

# **CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS  
OF THE 2011 REGIONAL SVU CONFERENCE**

**“YOUNG CZECH AND SLOVAK PROFESSIONALS  
IN AMERICA”**

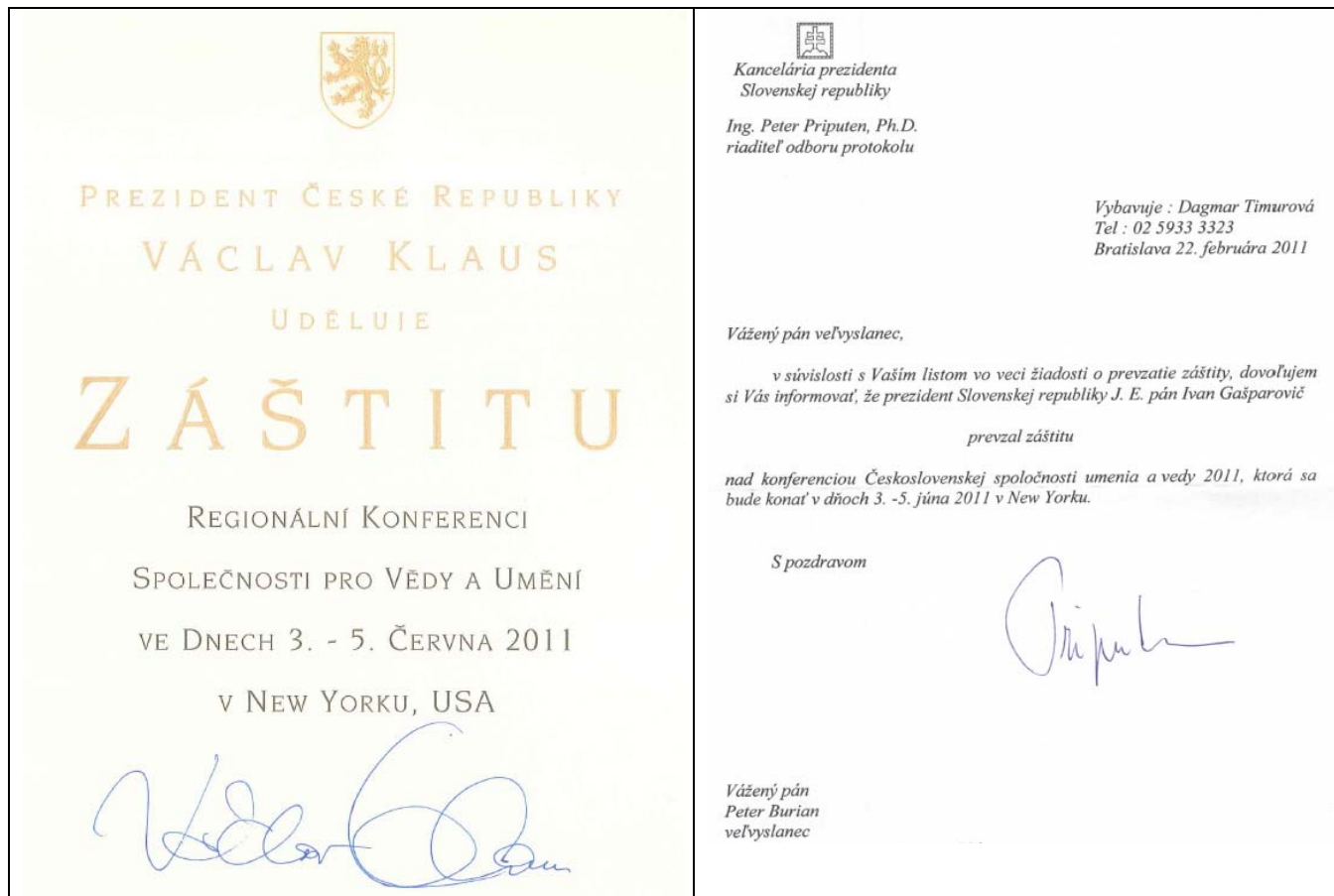


**Bohemian National Hall**

321 East 73<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10021

June 3 – 5, 2011

**AEGIS OF THE NEW YORK CITY CONFERENCE**



Václav Klaus, President of Czech Republic

Ivan Gašparovič, President of Slovak Republic

## ART EXHIBIT BY JONÁŠ CZESANÝ



<http://www.jonasczesany.cz/files/Galerie/cycle/10%20untitled.%202010.%20150x190cm.%20acrylic%20on%20canvas.jpg>

Jonáš Czesaný (1972) belongs to the generation of painters that emerged on the Czech art scene at the turn of the last century. His earliest works, dating from his time at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, where he studied under Professors F. Hodonský (painting) and V. Kokolia (graphic art), tackle the theme of landscape.

He mastered the art of drawing during his graphic studies which brought him deepening interest in figures and objects. When working on his first self-contained series of paintings, the artist used magazine and photo patterns. He creates a strangely bizarre world in which the key role is initially played by a feel for the grotesque (series Koupacky, Anthems, Black and White), sense of absurd and black humour (series Fish&Fishes), later succeeded by a greater degree of melancholy and skepticism (series Beetles),

Jonáš Czesaný exhibited a selection of his paintings at a two-man show with Jakub Špaňhel at the National Gallery, Veltržni Palace, in 2005. A catalog was published by the National Gallery to accompany the show.

