



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

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 29, 2016, VOLUME 12, NUMBER 8

Ambassador Dr. Cerar Attends Norfolk NATO Festival

On April 22 and 23, the city of Norfolk in Virginia was once again host of the annual NATO Festival. The event started on Friday, April 22 afternoon with the raising of the flags and the playing of the national anthems of the 28 NATO member states and of NATO outside of the Norfolk Scope Arena. Among attendees were General Denis Mercier, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, and Paul D. Fraim, mayor of Norfolk.

A colorful display of NATO



Ambassador Dr. Cerar met with General Denis Mercier, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, and Paul D. Fraim, mayor of Norfolk.

member-nations' flags and uniforms was followed by NATO night at the Virginia International Tattoo (the word tattoo derives from the cries of the 17th and 18th century Low Country Innkeepers) with more than 1500 participants. Military orchestras, choruses and solo artists from Australia, Canada, Germany, Jordan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States performed well-

known marching and popular music, and presented national dances and culture. Slovenian Armed Forces were represented by flag bearer, staff sergeant Aleš Kocbek.

On Saturday, NATO Festival continued in downtown Norfolk with the 63st Annual Parade of Nations. For the parade, members of the Slovenian Armed Forces working at the NATO Supreme Allied Command Transformation in



Parade featured Slovenian float with Ljubljana dragon.

Colonel Mojca Pešec at the Slovenian booth.

Norfolk, built a platform featuring a dragon – the symbol of Slovenia’s capital, Ljubljana. A musical ensemble of Slovenians from Cleveland, Ohio, wearing Slovenian

national costumes, playing and singing Slovenian folk songs, presented on a big stage our country and our rich customs. After the parade, the presentation of Slovenia

continued with brochures about Slovenia and Slovenian tourism. Attending the festival were also Ambassador Dr. Cerar and Defense Attaché Colonel Mikuž.



INTERNATIONAL

Minister Mramor Visits Washington for the IMF and World Bank Spring Meeting

In mid-April, Slovenian Finance Minister, Dušan Mramor, and central bank governor, Boštjan Jazbec, visited Washington, DC, for the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (IBRD), which reviewed the state of the global economy.

Officially running from Friday April 15 to Sunday April 17,

the meetings culminated on Saturday with a session of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) and the IMF and IBRD’s joint Development Committee.

On the sidelines of the meetings, the Slovenian delegation also held bilateral discussions with World Bank and IMF officials over Slovenia’s macroeconomic position

and further cooperation with both institutions. The Slovenian delegation also met with representatives of investment banks, with Mr. Mramor focusing on talks with representatives of investors in state bonds.

The IMF has recently slightly upgraded its outlook for the Slovenian economy. After projecting in the autumn, growth of 1.8% for

2016, it is now forecasting growth of 1.9% for this year and 2% for 2017. The upgrade was made public in late March as the IMF concluded its annual mission to Slovenia. They

recommended continued action in fiscal consolidation and in the efforts to clean up balance sheets of banks and companies, especially SMEs. Slovenia was also advised to

accelerate privatization and improve corporate management and business environment.

CULTURE

Saxophone Quartet 4SAXESS Performs in New York, Washington DC, Virginia and Connecticut



Members of the 4SAXESS saxophone quartet, Primož Fleischman (tenor saxophone), Oskar Laznik (alto saxophone), Lev Papis (soprano saxophone) and Dejan Prešiček (baritone saxophone), toured the U.S. between April 24 and 30. The saxophonists are graduates of music academies in Ljubljana, Zagreb, Vienna and Frankfurt. They upgraded their musical knowledge in Bordeaux, Paris and Boston and now teach at the Music Conservatory in Ljubljana as well as play in various ensembles and orchestras. This was their second tour in the U.S., the first one having taken place in January 2013.

On Sunday April 24, the quartet performed in the church of St. Cyril in East Village, NYC, where most of the audience came from the Slovenian community in New York City. Another concert was performed at the D'Addario Showroom in Manhattan, before the musicians headed for Washington and Virginia. On Tuesday April 26, they performed in Winchester, Virginia, where they also conducted a master class at the Music Conservatory of Shenandoah University.

On Wednesday April 27, the 4Saxess saxophone quartet performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington. The concert was organized in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia to honor the 25th anniversary of Slovenia's independence and was also listed on the worldwide program of the 2016 International Jazz Day Celebration. During the evening, the ensemble performed music by Slovenian composer Igor Lunder as well as by American composers Philip Glass and George Gerschwin. The concert was broadcast online (the video is available at: <http://www.kennedy-center.org/video/index/M6747>).

