



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
EMBASSY OF REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
WASHINGTON

# NEWSLETTER

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## The Only Alternative to Water Is Water: Blue Peace for the 21st Century

*By Danilo Türk, former President of Slovenia and Chairman of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace, convened by 15 countries from all parts of the world. The article was published in the Huffington Post on March 22 on the occasion of the World Water Day.*

Until a year ago, serious tensions were mounting in northeastern Africa. Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia confronted each other over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the border between Ethiopia



Former President of Slovenia, Dr. Danilo Türk, actively participated at the Global Water Security Summit, which took place March 22 at the United States Institute of Peace.

and Sudan. Ethiopia had started building the dam, claiming its rights to use waters of the Nile River within its territory. Egypt, “the gift of the Nile”, objected, fearing that the dam would obstruct the flow of the river to its fields.

Suddenly, a miracle happened: seizing the occasion of the World Water Day on March 22, 2015, the presidents of the three countries met in Khartoum and decided to coordinate

the construction of the dam in a way that would cause no harm and would allow an equitable outcome. Implementing their agreement is not easy. But the hostile rhetoric has toned down and a spirit of cooperation is gradually surfacing in the region.

There is no alternative to trans-boundary water cooperation anywhere in the world. There are 263 shared river basins, extending through 148 countries. Unless the

countries through which the rivers run collaborate for the sustainable management of water courses, wars and environmental disasters can occur. On the other hand, cooperation in water usage can lead to comprehensive peace.

The Water Cooperation Quotient, constructed on the basis of the analysis of 219 shared river basins by Strategic Foresight Group, an international think-tank, reaches a dramatic conclusion. Any two countries engaged in active water cooperation are not likely to go to war over water or for any other reason.

It is often asked whether water would be the oil of the twenty-first century. It certainly is not. Oil has alternatives such as natural gas and renewable energy. The only alternative to water is water. Therefore, last September the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Water Goal as one of the Sustainable Development Goals. It has an ambitious objective of ensuring water security of the world's population by 2030. Cooperation among countries is an important component of the U.N. Water Goal.

The Water Cooperation Quotient provides a scientific formula to measure trans-boundary cooperation using indicators of joint investments, collaborative

management of environment, cooperative management of floods and drought, integration of water in regional economic programs, and interaction among the heads of states to enable large exchanges.

When countries reach the optimum level of water cooperation, they are in the state of Blue Peace. At this stage, water transforms from a source of potential crisis into an instrument of peace. The Senegal River Basin Organization, established by Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal in West Africa, is an example of Blue Peace. The four countries jointly own all water-related infrastructure, including dams and hydro-electric stations. The organization also facilitates political dialogue to end ethnic or border conflicts.

The Middle East is conspicuous for its absence of joint river-management bodies. This is one of the reasons why ISIS, the violent extremist group, has been able to spread so quickly. They take over vital dams and use them to incarcerate high-value prisoners, knowing well that such dams cannot be bombed for fear of flooding the entire region. They also use their control over dams and pipelines to force people to obey their order. For years, Iraq, Syria and Turkey refused to heed calls for cooperation over the Euphrates

and Tigris Rivers. The result is that all the three states have lost, and a non-state organization has space to create a base for its violent designs against the civilized world.

In order to usher in an era of Blue Peace in this century, it is necessary for the international community to join hands to achieve concrete results. First, it is essential to encourage all 263 shared river basins to establish collaborative institutions and joint investment plans, slowly climbing up on the Water Cooperation Quotient.

Second, it is necessary to introduce concessional and preferential financial possibilities for the neighboring countries who wish to cooperate in the management of water basins.

Third, water infrastructure must be protected from terrorist actions and violent conflicts.

Finally, the members of the U.N. Security Council need to come together for the future of the world's water. It is in their interest to prevent ISIS from controlling dams and reservoirs. It is in their interest to boost economic growth in all shared river basins of the developing world. It is, indeed, essential to establish Blue Peace in every region, and the World Water Day of 2016 is a good occasion to strengthen every effort in this direction.



## On April 4 – Lend Your Leg



“Lend Your Leg” is a campaign that encourages people worldwide by a symbolic gesture of rolling up a pant leg to stop the damage landmines still cause while showing solidarity with all survivors of landmines and other explosive remnants of war.”

