



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Slovene National Benefit Society's Slovenefest

The Slovene National Benefit Society, the largest Slovenian fraternal organization in the U.S., hosted the 34th annual Slovenefest from Friday, June 9 through Sunday, June 11 at the SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, Pennsylvania. The annual three-day event brought together thousands to enjoy ethnic food, music, and heritage of Slovenia. The visitors also had the chance to learn more about



Ambassador Dr. Cerar and SNPJ National President Joseph C. Evanish.

the country and its culture from extensive displays of traditional clothing, crafts and household items.

Slovenefest offered visitors the opportunity to dance Slovenian-style polka and waltz in four different venues: the Alpine Room and the Outside Stage,

which hosted the popular Slovenian-style polka bands; the International Pavilion, which was reserved for more traditional, ethnic Slovenian musicians and visiting performers; and the Gostilna (club room), which pulsed with the beat of a variety of button box musicians.





From left: Katelyn Miles, Aleyna Gee, Jennifer Provenza, Ambassador, Julie Rockwell, Joseph C. Evanish, Nicole Vehar, Elizabeth Hartman, Toni Zibert. Ambassador Dr. Cerar with Miss SNPJ 2016 Julie Rockwell.

Live entertainment ran continuously from noon until late at night, and special entertainment for children was arranged by the SNPJ Fraternal Department, including trackless-train rides, a playground, fishing, swimming, and miniature golf. On Saturday, guests could even enjoy fireworks.

Next to the cultural, musical and food experience, the highlight of the weekend

was the 59th Miss SNPJ Pageant. Since the first crowning at the National Day's celebration in Chicago back in 1956, SNPJ young women have competed for the title of Miss SNPJ and the honor of representing SNPJ as the Society's "Ambassador of Good Will" during the year of their reign. This year, Julie Rockwell was crowned as Miss SNPJ 2016. She is a member of SNPJ Lodge 138 in Strabane, PA.

The Slovenefest was also attended by Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar, who addressed the visitors on Sunday. The event was also an opportunity for the Slovenian community in Pennsylvania to bid farewell to Consul General Jure Žmauc, who headed Consulate General in Cleveland, OH, for the past 6 years.



Entrance to the SNPJ Recreation Center.



Farewell to Consul General Jure Žmauc and his wife Janja.

Under Secretary of State Gottemoeller Visits Slovenia



With MFA Karl Erjavec.



Both sides expressed concern over new forms of terrorism, especially radicalization.

On July 12–13, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Rose E. Gottemoeller visited Ljubljana, where she met with President Borut Pahor, Foreign Minister Karl Erjavec, and other counterparts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Discussions focused on the most pressing issues facing the international community, including the Russia-Ukraine

crisis, Iran’s nuclear program, and terrorism. The interlocutors also talked about the situation in the Western Balkans, and agreed it is essential to continue supporting the Western Balkan countries’ efforts at Euro-Atlantic integration. During the talks, views on several defense and security matters were exchanged, including on NATO priorities regarding conventional arms control.

Under Secretary Gottemoeller also met with Damjan Bergant, Director of the International Trust Fund, to discuss U.S.-Slovenian cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including conventional weapons destruction programs in Southeast Europe. The ITF Enhancing Human Security has in the past 17 years received more than 180 million dollars in donations from the U.S., which is also its main donor.



ITF presented its activities during the working breakfast with at the U.S. Embassy Ljubljana (Credit: <https://www.facebook.com/slovenia.usembassy>)



Under Secretary Gottemoeller with President Pahor and U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia Hartley. (Credit: Nebojša Tejić/STA)

Ambassador Dr. Cerar Attends Iftar Dinner



Ambassador, Dr. Božo Cerar, together with political counselor, Mr. Borut Blaj, and cultural officer, Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek, attended an iftar dinner hosted during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan by American Turkish Friendship

association. The ambassador met with the local Turkish American community of Fairfax, members of the association as well as the Rumi Forum representatives.

The purpose of the dinner was to promote friendship and dialogue among people of diverse

backgrounds in the DC metro area. The round table discussion included conversations about various local and international issues, including development cooperation, human rights issues and intercultural dialogue.