The musicians then traveled to Connecticut, where they held workshops at the The Hartt School of Music at the University of West Hartford. Over the course of three days, the saxophonists worked with students of composition who have written new original compositions dedicated to the 4 Saxess saxophone quartet, and the cooperation concluded with a concert, which

premiered new pieces for a saxophone quartet repertoire.

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. The group has 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 leading genre 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.

Ambassador Dr. Cerar Attends Houston We Have a Problem! Premiere in NYC



Ambassador Dr. Cerar and director of the film, Žiga Virc, at the premiere in New York, also attended by the director of the Slovenian Film Center. Poster announcing the film.

On Saturday April 16, Ambassador Dr. Cerar traveled to New York to attend the world premiere of a debut feature film by Slovenian director Žiga Virc titled „Houston, We Have a Problem!“ The screening happened at the renowned Tribeca Film Festival at the elite Regal Cinemas Battery Park. The movie explores the speculation about the United States’ allegedly buying in the early sixties a Yugoslav space program for billions of

dollars. Besides the Saturday event, the movie had six respective screenings at the Festival, all sold out.

The film “Houston, We Have a Problem!” was coproduced by Slovenia, Croatia, Germany, the Czech Republic and Qatar, and is, among others, the first production by HBO Europe in the Adria region. Deftly combining archival footage with modern-day interviews with philosopher Slavoj Žižek and

some of the key figures in the film’s investigation—including a former Yugoslavian space engineer, an American historian, and a retired Yugoslav People’s Army general—Houston, We Have a Problem! explores the games of Cold War diplomacy. Some of the scenes were filmed on the premises of the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, where in the 1960s the Yugoslav chancery was located.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

International Culture Day at Maxwell Air Force Base

The Air Command and Staff College in Montgomery, Alabama, organized the International Officer Day at the Maxwell Air Force Base on Saturday, April 16. The event gave international officers from Air War College and the Air Command and

Staff College a chance to share their cultures with others on base.

With the support of the embassy, an officer of the Slovenian Armed Forces at the college, Major Mitja Lipovšek, presented Slovenia to visitors of the base. The annual event is

known for having attracted thousands of attendees over the years. This year it was attended by Lieutenant General in the United States Air Force, Steven L. Kwast, as well as Air Command and Staff College and Air War College Commandants with their staffs.





Slovenia was presented at the International Culture Day Held at Maxwell Air Force Base. Major Mitja Lipovšek at the Slovenian booth.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Miss SNPJ, Julie Rockwell, Represents Slovenia at the Cherry Blossom Festival

Miss SNPJ, Julie Rockwell, represented Slovenia at the National Cherry Blossom Festival's, Cherry Blossom Princess Program April 16 – 18 in Washington, DC. This was the third year of the SNPJ–Embassy of Slovenia participation in the program with a Miss SNPJ as the embassy's representative at the biggest festival in Washington.

Julie was chosen as the 60th Miss SNPJ during the Slovenefest, Slovene National Benefit Society's three-day cultural festival held each year at the SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley

in Pennsylvania. Julie has attended every Slovenefest since her birth, except when she was visiting Slovenia with an SNPJ tour. She has been a member of Lodge 138 in Strabane, PA. Julie is a recent graduate of The Pennsylvania State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology with a minor in biology. The honor of the SNPJ pageant enabled her to travel to the capital and participate in the National Cherry Blossom Princess Program.

The Cherry Blossom Princess Program was established in 1948. State

and territory societies, as well as foreign embassies, like the Embassy of Slovenia, select young women between the ages of 19 and 24 to participate in the program. A few of the highlight activities in which Julie participated included the Official Cherry Blossom Grand Ball, which was attended also by Ambassador Dr. Cerar, and the Cherry Blossom Parade – the grand finale of the three-week-long Cherry Blossom Festival, when Cherry Blossom Princesses rode in a parade down Constitution Avenue in Washington, Julie in the Slovenian national costume.



Travel Soiree with Luxury Slovenia and Connoisseur Travel



On Tuesday, April 26 the Embassy of Slovenia in collaboration with agencies Luxury Slovenia from Slovenia and Connoisseur Travel in Washington organized an evening dedicated to the promotion of Slovenia as a luxury tourism destination.

