



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Colorado National Guard Leadership Visits the Embassy

On Wednesday, March 20, 2014, Major General H. Michael Edwards, the Adjutant General of Colorado and Commander of Colorado National Guard, and seventeen senior military staff members of Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs paid their annual visit to the Slovenian embassy. The delegation met with Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar and newly appointed defense attaché, Colonel Ivan Mikuž.



CONG senior military staff members at the embassy.

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. Defense attaché Colonel Ivan Mikuž also gave a presentation on the new structure of Slovenian Armed Forces.

Colorado's partnership with the Republic of Slovenia began 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 partnership has resulted in an average of 20 exchanges a year.





Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar, Colonel Ivan Mikuž and Major General H. Michael Edwards.



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The peak in the partnership program was the exercise and training of members of the SV and CNG in Colorado and Slovenia for the operations and management of the OMLT (Operational Mentor and Liaison Team) in Afghanistan.

The ambassador outlined in his remarks that cooperation

between Slovenia and Colorado has been very intensive and fruitful. He emphasized that on May 29, Slovenia will celebrate 10 years since joining the NATO Alliance. He stressed his hopes that the partnership will also expand into cooperation in business, culture and education. He also pointed out the success

of the visit of Slovenian Minister of Defense, Roman Jakič, with a delegation to Colorado last May, when the twentieth anniversary of collaboration between the Slovenian Armed Forces and the Colorado National Guard was marked.



Defense attaché Colonel Ivan Mikuž gave a presentation on the new structure of Slovenian Armed Forces.



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Slovenia Celebrates International Day of Forests and World Water Day

In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 21 as the International Day of Forests and, in 1993, March 22 as the World Water Day. The closeness of observance dates is not coincidental. Slovenia is well aware of the connection between these two important resources.

With 60% of its area covered by forests, Slovenia is the third-most-forested country in Europe. Slovenia is also among the countries with abundant water resources. Forests, especially timber, represent one of the most important strategic natural resources in Slovenia. At the same time, they also contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The foundation of the good condition of Slovenian forests has been long-term forest management that takes into account the principles of sustainability, symbiosis with nature and the impact of climate



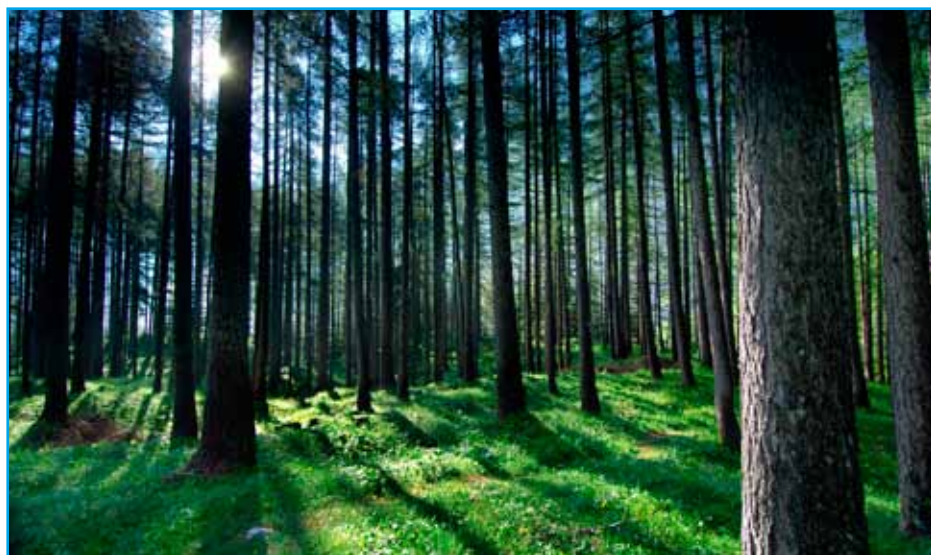
Soča River in the Bovec region (Source: www.slovenia.info; Photographer: Nea Culpa d.o.o.).

change. Slovenia has been among the first countries with this type of management.

Slovenia advocates sustainable management also in the field of water resources. Slovenia has called for an appropriate international dialogue and enhancement of cooperation among countries in this area. In the context of international development cooperation, Slovenia

has upgraded its knowledge, experiences and good practices in the management of water resources also in transborder river basins.

