



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Slovenian National Day Reception at the Slovenian Embassy

The Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia and Mrs. Roman Kirn, jointly with the Defense Attaché Colonel Ladislav Graber and Mrs. Graber, on June 25 hosted a reception celebrating the Slovenian National Day and Slovenian Armed Forces Day.

The reception was attended by more than 300 people, among them



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representatives of the U.S. Administration and U.S. Senate, ambassadors and other members of the foreign diplomatic corps, military attachés and other high military officials, businessmen, the media as well as members of the Slovenian community in the Washington, DC, area.

The event was attended by former Congressman

James Oberstar; Thomas M. Countryman, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation at the U.S. Department of State; Philip T. Reeker, Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Central Europe at the U.S. Department of State; John Winant, Director for Central and Northern Europe of the National Security Staff;





The Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of State Brent Hartley congratulated Slovenia on behalf of the Secretary of State John Kerry and President Barack Obama on the occasion of the 22 years of Slovenian independence. Next to him on the right is Ambassador Roman Kirn and on his left Mrs. Kirn, together with Defense Attaché Colonel Ladislav Graber and Mrs. Graber.

it declared its independence in 1991. He presented the transformation of the country since then, and the important role that Slovenia today plays on the international field. He emphasized that initiatives such as the International Trust Fund (ITF) show that Slovenia acts as a proactive and reliable member of the international community.

Furthermore, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nordic and Baltic nations, and North Central Europe at the U.S. Department of State Brent Hartley in his speech congratulated Slovenia on behalf of the Secretary of State John Kerry and President Barack Obama on the occasion of the 22 years of Slovenian independence. He devoted much of his attention to the stable partner-relationship between Slovenia and the U.S., and the importance of Slovenia's role in the transatlantic alliance as a strategic partner promoting shared values.

He, further, commended the excellent rapport with

and military dignitaries General Frank J. Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Major General Jonathan T. Treacy, and Slovenian-born Lieutenant-General Frank Gorenc, who has been recently nominated the next commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Air Forces - Africa, and who at the same time serves as commander of NATO's Air Command.

In his address, Ambassador Kirn welcomed the guests and pointed out that Slovenia has not become independent to grow in isolation, and by joining the European Union and NATO, has shown it wanted to be a strong and reliable member of the trans-Atlantic community that is willing to assume its share of responsibilities. He stressed that Slovenia has in the past 22 years built a strong, stable and reliable relationship with the United States, with which Slovenia has

developed not only a partnership but, moreover, a friendship.

The honorable speaker at the reception, Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, who is of Slovenian ancestry, emphasized in his address the progress that Slovenia has achieved since



From left: Slovenian Defense Attaché Colonel Ladislav Graber, Croatian Defense Attaché Brigadier General Vlado Šindler, General Frank J. Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau and Ambassador Roman Kirn.

Ambassador Kirn during the past four years of his posting as the Ambassador of Slovenia to the U.S. and recognized his efforts to strengthen the partnership between the two countries in various fields.

On this occasion, Ambassador Kirn also opened the touring exhibition "The Visual Identity of Slovenia – Design for a State," which presents the range of designs elaborated for the young state and its institutions by one of Slovenia's top designers, Miljenko Licul.

Over the course of his artistic career, Licul has created a number of great works of visual culture which are closely related to the identity of the nation and the state, and are, by all means, the most recognizable visual images of Slovenia's identity to have been created over the 22-year history of Slovenia as a sovereign state. Thus, Licul designed the banknotes for Slovenia's former currency, the tolar, and, working together with



Slovenian-born Lieutenant-General Frank Gorenc, together with Ambassador Kirn and Senator Harkin at the reception.

Maja Licul and Janez Boljka, also designed Slovenia's euro coins. Miljenko Licul is also responsible for the visual image of Slovenia's biometric passport, ID, health insurance card, and driver's license. He also designed a series of postage stamps with ethnographical motifs, typical for Slovenia, such as the

double hayrack, and elaborated numerous solutions for specific, local, and institutional needs.

