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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EMBASSY OF REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
WASHINGTON

NEWSLETTER

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Annual Meeting of Slovenian Diplomats



Heads of Slovenia's diplomatic missions and top Foreign Ministry officials met on January 4 - 6 2016 in Brdo Estate for annual consultations. The consultations were opened by Prime Minister, Miro Cerar, and Foreign Minister, Karl Erjavec, while President, Borut Pahor, addressed the conference on Tuesday and Speaker Milan Brglez on Wednesday.

This year's meeting, already the 20th, focused on pending issues, including migration, global security, human rights, public finances, Slovenia's priorities within the E.U.'s global strategy and the

internationalization of Slovenian economy. It also discussed issues relating to culture, education, additional possibilities for promoting the Slovenian tourist industry, Slovenians living abroad and the support that the diplomatic service can offer them.

The Prime Minister of Slovenia, Miro Cerar, said that the 25th anniversary of Slovenia's independence was also an important landmark for Slovenian diplomacy, which is one of the vital attributes of the state. He highlighted that activities in the 2016 will still be dominated by the migration crisis, and that the resolution of this issue

is connected to the existence of the E.U. He highlighted the preservation of the Schengen area and Slovenia in it as a priority.

The President of the Republic of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, stressed that in the last 25 years, the Slovenian diplomatic service has acquired a great deal of experience, which is the foundation for an assertive approach in the future. The President of the National Assembly, Milan Brglez, commended the current efforts of the diplomatic and consular network on their everyday work for Slovenia's prosperity. In 25 years, the diplomatic service has had many successes, including membership

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of international and supranational institutions and Slovenia's present and former presidencies of these organizations.

Annual consultations present a chance for in-depth debates among Slovenian diplomats and are a major element in planning Slovenia's

activities in foreign policy. They started of as panels on Slovenia's joining the E.U. and NATO, while the agenda turned to other topics after 2004.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

President and Prime Minister Host Diplomatic Corps



On January 27, Prime Minister, Dr. Miro Cerar, and the President of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, held a reception for the diplomatic corps in Ljubljana to mark the start of the new year. They both addressed the ambassadors, highlighting the current migration crisis, urging a unified approach to addressing the Syrian crisis, terrorism prevention, and peace-keeping.

In his speech, PM Dr.

Cerar said that in the 25 years as an independent country, Slovenia has asserted itself as a reliable and responsible partner, which assumes its share of the burden when it comes to international challenges. Slovenians are committed to dealing with issues relating to global peace, security and stability in a constructive, proactive and cooperative manner, "which is how we are dealing with the migration issue," said the PM.

The President of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, also highlighted the need to find a joint European solution to current migration. He stressed that in the current circumstances it is vital that prudence, tolerance and responsibility prevail. At the same time, carefully considered measures should be taken in the short term, while creating a clear, long-term vision of a new Europe, he said.

Acting Director-General for the Multilateral Affairs, Sanja Štiglic, Holds Talks in Washington

Acting Director-General for the Multilateral Affairs, Development Cooperation and International Law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sanja Štiglic, visited Washington, DC. During the visit she attended the conference of the Proliferation Security Initiative and on the margins of the conference had

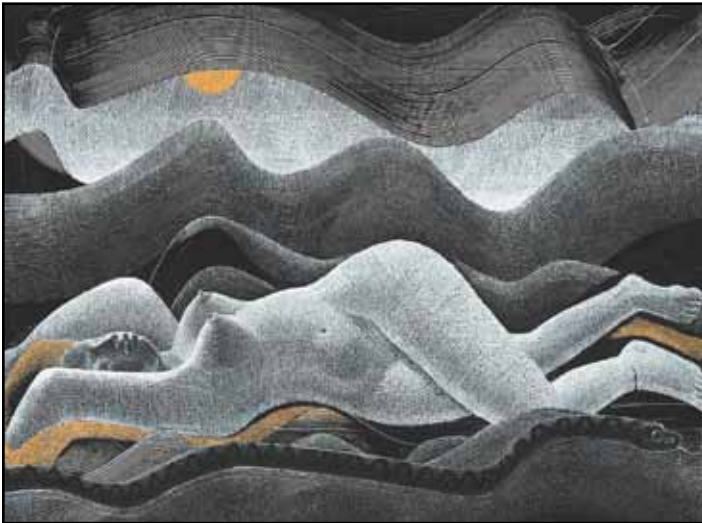
meetings at the State Department.