ITF launched its campaign marking the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. On this occasion, various events will take place in Ljubljana between April 4 and 8.

Mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) continue to pose an imminent threat to human security in highly impacted countries, like Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Afghanistan, Colombia, Cambodia, Turkey or Iraq. In spite of continuous efforts of the international community in this field, mines/ERW still claim around 3,000 victims annually. In times of numerous conflicts and great humanitarian needs, mine action is a much needed means of providing the safety and security of individuals, communities and broader societies, while also ensuring the delivery of urgent humanitarian assistance and advancing long-term development cooperation.

Since its establishment in March 1998 by the Slovenian Government, ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF) has been a proud member of the international community working on mitigating and eliminating mine-related threats. In 18 years, and most importantly with the kind support of ITF’s public and private donors, over \$400 million have been raised to clear over 135 million sq.m. of mine/ERW contaminated land, to help rehabilitate 1,251 mine victims, and carry out numerous other activities in the field of enhancing human security. Yet, the work is far from done.

With this in mind, ITF has since 2012 also been engaged in

activities marking the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on April 4. The scope of this year’s campaign is twofold: ITF aims to raise awareness among Slovenians on the current disruptive challenges posed by landmines/ERW around the world, and especially in our neighborhood (the Western Balkans). At the same time, the ITF wishes to highlight the role of the Republic of Slovenia and ITF in joint efforts to reduce the danger of mines and ERW. To this end, various events are scheduled between April 4 and 8; more information is available at: <http://www.itf-fund.si/> and <https://www.facebook.com/FundITF>



# ON APRIL 4 TH LEND YOUR LEG

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MINE AWARENESS.

## Consular Hours in New York City on April 29

The consular officer from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington DC will be holding consular hours and providing consular services (authentications, certifications, passport applications, etc.) in New York City **on Friday, April 29, 2016** at the premises of Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations, located at 630 Third Avenue, 20th

Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017.

To schedule an appointment, please fill out a form (available on the embassy's website) and send it to the Embassy of Slovenia at [sloembassy.washington@gov.si](mailto:sloembassy.washington@gov.si) by April 26, 2016 to allow the embassy enough time to verify your data. Please suggest a time for your appointment. The embassy will 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) regarding documents required for most consular services. Please note that the consular fee must be paid with a Money Order addressed to "Embassy of Slovenia". Cash, personal checks or credit cards will not be accepted.

Prior appointment is needed to enter the premises of the Mission.



## 20th Youthcamp for Slovenian Children Abroad

Slovenian World Congress will organize the 20th Youth camp for Teenagers of Slovenian Origin from Abroad from July 30 to August 6, 2016 in ČŠOD Planinka in Pohorje, close to the city of Maribor.

The main purpose of the Youthcamp is to bring Slovenia closer to minds and hearts of youngsters who live abroad. Divided into small groups of six teenagers and one group leader-animator, children of Slovenian ancestry, living abroad, discover the beauty of landscapes and various cultural monuments, culture and national identity of Slovenia, and also learn the Slovenian language in a relaxed atmosphere. The organizers and group leaders encourage the use of the Slovenian language among the participants; however, teenagers with

no previous knowledge of Slovenian are also most welcome to the camp. Making new friendships with peers who share a common bond and come from all around the globe is an adventure and a great life experience.

Activities include lessons of the Slovenian language (in groups formed according to their knowledge of the language); discovery of the natural and ethnological beauties of vicinity and the city (Maribor); practical workshops (art, building shelters in nature); discussions with guests about youth problems; sports and games.

Participation in the camp focuses on young Slovenians from abroad aged from 10 to 15. However, please, send an e-mail to the contact below if the child is over or below

this age-span, and the organizers will try to find a suitable solution. Attendance fee per participant is 170 EUR (about \$190) and includes full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner), entrance fees, transportation, workshop materials and accommodation in a youth hostel. The organizers expect parents, relatives or representatives of the organizations to bring children to the hostel where the camp will be taking place. Please send the application forms by May 20, 2016 to the address: Slovenska konferenca SSK, Cankarjeva cesta 1/IV, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia. For more information, please contact: Slovenska konferenca at the above address phone: (011)(3861)242-8552; or send an e-mail to [luka.klopnic@slokongres.com](mailto:luka.klopnic@slokongres.com).

