



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EMBASSY OF REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
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NEWSLETTER

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February 8 - National Day of Culture

Every year on February 8, Slovenians celebrate Culture Day, a public holiday dedicated to the memory of France Prešeren (1800-1849), who is considered the nation's greatest poet and is also the author of Slovenian national anthem, *Zdravljica* (A Toast). Numerous events were held around the country on that day, including the Prešeren Prize awards ceremony at the Cankarjev dom arts

center. Two lifetime-achievement Prešeren Prizes were presented to composer Ivo Petrič and author Tone Partljič, and six Prešeren-Fund Prizes for achievements in the past two years to composer and choir conductor Ambrož Čopi, director Janusz Kica, painter Aleksij Kobal, poet Cvetka Lipuš, sculptor Mojca Smerdu and actor, dancer and performer Katarina Stegnar.



Monument dedicated to Prešeren in Ljubljana.



This year's recipients of Prešeren Prizes and Prešeren - Fund Prizes.

The Embassy of Slovenia observed the holiday on Monday, February 8 by the opening of exhibition *Eye. Thought. Hand.* by Slovenian graphic designer Jože Domjan. The program was presented on the premises and in conjunction with the Delegation of the European Union to the U.S. Following welcoming remarks by E.U. Ambassador David O'Sullivan, Ambassador Dr. Cerar outlined the importance of culture to Slovenia's national identity and distinctive contribution of poet France



Remarks by Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar.

Guests at the reception on the occasion of the Slovenian Culture Day.

Prešeren to the formation of Slovenia as a nation, having lifted the Slovenian language to the European level of literary expression and contributed to the first Slovenian political program in the first half of the 19th century. In his remarks to around 200 guests he also stressed the importance of culture for national unity, which was embodied when Slovenian opted for independence 25 years ago.

During the evening, a film of the life and work of Jože Domjan was screened. One of the leading Slovenian poster designers, he left an indelible mark in the field of cultural posters. Due to their persuasive conceptual design, his theater posters not only address the individual on the street and represent his/her first contact with

the theater performance, but also give sense to the role and meaning of the poster as a communication medium. The exhibit Eye. Thought. Hand. gives an overview of the artist's work from 1973 through 2013 and will be on view at the E.U. Delegation through the end of April with public viewings on March 2 and April 1, afternoon.

As a part of observing the Day of Culture, Mann Elementary School students — who participate in the Embassy Adoption Program -- learned about Slovenian national poet France Prešeren on Thursday, February 11, including the 7th stanza of Prešeren's poem A Toast, which is now Slovenia's national anthem.

On Monday, February 8, the Slovenian Union of America celebrated

Prešeren Day at LIC Bar in New York City: the Jan Kus quartet, with guest guitarist Gabriel Vicéns, performed for Slovenian guests who gathered to celebrate Slovenia's national cultural holiday, among them the Ambassador of Slovenia to the U.N., Andrej Logar, and Honorary Consul, Erik Horvat. Igor Cesarec of Društvo v tujini izobraženih Slovencev – VTIS, the Association of Slovenes Educated Abroad, introduced the ambassador, who welcomed the guests, whereas actor Gaia Visnar read poems by Prešeren. Slovenian Cultural Holiday Programs were also held in Indianapolis's Slovenian National Home, sponsored by the Indianapolis-Piran Sister Cities Committee, and elsewhere in the U.S.



Jože Domjan is one of the leading Slovenian poster designers.

Opening of the exhibit Eye.Thought.Hand. on February 8.

