ZPRÁVY 🛱 NEWS

Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences Společnost pro vědy a umění www.svu2000.org



Photo by Peter Ujhazy

The 28th SVU World Congress, September 1-4, 2016 in Bratislava

Many thanks to Hugh Agnew, Eva Hanušovská, Peter Hausner and Peter Ujhazy for dedicating many hours and energy to organizing this congress. The program, photos and abstracts are available on the SVU website: <u>www.svu2000.org/world-congresses/2016-svu-congress/</u>

Echos of Bratislava

The SVU organization held the annual Congress in Bratislava, Slovakia in late August of this year. Bratislava made a delightful venue for this event. The city's focus on made for convenient access to the congress sites. The congress was held in a school adjacent to the President's Palace – we even saw the changing of the guard ceremony. Two days of presentations were accompanied by scheduled sight-seeing including a boat trip on the Danube River to Děvín Castle – the seat of Slavonic strength in the middle ages. On another evening, a delightful trip to Smolenice Castle renovated into a conference center included dinner and a dance performance by a local group. Although it was not the largest congress, about 70 people in attendance, it was well planned and the sights made it a memorable time.

By Paul Burik, president SVU Cleveland

As the presenter of two papers on the life and compositions of the Czech female composer Vítězslava Kaprálová (1915-1940) and as a member of the SVU Board of Directors, I arrived in Bratislava several days early. My host was not a local hotel but an airbnb room with the host Martin, a 24 year-old computer engineer, just footsteps from the Slovak capital city's historic Old Town. The room, right behind the famous Flagship Restaurant, was within easy walking distance of all the important Congress sites. Through airbnb, I was able to meet Martin and another guest, a Spanish computer engineer with Amazon.com. In conversation, I discovered a younger generation of Europeans passionately in favor of the European Union because of the open borders for employment in EU countries.

With the help of Martin, my host, and some local Bratislava friends, I was able to visit venues other than those associated with the SVU Congress. One afternoon I discovered historic Devin Castle, towering high above the placid Danube River, and learned of the watchtowers and barbed wire that made this a severely restricted area under Communist rule. The historian in me appreciated the opening concert in the Primate's Palace where Talleyrand and other diplomats signed the Peace of Pressburg in 1805 after the Battle of Austerlitz, in the very Hall of Mirrors where our opening concert took place. While looking for a 17th century Slovak Lutheran hymnal for a Nebraska musicologist friend, I discovered the amazingly beautiful restored atrium of the University Library (but the hymnal was declared lost).

The theologian in me relished a visit to three major Bratislava church buildings -- the Franciscan Church (dating from the year 1297), the Jesuit Church (a former Lutheran church dating back to the 17th century), and St. Martin's Cathedral, where Maria Theresia was crowned Queen of Hungary and where, in 1972, I witnessed the demolition of the major Jewish synagogue and medieval quarter of the Old Town to make room for the new Nový Most bridge. Another afternoon took me to the nearby Jewish Museum, an extraordinary collection of art and artifacts from the now largely vanished Jewish community (the only remaining synagogue in the city lay a street distant from my airbnb room). Close by was the Evangelical Lyceum, the elite Lutheran school where several young Lutheran pastors' sons formulated a Pan-Slav program in the 1830s - in college I wrote a history paper about that and finally was able to visit the site fifty years later. The Slovak National Theatre featured an opera later in the month by Slovak national composer Eugen Suchoň *Krútňava (Whirlpool),* but most interesting of all was a Sunday SVU excursion to the Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, first opened in 2000 on a peninsula in the Danube River, one of the most amazing art museums that I have ever visited.

On the return cruise back to Bratislava, we passed under a new Danube bridge which framed the setting sun perfectly between its suspension wires. It was a fitting conclusion to a week spent exploring a major European capital which is somewhat neglected, compared to Prague and Vienna, but which I discovered to be equally as fascinating and accessible as those larger Central European capitals. For myself, I am ready for another SVU Congress in Bratislava!

By Louis (Ludvík) Reith, Secretary General



Photo by Peter Ujhazy

Notes from the General Assembly Meeting September 4, 2016

President Petr Hausner presided over the meeting and the election of the new Executive Board for the period 2016-2018. The assembly then discussed the following:



ELECTRONIC VOTE

1) Anna Balev and Louis Reith suggested that **SVU should have the SVU Bylaws revised** so that an ELECTRONIC VOTE by MEMBERSHIP is allowed. (*This point was raised already by Suzanna Simor at the 2014 General Assembly*).

