



CELEBRATE THE HARVEST SEASON WITH MARTINOVANJE

by Linda Abstetar

The Slovenian Union of America's Branch 43 invites you to join in Martinovanje, a traditional Slovenian St. Martin's Day festival marking the traditional end of the harvest season and the onset of winter. The event is planned for Sat., Nov. 11, from 6-10 pm at the Root River Center at 7220 W. Rawson Avenue in Franklin. The event will feature a full dinner and program, plus music from the Polka Pals of Lemont, IL. Desserts will feature homemade potica and štrudelj.

Tickets are priced at \$35/person, \$65/couple, and are available from BettyAnn Kolesari, 1800 S. Lilly Lane, New Berlin, WI, 53146. Call (262) 896-0942 with questions.

INAUGURAL SLOVENIAN FILM FESTIVAL THIS OCTOBER AT UW-MILWAUKEE

by Jeff Martinka

We are pleased to announce the details for our Inaugural Festival of Slovenian Films at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (UWM). The four film mini-festival is planned for the weekend of October 7 & 8 and will be co-hosted by the Slovenian Arts Program and the UWM Film & Video Studies Department. The festival will be held in the ninety-seat UWM Fine Arts Cinema in Mitchell Hall (Room B91).

We will be showing two feature-length films and two short films. The four films selected have all received honors in European and/or Slovenian film competitions. For those with a true passion for movies, ALL four films will be shown in a series, with intermissions

of course, on Saturday, October 7. They will be presented in Slovenian, with English subtitles.

On Sunday, October 8, we will show one of the feature films in a matinee showing with the short films leading and then following it. We will also offer a Slovenian culture display in the lobby off the studio theater for viewing during breaks.

There is no cost of admission (yes, there still are some things that are free), so please join us. Mitchell Hall is located on the northeast corner of Downer and Kenwood on the UWM campus, just east of the main Peck School of the Arts buildings at 3203 N. Downer Avenue. We hope that community interest will be strong, so that this effort will be repeated each fall.

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HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR BOOTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

by Jeff Martinka

The 2023 edition of the Holiday Folk Fair International returns to the Wisconsin State Fair Park's Exposition Hall on November 17-19 and we plan to have an attractive Slovenian cultural exhibit to attract and educate the fairgoers. UWM Slovenian Arts Council member Nancy Reese has again offered to create a new Slovenian display for 2023 and we need volunteers to help staff the booth during all public hours.

The hours of operation of the Folk Fair are Friday, Nov. 17; 9 am -2 pm (school groups) 2 pm -9 pm (public), Saturday, Nov. 18; 10 am -9 pm (public), Sunday, Nov. 19; 10 am -6 pm.

Volunteers who work at the booth receive a free pass that can be used all weekend and a parking stipend to be paid after the fair.

Wearing a noša (Slovenian national costume) is encouraged, but if not available, a longer, dark skirt, white blouse and colorful scarf for women and dark pants, white shirt, colorful scarf and a vest, if available, for men. Nancy can provide all the details you need to help; it is a lively, fun event and helps us to showcase our Slovenian heritage. To help with our booth (2-hour shifts on any of the three fair days), please contact Nancy at nareese@wi.rr.com.

In the past, the Slovenian culture booth at the 2022 Holiday Folk Fair was also produced by the UWM Slovenian Arts Program and earned the "Best of the Fair Award!" That is the top award offered by the International Institute of Wisconsin to the ethnic groups represented at the event. It was the second time UWM SAP booths created by Nancy have won the "best of" awards.



Three generations of the Coffelt family volunteered in the Slovenian exhibit at the 2022 Holiday Folk Fair. From left to right are Becky Waino, Kathy Kaye (nee Coffelt), Joseph Berlin, and Katie Berlin.



FILM FESTIVAL>

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Full Length Feature Films:



“Inventura” (Inventory)

Length: 106 minutes

Here is how the Slovenian Film Guide describes Darko Sinko's 2021 film:

“Boris Robič is – as it is customary to say – an ordinary man. One day after supper, however, somebody fires a shot at him through the window while he is reading in his room. The police arrive and an investigation begins. It turns out that Boris does not have enemies or any disputes with anyone. There are no suspects – Boris appears to be a person completely unlikely to be assassinated. It seems that the event must have been a coincidence of some sort, so the police stopped investigating after a while.

