



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
EMBASSY OF REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
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NEWSLETTER

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National Day Reception at the Slovenian Embassy

The Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Božo Cerar, and his wife, Dr. Martina Skok, jointly with the Defense Attaché, Colonel Ivan Mikuš and his wife Ms. Nataša Mikuš hosted a reception on the occasion of the Slovenian National Day and Slovenian Armed Forces Day on Thursday, June 23. The celebration was organized to mark the 25th anniversary of the Slovenian Assembly passing the Basic Constitutional Charter and the Declaration of Independence on June 25, 1991, which was later that day proclaimed in a ceremony in front of the parliament building.



Opening remarks by Ambassador Dr. Cerar.

The reception was attended by some 450 people, among them representatives of the U.S. Administration and U.S. Congress (among them Senator Amy Klobuchar and former Senator Tom Harkin, both of Slovenian ancestry), ambassadors and other members of the foreign diplomatic corps, former U.S. ambassadors to Slovenia, military attachés and other high military officials, businessmen, think-tank and NGO representatives as well as representatives of other

partnering organizations the embassy regularly works with, the media as well as members of the Slovenian community in the greater Washington, DC area.

After the presentation of the American and the Slovenian national anthems, the guests were welcomed by the Ambassador, Dr. Cerar, who in his speech pointed out the determination of Slovenians 25 years ago to declare an independent state based on democracy, respect of human rights, the rule of law and



Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Hoyt Yee.



Senator Amy Klobuchar.

market economy. The Ambassador also stressed that Slovenia has been committed to participating in the international community as a responsible member of the E.U., U. N and NATO. He also thanked the Slovenian community in the U.S. for supporting the independence efforts in 1991 and helping boost Slovenia's relations with the U.S. in business, culture, science and education.

In his address, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central and Southeast Europe, Mr. Hoyt Yee, congratulated Slovenia on behalf of the Secretary of State John Kerry on this occasion. He stressed that Slovenia has shown to be a strong and reliable member of the transatlantic community and has since 1991 built a close

relationship with the United States. He devoted much of his attention to the prosperous partnership between the countries, and the importance of Slovenia's role in the transatlantic alliance.

Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, whose maternal great-grandparents were Slovene immigrants, congratulated the nation on the 25th anniversary and commended Slovenia on smartly responding to the recent migrant crisis. She also spoke about the recently deceased Ohio Senator George Voinovich and recognized his contribution as well as the contribution of the late Congressman James Oberstar to the independence efforts, the process of Slovenia's recognition and its integration in

international organizations.

On the occasion, Ambassador Dr. Cerar opened an exhibition on the Slovenian independence's referendum, curated by the National Archives of Slovenia. Also present at the opening was Director of the National Archives, Bojan Cvelfar. The interactive exhibition, which remains on display at the embassy until September 30 and chronicles the period between November 1990 and January 1991, focusing on December 23, 1990 -- the independence referendum day -- also features several documents as well as media reports and photographs showing the support for independence from the Slovenian communities across the U.S., Canada, South America, Australia and Europe.



Musical performance by Žan Tetičkovič Quartet with Camila Meza (guitar /vocal), Guy Mintus (piano), Petros Klampanis (upright bass) and Žan Tetickovič (drums).



Ambassador Dr. Cerar and Senator Tom Harkin (ret.).



25th Annual Independence Day Celebration in Cleveland, OH

The 25th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Republic of Slovenia in 1991 was celebrated in the Rotunda of Cleveland City Hall on Friday June 10, 2016. The reception was attended by some 150 guests, who were at the

beginning of the evening welcomed by Consul General Andrej Gregor Rode. At the end of his remarks, he introduced the Zarja Singing Society, the oldest Slovenian choral group in the world outside of Slovenia, which led the singing of the Slovenian and

U.S. national anthems.

Speeches were also delivered by the Mayor of Cleveland, Mr. Frank Jackson. In celebration of this memorable occasion, Mayor Jackson presented Consul General Andrej Rode with a proclamation



Opening address by Minister Gorazd Žmavc.



Ambassador Dr. Cerar and late Congressman Voinovich.

of recognition. Councilman Mike Polensek and former Cleveland Councilman, now President of Global Cleveland, Joe Cimperman also delivered remarks for the occasion. Some historical perspective of Slovenia's independence was then offered by Senator George Voinovich.