For his large-scale paintings, Czesaný looks to locations near his home in Prague. Mostly portraying the modern developments and buildings in the Prague's Holešovice quarter, he explores their specific forms and scales (e.g. Veletržak, 2006). Using the medium of painting, he enters the "ghetto of life" as given by the circumstances and his long-term existential symbiosis with it (High-rise building, 2006). The covered territory has been "experienced", Czesaný has spent much precious time in the area. In its detail, Czesaný's contemplation of Holešovice also echoes in the cycle Pigeons (2006). Czesaný imparts the different subspecies of pigeon with irony by the names he gives them (Plebian, Aristocrat – both from 2006), expressing his own individual sympathies or aversions

<http://artlist.cz/index.php?id=1375&lang=1>

## PROGRAM

### Friday, June 3, 2011

**3:00 – 5:00 PM - REGISTRATION**

**7:00 PM – WELCOME RECEPTION AND OPENING OF THE PAINTING  
EXHIBIT BY JONÁŠ CZESANÝ.**

Reception will be attended by Vice Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic H.E. Karel Schwarzenberg and Ambassadors Peter Burian (SR), Petr Gandalovič (CR) and Norman L. Eisen (USA).

### Saturday, June 4, 2011

**9:00 AM – OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE**

Karel F. Raška, Jr., SVU President

### **SALUTATIONS**

H.E. Petr Gandalovič, Ambassador of the Czech Republic, Washington, D.C.

H.E. Peter Burian, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, Washington, D.C.

Stanislav Kázecký, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prague, Czech Republic

**THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC – A KEY  
PLAYER IN CZECH SCIENCE**

Jiří Drahoš, President of the Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic

**10:30 AM – YOUNG SCHOLARS**

Chair: Petr Vorel, Pardubice, Czech Republic

**How Young Czech Scholars Are Trained in the Humanities  
and Benefit from Experience Abroad**

*Jaroslav Pánek*

Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

Prague

**Young Central European Medievalists  
and Their Responses to Western Historiography after 1989**

*Eva Dolezalova*

Historical Institute

Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic

(Prague)

[dolezal@hiu.cas.org](mailto:dolezal@hiu.cas.org)

# CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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## **Foreign Experiences and Scholarly Growth of Young Humanities Researchers in Central Europe**

*Roman Baron*

Historical Institute

Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic

(Prague)

[BaronRoman@seznam.cz](mailto:BaronRoman@seznam.cz)

## **In Search for Accomplished Young American Professionals of Czech / Slovak Extraction**

*Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr*

Rockville, Maryland

[SVU1@comcast.net](mailto:SVU1@comcast.net)

## **10:30 AM – Czech Immigration**

Chair: Michael Krompholz, Towson, MD

## **Building of Old New York and Immigrants**

*Edward Toran*

Consultant

New York

[Educator@covad.net](mailto:Educator@covad.net)

## **The Czech and Slovak Heritage Association (CSHA) of Maryland:**

### **Past, Present, and Future**

*Michael Krompholz*

Retired

Towson, Maryland

[MKROMPHOLZ@comcast.net](mailto:MKROMPHOLZ@comcast.net)

## **New Bohemia in the New World: Czechoslovak Immigration and Assimilation in Prince George County, Virginia**

*Bruce A. Vlk*

Center for Politics

University of Virginia

Charlottesville, Virginia

[mailto:bav2n@virginia.edu](mailto:mailto:bav2n@virginia.edu)

## **Tracing Footprints on Two Continents: More on the History between Jan Czierny and John Cerny**

*Charles Cerny*

The American Czechoslovakian Club of Dayton

Dayton, Ohio

[Cernyb\\_c@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Cernyb_c@sbcglobal.net)

**2:30 PM – HISTORY**

Chair: Zdeněk V. David, Washington, D.C.

**Masaryk on Totalitarian Regimes**

*Zdeněk V. David*

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 2004-3027  
[Davidzde@aol.com](mailto:Davidzde@aol.com)

**Beyond the Myths about Czechoslovakia's International Role  
in the Second World War**

*Vít Smetana*

Institute for Contemporary History  
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic  
Prague  
Czech Republic  
[smetana@usd.cas.cz](mailto:smetana@usd.cas.cz), [smetana.vit@seznam.cz](mailto:smetana.vit@seznam.cz)

**American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees, American Universities  
and Czech and Slovak Students**

*Mojmír Povolný*

Lawrence University  
Appleton, Wisconsin  
[povolny@prodigy.net](mailto:povolny@prodigy.net)

**The Council of Free Czechoslovakia  
and the Issue of Human Rights in Communist Czechoslovakia**

*Francis D. Raška*

Faculty of Social Sciences  
Charles University  
Prague  
[drfrancisraska@yahoo.com](mailto:drfrancisraska@yahoo.com)

**2:30 PM – CZECH – UNITED STATES RELATIONS**

Chair: Vlado Simko, Brooklyn, New York

**Origins of Our Ethnic Community in New York City**

*Vlado Simko*

State University of New York  
Downtown Medical Center  
Brooklyn, New York  
[Simko.vlado@gmail.com](mailto:Simko.vlado@gmail.com)

**Herbert Adolphus Miller: A Man between Americans and Czechs,  
a Scholar between Sociology and Politics**

*Luboš Švec*

Institute of International Studies

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Faculty of Social Sciences  
Charles University  
Prague  
[svelub@post.cz](mailto:svelub@post.cz)

**A Bohemian Bohemia:  
Czech Newspapermen in Gilded Age New York**  
*David Z. Chroust*  
Library and Archives  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas  
[d-chroust@tamu.edu](mailto:d-chroust@tamu.edu)

**Czech Roots of an American Humanist Youth Organization**  
*Joseph Ben-David*  
Church of Humanism  
New York  
[humfriends@aol.com](mailto:humfriends@aol.com)

## 2:30 PM – MEDICINE

Chair: Petr Hausner, Potomac, Maryland

**Population Health in Europe and in the U.S.A.**  
*Vlado Simko*  
State University of New York  
Downtown Medical Center  
Brooklyn, New York  
[Simko.vlado@gmail.com](mailto:Simko.vlado@gmail.com)  
Emil Ginter  
Institute of Preventive and Clinical Medicine  
Bratislava  
[Simko.vlado@gmail.com](mailto:Simko.vlado@gmail.com)