2) Petr Hausner said that ideas of modernization are welcomed and that he sees an obstacle in email vote, which wouldn't grant the anonymity of the vote.

3) David Chroust pointed out that there are free online tools

featuring an electronic survey technology, which are used elsewhere for electronic vote. (Some institutions may have experience with the electronic vote and may be of advice to the SVU.)

4) Petr Hausner suggested that all the modernization is welcomed and now in the hands of the new Executive Board.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

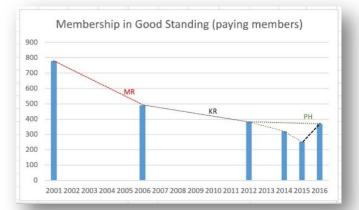
5) Paul Burik said that the SVU newsletter should be made accessible in an electronic version in place of printed version to reduce costs and to streamline news dissemination.

6) Petr Hausner pointed out that an **electronic version is already being posted on the SVU Website**, usually two weeks before the printed version is distributed.

7) Mila Saskova-Pierce and Layne Pierce reminded us that SVU members should be offered a choice, if they prefer an electronic version in place of a printed version, and that the electronic version can be sent by email in the form of a link to the PDF file posted on the SVU Website. *(This suggestion was included already in the 2012 Audit Report endorsed by the 2012 General Assembly).*

INCREASED MEMBERSHIP

8) Paul Burik commended the rising membership numbers presented by Petr Hausner on the GENERAL GRAPH of paying members and remarked that in his view, part of the success is due to the new policy of giving more visibility to the local chapters, respecting them and presenting them in the SVU newsletter.





Dear Friends and Colleagues,



It gives me great pleasure to extend my gratitude, appreciation, and admiration to our outgoing President Petr Hausner. I know he poured his many talents and energy into the challenging task of steering the SVU. As a result of his initiatives and endeavors, the organization has grown and found new vibrancy during his tenure. I am sure I speak on behalf of all your friends and admirers, Petr, when I say—Thank you!

I confess that I trembled as I came to terms with the realization that it was now my turn to step into the breach. But I knew that I would be able to rely on your help, your ideas, and your generosity. After all, we are bound together by our love of the Czech and Slovak cultures, and our commitment to understanding their history, politics, and language.

No one possesses a magic wand for solving all of the challenges the SVU faces in our fast evolving political, cultural, and technological environment. Cognizant of this, our objectives should be realistic and practical because we must be focused on deeds, not abstractions. It might be helpful for us to start by asking a simple question — what do we want for the SVU? Let me volunteer and take the lead by putting forward the following four points:

One. I would like the SVU to be a challenging but also joyful and informal intellectual forum, a social space for those who treasure Slovak and Czech cultures. Anyone interested in the language, politics, and history of the region is welcome.

Two. The SVU should make it possible for people to meet like-minded people. Medical doctors profit enormously when properly guided by others who have already established themselves here. The same is true for young academics hoping to reach tenure, inventors seeking investors, artists applying for grants, parents looking for language courses or reliable child-care. In short, networking is crucially important for any new arrival, and the SVU can enable profitable interactions among its members without much difficulty.

Three. In my view, the organization works best on the local level. I've spoken before the New York and Washington branches of the SVU, and each of those visits was memorable for the high standard of the intellectual discourse and friendly atmosphere. We don't need top-heavy centralized and distant "government". What we need are events that bring us together and enrich us. That's best achieved on the local level. Anything could serve as an excuse for getting together: an interesting person passing through the area, a new film or book, any of the countless Slovak and Czech national anniversaries.

Four. The SVU must be, of course, an inclusive and strictly non-partisan organization. However, neither the SVU nor we live outside the world of politics. One of the main reasons why the organization came into existence in 1958 was that its founders had discovered that the totalitarian regime that had seized power in Prague a decade before was there to stay. This meant that the SVU was not only an organization for cultural and scholarly endeavors; it was also a political platform that allowed our predecessors to behave as responsible citizens. In light of this, I would argue that the SVU should—when appropriate—publicly reaffirm its founders' enduring belief that their old country belonged among Western democracies, and nowhere else.

Dear fellow SVU members, please share with me your views regarding the central challenge: In what direction should the organization evolve? How can it defend the value of human *conversazione* in the world of Facebook and Twitter? How can it maintain its relevance in the eyes of new generations? I'm looking forward to your input. Please write to my email listed below.