The keynote speaker was Mr. Gorazd Žmavc, Minister

of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians Abroad, who in his speech emphasized the important role of the Slovenian community in the year of 1991. Afterwards, former Slovenian Consul General Dr. Zvone Žigon then presented proclamations to Rose Marie (Macek) Jisa, president of Slovenian Genealogy Society International and congratulated her

on the society's 30th anniversary. He also praised Douglas Elersich, leader of the Zarja Singing Society, and recognized Zarja on its 100th anniversary. Zarja is the oldest Slovenian choral group in the world outside of Slovenia and has been delivering performances since 1916.



The reception took place at the Rotunda of Cleveland City Hall.



Distinguished guests.

Slovenian Flag Raised in Bethlehem for Independence Day

The 20th annual Slovenian Flag-raising on the Payrow Plaza at the City Hall in Bethlehem, PA, recognized the 25th anniversary of the Republic of Slovenia's independence. The celebration was organized by the Bethlehem–Murska Sobota Sister Cities

Association, which commemorated the 20th anniversary of its founding by a dedication of a monument the same day. The ceremony was attended by a large crowd of Slovenian community members and other Bethlehem area residents and as well as elected officials.

Also in attendance were representatives of the city of Murska Sobota, Slovenia, and the local media.

After welcoming remarks by BMSSCA President Gene Novak and the invocation by Rev. Krizolog Cimerman, the Mayor of Bethlehem



BMSSCA founder Stephen Antalics Jr. and Ambassador Dr. Cerar raise the Slovenian Flag, Mayor Bob Donchez raises the American Flag, and current BMSSCA President Eugene Novak conducts the flag raising ceremony.

Betty Sylva and Frank Podleiszek lead attendees in singing the American and Slovenian national anthems accompanied on the accordion by Alex Gergar.

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 musical accompaniment by Alex Gergar.

Following Mayor Donchez, the keynote speaker at the event, the

Ambassador of Slovenia, Dr. Božo Cerar, presented the Bethlehem-Murska Sobota Sister Cities Association president Eugene Novak with a certificate signed by the Minister for Slovenes Abroad, Mr. Gorazd Žmavc, recognizing the 20th anniversary of the association. Also speaking was Ms. Brigida Bavčar, representing the Mayor of Murska Sobota, Mr. Aleksander Jevšek.

Following the remarks, Ambassador Cerar and Mayor Donchez unveiled the Slovenian monument, designed by Gloria Rogan and installed in the garden area adjacent to the Bethlehem Area Public Library and dedicated “in memory of deceased ancestors.” The program was followed by a luncheon for Bethlehem–Murska Sobota Sister Cities Association members and guests at the Saucon Valley Acres.



A large crowd of Slovenian-Americans, elected officials and Slovenian dignitaries attend the ceremony. Unveiling of a commemorative monument.

Celebration of Statehood Day in San Francisco, CA



Franc Rode, Nina Troha, Tjaša Tanko, Jure Leskovec.



St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco.

Around 80 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, engineers, doctors, artists, students and others, enjoyed excellent food and wine in a

relaxed gathering on Saturday, June 18 afternoon and evening. At the same time, St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco flew the Slovenian flag in honor of 25 years of Slovenian Independence.



Reception On the Occasion of National Day in New York



Ambassador Andrej Logar and Honorary Consul Erik Horvat.



The event took place at the premises of the Slovenian permanent mission to the U.N.

Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the U.N., Ambassador Andrej Logar, and Honorary Consul of Slovenia for New York and New Jersey,

Mr. Erik Horvat, on Tuesday, June 22 hosted a reception to honor the 25th anniversary of Slovenian independence. The event was attended by around 90

members of the Slovenian communities from New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Slovenian National Flag-Raising Ceremony in Norfolk, VA



NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT) in Norfolk, Virginia honored the National

Day of Slovenia with a flag-raising ceremony and a reception on Tuesday, June 22, hosted by Colonel

Mojca Pešec and her husband Peter Einfalt.



25th Independence Anniversary Celebration in Kansas City, KS

In celebration of the 25th anniversary, St. Veronica Lodge

#115 in Kansas City, KS, and Holy Family Social Club on Tuesday, June

22 co-hosted a Taste of Slovenia dinner.