Among the activities in this field, Slovenia has placed emphasis on the Consultation on Water and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which takes place in Ljubljana on March 21. The consultation is co-organized by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Agriculture and Environment in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership. The participants in the discussion will tackle the questions of the interconnection between water and other challenges such as climate change, forest conditions, and strengthening of international cooperation. The event is a part of country consultations that GWP is organizing in connection with the GWP-OECD initiative Global Dialogue on Water Security and Sustainable Growth.



Slovene woods. (Source: www.slovenia.info; Photographer: Tomo Jeseničnik).

Former President of Slovenia to Chair GFI Board of Directors

The Global Fairness Initiative (GFI), a leading NGO dedicated to improving livelihoods for the working poor, announced this week that former President of Slovenia, Dr. Danilo Türk, will head the GFI Board of Directors, replacing the outgoing chair José María Figueres.

"I am honored to serve as Chair of the Board of the Global Fairness Initiative and to join my fellow Board members in a collective spirit to develop the work of GFI in the future," said Dr. Türk. "I would also like to emphasize my deep respect and gratitude for the work done by President José María Figueres, who has governed this organization with great distinction and whose vision will continue to inspire us."

Dr. Türk served as President of the Republic of Slovenia from 2007 to 2012 and was the first Slovenian Permanent Representative to the United Nations. During his tenure, Slovenia was a non-permanent member of the Security Council. Later, he was appointed U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, before returning to Slovenia where in 2007 he was elected as the third President of Republic of Slovenia, in which office he served until 2012. A former professor and director of the Institute for International Law at the University of Ljubljana, Dr. Türk



Dr. Danilo Türk.

served on the Constitutional Commission of the Slovenian National Assembly and co-wrote the human rights chapter of the 1991 Slovenian Constitution.

"Dr. Türk will lead an exceptional Board," said José María Figueres, former President of Costa Rica and outgoing GFI Board chair. "I am pleased to transition a role I inherited from former President Clinton to such an able leader as Danilo, and I am honored to have been part of this organization for these past 10 years."

The Global Fairness Initiative is an international NGO, which works toward a more equitable, sustainable approach to economic development through innovative programs to reduce

poverty, enfranchise informal communities, and advance human rights and livelihoods. Founded a decade ago by Karen Tramontano, the GFI has implemented programs that strengthen rights and livelihoods, and generate opportunity for the working poor in Africa, Asia and Central America.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Türk has agreed to chair the GFI Board. His intellect, leadership and sheer depth of experience will bring enormous value to GFI as we enter a new decade of work to advance the rights, livelihoods and enfranchisement of the working poor," said Karen Tramontano, founder of GFI.

(Source: GFI Press release)

Šmartno in Goriška Brda



In the westernmost part of Slovenia, where the views reach toward Venice as well as the regions of Friuli and Veneto, there is a whole new and different world. The abundance of beauties, attractions and experiences attracts each and every traveler. The Brda region is unique, rich, colorful, lively and full of life all year round. This idyllic landscape, genuine and authentic, hides marvelous natural and cultural attractions. A visitor can climb to the top of the 23m (75 ft.) high view tower



Šmartno. (Photographer: Boris Pretnar).

in Gonjače, see one of the most beautiful natural stone bridges in Slovenia, visit the renaissance castle in Dobrovo and, of course, the medieval village of Šmartno.

Once a medieval border military fortress and today a largely renovated village is one of the most beautiful cultural monuments in Slovenia. It lies in the geographical center of Goriška Brda. Poet Alojz Gradnik, born in the neighboring Medana, described it as an eagle's nest, perched on a spot where, when the weather is sunny, the view stretches up from Nanos in the east to the Carnic Alps to the northwest and the spacious Friuli plain to the west, and all the way to the Adriatic Sea.

The settlement, which was probably built on Roman foundations, used to be a fortification on the strategic Venetian-Austrian border. Today, it is an architectural jewel, a cultural monument, unique as a whole and in numerous details.

Between the 16th and the second half of the 18th century, Šmartno was an important strategic defense post incorporated in the system of fortifications and never taken by the Venetians. The border was defended by contract soldiers coming from far away; many were of Uskok (Croatian) origin. The wall between the seven towers was built in a way that the passages were spacious enough to allow movement of soldiers in different directions. It seems that the settlement had a drawbridge in front of the entrance and was surrounded by a deep moat. Military origin of the village is also testified to by a crenellated church bell tower and by both squares – upper and lower square – which were intended for gathering of soldiers in case of an enemy assault through the main entrance. The village derives its name from St. Martin's Church, the largest church in Brda, with a



St. Martin's Church is the largest church in Brda, with a bell tower which was once a fortification tower.

bell tower which was once a fortification tower. A bell, made in 1857, bearing the motif of the Three Wise Men, is installed in the tower. The Baroque church has three magnificent marble altars, the main one being especially rich. The presbytery and the Stations of the Cross were painted by the painter Tone Kralj.

