



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Ambassador Dr. Cerar Visits Colorado

Slovenia's Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Božo Cerar, paid a visit to the state of Colorado on April 25 – 26. The Colorado National Guard and the Republic of Slovenia have been partners under the auspices of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program since 1993.

The program has resulted in an average of 20 exchanges a year, peaking in a partnership program of exercise and training of members of Slovenian Army and Colorado National Guard in Colorado and in Slovenia for the operations and management of



Ambassador Dr. Cerar meeting with Colorado Gov. John W. Hickenlooper, and U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, adjutant general of Colorado and commander of the Colorado National Guard

the OMLT (Operational Mentor and Liaison Team) in Afghanistan.

As a result of that fruitful relationship, the ambassador presented a Republic of Slovenia Medal for Multi-National Cooperation, I. Grade to Colorado Gov. John W. Hickenlooper, for his continued support of the partnership between Colorado and Slovenia, during an office call at the state capitol

building in Denver on Friday. The ambassador thanked the governor for his contribution to the 21-year cooperation. He noted the multiple deployments of combined Slovenian Army-Colorado National Guard military teams, and stated that he looked forward to more and broader partnerships and cooperation in the areas of business, education, science, and culture. Present



at the meeting was also U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, adjutant general of Colorado and commander of the Colorado National Guard.

The Adjutant General and Mrs. Edwards, together with Colorado National Guard Association President Mr. Lawrence and his wife, were also hosts of the biannual Colorado Military Ball, where the ambassador addressed the attendees. He outlined that this spring Slovenia is celebrating the 10th anniversary of joining the E.U. and NATO and has demonstrated great success in accomplishing significant tasks in the past decade. The ambassador also emphasized that Colorado National Guard has been the key partner in undertaking and accomplishing the strategic tasks within the transatlantic alliance. Moreover, on the occasion he also presented to the guests a letter from General Dobran Božič, the Slovenian Chief of General Staff.

During the ambassador's visit to Colorado, Slovenian



Left to right: Lucky Vidmar, honorary consul for the Republic of Slovenia in Colorado; Ambassador Dr Cerar, Aubrey Ardema, U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert Redding and U.S. Army 1st Lt Derek Richter.

honorary consul in Denver, Srečko Vidmar, organized a reception where the ambassador met with members of the Denver consular corps, business representatives as well as local Slovenian community members. Among the many Slovenes who immigrated to the United States, some settled in the mining areas of the Rocky

Mountains such as Pueblo, Denver, Leadville, Trinidad, Walsenburg, Aspen, and Crested Butte already at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Later Slovenian emigrants settled into industrial cities and several found work in the steel industry in Pueblo.



Ambassador Dr. Cerar presents a Republic of Slovenia Medal for MultiNational Cooperation, I. Grade (1st Grade) to the governor of Colorado Hickenlooper.



Ambassador addresses guests at the reception organized by Honorary Consul Srečko Vidmar.

Ten Years of E.U. Membership

Yesterday, Slovenia marked the 10th anniversary of its accession to the European Union and of attaining this long-standing strategic and political objective.

On May 1, 2004, Slovenia became a full E.U. member state, alongside with Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Cyprus, and Malta. Slovenian citizens played a crucial role in this regard: at the referendum of March 23, 2003, a sweeping majority of almost 90% voted in favor of Slovenia's joining the E.U. During this decade, the E.U. has become a part of everyday life of Slovenia's citizens. Today, for the most part, the E.U. is synonymous with freedom to travel, study, and work. The introduction of the

single currency and our joining the Schengen area in 2007 contributed to this significantly. With the E.U. Council Presidency during 2008, Slovenia was the first new-member state to be actively involved in the deepening of the E.U. through the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty.

