



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

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## Lehigh University Students at the Embassy



Lehigh University students and faculty with Ambassador Kim on the embassy premises.

Since 1980, the Martindale Student Associates Program at the Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, has enabled a select group of Lehigh juniors and seniors to actively explore global business and economic issues. In order to extend the scope of learning beyond the pages of textbooks and journals, each year a new group of junior-year Student Associates begins to explore a particular topic

about a country outside the United States. To gain first-hand experience of the society under study, the students take part in an extensive educational field trip organized by their faculty advisors in conjunction with faculty from other disciplines.

This year, a group of students and professors are traveling to Slovenia to gain a first-hand experience through

travel and interviews and meetings with decision makers, distinguished executives, and scholars as well by visiting various governmental and non-governmental organizations in the country.

As part of preparation for their excursion to Slovenia, the students and the faculty visited the Slovenian Embassy in Washington, DC, on Monday,



March 4, where they were welcomed by Ambassador Roman Kirn, economic counselor Gorazd Renčelj, first secretary Borut Blaj and Nuška Zakrajšek, public diplomacy and cultural officer, who helped to give them fresh insight into the economic and social trends driving international discussion.

Since the cross-cultural exchange promotes debate on economic, public, and foreign policy issues, the participants met with embassy staff to discuss most critical topics. During their stay in the nation's capital, they also visited the State Department and the Delegation of the European Union to the U.S.

While in May in Slovenia, the seniors will do further research that will lead to writing



Mr. Borut Blaj, first secretary discussing Slovenian educational system.

a paper about business or economic issues in Slovenia. The students' papers will be published in Perspectives on

Business and Economics, the undergraduate journal of the Martindale Center, which is distributed internationally.

## PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

# International Night at Kensington Parkwood ES

On Friday, March 1, the Slovenian Embassy participated in the international night at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School. The school each year organizes an event where parents and others present culture, history and art of various countries around the world, acknowledging many nationalities represented in the school and celebrating diversity.

In this year's international night, students of the school and other visitors had an opportunity to taste traditional food and get to know the culture of more than 20 countries from different regions around the world. They could also listen to music and see the typical dances from Turkey, Africa, Serbia and Sri Lanka.



A group of children from Kensington Parkwood ES at the Slovenian booth.

At the event, the students were able to view Slovenian traditional clothing, learn about Slovenian national symbols, history and geography, and

had a chance to taste Slovenian traditional pastry -- potica. The Slovenian presentation was made possible with the kind help of Mr. Brian McGill and Ms. Lorena Pérez.

# Perpetuum Jazzile Touring the U.S.

Slovenian jazz and pop music choir, Perpetuum Jazzile, has begun a tour of the U.S., as a part of which it will perform ten concerts by March 23. Having performed to sold-out crowds in America in 2011, the world-renowned a cappella group from Slovenia features 40 powerful voices, creating vocal percussion sounds, a human beat-box with an incredible array of drums, electronic beats and choreographed hand movements that simulate storms.

They are the most viewed a cappella group in the world, with more than 35 million views on YouTube alone, and have a strong and massive foundation of loyal fans worldwide. They also have enjoyed touring to sell-out crowds in the United States, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Austria, Holland, Sweden, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Argentina and Brazil. Perpetuum Jazzile is helmed by Peder Karlsson, Swedish conductor and producer and founding member of The Real Group.



Performance at the GWU Listner Auditorium.

The first concert in PJ's tour in the U.S. was held in the Paramount Theatre, Bristol, TN, on March 5, followed two days later by a concert in the Lisner Auditorium at George Washington University in Washington, DC, attended by more than 700 people. Opening remarks at the concert were given by the Ambassador of Slovenia to the United States, Roman Kim, as

the concert was partly sponsored by the Slovenian Embassy in Washington,

The group's dynamic live performance included pop classics by Lady Gaga ("Telephone"), Cyndi Lauper ("True Colors"), Gloria Estefan ("Conga"), Toto ("Rosanna" and "Africa"), as well as arrangements of compositions by Slovenian composers such as "Avsenik Medley" and "Poletna noč". The group also appeared on the morning show at WTTG-TV (CH.5) FOX. The choir will perform also in Emporia, VA; Wilmington, DE; New York, NY; Youngstown, OH; Mason City, IA; Munhall, PA; an in Cleveland, OH; Milwaukee, WI; and Joliet, IL, cities that have strong Slovenian communities.