Boris cannot come to terms with this, so he starts investigating on his own. While he looks for potential perpetrators, Boris discovers that he is hated by more people than he could ever have imagined and that his own perceptions of his own life are merely illusions. The film “Inventory” is a drama with elements of a thriller and black comedy, set in contemporary middle class surroundings in Slovenia.”

The film earned recognition from the Directors Guild of Slovenia (Štiglčev Pogled Best Directing Award, 2021), San Sabastian Film Festival (New Directors Award, 2021), Arthouse Cinema Network (Best Feature Film, 2021), Iridium Film (Best Feature Film Award, 2021) and the Festival of Slovenian Film (4 Vesna Award, 2021).



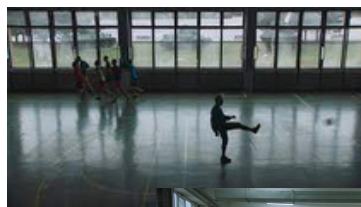
**“Houston, imamo problem!”
(Houston, We Have a Problem!)**

Length: 88 minutes

This movie is an internationally co-produced docufiction/mockumentary film by director Žiga Virč. It explores the myth of a secret \$2.5 billion deal (more than \$50 billion in today's currency) behind the U.S. purchase of the former Yugoslavia's clandestine space program in the 1960s. Will this "overseas aid" from U.S. President John F. Kennedy boost Yugoslav's sagging economy? Did Josip Broz Tito actually have key space technology to help the US fight the Russians and their Sputnik successes? Inspired by a whole series of real-world events and featuring actual footage from the era, the film is considered a fascinating allegory on the origins of the Cold War and its impacts.

The 2016 film earned awards at the Slovenian Film Festival (Best Feature Film, Best Editing, Best Actor, 2016), Mediterranean Film Festival (Audience Award), and Karlovy Vary Int'l. Film Festival (East of West nomination for Žiga Virč).

Short films:



“Žoge” (Balls)

Length: 22 minutes

In the years leading up to the outbreak of civil war in the former Yugoslavia, soccer stadiums in the country were frequently the scene of conflicts between fans of the constituent republic's teams. The burning of a Yugoslavian flag at a



match between Hajduk Split (Croatian) and Partizan Belgrade (Serbian) in 1990 symbolized the end of Marshall Tito's dream. Just a few years later, the same sports fans were fighting each other in bloody battles for territory, the bloodiest conflict in Europe since WWII.

Today, soldiers from the six independent countries regularly compete in a vastly different context at an indoor soccer tournament in Sarajevo. In Gorana Jovanović's short 2022 film about this event, the director reveals herself to be a skilled observer, letting the images speak for themselves. Jovanović accompanies these images with an old radio hit that addresses the connection between the sport and macho culture, noting “I doubt that soccer is the only reason you go to the stadium every Sunday.”



**“Babičino seksualno življenje”
(Granny's Sexual Life)**

Length: 14 minutes

This 2021 animated short film has garnered an impressive number of awards, including European Film Awards (Best Film-Short Film Category 2022), Cesar Awards (Best Short Film 2022 and Best Animated Short Film 2023), Les Arcs Festival (Best Animated Film), Berlin Interfilm Festival (Special Mention 2021), Tampere Film Festival (Grand Prix 2022) and the Slovene Film Festival (Special Achievement Award 2021).

Based on a book detailing the anonymous testimony of four elderly Slovenian women, the four women in the film reflect on their memories of when they were young and how vastly different the relationships between men and women once were. Their voices then merge into one single voice, that of Grandmother Vera, who tells her own story in engaging detail.

