



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

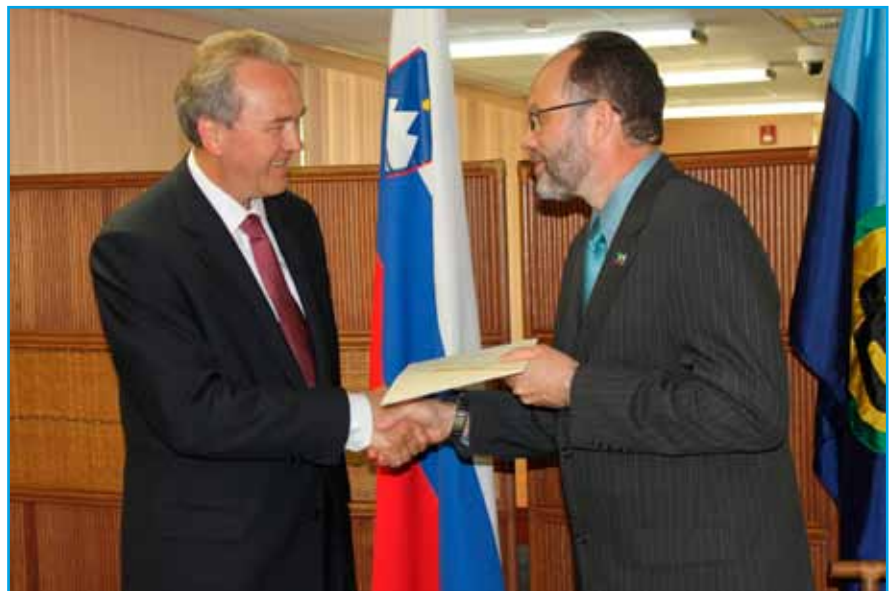
# NEWSLETTER

MAY 3, 2013, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 17

## Ambassador Roman Kirn Accredited at CARICOM

**The Ambassador of Slovenia, Roman Kirn, presented on Tuesday, April 30, in Georgetown, Guyana, his credentials to the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Ambassador Irwin LaRocque.**

After the ceremony, Ambassador Kirn spoke with the Secretary General about the work of CARICOM and its future priorities and goals. The main purposes of this organization of 15 Caribbean nations and dependencies are to promote economic integration and cooperation among its members, to ensure that the benefits of integration are equitably shared, and to coordinate foreign policy.



Ambassador Roman Kirn, Plenipotentiary Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), presents his letters of credence to Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, CARICOM Secretary-General.

Its activities include coordinating economic policies and development planning, operating as a regional single market for many of its members and handling regional trade disputes.

During his visit to Georgetown, Ambassador Kirn also met with Guyana's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, with whom

he discussed bilateral relations between the Republic of Slovenia and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, its relations with the European Union, and also CARICOM itself. Ambassador Kirn also met with the Head of the E.U. Delegation in Georgetown, Ambassador Robert Kopecký, to discuss E.U.-Guyana and E.U.-CARICOM initiatives.



# Norfolk NATO Festival 2013

In the last days of April, Norfolk hosted the final events of this year's Norfolk NATO Festival. Organized for the sixtieth time and attended by a few thousand people, the festival included cultural and educational events with the aim of engaging all citizens, empowering industries and presenting NATO members, and thus spreading the knowledge about the organization. The series began with the solemn rising of all 28 NATO member flags in front of the Norfolk Scope Arena on Friday, April 26.

On Saturday, the 60th Annual Parade of Nations took place in downtown Norfolk. For the parade, the members of the Slovenian Armed Forces built a platform featuring characteristic symbols of Slovenia: a stylized Ljubljana dragon – the symbol of the capital; Mount Triglav – the “Three-headed Mountain”, the symbol of Slovenia; and the motive of Lake Bled. A musical ensemble from Cleveland enriched the parade by performing Slovenian music.



