



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Slovenian Cultural Day

As festivities were held across the Slovenia on Friday, February 8, when Slovenians traditionally observe their Cultural Day, a national holiday dedicated to Slovenia's foremost poet, the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, DC, hosted a reception featuring the opening of the exhibition *My Beautiful Homeland* by Jože Svetina, and poetry reading from the collection of Prešeren's poems, "Poezije Franceta Prešerna" (Poems by France Prešeren), the first edition of which was published in 1847.



Ambassador Kirn addressed more than 100 guests at the Embassy of Slovenia on the occasion of Slovenian Cultural Day.

In his address to over 100 guests, Ambassador Kirn outlined the poet's contribution to Slovenia's national identity and his distinctive contribution to the formation of Slovenians as a nation, having lifted the Slovenian language to the European level of literally expression. Masterpieces of

France Prešeren, who lived in the Romantic era (1800-1849), include "Sonetni Venec" (A Garland of Sonnets), and "Krst pri Savici" (The Baptism at Savica Falls); he is, however, best known for his poem "Zdravljica" (A Toast), the seventh verse of which was chosen as Slovenia's national anthem.



The exhibition by Jože Svetina opened on this occasion, mainly features his oil landscape paintings, emphasizing and showing the diverse and beautiful nature of Slovenia. Using his own brand of lyrical realist style, which reflects the painter's vision of pure beauty. Svetina, furthermore, depicted various scenes from across Slovenia. Particularly dramatic are his details of trees, most often ravaged and cleft by storms, wicked winters and scorching sun.

Svetina dedicated one of his paintings titled "A School Boy" (Šolarček) to President Barack Obama. On behalf of the White House it was accepted by John H. Winant, Director for Central and Northern Europe at the National Security Staff.

Jože Svetina lives and works in Zavodje near Šoštanj. With his first solo exhibition in Velenje in 1967, he initially painted motifs from rural life and, in the 1960s and 1970s, his style was in many ways similar to that of naive art, which was extremely



John H. Winant, Director for Central and Northern Europe of the National Security Staff accepting the painting by Svetina on behalf of the White House.

popular at the time. He is a self-taught artist, but significantly influenced by the painter Janez Ravnik from Kranj, and sculptor Ivan Napotnik.

In Ljubljana every year, a reading of Prešeren's poems by popular theater actors is held traditionally at noon on February 8 at his statute in Ljubljana's central square which bears the poet's name. Since 1947, the national

poet's legacy has been honored each year by the presentation of the Prešeren awards. Writers and artists whose works have made a lasting impression upon Slovene culture are recognized with the highest of accolades, the Grand Prešeren Award.

This year, the recipients of the Prešeren Prizes were a diaspora writer, Zorko Simčič, and illustrator Marlenka Stupica, whereas the Prešeren Fund Prizes were awarded to ballet dancer Regina Križaj, mezzo-soprano Bernarda Fink and her brother, bas-baritone Marcos Fink, baritone Jože Vidic, poet Gorazd Kocijančič, translator Marija Javoršek and director Metod Pevc of the documentary "Aleksandrinke" (Alexandrian women).

A series of concerts, exhibitions and other events marking the Culture Day are being held throughout the month in and outside Slovenia. Many cultural institutions had doors open wide to attract visitors, with free events on Friday.



Reading of Prešeren's poetry.

Ambassador Kirn Addresses the Intl. Club of Annapolis

On Wednesday, February 6, 2012 evening, Ambassador Roman Kirn addressed more than 150 guests of the International Club of Annapolis at their monthly dinner. The International Club has been in existence for over fifty years and has some 400 members, drawn from a cross section of local government, business, and civic leaders and is presided by Carl Hornig, who welcomed the ambassador and introduced him to the audience.

In his remarks, the ambassador centered on the relations between Slovenia and the United States, and focused on the future of the European Union and Slovenia's perspective and role within it. Ambassador Kirn outlined to the attentive audience Slovenia's pathway in the process of democratization, emphasizing that the governor of Maryland was, in 1992, the first



Ambassador Kirn addressing the members of Intl. Club of Annapolis.

official from the United States to visit the newly independent Slovenia.