**An Open Source Alternative to Clinical Trials in Oncology**  
*Petr F. Hausner*  
Greenebaum Cancer Center  
University of Maryland  
Baltimore, Maryland  
[phausner@umm.edu](mailto:phausner@umm.edu)

**How to Keep your Heart Happy and Healthy**  
*Eva Hausnerova*  
Bethesda and Chevy Chase, Maryland  
[phausner@umm.edu](mailto:phausner@umm.edu)

**The Letter Connection: Learning the Art of “TLC”**  
*Martha Peaslee Levine*  
Penn State College of Medicine  
Hershey, Pennsylvania

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[Mlevine1@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:Mlevine1@hmc.psu.edu)

**5:00 PM – GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**7:00 PM – BANQUET**

**Sunday, June 5, 2011**

**9:00 AM – LITERATURE, ART, MUSIC AND ARCHEOLOGY**

Chair: Martha Peaslee Levine, Hershey, Pennsylvania

**Canon of Czech Literature in Anglophone World**

*Karolina Slamová*

Technical University of Ostrava  
Department of Foreign Languages  
Ostrava, Czech Republic

[Karolina.slamova@seznam.cz](mailto:Karolina.slamova@seznam.cz)

**Art Nouveau Revisited: Bílek and Mucha**

*Margaret H. Peaslee*

Professor Emerita of Biology  
University of Pittsburgh  
Titusville, Pennsylvania

[peaslee@pitt.edu](mailto:peaslee@pitt.edu)

**Mahler In New York (1907 – 1910)**

*Howard C. Yourow*

Consultant  
New York City

[HCYourow@msn.com](mailto:HCYourow@msn.com)

**Reading Ancient texts**

**With Multispectral imaging Technology**

*Jaroslav E Sykora*

New York

[Jaroslav.e.sykora@gmail.com](mailto:Jaroslav.e.sykora@gmail.com)

**9:00 AM – POLITICS AND ECONOMICS**

Chair: Charles Heller, Maryland

**Current Financial and Economic Crises:  
Trends, Contexts and Economic Policy Implications  
in the USA and the Czech Republic**

*Slavoj Czesany*

University of Economics  
Prague

[slczesany@seznam.cz](mailto:slczesany@seznam.cz)



**A Czech-American Entrepreneur's Story**

*Charles Ota Heller*  
Annapolis Capital Group  
Arnold, Maryland  
[cheller@annacap.com](mailto:cheller@annacap.com)

**Democracy Is a Historical Urgency**

*Miroslav Synek*  
Independent Consultant  
(Physics, Chemistry, World Affairs)  
San Antonio, Texas  
[M.Synek@juno.com](mailto:M.Synek@juno.com)

**Farewell to Americké Listy**

*Věra and Petr Bisek*  
Long Island, New York

**3:00 PM – VÍT HOŘEJS – THE CZECHOSLOVAK – AMERICAN  
MARIONETTE THEATRE  
Johannes Dokhtor Faust, The Petrifying Puppet Comedy**

## ABSTRACTS

### **Foreign Experiences and Scholarly Growth of Young Humanities Researchers in Central Europe**

*Roman Baron*  
Historical Institute  
Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic  
(Prague)  
[BaronRoman@seznam.cz](mailto:BaronRoman@seznam.cz)

Concurrently with the rediscovery of Central Europe and the fall of the Iron Curtain what had been for long decades unthinkable opportunities for direct access to, in the broadest sense, foreign experiences also opened up for young researchers hailing from these countries. Czechoslovakia, later the Czech Republic and Slovakia decided (each country on its own) to integrate into the Euro -Atlantic political and economic area. This orientation also contributed toward the gradual deepening of integration with neighboring Central European states, especially with Poland and Hungary within the Visegrad Group. At the beginning of the 1990s, there also paradoxically appeared (previously undreamed-of) possibilities for research visits to Eastern Europe, particularly to the Russian archives in Moscow and St. Petersburg. However, shortly the doors that had been opened wide for independent research began to close. By contrast, scholars in Central Europe fairly quickly acquainted themselves with the world of Western scholarship, a process which was facilitated by dynamic developments of information technologies. One temporary obstacle may have been a lack of knowledge of Western languages among some of the young scholars, and a continuing roadblock is the limited financial opportunities, and the necessity of building – sometimes from scratch – networks of necessary contacts.

Whereas the talk by Professor Jaroslav Pánek has focused on study opportunities for Czech students and doctoral candidates after 1989, highlighting changes in humanities research under the new conditions, I am attempting chiefly to map out the actual opportunities for young Czech humanities researchers to gain foreign experience in the Polish environment. The Queen Hedvika Foundation at Jagiellonian University in Cracow, the East European Summer School of Warsaw University, and residential research fellowships within the context of cooperation on the one hand between Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague and the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw and the Polish Academy of Sciences and Arts in Cracow, and between the universities in Brno and Poznan on the other. It is also, of course, significant that the Polish researchers' experience, in examining Polish, Polish-Czech, and Polish-Slovak issues, occasionally prefigured research and conference trips to Great Britain or the United States.

### **Czech Roots of an American Humanist Youth Organization**

*Joseph Ben-David*  
Senior Minister  
Church of Humanism  
New York  
[humfriends@aol.com](mailto:humfriends@aol.com)

The turbulent history of the 1960s and early 1970s was marked by a unique paradigm shift. Characterized not only by the emergence of new liberation movements, it also included a highly animated quest for the development of a higher consciousness and new experimental lifestyles. This quest was motivated by American and British philosophers, psychologists, and human rights activists, including the

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youth group of the Humanist Society of Greater New York. Some of the basic sources were Czech and included, among others, the philosophy and psychological ideas of Jan Amos Komensky, the humanism of Tomas Garrigue Masaryk, the adult pedagogy of Alexander Sommer Batek, the value system of the Czech Unitarians, Norbert Fabian Capek and Karel Haspl, the psychedelic research of Stanislav Grof, and the Czech pioneer in humanistic psychology, Stanislav Kratochvil. Communication between the generations of older thinkers and younger seekers proved impossible and led to cultural dissonance and even hostility. An attempt will be made in this talk to present the controversies from a historical perspective while relating them to contemporary dilemmas. The speaker will be the Reverend Joseph Ben-David, Founder and Senior Minister of The Church of Humanism based in New York City, a Minister emeritus, Unitarian Society, Prague, and a professional member of the Association for Humanistic Psychology.