At the reception that followed, the guests enjoyed the best of Slovenian wines and exquisite food, featuring Slovenian delicacies prepared by the Slovenian chef Mr. Ivan Jeger, and Ms. Petra Justinek.



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The reception was attended by more than 300 guests.

Celebration of National Day in Cleveland, OH



Address by Ambassador Kirn in the Cleveland City Hall. At the back: Consul General Jure Žmauc and daughter Ms. Nika Žmauc.

The Consulate General of Slovenia in Cleveland, OH, where the largest Slovenian community in the U.S. lives, observed the National Day of the Republic of Slovenia on Friday, June 21. To celebrate the 22 years of Slovenian statehood, a special event was held in the Rotunda of the Cleveland City Hall with Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia Mr. Jure Žmauc and Mrs. Janja Žmauc hosting the event.

The celebration was attended by more than 200 guests, including the Ambassador of Slovenia to the U.S. Roman Kirn and Mrs. Kirn, Mayor of Cleveland Frank Jackson, Councilman Michael Polensek, Councilman Joe Cimperman, Mayor-elect of Pittsburgh William Peduto, and Pittsburgh city councilman Daniel Gilman. The



Opening of an exhibition by Slovenian photographer Manca Juvan on the premises of the Slovenian Museum and Archives.

musical program featured the renowned violinist Joe Stepec.

In his address, Consul General Žmauc welcomed the



Ambassador Kirn also visited Slovenian Genealogy Society that honored him with a life-time membership.

guests and gave recognition to all the Slovenes in the U.S. who had actively helped Slovenia on its pathway to independence. He outlined the economic perspectives and challenges that should be tackled with courage and optimism. Ambassador Kirn thanked the Consul General for his support and excellent cooperation in the past four years, as he emphasized the importance of unity of all the Slovenes home and abroad.

On Saturday, a special reception was held at the Slovenian Museum and Archives, where an exhibition by Slovenian photographer Manca Juvan, titled Afghanistan (Un)Ordinary Lives, was opened by Ambassador Kirn, who later that day, together with the Consul General, also visited the Slovenian Genealogy Society.



From left: Consul General Jure Žmauc, Ambassador Roman Kirn and Mr. Boris Mušič, the owner of newly established Laško micro brewery in Cleveland, OH.

Slovenian National Day in New York, NY

Slovenian Embassy in Washington organized a reception to mark the National day of the Republic in Slovenia in New York City on Friday, June 28, evening. The reception for the Slovenian community in New York took place on the premises of St. Cyril's hall in East Village. After the presentation of national anthem of the Republic of Slovenia and the national anthem of United States of America by young Slovenian saxophonist Jan Kus, Ambassador of Slovenia Roman Kirn addressed more than 70 guests; members of Slovenian community in New York as well as diplomatic staff of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations, led by Acting Permanent Representative Mr. Matej Marn.

Ambassador Kirn outlined the main achievements of



From left: Father Krizolog Cimerman, young Slovenian saxophone student Jan Kus and Ambassador and Mrs. Kirn.

Slovenia in the past 22 years and concluded that after reaching almost all international political goals and excellent concurrent partner relations with the U.S. it's time now to deepen economic cooperation. He

especially encouraged Slovenian community in New York to strengthen business partnership between the two countries.

Ambassador Kirn on the occasion opened the exhibition by Jože Svetina that mainly



Ambassador Kirn with businessman Mr. Emil Gaspari, who generously provided Slovenian wine on the occasion.



Ambassador Kirn and Mrs. Kirn next to renewed artist Bogdan Grom and Mrs. Grom.

features his oil landscape paintings, emphasizing and showing the diverse and beautiful nature of Slovenia. Using his own brand of lyrical realist style, which reflects the painter's vision of pure beauty Svetina, furthermore, depicted various scenes from across Slovenia. Particularly dramatic are his details of trees, most often ravaged and cleft by storms, wicked winters and scorching sun.

Jože Svetina lives and works in Zavodje near Šoštanj. His works, previously exhibited at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington, D.C., will be on display at St. Mark's until October.