Cordially,

Igor Lukes Professor of History & International Relations The Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies Boston University **president@svu2000.org**

Distrubuted by Sept. 18, 2016

2

New Executive Board

PRESIDENT



Igor Lukeš is a Professor of International Relations and History, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University; Associate, The Davis Center for Russian Studies, Harvard University; Local Affiliate, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University. His publications include *On the Edge of the Cold War: American Diplomats and Spies in Postwar Prague; Rudolf Slánský: His Trials and Trial*; and *Czechoslovakia Between Stalin and Hitler: The Diplomacy of Edvard Beneš in the 1930s*. Lukeš is the recipient of the Central Intelligence Agency 2012 Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Literature on Intelligence and the 2000 Stanley Z. Pech Prize for his article "*The Rudolf Slánský Affair: New Evidence.*" The book on Beneš won the Boston Authors Club Award as well as the Kahn Award in 1996. He serves as Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic

in New England. He hopes to assist the new SVU Executive Board team in creating a vibrant network of Czech and Slovak academics and professionals.

EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT



Jiří IURRO Stavovčík spent his childhood in Cuba and Czechoslovakia. In 1995, he graduated from Palacký University in Olomouc where he studied history and political science. In 2003, he received his MBA in bank management from Moravian College, PA. Currently, Jiri works as a negotiator for development projects in Africa. Jiří is also an artist. He studied figurative drawing at Fleisher Art Memorial in Philadelphia and Spring Studio in New York City. His art has been featured at various group shows and solo exhibitions in New York City, Washington D.C. and Nagano (Japan). He is currently represented by Artspace 109 in Alexandria, VA. He sees SVU's potential for being an international cultural institution with programs promoting the work of Czech and Slovak academics and professionals and providing a platform for networking and lobbying. He wants to help build a new image and better name recognition for SVU in the world community interested in Czech and Slovak studies.

SECRETARY GENERAL



Louis Reith ("Ludvík") received his PhD in Renaissance-Reformation history from Stanford University in 1976 and his degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois in the same year. For twenty-seven years, he worked as a rare book cataloger at Georgetown University. As a graduate student in Germany in the 1970s, he developed an interest in Czech and Slovak culture. Since his 2013 retirement in Seward, NE, he has completed six credit courses in Czech Studies at UNL. Since 2004, he presented papers at SVU Congresses on topics such as the operas of Leos Janacek, the castle libraries in the Czech Republic and the court and culture of Emperor Rudolf II. As a continuing student of Czech, he hopes to inspire young students to study the Czech and Slovak languages. As a continuing member of the SVU Executive Board, he is looking for new ways to interest young and old to

join the SVU and to encourage present and future members to participate more fully in its many activities with enthusiasm and joy.

TREASURER



Thomas Holbik has a broad background in banking, bank supervision, and risk management. He has worked for a number of banks including HSBC, Citizens Bank, Fleet Bank. Mr. Holbik's entrance into the banking industry was as Bank Examiner for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. His education at Boston University includes an MBA as well as an MA and a BA Magna cum laude in Economics. Since 2010 he has been serving as Governor of the NY chapter of the Risk Management Association.

VICE PRESIDENTS



David Chroust earned his PhD in history at Texas A&M University in 2009, where he is on the library faculty. In 1991, he earned his MLS in library science and in 1984, a BA in economics at Kent State University in Ohio. He curates French, Russian and other special collections at Texas A&M Libraries. His research and teaching are in migration studies and global Web-based media. David is interested in working on outreach to younger scholars and artists in the new Czech and Slovak diaspora in the United States and around the world.



Věra Dvořák is a graduate of Charles University in Czech philology, linguistics and phonetics and a recipient of the Quota scholarship from the University of Tromsø in Norway where she earned her Master's degree in Theoretical Linguistics in 2006. She is currently a PhD candidate in Linguistics at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Introduced to SVU as a participant in the first of the SVU NY 6 Minutes programs, she would like to expand this format to be more discussion-oriented and help bring this format to other SVU chapters in the USA. She would also like to improve the online-accessible electronic interface of SVU to target young Czech and Slovak intellectuals abroad.



