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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Documentary 'Time to Improvise' Presented in Washington and New York City



Within the scope of the EUNIC - European Union National Institutes of Culture - Concert Series, a Slovenian jazz evening was presented on the premises of the Austrian Cultural Forum in Washington, D.C. on June 11, evening.

The event featured a screening of the music documentary 'Time to improvise', which presents

Embassy of Slovenia
2410 California Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008,
USA
T: +1 202 386 66 01
E: vwa@gov.si
washington.embassy.si



twitter.com/SLOinUSA



facebook.com/SLOembassyUSA





Welcome remarks by ACF's Director Andreas Pawlitschek.

Screening of the film.

a story about the Slovenian young jazz generation, who chose to gain their knowledge abroad. The director of the film, Tina Lešničar, followed the protagonists in New York, Amsterdam, Groningen, Rotterdam, and Vienna to catch a glimpse of their world.

The musicians shown in the film represent a numerous and interconnected group of people, aged between 21 and 35 years, who are engaged, ambitious, with initiative

and resourceful, and in their professional lives interact with prominent American jazz musicians such as bassist Reggie Workman, drummer Doug Hammond, pianist Jason Moran, drummer Nasheet Waits, pianist Vijay Iyer, drummer Damion Reid and bassist Joe Sanders. With their personal voice and their own music they all contribute to the music scene in their homeland and abroad.

The screening on June 11 was followed by a performance by two young

musicians featured in the film: saxophone player Jure Pukl and drummer Žan Tetičkovič, who were joined on stage by Will Slater on bass. In attendance was also the director Tina Lešničar who was available for questions by the audience as the evening continued with a reception with Slovenian wine being served.

The film was also presented in New York on June 14 on the premises of Meridian 23 club in Chelsea with some 80 people in attendance.



Jure Pukl, Will Slater and Žan Tetičkovič in concert.

Wine reception.

A Taste of Slovenia with International Club of DC



Ambassador Dr. Cerar welcoming guests.



Tina Lešničar.

On Wednesday, June 10, the Embassy of Slovenia, in cooperation with the International Club of DC, organized a cultural evening that featured Slovenian culture, art, music, cuisine, and wine. The well-attended event began with hors d'oeuvres, where guests could enjoy a glass or two of Slovenian wine, before attending a short presentation of Slovenia, given by Ambassador Dr. Božo Cerar. The attendees (around sixty) were also greeted by Mr. Sanjaya Hettihewa, the president and founder of International Club of DC,

which promotes cross-cultural connections and international understanding through various programs and events. Among guests was also a participant in the recent ICDC tour to Slovenia, who shared her experiences during her visit of the country. The next tour to Slovenia with ICDC is planned for September.

The highlight of the evening was a concert by the jazz trio of Jure Pukl (saxophone), Žan Tetičkovič (drums) and Will Slater (bass). The trio presented themselves with interpretations of standard jazz pieces as well

as their own compositions. Presented along with them was also a trailer of the film 'Time to Improvise' by Tina Lešničar about the young Slovenian jazz generation.

After the exciting performance, the attendees were invited to enjoy a buffet of Slovenian inspired cuisine, along with drinks from the open bar. The evening concluded in a pleasant atmosphere of lively conversation among International Club of DC members, other guests, and the diplomatic personnel of the Embassy of Slovenia.



Global Young Leaders Conference Participants Visit the Embassy



Presentation by Nuška Zakrajšek



The students came to the U.S. from around the globe.

Outstanding junior and senior high school students participating at the Global Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC, visited the Embassy of Slovenia on Wednesday, June 10. The group was addressed by Nuška Zakrajšek, Cultural, Public Diplomacy and Press Officer, and Economic Counselor, Gorazd Renčelj, who presented to the students the history, geography, culture and economy

of Slovenia as well as its role in the international community. The presentation was followed by a Q and A session, with the presenters sharing with the attendees their expertise and experiences in the field of diplomacy and international relations.

The students came to the U.S. capital from all around the world, namely, Saudi Arabia, India, United States, Chile, Argentina, the

Philippines, Panama, Sri Lanka, and United Arab Emirates. The GYLC is annually organized by the Envision organization. The second group of GYLC students visited the Embassy of Slovenia on June 17; they came to Washington from Trinidad and Tobago, UAE, Barbados, Argentina, Australia, Oman, Indonesia, Greece, India, Kenya, Finland and from all over the U.S.



Art Reception for Ivy League Professionals at the Embassy of Slovenia



The Embassy of Slovenia hosted on Friday June 12, 2014, an art reception that benefited Charlie's Place, a homeless service center near Dupont Circle in Washington, which has been helping the homeless for more than 25 years. The event, attended by around 60 guests, featured an array of artwork created

by artists Linda Lowery, Stephanie Glover and Eloy Areu, all curated by Myra Maslowsky.

