



Czech and Slovak Society for Arts and Sciences Cleveland Chapter

www.svu2000.org

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Summer 2013

Sad News From Two Continents

Perhaps you already know, but the Czech Republic is experiencing significant floods once again. “*Vltava*” has spilled over the banks and the Prague ZOO had to be evacuated. Similarly, the town of *Usti Nad Labem* in northern Bohemia had to evacuate residents and some farmers in the rural areas had to be lifted out by helicopter. Nine people died in the Czech republic. The water is now moving on to Germany. In Slovakia, the Danube River is also spilling over, flooding fields there and in Hungary.

On this continent, no doubt you heard about the explosion in West, TX. The town of West is heavily populated by Czech immigrants. It has a SOKOL organization and their building was damaged by the blast. Our Sokol Greater Cleveland has established a fund, you can visit their website, sokolgreatercleveland.org, to offer assistance.

SVU Participated in the Cleveland International Film Festival

Our Chapter was a Community Partner for a film called “Oldies but Goldies” from the Czech Republic. We presented this film in conjunction with SOKOL Greater Cleveland. It is a touching film about older couple who fall in love in their late years. Brief presentation about our organization was made before the screening. Three other Czech films were shown at the festival, a credit to Czech cinematography.

Annual General Assembly for Cleveland Chapter of SVU:

On Monday, April 22, 2013 the annual **General Assembly** was held in accordance with our by-laws (i.e. meeting of the membership). We met at the Braumeister Restaurant in Cleveland. They serve a variety of European foods and beers and have been supportive of the Czech Voice of Cleveland Radio program. After a synopsis of the past years activities by the chapter President Paul Burik and a treasurer’s report by Blanche Vanis, a discussion about potential future activities ensued.

The Chapter once again recognized an individual who has made significant contributions to the Czech and / or Slovak communities in Cleveland. This year Joe Hornack was honored for his work in the Slovak community. Specifically, his work with the Genealogical Society, participation in the Slovak Institute in Cleveland, Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities organization and many more efforts to maintain and promote the Slovak culture, language and spirit.



Paul Burik, Joe Hornack, Paula Tilisky

Activities Coming Up

Friday July 5th at Blossom, Luba Orgonasova – soprano will sing Strauss: Four Last Songs. This will be her Cleveland debut. Our Chapter and the Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities organization arranged with the Cleveland Orchestra for discount tickets- use **code; 15297** to obtain 20% discount for lawn or pavilion seats. [Visit clevelandorchestra.com](http://clevelandorchestra.com) or call 216-231-1111.

We plan on picnicking before the concert, about 6:30pm, at one of the sheltered tables before you enter Blossom and before the pedestrian bridge – just look for SVU blue banner. We hope to arrange for a brief “meet-and-greet” with the singer. Due to her schedule, we will not know the specifics until just before the concert – watch your email for last minute information.

Lubica (Luba) Orgonášová (January 22, 1961) is a Slovak operatic soprano, who is particularly known for her interpretation of Mozart roles. Born in Bratislava, Slovakia to parents who love music and were supportive of her talents, Orgonasova studied voice and piano at the Music Conservatory and Music Academy. She sang as a soloist at the State Opera in Banská Bystrica before moving to Germany in 1983 to become a member of the Hagen Opera House.

Special Exhibit at the Bohemian National Hall. Our Chapter and the Sokol Greater Cleveland will host traveling exhibit entitled “Leaving Czechoslovakia” at the Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave. in Cleveland.

The exhibit is based on oral histories of the 1968 wave of immigrants that was conducted by the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, IO., (NCSML). This exhibit is presented by NCSML and features Cleveland as one of the cities selected for this project.

The exhibit will be available for viewing on Saturday July 20 and 27 from 10:00am to 2:00PM, on Sunday June 21 and 28 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm, on Wednesday July 24 from 4:30 to 8:00pm, and on Friday July 26 from 4:30 to 8:00pm. The Friday show will be a “happy hour” with Czech and other beer available for purchase. On Sunday July 28 there is a SOKOL Dinner (breaded pork cutlet, \$13) from 1:00 to 2:30pm – call Olga Nemecek (216-447-0264) for reservations and presentation by Rosie Johnston of CSNML will follow. See sokolgreatercleveland.org for more information.

SVU National Conference in Seattle: The National SVU will hold the annual SVU conference in Seattle in June. Please see their website www.svu2000.org for more information. The Northwest is a beautiful part of the country and our members may consider turning the conference into an extended vacation.



Statue of Masaryk, bust of Nemcova and the tulips SVU planted in the Czech Cultural Garden last fall, and by now the roses are in full bloom! Stop and see the Gardens - Rusyn and Slovak Gardens are nearby. The Slovak Garden will soon receive a large statue of General Stefanik relocated from E105th St.

Our chapter is dedicated to advancing the understanding of Czech and Slovak cultures by people of all backgrounds.

For SVU Cleveland Chapter - Paul Burik, President paulb54@centurytel.net