



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Ambassador Dr. Cerar at the OAS General Assembly

On June 3 to 5, Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar attended the 44th regular session of the Organization of American States (OAS), which was held in Asunción, Paraguay. Republic of Slovenia is namely a Permanent Observer to the OAS. The General Assembly of the OAS is the highest organ of the Organization and is responsible for confirming the most important decisions of the Organization.

In addition to the regular tasks, this year's session paid special attention to the topic of development with social



Ambassador Dr Božo Cerar in the middle, next to permanent observers from Egipt and Russia.

inclusion. In this regard, the General Assembly also adopted a Declaration. The document particularly touches on all aspects of development, thereby emphasizing respect for human rights, human security, sustainable development and also climate change.

Ambassador Dr. Cerar in his speech highlighted the excellent cooperation between Slovenia

and the OAS on various issues of the international community. In this context, he stressed the importance of the human rights in the Slovenian foreign policy and also in bilateral relations with OAS member countries. Slovenia believes that sustainable development, together with poverty eradication, should have central role in the post-2015 agenda.



Parliamentary Elections

The President of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, has called on June 1, 2014 by a decree for elections to Slovenian Parliament. The elections of 90 representatives, who will serve for a four-year term, will be held on **Sunday, July 13, 2014.**

The national electoral commission launched the official preparations and procedures connected to the elections on June 2. Slovenian citizens may vote in the Slovenian Parliamentary elections if on the date of the election (July 13, 2014) they are at least 18 years of age.

Citizens with permanent residence abroad will receive their ballots along with the instructions at their respective postal addresses. Voters who wish to vote on the premises of the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, DC, can check their data registered

in the national electoral register Monday to Friday between 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon by phone at (202) 386-6614.

Slovenian citizens temporarily living outside Slovenia and wishing to cast their votes for Slovenian representatives in the 2014 European Parliamentary elections must register as voters **by June 12, 2014**, on a special registration form available at <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/si/strani/obrazci-za-volivce-predcasne-volitve-v-drzavni-zbor-2014>. Thus, they will be able to vote by mail or in person.

The polling stations in the United States will be established at the following locations with operating hours **from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** on the day of the election:

-- **Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW,**



Washington, D.C. 20008

-- **Slovene Home for the Aged** (organized by the Consulate General of Slovenia in Cleveland, OH), **18621 Neff Road, Cleveland, OH 44119**

For more information in Slovenian go to:

<http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/si/arhiv-drzavni-zbor-rs/leto-2014-predcasne-volitve>

Slovenia and the U.S. Sign Tax Agreement

Slovenia and the United States signed on Monday, June 2, an intergovernmental agreement on compliance with tax regulations that will expand the exchange of tax information in a bid to combat tax evasion. The agreement, signed by Finance Minister, Uroš Čufer, and U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia, Joseph Mussomeli, falls within the purview of the U.S. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA).

Under the deal, Slovenian financial institutions will report certain information to the Tax Administration, which in turn will report to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The information exchange will be based on existing agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of income and property tax evasion. The agreement will reduce the workload of financial institutions in Slovenia and enhance compliance with tax regulations,

Minister Čufer stated in a Finance Ministry's press release; however, the agreement must still be confirmed by the National Assembly.

FATCA is a U.S. federal law that targets tax noncompliance by U.S. taxpayers with foreign accounts. It requires U.S. citizens, including individuals who live outside the United States, to report their financial accounts held outside of the country. (Source: STA)

New Composition by Nejc Kuhar Premiered at the NGA

Within the framework of the European Month of Culture, the National Gallery of Art Chamber Players performed on Wednesday, May 28, music by composers from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Malta, and Slovenia. The 3002nd concert, in the seventy-second season of the NGA concert series, took place in the West Garden Court at noon and attracted around 150 listeners. Presented in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to the United States and the embassies of the listed countries, the NGA ensemble: Teri Lazar and Claudia Chudacoff on violins, Osman Kivrak on viola, Marion Baker and Diana Fish on violoncellos, Barbara Fitzgerald on contrabass, Danielle SeSwert Hahn on piano, Sara Nichols on flute and Gerry Kunkle on the guitar, and with soprano Rosa Lamoreaux, performed music by Maltese composers Steven Joseph Psalia and Jes Grixti,



The photo is from November concert at the NGA, when Nejc Kuhar (on the left) performed together with another great Slovenian guitarist Mak Grgič.