Charlotta Kotík, independent curator based in Brooklyn, is a former Head of the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Brooklyn Museum where she initiated new programs, such series of *Grand Lobby Projects* and the *Working in Brooklyn* series to document the energy of the nascent Brooklyn art scene. Ms. Kotík organized numerous exhibitions, presenting the work by contemporary artists. She is also a board member of the Jindřich Chalupecký Award, recognizing young visual artists in Czech Republic. Presently, Charlotta works as a writer and independent curator, and facilitates various projects for galleries, alternative spaces and museums alike. She is the great granddaughter of president T.G. Masaryk. As a longtime member of SVU, she hopes to help the new SVU team develop a program for support and promotion of Czech and Slovak artists.



Míla Šašková-Pierce earned her PhD in linguistics at the University of Kansas. From 1989 to her retirement in 2015, Míla was a professor of Czech and Russian at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. She is a dynamic organizer who is active in Czech organizations including the Czech Language Foundation which aims to advance the teaching and appreciation of the Czech language. A longtime member of SVU, she also served as vice-president of the SVU chapter in Lincoln, NE and on the SVU Council. Míla believes that Czech-American culture is integral to the wider Czech culture and she hopes to 'build a bridge' between the two.



Filip Tuček earned his MA from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in 2015. He worked as a research assistant at the Eurasian Harriman Institute, where he focused on European security, a subject of his professional interest and numerous writings published in Great Britain, United States, Czech Republic, and Slovakia. Filip was a co-founder and president of the Columbia University CEE Club. He is a recipient of Robert Legvold Fellowship, Columbia University Harriman Institute Junior Fellowship and the Dasturdaza Dr. Jal Pavry Memorial Award for International Peace and Understanding. Currently he works as a Consultant for Eastern Europe at Eurasia Group in Brussels.



Veronika Tuckerová received her PhD in German and Comparative Literature in 2012 from Columbia University, and M. Phil. from The Graduate Center of the City University of New York (2006) and Masters of Arts from Charles University, Prague. Veronika teaches Czech Studies at Harvard University, translates from Czech, German and English, and publishes essays of literary criticism. Her expertise is Czech and German literature and language; Kafka and Prague German literature; translation and bi- and multilingual writing; dissidents in Central Europe. She directs Harvard University's Study Abroad Program in Prague. She hopes to help build SVU into an academic hub.



Bruce VIk received his MPA in 2010 from James Madison University and his BA in political science in 1999 from George Mason University. In 1998 he studied Czech history and politics for a summer at Charles University under Martin Palous, among other professors. Bruce is the director or communications and marketing for the University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy in Charlottesville, Virginia. He has researched and documented the Czech and Slovak-American community of Prince George, Virginia, and started an annual festival with grant funding that continues to this day. He has been an active member of SVU since 2010.



Hana Waisserová, Ph.D. is an instructor of Czech Studies and supervisor of Komensky Club at UNL, Nebraska. Currently she teaches Czech language, culture and literature and Women's Totalitarian Experience. Previously, she also taught Gender and Central and Eastern European Studies at Anglo-American University in Prague, lectured at Delhi University in India, Masaryk University in Brno and Texas A&M University. Her research interests are CE European women transnational literature and cultural memory, women totalitarian experience. Hana appreciates SVU as unique cultural and academic platform of significant human capital. She would like to help SVU to focus also on the needs of rising young scholars and make SVU more attractive and useful for them. She hopes to facilitate communication and mentoring of junior and mid-career scholars by senior SVU members, while promoting senior members' research.

Executive Board News

Igor Lukes lectured on *The Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak Crisis in the Thirties,* October 24, 2016, in a packed auditorium of Charles University, exploring several related themes: Did Stalin intend to provide Czechoslovakia with a militarily meaningful assistance against the Third Reich—with France, or even unilaterally? Did the Kremlin have a strategic plan in the thirties? Was Stalin's pact with Hitler a consequence of the Franco-British appeasement, or an end in itself? Did Stalin desire war in 1938?



On November 8^{th,} he joined Christopher Harwood (SVU NY) to comment on US Elections for Radio Prague. The make-shift studio was located at the Bohemian Spirit Restaurant at the Bohemian National Hall in New York. *(right)*



Veronika Tuckerová has worked for the past several months with Zuzana and Eugen Brickcius on two new exhibitions commemorating the 40th anniversary of the **Chater 77** to open January 2017 at the National Gallery in Prague.

She has also created and conducted a popular **Harvard Summer School in Prague**, an eight-week course focusing on language, literature, and culture. This comming summer, the course will take place from June 4th to July 26, 2017. It is open to all applicants.