Slovenia's 25th Anniversary of Independence Celebrated at the Slovene Consulate in Knoxville, Tennessee



The dinner opened with a fresh white wine from Slovenia, Črnko Jareninčan 2015 (1L) and a Slovene version of brochette. Everyone who participated was enthusiastic about the event. Many look forward to the fall wine tasting at the Tennessee consulate, October 2nd.

On Sunday, July 5, 2016, Slow Food Tennessee and the Slovene Consulate in Tennessee combined their efforts to celebrate Slovenia's 25th Anniversary of Independence. Called the Summer Garden Soiree, this celebration menu, prepared by four chefs from the famed Blackberry Farm resort in Tennessee, included an array of delicious inventions, many inspired by Slovene traditional dishes. The chefs explained each offering and

how they had sourced the ingredients locally, even foraging for some on the grounds of the consulate. Each course was paired with an appropriate wine from Slovenia.

During the first interlude of the slow food dinner, Mr. Mac Goodwin gave guests a tour of the consulate garden and during the second interlude, his wife, Honorary Consul Dr. Lydia Pulsipher, helped guests appreciate the meaning of

independence to Slovenia. She gave a brief overview of changes she has witnessed in the country since she was a teenager and spoke about tiny Slovenia's growing role in the European Union and international realms. Thirty guests, four chefs and seven Slow Food volunteers joined the festivities, including President of Slow Food Tennessee Valley Kimberly Pettigrew.



The main course, saffrass glazed pork loin, was finished in the consulate's stone oven. Carrots served with the entree were roasted on the back porch. Mac Goodwin gave guests a tour of the Consulate gardens.

Minister for Slovenians Abroad Žmavc Visited Slovenians in Canada and the U.S.



Minister Žmavc with Joe Valencic at the Polka Hall of Fame.

Minister Žmavc and SNPJ President Joe Evanish.

From June 2 to 13, Minister for Slovenians Abroad Gorazd Žmavc visited the Slovenian communities in Canada and the U.S. After visiting Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver, he started his U.S. trip in Chicago on June 9. First he met with the representatives of the Slovenian Union of America, which was founded in 1926 as the Slovenian Women's Union of America. The original purpose of the society was to advocate for the rights of Slovenian women in the U.S., however, nowadays the society preserves the traditions, language, and culture of their ancestors, also

by publishing a monthly magazine called Zarja and by curating a small museum dedicated to Slovenian emigration to the area.

The next stop the minister made was at the headquarters of the Carniolian-Slovenian Catholic Union (KSKJ), an insurance and savings institution, which was established in 1894. A quarter of its 30,000 members have Slovenian roots, and the KSKJ has preserved activities helping promote Slovenian culture. The minister concluded the first day of his U.S. trip at a ceremony of the Slovenian Cultural/Catholic Center in Lemont,

marking the 25th anniversary of Slovenian independence. At the event, Slovenian Honorary Consul in Chicago, Mr. Janez Vidmar, remembered the crucial weeks in 1991 when the local Slovenian community was convincing the U.S. public and politics of the legitimacy of Slovenia's decision for independence.

After Chicago, the minister made a stop in Pittsburgh, where he was hosted by Honorary Consul Petra Mitchell. Minister Žmavc visited the University of Pittsburgh and the Slovene National Benefit Society (Slovenska narodna



Minister Žmavc and Luka Zibelnik at the Slovenian National Home in Cleveland. SUA headquarters in Joliet, IL.

podporna jednota) premises and SNP Heritage Museum in Enon Valley, Pittsburgh. Known by its Slovene initials, S.N.P.J. is an ethnic fraternal benefit and social organization for Slovene immigrants and their descendants in the United States. It was founded as early as in 1904. While in Pennsylvania, the minister also attended a celebration marking the 25th anniversary of Slovenian statehood in Imperial, when the reception was jointly

hosted by Honorary Consul Petra Mitchell and Consul General Andrej Rode.

In Cleveland, the minister visited the premises of the Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia, the sole foreign diplomatic office in the State of Ohio. He also visited the Slovenian Museum and Archives and Slovenian Genealogy Society International, both located on the premises of the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Avenue, before

attending the 25th anniversary of Slovenian independence celebration in the Rotunda of Cleveland City Hall. The next day, Minister Žmavc visited the Slovenian churches of St. Vitus and St. Mary, Slovenian retirement home and National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum in Euclid as well as met with representatives of some other Cleveland-based Slovenian organizations.

