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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Slovenian Defense Minister Roman Jakič Visits United States



Slovenian Minister of Defense Roman Jakič together with U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel at Pentagon on Wednesday. (Photo: Pentagon/MORS)

Defense Minister Roman Jakič paid a visit to the United States on November 11–13. He first met with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Monday, November 11 in New York. His talks with Ban and other senior UN officials focused on international peacekeeping operations, most notably Slovenia's plans to deploy its naval ship in the UNIFIL operation in Lebanon in the first half of 2014.

While in New York, Minister Jakič also attended a gathering of the New York Slovenian community on the premises of the Slovenian Permanent Representation to the UN.

On Tuesday, in Washington, DC, Minister Jakič gave a lecture at the European Institute, discussing the Euro Atlantic security cooperation

and future aspirations for the enlargement of the NATO alliance. In the afternoon, he met with Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, and with Iowa Senator of Slovenian ancestry, Tom Harkin.

Wednesday's talks with the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, were dedicated to future bilateral cooperation between the two

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I FEEL
SLOVENIA



Defense Minister met with Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Victoria Nuland.



As part of the visit Defense Minister Mr. Jakič together with Ambassador Dr. Cerar presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington National Cemetery.

countries, Slovenia's engagement in post-2014 Afghanistan, defense spending and regional defense cooperation initiatives. Secretary Hagel expressed his appreciation for Slovenia's close military cooperation, and its valuable contributions to our common security objectives in the Balkans, Afghanistan and at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Secretary

Hagel thanked Minister Jakič for Slovenia's contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions and congratulated Slovenia on becoming a Global Peace Operations Initiative partner this past spring. He also praised Slovenia for the critical service and as a key stabilizing influence in the Balkan region, maintaining a presence in NATO's Kosovo Force, mentoring

other nations on export control and border security and, most recently, hosting a multinational conference on regional cooperation.

Defense minister was also a guest at a luncheon hosted by Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Frank J. Grass, as Slovenia this year celebrates 20 years of collaboration with the Colorado National Guard.



Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa received Defense Minister on Tuesday.



Defense Minister also lectured at the European Institute.

OAS Secretary General Receives the Permanent Observer of Slovenia Dr. Božo Cerar

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza, met with the new Permanent Observer of Slovenia to the OAS, Ambassador Božo Cerar on Friday, November 8.

During the meeting, the Secretary General shared an overview of the work carried out by the OAS in the region and expressed the importance of Permanent Observers to supporting the Organization in fulfilling its mandates assigned by its Member States. In turn, the Permanent Observer of Slovenia commented on his government's relations with the countries of the Americas and his interest in expanding dialogue and cooperation with the regional organization.



From left: Božo Cerar, Permanent Observer of Slovenia to the OAS, and José Miguel Insulza, OAS Secretary General (Credit: Maria Patricia Leiva/OAS)

Slovenia has been a permanent observer of the Organization of American States since 10 years ago. The OAS

currently has 68 Permanent Observers, which participate in the Organization's activities and contribute to its programs.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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, December 13**, at the premises of the **Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations, located at 630 Third Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017** (Please note the new address!).

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 **December 10, 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.

Due to security reasons, prior appointment is needed to enter the premises of the Mission.

Concert of Percussion Duo Drumartica

Opening the first season of the EUNIC Washington Concert Series, Slovenian percussion duo Drumartica performed in a concert on Friday, November 8, on the premises of the Austrian Embassy, the headquarters of the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington. The series was initiated by the cluster of European National Institutes of Culture that are connected within the EUNIC coalition with the goal to give young emerging artists from Europe a platform to perform in Washington, DC, and present music by European contemporary composers. Since 2011, an associate member of EUNIC Washington is also the Embassy of Slovenia.

The Duo Drumartica is one of the most active percussion ensembles in Europe today. After a great success at prestigious competitions such as IPCL in Luxembourg, PENDIM



Duo Drumartica presented music by European composers.

in Bulgaria, Salieri-Zinetti Chamber Music Competition in Italy, Almere Chamber Music Competition in Netherlands and the audience prize at the Carnegie Hall Musical Olympus Festival in New York, Simon Klavžar and Jože Bogolin have played in

the United States, Russia and around Europe in important halls such as Hermitage Theater in St. Petersburg, Carnegie Hall in New York, Auditorio de Tenerife and Berlin Philharmonie.

