



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Embassy Exhibit at CUA

On Thursday, February 23, 2012, the Catholic University of America (CUA) hosted the International Bazaar Featuring Embassy Row that aimed to capture the sights, sounds, and tastes of global cultures. Slovenian Embassy was among the presenters and participants at the International Bazaar, giving the CUA community an opportunity to learn more about what Slovenia has to offer.



Slovenian Embassy at the Embassy Row.



More than 100 visitors stopped by the Slovenian booth.

The free event, featuring cultural displays, performances, and a sampling of foods from around the world was a great success. Student organizations and entities representing various cultures also were encouraged to showcase the diversity that exists on the campus.

More than two dozen embassies in the Washington, DC, area accepted the invitation to set up booths and displays. They shared information about their respective cultures and traditions with over 350

attendees, including CUA students, faculty and staff.

Slovenian Embassy presented facts about the country, promoted its tourism sites, distributed brochures about Slovenia and offered a taste of its traditional pastry – potica, a sweet roll-cake filled with raisins, nuts, chocolate, or tarragon. CUA students showed great interest in Slovenia, and promised to visit it, if not for study, than at least for exploring the various sights Slovenia has to offer.

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Bernarda Fink at Carnegie Hall

On Saturday, February 25, Slovenian vocalist Bernarda Fink performed at the Carnegie Hall in New York. Mezzo-soprano Fink together with soprano Camilla Tilling, joined the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and Westminster Symphonic Choir in performing The Symphony No. 2 - "Resurrection" by Gustav Mahler, once an honorary member of The Slovenian Philharmonic Society.

The principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, Simon Rattle, juxtaposed this central work in the Berlin Philharmonic's repertoire to three pieces for chorus and orchestra by Mahler's exact contemporary and one-time close friend, a native of Slovenj Gradec, Hugo Wolf.

Bernarda Fink Inzko was born in Buenos Aires (Argentina) to Slovene parents and has sung with leading orchestras including



Bernarda Fink.

the Philharmonics of Vienna and London. She has performed at the opera houses of Geneva, Prague, Montpellier, Salzburg, Barcelona, Innsbruck, Rennes, Buenos Aires, and Amsterdam, and has sung at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées, Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw Amsterdam,

Vienna Konzerthaus, and Sydney Opera House among others.

Critics described Saturday's Fink's fourth-movement "Urlicht (Primeval Light)," the first entry of voice, implored in her dusky sound that "man's lot is of such extreme necessity, of such bitter pain."

Vlado Kreslin at the Slovenian Embassy

Vlado Kreslin, together with his family, stopped by at the Slovenian Embassy on his way back to Slovenia. Kreslin is one of the most influential Slovenian singer-songwriters. He has performed all around the world for more than 20 years in his distinctive style, which combines elements of folk, pop, and rock music. On February 21, 2012, he appeared in concert with Slovenian pianist Gašper Konec in the Slovenian church of St. Cyril in New York City.



Kreslin family together with embassy staff, to whom Mr. Kreslin gave his latest CDs as presents.

SEE Fest - Rooster's Breakfast

Slovenian film Rooster's Breakfast is to be featured at Stanford University on March 16, 2012.

Slovenian community in the Bay area is hosting the screening of one of the most audience-friendly films shown at SEE FEST- South-East European Film Festival. The movie is a winner of national awards for best director, best screenplay and

best actor. Rooster's Breakfast became the most commercially successful Slovenian film of all time.

It won SEE FEST and CINEMA WITHOUT BORDERS Critics Choice Award for Best Film in 2009. It is written and directed by Marko Naberšnik, and produced by Franci Zajc. Screening is courtesy of ARS MEDIA, Ljubljana.



BUSINESS

S-ABA

S-ABA is a business trade development association with a developing advisory board consisting of a chairman and up to ten geographically dispersed directors.

The S-ABA board chairman and directors work in conjunction with the Slovenian Consul General to the United States in Cleveland, the Republic of Slovenia, relevant ministries of Slovenia, the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Department of Commerce, various U.S. state and local governments, the European Union, and S-ABA members to establish and deliver a variety of business programs, business information, contacts, and support tools to achieve S-ABA's mission to increase bilateral trade.

Members of the S-ABA board are individuals from the Slovenian and American business

society. From Slovenia, there is Mr. Ivo Masten. He has vast experience in sales promotion, leadership and performance of assignments in market research. In 1997, he established his own company, BIO-LINE, which today manufactures and sells over 1700 different products. Ms. Martina Hozjan Ruda comes from Illinois and has been engaged, with her family, over the past 20 years running two family businesses: MAH Machine Co. and Tensor Group, Inc.

Mr. Miro Medved, from Minnesota, has been the president of his own company, Mirotek, Inc., which has been involved in various economic activities since 1992.