He also stressed that Slovenia's aspirations for the values of Western civilization and free-market economy brought the country to join

the European Union in 2004. Within the scope of integration, Slovenia supports the E.U. as it works closely with the U.S. to promote an open and stable global economic partnership to further enhance the political and defense security alliance.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Slovenia Nominates Missionary Pedro Opeka

Slovenia submitted the nomination of Slovenian missionary Father Pedro Opeka for the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize. Opeka, referred to as missionary of the garbage people, has dedicated his life to helping the people living in garbage dumps of Madagascar's capital, Antananarivo.

MEP Lojze Peterle told the press on Monday that he had been working on the nomination

of Fr. Opeka for a year as of Friday, February 1; moreover, the Slovenian Government expressed support for the nomination.

The nomination also enjoys support among many foreign presidents and heads of various international institutions in Europe, Africa and other continents. Among others, support for Opeka was also voiced by Australia's Health

Minister, Tanya Plibersek, who is also of Slovenian descent. Opeka has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize before.

Pedro Opeka was born to Slovenian expats in Buenos Aires in 1948 and joined the Lazarist missionary society in 1966. He studied theology in Ljubljana, but completed his studies at the Catholic Institute in Paris. Since 1976, he has been living and working in Madagascar where he

had rescued tens of thousands of people from poverty and moral decay, restoring their human dignity and helping them gain social inclusion.

Opeka has earned international acclaim with his humanitarian project for the most marginalized group of population in Antananarivo. He has founded several humanitarian associations, rescuing thousands of children from the garbage dumps. He has received for his work numerous recognitions, including the Golden Order for Services from former Slovenian President Danilo Türk. (Source: STA)



Missionary Pedro Opeka helps the people living in garbage dumps in Antananarivo in Madagascar.

DIPLOMACY

President Pahor Addresses Diplomats

President Borut Pahor pledged to help promote foreign investment in Slovenia as he addressed a reception for members of the diplomatic corps at Brdo pri Kranju on Tuesday, February 5. The reception, hosted by Pahor and his spouse Tanja Pečar, was also attended by Prime Minister Janez Janša with his spouse Urška Bačovnik.

"Slovenia has and would like to have even more friends in the world," Pahor said in his address, adding that Slovenian partners enjoyed priority attention, but that the door for boosted cooperation was open to everyone. Pahor expressed the confidence that Slovenia would find the necessary unity, tolerance and determination to overcome the financial, economic, social and moral crisis and to take on future challenges and opportunities.



President Pahor addressing diplomatic corps at Brdo pri Kranju.

He placed special emphasis on economic diplomacy, expressing Slovenia's interest in seeking more foreign investment. Pahor also voiced his support for deepening political integration among E.U. member states.

Speaking on behalf of

the diplomatic corps, its doyen, Archbishop Juliusz Janusz, expressed the diplomats' willingness to enhance efforts to promote understanding and peace among nations and to aspire for the common good and development of humanity.

(Source: STA)

Pipistrel's Idea that Can Change the World

The renowned American monthly magazine *Wired* published in January an article titled 7 Massive Ideas That Can Change the World, ranging as the Big Idea No. 1 making rechargeable airplanes. Its writer, Clive Thompson, set the Slovenian airplane manufacturing company Pipistrel as an example of innovative research in the industry.

The writer points out that the airplane industry has been incrementally improving fuel efficiency for decades, but he also emphasizes that its maxing out the potential of current designs will soon bring about the need to come up with a similarly transformative rethink. Air travel is set to explode and it is expected to more than double by 2031 as developing nations grow more prosperous. Thompson dreads

that growth could eat away at any other improvements we may make from cleaning up cars or energy grids.

There are a number of ways to tackle the problem. Smarter navigation systems could let airlines fly shorter, more direct flight paths. And small, short-range planes could eventually become electric. Here he emphasizes the Slovenian firm Pipistrel, which has developed

an electric four-seater, with double the mileage of a similar liquid-fueled plane. "All these technologies are converging to produce capabilities that were not imaginable 10 years ago," the author quotes David Hinton, NASA's deputy director of aeronautics research. The article is available at: <http://www.wired.com/business/2013/01/ff-seven-big-ideas/>.