Playing on two marimbas and a vibraphone, the musicians presented music from different corners of Europe, featuring compositions by Adi Morag, Anna Ignatowicz-Glinska, Béla Bartók, Alexej Gerassimez, Alejandro Viñao, Domenico Scarlatti and Nebojša Jovan Živkovič. The 60-minute program was a mixture of classical music arrangements and contemporary music pieces, and the audience rewarded the interactive, innovative and energetic performance by a standing ovation. The concert was followed by a reception with Slovenian wine. The next concert in the series, by a British musician, will take place in December.



This 60 minutes long program with two marimbas and a vibraphone is a mixture of classical music arrangements and contemporary music pieces.

Martinovanje in New York City

Slovenian Union of America, New York City branch (SUA-New York City), held a Saint Martin's feast (Martinovanje) for 66 people at 62 Saint Mark's Place in Manhattan on Sunday, November 10, 2013. After Slovenian Mass at the Church of Saint Cyril, Slovenia's Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Božo Cerar, and the Pastor, Father Krizolog, welcomed guests to a meal prepared by Maria Polajner Whitmire, Mia Branc, Camille Okoren Price and Elizabeth Gross together with SUA-New York City volunteers, which included home-baked bread, canapés, red cabbage and cabbage salad, green salads and vegetables, roasted goose, mlinci and gravy, and plum tarts, poticas and shortbread cookies.

Ivan Kamin, Representative of Slovenians Abroad for the United States, welcomed Slovenia's Ambassador to the U.N., Andrej Logar and Mrs. Cvetka Logar, and the U.N. High Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko. Emil Gaspari offered a toast of Slovenia Vodka to Martin Cimerman (Father Krizolog) and to Martina Skok (Mrs. Cerar), and everybody enjoyed Slovenian wines imported by Tri-Wines, Inc., of Shrub Oak, NY, including those from the Primorje region: Batic Rose 2012, LNG Refoš 2011, Malvasia 2010, Vinakoper Caparis Merlot 2009, and the last bottle of the rare Malvasia Invasia 2007, and, from the Podravje region, Samling 2010.



Ambassador Dr. Cerar and his wife Ms. Martina Skok joined the event.

Artist Andrej Schlegel from Kamnik exhibited his miniature paintings of New York City and a sculpture commemorating the World Trade Center, and explained his work to the Martinovanje guests, who came together from every generation of Slovenians in America: those who were born here, those who immigrated and built their lives here and many who came recently, to study or to marry, as well as others who grew up and/or still live in Slovenia, and many who live in other countries and were in New York on this weekend.

This year, SUA-New York City received a grant from the Office for Slovenians Abroad to develop an Internet-based Slovenian Conversation class and is completing its 10-lesson project this December. Instructor Maria J. Rode, Senior Librarian

Emerita, Stanford University, developed an original curriculum with Joan Walker, M.A., who teaches English as a Second Language on the Internet at Live American English. A dozen students from all levels are taking this immersion course, where they learn Slovenian as they speak it.

Martinovanje and Slovenian Conversation on the Internet are two projects, which SUA-New York City officers Tanya Vayk and Tanja Makovec Petrik hope will help reach the goal of "Tromostovje", building bridges between and amongst Slovenians in New York, in the U.S., in Slovenia and across the world. Special thanks – hvala! – to all who came to the event and brought good cheer to the Slovenian tradition of celebrating the new wine at Martinovanje. (Tanya Vayk)

Traditional Slovenian Breakfast in Janney ES

On November 15, the Traditional Slovenian Breakfast project took place in kindergartens and primary schools throughout Slovenia. During the first hour of school, children breakfasted on whole wheat bread, honey, butter, milk and apples. Students from the Jenney Elementary School in Tenleytown in Washington, DC, who participate in the Embassy Adoption Program Club, also enjoyed the traditional Slovenian breakfast goods prepared and served by the Embassy of Slovenia, which "adopted" the class for this school year.