HONORARY CONSULS

Thomas J. Brandi was named to the Top 25 Plaintiff Lawyers in California

On July 15, 2015, Thomas J. Brandi was named to the Top 25 Plaintiff Lawyers in California by the San Francisco and Los Angeles Daily Journal, the legal newspaper for northern and southern California. To cite the editors: "We could have honored more, but in our opinion, these are the ones who consistently force broad change in the law, industry, and society."... "As you read about these men and women, there is a common thread - and it doesn't have dollar signs; they truly care about having an impact. The work they

are doing to hold governments and industry accountable will last long after the bling is dimmed".

Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar and the entire embassy staff wishes to congratulate the honorary consul for this high recognition in his professional career as well as thank him for his continued service to Slovenian citizens and businesses, as well as for enhancing the ties in educational and cultural cooperation between Slovenia and the U.S. West Coast.



Thomas J. Brandi.

Dobrodošli doma – Welcome Home 2015



For the fifth successive year, the Government's Office for Slovenians Abroad, organized the annual homecoming event for Slovenians living abroad, entitled "Welcome Home". This year, the festival took place on July 4 in the medieval town of Ptuj. The main ceremony began in the afternoon in the town center and was addressed by the Minister for Slovenians abroad, Gorazd Žmavc, and Ptuj's Mayor, Miran Senčar. The ceremony included performances by choirs, folklore groups, orchestras and theater groups by Slovenian minorities and expatriates, who came mostly

from Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Austria, Argentina, Germany, and Italy.

Earlier in the morning, the government council for Slovenians Abroad met in a session to discuss the activities of organizations of Slovenians abroad and debate the board's initiatives. The session was attended by Prime Minister, Miro Cerar, who after the meeting stressed that the government would overhaul the country's strategy on cooperation with Slovenian communities around the world and would try to improve communication with them. The Minister for Slovenians

Abroad, Gorazd Žmavc, pointed out that Slovenian expatriates are "great ambassadors of Slovenia and that the government would prepare by the end of the year a plan to boost cooperation with the younger generations of expats". The meeting was also attended by Boris Pleskovič, president of the Slovenian World Congress, who believes the government should - among other things - simplify the procedure of recognizing education of those who studied abroad and want to return home. Next year's meeting Dobrodošli doma! will take place on the first Saturday in July.



Remarks by Minister Gorazd Žmavc. (Photo credit: The event was hosted by the City of Ptuj. [GlasilokanadskihSlovencev](#))

GYLC Students Visit the Embassy of Slovenia



On Wednesday, July 8, more than 50 high-achieving students, aged 15 to 18, who are participating in a summer Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC), visited the Slovenian Embassy as part of the conference program.

At the embassy, they were greeted by Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek, Cultural and Public Diplomacy Officer, who presented to the group some general and fun facts about Slovenia and its geographical, historical and political features. She also

explained to the students how the embassy operates as she also gave them a brief introduction to the world of diplomacy. The visit was concluded with Q & A session and an interesting discussion.

Another group of GYLC participants visited the embassy on Wednesday, July 15, with students coming to DC from as far as Kuwait, Argentina, the U.K., India, China, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Denmark, Barbados, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago,

and Nigeria.

The aim of the GYLC is to give students, who come from diverse ethnical and political backgrounds, a greater understanding of international relations, diplomacy, international law, human rights, peace, security, economics and the role of the United Nations. They come to Washington from a variety of countries to take part in this program, which gives them a unique approach to leadership training.



July 15 group.



July 8 group.

Public call for tenders to co-finance activities of Slovenian business clubs abroad

On July 3, the Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia SPIRIT published a public call for tenders to co-finance activities of Slovenian business clubs abroad in 2015. The aim of the public tender is to support operational Slovenian business clubs outside Slovenia in implementing activities connected with internationalization, such as promotion of the Slovenian

economy and its interests in the U.S., strengthening economic cooperation with the Slovenian enterprises, organizing B2B meetings, giving helpful information on the foreign (U.S.) markets, assisting Slovenian enterprises interested in cooperating with the U.S. etc.