## **Tracing Footprints on Two Continents: More on the History between Jan Czierny and John Cerny**

*Charles Cerny*

The American Czechoslovakian Club of Dayton

Dayton, Ohio

[Cernyb\\_c@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Cernyb_c@sbcglobal.net)

A continuation of the Cerny family name and ancestral history first presented at the 2006 SVU now offers detailed historical information regarding the coat of arms granted to a Jan Czierny in 1557 and his family's connection the cities of Cesky Krumlov and Winorz, Czech Republic. Further investigation of immigration records reveal that John Cerny and his wife Barbora, made passage on the SS Hansa from Germany to Castle Garden, New York, United States in December, 1853. From there the family made their way to Cleveland, Ohio to be one of first three Czech families in that city according to the US Census records of 1860. Sources for this work include Czechoslovak Central State Archives, conversations with Czech and US historians, family and friends, as well as extensive internet/library searches, and personal travels. As this is a work in progress, the task of the author is to further unravel this family history via documented timeline events and other historical records that might identify the name Cerny covering nearly three-hundred years of both fascinating and dynamic historical periods from province of Bohemia to the United States.

## **A Bohemian Bohemia: Czech Newspapermen in Gilded Age New York**

*David Z. Chroust*

Library and Archives

Texas A&M University

College Station, Texas

[d-chroust@tamu.edu](mailto:d-chroust@tamu.edu)

In 1874 the Slavic Linden launched the New yorské listy. It was the first Czech newspaper in New York, and it had at least 43 editors over the next ninety years. But nearly half of all those editors came in the first ten years. They were young men in their twenties and thirties. Many had studied at the first Czech secondary schools in Bohemia. Many, including some typesetters, had literary ambitions. They soon launched four other newspapers in New York, and they became a diaspora of men who worked on other Czech newspapers in Chicago, Nebraska and Texas. Some were still editing the New yorské listy (Jan Krobošt) or writing memoirs about it (Karel Amort) in the 1930s, more than fifty years after they came to America. And so we invoke both meanings of "Bohemia/bohemia" for this remarkable world of

young Czech newspapermen that arose in New York City during the 1870s and 1880s. The most important editors in those years were Jan Vratislav Čapek (1842-1909), František Škarda (1848-1900), Lev J. Palda (1847-1913), Josef Buřata (1846-1934), František K. Ringsmuth (b. 1858), Leo Kochmann (1845-1919), Jan Wagner (1856-1905) and Bartoš Bittner (1861-1912).

**Current Financial and Economic Crises:  
Trends, Contexts and Economic Policy Implications  
in the USA and the Czech Republic**

*Slavoj Czesany*  
University of Economics  
Prague  
[slczesany@seznam.cz](mailto:slczesany@seznam.cz)

Historical experience shows that the most common causes of decline in economic activity have been financial crises and price shocks in global commodity markets. The purpose of this lecture is to analyze the causes and consequences of fluctuations in economic activity during the period between 2000 and 2009. The main subject of the investigation is the assessment of the following questions: (i) What development trends were registered in the pre-crisis period in order to identify the main causes of economic fluctuations of the economy? (ii) How did economic policies respond to the course of the financial and economic crisis? (iii) What effects did the financial crisis have on real economic development? The results of the analysis serve as a basis to identify the challenges for setting monetary and fiscal policy in the post-crisis period. Two countries were selected for analysis: USA as the leader of the world economy and the Czech Republic which belongs among the small open economies that are catching up economically with developed countries.

**Masaryk on Totalitarian Regimes**

*Zdeněk V. David*  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 2004-3027  
[Davidzde@aol.com](mailto:Davidzde@aol.com)

In order to maintain his optimism about the future of democracy and thus world harmony, Masaryk had to take a stand toward the totalitarian regimes which sprang up in Europe after World War I, first Soviet Communism in 1917, then German National Socialism in 1933. Among others, Masaryk made the paradoxical claim that even the modern dictators had to make a bow toward democracy, and claim the consent of the people. Their authority was not monarchistic, based on Providence, or on dynastic prerogatives. Rather, they attained power thanks to their energy and personal qualities.

In the long run, according to Masaryk, civilization zigzagged, sometimes it even went a bit back, but on the whole it moved forward. The period of the 1930s was one of a particular crisis, but it was only a transitional condition. The time would be eventually ripe for further advancement and, therefore, patience and sang-froide were needed in the meantime. Ultimately, Masaryk tipped his hand into a spiritual direction. He stated that it was his firm belief that God, who created the world and the people, would not allow his artifact to perish.

## **Young Central European Medievalists and Their Responses to Western Historiography after 1989**

*Eva Dolezalova*  
Historical Institute  
Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic  
(Prague)  
[dolezal@hiu.cas.org](mailto:dolezal@hiu.cas.org)

There existed few centers of solid historical research in Czechoslovakia before 1989. Most focused on the themes that did not arouse controversies, such as auxiliary historical disciplines (e.g. codicology), or the Bohemian Reformation. Here, under leadership of excellent mentors, dozens of young historians could develop, but their horizons remain limited, because of the lack contact with contemporary Western trends. To some extent, the situation was similar in the other Central European countries belonging to the Eastern Block (East Germany, Poland, Hungary). When these young scholars were confronted with the new atmosphere of freedom, easy traveling, and easy access to Western literature, they suddenly experienced strong influence of Western historical schools (to begin with, the school of *Annales*). Their mentors of older generations assumed leading posts at universities and historical institutes, and helped the younger generation spend some time at Western universities. There (relieved of the earlier ideological streamlining), they came across modern, interdisciplinary ways of working, such as computing, prosopography, Gender Studies or historical anthropology. The American influence was particularly evident when it came to direct comparison with the works of American specialists focused on Czech Reformation and the Bohemian wars of religion.