She met with Assistant Secretary Tom Countryman, Deputy Assistant Secretary Erin Barclay and Deputy Assistant Secretary Nerissa Cook. The conversations with the American interlocutors were focused on political and security questions, cooperation within

international human rights forums and UNESCO. Furthermore she exchanged views on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and presented the Slovenian initiative to declare May 20 as the World Bee Day.

CULTURE

Slovenian Illustrator Honored By U.S. Society of Illustrators



Alenka Sottler: Eurydice.



Alenka Sottler: Orpheus mourning.

Slovenian illustrator Alenka Sottler has been listed among leading contemporary illustrators worldwide by the U.S. Society of Illustrators. She was awarded a gold medal for her illustration of Eurydice in a book by poet Bina Štampe Žmavc, Poem for Lyre, at a ceremony on February 5 in New York.

Alenka Sottler's award-winning illustration has been on display at the Museum of American Illustration from February 3 to 27 as part of the society's annual exhibition, Illustrators 58, featuring works by leading contemporary

illustrators worldwide selected by a prestigious jury of professionals. Alenka Sottler is praised for her innovative and visually appealing work that mirrors great self-esteem. Her style is modern but also reflects a great knowing of the history of visual images and the importance of meaning and clarity, wrote Walter King of Columbus College of Art and Design.

Alenka Sottler is one of the greatest interpreters of the contemporary art in terms of poetics and vision. Her complex work builds on a cultivated play of associations,

metaphors and symbols, according to Livio Sossi, professor of history of youth literature at the University of Udine, Italy. Sottler's Eurydice has been exhibited at the society's annual exhibition among the award-winning works in the Book and Editorial Category. The exhibition, featuring 400 artists all, will be divided into three parts. Bina Štampe Žmavc's Poem for Lyre was published by Založba Pivec at the end of last year. The poem is a revival of the classic antique myth of Orpheus and Eurydice.

SWU Scholarship Foundation Celebrates Its 70th Anniversary

The Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Fund was organized in 1946 at a national convention and, during 1949, the Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Fund began awarding college scholarships to young students of Slovene ancestry. It was the first of several Slovenian organizations to confer awards, and is the longest functioning in the United States. Over 400 young people throughout the United States have been helped financially to attain four-year degrees, many in the medical, engineering, business, and teaching fields. One scholarship winner became a colonel in the military and another a priest. The very first scholarship recipient, Dr. Donald Carek, was a pioneer in the field of child psychiatry, and he stated that the scholarship he received back in 1949 opened the gates of higher learning for him.

Marie Prisland, founder of the Slovenian Women's Union in 1926, was also the founder of the SWU Scholarship Program. She had a deep interest in education throughout her life, beginning back in Rečica ob Savinji, Slovenia, when as a child she acted as a teacher to cows that grazed on the steep hillside next to her ancestral home. At the 1946 SWU National Convention, held in Pittsburgh, members voted to organize and begin fund-raising for the scholarship program. In 1949, enough money had been raised through the sales of greeting cards and formation of a Friendship Circle with \$20.00 memberships, for the first scholarships to be awarded.

The Scholarship Program applied for a tax-exempt status in 1997 with its resulting change in title becoming the Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship

Foundation. The SWU Scholarship Foundation continues to thrive today due to the generous support and continued interest of Slovenian Union members and friends. It is the hard work of our donors and dedicated SWU Scholarship Program directors, including Marie Prisland, Hermine Dicke, Carita Girman, Marge Church, and currently Mary Turvey, who have kept the dream of those Pittsburgh Convention ladies alive.

