



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

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 18, 2016, VOLUME 12, NUMBER 5

## Colorado National Guard Leadership Visit the Embassy



**On Tuesday, April 15, 2013, Major General H. Michael Edwards, Adjutant General of Colorado National Guard, and some 20 senior military staff members of Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs paid their annual visit to the Slovenian embassy. The delegation met with Deputy Chief of Mission, Vladimir Kolmanič, and Defense Attaché, Colonel Ivan Mikuž.**

The meeting at the Embassy was dedicated to discussing the

strengthening of future cooperation between the Slovenian Army (SV) and Colorado National Guard (CNG) within the framework of State Partnership Program. The partnership was launched in 1993 when the Colorado National Guard was chosen to help Slovenia in meeting the NATO standards necessary for joining the Alliance and to support the restructuring of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

The cooperation has been very intensive and fruitful in the past

23 years, peaking in a partnership program of exercise and training of members of SV and CNG in Colorado and Slovenia for the operations and management of OMLT (Operational Mentor and Liaison Team) in Afghanistan. The established partnership added significantly to the friendly relations between Slovenia and the U.S., which is one of the reasons why both sides hope that this most valued relationship will continue in the future.



DCM Kolmanič and Col. Mikuž welcoming Major General Edwards. Some 20 senior military staff members visited the embassy.

## POLITICAL AFFAIRS

# Political and Security Consultations Between Slovenia and the U.S.

The United States hosted regular annual political and security consultations with Slovenia in Washington on March 9. The U.S. delegation was headed by the Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Bureau for Political-Military Affairs, William G.P. Monahan, whereas Slovenia was represented by the Acting Director-General for Multilateral Affairs, Development Cooperation and International Law, Sanja Štiglic.

This, the ninth regular consultations were devoted to topical

international and regional political and security issues, the fight against terrorism, managing migration, both countries' activities within NATO, their participation in U.N. peace operations, and the possibilities of enhancing bilateral cooperation on political and security matters.

Both sides also exchanged views on Western Balkans. With regard to NATO, the discussion focused on the challenges in the east and south, and on preparations for the July NATO Summit in Warsaw.

The Slovenian side underlined the importance of the open-door policy and the enlargement of NATO, including the related issue of the Euro-Atlantic prospects of countries in Western Balkans.

The debate also focused on the situation in Afghanistan and the international community's efforts to stabilize the country. Both sides also reaffirmed their support for the activities of ITF – Enhancing Human Security.

## SPORTS

# Matjaž Vrhunc Raced the Rock 'n' Roll, D.C. Marathon

Member of the Slovenian Armed Forces athletic team and Slovenian Ministry of Defense's staff member Matjaž Vrhunc competed on Saturday, March 12, in the Rock 'n' Roll D.C. Marathon. Among 2,477 participants, he took 43th place and 2nd place in his age group. With the excellent result of three hours and three minutes, he successfully represented the Slovenian Armed Forces and Slovenian Ministry of Defense.

By invitation of the Defense Attaché, Colonel Ivan Mikuž, he also attended the reception on the occasion of the visit of the Colorado National Guard leadership at the Embassy of Slovenia, where Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Vladimir Kolmanič, and the Colorado National Guard Commander, Major General Michael Edwards, congratulated him for his outstanding run.



# La Grande Fête de la Francophonie



On Friday, March 18, the Embassy of France in Washington hosted perhaps the most eagerly anticipated event during “le mois de la francophonie”, La Grande Fête de la Francophonie. The traditional cultural and promotional event, which attracted around 1500 visitors, was the highlight of the annual Francophonie Cultural Festival.

Slovenia traditionally participates in the event due to its status as an observer at the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF - Organisation internationale de la Francophonie). Although Slovenia is not a French-speaking country, our embassy recorded a large number of visitors at the presentation of our tourist

attractions and cultural characteristics. The visitors were invited to sample Slovenian traditional foods, wine and beer, and a lot of their attention and admiration was also given to the Slovenian national costume. Next to Slovenia, more than 30 embassies of member and observer states joined in presenting their culture and cuisine.



## EDUCATION

# Mann Elementary School Students Visit the Embassy

As part of the Embassy Adoption Program, Mann Elementary School students visited the Slovenian Embassy on Friday, March 18. Both the Slovenian Embassy and the school

are participating in an academic program (offered in partnership with the D.C. Public Schools and the Washington Performing Arts Society), the mission of which is to work with 5th- and 6th-grade

students, and to impart global education in the classroom. One of the program’s highlights is field trips, so the students can experience firsthand their adopted culture.

