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## Save the Date!

Tuesday, MAY 21, 2019 at 7 pm

### 1990s Prague through American Eyes

Join us on a journey back in time to the 1990s Prague with its decaying facades, unexplored commercial opportunities, and the cultural scene that was just waking up after forty years of oppression. The neuroscientist and entrepreneur André Fenton, The Prague Post co-founder and literary agent Lisa Leshne, and the speechwriter and strategic communications advisor Rob Lewis will share their experience of living in Prague in the years that followed the Velvet Revolution. Moderated by Věra Dvořák and followed by a Q&A.



1990, It's over! Czechs are free!



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We welcome your comments, suggestions, skills, or donations.

SVU-NewYork Chapter is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization promoting Czech and Slovak intellectual history and heritage through lectures, presentations, film screenings, and readings at the Bohemian National Hall in New York City.

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Special thanks to **Věra Dvořák** and **Jiří Mírovský!**

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Notes:



**Společnost pro vědy a umění (SVU)**  
Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences  
**New York Chapter**

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**CONSULATE GENERAL**  
**OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**  
**IN NEW YORK**

**BBLA**

BOHEMIAN BENEVOLENT  
& LITERARY ASSOCIATION

# The Tenth

## 6-MINUTE CHALLENGE

**Wed, MARCH 27, 2019 at 7pm**

**Bohemian National Hall, 3rd fl.**

**321 E 73 St., NYC**

*Painting by Hana Čiřářová Shannon, 2002*

Design by [czechmatters](http://czechmatters.com)

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## Moderated by Christopher Harwood, PhD

Please, hold your questions until the Q&A after the last presentation.  
Use the back page for your notes.

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### PRESENTERS (in order of appearance)



**Jakub Lajmon**, born in Trstená, Slovakia, studied Computer Science and Service & Science Management at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. He started programming when he was twelve. Still in college, he founded a software studio. In 2014, Jakub was invited to join a project at the MIT in Boston, MA, during which he also attended entrepreneurship courses. Inspired by the US startup scene, he began trying out his business ideas. Last year, he co-launched a booking platform for private helicopters in Switzerland,

which quickly attracted clients from all over the world. His passion for aerospace led him to join the team behind the first Slovak satellite. He wishes to use his experience to help Slovak technology talents succeed in the newly growing industry of CubeSats (miniaturized satellites for space research).

*Interests and Hobbies:* flying, private pilot license, musicals, traveling

*Contact:* jakub@lajmon.name, [www.linkedin.com/in/jakublajmon](http://www.linkedin.com/in/jakublajmon)



**Martin Rybář**, a native of Blansko, Czech Republic, is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Columbia University. He received his Ph.D. in physics from Charles University in Prague, followed by his first postdoctoral research position at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Martin's research is focused on experimental studies of matter under the extreme conditions that are created during particle collisions at ultra-relativistic energies provided by the LHC accelerator at the CERN laboratory near

Geneva. This research seeks to improve our understanding of the universe a microsecond after the Big Bang. Besides his scientific work, Martin shares his excitement about nuclear physics with the public through outreach activities such as the summer school of astronomy in Úpice and public lectures. He is a co-founder of an outreach project called Science-to-Go.

*Interest and Hobbies:* astronomy, urban exploration, photography

*Contact:* martin.rybar@cern.ch

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### April 2017

Andrea Cumpelik

Josef Machač

Elizabeth Rajec

Anna Rathkopf

Karolína Syrováková

Magdalena Urbánek

Adéla Wagner

Jan Zíka

### July 2017—HS Special

Mikey Buchar

Anna Hrubá

Emil Javůrek

Oliver Laryea

Filip Novotný

Ondřej Pelánek

Martin Pícek

Kristýna Pokorná

Ondřej Tůma

Vojtěch Turland

### November 2017

Barbora Bartůňková

Jan Fried

Petra Valentová Gupta

Martina Horňáková

Vladka Jakubíková

Ivica Labuda

Gabriela Miková Johnson

Martin Mucha

Petra Příborská Sturge

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### April 2018

Aneta Chaloupková-Kamimura

Veronika Cibulková

Karel Heřmánek, Jr.