The public tender is available at (please note that the announcement is in Slovene): [http://www.spiritslovenia.](http://www.spiritslovenia.si/razpisi/2015-07-03-Javni-razpis-za-sofinanciranje-izvajanja-dejavnosti-slovenskih-poslovnih-klubov-v-tujini-v-letu-2015)

[si/razpisi/2015-07-03-Javni-razpis-za-sofinanciranje-izvajanja-dejavnosti-slovenskih-poslovnih-klubov-v-tujini-v-letu-2015](http://www.spiritslovenia.si/razpisi/2015-07-03-Javni-razpis-za-sofinanciranje-izvajanja-dejavnosti-slovenskih-poslovnih-klubov-v-tujini-v-letu-2015)

The deadline is **August 7 at 1 p.m. CET (7 a.m. EDT)**. All questions can be addressed to : spk@spiritslovenia.si with a subject line: **"JR slovenski poslovni klubi v tujini – vprašanje"**

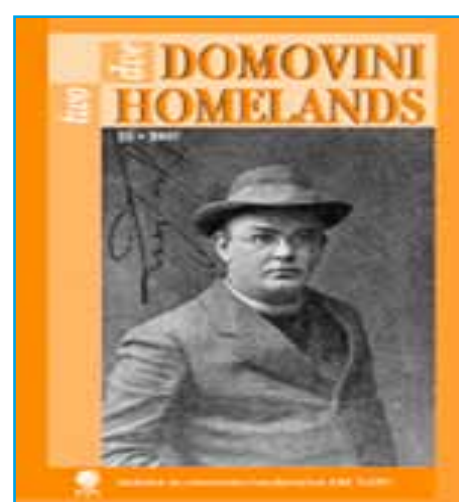
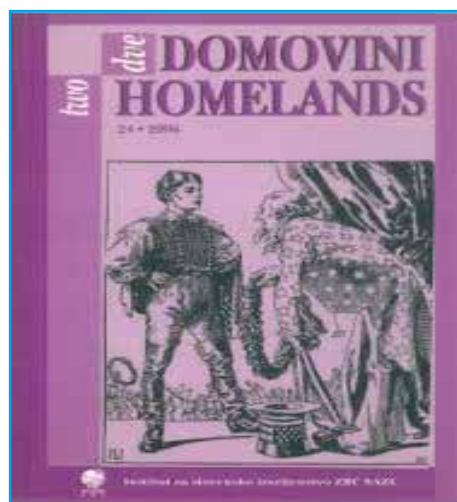
SPIRIT SLOVENIA

Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Development, Investment and Tourism

I FEEL SLOVENIA

New Issue of Two Homelands Journal

The new issue of the Slovenian scientific journal on migration studies, Dve domovini / Two Homelands, is available at: http://twohomelands.zrc-sazu.si/onlinejournal/DD_TH_42.pdf



Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, is looking for a locally employed administration staff member in the Consular section of the Embassy

The Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, is looking for a locally employed administration staff member in the Consular section of the Embassy

Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Communication/work with consular clients
- Official communication/administrative work with Slovenian and U.S. authorities
- Communication/administrative work with foreign diplomatic missions and foreign governments -- Records keeping for consular section and other administrative work
- Preparation of publishable written material including press releases, official business letters
- Assistance to diplomatic staff

Requirements:

- A permanent residence permit

in the U.S. (Green card) or U.S. citizenship

- Excellent communication skills
- Fluency in Slovene and English languages (both oral and written)
- Basic knowledge of Slovenia, Slovenian Government, Administration
- Basic knowledge of the European Union
- Technology/computer skills (PC) - software (Power Point, Word, Excell) skills
- Discretion in managing sensitive informational and personal data
- Committed sense of customer service
- Excellent interpersonal, team and organizational skills
- Self-motivation and eagerness to independently research/acquire new skills as needed
- Ability to prioritize and ability to handle multiple tasks
- Readiness to work overtime

Application should consist of a cover letter, evidence of attained education, CV and a recommendation letter in case you already have relevant experience.

All those interested in working in an international environment and obtaining experience in diplomacy and administration are welcome to send the application online to vwa@gov.si with "Job Application" as the subject.

Deadline for applications is September 1, 2015

Location of work: Embassy of Slovenia, Washington, DC

Beginning of work: October 1, 2015

Contract type: **annual contract** with the possibility of extension



TO DO LIST

Tina Maze Suit Raffle

Through September 10 runs the raffle for an autographed racing ski-suit of the Slovenian two-time Olympic Gold Medal Champion and 2013 World Cup Champion, Tina Maze. All proceeds will go toward operating expenses of Slovenska Pristava, a private club and a place for events and relaxation

for Slovenian Catholics in the United States, tucked away in the countryside near Geneva, Ohio.

The cost of the tickets is \$10 for one and \$50 for 6 tickets. For more information, email: TMaze@slovenskapristava.org To buy tickets visit www.slovenskapristava.org

Camping in Slovenia: Podravaska and Pomurska Regions



Mura Drava cycling pathway.



Camping Center Kekec Pohorje.