This was the fifth graders’



Learning Slovenian.



Learning about Slovenia.

first visit to Slovenian Embassy. The group of some 40 students was welcomed by Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek, who explained to them the role of an embassy and answered to

their questions. After the lecture about the country and a lesson of Slovenian language, the students had a chance to taste traditional Slovenian walnut roll-cake "potica"

and the famous Carniolian sausage (kranjska klobasa). The 5th graders also learned about Slovenian traditional costume and folk music, and took a dance lesson.



# ASEF Fellowship Program 2016

The American-Slovenian Education Foundation (ASEF) fellowship program provides student financial support, allowing fellows to focus on their research. Fellowships build lasting relationships between ASEF and academic institutions. The purpose of the fellowship is to strengthen research and study exchange between Slovenia and the U.S. with the objective of giving talented Slovenian students the ability to realize their potential to the fullest. The ASEF fellowship provides funding (travel, housing, and living expenses) for a 10 week summer research visit to a U.S. university or research institution in the area of applicant's field of study/expertise.

## Eligibility

Applications are open to full-time Slovenian as well as Slovenian-American students enrolled in a higher education institution. A typical applicant is a senior undergraduate, master's, or junior PhD student.

## Participating institutions

The fellowship provides funding for a 10 week summer research visit to the following research groups:

### Political and social studies:

Harvard University, Dr. Peter Verovšek who works in international political theory. His research examines how socially mediated collective memories serve as resources for political innovation in the aftermath of broad historical ruptures. He is currently starting a new project examining flexible approaches to the implementation of the emerging global transitional justice norm.

### Computer science:

University of Southern California, prof. Jernej Barbič, who is looking for students with interests in numerical methods, computer graphics, fast physics,

special effects for film, medical simulation, finite element methods, model reduction and control of nonlinear systems.

Stanford University, Prof. Jure Leskovec, who focuses on data science and modeling of human activity traces. Analysis of large social and information networks. Applications of recommender systems, machine learning and data mining to big data problems.

University of California Berkeley, Prof. Dawn Song, who is looking for students focusing on computer security, including security and privacy issues in Web and mobile systems; analysis of and defense against malicious code; using program analysis, algorithms design, and machine learning for security and privacy.

### Computational and molecular biology:

University of California, San Francisco, Prof. Andrej Šali, who works on projects that use large-scale computational models grounded in the laws of physics and evolution to study the structure and function of proteins. Developing methods for: predicting the structures of proteins; determining the structures of macromolecular assemblies; and annotating the functions of proteins using their structures.

University of California, San Francisco, Prof. Matija Peterlin, who works on molecular biology, immunology, virology and genetics to tackle intractable immunodeficiencies, be they the bare lymphocyte syndrome or AIDS. These approaches also find resonance in autoimmunity and cancer.

### Physics:

University of California Berkeley, Prof. Uroš Seljak, who works on theoretical, observational and numerical astrophysics and cosmology, and data mining of large cosmological observations and simulations of dark matter.

### Mechanical Engineering:

Princeton University, Prof. Andrej Košmrlj, who works on projects at the intersection of physics and mechanical engineering. Projects are focused on investigation of mechanical metamaterials, mechanics of structures, nonlinear mechanics and mechanics of biomaterials.

### Applications should include:

- Application form
  - Curriculum Vitae with a focus on applicant's research.
  - Transcripts of applicant's courses.
  - A Research statement (no longer than 2 pages) that should include:
    - Previous research experience: list and describe all of your project/research work for courses, participation at research projects, lab work at your department, your independent research, relevant summer internship experience, and sim.
    - A proposal for a project or an idea for your thesis/dissertation that you want to work on during your visit. Describe the project or the idea and argue why you find it interesting. Include list of scientific references related to your field of research.
    - Two reference letters.
- The letters should (among other things) clearly describe your contribution to the research projects you participated in.
- The letters should be written by the supervisors/advisors of past research projects, summer internships, or your diploma/M.Sc. thesis.
  - All documents (except reference letters) should be submitted by the candidates in PDF format via the application page.
  - Letters of reference should be submitted by the reference-letter writer at the reference application page.

**The deadline for submitting all the documents is March 31, 2016.** If you have questions about the program or the application process, please contact ASEF at [info@ase-fund.org](mailto:info@ase-fund.org).

# 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



Gewerkenegg Castle in Idrija.



