



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

MAY 24, 2013, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 20

## Opening of the Honorary Consulate in Minnesota

**On May 20-21, Ambassador Roman Kirn visited Roseville, Minnesota, to open a new Honorary Consulate, led by a prominent businessman, Mr. Miro Medved.**

The Honorary Consulate in Roseville will play an important role in the integration of Slovenes dispersed throughout Minnesota as well as in the promotion of economic cooperation between Minnesota and Slovenia.

Over 100 attendees, including local businessmen,



Mayor of Roseville, MN Dan Roe, Ambassador Roman Kirn and Honorary Consul Miro Medved at the opening of the consulate in Minnesota.

media and Slovenes, were greeted by Honorary Consul Medved, Ambassador Kirn and Mayor of Roseville Dan Roe. Also, chef Lenny Russo from Heartland Restaurant & Farm Direct Market briefly described his recent culinary trip to Slovenia, organized under the State Department initiative for Diplomatic Culinary Partnership.

As Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Senator from Minnesota of Slovenian roots, was unable to attend the opening, a representative from her office read a letter of appreciation and welcome on her behalf. Music was provided by John Stark and an a cappella choral group Good Pellas who performed the Slovenian and U.S. national anthems and traditional Slovenian songs.



During the visit, Ambassador Kirn met also with Chris Coleman, Mayor of St. Paul, and Tammy Lee Stanoch, Vice President of Corporate Affairs at Carlson, to discuss possibilities for investment and economic cooperation.

The Embassy of Slovenia would like to express its gratitude to Honorary Consul Miro Medved for excellent organization of the visit and we wish him much success leading the Honorary Consulate.



Good Pellas singers with Ambassador Kirn at the ceremony.

## CULTURE

# Eurovision Song Contest 2013 Screening



The event was attended by over 500 people.



Culinary delights for guests.

The Embassy of Sweden in Washington, DC, in partnership with the E.U. Delegation and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and supported by EUNIC, organized on Saturday, May 18 afternoon, a live broadcast event that brought the 58th Eurovision Song Contest from Malmö, Sweden, via 6 HD screens to Washington.

On air since 1956, the Eurovision Song Contest – a competition among the 30 EBU

member countries -- is not only Europe's favorite TV show with more than 600 million viewers, but also one of the longest running shows of all time. The only live broadcast of the event in the U.S. this year was hosted by the Embassy of Sweden and attended by over 500 people. The special guest of the event in Georgetown was Alexander Rybak, who in 2009 won for Norway.

After two semi-finals, the winner of this year's competition

was Emmelie de Forest with her song Only Teardrops, who triumphed for Denmark, having received a total of 281 points. Each competing country casts up to 12 points for songs of other countries, which totalled determine the winner. De Forest was followed in second place by Farid Mammadov of Azerbaijan, who got 234 points for the song Hold Me, and Ukraine's Zlata Ognevič with her song Gravity finished third with 214 points.

## Sunita Williams in Slovenia

Between May 19 and 26, Sunita Williams, NASA astronaut of Indian-Slovenian descent, born in 1965 in Euclid near Cleveland, is visiting Slovenia for the third time. Sunita arrived in Slovenia on the initiative of the Slovenian Astronaut Institute in Leše near Tržič, where her great-grandmother on her mother's side, Marija Bohinjec, was born.

Besides visiting Bled, Leše and Tržič, Williams, during her stay, also visited Biotechnical Center Naklo, held a press conference at the Slovene Scientific Foundation (SZF) in Ljubljana, and also met with Minister for Slovenians abroad Tina Komel and young women PhDs and PhD candidates within the national research program L'Oreal-UNESCO-SZF "For Women in Science". She paid a visit to the Cultural Centre of European Space Technologies (KSEVT) and met with elementary school students of the Gorenjska region. She was also hosted by the U.S. Ambassador Joseph Mussomeli at his residence and had a working lunch with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Williams also went to Ajdovščina, where she visited the premises of the Pipistrel company – a world-renowned manufacturer of



Sunita Williams was decorated by President Borut Pahor (Photo: [www.up-rs.si](http://www.up-rs.si))

ultra-light aircrafts, which is working also with NASA.

On Monday, May 20, Sunita Williams was decorated by President Borut Pahor for her promotion of science among young Slovenians. Williams is "an inspiration to everybody with dreams and grand visions," said President Pahor. "Through her work with various Slovenian organizations, [Sunita] enters the world of Slovenian youth as a role model for their future research and scientific efforts, so that

one day they, too, will reach for the stars. With her sense of belonging to the Slovenian people, she is also a very respectable promoter of the nation and its creativity, scientific achievements, self-confidence and the pushing for new opportunities," says the decoration. Williams stressed that the decoration was a sign that Slovenia was aware of the importance of space and science.