Mr. Albert N. Peterlin comes from North Carolina. He is an expert in corporate law and commercial litigation matters. He is a member of the bar in

Pennsylvania and Maryland, the U.S. Court of International Trade, the U.S. Tax Court, the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

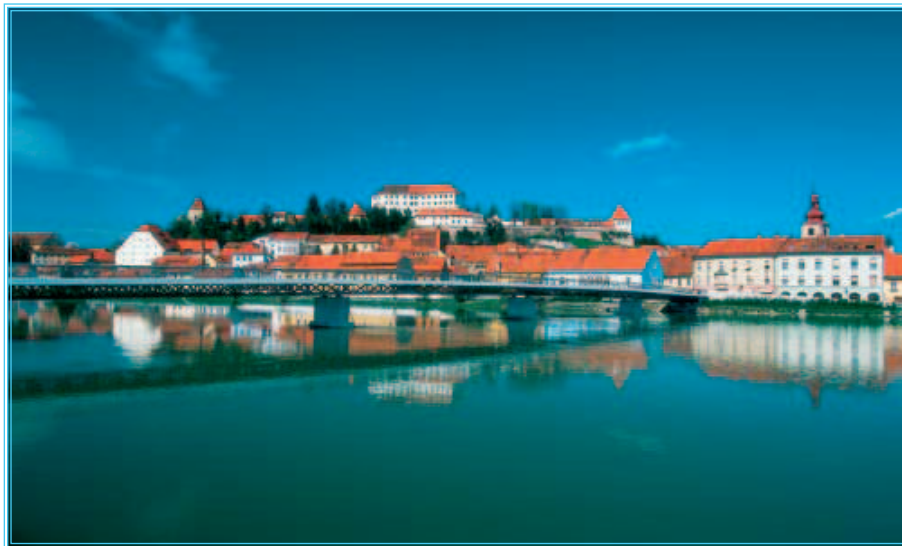
Mr. Marko Maučec is responsible for Colorado. He is a Technology Research Fellow at Halliburton in the area of geology-guided dynamic data integration and inversion through the interaction of earth modeling and reservoir simulation teams.

These members of the board of S-ABA are a great guarantee for the increase in the value, frequency, and quality of bilateral business trade deals and business relationships between the U.S. and Slovenia through the use of a unique set of organizational tools, focused education, business events, and continuous collaborative support of its members.

Ptuj

Located in the Podravska region and dating back to prehistoric times, Ptuj is the oldest town in Slovenia. It has been under the rule of the Romans, the Archbishops of Salzburg during the Middle Ages, the Ottoman Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and Yugoslavia, until it finally became part of Slovenia since the nation's independence.

In the 20th century, the economic development of Ptuj and its urban areas was a consequence of the city's main role as a trade center in a predominantly rural area. The biggest economic entity in the city is a food-industry company, Perutnina Ptuj (Ptuj Poultry). It has developed from a poultry buying station, established in 1905, and remains successful today. Other important economic activities are viticulture and wine



distribution, as Ptuj contains the oldest wine cellar in Slovenia.

Two other instances of successful enterprises headquartered in Ptuj are LP Mycron, which develops and manufactures machinery parts and components for the textile industry, and MP Ptuj, a private engineering, assembly, plant engineering and production company. Both companies export to European markets.

As a town with rich history, Ptuj has many notable attractions. The main cultural and historical monument in Ptuj is a hill-top castle, with collections of objects which are among the most important, not only in Slovenia, but also in the wider Central European cultural area. Ptuj also has a Dominican monastery and a Minorite monastery, vestiges of the Middle Ages. According to written records, the Minorite monks arrived in Ptuj shortly after the Dominicans, in 1239.

Another notable artifact reflecting Ptuj's long past is the Orpheus monument situated in the town square. It is a Roman tombstone carved out of Pohorje marble. It was erected in honor of the city mayor Marcus Valerius Verus in the 2nd century AD. Its name reflects the carved images depicting various scenes of the ancient myth of Orpheus. In the Middle Ages, the Orpheus monument also served as a pillory. It is the biggest monument of its kind unearthed in the Roman province of Upper Pannonia.



Ptuj's participation in the approaching 2012 European Capital of Culture (ECOC) project is based on the town's rich and proud tradition, and the 2012 ECOC events will reflect Ptuj's dynamic history. The town's most famous event is the Kurent Carnival (Kurentovanje), taking place around fat Tuesday. This carnival, featuring masked costumes from towns all over Slovenia, is the largest organized carnival and cultural-ethnographic

event in Slovenia and Central Europe, attended annually by more than 100,000 people.

In addition to the Kurent Carnival, one of the featured events will be the Days of Poetry and Wine 2012, which will take place in August and involve readings of poetry in various languages and artistic genres. Harkening back to medieval times, Ptuj will feature the Arts around 1400 symposium collection.