An ensemble of some 40 talented young singers, Perpetuum Jazzile has emerged from chamber choir Gaudeamus and will mark its 30th anniversary in the autumn with a concert in Slovenia's biggest arena, Stožice.

For more information about Perpetuum Jazzile, please visit: [www.perpetuumjazzile.com](http://www.perpetuumjazzile.com)



Visit at the embassy.

## Slovenia Passes Labor Market Reform

The Slovenian National Assembly has passed the labor market reform, one of the most important structural reforms planned by the Government to improve the economic and financial situation aimed at tackling market segmentation and increase its competitiveness.

Minister of Labor, Family and Social Affairs, Andrej Vizjak, emphasized that one of the greatest gains of this reform is an easier and cheaper adaptation of the labor force to the needs of employers, since this was one of the main deficiencies of the labor market in Slovenia. As he said, the new legislation, which the social partners negotiated for five months, enables easier hiring and firing, which will contribute to greater competitiveness of the economy. Furthermore, he pointed out the

five most important segments of reform measures.

The first contains measures to increase the flexibility of the labor market by loosening employment and dismissal procedures, while the second provides for measures to decrease the segmentation of the labor market by restricting fixed-term employment. Regarding the segmentation, he pointed out especially the introduction of severance pay for fixed-term employment contracts and a clearer language to prevent successive fixed-term employment contracts and agency work quotas. He repeated that the measures in the first two segments will bring more permanent employment.

In the framework of the third segment, he listed measures for strengthening

internal flexibility: the possibility of reassigning workers to another suitable post without their consent, lower compensation for salaries of employees waiting for work (80% of the basis) and the obligation of workers to educate themselves for the needs of the employer during this time.

According to Vizjak, the fourth important segment contains a measure requiring workers to actively seek employment already during their notice period, thereby increasing their possibility of finding a new job without any period of unemployment. The measure that falls in the fifth segment concerns temporary and casual work of pensioners, explained Minister Vizjak. The reform will be implemented 30 days after the publication in the Official Journal. (UKOM)

## BUSINESS

## Industry Chamber Hands Out Awards to 8 Top Managers

The Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GZS) conferred on Tuesday, March 5, its 2012, awards for outstanding business achievements to eight managers. As the GZS head, Mr. Samo Hribar Milič, said, their "responsibility, success and reputation" make Slovenia's economy strong.

The recipients of the award, handed out since 1996, include Andrej Gradišnik of Metal Ravne, which is part of

the third biggest European maker of specialized steel SIJ, and Marjana Lavrič Šulman of advertising agency Futura DDB, whose employees have created double the industry's average added value and profit.

Also honored were Emil Marinšek of water-beds manufacturer Maremico, which has developed a personalized beds program, Petra Malenšek of family-run and export-oriented pen maker Vivapen, and Janez Novak of RLS, a half-

British-owned maker of rotary and linear motion sensors.

The remaining recipients are Andrej Repše of Armat Projekt, which deals with high-quality design and construction of prefabricated buildings; the chairman of Slovenia's second-largest cell-phone operator Simobil, Dejan Turk; and Vojmir Urlep, the chairman of drug manufacturer Lek, the leading development center for the Sandoz group. (STA)

## Komenda



Panoramic view on Komenda.

The small town of Komenda, located in a flat part of the Ljubljana basin near the town of Kamnik, has an interesting history. It was the site of a Roman staging post, a Slavic settlement and -- between 1223 and 1892 -- a commandery of the Order of Malta, which the name of the village came from (the noun *komenda* is borrowed, probably via German *Kommende*, from the Medieval Latin 'commendā' / entrusted property/). Komenda has traditionally been known for horse breeding, horse racing (at least from the 17th century), pottery-making and bee-keeping.

One of its most important historical figures was Peter Pavel Glavar (Ljubljana, May 2, 1721 - Lanšprež, Mirna, January 24, 1784), renowned as a priest, economist and patron of art, who encouraged the development of Komenda and left all his possessions to the town's residents.