Slovenia Announces the Candidature of Danilo Türk for U.N. Secretary General

On Monday, 8 February 2016, Andrej Logar, Slovenian Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, transmitted a letter from Minister of Foreign Affairs, Karl Erjavec, announcing the candidature of Dr. Danilo Türk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia, for U.N. Secretary General for the 2017-2021 term with the United Nations to Mogens Lykketoft, President of the U.N. General Assembly, and to Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño, President of the U.N. Security Council and Permanent Representative of Venezuela. Türk's candidacy is the first official bid by a Slovene for the top post at the U.N. In the letter, Minister Erjavec outlines the candidate's decades-long commitment to the work of the U.N., his wide international experience and numerous incentives characteristic of his

current work. Minister Erjavec expresses his belief that Dr. Türk is a highly qualified candidate for U.N. Secretary General, who would importantly and substantially contribute to the organization's activities at a time when the international community faces major challenges.

Dr. Danilo Türk acted as the Slovenian permanent representative at the U.N. between 1992 and 2000 and as assistant secretary general to Kofi Anan between 2000 and 2005. He was elected president of Slovenia in 2007, serving a five-year term.

In accordance with Article 97 of the U.N. Charter, the U.N. Secretary General is appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. The selection procedure for a new Secretary General was launched on December 15 with a



Dr. Danilo Türk

joint letter from the General Assembly and Security Council Presidents inviting member states to nominate their candidates. The new U.N. Secretary General is expected to be appointed by autumn; the new term begins on January 1, 2017.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Highland School Students Visit the Embassy



A group of Highland School Students aged 15 – 18 from Warrenton, VA, came to the Slovenian embassy on Friday, February 19 to learn more about the country. The students and their

teacher Sarah Roach will take a study trip to Ljubljana in mid-March.

At the embassy, the group was received by Cultural and Public Diplomacy Officer, Ms. Nuška

Zakrajšek, who gave a presentation of the history of the country, its political system, geographical features and interesting tourist sites, and answered the students' questions at the end of the lecture.

Embassy Exhibit at the Catholic University of America



The Catholic University of America (CUA) hosted on Thursday, February 18 the fifth annual Embassy Exhibit event, which featured cultural displays, performances, and a sampling of foods from around the world. The Slovenian Embassy was among more

than two dozen exhibitors participating in the International Bazaar, giving the CUA community an opportunity to learn more about what Slovenia has to offer.

At their booth, embassy representatives shared information about Slovenia, promoted its tourism

sites and educational opportunities as well as distributed brochures about the country. The embassy staff also offered to several hundred visitors a taste of Slovenia's traditional pastry – potica, a sweet walnut roll-cake -- and Carniolian sausages.

Briefing for Kent State University Students before the Annual Model NATO Conference

On Thursday, February 11, the Embassy of Slovenia hosted a group of students and their mentor, Prof. Timothy Scarnecchia, from Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. The group represented Slovenia at the 31th Annual Model NATO Conference, which took place

February 11 – 14, 2016.

Vladimir Kolmanič, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Slovenia, and Defense Attaché, Col. Ivan Mikuž, held a briefing for the students, presenting to them Slovenia's political stance on several international issues.

They also stressed the region's integration into the Euro-Atlantic organizations and reconfirmed the Slovenian support of them. They also discussed the role, structure and activities of NATO, as well as the military, political-security, and economic perspective.



Ljubljana – European Green Capital 2016

On Tuesday, February 9 2016, Ljubljana received the title of European Green Capital from Bristol at a ceremony in Brussels. Slovenia's capital will be an ambassador of sustainable development this year, focusing on a green topic each month. The European Green Capital Award is an award bestowed on cities based on their environmental record. The award was launched in 2008 and the first award was given to Stockholm for the year 2010. Ljubljana is the seventh European city with the prestigious title, which it will hand over next year to Germany's Essen.

The capital of Slovenia

demonstrates great environmental awareness, which has been recognized by the European Commission, which decided to give it a green capital title in June 2014 "for raising environmental awareness among citizens, the 'Vision 2025' sustainable strategy, the implementation of a series of green measures in the city in the last decade and an impressive public transport network." In April 2015, the city also received the 'Tourism for Tomorrow' award from the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) as the most sustainability-focused destination. The jury highlighted that the image of Ljubljana had been

"completely reshaped in accordance with a focus on sustainability."