But E.U. membership has proven important in many other aspects as well: it gave Slovenia access to cohesion and agricultural funds, improved for Slovenian companies access to the almost 500 million strong single market, and opened up new financial and economic opportunities, but, most importantly, it brought stability. The anniversary is an opportune moment to think about what the future has in store for this

large community. The E.U. needs further integration, for, in a global world, strength can be built only by working together, responsibly and solidarily. We have to bear in mind our common fundamental values, the very basis of, and the rationale for, our future existence, as well as our differences, which make the E.U. a unique place.



Toward a Europe Whole and Free

Washington-based think tank, the Atlantic Council, hosted a two-day conference entitled "Toward a Europe Whole and Free" (title taken from the well-known address by President George H.W. Bush in Mainz, Germany, in 1989), commemorating the anniversaries of the latest three enlargements of NATO through admission of the countries of Eastern and Central Europe, and the 10th anniversary of the so-called "Big Bang" enlargement of the European Union. Discussions, featuring many renowned guests such as Vice



From left to right: MFA of Lithuania Linkevičius, former Polish PM Cimoszewicz, Romanian MFA Corlățean, Dr. Karen Donfried of GMF, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation General Jean-Paul Paloméros and moderator Damon Wilson.



Remarks by Vice President Joe Biden.

President Biden, State Secretary Kerry, Senators McCain and Murphy, and many prominent former members of the U.S. administration, President of the European Commission Barroso, and Foreign and Defense ministers of NATO members and countries aspiring thereto offered thoughts and ideas on

the biggest challenges in the area of security in the transatlantic community.

Remembering the past – the post-World War II arrangement that led to the establishment of the Alliance -- and the relevance of NATO today, but mostly the role and engagement of NATO tomorrow

were the main topics throughout the discussions. With the new crisis in Eastern Europe, the questions of European security are of extreme relevance. Both Secretary Kerry and Vice President Biden called for unity and mutual assistance among NATO member states and -- for them -- to remain strong in their deterrence and protection of their territory. They also called on them to increase their defense budgets in order to enhance the defense capabilities of Europe itself. On the other hand, economic cooperation through Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and energy security and independence of European states were among the topics most discussed as those providing long-term sustainable peace and security. A special panel entitled Defending the Vision was dedicated to the future enlargement of NATO, including in the area of Western Balkans.

INTERNATIONAL

Norfolk NATO Festival 2014

On April 25 and 26, Norfolk was once again host of the annual NATO Festival, which is a part of the wider Virginia International Tattoo (the word tattoo derives from the cries of the 17th and 18th century Low County Innkeepers), organized at the end of April. The festival is a landmark event for the greater Norfolk area and for Virginia, and is attended by thousands of people. The main aim of the festival is to engage with the citizens, empowering industries and presenting NATO member



states to local population and thus spreading the knowledge about the Alliance.

NATO Festival started on Friday, April 25 afternoon with the raising of the flags and the playing of the national anthems of the 28 NATO member states and NATO itself in the Norfolk Scope Arena. Among attendees were general Jean Paul Palomeros, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, Paul D. Fraim, mayor of Norfolk, and Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam.

The main evening event was a very rich program of music and dance by military orchestras and solo artists, both Americans and foreign (special guests from Sweden and Oman), this year honoring the veterans of Vietnam War. The program included well known marching music, classical, rock and familiar film scores, performed by various military musicians (Navy, Marines).



Slovenian booth at the festival.

The NATO festival continued on Saturday with the 61st Annual Parade in downtown Norfolk. For parade, members of the Slovenian army built a platform featuring a hayrack – a typical wooden structure found in many rural places in Slovenia -- and some other symbols of the country. A musical ensemble from Cleveland enriched the parade by performing Slovenian

folk music. After the parade, the presentation of Slovenia continued with some artifacts and brochures about Slovenia and Slovenian tourism and some delicious food and wine prepared by fellow Slovenians from Virginia and Ohio. The festival was attended by thousands of people, among them many young students.



Friday ceremony was attended by Ms. Ondina Blokar Drobič, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Slovenia.



