



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

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## Climate Change: Appeal to Sustainable Tourism



**Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Slovenia, Singapur and United Arab Emirates have written and published the following article on Climate Change and Tourism. The ministers are members of Green Group, which is an informal group whose objective is to raise awareness that environmental and environment-related topics should be on foreign policy agendas. Cooperation**

**focuses on climate change, renewables, sustainable development and sustainable water management.**

Six countries\* from different regions of the globe have been united in a joint effort to fight global challenges such as climate change, water and sustainable development. These challenges are interdependent, for there cannot be water without a sound climate, development without water or prosperity without harmony

between man and nature. Each and every one of us can contribute in our own way to healthier living and the political, security, social and economic environment. With each passing year, climate change effects are becoming more apparent, and water constraints are making themselves felt more keenly. However, we have many opportunities to begin working towards more sustainable development.

The most recent IPCC report\*\* on the effects of climate



change (2013) shows it is being felt around the world. We need to both cut emissions and ensure that our infrastructure and ecosystems are prepared for a warmer world.

Few sectors encompass the range of challenges posed by climate change and water issues as fully as tourism. Tourists emit greenhouse gases as they fly across the globe. They stay in luxurious, water-intensive hotels. They consume food and other goods shipped in from around the world. Depending on what is included, tourism accounts for an estimated 4 to 10% of global emissions. Tourists demand infrastructure in locations, such as coastal resorts, that are particularly vulnerable to future climate change.

At the same time, tourists drive much positive change. The very fact that they value coastal areas, clean seas and beautiful scenery is what makes possible the protection of these resources in many places. Tourism generates 10% of global GDP; it is one of the fastest growing sectors and has a great multiplier effect. It provides valuable income to regions or even entire countries which might otherwise remain in poverty or see their young people migrate to cities. In some cases, tourism is a lever to protect a valuable habitat – a rainforest, a coral reef, a mangrove swamp – even in the face of other commercial pressures.

A less tangible, but perhaps even more important fact, is that tourism brings much of the world's populations into contact with new cultures, new peoples and new environments.

These experiences teach us to value not only our own countries and communities, but also those around the world. These shared values are essential to confronting challenges such as climate change.

It is essential to reduce negative impacts while making the most of the benefits. Our countries have taken leading roles in this endeavour. For instance, airlines from Singapore and the UAE are currently some of the most efficient in the world, with emissions per passenger kilometre being around 25% lower than the global average. Hotels can adopt cutting edge energy and water efficiency measures. Tourism can also be made more sustainable by means of broader measures, such as the increased use of renewable energy in all countries. The UAE has made a Green Growth Strategy, including tourism, the core of its development strategy.

Some countries, such as Costa Rica, have made "eco-tourism" their main strategy for attracting tourists. Obviously, the extent to which a country can do this depends on the habitats at its disposal and other pressures on the land. It also shows how tourism can effectively protect vital ecosystems in the long term. Even if tourism is not entirely focused on nature, important protection mechanisms are possible, e. g. the UAE's policy to preserve and expand mangrove forests despite coastal development. Slovenia is a very green country, rich in water and biodiversity. Its tourism is based on nature, the mountains, lakes, hot springs, and the sea. To preserve its landscape and the quality of life,

a Tourism Development Strategy was adopted with a view to promoting sustainable tourism. The identity of destinations is being strengthened as active, healthy, and green.

Cape Verde is a vulnerable country, mainly due to its isolation, water shortage and fragile ecosystems. To date, tourism development has focused on coastal zones (sun, sand and sea tourism), which has already produced some negative environmental impacts. The Government has shown concern and is taking measures to tackle the barriers to tourism becoming a tool for sustainable development. In pursuing this goal, focus has been placed on investment in renewable energy, a holistic environmental management approach, and collaborative partnerships, such as the Public-Private Partnership for Sustainable Tourism developed in 2010.

The international community has also recognised the importance of making tourism more sustainable in many venues \*\*\*. The World Tourism Organisation not only stresses the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social, and environmental – but also accords a specific section to the unique challenge of climate change.

Certain progress has been made in fighting climate change as part of the UNFCCC negotiations, but we still have far to go. The World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2014 will again look at climate change and the economic dimensions of addressing it. In September 2014, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will invite world

leaders to participate in the Climate Summit. Their shared goal will be to mobilise action and ambition regarding climate change to keep the rise in average global temperatures at 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This will provide another opportunity for us to reconcile the need for economic development and climate protection. Tourism is showing us both the challenges and opportunities of this effort.

