



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

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## Janney ES Students Visit Embassy of Slovenia



Learning about Slovenian art.



In the embassy's library.

**As a part of the Embassy Adoption Program, Janney Elementary School students visited the Slovenian Embassy on Wednesday, February 12.**

Both the Slovenian Embassy and the school are participating in the program, an academic program (offered in partnership with the DC Public Schools and the Washington Performing Arts Society), the mission of which is to work with 5th- and 6th-grade students, to



impart global education in the classroom. One of the program's highlights are field trips, so the students can experience firsthand their adopted culture.

On Wednesday, the students visited for the first time the Slovenian Embassy, where all of them introduced themselves in the Slovene language! Welcoming remarks were delivered by the Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms. Ondina Blokar Drobič, who also answered questions asked by the students. Economic Counselor Mr. Gorazd Renčelj described to the visitors the functions of the economic department at the embassy, and Ms. Tjaša Deleja Balja, from the consular office, explained to them how to apply for a visa, if they would one day decide to live or study in Slovenia.

The students also had a chance to taste Slovenian traditional walnut roll-cake "potica" and the famous Carniolian sausage (kranjska klobasa). The 5th graders



When you visit Slovenian territory, you get a stamp.

also learned about Slovenian traditional clothing and folk music. They also enjoyed a photo exhibit of two capital cities, Ljubljana and Washington, by two Slovenian and two American photographers: Stane Jeršič, Barbara Jakše Jeršič, Jake McGuire, and Anna Katalina, admired artworks by

Bogdan Grom, Bogdan Batič Gary Bukovnik and Jože Plečnik, permanently exhibited at the embassy, and, on the occasion of the Slovenian Cultural Day, together with diplomats sang the Slovenian national anthem, which they had learned in previous sessions at their school on January 27 and February 4.



Dancing to Avseniks' music "Na Golici"



Potica and Carniolian sausage.

# United States Donates Electric Generators to Slovenia

Responding to Slovenia's request for assistance, the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana and the U.S. military delivered electrical generators to areas of Slovenia hit hard by last week's ice storm. The United States also helped Slovenia with financial support to Red Cross of Slovenia

The extreme weather conditions have affected the entire territory of Slovenia, and left over 100,000 homes without power supply. The electric generators that the United States contributed to Slovenia through military channels significantly helped the affected people in Postojna region and beyond.

The generators were donated as part of support of humanitarian relief efforts. The action took place in close coordination with Slovenian authorities, the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana, and the American military after determining the country's immediate needs. The generators were turned



Handing over 10 electrical generators to Slovenian authorities.

over to Slovenian authorities by the Charge d'Affaires, David Burger, and were immediately delivered to locations where they were needed. The U.S. military also provided technical support required to help set up the generators.

At the transfer ceremony, all parties stressed the very

good partnership between Slovenia and the United States, and especially the excellent military cooperation between the two countries. The U.S. is a valued ally of the Republic of Slovenia, and this immediate act of kindness and friendship demonstrates the close bond between the two countries, forged through cooperation and partnership.

The donated equipment will boost Slovenia's disaster preparedness capacity. The generators were transported from Livorno, Italy, to Postojna by the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne). The 173rd Airborne (nicknamed "Sky Soldiers") is a brigade combat team of the United States Army, based in Vicenza, Italy. For more information see the website: <http://www.army.mil/article/120175/>



173rd BCT's paratroopers assist Slovenian partners during ice storm. (Photo credit: Sgt. A.M. LaVey ; <http://www.army.mil/article/120175/>)

## Japanism in Contemporary Art

In the Nippon Gallery in New York, curators Emil Memon from Slovenia and Kyoko Sato Ono from Japan, on February 6 opening night, introduced to guests the exhibition Japanism in Contemporary Art. The exhibition presents artwork inspired by Japanese culture. Also on display are sculptures, drawings and paintings by Slovenian artists Tobias Putrih, Emil Memon, and IRWIN.

Japanese artwork and culture has always had a great influence on western artists and has been absorbed by their contemporary art practice in conscious and unconscious ways. It is so integrated into western cultural DNA that its references are used by artists who don't necessarily realize it, the Nippon Gallery stated in the press release. Through this exhibition, the curators want



Artist and curator Emil Memon in front of his work.

to encourage cultural exchange among Japan, the U.S., Europe and Asia, and provide a platform for discussion of both traditional and modern Japanese culture.

