



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Colorado National Guard Leadership Visit

On Friday, April 12, 2013, Major General H. Michael Edwards, Adjutant General of Colorado, and fourteen senior military staff members of Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs paid their annual visit to the Slovenian embassy. The delegation met with Ambassador Roman Kim and defense attaché, Colonel Ladislav Graber.

The meeting at the Embassy was dedicated to discussing the strengthening of future cooperation between the Slovenian Army (SV) and Colorado National Guard (CNG) within the framework of



Ambassador Kim and Colonel Graber with Major General Edwards and joint staff of Colorado National Guard at the embassy.

State Partnership Program. The partnership was launched in 1993 when the Colorado National Guard was chosen to help Slovenia in meeting the NATO standards necessary for joining the Alliance and to support the restructuring of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

The cooperation has been very intensive and fruitful in the past 20 years, peaking in a partnership program of exercise and training of members of SV and CNG in Colorado and Slovenia for the operations and management of OMLT (Operational

Mentor and Liaison Team) in Afghanistan. The established partnership added significantly to the friendly relations between Slovenia and the U.S., which is one of the reasons why both sides hope that this most appreciated relationship will continue in the future. The official celebration of the 20th anniversary will be held in Colorado at the end of May and will be attended by Slovenian Minister of Defense Mr. Roman Jakič. Ambassador Kim and Gen. Edwards discussed today the issues related to this anniversary.



Ambassador Kirn meets with General Gorenc

On Wednesday, April 10, 2013, Ambassador Roman Kirn jointly with Defense Attaché, Colonel Ladislav Graber, met at the Pentagon with Lieutenant General Frank Gorenc, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and Director in the U.S. Air Force. Lt. Gen. Frank Gorenc was born in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and is a distinguished member of the Slovenian community in the U.S. He is the highest ranking officer of Slovenian heritage in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Ambassador and Mr. Gorenc discussed cooperation between Slovenian and U.S. Armed Forces, focusing on the U.S. Air Force. Ambassador Kirn also informed Lt. Gen. Frank Gorenc about the visit of Slovenian Minister of Defense Roman Jakič in the U.S. in May. During his visit, Defense Minister Jakič together with the delegation from the Slovenian Ministry of



From left: Lieutenant General Gorenc, Ambassador Kirn, General Johnson and Slovenian Defense Attaché, Colonel Graber.

Defense (MORS) will attend the celebratory events on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the

State Partnership Program pledge between the Republic of Slovenia and the State of Colorado.

ANNOUNCEMENT

New Commission for Slovenians Abroad

In early April 2013, the National Assembly of the Government of Slovenia confirmed the New Commission for Slovenians Abroad as being responsible for monitoring the state of affairs of autonomous Slovenian minorities living in neighboring and other countries. The mission of the Commission is to inform the National Assembly of general and specific issues encountered by Slovenians living in neighboring and other countries and to promote the elimination of problems encountered by those Slovenians.

The chair of the parliamentary Commission for Slovenians Abroad is Mr. Danijel Krivec (Slovenian Democratic Party), the deputy chair is Ms. Saša Kos (Positive Slovenia).

Other members of the Commission for Slovenians Abroad are the deputies: Jožef Kavtičnik (Positive Slovenia), Peter Oder (Positive Slovenia), Mateja Pučnik (Slovenian Democratic Party), Franc Breznik (Slovenian Democratic Party), Mirko Brulc (Social Democrats), Samo Bevk (Social Democrats), Franc Pukšič (Slovenian People's Party), Ivan Hršak (Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia), Ljudmila

Novak (New Slovenia – Christian People's Party), Branko Kurnjek (Civic List) and dr. László Göncz (representative of the Hungarian national community in Slovenia).

To inform the commission of all the activities and concerns of Slovenian communities abroad one can contact the commission's senior clerk, Ms. Nevenka Pirnat, at e-mail: nevenka.pirnat@dz-rs.si or address it to the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, Commission for Relations with Slovenes in Neighboring and Other Countries, Subičeva 4, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia. More information is available at www.dz-rs.si.

Kozjansko



The Kozjansko area is marked by the transition from sub-Alpine forest-covered hills to the Sotla's plain. There are tertiary hills with vineyards between the plains of the Sotla valley and the eastern part of the Posavje hills.

Kozjansko is a mainly hilly landscape in the center of the eastern part of Slovenia. Main settlements in this region are Bistrica ob Sotli, Kozje, Šentjur, Planina pri Sevnici and Podčetrtek. Kozjansko Park covers an area of 128 sq. miles. Bounded to the north by the Rudnica river, to the east by the Sotla river and, to the south, the boundary runs over Vetrnik and Orlica to the Senovsko and Bizeljско hills. Kozjansko is the largest regional park in Slovenia. The area is marked by the transition from sub-Alpine forest-covered hills to the Sotla's plain. There are tertiary hills with vineyards between the plains of the Sotla valley and the eastern part of the Posavje hills.

