



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Ambassador Dr. Cerar attends the Inaugural ASEF Gala



The Ambassador, Dr. Cerar, visited the San Francisco Bay Area from February 22 to February 24. On Saturday evening, he attended a cocktail reception organized for the Slovenian community by the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia in California, Mr. Thomas Brandi, and on Monday he met with Slovenian inventors, innovators, students, researchers, and start-up companies.

The highlight of the visit

Dr. Božo Cerar, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the U.S., read at the gala a letter in support of the ASEF from Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia. (Photo courtesy: Tony Ravnik)

was the Inaugural American Slovenian Education Foundation (ASEF) Gala Fundraiser Dinner that took place on Sunday, February 23. The Foundation strives to strengthen the link between Slovenia and the United States by advancing programs for students and educators that will encourage growth, exchange of ideas, character formation, and community building. ASEF

links promising students in Slovenia with university and industry mentors in America and does the same for American students in Slovenia; it sponsors individuals educated in the U.S. to give back by participating in the academic and professional spheres in Slovenia; and it fosters shorter cultural exchange programs for students.

On Sunday, eighty





The Honorary Consul of Slovenia, Thomas J. Brandi was Master of the Ceremony. (Photo courtesy: Tony Ravnik)



Dr. Jure Leskovec and Dr. Peter Rožič, S.J., members of the ASEF Board of Directors, presented the Foundation. (Photo courtesy: Tony Ravnik)

people committed to excellence in education attended the Gala at Sofitel Hotel in Redwood City in California. Suzana Ograjenšek, a Slovene soprano, and the SLOWIND woodwind quintet, featuring soloists from the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, performed a program of Slovene and American compositions.

The Honorary Consul of Slovenia, Thomas J. Brandi, offered introductory remarks and Rev. Michael E. Engh, S.J., President of Santa Clara University, delivered the invocation. Dr. Božo Cerar,

Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the U.S., extended his greetings and read a letter in support of the Foundation from Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia. Richard S. Gordon, California State Senate Assembly Member (24th District) offered greetings as well. Jure Leskovec and Peter Rožič, S.J., members of the ASEF Board of Directors, presented the Foundation.

The donors' generosity was inspiring. By the time the Gala drew to a close, they had contributed \$100,000, putting the ASEF well on its way to the

goal of raising \$250,000 this year.

If you wish to be involved, you can help the ASEF enable talented students and educators transcend borders and reach their full potential by contributing to ASEF's cause, identifying individuals and institutions as sponsors of our students and programs, helping ASEF build their network, sharing your ideas about what else they could do, and spreading the word! Please, visit the website at <http://www.ase-fund.org> and get in touch.



Performance by SLOWIND woodwind quintet. (Photo courtesy: Tony Ravnik)



Around eighty people attended the gala. (Photo courtesy: Tony Ravnik)

Concert by SLOWIND at the Embassy of Slovenia

The Embassy of Slovenia, in cooperation with the International Club of DC, organized on Thursday, February 27, a cultural evening that featured the renowned Slovenian woodwind quintet, SLOWIND; art exhibition titled Ljubljana – Washington, DC by photographers Barbara Jakše Jeršič, Stane Jeršič, Jake McGuire and Anna Katalina, hors d'oeuvres that offered a taste of Slovenian wines Capris Merlot by Vina Koper, Ren Riesling by Črnko, and Vipava white wine by Tilia, and a dinner with Slovenian dishes.

More than 120 people attended the event taking place in the embassy's reception room. The guests were addressed by the Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms. Ondina Blokar Drobič, who next to introducing the most interesting political, historical and geographical features of Slovenia, also outlined that



SLOWIND quintet introduced to the audience music by Primož Ramovš, Nina Šenk and Elliott Carter.

Slovenes dedicate the month of February to culture. A series of events take place around Slovenia at this time of the year, especially around the bank holiday, February 8, celebrated in Slovenia as the Culture Day. In Slovenia, culture is considered one of the keystones which has enabled Slovenian people to

withstand pressure from nations under whose rule they had lived for centuries.

The guests were also greeted by Mr. Sanjaya Hettihewa, President and Founder of the International Club of DC, which promotes cross-cultural connections and international understanding through various programs and events in Washington, and enjoyed a short movie depicting the enchanting Slovenian culture, nature, tourism, and trade.

The highlight of the evening was a concert by the internationally renowned Slovenian woodwind quintet SLOWIND. The ensemble unites five distinguished Slovenian musicians, all soloists of the Slovenian philharmonic orchestra: Mr. Aleš Kacjan on flute, Mr. Matej Šarc on oboe, Mr. Jurij Jenko on clarinet, Mr. Metod Tomac on French horn, and Mr. Paolo Calligaris on bassoon.



The event was attended by 120 guests.

Beside performing the standard repertoire for wind quintet both in Slovenia and abroad, the ensemble has also dedicated its endeavors to a diverse range of chamber music, collaborating with internationally renowned performers. They are particularly active in the area of contemporary music, and are regular guests at the most important contemporary music festivals. Among the numerous composers who have written new works for Slowind are Vinko Globokar, Elliott Carter, Lojze Lebič, Jürg Wyttenbach, Nina Šenk, and Martin Smolka.

