVILKA VELJAVNEGA POTNEGA LISTA OZ. OSEBNEGA DOKUMENTA /
ID NUMBER OF VALID PASSPORT OR OTHER PERSONAL DOCUMENT**

**TELEFONSKA ŠTEVILKA, FAX, MOBILNI TELEFON (GSM) /
PHONE, FAX, MOBILE PHONE (GSM)**

E-POŠTA / E-MAIL

Znanje slovenskega jezika (obkrožite) /
Knowledge of Slovenian language (circle one):

1. **ZELO SLABO** / VERY POOR
2. **SLABO** / FAIR
3. **DOBRO** / GOOD
4. **ODLIČNO** / EXCELLENT

Plavalne sposobnosti (obkrožite) /
Swimming ability (circle one):

1. **NEPLAVALEC** / NON-SWIMMER
2. **PLAVALEC** / SWIMMER

Prosimo, da nas opozorite na kaj moramo biti pozorni pri
Vašem otroku (zdravila, alergije, prehrana, ipd) /
Please, notify us about any **SPECIAL NEEDS** or **ALERGIES**
(disabilities, medicals, allergies, diets...)

Naslov sorodnikov oz. znancev v Sloveniji /
Address of relatives in Slovenia (or a contact person)

IME IN PRIIMEK / NAME AND SURNAME

POLNI NASLOV / FULL ADDRESS

TELEFON ALI MOBILNI TELEFON / PHONE OR MOBILE PHONE

DATUM / DATE

PODPIS STRAŠEV / SIGNATURE OF A PARENT

Brez podpisa staršev prijavnice ne bomo upoštevali. Prijave sprejemamo **do 15. maja 2010 oz. do zapolnitve prostih** mest na naslov: SSK, Cankarjeva 1/IV, 1000 Ljubljana, fax: 00386 1 242 85 58. Prijavnico lahko najdete na naši spletni strani: <http://www.slokongres.com>.

Application form without an appropriate signature of a parent or legal caretaker will not be accepted as valid. In order to ensure your accommodation send your application **until 15th of May 2010** to the following address: SSK, Cankarjeva 1/IV, 1000 Ljubljana or via fax: 00386 1 242 85 58. Application form can be found at: <http://www.slokongres.com>.

SATURDAY - APRIL 10

SLO TROLL

2010 STEELHEAD CHALLENGE



Slovenska Pristava in Harpersfield, Ohio is again the site of the SLO-TROLL STEELHEAD CHALLENGE. Last year, '09 Champion Mirko Vombergar braved the biblical flood waters of the temperamental Grand River to extract the winning steelhead. This year, the target is on his back—was it luck? Or superior fishing talent? There's only one way to find out: Be there!

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE (Includes Lunch) \$20

SPECTATOR LUNCH \$12 (ADULTS) \$6 (KIDS)

Lunch will be a satisfying combination of entrees including fish, klobase, potatoes, cole slaw and more served buffet style. There will be a bar serving drinks as well. Children 4 and under eat free with paid adult.

April 10: Check-in opens at 6:30 AM. Tournament starts at 7:00 AM sharp! Competition ends at Noon when lunch will be served to the hungry contestants and ravenous spectators. Followed by the crowning of the 2010 Champion.

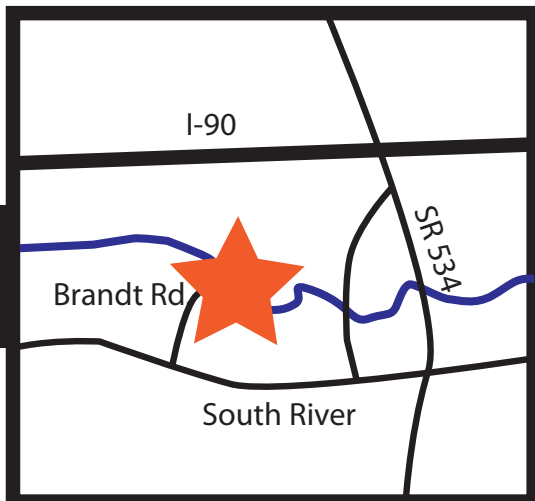
RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR FISHING OR LUNCH ON-LINE AT:
www.CLE-SLO.com/fishing

For weather information and tournament updates, frequent www.CLE-SLO.com/fishing All anglers must provide their own equipment; All participants must sign waiver, those under the age of 18 must wear a USCG certified floatation device or be accompanied by an adult if entering the water to fish. Prizes will be awarded. There are limited spots for adult anglers, so sign up fast. There is no limit to those attending lunch, but please R.S.V.P. so the cooks can prepare accordingly. **Please register by April 7, 2010 at www.CLE-SLO.com/fishing.**

*Come for the fishing,
stay for lunch!*

A portion of the proceeds will go toward the Slovenska Pristava Swimming Pool renovation.

