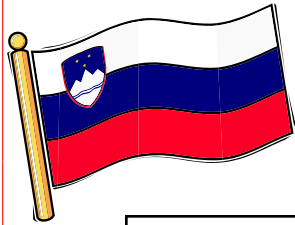


# SLOVENIAN ARTS PROGRAM



NEWSLETTER OF THE UWM SLOVENIAN ARTS COUNCIL

Spring Issue: April 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pozdravljeni! Greetings!

I am proud to be an American, born of Slovenian parents. I'm grateful for the exposure and experience of another ethnic tradition and culture. When I visited Slovenia as a teenager, I walked in the villages and countryside where my parents grew up and it somehow felt like "home". As an adult student living in Ljubljana, I remember at one point looking at the people walking on the streets and thinking, "yes", I am one of them. My life has been enriched by my Slovenian ancestry.

In 1982, the Frank and Mary Ermenc Fund was established at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee to provide a home for the accumulation of Slovenian materials for the Slovenian community, as well as the community at large. There have been acquisitions to the UWM Library, including a section housing a vast collection of Slovenian music. Programs continue to be presented to celebrate the culture that is ours. In 1986, the Slovenian Arts Council was established to continue the work that was begun.

It is significant that the country of Slovenia has a national holiday on February 8, France Prešeren Day or Day of Culture in which all the arts are celebrated. We as a council are committed to that goal.

Živeli Slovenci!

*Dolores Ivanchich*

**Veselo Veliko noč! Happy Easter!**



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## FRANCE PREŠEREN DAY



**Prešeren Day of Culture:  
Celebrated in Slovenia on February 8th**

France Prešeren Day/Day of Culture was celebrated on Saturday, February 3rd at the West Allis Public Library. We anticipated the actual holiday celebrated on February 8th in Slovenia. In the past two years, we focused mostly on Prešeren, his life and works. This year we presented the lives and poetry of two other well known poets, Simon Gregorčič and Srečko Kosovel. In addition, the audience received interesting information on the Culture and Congress Center in Ljubljana (Cankarjev dom) and the country's generous support of the arts in general. The power point presentation with slides beautifully arranged by Helen Frohna accompanied the commentary by presenters MaryCay Freiberg, Milly Mursec, and Isabelle Kralj, Artistic Director of Theatre Gigante in Milwaukee. A poem, "Njega ni", known to many as the text for the song, "Rože je na vrtu plela", was sung by the Prešeren Trio, Al Chandek, Dolores Ivanchich, and Frank Wozniak. A short film on Slovenia with Rick Steves of PBS renown, concluded this program before an attentive and enthusiastic audience.

## DAMIJAN MOČNIK



President Ivanchich,  
Composer Močnik and  
Council Member  
Mici Bregant

Damijan Močnik, a composer from Slovenia was a recent visitor to Milwaukee for the premier performance of his Christmas Cantata, "Venit lumen". This work was a commissioned piece and performed by the University of Wisconsin Concert Chorale under the direction of Sharon A. Hansen on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Zelazo Center on the UWM campus. Another work by Mr. Močnik, "Christus est natus", was conducted by the composer himself. Consul General, Jurček Žmauc of Cleveland, Ohio, also attended and a reception followed the inspiring performance.

Members of the Slovenian Arts Council hosted Mr. Močnik by providing sights and tastes of Milwaukee. He ate and visited with the Slovenian retirees, the Uspeh chorus, dined at restaurants, had a home cooked meal, he visited the Public Market, and went on a shopping spree before leaving town. Mr. Močnik's wife and three children did not accompany him so he had some shopping to do.

All of us who attended the concert enjoyed his music, socializing, and meeting with him throughout the week that he was here.



***Najlepša Hvala***

Thank you to our **Friends of the Slovenian Arts Program** for your generous donations. In addition to the *Frank and Mary Ermenc Memorial Fund*, your financial support and attendance at events hosted by the U.W.M. Slovenian Arts Council will help perpetuate Slovenian fine arts programming in the Milwaukee Area.