For the last fifteen years, the quintet has promoted international modern and contemporary chamber repertoire at its own concert cycle, the Slowind Festival, which provides an opportunity to systematically present important composers of international modernism, such as Giacinto Scelsi, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Edgard Varèse, Vinko Globokar and, not least, American



Concert was followed by buffet dinner featuring Slovenian cuisine.

composer Elliott Carter, to whom an entire Slowind Festival was dedicated in 2011. Slowind appears on several CDs and DVDs. The American record company Bridge Records recently released a CD with Elliott Carter's Nine by Five performed by Slowind Wind Quintet.

At the Thursday concert, SLOWIND quintet introduced to

the audience music Woodwind Quintet no. 2 by the pioneer of Slovenian musical avant-garde Primož Ramovš, a composition titled Moments, by the young Slovenian composer Nina Šenk and the Woodwind Quintet composed in 1948 by the American composer Elliott Carter.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Consular Hours in San Francisco

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 San Francisco on Monday, March 24, 2014, at the premises of the Honorary Consulate of Slovenia in San Francisco, 354 Pine Street, Third Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104.

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 by March 20, 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 consulate.

Embassy Exhibit at the Catholic University of America

On Thursday, February 27, the Catholic University of America (CUA) hosted an open house and the Embassy Exhibit event, which aimed to capture the sights, sounds, and tastes of global cultures. The Slovenian Embassy was among the exhibitors participating in the International Bazaar, giving the CUA community an opportunity to learn more about what Slovenia has to offer.

The free event, featuring cultural displays, performances, and a sampling of foods from around the world, was a great success. More than two dozen embassies in the Washington area accepted the invitation to set up booths and displays. They shared information about their respective cultures and traditions with over 200 attendees, including CUA students, faculty and staff.



Visitors at the Slovenian booth.

The Slovenian Embassy presented facts about the country, promoted its tourism sites, distributed brochures about Slovenia and offered a taste of its traditional pastry – potica, a sweet walnut roll-cake,

and Carniolian sausages. CUA students showed great interest in Slovenia, and promised to visit it, if not for study, than at least for exploring the various sights Slovenia has to offer.

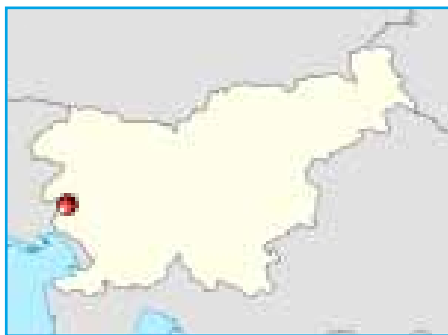


Germany.



Chinese and Slovenian traditional outfit.

Nova Gorica



The town of Nova Gorica, the foundations of which were designed only after Second World War, is located on the border between Italy and Slovenia. The foundation stone was laid in the year 1948, and Youth Work Brigades from all over Yugoslavia began the construction of the new town, which was originally designed as a "city in a park".

Nova Gorica with its variegated landscape, where plains and river valleys are surrounded by hills and mountains, offers fascinating destinations, natural points of interest, a rich cultural heritage, diverse recreation, and endless entertainment possibilities as well as a culinary experience of the highest level.



Nova Gorica.

The town is enriched by the Kostanjevica monastery with a valuable library, dedicated to the linguist Škrabec, and a crypt where lie the remains of the last members of the French royal house of Bourbon, among them also the last King of France. The nearby Europe Square at the very border in front of the Nova Gorica railway station is, as a symbol of the conurbation of the two cities Gorica and Gorizia, a venue for entertainment and cultural and other events. The town

offers entertainment and various other activities all year around: theater performances, concerts, exhibitions, sports events, dance shows, lectures, and conferences. All who are interested in the past of this area, can visit the collections of the Regional Museum (Goriški muzej), which are housed in the Kromberk castle, in the railway station (Kolodvor) and in Villa Bartolomei. Those, however, who are keen on casino entertainment, can try their luck in one of the many casinos in the town of Nova Gorica.

The heart of the city is adorned by buildings which were built almost without exception in the postwar period. The green areas, rose gardens, native and exotic trees and well-tended walking paths encourage the visitors to take a stroll and to explore the town. In the town center, there are numerous monuments, among which are: the monument to the Slovenian pioneer aircraft pilot Edvard Rusjan, the monument to writer France Bevk, the monument erected to commemorate the 1000th Anniversary of the



Solkan bridge.

first documentary mention of Solkan and Gorica, as well as the monument dedicated to the builders of Nova Gorica. On a hill above the town there stands the pilgrimage basilica of Sveta Gora, called in Slovenian the "Holy Mountain". Beneath it, there winds its way to the sea the emerald green river Soča - Isonzo, which the Solkan bridge spans in a single arch; it is considered to be the longest stone bridge among railway bridges in the world. Mt. Sabotin rises on the other river bank. Here, a Park of Peace, dedicated to the severe battles of the Isonzo Front during First World War, has been erected.

