



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Ambassador Dr. Cerar Presents His Letters of Credence to Mexican President



Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar meeting with President of the United Mexican States Enrique Peña Nieto

The Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Božo Cerar, on February 14, 2014, presented to the President of the United Mexican States, Enrique Peña Nieto, Letter of Credence in his capacity as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of The Republic of Slovenia to the United Mexican States,

residing in Washington D.C.

At a ceremony held at the National Palace, the ambassador conveyed the message of appreciation and friendship from Borut Pahor, President of Slovenia, to President Nieto. He expressed Slovenia's dedication to further enhancing cooperation with Mexico, particularly in trade, education, science, and technology. Accompanied by

Foreign Minister José Antonio Meade, President Peña Nieto conversed with the ambassador, to whom he stressed the willingness of his government to strengthen relations between the two countries at the bilateral level.

During his visit to Mexico, the ambassador also met with Director General for Europe at Mexican Ministry of



Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Alejandro Negrin Muñoz, and with Slovenian honorary consuls Mr. Ariel López and Mr. Daniel Muršec. The ambassador also attended the reception at the honorary consulate of Slovenia in Mexico, headed by the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia, Ariel López. The reception was attended by representatives of Mexican Foreign Ministry, members of diplomatic corps, academics, businessmen and Slovenian community members in Mexico City.



During his visit to Mexico, Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar also met with Minister of Foreign Affairs José Antonio Meade.

CULTURE

Afghanistan: Unordinary Lives by Manca Juvan in Knoxville, TN

The Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia in Knoxville, TN, in cooperation with The Arts & Culture Alliance introduced on Friday, February 7 at the Emporium Gallery in Knoxville, TN, an exhibition by the Slovenian freelance photographer Manca Juvan. The 20 images in the exhibition, titled "Afghanistan: Unordinary Lives", portray civil society in Afghanistan, where Juvan spent many months doing field research among Afghan villagers. The images have been published in a book of the same title, published by IRD – International Relief and Development, which aims to encourage continuous discussion on Afghanistan, particularly its civilian aspect, which is often omitted from the usual political/war discussion present in the



Unordinary Lives by Manca Juvan in Emporium Center, Knoxville, Tennessee. (Photo credit: Eric Thompson)

media. The photographs are displayed in the Balcony of the Emporium Center from February 7 – March 1, 2014.

A public reception took place on Friday, February 7, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. with

complimentary hors d'oeuvres available, and chocolate fondue provided by the Melting Pot of Knoxville, with the support of the Honorary Consul of Slovenia in Tennessee, Dr. Lydia Mihelic Pulsipher, who greeted



A public reception took place on Friday, February 7. (Photo credit: Eric Thompson)



The 20 images in the exhibition, titled "Afghanistan: Unordinary Lives", portray civil society in Afghanistan. (Photo credit: Eric Thompson)

the hundreds of guests on the occasion.

"Despite the international community's efforts to crush the Taliban regime in Afghanistan after 9/11, and its promises of bringing democracy to and rebuilding this war-torn nation, the ongoing war and instability continue to diminish the hopes of the Afghan people," says Manca Juvan. "Stories of the lives of ordinary Afghans caught in this

endless conflict of interests and the ongoing struggle for money, power, and overall control remind us what the real images of war and poverty, of lives far from ordinary, look like."

Prior to exhibition in Knoxville, the collection of images was shown at the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington; Gallery MC in New York; the Slovenian Museum and Archives in Cleveland, OH; the State Capitol

in Denver, CO; the Museum of Modern Art in Ljubljana, Slovenia; the Photomed festival in France; the Federal Parliament of Belgium and the Abbaye de Neumünster in Luxembourg. In March, the exhibition will be on display at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. For more information on the Afghanistan: Unordinary Lives project, visit www.mancajuvan.com/unordinarylives



"Afghanistan: Unordinary Lives" is on display February 7 – March 1, 2014 at the Emporium Center, 100 S. Gay Street, downtown Knoxville. Exhibition hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Saturday, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. For more information, please contact the Arts & Culture Alliance at (865) 523-7543, or visit www.knoxalliance.com. (Photo credit: Eric Thompson)

PM Bratušek and MFA Erjavec Thank the U.S. Officials for the Aid

In a letter to his counterpart, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Karl Erjavec expressed the gratitude to the U.S. for providing electric equipment, and financial contribution to Slovenia after the devastating ice storms that have affected the entire country. The electric generators that the United States contributed to Slovenia were transported from Livorno, Italy, to Postojna, Slovenia, by the 173rd Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) with the support of the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana. The financial aid was provided to the Red Cross of Slovenia.

