



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Law Students from Ljubljana at the Embassy

Each year in March, a group of law students from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, makes an excursion to the United States. Within their trip, they visit various important institutions in New York City and Washington. On Tuesday, March 12, 2013, a group of 30 students, accompanied by Professor of



University of Ljubljana law students on the embassy's premises.

economics, international banking and international economic relations, Franjo Štiblar, PhD, visited the Slovenian Embassy.

At the embassy, the group was greeted by Ambassador Roman Kirn, who outlined basic features of work in the field of diplomacy, whereas the embassy staff acquainted the students with

some facts about the mission of the embassy and its range of activities.

Prior to their visit to the embassy, the group visited in New York City the United Nations, the European Union Delegation to the United Nations, the Criminal Court, the Appellate Division, the firm Seward & Kissel LLP,



the NYU School of Law, and St. Cyril's Parish (Slovenian). During their stay in the nation's capital, in addition to visiting the Slovenian Embassy, the group also visited the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Department of State as well as the U.S. Congress, where they met Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, who is of Slovenian ancestry.

Address by Ambassador Roman Kirn.



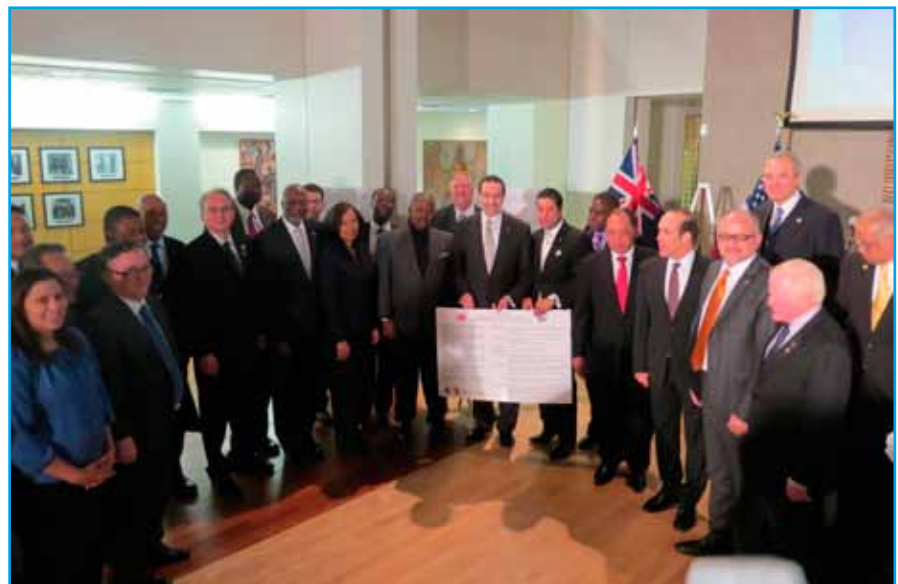
GREEN DIPLOMACY

2nd Annual Diplomatic and International Sustainability Evening

On Thursday, March 14, the Embassy of Australia hosted the 2nd Annual Diplomatic and International Sustainability event, at which some additional embassies signed the District of Columbia Diplomatic Missions and International Institutions Environmental Performance, Climate and Sustainability Pledge. The signatories signed the pledge stating their intent to work together to make their embassies and the city of Washington greener and more sustainable.

On behalf of the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, which had signed the Pledge last year, Ambassador Roman Kirn attended the event and described the greening efforts of Slovenia and the Slovenian Embassy in Washington.

During the ceremony, the Mayor of Washington, DC, Mr. Vincent Gray, expressed the belief that cooperation between



Signing of the pledge.

the international community and the city is very important for the improvement of the quality of life in the city and that the sustainability work being done by the international community is critical to the success of his Sustainable D.C. Plan. He also shared some success stories of the embassies in the field of

greening and presented the Eco-Embassies and Eco-Innovation Awards.

An informative sustainability workshop, covering topics including LEED building certification, watershed protections, and the Sustainable D.C. Plan, preceded the ceremony.



Vincent C. Gray, Mayor of the District of Columbia addressing the diplomatic court.