Although we may have different ideas, economies, policies, and philosophies, we live with the environment and will continue to depend on it.

**Signed:**

**H.E. Jorge Alberto da Silva Borges**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cape Verde

**H.E. Enrique Castillo Barrantes**, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica

**H.E. K Shanmugam**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore

**H.E. Karl Erjavec**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

**H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates

\*The Green Group is an informal group of the foreign ministers of Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Iceland, Singapore, Slovenia and the United Arab Emirates. Its objective is to raise awareness that environmental and environment-related topics should be on foreign policy agendas. Cooperation focuses on climate change, renewables, sustainable development and sustainable water management.

\*\*IPCC Fifth Assessment Report; the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is the world's leading body for climate change assessment, established in 1989 by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, and tasked with addressing climate change and its social and economic consequences from a scientific perspective.

\*\*\*Sustainable tourism guidelines were provided within different agendas and forums, including the Final Report of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 1999; appeal to governments to advance sustainable tourism development through sustainable development planning by taking into account the possibilities provided by modern and environmentally sound technologies, by cooperation and by taking into account the proposals and needs of the stakeholders, including tourism agencies and organisations. The Outcome Document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012: appeal to governments to support and encourage investments in sustainable tourism, capacity building and education in developing countries and appeal to shape relevant guidelines and legal frameworks for sustainable tourism. National strategies: the Slovenian Tourism Development Strategy 2012–2016 (with the objective of sustainable development).



## Consular Hours in New York City

The consular officer from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, will hold consular hours and provide consular services (authentications, certifications, passport applications, etc.) in New York City on **Friday, February 14, 2014**, at the premises of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations, located at 630 Third Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017 (**Please, note the new address!**).

To schedule an appointment, please, fill out the form available at the embassy's website and send it to the Embassy of Slovenia at [vwa@gov.si](mailto:vwa@gov.si) by **February 11, 2014**, to allow the embassy enough time to verify your data.

The embassy will suggest the time of your appointment and give you further information on the documentation you need to bring along. You may also

visit the embassy website <http://washington.embassy.si/> (Consular Affairs, Visas) for documents required for most consular services. Please note that the consular fee must be paid with a money order made out to "Embassy of Slovenia". Cash, personal checks or credit cards will not be accepted.

Due to security reasons, prior appointment is needed to enter the premises of the Mission.

## EMBASSY ADOPTION PROGRAM

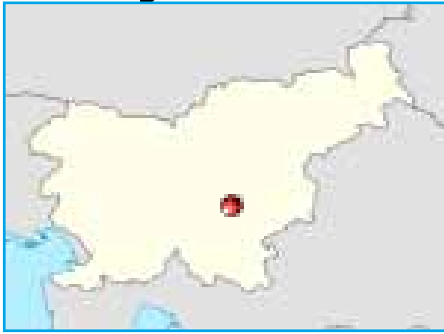
## International Night at Janney Elementary School

A family event for the entire Washington's Janney Elementary School community took place on Thursday, January 23. Celebrating heritage, customs, ethnicity and traditions of students and their families, the event gathered a large crowd. Several nations were represented. and each country decorated its individual table. The Embassy of Slovenia's table showcased the country's culture, geographical features, and food.

PTA volunteers, teachers and staff were hard at work creating a fun evening that celebrates diversity. As the children were moving from continent to continent, they were able to get their "passports" stamped in various "countries", Slovenia as well. Embassy representatives were also on hand to talk about Slovenia's cultural heritage while the children could also admire the country's traditional attire.



# Trebnje



Panoramic view on Trebnje from Bukovje (Photo courtesy: S.Kastelic)

In the dynamic area of the southeastern Slovenia in the region of Lower Carniola lies the town of Trebnje. The Celtic Latobici tribe lived here already in prehistoric times. In the Roman period, this was a famous staging post along the road Emona – Siscia, and the Roman emperor Vespasian named the settlement Municipium Praetorium. However, the name of Trebnje was most likely derived from the verb "trebiti", which in Slovene means clearing a forest, or from the German word "treffen" (to encounter). The linear, urbanized settlement, which climbs the terraces and hills on the left bank of the disappearing karst river Temenica, is a nowadays also a center of Trebnje municipality. A railroad has connected Trebnje with Novo Mesto and Ljubljana ever since 1894 and with the town of Sevnica since 1938.