For details: call Tim at 216-244-3989 or e-mail him at fishing@cleslo.com





How about it
Annette?
Let's sign up!

Sounds like fun
Frankie...I'm ready
for some fun!

Slovenian Fraternal Balina Tournament **Balina Beach Party!**

SATURDAY, APRIL 17th, 2010

SLOVENIAN WORKMAN'S HOME INDOOR BALINA COURTS
15335 Waterloo Rd. • Cleveland, OH • **Start Time 10:00am**

Food!
Beverages!
Music!
Cash Prizes
& Fun

Sign Up Today!

Contact Charlie Shaver: (440) 729-3568
or e-mail okie19@roadrunner.com

ENTRY DEADLINE April 10th

\$40.00 Per Team (4 Players, men women or mixed)
Double Elimination
Minimum 2 Games Played - 1 Hour Time Limit
Scoring 15 points per Game

*No Team? No Problem! Sign Up Individually and
We'll Get You on a Team!*

Mammoth Cave National Park Extends "Sister" Agreements To Slovenia

Posted February 23rd, 2010 by [Kurt Repanshek](#)

Last fall officials at [Mammoth Cave National Park](#) forged a [working relationship](#) with a park in China that has karst formations similar to those found in Mammoth Cave. Now the U.S. park has looked across the Atlantic Ocean to develop a similar agreement with officials in Slovenia who oversee karst landscapes in that country.



Dr. Rick Toomey (center) and Dr. Janez Mulec (left) lead Greenwood HS students on a science workshop inside Mammoth Cave. NPS handout.

During ceremonies at Mammoth Cave earlier this month officials from the national park, Western Kentucky University, and the Karst Research Institute of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts established a cooperative arrangement to share scientific research.

"As a World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve, Mammoth Cave is reaching out to other nations and internationally renowned karst areas," said Mammoth Cave Superintendent Patrick Reed. "This is a great opportunity to work with our long-standing partner Western Kentucky

University and forge new connections with our Slovenian friends."

Participating in the signing were Superintendent Reed, Dr. Janez Mulec of the Slovenian Karst Research Institute, Dr. Blaine Ferrell, Dean of Ogden College of Science and Engineering, and

Dr. Chris Groves, director of the Hoffman Institute at Western Kentucky University.

Dr. Mulec traveled to Kentucky representing the Slovenian partners – [Skocjan Caves](#), [Postojna Cave](#), and the [Slovenian Karst Research Institute](#).

“Skocjan is a World Heritage Site and Postojna receives around 500,000 visitors a year, making it a top tourist destination,” said Dr. Mulec. “The Slovenian karst landscape is very similar to south-central Kentucky with numerous sinkholes and limestone caves. As cave managers, we share many similar issues.”

While visiting Kentucky, Dr. Mulec focused on his specialty of lampenflora, or algae and green plants that grow around cave lighting.

“I toured sections of Mammoth Cave to observe these plants. We are actively working to remove lampenflora in Slovenian caves because it detracts from the beauty of caves,” the Slovene said. “It also disrupts the cave eco-system by introducing a new source of energy into the food chain.”

Dr. Rick Toomey of the Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning looks forward to cooperating with Slovenian scientists to exchange technology to remove green plants. “This arrangement will enable us to work with Slovenian scientists to explore methods to remove lampenflora, and avoid harming cave animals or damaging formations,” he said.

The Friends of Mammoth Cave National Park, with the help of Bluegrass Cellular, sponsored a Greenwood High School environmental science class as they participate in a workshop inside Mammoth Cave with Dr. Mulec. The students also attended the signing ceremony at the Mammoth Cave Hotel.

Source <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2010/02/mammoth-cave-national-park-extends-sister-agreements-slovenia5410>