Embassy of Slovenia Invites You to the EU Open House 2012

The Delegation of the European Union to the United States and the Embassies of the 27 EU Member States to the United States will open their doors to Washington public during the sixth Annual EU Embassies’ Open House Day. This annual event is a highlight of the Washington May calendar and is celebrated during Europe Week.

Each embassy will be open to the public from 10 am until 4 pm on Saturday, May 12, 2012, offering a rare look inside the buildings and providing a unique opportunity for experiencing the country’s cultural heritage and national traditions. Free shuttle bus service will be provided throughout the day.

If you want to learn about the best Slovenian tourist attractions and taste the great Slovenian cuisine and wine, see how potica and jabolčni zavitek pastries are made, admire Slovenian crystal and the exhibition of sculpture by Lučka Koščak, learn about Maribor - European Capital of Culture 2012, listen to the music performed by ArtVento Quintet, talk with the friendliest staff about history, economy, and politics of Slovenia, or if you want your kids to listen to traditional Slovenian stories, dance traditional dances, see the performance of Ross Elementary School students and have fun jumping on the “moon-bounce”, than you will love the Embassy of Slovenia. We are looking forward to seeing you! More information on: www.EUOpenHouse.org.
SLOVENIAN EU OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE:
10:30 – 11:00 am: demonstration of making walnut roll-cake by RockyMountainPotica.com
11:00 – 11:30 am: Ross Elementary School Student’s Performance & traditional dances for kids workshop
11:30 am – 12:00 pm: Slovenian wine and Carniolian sausage tasting
12:00 – 12:30 pm: address by Ambassador Roman Kirn and exhibition opening
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm: ArtVento Quintet Performance
1:00 – 1:30 pm: apple strudel showcase and tasting
1:30 - 2:00 pm: Slovenian wine and Carniolian sausage tasting
2:00 – 2:30 pm: address by Ambassador Roman Kirn
2:30 - 3:00 pm: potica showcase and tasting
3:00 - 3:30 pm: Lučka Koščak’s exhibition guidance, ArtVento Quintet Performance
3:30 – 4:00 pm: apple strudel showcase and tasting

All day activities (10:00 am - 4:00 pm):
- Showcase of Slovenian Rogaška Crystal (TM)
- Showcase of Flaska (TM)
- Video nook – Slovenia Invigorates
- Kids’ corner & “moon-bounce”
- learn about Slovenia from its diplomats
Ross Elementary School Students at the Embassy

As a part of the Embassy Adoption Program, John W. Ross Elementary School Students, accompanied by their classroom teacher Ms. Kaitlyn Reilly and Mr. Kenneth Rogers visited the Slovenian Embassy on Monday, April 30, 2012. Both the Slovenian Embassy and the school are participating in the Embassy Adoption Program, the mission of which is to work with 5th and 6th grade students, to infuse global education in the classroom. A class is “adopted” by an embassy, and the two visit each other back and forth creating a bond between local and international community.

One of the program highlights includes field trips to gain hands-on experience for students with their adopted culture.

On Monday, the students visited the embassy for the first time. They were greeted by Ambassador Roman Kirn, whereas the cultural and public diplomacy officer, Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek, answered their questions about the country and the embassy. The children will visit the embassy for the second time with their families on Saturday, May 12 at 11 am, when they will perform at the E.U. Open House Event by singing a Slovenian folk song and dancing Slovenian folk dances.

Primorski Klub Exhibit at Slovenian Museum and Archives

An exhibit of the cultural riches of the Primorska region of Slovenia is on display at the Slovenian Museum and Archives at 6407 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, OH.

Highlights include regional foods, wines, bobbin lace-making, salt panning, folk art craft, literature, traditional customs, folk costumes, beautiful photos, and club history.

The exhibit opened in March and continues through June 30. Hours are Saturdays from noon to 4 pm, and by appointment (Geri (216)347-9888 or John (216)382-2394). The displays were prepared by members of the Cleveland Primorski Klub as part of the celebration of their 35th anniversary year.

Primorka folk costume.
Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia in Tennessee, Dr. Lydia Mihelič Pulsipher, and her husband, Dr. Conrad Goodwin, are hosting a Slovenian wine-tasting event at the consulate on May 20, 2012, from 4 to 7 pm. The consulate, on the fringe of Knoxville, has a broad view of the Great Smoky Mountains, a setting that is reminiscent of Slovenian landscapes.

The guests will taste 15 different wines, representing all three wine regions of Slovenia. The selection of varietals to be offered highlights the developing organic, biodynamic and natural wine production of Slovenia.

Two young wine enthusiasts from Slovenia will share their knowledge of the wines presented. One, University of Tennessee geography graduate student Maja Djeorcev, is doing graduate work related to Slovene wine production. The other, Slovenian Wine Queen Lea Mlecnik, from Vipavska dolina, comes from a prominent wine producing family, whose wines will be tasted.

The two will present a virtual tour of Slovenia, speaking briefly about the climate, soil and cultural wine production characteristics of the various Slovene wine districts. This brief tour will include an introduction to orange wines made according to ancient Slovene methods from macerated white grape varieties, which give the wine an orange color. Orange wines have recently gained recognition in Europe but are quite unknown to wine consumers in the U.S. The guests, while sipping wine and enjoying the view, will be served light appetizers.

