



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Ambassador Dr. Cerar Speaks at the Summit on Cross Continental Cooperation



Ambassador Dr. Cerar speaking at the event that was organized by Institute for Cultural diplomacy from Berlin.

The Washington, DC, Summit on Cross Continental Cooperation on the subject of »Future Prospects in International and Intercultural Relations on Enhancing Cross & Trans Continental Cooperation«, organized by The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, was held November 4 to 7 and featured several distinguished speakers. Among them was the Ambassador of Slovenia, Dr.

Božo Cerar, who spoke on the challenges and opportunities countries face in a new reality of transatlantic relations.

In his speech, Dr. Cerar stressed the vital importance of the transatlantic cooperation for both sides of the Atlantic. He outlined that, at this particular moment, there is a unique opportunity to set new global standards with a favorable resolution of the trade and investment negotiations. In his opinion, the E.U. and the U.S.

will not find better global partners and should, therefore, nurture the mutual trust. The bond between the U.S. and Europe should be reaffirmed and our relationship rebalanced by remaining allies of choice, who continue to invest in the partnership, each bearing a fair share of burden and responsibility.

His lecture was followed by a short Q&A period, which encouraged a vivid discussion with the participants of the summit.



Visit of the Janney Elementary School

As part of the Embassy Adoption Program, this year, the Embassy of Slovenia “adopted” a school class from the Janney Elementary School in Northwest Washington, DC. The program, offered by DC Public Schools in conjunction with the Washington Performing Arts Society, every year pairs embassies with fifth- and sixth-grade classes throughout the DC Public School (DCPS) system already since 1974.

The program is designed to combine embassy officials, teachers, and students from participating schools in order to expand the students’ knowledge of different countries worldwide. Based on an individualized year-long curriculum, teachers work with their students to help them learn about their adoptive country, and representatives from each embassy provide monthly cultural visits to their adopted classes, giving the students a personalized



Presenting Slovenia.

understanding of their nation’s culture. In the school year 2013/2014, the Embassy of Slovenia is participating in the program already for the fifth year.

On Wednesday, November 6, 2013, Nuška Zakrajšek, public diplomacy and cultural affairs officer, and Tina Rušt from the Embassy of

Slovenia made their first visit to a fifth-grade class at the Janney Elementary School, where they were warmly welcomed by both staff and students.

To open the first day of the year-long program, a short movie about Slovenia was shown, during which the students could refresh their recollection of what their teacher, Ms. Laure Hunter, had already taught them. Throughout the presentation, the children were highly interactive and inquisitive of Slovenian geography and history, which made the lesson even more dynamic. In the upcoming school year, the students will, in several sessions from November through May, learn more about the Slovenian government, arts, food and traditions. They will also visit the embassy premises and, at the end of the school year, present to the Slovenian Ambassador and diplomats at a special event what they have learned.



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Slovenian Delegation at Americanallia 2013

A delegation of 12 Slovenian businesses, organized by the public agency SPIRIT Slovenia, attended the international trade forum Americanallia 2013, held from October 29 through November 3 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Slovenian companies held some 100 meetings with counterparts from other attending countries.

One of the highlights of the three-day forum was the conference focused on business opportunities in Slovenia, held on the first day. It featured the companies participating in the delegation,



Slovenian business delegation at the event.



the Economic Counselor at the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington Gorazd Renčelj as well as Mr Alejandro Diaz, former Mexican Ambassador to Slovenia. Ambassador Diaz presented Slovenia as a highly developed economy with plenty of opportunities, especially in wood, food and energy industries as well as in logistics and transport.

Americanallia 2013, first forum of this kind in Latin America, was attended by more than 200 companies, representing 13 countries, the majority of which came from Mexico. The event was enhanced by an exhibit and multiple social and protocolary events and backed up by more than 20 years of events in Europe, North America, Africa and Asia.

B2B meetings at Americanallia 2013 (Photo credit: www.izvoznookno.si)

Piran and Indianapolis

Indianapolis, Indiana... landlocked city in American Midwest, known for automotive and industrial history. Piran, Slovenia... coastal city in Slovenia, known for cultural heritage and as center of Slovenian tourism. Seemingly not much in common? The Indianapolis & Piran Sister City relationship was officially established on September 2, 2001, at the Indy Slovene Fest. Since 2001, visits have been made from each city to the other city to further the relationship.

The primary purposes of the cooperation were to promote cultural and educational exchanges between Indianapolis and Piran. From an early project that included e-mail exchanges between elementary school students in both cities, the program expanded to Skype videoconferences and other projects, such as exchange of books between the Piran and Indianapolis libraries, which resulted in the Indianapolis-Piran Sister City Committee's (IPSCC) suggestion for an "Indianapolis Sister City" section in the Central



IUPUI-Primorska videoconference. (Photo credit: J. Laposa)

Library for the books and materials from the eight (8) Sister Cities of Indianapolis.