The event was attended by some 60 invitees, including Connoisseur Travel executives and agents, and their clients.

After the welcoming speech by Ambassador Dr. Cerar, the representative of Luxury Slovenia agency Mr. Matej Valenčič presented

with photographs and video material an eight days model program of a visit to Slovenia. The evening continued with a reception with traditional Slovenian food paired with wines from different winegrowing regions of Slovenia.

SCIENCE & EDUCATION

VTIS Event in Boston: Slovene Expertise Around The World



Presentation by Gašper Beguš, PhD student in the field of linguistics at Harvard University.

The event took place in the O'Keefe Auditorium in Massachusetts General Hospital.

Društvo v tujini izobraženih Slovencev - VTIS (Association of Slovenes Educated Abroad)

organized in Boston an event, featuring short presentations of the work of Slovenes who are active at

universities, businesses and other organizations in Massachusetts. The event, which was part of the global

series “Slovene Science Around the World”, took place on Saturday, April 23, 2016, in the O’Keefe Auditorium in Massachusetts General Hospital.

The opening remarks were given by Igor Cesarec, President of Društvo VTIS, who explained to the audience the work of VTIS, which serves as a platform for Slovenes educated abroad for connecting and cooperating with each other. Afterwards, four Slovene researchers and young professionals presented

their work in 15-minute “lightning talks” and answered questions from the audience. The first presentation was given by Gašper Beguš, PhD student in the field of linguistics at Harvard University, and the second one, by Dr. Jernej Godec, MD, a postdoctoral fellow in the field of medicine, also at Harvard. Speaking were also Aleksandra Pekošak, PhD Student in the field of radiopharmaceutical chemistry at the Massachusetts General Hospital

and Harvard University, and Anže Urh, MD, Researcher in the field of medicine at Brown University. The evening also featured a musical performance by singer Ajda Stina Turek, who studies at the Berklee College of Music.

More information about VTIS can be found by visiting its website at: www.drustvovtis.si (in Slovene) or by contacting info@drustvovtis.si.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The European Studies Undergraduate Paper Prize

The European Studies Undergraduate Paper Prize offered by the Council for European Studies at the Columbia University is designed to encourage interest in the field of European Studies by rewarding talented undergraduates who have conducted original research in the field.

Each prize winner will receive a check for \$500, along with public recognition in the European Studies Newsletter and on the Council’s social media sites. In addition, those prize winners who are interested in attending the CES conference may request one conference registration waiver for any conference

in the three years following their award.

Nominations are due (along with all supporting materials) on or before **May 30, 2016**. For more information, visit: <http://councilforeuropeanstudies.org/grants-and-awards/undergraduate-paper-prize>.

ANNOUNCEMENT

17th Ljubljana Summer School at The School Of Economics

17th Ljubljana Summer School Take the Best from East and West will take place from July 4 to July 22, 2016 at the Department of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. Students are welcome to choose among 28 academically

challenging and intellectually stimulating courses on bachelor’s and master’s levels. In addition to company visits from different industries or services, a rich optional program offers a variety of social activities and organized weekend trips

around Slovenia and neighboring countries. Program’s website and more information: <http://www.ef.uni-lj.si/summerschool/ljubljana>

Early bird deadline: May 8, 2016

Final application deadline: June 10, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENT

MUNSC Salient Youth Conference on Global Matters

Following in the footsteps of a more than successful conference last year, @MUNSC Salient Youth Conference on Global Matters is once again inviting students from around the world to cooperatively engage with leading political figures, policy makers, NGOs, entrepreneurs, members of epistemic

communities, academia, and the media on developing knowledge and skills required to make sense of the world in the 21st century.

Aware of the threats inequality in its many forms could pose to global peace and stability if left unaddressed, MUNSC Salient 2016 will be dedicated to exploring

the causes, symptoms and possible solutions for inequalities that define societies of the 21st century.

When: July 11–15, 2016

Where: Ljubljana, Slovenia

More information and application: www.salient.munsc.si/applications

Deadline for applications: Sunday, May 15, 2016

Summer School Of The Slovene Language in Koper

The Department of Humanities at the University of Primorska in Koper is organizing the 23rd Summer School of the Slovene Language, entitled "Hello, This Is The Slovene Mediterranean!". The course is intended for all who wish to learn the Slovene language or improve their knowledge of it and get to know Slovenia and its culture by spending two summer weeks at the Slovenian coast.