Bulgarian composer Ventsislav Dikov and Czech composer Miloš Štědroň. Quintet no. 2 written in 2014 by the young Slovenian composer Nejc Kuhar was world-premiered on the occasion. Nejc Kuhar, who is also a distinguished guitarist, already performed at the gallery in

November. He finished his degree in composition at the Konservatorium Wien (Vienna), with honors, and his compositions have been published by renowned publishing houses, such as Berben (Italy) and Les Productions d'Oz (Canada). His composition Six Miniature has won him 1st prizes at two international competitions, and, in 2009, his ensemble piece was awarded 3rd prize at the prestigious Gustav Mahler Competition in Austria. In 2013, he was awarded 1st prize in the composition competition Acerra Guitar Meeting (Italy). His piece Concerto for Timpani and Percussion Ensemble was awarded 3rd Prize in Moscow (among almost 200 compositions) and 2nd Prize on Fidelio Competition in Vienna. More about him can be found at www.nejckuhar.com.



The concert was presented within the framework of EU Month of Culture and on the occasion of Slovenia's 10th anniversary since joining the EU in 2004.

Embassy Adoption Program's E.U. Celebration

As part of the European Month of Culture, a special public performance by 100 Embassy Adoption Program (EAP) students, whose schools are matched with European Union Member States embassies took place on May 31 afternoon at the Austrian embassy. The event was a collaborative initiative of the Delegation of the European Union in the U.S., the Washington Performing Arts Society, and DC Public Schools, with the support of the Austrian Embassy and other participating embassies: of France, of Germany, of the Netherlands and of Slovenia. Two professional teaching artist ensembles—an opera singer and a Spanish Dance Ensemble—also presented on the occasion the diversity of European cultures.

The featured Schools were Capitol Hill Montessori EC, which had been matched with France, the Beers Elementary School, matched with Germany, Garfield Elementary School, which



Janney ES students presented Slovenian anthem, a folk song and a traditional tale.

presented "The Flying Dutchman," and Janney Elementary School, which introduced to the audience the tableaux of "The Golden Bird" - a folktale from Slovenia, the Slovenian anthem and the folkdance Ob bistrem potoku je mlín.

The EAP program provided for an entire school year to fifth

and sixth grade students in the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) an opportunity to increase their knowledge about a certain country in the way that culture, government, arts, and geography of other nations were presented by diplomats of respective embassies.

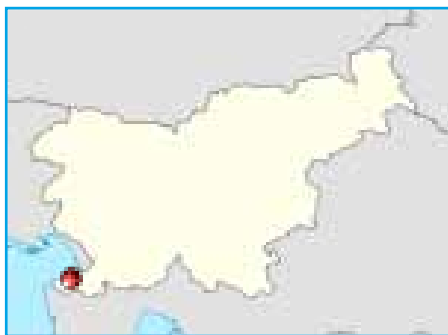


Audience at the embassy of Austria.



Address by Sylvia Kofler, Head of Press and Public Diplomacy at the Delegation of the European Union to the U.S.

Boršt



Close to port of Koper, Boršt is a clustered village on the highest slope of Bošteranski hrib (Boršt hill) along the Marezige-Labor road, with the nearby hamlets of Bartali, Gorenjci, Jurinčiči/Hrpeljci, Kortina, and Zankoliči. Known as Elpidium in Roman times, the village is said to be the birthplace of the first Koper bishop and of protector St. Nazarius or Lazarus (around 524). In Škarljevec, not far from Boršt, the locals built the Church of St. Nazarius in his memory, holding annual liturgical events on June 19, his feast day.