Sunita flew to the International Space Station for two expeditions, spending a total of 322 days in space and 50 hours outside the spacecraft in seven walks. On her first mission, in 2006, she spent 195 days in space, setting a record for women astronauts. Her second time in space was last year, when she joined the International Space Station on board the Russian Soyuz to become the second woman in history to take charge of the space station. She holds several spaceflight records, including total spacewalks by a woman (seven) and the record for total cumulative spacewalk time by a female astronaut (50 hours and 40 minutes). Sunita is the third astronaut of Slovenian descent to fly to space, following in this Ronald Sega and Jerry Linenger.



The astronaut Sunita Williams visited Pipistrel company - a world-renowned manufacturer of ultra-light planes and tested the aircraft. (Photo: [www.pipistrel.si](http://www.pipistrel.si))

## Koroška



Mislinja valley. (Source: [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info); Photographer: Tomo Jeseničnik).

Koroška (or Carinthia) is considered the cradle of Sloveneness. Following the plebiscite of 1920, the greater part of pre-WWI Koroška remained under Austria, with the result that the Slovenian side of the Koroška region now consists of three valleys – the Meža, Drava and Mislinja valleys – and three mountain ranges – Pohorje, Karavanke and the Savinja Alps.

The center of the region consists of the 'conurbation' of Slovenj Gradec, Ravne na Koroškem and Dravograd; however, the rural hinterland of the larger towns in Koroška is characterized by dispersed settlements. Koroška has the highest-lying farms in Slovenia. These are scattered across the entire region and generally consist of a single area of land extending around a farmhouse.

Unspoiled mountain areas and forests with a well developed network of roads and paths offer a wealth of opportunities to explore the peaks of Peca and Raduha, the expanses of Uršlja gora,

Olševa, the Smrekovec chain, Western Pohorje or Kozjak, and the slopes of picturesque Alpine valleys. These areas are particularly attractive to hikers and mountain bikers. Koroška boasts the Slovenian Mountain Trail, the European Long-Distance Walking Path E6 and numerous other themed trails, mountain paths and forest tracks leading to points offering the best views. The region is also particularly suited for mountain biking. The forests are crisscrossed by roads, tracks and paths, and good use of them is made by mountain bikers.

The highest-lying church in Slovenia can be found on Uršlja gora. Below it, on the north slopes, is a ski center which, together with a lake in the valley, forms the Ivarčko tourist recreation center. Below Peca, the highest mountain in Eastern Karavanke, extends a



Tunnels under Peca. (Source: [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info); Photographer: Tomo Jeseničnik).

valley of unique beauty – the Topla Nature Park. The Najevnik linden tree – the mother of all linden trees in Slovenia – grows on nearby Ludranski Vrh, above which spreads Smrekovec, the only volcanic mountain area in Slovenia.

In the bosom of Peca, Slovenian king Matjaž is said to sleep. Folk poems tell about his fights with the Turks, about the kidnapping of his wife Alenčica, or his rescue from the Turkish jail. Even in his last battle, he did not surrender but rode his horse to Peca mountain together with his men, when a miracle happened

and the mountain opened up. They all went in and the cave closed behind them. They all fell asleep and have been sleeping ever since and will not awaken until king Matjaž's beard will have grown nine times around the table at which he is sleeping.

In past centuries, the area was a center of mining activity. Mining lead and zinc in the Meža valley (Mežiška dolina) has been going on for more than 400 years. A series of mines and caves has been combined into a complex of mines between Mežica and Žerjav. The preserved part of the wide finished galleries



A statue of king Matjaž. (Source: [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info); Photographer: Tomo Jeseničnik).

under Peca has been converted into an interesting museum, offering a unique opportunity for cycling through the mysterious, abandoned tunnels under Peca, where, deep under the earth's surface, dwarfs are said to enjoy their dancing and one can still experience, in the darkness of a shaft, the sight of the of a frightful creature, the "bergmandelc".



The highest-lying church in Slovenia can be found on Uršlja gora. (Source: [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info); Photographer: Tomo Jeseničnik).

## TO DO LIST

### Holy Cross Parish's 100th Anniversary

The members of the Holy Cross Parish in Bridgeport, CT, and the KSKJ 148 St. Joseph Lodge are celebrating the 100th Anniversary.

When: [Sunday, June 9th, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.](#)

Where: [Holy Cross Parish, 750 Tahmore Dr., Fairfield, CT 06825](#)

Banquet to follow anniversary mass

More information: [\(203\) 372-4595](tel:2033724595)

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