Taurus by Pipistrel.

INNOVATION

"Bloomberg" Ranks Slovenia 19th in Global Innovation Index

"Bloomberg" ranks Slovenia in 19th place out of 50 countries in its Global Innovation Index, as it ranks its researcher concentration and manufacturing capability also in the 19th place and, furthermore, as 17th in R&D intensity.

However, other components drag Slovenia down. It is ranked 23rd in productivity, 24th in tertiary efficiency and 34th in high-tech density. These are partly offset by a 12th-place ranking in patent activity. "Bloomberg" ranked

the United States in first place, followed by South Korea, and Germany. Finland, Sweden, Japan, Singapore, Austria, Denmark, and France round off the top ten.

The Bloomberg Innovation Quotient ranked the countries on a scale of 0 to 100% on seven factors: R&D intensity (20%) -- R&D as a percentage of GDP; productivity (20%) -- GDP per employed person, per hour worked; high-tech density (20%) -- public high-tech companies as percentage of public companies;

researcher concentration (20%) -- R&D researchers per one million people; manufacturing capability (10%) -- manufacturing value-added as percentage of GDP and products with high R&D intensity as percentage of total manufactured exports; tertiary efficiency (5%) -- ratio of university graduates in science, engineering, manufacturing and construction; and patent activity (5%) -- patent filings per million population and per \$1 million spent on R&D.

Krka River Valley with Žužemberk



Tufa barriers on Krka.

The Krka River, which flows through southeastern Slovenia, is one of the most interesting karst rivers, and its 58 miles make it the longest river entirely in Slovenia. The name Krka was first mentioned in written sources in 799 as Corca (later, in 1925, Gurke, or, in 1249, Gurka fluvio). It springs from the Pod jamo spring below Krška cave, which is located to the north

of the Gradiček village, and flows into the Sava River near Brežice.

Krška cave, in which the cave salamander, *Proteus anguinus*, lives, is 656 feet long, easily accessible, and illuminated. It is a horizontal spring cave, from which underground water now floods out only during times of high water. Behind the wide entrance, a homogeneous spacious cavern

opens out to the north. The grounds are covered with rubble and large boulders, heaping up all the way to the ceiling.

The river Krka surfaces in a broad blind valley, at the interface of the Jurassic limestone and the Triassic dolomite formations on the karst plateau north of the village of Krka. In the upper stream Krka is a typical karst river with a broad background of underground subsidiary streams, and the only Slovenian river in which the tufa sediments can be found.

There are 90 tufa barriers in the upper Krka stream, of which the most picturesque are located in the area of Žužemberk and Dvor. Many watermills and sawmills were built along the tufa barriers in the past and the Žužemberk paper-mill is one of the oldest ever operating in Slovenia.

Cultural heritage that has formed through incredible history of the Žužemberk area is remarkable, since over fifty objects in this region have been designated as cultural





The water trail of the Krka is ideal for rowing, kayaking, rafting or canoeing.

monuments.

The remains of the Žužemberk castle rise in their mightiness above the river Krka and represent the most important cultural monument; it is also among the most picturesque and typical medieval fortresses in Slovenia. Supposedly, the year 1000 is engraved on the rectangular tower, implying that the castle

was built by Viljem II, husband of St. Ema and administrator of Savinjska region.

Of great importance in Dvor near Žužemberk from the pre-Roman period until the end of the 19th century was iron ore. The ironworks in Dvor were one of the biggest industrial plants in Dolenjska in the 19th century. From its establishment in 1763, its owners

were the Auerspergs from Turjak, who obtained from the mining authorities the permission to build smelting furnaces and an iron foundry. Beside various industrial and construction tools, various artistically designed objects also were made there, e.g., candlesticks, decorative plates, coats of arms, furnaces, grave crosses, fountains, and bridges.