In the past, the local population was involved in



Boršt village lies in Koper municipality. (Photo: www.koper.si)

agriculture, sheep husbandry, beekeeping and charcoal-burning, while in the woods »Bržanov bošk«, they cut firewood for sale. During the Second World War, the Germans burnt down part of the village in the October offensive of 1943. South of the village, in the Dragonja Valley, is the -- since

1961 abandoned -- hamlet of Zankoliči, where a mill used to operate.

The succursal church of St. Rocco and St. Sebastian from the 13th century was rebuilt in the beginning of the 16th century. In his *Corografia Ecclesiastica* from 1700, the Bishop of Koper, Paolo Naldini, says that the patron of the church in Boršt is St. Rocco, protector from the plague. The church was ceremonially consecrated on August 24, 1534, by bishop Defendo de Valvassori. The altar is of late Baroque style and the altarpiece was made in Idrija in 1846, depicting Mary on a throne with St. Rocco and St. Sebastian. Two older pieces are the images of St. John the Baptist and St. Catherine on the altar wings painted in tempera on wood and carved along the image contours. The church was refurbished in 1996 and traces of mediaeval frescoes and Glagolitic inscriptions were found. The church has a semicircular apse and an open bell tower.



Church of St. Rocco and St. Sebastian (sv. Rok and sv. Boštjan) from the 13th century.

Slovenia Presented at the Murch Elementary's International Night

Michael Gala, who was born in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and his two daughters, Sienna (6) and Sabrina (3-1/2), were excited to share their knowledge about Slovenia on May 22 at the Murch Elementary School's annual International Night event. At the school, which has a very diverse population, about 30 countries we (as well as the State of Texas) were represented with displays.

Many visitors were interested in the Slovenian

table, and the children especially enjoyed coloring Slovenian images. Many people remarked on the beauty of the landscape of the country, which they could admire in the picture panel as well as on the photos in the brochures provided by the embassy. Older students even had passports and went from table to table to get their passports stamped, traveling around the world in only one evening.



TO DO LIST

THE SLOVENIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION LECTURE SERIES

In the third talk of the series in 2014, Dr. Vladimir Rus will present a discussion of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the principal missionaries to the Slavic people. The two scholarly Greek brothers traveled in 863 AD all the way from Constantinople to the area of today's Moravia and Slovakia to bring Christianity to the Slavic people there in their own Slavic tongue. The request to the Byzantine emperor was made by the Slavic Prince of Moravia because the Germanic missionaries from the "Holy Roman Empire" spoke only German. In preparation for their mission, Cyril and Methodius invented a special alphabet and translated into Slavic parts of the Bible and liturgical texts. This alphabet is called Glagolitic and is still used today in some parts of Croatia. The brothers' disciples later developed the Cyrillic alphabet used by the Eastern Orthodox Slavic nations. Dr. Rus holds a Doctorate Degree in Political Science from the University of Trieste, a Master's Degree in Slavic Languages from the University of Michigan and a Master's Degree in Political Science from Case Western Reserve University.

When: [Tuesday, June 17, at 7:00 PM](#)

Where: [Lower Hall of the Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue in Euclid, OH.](#)
Free and open to the public. A coffee and strudel social will follow the lecture.

ST. VITUS SLOVENIAN SCHOOL SUMMER PICNIC

Come enjoy the pool in the afternoon and then join everybody for a delicious steak or chicken dinner. Kids can watch a movie after dinner while parents and other guests can relax and listen to the music of Figa5.

When: [Saturday, June 14](#)

Where: [Slovenska Pristava, 1024 Brandt Road, Harpersfield, OH 44041](#)

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

DOBRODOŠLI DOMA – WELCOME HOME 2014

For the fourth successive year, the Government's Office for Slovenians Abroad, together with the Minister for Slovenians abroad, Mr. Gorazd Zmavc, will sponsor the annual meeting of all Slovenes under the slogan "Welcome home." The meeting will feature various cultural events and workshops.

When: Saturday, July 5, 2014

Where: Skofja Loka, Slovenia (The town is located cca. 20 miles from the capital Ljubljana and is easily accessible by public transport.)