Slovenian performance at the Parade of Nations.

After the parade, the presentation of Slovenia was complemented by a special booth displaying traditional Slovenian artifacts and brochures about Slovenia, and Slovenian music, prepared by fellow-countrymen from Cleveland and Virginia Beach, VA. The festival was well-attended and visited by several thousand people, among them pupils of local schools.

There was a great deal of interest in Slovenia, one of the

newer members of the Alliance, and SAF members gladly provided additional information thereon. Moreover, the Slovenian presentation and performance of dance and music was honored with the second prize, the “Chairman’s Cup.” Particularly interesting for the SAF members was meeting American Slovenes at the picnic which concluded the successful day.



Traditional Slovenian costume from Gorenjska region.



Slovenian booth.

# Adventure Pilot Lenarčič Flies over the North Pole

Slovenian adventurer Matevž Lenarčič, who embarked on his new adventure on April 22, completed in the morning of April 30 his long-distance goal of flying over the North Pole in an ultralight aircraft. Lenarčič, who pilots a slightly modified Virus-SW, an ultralight aircraft manufactured by the Slovenian company Pipistrel, plans to return from the North Pole via the Atlantic route first flown by Charles Lindberg.

Quite aside from being an adventure, Lenarčič's endeavor has a scientific dimension. His aircraft is equipped with sensors to measure the concentrations of black carbon, a key driver of climate change in the Arctic.

In 2004, the Slovenian adventurer was the first person to circle the globe in an ultralight aircraft without a copilot or additional air support. Flying the Pipistrel Sinus 912 UL aircraft, which weighs a mere 284 kilograms (625 lbs.), Lenarčič also set a world



North Pole from Virus-SW. Photo by Matevž Lenarčič.

speed record in the under-500-kilo (1,100 pound) category. During last year's around-the-world flight, he became the first Slovenian to land on Antarctica and the first

Slovenian to make a flyover of Mt. Everest.

Lenarčič's progress can be tracked online at [www.worldgreenflight.com](http://www.worldgreenflight.com)

## BUSINESS

# SALVIOL named 2013 IBM Beacon Award Finalist

Salviol, a Slovenian company from Radomlje, has been selected in Las Vegas, NV, as an IBM Beacon Award 2013 finalist for the SmartCloud in the category of Cloud Application Provider. The prestigious honor is awarded each year to a selected number of IBM Business Partners to recognize information technology excellence, industry knowledge and innovative solutions based on IBM products and services.

Salviol is one of the leading providers of analytical software and corporate services in the field of information search, analysis and visualization, and business process optimization,

with experience in cooperating with local, regional and economic organizations and governments in Europe since 2009. Products that are marketed under Salviol solutions are in use in more than 5,000 organizations around the globe. Salviol's solutions have been developed in close cooperation with organizations, governments and businesses by using industry knowledge, service-offering expertise and technology capabilities, to identify new business and technology trends and develop solutions.

Selected by leading industry influencers and IBM executives in 30 award areas

spanning Smarter Industries, Smarter Computing, Smarter Solutions, and Technical Excellence, SALVIOL's nomination was among the best of hundreds received globally, and certainly has set the standard for business excellence, creativity and client success.

More information: <http://www.salviol.com>



## Begunje



The Katzenstein Mansion is first mentioned in historical documents in 1428.

Begunje na Gorenjskem is a small village in the northernmost part of the municipality of Radovljica in the Upper Carniola (Gorenjska) region of Slovenia. First mentioned in written sources in 1050 as Begûn, the village of Begunje stretches along the Begunjščica creek. Its center is marked by the Church of St. Ulrich on one side of the road and the Katzenstein Mansion with an adjacent park on the other.

The Katzenstein Mansion is first mentioned in historical documents in 1428. It was rebuilt in the 16th century, but took its final shape a century later, when the Counts of Lamberg moved to it from the Kamen Castle. The original two-story core of the castle is still preserved within newer additions, as are remains of its Gothic architecture. Most

of the present structure dates to its Renaissance and Baroque reconstructions, whereas the southeast tract was added in the 19th century.

