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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 22, 2012, VOLUME 8, NUMBER 25

Celebrating Slovenian National Day

On June 18, 2012, the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia Mr. Roman Kirn and Mrs. Kirn, jointly with the Defense Attaché Colonel Ladislav Graber and Mrs. Graber, hosted a reception celebrating the Slovenian National Day, Slovenian Armed Forces Day, and 20 years of U.S. -Slovenian Diplomatic Relations.

The reception was attended by more than 250 people, among them representatives of the U.S. Administration, U.S. Senators, ambassadors and other members of the diplomatic corps, businessmen, the media as well as members of the Slovenian community in Washington.



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia Igor Senčar speaking. Next to him Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the U.S. Roman Kirn.

In his address, Ambassador Kirn welcomed the guests and gave recognition to all the Slovenes in the U.S. who actively helped Slovenia on its pathway to independence as well gave their support and dedicated their efforts to the process of establishing relations between the two countries.

The main guest and the honorary speaker at the reception,

Mr. Igor Senčar, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, emphasized in his address the progress that Slovenia has achieved since it declared its independence in 1991. He presented the significant role that Slovenia today plays on the international field – as a member of the EU, NATO, OSCE, and OECD – and in many other ways acts as proactive member of the international community, also in close cooperation with the U.S.

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The reception was hosted by the Ambassador of Republic of Slovenia and Mrs. Roman Kirn and Defense Attaché and Mrs. Ladislav Graber.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Marie Yovanovitch speaking. On her right Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Senčar and on her left Ambassador Roman Kirn.

Furthermore, Deputy Assistant Secretary Marie Yovanovitch from the U.S. Department of State in her speech congratulated Slovenia for successfully having accomplished significant tasks in the past 21 years, and devoting much of her attention to the stable partner relationship between Slovenia and the U.S., and the importance of Slovenia's role in the transatlantic alliance as a strategic partner promoting shared values.

Moreover, Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, who is of Slovene ancestry, congratulated Slovenia and all

the Slovenes around the world for their achievements of the past two decades.

On this occasion, Ambassador Kirn also opened two exhibitions, the first one featuring artists Meta Zobec Novak of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Gorazd Jordan of Maribor, Slovenia, Toni Rash of Kirtland, Ohio, and Lynn Miller of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. They have all contributed their art work to a traveling art exhibition to honor 20 years of Slovenia's independence and its cooperation with the United States. The exhibition has already travelled to many different states to meet

Slovenian communities, cultural homes and museums.

The second exhibition featured recognized Slovenian sculptor and assistant professor at the University of Maribor, Mr. Jiri Kočica, who also exhibited in New York in the month of June and joined the embassy for the reception. His art work displayed in the embassy's foyer derives from the traditional Slovenian ritual of making votive figures out of wax.

The other project by Kočica on display, titled "Signs of Science", presented the concept of art work which would be incorporated into the new



Senator Amy Klobuchar from Minnesota congratulated Slovenia on the 21 years of independence.

From right: Hon. Marie Yovanovitch, Ambassador Kirn, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Senčar and Mrs. Jovana Kirn.



Colonel Stojan Zabukovec, Ambassador Roman Kirn and Defense Attaché of the Republic of Slovenia Colonel Ladislav Graber. The reception was also marking Slovenian Armed Forces Day.

Ambassador Roman Kirn with business representatives from Slovenian company ProNatura Mr. Rudi Javh and Mr. Robert Strniša and with the CEO of Tri-Wines, Inc. Mr. Emil Gaspari, one of the biggest importers of Slovenian wine to the U.S.



More than 250 guests joined the celebration at the Slovenian Embassy,

Traditional Slovenian food was prepared by Chef Ivan Jeger and Ms. Petra Justinek.

building of the Pregel Research Center at the Slovenian Institute of Chemistry. The photos of his outdoor works in various Slovenian towns also were

displayed on the embassy walls. The celebration was also enriched by the delightful singing performance of Mr. Boštjan Korošec, as the guests

also enjoyed the best of Slovenian wines and exquisite food prepared by the Slovenian chef Mr. Ivan Jeger, and Ms. Petra Justinek.



Exhibition by Mr. Jiri Kočica.



Performance by Mr. Boštjan Korošec.



Arworks by Meta Zobec Novak, Gorazd Jordan, Toni Rash and Lynn Miller.

DANA at the Summer Fancy Food Show

From June 17 to 19, the Summer Fancy Food Show took place at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. Among the 2,250 exhibitors from the U.S. as well as from around the world, displaying more than 100,000 specialty foods and beverages, was also the Slovenian beverage company DANA.

DANA, with its over 60-year-old tradition of producing beverages, is best known for its juices and syrups. Some of the juices, like orange and apple, are 100% pure and contain no additional sugar, other nectars have 25%-50% fruit content. Moreover, the secret ingredient of all DANA beverages is the top quality of the natural mineral water, which comes from an industry- and chemical-free environment in Mirna, Slovenia.

