



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 3, 2015, VOLUME 11, NUMBER 16

## National Day Reception at the Slovenian Embassy



**On June 23, the Ambassador, Dr. Božo Cerar, and his wife, Dr. Martina Skok, jointly with the Defense Attaché, Colonel Ivan Mikuž, and his wife, Nataša Mikuž, hosted a reception on the occasion of the Slovenian National Day and Slovenian Armed Forces Day. The celebration was organized to mark the anniversary of June 25, 1991, when the Slovenian**

**Assembly adopted the Basic Constitutional Charter and the Declaration of Independence, which was later that day proclaimed in a ceremony in front of the parliament building.**

The event was attended by some 300 people, among them representatives of the U.S. Administration, ambassadors and other members of the foreign diplomatic corps, military attachés and other

highranking military officials, Colorado National Guard representatives, think-tank and NGO representatives, cultural liaisons, businessmen, the media as well as members of the Slovenian community in the greater Washington, DC, area. The occasion was even joined by the Slovenian cycling team, which was taking part in the Race Across America (RAAM).

After the American and Slovenian national anthems,





Welcoming remarks by ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar.



Principal DAS for Political-Military Affairs Todd C. Chapman.

sung by Nuška Zakrajšek, the guests were welcomed by the ambassador, Dr. Cerar, who stressed that in declaring its independence on June 25, 1991, Slovenia dedicated itself to following the path to democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and free-market economy, and to becoming a proactive member of the international community. He thanked the U.S. for its support and a partner-relationship on this pathway and also recognized the endeavors of Slovenian community in the U.S.

dedicated to strengthening the Slovenia–U.S. ties in business, educational, cultural and other areas.

On behalf of the State Secretary of State John Kerry, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Todd C. Chapman congratulated the people of Slovenia on the occasion of the Statehood Day. He pointed out that in the past 24 years Slovenia has become a valuable partner on issues of collective security, human rights, and the promotion of

democracy. He also stressed the importance of the military partnership and emphasized the efforts to deepen the collaboration in the economic and academic sector.

Attending the reception was the retired American Senator of Slovenian heritage, Tom Harkin, to whom Ambassador Dr. Cerar conveyed a letter from the Slovenian President, Borut Pahor, thanking him for his service in enhancing the Slovenian-U.S. friendship. The senator was also presented with an a-few-hundred-years-



Senator Harkin receiving an original print of Škofja Loka, the town where his mother's family originates.



Defense Attaché Colonel Mikuž presenting the medal to Command Sergeant Major Michael R. Lawrence.



Speech by Slovenian novelist and playwright Evald Flisar.

The event was attended by some 300 guests.

old print of the town of Škofja Loka and the village of Suha, where his ancestors originated.

At the same time, Defense Attaché, Colonel Ivan Mikuž, presented to Command Sergeant Major Michael R. Lawrence of the National Guard of Colorado a Medal for the International Cooperation of the IV level, for his support of the development, establishment, placement and qualification of the professional Non-Commissioned Officer corps of the Slovenian Armed Forces. At the end of the program, the guests were also addressed by the internationally acclaimed

Slovenian writer Evald Flisar, President of PEN Slovenia.

On the occasion, Ambassador Dr. Cerar opened -- in the artist's presence -- an exhibition of works by the Slovenian-born American painter Joseph Vodlan. Vodlan began his studies at the Art Academy in Linz, Austria, in 1958, and graduated with honors in 1963. After he obtained his degree from the academy, he moved to the U.S. In Cleveland, Ohio, he met the sculptor, France Gorše. Together with the painter Miro Zupančič, the three artists founded the art club Lok, which existed until 1970. Afterwards,

Vodlan was engaged for several years in graphic art design with prominent American companies. Throughout the 1970s, he longed for a more intensive personal involvement with art and again focused on painting. The exhibition displayed at the embassy presents his lifetime work, featuring the range of styles and artistic expression in the form of paintings and sculptures. **The exhibition remains on display at the embassy through September 11. The gallery is open to the visitors Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**





Opening of the terrace after an evening shower.



RAAM cycling team and ambassador Dr. Cerar.



At the reception, the guests enjoyed the best of Slovenian wines and food typical of various Slovenian regions.



The food was prepared by executive chef Maja Kumelj – Butler, Tea Durmič and Jason Oberg.



Artists Joseph Vodlan (center) with Sandra Mihelič and Clement Jaidzeka.



Joseph Vodlan: Melody, oil on canvas, 2010

# Slovenian National Day in Cleveland, OH



The biggest Slovenian community in the U.S. lives in Cleveland, OH.