More information and the program can be found at: <http://www.dobrodoslidoma.si/>

E-mail your questions to: pr.urad.slovinci@gov.si

N'TOKO AT THE NEW MUSIC SEMINAR IN NEW YORK

N'toko is an experimental hiphop artist from Slovenia. He became well known for his passionate performances and technical skills, winning 3 national freestyle championships. He has spent the last 10 years on the road, and released 2 albums in Japan. In Slovenia, his socially conscious lyrics have made him a spokesperson for a generation. N'toko will be featured at the New Music Seminar is New York City's annual music, music business, and music technology conference for international collaboration and high-level discussions [on June 8-10, 2014](#).

For the program and tickets see: <http://www.dromnyc.com/events/3280/new-music-seminar-nights#.U3zL5IF5P1v>

For more information on N'toko see: <https://www.facebook.com/freentoko>
<http://www.ntoko.si/>; <https://soundcloud.com/ntoko>

SALUTE SNPJ FARM'S 75TH WITH JOEY MISKULIN AND JEFF PECON

Summer Sunday dances at SNPJ Farm have been an area tradition since 1939. Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of SNPJ Farm at a special dinner and dance, Sunday, July 6, with the Jeff Pecon Orchestra and Nashville's Joey Miskulin of Riders in the Sky. The event also pays tribute to the late record producer Steve Popovich, who was a life-long fan of Cleveland-Style Polka music. Where: SNPJ Farm is located on Heath Road in Kirtland, Ohio, off Chardon Road (Route 6), about three miles east of Route 306 and six miles west of Route 44

When: [Sunday, July 6 starting at 2 p.m.](#)

Where: [SNPJ Farm is located on Heath Road, off Chardon Road \(Route 6\) in Kirtland, Ohio](#), three miles east of State Route 306.

For the full program see: <http://clevelandslovenian.com/CLESLO/index.php/events/60-newsflash-catgory/118-upcoming-events?format=pdf>

For more information contact: Joe Valencic, President of Cleveland Federation of SNPJ Lodges at jvalencic@yahoo.com

SLOVENIA VODKA DECLARES INDEPENDENCE FOR FATHER'S DAY

Chef Peter X. Kelly, the creator and "father" of Slovenia Vodka, is to be awarded another honor, this time not culinary. Chef Kelly is to be awarded Father-of-the-Year honors by the American Diabetes association – Westchester Chapter, at a dinner to be held [June 12, 2014, at the prestigious Trump National Golf Club](#). To recognize this wonderful honor, SLOVENIA Vodka has created an ad featuring Chef Kelly announcing this award and suggesting that each of us may know a "dad-of-the-year" deserving of a bottle of Slovenia Vodka for Father's Day.

[Also in June, on the 25th](#), is taking place another celebration: the anniversary of the declaration of independence of Slovenia. To celebrate this event, SLOVENIA Vodka has created a special Independence Day ad commemorating June 25, 1991, featuring a group celebrating the independence on a mountaintop with the Slovenian flag.

Father's Day and Independence Day, both perfect days to toast independence, the ones we love, and to toast Na zdravje!

For more information contact Mr. Emil Gaspari: emil@sloveniavodka.com

SLOVENESKI WEEK IN FRANCE, MARCH 2015

When: [Friday, March 13 to Saturday, March 21, 2015](#)

Where: In the largest ski mountain range in the world. [Courcheval, Meribel, Meribel Mottaret, Val Thorens, Orelle, St. Martin de Belleville, Brides les Bains, La Tania](#).

Cost is \$2,790.00 per person double occupancy (check for special room arrangements) plus ski pass; discounts for families, juniors, and seniors, and free skiing for seniors over 75 yrs. Maximum spots on this trip is 36, minimum is 26. Space held only till June 2. Land only \$1,940*, air \$850*

For more information contact: John F Kamin 61-32 75th Place, Middle Village, NY 11379 Tel: (718)424-2711; e-mail: Jfkamin@verizon.net

[Due is May 29, 2014.](#)

Special note: Meribel is hosting World Cup Finals for men and women in all ski categories starting on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. Other than the Winter Olympics, this is the biggest and best ski competition in the world.

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.avsenik.com/sl/glasbena-sola/258-glasbena-delavnica-za-glasbenike-iz-izseljenstva>