Today, one can visit numerous exhibitions in the House of Culture, while in Briška hiša (Brda House) a guest can

get an insight into the life in the past. The village is especially lively during the festivals of Brda and Wine, and St. Martin's feast-day, when a visitor can taste high-quality wines and local food, and enjoy a rich cultural and entertainment program.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

E.U. Open House -- Volunteers Needed

On **May 10, 2014**, diplomatic representations of Member States of the E.U. and the E.U. Delegation to the United States in Washington will celebrate Europe Day by organizing the eight annual E.U. Open House day.

The embassies of all 28 member countries and the E.U. Delegation will open their doors **from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

showcasing their art, culture, and food, and introducing the European Union to the public. Last year, over 3400 people visited the Slovenian embassy, and this year even more visitors are expected.

Since the event has gained extreme popularity and success, we are looking for volunteers to help us welcome the guests and to direct visitors

to the embassy at the nearby bus stop.

To register and for more information, please contact nuska.zakrajsek@gov.si. Please sign up by April 25, 2014. Orientation and training session for first time volunteers will be held at the Embassy of Slovenia on Thursday, May 8 at 5:30 p.m.

EVENTS LIST

My Name is Janez Janša

An evening in conversation with filmmaker Janez Janša and Marco Antonini (NURTUREart), featuring special guests Eva and Franco Mattes.

Janez Janša is a conceptual artist, performer and producer living in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He is the author of numerous videos, performances, installations, and new media works which were presented in several exhibitions, festivals and lectures around the world. He is the director of the film My Name is Janez Janša, co-founder and director of Aksioma – Institute for Contemporary Art, Ljubljana, and artistic director of the Aksioma | Project Space.

When: [Saturday, March 22, 2014, at 7:30pm](#)

Where: [UnionDocs, 322 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11211](#)

Suggested donation: \$9.

More information: <http://www.uniondocs.org/03-21-2014-my-name-is-janez-jansa/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/493636137407925/>

100 years of Slovenian Church of St. Joseph in Bethlehem, PA

The Slovenian community in Bethlehem, PA, will gather on Saturday, March 22 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Bethlehem, founded by Slovenians. You, your family and friends are cordially invited to join the celebration.

When: [Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 11 a.m.](#)

Where: [Saint Joseph's R.C. Church, 417 East Fifth Street, Bethlehem, PA](#)

For additional information, contact: Stephen C. Antalics, Jr., sca3@Lehigh.EDU, (610) 868- 2646 or see the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StJosephChurchBethlehemPA>

Jasmina Cibic: Fruits of Our Land

The film Fruits of Our Land was shot specifically for For Our Economy and Culture, Jasmina Cibic's project for the Slovenian Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennial, which explored issues around national representation and its framing. The film presents a recreation of a 1957 parliamentary debate between politicians, architects and art historians, set up to decide which artworks might be suitable (i.e., nationally representative enough) to 'decorate' the newly built People's Assembly. The exhibit is made possible with the support by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia.

When: [April 10 – May 11, 2014](#)

Opening: [Thursday, April 10 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.](#)

Gallery hours: [Wednesday – Saturday from 11:00 a.m – 6:00 p.m., Sunday from 12 noon – 600 p.m., and by appointment](#)

Where: [LMAKprojects, 139 Eldridge Street, New York, NY 10002](#)

More information: <http://www.moving-image.info/artistjasminacibic/>, <http://lmakprojects.com/>

DIALOGUES CONCERT – Music by Slovene and American Composers

The Koper Music School of Slovenia and CITE Arts NY will present a collaborative concert featuring Slovene and American composers. The concert will take place both in New York and Koper, during the week of April 8 through April 12, 2014, as part of Koper Music School's Biennale Contemporary Music Festival, curated by Tatjana Jercog. The New York portion of the concert will take place at The Firehouse Space -- one of the new music venues in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. It will feature three of Slovenia's new music composers: [Uroš Rojko](#), [Larisa Vrhunc](#), and [Matej Bonin](#). Included in the program will be three American composers: [Stuart Diamond](#), [Demetrius Spaneas](#), and [Sandra Sprecher](#).