Because of complex wine shipping laws in the U.S. and especially in Tennessee, the distribution of wines from Slovenia is not an easy task. The wine tasting has been underwritten in part by Slovenian wine distributor Emil Gaspari, CEO of Slovenian Premium Wines, of New York, and by Simbiosa, a group of natural wine makers from the Slovene Vipavska dolina. Other wines have been purchased.

Drs. Pulsipher and Goodwin, and Miss Djeorcev will lead a 10-day wine tour of Slovenia, July 31-August 9. Details can be viewed at http://web.me.com/macgoodwin/2012_Slovenia_Wine_Tour/2012_Slovenia_Wine_Tour.html

Nejc Gazvoda’s debut feature ”Izlet” (A Trip) has swept the New Directors Competition of the 43th Nashville Film Festival, winning not only the Grand Jury Prize but also the Special Jury Prize for Ensemble Cast, and prizes for male and female leads for Jure Henigman and Nina Rakovec.

The Slovenian low-budget film, shot completely with a Canon D7 camera over a 14-day period in 2010, overwhelmed the three-member jury of the festival, which took place on April 19-26.

”Izlet” follows a young soldier, Gregor, who has recently returned from a mission abroad, and his high-school friends Andrej and Živa on a few days trip to the seaside, which reveals their deepest thoughts, fears, passions and differences.

The first film by the young Slovenian director also received special mention at the 36th Cleveland International Film Festival. The jurors for the Festival’s Central and Eastern European film competition recognized »A Trip (Izlet)« as »a confident and promising debut with a refreshing tone and visual style.«

The film has already won several international awards and received five Vesna awards at the 14th Festival of Slovenian Film in 2011.
Lučka Koščak Exhibits at NYC Church

Sculptures by Slovenian Lučka Koščak have been on display at the gallery of the Church of St. Cyril in New York City as of Friday, April 27, 2012. The exhibition, entitled “Angels”, was opened by addresses by the Franciscan Father Krizolog Martin Cimerman, who runs the Slovenian cultural center in New York City, and the Consul General in New York City, Dr. Melita Gabrič.

Lučka Koščak studied at the Ljubljana Academy of Fine Arts in the class of Prof. Drago Tršar and at E.S.A.V. in Geneva, Switzerland, where she also successfully completed two years of a post-graduate program. So far, she has had more than 35 independent and/or group exhibitions in Slovenia and abroad. Her art work does not cover only fine arts, but also includes theater, photography, film, and dance.

The Angels exhibition consist of terra-cotta sculptures that try to represent the vision of the path that human beings should take in life and, moreover, a perspective of personal crusade to find the essential. Lučka Koščak’s work will also be exhibited at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington. The opening event there will take place as part of an E.U. Open House Event at the embassy on Saturday, May 12.

The exhibition was made possible with the support by the Ministry for Slovenians Abroad, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports, the Consulate General in New York, and the Slovenian Embassy in Washington.

The National History Bee and Bowl at the Embassy

This year’s National Championships of the nationwide history quiz competitions for individuals in high and middle schools, the National History Bee, and its sister competition, the National History Bowl were held in Washington, DC, and at Mount Vernon, VA, on April 28 and 29, 2012, respectively. One of the participating host sites for this year's rounds of matches was also the Slovenian Embassy in Washington. In the tournament, questions on Slovenian history and culture were included in the quizzes.

Both, the National History Bee and the National History Bowl were contested for the first time in the 2010-2011 academic year. Both competitions consist of a series of approximately 80 state-level qualifying tournaments, from which the top students advance to the National Championships.
In the secluded Lož Valley (Loška Dolina), some 21 km southeast of the town of Cerknica, stands 16th-century Renaissance castle Snežnik. Surrounded by a large and protected park, it is one of the loveliest and best situated fortresses in Slovenia. The area is today somewhat removed from main traffic routes but at one time it was an important part of the Amber Road and, later, of Roman and medieval roads leading towards the center of Europe.

Snežnik is the best preserved castle in the Notranjska region. It was first mentioned in sources as a hunting post in 1268. The construction of the existing castle reaches back to 1462, when the Schneeberg manor (dvor Sneberk) was mentioned in manuscripts. It was first owned by the Patriarchs of Aquilea, and later changed owners several times. Before the Second World War, it was the property of the Saxon family Schönburg from the vicinity of Dresden.

The castle is a three-storey cubic residential building with Renaissance walls in front of the entrance and a newer stone bridge that leads to the walls. The outer towers and the two-arched stone bridge are Romantic additions of the 19th century. The castle is built on a rock at the source of the Obrh creek and the Brezno spring. The spring is dammed into a large pond below the castle. The picturesque surroundings have been carefully arranged into a park with walking and riding paths. East of the castle are extensive farms and other additional buildings, which house a small hunting museum.

