

# SLOVENIAN ARTS PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER OF THE UWM SLOVENAIN ARTS COUNCIL

JANUARY 2018

EDITOR: HELEN E. FROHNA

In an effort to keep the Milwaukee Slovenian Community aware of events, the Slovenian Arts Newsletter will be published four (4) times a year.

We trust that you will enjoy the newsletters and share them with others along with attending the events.

We continue to strive to keep the arts alive in Milwaukee.

## SLOVENIAN POPOURRI

The Slovenian Arts Council presents a **FREE** program celebrating the Prešeren holiday on Saturday, February 3, 2018, at 2:00 PM in the Constitution Room at the West Allis Public Library, located at 7421 West National Avenue. SAC members Dolores Ivanchich and Helen Frohna will highlight facts and figures, sights and sounds in a power point presentation. You'll see a brief tour of the various regions with their national costumes and an opportunity to sing and listen to familiar tunes. You're cordially invited to join in this celebration of the Slovenian Prešeren Day - Day of Culture.

*Vljudno vas vabimo na proslavo Prešernov dan*

## LJUBLJANA IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ljubljana, Slovenia is often included on tours visiting central and eastern Europe. A full page in the travel section of the *New York Times* on Sunday, October 15, 2017, featured a 3-day tour of the city. Some of us are familiar with the old haunts, like *Gostilna Restavracija Šestica*, *Pri Čadu na Rožnik* and *Gostilna Pod Lipom*. However, offerings of food in restaurants may now include Asian, Indian, Spanish, Italian, and American to name a few. Of particular interest is the city's hosting of *Odprta Kuhna*, or Open Kitchen, that runs from March to October each year. Here you can taste food from around the world. As in the past, some of the best places for the native food is found in the rural areas where a *gostilna* (tavern) and or a restaurant are owned and operated by the locals. Changes have occurred in the country with mobility of people, intermarriages and border closeness. Today, the country's Slovene population is about 83%.



*Odprta Kuhna: Open Kitchen*

## *Message from new SAC President: Christina M. Carroll*



*Pozdravljeni! Srečno Novo Leto 2018!*  
*Happy New Year Greetings from the President!*

Many of us like to start the New Year by taking in a breath of fresh air (even though a bit frigid if you live in Wisconsin) and undertaking new projects, be it exercising more frequently, decluttering your home, or just fantasizing about Spring and designing your vegetable and flower gardens. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), Slovenian Arts Council also is beginning a new year and a new term of office for the positions of President and Corresponding Secretary.

As the new President, I would like to first thank outgoing President Jeff Martinka for his efforts and accomplishments in leading the Council the past term and to welcome Milly Mursec again as re-elected Corresponding Secretary.

For those of you whom I haven't yet met, please allow me to introduce myself. My parents, Karl and Eveline Maierle, were part of the post-World War II immigration phase that came to Milwaukee from war-torn Europe. Over the years, I became involved in our community by serving as an officer of the Sloga Fraternal Life Insurance Society. After they merged with the Croatian Fraternal Union, I was elected President of the CFU/Sloga Milwaukee Lodge #1994. I also served a five-year term as the editor of the USPEH Newsletter.

In 1986, the Dean of UWM's School of Fine Arts and John Ermenc, the legal representative for the Frank and Mary Ermenc Estate/Fund, in compliance with the Ermenc trust agreement, formed a council comprised of members from the Slovenian-American community in Milwaukee. The Council's mission is to present programs, events, lectures, and activities that promote Slovenian arts and culture, operating under the auspices of the UWM's Peck School of the Arts. There are still a few of us remaining on the Council who were the original members in 1986.

Milwaukee has a rich history of Slovenian culture. Dating back to the 1920s and 1930s, singing groups such as *Zvon*, *Naprej*, and *Planinska Roža* performed at the South Side Turn Hall and the National Club House in the Slovenian Walker's Point neighborhood. In the 1950s, theater and music were performed in the church hall of St. John the Evangelist parish on South 9<sup>th</sup> and West Mineral. The church was demolished for freeway expansion but the church hall remains, now the home of the Hispanic United Community Center. Over the past 35 years, the Gallus Ensemble and the Uspeh Chorus gave performances.