When: [Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 8:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [The Firehouse Space, 246 Frost Ave. Brooklyn, New York 11211](#)

For more information contact: Stuart Diamond, CITE ARTS at studiamond@gmail.com , tel: (917) 861-1937.

Concert by Pianist Irena Koblar

The young Slovenian pianist will play works by Scarlatti, Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms.

When: [Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [McEvoy Auditorium, Smithsonian American Art Museum - Smithsonian Institution, Eighth and F streets, NW, Washington, DC](#)

Free.

More information: <http://americanart.si.edu/>

Class Enemy at the 17th Annual European Union Film Festival in Chicago

Class Enemy (Razredni sovražnik) is a debut feature film by Slovenian filmmaker Rok Biček. Filled with provocative ideas, Class Enemy is emotionally gripping, incisive, involving, and unforgettable. Cast includes: Igor Samobor, Nataša Barbara Gracner, Tjasa Zeleznik, Maša Derganc, Robert Prebil, Voranc Boh, Jan Zupančič. Producers: Aiken Veronika Prosenc, Janez Lapajne. Synopsis: When a cold and arrogant authoritarian teacher, who seems to hold all his students in equal contempt, takes over a German class midway through the year, the students quickly dub him a "Nazi." When a tragedy occurs, he becomes the target of the students' anger and confusion. Once started, though, momentum eclipses motive, and things take on a life of their own. And the students: do they still have a just cause, or are they just rebels?

The European Union Film Festival presents Chicago premieres of 60+ recent European features, and is fully endorsed by the consulates and cultural institutes of E.U. nations in Chicago, as well as their embassies. Selected films include special advance screenings of new acquisitions by U.S. distributors as well as a wide range of films that do not yet have U.S. distribution.

When: [The festival runs from March 7 through April 3](#)

Showtimes: [Sunday, March 23 at 7:15 p.m. and Wednesday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m.](#)

More information: <http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/class-enemy>

Živio, Zarja! Slovenia tour

The two week tour is organized on the occasion of the 85 anniversary of Zarja – The Dawn. Slovenian magazine Zarja is one of the oldest ethnic magazines in the United States. On the occasion of the milestone, you are invited to join a spectacular trip to Slovenia titled Živio, Zarja! The tour will take you back in time as you will board a steam train along the picturesque Bohinj railway, or descend on a 120-year-old elevator to the Velenje coal mine. You will visit the beautiful cities of Slovenia, such as Bled, Portorož, Piran, Izola, Ljubljana, and Kamnik. You will explore the little villages, partake in the various culinary chores and feast on fresh fish from the Adriatic Sea while onboard a private cruise boat with stops at medieval coastal towns.

When: [September 17-28, 2014](#)

More information: KOLLANDERWORLD TRAVEL, 761 East 200th Street / Euclid, Ohio 44119
(800) 800-5981 / (216) 692-1000, Ext #3 for Judy, www.kollander.com

For more details you can also call Ms. Bonnie Pohar Prokup, National President, Slovenian Union of America at (815) 223-9596 or email wprokup@aol.com.

Taste of Slovenia: A Real Food Tour May 30-June 9

Slovenian-American Sylvia P. Onušič, PhD, board-certified and licensed nutritionist, who lived in Slovenia for six years, returns to her favorite country and invites you to join her along with her guests for the second annual trip through Slovenia's local and traditional food venues, 11 days, 10 nights for \$2,198, land price, which includes meeting star chefs, such as Tomaž Kavčič of Gostilna Pri Lojzetu, as well as local people, farmers and fishermen. Three- and four-star hotels throughout the trip. Price includes all fees, including hotels, most meals, entrance, transportation, luggage, with tour guide throughout.

The tour includes Ljubljana, Dolenjsko, the Adriatic Coast, Goriška Brda, the Karst, Štanjel, Vipava valley, Julian Alps, lakes Bled and Bohinj, Kamnik, Logar valley, Velika Planina, Cerknica lake, Lož valley, Snežnik castle, and more. Slow food, cheese, wine, prosciutto, and olive oil tasting. More information on her website: Taste of Slovenia, www.foodtourslovenia.wordpress.com and her Facebook at www.facebook.com/tasteofslovenia. You can contact Sylvia at tasteofslovenia@gmail.com.