Among other important monuments and local sights also are: the remains of a Roman road, the Praznik homestead in Boršt, the monument of the war of national liberation on Cvibelj, Roman tombstones, the remains of antique settlements and mounds, groups of hay-racks, and many parish churches.

Krka is one of the rivers richest with fish, and was in the past widely known for the Krka crayfish. Today, the river is popular because it provides a number of opportunities for various water sports, and is particularly attractive to fishermen. The water trail of the Krka is ideal for rowing, kayaking, rafting or canoeing, and offers numerous entry and exit points as well as boat rentals and tours. One can opt for a ride along the Krka river in Suha Krajina, which is one of the most beautiful and adrenalin-filled rides on the Krka, passing over 20 tufa thresholds.

The river then changes direction and meets its first tributary in Sušica at the so called "calm green" Krka river route, where the current becomes steadier and is, thus, suitable for canoeing. Cycling is another way of discovering the beauties of the valley, with several marked routes along the river.



Žužemberk castle.

Tina Maze Wins Super-G Gold

Slovenian skier Tina Maze won gold in the super-G on Tuesday, February 5, in Schladming, Austria, edging out Switzerland's Lara Gut and Julia Mancuso of the United States in the first event of the Skiing World Championship. She crossed the finish line with a time of 1 minute 35.39 seconds, 0.38 seconds ahead of Gut. This is for Maze second gold at a world championship -- after she won the giant slalom event in 2011 -- and her sixth medal in a major competition. She also won silver in the super-G at the last Olympic Games in 2010.

Maze was considered the favorite for the super-G win, having dominated the event this year. Indeed, commentators are certain that, after she bagged this season seven wins and a total of 17 podiums in 25 World Cup races this season, she will top the medal rankings of the 32nd World Championship.

Moreover, Overall World Cup leader Tina Maze of Slovenia won silver in the super-combined at the World Championships on Friday, February 8, her second medal after she won gold in the super-G on Tuesday.

Congratulations have been pouring in for Maze, including those from Žiga Turk, Minister of

Education, Science, Culture and Sport, and Prime Minister Janez Janša.

Janša said Maze had "proved once again in changeable and demanding conditions that you are capable of overcoming even the most unexpected obstacles." (Source: STA)



Tina Maze won gold in the super-G in Schladming, Austria in the Skiing World Championship.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Josef Princ Memorial Scholarship

The Josef Princ Memorial Scholarship for a graduate student will be available to a full-time graduate student majoring during the **2013-2014 school year exclusively in science, mathematics, or engineering.** The scholarship **in the amount of \$4,000.00** will be awarded in April 2013.

The scholarship is open to full-time graduate students who

have one parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent of **Slovenian ancestry**, and will be offered on alternate years. The next award will be offered during the 2016-2017 academic year, April 2016 being the award date.

Josef Princ, a native of Velika Bukovica, Ilirska Bistrica, Slovenia, graduated with an engineering degree

from the University of Ljubljana and continued his studies in Germany. After immigrating to the United States in 1957, he continued his studies and worked for Nichols Home Shield as its chief designer and acquired a number of patents. He also was a designer for Anderson Window Company. Josef and his wife Rose Marie were married for 36 years, before he died in 1999.

Josef loved being an American although he was also very proud of his Slovenian heritage.

The Rose Marie Princ Scholarship will be available in alternate years to a graduate student majoring exclusively **in the field of education**. The next award will be offered in April 2014 for the 2014-2015 academic year.

The SWU Scholarship Foundation also is offering **\$1,000 and \$2,000 college-student scholarships** for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Applicants for these awards must have held membership in the Slovenian Union of America three years prior to application, and must be attending an accredited college or university full time.

Application forms can be found on website www.slovenianunion.org; however, for further information on either scholarship, please contact: Mary Turvey at mturvey@aol.com, 4 Lawrence Drive, Marquette, Michigan 49855, or Marge Church at yemec1@windstream.net, 1028 Skyland Drive, Macedonia, Ohio 44056

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Culture and Communications Interns for Baltimore

EUNIC Washington, a coalition of E.U. member states' national institutes of culture: Alliance Française, Austrian Cultural Forum, British Council, Goethe-Institut, Hellenic Foundation for Culture, Instituto Camoes, Italian Cultural Institute, Romanian Cultural Institute, and the Embassies of Slovenia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Romania, Spain and Sweden, aims to present edgy, creative, diverse and thought-provoking cultural and educational programs to showcase Europe.

