



# NEWSLETTER OF THE UWM SLOVENIAN ARTS COUNCIL SLOVENIAN ARTS PROGRAM

## SAC Sponsoring Trip to Lipizzans Performance

By Jeff Martinka, UWM SAC President

The UWM Slovenian Arts Program is pleased to offer a trip to see the Tempel Lipizzans, the horse farm and performance facility in Old Mill Creek, IL, just south of the Wisconsin border. Tempel Farm features a herd of Lippizaner horses. The UWM Slovenian Arts Program is offering an opportunity to see the Tempel Lipizzans on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> by sponsoring a **FREE** bus ride to the farm on a first-call, first-reserved basis. The Badger Bus will be departing from the Hales Corners Park & Ride located between Layton and Edgerton on Hwy 100, on the East side at 10 am sharp for the one hour ride to Old Mill Creek, and returning at 4:30pm. To reserve your seat on the bus, please call Helen Frohna at 262-821-5295 or e-mail her at hfrohna@att.net.

Once at Tempel Farm, guests can purchase food at a café on site (you may also bring your own picnic lunch). There will be time to enjoy lunch and tour the barns before the 1 pm performance, which lasts about 90 minutes. While the bus will be free, attendees must buy their own tickets which are \$22-\$32 at the door on the day of the show, or \$17-\$22 if purchased on-line in advance. You can purchase your ticket by visiting their website at [www.tempelfarms.com](http://www.tempelfarms.com).

The Lippizaner horses have been bred and trained in Lipica, Slovenia for nearly 500 years and are internationally famous for the performances of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. Established in 1958, the Tempel Lipizzans promote classical dressage and the Lipizzan breed in the United States through a careful breeding and training program. Their on-site public exhibitions and behind-the-scenes tours serve to educate on the history of this classical art through the beauty of synchronized movements, the harmony of partnership between horse and rider and the impressive athleticism.





Perhaps you were one of the more than sixty people who attended the annual Milwaukee Slovenian Day of Culture celebration on February 12, 2017, at the Village of Manor Park, hosted by the UWM Slovenian Arts Program. If so, then you experienced a wonderful presentation on '*Slovenians in American Culture*' given by Joe Valencic of Cleveland, Ohio. A reception followed in the Bistro adjacent to the community room where guests enjoyed Slovenian smoked klobase, homemade bread, a variety of Slovenian wines, Laško Pivo, Slovenian potica and strudelj, along with coffee, soda, and camaraderie.

Joe Valencic held the audience captive as he moved through his slide presentation not missing a single detail of interesting trivia. Born and raised in Cleveland, Joe lectures and produces documentaries on Slovenian American immigration history and popular culture. Joe serves as president of the Cleveland Polka Hall of Fame and Cleveland Federation of SNPJ lodges. He hosts a weekly radio hour with music and headline news from Slovenia. We were very fortunate to have Joe accept our invitation to speak and program us into his busy schedule to coincide with Milwaukee's Day of Culture celebration. Joe's presentation spurred personal comments from the crowd and led into a question/answer segment.

A national holiday in Slovenia, Prešeren Day, or Day of Culture, is celebrated on February 8<sup>th</sup>, France Prešeren's date of death in 1849. In Slovenia an entire month is celebrated with school field trips, poetry readings, theatrical translations, and electronic essay contests. The culmination of events is celebrated on February 8<sup>th</sup> when the presentation of two Prešeren cultural awards and up to 6 fund award gifts is handed out.

The Slovenian Arts Council hopes that all guests left the event with a warm feeling of Slovenian cultural appreciation and plan to return next year for a repeat engagement.



### 2016 Holiday Folk Fair: *The Culture of Water*

I hope everyone had a chance to meet with Janez, France, and Milan. Under the direction of Nancy Reese, these three men showed up at this year's Holiday Folk Fair and had a wonderful time interacting with all who attended the fair. Following this year's theme, culture of water, our three visitors enjoyed drinking a little *domača vina*, as they sang folk songs into the wee morning hours.

Thanks to all who helped in manning the booth and also to the Slovenian Arts Program, the Triglav Society and the USPEH organization for their financial aid. We look forward to seeing everyone this coming fall as we once again share our Slovenian heritage and ask for your help in making it a success. The dates will be November 17, 18 and 19.

## Scholarships Increased to \$2,000

By Jeff Martinka, UWM SAC President

For decades, the UWM Slovenian Arts Program (SAP) has offered scholarships to qualifying UWM Peck School of the Arts' students of Slovenian descent. The first award was made in 1992. More recent UWM SAP scholarship recipients included Eric Ash (Music, 2012), Marianne Kordas (Music History, 2009), and Isabelle Kralj (Dance and Theater, 2001).

The SAP scholarship amount was originally set at \$500 and later raised to \$1,000. At its April meeting at UWM, the Council approved an increase in the scholarship amount to \$2,000. The change was made to reflect both the realities of increased tuition expenses and the ongoing impact of inflation.

To be eligible, the candidate must be a full-time student in the UWM Peck School of the Arts, have at least a sophomore status, and boast a Grade Point Average of 2.5 overall and 3.25 in their Peck School classes. For more information about this scholarship opportunity, visit our website at [www.slovenianartsprogram.org](http://www.slovenianartsprogram.org).

A predominately non-Slovenian audience responded enthusiastically to a power point presentation on Slovenia by SAC members Dolores Ivanchich and Helen Frohna on April 20, 2017. It was part of the community program series at Clement Manor, Center for Enrichment. The audience learned of Slovenia's bordering countries and historic clothes and various sights of the 8 regions. The presenters wore the narodna noša of Gorenjska. Helen's beautifully displayed artifacts complemented the visuals. The audience joined Dolores in singing the word, Slovenia, in the song by Slavko Avsenik. Parting words to the audience were:  
Love is in **Sloven**ia and in every **Sloven**e.



