



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

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## Visit by Students from Marymount University



**A group of undergraduate students from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia, visited the Slovenian Embassy in Washington on Wednesday, February 20, as part of the preparation for their visit to the country in March.**

The students will be hosted by GEA College in Ljubljana as they will participate in a course to learn

more about Entrepreneurship in the global Economy.

At the Embassy of Slovenia, the students attended a presentation by Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek, cultural and public diplomacy officer at the embassy, on Slovenia's history and geography as well as on tourist attractions and culinary specialties of the country. They also had a chance to taste a bit of

Slovenia, namely, the traditional walnut-roll cake (potica).

Furthermore, the economic counselor at the Embassy of Slovenia Mr. Gorazd Renčelj acquainted the attendees with some interesting facts on the economy and business environment in Slovenia as well as economic cooperation of the country with the United States, concluding with a Q & A session.



## The Structure of Life

On Thursday February 21, around 40 guests joined the Embassy of Slovenia for a cultural event that featured a presentation titled *The Structure of Life*, by young Slovenian artists Meta Grgurevič, Luka Uršič and Jaša Mrevlje. The artists are some of the main protagonists of the fresh art scene in Ljubljana and recognized by American art magazines *Modern Painters* and *Art in America*.

Meta Grgurevič finished her studies in Venice; her main interest lies in creating multimedia installations, kinetics and animation, drawing and sculpture. Works of Luka Uršič - KALU evolve mainly around music and sound, painting and multimedia installations. They both work with P. Nemec Gallery in Ljubljana. Jaša also



JASA, *Apnea's Rhapsody (action 2)*, 2012 - in collaboration with Meta Grgurevič and Kalu. Image is courtesy of On Stellar Rays Gallery.



Meta Grgurevič, Luka Uršič and Jaša Mrevlje presenting *Structure of Life* at the Embassy of Slovenia.

finished his studies in Venice, where he now teaches; his work consists mainly of multimedia installations and situations. He, too, works with P. Nemec Gallery in Ljubljana, with Jerome Zodo Contemporary Gallery in Milan, Italy, and *On Stellar Rays* in New York where he made his U.S. solo debut show last summer with *Apnea's Rhapsody*.

In the last few years, they have been slowly drawing, developing and changing spaces and situations. From the cloud of thoughts, they methodologically developed singular chapters, which became individual projects in form of installations. They often called their installations »walk-in-paintings« because of their formal complexity and as »walk-in-movies« because of the situations they generate; situations - realities.

In their work, they strive

to accumulate knowledge and experience, based on which they can create creative communities which stimulate personal growth. Usually, these realities gravitate around projects based on a poetical vision. Concluded singular projects are like chapters in a book that's being written.

The *Structure* is the reality of their artwork, its rational and architectural plan, divided into different rooms. Every room has its own song. A song, as an elusive feeling, is the experience of the artwork. With the unfolding of alchemistic-artists cocktails of media, the cloud of experience is molded, created and offered to the public. Art has the power to truly bend the space we seem. Moreover, art has the power to inspire the other with new positions, rather than mandating them.

# The CC for Sustainable and Innovative Construction

The Competence Center for Sustainable and Innovative Construction (CC TIGR) strives for sustainable construction -- with the aim of achieving sustainable development, taking into account environmental, socio-economic and cultural issues. The environmental themes addressed by the competence center primarily concern the use of natural resources. Among the three natural resources -- energy, water, and materials -- CC SIC is most concerned with energy and related emissions.

This natural resource is important today, not only for ecological reasons, but also for economic and strategic aspects. Socio-economic themes, on the other hand are, represented in CC SIC in two segments: first, production of guidelines and studies which will answer the question of what requirements from the users of buildings we know today and what we can expect in the future; and second, development of business models that will enable successful marketing of developed products in the E.U.

Despite the fact that cultural views of sustainable construction are not the focus of CC SIC, the competence center recognizes this as an important segment, which is taken into account in considering the differences arising from cultural aspects of living.

The data show that 50% of environmental emissions in Europe are caused by



Housing Complex in Slovenia is a Series of Honeycomb Modular Apartments by Inhabitat.com that uses solar shading and natural ventilation to regulate its interiors all year-round.

construction; 45% of energy consumption, 40% of material consumption, 35% of waste, 17% of water consumption are at the expense of construction. From these data, we can clearly see that, in the future, construction will have to face a number of challenges to reduce these emissions and become more sustainable.

Sustainable construction can be defined as intertwined activities of researchers, investors, construction companies and industry, services and other factors aiming at achieving sustainable development while taking into account social, economic and cultural issues. It is a complex mosaic and CC SIC covers all the aspects involved.

CC SIC is addressing many issues in sustainable

and innovative construction: it has started with the concept of the building development, and is dealing with sources of energy, ICT technologies in the management of buildings, recycling materials, new business models and building techniques. The center also focuses on the development of key competences in the areas of great potential for innovative solutions and competence advantages in the global market.

For more information about CC SIC visit:

[http://www.arhiv.mvzt.gov.si/en/areas\\_of\\_work/science\\_and\\_technology/centres\\_of\\_excellence\\_and\\_competence\\_centres/](http://www.arhiv.mvzt.gov.si/en/areas_of_work/science_and_technology/centres_of_excellence_and_competence_centres/)

(in Slovene language): <http://www.zag.si/si/index.php?nav0=home&nav1=novice&id=180>



## Slovenian Mountain Trail - SPP



Larch trees at Laz above Bohinj Lake in Julian Alps.

The Slovenian Mountain Trail (Slovenska planinska pot – SPP) covers all the Alpine ranges in Slovenia (Kamnik-Savinja Alps, the Karavanken Chain and the Julian Alps) and is the longest transversal hiking trail/route in Slovenia. It is 310 miles long and leads from Maribor in the Štajerska region in the northeast of Slovenia all the way to the Slovenian coast at the Adriatic Sea in Ankaran.

