

## U.S. Senator George Voinovich



October 30, 2008 Senator George Voinovich accompanied The McCain-Palin Team during their U. S. presidential campaign stop in Mentor Ohio. The senator is pictured at a post rally party at the Republican Party Call Center in Mayfield Heights, Ohio.

## Embassies Participate In Ljubljana Marathon, October 26, 2008



Diplomats and family members from the United States Embassy in Ljubljana and the United States Embassy in Vienna participated in the 13th Annual Ljubljana Marathon. The event included a 42 km marathon, 21 km half marathon, and 10 km run. Eighteen people from both embassies participated, including Ambassador Ghafari, who ran the full 42 km marathon.

Pictured left: Ambassador Ghafari running the marathon

<http://slovenia.usembassy.gov/marathon2.html>

# Church and State Reach Agreement on Bled Island Ownership

**Bled/Ljubljana, 22 October**

**The Ljubljana Archdiocese and the Culture Ministry have finally reached an agreement on the ownership of the Bled island, one of Slovenia's best known landmarks. The island on the lake Bled will remain state-owned, while the buildings on the island, including the famous church, will be given to the Bled parish.**

In line with the agreement, which was confirmed by the government on 9 October, the Ljubljana Archdiocese will also withdraw the appeal it has addressed to the European Court of Human Rights regarding the denationalisation claim for the island. In return, the Bled parish, which owns the famous church on the island, will get back other buildings on the island. Janez Ambrozic of the Bled parish is satisfied with the solution. He told STA on Wednesday that the parish would now continue to work in peace. The Ljubljana Archdiocese and the Culture Ministry were not available for comment.

The agreement ends years of attempts to settle the denationalisation claim by the archdiocese, which wanted the island to be returned to the Roman Catholic Church in kind. In 2006, the Supreme Court overturned a ruling by the Administrative Court from 2002 that the Church should be returned the island. The Bled parish then appealed at the Constitutional Court, challenging the Supreme Court's decision.



The Constitutional Court has upheld the ruling of the Supreme Court in June 2007, and the island was not returned to the Church in kind and remained in hands of the state. According to the Supreme Court, the ruling was based on the fact that the island is a natural and cultural monument and as such cannot be decided on in legal procedures.

## Cleveland is proud of Councilman Cimperman

On October 23, 2008, Cleveland City Councilman and proud Slovenian, Joe Cimperman, received the Ruth Ratner Miller Award at a banquet held in his honor in downtown Cleveland. With this award, the Downtown Cleveland Alliance recognizes Councilman Cimperman for his significant contribution to the development and vibrancy of downtown Cleveland.

Councilman Cimperman has served the people of Cleveland's 13th Ward as its Cleveland City Council representative since 1997. His current goals are to continue creating a supportive environment for the arts and culture communities, to enhance the retail environment of Euclid Avenue, and to support the Ohio Canal corridor's connection through the city.

Joe Cimperman believes that everyone deserves great art regardless of income. He proudly supports the annual programming of film, theatre and ballet in the public parks of Ward 13. He spearheaded the city's first live-work legislation for artists. With the support of the Community Partnership for the Arts and Culture, Cimperman helped build civic momentum to fight for an arts levy in 2003 and ultimately for passage of public support for the arts in 2006.

Councilman Cimperman is a champion of neighborhood issues and has worked to create and invigorate over 30 community book clubs. He has sponsored legislation for many improvements, including sufficient parking for people with disabilities and safety measures along the waterfront. He led the charge on creating a zoning class for parks and green space in Cleveland. Working with OSU Extension, Botanical Gardens, and the Cuyahoga Community Land Trust, he was a steward in creating a zoning class for community gardens, the first in the country. He was instrumental in helping downtown Cleveland implement the Clean & Safe Program – with 55 people every day keeping downtown Cleveland safe for the 120,000 who work, visit, learn and live here.

Councilman Cimperman understands the importance of downtown not just for Ward 13 but for the whole city and region. Today with Councilman Cimperman's support, we see numerous catalytic projects in progress and a resurgence of people living downtown. With the Euclid Corridor Transportation project in the final stages, East 4th Street vibrant and blooming and the Flats East bank project just beginning, downtown is being reborn and re-energized. The continued resurgence of downtown will drive our city, county and region.

Councilman Cimperman was born to Slovenian parents and raised in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood. His mother (born in Slovenia) and his father (a first generation Slovenian American), were active in Cleveland's Slovenian community. As a boy, Joe's parents spoke Slovenian to him and, as a family, they worshipped at St. Vitus Parish.