# 35th Summer School of Slovene Language 2016

The Center for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana invites you to visit Slovenia this summer and take a course in Slovene while enjoying an unforgettable Slovene holiday. Various Slovene language courses are scheduled for the period July 4–29, 2016, at the Faculty of Arts, Aškerčeva 2, Ljubljana.

You can choose between a two-week (40 hours) and four-week (80 hours) morning course, 4 lessons each day for a total of 20 lessons a week. The course takes place Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

If you want your studies to be more intensive, you can decide to attend an optional course, i.e., two additional language classes a day, available on July 5 through 15, 2016, and/or July 19 through 29, 2016; 2 lessons each day for a total of 18 lessons in 2 weeks from Monday to Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

According to your level of knowledge of Slovene, you can select from among the following courses: Beginners' level (Conversation and Phonetics), Intermediate level (Conversation/Slovene Literature and Culture/Grammar), and Advanced level (Conversation/Slovene Literature and Culture/ Preparation for the Exam of Slovene at the intermediate and advanced level). Individual elective courses will be held if at least five students enroll.

At the end of the Summer School, you will receive an official Certificate of Attendance at a Slovene language course at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana.

After successful completion of the course, the participants are

awarded ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credit points: 3 credits for a 60-hour course, 4 credits for an 80-hour course, 6 credits for a 120-hour course.

If you want to obtain an official certificate of Slovene, you can take the Exam of Slovene at the Basic, Intermediate, or Advanced Level, administered by the Examination Center at the Center for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language, and other institutions in Slovenia (only the Basic Level).

Summer school activities are not limited to language learning; there is also a varied social program, where you can get acquainted with Slovene culture, history and contemporary reality. In workshops, you will learn about cultural practices and customs, meet famous and interesting Slovenes, see a Slovene film or a theatrical production, go to a concert and do some sports.

The activities of the accompanying program are held in the afternoons and in the evenings and are covered by the tuition fee. Parts of the accompanying program are translated into English, which enables beginners to follow those activities as well; other activities are held only in Slovene and are meant as a direct complement of the language courses.

Anyone with an interest in learning Slovene is very welcome. However, participants must be at least 18 years old; younger participants should attend the **Youth Summer School** (more information at: <http://centerslo.si/en/for-children/youth-summer-school/>).

Tuition fees vary from EUR158 to 915 (about \$170 to \$1000) and cover language courses as well as the additional activities

program. The textbook is not included in the price, you will buy it at the course after the results of the placement test are known. The price of the course also does not include the Exam of Slovene.

**You can apply for the course using the application form no later than June 24, 2016** (and July 8 for the course July 18–29, 2016). Upon receiving your application the center will send you the invoice by regular or e-mail. You can find the application form at: <http://centerslo.si/en/courses-for-adults/schools/summer-school/application-35th-summer-school-of-slovene-language-2016/>

Members of Slovene ethnic minorities in other countries and descendants of Slovene expatriates and emigrants can apply for the **scholarship** (2-week morning course). The deadline for applications is May 15, 2016. Candidates who do not have Slovene background, but are actively engaged in Slovene culture or in some other way contribute to the promotion of Slovenia in the world can apply for one of the scholarships of the Jana Zemljarič Miklavčič Scholarship Trust. **The deadline for applications is May 1, 2016.**

More information about the enrollment, payment and cancellation and the prices is available at: <http://centerslo.si/en/courses-for-adults/schools/summer-school/>

In addition, The Center for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana is this year organizing the ninth Slovene Language Summer School for teenagers. For more information see: <http://centerslo.si/en/for-children/youth-summer-school>

# Idrija Municipal Museum - Franja Partisan Hospital



Surgery cabin.



Washrooms and care facility.

*What better way to learn about Slovenia's history, art and heritage than by visiting various museums spread throughout the country? When making a list of things to do in Slovenia, do not forget about interesting galleries and museum collections. We will do our best to introduce as many as possible in our newsletter.*

Second World War was one of the most difficult trials for mankind. Like other freedom-loving nations, the Slovenes organized themselves to fight against fascism and nazism. Particular institutions of the Slovenian resistance

movement were clandestine hospitals. They were built in barely accessible forests, deep gorges and underground caves. After the capitulation of Italy in autumn of 1943, Dr. Viktor Volčjak and a group of fighters began to build a new hospital in the barely accessible Pasice gorge in Dolenji Novaki in the Cerklno region on the advice of a local inhabitant, Janez Peternej. With the dedicated assistance of the locals, the hospital was being constructed in phases through the end of war, when 14 wooden cabins and several auxiliary facilities were squeezed into the bottom of the gorge of the Čerinščica creek.