Opening remarks were given by Nuška Zakrajšek, Cultural, Press and Public Diplomacy Officer of the Embassy of Slovenia, who also offered a survey of the history and culture of Slovenia. The

presentation was followed by a short movie depicting the enchanting Slovenian culture, nature, tourism, and trade. She was followed by Bruce McBarnette, Esq., president of Summit Connection LLC, who also organized and sponsored the event, which was followed by a reception.



Presentation of Slovenia.



Opening remarks.

U.S. Cadets Visit the Slovenian Armed Forces



On Saturday, June 13, 18 cadets of the U.S. Reserve Officers' Training Corps completed their visit to the Slovenian Armed Forces. Every year, they visit 40 countries throughout the world with the aim to learn about their respective cultures, history, languages and defense capabilities. In Slovenia, they were acquainted with the political, defense and military structures and military education.

During their visit, which started on May 22, they were engaged in various activities within the 430th Naval Division and the 1st Brigade, where

they learned about the forms of bilateral defense cooperation between the two countries, with the history of Slovenia, the Slovene language, political structures, school system, as well as defense and military structures. They also participated in the preparations for and execution of a shooting competition; attended a professional field trip on the Isonzo Battles, and visited the Park of Military History in Pivka.

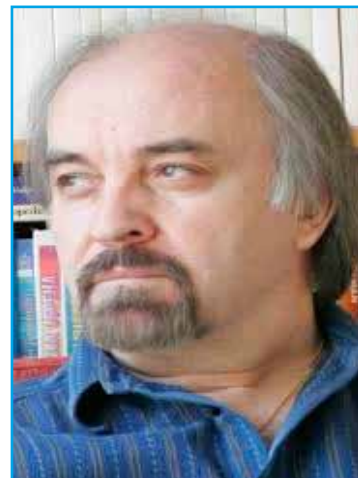
They spent the last week of their visit at the Officer Candidate School and the School of Foreign Languages, and presented U.S.

military academies, officers' career development and the reserve officers' training program. Furthermore, they carried out some practical tasks together with Slovenian officer candidates, such as procedures during "reaction to contact", and staff talks on the battles of the Pohorje battalion. For this purpose, they also did an orientation march from the Trije kralji hilltop to mount Osankarica, stopping at Trije žebli for a history lecture on Second World War fight against occupying forces.



EVALD FLISAR in the U.S.

Evald Flisar, newly elected President of P.E.N. Slovenia, will be visiting the USA, traveling to DC, Chicago and NYC (among others) over the next few weeks. Mr. Flisar is the most widely translated Slovenian author (143 translations into 36 languages, with plays and radio plays produced in 56 countries). We hope you can join us to meet Mr. Flisar at one or all of these events:

**DISCUSSION and READING at the LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

When: **Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

Where: European Division Conference Room, LJ 250, Jefferson Building, Library of Congress Washington, D.C. 20540

Evald Flisar will discuss the disadvantages of writing in a language spoken by only 2 million people, and of ways of overcoming this, and conquering the literary world against the odds.

American editions of 8 books by Evald Flisar will be introduced by Susan Smith Nash, PhD.

Free and open to the public.

More information <http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/calendar/calendar.html>

PERFORMANCE OF "ANTIGONE NOW" BY EVALD FLISAR at the ATLAS CENTER

Join the playwright at the Atlas Performing Arts Center for a free staged reading of his exciting drama "Antigone Now" plus a reception. The performance will feature top DC talents and be directed by Robert McNamara.

Plot: Clara lives in a Mediterranean seaside town. Her uncle, the Mayor, strikes a deal with foreign investors to build a golf course and expensive hotel in order to create jobs and bring prosperity. But first, he needs to demolish the local graveyard and move the corpses to a crematorium he intends to build. Clara refuses to surrender her dead brother's grave. She believes that, even in a world where everything can be bought, there are places that must remain sacred. See the exciting confrontation unfold where we see how the common good cannot win without destroying personal values.

When: **Wednesday, June 24 at 8 p.m.**

Where: ATLAS Performing Arts Center (Lang Theatre), 1333 H St NE, Washington, DC 20002

Free and open to the public. To register see: <http://scenatheatre.org/>

PRESENTATION and READING in NEW YORK

When: **Sunday, June 28, 2015 at 11:00 AM**

Where: Church of Saint Cyril, 62 Saint Marks Place (8th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues).

Mr. Flisar will meet everybody in the church hall after the 10:30 Mass – You are invited to join for brunch with Mr. Flisar and his family at noon at The Barrell, 10 Stuyvesant Street (a few blocks away at 3rd Avenue and 9th Street).

More information: Tanya Vajk, Slovenian Union of America New York Branch 93 President
Contact: vajkusa@gmail.com