The 2016 Summer School will

be held from Monday, July 18 to Friday, July 29 at the Faculty of Humanities, Titov trg 5, 6000 Koper, Slovenia. This year's program is inspired by the topic "The image of woman in the Slovenian language, literature and culture". The Summer School of the Slovenian language is organized in 3 levels (beginners, intermediate, advanced). The application for the program and more information are available at: <http://www.fhs.upr.si/en/>

[summersch/halo/](http://www.fhs.upr.si/en/summersch/halo/)

Deadline for applications is June 17, 2016.

Participants can also apply for scholarships. More information can be found at: <http://www.fhs.upr.si/en/summersch/halo/scholarships>. **Deadline to apply is Friday, June 10, 2016.**

You can address any questions you might have to: irina.mt@fhs.upr.si and mojca.butinar@gmail.com



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.

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: Idrija Technical Heritage



Ore transport car as a museum specimen.



Entrance to Anthony's shaft.

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 Mercury Mine, the second-oldest and largest mercury mine in the world, was one of the leading European companies. In all periods, its exceptionally rich mercury deposits represented a substantial

source of government income. Owing to the mine's commercial importance, all the most recent inventions and design solutions that were created through the knowledge of domestic experts were advantageously used in the construction of state-of-the-art machines and devices, as well as for upgrading technological procedures. The mine, together with its numerous external plants, scattered throughout the town, was one of the technically best equipped mines in Europe up to the end of First World War. Idrija Municipal Museum is nowadays taking care of and has as its major concern the

protection of technical heritage of the town of Idrija and the mine.

Francis' Shaft

By the end of the 1950s, numerous machines and devices had been taken out of operation by the mine. For three decades, these precious specimens of technical mine heritage were on display to visitors in the courtyard of the Gewerkenegg Castle. Exhibited in open air, they were, unfortunately, exposed to varying weather conditions. Museum and other experts finally decided that the mine



Band-saw in the period of its operation in Francis' shaft.



Pneumatic power hammer in the period of its operation in Francis' shaft.



Battery steam boiler as a museum specimen.



Diesel engine as a museum specimen.



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machines needed to be thoroughly and permanently protected in an authentic mining environment. Today, 29 specimens dating primarily from the late 19th and early 20th centuries are exhibited in three indoor exhibition rooms along the entrance building to Francis' Shaft.

The restored steam-powered Kley's pump is the largest preserved machine of the Idrija Mercury Mine, as well as the largest preserved steam machine in Slovenia. The Mine decided to purchase the pump after a sudden inrush of pit water in 1885. The inflow of water exceeded the capacity of all available pumps. The steam pump was manufactured in 1893 by the reputed E. Skoda Pilsen factory (Plzeň – industrial town in the western part of the Czech Republic). Individual components of the pump were transported by rail to Logatec, and thence to Idrija by horse-drawn wagon. The pump began to operate in 1895 and, according to currently available data, and was put into operation for the last time in 1948 and was dismantled seven years later. Owing to its enormous size and the weight of its component parts, the machine aroused considerable admiration.

The transport motor in Francis' Shaft is the only preserved Siemens-Schuckert engine of its kind: it runs on direct current using an Ilgner-Leonard rectifier. It was put into operation in 1911 and was for nearly the entire century used for the movement of workers and materials up to the XIth level (depth 272 m; 892 ft.).

Idrija Kamšt

The pumping of pit water holds a very important place in mining and technology in general. Within the scope of extensive modernization works after its nationalization in the late 16th century, the mine, which followed the latest technical achievements of the time, built a dam on the Idrija River above Wild Lake and a 3.5 kilometer(2.1 mi.)-long channel named »Rake« for driving the kamšt in the center of Idrija. The preserved kamšt – a water pump for pumping pit water (German: Wasserkunst) – dates from the period of the mine's exceptional prosperity in the late 18th century, when excavation works were begun in Joseph's Shaft. The kamšt was erected in 1790 and operated until 1948.

Standing in the stone building is an overshot water wheel with buckets (diameter: 13.6 m; 45 ft.), reputed as being the largest preserved wooden waterwheel of its kind in Europe. The rotation of the driving wheel's shaft was transmitted, via a handle, a pole and a system of horizontal rods in a length of 75 m (245 ft.), to the pumping rods by means of two three-arm levers. Pumping was carried out in three stages, and the piston pumps were positioned on levels XI, IX and III, one of which was illuminated. The water-driven wheel made 4-5 turns in a minute, and the pumps had a pumping capacity of approximately 300 liters (80 gals) of pit water per minute from a depth of 283 meters 930 ft.) below surface. This is the only pump of its kind in Slovenia, and still stands in its original location. Today, the dam near Kobilja on the Idrija river and the 400-year-old Rake channel continue to provide water for running the town's hydro power plant.