SPP was established in 1953 and is the first – as indicated by the numeral 1 written next to the markers (red and white mountain sign) showing the way – and oldest interconnecting trail in Slovenia. SPP was also the first transversal hiking trail in entire Europe. Professor Ivan Šumljak (1899-1984) was the one to propose Slovenian Alpine Association to connect various trails into single blazed trail, which would extend

further on, across the entire Slovenian territory.

SPP is also the most direct mountain trail in Slovenia. It starts with a hike across Pohorje, a remarkable hill range of magmatic origin, which stands in marked contrast to the otherwise predominantly limestone areas

and is seen by some experts as part of the southeasternmost spurs of the Central Alps as it runs over major mountain ridges, through high-elevation areas and wonderful landscape where the Alpine and Dinaric mountains meet, accessible over Mt. Porezen and the Cerklno Hills.

Over the Dinaric ridges, which run to the southeast in contrast to the predominantly west-to-east Alpine ridges, one can move closer and closer to the sea. Then one can cross the magnificent Karst Edge and fertile flysch slopes, which are laced with vineyards, to get up close to the seaside. The trail ends right off the coast in Ankaran, where we dive into the sea with the greatest of joy – no matter whether it's spring or autumn.

This refreshing ritual is a perfect way to finish the most compelling Slovenian mountain trekking tour. The



Slovenia's highest peak, Triglav.



highest point on the way is none other than Slovenia's highest peak, Triglav (2,864 m; 9,396 ft.).

SPP covers all difficulty grades and is therefore appropriate for everyone keen and capable of hiking. It could be walked in several stages and adapted to your hiking

plans. The hiking tours can be as short as few hours or they can last for weeks.

For additional information on the Slovenian Mountain Trail, please visit Alpine Association of Slovenia at: [en.pzs.si](http://en.pzs.si) or Hiking & Biking Slovenia, [www.hiking-biking-slovenia.com/en/](http://www.hiking-biking-slovenia.com/en/).

Numeral 1 written next to the markers indicates SPP.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

# 17th Youthcamp for Slovenian Children Abroad

**17th Youthcamp for Slovenian Children Abroad will take place in ČŠOD Fara near the river Kolpa from June 27 to August 3, 2013.** The main purpose of the Youthcamp is to bring Slovenia closer to minds and hearts of youngsters who live abroad.

Divided into small groups of six teenagers and one group leader-animator, children of Slovenian ancestry living abroad will discover the beauty of landscapes and various cultural monuments, culture and national identity of Slovenia, and also learn the Slovenian language in a relaxed atmosphere.

The organizers and group leaders encourage the use of the Slovenian language among the participants; however, teenagers with no previous knowledge of Slovenian are also most welcome to the camp. Making new friendships with peers who share a common bond and come from all around the globe is an adventure and a great life experience.

Activities include lessons

of the Slovenian language (in groups formed according to their knowledge of the language); discovery of the natural and ethnological beauties of Fara and its vicinity of the Kolpa; practical workshops (art, archery, climbing, discovering life forms around the river Kolpa); meeting modern craftsmen; discussions with guests about youth problems; and sports, swimming, and games

Participation in the camp focuses on young Slovenians from abroad aged from 10 to 15. However, please, send an e-mail to the contact below if the child is over or below this age-span, and the organizers will try to find a suitable solution. **Attendance fee per participant is 160 EUR (about \$215)** and includes full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner), entrance fees, transportation, workshop materials and accommodation in youth hostel. We expect parents, relatives or representatives of the organizations to bring children to the hostel, where the camp is taking place.

Please send the **application forms until: 20th of May 2013** to the address: Slovenska konferenca SSK, Cankarjeva cesta 1/IV, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia. For more information, please contact: Slovenska konferenca, Cankarjeva cesta 1/IV, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia; phone: (011) (3861) 242-8552; or send an e-mail to [luka.klopacic@slokongres.com](mailto:luka.klopacic@slokongres.com) or check: <http://www.slokongres.com/>





### Perpetuum Jazille 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). In cooperation with The Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, D.C.

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>



### Organ Recital at St. Vitus Church

As a part of events for the 120th anniversary of the founding of St. Vitus's parish in 2013 (1893-2013) in Cleveland, OH, Mr. Daniel Hathaway will perform an organ recital on the historically restored Holtkamp church pipe organ. The church pipe organ which consists of 1,500 wooden and metal pipes, was completely restored in 2009.

When: **Saturday, March 16, 2013, immediately following the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass in St. Vitus's church.**

Where: **6019 Lausche Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44103**

More information: [skuhar@hotmail.com](mailto:skuhar@hotmail.com) (Stane Kuhar)

**Slovenian film by director Martin Turk in CA**

Cinequest San Jose presents Nahrani Me z Besedami (Feed Me With Your Words), a mystery directed by Martin Turk. The film consists of three stories happening separately and simultaneously portraying a single family and its complex relationships.

Where: [Camera 12, Second Street, San Jose, CA 95172](#)

When: [Thursday, February 28 at 6:45 p.m.; Saturday, March 2 at 11:45a.m., Friday, March 8 at 2:30 p.m.](#)

Tickets are available on the day of the showing or through the Cinequest website <http://www.cinequest.org/film-festival>

More information: <http://payments.cinequest.org/WebSales/pages/info.aspx?evtinfo=6936~78899376-35a9-4153-8303-e1557be2dc32&epguid=70d8e056-fa45-4221-9cc7-b6dc88f62c98&#.URppHx1EFxs>

**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](mailto:ajkoci@cox.net)