Renáta Kamenárová

Pavel Kraus

Viktor Kryštůfek

Nora Kurzová

Dušan Prištič

Matěj Vakula

### November 2018

Vojtěch Ciml

Vladimír Dzuro

Martin Gajdošík

Stěpánka Horálková Summer

Roman Huszar

Thomas Kotík

Ján Pečarka

Marie Tomanová

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## Celebrating the 10th Edition!

The **SVU 6-MINUTE CHALLENGE** is a series conceived in 2015 by Suzanna Halsey for SVU New York. Czech and Slovak students, scholars, scientists, artists, and professionals are challenged to present themselves and the subject of their studies or project in six minutes, or less, and in the language appropriate for a non-expert audience. Presentations included areas such as visual arts, music, design, performing arts, literature, film, photography, start-up, software, neuroscience, medicine, physics, economics, mathematics, linguistics, political science, social science, history, oncology, diabetes, nuclear physics and others.

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### ALUMNAE and ALUMNI 2015–2018

#### April 2015

Dino Dvořák

Věra Dvořák

Jiří Jelínek

Dáša Jendrušáková

Iva Knobloch

Jana Kryštofová

Petr Šulc

Marek Svoboda

Filip Tucek

#### March 2016

Jitka Exler

Antonín Fajta

Martina Fišerová

Roman Heczko

Pavčina Horáková

Bára Jichová Tyson

Kateřina Kyselica

Gabriel Levický

Radka Salcmannová

Katarína Vizina

#### November 2015

Vanda černocká

Václav Kučera

Veronika Misunová

Josef Nejedlý

Jiří Pelcl

Anna Pravdová

Andrea Průchová

Michael Vintr

#### November 2016

Petr Dubecký

Hana Gregusová

Monika Hanková

Michal Horný

Pavel Kocourek

Paul Linden ReteK

Kristýna a Mare Milde

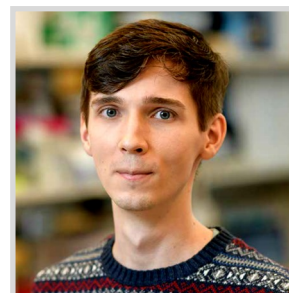
Henrieta Scholtzová



**Silvia Fishbaum** was born in small village of Porubka in Eastern Slovakia. She studied at the School of Health Sciences in Kosice and later worked as a pharmacy lab technician. In 1979, after her second try, she managed to escape from Czechoslovakia and came to the USA. In New York, she studied fashion design and established a ready-to-wear label *Silvari*. In 1981, she got married and later became a mother of two sons. In search for an alternative treatment for her ill husband, she discovered the Institute of Integrative Nutrition (IIN) and later became a holistic coach. After her husband's passing, she studied art history at the New School in New York. Silvia works to promote Holocaust remembrance through the art of her childhood art teacher L'udovít Feld, a dwarf who was a personal artist for Dr. Mengele in Auschwitz. She also cowrote her memoir "Židovka". In 2018, its English adaptation titled "Dirty Jewess" was published by Urimpublication in Israel.

*Interests and Hobbies:* arts and culture, nature, walking by the sea, travel, healthy cooking; two-year-old granddaughter Aria

*Contact:* silvia.fishbaum@gmail.com



**Ján Remšík**, born in Žilina, Slovakia, received his Pharm.D. from Comenius University in Bratislava in 2014 and a Ph.D. in Biology from Masaryk University in Brno in 2018. He devoted his research to oncology and showed that not all of cancer cells within the tumor mass are the same – some of them abuse the evolutionarily conserved mechanisms to disseminate into distant body parts and survive even under the pressure of therapy. Jan currently conducts translational research

focused on a particularly bleak complications of cancer – brain and leptomenin – at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in the lab of the neuro-oncologist Adrienne Boire. Due to the lack of mechanistic insights, the therapeutic opportunities for patients with brain metastases are very limited. As a pharmacologist, he believes that his ongoing studies will provide a better understanding of brain colonization by cancer cells and design novel, rational, and evidence-based therapies.

