



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

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## Documentary on Boris Pahor Screened in MD and PA

**Slovenian documentary "The Stubborn Memory" (Trmasti spomin) about a centenarian Slovene writer, holocaust survivor and Nobel literature prize nominee, Boris Pahor, has been presented this week at the seventh annual international film series Bridges to the World, organized by the World Artists Experiences. The series introduces every year free screenings of five international films, this year, one each from Ukraine, Chile, China, Israel and Slovenia.**



Boris Pahor addressed for the occasion to the American audience a letter, read in both Slovene and English.

The series has been running for five weeks from the first week of February through the second week of March at five venues throughout the state of Maryland and in Reading, Pennsylvania. Each film was introduced, screened, and followed by a discussion.

The Slovenian film *The Stubborn Memory* has been shown in California, MD, on Wednesday, March 5 at the Southern Maryland

Higher Education Center and yesterday in Annapolis, MD, at the Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, when around 170 people attended the event and the discussion that followed. For the occasion, Boris Pahor, who will celebrate his 101th birthday in August, addressed a letter to the American audience.

The documentary, which received an Erasmus EuroMedia award and a medal of excellence in





Boris Pahor is best known for his novel "Necropolis" .

2010, showcases the key moments which marked the author's life and present the core of his literary creation. The film was made as a part of a "Sons of Two Nations - Great Men of Slovenia" project, which presents the lives of people who have made an impact in the multi-cultural area between Italy and Slovenia.

The Stubborn Memory was directed by Tomaž Burlin, who was also the co-author and co-

scriptwriter, together with Neva Zajc, under the patronage of the regional center Koper-Capodistria of the national broadcaster RTV Slovenia. The screenings in Maryland and Pennsylvania were made possible as a courtesy by the same Regional TV Program.

The acclaimed author and a living witness to the horrors of 20th century totalitarianisms, Pahor is a member of the Slovenian minority in Italy. He grew up in

Trieste, where he witnessed the persecution of Slovenians by the Fascists before WWII, was imprisoned by the Nazis during the war and was banned from entering Slovenia by the Communists after publishing an interview, in which fellow writer Edvard Kocbek spoke about summary post-war killings.

Pahor is considered one of the most renowned Slovenian writers. He is best known for his novel "Necropolis" (also available in English translation by Michael Biggins), describing his experience of the Nazi labor camp Mittelbau-Dora near Nordhausen, Germany. He is also known for his collection of novels entitled Grmada v pristanu (The Bonfire on the Quay), and the novels Nomadi brez oaze (Nomads without an Oasis) and Spopad s pomladjo (A Difficult Spring).

\*The film will be shown in Towson, MD on Friday, March 7, at the Center for the Arts, Towson University, 8000 York Rd., and in Reading, PA on Thursday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at BCIU Main Office, 1111 Commons Blvd.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

# Consular Hours in San Francisco

The consular officer from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, will hold consular hours and provide consular services (authentications, certifications, passport applications, etc.) in San Francisco on Monday, March 24, 2014, at the premises of the Honorary Consulate of Slovenia in San Francisco, 354 Pine Street, Third Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104.

To schedule an appointment, please, fill out the form available at the embassy's website and send it to the Embassy of Slovenia at [vwa@gov.si](mailto:vwa@gov.si) by March 20, 2014, to allow the embassy enough time to verify your data.

The embassy will suggest the time of your appointment and give you further information on the documentation you need to bring along. You may

also visit the embassy website <http://washington.embassy.si/> (Consular Affairs, Visas) for documents required for most consular services. Please note that the consular fee must be paid with a money order made out to "Embassy of Slovenia". Cash, personal checks or credit cards will not be accepted.

Due to security reasons, prior appointment is needed to enter the premises of the consulate.

## European Parliamentary Elections 2014

President of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, has called by a decree for elections to European Parliament on May 25, 2014. This will be the third E.U. elections for Slovenian voters since the country joined the E.U. in May 2004. Slovenia has in the European Parliament eight representatives, who serve for a five-year term.

The national electoral commission launched the official preparations and procedures connected to the elections on February 24. Slovenian citizens may vote in the European Parliamentary elections if on the date of the election (May 25, 2014) they are at least 18 years old.