DANA is harvesting the knowledge of the long Slovenian tradition of making brandy, which goes back to the 19th century. The Slovenian ancestors have left behind a rich legacy of instructions on selecting the most appropriate fruits, sorting them, processing them, distilling them and ultimately aging the brandy in order to give it an authentic flavor. The very beginning of beverage production dates back to the 1940s, when an enterprising man from Mirna in the Dolenjska region (Lower Carniola) started producing and selling homemade brandy made from apples, pears, plums, juniper berries and figs.

In 1952, the people's



From left: Robert Strniša (PROFRUIT), Damjan Ostanek (DANA), and Rudi Javh (PROFRUIT) with Maša Šiftar de Arzu from the Slovenian Embassy.

committee (town council) of Mirna established a manufacturing organization, which initially produced fruit brandy and only in the 1960s began selling its first refreshing nonalcoholic beverages.

At present, DANA's effort is oriented toward the modern consumer who is interested in nature and in leading a healthy life. With the help of the new line for filling the PET juice packaging and DANA water containers, the company produces the finest bottled water, juice, and brandy. On an average workday, the production amounts to 58,000 liters (15,300 gals.) of DANA bottled water, 64,000 liters (16,900 gals.) of juices, syrups and refreshment drinks and 2,000 liters (530 gals.) of alcoholic beverages.

Mr. Damjan Ostanek, DANA's head of foreign-market sales, was satisfied with the

interest that participants of the fair showed in their products. »People are mostly commending the quality and great taste of juices and fresh design of the packages,« he stated after the event.

This year was the second time DANA exhibited its products at a Summer Fancy Food Show, which, as an exception, took place in Washington, DC, away from its long-time home at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City, because of ongoing construction there. It will return to New York next summer.

The Show will be held June 30 - July 2, 2013; it is hoped that other Slovenian companies like DANA and Profruit, whose representatives came this year only as visitors, will join their efforts to unveil Slovenia's best food and beverage specialties. More information is available at: <http://www.dana.si/en/>

Fly-fishing in Slovenia

Slovenia has numerous unique natural features. This applies to its water courses and water organisms as well. The tradition of organized sports fishing in Slovenia is over 100 years old, as the first records of fly-fishing date back 100 years and more. Fly-fishing is interlacement between sport and art, and demands a high level of various skills. Fishermen must know well the river and the insects in its surrounding environment. They need to know how to make the best insect-like lures. Bait can be a dry fly (floating on water), sinking fly (imitating aquatic organisms) or perhaps a streamer (imitating gilt fish). Among the first artificial flies in the world, there are a couple of lures originating from Slovenia. Many fly fishermen will be familiar with the Behm fly, which has its roots in the Soča valley.



In the past, fly-fishing in Slovenia was mainly focused on various trout species and the grayling, and later expanded to include other freshwater fish species. Today, fly-fishing is successfully practiced on virtually every single surface of water in Slovenia – streams, rivers, fish ponds, and lakes. Fly-

fishing in crystalline waters and at well-kept locations attracts a large number of fishing guests. Slovenia has a very well-preserved landscape, with clean waters, which are home to wild fish species. The fish not only inhabit the waters, but are also self-sustaining thanks to proper management, so that no additional fish stocking is necessary. And among them are species that are a true fly fisherman's delight.

Rich natural and cultural heritage of Bohinj, which lies within the area of Triglav National Park, makes possible a wide range of activities for enjoying and spending time in nature, among them fly-fishing. Bohinj offers three fishing districts: Lake Bohinj, the Sava Bohinjka river and the Mostnica River. Each year, at the end of September and at the beginning of October, Bohinj organizes the Fishing Festival and International Fly-tying Meeting.



Fly-fishing in Sava Bohinjka.

Other popular fly-fishing area is the Soča river and its tributaries, where fly-fishing in spectacular scenery can be experienced. Besides the great and endemic marble trout, which is present in much of the stream, you may also catch gigantic rainbows. Flowing into the Soča, the Lepena river fascinates with the dry-fly fishing of great and beautiful marble trout and the Tolminka river, which contains all species of trout as well carves its way towards the Soča through a narrow valley, sometimes through steep canyons. Its entire seven-mile length is open to fishing, except the section of the gorges.

The Kolpa river, the southern national border, -is full of attractive rapids and water pockets, and from the village of



Soča river.

Dolenja Žaga it flows through a fascinating canyon, which is 400 meters (1312 ft.) deep. The Kolpa is inhabited mostly by brown trout and grayling but in its lower part you may also find some trophy-sized huchos.

Other popular areas with

interesting species for fly-fishing all around Slovenia are also the rivers Bača, Idrijca, Nadiža, Sava Dolinka, Krka, Kamniška Bistrica, Iška, and Sora, and Black Lake in Pohorje. More information is available at: <http://www.flyfish-slovenia.com/news.php>

SPORTS

2012 Fly-fishing World Championship in Bohinj

The International Sport Fly-fishing Federation (FIPS-Mouche) held its 32nd Fly-fishing World Championship in Bohinj, Slovenia, from June 3 to 10. Taking part in it were more than two hundred fishermen from 26 countries. Besides the competition, the environmental symposium on the topic "Soča, the Pearl of Slovene Water and Life in it" took place, with the emphasis on repopulating the marble trout and grayling, and the meaning of fishing tourism for the development of tourism in Posočje (Soča basin).