The layout of the castle's Baroque garden remains,



The road that passes through the village leads, past the Draga Valley, to the ruins of the 12th-century castle Kamen

although in its grounds is now a vegetable garden. The 150-yard avenue leading to the manor is bordered by mature chestnuts. Before Second World War, the manor served as a female penitentiary, operated by the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul. In 1940, a pavilion was built in the park as conceived by Slovenia's most eminent architect, Jože Plečnik.

The road that passes through the village leads, past the Draga Valley, to the ruins of the 12th-century castle Kamen (German: Stein or Stain). Kamen was first documented in 1185, mentioned (as Castrum Lapis) in 1263, and as Stain in 1350, when it passed into the Carniolan possessions of the Counts of Ortenburg. The castle played a vital role in protecting the Ortenburg lands in the Bohinj and Upper Sava Valley. When the Ortenburgs became extinct



Begunje is also well known as the hometown of Slavko Avsenik, the pioneer of Slovene popular folk music. Concerts featuring national folk-music ensembles are organized every week at the Avsenik restaurant named Pri Jožovcu.

in 1418, the castle passed to Count Hermann II of Celje, and was inherited by the Austrian House of Habsburg in 1456.

The end of the Draga Valley is the starting point for hikes into the the Karavanke Range (Polška planina and Preval mountain pastures, Roblek

Hut, and Mt. Begunjščica). The other option to reach the end of Begunje is to continue along the panoramic road that winds beneath the slopes of Mt. Dobrča all the way to the town of Tržič.

Bégne, as the village is referred to by locals, can also take pride in the creativity of

the locals. It is home to one of the most innovative sports equipment manufacturers, Elan, whose ski model Elan SCX changed the world ski industry by inventing sidecut skis, which made carve turns possible at low speeds and with a short turn radius. As the first successful "shaped" or "parabolic" ski, the SCX is, according to The Economist, considered one of the most important advances in the history of the sport.

Begunje is also well known as the hometown of Slavko Avsenik, the pioneer of Slovene popular folk music. Slavko Avsenik's career accomplishments place him at the worldwide pinnacle of success among ethnic popular musicians. Over forty years, the Avsenik Ensemble's original "Oberkrainer" sound became the primary vehicle of ethnic musical expression for Slovenia, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, northern Italy and the Benelux countries, spawning hundreds of Alpine orchestras in the process.

Selling over 30 million records, Avsenik has earned thirty-one Gold, two Diamond, and one Platinum record. The most popular song of Avsenik's band is the polka titled "Na Golici" in Slovenian, or "Trompetenecho" in German, "Trumpet Echoes" in English, which is known to be the most played instrumental song in the world. Concerts featuring national folk-music ensembles are organized every week at the Avsenik restaurant named Pri Jožovcu (named after its previous owner, wood carver Jožovec), which is just next door to the Avsenik Museum-Gallery.



Elan SCX changed the world ski industry.

## Consular Hours in New York City

The consular officer from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, will hold consular hours and provide consular services (authentications, certifications, passport applications, etc.) in New York City **on Friday, May 17, 2013**, at the premises of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations, located at 600 Third Avenue, 24th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10016.

To schedule an appointment, please, fill out the form available at the embassy's website and send it to the Embassy of Slovenia at [vwa@gov.si](mailto:vwa@gov.si) by May 15, 2013, to allow

the embassy enough time to verify your data.

The embassy will suggest the time of your appointment and give you further information on the documentation you need to bring along. You may also visit the embassy website <http://washington.embassy.si/> (Consular Affairs, Visas) for documents required for most consular services. Please note that the consular fee must be paid with a Money Order made out to "Embassy of Slovenia". Cash, personal checks or credit cards will not be accepted.