The Cerčno 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 Idrija Municipal Museum is a public institution with its administrative seat at the Gewerkenegg Castle in Idrija. Two organizational units operate within the Idrija Municipal Museum: the

Idrija Department and the Cerčno Department. The museum is responsible for the numerous technical and cultural monuments in the Idrija region, including the Idrija »kamšt«, a collection of restored mine machines and devices in Francis' Shaft, a miner's house, and the Slovenia Partisan Printing Shop on the Vojsko plateau. The Cerčno Department includes, in addition to the Cerčno Museum, two cultural monuments of tangible heritage in the Cerčno region, i.e., the homestead of writer France Bevk in Zakojca, and the Franja Partisan Hospital in Dolenji Novaki.

## Gewerkenegg Castle

Dominating over the old town, Idrija's castle has preserved its historical name, Gewerkenegg, which in German means mine castle. It was built in the period from 1522–1533 for use by the mercury mine. Initially used to store wheat and mercury, the castle was later occupied for more than 400 years by the mine administration. Over the centuries, it has also housed various offices, schools and residents.

Gewerkenegg Castle houses the Museum's main permanent



Idrija Miner's House.



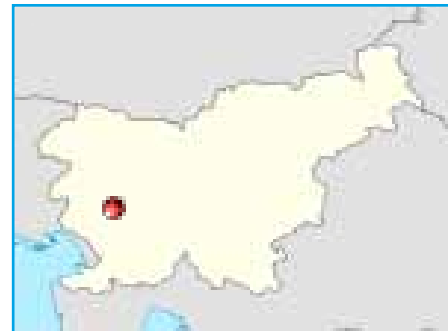
Homestead of Writer France Bevk in Zakojca.



Franja Partisan Hospital in the Pasice gorge.



Slovenia Partisan Printing Shop on the Vojsko plateau.



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exhibition, entitled »Five Centuries of the Mercury Mine and the Town of Idrija«, presenting the five-hundred-year history of the mine beneath the surface and the parallel growth of the town above it. Technological processes, historical events, life stories and destinies are exhibited here with the help of original objects, replicas and copies, mine drawings, maps, outlines drawings, models and numerous photographs. In 1997, the permanent exhibition received the award of the Luigi Micheletti Foundation from the European Museum Forum for Best European

Museum of Industrial and Technical Heritage.

In 2008, a new exhibition on Idrija lace was set up in the museum, entitled Idrija Lace: A History Written in Thread. Idrija lace is a type of hand-made bobbin lace and the town of Idrija is the oldest lacemaking center in Slovenia, having preserved this domestic craft for more than three hundred years. In recognition of the exhibition, its authors received the Valvasor Award in 2008 – the highest Slovenian award for achievements in museology.

In June 2012, during its 36th

regular session in Sankt Peterburg, Russian, the World Heritage Committee added »Heritage of Mercury. Almadén and Idrija« (Slovenia, Spain) to the UNESCO World Heritage List. That is why special concern is paid to technical heritage of the town of Idrija.

Text: Darko Viler, Idrija Municipal Museum

English translation: Suzana Stančič

Source of photos: Photo library of Idrija Municipal Museum



Lacemaking requisites and materials.



Transporting ore in the Idrija Mercury Mine.



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

### **EXHIBITION EYE.THUGHT.HAND BY JOŽE DOMJAN AT E.U. DELEGATION**

The E.U. Delegation hosts a public viewing of select pieces from Slovenian artist Jože Domjan's exhibit "Eye. Thought. Hand." during an extended lunch period. You will be able to take an up-close look at what The Washington Post called "eye-catching images". Before coming to the E.U. Delegation, Domjan's work was displayed at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia. Read more about his art exhibit on The Washington Post's website: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/at-the-embassy-of-the-republic-of-slovenia-an-exhibit-of-theater-posters-as-high-art/2014/11/06/a777b60e-6373-11e4-ab86-46000e1d0035\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/at-the-embassy-of-the-republic-of-slovenia-an-exhibit-of-theater-posters-as-high-art/2014/11/06/a777b60e-6373-11e4-ab86-46000e1d0035_story.html)

When: Friday, April 1, 2016

Event Time: 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Where: The Delegation of the European Union to the United States: 2175 K Street, Washington, D.C. 20037

The exhibit is free but registration is required. More information and RSVP: <http://www.euintheus.org/event/events-calendar/>

## TO DO LIST - CLEVELAND

### **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 08, 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>

## TO DO LIST- NEW YORK

### **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.rockwoodmusicall.com](http://www.rockwoodmusicall.com)

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

More information: [www.sasosandic.com](http://www.sasosandic.com)

<https://sasosandic.bandcamp.com>

[www.facebook.com/sashosmusic](http://www.facebook.com/sashosmusic)

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