For addition information, please contact Paul Zovič at 414-659-2350, or zovic@wi.rr.com

Here is the full 2023 Slovenian Film Festival schedule:

Saturday, October 7

- 3 pm “Žoge” (Balls) (a short film)
- 3:30 pm “Houston, imamo problem!” (Houston, We Have a Problem!) (a full-length feature film)
- 5:30 pm “Babičino seksualno življenje” (Granny’s Sexual Life) (a short film)
- 6 pm “Inventura” (Inventory) (feature film)

Sunday, October 8

- 1 pm “Babičino seksualno življenje” (Granny’s Sexual Life) (short film)
- 1:30 pm “Houston, imamo problem!” (Houston, We Have a Problem!) (feature film)
- 3 pm “Žoge” (Balls) (short film)

By Jeff Martinka

Please join us on Tuesday, December 12 at 6pm for the Annual USPEH Holiday Sing-Along. This popular free event is held at the HA Todd Jr., American Legion Post 537, 9159 W. Beloit Rd., Milwaukee 53227. We promise you an evening filled with favorite Slovenian and American Christmas songs, sung to musical accompaniment in a festive holiday environment.



USPEH 2022 Sing-along

This year, the event will be newly emceed by former USPEH Chorus member, local band leader and longtime Slovenian volunteer John Ash. The popular local accordionists Tony Gorenc and Grant Kocera will provide musical accompaniment.

As always, this event is free and is guaranteed to get you in the holiday spirit. The USPEH Chorus will provide complimentary beer, soda, and Slovenian holiday treats. Donations to future USPEH holiday events are (of course!) accepted at the door.



SUMMER 2023 SUA AND UWM SAC PICNIC

by Beverly Boyance Marinello

One of the highlights of our summer was a picnic hosted by one of Branch #43’s most senior members, Frank Murn (Frank turned a young 96 on August 22nd). On July 26, forty guests, including members of Slovenian Union of America Branch #43, members (both official and ex-officio) of the UWM Slovenian Arts Council and the President of the Slovenian Cultural Society Triglav and his wife, came to a picnic at his home.



Jeff Martinka and Frank Murn.

Guests were treated by Frank to a catered lunch with desserts of potica, strudel and flanceti donated by the Slovenian bakers of Branch #43 and liquid refreshments that included šljivovitz being passed! Following lunch, Frank, driving his “Popemobile” with a passenger trailer attached, treated his guests to a ride through his flower-filled prairies. He then provided tours of his home that was built in Frank Lloyd

Wright/Prairie School-style and highlights his art collection gleaned through his years of travel. Also featured were demonstrations of a few of the whirligigs/“automata” that Frank crafts, truly works of art created by his original ideas! What would an afternoon at Frank’s home be if not including him serenading us with Slovenian songs he played on his button box accordion!



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Helen Frohna, Frank Murn, and Metka Rozina.



PICNIC>

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Frank decided to provide a memory of this lovely afternoon by gifting his guests with a bag of dried blossoms from the linden/lipa tree that grows in his yard. He explained the many medicinal uses of Lipa Tea. Frank and I gathered the blossoms and he dried them in his pole barn. SUA Member Jeff Martinka created a notecard with the lipa tea recipe and Jeff and his mother Barbara packaged the leaves, creating an educational take-home for all attendees.

In appreciation, the Board members of Branch #43 gifted Frank with a shirt with the crest of Slovenia embroidered on it, wine, potica, and štrudel. A good time was had by all, resulting in great memories and new friendships.

Clockwise from upper right: Tony Limoni and Frank Murn. A prairie ride for the attendees. Lipa tea and instructions. Group photo of all in attendance



COSMIC FAIRY TALES: A PRINT COLLABORATION SUPPORTED BY ARTS PROGRAM



Compiled by Isabelle Kralj, Theatre Gigante Co-Artistic Director

In 2017, Theatre Gigante Artistic Directors Isabelle Kralj and Mark Anderson were in Maribor, Sloveni, to perform a reading of one of their scripts at the request of University of Maribor Professor, Melita Koletnik. She had her students translate the script from English into Slovenian as a class project.