Also taking place will be the Arsana Concert Subscription, with performances by Borut Zagoranski (accordion), Ashok Klouda (cello), participants in the international meeting of European pianists, and the Academy of Music of Ljubljana in their performances in Claudio Monteverdi's opera Orpheus. Additionally, many plays such as "The Bitter Fruits of Justice", "Flowers in Autumn", "Frogs", "MandićMachine" and "Manjka" will be featured in the Ptuj City Theater.

EDUCATION

Summer Program for High-School Students

An exciting opportunity is available to high-school students this summer, as American University's Discover the World of Communication is hosting a summer program for students entering grades 9 through 12. In 2011, over 400 students from 16 different countries participated in the program. The Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia encourages any interested and eligible Slovenian citizens to apply and be a part of this multinational experience.

Students will have the opportunity to learn about the many facets of communication through professional, hands-on workshops taught by American University School of Communication faculty, and communication professionals. Students will build a portfolio of photographs, shoot a film, write a news story like pros, learn to speak with confidence, or even lobby for the environment.

Students may register for a two-, three- or four-week session, and live on campus or commute locally. The workshops will run Monday through Friday from 9:00

AM to 12 Noon and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Each evening and on weekends, the students will explore Washington, DC, guided by teaching assistants and resident assistants, made up of students in American University's School of Communication. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain practical experience in communications while being immersed in the United States capital.

For more information, please call 202-885-2098, email at audiscover@gmail.com, or visit online at audiscover.org.

EDUCATION

Summer School for Sunday-School Teachers

The Government Office for Slovenians Abroad and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sport, in cooperation with The National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, organize a seminar for teachers of the Slovene language and other subjects taught in Slovene in the U.S. and Canada.

The seminar for teachers of the Slovene language and culture will take place from August 1 to 10, 2012. The anticipated number of the seminar participants is 10 to 15 persons.

Candidates have to fill a registration form available at Slovenian Embassy's website and send it to Urad Vlade RS za Slovence v zamejstvu in po svetu (address:

Komenskega 11, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia). The registration form must be sent also by e-mail to urad.slovenci@gov.si. Completed registration form should not be scanned.

The registration deadline is May 7, 2012. The candidates who have not yet participated in such seminar will be given priority.

22nd Cinequest Film Festival

A Slovenian film will be shown at the 22nd Cinequest film festival as part of the "Global Landscapes competition" category.

When: A Trip is scheduled for showings on: **Saturday, March 3 at 4:45 pm; and Tuesday, March 6 at 2 pm.**

Where: **San Jose, CA**

More information: programming@cinequest.org, <http://www.cinequest.org>

Photo Exhibition Afghanistan (Un)Ordinary Lives

The photo exhibition is a collection of Manca Juvan's work on Afghanistan and presents a more nuanced image of the country, one which tells more than just the news coming from reporters. The photos were taken on several trips to Afghanistan between 2003 and 2009.

When: **Ongoing - April 2012**

Where: **Embassy of The Republic of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C.**

Memories of A City: Miha Štrukelj

For his first solo exhibit at the gallery, Slovene artist Miha Štrukelj will create an installation of murals and small drawings on panels throughout the gallery to address the limitations and confines of the gallery space.

When: **Ongoing – March 11, 2011**

Where: **139 Eldridge Street, New York, NY 10002**

More information: (212) 255-9707, email: info@lmakprojects.com, web: www.lmakprojects.com, www.miha-strukelj.com

All-Star Accordions exhibition

For the first time, the accordions of legendary polka bandleaders are brought together on display. The exhibition celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Polka Hall of Fame Awards Show with award-winning musicians performing in person.

When: **Opening Wednesday, March 21, 2012. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. Admission free.**

Where: **National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum**

More information: call (216) 261-FAME, toll-free (866) 66-POLKA, or check www.polkafame.com.

Wine Tour of leading Slovenian wineries

A tour is scheduled just after Vievinum, an international wine festival in Vienna. The program is being offered by Unique Slovenia in partnership with former Honorary Consul General of Slovenia Mark Ryavec.

When: **June 5-9, 2012**

More information: <http://www.unique-slovenia.si/si/novice/101/22/vec/slovenia-wine-tour/>

SUA Slovenian hors d'oeuvres tasting

Please join the SUA National Board for a wine, cheese and Slovenian hors d'oeuvres tasting. Special guest, 40-year member, Paula Mavec, will outline her plan to climb Mount Triglav this summer. Please come and support Paula as she embarks on this monumental adventure at the young age of 70.

When: **Saturday, March 3, 2012, 5:30 to 8:00 pm**

Where: **Slovenian Union of America, 431 North Chicago Avenue, Joliet, IL**

More information and RSVP: mary.carmody@rockymountainpotica.com