



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Women's Diplomatic Series Event at the Embassy

On Tuesday, April 1, the embassy enjoyed hosting the Women's Diplomatic Series for breakfast and a dialogue with Ambassador Dr. Cerar. The Series was started in 2009 in the hope of starting a stronger and more open relationship between women and the unique diplomatic community present here in Washington.

The nearly 200 members have visited innumerable embassies since the 2009 founding, including those of Turkey, Slovakia, Sweden, Japan,



Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar addressed WDS members on April 1.

and many more. The event last week was the first opportunity for the members to take part in the event at the Embassy of Slovenia.

Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar addressed the around 70 attending women in hope of sharing more about Slovenia, the role of women's issues in current policy, economic and political challenges, and his personal experiences in diplomacy.

Slovenia is currently among the forefront of nations tackling

issues of gender equality; as the ambassador said: "Women make up half of our world's population, and therefore should have the same rights and opportunities as men". The ambassador outlined that, just this past month, Slovenia hosted the third Seminar on Mediation in the Mediterranean, which included a panel devoted to the engagement of women in the peace process. Similarly, the Bled Strategic Forum, held last



September, focused specifically on sexual violence against women, and the prevalence of this violence in conflict and post-conflict political conditions. The Series' members were astounded and impressed to hear the high level of care taken in Slovenia concerning women's issues of maternity leave, fair wages, and combatting domestic violence.

Impressed not only with Slovenia's strong stance on women's issues, the group found particular inspiration and eloquence in the ambassador's account of his career in diplomacy.

The embassy heartily thanks the Women's Diplomatic Series for a wonderful morning and lively discussion!



Introductory remarks by Colleen Mudlaff, President of WDS Series.

ANNIVERSARY

10th Anniversary of Slovenia's Accession to NATO

In 2014, Slovenia marks the tenth anniversary as a full member of NATO. On March 29, 2004, then-PM Anton Rop and Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel deposited the North Atlantic Treaty ratification documents with the then-U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell at the White House alongside six heads of government from Central and Eastern Europe -- Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Slovakia. Slovenia's NATO membership was endorsed in a referendum in March 2003.

Since the beginning of its membership, Slovenia has participated actively in debates and drafting policies within the Alliance. In the past decade, Slovenia has contributed a great deal to the credibility of the Alliance and to collective and national security by participating in NATO-led operations and exercises, by contributing its proportional



Ceremony in Brussels 10 years ago.

share to NATO budget and structures, by building capacities in compliance with NATO's capacity objectives and by participating in multinational programs of joint capacity development.

Slovenia's role in NATO-led KFOR mission in Kosovo deserves

special mention. Moreover, Slovenia has also proved to be a responsible ally by participating in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, where it will also after 2014 continue to participate in an adequate form in efforts by NATO and the wider international community.

The underlying values of the Alliance remain unchanged – democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law. Slovenia is committed to continue with active and comprehensive participation in NATO's key missions and in efforts to guarantee international peace

and security, as well as to focus on building capacities to defend NATO members from modern threats.

In September this year, NATO will hold a summit meeting which will be crucial to its future, the strengthening of transatlantic relations and its continued

presence in Afghanistan. Slovenia also expects clear and concrete decisions on enlargement, and regards Montenegro as the most ready of all candidates. At the same time, we hope that other aspirants will continue with reform processes and meet the membership criteria.

CULTURE

Slovenian Film at Panorama Europe Film Festival in NYC

The Museum of the Moving Image and EUNIC New York (a cluster of European Union National Institutes for Culture, and cultural departments of E.U. embassies and consulates) presented in New York City the first annual edition of Panorama Europe Film Festival. Running from Friday, April 4, to Sunday, April 13, the festival, formerly known as the Disappearing Act, showcased 17 contemporary European feature films and a program of shorts, with four of the directors involved attending in person.

The recently renamed festival has continued the mission of showcasing vital European filmmaking as distribution of foreign language films in the United States remains challenging. This year's festival took place at the Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria and at the Bohemian National Hall in Manhattan. It was programmed by David Schwartz, Chief Curator at the Museum of the Moving Image. The Slovenian film premiered at the festival on Sunday, April 6 evening, was *Seduce Me* (*Zapelji me*) by the young Slovenian director Marko Santić. The film was presented by the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovenian Film Centre.