For more information see: www.summer.harvard.edu/study-abroad/prague-czech-republic

Congratulations!



In May 2016 at the Book World Prague, **Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz**, CENES UBC Professor Emerita, has been awarded the 2016 *Jiří Theiner Award* for her contribution to the dissemination and promotion of Czech literature abroad. Her research is on Czech samizdat, and she also works on Czech drama by playwrights including Kohout, Topol, Klíma, and Havel. Dr. Goetz-Stankiewicz will receive the award. Interview on Radio Prague: www.radio.cz/en/section/one-on-one/czech-born-author-and-publisher-marketa-goetz-stankiewicz



In November 2016, Professor **Leopold Pospíšil** (93), received an award from *NEURON Fund for Support of Science* in Prague for his contribution to the world's science. He has taught for 40 years at Yale University and founded anthropology of law. Fearing for his life after the Communist coup in 1948, he emigrated in the USA. His research included legal systems of indigenous nations in Alaska and New Guinea. He was probably the first white man to visit the tribes in Papua. He wrote 22 books and served as an advisor to American presidents John Kennedy, George H.W. Bush a Bill Clinton in the area of human rights. He is critical of the current judicial system in the Czech Republic. Professor Pospíšil also served as the SVU President in 1980-1984.



Charlotta Kotik (SVU VP) received a *Lifetime Contribution to the Field of Visual Arts* award from the Czech Ministry of Culture, November 2016.

News from SVU Chapters

BOSTON, MA (New!)

July – December 2016

Exciting news. Igor Lukes and Veronika Tuckerová have worked diligently, and on December 10^{th,} launched the Boston chapter with a lecture by Aviezer Tucker at Boston University.

Aviezer Tucker is a philosopher and political theorist and author of The *Philosophy of Politics of Czech Dissidents from Patočka to Havel* (2000), Our *Knowledge of the Past: A Philosophy of Historiography* (2004), and most recently, *The Legacies of Totalitarianism* (2015). He spent a decade working and conducting research in post-totalitarian Europe at the Central European University in Prague, Palacký University, and Charles University in the Czech Republic.

For more information: vtuckerova@fas.harvard.edu

President Veronika Tuckerová



CLEVELAND, OH

President Paul Burik

July / **Tour of the Gardens**: Included Czech, Rusin and Slovak gardens culminating at the Italian Garden, just in time for the "Opera in the Italian Garden" program with Opera Circle Cleveland. The event was lightly attended.

August / Picnic in the Czech Garden and more: with light attendance, a summer picnic was held on what turned out to be a nice day after morning storms. Not to forget, maintenance of the gardens occurred all summer along. The Czech, Rusin and Slovak gardens participated in the "One World Day" organized by all the gardens on 8/28.



September / Bishop Maly's visit. SVU Cleveland assisted with visit by Prague's Bishop Malý to their city. A Czech language service was held by the Bishop in Czech language at Our Lady of Lourdes church. A reception was held immediately afterward at BNH with about 60 in attendance – thanks goes to all who helped serve and made the hall available. Thanks to our benefactors who underwrote the luncheon, and of course to Sokol Greater Cleveland which spearheaded the event. SVU's Dr. Stanislav Bohonek of Westlake took the lead on organizing the visit, special thanks to him. It shows that any SVU member, not just the officers, can present an event or a program! Please feel free to propose an activity.

October / Hosted **Maestro Jakub Hrusa** when he came to conduct world renowned Cleveland Orchestra in November. Besides arranging for discount admission to

the Severance Hall concert, the SVU members enjoyed a delightful lunch with the the Maestro. Topics of discussion ranged from dealing with the orchestra to adjusting to time zones and food offerings during his global travels. The chapter has done this for several years and now we are on first name basis with Jakub and his wife Klara.



Music from the Gardens, a special concert celebrating the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Centennial, at Bohemian Nation Hall.The concert by The Cleveland Women's Orchestra also included works by Czech composers.

Our chapter has adopted the purpose of advancing the understanding of Czech and Slovak cultures by people of ALL backgrounds.

www.svu2000.org/cleveland

EDMONTON, CANADA



President Pavel Jelen

August / The 3rd week-long Czech language and Culture Camp for children and adults took place at Camp Van-Es at Cooking Lake near Edmonton. Non-native Czech speakers had rigorous but fun Czech instruction and "Czech language games" were offered for native speakers.