At that reading, Koletnik introduced Kralj and Anderson to Slovenian playwright Rok Vilčnik. Vilčnik asked Kralj and Anderson if they'd be interested in translating his play Tarzan into English, which kicked off a series of

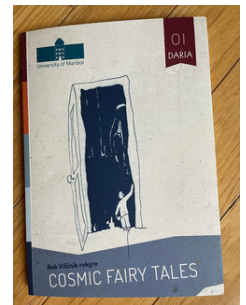
artistic collaborations between Rok and Theatre Gigante. Gigante eventually presented the English version of Tarzan in Milwaukee (with additional financial support from the UWM Slovenian Arts Program), and also in the cities of Ptuj and Kranj in Slovenia.

Melita Koletnik was the instigating force for the next collaboration as well: Rok Vilčnik's Cosmic Fairy Tales. She had been working on translating Rok's tales with her students. Along the way, Rok sent some of his tales to Isabelle, who liked them so much, she began translating them into English, for some unknown future use. At some point, Melita's class project and Isabelle's interest intersected, and Melita asked Isabelle to review and revise her students' translations.

But that wasn't the end.

Melita had the idea to publish a book of Rok's Fairy Tales. She, along with

Rok Vilčnik's Cosmic Fairy Tales, translated by Melita Koletnik, her students, colleagues, and Theatre Gigante.



many, many students, colleagues, and finally Theatre Gigante, worked diligently on the translations of Rok Vilčnik's Cosmic Fairy Tales. In the final product, Cosmic Fairy Tales, there are 50 stories, illustrated with drawings by Rok. This book is the culmination of an amazing ten-year project, ultimately realized in print by generous funding from the UWM Slovenian Arts Program.

Thank you, UWM SAP! (To learn more about our collaborations and to see a copy of the book, please contact us at theatre@gigante@gmail.com).

REGION LOSES A LONGTIME SLOVENIAN LEADER AND FRIEND - VIRGINIA STRUKEL

by Beverly Boyance Marinello

Virginia Kmet Strukel passed away on June 4, 2023 at the age of 96. Virginia was a very active member of the UWM Slovenian Arts Council and served as a Past President. A retired elementary teacher in the West Allis - West Milwaukee School District, Virginia was active in many organizations, including the Uspeh Slovenian Chorus, SNPJ Badger Lodge #584, KSKJ #65, Slovene Women's Union #12, Slovene Retirees, and the American Association of College Women-Milwaukee Branch. Virginia attended a month-long Slovenian Language School Slovenia in the summer of 1996.

A stand-out in whatever task she embraced, Virginia started out her adult life at a run. She graduated from high school at 16 and earned a fully paid scholarship to the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, a remarkable achievement for a female in that era. For her efforts in promoting Slovenian culture, she also earned an Outstanding Slovenian honor from the Slovenian Consul General in 1997.



Virginia Kmet Strukel



Some USPEH singers gather for Virginia's last birthday party.

HELP US GO DIGITAL

by Christina Carroll

If you would like to receive these UWM SAP newsletters in a digital format (pdf) via email instead of a paper copy sent through the US Postal Service, please email your name and email address to: slovartsmke@gmail.com. We will still maintain the mailing of hard copies to those who do not wish to share their email addresses with us.

Please note, your email address will be used ONLY to distribute our newsletters, notices of our sponsored events, and other invitations (Zoom, etc.). Emailed items will be sent from slovartsmke@gmail.com. This account is administered privately by an officer of the Slovenian Arts Council, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.



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THOUGHTS ON THE "SLOVENSKA HIŠA" AT THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

By Christina Carroll, UWM SAP President

With the latest updates regarding the future of the Milwaukee Public Museum's European Village exhibit, I am sure I am not the only one who is disappointed at the prospect of the "Slovenska Hiša" and other European exhibits not being included in the new museum facility, now under construction on West McKinley Street. You may want to pay a visit to the "old" museum before they move.

However, our general concern should also be the potential elimination of the story of the Slovenian community in Milwaukee, not only the story of immigration from the early 1900s but also the development of the Slovenian neighborhoods in Walker's Point and in West Allis.

Frank Ermenc, a popular funeral home director in the early Slovenian community, envisioned establishing a fund with the goal of sponsoring any type of fine arts programming that would share the Slovenian arts and culture not only to the Slovenian community in Milwaukee but to the public at large. Upon his death, his wife Mary established the Slovenian Arts Fund at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) Foundation to achieve Frank's vision. Since 1986, the UWM Ermenc Fund has sponsored events featuring the music, visual arts, theatre, films, and literature of Slovenia, while also awarding grants and scholarships. The Fund can be part of the solution to preserving our local cultural heritage.