## **An Open Source Alternative to Clinical Trials in Oncology**

*Petr F. Hausner*  
Greenebaum Cancer Center  
University of Maryland  
Baltimore, Maryland  
[phausner@umm.edu](mailto:phausner@umm.edu)

Knowledge about cancer biology has yet to deliver its promise at therapy. Hundreds of anti-cancer compounds were developed with that knowledge in mind, but only few of these will be tried in elaborate and extremely expensive clinical trials and most will fail. The reason for failure is the heterogeneity of cancer biology both among different cancer patients and within one patient. To overcome this heterogeneity, large numbers of patients are enrolled into centralized clinical trials, which divulge the best treatment for the largest subset of patients, but fail the majority of patients since these belong to smaller subsets with different biologies.

Here we explore the feasibility of a different, highly decentralized approach, which would allow patients who have failed standard therapy to engage in clinical research in which the patient's oncologist would select the experimental agent(s) to try, collect information about toxicity and try to establish fast whether the tumor shrank. In case of response the patient would continue on the agent and his cancer would be studied e.g. by sequencing the whole genome of the tumor (and occasionally the germ line) with the purpose of understanding conditions which led to success. Such an open source arrangement would keep clinical oncologists broadly educated, could involve patients into decision making and thus increase their participation in clinical trials as well as accelerate the progress of oncology by concentrating on conditions surrounding positive outcomes. Hypotheses generated in the open source environment would be tried in rigorous standard clinical trials, but contrary to current practice, investigators would not be rewarded for showing success with a given agent (drug-centric approach), but for finding an agent which

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works (patient-centric approach). In a patient-centric research environment there would be much less room for bias which is rampant in the drug-centric research allowing to reach final conclusions in smaller clinical trials while gathering personalization information at the same time.

## **How to Keep your Heart Happy and Healthy**

*Eva Hausnerova*  
Cardiologist  
Bethesda and Chevy Chase, Maryland  
[phausner@umm.edu](mailto:phausner@umm.edu)

Within the past forty years there was a tremendous progress in diagnosis and management of heart diseases facilitated by advances and developments in cardiac imaging and technologies for cardiac interventions. Preventing the development of heart disease, in particular the development of atherosclerosis, hypercholesterolemia, arrhythmias, hypertension, valvular heart diseases and sleep apnea is the future. Everything starts with life style modifications, healthy diet, keeping a normal weight to preserve a great functional status and good mental health.

## **A Czech-American Entrepreneur's Story**

*Charles Ota Heller*  
Annapolis Capital Group  
Arnold, Maryland  
[cheller@annacap.com](mailto:cheller@annacap.com)

Charles Heller, born Ota Karel Heller, survived the Second World War as one of Europe's "hidden children," on a farm a few kilometers north of Prague. He, his father, who had fought with the Czechoslovak Division of the British Army, and his mother, who had spent the latter part of the war in a slave labor camp, were reunited in May 1945. Declared enemies of the Communist Party, the family escaped to the U. S. Zone of Germany on the day of Jan Masaryk's funeral. After 15 months in refugee camps, the Hellers arrived in the U.S., carrying all their worldly possessions in three suitcases.

In his early thirties, Charles Heller was "bitten by the entrepreneurial bug." He wanted to build a company. He co-founded and was CEO of one of the world's original computer-aided design (CAD) software companies, CADCOM, Inc. Nine years later; he sold the company to ManTech International and became a VP of the parent firm. Less than three years following the merger, he and a partner started a new company, using CADCOM's technology for an entirely different application – publishing. He resigned and sold his interest in Intercad Corporation when he was lured to the University of Maryland to become its Director of Industrial Research. After building a successful program whereby faculty developed products and processes for private Maryland companies, he prepared to start yet another venture. But, he was asked to start an entrepreneurship center at the University Of Maryland Smith School Of Business. He agreed to stay for a year – and stayed for ten. From 1990 to 1999, Dr. Heller was Director of the Dingman Center for Entrepreneurship, which he built into one of the top-ranked in the nation. He was named the University's first-ever Professor of Practice.

After the Velvet Revolution, he was asked to develop a series of seminars for managers of newly-privatized firms in Czechoslovakia; he made frequent trips to his native country to deliver lectures and to assist management teams. At the same time, he recovered many of his family's properties in the Czech Republic through restitution. In 2000, he entered a new phase of his career as General Partner of Gabriel Venture Partners, a bicoastal, early-stage, venture capital fund with \$260M under management. After he

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became a “Retired Partner” of Gabriel, he became Director and Chairman of the investment committee of Athlone Global Security, an international venture capital fund, which invested in early-stage companies in the homeland security sector.

Today, he sits on ten boards of directors – including those of FBR Mutual Funds, Walden University, Chesapeake Innovation Center, WebTide Technologies, Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU), the New School of Architecture, and the College of Engineering at Oklahoma State University.

## **The Czech and Slovak Heritage Association (CSHA) of Maryland: Past, Present, and Future**

*Michael Krompholz*  
Retired  
Towson, Maryland  
[MKROMPHOLZ@comcast.net](mailto:MKROMPHOLZ@comcast.net)

This presentation will briefly deal with the history of the Czech community in Baltimore; its beginnings in the late nineteenth century, growth and peak and eventual dissolution in the second half of the twentieth century. This then led to the founding of CSHA with the mission to continue keeping the national traditions alive. The final section will deal with today’s demographics and how these affect the activities of the Association and its outlook for the future.