Councilman Cimperman graduated from St. Vitus Elementary School, St. Ignatius High School and John Carroll University. While at John Carroll, Cimperman founded Project GOLD, an international award winning community service organization dedicated to helping families and Cleveland's people in need. After college, Cimperman worked with Cleveland's I have a Dream Foundation. As a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, the Councilman worked with developmentally challenged adults in Portland, Maine and at an AIDS hospice in Baltimore, Maryland. He returned home to serve as an outreach worker at the West Side Catholic Center, and is proud to have served this great community for a decade.

The Slovenian community of Cleveland is proud of Councilman Cimperman and congratulates him on his accomplishments!

# Small and beautiful – that's Slovenia

Nov 2 2008 by Daniel Brennan, Wales On Sunday

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/travel/travel-news/2008/11/02/small-and-beautiful-that-s-slovenia-91466-22164981/>

Not many people know much about Slovenia, but it is a tiny diamond and well worth the trip to find out more, says DAVE ROBSON ...

SO how much do you know about Slovenia?

No, me neither. I'd heard of its capital Ljubljana, although spelling it proved a challenge, but other than that – let's say it wouldn't be my specialist subject on Mastermind.

So when the chance of a week at a Keycamp holiday home in Ljubljana offered itself, it had to be taken.

We flew into Trieste in north-east Italy – much cheaper than jetting into Ljubljana airport and only 60km or so away from our destination.

But if you hire a car, make sure it has a green sticker on the windscreen – a 'vignette' no less – because it's compulsory and lets you zip through toll booths without stopping.

On arrival at our "Ljubljana Resort" campsite, with its brilliant pool complex next door, we quickly settled into our comfy, well-equipped and spotless mobile home.

Then it was off into the capital city where, within an hour, it was pouring down and we were ensconced in an Irish bar, watching football on TV.

That night, it rained so heavily, the French youths in tents at the other end of the site moved en masse to shelter in the shower block next to our chalet. It was like trying to sleep next to a foreign exchange students' party.

No matter – next day, the sun was shining and we set off for the picturesque jewel in Slovenia's crown, Lake Bled.

Ask someone to draw a magic church in the middle of a pretty lake and they'd come up with something like this.

It takes a while to walk around it all, but it must be one of the best Sunday afternoon strolls on earth. Even the kids seemed entranced by it. I was confident, for example, that son Alex, ten, had fallen under Bled's spell.

Then he said: "What would you do if a donkey jumped out of that bush?" It was a bit of a let down. I guess his scenery appreciation skills need some work.

But it was a magical place and offered a real highlight of our Slovenian stay. Forty-five minutes up the road – and bear in mind we were there in August – is the winter sports hotspot of Kranjska Gora and the ski jump mecca of Planica. Yes, winter is the key word here.

Mrs R's Scandinavian roots meant this was a must-see, especially as Norwegian Bjorn Einar Romeren set a new ski jump world record in Planica, leaping 239 metres.

Slovenia's so small, you can cover lots by car and even pop abroad – we had days in Trieste in Italy and Porec and Rovinj in Croatia – both lovely, if touristy seaside towns.

And with Ljubljana centre 10 minutes from our campsite – which would have benefited from an on-site supermarket – we often popped down town. It was a really lovely place.

One night, we were even entertained by perky singer Manca Spik, before Slovenia's returning Olympic medallists strode proudly on to the stage.

The crowd applauded politely. Uncontrolled outpourings of emotion probably aren't a Slovenian thing. But maybe they're just content with their lot in life – and who can blame them?

Their country is a little diamond and well worth a visit.

## Letters

Circle 2 will hold their annual Fall Concert, November 9, 2008 at the Slovenian Society Home - 20713 Recher Ave, Euclid, OH 44119. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Circle 2 Slovenian Junior Chorus. This is one of the oldest children's choirs in the country and Circle 2 is still going strong. The children are looking forward to showing off their talents at their first event of the year, the annual Fall Concert, and we would like to see each and every one of you there.

To celebrate the anniversary, I would like to personally invite all of the former Circle 2 members to join us at the concert and also to join the current members on stage for a sing a long. It would be wonderful to see as many alumni there to support the children at this concert. It is important to encourage and cheer on these children who work so very hard to prepare for these events.

The concert is set for Sunday, November 9th at Slovenian Society Home - 20713 Recher Ave in Euclid, Ohio. The children will perform a short program starting promptly at 3pm under the direction of Shirley Ivancic Stall. Following the program, music will be provided at 4:00pm for your dancing and listening pleasure, by The Eddie Rodick Band. Sandwiches and beverages will be available for purchase. Doors will open at 2pm.

The cost of the tickets are \$6.00 in advance and \$7.00 at the door. Any former Circle 2 members will be entitled to one free admission. Please contact Kathleen Trebets directly at 440-622-1044 or at [kat21\\_2@hotmail.com](mailto:kat21_2@hotmail.com) if you would like to purchase tickets or if you are a Circle 2 alum and interested in attending the concert.