Within the Green Capital of Europe project, the City of Ljubljana has assigned a vital role to web communication. Via the www.greenljubljana.com web site, the city informs different target groups of its 'green' achievements and activities this year, when Ljubljana holds the prestigious title, and encourages them to contribute to a greener future themselves. Through representative projects that have guided Ljubljana's green story, it offers tips to individuals on how they can be more environment friendly and lead an active lifestyle in the Green Yourself section.



Ljubljana Mayor Zoran Janković at the ceremony at which the Slovenian capital took over as the European Green Capital from U.K.'s Bristol.



Slovenian Researchers Are First To Demonstrate Link Between Zika Virus And Foetal Brain Damage

On February 10, the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine published an article about a Slovenian study that provided the first proof that the Zika virus can be passed on to the foetal brain from an infected mother, leading to permanent brain damage and

microcephaly.

The researchers confirmed that congenital damage to the central nervous system associated with Zika-virus infection during pregnancy was the result of the virus multiplying in the foetal brain. The University Medical Centre said that

this was a breakthrough, because the link of Zika virus and microcephaly had only been suspected, whereas this study proves the presence of the virus in the brain of the foetus. It is the proof that has been sought by major institutions around the world in recent months.

Museum of Slovenian Film Actors in Divača



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.

Located in the Škratelj Homestead, birthplace of the first Slovene film star Ida Kravanja, Museum Of Slovenian Film Actors in Divača is Slovenia's first museum dedicated exclusively to film and film actors.

The Museum, which was opened in 2011, covers the entire history of Slovenian feature films and offers a unique experience of Slovenian film heritage with the focus on the art of acting. There are two permanent exhibitions – one is dedicated to actress Ita Rina, who was born in Divača as Ida Kravanja, while the main permanent exhibition is dedicated to Slovenian film actors, introducing visitors to the mysteries of film acting and the Slovenian actors and actresses that figured in the history of Slovenian cinema.

In the summer, the museum offers film screenings at its open-air

cinema, while throughout the year, it organizes various workshops for children and youngsters, lectures, various events and film screenings.

Ita Rina

Born in the village of Divača, Ita Rina (1907–1979) was the first Slovene actress to achieve international star status – her heyday was in the late 1920s when she starred in the film *Erotikon* (1929) by Czech director Gustav Machaty, which enjoyed major box-office success both in Europe and in the United States.

The young Slovene actress,



Permanent collection.

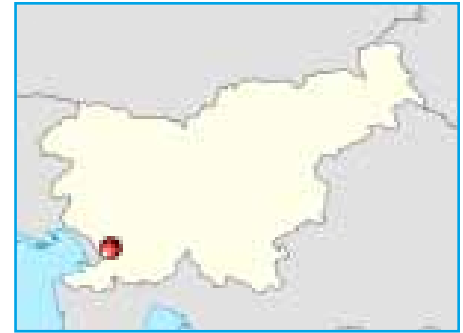


Outdoor cinema.



Ita Rina.

Ita Rina, first lived in Berlin, at that time the center of the European film industry. Her debut was in the role of a chambermaid in *Was die Kinder Ihren Eltern verschweigen* (What do children keep from their parents). After *Erotikon*, she performed in the first Czech sound film, *Gallows Toni*, in 1930. She declined an invitation from Hollywood and instead got married, changed her name to Tamara Djordjević, and moved to Belgrade. After World War II, she starred in several Yugoslav theatre productions and in the Yugoslav film *War* (1960), however, she never managed to regain her earlier fame. In 1979 Ita Rina died in Budva, and was buried in Belgrade.



Muzej slovenskih filmskih igralcev
Kraška cesta 26
6215 Divača

Website: www.muzejdivaca.si
E-mail: msfi@kinoteka.si
Phone: + 386 (5) 731-0949

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.

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: Künstlerhaus, 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 Bergdof-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/>

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

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

When: [Wednesday, March 2 and 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/>

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](#)