## **The Letter Connection: Learning the Art of “TLC”**

*Martha Peaslee Levine*  
Penn State College of Medicine  
Pennsylvania  
[Mlevine1@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:Mlevine1@hmc.psu.edu)

The Letter Connection was designed by Martha Peaslee Levine, MD to collect patients’ and families’ stories. The goal is to help medical staff understand the other side of the conversation. Illness can be isolating. We need to understand what helps and what hinders communication and healing.

Cards have been made available throughout Penn State Hershey Medical Center. Individuals are encouraged to anonymously share their thoughts about illness, treatment and recovery. What challenged them? What helped them cope?

Reflections are compiled and used in a variety of venues. For example, stories have been used in a fourth year medical student course to open up discussions about communication and to examine the effect of illness on patients and their families.

This presentation will outline the development of The Letter Connection and share some of the collected stories. Themes from the stories will be highlighted and ways to improve communication and healing discussed. Hopefully, the Letter Connection can help us learn the art of “TLC”.

## **Art Nouveau Revisited: Bílek and Mucha**

*Margaret H. Peaslee*  
Professor Emerita of Biology  
University of Pittsburgh  
Titusville, Pennsylvania  
[peaslee@pitt.edu](mailto:peaslee@pitt.edu)



Not confined to one medium, the Art Nouveau style can be found in architecture, interior design, painting and graphic arts, sculpture, furniture, and jewelry. Art Nouveau can likewise be described as an international movement developing from the Arts and Crafts resistance to the Industrial Revolution. Art Nouveau is not merely ornamental but contains deep reservoirs of symbolic and aesthetic expression. František Bílek (1872-1941) and Alfons Mucha (1860-1939) are two Czech artists who personified the spirit of Art Nouveau. These two had many things in common: their small town origin, agrarian roots, time spent in Paris, and deep nationalistic fervor. All these had profound influence on the character of their work.

Alfons Mucha, best known for his graphic arts, advertising, book illustrations, and posters, rose to international fame from his rather modest beginning in Ivančice, southern Moravia. František Bílek, who was color blind, focused more on sculpture and architectural design, and was born in Chynov, near Tabor in southern Bohemia.

Evidence of their work can be found throughout the Czech Republic. We will explore places where their talents can be appreciated – some are frequently-visited sites and others are off the beaten path.

### **American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees, American Universities and Czech and Slovak Students**

*Mojmír Povolný*  
Lawrence University  
Appleton, Wisconsin  
[povolny@prodigy.net](mailto:povolny@prodigy.net)

After the fall of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia at the end of the year 1989, the American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees in New York terminated its original mission of assisting political refugees from communist Czechoslovakia - and later from communist Vietnam – and reoriented its resources and activities toward support of the liberated country. In addition to a variety of programs in 1995 the Fund decided to offer financial assistance to selected Czech and Slovak postgraduate university students admitted to American universities. This program is devoted to the central theme of the present SVU Conference.

### **The Council of Free Czechoslovakia and the Issue of Human Rights in Communist Czechoslovakia**

*Francis D. Raška*  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Charles University  
Prague  
[drfrancisraska@yahoo.com](mailto:drfrancisraska@yahoo.com)

The purpose of this paper is to discuss the activities of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia after its reunification in 1974. The new president of the Council, Professor Mojmir Povolný, set out to enhance the organization's effectiveness in light of the changing nature of East-West relations. The Helsinki Process made the protection of human rights a key issue in East-West relations and the Council worked tirelessly to inform Western leaders and media about the systematic Communist persecution of Czechoslovak dissidents. By embracing the cause of the dissident organizations, Charter 77 and the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted (VONS), and supporting the cause of human rights, the Council played a laudable role in achieving the restoration of freedom in Czechoslovakia.



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## **In Search for Accomplished Young American Professionals of Czech / Slovak Extraction**

*Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr*  
Past President of SVU  
Rockville, Maryland  
[SVU1@comcast.net](mailto:SVU1@comcast.net)

Following the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia February 1948 and after the unsuccessful Prague Spring and the Soviet invasion of that country, large number of refugees immigrated to the US. Many of them were intellectuals and professionals who found successful careers in their new adopted country. This study, in part, is about their children who attained success in the US at a relatively young age. Included are also individuals of Czech or Slovak extractions, whose ancestors immigrated to America in earlier generations, who can be termed as “young professionals,” irrespective were they were born.

Interestingly, when I started my search and approached my colleagues, including those with children, to send me a few names of individuals, whom they considered successful young professionals, among their acquaintances, I never received a single suggestion which points out the difficulty of the subject, which, in part, is due to a definitional problem. Fortunately, I happened to know several highly successful young professionals, which gave me a good start.

My original plan was to include individuals who were born between the years of 1965 and 1980, which would make them about 30 to 45 years old. After some preliminary work, I realized, however, that this would give me a very small number of desired individuals, while leaving out several outstanding professionals, whom I knew personally, who achieved success at a relatively young age, although they are a bit older now. Consequently, I have redefined the scope to encompass individuals who attained success at a relatively young age, who were born between 1955 and 1980.

Although it initially appeared that I would be able to gather information only about a limited number of exceptional young individuals, after some painstaking and exhaustive research, I have discovered an enormously large population of young people fitting my definition, about whose existence is not much known. Consequently, my presentation will focus only on the cream of the crop in various categories. The covered categories include professions (law, medicine, and journalism), higher education (humanities, social sciences, biological sciences, physical sciences) and the arts and letters (creative writing, fine arts, dramatic arts, music).