A high level of biotic diversity classifies Kozjansko Park as one of the most important protected natural regions in both Slovenia and Europe, most of which is classified as an important protected site by the European Natura 2000, mostly because of the preservation

of endangered bird species. The most famous are čebelarji (English: bee-keepers, *Merops apiaster*), rare species of colorful birds, which came to this places from Africa.

The forests of Orlica, riparian vegetation along the waterways and the exceptional vegetation of high, dry

grasslands are the essential landscape elements of the protected area.

Following the research done after the 2nd World War, Kozjansko Park was recognized as an important archaeological region. The earliest findings -- various stone axes and hoes -- are from the late Stone Age (Neolithic period). The remains of significant Roman settlements have been found in villages of Buče, Golobinjek, Prelasko, Dekmanca, and in Hrastje near Bistrica ob Sotli. Two discovered posts, Veliki Vrh above Osrednek near Podsreda and Svete gore, reach beyond the local frame.

The presence of Germanic people is evident from some minor findings. Svete gore above Bistrica ob Sotli, with a Slavic necropolis, can be dated back to the Slavic period. All findings from the above



Obsotelje and Kozjansko region on the map of Slovenia.



Podstreda Castle.

mentioned locations are on display in nearby museums such as Posavje Museum Brežice and Regional Museum Celje.

The main cultural object of interest in the park is the Olimje Castle. The village of Olimje was first mentioned in 1208 AD and, in 1436 AD, there was a tower, which later grew into a castle, built by Tattenbach in 1550. Later, a monastery the Pauline order was established in the complex. In the monastery is located a famous monastery pharmacy from the time of the Pauline order with well preserved frescoes with medical motifs.

A very famous castle in the park is also Castle Podstreda, which dates to the 12th century, features a typical defensive tower (keep), a Romanesque chapel, and two wings from about the same period.

Bistrica ob Sotli is another interesting example of medieval architecture, featuring a medieval square town, atypical mostly because of its spatial structure, and market places in

the town are located not only in the middle of the settlement as is usual. Bistrica took the market role from nearby Kunšperk in the middle of the 17th century.

Giving the name to the park, Kozje settlement was first mentioned in 1016, as a manor house with 30 farms. The settlement was built along the road from Kunšperk to Pilštajn (Pilštajn castle was first mentioned in 963) and had a market function. Since Kozje had never been fortified, it suffered greatly in times of



Bizeljsko hills on the border of Kozjansko park are covered with large vineyards, where noble red and white wine (called Bizeljčan) is grown.

Turkish invasions.

Bizeljsko hills on the border of Kozjansko park are covered with large vineyards, where noble red and white wine (called Bizeljčan) is grown. Bizeljsko's interesting feature are the so-called "repnice" -- unique caves dug in the silicate sand for storing turnips ("repa") now used as wine cellars.

The main event in Kozjansko Regional Park -- taking place every year on the second weekend in October -- gives an opportunity to the people living in the protected area to promote and market products produced and processed in an ecological manner. Old apple varieties, fruit juice, brandy, honey, pumpkin seed oil, bread, flour, and specialties made from fruit are some of the delicacies offered at the fair.

The Kozjansko Apple Festival is a unique ethnological and ecological event. The event promotes apples, apple trees, and grassland orchards, with the aim of preserving, revitalizing and restoring them, while being environmentally friendly.

More information available at: <http://kozjanski-park.si/en>

Consular Hours in New York City

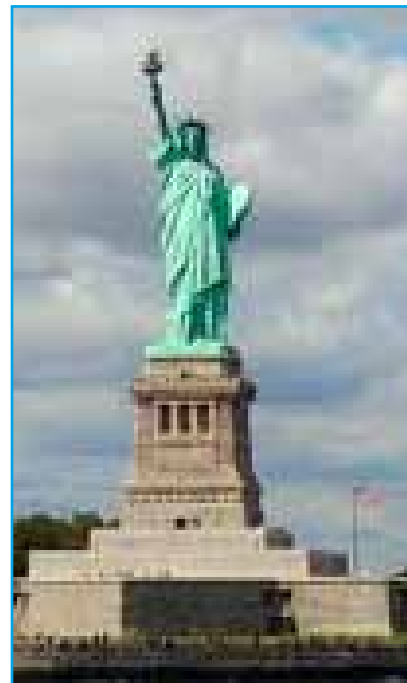
The consular officer from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, will hold consular hours and providing consular services (authentications, certifications, passport applications, etc.) in New York City on Friday, May 17, 2013, at the premises of the Permanent Mission of the Republic 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 by **May 15, 2013**, to allow

the embassy enough time to verify your data.