Above the village of Komenda stands a major sight of Komenda, a complex with a castle, a Baroque church, a rectory, a cemetery and a fairly large stable. Below it by the road, there is another site worth visiting -- as well as a benefice house -- which houses a library, named after its

owner and founder Peter Pavel Glavar. Glavar had the greatest influence on the life of the church center in Komenda in its history. The redoubt walls were torn down in 1877.

The Baroque church, however, is not the first church in its present location. The older church of St. Peter certainly stood in the same place in 1147. The church was expanded in the 16th century, but, in 1726, most of the old walls were demolished and, by 1729, a Baroque sanctuary was built according to plans by Gregor Maček. The barrel-vaulted nave with two side chapels continues

into a presbytery with a three-sided ending, and a small curved wall continues from the nave into the altar area. Among the decorations stand out the Baroque altar paintings by Nicolò Bambini (1721). The main altar was designed in 1758 by the carver Janez Gabrič according to the plans of the painter Frančišek Jelovšek. The remains of his frescos were found during the last renovation of the bell tower. The same painter drew the concept of the pulpit, which was executed by the carver Jakob Löhr.

After an earthquake in 1895, the church was re-vaulted and repaired, and the presbytery was enlarged. The surroundings were redesigned according to plans by the architect Jože Plečnik. His work was continued by Janez Valentinčič with the baptismal chapel (*krstna kapela*). Nearby, the entrance to chapel of the Malta knights on the north side of the church, designed later, was arranged by architect Hribernik.



St. Peter's Church.

**I feel Slovenia in New York**

Former International Boxing Federation welterweight titleholder and a native of Slovenia, Dejan Zavec (32-2, 18 KOs), will fight Keith Thurman (19-0, 18 KOs). The fight will be televised on HBO as the co-feature to Bernard Hopkins vs. Tavoris Cloud.

When: [Saturday, March 9 at 9:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Maat Barclays Center in Brooklyn, NY.](#)

More information: [www.barclayscenter.com](http://www.barclayscenter.com)

The evening before the bout, the event "I feel Slovenia in NYC" with Dejan will take place on Friday, March 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at 62 St. Mark's Pl. (East Village), New York, NY 10003. RSVP: [matijabrodnjak@gmail.com](mailto:matijabrodnjak@gmail.com)

**Slovenian-American Heritage Foundation 2013 Lecture Series**

The Slovenian-American Heritage Foundation will organize the first talk of its 2013 Lecture Series, featuring Professor Timothy Pogacar, who will discuss memorials to literary figures in Slovenia. Timothy Pogacar, Ph.D., has been Chair of the Department of German, Russian & East Asian Languages at Bowling Green State University since 1998. He is the president of the Society for Slovene Studies and, since 1996, has been the editor of Slovene Studies: Journal of the Society for Slovene Studies. Free admission.

When: [Thursday, March 14, 2013, at 7 p.m.](#)

Where: [Lower Hall of the Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, OH](#)

**Celebration at St. Joseph's Church in Bethlehem, PA**

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Bethlehem, established by immigrants from Slovenia at the beginning of 20th century, is celebrating its annual memorial Mass honoring its patron saint on March 16. The ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia, Roman Kirn, will be the special guest.

Where: [St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, 416 E. Fifth St., Bethlehem, PA](#)

When: [Saturday, March 16 at noon](#)

**Organ Recital at St. Vitus Church**

As a part of events for the 120th anniversary of the founding of St. Vitus's parish in 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)



**Doing Business in Slovenia**

The Doing Business in Slovenia 2013 publication, issued last week, is an excellent source of comprehensive and up-to-date information about the Slovenian economy. Please, find it at: [http://poslovniportal.si/Doing\\_Business\\_Slovenia.php](http://poslovniportal.si/Doing_Business_Slovenia.php).



**Perpetuum Jazzile**

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: [March 9, 2013 at 8 p.m.](#)

Where: Emporia Greenville Performing Arts Center, 1101 Sussex Drive (Hwy. 301 North), [Emporia VA](#).