## **Origins of our Ethnic Community in New York City**

*Vlado Simko*  
State University of New York  
Downtown Medical Center  
Brooklyn, New York  
[Simko.vlado@gmail.com](mailto:Simko.vlado@gmail.com)

The dawn of our ethnic community in NYC dates back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. Immigrants from Central Europe, initially settled on the lower East Side, gradually moved to Yorkville on the Upper East Side, an area between the East River, East 65<sup>th</sup> and East 79<sup>th</sup> Streets (the “Bohemian Broadway”). Initially employed in home cigar making they established numerous (by the 1900 over 50) ethnic societies and clubs. During the day they rolled the tobacco leaves and at night they were amateur actors and musicians. They established the Bohemian Benefit (insurance) Order in 1853, the Czech Sokol in NYC in 1867 and there were three Czech schools (1866). After the popular inn of Mr. Hubacek at 525 East Fifth Street was purchased by 20 societies, this became in 1884 the first Bohemian National Hall (BNH). The

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Bohemian Benevolent Literary Society (BBLA) was founded in 1892. As the ethnic activities became more intensive and demanding, the Sokols decided to build their Sokol Hall in 1896 (still at the East 71st Street). The present spacious BNH was opened to the enthusiastic public in 1896 for a building expense of \$150,000. In 1900 there were about 27,000 Czechs in NYC. During World War I, the Sokol Hall and BNH became centers of national pride and enthusiasm, shared by Tomas G. Masaryk and his son Jan. The following decades witnessed a decline in our Manhattan ethnic community: people moved to Chicago and to less expensive Queens. After 1947 the erection of the UN Headquarter on the East Side profoundly restructured the Yorkville area: modern high rises replaced old tenements with an influx of a new diverse population. In the 1980s the BNH started to fall in disrepair. This was finally prevented and resolved in 2001 when the historic building was transferred to the Czech government, the BBLA and its constituent organizations remaining as joint tenants.

## **Population Health in Europe and in the U.S.A.**

*Vlado Simko*

State University of New York  
Downtown Medical Center  
Brooklyn, New York  
Simko.vlado@gmail.com

Emil Ginter

Institute of Preventive and Clinical Medicine  
Bratislava  
Simko.vlado@gmail.com

There is a discrepancy in the health expenditure between the USA and Western Europe (WEU), as well as Central and Eastern Europe (CEEU). WEU health expenses amount to roughly 50% of the US, and those of CEEU to barely 20%. However, despite the high health expense, the life expectancy (LE) of the US population is shorter than that of WEU and while it is better than in CEEU, African Americans have much shorter LE than white Americans. Compared to all Europeans, the LE of African Americans exceeds only the Bulgarians. US infant mortality is higher than that of all Europe, except Romania and Bulgaria.

Compared to Europe, the USA is a more complex and developing multiethnic society with large proportion of new immigrants. US progress in eliminating racial differences offers hope to improve the overall health outcome. America is the world's leader in innovating diagnostic tools and new medications. The cost of the related research which benefits the entire world is predominantly shared by the US tax payer. Presently, there is a concentrated effort among US health managers to distribute health funding more effectively, to eliminate excessive overuse of diagnostic procedures, and to better utilize less expensive generic medications.

## **Canon of Czech Literature in Anglophone World**

*Karolina Slamová*

Technical University of Ostrava  
Department of Foreign Languages  
Ostrava, Czech Republic

[Karolina.slamova@seznam.cz](mailto:Karolina.slamova@seznam.cz)

This presentation will deal with the conception of the Czech literary canon in English speaking countries representing the image of the Czech literature intended for foreign specialists in Czech studies

as well as general public. Attention will be focused on Igor Hájek, a highly regarded literary critic and literary historian living in the British exile after 1968, who played a very important part in the above mentioned process as he was asked to cooperate in preparing several English literary encyclopedic dictionaries.

## **Beyond the Myths about Czechoslovakia's International Role in the Second World War**

*Vít Smetana*

Institute for Contemporary History  
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic  
Prague  
Czech Republic  
[smetana@usd.cas.cz](mailto:smetana@usd.cas.cz), [smetana.vit@seznam.cz](mailto:smetana.vit@seznam.cz)

The complex nature of the Second World War led to the emergence of a number of myths and stereotypes. Czechoslovakia's changing position in the international arena can serve as a good example to prove this point. Some of the persevering myths originated in the war years, both at home and in exile, others were created by Communist historiography. Thus, historians of the Second World War have to deal with numerous deeply rooted legends and superstitions that often not only persist to this day, but find new advocates among politicians, journalists and other writers. However, the contents of archives from both sides of the former Iron Curtain allow us, today, to determine e.g. whether President Edvard Beneš, his collaborators and 'their' Czechoslovakia became one of the victims of Great Powers' perfidiousness or played the role of Stalin's jackal, as some of their opponents claimed, and if they really strove to build a solid 'bridge' between East and West.

## **Herbert Adolphus Miller: A Man between Americans and Czechs, a Scholar between Sociology and Politics**

*Luboš Švec*

Institute of International Studies  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Charles University  
Prague  
[svelub@post.cz](mailto:svelub@post.cz)

The paper discusses the role of American sociologist, Herbert Adolphus Miller (1875-1951) in American-Czech relations and reasons of his interest in research of Czech immigration and later Czech (Bohemian) question during the First World War. Miller belonged to the Chicago school of sociology and the problems of integration of immigrants and their Americanization led him gradually from academic research to the active political engagement in the question of oppressed nations.

The meeting with Thomas Garrigue Masaryk in Prague in 1912 was crucial for his next career. Masaryk's point of view influenced Miller's interpretation of Central European affairs essentially. Miller was engaged in Czech immigration activities and successful organization of Central European representation in the United States at the end of the war. His support of Masaryk anti-Austrian action has been known enough in historiography. However, Miller's inter-war activity lay in the shadow of his war engagement. Miller remained in touch with President Masaryk in the 20's. He became a personal guest of the President during his visits in Czechoslovakia and traveled Central and Eastern Europe with support of Czechoslovak diplomacy. In spite of his friendship with Masaryk his work on the war and Mid-European Union was not published in Czech, and even in the beginning of the 30's Masaryk expressed only limited

support for Miller when being dismissed from the Ohio State University. Miller remained a good friend of Czechoslovakia and again gave support during the Second World War.