All the original fittings in the castle, mostly from the 19th century, have been preserved. There is no castle like this in Slovenia, where one can feel the pulse of life from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. In the living quarters, the dining room, the room with “Egyptian” furniture, and a larger hall, converted into a wedding hall, stand out. The castle residents also had a small library and an improvised theater hall. The earlier hunting character of the post is confirmed by the numerous trophies and stuffed animals in all the halls and vestibules.

Despite the wars that have ravaged the area, the appearance and fittings given to the castle by its last owners, the princes of the Saxon house, survived intact until the restoration which offers an insight into life in the hunting lodge/summer residence by the little lake at the edge of the forest, in the tranquility of the unspoiled surroundings of the Lož Valley.
**Summer School of the Slovene Language**

The Center for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana is organizing the 31st Summer School of the Slovene Language, to be held from July 2 to 27, 2012, and the 7th Youth Summer School of Slovene Language from July 2 to July 13, 2012.

In thirty years dedicated to professional work and efficient organization, the employees of the Center for Slovene have developed an extensive network of language programs for learning Slovene as a second language, the main aim of which is to develop the students’ communication skills.

The Summer School is a program offering not only intensive language courses (up to 6 hours of classes a day) but also a diversified accompanying program, thus giving the participants the opportunity to learn about Slovene culture and society. More information and application is available at: [http://www.centerslo.net/l2.asp?L1_ID=1&L2_ID=1&LANG=eng](http://www.centerslo.net/l2.asp?L1_ID=1&L2_ID=1&LANG=eng).


**Referendum Initiative**

An initiative for the collection of citizen’s signatures requesting the conducting a referendum on the Act Amending the Act of Additional Intervention Measures [against the economic crisis] for 2012 has been submitted to the National Assembly of Slovenia. The signatures will be collected from April 30, 2012 to June 3, 2012. Each Slovenian citizen can give one signature on the appropriate form to support the initiative.

Slovenian citizens temporarily or permanently residing in the U.S. who would like to support the initiative for the referendum must bring the form, along with a personal identification document, to the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington or respective Consulate General either in Cleveland or New York City, and sign it in person in front of the consular representative. The form must then be mailed by the signer to: Sindikat policistov Slovenije, Kidričeva cesta 24b, 3000 Celje, Slovenia, the initiator of the initiative.

**Professionals in the City**

Professionals in the City is hosting a spectacular cultural evening in collaboration with the Embassy of Slovenia. This exclusive event includes: open wine bar; light hors d’oeuvres; introduction by the Cultural Officer of the Embassy of Slovenia; performance by the Slovenian Woodwind Quintet ArtVento.

**When:** 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm.  Cost: $60  
**Where:** Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008  
**More Information:** http://www.prosinthecity.com/event/embassy-event-10824

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**Rocky Mountain Potica at the EU Open House Event**

Taste the tastiest Slovenian Potica this side of the Julian Alps!

“I had a piece and it brought me back almost 55 years, when my grandmother would bake them,” Carole S. said.  Years ago, potica was made just for the holidays. Now, you can relive your childhood memories ANY TIME of the YEAR for all YOUR special events.

**When:** EU Open House Event, May 12, 2012  
**Where:** Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street NW, Washington, DC, 20008  
**More information:** RockyMountainPotica.com or call 720.587.9499

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**The Artvento Quintet Concert**

The ensemble was established in 2003 and is composed of the principal and soloist wind instrumentalists of the Slovenian National Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Orchestra of Opera and Ballet: Matej Grahek (flute), Jonathan Mauch (oboe), Tadej Kenig (clarinet), Arpad Balazs-Piri (bassoon), Jože Rošer (horn). Recognized for their brilliant virtuosity, the members of the ArtVento Quintet have all received prestigious awards, both nationally and internationally.

**When:** EU Open House Event, May 12, 2012 at 12:30pm, at 2pm, and at 3pm.  
**Where:** Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

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**Lučka Koščak: Angels**

“The sculpture of Lučka Koščak is definitely something special inside the Slovenian Art space (and in general), because we can’t define it within the context of either traditional or even less of modernistic or postmodernistic sculpture... The peace that the sculptures express is not meant to be for them, but for us. The calmness that they shine with is not the calmness of timelessness, but the calmness of this very moment that we live in...” (Mojca Grmek, art critic)

**When:** Saturday, May 12, 2012 at 12:30 pm  
**Where:** Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, DC

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**Eurovision Song Contest 2012**

The EUNIC Washington DC Cluster invites you to party with us to celebrate the Eurovision Song Contest 2012.

**When:** May 26, 2012 from 2:00 to 7:00 pm  
**Where:** Embassy of Austria Washington, 3524 International Court, NW, Washington, DC, 20008-3027; Red Metro: Van Ness - UDC  
**More information and tickets:** http://www.facebook.com/events/231033080330797/ https://www.formstack.com/forms/?1207970-1PuDrlEz8v

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**6th Annual International Children’s Festival**

The Embassy of Slovenia is participating in the annual International Children’s Festival, hosting an exhibit as part of the Embassy Cultural Displays Program.

**When:** Sunday, May 6, 2012 from12 noon to 4:00 pm  
**Where:** The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue. NW, Washington, DC 20004  
**More information:** www.meridian.org/icf