The event was held at the Embassy of Australia.

SPORTS

I Feel Slovenia in NYC with boxer Dejan Zavec

On Friday, March 8, the club of supporters of Mr. Sympathicus - Dejan Zavec and the Regional organization of Podravje, Ptuj and Ormož organized an event called »I feel Slovenia in New York City«. The event took place on the premises of St. Cyril's Church in East Village, where many people gathered to meet and support the Slovenian boxer Dejan Zavec in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere before his boxing match with Keith Thurman in front of 19,000 spectators in Barclays Center, Brooklyn, New York, on March 9.

Although Dejan lost the fight with Thurman the next day, this was only the third defeat in his professional career. His professional record marks 35 fights: 32 wins (18 knockouts)



The evening gathering before the match at St. Cyril's.

and 3 losses. This was Zavec's second visit to the United States – after a welterweight championship fight for the IBF title with Andre Berto in Biloxi,

Mississippi, in 2011.

Dejan, who boxes under the name Jan Zaveck, is the best Slovenian boxer of all times and a former IBF World Welterweight

Champion. During his career as a professional boxer, Dejan has defeated the negative boxing stereotypes -- he is a fair-play ambassador and a spokesman for positive values of boxing as a traditional and noble martial art. In 2010, he became Slovene Athlete of the Year as well as Slovene Personality of the Year. His competitors and fans gave him the nickname "Mr. Sympathicus".

In Brooklyn on Saturday.



CULTURE

Architect Špela Videčnik at AIA New York

As part of the Architecture Dialogue Committee's ongoing series, Beyond New York, introducing the next generation of architects not practicing in New York City, the AIA New York office had invited Špela Videčnik from OFIS arhitekti of Ljubljana, Slovenia, to share her insights about architectural and urban design. Špela Videčnik (born 1971), who graduated from the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Architecture (October 1998) and London's Architectural Association (MA, January 2000) and is currently a visiting critic at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, presented OFIS's design approach through its most recently built projects, such as the Basket Apartments (Paris) and The Cultural Centre for Space Technologies (Slovenia), and how these different geometries inform its current work.

Before establishing OFIS arhitekti with Rok Oman (born 1970) in 1996, they both won several prominent competitions, such as the Maribor Soccer



Basket apartments in Paris by OFIS.

Stadium and the Ljubljana City Museum. Many of their projects have been nominated for awards, including the Mies van der Rohe award. In 2009, they received the Silver IOC/IAKS medal for their soccer stadium; in 2006, they received the European Grand Prix for Innovation Award; in 2005, their Villa Bled received an honorable mention at the Miami Biennale; and, in 2004, they were highly commended for their City Museum renovation

and extension by the U.K. Architectural Review's annual AR+D awards. In 2000, they won the prestigious "Young architect of the Year" award in London, to mention a few of their achievements.

Videčnik's insight was presented to more than 40 professionals on Friday, March 8, 2013, at the American Institute of Architects' New York chapter, and followed by a lively discussion.

Visit at the Turner ES

As a part of the D.C. Public Schools' Embassy Adoption Program, Nuška Zakrajšek, cultural and public diplomacy officer and intern Andreja Škerl, for the second time in this school year visited the newly renovated Turner Elementary School in S.E. Washington, which partners with the Slovenian Embassy in a year-long program, which enables 5th grade students to immerse into respective world cultures through DC's international community. The presentation included fun facts about Slovenia and a dance and music experience.

Together with the embassy representatives, the classroom delved into a globally themed lesson unit, as the



In the classroom presenting Slovenia with a short film.

students learned traditional dances and games, thereby also preparing for the final presentation, when the class will

deliver a presentation of their adopted country at the embassy and for the ambassador and diplomatic staff.

CULTURE

Film Night at Stanford

On Friday, March 8, 2013, the Slovenian community in San Francisco gathered for a special film event, which featured the 2010 Slovenian adventure youth film *Let's Go Our Own Way*, directed by Miha Hočevar. The event was attended by over 60 people, among them Jure Leskovec, assistant professor of Computer Science at Stanford University, who helped to organize the event, and Thomas J. Brandi, Honorary Consul of Slovenia in the State of California. That duo was joined by two young actors from the film cast, Klemen and Anja Kotar.