Not only does the mission of the SWU Scholarship Foundation state that the funds will be raised to financially assist deserving college students, but it is the wish of SWU Scholarship Foundation board members and trustees that our scholarship winners who have inherited a rich, treasured culture, preserve and promote it for generations to come.



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Slovenian Women's Union Scholarships for 2016-2017

The Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation is offering a number of scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year. SWU Scholarships of \$1,000 and \$2,000 will be available for those attending an accredited college or graduate school full time. SWU Scholarships of \$500.00 will be offered to adult part-time students

taking accredited classes online or attending technical school classes part-time. Qualifications are that the applicant be of Slovene ancestry and purchase a membership of the Slovenian Union for the year 2016. Membership will include receiving the "Zarja" magazine and invitation to all Slovenian Union branch activities.

For more information visit www.swusf.org or contact the SWU Scholarship Foundation, 4 Lawrence Drive, Marquette, Michigan 49855, or Mary Turvey President, mturvey@aol.com or Marge Church VP & Treasurer, yemecl@windstream.net. Application deadline is **March 1, 2016**.

Božidar Jakac Art Museum



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.

The museum was established in 1974 in order to upgrade regular cultural activities taking place in Kostanjevica na Krki, most especially in the field of visual art. Božidar Jakac Art Museum is located in the former monastery of the former Cistercian

order, which was dissolved in 1786 by Emperor Joseph II. Its property was transferred to the Carniolan religious fund, the church equipment was sold at auction and the monastery church was deconsecrated. The monastery became the headquarters of the forestry administration and the notarial service and was occupied by a large number of tenants. With the dissolution of the Cistercians, the monastery began the process of decay, which reached its peak with the fire and demolition of 1942/43 and further demolition after the end of the war. The first restoration/protective works were carried out

by students of a Professor France Stele's seminar (around 1933), while thorough restoration commenced in 1957, when the bell tower collapsed, and is still in progress today. In 1989 the former monastery was proclaimed a cultural monument and is thus classified among those monuments to which the State devotes particular attention. The buildings of the former monastery and their surroundings offer ideal conditions for the organization of cultural events, concerts and theatrical and operatic performances.

After extensive restoration and renovation work, the former



CGallery (Photographer: Tomaž Grdin)

Tone Kralj Collection.

convent church acquired its present form in 1971. As such it represents one of the most beautiful examples of early Gothic (later turned into baroque) architecture in Slovenia. Božidar Jakac Art Museum is now used as an exhibiting space where notable artists (Slovene as well as foreign) present their site-specific projects or temporary exhibitions, which often receive great attention of experts and wider public alike.

The museum is one of the largest in Slovenia as to the size of its exhibition area and presented material and has a fine art collection. Its permanent exhibitions present mainly works by Slovene expressionists (Božidar Jakac, France Kralj, Tone Kralj, Jože Gorjup) and other painters (Bogdan Borčič, Janez Boljka, Zoran Didek, France Gorše) and the Pleterje collection of Old Masters, while temporary exhibitions cover the work of the most important contemporary artists from Slovenia and abroad. Annual programs of Božidar Jakac Art Museum are

determined in cooperation with other Visual Art Institutions, which work on national as well as international level.

Since 1958, this ministerial manor, situated in the old town of Kostanjevica na Krki, functions as a separate unit of the Božidar Jakac Art Museum, the Lamut Art Salon. This exhibition area is named after the painter and printmaker Vladimir Lamut (1915 – 1962) many of whose works were made in Kostanjevica na Krki. It is also a site of temporary exhibitions and other cultural events.

Sculpture Park Forma viva

The more than a hundred sculptures on display on the grounds surrounding the museum and in Kostanjevica na Krki itself were created between 1961 and 1988, and since 1998 biennially at the international sculpture symposiums Forma Viva, in which participate sculptors from all over the world. The sculptures, which the participants



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Closed on: Mondays, January 1,
November 1 December 25

create over the course of a month, remain in the natural environment. They are made exclusively of oak, a typical basic material for this area (stone, for instance, is used for the Forma Viva at Seča near Portorož, iron at Ravne na Koroškem and concrete at Maribor).