Nova Gorica with its surroundings invites with an extensive network of hiking trails and roads suitable for road and mountain-bike cycling or horseback riding. The courageous and audacious will row a kayak over the white-water rapids of the Soča, jump from the bridge attached to an elastic cord, or visit the Adventure Park. Exceptional gliding conditions are a real challenge for paragliders and hang gliders, and the vertical rock walls above the Lijak creek challenge numerous climbers.



Pilgrimage basilica of Sveta Gora.

In the pleasant villages of the Lower Vipava Valley, local people are preserving the rich vineyards and wine producing tradition. One can taste the intertwining of the Mediterranean and Continental climates even in the wines, which are at the same time soft and robust, and in which the sun and the sweat, the knowledge and the infinite love of the Vipava Valley wine-grower are reflected. The valley is known for its autochthonous varieties of wine: the Zelen, Pinela, Malvasia, and the Rebula, and for the richness which has absorbed the influences of the vineyards

of the Karst region, of the wine-growing region of Brda, the Vipava valley, as well as of Friuli and Italy. Typical Vipava Valley dishes, such as cottage-cheese pastries; home-made wide noodles, called "bleki," with air-dried ham and cream; air-dried prosciutto "Vipavski pršut"; dried pork tenderloin, called "prata"; "jota -- a hearty soup of sauerkraut, beans, potato, and pork; corn porridge, called polenta; cracklings, cheese, boiled cheese dumplings called "štruklji", and of course home-made bread fresh from the oven, enchant and captivate every visitor. In winter, the radicchio of the Goriška region, the traditional production of which dates back to the second half of the 19th century, diversifies the contents of the plates. The earth and the climate here are ideal for the growth and ripening of juicy fruits of nature: peaches, persimmon (called kaki in Japanese and Slovenian), figs, apples, cherries, olives, and chestnuts.

All information can be obtained at: Tourist Board – Nova Gorica Tourist Information Center (Turistična zveza - TIC Nova Gorica) at tzticng@siol.net or www.novagorica-turizem.com



A crypt in Kostanjevica Monastery where lie the remains of the last members of the French royal house of Bourbon, among them also the last King of France.



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 **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.

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>



[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 Gracner, 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>

[La Grande Fête de la Francophonie](#)

The Grande Fête de la Francophonie returns to the Embassy of France! Perhaps the most eagerly anticipated event during "le mois de la francophonie", the Grande Fête is an invitation to travel the continents of the world in one night!

Each year, more than 35 embassies (including the Embassy of Slovenia!) join to present their culture and cuisine, accompanied by music from the French-speaking world. This year's featured artists include Benin's Jomion and the Uklos, and France's post-punk, cold wave, electro, surf rockers La Femme!

When: [Friday, March 21 from 7 p.m. – 12 midnight.](#)

Where: [La Maison Française - Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Rd, NW, Washington, DC.](#)

Admission: [General \(pre-sale\): \\$40, Benefactor: \\$60](#)

Tickets can be purchased only online at: <http://grandefete2014.eventbrite.com>

The 2014 Francophonie Cultural Festival is co-organized by the Washington Francophonie Committee, more than 35 embassies and The Alliance Française de Washington, AFI Silver, Arthispere, Blues Alley, Hillyer Art Space, Montgomery College, The Smithsonian Associates and the French-American Cultural Foundation. This year's festival is generously sponsored by TV5 Monde, France, Medias, Monde and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. Embassies participating in the Grande Fête are: Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Canada-Québec, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Georgia, Guinea, Haiti, Laos, Lebanon, Mali, Monaco, Mozambique, Niger, Romania, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Togo, and Tunisia.

Official website where you can discover the full schedule for "le mois de la francophonie": <http://www.FrancophonieDC.org/>

[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>

[Taste of Slovenia: A Real Food Tour May 30-June 9](#)

Slovenian-American Sylvia P. Onušič, PhD, board-certified and licensed nutritionist, who lived in Slovenia for six years, returns to her favorite country and invites you to join her along with her guests for the second annual trip through Slovenia's local and traditional food venues, 11 days, 10 nights for \$2,198, land price, which includes meeting star chefs, such as Tomaž Kavčič of Gostilna Pri Lojzetu, as well as local people, farmers and fishermen. Three- and four-star hotels throughout the trip. Price includes all fees, including hotels, most meals, entrance, transportation, luggage, with tour guide throughout.

The tour includes Ljubljana, Dolenjsko, the Adriatic Coast, Goriška Brda, the Karst, Štanjel, Vipava valley, Julian Alps, lakes Bled and Bohinj, Kamnik, Logar valley, Velika Planina, Cerknica lake, Lož valley, Snežnik castle, and more. Slow food, cheese, wine, prosciutto, and olive oil tasting. More information on her website: Taste of Slovenia, www.foodtourslovenia.wordpress.com and her Facebook at www.facebook.com/tasteofslovenia. You can contact Sylvia at tasteofslovenia@gmail.com.



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