

November 28, 2011

Professor Marta Botikova discusses life in Slovakia, past to present

New to independent statehood (1993), the Slovak Republic is centuries old in its historical and cultural traditions. Slovak traditions are reflected in abundant folklore, family life, holiday celebrations, cuisine, and other features of everyday life.

Join Dr. Marta Botikova, Chair of the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, for a lecture on the Eastern European nation of Slovakia. The program will take place after hours at the [Olympia Timberland Library](#) on Thursday, December 1 from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m.



Dr. Botikova will discuss how the landlocked nation's geographical position made it a cultural and economic crossroads. Migrants who stayed—Germans, Jews, the Vlachs, Rusyns, Croats, and Romani enriched the country's traditions and way of life, as did the cultures of the surrounding states.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Slovakia witnessed a massive emigration to the United States. Slovaks and Czechs joined in 1918 to become Czechoslovakia. Then, in 1993, shortly after the fall of the “Iron Curtain” that had divided Eastern and Western European nations from 1945 to 1989, Czechoslovakia split once more into two sovereign countries.

Known for the beauty of its countryside, old castles, and historical monuments, Slovakia has also experienced an economic upswing due to its automobile and tourist industries and its membership in the European Union.

The Olympia Timberland Library is located at 313 8th Avenue. For more information, please call the library at (360) 352-0595 or go to www.TRL.org.