

Friends of Slovakia (FOS) is an independent, non-profit organization founded in 2001 that seeks to promote friendship and understanding between Slovakia and the United States - two countries with shared common values. FOS members include many Americans of Slovak heritage, Americans who have developed ties of friendship with Slovakia through work and travel there, and some individual Slovak citizens who have been particularly active in fostering closer U.S.-Slovak ties.

To fulfill its mission, FOS engages in several core activities to foster U.S.-Slovak cooperation in the areas of arts and culture, education, economics and security. In addition, FOS represents a growing group of Americans interested in promoting public awareness of Slovak history and current events in Slovakia as it plays an active role in NATO, the EU and remains a staunch ally of the United States.

To support its activities, FOS depends on annual individual, organizational and corporate membership dues, designated gifts, and fundraisers. As a 501(c)(3) entity, contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Since the 2001 opening of the Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC, FOS has collaborated closely with the embassy on projects including political/diplomatic symposia, art exhibitions, Slovak-American award dinners and cultural offerings. FOS often hosts or co-sponsors events for leading Slovak government officials visiting the U.S. FOS activities, including our successful scholarship program, are designed to reinforce ties between the Slovak and American people.

FOS SUMMER SCHOLARS

Annually, FOS supports at least two Slovak university-level scholars eligible to participate in the Fund for American Studies' program at Georgetown University. These outstanding young men and women return to Slovakia where they take leadership positions in government and the private sector. Following their summer in Washington, the FOS Scholars retain their close ties with FOS and are effective and articulate spokespeople for strong Slovak-U.S. relations. The success of this program and its expansion depend on the generosity of FOS supporters.

ANNUAL FREEDOM LECTURE

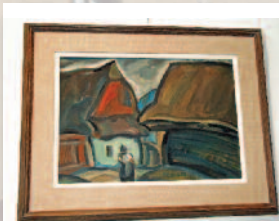
FOS and the American Friends of the Czech Republic co-sponsor the Annual Czech and Slovak Freedom lecture, held in cooperation with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, commemorating the values of the 1989 Velvet Revolution. Slovak Prime Minister Iveta Radicova gave the 2010 Lecture, which was webcast by the Wilson Center and later televised by MHz Networks to 33 cities. Former distinguished speakers have included former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former Slovak Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Miklos and Czech President Vaclav Klaus. The Freedom Lecture is open to the public and provides unique insights into events in the Slovak and Czech Republics.

SYMPOSIA AT WASHINGTON THINK TANKS

FOS has co-sponsored a number of topical roundtables with CSIS and the Wilson Center on Slovak-American relations featuring prominent U.S. officials and scholars and visitors from Slovakia including then Slovak Foreign Ministers Kukan and Kubis. A major initiative on Capitol Hill for Congressional staff was a forum on the need for Visa Waiver legislation, which is now law, for Central European allies including Slovakia. In 2009, the Heritage Foundation hosted a panel that brought together the Slovak Foreign Minister, former Ambassadors to and from Slovakia, and U.S. and Slovak government officials to discuss U.S.-Slovak relations and Slovakia's development since independence into a strong NATO partner and successful EU member.

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL EVENTS

FOS and the Embassy of Slovakia have co-sponsored major cultural events. An art exhibit featuring important Slovak paintings in American collections entitled "Memories of Slovakia" was part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the 1989 Velvet Revolution that freed Slovakia from the yoke of Communism and opened the door to independence and democracy. In 2011, the US launch of a book on US-Slovak relations since the Velvet Revolution by former Slovak Minister of International Relations (1991-92) Pavol Demes drew an audience including many former US diplomats and other Americans who worked to support Slovakia's civil society. FOS has also sponsored Slovak film showings.



"Polomka" by Stefan Prukner
in Memories of Slovakia
Exhibit



Friends of Slovakia
P.O. Box 40733
Washington, DC 20016-0733



BUSINESS & CORPORATE OUTREACH

FOS actively works to introduce leaders of U.S. businesses to the possibility of investing and doing business in Slovakia. FOS, in cooperation with the Slovak Embassy and US Steel, published a brochure promoting private sector investment in Slovakia. In 2011, FOS assisted a four-city investment Roadshow under the sponsorship of the Slovak Ministry of Economy designed to encourage US companies to work in Slovakia.

ORGANIZATIONAL OUTREACH

FOS maintains collaborative relations with Slovak-American cultural and fraternal organizations active throughout the United States. FOS welcomes opportunities to work with such organizations and groups whose missions are compatible with those of FOS. FOS is co-sponsoring with the Slovak Embassy and the Peace Corps events celebrating the Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary and its role in supporting Slovakia's transition from recipient of assistance in building civil society to an active donor.