Citizens with permanent residence abroad will receive their ballots along with the instructions at their respective postal addresses. Voters who wish to vote on the premises of the Embassy

of Slovenia in Washington, D.C. can check their data registered in the national electoral register from March 10 to May 9; Monday to Friday between 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon by phone at (202) 386-6614.

Slovenian citizen living outside Slovenia temporarily and wishing to cast their votes for Slovenian representatives in the 2014 European Parliamentary elections must register as voters by April 24, 2014, on a special registration form available at <http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/si/obrazci-za-volivce>. Thus, they will be able to vote by mail or in person. The polling stations in the United States will be established at the following locations with operating hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election:

- **Slovene Home for the Aged** (organized by the Consulate General of Slovenia in Cleveland,



OH), 18621 Neff Road, Cleveland, OH 44119

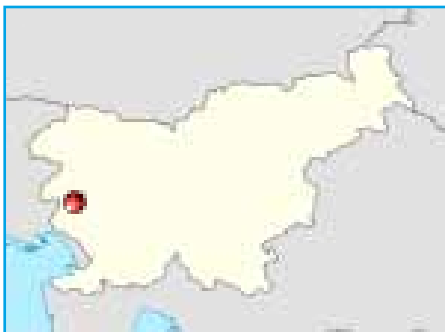
- **Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia**, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008

For more information in Slovenian go to:

[http://washington.embassy.si/index.php?id=814&tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=20287&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=51&cHash=8b9c36ed9cd6249fd2310850513a795e](http://washington.embassy.si/index.php?id=814&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=20287&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=51&cHash=8b9c36ed9cd6249fd2310850513a795e)

## TOURISM

### The Banjšice Plateau



The Karst world of the Banjšice Plateau, which rises over the Goriška Plain and sweeps in the west down to the emerald green river Soča is the ideal spot to retreat from the daily hustle

and bustle. This area between the regions of Goriška and Friuli on the one side, and the Tolmin and Idrija-Cerklje area on the other, was in the past a melting pot of cultures, and hence today impresses with its cultural heritage as well as with its nature that offers a marvelous view of the Julian Alps. With the seasons, the Plateau changes its appearance. In spring, a visitor is enchanted by the birds singing and in summer by its exuberant biotic diversity, in autumn it is time for mushroom picking and in winter one can breathe some fresh air

and feel the bora wind and the snowdrifts.

The best trail to take is the one which starts in the Grgar basin in the shelter of the Sveta Gora sanctuary. Not far away, there is the village Grgarske Ravne with its Herbal Center, which one should definitely visit. A stroll through the herb garden is also warmly recommended. In the settlement Bate, one should not miss the Habjani Farm with its architectural heritage and where a guest can try the ecologically produced cow-cheese and cottage cheese.

Leaving the main trail in the direction of Kanalski vrh, a visitor will get a glimpse of the artificial lake -- a retention reservoir. Continuing along the main road, after some serpentine bends, there appears a beautiful scene of grassy slopes and meadows full of cattle. The Banjšice Plateau here opens up with all its charm and offers astonishing panoramic views on the summits of the Julian Alps.

The village of Banjšice, after which the whole plateau got its name, consists of a number of clustered hamlets, which can all be embraced with our eyes. Beside all the natural beauties, one can come also across numerous remains of First World War, since the eleventh battle of the Isonzo took place right here.

A visitor should take time for a snack at the overlook point or just visit the nearest inn in the hamlet of Lohke. Time permitting, one should climb up to the village of Kal nad Kanalom, where in the quiet solitude, at some distance from the village, stands St. Thomas's church, built in the 15th century. Even higher, lies the village of Lokovec,



The Banjšice Plateau.

which extends itself in a narrow strip along the whole eastern part of the Banjšice Plateau. This part of the plateau, with its highest peak of Mt. Lašček (1071m; 3505 ft.), is the most karstified (rich in karst phenomena) and mountainous area here. This territory gets its mystical touch also from the finds of the gravel-stones kačje glave -- snakes' heads, discovered by Pavel Medvešček and Rafael Podobnik.