**2011 Friends (since October 2011)**

Carroll, Christina  
Gorence, Patricia  
Ivanchich, Dolores  
Kolesari, John & Betty  
Martinka, Barbara  
Mlinar, Laurence  
Price, Lee & Judy

**2012 Friends**

Adomat, Margaret  
Bartlett, Denise & Robert  
Gorenc, Tony  
Ivanchich, Dolores  
Martinka, Barbara  
Martinka, Jeffrey  
Mursec, Ljudmila (Milly)  
Price, Lee & Judy  
Vidmar, Josephine

To become a “*Friend of the U.W.M. Slovenian Arts Program*” or to renew your annual Friends membership for 2012, please send your membership donation along with the form below to:

**Christina M. Carroll/Treasurer  
444 East Warnimont Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53207**

(Email inquiries: [mcarroll5@wi.rr.com](mailto:mcarroll5@wi.rr.com))

Please make checks payable to: **U.W.M. Foundation—Slovenian Arts Program.**

All contributions are tax deductible.

- \_\_\_ \$25 Single Contribution
- \_\_\_ \$35 Couple Contribution
- \_\_\_ Additional Contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

**\$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR 2012**

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## **Let me introduce you to your board and council members:**

**Dolores Ivanchich:** Currently serves as SAC Preseident, and has been on the Council since 2005. Both of her parents came from the Primorska region of Slovenia, villages of Ravnje and Libušnje. She lived in Ljubljana for two years where she did post graduate study at the Academy of Music. Along with her brother, Louis, she was heard on the Slovenian Radio Hour Sunday mornings, on WMIL Milwaukee, for 13 years. In 1996 she received the SAP Award of Merit. Dolores is a member of SUA, Branch #43.

**Judy Price:** Currently serves as Vice-President and has been a member of SAC since 2002. Both paternal and maternal grandparents came from Slovenia. Judy's aunt Mary (Mayme) Ermenc provided the original funding for the Slovenian Arts Program. Her father, Tony Verbick, was also a member of SAC and received the Award of Merit. Judy is a member of SNPJ Badgers Lodge 584 and SLOGA.

**Christina M. Carroll:** Currently serves as treasurer and has been a member of SAC since its inception in 1986. She is a first-generation Slovenian/Austrian-American. Christina's father, Karl Maierle, was born in the small village of Jelenja vas in Bela Krajina, Slovenia. He immigrated to the US with his wife, Eveline, in 1949, where he established his second home in Milwaukee. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, majoring in International Relations. She is employed as Financial Assistant for UWM—English as a Second Language Programs. Christina is President of the fraternal lodge CFU/SLOGA Lodge Milwaukee #1994 for the past 17 years.

**Milly Mursec:** Currently serves as Recording Secretary. She has been a member of the Slovenian Arts Council from 2002 until 2004, and again as of Nov. 2007. Milly was born in Maribor, Slovenia, and immigrated as a teenager with her family to the United States. Fluent in both Slovenian and English, Milly is the Slovenian language consultant for the Council. She is a member of the St. John's Choir and the Uspeh Chorus.

**Barbara Martinka:** Presently serves as Corresponding Secretary and has been a council member since 2003. Her father was born in Laibach (Ljubljana) and her mother in Sodražica. Her grandfathers brother, Rev. Mark Pakiž, was instrumental in purchasing the old Jewish synagogue on the south side of Milwaukee where many Slovenian families lived and worked. Barb sings with the St. John's church choir and the Uspeh Chorus. She has traveled twice to Slovenia with the Uspeh chorus and once with her family visiting and walking the areas she had heard her parents talk about so frequently. She is a member of SUA Branch #43.

**Mary Cay Freiberg:** Immediate Past President and a member of the council since 2005. MaryCay served on the Council for nine years, seven as Council President. Her Slovenian Heritage is from her grandmother, Mary Bitenc-Strucil. Two years ago she visited the town, Rečica, Slovenia where her grandmother was born. It is a beautiful mountainous town in the Štajerska region. MaryCay celebrates and appreciates her Slovene heritage daily. She sings with the St. John's Choir and the Uspeh Chorus.

**Denise Bartlett:** has been a member of the Council since 2004, where she has worked on SAC's bylaws and served as Treasurer. Her paternal grandmother, Gertrude Globočnik Delopst, served as the first President of SUA Branch 43. Denise feels that the work of the SAC and SUA's efforts to highlight the Slovenian Arts Program are important and relevant to keep the Slovenian spirit alive and to help Slovenians stay connected to their unique heritage. She is a member of the SUA Branch #43.

**Mary "Mici" Bregant:** Has been a member of SAC since its inception in 1986. She has held the office of recording and corresponding secretary. Her father was born in Johnstown, PA. and went back to Slovenia as a small child and returned to the USA at the age of 20. Her mother was born in Austria-Hungary and came to the USA as a small child. Mici has been the Slovenian Church Choir Director for over 25 years and the director of the Uspeh Chorus since 1994. In 1998 she received the SAP Award of Merit. She currently serves as recording secretary for the SUA Branch 43 and the USPEH Organization.