September / An informal "SVU season kick-off" social at the Faculty Club, University of Alberta, which included short violin music interludes by two SVU members (Julka Zalkovic and her teacher Martina Smazal) and the introduction of the new Czech predoctoral fellow at the Wirth Institute of Austrian and Central European Studies (WI) at the University of Alberta, Ondrej Havac.



Photos available at: https://goo.gl/photos/GmAYymDHm3hmZ4U66

October / **Pavel Jelen**, *Czech/Slovak/ Czechoslovak immigration to Canada/Alberta*. This lecture launched the monthly lecture series.

November / **Ondrej Havac**, *Searching for Czech Roots in a historical Romanian village of Banat.* The December lecture will be presented by Mike Hruska on the early history of the Bata organisation in Czechoslovakia and the establishment of Bata enterprise in India.

October 23 – 28 / A highlight of the fall season was a visit by the Czech piano virtuoso **Martin Karlicek** in Alberta. Martin played three evening recitals in Edmonton, Calgary and Canmore. The concert in Calgary was supported by the Honorary Czech Consul Jerry Jelinek to commemorate the Czech National Day. Invited attendees included general or honorary consuls from several countries residing in Calgary. A special commemorative Czech National Day dinner in the Faculty Club of the University of Alberta featured maestro Karlicek as a special guest playing a selection of Czech music. About 70 guests, SVU members, their friends and other Faculty Club members attended.

December / A traditional **Christmas concert** organized by the WI, with participation of our Czech and Slovak Choir consisting of SVU members.

www.svu-edmonton.org

LINCOLN, NE

President Joseph Swoboda

SVU Nebraska cooperates closely with the Komenský Club at the University of Nebraska taking advantage of the strong Czech program and student body.

July / A Special Reception for Visiting Czech Dignitaries

In cooperation with the Czech Language Foundation (CLF)

Dr. Jiří Jirsa, MEPP, 1st Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Dr. Pavel Čermák, Director of Czech Institute of Crop Research; MVDr. Martin Faldyna, Deputy Director of Czech Institute of Veterinary Science; •Svatava Maradová, MBA, Director, Czech State Land Office; •Dr. Pavlína Adam, Director, Research, Education and Consultancy Dept., Ministry of Agriculture; •Karel Žebrakovský, ČVUT (Czech Technical University) Head of Department of Science and Research, University Rectors Office; • Mariana Čapková, Alumna of the UNL Robitschek Scholarship Ministry of Agriculture.

October /November HAVELIANA FILM&TALK SERIES

Commemorating 80th Birthday of Václav Havel

In cooperation with Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, UNL Czech Komenský Club

Aftertalks by Dr. Hana Waisserová Dr, James Le Sueur



www.svu2000.org/nebraska

PRAHA

President Alena Morávková

October / Radoslav Kvapil's piano recital/ lecture



The evening brought together the SVU Praha board members Alena Morávková and Radoslav Kvapil, and Filip Tuček (SVU VP) with members of the NY chapter Jitka and Pavel Illner, and Vit Hořejš. Jakub Tesař of the Czech Fulbright Commission also attended and expressed interest in cooperation.

At the next meeting in **November** at Café Slavia, new members Šimon Muller, Anna Pravdová and Aneta Průšová disussed SVU's plans for revitalization and closer cooperation between Prague and SVU USA and US universities.

November / European Immigration Crisis: A Topic of the Past and the Future

A lecture by **Dr. Jaroslav Pánek** was followed by an informal discussion, moderated by **Martin Švehla**, with the **Dr. Zdeněk Soukup**, Member of the Parliament, and **Benjamin Kuras**, writer. Professor Radoslav Kvapil, SVU Praha VP, performed works by Antonín Dvořák and Bohuslav Martinů.

We have a Facebook page! www.facebook.com/svupraha/

Join us every second Thursday at 5pm! ČAV Národní 3, 2.fl, room 205, Prague

www.svu2000.org/praha

WASHINGTON, DC

September / Conversation over the Prison Wall

Dr. Ivan Havel presented his personal reflections on whether a certain limited type of freedom may coexist with totality. He also launched his book *Recorded Sounds in Czech Lands 1900-1946*, mapping the history of sound history in former Czechoslovakia. Its co-author Filip Šír was also present.