## **Democracy Is a Historical Urgency**

*Miroslav Synek*  
Independent Consultant  
(Physics, Chemistry, World Affairs)  
San Antonio, Texas  
[M.Synek@juno.com](mailto:M.Synek@juno.com)

Democracy is a historical urgency, in an age of intercontinental nuclear missiles possibly operated by a powerful dictator. A powerful dictator, possibly insane, could operate a computerized nuclear push-button (including abundance of short-range and long-range nuclear missiles). Such a powerful dictator, possibly misusing an enormous gross domestic product, anywhere on our planet, could present a threat to the existence of all humanity. Preventing a global nuclear holocaust is a very high priority. Diplomacy should be fully utilized when explaining the importance of democracy.

## **Reading Ancient texts With Multispectral Imaging Technology**

*Jaroslav E Sykora*  
New York  
[Jaroslav.e.sykora@gmail.com](mailto:Jaroslav.e.sykora@gmail.com)

Modern technology that evolved in fields distant from the humanities is becoming an indispensable tool in the scholarly analysis of texts. The older and more illegible the text is, the more sophisticated the technologies that are being employed. In the mid-1990s, one of the most advanced and promising techniques used for reading ancient texts was multispectral imaging. This paper considers whether the expectations aroused by this technique have been satisfied.

## **Building of Old New York and Immigrants**

*Edward Toran*  
Consultant  
New York  
[Educator@covad.net](mailto:Educator@covad.net)

Welcome to old New York, a city that recently celebrated its 400 years' anniversary. Unlike the European cities at the beginning of the 17th century, that at that time were well developed flourishing urban organizations, the island that later became New York's Manhattan borough was a pure pristine nature. Topographically well protected from the Atlantic Ocean, with a wide river promising a good transportation route into the inland, the island became first a Dutch trading post. It rapidly developed into a busy harbor, after the land was famously bought from the Indians with trade goods in the value of 60 Guilders (about \$ 24 in 1626). This strategic location gave birth to a place first called New Amsterdam by the Dutch settlers. In later international skirmishing it was taken over by England and changed its name to New York. Afterwards, in a relatively short historic period of two centuries, it developed into a metropolis and certainly the busiest city in the world. The buildup, creation of streets and layout grids, and the constructions of buildings started from the Southern tip of the island, continuing in certain time

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periods towards the North. European immigrants, and among them many Czechs and Slovaks contributed to this constructive process.

**Bohemia in the New World:  
Czechoslovak Immigration and Assimilation in  
Prince George County, Virginia**

*Bruce A. Vlk*  
Center for Politics  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
<mailto:bav2n@virginia.edu>

Over 120 years ago, Czech and Slovak immigrants began settling in the rural counties around Petersburg, Virginia. After the Civil War, the southern agricultural system collapsed creating a labor shortage. These industrious immigrants would provide the transition to the new era of farming. Eventually through hard work and perseverance, they became a part of the local community. As their economic station in life improved, they were assimilated into mainstream American culture. In the post-World War II boom, farming gave way to work in the nearby cities.

More than 30 oral history interviews were conducted in Prince George County, Virginia, to record the experiences of elders aged 76 to 93 years-old. While the preceding generations have been documented, this generation has not been studied extensively. Those interviewed had much in common. This generation is possibly the last one to understand their ancestors' language, let alone still speak it. They spoke of their forefathers being hard working and honest, and they lamented on experiences lost, such as social hall dances. Nearly all remembered how families would visit one another on weekends. Those interviewed are truly a transitional generation. Many of them had one foot in their parents' native culture and one foot in mainstream American culture.

**Mahler in New York (1907-1910)**

*Howard C. Yourow*  
Consultant  
New York City  
[HCYourow@msn.com](mailto:HCYourow@msn.com)

The great Bohemian born-and-bred composer and conductor Gustav Mahler (7 July 1860, Kaliste - 18 May 1911, Vienna) followed his famous countryman Antonin Dvorak to New York at the very twilight of his, Mahler's, short, intense, incredibly productive life.

Toward the dusk of the Belle Epoque, or Gilded Age as it is known to history in America, Mahler conducted during three seasons (1908 – 1911) at the Old Metropolitan Opera House, sharing the podium with, and ultimately conceding it to, the great Italian maestro Arturo Toscanini (1867, Parma - 1957, Riverdale, The Bronx) { who, in turn, fled Euro-fascism for a new life in New York as conductor of the National Broadcasting Company Symphony }, and for those same seasons as Music Director and Conductor of the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall at Seventh Avenue and Fifty-Seventh Street.

Mahler and his wife, the former Alma Schindler – and future Mrs. Walter Gropius and Mrs. Franz Werfel, as well – a Grande Dame in her own right! – lived those seasons of their lives together at the then Majestic Hotel at Central Park West and Seventy-Second Street and at the then Savoy Hotel at Fifth Avenue and Fifty-Eighth Street, and traveled with his orchestras to Philadelphia, Boston, and the Great Lakes region, Mahler all-the-while collecting inspiration for his “Das Lied von der Erde” (The Song of the Earth) as well as his Symphonies Nos. IX, and X (unfinished), upon which he worked during his three

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summer vacations from conducting (1908 – 1910), in the time before the summer festival phenomenon took broad hold.

In his last summer the famous "Marital Crisis of 1910" would drive Mahler one afternoon into the care of his Moravian countryman and fellow Jew Sigmund Freud – although Mahler was by then officially a Catholic! It was then that the two took their celebrated walk along the Rappenburg canal in Leiden, Holland, on Friday afternoon 26 August 1910.

Alas, The Fates took Mahler at the age of 51 in the spring of 1911, and we shall never know how his brief New York inspiration may have evolved in the years and decades to come!

***THE END***