In Slovenia, the third Friday in November has ever since 2011 been celebrated as Slovenian Food Day. On that day, Slovenian farmers, agricultural companies, food-processing companies and beekeepers contribute bread, butter, milk, honey and apples to primary schools and kindergartens throughout Slovenia.



Children breakfasted on brown bread, honey, butter, milk and apples.

The main goal of the project is to educate, inform and raise the awareness of the youngest children and children of school age, and to some extent also the general public, on the importance of breakfast for eating habits, on the importance and advantages of locally produced food, and on the importance of agriculture and beekeeping.

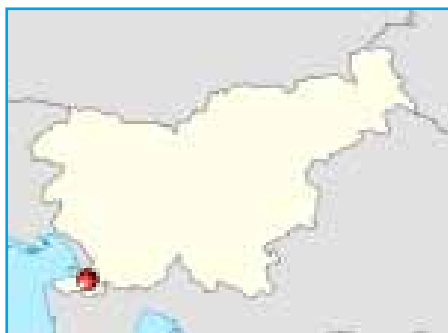
On the occasion of enjoying the traditional Slovenian breakfast, the students of Janney ES became acquainted with a healthy way of eating. It was emphasized to them that balanced nutrition is very important while growing up and that breakfast has beneficial effects on a person's health. It should consist of complete cereal products (whole wheat bread, porridge, etc.), protein foods (milk and dairy products), vegetables and fruit. While eating, the students also enjoyed a presentation on traditional harvesting, wheat threshing and milling, traditional producing of butter, beekeeping in Slovenia, the art of beehive panels, and fruit growing.

The event was also joined by representatives of DC Public Schools Embassy Adoption Program Office and Washington Performing Arts Society.



The students of Janney ES also became acquainted with traditional ways of producing butter, honey and making bread.

Hrastovlje



The village of Hrastovlje is situated right at the edge of Karst, the natural border between the Karst plateau and the Slovenian Istria, about 20 km (approx. 12 miles) away from the big Slovenian port of Koper. The local offer is particularly rich as it brings together heritage, culture, nature and cuisine – all closely tied to tradition.

The jewel among the monuments of Hrastovlje is undoubtedly the 12th century church of the Holy Trinity. It is an example of a typical Romanesque basilica built of stone blocks with a bell tower attached to it. What distinguishes this particular church from others is



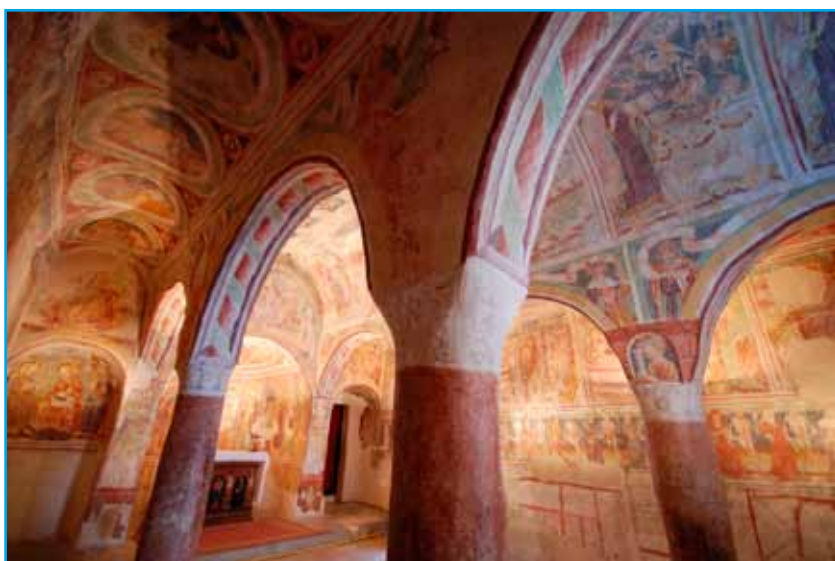
Hrastovlje with the Holy Trinity Church. (Photo: tic@koper.si)

its richly decorated interior. The church of the Holy Trinity is the only church in Slovenia with an entirely painted interior. The frescoes were created in 1490 by Janez from Kastav and depict various scenes from the Bible.