Mine Locomotives

In the mid-19th century (1848), the Idrija Mine set up a horse-



Building housing the kamšt in the period of Austrian rule.



Transport of ore to level XI of the mine.

drawn railway for transporting of ore from its shafts to the smelting plant. Large wooden freight cars, also called horsecars, were used to transport fine-grained ore. One such car has been preserved, and is the oldest preserved freight car of the horse-drawn railway in Slovenia.

The invention of voltage transformers enabled the development of electric street railways. For almost half a century, the streets of Idrija and the rare road traffic of that time were dominated by the mine railway. As a replacement for horse-drawn cars, the Mine purchased in 1902 two electric locomotives from the Siemens&Halske factory in Vienna for the transport of ore from Joseph's Shaft to the separation

plant (ore sorting and crushing facility). In the same year, the Mine also purchased from the same factory two big locomotives for 1,000 mm (3.3 ft.)-wide tracks for the transport of ore from the separation plant to the smelting plant. The length of the railway line, traveled by the electric locomotive from the bunkers of Joseph's Shaft to the separation plant, was 700 m (2300 ft.), and from there to the smelting plant 850 m (2800 ft.), altogether 1,550 m (5100 ft.). Both locomotives are the oldest preserved electric locomotives in Slovenia.

For the transport of ore in the smelting plant, the Mine purchased in 1912 two gasoline-powered locomotives from the Deutz Werke factory for 500

mm (16.5 ft.)-wide tracks. In 1916, an additional locomotive was purchased from the same manufacturer, and has been preserved to this day.

On January 31, 1957, ore was transported by the big electric locomotive for the last time. The very next day, a 1,100 m (3600 ft.) longcableway began to operate from the new loading station to the separation and crushing plant above the smeltery.

Text: Anton Zelenc, Idrija Municipal Museum

English translation: Suzana Stančič

Photos: Photo library of Idrija Municipal Museum



The kamšt operated until 1948.



Mine locomotive.

EXHIBITION: JEWISH SOLDIERS OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY ON THE ISONZO FRONT OF WWI

The exhibition, entitled “Forgive Us, Forgive Us, Oh You, the Dead”, is dedicated to Jewish soldiers in the Austro-Hungarian army who fell on the Isonzo Front (Soška fronta) of WWI in the territory of present-day Slovenia. A total of around 300,000 Jewish soldiers participated in the war and estimates put the number of Jewish soldiers who lost their lives during WWI at around 40,000. The exhibition is based on historical research of the documents, photos and existing literature and also interviews with people who knew about Jews who fought on the side of the Austrian army in WWI. The exhibition was authored and curated by Petra Svoljšak and Renato Podberšič. The exhibition was provided by the Maribor synagogue, which serves as a cultural center of Jewish heritage in Slovenia.

Date and time: [May 1 – June 17, 2016](#); opened Monday to Friday during business hours (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Free and open to the public, no prior registration is required, just bring your ID and ring the bell.

Location: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20008](#)

More information: <http://www.euintheus.org/event/jewish-soldiers-of-the-austro-hungarian-army-of-the-isonzo-front-of-wwi/>



SLOVENIAN CULINARY HERITAGE PRESENTED BY “THE COOKING KIDS”

Elementary School children from Savinjska dolina in Slovenia will present traditional dishes from their region. The children won the “Cooking Kids” competition, organized by project leader Ms. Anka Peljhan, in the elementary schools throughout Slovenia. This culinary research project has involved more than 2,000 Slovenian children every year. Its objective is to introduce them to the world of gastronomy, history and related local customs, while providing them with healthy food options. Local farmers and Slovenian food producers provide the ingredients while teachers, chefs, and restaurant owners provide mentorship and contribute to their culinary education. Through the competition, about 200 recipes of traditional Slovenian dishes are rediscovered every year. Now in the 5th year, the Cooking Kids has revived more than 900 almost forgotten recipes and many interesting stories behind them.