Kathleen S. Trebets  
Circle 2 Director

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Phil:

Thanks for your ClevelandSlovenian Newsletter, always very informative. A friend has asked me for some Slovenian points of interest, restaurants and the like in and around Cleveland. Any suggestions? I appreciate your efforts in keeping the Slovenian heritage alive.

Best regards,

Marty Klammer [maklammer@gmail.com](mailto:maklammer@gmail.com)

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Thank you so much,

As a third generation Slovenian you have been my ticket back to our culture. The more I learn the more proud I am and the more I understand myself. You are easily the best resource and Cleveland Slovenians are truly blessed to have people like you and Dr. Zigon. The Slovenian community is incredible but was hard to find until I was introduced to your site!

Lepsa Hvala,

Nick Mlinar [batcivic@hotmail.com](mailto:batcivic@hotmail.com)



## Current Events

### September 25 - November 10

*A River's Gifts: Archeological Excavation of the Ljubljanica River in Photographs.* Embassy of Slovenia, Washington, DC,

### October 9 - November 9

*Kids Euro Festival 2008: A celebration of European Arts and Culture for Kids!* Washington, DC (various venues). See the article below or [check the official website](#).

**October 22 – November 30** – *"Honey Brown Eyes"*, play about two soldiers during the conflict in Bosnia. Written by *Stefanie Zadavec. Theater J, Washington, DC.*

**November 19** – Screening of a documentary on life and work of Janko Lavrin *"All Slovene, all Russian, all English, and all cosmopolitan - the portrait of Janko Lavrin (1887 – 1986)"*, with author Dragan as guest.

**Embassy of Slovenia, Washington, DC, Nov. 19, 2008, 7 p.m.** Free, open for the public.

## Consul General Suhadolnik Bids Farewell

**New York, October 29** - Over 130 people bid farewell to Slovenian Consul General in New York, Ms Alenka Suhadolnik, who is leaving New York after four

successful and enjoyable years in the United States.

At a Wednesday reception, Ambassador to UN Sanja Stiglic and Charge d'Affairs to US Miriam Možgan thanked Ms Suhadolnik for her dedicated work in putting together great cultural, promotional and academic programs during those past 4 years.



From left: Stiglic, Možgan and Suhadolnik at the reception

Alenka and her small but hard-working team have managed to raise Slovenia's visibility in New York and to present Slovenia as a place of beauty, talented individuals and great artistic energy.

We wish Alenka all the best in her future endeavors, and that her skills, talents, and character would continue to shine.

## Kids Euro Festival 2008

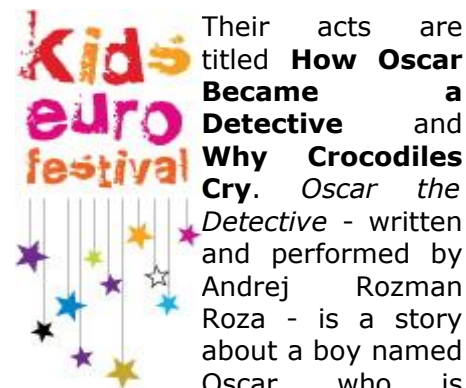
The Euro Kids Festival 2008 is in full swing, with more than 100 performances scheduled to take place around D.C. metro area.

The festival started on October 9 and will continue until November 9, 2008.



Andrej Rozman Roza

Slovenian children performers, who are scheduled this year, are Mr. Andrej Rozman Roza and Ms. Lila Prap, who both enjoy great recognition among Slovenian young generations.



Their acts are titled **How Oscar Became a Detective** and **Why Crocodiles Cry**. *Oscar the Detective* - written and performed by Andrej Rozman Roza - is a story about a boy named Oscar, who is afraid that he is not smart enough to become a detective. And if you have ever wondered, *Why do crocodiles cry* or *Why are zebras striped*, you may be interested in finding out the answers in the funny and educational tales of Lila Prap.

We offer you an updated schedule of their performances on the [Embassy's web site](#).

The Festival's official web site with additional information is available at

at <http://kidseurofestival.org/>.

You may also stop by at the Slovenian Embassy to pick up a program of scheduled events.



*Lila Prap*

We hope to see you there!

### **EAST COAST EUROPE Book Launch**

**New York, October 28** – One night only, Slovenian Consulate in New York took over the Swiss Institute to celebrate the launch of EAST COAST EUROPE, a book of conversations between curators, critics, artists, and philosophers.

East Coast Europe investigates contemporary European identity and its relation to spatial practices and international politics as seen from the two East Coasts - of the United States of America and the countries in the European Union and its vicinity.



Sternberg Press

*The cover of East Coast Europe*

Guest at the event was a curator Eda Čufar, who is also a dramaturg and an NSK collective member.