The most famous is the motif of the Dance of Death, showing representatives of various social classes, led by skeletons toward the recently

excavated grave. The main idea of the motif is that death does not spare anyone and does not take bribes: before it, we are all equal. The church is surrounded by an 8-meter (26 ft.) high defensive wall, built in the 16th century to offer the local population a harbor from the attacks of the Turks.

The view of the village while exiting the church is astonishing. A number of houses are scattered in the valley below, which in a nice way intertwine with the vast green areas. In one of those typical Istrian houses, one can visit the gallery dedicated to the renowned sculptor Jože Pohlen, who discovered the beautiful frescoes in the Hrastovlje church. The collection of works in the gallery contains some of his most famous statues. In the house next door, another gallery is open to the public, this one dedicated to the painter, restorer and poet Viktor Snoj, who restored the frescoes in the



The frescoes in the Holy Trinity Church were created in 1490 by Janez from Kastav and depict various scenes from the Bible.



Exhibitions are on display in old Istrian houses.

village church. In the gallery, one can admire some of his paintings, which express a fate full of hope and glory.

A collection of arms and old objects brought together and saved by Grozdan Pohlen in a

nearby house is also interesting for visitors.

While visiting Hrastovlje, a great Istrian lunch is definitely a must. Restaurant Švab and the Tourist farm Škr gat prepare delicious typical dishes with

traditional ingredients, ranging from prosciutto, truffles and asparagus combined with meat or pasta, to delicious wines, which add a particular flavor. Worth trying are also the dried meat products available in the local shop owned by the family Trček.

The area is also interesting to explore by walking or cycling. The village of Hrastovlje is an excellent starting point for excursions toward the edge of the Karst and the villages in the surrounding area. The Tourist information center Hrastovlje organizes guided visits of the village, which include all the above points of interest and tastings of typical food products. For more information visit www.koper.si.

TO DO LIST

Young Professionals in Foreign Policy at the Embassy of Slovenia

The YFPF will be hosting a discussion at the Embassy of Slovenia regarding current Slovenian foreign policy as well as the country's role in transatlantic relations. Ambassador Dr. Cerar will be giving the address.

When: [Wednesday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m.](#)

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

RSVP: <https://yfpf.org/event/embassy-slovenia-0>

Composer Dušan Bavdek and Academia Ljubljana at the Phillips Collection

In 2009, The Phillips Collection joined forces with embassies in Washington to create a unique concert series in which leading European composers introduce their works with performers they select. The series is co-sponsored by The Phillips Collection and the George Washington University. Now in its fifth season, this year the opening Leading European Composers concert features the music of Slovenian composer Dušan Bavdek, performed by musicians from the Academy of Music in Ljubljana.

Where: [The Phillips Collection, 1600 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009](#)

When: [Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.](#)

More information and tickets: <http://www.phillipscollection.org/events/2013-12-12-lec-bavdek.aspx>

A Taste of Slovenia with International Club of DC

The International Club of DC, with the cooperation of the Embassy of Slovenia, cordially requests the pleasure of your company for an enchanting evening of Slovenian culture, art, music, cuisine, and wine at the Embassy of Slovenia. This is a wonderful opportunity to discover Slovenia through all your senses while meeting other ICDC members! The evening begins with a short presentation about Slovenia and Slovenian culture, geography, trade, and tourism. Afterwards, you will be invited to feast on a buffet of traditional Slovenian delicacies along with Slovenian wine served at the open bar. The evening will also provide you with the opportunity to meet diplomatic personnel at the embassy as well as International Club of DC members in attendance. During the evening, you will also enjoy a concert of Slovenian music.

When: [Friday, November 22, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

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

More information and RSVP: <http://www.internationalclubdc.com/Events/EventDetails.aspx?EventGUID=490664C1-D32D-4F51-A544-3067D63E3DC4>

Concert by Mak Grgić and Nejc Kuhar at the National Gallery of Art

The Seventy-Second Season of Concerts 2013–2014 in the National Gallery of Art will feature Slovenian guitarists Mak Grgić and Nejc Kuhar. Music by J.S. Bach and Slovenian composers.

When: [November 24 at 6:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [West Building, West Garden Court, The National Gallery of Art](#), located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets NW along Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

[Admission free.](#)

More information: <http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/calendar/concerts/seventy-second/nov-24-2013.html>

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.