The embassy will propose your appointment and give you further information on the documentation you need to bring. 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.

Due to security reasons, persons without an appointment will not be able to enter the premises of the Mission.



EU Open House - Volunteers Needed

On **May 11, 2013**, diplomatic representations of Member States of the E.U. and the E.U. Delegation to the United States in Washington, DC, will celebrate Europe Day by organizing the seventh annual E.U. Open House day. The embassies of all 27 member countries and Croatia and the E.U. Delegation will open their doors **from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** showcasing their art, culture, and food, and introducing the European Union to the public. Last year, over 2000 people visited the Slovenian Embassy, and this year even more visitors are expected.

Since the event has gained extreme popularity and success, we are looking for volunteers to help us welcome the guests and to direct visitors to the embassy at the nearby bus stop.

To register and for more information, please contact



nuska.zakrajsek@gov.si. Please sign up **by April 26**, 2013. Orientation and training session

will be held at the Embassy of Slovenia on Thursday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Spring Heritage Day in Bethlehem, PA

Bethlehem/Murska Sobota Sister Cities Association is organizing a Spring Heritage Day, which will include a photo viewing and conversation with Lehigh University Students who will visit Slovenia in May.

When: [Sunday, April 14, 2013 at 2pm](#)
 Where: [St. John's Windish Ev. Lutheran Church, 617 E. 4th St., Bethlehem PA](#)
 More information: Kathy Novak at e-mail: churchlady21@aol.com



Bread and Circuses (Kruha in iger) at Kansas City FilmFest

A comedy with a scent of nostalgia about socialist Yugoslavia's last breaths. Directed by Klemen Dvornik and produced by RTV Slovenija/Studio Arkadena in 2011. In Slovenian with English subtitles. Running time: 94 min. Event is sponsored by Honorary Consul of Slovenia Ms. Barbara Koval Nelson.

When: [Saturday, April 13 at 8:30 p.m.](#)
 Where: [Alamo Drafthouse Mainstreet Theater 5, 1400 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64105](#)
 More information and tickets: <http://schedule.kcfilmfest.org/detail/event/bread-and-circuses> or <http://kcfilmfest.org/>.

Slovene Language Table in Seattle, WA

You are cordially invited to attend the Slovene Language Table -- an hour of informal conversational practice in Slovene for intermediate students of the language -- each Thursday during spring quarter from 11a.m. to 12 noon in the Suzzallo Espresso Cafe, located in Suzzallo Library on the UW-Seattle main campus. Both regular and occasional attendees are welcome. First meeting has already taken place on Thursday, April 4.

For more information, contact Michael Biggins, Affiliate Professor, Slavic languages and literatures, University of Washington Libraries, Box 352900, Seattle, WA 98195-2900 USA, e-mail: mbiggins@uw.edu or slovenska.miza@gmail.com.

**Slovenian American Heritage Foundation - 2013 Lecture Series:
 The Installation of the Dukes of Carinthia (Koroška), by Dr. Vladimir Rus**

An ancient custom in medieval Carantania (Karantanija) reveals the Slovenians' unique "from the bottom up" electoral process of choosing their "vojvoda" (duke). This custom was maintained for centuries, even while Slovenians were part of the Holy Roman Empire and Austria. In 2014, Slovenians will celebrate the 600th anniversary of the last such ritual conducted in the Slovenian language in 1414.

When: [Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.](#)
 Where: [Lower Hall of the Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, Ohio.](#)
 Event is free and open to the public. A coffee and strudel social will follow the lecture.
 More information: ahiti@hgfarchitects.com.

E.U. Film Festival DISAPPEARING ACT V

In cooperation with the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, D.C., the Czech Center in New York City, jointly with European Union National Institutes for Culture and other European partners, will present the Fifth Annual Edition of the Disappearing Act European Film Festival in New York to run April 10-21, 2013. The expanding festival is an official project of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) and will screen 25 contemporary films from 25 European countries, with opening night at the IFC Center and screenings at the Bohemian National Hall and the Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI).

The Slovenian film shown at the festival will be [FEED ME WITH YOUR WORDS \(NAHRANI ME Z BESEDAMI\)](#), Slovenia, 2012, directed by [Martin Turk](#). Walking a fine line between mystery, thriller and psychological drama, Turk's debut feature follows an estranged father and his older son on an anguished trip. Cast: Sebastian Cavazza, Jure Henigman, Boris Cavazza, Maša Derganc, Miranda Caharija. The film is official selection of São Paulo International Film Festival.