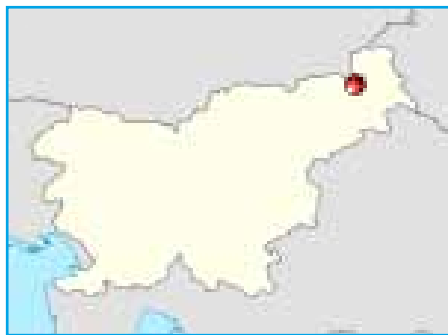
Scene from the film *Seduce Me*.

First Time Fest, a film festival that celebrates and supports first time filmmakers, wrapped up its second edition in New York on April 7 with a closing-night awards ceremony held at the 42 West nightclub. Rok Biček's *Class Enemy*, from Slovenia, screened on April 6, gained high recognition by the festival jury. The film deals with a group of students who stage a revolt against their new German professor, a strict and demanding man they hold responsible for their classmate's suicide. With expertly calibrated tension and impressively acted by nonprofessionals, *Class Enemy* is a much more nuanced and complex film than its premise would suggest. Prior to the

screening in New York, the film was also presented on April 5 at the International Film Festival in Minneapolis, MN.

Furthermore, on April 21, Slovenian film *Karpotrotter* (Karpopotnik), directed and written by Matjaž Ivanišin and co-written by Nebojša Pop-Tasić, will be screened at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival in New York City. *Karpotrotter* is a road movie about place, time, and memory, as well as an homage to filmmaker Karpo Godina, whose work flourished during the Black Wave of Yugoslavian filmmaking in the 1960s. For more information about this screening see: <http://tribecafilm.com/stories/tribeca-film-festival-viewpoints-2014>

Gornja Radgona



The town of Gornja Radgona lies in the northeastern part of Slovenia. The settlement is named after Radigoj, Slovenian nobleman who built a castle in the area in the Middle Ages. The town was founded on the slopes of the castle hill, hence the name Gornja («Upper»). However, stone axes and traces of Neolithic settlement prove that the area of Gornja Radgona was settled in the prehistoric times, and a smaller Roman settlement is believed to have been standing in the area next to the river Mura.



Špital.



Gornja Radgona and the Mura river.

Gornja Radgona was once a defensive stronghold for today's Slovenia's regional center and its twin city, Bad Radkersburg, on the other side of the Mura River in Austria. The towns were split in 1919, when the province of Styria was divided between Austria and Slovenia. After that, they developed separately and Gornja Radgona grew into a new town center.

Nowadays, the municipality of Gornja Radgona features numerous natural, historical and cultural sites. One of the most interesting is the venerable building of "Old Špital" in the town center. It dates back to the Middle Ages, when the Church feudal lords and cloisters founded refuges for foreigners (hospites), for the poor, the sick, the old and the invalids. »Stari špital« (The Old Hospital), this unique building in Slovenia, boasts a wonderful representative column hall and an exceptional roofing construction. This year, the

local museum will be opened in Špital. Another historic site is the parish church of St. Peter, first mentioned in 1466. However, the beginnings of Radgona's original parish date back to the 9th century. During Slovenia's war of independence in 1991 the church's bell tower was heavily damaged by gunfire. The church was completely renovated in 1993 when a new organ was installed and the organ loft was enlarged. On a small square below the church hill is a tablet bearing the inscription "Nikoli več" (Never Again) in three languages, reminding people not to ever let war happen again. It is surrounded by work of the sculptor Mirko Bratuša from the village of Negova. It consists of nine chromium plated pipes with capitals representing nine Slovenian trees.

In the vicinity of Gornja Radgona stands the Negova castle. First mentioned in 1425 as Vest Egaw, the castle has its share of tales to tell. On the walls of the castle, there is

still the so-called Turkish mask. According to a legend, it marks the place where the first Turkish invader that climbed the walls of the castle was buried alive. Inside the fortress, there is an 80 meters (260 ft.) deep well, which was supposedly dug by two prisoners sentenced to death, who escaped to freedom that way. Nowadays, the Negova castle is a venue for weddings, various exhibitions and cultural events such as Salon Traminec. This traditional festival, held in August, celebrates the exquisite Traminer wines in combination with culinary art and excellent cultural performances.



Negova castle.

The economic and social life of Gornja Radgona has been heavily influenced by viticulture. Through the centuries, the town became famous worldwide for excellent still and sparkling wines, produced according to the traditional champagne method. The castle hill in Gornja Radgona contains two caves, which embody beautiful natural heritage. One is famous for

its stalactites, the other for a waterfall coming from the rock. In the past, they were used as ice storage. Nowadays, with their amazing atmosphere, they are unique wine cellars.