Slovenia was represented at the 61st Annual Parade in downtown Norfolk with a hayrack.

Mendelssohn Piano Trio Performs at the Embassy

In cooperation with the Embassy Series, the Embassy of Slovenia hosted on April 25, 2014, a concert by the Mendelssohn Piano Trio. The ensemble-in-residence for the Embassy Series pianist, Ya-Ting Chang from Taiwan, violinist Peter Sirotin from Russia and cellist Fiona Thompson from England, performed on Friday music by Central European composers over the period of three centuries; mesmerizing Three Nocturnes by Ernest Bloch, dramatic Piano Trio in G Minor by Bedřich Smetana and a witty Piano Trio in D Major by Joseph Haydn. Mendelssohn Piano Trio is in the process of recording for Centaur Records the complete Haydn Piano Trios; the volumes already released have been met with critical acclaim.

The Mendelssohn Piano Trio thrilled the audience with that rare combination of powerful individual talent and tight-knit



Mendelssohn Piano Trio are: pianist Ya-Ting Chang from Taiwan, violinist Peter Sirotin from Russia and cellist Fiona Thompson from England.

collaboration that is the hallmark of this truly exceptional chamber music ensemble. Its members proved to be superb musicians who left a great impression with thrilling, technically perfect and yet heartfelt and emotional performance.

The outstanding concert was followed by a buffet reception by Milka's Catering where some 80 guests also had an opportunity to enjoy Pullus wine from Ptuj, Slovenia.



Around 80 guests attended the event.



Remarks by Mr. Jerome Barry, Director of Embassy Series.

Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia at G-FEST 2014

On April 29, 2014, the NYU Washington DC in partnership with the Global Language Network hosted the G-Fest, an international festival of languages and cultural diversity. For the second time, the representatives of the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia participated in this event, presenting their country to visitors and participating organizations.

The main purpose of G-FEST is promoting diversity and educating the participants about world languages and cultures. The visitors had the opportunity to meet staffs of several embassies, cultural organizations, performance groups and language teachers from the Global Language Network (GLN).

The Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia participated with a country cultural booth, at which also Slovenian natural beauties were projected on a



Hana Šanca welcomes guests at the Slovenian booth.

big screen. Visitors were really impressed by the only country in the whole world with the word "love" in its name. The embassy representatives were pleased to point to them Slovenia on a map and taught them a few

basic Slovenian expressions. After visiting the booth, many guests expressed a desire to visit Slovenia some day and maybe even learn the Slovenian language.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Referendum on Archives Act

The referendum on the Act amending the Protection of Documents and Archives and the Archival Institution Act will be held on June 8, 2014. The polling stations will also be established in the United States at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC and the Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland, Ohio, and are to be

open on **June 8, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Citizens with permanent residence in the U.S. and Slovenian citizen temporarily living outside Slovenia and wishing to cast their vote must register by May 23 on a special registration form available at <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/si/strani/referendum-2014-obrazci-za-volivce>

More information on the referendum can be found at: http://washington.embassy.si/index.php?id=814&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=20977&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=51&cHash=6051f290b6525ce9672d3fd3c03be4c4. Please note that the information is in Slovene.

Šempeter in Savinjska dolina



Šempeter lies in the heart of Slovenia in the Lower Savinja Valley, on the road that leads from Celje to Ljubljana. Because of its position, Šempeter can boast many sites of historical and cultural importance.

Almost 2,000 years ago, an immensely important Roman road passed through Šempeter, connecting Roman towns of Aquilea, Emona, Celeia and Poetovio (in Slovene: Oglej–Ljubljana–Celje–Ptuj). Many powerful Roman patricians lived nearby and some were



Šempeter. (Photographer: Miran Orožim)

buried in the tombs of the Roman Necropolis in Šempeter. The Necropolis is one of the most important and beautifully preserved Roman monuments in Slovenia and Central Europe. It is

an open-air museum, exhibiting masterpiece tombs, works of the most skilled Roman craftsmen.