Moreover, Prime Minister Alenka Bratušek sent a letter to U.S. President Barack Obama thanking him for the timely assistance by the U.S.



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

Government to Slovenia, and for the manpower and financial support. The generous help provided to Slovenia contributed immensely to improving living conditions of many affected

people in Postojna region and beyond. The donation is an act of kindness and friendship that demonstrates the close bond between the two countries -- friends and allies.

CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Archives Law Referendum Initiative

Initiated by Deputy Eva Irgl, the law on the access to Yugoslav-era archives is headed to a referendum. If you are a Slovenian citizen residing in the U.S. and would like to support the referendum initiative, which needs the support of 40,000 verified signatures within 35 days (collected from February 12 to March 19), please, contact the embassy's consular office for

an appointment.

Authentication of a signature on the support sheet available on the link bellow needs to be done in person at the embassy. Please request an appointment by electronic mail at vwa@gov.si. Suggest a day and hour within official hours (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Wednesday 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.). You can also

address any questions through the same e-mail contact.

More information and the support sheet form are available at: http://washington.embassy.si/index.php?id=814&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=20149&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=51&cHash=d2aa37d7cdbef7f32c6bc0ff1526b443needs Please note that the information is in Slovene.

Lili Šturm

The Slovene Arts & Culture Residencies Program of the Ministry of Culture kicked off in 1998 with the renting of the first apartment in the New York City. The aim of the program is to contribute to the international mobility and visibility of Slovene artists. Besides New York (remaining the most popular destination among the applicants), the ministry has established three more apartments: in Berlin (since 2004), London (since 2008), and Vienna (since 2012).

By now, over 200 people have participated in the program, which is reserved for Slovene artists, writers, translators, curators, critics, producers, etc., regardless of discipline. Based on their submitted proposals, the residents are selected by the ministry's expert committee for the following year. Concrete research projects and partnerships with local organizations or experts that can later on lead to the production of an actual art event or artwork are encouraged.

The residencies are limited to one- or two-month-stays with the rental, maintenance and travel costs covered by the Ministry of Culture. The apartments are administered jointly by the ministry and the respective Slovene embassies with the exception of Vienna where the residency is included in the regular program of the first (and so far the only) Slovenian Culture and Information Centre abroad -- SKICA.

The artist-in-residence in February in New York is Lili Šturm. She graduated in Art History



The living room in the Slovene Arts and Culture Residency in New York.
Photo by www.culture.si

and Sociology of Culture from the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. She was the national coordinator of the Educational Section of the Slovenian Museums Association, a member of the Task Force and working group for new museums standards appointed by the Ministry of Culture of Slovenia, and also a vice-president of the Board of the International Centre of Graphic Arts. She established and coordinated the largest annual promotional event of Slovenian museum institutions and galleries (Museum Summer Night). Last year, she received the Valvasor award, one of the highest professional recognitions in Slovenia. She is a member of ICOM, CIMAM and the Slovenian Museums Association.

Since 2002, Lili Šturm has worked at the International Centre of Graphic Arts/Mednarodni grafični likovni center, Ljubljana, Slovenia, as a curator responsible for communication, educational, and public programs. Her contact is: lili.sturm@mglc-lj.si

The International Centre of Graphic Arts in Ljubljana was founded in 1986. The Centre holds an extensive collection of post-war art prints and artist's books by Slovene and international artists. The exhibitions of contemporary visual and graphic art are presented regularly. In the Centre's printmaking studios, which serve as a laboratory for exploring and experimenting with different print techniques, new works are created in the techniques of serigraphy, lithography, and intaglio printing. The best-known activity of the Centre is organization of the Biennial of Graphic Arts, the world's oldest and important graphic art event. The Centre also organizes professional and social events, and programs for children, school groups and adults, as well as publishes numerous catalogues, books, and other publications. The Centre is co-funded by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia and the Municipality of Ljubljana. More on www.mglc-lj.si

Three More Medals for Slovenia

This past week, Slovenia won three more medals in Sochi, Russia. The overall of seven medals is already a record at Winter Olympics for the country.