Consul General Žmauc with Mayor Frank G. Jackson.

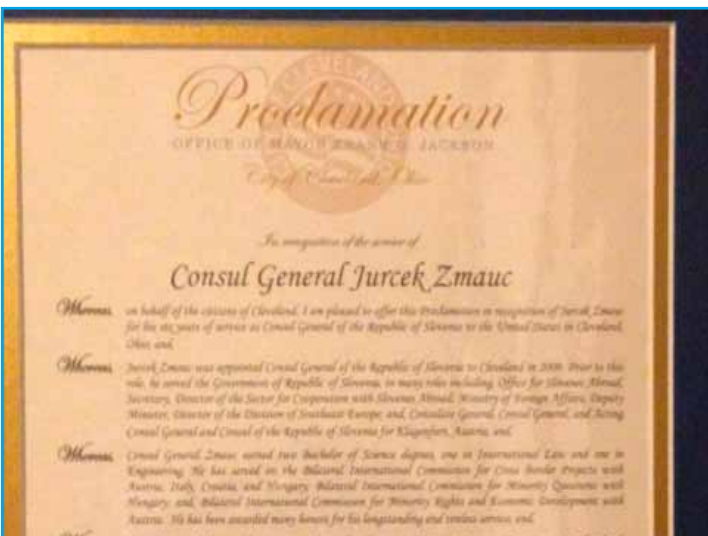
The Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia organized the traditional reception on June 19 to celebrate the Slovenian National Day. The event was held at the Cleveland City Hall Rotunda and featured Cleveland Mayor, Frank Jackson, a representative of Ohio Governor John Kasich, a representative of Ohio senator Rob Portman and a host of local politicians, and state representative Kenny Yuko.

Present were also many local politicians, including city

councilors of Slovenian descent, Michael Polensek, and Joe Cimperman, who on the occasion also gave a speech before some 200 invitees. Special emphasis was given to the event by the presence of presidents of the three biggest Slovenian organizations in the U.S., namely, Rudy Krasovec (KSKJ - American Slovenian Catholic Union), Joe Evanish (SNPJ - Slovene National Benefit Society) and Tim Percic (AMLA - American Mutual Life Association).

Featuring a cultural program by the Korotan choir and Slovenian food and wine, Saturday's reception was also an opportunity for the biggest Slovenian community in the U.S. to bid farewell to outgoing consul general, Jure Žmauc, who will complete his term on July 31.

To recognize his service in the past six years Mayor Jackson presented to Consul General Žmauc a proclamation on behalf of the citizens of Cleveland.



## Flag-Raising Ceremony in Bethlehem, PA



Former BMSSCA president Stephen Antalics Jr. and Bethlehem Mayor, Bob Donchez, and BMSSCA President, Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar.

Bethlehem Mayor, Bob Donchez, and BMSSCA President, Debra Smith.

The 19th annual traditional flag-raising ceremony on the occasion of the National day of the Republic of Slovenia took place on the Payrow Plaza at the City Hall in Bethlehem, PA, on Friday, June 19. The celebration was organized by the Bethlehem–Murska Sobota Sister Cities Association and was attended by numerous members of the Slovenian community and other Bethlehem area residents.

After welcoming remarks by BMSSCA President Debra Smith and the invocation by Rev. Krizolog Cimerman, the Mayor of Bethlehem Robert Donchez, who himself is of Slovenian heritage, together with Stephen Antalics Jr., raised the American and Slovenian flags to the singing of the American and Slovenian national anthems. The singing was led by Frank Podleiszek and Betty Silva, with piano

accompaniment by Alex Gergar. Keynote speaker at the event was Ambassador of Slovenia, Dr. Božo Cerar, who expressed his gratitude for the successful collaboration with the Bethlehem-Murska Sobota Sister Cities Association and the support of the Bethlehem Slovenian community. The ceremony was followed by luncheon at Saucon Valley Acres.



The Slovenian community in Bethlehem has sister-cities relationship with Murska Sobota in 1996.

Following the flag-raising event was a traditional luncheon at Saucon Valley Acres.

# Celebration of National Day in San Francisco, CA



Around 70 members of West Coast Slovenian American community attended the annual national day reception in Healdsburg, CA, hosted by Honorary Consul of Slovenia in San Francisco, Tom Brandi, and his wife Carol. The group, which included professors,

entrepreneurs, doctors, artists, and others, enjoyed excellent food and wine in a relaxed gathering on Saturday, June 13 afternoon and evening.