ANNOUNCEMENT

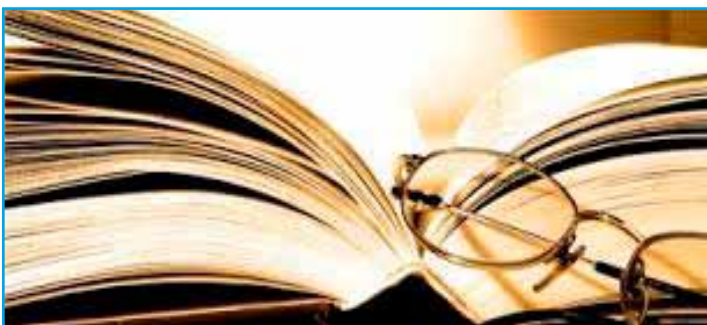
Workshop/Seminar on Slovene to English Literary Translation

The University of Washington will offer a 3-credit workshop/seminar on Slovene to English literary translation (SLVN 499) during UW's spring quarter (**March 28 – June 3, 2016**). Interested students nationwide who have attained at least

intermediate/high proficiency (2+/3) in Slovene are welcome to enroll in the class, which will be taught live on the UW campus and simultaneously via distance learning technology. Class meetings are scheduled for Tue/Thu 3:30-4:50 p.m. Pacific time

(5:30-6:50 p.m. Central, or 6:30-7:50 p.m. Eastern time).

For more information contact mbiggins@uw.edu or (206) 543-5588.



3D PORTRAITS FROM NORTH KOREA BY MATJAŽ TANČIČ

Matjaž Tančič, a Slovenian photographer based in Beijing, will share images and a short video from the project 3DPRK at a special event in Brooklyn hosted by Asia Society's Center on U.S.-China Relations and WeWork. The portraits in this series are the first images of local people from across North Korea made using a 3D stereoscopic technique. This landmark collection shows not only the citizens of Pyongyang — North Korea's showcase capital — but also farmers in the fields of co-operative farms, residents of Hamhung (North Korea's second largest city) and factory workers. The collaborative project, done with support from Koryo Studio, included a team of five (photographer, producer, two North Korean guides, and one driver) as Tančič photographed soldiers at the tense Demilitarized Zone, and visited schools, hospitals and other sites across the country.

3D viewing glasses will be provided. Tančič will take questions following the event.

When: [February 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [WeWork Dumbo Heights, 81 Prospect Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201](#)

More information: <http://asiasociety.org/new-york/events/3dprk-3d-portraits-north-korea>

UPCOMING SHOWS 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.

Sašo began playing guitar at the age of 13, inspired by the nostalgic sounds of '60s groups like the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. He soon began taking lessons with accomplished jazz musicians from Slovenia, namely Primož Grašič and Samo Salamon. Playing in different local bands, Sašo made a couple of notable appearances with Slovenian's most renowned session musicians, such as the main stage at the Slovenian National Theater and Satchmo Jazz Club as part of the internationally acclaimed Festival Lent.

When: [February 22, 2016 at 9 p.m.](#)

Where: [The Bitter End, 147 Bleecker St., 10012 New York, NY](#)

Website: www.bitterend.com

*with Oz Noy, Jeff Kazee, Joe Bonadio and Tony Garnier

When: [March 8, 2016 at 9 p.m.](#)

Where: [The Shrine, 2271 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd, New York, NY 10030](#)

Website: <http://www.shrinenyc.com/>

*with Oz Noy, Clifford Carter, Joe Bonadio and Tony Garnier

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

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

Website: www.rockwoodmusichall.com

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

*Oz Noy - guitarist extraordinaire (Gavin DeGraw, Allman Brothers, Aerosmith)

Clifford Carter (James Taylor, Paul Simon, Art Garfunkel)