Exhibition pieces consist of works by contemporary

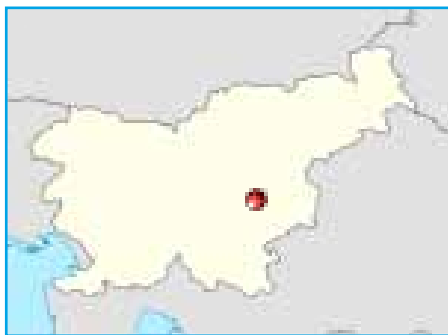
artists, among which are world-renowned artists with works in the Guggenheim Museum's or MoMA's collection, or who have been invited to the Venice Biennale. Also included are works created by a new generation of young artists. Participating artists are from a variety of countries. Next to Slovenian artworks, those by artists from France, Germany, Japan, Panama, Poland, South Korea, the U.K and the U.S. also are on display.

The exhibition is supported and presented by the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, in cooperation with the Consulate General of Japan in New York, and The Japan Foundation, New York. The exhibition is will remain on display until March 6. The closing event will be open to the public. More information is available at: <http://www.nipponclub.org/>



Tobias Putrih's exhibit artwork.

# Sevnica



Sevnica is one of the three major settlements in the Lower Sava Valley in the Posavje region of Slovenia. The town lies on the left bank of the Sava River where the river frees itself from its canyon and flows onwards in wider and slower bends through the fertile valley between the Posavje hills on the left and the Dolenjska hills on the right. The settlement was first mentioned in written records in 1275 in German as Liechtenwalde, meaning a »bright forest«, however, the archeological site at Ajdovski Gradec above Vranje attests to an early Christian settlement in the area in the 5th or 6th century.

For centuries, the town



Sevnica. (Photo courtesy: <http://www.grad-sevnica.com/>)

of Sevnica has been situated on the border between two historical regions of the Habsburg Empire: Carniola, and Styria. In 1322, it acquired the status of a market town, with extended market rights in 1513. Between the 14th and 17th centuries, it suffered greatly from frequent Ottoman raids and never fully recovered its previous wealth. In the 16th century, it was an important center of Protestant

reformation in the Slovene lands. Lutheran minister Jurij Dalmatin, who translated the complete Bible into Slovene, preached in the town.

Between 1809 and 1813, Sevnica was a border town between the French-administered Illyrian Provinces and the Austrian Empire. In the mid-19th century, it became an important center of the Slovene national revival. In 1862, it received a railway connection, which boosted the local economy. During World War II, when the area was annexed to the Third Reich, the majority of its Slovene inhabitants were expelled and replaced by ethnic Germans resettled from the Gottschee area. Many locals died in Nazi concentration camps. After the war, the town started developing as an industrial center. The company Lisca, one of the largest lingerie companies in Europe, is based in Sevnica. Another important company is the furniture manufacturing company Stilles.

Many old churches and forts in the area tell of the vibrant



Sevnica Castle and the Sava river.

life in the past. The parish church in the town, dedicated to Saint Nicholas, was built in 1862 on the site of a 15th-century building. However, two of the city's biggest attractions are the Sevnica castle, situated on the hill above the old town center, and the Lutheran cellar on its slope.

The architecture of the Sevnica castle bears silent witness to the many periods it went through from the Renaissance to the Baroque. Today, it houses the School and Firefighting Museum, the Museum of Exiles, and an exhibition of decorative arts. In the castle, there is also a reception room in the Baroque style with a conference room, a wedding hall and a gallery. On the 2nd floor of the southeast tower, the visitors can feast their eyes on the beautifully renovated late-baroque frescoes and on the 1st floor of the southwest tower there is a recently renovated chapel in renaissance-baroque style. In the summertime, the castle hosts the traditional festival Sevniško grajsko poletje, which is a series of cultural and entertainment events.



The "Lutheran cellar", where the Slovene Protestant author Jurij Dalmatin preached in the 16th century.

