



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

JULY 5, 2013, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 26

Participants of GYLC Visit Slovenian Embassy

A group of high-school students participating in the Global Young Leaders Conference that is taking place in Washington, DC, this summer, visited the Slovenian Embassy on Wednesday, July 3, to learn about the country and its role in the international community.

A group of outstanding high school students came to the capital from all around the world, including Australia, South Africa, India, Taiwan, Egypt, and U.K.



Some twenty-five high-school students from all continents visited the embassy on Wednesday.

At the embassy, they were addressed by Nuška Zakrajšek, Culture and Public Diplomacy Officer, who presented to the juniors and seniors the history, culture and heritage of Slovenia as well as its role in the international community. Further, Economic Counselor, Mr. Gorazd Renčelj, informed the

visitors of the role and purpose of diplomatic and consular representations and the role that the diplomatic community plays in international cooperation.

The GYLC is a unique leadership development program, which brings together outstanding young people from around the world to





The group was addressed by Gorazd Renčelj, economic counselor at the embassy.

build critical leadership skills in a global context by offering students the opportunity to learn from and exchange ideas with some of the world's top business leaders, policy officials, lobbyists, journalists, diplomats and academics. The Global Young Leaders Conference is sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council and has been inspiring students to become outstanding citizens and leaders within their respective communities already for 25 years.

EDUCATION

2013 Embassy – University Showcase

The Global Initiative for Education and Leadership at The University of Texas at Austin, the embassies of Bahrain and Malaysia, and the Alhambra U.S. Chamber of Commerce organized on Tuesday, June 25, The Embassy–University Showcase, a forum to discuss educational exchange opportunities, admission practices and other important updates with the leading representatives of United States and International institutions of higher learning.

Slovenia participated in an open-house forum presenting the University of Nova Gorica, the University of Primorska (specifically, its Faculty of Management and Faculty of Tourism Studies -Turistica), the University of Maribor; and the University of Ljubljana (Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Arts, Biotechnical Faculty, Academy



Welcome address by H.E. Huda Nonoo, Ambassador of Bahrain.



The exhibition featured various presentations on Arab and Western cultures and was attended by over 100 visitors.

of Theater, Radio, Film and Television). The Embassy of Slovenia was represented by

First Secretary Mr. Borut Blaj, Ms. Tea Ward, M.A., and intern Bria Štiblar.

Slovenia wins U.N. Public Service Award

The Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (CPC) in Slovenia is the winner of the U.N. Public Service Award in the category "Preventing and Combating Corruption in the Public Service" in the regional group Europe and North America. What convinced the jury was the Commission's initiative, "Supervisor", an online application that provides information to users on business transactions of the public sector bodies.

The Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (CPC) had gathered and analyzed data about all payments of the public sector bodies during the

period January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2010. The analysis showed controversial practices in budget expenditure, indicative of corruption. The data also revealed that the Slovenian business environment lacked transparency. People at local levels of government now use "Supervisor" to participate actively in the creation of policies and in the allocation of public financial resources.

The United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service. It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions to



a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide in five categories. This year's U.N. Public Service Forum and Awards Ceremony took place in Manama, Bahrain, on June 24-27. More information can be found at: www.unpan.org/unpsa (Source: www.ukom.gov.si)

TOURISM

Baška grapa

Baška grapa is a 20-mile-long valley of the Bača river, located in the northwestern part of Slovenia between Petrovo Brdo and the Idrijca River. Exceptionally diverse and luxurious vegetation flourishes in the valley, which the river has carved between peaks of the Alpine edge. At this juncture of the Alpine and Mediterranean climates, numerous rare botanical species can be found in the mountain meadows above Baška grapa, such as *moehringia villosa* (an endemic flower of Bača), silvery crane's bill (*geranium argenteum*), Alpine sea holly (*eryngium alpinum*),

tephroseris pseudocrispa, *campanula zoysii* and *artemisia nitida*. Particularly famous is a linden tree in the village of Rut, which, with a trunk some eight meters (26 ft.) in circumference, has been proclaimed the widest tree in Slovenia.

Archaeological excavations have shown that the area was inhabited early on. Mountain villages above the canyon (Logaršče, Rut, Stržišče, and Zakojca) are all delightful, tiny villages "sunbathing" on terraces high above the valley,

Bača river (Photo: www.slovenia.info)



offering breathtaking panoramic views. A tended pathway leads to the impressive 66-meter (216 ft.) high waterfall Sopota above Podmelec.

One can come across a variety of significant sacral monuments in Baška grapa. There are also some unique and distinctive architectural and historic objects, like the railway line, which was constructed already in 1906. Here is also where, in 1948, the first Slovenian feature film, *Na svoji zemlji* (On one's own land), was shot.

The largest village, next to Grahovo, is Podbrdo, which lies in the narrow valley of the Bača River. The settlement was founded in the 16th century by settlers from Tyrol, but the area itself was settled earlier. Lying next to the Bohinj Railway line at the end of the longest railway tunnel in Slovenia, the Podbrdo railway station was



Exceptionally diverse and luxurious vegetation flourishes in the valley, which the river has carved between peaks of the Alpine edge. (Photo courtesy: www.dolina-soce.com)

actually a border crossing point between the Kingdoms of Italy and Yugoslavia between World Wars I and II. In the village, there are many 19th-century

houses, but considered the most important building is the parish church; dedicated to Saint Nicholas, which dates to the baroque period.



