

HAPPENING NOW

Borut Pahor Sworn in as the Fourth President of Slovenia

Borut Pahor was inaugurated as the new Slovenian president in a ceremony in the National Assembly on Saturday, December 22. He pledged to uphold the constitutional order and work for the good of the country to the best of his abilities.

At the age of 49, Pahor became the youngest president to date and also the only person who has held every top-level office in the country, having already served as prime minister (2008-2012) and parliament speaker (2000-2004).

In the highest elected office in the country, he succeeds Milan Kučan (1992-2002), Janez Drnovšek (2002-2007) and Danilo Türk (2007-2012), whom he defeated in the 2 December run-off with 67.37% of the vote. He took over the presidential duties on Sunday, December 23, 2012 when he was received with military honours at the Presidential palace in Ljubljana.

The 1991 Constitution gives the president limited powers, including calling general elections, naming the prime minister-designate, nominating Constitutional Court judges, promulgating laws and appointing ambassadors at the government's proposals.

But subsequent legislation has expanded these powers, giving the president the authority to nominate key office holders such as the central bank governor, human rights ombudsman, Court of Audit president, information Commissioner and the members of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption.



Photo: RTVSLO

Government Office for Slovenians Abroad- Public invitations for Tenders for Financial Support in 2013

Based on the Relations between the Republic of Slovenia and Slovenians abroad Act (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 43/06, 76/10) and Government's Decree on the granting of financial support for the maintenance and development of the Slovene identity outside of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 139/2006) the Government's Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians Abroad published two Public Invitations for Applications on the 28th of December, 2012.

Public Invitations for Applications cover **(1) Area A: Financial support in 2013 for Slovenian autochthon national community in the neighbouring countries; and (2) Area B: Financial support in 2013 for Slovenians living abroad.**

Both Public Invitations for Applications aim to stimulate activities among Slovenians living abroad which:

- consolidate and maintain their national, linguistic and cultural identity
- pave the way for their interaction and mutual connection
- enable them to maintain their links with the Republic of Slovenia
- enable the maintenance of the structures and activities of Slovenian autochthon national community in neighbouring countries, as well as those of other Slovenians living abroad.

Priority is also given to the projects of cross-border cooperation, economic and scientific development, and youth issues.

Public Invitations for Applications grant eligibility to apply for financial support to applicants who are individuals or legal entities located outside of the Republic of Slovenia, as well as those located in the Republic of Slovenia and whose activities in the Republic of Slovenia aim to connect and care for Slovenians abroad.

The documentation for the above mentioned Public Invitations for Applications is available on the website of the Government's Office for Slovenians Abroad which can be found at <http://www.uszs.gov.si/>. Interested parties can also obtain the documentation directly at the Office's headquarters, on weekdays between 09.00 and 14.00 hours, and at any of the Republic of Slovenia's Embassies or Consulates General, during their office hours.

The deadline for applications to be sent is up to and including the **07 February, 2013**.

For any additional clarifications and information, please contact the Government's Office for Slovenians Abroad via email: [urad.slovenci\(at\)gov.si](mailto:urad.slovenci(at)gov.si).

Business reception in honour of the visit of Professor Janko Jamnik

In honour of the visit to Israel of Professor Janko Jamnik, Director of the National Institute of Chemistry of Slovenia, Ambassador Alenka Suhadolnik invited Israeli business people to her residence. Professor Jamnik presented the activities of the National Institute of Chemistry and the economic cooperation with the Israeli company BrightSource Energy, Inc. The company designs, develops, and deploys solar thermal technology to produce high-value electricity and steam for power, petroleum, and industrial-process markets worldwide.



Prof. Jamnik presents the National Institute of Chemistry of Slovenia



From Left: Nava Swersky, Dror Dotan ISLCC Chairman, Ambassador Alenka Suhadolnik, Daniel Yogev ISLCC Managing Director.

Should you require more information about Israel – Slovenia Chamber of Commerce and industry, please contact Daniel.yogev@islcc.org

ONE DESTINATION AT A TIME

Rogaška Slatina

Rogaška Slatina is one of the most beautiful health resorts in Europe, characterized by centuries of tradition, its unique mineral water, and excellent medical services. At the Medical Centre Rogaška, many effective health and beauty programmes are offered daily. These are conducted by renowned experts: doctors specializing in gastroenterology, cardiologists, internists, dermatologists, radiologists, gynaecologists, urologists, orthopaedists, psychiatrists, doctors specializing in physical and rehabilitation medicine, aesthetic plastic surgeons, vascular surgeons, experts in biomedical laboratory science, nutritionists, physical therapists, nurses, and masseurs.