One of the terrific ways of spending holidays in Slovenia is camping. Slovenia is full of natural attractions from the Alpine region in the northwest to the Adriatic coast in the southwestern part, Pannonian flatlands in the Northeast and rolling hills in the southeast, which makes it a perfect country for camping. Slovenia is divided into twelve identifiable regions, which are marked by their own beauties and characteristics. In each of those regions can be found several campgrounds, however, the most camping areas are located in the northeastern parts of the country, namely in the Goriška and Gorenjska regions.

Nonetheless, the northeastern and eastern parts of Slovenia, particularly the Podravaska and Pomurska regions are also found very attractive by Slovenian and foreign tourists. In these two regions, there are five campgrounds, namely, Camping

Center Kekec Pohorje, Terme Ptuj, Terme Banovci, Moravske Toplice, and Lipa.

The Podravaska region is located along the Drava river in the northeast of Slovenia and contains many attractive tourist destinations offering natural and cultural sights of interest and a wide range of recreational and sports activities and gastronomic pleasures. Stretching from Maribor, Slovenia's second-largest city, and the green Pohorje, unique among Slovenia's mountains, to the winegrowing areas and thermal spas, the Podravaska region has something for everyone.

The Pomurska region is located in the eastern part of Slovenia along the Mura River. It is a land of wide fields and rounded hills, storks and wind-rattles, floating mills, healing waters and energy points, picturesque winegrowing hills, original traditions and dialects, and, most of all, a land of hospitable people,

who live in Slovenia's largest agricultural region. This region is especially popular among the elder population since it offers numerous thermal health resorts, the most famous among which are the Radenci Health Resort, Terme 3000, the Lendava Thermal Spa, the Banovci Health Resort, and Terme Ptuj.

Camping Center Kekec Pohorje

The Camping Center Kekec Pohorje is a medium-sized camping ground, which offers a pleasant and comfortable stay to its guests. It has an attractive location since it is located in a well-known and popular tourist spot, the Pohorje mountain, and is close to Slovenia's second-largest city, Maribor. This camping center is attracting tourists through the whole year. During the summer, Pohorje offers numerous hiking and biking tracks. In recent years, particularly biking



Moravske Toplice natural health resort.

Terme Ptuj Campground.

became popular in this area since Pohorje offers one of the best biking parks in the area. It also hosts each winter the European Downhill Cup. Additionally, Camping Center Kekec is located next to skiing slopes, which are commonly considered the best in Slovenia. The skiing season is usually open from the beginning of November until late March or even April. Mariborsko Pohorje offers more than 41.5 km (26 mi.) of well-kept slopes for all kinds of skiers, whether a beginner or an expert skier. Every year, it hosts also the FIS Ski world cup known as "the Golden Fox."

Terme Ptuj

The Terme Ptuj campground is only a mile away from Ptuj, one of Slovenia's oldest and most beautiful medieval towns. It is a modern health resort and recreation center developed near the river Drava, where healing thermal water surges from a depth of 3,608 ft (1100 meters) with a temperature of 133 degrees Fahrenheit (56 degrees Celsius). The

campground guests get a free entrance to the saunas and the indoor and outdoor Thermal Park, which boasts a wide and diverse range of water attractions. The Thermal Park, with a total surface area of 4,200 square meters (abt. 42,000 sq. ft.), has something for the young as well as for the young at heart – massages, various therapies and an organized entertainment program. This campground is an ideal spot for all who like to be independent on their holidays and who want to spend some quality time in unspoiled nature among rustling trees and singing birds.

Moravske Toplice

The campground, a part of the Moravske Toplice natural health resort, is located at the southern edge of the Goričko Hills. It is one of the most beautiful and modern campgrounds in Slovenia, and -- thanks to its first-rate infrastructure -- is among few in Europe which welcome guests all year round. The camping price includes free admission to the Hotel Termal pool complex and

Terme 3000. Camping guests can also use the wellness and health care services, and enjoy the organized entertainment program at Terme 3000, one of the most beautiful health spas in Slovenia and the winner of the highest Slovenian Tourist Association accolade in 2007. The possibilities of recreation are endless: tennis (clay and synthetic grass courts), badminton, soccer, basketball, volleyball, and handball. The Sports and Recreation Center also has floodlighting installed so that guests can play sports and keep fit even when it gets dark outside. The 18-hole Livada Golf Course spreads around the entire health spa complex and the campground. The wider area around the health resort can also be explored by bicycle.



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

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/>