When: [E.U. Open House, Saturday, May 14 from 10:00 a.m. To 4:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street N.W., Washington, DC 20008](#)

More information: <http://www.euintheus.org/event/eu-open-house-embassy-of-slovenia/>

When: [Monday, May 16 at 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon](#)

Where: [Horace Mann Elementary School, 4430 Newark St. N.W., Washington, DC 20016](#)

Part of the Embassy Adoption Program. (<http://www.washingtonperformingarts.org/education/kids/embassy/index.aspx>)

When: [Wednesday, May 18](#)

Where: [Germantown Elementary School, Annapolis, MD & Annapolis Middle School, Annapolis, MD](#)

Presented in cooperation with World Artists Experiences (<http://www.worldartists.org/>)

When: [Friday, May 20 at 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.](#)

Where: [Delegation of the European Union to the United States, 2175 K Street N.W, Washington, DC 20037](#)

Presented as part of the panel discussion on beekeeping and food sustainability.
More information: <http://www.euintheus.org/event/world-bee-day-to-bee-or-not-to-bee/>

READING AND DISCUSSION WITH WRITER CVETKA LIPUŠ

Cvetka Lipuš, member of the Slovenian minority in Austria's province of Carinthia, is an award-winning author, who writes poetry in her first language despite having lived outside the Slovenian community for most of her adulthood. After residing more than fifteen years in Pittsburgh, PA, she relocated in 2009 to Salzburg, Austria. Ms. Lipuš has published seven collections of poetry, much of which has been translated into different languages. She is also the recipient of fellowships and literary awards in different countries, including the prestigious Slovenian Prešeren foundation award.

Date and time: **Tuesday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m.**

Where: **Austrian Cultural Forum, Embassy of Austria, 3524 International Court N.W., Washington, DC 20008**

Free and open to the public, prior registration is required.

More information: <http://acfdc.org/upcoming-events/2016/5/17/reading-and-discussion-cvetka-lipu>, <http://www.euintheus.org/event/reading-and-discussion-with-writer-cvetka-lipus/>

The reading and discussion will be in Slovenian, German, and English. Introductory remarks and moderation by Prof. Dr. Vesna Kondrič Horvat, University of Maribor.

A reception with Slovenian wine and Austrian apple strudel will follow.



Cvetka Lipuš.



Juan Vasle.



Carniolan bee.

POET CVETKA LIPUŠ AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The European Division, Library of Congress, in partnership with the Embassy of Slovenia, presents Slovenian poet Cvetka Lipuš. Award-winning poet Cvetka Lipuš, a member of Austria's Slovenian minority, writes poetry in her first language, despite having lived outside Slovenia for most of her adult life. After living in Pittsburgh for more than 15 years, Ms. Lipuš moved in 2009 to Salzburg, Austria. Much of the poetry in her seven published collections has been translated into several languages, and she has received fellowships and literary awards in various countries, including the Slovenian government's prestigious national Prešeren Award.

Introductory remarks by Prof. Dr. Vesna Kondrič Horvat, University of Maribor, will be followed by the author's talk, a moderated discussion, and poetry reading in English.

When: **Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

Where: **European Division Conference Room, LJ-250, Jefferson Building, Library of Congress, Washington DC 20540**

Free and open to the public.

More information: <https://www.loc.gov/tr/european/calendar/calendar.html>, <http://www.euintheus.org/event/poet-cvetka-lipus-at-the-library-of-congress/>

PANEL DISCUSSION: WORLD BEE DAY: TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE

Panel discussion will focus on the importance of bees and beekeeping for ensuring food security, sustainability and biodiversity. Slovenian honey breakfast will be served by the Cooking Kids.

Date/time: **Friday, May 20 at 9:00 -11:00 a.m.**

Location: [Delegation of the European Union to the United States, 2175 K Street N.W., Washington DC 20037](#)

More information: <http://www.euintheus.org/event/world-bee-day-to-bee-or-not-to-bee/>, http://www.mkgp.gov.si/en/world_bee_day_initiative/

CONCERT BY JUAN VASLE (BASS-BARITONE)

Program: Operatic arias, lieder, tangos, South American and Slovenian folksongs.