The book is edited by Markus Miessen and has been published by Sternberg Press, Berlin & New York, and co-published by Založba ZRC, Ljubljana.

More at [www.sternberg-press.com](http://www.sternberg-press.com).

### **Screening of a Documentary on Life of Janko Lavrin**

**November 19, 2008** – Embassy of Slovenia will host a screening of a documentary on life of Janko Lavrin on November 19, 2008 at 7 pm.

The documentary "**All Slovene, all Russian, all English, and all cosmopolitan - the portrait of Janko Lavrin (1887 – 1986)**" tells the life story of a Slovene intellectual, who spent most of his time abroad, first in Russia and then in Great Britain; but never forgot that he was a Slovene, born in Krupa, Bela krajina.

In 1915, as a young journalist he reported from the Balkan about World War I.

Although Lavrin continued his journalistic career in England, he soon found his life's calling as a literary historian, essayist and translator of Slavic literature.

From 1923 until his retirement in 1953, Lavrin was professor of modern Russian literature at the University of Nottingham.

He was actively involved in organizing Slavic studies at other

universities in Great Britain, e.g., in Glasgow and London.

For Slovenians, he was especially important as the ambassador of the Slovene literature.



*Janko Lavrin*

This documentary was produced by the screen writer and director Ana Nuša Dragan, who will be present at the screening. The event is free and open for the public.

### **Sabina Cvilak in Washington National Opera**

**Washington, November 8, 2008** - Slovenian soprano Sabina Cvilak will be for the second year in a row part of a performance, marking the opening of the fall season at the Washington National Opera.

Starting next week, Cvilak will perform as Micaëla in Georges Bizet's Carmen. Next to such great name as Denyce Graves, who is known around the world for her portrayal of Carmen, Sabina Cvilak's performance is highly anticipated by opera lovers.



Sabina Cvilak

Cvilak's last year performances as a second cast for Mimi in *La Bohème* were remarkable. The reviews were extremely in favor of a young and promising Slovenian soprano, describing her efforts with "*Second Cast Gives First-Rate Account Of La Bohème*" (Washington Post, Sept. 21, 07).

The schedule for Carmen is available on the web site of the [Washington National Opera](#).

If you wish to read more on Sabina Cvilak, we suggest you visit the archives of the September 2007 Embassy's Newsletter [on our web site](#).

### **New Trajectories: Contemporary Architecture in Croatia and Slovenia**

The Graduate School of Design (GSD) at Harvard University decided to put on an exhibit this September titled **New Trajectories: Contemporary Architecture in Croatia and Slovenia**, exploring innovative displays of architecture throughout these countries. The exhibit was intended to encompass a series of lectures in hopes of becoming an annual event.

The purpose of these events is to focus on the types of architecture and urbanism in Croatia and Slovenia while addressing how these dynamic regions have undergone radical political, social and economic (more so Slovenia) changes over the last fifteen years. Slovenia and Croatia represent the cutting-edge architecture that has become such an integral part of the representation of both countries in the wake of the break-up of Yugoslavia.

The development of proliferation of new ideas is meant to illustrate how these countries have become members of a new Europe without losing their long-standing architectural ties to provinces like Vienna. While Slovenia and Croatia were in a state of transition, there was opportunity for the establishment of young professionals, who pioneered a new vision for the architecture defining the future of their cities.



*Petra Čeferin was one of the panelists.*

The architects who were featured in this exhibit began their career in a state of transition from communist Yugoslavia to a capitalist society comprised of independent nations. The work of the architects in this exhibit personifies the intense, inspiring and productive architecture that

has enveloped the sense of identity of Slovenes and Croats.

Perhaps Petra Čeferin of Ljubljana, an architect and architectural critic, put it best when she encapsulated the purpose of the exhibition, stating "*The architects succeeded in responding to the changes, not simply to adjust to them, but, in a radical way, to trigger a change in their own field.*"

### **NBA League Season 63 Begins this Week**

**New York, Oct. 27, 2008 (STA)** - A new season of NBA league began on Tuesday, marking its 63<sup>rd</sup> year. Sport experts are all united in their predictions of this year's favorites, which happen to be last year's finalists Boston Celtics and Los Angeles Lakers. Slovenes will this time have four representatives in the league.

After Primož Brezec's (Lottomatica) and Boštjan Nachbar's (Dinamo Moskva) departures at the end of the last NBA's season, Slovenian colors will be represented in the NBA league by Radoslav Nesterovič (Indiana Pacers), Beno Udrih (Sacramento Kings), Goran Dragič (Phoenix Suns) and Saša Vujačić (Los Angeles Lakers).

The later has the biggest opportunity to become a third Slovenian basketball player after Nesterovič and Udrih with an NBA League Championship Ring. Vujačić's team from Los Angeles is namely the biggest favorite for winning the Championship title beside Boston.