The discovery of the Necropolis happened quite coincidentally in 1952, when digging in an orchard revealed a statue of a sitting woman. A few years after the excavation, the beautifully preserved archaeological site of the Roman Necropolis in Šempeter was opened. It is still considered one of the most important remains from the Roman era. After the Roman Necropolis was discovered, more than 600 items were found and over 100 family tombs excavated. The most beautiful tombs are the large tombs made of Pohorje marble, ornamented with the high-relief statues of the buried families. The Spectatius family tomb is the largest and is covered with reliefs of four seasons. The Ennius family tomb is said to be the most beautiful and depicts the mythical scene of Europe's



Roman Necropolis (Photographer: Miran Orožim)



The Spectatius family tomb is the largest.

abduction. Every tomb tells its own 2000-year-old story, describing antique mythology and Roman lifestyle.

East of the Roman Necropolis have been found the remains of the Roman road Aquilea–Emona–Celeia–Poetovio. The road, 9 meters (34 ft.) wide, connected the ancient town of Aquilea (now in Italy) with Slovene towns of Ljubljana, Celje and Ptuj. Along the 300 meters (980 ft.) of the preserved road there are outlines of graves and tombs. The Roman road is a five-minute walk a from the archaeological site of Roman Necropolis.

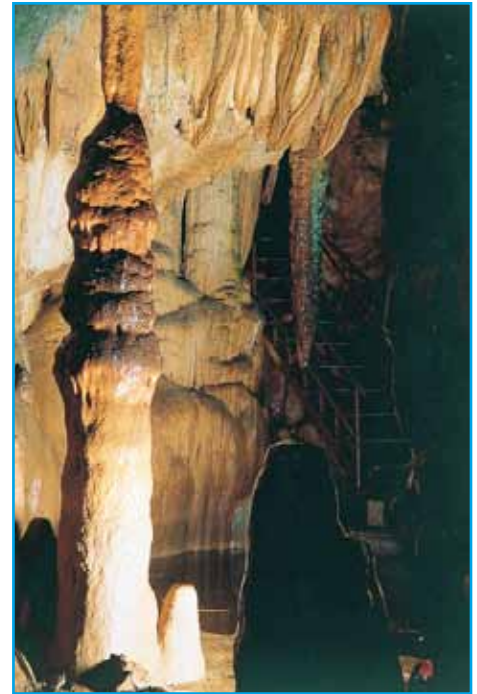
The other important historic site in Šempeter is St. Peter's church, after which the settlement was named. The church was first mentioned in a written document in 1256. It was built in Romanesque style and later enlarged with a late Gothic presbytery and bell tower. The exceptional statue of Madonna and Child, dating to 1320, is the most remarkable monument in the church. Brought there from



The highest underground waterfall in Slovenia. (Photographer: M. Orožim)

neighboring Novi Klošter, it shows Our Lady with Child Jesus holding a dove. The statue is one of the most famous and beautiful Gothic statues in Slovenia. A few years ago, it was exhibited in the Louvre in Paris.

Next to its historical importance, Šempeter is also a place where nature shows its



Pekel cave. (Photographer: Miran Orožim)

beautiful side. Located about 3 miles north of Šempeter v Savinjski dolini is the more than 3 million years old Pekel cave. The karst cave was created by the Ponikvica stream, which disappears in front of the cave and reappears in the cave itself as the Peklenščica. The 1159-meter (3800 ft.) long path through the cave is easy and well maintained. Through the lower part of the cave, the Peklenščica leads to the greatest monument in the cave, the 4-meter (13 ft.) high waterfall. It is the highest underground waterfall in Slovenia that can be seen from the immediate vicinity. The upper part of the cave is dry and full of cave structures that – with a bit of imagination – transform into most enchanting images. Such is, for example, the image of the devil above the cave entrance. Because of that and also of the fact that vapors can often be seen coming out of the cave -- the name Pekel (Hell) cave. More information about the area can be found at: <http://www.td-sempeter.si/en/>



Statue of Our Lady with Child Jesus.



