



Czech and Slovak Society for Arts and Sciences Cleveland Chapter

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CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Fall 2013

Activities Coming Up

Ivan Zenaty recital. On December 4th at 8:00pm CIM Faculty Recital will feature violinist Ivan Zenaty and pianist Sandra Shapiro. Mr. Zenaty is new to the Cleveland music scene; he joined the faculty at Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) last year. The program, to be performed at the new Mixon Hall at CIM, includes Dvorak, Schumann, Smetana and Straus, and is the last stop on the tour that included Czech cities of Ostrava, Plzen and Prague. **The concert is free and open to the public, but seating passes must be reserved in advance by calling the Box Office at 216-795-3211.**

Kelli Perk Paintings Exhibit. Our Chapter has arranged for an exhibit of paintings by Kelli Perk, wife of Judge Ralph Perk. The Exhibit will be at the Bohemian Nation Hall (BNH), 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, in their new gallery space adjacent to the museum. The exhibit will commence with a private reception on Friday, Dec. 6th, 6-8pm, for the SVU members and friends (refreshments will be provided, cash bar).



Kelli Perk displays painting to be auctioned (silent auction) during the exhibit – many paintings will be available for purchase with proceeds benefiting BNH.

The paintings will be on display through the weekend. There are several events at BNH including “Mikulas’ ska” – Saint Nick’s Dance on the 7th (7:30pm – call 216-288-5692) and Sunday Dinner (schnitzel dinner \$13, 1-3pm, must call 216-447-0264). Sunday at 3:00pm, the Women’s Orchestra and Ohio Dance Theater will perform selections from the Nutcracker (\$10 – call 440-237-4144 for more information). Please plan on visiting the BNH and seeing this special exhibit and the events on December 6,7 and 8.

Kelli Perk is an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney here in Cuyahoga County. After raising three children, Kelli re-discovered her creative side and began painting again. Kelli 's favorite medium is acrylic paint, but she also uses water soluble oils, watercolors, and mixed media. Kelli's favorite artist is Picasso, and she actually has this quote attributed to Picasso on her office door, "*Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.*"

Report on recent events

Special Exhibit at the Bohemian National Hall. Our Chapter and the Sokol Greater Cleveland hosted a traveling exhibit entitled "Leaving Czechoslovakia" at the BNH. The exhibit was 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.

Cleveland Orchestra Concert at Severance Hall: Czech conductor Jakub Hrusa performed at Severance Hall on Oct 17,18 and 19th. Our Chapter arranged with the Cleveland Orchestra for discount tickets and for a meeting with the Maestro. This year we took him to the Cleveland Museum of Art, which he enjoyed. He even asked us to stay longer, pushing his schedule close to performance time.



Maestro Hrusa and Fran Burik at CMA

Work at the Cultural Gardens. Our members once again worked in the Czech and Slovak Cultural Gardens to ready the statues for the winter.



Large statue of Miroslav Stefanik was recently installed in the Slovak Garden. SVU placed a wreath during the dedication on Oct 26, commemorating foundation of Czechoslovakia on Oct. 28, in which Stefanik was instrumental along with Masaryk and Benes. The statue was relocated

from the vicinity of the Art museum because of road construction there. It is a monumental addition to the Slovak Garden. The Slovak community in Cleveland must be proud. Congratulations to George Terbrack, a SVU member, who was instrumental in this effort. George is also being recognized by the Nationalities Movement for his work on behalf of the Slovak community later this month.

December Celebrations

Throughout history the month of December has presented numerous occasions to celebrate. From late November to December (this year it is 11/27) **Hanukah** is celebrated by our Jewish friends. This eight day event celebrates the rededication of the temple following a successful revolt.

December 6 is **St. Nicholas Day**, celebrated throughout Europe. Impersonator of St. Nicholas visits homes and brings fruit to good children and coal to those behaving badly.

December 17 was a big day in ancient Rome when the Romans honored Saturn – god of agriculture on a day of **Saturnalia**. Togas were cast aside in favor of more colorful garb and class distinctions were ignored.

December 21 – **Pancha Ganapati**, a five day Hindu festival celebrating Lord Ganesha focuses on mending past mistakes and offers new beginning. Children are presented with gifts each day, which they open on the fifth day.

Koleda, also on 12/21, is a 10 day Slavic pagan festival starting on winter solstice. Fire is lit and families gather and worship their personal gods. Also inspired by winter solstice, 12/21, is **Yalda** – Persian custom of celebrating Mithra, the Sun God. To this day the Persian families gather and feast – each food has mythical powers: for example garlic cures joint pains.

December 24, **Modrniht** – the night of Mothers, was a pagan Anglo-Saxon event connected to Yuletide festival of the Germanic people.

December 25, **Christmas** commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ by Christians of all denominations. In this worldwide holiday, the celebrations take different forms. In Sicily 12 types of fish are served, in Bulgaria 12 meatless dishes. In Norway a gnome brings the presents, in Spain the Three Wise Men.

December 26; **Kwanzaa** is celebrated in the African-American culture. The seven day celebration focuses each day on a specific virtue, among them are unity, purpose, creativity, faith and responsibility.

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