In 2013 and 2014, EUNIC Washington will partner with Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts for an ambitious 18-month project highlighting the positive role of culture in urban development. The Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts is the Arts Council for the City of Baltimore, addressing the needs of the arts community through arts and cultural activities and the development of grant programs. The office also produces festivals, special events and promotions for the city. The project is titled "Transit: Creative Placemaking in Baltimore". It will nurture

interaction between the City of Baltimore and several European cities to reflect the impact of culture on city revitalization.

Job Description

The position of the Culture and Communications Intern entails a three- to five-month internship and will be based in Baltimore at the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts. The primary responsibilities of this position are to assist in the administration of the culture program and communication activities, coordination of film programs and panel discussions, to provide related support to the Cultural Affairs Assistant Director (BOPA) and work as liaison with the EUNIC in Washington, DC.

The intern will provide liaison between EUNIC members and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts. He/she will assist in the coordination of the initiative, logistics and communications.

Duties include, but are not limited to:

Responsibilities

- Assists in the daily administration of "Transit" initiative, where it:
- Assists in the coordination of meetings
- Composes and edits correspondence
- Assists in the maintenance of files
- Researches information and data on Europe and cooperates with the European embassies in Washington to receive information about Europe, and places it on the website of this project
- Assists in the coordination of meetings, including:
- Records and transcribes meeting minutes
- Assists in communication of meeting updates, agendas, and minutes.
- Assists in the communications
- Creates communications materials
- Updates "Transit" website
- Posts information on social media to relay program information as needed
- Assists in event management

- Keeps contact with stakeholders in programs (such as the residency, film, panels) such as representatives of Arts & Entertainment Districts of Baltimore, MICA and others
- Coordinates the logistics of event planning including working with, host locations, artists...
- Prepares data and information for the residency program offered to artists and experts in urban development,

Required knowledge, skills, and abilities

The ideal candidate is an inquisitive, independent, and communicative individual

- Fluent in English

- Student of cultural management or communications
- Able to coordinate multiple partnership projects

Conditions

- The intern must be citizen of an E.U. Member State
- The intern will be under an education visa and will be responsible for his/her visa fees, health insurance, and transport to the United States
- The internship periods will start on March 1, 2013, and end on June 13, 2014
- This is an unpaid position with a monthly stipend of €220 (approximately \$295)
- Monthly transit pass for Baltimore

provided

- Housing provided at the Maryland Institute College of Art

Internship period(s) in Baltimore

- March 1 through July 31, 2013 -- deadline for applications is **February 15, 2013**
- August 19 through December 14, 2013 -- deadline for applications is **May 15, 2013**
- January 13, 2014 through June 13, 2014 - deadline for applications is **October 15, 2013**

All eligible candidates should e-mail their CVs and cover letters to KGreen@promotionandarts.com

COMPETENCE CENTRES

The Opcomm Competence Centre

The research-development Opcomm Competence Centre, supported by the European Regional Development Fund and Slovenia's Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, consists of nine members: TN ICT Institute, Cosylab, Inova IT, Špica International, Globtel, Alpineon, the Faculties of Electrical Engineering and of Computer and Information Science, University of Ljubljana, and the IJS – Jožef Stefan Institute.

The Competence Centre develops knowledge, technologies and processes which will, in the medium term, provide solutions for three key challenges and problematic issues:

1. the slow pace of broadband access and Internet development and, consequently, insufficient utilization of the advantages offered by the Future Internet, due to expensive equipment and

uneconomical business models that are currently used in building networks;

2. an abundance of data, information and content which cannot be efficiently used for individual integrated applications (smart cities, smart logistics, smart health, smart energy, smart grids, smart buildings, and smart homes);

3. increasing number of smart devices – by 2020, the Internet will connect several billion devices around the world, and communication between devices will represent about 95% of all data traffic and data flow in modern communication networks.