NEWSLETTER

The FOS newsletter covers events of interest to its constituency. Published two or three times a year, its international circulation reinforces FOS activities and mission.

WEBSITE

The FOS website describes the organization and houses the archives of FOS Newsletters and the texts of speeches and panel discussions sponsored by FOS with Washington think tanks. The website has links to organizations working with FOS for improved U.S.-Slovak relations.

WALL OF HONOR

The FOS Wall of Honor in the garden of the Slovak Embassy provides a prominent place for individuals, companies and organizations to be recognized for their commitment to US-Slovak friendship. Many donors choose the Wall to honor their ancestry, heritage or interest in Slovakia with a bronze plaque. FOS honors plaque donors during a yearly reception at the Slovak Embassy. Sample plaque pricing for individual donors:



Friends of Slovakia
Wall of Honor

\$250-\$999

16x16 group plaque
(multiple inscriptions)

\$1,000-\$4,999

4x4 plaque

\$5,000-\$9,000

4x8 plaque

Prices for organizational and corporate donors begin at \$1,000 for an inscription on the annual group plaque. Individual plaques for these donors begin at \$2,500.

FOS GALA AWARDS DINNERS IN BRATISLAVA

Three black-tie gala dinners have been organized by FOS in Bratislava. The first dinner in Bratislava in 2002 celebrated Slovakia's entrance into NATO and its economic progress and featured former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as keynote speaker. The second dinner in 2005 celebrated Slovakia's entry as a member of the European Union and featured Lord George Robertson, former Secretary General of NATO. The third dinner in Bratislava in 2007 in celebration of Slovak economic progress was keynoted by Kenneth Walsh, Chief White House Correspondent for US News and World Report. The three dinners in Bratislava also recognized Slovaks who excelled in the following three categories: Politics/Diplomacy, Business/Economics and Culture/Sports. Attendees at the dinners included senior level government officials as well as diplomatic representatives, corporate executives and FOS members and friends. The dinners were very successful fundraisers for the FOS Slovak Scholars program.

FOS & SLOVAK EMBASSY GALA AWARDS DINNERS IN WASHINGTON, DC

Begun in 2009, the first dinner commemorated the 20th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and was keynoted by the then Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak. 2009 awardees were then Rep. Joe Sestak, (Dem. PA), Rep. John Mica (Rep. FL) and U.S. Steel



Joe Senko Welcomes Prime Minister
Radicová at 2010 Awards Dinner

Corporation. The 2010 dinner featured Slovak Prime Minister Iveta Radicová as keynote speaker and recognized John Goodish, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of U.S. Steel and the Indiana National Guard for its partnership with Slovakia since 1994. Joseph T. Senko received the Slovak Embassy's Slovak-American of the Year Award. Both sold-out dinners attracted current and former Slovak Ambassadors to the U.S. and current and former U. S. Ambassadors to Slovakia, as well as Members of Congress, U. S. Government officials, Slovak Honorary Consuls, members of Slovak Fraternal organizations, and Slovak-Americans from across the U.S. The silent auction at each event raised funds for the FOS Slovak Scholars Program and the Honorary Consuls' Roma Scholar Program.

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MEMBERSHIP

FOS relies on annual dues and special gifts to continue its operations.

CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

- Individual
- Non-profit & Fraternal organizations
- Corporate

Individual annual dues are \$35
Organizational annual dues are \$250
Corporate annual dues are \$2,500 for those not doing business in Slovakia and \$5,000 for those doing business in Slovakia
Dues cover a calendar year

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Invitations to FOS and Slovak Embassy events
- Subscriptions to FOS newsletter
- Participation in activities advancing U.S.-Slovak friendship

FOS is volunteer run and has minimal administrative expenses. Our donors know that their tax deductible gifts go directly to continuing and expanding FOS initiatives.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

____ I wish to join / renew my membership in FOS; my check for \$_____ is enclosed.

____ I want more information on FOS and you may contact me at: _____

____ I want to make a special gift to FOS in the amount of \$_____ for the FOS Scholarship fund.

FOS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

____ I am interested in the FOS Wall of Honor. Please contact me about how I may participate.

____ I would like to volunteer with FOS and am interested in: _____

____ I would like to see FOS activities in the following areas: _____

FRIENDS OF SLOVAKIA

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Email: information@friendsofslovakia.org • Website: <http://www.friendsofslovakia.org>