Among others, present were Jure Leskovec, assistant professor of Computer Science

at Stanford University; author Jacqueline Widmar Stewart, Zvonko Fazarinc, former director of HP and consulting professor at Stanford; Ravnik brothers, who sang a traditional Slovenian song for the occasion, and other members of the vibrant Slovenian community in California.



# Celebration of the Slovenian National Day in Minnesota



From left: Honorary Consul Miro Medved, Janja Žmauc, Karen Medved and Consul General Jure Žmauc.

Welcome remarks by Consul General Jure Žmauc.

There were around 120 people celebrating the 24rd anniversary of Slovenian Independence at the Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia in St. Paul, Minnesota, led by honorary consul, Miro Medved. The event took place on Saturday, June 27. The honorary speaker was Consul General from Cleveland, OH, Jure Žmauc, who attended the event with his wife Janja.

People began arriving at 1:00 p.m. and were greeted by live Slovenian music. There was a baline (bocce ball) tournament,

taking place throughout the day, with its champion declared at 9:00 p.m. At 2:00 p.m., a short program started. Everyone was asked to stand for the singing of the U.S. national anthem followed by the Slovenian national anthem. Anthems were sung magnificently by a professional quartet assembled for this event. The quartet later also sang a few Slovenian folk songs.

Honorary Consul, Miro Medved, introduced Consul General Jure Žmauc, who gave a

speech about the development of Slovenia's independence. At the conclusion of Consul General's remarks, everyone rose again with drinks in hand to toast Slovenia by singing "Kolk' r kaplic, tolko let". Karen Medved served food throughout the day and a large meal later in the afternoon. The day was truly an inspiring and festive one due to the excellent organization by honorary consul, Miro Medved, and his wife Karen, who both also sponsored the event.





# Celebrating the Slovenian National Day in Knoxville, TN



On Thursday, June 25, 2015, the Slovenian Consulate in Knoxville celebrated Slovenia's National Day with an international potluck. The event

was organized by Honorary Consul, Dr. Lydia Pulsipher, and her husband, Mac Goodwin, who welcomed some 30 guests. Next to the international cuisine,

the celebration also featured food prepared in the stone oven, "palačinke" crepes, and Slovenian wine.

# Celebration of Slovenian Statehood in New York



Author Evald Flisar and ambassador of Slovenia to the United Nations Andrej Logar.

The reception for the Slovenian community in New York was organized by the Slovenian mission to the U.N.

The Slovenian Mission to the U.N. in New York organized a reception on June 30 for the Slovenian community in New

York to mark the National Day. The event was hosted by the Ambassador, Andrej Logar, and his wife. The keynote speaker at

the event was the internationally acclaimed Slovenian writer, Evald Flisar.

**CONCERT by DUO DRUMARTICA on August 8 in Bowie, MD**

Drumartica is one of the most active percussion ensembles in Europe today. After great successes at prestigious competitions in Luxembourg (IPCL) and Bulgaria (PENDIM), the Simon Klavžar and Jože Bogolin duo played in the U.S., Russia and around Europe, in the most well-known venues, such as Hermitage Theater in St. Petersburg, Carnegie Hall in New York, Auditorio de Tenerife, and Berlin Philharmonie. Presented in cooperation with World Artists Experiences. [Admission free.](#)

When: [Saturday, August 8 at 7 p.m.](#)

Where: [Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 15200 Annapolis Rd, Bowie, MD 20715](#)

More information: [http://washington.embassy.si/fileadmin/user\\_upload/dkp\\_51\\_vwa/pics/2015/Drumartica\\_Flyer\\_\\_black-white\\_6-19-2015.jpg](http://washington.embassy.si/fileadmin/user_upload/dkp_51_vwa/pics/2015/Drumartica_Flyer__black-white_6-19-2015.jpg)

The duo will also perform a free concert at the [Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage](#) on Friday, August 14 at 6 p.m.



Lana Trotovshek.



Anna Shelest.



Duo Drumartica.

**EMBASSY SERIES CONCERT: LANA TROTOVŠEK, VIOLIN; ANNA SHELEST, PIANO**

The winner of international competitions and prizes, Slovenian violinist Lana Trotovshek played at Wigmore Hall in London to great success. And last year's concert brought this review in the Washington Post: "Trotovshek gives radiant performance at The Embassy Series ... Trotovshek used it to showcase her clean and refined tone and musical sense of phrasing, especially in the slow movement, marked by a radiant pianissimo sound and impeccable intonation." Program: Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Granados, Kreisler and Bartók. Presented in cooperation with the Embassy Series.

When: [Friday, September 11, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008](#)

More information and tickets: <http://www.embassyseries.org/performances/lana-trotovshek-violin-anna-shelest-piano-embassy-of-slovenia/>