**Helen Frohna:** Joined SAC this year as a council member and is the editor of the newsletter. Her mother, Mici, was and is, her strong connection to her Slovenian heritage. Her mother was born in Zalog, a small village southeast of Ljubljana. She has traveled back to see her mother's homeland three times. She also serves as Treasurer of the SUA, Branch #43, and is a active member of the Slovenian Cultural Society Triglav.

**Tom Gehm:** Tom is a new council member. Although a 100% German, Tom learned about Slovenia and the Slovenian heritage when he married his wife Janice Lužar. Over the past 30 years, he has been active in the Slovenian Choir at St. John the Evangelist, the Uspeh Slovenian Chorus, and the Prešeren Ensemble. He is also a member of SNPJ Badger Lodge #584, the summer balina league and KSKJ Lodge #65 where he has served as auditor for several years. Tom and Jan visited Slovenia for the first time in 2009.

**Tony Gorenc:** Tony has been a member of the council since 2006. His family roots are from the Dolenska region of Slovenia. At age nine Tony started his formal studies of the accordion with Slovenian teachers Jack Barlich and Anton Martinsek. In his teenage years he became a serious student at the Andy Rizzo School connected with Loyola University. Tony can also boast of strong Slovenian polka music in his blood; he's composed two polkas. He stays connected to his family roots with frequent trips to Slovenia—26 trips in 28 years— where he feels at home. For the last 25 years he has performed at local ethnic venues as soloist and with the Tony Gorenc Ensemble. .

**Jeff Martinka:** Jeff has been on the UWM SAC twice, rejoining the group in January. His maternal grandparents are both Slovenians, having arrived in the Milwaukee area in the early 1900s. Jeff has many relatives and friends in Slovenia (mostly in the area of Ljubljana and Sodražica ), and he has traveled there many times. For five years, he served as Editor of Milwaukee's U.S.P.E.H. Slovenian Newsletter. He has enjoyed creating Slovenian cultural booths for the Festival of Nations in St. Paul, MN and the Holiday Folk Fair in West Allis. Jeff has been active as a member of the Uspeh Slovenian Chorus and serves as its Treasurer. A graduate of UW-Madison and UWM, Jeff currently manages a Milwaukee environmental organization

**Virginia Kmet Strukel:** Has been a member of the council since 1998 and has served as President and Vice-President. American by birth, Slovenian by the grace of God, Virginia's father, Frank Kmet was born in Dobrníč, home of Frederic Baraga and Dr. Jože Gole. Her mother Danilla Ferjančič Kmet was born in Branik near Nova Gorica. She attended Poletna šola at the University of Ljubljana for a month after retiring from teaching. Virginia is Past President of the Uspeh Chorus, SWU Branch #12, and SNPJ Badger Lodge. She has been past secretary of 584, secretary of the Slovenian Retirees and Past President of the American Association of University Women— Milwaukee Branch. In 1997, Virginia received an award from the Slovenian government as an outstanding Slovenian abroad from the Slovenska izseljenska matica.

## [Triglav Cultural Society Receives Grant](#)

Last year the Council approved a performance grant to the Triglav Society for sponsoring the *Ansambel Veseljaki* from Chicago to play at their June 24th summer picnic. At the Triglav February quarterly meeting, MaryCay Freiberg presented our check for \$500.00 to President Karl Dovnik, Jr. and Vice-President John Bambič. Dolores Ivanchich spoke very briefly to the group regarding the Council's goals, with the hope that our organizations will continue to work together in the future. Their group applauded warmly and were genuinely appreciative of the awarding of this grant.





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

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### **UP COMING EVENTS:**



Slovenian **Sing-A-Long** with Ed Vidmar: Thursday, April 26th, 6-8pm  
American Legion Post, South 92nd & West Beloit Road. Join with fellow  
Slovenians for a fun night of singing old familiar folk songs in a “gostilna”  
style atmosphere. Klobase and ocvirkova potica will be available.

**This a free event !**

**“Mi-Smo-Mi”**— Slovenian Young Men’s Choral Group from Cleveland—Summer 2012

Fall Slovenian **Language Class**

#### **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.slovenainartsprogram.org](http://www.slovenainartsprogram.org)

[www.uspehslovenianchorus.org](http://www.uspehslovenianchorus.org)

[www.swua.org](http://www.swua.org)

[www.triglavpark.com](http://www.triglavpark.com)

[www.funoleers.org](http://www.funoleers.org)