Prior appointment is needed to enter the premises of the Mission.



## Dobrodošli doma – Welcome home 2013

For the third successive year, the Government's Office for Slovenians Abroad, together with the Minister for Slovenians abroad, Ms. Tina Komel, will sponsor the annual meeting of all Slovenes under the slogan "Welcome home." This year, the emphasis will be on the young – cooperation and linking of various youth organizations active in the Republic of Slovenia with communities of young Slovenians and their descendants, living in neighboring countries and elsewhere in the world. The meeting will feature various events such as workshops, informative presentations, a movie evening, a sports event and similar events, and we will all gather together on July 6 at the concluding concert on Kongresni trg.

The Office invites all Slovenian youth- and other nongovernmental organizations active in the field



of youth activities, youth groups, elementary and secondary schools active in the Republic of Slovenia, in the neighboring countries or elsewhere in the world to join them between July 3 and 6 in the center of Ljubljana, where they can, in an innovative and diverse manner, present themselves to the Slovenian public.

The Office invites you to link up with at least one Slovenian youth organization, school or youth group in Slovenia (if you come from abroad) or abroad (if you come from the Republic of Slovenia) and send them the concept of the presentation that will best present you and your activity. Particularly welcome

are various street presentations, musical or ballet numbers, street theater performances, interactive presentations, plays, animations, stand-up and similar performances.

For the ideas that will be selected, the Office will cover material expenses for the preparation of the presentation, and cofinance for the participants their stay, transportation, and food in Ljubljana.

Please send your ideas by May 20, 2013 inclusive, by e-mail to [pr.urad.slovinci@gov.si](mailto:pr.urad.slovinci@gov.si) or by regular mail to the Office at Komenskega 11, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia. More information about the event is available at: [www.uszs.gov.si](http://www.uszs.gov.si)

# Embassy of Slovenia Invites You to the EU Open House

The Delegation of the European Union to the United States and the Embassies of the 27 EU Member States to the United States and Croatia will open their doors to Washington public during the seventh Annual EU Embassies' Open House Day. This annual event is a highlight of the Washington May calendar and is celebrated during the Europe Week.

Each embassy will be open to the public from 10 am until 4 pm on Saturday, May 11, 2013, offering a rare look inside the buildings and providing a unique opportunity for experiencing the country's cultural heritage and national traditions. Free shuttle bus service will be provided throughout the day.

If you want to learn about the best Slovenian tourist attractions, taste Slovenian cuisine and wine, admire an exhibition of Slovenian landscape



Slovenian embassy is located at 2410 California Street, NW (near Massachusetts Ave; 24th Street and S Street).

paintings by Jože Svetina, listen to polka music performed on accordion by Joe Novak, talk with the friendliest staff about history, economy, and politics of Slovenia, or if you want your kids

to listen to traditional Slovenian stories and play in the special kids' corner - - than you will love the Embassy of Slovenia. We are looking forward to seeing you! More information on: [www.EUOpenHouse.org](http://www.EUOpenHouse.org).



All photos are from last year's EU Open House event when more than 2000 people visited Slovenian embassy.

Feel and taste sLOVEnia.



### **SLOVENIAN EU OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE:**

- 10:00 – 10:30 am: traditional polka music by accordionist Joe Novak
- 10:30 – 11:00 am: demonstration of making walnut roll-cake by RockyMountainPotica
- 11:00 – 11:30 am: Slovenian music from the 60's by Michael Alujevic Green and Mojca Majcen
- 11:30 am – 12:00 pm: apple strudel showcasing and tasting, by Paula Mavec & sisters
- 12:00 – 12:10 pm: address by Ambassador Roman Kirn and photo-op
- 12:10 – 1:00 pm: Slovenian wine and Carniolian sausage tasting
- 12:30 – 1:00 pm: traditional polka music by accordionist Joe Novak
- 1:00 – 1:30 pm: demonstration of making walnut roll-cake by RockyMountainPotica
- 1:30 - 2:00 pm: Slovenian music from the 60's by Michael Alujevic Green and Mojca Majcen
- 2:00 – 2:10 pm: address by Ambassador Roman Kirn
- 2:15 - 3:00 pm: apple strudel showcasing and tasting, music by Joe Novak
- 3:00 - 3:30 pm: music from the 60's by Michael Alujevic Green and Mojca Majcen