I FEEL 25

Celebration of 25 Years of Independence of the Republic of Slovenia in Pittsburgh, PA

Mr. Andrej Rode, Consul General of Slovenia, and Ms. Petra Mitchell, Honorary Consul, on Thursday, June 9 co-hosted in Imperial, PA, the

reception commemorating 25 Years of Independence of the Republic of Slovenia. Honored Guest and a Keynote speaker at the event was

Mr. Gorazd Žmavc, Minister for Slovenians Abroad of the Republic of Slovenia.

IN MEMORIAM

George Voinovich

George Voinovich, the former U.S. senator of Slovenian descent, passed away at the age 79 on Saturday, June 11, a day after his address at the ceremony in Cleveland City Hall, which marked the 25th anniversary of Slovenia's independence. As a compassionate and responsible leader he served as a mayor of Cleveland, governor of Ohio and 12 years as a federal senator.

Senator Voinovich selflessly devoted his life for the residents of his beloved home town, Cleveland, and the people of Ohio. He performed his role with great competence, enthusiasm and dignity. His tireless efforts to change the world for the better remain an inspiration to millions not only in the United States, but also in Slovenia. As a son of a Slovenian mother he was immensely

proud of his heritage and helped the Slovenian nation with honor and distinction in most difficult and defining times. Senator Voinovich supported Slovenia's aspirations and dreams since the very first years of country's sovereignty. He passionately advocated for the recognition of its independence in the U.S. Congress and actively supported the country's accession to NATO a decade later.

He was committed to the enhancement of friendship between the two countries and peoples and spared no effort in this regard. For his immense contribution he received in 2004 the Golden Order for Services, awarded by the President of Slovenia. He will be remembered for many of his leadership strengths, but mostly as a great friend of Slovenia. He will be truly missed and his endeavors



George Voinovich speaking at the event commemorating 25th anniversary of Slovenia's independence on June 10.

and achievements will always be remembered and cherished.

On behalf of the people of Slovenia, the staff at the Embassy of Slovenia extends to the Voinovich family its deepest sympathies and profound condolences.

Exhibition: Jewish Soldiers on the Isonzo Front at the Embassy

The exhibition, entitled “Forgive Us, Forgive Us, Oh You, the Dead”, was on view at the Embassy of Slovenia from May 1 to May 17. The display, curated by Petra Svoljšak and Renato Podbersič, honored Jewish soldiers in the Austro-Hungarian army who fell on the Isonzo Front (Soška fronta)

of WWI in the territory of present-day Slovenia. The exhibition was presented in cooperation with the Maribor synagogue, which serves as a cultural center of Jewish heritage in Slovenia.

A total of around 300,000 Jewish soldiers participated in the war and estimates put the number

of Jewish soldiers who lost their lives during WWI at around 40,000. The exhibition is based on historical research of documents, photos and existing literature and also interviews with people who knew about Jews who fought on the side of the Austrian army in WWI.

UPCOMING

MILLION 289 THOUSAND 369 – EXHIBITION OF THE ARCHIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PLEBISCITE FOR AN INDEPENDENT SLOVENIA

The interactive exhibition chronicles the period between November 1990 and January 1991 focusing on December 23, 1990 - the independence referendum day. It also features several documents as well as media reports and photographs showing the support for independence from the Slovenian communities in the US, Canada, South America, Australia and Europe in 1991 and 1992.

Where: Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008

When: June 23 - September 30, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

No prior appointment is required, but all guests must present their ID.

IN SHORT

- On June 13, Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek and Mr. Borut Blaj of the Slovenian Embassy visited the Kensington Park Retirement Living facility gave a presentation about Slovenia to the residents.

- Congratulations to Manica K. Musil for gold medal awarded by the 3x3 magazine of contemporary illustration, New York: <http://3x3mag.com/shows/picturebook-shows/no-13-picture-book-show-winners>

- Check the Interview of Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar for This is America & The World with Dennis Wholey: <http://ow.ly/dRpk301nHNw>



Presenting Slovenia to the residents of the Kensington Park Retirement Living Facility.