The reception was made possible by Father Krizolog Cimerman, who kindly offered the premises of the building where Slovenian community established a church yet in 1916.



Ambassador Roman Kirn on the occasion addressed more than 70 guests as he also said farewell to the Slovenian community in New York, at the end of his posting as Ambassador of Slovenia to the U.S. Between 2002 and 2006 Ambassador Kirn also served as Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations at the Slovenian mission in New York.

Mr. Emil Gaspari, businessman and owner of A & E Trading Inc., provided premium Slovenian wines for the occasion, whereas Chef Mr. Ivan Jeger and Ms. Petra

Justinek prepared the exquisite Slovenian food that featured delicacies from different regions of Slovenia.

On the occasion of the 237th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Embassy of Slovenia conveys its sincere congratulations and best wishes to the people of the United States of America.

TO DO LIST

SNPJ Slovenefest

Slovenefest, a three-day annual event held the second weekend of July at the SNPJ Recreation Center in the Borough of SNPJ, PA, brings together thousands to enjoy the ethnic food, music, culture and fun of Slovenia.

When: July 12, 13 & 14, 2013

Where: The SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Enon Valley, Pennsylvania

More information and detailed schedule of events at: <http://www.slovenefest.com/schedule>.

Polka! The Movie -- Film Presentation

Twin Cities Slovenians invite you to a special screening of Polka! The Movie -- a documentary about how Slovenians have had an impact on American music. Joe Valencic, President of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum, wrote and narrated the film for TV Slovenia. On the occasion, he will share behind-the-scene stories on the making of the documentary.

When: [Sunday, July 14, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Roseville Library, 2180 Hamline Ave N, Roseville, MN 55113](#)

More information: <http://www.twincitiesslovenians.org/>

When: [Wednesday, July 10, 2013 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center \(the Depot\), 506 W. Michigan St., Duluth, MN](#)

More information: [St. Louis County Historical Society at \(218\) 733-7580 or](#)

history@thehistorypeople.org

This presentation will be hosted by the St. Louis County Historical Society, with light refreshments provided. Before the screening, Joe will present "Slovenians in American Music," a tribute to Slovenians who have contributed to America's musical heritage, from jazz and rock to opera and polkas. The event is made possible in part by the American Slovenian Polka Foundation, the parent organization of the Polka Hall of Fame, and a grant from the Office for Slovenes Abroad of the Republic of Slovenia.

Festival "A Salute to Slovenian Cultural Expressions" in Ely, MN

This second annual salute to Slovenians at Vermilion College includes expressions of the music, cuisine, literature and faith. A day-long festival features how Slovenians in America maintain their identity through the arts. Special guest Joe Valencic will present two Slovenian films: "Bogdan Grom," a portrait of the 94-year-old New York artist, and "Shanghai Gypsy," the award-winning feature by director Marko Naberšnik. Admission to the films is free.

Among the activities, high school students will deliver a historical overview of the Slovenian people and recite poetry by Slovenian authors. An exhibit on Bishop Friderik Baraga will be installed by the St. Louis County Historical Society.

Where: [Vermilion Community College, 1900 Camp Street, Ely, Minnesota](#)

When: [Friday, July 12, 2013, beginning at 9:00 a.m.](#)

To follow tradition, the Slovenska Miza (Slovenian Table), a buffet of authentic Slovenian foods, will take place at the Creek Ridge Lodge on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m., complete with dancing to Slovenian music. Creek Ridge Lodge is at 1752 Creek Ridge Trail, east of Ely.

Slovenia & Bach on Capitol Hill

Vibrant contemporary chamber music from Slovenia and by J.S. Bach, with guest soprano Patrice Michaels and pianist Jeffrey Chappell, along with composer Brina Jež and violinist Branko Brezavšček, special guests from Ljubljana.

When: [Wednesday, August 3 at 8 p.m., Friday, August 5 at 8 p.m., Sunday, August 7 at 8 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill at 3rd and A streets SE](#)

Suggested donation: \$20, seniors \$17, students \$12. 16 and under free.

More information: www.chcmf.org.