In 2012 close to 40,000 Israeli tourists visited Rogaška Slatina, spending 11,000 nights in its spa hotels. This is an increase of 32% from 2011 statistics generated by the Slovenian Tourist Board.



Source: Zdravilišče Rogaška

A walk through history:

According to the legend, the medicinal spring of Rogaška was made by order of Apollo, God of the Sun. Apollo ordered Pegasus, the winged horse, to strike the earth between Rogatec and Sv. Križ with its hoof and crack open the Roitschocrene, the spring of Rogaška, which would help people regain their health.

The first analysis of the water of Rogaška had already been performed by the renowned alchemist Leonhardt Thurneysser way back in 1579. His analysis indicated the presence of five ingredients: gold, "bergkler", sulphur, a magnet, and raging water.

When in the 17th century, Count Peter Zrinski was cured after drinking the water of Rogaška, doctors became so fascinated that they began examining its effects. Due to its therapeutic effects, they soon began bottling the water, and in the beginning of the 19th century, the first modern medicinal institution was founded.

In 1685, the first monograph on the Rogaška mineral water was published. At that time, only one similar publication existed – a monograph on the Belgian Spa mineral water.

The first resident doctor arrived at Rogaška Slatina at the initiative of Count Ferdinand Attems in 1804. He cooperated with renowned doctors and professors from Graz, Vienna, and Budapest.

CULTURE & ART

Gašper Bertoncelj Trio featuring Peter Mihelič and Nikola Matošič in Jazz Concert

A very special jazz concert was held at LEVONTIN 7 in Tel Aviv, on January 16th 2013 at 8pm. The concert introduced two amazing Slovene musicians to Israeli audience, Pianist Peter Mihelič and bassist Nikola Matošič who were visiting Israel for the first time and made their debut concert in a trio formation with 'localized' Slovene drummer Gašper Bertoncelj.

All three musicians are internationally acclaimed and perform around the world with legends of jazz:

PETER MIHELČ is a part of New York jazz scene for over 20 years. His amazing tone, musicianship and feel is embraced by jazz legends like Sheila Jordan and Jon Hendricks with whom Peter regularly performs on stages around the world.

NIKOLA MATOŠIČ is probably the most known jazz bassist in Slovenia as he is one of the founders of the new jazz scene in Slovenia. Nikola is known also abroad performing with legendary Herb Geller and Deborah Brown.

GAŠPER BERTONCELJ is already known to Israeli audiences as he became a part of the Israeli jazz scene three years ago when he moved to Tel Aviv from New York where he studied and performed for 8 years. He released 3 albums as a leader on New York label Arabesque records. He performs internationally with years like Lew Tabackin, Vincent Herring, Kevin Mahogany. Gasper also got invited to be a part of the faculty at the famous Rimon School of music.
More information at: www.gasperbertoncelj.com

Visitors at the National Gallery of Slovenia choose *Summer* by Slovene Painter Ivana Kobljica as their favourite

Ivana Kobilca (20 December 1861–4 December 1926) is the most prominent Slovene woman painter and a key figure of Slovene cultural identity. She was a realist painter who studied and worked in Vienne, Munich, Paris, Sarajevo, Berlin, and Ljubljana. She mostly painted oil paintings and pastels. The themes include still-lives, Portraits, genre works, allegories, and religious scenes further in later periods.

Judging by her social origin, way of living, ideals and work, she was an urban artist. She is one of Slovene realists who created their most important paintings in the 1880s. Kobilca's greatest tribute to Slovenian art was made during the time she lived abroad. Her greatest impact was on figural painting, especially portraits and paintings of typical people's lives in rustic or urban places. Since the time she had spent in Berlin, her most important genre became floral, still life. Her early work reflects characteristics of Munchen studio-work. The main colours are dark and brownish, only the pastels are light and rosy. From 1889 onwards her painting became lighter with blue nuances, typical for Parisian art at the time.