Already during the war, the hospital was named after Franja Bojc Bidovec, a partisan physician, who was the longest-serving administrator of the hospital.

The access path to the hospital ran along the Čerinščica. Before being transported -- which took place at night -- the wounded were blindfolded to ensure they could not see and reveal where they were treated. This was the only clandestine partisan hospital that set up its own defense system. Although the enemy came twice into the immediate vicinity of the hospital, it was never discovered. The hospital facility in the gorge was intended



Cabin for the wounded.



Kitchen.



Franja Partisan Hospital in the Pasice gorge.



Electric plant.



**Location:**  
Dolenji Novaki pri Cerknem,  
5282 Cerkno  
Slovenia  
  
Tel: +386 5 37 23 180  
Fax: +386 5 37 23 181  
Email: [info@muzej-idrija-cerkno.si](mailto:info@muzej-idrija-cerkno.si)  
Website: <http://www.muzej-idrija-cerkno.si/>

primarily for severely injured patients, while others were treated in dislocated units that were not preserved after the war.

The medical staff saved lives in circumstances that are hardly imaginable today. While surgery was rarely performed without narcosis and the surgeons mostly had at their disposal ether, pentothal, and other drugs. There was, however, a lack of antibiotics, blood and plasma. The staff also had to improvise the disinfection of

surgical linen and instruments. Sanitary materials and medicines were sent by field organizations, and aid also came through clandestine connections from as far away as Milan and Graz and the first consignment of sanitary materials from the Allies arrived in March 1944.

A colorful cultural life gradually developed at the hospital. Along with medical care, entertainment was also of crucial importance for the patients so that they did not become despondent. Commemorations and meetings, featuring political speeches, singing, recitations and sketches were frequently organized. A literary magazine entitled *Bolniški list* (Patient's Bulletin) was also published. 578 severely wounded persons were treated in the central facility, today known as the Franja Partisan Hospital, and about 300 wounded were treated in ten dislocated units. Among the wounded were, besides Slovenes, also members of former Yugoslav nations and the nations of the Soviet Union, Italians, Poles, Frenchmen, two Austrians and two Americans. One of them, Harold C. Adams, was an American Air Force pilot, whose plane was shot down in February 1944. He injured his leg while landing on the plateau

Šentviška planota, and was brought to the hospital. The staff of the Franja Partisan Hospital enabled the American Air Force lieutenant to return safely to his homeland. He was one of more than 300 allied pilots rescued by Slovenian partisans.

Franja Hospital is a cultural monument of national importance, entered in UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage. Because of a flood, the hospital was almost entirely destroyed in 2007, but soon thereafter was completely reconstructed. Due to its symbolic value and its role in the European history and culture, Partisan hospital Franja received the European heritage label in 2015. Franja is a unique example of providing healthcare in adverse circumstances and is also a symbol of humanity, solidarity and comradeship among local people, hospital staff members and wounded soldiers, who fought against fascism and nazism in World War II.



In front of the dining room.

*Text: Milojka Magajne, Idrija Municipal Museum*  
*English translation: Suzana Stančič*  
*Photos: Photo library of Cerkno Museum*

## TO DO LIST - WASHINGTON, D.C.

### Drama ANTIGONE NOW! at the ATLAS THEATRE

Don't miss the riveting drama *Antigone Now* by Slovenia's most acclaimed playwright, Evald Flisar. Set in a Mediterranean seaside village, the play centers on young Clara. She learns that her uncle, the Mayor, has struck a deal with foreign investors to build a golf course and hotel to create jobs and prosperity. But first, he must demolish the local graveyard and move the corpses to a crematorium he intends to build. Clara refuses to surrender her departed brother's grave, and a powerful confrontation unfolds. Can the common good win without destroying personal values?