Working with the departments in the Peck School of the Arts and UWM's Golda Meir Libraries, my goal is to discover and implement new and alternative programs that fit the Council's mission, yet also address the various interests of our changing community's demographics. For the next two years, we will be planning events that include poetry, music, and dance, but also featuring jazz and photography. We will also again invite Joe Valencic from Cleveland for a lecture on a topic of interest to the community.

There is a constant concern in our community "*to preserve our Slovenian heritage,*" but that phrase denotes a culture or a history that is passed down from the past. We should also be creating our own history, making our own past for others to continue and cherish.

*Christina M. Carroll*  
*UWM SAC President*

At this year's Holiday Folk Fair, the Slovenian booth received the "Best Artistic Presentation" award. A huge thank you to Nancy Reese, who is the General Chairperson and the creator of our booth. The theme this year was "Celebrate the Culture of Welcome." The cultural booth depicted a typical Slovenian home, welcoming visitors to join us as we shared our hospitality with delicious homemade bread, potica, klobase, wine, Turkish coffee, along with accordion music and song.



Thank you to the three organizations that support this event through their financial aid: The Slovenian Arts Program, The Slovenian Cultural Society Triglav and the USPEH Organization.

Without our volunteers we could not keep this alive, so thank you to the following: Debbie Bachun, Denise Bartlett, Mici Bregant, Lynda Broucek, John Cerar, Rose Chepeck, Karen Engelking, Helen & Craig Frohna, Lisi & Jim Gordon, Carly & Lori Grant, Lillian Hartmann, Dolores Ivanchich, Kathy & Becky Kaye, Mike Maren, Barbara & Jeff Martinka, Nancy Reese, Jackie Smith, and finally Kelly & Chris Vesel.

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## Najlepša hvala

### Friends of the UWM Slovenian Arts Program for 2018

**Robert Alpner, Robert & Denise Bartlett, Marilyn Brilla, Janet & John Cerar, Olga Eckstein, Therese & Randy Fischer, Sondra & Franc Gamzer, Alfred Jelinek, Sr., Frank Markelc, Ivanka & Stanley Markun, Frances Remshak, Matilda Simcic, Amalie & Robert Smole, Josephine Vidmar and Patricia Wilke**

To become a "Friend of the UWM Slovenian Arts Program," or to renew your annual Friend's membership for 2018, please send your donation along with this form directly to:

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1440 East North Avenue  
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\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Single Contribution \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Couple Contribution \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Contribution

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Please make checks payable to: UWM Foundation—Slovenian Arts Program  
**(Be sure to write Slovenian Arts Program in the memo line)**

All contributions are tax deductible.

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## SLOVENIA: DAILY NEWS UPDATES

Many people today drink their morning coffee while reading the daily news online. You can read all about the latest events happening in Slovenia by going to [www.rtvslo.si](http://www.rtvslo.si) and then click on the link in the heading that says, "news in English."



## NOVICE IZ PRERIJE--NEWS FROM THE PRAIRIE

This newsletter is issued by the Slovenian Consular Office of Chicago, written by Dr. John Vidmar. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep people in the Slovenian American communities of Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana aware of current events that might be of interest. To subscribe to the Prairie, send your e-mail address to [Slovenianconsul.chicago@gmail.com](mailto:Slovenianconsul.chicago@gmail.com)

## SAP PERFORMANCE GRANT AWARD

The UWM Slovenian Arts Council is pleased to announce that a Slovenian Arts Program Performance Grant has been awarded to Theatre Gigante for their production of *TARZAN*, to be performed from March 16-24, 2018, at UWM's Kenilworth 508 Theater, 1925 E. Kenilworth Place. This premiere production was written by the Slovene playwright, Rok Vilčnik. Theatre Gigante will start its 30<sup>th</sup> year with *METAMORPHOSIS*, written and directed by Isabelle Kralj on Jan. 25-28. For more information and tickets, visit [www.theatregigante.org](http://www.theatregigante.org).

**THEATRE  
GIGANTE**



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