Training and competition took place at one of the most beautiful fly-fishing Slovenian rivers: Sava Bohinjka, Sava Dolinka, Kokra, Savinja, Dreta,



and Idrijca. One of the venues was also the reservoir at Most na Soči. Each fisherman had his own 200 meters (650 ft.) of the river and a judge by the side to check what bait he was using and, more importantly, measure the length of the fish caught.

The winner among the 26 teams was the Czech Republic, while Slovenia ended up in the eighth place. The best among individuals was David Arcay Fernandez from Spain; the best Slovenian representative was Edo Januš, ranked 15th.

Stanley Cup Winner Kopitar Welcomed Home

Slovenia's ice-hockey star Anže Kopitar received a warm welcome at the Ljubljana airport on Wednesday, a week after becoming the first Slovenian to win the NHL's Stanley Cup.

The Los Angeles Kings center, who kept Slovenia awake in recent weeks to watch telecasts that started at around 2 a.m. local time, labeled the reception incredible, while apologizing to the fans for depriving them of their sleep.

"But I think it was worth it and that we will celebrate accordingly. The first cup is always the sweetest and I hope it is not the last one," said the 24-year-old, who was one of the two leading scorers of the NHL playoffs this year.

Kopitar said the goal for the next season was defending



Anže Kopitar was welcomed by the number of his fans at the Ljubljana Airport.

the title. "We realize that 29 other teams want the title as well... but our team will not change. All the main players are still under contract."

Kopitar, who was also the

first Slovenian player to make it into the NHL, left the airport for his home town of Hrušica, where the central party celebrating his feat will take place tonight.

(Source: STA)

TO DO LIST

Dobrodošli doma – Welcome home 2012

Slovenians living in Slovenia as well as those who live all over the world are warmly welcome to join us once again for the event "Dobrodošli doma – Welcome home".

Key speakers: Janez Janša, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia; Gregor Virant, President of the National Assembly; Ljudmila Novak, Minister for Slovenians Abroad; Franc Pukšič, chair of the commission for relations with Slovenes in neighboring and other countries.

When: July 4, 2012

Where: The program will take place at several locations in the city center of Ljubljana, among them: the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia (Subičeva ulica 4, SI-1102 Ljubljana), the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and the National and University Library

More information: www.dobrodoslidoma.si

SloveneFest XXXI

Join SNPJ members and friends for annual celebration of Slovenian culture.

When: July 13 – 15, 2012

Where: SNPJ recreation Center, 270 Martin Road, Borough of SNPJ, PA 16120

More information: www.snpjrec.com, snpjvsnpjrec.com

Discover Enchanting Slovenia

Those of you who love to enrich your knowledge or the knowledge of your children and grandchildren, or at one point decide to visit Slovenia, will appreciate this 30-minute DVD. This film by Zoya D. Pinto will introduce you to the most interesting places in Slovenia, which has a long history, great architecture, art, and a breathtaking natural beauty. Order DVDs not only for yourself, your children and grandchildren, but especially for your American friends and thus help promote tourism of our native country.

More information: zdproduction@hotmail.com

The order form is available at (please copy - paste the link):

http://washington.embassy.si/fileadmin/user_upload/dkp_51_vwa/docs/SLO_Film_OrderFormB-2.doc

Clearly filled DVD order form must be sent to: ZD Productions, 51 Village Circle, San Rafael, CA 94903-4242

Sensorial Perspectives - Boris Selan Exhibition New York 2012

The exhibition features Slovenian artist Boris Selan.

When: July 7 - July 27, 2012

Where: Agora Gallery, 530 West 25th Street, New York, NY 10001

More information: Agora-Gallery.com or www.Art-Mine.com

Polka Mass

Start your Independence Day holiday week with the Polka Mass. America's polka padre, Father Frank Perkovich, arrives from Minnesota to lead the service, accompanied by the Eddie Vallus Orchestra.

When: Sunday, July 1, 2012, promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Where: SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio (located on Heath Road in Kirtland, Ohio, off Chardon Road (Route 6), three miles east of Route 306 and six miles west of State Route 44)

More information: (440) 951-6906

Art Exhibition at SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center

Art work by Dobrila Pintar, Toni Rash, Gorazd Jordan, Lynn C. Miller, and Meta Zobec Novak will be put on display on the occasion of SloveneFest.

When: July 13 through September 2, 2012; during SloveneFest, the Heritage Center will be open Friday, July 13, from 1 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, July 15, from noon to 7 p.m.; and Sunday, July 15, from noon to 6 p.m.

Where: SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center at SNPJ Recreation Center in Lawrence County, PA

More information: www.facebook.com/SNPJHeritageCenter or 724-336-5180

Veleposlaništvo Republike Slovenije v Washingtonu vsem državljanom in državljanom Slovenije čestita ob dnevu državnosti.