Gornja Radgona is also known as a Fair Town. Each year, there are usually five international fairs: agriculture and food industry, packaging technologies, outdoor activities,

army equipment, and building. Two other significant fairs are connected with local patron saints: Petrov sejem (St. Peter's Fair) on June 29, and Leopoldov sejem (Leopold's Fair) on November 15, which runs simultaneously in Gornja Radgona and across the border in Austrian Bad Radkersburg. For more information visit: <http://kultprotur.si>



The surroundings of Gornja Radgona are rich on mineral water springs.



Cellar under a waterfall.

E.U. Open House -- Volunteers Needed

On **May 10, 2014**, diplomatic representations of Member States of the E.U. and the E.U. Delegation to the United States in Washington will celebrate Europe Day by organizing the eight annual E.U. Open House day.

The embassies of all 28 member countries and the E.U. Delegation will open their doors **from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** showcasing their art, culture, and food, and introducing the European Union to the public. Last year, over 3400 people



visited the Slovenian embassy, and this year even more visitors are expected.

Since the event has gained extreme popularity and success, we are looking for volunteers to help us welcome the guests and to direct visitors to the embassy at the nearby bus stop.

To register and for more information, please contact nuska.zakrajsek@gov.si. Please sign up by April 25, 2014.

Orientation and training session for first time volunteers will be held at the Embassy of Slovenia on Thursday, May 8 at 5:30 p.m.

EVENTS LIST

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/>

Easter Blessing of Food in Washington, DC

The traditional Slovenian Easter blessing of food will take place on Holy Saturday, [April 19, 2014](#), at 3:00 p.m. in the Slovenian Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje, located on the lower level of the [Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception](#), 4th Street and Michigan Avenue, Northeast, in Washington. The event is sponsored jointly by the Bishop Baraga Society -- Lodge No. 257 of the KSKJ (Kranjsko Slovenska Katoliška Jednota - American Slovenian Catholic Union) and the local lodge of the Slovenian Union of America (formerly the Slovenian Women's Union of America). The blessing is open to members, friends and the public.

Emil Memon Concert in Spectrum in NYC

Yogi Sartorialist (Matt Luczak), Luciernaga, John Boyle, Emil Memon/Blue Movie will perform in New York City. See Emil's music video at: <http://youtu.be/XaJ87jbxrAg>

When: [Wednesday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m.-11 p.m.](#)

Where: [121 Ludlow St., Lower East side, NYC](#)

More information: <http://avantmusicnews.com/2014/03/31/the-spectrum-in-april/>

Like Bethlehem on Facebook

On March 22, 2014, St. Joseph's Church in Bethlehem, PA, celebrated a mass in honor of its patron, St. Joseph, and its 100th anniversary. The church was founded in 1914 by the Slovenes who immigrated to America mostly from the Prekmurje region of present day Slovenia. To receive latest news, updates and photos, please click "Like" on the official facebook profile of the church at: www.facebook.com/StJosephChurchBethlehemPA

The partnership between Bethlehem and Prekmurje resulted in establishing a sister-city relationship between Bethlehem and the town of Murska Sobota in Slovenia. You can follow the activities of Bethlehem Murska Sobota Sister City Association at: BMSSCA - www.facebook.com/BethlehemMurskaSobotaSisterCityAssociation

Živio, Zarja! Slovenia tour

The two week tour is organized on the occasion of the 85 anniversary of Zarja – The Dawn. Slovenian magazine Zarja is one of the oldest ethnic magazines in the United States. On the occasion of the milestone, you are invited to join a spectacular trip to Slovenia titled Živio, Zarja! The tour will take you back in time as you will board a steam train along the picturesque Bohinj railway, or descend on a 120-year-old elevator to the Velenje coal mine. You will visit the beautiful cities of Slovenia, such as Bled, Portorož, Piran, Izola, Ljubljana, and Kamnik. You will explore the little villages, partake in the various culinary chores and feast on fresh fish from the Adriatic Sea while onboard a private cruise boat with stops at medieval coastal towns.

When: [September 17-28, 2014](#)

More information: KOLLANDERWORLD TRAVEL, 761 East 200th Street / Euclid, Ohio 44119 (800) 800-5981 / (216) 692-1000, Ext #3 for Judy, www.kollander.com

For more details you can also call Ms. Bonnie Pohar Prokup, National President, Slovenian Union of America at (815) 223-9596 or email wprokup@aol.com.