When: [Wednesday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Bohemian National Hall, 321 East 73rd Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues, New York.](#)
Subway: 6 to 68th Street Hunter College or 77th Street.

[Free admission, on a first-come, first-served basis.](#)

For full schedule and more information see www.DisappearingAct.org



37th Cleveland International Film Festival

The Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia is proud to be an official partner of the Medical Mutual Community Engagement Program of the 37th Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF), presented by Dollar Bank, which will take place April 3-14, 2013, at Tower City Cinemas. The 37th CIFF will screen 178 feature films and 164 short-subject films from 65 countries. Tickets go on sale to members only on Friday, March 15 and to the general public on Friday, March 22. Ticket prices for films are \$12 per film for CIFF members and \$14 for non-members.

When: Slovenian film [SHANGHAI GYPSY](#) is scheduled to screen on [Saturday, April 13 at 9:10 a.m., Sunday, April 14 at 9:10 a.m.](#)

Where: [Tower City Cinemas, 230 Huron Road, Cleveland, OH 44113](#)

Use code SLOV to receive \$2 off the ticket price. Tickets will be available online at www.clevelandfilm.org, by telephone (1)(877) 304-FILM at the Ulmer & Berne Film Festival Box Office in the lobby of Tower City Cinemas, or by mail using the Program Guide order form.

Concert of violinist Anja Bukovec

The Embassy Series in cooperation with the Embassy of Slovenia presents the superb Slovenian violinist Anja Bukovec, accompanied by George Peachey on piano. Anja's technical perfection is complemented by a recognizable style, unique interpretation and communication with the audience. She performs as a soloist, wins international competitions and fascinates audiences all over the world. Music by Milošević, Jerry Bock, Vic Mizzy, Marc Shaiman, Mihael Rožanc, Ludwig van Beethoven, Astor Piazzolla, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Fritz Kreisler.

When: [Friday, May 3, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008](#)

Price: \$100/including buffet/wine. Order online at www.embassyseries.org or call (202) 625-2361.

Translate Slovenian language with PORTOS

Six extensive bidirectional dictionaries with over 1.200.000 words and extra features -- now available on iPhone® & iPad®. The Portos dictionary provides a very efficient and user friendly way for looking up words in various dictionaries from and into Slovenian language.

The Portos collection includes six extensive bidirectional dictionaries:

English to Slovenian (99,000 words), Slovenian to English (91,000 words)

German to Slovenian (129,000 words), Slovenian to German (145,000 words)

Italian to Slovenian (84,000 words), Slovenian to Italian (89,000 words)

French to Slovenian (64,000 words), Slovenian to French (65,000 words)

Spanish to Slovenian (59,000 words), Slovenian to Spanish (65,000 words)

Croatian to Slovenian (155,000 words), Slovenian to Croatian (180,000 words)

Available at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/portos-dictionary/id588224780?ls=1&mt=8>.

More information: <http://facebook.com/PortosDictionary>

Taste of Slovenia: A Real Food Tour May 16-23, 2013

Slovenian-American, Sylvia P. Onušič, PhD, licensed nutritionist, and Saša Božič of Panoramic Travel Groups, Ljubljana, Slovenia, invite you to join them on a merry romp through Slovenia's local and traditional food venues, 8 days, 7 nights for \$1855 land price, which includes meeting food personalities Valentina Novak, Dr. Janez Bogataj, Dr. Janko Božič, Aleš and Vesna Kristančič of Movia Wineries, Slovenian chef, Tomaž Kavčič of Gostilna Pri Lojzetu and many more. Three- and four-star hotels throughout the trip. Price includes all expenses, fees, hotel and most meals. The tour includes Ljubljana, the Adriatic Coast, Goriška Brda, the Karst, Stanjel, Vipava Valley, Julian Alps, Lakes Bled and Bohinj, Kamnik, Velika Planina, Cerknica Lake, Snežnik Castle, and more.

For detailed information, including the itinerary, see the Taste of Slovenia blog at <http://www.foodtourslovenia.wordpress.com> or call (814) 736-8782. You can subscribe to the blog, which regularly publishes updates on the latest in Slovenian local food, Slow Food, new restaurants, reviews, recipes.



Doing Business in Slovenia

The Doing Business in Slovenia 2013 publication, issued last week, is an excellent source of comprehensive and up-to-date information about the Slovenian economy. Please, find it at:

http://poslovniportal.si/Doing_Business_Slovenia.php.

The weekly Embassy Newsletter, produced by the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, is available on: www.washington.embassy.si.

Send us your comments or request for a subscription on: vwa@gov.si,

Editor: Nuška Zakrajšek