

Summer 2018

2018 is very special year for Czechs, Slovaks and Rusyns.

Not only are we celebrating 100 years of Czechoslovakia, a country founded on October 28, 1918, we are also celebrating 50 years since the Prague Spring and Alexander Dubcek's efforts to bring a level of humanity to the communist regime. See articles herein and watch for email updates.



At the centennial celebration of the Pittsburgh Agreement on May 31st, in Pittsburgh, PA, T.G. Masaryk's great grandson Tom Kotik was in attendance and addressed the gathering. Our Chapter members Paul Burik and Laurel Tombazzi attended the conference.

Hrusa at Severance – in April Czech conductor Jakub Hrusa lead the Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall. Maestro Hrusa has performed in Cleveland several times and has always found time to meet with us! This time we shared a dinner at Pier W restaurant in Lakewood. Although the overcast weather spoiled the great views of the City, about 12 SVU members enjoyed a chat with the Maestro.

Eastern European Congress of Ohio dinner –Also in April, thanks to our member Laurel Tombazzi's efforts, April has been designated as Eastern European Month by the Ohio legislature. It is EEC's mission to promote the histories and cultures of the eastern European nations, many of whom were formed 100 years ago just like Czechoslovakia. SVU Cleveland Chapter's Paul Burik addressed this historic development as a guest speaker at the EEC's annual dinner.

SVU Cleveland annual dinner meeting was held on April 25th: This year the Chapter was due for election of officers. Georgia Maresh kindly agreed to be the nominating committee and Dr. Bohonek served as the election committee. The following are the new officers for 2018-2019 term:

President – Paul Burik
Vice President – Dr. Stephen J. Sebesta
Treasurer – Fran Burik
Secretary – Carolyn Huber
Trustees - Ted Krejsa and Tom Pavlik



Elena Sokol recites from a book she translated as Ted Krejsa listens

A presentation by Elena Sokol on the challenges of translating Czech literature concluded the evening with readings from Daniela Hodrova's "Trilogy City of Torment"

Film discussion – In May, in collaboration with The Cinematheque who was presenting films of animator Jiri Trnka, our chapter organized a post screening discussion of the film "Czech Legends". Paul Burik and Dr. Bohonek provided background information to about 20 attendees. The audience, which included our own members Karel Paukert, Carolyn Huber, Renata and Terry Zahuranec, had numerous questions and enjoyed refreshments provided by our Chapter. The program lasted nearly an hour.



Dr. Bohonek and Paul Burik discuss "Czech Legends"

Coming Up:

SVU Congress will be held in Prague on July 10-12, check the SVU web site SVU2000.org for information. Paul Burik will be attending with a presentation on the Cleveland Agreement. The SOKOL Slet will also be taking place in Prague the first week in July. Numerous activities are scheduled for that week in Prague, in celebration of the Sokol Slet and the centennial of Czechoslovakia. Our Chapter's Carolyn Huber and Georgia Maresh will be attending the "Slet" portion of the events.

Chapter picnic August 5th – 4pm (concert at 7pm), Our Chapter is planning a picnic at Blossom Music Center. An all Czech concert is offered featuring:
SMETANA - “Sárka” No. 3 from *Má Vlast*, JANÁČEK - Taras Bulba, DVOŘÁK -
Symphony No. 7

Typically we take one of the pavilions located near the parking, before you cross the bridge, and hang our banner. This BYO gathering is a chance to spend time together, with in interesting concert to follow. Save the date!



conductor Michael Francis to perform an all Czech concert at Blossom, August 5.

August 19th 2:00pm Czech Garden Event - as a way to recognize the centennial of the foundation of Czechoslovakia and the 50 years since the Prague Spring (the invasion by the Soviet forces in 1968 was on Aug. 20), a dedication of two granite plaques is schedule in the Czech Garden, 880 East Blvd – just south of St. Clair. The text of the “Kde Domov Muj” (the National anthem) and “Hey Slovane” (a Slavonic hymn) that has significantly eroded on the feature wall in the garden will be replaced with black granite plaques with the same inscription. This is a significant moment in our Czech, Slovak and Rusyn history – please plan on attending. Other nations celebrating centennial this year are invited to participate with their flags in the honor circle. Watch for more info later – but save the date!

October 26-28, A major celebration is planned for the 100 year anniversary of Czechoslovakia, this weekend event at the Sokol Greater Cleveland Czech Center, aka Bohemian National Hall will coincide with the actual date of the formation of the country; October 28. At our annual dinner meeting, our Chapter appropriated \$250 in support of this celebration - more information later, but save the date!

PBS show: FYI: Wednesday, June 13th at 10:30 pm PBS (Create) TV will show Rick Steves’ travel show “Czech Republic – Off the beaten path”. Rick does a great job portraying the counties he visits, with splash of history and culture included.

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

For SVU Cleveland Chapter - Paul Burik

paulb54@centurytel.net