Kobilca's best known paintings are *Kofetarica (Coffeemadam)*, 1888; *Citrarica (Zitherist)*, *Likarice (Women Ironers)*, 1891; *Holandsko dekle (Dutch Girl)*, *Portret sestre Fani (Portrait of Sister Fani)*, 1889; and *Poletje (Summer)*, 1889. Her work is on display in all major European galleries.



Summer by Ivana Kobilca at The National Gallery (source: National Gallery)

JUDAICA

Uroš Žun, RIGHTEOUS AMONG NATIONS Memorial Ceremony

A memorial ceremony in honour of Uroš Žun was held in Radovljica on December 11, 2012. The ceremony included the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Uroš Žun

courageous activities during World War II. Uroš Žun was a lawyer, born in 1903 in Radovljica, Slovenia. Between 1938 and 1941, he served as a Border police commissioner in Maribor. In 1940 a decree was sent from Germany that it was no longer allowed for refugees to cross the border in particular Jews from Slovenia elsewhere. At that point he had already gotten a request to allow sixteen Jewish girls who fled from Austria cross the border. He was in a dilemma. Despite the danger to himself and his family, he gave them the seal to cross the border thus saving their lives. When the girls found themselves across the border, they did not know where to go. Žun has therefore decided to help them. He took them to the hotel whose owner was a Jew and the girls were accepted free of charge. They were connected to the Jewish community in Zagreb. Uros Žun knew that he was facing heavy punishment and thus knew he had to hide. He became a fugitive. The Germans launched 10,000 marks award for his capture. Žun first went to Bosnia, and then he moved to Trieste, where he found employment. The group of girls in 1945 came to Palestine and never forgot their Savior. After his death, Žun was declared righteous among nations. This year will mark 35 years since his death.



Memorial plaque unveiled in Radovljica on December 11, 2012

Shoah – Let Us Remember 2013

On 1st November 2005 the UN General Assembly has declared the 27th January as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. For the diminishing generations of survivors' sakes it is the duty of present generations and the historiography to prevent memory loss about one of the darkest sides of 20th century history.

Despite the small size of the Slovenian territory where Jews before and after World War II were relatively few in number, the Slovenian Holocaust history can be, and it actually must be described as a microcosmos of Holocaust history within Central Europe. Remembering the Holocaust and the tragedy of genocide should not just be the remembrance of the victims but also of those who have survived the greatest tragedy from the first half of the 20th century. The Center of Jewish Cultural Heritage Synagogue Maribor, being the national coordinator of programmes in the field of Holocaust education and remembrance, annually dedicates special attention precisely to these issues. For the fourth year now, abundant activities and a variety of events across Slovenia are being organized under the title "Shoah – Let Us Remember". For it should not to be forgotten.

The events that will be held between 3rd and 31st January 2013:

- *openings of the exhibitions:* Anne Frank – a History for Today; Star Stripe – An Exhibition about the Holocaust; Tracing Jewish Heritage in Slovenia; Being Jewish; Holocaust 1933-1945 (Courage to Remember); Eternal Memory (The Holocaust Remembrance Day); Forgive Us, Forgive Us, Oh You Dead! Jewish Soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian Army on the Isonzo Front;

- *scientific meeting* Each Year One Name: Unknown Slovenian Righteous from Prekmurje and Primorska Regions *and round table on the topic* Ciril Kotnik – the Next Righteous Among the Nations from Slovenia?;

- *interview with Slavko Goldstein, presentation of the book* Jews in Slovenia: History and the Holocaust, *and lectures:* Shadows of the Memory – Extermination of the Jewish Community in Prekmurje Region; Marko Rosner – The Forgotten man from Maribor; Images of the Death: Nazism and the Holocaust through the Eyes of the Art; Teaching about the Holocaust – The Pedagogical Philosophy of Yad Vashem; Forgotten Heroism at the Soča River.

For more information: www.sinagogamaribor.si



UPCOMING EVENTS

IMTM- the 19th International Mediterranean Tourism Market

The 19th International Tourism market will take place On 5-6 February 2013 at Exhibition Fair grounds in Tel Aviv. As every year, Slovenia will participate with an active information stand and presentation by the Slovenian Tourist Board "Experience Croatia Feel Slovenia".

The presentation will take place on 6 February 2013 at 10:00, Pavilion 1, Hall B1. Information on professional conferences, events and presentations will be published in trade magazines and on the fair's web site.

Please visit www.imtm.co.il