Sevnica and its surroundings offer plenty of opportunities for sports activities, ethnological sightseeing, or gourmet treats. The northern part of the Sevnica municipality ascends to a range of hills, among which we find Veliko Kozje (993m; 3250 ft.), Lovrenc (721m; 2360 ft.), Lisca (948m; 3100 ft.), and Bohorje (1022m; 3345 ft.). These peaks of the Posavje hills are crisscrossed by well-kept tracks and paths for hikers

and mountaineers, while sideways and bike-routes are the preferred choice of cyclists. Mountain cyclists especially like to visit Lisca, which is the best known mountain peak and thus a great take-off spot for paragliders and hang gliders. The rivers Sava and Mirna offer an environment for a relaxed or more active getaway with recreational and sport fishing, fly-fishing, and catfish game fishing.



16th century frescoes.



Castle atrium.

## Slovenia at the Winter Olympics

»Slovenia is a per-capita powerhouse at Winter Olympics,« wrote David Larimer for the Washington Post in its February 13 edition. Slovenia earned four medals in the first week of the event in Sochi, Russia. That's one medal for every 514,385 citizens, and the second-best per capita performance of any country in Sochi behind Norway.

Slovenia's rising ski-jumping star Peter Prevc won the first Olympic medal in his career on Sunday, February 9, grabbing silver in men's individual normal hill. He was second only to Kamil Stoch of Poland, while Anders Bardal of Norway won bronze.

Slovenian cross-country skier Vesna Fabjan ran to gain the bronze medal in women's cross-country event on February 11, earning Slovenia's second medal at the Sochi Games and 13th at winter games to date. Fabjan was in the medal hunt throughout the final, trailing only Norwegian star Maiken Caspersen Falla into the final straight, but was overtaken at



Tina Maze, Vesna Fabjan, Teja Gregorin and Peter Prevc with their medals.

the line by Falla's compatriot Ingvild Flugstad Oesteborg in a wild finish.

Slovenia claimed its second bronze medal of the day as Teja Gregorin kept her nerve on the shooting range and exploded in the final running leg to claim third place in women's 10km biathlon event on Tuesday. Gregorin won Slovenia's first-ever Olympic biathlon medal in the final 2.5 kilometers of the race,

after holding 10th place before the fourth and final (shooting) stage.

Slovenian skier Tina Maze won gold in Wednesday's Olympic downhill, in a historic tie with Dominique Gisin of Switzerland. Bronze went to another Swiss skier, Lara Gut. This is the first ever Winter Olympic gold for Slovenia. The success for Maze, who won two silvers at the Vancouver Olympics four years ago, comes after a fourth place in Monday's super-combined event. President Borut Pahor hailed the champion as an inspiration to the nation. The President decorated Maze with the Golden Order of Services last year for her contribution to promoting Slovenia globally.

The Slovenian national men's ice hockey team opened its first ever ice hockey Olympic tournament in history on Wednesday. Headlined by LA Kings star Anže Kopitar, Slovenia already had faced the hosts, and will play Slovakia on Saturday, February 15, and the U.S. on the following day in Group A of the 12-nation tournament.



Slovenian olympic team at the grand opening in Sochi.

(Photo courtesy: <https://www.facebook.com/SloveniaOlympicTeam>)

# News from Another Washington

On February 7-8, the Seattle area organization of Slovenes, Slovene Americans and friends, together with students of Slovene at the University of Washington, hosted a Slovenia booth at UW's CulturalFest, an annual event, which presents world cultures in an engaging way to over a thousand Seattle area middle schoolers who are bused in to the University on those days.

At the Slovenia booth, middle schoolers could try their hand at lace-making Idrija-style, learn to say common Slovene phrases, create Slovene-themed Valentine cards, explore a giant map of Slovenia and its attractions, try on an authentic Slovene lady's wedding headdress, have their picture taken with one of the Ljubljana dragons, and help themselves to one of a variety of small souvenirs of Slovenia (flag pins, lanyards, caps, and more).



Slovenian booth at the UW Cultural Fest. (Photos by Piotr Horoszowski)

On Sunday, February 9, Slovenska miza (Slovenian Table Society) members and friends gathered for the group's 5th annual Prešeren Day celebration, which was held this year at the Simpson Center for the Humanities on the University of Washington campus, for a

program that included readings from Slovene literature and folklore, a viewing of a short Slovene documentary film, and – of course – lots of delicious homemade Slovene food. (Text by Michael Biggins. More information on Slovenska miza at: [slovenska.miza@gmail.com](mailto:slovenska.miza@gmail.com) )



Slovenia on a map.