With an impending loss of the European Village museum exhibit in Milwaukee, how else can we prevent the disappearance of Milwaukee's Slovenian American history? Many of us have photos and program books from the past one hundred years, illustrating the various Slovenian cultural activities in our Milwaukee and West Allis communities. I have already scanned and digitized my family's slides and photos which include many taken of local Slovenian activities. I am sure other members of the community organizations and lodges like KSKJ, Sloga, SNPJ, SUA, and Triglav have some in their home collections too. There are options of how we can maintain and share our photos and short stories.



The Streets of Old Milwaukee & European Village exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

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GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW EDITORS

By Jeff Martinka

This latest edition was again the product of a new two-editor team: Jeff Martinka is responsible for getting the newsletters written and Kimberly Gardner works on editing and layout (former editor Helen Frohna wore both hats!).

Jeff Martinka is a longtime member and former President of the UWM Slovenian Arts Council and is also a longstanding member of the USPEH Slovenian Chorus. He was active in the Slovenian Union of America, both Branch 109 when he lived in Minnesota and back here in his Milwaukee hometown with Branch 43. For five years, he was the editor of Milwaukee's USPEH Newsletter, as well. His mother, Barbara Martinka, also served on the Slovenian Arts Council and performed and toured for decades with the USPEH Chorus. Jeff has traveled to Slovenia dozens of times, including this August. He retired last year after eight years as Executive Director of Neighborhood House of Milwaukee.

Kimberly Gardner's family has been integrally involved in the Triglav Cultural Society for many years and currently, Kimberly serves on the Triglav Board as its Secretary. She has a strong background and skillset in communications and marketing and is currently serving as the Chief Advancement Officer for Siena Catholic Schools of Racine.

Any questions or suggestions can be directed to Jeff Martinka at jeffreymartinka@yahoo.com.



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There are many Milwaukee neighborhood groups that have "group pages" on Facebook, but what about people who do not use Facebook? Would it be possible to create a website solely for the collection and display of digitized images with short descriptions that would be a resource displaying our history of activities and culture in our community?

In the absence of a physical museum display featuring Slovenians, would going digital make our local history more accessible to everyone and more interesting to younger generations? I welcome any ideas from those of you who may be more savvy in exploring the digital world than I am please reach out to me at chriscarr0676@gmail.com



*Artist's rendering of
the new Milwaukee
Public Museum.*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mark your calendars and join fellow Slovenians as we celebrate our culture locally!

Triglav Cultural Society:
Vinska Trgatev (Wine Festival)
Sun., Sept. 10, 2023
Dinner at Noon
Music by BrewHaus Polka King/
Grant Kozera at 1 pm
Triglav Park



Slovenian Film Festival at UWM
Sat., Oct. 7 - Sun., Oct. 8, 2023
Fine Arts Cinema, Rm B91
Mitchell Hall on the UWM Campus
3202 N. Downer Avenue, Milwaukee, WI

Saturday, October 7

- 3 pm "Žoge"
- 3:30 pm "Houston, imamo problem!"
- 5:30 pm "Babičino seksualno življenje"
- 6 pm "Inventura"

Sunday, October 8

- 1 pm "Babičino seksualno življenje"
- 1:30 pm "Houston, imamo problem!"
- 3 pm "Žoge"

SUA Branch 43 Martinovanje Celebration
Sat., Nov. 11, 2023
6-10 pm
Root River Center
7220 W. Rawson Avenue, Franklin, WI

**Slovenian Cultural Booth at
Holiday Folk Fair 2023**
Fri., Nov. 17 - Sun., Nov. 19, 2023
Wisconsin State Fair Exposition Hall
8200 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI

2023 Uspeh's Holiday Sing-along
Tues., Dec. 12, 2023
6-8 pm
HA Todd Jr., American Legion Post 537
9159 W. Beloit Rd., Milwaukee 53227