The village of Lokovec is known for its blacksmiths' trade, since more or less every farmstead

had its very own. A presentation of this old trade can be admired in the small Blacksmith Museum. Descending from the village, the deep-cut Čepovan valley between the Banjšice and Trnovo Plateau opens the way in the direction southward down to the village of Grgar and then further on to the town of Nova Gorica. (Text by Miroslav Šuligoj Bremec)

All information can be obtained at: [tzticng@siol.net](mailto:tzticng@siol.net) and [www.novagorica-turizem.com](http://www.novagorica-turizem.com)



The Banjšice plateau is located northwest of the town of Nova Gorica, overlooking the Soča River. During World War I, the Italian and the Austro-Hungarian Army fought in the Eleventh Battle of the Isonzo on the plateau in August 1917.

### **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/>

### **Portos Phrasebook for Slovenian language**

Extensive bidirectional dictionaries and useful phrasebooks with extra features are available on iPhone® & iPad® and soon on Android®. The Portos dictionary provides a very efficient and user-friendly way for looking up words in various dictionaries from and into the Slovenian language.

More information: <http://www.portosdictionary.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](mailto: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>

### **[La Grande Fête de la Francophonie](#)**

The Grande Fête de la Francophonie returns to the Embassy of France! Perhaps the most eagerly anticipated event during "le mois de la francophonie", the Grande Fête is an invitation to travel the continents of the world in one night!

Each year, more than 35 embassies (including the Embassy of Slovenia!) join to present their culture and cuisine, accompanied by music from the French-speaking world. This year's featured artists include Benin's Jomion and the Uklos, and France's post-punk, cold wave, electro, surf rockers La Femme!

When: [Friday, March 21 from 7 p.m. – 12 midnight.](#)

Where: [La Maison Française - Embassy of France, 4101 Reservoir Rd, NW, Washington, DC.](#)

Admission: [General \(pre-sale\): \\$40, Benefactor: \\$60](#)

Tickets can be purchased only online at: <http://grandefete2014.eventbrite.com>

The 2014 Francophonie Cultural Festival is co-organized by the Washington Francophonie Committee, more than 35 embassies and The Alliance Française de Washington, AFI Silver, Arthispere, Blues Alley, Hillyer Art Space, Montgomery College, The Smithsonian Associates and the French-American Cultural Foundation. This year's festival is generously sponsored by TV5 Monde, France, Medias, Monde and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. Embassies participating in the Grande Fête are: Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Canada-Québec, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Georgia, Guinea, Haiti, Laos, Lebanon, Mali, Monaco, Mozambique, Niger, Romania, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Togo, and Tunisia.

Official website where you can discover the full schedule for "le mois de la francophonie": <http://www.FrancophonieDC.org/>

## [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](mailto:sca3@Lehigh.EDU), (610) 868- 2646 or see the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StJosephChurchBethlehemPA>

## [Slovenian films in California](#)

Slovenian feature film *Class Enemy*, directed by Rok Biček, will be shown as part of San Jose's Cinequest at the California Theater.

When: [Saturday, March 15 at noon.](#)

Where: [Camera 12 Cinema, Screen 9, 201 S. 2nd St, San Jose, CA 95113](#)

Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.00.

Zoran, My Idiot Nephew is also showing. The film is an Italian comedy about a man who "inherits" his Slovenian nephew

When: [Tuesday, March 11 at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 13 at 9:15 p.m., and Saturday, March 15, at 11:15 a.m.](#)

Where: [Camera 12 Cinema, 201 S. 2nd St, San Jose, CA 95113](#)

More information: <http://payments.cinequest.org/WebSales/pages/info.aspx?evtinfo=19579~78899376-35a9-4153-8303-e1557be2dc32&epguid=70d8e056-fa45-4221-9cc7-b6dc88f62c98&#.UwULwdJRQxg>

## [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](http://www.foodtourslovenia.wordpress.com) and her Facebook at [www.facebook.com/tasteofslovenia](http://www.facebook.com/tasteofslovenia). You can contact Sylvia at [tasteofslovenia@gmail.com](mailto:tasteofslovenia@gmail.com).