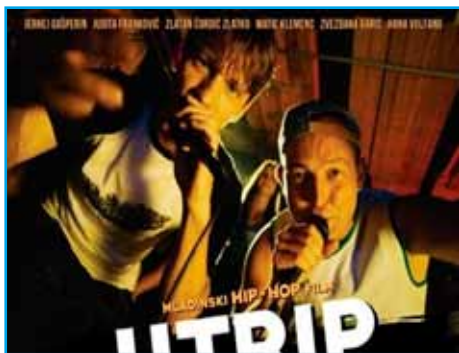
When: **Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.**

Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street N.W., Washington DC 20008](#)

Presented in cooperation with The Embassy Series

More information: <http://www.embassyseries.org/performances/embassy-of-slovenia-juan-vasle-bass-baritone/>, <http://www.euintheus.org/event/concert-by-juan-vasle-bass-baritone/>

Slovenian bass-baritone Juan Vasle was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he received his diploma as a singer at the Superior Institute of Art (Instituto Superior de Arte) of the Teatro Colón. He was a finalist at the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition in Philadelphia. Since 1990, he has been a member of the solo ensemble of the SNG Opera and Ballet Ljubljana, where he has performed a long line of important bass roles: Zaccaria, Lindorf, Coppelius, Dappertutto, Miracle, Don Alfonso, Ferrando, Escamillo, St. Bris, Ramfis etc. He also took part in guest appearances in Australia, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Italy, Canada, Kosovo, Peru, Uruguay, and elsewhere. He also performed in many oratorios by Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Rossini and Verdi and lieder recitals. Program: Operatic arias, lieder, tangos, and South American and Slovenian folksongs.



The Beat of Love.



Lana Trotošek.



Taste of the World event.

FREE SLOVENIAN LANGUAGE SEMINAR FOR BEGINNERS ON MAY 31 and JUNE 1

Do you want to learn a few simple Slovenian phrases and useful words that you can use in personal and business environment? Then join us at the Embassy a free interactive lecture that will leave you with new knowledge about the language and culture of Slovenia.

Lecture will be conducted by Luka Zibelnik, lecturer from University of Ljubljana, currently working at Cleveland State University in Center for Slovenian studies, and his wife and assistant Erika Zibelnik.

When: **Tuesday, May 31 and Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

Event Time: **6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street N.W., Washington DC 20008](#)

To register send an e-mail to: sloembassy.washington@gov.si You can attend only one, or revise your knowledge both evenings.

SLOVENIAN BOOTH AT THE NATIONAL-TASTES-OF-THE-WORLD EVENT AT THE WASHINGTON NATIONALS GAME

When: **Saturday, May 28**

Time: **4:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.**

Where: [Washington Nationals Park, 1500 South Capitol Street S.E., Washington, DC 20003](#)

More information: <http://m.mlb.com/nationals/tickets/info/taste>

MENDELSSOHN/BROSSÉ/MOZART WITH VIOLINIST LANA TROTOVŠEK AND PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Slovenian-born, London-based violinist Lana Trotovsšek, described as “radiant” by The Washington Post, was a student of Ruggiero Ricci. In September 2014, she appeared in two concerts with Yuri Bashmet and the Moscow Soloists, performing Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante, and in 2012 made her debut with Valery Gergiev and Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, with Prokofiev Concerto No.1. She plays on Pietro Antonio dalla Costa’s violin made in 1750 on loan from a private benefactor.

When: [Sunday, May 15 at 2:30 p.m. and Monday, May 16, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Perelman Theater, 300 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102](#)

More information: <http://chamberorchestra.org/mendelssohnbrossemozart-with-lana-trotovssek/>

THE BEAT OF LOVE (UTRIP LJUBEZNI) AT THE PANORAMA EUROPE FILM FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK

From mind-bending genre experiments that reinvent the musical, sci-fi film, and horror movie, to gripping dramatic features and documentaries capturing the tenuous nature of modern life for a variety of wanderers and refugees, Panorama Europe 2016 is a vibrant selection of some of the finest and most riveting films coming out of Europe today. Filled with New York premieres, often with the filmmakers in person, this is a great opportunity to discover some of the most exciting new international filmmakers. This year’s festival will take place at the Museum of the Moving Image in Queens and at the Bohemian National Hall in Manhattan.

Slovenian film screened at the festival is The Beat of Love (Utrip Ljubezni).

Directed by Boris Petkovič. 2015, 77 mins. In Slovenian with English subtitles. With Judita Frankovič, Jernej Gašperin, Žlatan Cordič Zlatko. This infectious ode to Slovenia’s hip-hop subculture bursts with music and energy. Bruno (Jernej Gašperin) and his friends live for hip-hop—the tagging, the beat-boxing, and the rap battles. After winning a free-style competition, Bruno seems to be on the path to success. But when he falls for violinist Nina (Judita Frankovič), he finds himself torn between love and music. A winning blend of rap, romance, and comedy, The Beat of Love captures the highs, lows, and intoxicating abandon of youth.