The Trebnje Castle, which was first mentioned in written sources in 1386 and can be traced back to the year 1000, is located on the right bank of the river Temenica, on a hill below the Ljubjana-Zagreb highway. The original owners of the castle were the Lords of Trebnje from Carinthia, but it was later owned by the Ortenburgs, the Counts of Celje, the Hapsburgs, and others. The castle has retained many ancient sections – a square tower with Roman foundations, a round tower from the time of the Ottoman Wars – and was expanded to its present form in the 16th century. A stone lion from Roman times reigns at top of the castle stairs. The lion is also depicted in the coat of arms of the municipality.

The castle was owned from 1812 to 1824 by bishop Frederic

Irenaeus Baraga, who was born in the nearby village of Mala vas. Baraga was later a missionary to the Indians in the United States and Canada, and a scholar of Native American languages. While staying in La Pointe, Wisconsin, Baraga wrote the book *History, Character, Customs and Habits of North American Indians*, through which Europeans first learned about the Indian princess Pocahontas.

The town is also very proud of The Gallery of Naïve Artists, which was a result of the activity of annual International Meetings of Naïve Artists (first organized in 1968, and still held every year in June). The Gallery is known as the only public collection of naïve art in Slovenia and as one of the more important collections of its kind in the world.



The Gallery of Naïve Artists (Photo courtesy of the gallery).



A stone lion (Photo: S. Kek)



Missionary Baraga was a scholar of Native American languages.



The Jurij homestead is compact and consists of a single-storey farmhouse, an outhouse, a wooden granary, a barn, a well, a trellis and an orchard.

Near the Gallery stands the parish church of the Assumption of Our Lady. The Late Gothic church with three naves and six octagonal pillars from 1443 stands on the site of an older church. It boasts a late Baroque presbytery with a fresco of the Assumption, painted by the Slovenian painter Matevž Langus, and built into its wall is a Roman relief of three busts. In 2012, a monument to the honorary citizen of Trebnje, the Archbishop and Metropolitan of Ljubjana, Dr Alojzij Šuštar, was unveiled on the south side of the church.

Every man or woman of importance that came from or left his mark on the municipality is included in The Growing Book of the Temenica and Mirna Valleys, the

first permanent exhibition of its kind in Slovenia, which is housed in the lobby of the Center for Education and Culture (CIK) in Trebnje.

At the settlement of Medvedjek, east of Trebnje, which was the site of a battle in the Slovenian War of Independence in 1991, a memorial park was built on the 20th anniversary of the conflict in memory and reminder of the events that took place in the area.

The Jurij homestead, a monument of local importance, is located in the nearby village of Občine, at the edge of the region of Suha Krajina. Due to cultural, ethnological, regional, historical and other noteworthy characteristics, it has a special meaning for providing information about the life of country

folk at the time before, during and right after World War II.

The cultural house in the village of Dobrič houses the Memorial room of the 1st congress of the Slovenian antifascist women's association, which in 2013 celebrated its 70th anniversary. In the vicinity, stands the church of Sv. Jurij (St. George) built in the Baroque style in 1777.

Next to its cultural and historic features, the town of Trebnje and its surroundings invite visitors to engage in sports activities such as biking, hunting and fishing. The south side of the town is covered by the wooded slope of Bukovje, a popular walking and hiking destination. On the top of the hill VrhTrebnje, there stands a marker of 15th eastern meridian -- a stone plaque with a sundial and a bronze relief of Slovenia. It is a lookout point with a lovely view of the wavy, vineyard-covered landscape of Dolenjska (Lower Carniola), and, in clear weather, the eye can see all the way to the nation's highest mountain -- Mt. Triglav. More information is available at: [tic@trebnje.si](mailto:tic@trebnje.si).



A stone marker of the 15th Meridian on VrhTrebnje (Photo: S. Kastelic)

# Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation - 1949 to 2014

Sixty five years ago, the Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Fund began its charitable work for the Slovenian Women's' Union of America. In 1946, Marie Priland, founder of both organizations, presented a proposal for the Fund to the Slovenian Women's Union of America members at the SWUA National Convention in Pittsburgh for their approval. Funding then began, and scholarships were first awarded annually beginning in 1949. Since that time, over 400 scholarships have been awarded to college students, resulting in many graduates'



## Slovenian Union of America

earning bachelor's degrees in the business, medical, educational, engineering, and military fields.

In 1997, in order to obtain tax-exempt status, the SWU Scholarship Fund's name was changed to Slovenian Women's' Union Scholarship Foundation, with a mission to generate funding to financially assist students with hope that

they will promote and preserve Slovenian culture. Further information is available at [www.slovenianunion.org/scholarship](http://www.slovenianunion.org/scholarship). Current officers and directors are: Mary H. Turvey, Director and President; Marjorie M. Church, Vice President and Treasurer; Patricia Figurovski, Secretary. Trustees are Joseph Cannavino, Stane Kuhar, and Joseph Zab.