The Opcomm Competence Centre's short-term goal is to design and build the prototype of an open communication platform, which will serve as the basis for the development of various new advanced services and applications for the Internet of Things, whereas its long-term goals are aimed

at strengthening competencies for the development of innovative products, business models and solutions for the global market, steering technological trends, increasing competitiveness on international markets, and establishing long-term strategic cooperation and partnerships within and beyond the consortium as well as internationally.

The program of the Competence Centre is focused on user platforms and interfaces and encompasses research, design and prototype development of the application-oriented platform with open interfaces to support smart services and smart networks, distributed intelligence at the edge of broadband network, and advanced services and applications for object management. The last two solutions are based on the Opcomm open-interface user platform. For more information visit <http://www.opcomm.eu/en>.

[Perpetuum Jazzile in Washinton, DC](#)

Perpetuum Jazzile performs with a passion everything from pop to soul, funk, swing, bossa nova, and gospel. The group, featuring 35 powerful voices, is a massive global sensation, having toured to sell-out crowds in Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, and Canada. Along with vocal percussions, performances include an incredible array of drums and choreographed hand movements that simulate storms. Perpetuum Jazzile has garnered millions of YouTube hits of their dynamic live performances of pop classics by Lady Gaga ("Telephone"), Cyndi Lauper ("True Colors"), Earth, Wind & Fire, Gloria Estefan ("Conga"), Bee Gees and Toto ("Rosanna" and "Africa," which has scored over 14 million views alone).

When: [Thursday, March 7, 2013, at 8 p.m.](#)

Where: [Lisner Auditorium, GeorgeWashington University, 730 21st St., N.W.](#)

More information and tickets:

<http://www.lisner.org/eventdetails.asp?id=772>

[Slovenian Kurentovanje in Cleveland](#)

The Slovenian National Home, Slovenian Museum and Archives, St. Clair Superior Development Corp. and Sterle's Country House, in partnership with local businesses and institutions, bring a piece of the most popular carnival in Slovenia, Kurentovanje (koo-rent-oh-VAHN-yeh), to St. Clair Avenue. This cultural event, connecting ethnology, culture, arts, and people from all over Europe, has been celebrated in Slovenia for the past 50 years. The central figure of the carnival, the Kurent, is believed to chase away winter and usher in spring with its supernatural powers. The festival in Cleveland will be free to the public. Visitors are encouraged to dress in costume as they partake in the many different foods, wines, beers, music and dances of Slovenia and Eastern Europe. A prize will be awarded for the best homemade Kurent costume.

Procession: Traditional Kurentovanje starts with a parade, which, commencing at 1:00 p.m., will stretch through the neighborhood from St. Vitus's Church on Lausche Ave. to the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Ave.

Explore: Beginning at 2:00 p.m., visitors can explore the Slovenian National Home as well as many other storefront businesses in the area, which will feature samplings of food, spirits and music.

When: [Saturday, February 23, 2013, from noon to 6 p.m.](#)

More information:

[Michael Fleming of the St. Clair Superior Development Corporation at \(216\)881-0644, ext. 103\).](#)

[Celebrating Slovenian Cultural Day in CA](#)

Orange Coast SNPJ Lodge 786 cordially invites you to attend an event celebrating Slovenian Cultural Day. The program will feature the artwork of Dr. Kiar Mesko, a renowned artist in Slovenia for his historical and biographical paintings. Also featured will be NASA physicist Dr. Dusan Petrac, who will talk about the history of Slovenian independence and especially about his work in and the contributions of several American-Slovenes to the space program both as astronauts and as scientists. In addition to the interesting program, the food and wine of Slovenia will be offered. Voluntary donations will be accepted for this event.

When: [Saturday, February 23, 2013, from noon to 5:00 p.m. Program starts at 1:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Clubhouse 3, Dining Room 2, 23822 Avenida Sevilla, Laguna Woods Village, CA 92637](#)

More information: ajkoci@cox.net