To strengthen the cooperation between the two cities, a delegation from Indianapolis made an official visit to Piran in late September 2013. The group included Kathy and Jason Howe and Josef Laposa of the IPSCC; Amanda Cecil and Susan Alvarez of the tourism faculty of Indiana University-

Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI); and Jane Gehlhausen from the City of Indianapolis. The delegation was welcomed in Piran by Mayor Peter Bossman and the staff of the Municipality of Piran. Throughout the visit, meetings were conducted with University of Primorska tourism faculty and administration. The IUPUI hosted in early 2013 a research visit by Miha Lesjak, doctoral student and Primorska faculty member, and videoconference courses between faculty and staff of IUPUI and Primorska are included in their respective semester schedules every year.

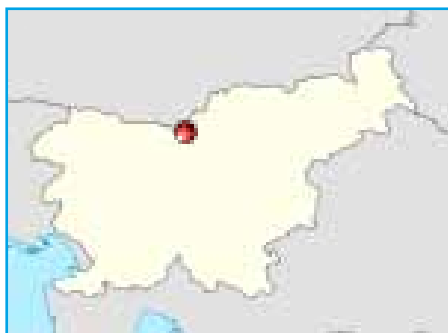
The two-way exchange is indicative of the importance of tourism in the economic life of Indianapolis and Piran, and the relationship enhanced by the direct contact has strengthened the desire to work on mutually beneficial projects.

For further information, please feel free to contact Josef Laposa, IPSCC: 77sotina@gmail.com



Delegation in Piran. (Photo credit: www.indy.gov)

The Solčavsko Region



The mountain-encircled Solčavsko is located at the upper course of the Savinja river, which in the distant past cut a narrow gorge through the rocky massive of the Kamniško–Savinjske Alps. The sunny slopes above the Solčava district saw first settlements over a millennium ago, but people used to seek shelter there before that. A small part of the mysteries of its underground caves has already been explored. The most famous among them is the Potočka zijalka cave in Olševa, where 30 thousand–years-old remains of humans have been found. The most valuable finds include stone and bone tools, lances,



Robanov Kot. (Photo: <http://www.solcavsko.info/>)

needles, arrow-points and a bone flute of the prehistoric man. More recent findings pose the question whether Potočka zijalka was a hunters' post or perhaps a temple of the Cro-Magnon hunters of the time.

Nowadays, Solčavsko includes the small village of Solčava, the Podolševa hamlet and three wonderful Alpine valleys: Robanov and Matkov

Kot as well as the famous Logar valley.

The village of Solčava is the center of Solčavsko, squeezed among the steep slopes along the river. Once a gathering point for the locals, with only a handful of houses, it is nowadays the municipal and tourist center of the area. On a hillock above the village, lies the Gothic church of St. Mary-of-the-Snows, whose greatest attraction is a 13th century statue of Mary with Jesus. On the next hill grows the famous Solčava yew tree, which has kept a vigilant eye over the village for over 700 years.

In the peaceful Robanov Kot, which is closed to traffic from the Roban farm onward, well-managed tourist farms await visitors in the valley, where they can enjoy a walk past the splendid Roban meadow to Kot with an Alpine dairy-farm at the end of the valley.

The Logar valley lies in the middle and is the longest and



Logarska Valley (Photo: <http://www.solcavsko.info/>)



Solčavsko in the winter (Photo: <http://www.solcavsko.info/>).

best known valley in Solčavsko. A nature-ethnological trail runs along the valley to Logarski Kot, where past several attractions, the walkers are brought to the magnificent Rinka waterfall at the end of the valley. The Logar valley is a great starting point for mountain trips to mountain huts and, further up, to the peaks of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps.

Matkov Kot is the most peaceful valley in Solčavsko. During springtime, many mountain lovers participate in the walk to Matko's Tub at the

end of the valley, which is a large snow-filled hollow, cut into deep snow. The farms in the valley are connected by a road, which rises to 1100 meters (3,610 ft.) above sea level and offers wonderful views of the valley and the Kamnik-Savinja Alps – the reason why it has been called the Panoramic Road. The Solčava Panoramic Road takes us past farms to the sunny Podolševa hamlet with its small church of the Holy Spirit and further to the Bukovnik farm, the highest located farm in Slovenia.

People in Solčavsko have lived in harmony with nature for centuries. Many customs, traditions and beliefs from the past can still be found in the everyday life of the hospitable locals. There are several sustainable development projects going on in Solčavsko, promoting the development of felt products made of wool of the Jezersko-Solčava sheep breed, the development of wooden products made of the Solčava mountain wood, the development of new tradition-based food products, and development of products made of the local stone – the Logar marble. The Rinka Center, which is a multi-purpose center for sustainable development of the area, has been opened in Solčava. In 2009, Solčavsko received the title of European Destination of Excellence for Tourism in Protected Areas. Such a confirmation of our past activities pleases and binds us. For more information contact: mako.slapnik@solcavsko.info or <http://www.solcavsko.info/>



Hiking is very popular activity in this part of Slovenia.