Entrance into Pekel cave.

Embassy of Slovenia Invites You to the EU Open House

The Delegation of the European Union to the United States and the embassies of the 28 E.U./ Member States to the United States will open their doors to Washington public during the eighth Annual E.U. Embassies' Open House Day. This annual event is a highlight of the Washington May calendar and is celebrated during the European Month of Culture. This year, Slovenia marks the 10th anniversary of joining the European Union. Beside Slovenia, also welcomed into the E.U. on May 1, 2004 were Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and Slovakia.



Slovenian embassy is located at 2410 California Street, NW (near Massachusetts Ave; 24th Street and S Street).

Each of the 28 embassies and the Delegation of the European Union to the U.S. will be open to the public from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 10, 2014, offering a rare look inside their buildings and providing a unique opportunity for experiencing the country's cultural heritage and national traditions. Free shuttle bus service will be provided throughout the day.

If you want to learn about the best Slovenian tourist attractions, taste Slovenian culinary specialties

such as "potica" (walnut-roll cake), apple strudel, and Carniolian sausage, and try Slovenian wine from Goriška Brda, admire an exhibition by a Slovenian from Minnesota, Al Zaverl, listen to polka music performed on accordion, learn about the 2000-year-old capital of Slovenia, see how gingerbread hearts are made, admire traditional and authentic Slovenian costumes, household items, artwork and crafts, join an online class of Slovene, talk with the friendliest

staff about the history, economy, and politics of Slovenia, or if you want your kids to listen to traditional Slovenian stories and play in the special kids' corner -- than you will love the Embassy of Slovenia. We are looking forward to seeing you! If you wish to check what other free Slovenian cultural events will take place in the month of May, please see the European Month of Culture brochure at: <http://www.euintheus.org/european-month-of-culture/>



SLOVENIA in E.U. Month of Culture

The Delegation of the European Union and the 28 participating embassies of the E.U. member-countries are presenting the second annual "European Month of Culture." The month-long program highlights the diverse cultures of the European Union member states. Musical performances, art exhibits, dance, film screenings, and lectures are to take place at the National Gallery of Art, the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, the Library of Congress, the Phillips Collection, American University, E.U. members' embassies, E.U. Cultural Institutes, and other venues. The brochure with the entire program is available at: <http://www.euintheus.org/event/european-month-of-culture/>

Featured (free!) Slovenian events include:

CITY SCENE / COUNTRY SCENE: 4 SHORT FILMS

"Experimental Cinema in Eastern Europe, 1960-1990", NGA series.

May 10 at 1:00 p.m.; National Gallery of Art (East Building)

BOOK PRESENTATION: "NECROPOLIS"

The novel "Necropolis" was written by the centenarian, Holocaust survivor and Nobel Literature Prize nominee Boris Pahor. Presented by Luka Zibelnik of the Center for Slovenian Studies, Cleveland State University.

May 13 at 12:00 noon; Library of Congress

Free entrance.

SLOVENIAN LANGUAGE CLASS FOR BEGINNERS

Taught by Luka Zibelnik; assistant: Erika Zibelnik.

May 13 at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.; Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia

To register send an e-mail to nuska.zakrajsek@gov.si

"THE STUBBORN MEMORY" (TRMASTI SPOMIN)

Documentary on Boris Pahor, Holocaust survivor, Nobel Literature Prize nominee, and winner of European Citizens' Prize.

May 14 at 6:00 p.m. Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia

To register send an e-mail to nuska.zakrajsek@gov.si

SOPRANO IRENA PREDI AND PIANIST NEJC LAVRENČIČ IN CONCERT

Music by Ipavec, Skerjanc, Simoniti, Lajovic, Puccini, Massenet, Cilea, and Verdi.