Slovenian ski jumper Peter Prevc leaped to bronze in Saturday's large hill event. Kamil Stoch of Poland was the winner, while Noriaki Kasai of Japan took second. Prevc had jumps of 132.5m and 131m for his second medal in Sochi, after grabbing the silver on the normal hill.

Slovenian skier Tina Maze won gold in women's giant slalom on Tuesday, February 18, her second gold at the 2014 Winter Olympics. With bib 1, Maze was flawless in the first run to take the lead, and managed to keep it in the second run, finishing 0.07 seconds ahead of Anna Fenninger of Austria and 0.27 seconds ahead of Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany. Maze won her and Slovenia's first Olympic gold previous Wednesday, beating the competition in the downhill. She now has four Olympic medals, including two silvers from Vancouver. The 30-year-old Slovenian joined Marie-Theres Nadig of Switzerland as the only Alpine skiers in history to win



Žan Košir won bronze in Wednesday's snowboard parallel giant slalom.

gold in downhill and giant slalom at the same Winter Olympic Games.

Žan Košir won bronze in Wednesday's snowboard parallel giant slalom at Sochi, securing Slovenia's first ever Olympic snowboard medal. Gold went to Russian Vic Wild and silver to Nevin Galmarini from Switzerland. The 29-year-old already posted three second-place finishes in the World Cup in the run-up to the Olympics. The quarter-finals featured three Slovenian snowboarders, of whom Rok Marguč and Rok Flander finished in the fifth and sixth place respectively.

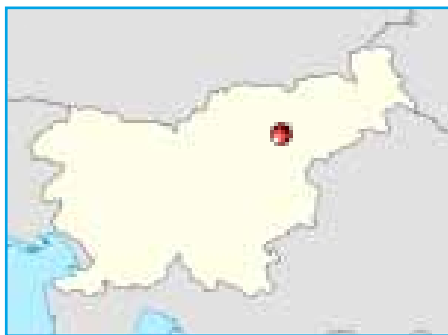
Slovenia's President Borut Pahor, Prime Minister Alenka Bratušek and Minister of Foreign Affairs Karl Erjavec respectively sent congratulations to all medalists. President Pahor and Sports Minister Pikalo also traveled to Sochi. The President attended a few events that featured Slovenian athletes, including Sunday's ice hockey match between Slovenia and the United States, and visited the Olympic village.

Some of the Slovenian medalists have already returned to Slovenia. Peter Prevc, Teja Gregorin and Vesna Fabjan as well as the ice hockey team arrived early on Thursday at Ljubljana's airport, to be greeted by a group of sports fans. Slovenia's team was the biggest surprise of the ice hockey tournament at the Sochi Games. This was the first Olympic ice hockey tournament ever for Slovenia, which has only 150 registered ice hockey players. The team scored its first win against Slovakia last week, and their second one against Austria, but lost to the first-ranked hockey team in the world, Sweden, in quarter-finals.



Tina Maze and Peter Prevc both won two medals at the games.
(Photo courtesy: <https://www.facebook.com/SloveniaOlympicTeam>)

Zreče



Zreče is a town in northeast Slovenia at the foot of Pohorje in the valley of Dravinja river. It is only in the last 20 years that it has developed as a single settlement consisting of the villages of Zgornje (Upper) and Spodnje (Lower) Zreče and Dobrava, after officially becoming a town in 1987. The town of Zreče is the center of the municipality of Zreče, which includes six local administrative communities: Zreče, Stranice, Gorenje, Skomarje, Resnik and Dobrovlje.