Online tickets: [http://mrac.admit1festivals.com/Box Office.html](http://mrac.admit1festivals.com/BoxOffice.html)

When: [March 10, 2013 at 3 p.m.](#)

Where: The Grand Opera House, 818 N. Market St., [Wilmington, DE 19801](#)

Online tickets: <http://www.thegrandwilmington.org/Productions/12-13-Season/Perpetuum-Jazzile>; [www.excite.com/events/concert-tickets/Perpetuum-Jazzile/Perpetuum-Jazzile-Grand-Opera-House—DE/3-10-1935986](http://www.excite.com/events/concert-tickets/Perpetuum-Jazzile/Perpetuum-Jazzile-Grand-Opera-House-DE/3-10-1935986)

When: [March 13, 2013 at 7 p.m.](#)

Where: Stambaugh Auditorium, 1000 Fifth Avenue, [Youngstown, OH 44504](#)

Online tickets: <https://www.tix.com/Event.asp?Event=549927>

When: [March 15, 2013 at 7 p.m.](#)

Where: CSU Waetjen Auditorium, Cleveland State University, 2121 Euclid Avenue, [Cleveland, OH 44115](#)

Online tickets: <http://prod1.agileticketing.net/websales/pages/EntryPoint.aspx?guid=bff0bf4f-0f2c-4251-a6a6-87072e934ee7&>

When: [March 16, 2013 at 8 p.m.](#)

Where: Carnegie Library Music Hall, 510 East 10th Avenue, [Munhall \(Pittsburgh\), PA 15120](#)

Online tickets: [www.carnegieconcerts.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=129](http://www.carnegieconcerts.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=129)

When: [March 17, 2013 at 8 p.m.](#)

Where: Gramercy Theater, 127 East 23rd Street, [New York City, NY 10010](#)

Online tickets: [http://concerts.livenation.com/event/0000499207DE9B78?cfc=ramya\\_8e1](http://concerts.livenation.com/event/0000499207DE9B78?cfc=ramya_8e1)

When: [March 19, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Where: Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd, [Milwaukee WI 53211](#)

Online tickets: <http://sa1.seatadvisor.com/sabo/servlets/TicketRequest?eventId=676645&presenter=UWM&venue=&event=>

When: [March 20, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Where: Rialto Square Theater, 102 N. Chicago St., [Joliet, IL 60432](#)

Online tickets: <http://www.ticketmaster.com/event/07004995E9C7B234?artistid=1602003&majorcatid=10001&minorcatid=4>

When: [March 23, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Where: North Iowa Community Auditorium, 500 College Drive, [Mason City, IA](#)

Online tickets: [www.niacc.edu/boxoffice](http://www.niacc.edu/boxoffice)

Additional "PJ US Concert Tour 2013" info: [ticketspj@gmail.com](mailto:ticketspj@gmail.com)

### 16th Annual E.U. Film Festival in Chicago, IL

From March 1 through 28, the Gene Siskel Film Center welcomes all to the 16th Annual European Union Film Festival. This year's festival will screen the Chicago premieres of 61 new feature films, providing a broad picture of the creativity of Europe's most adventurous filmmakers. Slovenia will be represented by two films:

#### **PARADA (THE PARADE)**

2011, Srdjan Dragojevic, Slovenia/Serbia/Croatia, 115 min.

When: [Sunday, March 17, 2013, at 7:15 p.m.](#) and [Tuesday, March 19 at 8:00 p.m.](#)

Tickets: <http://www.ticketmaster.com/The-Parade-tickets/artist/1831301?brand=siskelfc>

#### **VAJE V OBJEMU (TANGO ABRAZOS/PRACTICING EMBRACE)**

2012, Metod Pevec, Slovenia, 89 min.

When: [Friday, March 22 at 8:00 p.m.](#) and [Sunday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

Tickets: <http://www.ticketmaster.com/Tango-Abrazos-tickets/artist/1831308?brand=siskelfc>

More information: <http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/eufilmfest2013>



## Corrections and clarifications of the Friday, March 1, 2013, issue

In the article about Kurentovanje in Cleveland, the list of the organizers was incorrect. The event was a great succes with the the help of the Slovenian National Home, the St. Clair Superior Development Corp., the Slovenian Museum and Archives, the Consulate General of the Republic of

Slovenia, many volunteers and kind donations.

Furthermore, whereas Kurentovanje is celebrated only in Ptuj, the main mystical figure after which the carnival is named, Kurent, is representative of Ptuj and also its surroundings. The Kurent costumes included in

the parade were imported from Ptuj, Slovenia. Moreover, the visitors also got a taste of the new Cleveland Flea – a fabulous open market featuring collectors, artists and artisans from the Cleveland area.

The Embassy of Slovenia regrets the errors.