Lace making.



**100 years of Slovenian Church of St. Joseph in Bethlehem, PA**

The Slovenian community in Bethlehem, PA, will gather on Saturday, March 22 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Bethlehem, founded by Slovenians. You, your family and friends are cordially invited to join the celebration, followed by a luncheon.

When: [Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 11 a.m.](#)

Where: [Saint Joseph's R.C. Church, 417 East Fifth Street, Bethlehem, PA](#)

Dinner: 1 p.m. at Lehigh University, Mountaintop Campus, Iacocca Hall, Wood dining room. Reservations are required. The cost is \$30 per person. Seating is limited.

A souvenir booklet is available for \$10 as well as a deluxe version in color with an extended history for \$25. Books must be pre purchased with the reservation. Books will be available for pickup before and after mass. Future copies will require a shipping charge. Please send reservations for the lunch and/or books to: Joan Shrei, 1854 Barrell Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18017 by February 28.

For additional information, contact: Stephen C. Antalics, Jr., [sca3@Lehigh.EDU](mailto:sca3@Lehigh.EDU), (610) 868- 2646 or see the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StJosephChurchBethlehemPA>

**Art Exhibition Japanism in Contemporary Art**

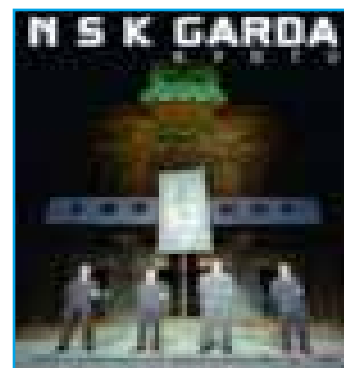
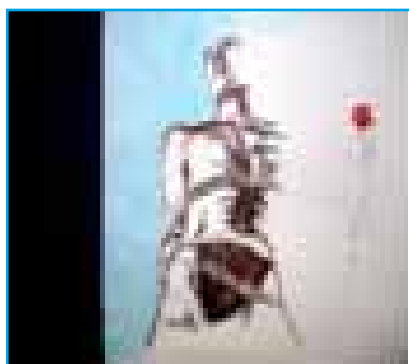
Through this exhibition, The Nippon Club from New York will be introducing artwork inspired by Japanese culture. Exhibition pieces will consist of works by world-renowned contemporary artists, while works by a new generation of young artists will also be included. Participating artists are from a variety of countries; there are three Japanese, eight Americans, four Germans, two French, one each Briton, Pole, Korean, and Panamanian, and three Slovenians: visual artist Emil Memon, who is also a guest curator, Tobias Putrih and members of the IRWIN collective. Support for the exhibition is being provided by the Japanese Consulate General in New York in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington.

Where: [The Nippon Gallery at the Nippon Club, 145 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019](#)  
Tel. (212) 581-2223

When: [February 6- March 6, 2014](#)

Closing event on March 6 is open to the public.

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



## **Photo exhibition "Afghanistan: Unordinary Lives" by Manca Juvan in Knoxville, TN**

The 20 images in the exhibition portray civil society in Afghanistan. Juvan made several trips to the country between 2003 and 2009, documenting the lives of Afghans who, after the fall of the Taliban, had been promised much by the international community. Their lives, unfortunately, were little changed for the better. The images have been published in a book of the same title that aims to encourage continued discussion of Afghanistan, particularly of the daily lives of ordinary citizens, who are usually omitted from the political/war discussions in the media. Presented by The Arts & Culture Alliance, Emporium Center in Knoxville, Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia in TN, Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, D.C. with the support of Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia.

When: [February 7 – March 1, 2014](#)

Where: [Emporium Center in Knoxville, 100 S. Gay St #201, Knoxville, TN 37902](#)

[Free public reception will take place on Friday, February 7, from 5:00-9:00 PM](#) with complimentary hors d'oeuvres available, and chocolate fondue provided by the Melting Pot of Knoxville.

RSVP: Honorary Consul of Slovenia in TN, Lydia M. Pulsipher, [lpulsiph@comcast.net](mailto:lpulsiph@comcast.net)

## **Slovenian Cultural Day in New York**

Concert by pianist Gašper Konec and saxophonist Lenart Krečič.