The first traces of a settlement in the Zreče area date back almost 4,000 years to the



Zreče. (Photo courtesy:www.slovenia.info)

late Stone Age, as demonstrated by numerous archaeological finds from Brinjeva Gora and Gračič. The first written references to these parts in the early Middle Ages do not appear until the end of the 10th century, when the Zreče area was divided among several ecclesiastical and temporal lords. The most important castle was Freudenberg, which stood on a hill below Brinjeva Gora and

first appeared in historical sources in 1224. The parish church in the settlement is dedicated to Saint Giles and dates to the 14th century with 18th and 19th century side chapels.

The Zreče area soon began to develop sawmills, flour mills, glassworks, timber trade and small mines, while particularly important was the blacksmith's trade, which developed into an industry after the First World War. Today, the town has a highly developed industrial sector, with companies such as Unior, SwatyComet, and GKN Driveline Slovenija, while agriculture still remains an important part of the local economy. In recent decades tourism has become one of the most important sectors in the municipality of Zreče, with the development of the Rogla ski resort and the Terme Zreče spa.

Rogla, located at 1517 meters (almost 5000 ft) above sea level, has been since 1996 an acknowledged health resort. Excellently equipped, Rogla Olympic and Ski Center is a paradise for hikers, cyclists and



Rogla ski resort. (Photo courtesy:www.slovenia.info)

top athletes. Winter is reserved primarily for skiers and all who love cross-country skiing. For more than a decade, Rogla has been the venue for FIS and European Cup competitions in winter sports.

Only ten miles away is the affiliated Zreče Health Resort with various swimming pools with thermal spring water, saunas, solariums, etc., that excellently complement Rogla's sports offer. Regular bus connections run between the ski center and the health resort.

More information is available at: <http://www.rogla.eu/en/winter/> or www.destinacija-rogla.si and tic.zrece.lto@siol.net



Zreče thermal spa. (Photo courtesy: www.visitslovenia.net)

TO DO LIST

[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. 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>



[Class Enemy at the 17th Annual European Union Film Festival in Chicago](#)

Class Enemy (Razredni sovražnik) is a debut feature film by Slovenian filmmaker Rok Biček. Filled with provocative ideas, Class Enemy is emotionally gripping, incisive, involving, and unforgettable. Cast includes: Igor Samobor, Nataša Barbara Gračner, Tjasa Zeleznik, Maša Derganc, Robert Prebil, Voranc Boh, Jan Zupančič. Producers: Aiken Veronika Prosenc, Janez Lapajne. Synopsis: When a cold and arrogant authoritarian teacher, who seems to hold all his students in equal contempt, takes over a German class midway through the year, the students quickly dub him a "Nazi." When a tragedy occurs, he becomes the target of the students' anger and confusion. Once started, though, momentum eclipses motive, and things take on a life of their own. And the students: do they still have a just cause, or are they just rebels?

The European Union Film Festival presents Chicago premieres of 60+ recent European features, and is fully endorsed by the consulates and cultural institutes of E.U. nations in Chicago, as well as their embassies. Selected films include special advance screenings of new acquisitions by U.S. distributors as well as a wide range of films that do not yet have U.S. distribution.

When: [The festival runs from March 7 through April 3](#)

Showtimes: [Sunday, March 23 at 7:15 p.m. and Wednesday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m.](#)

More information: <http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/class-enemy>



[Slovenian films in California](#)

Slovenian feature film Class Enemy, directed by Rok Biček, will be shown as part of San Jose's Cinequest at the California Theater.

When: [Wednesday, March 5 at 9:15 p.m., Thursday, March 6 at 2 p.m. and Saturday, March 15 at noon.](#)

Where: [Camera 12 Cinema, Screen 9, 201 S. 2nd St, San Jose, CA 95113](#)

Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.00.

Zoran, My Idiot Nephew is also showing. The film is an Italian comedy about a man who "inherits" his Slovenian nephew

When: [Tuesday, March 11 at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 13 at 9:15 p.m., and Saturday, March 15, at 11:15 a.m.](#)

Where: [Camera 12 Cinema, 201 S. 2nd St, San Jose, CA 95113](#)

More information: <http://payments.cinequest.org/WebSales/pages/info.aspx?evtinfo=19579~78899376-35a9-4153-8303-e1557be2dc32&epguid=70d8e056-fa45-4221-9cc7-b6dc88f62c98&#.UwULwdJRQxg>

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

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, (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/>



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.

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/>