Frank Bevsek, Jr.  
John Chaplock  
Michael & Kathleen Gigl  
Dr. Mary Lynn & Steven Hook  
Michele Melton  
James Poulos  
Judith Price  
Frank Strukel  
Paul Topitzes

Christina & Michael Carroll  
Dr. Mary & Thomas Gavinski  
Barbara Horvatin  
James & Bonnie Mejchar  
Jerome & Suzanne Molenda  
Prasser & Kleczka Funeral Home  
Fannie Smole  
Virginia Strukel  
Robert & Jean Walters



## Master Singers of Milwaukee

By: Mici Bregant & Jeff Martinka

On March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, the Master Singers of Milwaukee along with the Carthage College Choir, presented *Between Two Worlds*. The two groups were directed by guest Conductor Alenka Podpečan from Velenje, Slovenia, and featured works by Slovenian composers, including Jacobus Gallus, Damjan Močnik, Franjo Dugan, and Josip Pavčič. Ms. Podpečan earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, and will be completing her Master's degree in Choral Conducting at the Ljubljana Academy of Music this spring. She has directed many choirs over the years, and has won multiple European awards in regional and international choral competitions.

The concerts were supported in part by a grant from the UWM Slovenian Arts Program (SAP). Slovenian Arts Council members Paul Zovic and Mary Cay Freiberg made opening remarks at the concerts. Nancy Reese, Helen Frohna and her son Mark, in traditional Slovenian costume, served as concert ushers, and Jeff Martinka set up a Slovenian display in the lobby for each show.

As part of the concert sponsorship agreement, those on the UWM SAP newsletter mailing list received a special notice of the shows from the Master Singers of Milwaukee. In response, nearly 50 took advantage of a 50% ticket discount available to SAP supporters. Reflecting on the overall effort, Master Singers' Board member Janet Bashirian remarked, "*Based on the compliments after the Sunday afternoon performance, it is clear that this partnership was a rewarding experience for all!*"



For their encore, the combined choruses sang *Pa se sliš*, followed by a standing ovation by the audience..

## POLKA HOUR

The Polka Parade has been featuring polka music on the radio for 32 years. You can listen on 1340AM or 98.7FM on Saturdays from 8am - 1pm. The broadcasting funds come from annual memberships and donations. Due to attrition, their funding is slipping. If you are a listener and/or would like to help them continue broadcasting polka music, please consider becoming a member by joining or donating at [www.polkaparade.org](http://www.polkaparade.org) or call Dick Blaha, Vice-President of Polka Parade Pals at (414) 257-1340



Guest conductor  
Ms. Alenka Podpečan



Mark Frohna, Ms. Podpečan,  
Helen Frohna & Nancy Reese



### Najlepša hvala

*Our fiscal health is possible because we strive to spend funds wisely and our friends in the Slovenian community bolster the arts program account with gifts and memberships each year. Your help will sustain our efforts to promote Slovenian arts and culture in the Milwaukee areas for decades to come. Thank you, **FRIENDS** for your help.*

Bergant, Mici	Bevsek, Frank & Sue	Bevsek, Frank Jr.	Blaha, Richard
Bolka, Janice & Ron Pape	Brilla, Marilyn	Carroll, Christina	Cerar, John & Janet
Chandek, Al & Patricia	Corrigan, Nancy	Drust, Gregory	Fischer, Randy & Terri
Freiberg, Ray & MaryCay	Frohna, Craig & Helen	Gehm, Tom & Jan	Gorenc, Frank & Lilly
Gorence, Patricia	Ivanchich, Dolores	Janezic, Josephine	Kemp, Bob
Koren, Ed & Victoria	Kralj, Patricia	Lebar, Donald	Markun, Stanley & Ivanka
Martinka, Jeff Martinka, Barbara	Mlinar, Laurence	Mursec, Milly	Neuman, Helen
Price, Judy	Reese, Nancy	Shiflet, Jim & Ellen	Simcic, Matilda
Skof, Mark	Sperstad, Tim & Karen	Smith, Jackie	Smole, Bob & Amalie
Susterich, Ed & Maria	Torphy, Judith	Uhr, John & Loretta	Vidmar, Ed & Connie
Vidmar, Josephine	Vodnik, Antonia	Wallerstein, Karen	Zovic, Paul & Joanne Lipo-Zovic

### 2017 Membership Drive

To become a "Friend of the UWM Slovenian Arts Program" or to renew your annual Friend's membership for 2017, please send your membership donation along with this form to:

Mark Skof  
3345 South Russell Court  
New Berlin, WI 53151

——-\$25 Single Contribution    ——-\$35 Couple Contribution    Additional Contribution of ——  
\$———TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR 2017

Please make checks payable to: **UWM Foundation—Slovenian Arts Program**  
All contributions are tax deductible.

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**UWM Foundation  
Slovenian Arts Program  
1440 East North Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53202**

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### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The purpose of the Slovenian Arts Council is to plan and implement programs of Slovenian arts, artifacts, dance, literature, music, and theatre that preserve the ethnic heritage in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee-Peck School of the Arts.



### **Websites to keep you informed:**

[www.slovenianartsprogram.org](http://www.slovenianartsprogram.org)  
[www.funoleers.org](http://www.funoleers.org)  
[www.sua43.org](http://www.sua43.org)  
[www.slovenianunion.org](http://www.slovenianunion.org)  
[www.triglavpark.com](http://www.triglavpark.com)  
[www.wisconsinpolkaboosters.com](http://www.wisconsinpolkaboosters.com)  
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