#### PAST SHOWS:

Friday, March 25, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. (Preview)

Saturday, March 26, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 1, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

#### UPCOMING SHOWS:

Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H Street NE, Washington, DC 20002

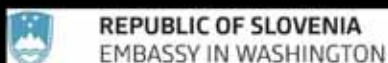
More information: [https://atlasarts.secure.force.com/ticket/#details\\_a0Si000000EC14bEAD](https://atlasarts.secure.force.com/ticket/#details_a0Si000000EC14bEAD)  
<http://scenatheatre.org/>

## Ensemble 4saxess 2016 U.S.A. Spring Tour

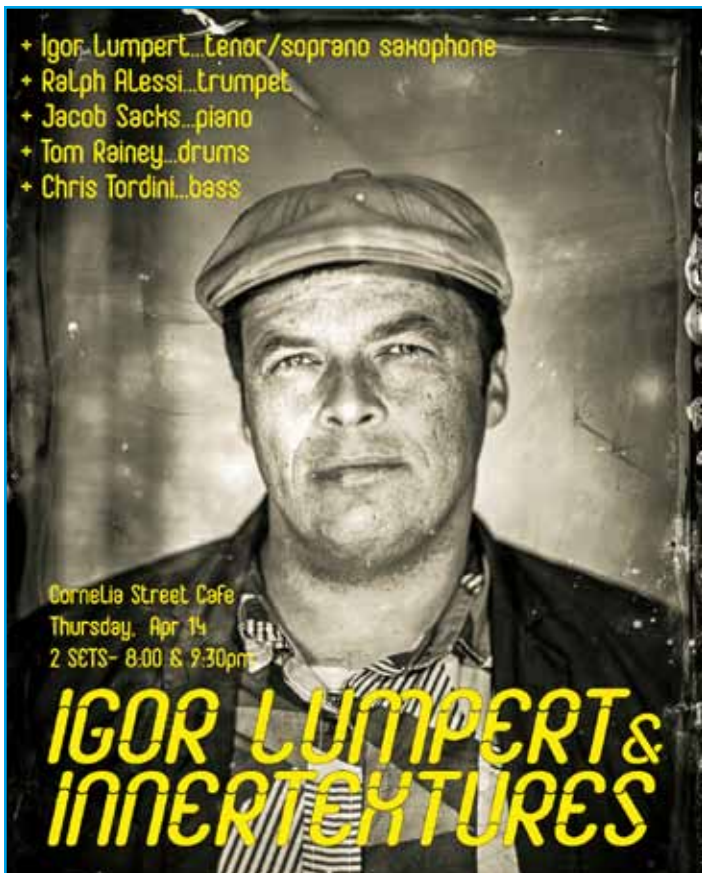
NEW YORK	Sunday, April 24 <sup>th</sup> Concert, NYC, Church of St. Cyril
NEW YORK	Monday, April 25 <sup>th</sup> Concert, NYC, D'addario Showroom
VIRGINIA	Tuesday, April 26 <sup>th</sup> Masterclass and concert Winchester - Shenandoah Conservatory
WASHINGTON	Wednesday, April 27 <sup>th</sup> Concert, Washington D.C., Kennedy Center
CONNECTICUT	April, 28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> Artists in residence, Hartford, The Hartt School

4Saxess Saxophone Quartet is primarily a contemporary classical music ensemble, however, its repertoire frequently includes genres beyond classical and avant-garde music, such as ethno, jazz and crossover. The ensemble was formed in 2002 and has since established a reputation for excellence and versatility and performed recitals, concerts, and master classes throughout Europe and the U.S.

By commissioning and premiering numerous works dedicated to the 4Saxess quartet, the ensemble has made a big contribution to the saxophone quartet repertoire. This genre leading quartet regularly collaborates with several composers with the aim of performing original music that has been created and arranged exclusively for them. These compositions have also become regular features of concert programs by similar ensembles, both in Slovenia and elsewhere in Europe. So far, the group has released two CDs "4 Folk" in 2007 and "4 US" in 2011, both produced by RTV Slovenia.







## TO DO LIST - NEW YORK

### HOUSTON WE HAVE A PROBLEM! AT THE TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL

The cold war, the space race, and NASA's moon landing are landmark events that defined an era. But they are also fodder for conspiracy theories.

In *Houston, We Have a Problem!* Slovenian filmmaker Žiga Virc adds new material to the discussion on both fronts. This intriguing docu-fiction explores the myth of the secret multi-billion-dollar deal behind America's purchase of Yugoslavia's clandestine space program in the early 1960s.