Presented by the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovenian Film Center.

When: [Saturday, May 21 at 3:15 p.m.](#)

Where: [Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave., Astoria, NY 11106](#)

More information: http://www.movingimage.us/files/pages/about/panorama_europe_pressrelease_20160408.pdf

ULAY & JAŠA: CUTTING THROUGH THE CLOUDS OF MYTH INSTALLATION

WE.ARE Institute and Kustera Projects are delighted to announce the exhibition ULAY & JAŠA: Cutting Through the Clouds of Myth, a site-specific installation and performance curated by Mitra Khorasheh. The exhibition will be on view from May 6 - June 1, 2016 at Kustera Projects Red Hook, with a special 3-day opening reception performance by the artists on May 6, 7, and 8, from 6 to – 10 p.m. Performances will take place sporadically within the installation throughout the duration of the three-day opening, with an exclusive performance by ULAY on May 7th, entitled “Waterark”.

A pioneer and central figure of performance art since the 1970’s, ULAY in his most recent artistic activity has focused on environmental issues, specifically on initiatives that raise awareness of, enhance the understanding, appreciation and respect for our most precious resource: water. One of Slovenia’s most prolific and critically acclaimed artists, JAŠA transforms spaces into experiences, driving them toward their poetic and ecstatic potentials. His most recent project was the highly acclaimed installation and performance series he produced for the Venice Biennial.

When: [Opening reception and performances on May 6, 7 and 8 from 6 to 10 p.m.](#)

Where: [@Kustera Projects Red Hook, 57 Wolcott Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231](#)

For more information on this exhibition, please contact ulayandjasa@gmail.com

For updates on the performance, artists’ talk at Sotheby’s Institute and to RSVP, please visit www.ulayjasa.net .

EVA PETRIČ: NO BORDERS TO DECLARE AT ARTCOSMOS

ArtCosmos, organized at Salomon Arts Gallery in New York within the framework of the Freeze art fair New York, is an annual art fair dedicated to collaboration between artists, academics, and thought leaders at the intersection of Astronomy and Contemporary Art. The second edition of ArtCosmos, held in honor of the 55th anniversary of the first manned flight into space by Yuri Gagarin, opened at Solomon Arts Gallery in Tribeca, New York City on Friday, April 22 and runs through May 14, 2016.

The exhibition features a group of multi-disciplinary artists creating new visual dialogues for humanity's unwavering quest to explore deep space. A participating artist this year is Eva Petrič, among Thomas Broadbent, Den Marino, Artem Mirolevich, Igor Molochevski, Peter Patchen, Felix Rodewaldt, Igor Vishnyakov, and Aleksander Vulakh.

Where: [83 Leonard St., New York, NY, 10013](#)

When: [Friday, April 22 – Saturday, May 14, 2016](#)

More information: <http://www.artcosmos.net/> , www.evapetric.com

PLANET SINGLE BY MITJA OKORN IN CHICAGO, SEATTLE, NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, LONG ISLAND...

A Polish romantic comedy, Planet Singles, by Slovenian director Mitja Okorn tells a story about the 33-year old Ania, a charming, romantic, though not too self-confident teacher who is looking on internet dating sites for her ideal man. On Valentine's evening, she happens to meet Tomek, who hosts the most popular and controversial TV show in the country. Admiring her innocent romanticism, the showman offers her to become a heroine of his program. Ania's crazy dating adventures turn out to be a great instant hit. More information: www.mitjaokorn.com

Running from April 21 on in New York, New Jersey and Long Island.

More information at: http://www.impressart.us/index_en.html

Running from April 23 in Chicago:

More information at: http://www.pffamerica.com/planeta/index_en.html



IN SHORT

- Want off the beaten path? Head to Slovenia on a guided walking tour, suggests LA Times: <http://www.latimes.com/travel/europe/la-trb-slovenia-walking-tour-20160419-story.html>
- What's Behind Slovenia's Love Affair with a Salamander? answers The New Yorker: <http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/whats-behind-slovenias-love-affair-with-a-salamander>
- About Little Slovenia, Big On Charm And Beauty, From The Julian Alps To The Adriatic Sea, writes Forbes: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/lealane/2016/04/29/little-slovenia-big-on-charm-and-beauty-from-the-julian-alps-to-the-adriatic-sea/#73dde3d817e1>

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