### **All day activities (10:00 am - 4:00 pm):**

- Showcase of items from Slovenian Heritage Museum
- Showcase of Flaska (TM)
- Exhibition of Slovenian landscape paintings by Jože Svetina
- Showcase of Slovenian Rogaška Crystal (TM)
- Video nook – Slovenia Invigorates
- Kids' corner
- learn about Slovenia from diplomats
- Imperial Travel tbc.

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- Pullus wine by T & K Distributors
- potica by Rocky Mountain Potica
- sausages by Ažman Meats



**Shortcut to Europe:**  
 European Union **EMBASSIES'**  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
 Saturday **May 11<sup>th</sup>** 2013 10am - 4pm



### **Concert of guitarist Mak Grgić**

At 25, Mak Grgić was recently hailed by the Washington Post as "a lyrical insightful player ...as playing with "beauty" and "intelligence," calling his interpretations nuanced and introspective." In Strathmore Mansion he will perform music by J.S.Bach, Romano, Barber, Granados, Mascagni, Albeniz, Rota, Morricone, Lauro.

When: **Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.**

Where: **The Mansion at Strathmore** (<http://www.strathmore.org/eventstickets/calendar/view.asp?id=8408>)

### **Avsenik Music Workshop**

Music School Avsenik invites all accordion players and other Slovenian musicians from abroad to attend an Avsenik Music Workshop. The workshop will take place in Begunje na Gorenjskem, Slovenia, from August 19 through 23, 2013. The participants will learn the special Avsenik technique of playing the instrument and have a chance to perform in a final concert on August 22. **Application deadline is May 15.** Entry form and the details are available at (in Slovene): [http://shop.avsenik.com/images/stories/Razpis\\_delavnice\\_izseljenci\\_2013-konna\\_varianta.doc](http://shop.avsenik.com/images/stories/Razpis_delavnice_izseljenci_2013-konna_varianta.doc) and <http://shop.avsenik.com/en/music-school/304-avsenik-za-izseljence>

For more information you can also contact: [urad.slovinci@gov.si](mailto:urad.slovinci@gov.si)

### **6th International Language Summer Camps in Slovenia**

Camp programs are made for children aged 5 to 15. All workshops will be held in the English and Slovenian languages. Other languages can be involved (see individual dates below). In the Camps, workshops, best suitable for children aged 10 to 15, will be held in English or German by, native speakers. Children will actively experience the living world and learn to live in unspoiled nature together with their peers and farm animals, discover the environment, get to know the Slovenian countryside traditions and the way of life on a farm, practice and improve everyday communication in a chosen foreign and Slovene language.

The list of camps and more information are available at: <http://www.kozjanski-raj.si/en-US/When>

### **Transatlantic Symposium on the E.U.'s Common Security and Defense Policy**

H.E. João Vale de Almeida, European Union Ambassador to the United States, in partnership with the Brookings Institution, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies cordially invite you to Transatlantic Partners in Global Security: The E.U's Common Security and Defense Policy featuring keynote speaker Catherine Ashton, E.U. High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission. This transatlantic symposium brings together American and European crisis management policy-makers and experts -- both military and civilian -- for a day-long discussion of transatlantic cooperation on crisis management, in the context of the E.U.'s Common Security and Defense Policy.

When: **Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. until 5:15 p.m.**

Where: **The United States Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC**  
For more information and the program, please visit [www.EUintheUS.org/EURendezVous](http://www.EUintheUS.org/EURendezVous)