THE UWM SLOVENIAN MUSIC COLLECTION

by Anna Grau Schmidt, UWM Librarian

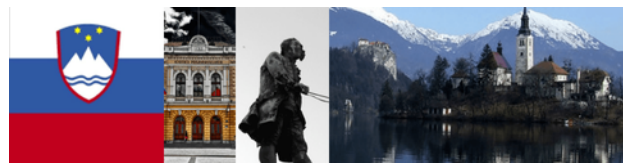
Established with the generous gift of the Ermenc family and under the guidance of Professor Leo Muscatevc in the early 1980s, the Slovenian Music Collection at UW-Milwaukee's Golda Meir Library is truly special. The Collection makes its large selection of folk, choral, and art music from Slovenia available to the university and the community.

Over 40 years after the origin of the collection, we continue to integrate the original goals of the fund with the research and education needs of our current students and faculty. We still collect folk and traditional music, but our primary focus is on building a strong collection of contemporary and historical art music by Slovenian composers. In 2021, we started a new purchasing plan that allows us to automatically purchase all new music published by the Society of Slovene Composers, as well as works by a selection of other Slovenian composers. We also purchase studies of Slovenian music, especially those that are in English or bilingual. In fall 2023, we plan to host an event to help students and community members add information about Slovenian music and composers to the English-language Wikipedia, and would welcome the involvement of members of the Slovenian-American community. All are welcome to use any of the library's materials on-site or to purchase a Community Borrowing Card to check out materials. For assistance navigating the collection, please contact me at schmidag@uwm.edu or (414)251-7510.



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Golda Meir Library at UW-Milwaukee houses the Slovenian Music Collection.

SUPPORT OUR WORK TO PROMOTE SLOVENIAN CULTURE IN GREATER MILWAUKEE

The work of UWM SAC was launched by a generous gift from the Ermenc Family but is bolstered every year by donations from friends of the Slovenian Community.

To make a tax-deductible donation, please make checks payable to:
UWM Foundation, Inc. For proper routing to our account at the Foundation, be certain to reference the Ermenc Slovenian Arts Fund (5528000) on your check.



Select a gift amount:

____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$75 ____ \$100 ____ Other Amount: _____

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Mail payment to:

UWM Foundation, Inc. (EIN 23-7337744)

1440 E. North Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53217

**DONATE
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You may also make a tax-deductible donation to the UWM Slovenian Arts Program online using a credit card at this link:

http://www.give.uwm.edu/ermenc_slovenian_arts

If you have gift questions, email your inquiries to: jeffreymartinka@yahoo.com

Thank you for considering a new gift, and Hvala Lepa, to all who have supported our work! All new gifts will be recognized in future newsletters.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS JUNE-JULY 2023

Randall and Therese Fischer
(In Memory of Ed and Mary (Mici) Bregant)

Teresa Gregoire
(In Memory of Virginia Strukel)

Dan Hutchinson and Sandra Schlindler-Hutchinson
(In Memory of Virginia Strukel)

Dolores Ivanchich
(In Memory of Mary (Mici) Bregant)

The Kramper Family
(In Memory of Virginia Strukel)

Agnes Lobacz
(In Memory of Virginia Strukel)

Beverly A. Marinello
(In Memory of Virginia Strukel)

Barbara Martinka
(In Memory of Virginia Strukel)

Jeff Martinka
(In Memory of Virginia Strukel)

Laurence Mlinar

Ljudmila Mursec

Nancy Reese

Jean and Robert Verbiscer
(In Memory of Mary Bregant)

Carol and Paul Ziehler
(In Memory of Mary Dana Strukel)

Carol and Paul Ziehler
(In Memory of Virginia Strukel)

CONTACT US >

If you are interested in learning more about the Slovenian Arts Council, have story ideas for our newsletter, or have other inquiries, please contact:

Jeff Martinka at
jeffreymartinka@yahoo.com

Social Media Sites of Interest

- www.slovenianartsprogram.org
 - www.sua43.org
 - www.triglavpark.org
 - www.washington.embassy.si
 - facebook.org
- Slovenian Arts Program
Milwaukee Slovenians

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