When: [Sunday, February 16, 2014 at 11:15 am](#)

Where: [Church of Saint Cyril, 62 Saint Marks Place \(in Lower Manhattan\), New York 10003](#)

More information: Tanya Vajk, President of SUA Branch 93, e-mail: [vajkusa@aol.com](mailto:vajkusa@aol.com)

## **SLOWIND Quintet in CA**

The Slovene National Benefit Society of Orange County and St. Timothy's Church cordially invite you to an "Evening of Music" by SLOWIND QUINTET of the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra.

When: [Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Timothy's Church, 29102 Crown Valley Parkway \(at Nueva Vista\), Laguna Niguel, CA](#)  
[Followed by reception with traditional Slovenian pastries.](#)

Adults, \$10.00 – Youths 18 & under, \$5.00

For tickets and information call: Jean Koci (949) 495-0097 or email [ajkoci@cox.net](mailto:ajkoci@cox.net)

## **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 will begin 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 an opportunity to meet diplomatic personnel of the embassy as well as International Club of DC members in attendance. During the evening, you will also enjoy a concert of Slovenian music by the SLOWIND Quintet.

When: [Thursday, February 27, 2014 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=7AEFE4C2-C32A-485F-861D-482EA5711250>

## **Ansambel Saša Avsenika in Cleveland, OH**

Slovenska Pristava, Slovenian National Home and The Slovenian Hour present the grandson of the legendary Slavko Avsenik, who continues the Avsenik tradition. In February, Sašo Avsenik will introduce his sound to North America; however, his Cleveland, OH, concert will be the only one in the U.S.

When: **Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**

Where: **The Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, OH**

Tickets: **(440)537-1941**

\$20 pre-sale | \$25 at the door | students \$10.

## **Bridges to the World International Film Series**

Slovenian documentary "The Stubborn Memory" (Trmasti spomin) about a centenarian Slovene writer, holocaust survivor and Nobel literature prize nominee, Boris Pahor, will be presented at the seventh annual international film series organized by the World Artists Experiences. The series introduces free screenings of five international films, one each from Ukraine, Chile, Kenya, Slovenia and Thailand. The series will run for five weeks from the first week of February through the first week of March at five venues throughout the state of Maryland. Each film will be introduced, screened, and followed by a discussion. All films will be shown with English subtitles. Tickets are not required for these free screenings; however, seating is on a first-come basis. Screenings begin at 7:00 p.m. The Slovenian film The Stubborn Memory will be shown in Maryland daily during the first week of March, and in Reading, PA, on March 13. More information: <http://www.woldartists.org/> SCHEDULE:

In **Salisbury, MD**, the film will be shown on **Monday, March 3** at 267 Holloway Hall, Salisbury University, 1101 Camden Avenue, telephone: (410)543-6271.

In **Frostburg, MD**, it will be shown on **Tuesday, March 4** in Room 111, Lane University Center, Frostburg State University, telephone: (301)697-4049.

In **California, MD**, it will be shown on **Wednesday, March 5** at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, 44219 Airport Road, telephone: (301)737-2500, ext. 203, [www.smhec.org](http://www.smhec.org).

In **Annapolis, MD**, the film will be shown on **Thursday, March 6**, at the Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, 801 Chase Street.

In **Towson, MD**, the film will be shown on **Friday, March 7**, at the Center for the Arts, Towson University, 8000 York Rd., telephone: (410)704-6390.

In **Reading, PA**, the film will be shown on **Thursday, March 13** at 6:30 p.m. at BCIU Main Office, 1111 Commons Blvd., 19605 Hohl Room.

## **Second Annual Cleveland Kurentovanje in Cleveland, OH**

The Second Annual Cleveland Kurentovanje will take place on **March 1, 2014**, on St. Clair Avenue between East 62nd and Addison Road. This cultural event, which connects ethnology, culture, arts, and people from all over Europe, has been celebrated in Slovenia for the past 50 years. The central figure of the carnival, the Kurent, is believed to chase away winter and usher in spring with his supernatural powers. Last year, the first annual Cleveland Kurentovanje was attended by over 2000 people, and the 2014 celebration promises to be even larger.

More information at: <http://clevelandkurentovanje.com/>

If you are interested in joining a festive 1/2-mile parade along St. Clair Ave, please fill out the form which you will find on the following link <http://clevelandkurentovanje.com/join-the-parade/>