#### **SCREENINGS:**

Saturday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Regal Cinemas, Battery Park 11 - 9, 102 North End Ave, New York, NY 10281

Monday, April 18 at 7:45 p.m. at Regal Cinemas Battery Park 11 - 8, 102 North End Ave, New York, NY 10281

Wednesday, April 20 at 4:00 PM at Bow Tie Chelsea Cinemas 9, 260 W. 23rd St, New York, NY 10011

Thursday, April 21 at 5:30 PM at Bow Tie Chelsea Cinemas 8, 260 W. 23rd St, New York, NY 10011

More information and tickets: <https://tribecafilm.com/filmguide/houston-we-have-a-problem-2016>

### SHOW BY SAŠO SANDIČ

Slovenian-born singer-songwriter and guitarist, Sašo Sandič, moved to NYC in 2014. Sašo then studied with guitar virtuosos Oz Noy, Mike Stern, Berklee professors Pat Pattison and Tomo Fujita (who taught the likes of John Mayer), and others. After a couple of open mic appearances, Sašo released an unofficial album of demo songs with the help of Oz Noy, Keith Carlock, Mike J. Visceglia, Kevin Bents, Joe Bonadio, James Genus, Jeff Kazee, Danny Lapidus and Ted Spencer.

When: [April 11, 2016 at 6 p.m.](#)

Where: [Rockwood Music Hall, 196 Allen St, New York, NY 10002](#)

Website: [www.rockwoodmusichall.com](http://www.rockwoodmusichall.com), [www.sasosandic.com](http://www.sasosandic.com)

\*with Oz Noy, Clifford Carter, Joe Bonadio and James Genus

**ŠIŠKA DELUXE at the CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

When one of them inherits a run-down empty dry cleaner, three friends decide to take over and start their own pizzeria. Of course, whenever in starting a new business, obstacles abound—in this case: opening a business in a run-down neighborhood, goons looking for a shakedown, and knowing absolutely nothing about starting a new business. ŠIŠKA DELUXE is a comedy about what it takes to go from being an extra-small cheese to a deep-dish sheet pizza with all the toppings. Mile, Fedr, and Zekir are three slackers looking for their slice of the pie. But when business is slow, you need a great idea. The pizza special of the title is your order of pizza with anything else you want. Need a swan for a photo shoot? Order a pizza and you get your swan. Need a case of beer? Done. Drugs? Done. Dry cleaning? Done. One of the funnier movies of this year's CIFE, ŠIŠKA DELUXE will pepper you with laughs, and take a pizza -- your heart. (In Slovenian with subtitles) –T.W.

When: [Friday, April 8, 2016 at 9:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 2:20 p.m.](#)

Where: [Tower City Cinemas, 230 W Huron Rd, Cleveland, OH 44113](#)

More information: <http://www.clevelandfilm.org/films/2016/ika-deluxe>



**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Looking for Volunteers for E.U. Open House for May 14**

On **Saturday, May 14, 2016**, diplomatic representations of Member States of the E.U. and the E.U. Delegation to the United States in Washington will celebrate Europe Day by organizing the 10th annual E.U. Open House day. The embassies of all 28 member countries and the

E.U. Delegation will open their doors **from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** showcasing their art, culture, and food, and introducing the European Union to the public. Last year, over 3500 people visited the Slovenian embassy, and this year even more visitors are expected. Since the event has gained

extreme popularity and success, we are looking for volunteers to help us welcome the guests, help at different booths and to direct visitors to the embassy at the nearby bus stop.

If interested, send us an e-mail to [sloembassy.washington@gov.si](mailto:sloembassy.washington@gov.si).

**IN SHORT**

- Berlin, by Slovenian writer Aleš Šteger, is on the long list (top 25) for the 2016 Best Translated Book Award in the U.S.!

<http://www.rochester.edu/College/translation/threepercent/index.php?id=16982>

- More than 40 Slovenian wines were among medal winners at the 2016 Finger Lakes International Wine Competition! <http://fliwc.com/results/2016results.asp>

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Send us your comments or request for a subscription on: [sloembassy.washington@gov.si](mailto:sloembassy.washington@gov.si)  
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