Mountain villages above the canyon (Logaršče, Rut, Stržišče, and Zakojca) are all delightful, tiny villages "sunbathing" on terraces high above the valley, offering breathtaking panoramic views. (Photo courtesy: www.dolina-soce.com)



Podbrdo village in the winter. The settlement was founded in the 16th century.

Grant Competition on Transatlantic Research and Debates

The Delegation of the European Union to the United States has published a call for grant proposals to support activities that advance transatlantic cooperation through policy research and debate on issues relevant to E.U.-U.S. relations.

The Delegation invites think tanks, public policy research centers, chambers of commerce, civil society and stakeholder organizations, media institutions and other non-profit and non-governmental organizations based in the United States to submit proposals. Grant activities can focus on a number of topics, particularly those strengthening economic policy dialogue to enhance jobs and growth, financial stability and the deepening of the transatlantic economy



via the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations; strengthening the political dialogue on foreign policy; or pursuing common approaches to issues of common concern (energy security, sustainable energy transition, climate change and its security aspects, sustainable transportation, green economy, global health and education).

The European Union is allocating 2.4 million euros to this program and expects to award around 15 grants. The deadline for application is September 12. Activities under the grant have to take place between January 2014 and December 2015.

For more information, please see: <http://www.euintheus.org/what-you-can-do/apply-for-a-grant/transatlantic-research-and-debate>

TO DO LIST

SNPJ Slovenefest

Slovenefest, a three-day annual event held the second weekend of July at the SNPJ Recreation Center in the Borough of SNPJ, PA, brings together thousands to enjoy the ethnic food, music, culture and fun of Slovenia.

When: [July 12, 13 & 14, 2013](#)

Where: [The SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Enon Valley, Pennsylvania](#)

More information and detailed schedule of events at: <http://www.slovenefest.com/schedule>.

Slovenia & Bach on Capitol Hill

Vibrant contemporary chamber music from Slovenia and by J.S. Bach, with guest soprano Patrice Michaels and pianist Jeffrey Chappell, along with composer Brina Jež and violinist Branko Brezavšček, special guests from Ljubljana.

When: [Wednesday, August 3 at 8 p.m., Friday, August 5 at 8 p.m., Sunday, August 7 at 8 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill at 3rd and A streets SE](#)

Suggested donation: \$20, seniors \$17, students \$12. 16 and under free.

More information: www.chcmf.org.

Polka! The Movie -- Film Presentation

Twin Cities Slovenians invite you to a special screening of Polka! The Movie -- a documentary about how Slovenians have had an impact on American music. Joe Valencic, President of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum, wrote and narrated the film for TV Slovenia. On the occasion, he will share behind-the-scene stories on the making of the documentary.

When: [Sunday, July 14, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Roseville Library, 2180 Hamline Ave N, Roseville, MN 55113](#)

More information: <http://www.twincitiesslovenians.org/>

When: [Wednesday, July 10, 2013 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center \(the Depot\), 506 W. Michigan St., Duluth, MN](#)

More information: [St. Louis County Historical Society at \(218\) 733-7580 or](#)

history@thehistorypeople.org

This presentation will be hosted by the St. Louis County Historical Society, with light refreshments provided. Before the screening, Joe will present "Slovenians in American Music," a tribute to Slovenians who have contributed to America's musical heritage, from jazz and rock to opera and polkas. The event is made possible in part by the American Slovenian Polka Foundation, the parent organization of the Polka Hall of Fame, and a grant from the Office for Slovenes Abroad of the Republic of Slovenia.

Festival "A Salute to Slovenian Cultural Expressions" in Ely, MN

This second annual salute to Slovenians at Vermilion College includes expressions of the music, cuisine, literature and faith. A day-long festival features how Slovenians in America maintain their identity through the arts. Special guest Joe Valencic will present two Slovenian films: "Bogdan Grom," a portrait of the 94-year-old New York artist, and "Shanghai Gypsy," the award-winning feature by director Marko Naberšnik. Admission to the films is free.

Among the activities, high school students will deliver a historical overview of the Slovenian people and recite poetry by Slovenian authors. An exhibit on Bishop Friderik Baraga will be installed by the St. Louis County Historical Society.

Where: [Vermilion Community College, 1900 Camp Street, Ely, Minnesota](#)

When: [Friday, July 12, 2013, beginning at 9:00 a.m.](#)

To follow tradition, the Slovenska Miza (Slovenian Table), a buffet of authentic Slovenian foods, will take place at the Creek Ridge Lodge on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m., complete with dancing to Slovenian music. Creek Ridge Lodge is at 1752 Creek Ridge Trail, east of Ely.

Participation in a Study of American-Slovenian Music

The Institute of Ethnomusicology, a component of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, located in Ljubljana, is dedicated to the collection, preservation and research of the Slovenian folk-music tradition. Given the unique character of the musical heritage of Slovenian immigrants in the U.S., the institute has identified it as a subject of great interest.

A study has been designed and approved by the Institute, and American-Slovenians of all ages are invited to participate. The primary means by which the study will be pursued is through the use of a questionnaire. The questionnaire seeks to discover how the ties to Slovenian distinctive ethnic heritage are maintained in America through music.

You are invited to complete the questionnaire, which can be accessed by clicking on the following link or pasting it into your browser:

<http://anketnik.zrc-sazu.si/index.php/858462/lang-en>