Photo by Klemen and Igor Benko.

Kostel



The Kostel castle.

Kostel is a small settlement, located on the left bank of the beautiful, clean and biodiverse Kolpa River next to the Slovenian border with the Republic of Croatia. Kostel is part of the region of Lower Carniola and now the center of the Municipality of Kostel, which has just 700 inhabitants, although it had more than 3,000 less than 100 years ago. Living in a border settlement, people of Kostel speak a special Slovenian dialect, in which they don't use the grammatical dual, otherwise characteristic of the Slovenian language.

Kostel got its name from its famous castle, which is the second largest castle complex in Slovenia (the largest is in Celje) and includes the castle itself, the village of Kostel and the church of the Three Kings. The Kostel castle was first documented in 1336 -- the very same number that is now Kostel's ZIP code. Although one of their main

invasion routes led through Kostel, the Turks captured the castle only once, in 1578, and that by using trickery.

The French army demolished the castle in 1809, and its restoration work began only a few years ago. Near the castle, there is a famous former gallows site; captivating are also the natural features of Kurja

glavica, the Hribska stena wall, and the Nežica waterfall. The restored Karst "kal," an artificial watering pond, in the nearby village of Ajbelj is an exceptional legacy of its ancestors.

Kostel and its surroundings are also famous for various cultural, social, and sports and recreation events. The most important of them is the cultural-ethnological event called "Tamburanje va Kostelet," taking place on August 15. After the mass, celebrating the holy day of the Assumption of Virgin Mary, a special arts and crafts fair takes place, as well as a procession of national costumes, and workshops for children. A special type of music is also present in the Kostel region – it includes tambura, violin, accordion, and singing. Popular groups, which successfully perform this type of music are Prifarski muzikanti and Tamburaška skupina Dupljak.



Beautiful nature surrounds Kostel.

Slovene Language Courses

The Center for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana is organizing various Slovene language courses in the spring and summer:

Let's Taste Slovene (March 28-June 6, 2013): a 30-hour afternoon course for beginners (A1). Once a week, for 3 school hours, Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Faculty of Arts on Tobačna 5, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia.

More information available at: www.centerslo.net/I2.asp?L1_ID=1&L2_ID=121&LANG=eng

Intensive Course of Slovene (June 3-7, 2013): the 20-hour afternoon course is a one-week opportunity to learn basic communication patterns in Slovene or to refresh what you have already learnt. Monday to Friday from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Faculty of Arts, Aškerčeva 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia.

More information available at: http://www.centerslo.net/I2.asp?L1_ID=1&L2_ID=16&LANG=eng

32nd Summer School of Slovene (July 1-26, 2013): 2- or 4-week morning course, a wide variety of afternoon courses and a varied accompanying program – all of this in the company of more than 130 participants from all around the world! Monday to Friday at the Faculty of Arts, Aškerčeva 2, 1000 Ljubljana. More information available at: http://www.centerslo.net/I2.asp?L1_ID=1&L2_ID=1&LANG=eng

Summer school activities are not limited to language learning; there is also a varied social program, where you can get acquainted with Slovene culture, history and contemporary reality. In workshops, you will learn about cultural practices and customs, meet famous and interesting Slovenes, see a Slovene film or a theatrical production, go to a concert and do some sports.

The activities of the accompanying program are held in the afternoons and evenings and are covered by the tuition fee. Parts of the accompanying program are translated into English, which enables beginners to follow those activities as well; other activities are held only in Slovene and are meant as a direct complement of the language courses.

At the end of the Summer School, you will receive an official Certificate of Attendance of a Slovene language course at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana.

If you want to obtain an official certificate of Slovene, you can take the Exam of Slovene at the Intermediate or Advanced Level at the end of the first 2-week course. Applications will be collected during the Summer School.