*Interests and Hobbies:* coffee, sleep, and plants

*Contact:* jano.remsik@gmail.com



**Maria Haršániová**, a writer under the pseudonym Maya Reyes, comes from a small town Modra in Slovakia. She earned her Master of Social Work at St. Elizabeth College in Bratislava. Before settling in New York in 2016, she lived in England, Spain, Holland, and Cuba. Maria's novel *Exit Havana* was published in 2016 by the Motýl publishing house in Slovakia. The story is based on her experience as a breast cancer patient. Her new book *In Alice's Room* will be published in 2019. Maria also writes articles for

oncology magazines and journals, such as *Coping with cancer*, and volunteers for the American Cancer Society, helping and supporting women diagnosed with breast cancer. Currently, she works in tourism but would like to pursue a career in social work in New York City.

*Interests and hobbies:* literature, especially magic realism, photography, old movies, traveling, learning languages, including ASL

*Contact:* mayaharsaniova77@gmail.com



**Kateřina Vráblíková** grew up in Trhové Sviny, a small town in South Bohemia. She is a Senior Lecturer in Politics at the University of Bath, UK (since 2018) and Istvan Deak Visiting Professor in East Central European Studies at Harriman Institute at Columbia University (Spring 2019). Her research focuses on political participation, social movements, political attitudes and culture in contemporary democracies, and research methods. She received her Ph.D. at Masaryk University (2012). She was a Fulbright fellow at the University of California, Irvine (2010-2011),

an assistant professor at the University of Mannheim (2012-2016), and a postdoctoral fellow at The Ohio State University (2016-2018). Her book "What Kind of Democracy?" (Routledge 2017) examines how democratic institutions and culture based on the inclusive contestation conception of democracy increase people's non-electoral political activism.

*Interest and Hobbies:* yoga, social justice activism, vegan cooking

*Contact:* k.vrablikova@bath.ac.uk

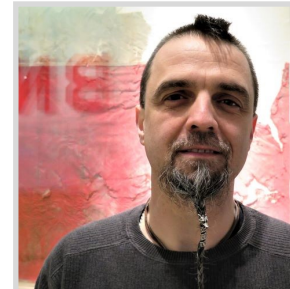


**Hana Císařová Shannon**, a visual artist, grew up in the town of Vyškov in Moravia, Czech Republic. After graduating with an MA in Fine Arts from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, she moved to New York to pursue her career in painting. She has always expressed herself through portraits, trying to capture the inner side of her subjects. Her portraits were exhibited in the store windows of Bergdorf Goodman on 5th Avenue. As a mother of three young children, she switched to smaller formats and

acrylic paint, painting black&white silhouettes because it allowed her to work from home. Last October, she was happy to return to her studio in Long Island City and paint in oil and color, again. For tonight, she created a silhouette series portraying important Czechs in America. Her work will be exhibited at the Czech Center Gallery (April 4 through May 23).

*Interests and Hobbies:* film and lately the Wim Hof method

*Contact:* hannasek@yahoo.com, www.hanacisarova.net



**Branislav "Braňo" Briňarský** began his musical studies at the age of six in his home town of Sečovce in Zemplín County in Eastern Slovakia. While at the University in Košice, he performed with the *Jahodná* Folk Ensemble playing bass, traditional wind instruments *gajdice*, *dvojačka*, *fujara*, and singing. After receiving his master's degree in at Košice University, he moved to the United States in 1998, where he immediately founded the Slovak folk band *Pajtáši*, which he currently manages. *Pajtáši*

has performed throughout the East Coast at numerous Slovak and Czech cultural events, and also provides music for the Slovak folk dance group *Limbor* in New York City. For many years, Braňo has also collaborated with other East European bands (Hungarian, Ukrainian, Romanian, and Klezmer) in the tri-state area and with *Harmonia* band in Cleveland. In addition to his folk music endeavors, he performs with the Bensen-Scott Big Band and participates in other musical projects in New York.

*Interests and Hobbies:* hiking, traveling, movies, skiing

*Contact:* brancoo@aol.com