Cycling in Solčavsko. (Photo: <http://www.solcavsko.info/>).

Subscription to Slovenian American Times (SAT)

Slovenian American Times (SAT), a bilingual monthly publication fostering communications vital to Slovenian communities, is edited by Breda Loncar, Mara Cerar Hull and Martina Jakomin. It publishes Slovenian news from the United States and other countries, especially Slovenia, perceptive editorials and expert health and financial columns, and includes Slovenian music, sports, food, children's materials, political

and cultural commentaries, ads, obituaries and much more.

The October issue continues the series on amazing accomplishments of Slovenian American inventors and innovators and also lists some splendid achievements of Slovenians in Australia and Europe. SAT is also richly illustrated with photos, many in color. **Annual subscription is only \$40 (\$50 outside of the U.S.). To subscribe, contact: telephone: (440)**

833-0020; on line: www.SlovenianAmericanTimes.com, or by mail: SAT, 33977 Chardon Road, Suite 120, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094.



TO DO LIST

Martinovanje in New York

Slovenian Union of America's New York City branch is hosting martinovanje (St. Martin's feast), a traditional folk festival that celebrates the year's new wine.

When: [12 noon, Sunday, November 10, 2013](#)

Where: [62 Saint Mark's Place, New York, NY 10003 \(8th Street between 2nd and 1st Avenues\)](#)

Admission: \$20 per person.

RSVP vajkusa@aol.com

Festival of Wine and Winemakers in CA

When: [Saturday, November 9, 2013](#)

Where: [Slovenian Hall, 2101 Mariposa Street, San Francisco, CA 94107](#)

Admission: \$35

For reservations contact: [Jozi Plut, 7 Cranfield Ave, San Carlos, CA 94070 \(650\) 654-2099.](#)

Reservation due by November 5.

Feast of St. Nicholas

The Slovenian American Heritage Foundation extends a warm invitation to the annual Feast of St. Nicholas.

When: [Friday, December 6, 2013, at 7 p.m.](#)

Where: [The Center for Pastoral Leadership \(Borromeo Seminary\), 28700 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, Ohio.](#)

More information: 216-696-3460 x 306 or ahiti@hgfarchitects.com

[Vesna Lemaic's story in Best European Fiction](#)

Since 2010, the Dalkey Archive Press has annually published the internationally praised anthology, Best European Fiction. For several years now, a Slovenian story has been included in the anthology and this year's edition features Vesna Lemaic's story, The Pool, as well as preface by Drago Jančar.

More information: <http://www.dalkeyarchive.com/product/best-european-fiction-2014/>

[Exhibit The Slovenes of Southeast Kansas in Franklin, KS](#)

An exhibit titled "The Slovenes of Southeast Kansas" will be held at the [Miner's Hall Museum in Franklin, Kansas](#), from October 1 through the end of the year. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Presentations and talks related to the Slovenes will be held on [November 21](#), and [December 3](#). Admission is free to the museum and presentation.

Further information may be obtained by contacting minershallmuseum@yahoo.com.

[Thanksgiving Polka Party Weekend in Cleveland, OH](#)

The National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum presents the 50th Annual Thanksgiving Polka Party Weekend at the [Downtown Marriott Hotel](#) in Cleveland, Ohio, [November 28, 29 and 30, 2013](#). The Polka Hall of Fame annual Awards Show takes place Saturday, November 30, at [Euclid Auditorium in Euclid, Ohio](#).

For more information visit <http://www.polkafame.com/> or contact Joe Valencic at jvalencic@yahoo.com or (216) 496-4646.

[SlovenSki Calendar for 2014 Ski Season](#)

SlovenSki Weekend

Where: WINDHAM MOUNTAIN, NEW YORK
When: Friday, January 31 to Sunday, February 2, 2014.
Slovenian GS Ski Race championship on Saturday.

SlovenSki trip #1 (Presidents Week)

Where: SUN VALLEY, IDAHO
When: Monday, February 17 to Sunday, February 23, 2014.
Total cost \$1,495.00 from LaGuardia, NY to Boise, Idaho.
6 nights lodging at Sun Valley; 3 bedroom condominiums, 5-day ski pass.
Kids under 15 stay and ski FREE.
Call for air info from other airports: Cleveland, Toronto, Chicago

SlovenSki trip #2

Where: ASPEN / SNOWMASS, COLORADO
Top of The Village 3 bedroom Condominiums, ski in, ski out.
When: Monday, March 24 to Sunday, March 30, 2014
Snowmass is home of 2014 Nastar Nationals Ski Championships during last week of March.

[More information and application:](#)

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