Fees:

EUR 530 (about \$690) for a 2-week course (40 hours)
 EUR 900 (about \$1,170) for a 4-week course (80 hours)
 EUR 155 (about \$202) for a 2-week elective course (18 hours).

Tuition fees cover language courses as well as the additional activities program. The cost of textbook is not included in the fee; you will buy it at the course after the results of the placement test are known. The fee for the course also does not include the Exam of Slovene.

You can apply for the course (using the application form found on the Center's website) no later than **June 17, 2013** (and July 1 for the July 15–26, 2013 course).

Members of Slovene ethnic minorities in other countries and descendants of Slovene expatriates and emigrants can apply for the **scholarship** (2-week morning course). **The deadline for applications is May 15, 2013.**

Candidates who do not have Slovene background, but are actively engaged in Slovene culture or in some other way contribute to the promotion of Slovenia in the world can apply for one of the **scholarships** of the Jana Zemljarič Miklavčič Scholarship Trust. **The deadline for applications is May 1, 2013.**

More information at: <http://www.centerslo.net/index.asp?lang=eng>



37th Cleveland International Film Festival

The Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia is proud to be an official partner of the Medical Mutual Community Engagement Program of the 37th Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF), presented by Dollar Bank, which will take place April 3–14, 2013, at Tower City Cinemas. The 37th CIFF will screen 178 feature films and 164 short-subject films from 65 countries. Tickets go on sale to members only on Friday, March 15 and to the general public on Friday, March 22. Ticket prices for films are \$12 per film for CIFF members and \$14 for non-members.

When: Slovenian film [SHANGHAI GYPSY](#) is scheduled to screen on [Friday, April 12 at 3:35 p.m.](#), [Saturday, April 13 at 9:10 a.m.](#), [Sunday, April 14 at 9:10 a.m.](#)

Where: [Tower City Cinemas, 230 Huron Road, Cleveland, OH 44113](#)

Use code SLOV to receive \$2 off the ticket price. Tickets will be available online at www.clevelandfilm.org, by telephone (1)(877) 304-FILM at the Ulmer & Berne Film Festival Box Office in the lobby of Tower City Cinemas, or by mail using the Program Guide order form.

SUA NYC – Butarice Workshop

The Slovenian Union of America in New York City is organizing a workshop, where one can learn how to make »butarice«. Thereby, the SUA follows a long-standing Easter tradition in Slovenia: the yearly making of butare (literally "bundles"), where sprigs and branches of local greenery are bound up with colored ribbons. Whether you have made a butara before or if this is your first try, all are welcome. All the materials will be on hand, collected in the woods of Massachusetts and New York.

When: [Sunday, March 23, 2013, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Cyril's Church, 62 St. Mark's Place, New York, NY.](#)



Easter Blessing of Food in Washington, D.C.

The traditional Slovenian Easter blessing of food will take place on Holy Saturday, [March 30, 2012, at 3:00 pm in the Slovenian Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje, located on the lower level of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 4th Street and Michigan Avenue, Northeast, in Washington, DC.](#)

The event is sponsored jointly by the Bishop Baraga Society -- Lodge No. 257 of the KSKJ (Kranjsko Slovenska Katoliška Jednota - American Slovenian Catholic Union) and the local Slovenian Union of America (formerly the Slovenian Women's Union of America). The blessing is open to members, friends and the public.

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: [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>

Perpetuum Jazille

Perpetuum Jazille 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 Jazille 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 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.](#)

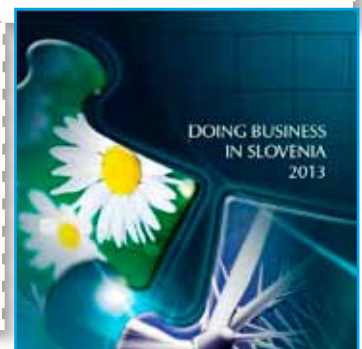
Where: North Iowa Community Auditorium, 500 College Drive, [Mason City, IA](#)

Online tickets: www.niacc.edu/boxoffice



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://poslovnportal.si/Doing_Business_Slovenia.php.



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