Tony Garnier (Bob Dylan)

Jeff Kazee (Roger Waters, Bon Jovi)

James genus (SNL, Herbie Hancock, Daft Punk)

Joe Bonadio (Sting, Pat Martino, Avril Lavigne)

More information: www.sasosandic.com

<https://sasosandic.bandcamp.com>

www.facebook.com/sashosmusic

TO DO LIST - MISSOURI

'SUBDUCTION ZONE' EXHIBITION BY EVA PETRIČ AT HUNT GALLERY IN MO

Eva Petrič, a Vienna-based Slovenian artist, has wide ranging practice working in photography, video, performance, sound and installation. Her Webster installation “subDUCTION zone” poetically looks at geological process and the environmental impact on the human heart. Petrič’s works have appeared in numerous exhibitions in Europe and the United States, including: Kunstlerhaus, Vienna, Austria; KIC, Skopje, Macedonia; City Art Museum, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Museum for Contemporary Art, Carinthia. She has most recently exhibited at Stephansdom in Vienna, Austria; Culture.point, Piran, Slovenia; the Austrian Cultural Forum, Ricco Maresca Gallery; and Bergdorf-Goodman in New York. Eva Petrič has an M.F.A. in New Media from Transart Institute/ Danube University, Krems, Austria, and a B.A. in Visual Culture from Webster University at its Vienna campus

When: [February 19 to March 12, 2016](#)

Where: [Cecille R. Hunt Gallery, 8342 Big Bend Blvd, Webster Groves, MO 63119](#)

More information: http://events.webster.edu/event/hunt_gallery_reception_eva_petric_subduction_zone
<https://www.facebook.com/cecillerhuntgallery/>

TO DO LIST - WASHINGTON, D.C.

NATURA MORTA: A CHRISTMAS STILL-LIFE EXHIBIT WITH THE ARTWORK OF TERESA VELIKONJA OAXACA

Teresa Velikonja Oaxaca, an award winning artist, was born in the United States. Her parents are of Slovenian and Mexican heritage. She has lived and traveled in many places throughout her life, and art has always been a part of it. These days she spends her time between the United States and Europe collecting inspiration, working on her oil painting, teaching master-classes all over the world and taking portrait commissions. Her work exhibits regularly both nationally and abroad, and her portrait sitters consist of an eclectic mix of individuals including notoriously hard to capture young children, ambassadors, Smithsonian museum Curators, and rock stars. When not traveling, she keeps a busy studio in Washington, DC.

The show features a range of mediums and sizes including large scale oil painting to small finely crafted drawings and etchings. The work will be focused on the representation of classical still life as the title suggests; “Natura Morta” is Italian for Still Life, and indeed many languages use the term Dead Life, rather than still to convey the time honored genre. Figures do make appearances in this show however they are often as not mere effigies of the human. There are masks of all expression, painted faces on models, skulls, dolls and German Nutcrackers, paintings of children’s blocks from another age depicted Aesopian Fables with stern warnings. Through the stern reminders of vanity and mortality the nature and life spring forth in the abundance of rich colors and fabrics, abundant heads of hair and above all the flowers. If one was to count the number of flowers in the show there would be hundreds, possibly thousands. Life is represented in the cycle of demise, renewal and rebirth. Much like the celebration that takes place in the dead of winter in cultures throughout the world.

On her Slovenian side, her mother is Maria Velikonja, her grandparents were Joseph Velikonja and Tilly Rus Velikonja. Maria Velikonja has conducted some genealogy research, and discovered that the Slovenian baroque painter Anton Cebej is an ancestor. The Velikonja family comes from Predmeja, and the Rus family comes from Novo Mesto. Teresa’s grandparents immigrated to the United States in 1955. This exhibit includes a large portrait of Teresa’s grandfather, Joseph Velikonja, who died earlier this year in Ljubljana.

When: [Show runs December 21-April 1, on view Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.](#)

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

For more information call: +1 (202) 386-6610