



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

# NEWSLETTER

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## Minister Erjavec and Minister Katič Attended the Ministerial Meeting Of Global Coalition To Counter Daesh



Minister of Defense Andreja Katič and Minister of Foreign Affairs Karl Erjavec attending the conference in Washington, D.C.

**Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Karl Erjavec and Minister of Defense Andreja Katič attended the ministerial meeting of the Global Coalition to Counter Daesh in Washington on July 21, organized by the U.S. Secretary of State Kerry and the Secretary of Defense Carter.**

In a joint plenary session, the ministers of foreign affairs and defense drew attention to the Coalition efforts to expel Daesh from areas it controls in

Syria and Iraq, and to stabilize these areas. Separately, the ministers of foreign affairs discussed international endeavors to secure peace in Syria and operations to counter Daesh expansion, especially to Libya. They also brought forward the possibility of measures by the international community, in particular the Coalition, to effectively counter the global Daesh network and raise awareness regarding national activities in the fight against it.

Minister Erjavec participated in the discussion on the Coalition's global activities, stressing that "the innocent victims and the injured in the recent terrorist attacks in Nice and in Bavaria are new reminders that we need to respond to the Daesh threat in a decisive, precise and unified manner."

Slovenia actively supports, and participates and engages in international counter-terrorism initiatives and activities by the U.N,

E.U., NATO, OSCE, and the Council of Europe. Since 2014, Slovenia has participated in the Global Coalition Against Daesh, which is composed of 66 countries and organizations, including INTERPOL. The goal of the Coalition is to defeat Daesh on all fronts, in Syria and Iraq in the military sense, as well as block their access to financial and economic resources. The Coalition draws particular attention to the issue of foreign terrorist fighters and the counter-propaganda against this terrorist organization. A special set of activities focuses on humanitarian action.

“Every country should assume its share of responsibility in the common efforts of the international community,” said Minister Erjavec. Presenting Slovenian activities, the Minister underlined the initiative on the integrative and complementary approach to counter-terrorism and violent extremism in the Western Balkans (Western Balkans Counter-Terrorism Initiative or WBCTi). Slovenia is pleased that the WBCTi was endorsed by the E.U. and that it is now the cornerstone of the E.U.’s approach to this matter.

In his address, Minister Erjavec also emphasized the young: we

need to offer them bright prospects, also in terms of welfare, security, and respect for human rights, because “the young are the most vulnerable group in the radicalization process, but also among the most important ones to firmly oppose the violent Daesh ideology.”

Respectively, on July 20, an Iraq donor conference was held in Washington, where Slovenia pledged 60,000 EUR (30,000 EUR a year for 2016–2017). The funds will be transferred through the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

## PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

# Women’s Foreign Policy Group Discussion on the Arab Spring

On July 12, 2016, the journalist, author and foreign policy analyst Shelly Culbertson of the RAND Corporation spoke to an audience gathered at the Embassy of Slovenia about her new book “The Fires of Spring: A Post-Arab Spring Journey through the Turbulent New Middle East—Turkey, Iraq, Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, and Tunisia.” The event was presented in cooperation with Women’s Foreign Policy Group as part of the WFPG Author Series. The discussion was moderated by WFPG President Patricia Ellis, whereas

Ambassador Dr. Cerar greeted some 50 guests who joined the debate at the beginning of the program.

In her book, which is both a travelog and political analysis, Shelly Culbertson discusses the various ways the six countries experienced the Arab Spring and its implications for the future. In her view, the second Arab Spring gives cause for optimism due to a shift in values relating to accountability, the role of women in society, and the changing identity of Islam. She cites the example of Tunisia, where the

Arab Spring started, as a model for the Middle East due to its new constitution which incorporates both Islamist and democratic values and promotes gender equality. Culbertson states that the Arab Spring is far from over in the Middle East—in fact, she asserts that this is just the beginning.

The event’s blog post is available at: <http://www.wfpg.org/wfpg-blogs>, and photos at: [http://www.wfpg.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=656](http://www.wfpg.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=656)



Host Ambassador Božo Cerar of Slovenia welcomes guests to the embassy.



Moderator and WFPG President Patricia Ellis and Speaker Shelly Culbertson, the RAND Corporation.



# Young Leaders Visit the Embassy of Slovenia



The first group took a photo in front of the embassy.



The second group visited the chancery on July 13.

Three groups of high-achieving high school students, who participated in the summer Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC), visited the Embassy of Slovenia in July. The students came to the U.S. capital from all around the world: Norway, India, United States, South Africa, Argentina, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, UK, El Salvador, Ghana, and Australia, among other countries.

The first group of the GYLC students came by on Wednesday, July 6, when more than 50 students, were greeted by Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek,

Cultural, Press and Public Diplomacy Officer. She presented to the group some general facts about Slovenia and gave a lecture about its geographical, historical and political features.

The second group of some 50 students visited the embassy on Wednesday, July 13. In addition to the general presentation, Ms. Zakrajšek also explained to the students how the embassy operates as he gave them a brief introduction to the world of diplomacy.

The third group of GYLC participants was briefed on Wednesday, July 20, when the session

was concluded with many questions from the visitors and an interesting discussion.