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

# SWU Scholarships for Academic year 2014-2015

The Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation is in 2014 celebrating 65 years of financially assisting students. The mission of the foundation is to generate funding to financially assist students with hope that they will promote and preserve Slovenian Culture.

The Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation is offering the following scholarships, for college and graduate students for the academic year 2014-2015, to be awarded in April 2014:

**ROSE MARIE PRINC SCHOLARSHIP** of \$4,000 for a graduate student majoring in the field of education. Applicant

must be of Slovene ancestry. Applications are available online [www.slovenianunion.org](http://www.slovenianunion.org) "scholarship" and must be submitted via postal mail before **March 1, 2014**. E-mailed materials will not be accepted.

**SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION SCHOLARSHIPS** of \$2,000 and \$1,000 will be offered to high school seniors and college students, majoring in any field and attending accredited colleges or universities during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Students applying for these awards must have held membership in the Slovenian Union of America for the past three years, beginning before March 1, 2011.

Application forms are available online [www.slovenianunion.org](http://www.slovenianunion.org) "scholarship" and must be submitted via postal mail before **March 1, 2014**. E-mailed materials will not be accepted.

For more information on the SWU Scholarship Foundation or to send much needed and appreciated contributions, please contact: Mary Turvey, Director, 4 Lawrence Drive, Marquette, MI 49855, e-mail: [mturvey@aol.com](mailto:mturvey@aol.com) or Marge Church 1028 Skyland Drive, Macedonia, OH 44056 [yemec1@windstream.net](mailto:yemec1@windstream.net)

### Slovenian Cultural Evening at the Embassy of Slovenia

Through food, drink, a short film that highlights the scenery, culture and people of Slovenia, and live music by the Slovenian mezzo-soprano Barbara Jernejčič Fürst and guitarist Zarko Ignjatović, experience the rich Slovenian culture. In cooperation with Things To Do, Inc. – Young Professional Cultural Society.

When: [Thursday, January 30, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.](#)  
 Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington DC 20008](#)  
 More information and registration: <http://www.thingstododc.com/> -- see EMBASSY AND CULTURAL EVENTS

### Concert by Barbara Jernejčič Fürst and guitarist Žarko Ignjatović in New York City

**Barbara Jernejčič Fürst** has appeared on celebrated opera stages, including that of the Theater im Palais in Graz, the Flemish Opera in Ghent and Antwerp, the Vienna Chamber Opera, the Theater an der Wien, and Ljubljana's and Maribor's National Theaters. Barbara Jernejčič Fürst is very much focused on contemporary works by Slovenian composers – she has premiered more than 50 works and appeared on more than 10 CDs. Guitarist **Zarko Ignjatović** graduated from the Academy of Music in Zagreb (Croatia), and from the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Graz (Austria). He completed his postgraduate studies at the Mozarteum University of Salzburg. He teaches guitar at the Ljubljana Music and Ballet Conservatory and is also a professor at the University of Maribor Faculty of Education. Both musicians are active as soloists as well as members of various chamber groups. Since a few years ago, they have been performing together as a duet.

When: [Sunday, February 2, 2014, at 11:30 a.m.](#)  
 Where: [Church of St. Cyril, 62 Saint Mark's Place, East Village, New York 10003](#)  
 Free entrance.

### 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)

### 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/>



## [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.

## [SlovenSki Calendar for 2014 Ski Season](#)

### **SlovenSki Weekend**

Where: WINDHAM MOUNTAIN, NEW YORK

When: Friday, January 31 to Sunday, February 2, 2014.

Slovenian GS Ski Race championship on Saturday.

### **SlovenSki trip #1 (Presidents Week)**

Where: SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

When: Monday, February 17 to Sunday, February 23, 2014.

Total cost \$1,495.00 from LaGuardia, NY to Boise, Idaho.

6 nights lodging at Sun Valley; 3 bedroom condominiums, 5-day ski pass.

Kids under 15 stay and ski FREE.

Call for air info from other airports: Cleveland, Toronto, Chicago

### **SlovenSki trip #2**

Where: ASPEN / SNOWMASS, COLORADO

Top of The Village 3 bedroom Condominiums, ski in, ski out.

When: Monday, March 24 to Sunday, March 30, 2014

Snowmass is home of 2014 Nastar Nationals Ski Championships during last week of March.

### [More information and application:](#)

John F. Kamin a.k.a. Ivan Kamin

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