May 25 at 6:00 p.m., Kennedy Center

Free entrance. More information: http://www.kennedy-center.org/explorer/artists/?entity_id=112888&source_type=B

MUSIC BY COMPOSERS FROM BULGARIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, MALTA, AND SLOVENIA

National Gallery of Art Chamber Players perform music by Stedron, Psaila, Dikov, and Kuhar.

May 28 at 12:10 p.m. , National Gallery of Art (West Building)

Free entrance.

EMBASSY ADOPTION PROGRAM'S E.U. CELEBRATION

The EAP students at Washington's Beers ES, Capitol Hill Montessori EC, Eliot-Hine MS, Garfield ES, Houston ES, and Janney ES offer performance art, alongside professional artists. In cooperation with Washington Performing Arts Society and the embassies of Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Slovenia.

May 31 at 3:00 p.m., Embassy of Austria

Slovenian-American Heritage Foundation Lecture Series: Tom and Marge Luzar

The Foundation is extremely pleased that Tom and Marge Luzar will present a discussion on their experiences hosting over fifty exchange students from Slovenia in their home. Tom and Marge Luzar in 1992/93 they hosted a French foreign exchange student for one school year through AFS, a widely known foreign exchange program. It was a fulfilling experience so, in 1994, they wanted to provide an opportunity for a Slovene student to have this experience. Tom and Marge developed a relationship with a distinguished English teacher at the Catholic Slovene High School (Škofijska Klasična Gimnazija) located in Ljubljana to help with the selection of students. The stay for each student varied from one school year for individual students to a one month summer program for a group of students. Over the past 20 years, over 50 students have stayed at their home.

When: [Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 7 p.m.](#)

Where: [Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, Ohio](#)

More information: [Anthony W. Hiti, President, Slovenian American Heritage Foundation at \(216\) 696-3460](#)

A Lecture by Dr. Luka Vidmar

The Slovene Studies Initiative at Ohio State University will be hosting Dr. Vidmar from the Research Center of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Art, the first visiting scholar of the Initiative. As part of the Initiative, Dr. Vidmar will give a public lecture on his research on forbidden books in the 18th century.

Where: [The Center for Slavic and East European Studies, 1712 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43210-1219, University Hall 143](#)

When: [Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.](#)

RSVP: csees@osu.edu by **May 5**.

Light refreshments will be served at the start of the lecture.

Jasmina Cibic: Fruits of Our Land

The film Fruits of Our Land was shot specifically for For Our Economy and Culture, Jasmina Cibic's project for the Slovenian Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennial, which explored issues around national representation and its framing. The film presents a recreation of a 1957 parliamentary debate between politicians, architects and art historians, set up to decide which artworks might be suitable (i.e., nationally representative enough) to 'decorate' the newly built People's Assembly. The exhibit is made possible with the support by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia.

When: [April 10 – May 11, 2014](#)

Gallery hours: [Wednesday – Saturday from 11:00 a.m – 6:00 p.m., Sunday from 12 noon – 6:00 p.m., and by appointment](#)

Where: [LMAKprojects, 139 Eldridge Street, New York, NY 10002](#)

More information: <http://www.moving-image.info/artistjasminacibic/>, <http://lmakprojects.com/>

3rd Avsenik Music Workshop

The 3rd annual Avsenik music workshop for Slovenians abroad will take place in Slovenia **July 2 - 4, 2014**. Airfare for people living overseas is covered. That's a pretty good deal! Be quick to sign up for limited spaces. You need to be able to sing or play one of the following instruments: accordion (keyboard, diatonic or chromatic), clarinet, trumpet, guitar, tuba, double bass, bass guitar. This workshop is not for beginners as you will be performing at the famous Avsenik restaurant with other musicians.

More information can be found at: <http://shop.avszenik.com/sl/glasbena-sola/258-glasbena-delavnica-za-glasbenike-iz-izseljenstva>