The aim of the GYLC conference is to give students, who come from diverse ethnical and political backgrounds, a greater understanding of international relations, diplomacy, international law, human rights, peace, security, economics and the role of the United Nations. They come to Washington from a variety of countries to take part in this program, which gives them a unique approach to leadership training.



Presentation by Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek.



The third group of young leaders visiting on July 20th.

## Michael Biggins on his Latest Translation of the 'Newcomers' at the Library of Congress and at the Community Bookstore in Brooklyn



Michael Biggins giving the presentation.



Newly published book *Newcomers* by Lojze Kovačič.

The European Division of the Library of Congress, in partnership with the Embassy of Slovenia, presented on Wednesday, July 20 an event with Michael Biggins in the Madison Building's Pickford Theater. The translator discussed his most recent translation, the first volume of Lojze Kovačič's three-part autobiography titled *Newcomers*, published by Archipelago. Michael Biggins has translated over 15 book-length literary works, and has been awarded the Janko

Lavrin Diploma of the Society of Slovene Literary Translators.

*Newcomers* (Prišleki, in Slovenian) is often regarded as one of the most important Slovenian novels of the 20th century, and has been translated into several languages. It provides an intricate vision of how groups and societies descend into tribalism, and of how individuals resist. The story opens in 1938 with the expulsion of the Kovačič family from their Swiss home and their eventual resettlement in

Slovenia. Kovačič, writing as a 10-year old, describes his family's journey with uncanny naiveté and in a style that is clear, direct and moving. The novel was introduced on July 21 to the New York public at the Community Bookstore, when it was discussed by translator Michael Biggins and Gabriel Sanders. More information about the book at: <https://archipelagobooks.org/book/newcomers/>

## DIASPORA

### Slovenefest in Enon Valley

The Slovene National Benefit Society, the largest Slovenian fraternal organization in the U.S., hosted the 35th annual Slovenefest from Friday, June 8 through Sunday, June 10 at the SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, Pennsylvania. The annual three-day event brought together thousands to enjoy ethnic food, music, and heritage of Slovenia. The visitors also had the chance to learn more about the country and its culture from extensive displays

of traditional clothing, crafts and household items.

Slovenefest offered visitors Slovenian-style live entertainment in four different venues: the spacious Outside Stage hosted the popular Slovenian-style polka bands, while the International Pavilion was reserved for a more traditional Slovenian musicians and visiting performers. Guests could also enjoy the entertainment in the Alpine Room and the Gostilna club room, where

button box musicians performed.

Next to the cultural, musical and food experiences, the event also marked the 60th anniversary of the Miss SNPJ Pageant, which has become a highlight of each Slovenefest weekend since 1998. This year, Elizabeth Hartman was honored with the title of Miss SNPJ 2017 and received her crown from Miss SNPJ 2016 Julie Rockwell. Both are members of SNPJ Lodge 138 in Strabane, PA.



# Slovenian American Inventors and Innovators

Edward Gobetz, PhD, has made it his life's work to record stories of Slovenians who have helped to shape our world. His latest work focuses on Slovenian Americans and their contributions to the science and technology. The book titled "Slovenian American Inventors and Innovators" has been published by Družina publishing house and provides information on over 100 innovators of Slovenian origin who have pursued - and in many instances captured - the American Dream and in the process substantially contributed to prosperity and progress of

the country and also of the entire world. The hardcover bibliophile edition of the 408-page volume very convincingly depicts how much Slovenian Americans influenced the research and development of science in the 20th century, from the first pocket-sized calculator to the manufacture of the jumbo-jet.

Dr. Gobetz is professor emeritus of Kent State University and founder of the Slovenian Research Center of America (SRCA). Together with his wife, Milena, he has been collecting for well over 60 data on various ground-breaking inventors

and innovators of Slovenian heritage in the U.S.

The book can be ordered online at amazon.com or directly from the publisher at the e-mail address: [barbara.brajer@druzina.si](mailto:barbara.brajer@druzina.si) or [druzina@narocila.si](mailto:druzina@narocila.si). The book is also available for personal pick up at the Slovenian American Times' Office, 33977 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills (tel. 440-833-0020) and at Slovenska Pisarna, St. Vitus Village, 6114 Lausche Ave., Cleveland (Felix Gaser, tel: 216-381-2602).



Slovenian American astronaut Jerry Linenger (center), with the editor, Franci Petrič and the translator, Andrej Turk, at the June 14, 2016 press conference in Ljubljana, promoted the newly-published English edition of the book "Slovenian American Inventors and Innovators".

## IN SHORT

- The Fulbright award recipients who will be spending either Fall or Spring semester conducting research and teaching in Slovenia visited the Embassy of Slovenia on Friday, July 22.

- Find an answer to Why Slovenia Has Become One of Europe's Best Food Destinations:  
<http://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-ideas/slovenia-food-tour>

- Dr. Dejan Verčič, Professor at the University of Ljubljana, will receive the 2016 Pathfinder Award, the highest academic honor bestowed by the Institute for Public Relations (IPR): <http://www.instituteforpr.org/pioneer-international-pr-research-receive-ipr-pathfinder-award/>



Fulbright award recipients visited the embassy.

The weekly Embassy Newsletter is also available at: [www.washington.embassy.si](http://www.washington.embassy.si).  
Send us your comments or request for a subscription on: [sloembassy.washington@gov.si](mailto:sloembassy.washington@gov.si)  
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