November / Christmas Bazaar

Annual event with traditional food, music and shop. In cooperation with the Czech and Slovak Embassies.

www.svu2000.org/washington-dc

Zprávy /4-2016



President Magda Clyne



NEW YORK, NY

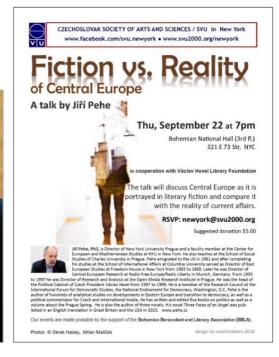
President Christopher Harwood

September / Fiction vs. Reality of Central Europe

Jiří Pehe, **PhD**, discussed Central Europe as it has been portrayed in literary fiction and compared it with the reality of current affairs. Copies of Jiri Pehe's latest novel *Three Faces of an Angel* were available in its original Czech, and in the recent English translation.



Jiří Pehe with Marica and Ján Vilček



October / The Czechoslovak Exile Community after 1948

Martin Nekola, PhD, presented his research on the Czechoslovak exile organizations after the communist coup in February 1948. A special treat was a segment about Václav Hlavatý, the first president of our SVU organization (1958-1962).



Martin Nekola surrounded by the SVU NY board members



October / Drumming for Bubny

SVU NY joined in the Prague international event *Bubnování pro Bubny*, spearheaded by the Bubny Museum in Prague, by drumming, poetry reading and engaging people at the Washington Square Park in a dialogue about indifference to injustice.



November / 6-Minute Challenge IV

The SVU 6-MINUTE CHALLENGE is a popular series, conceived and produced by Suzanna Halsey for SVU-New York, challenging Czech and Slovak artists, students and scholars to present the subject of their project or studies in <u>six</u> minutes or less and in language appropriate for a non-expert audience.



Petr Dubecky-Fawcett is an art director, brand architect and illustrator. He studied architecture at Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design (UMPRUM) in Prague and at School of Visual Arts in New York. Petr has been working on major campaigns for Mattoni Waters for the past two years and is currently developing a graphic novel "Transplant". *petr.dubecky@gmail.com*



Hanka Gregusová (a.k.a. Hanka G) was born in Bratislava but grew up in the Mongolian desert. She is a New York based lyricist and jazz singer, with MBA degree from City University of Seattle, WA. She has performed on the international jazz scene throughout Europe, USA and South Africa for over a decade now. Her signature musical style combines jazz, soul and world-music fusion. In 2007, she released her debut jazz album *Reflections of My Soul* and in 2014 her album *Essence* dedicated to Slovak folklore music re-arranged to jazz. Hanka's new duo album *Twin Flame* with Slovak pianist Ondrej Krajňák including her original lyrics will be released in November 2016. Hanka is also a lead singer of the choir at the *Memorial Baptist Church* in Harlem, New York. *hankasinger@gmail.com*



Monika Hanková is an historical biographer and curator specializing in modern Jewish history, Holocaust and Gender Studies. She graduated with Honors from Charles University, Prague. In this position, she conducted original research on the thematics of gendered postwar emigration from Czechoslovakia to Germany and to the USA. Currently, she is conducting interviews with Shoah survivors from former Czechoslovakia living in the USA. These interviews are part of The Oral History Collection of Interviews with Survivors and Witnesses preserved by the Jewish Museum in Prague (JMP). She's also a co-editor of *Židé v Čechách* (Jews in the Czech Lands), a biennial anthology focusing on modern history of the Jews especially in the former Sudetenland, published by JMP. *monika.hank9@gmail.com*



Michal Horny is a Ph.D. candidate at Boston University School of Public Health. His research interests are in the areas of health services research, applied health economics, and health policy analysis. He teaches courses in statistics and cost-effectiveness analysis. Michal earned his master's degree in Stochastics and Financial Mathematics from VU University Amsterdam, and his undergraduate degrees from Charles University in Prague. *mhorny@bu.edu*



a MA in Macroeconomic Policy and Financial Markets from Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, Spain and a MA in Finance Optimization from National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan. He has received a bronze medal from International Mathematical Olympics in Tokyo (2003) and a silver medal from International Mathematical Olympics in Merida (2005). He lives on one of his three boats docked in New Jersey. *pakocica@gmail.com* Kristýna and Marek Milde are Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary artists working as a collaborative tandem. Originally from Prague, they have lived in New York since 2003. They

Pavel Kocourek native of Prague, Pavel is a mathematician teaching at New York University while pursuing his PhD studies in Economics here. His field of research is the role of private information in patent race – should a successful firm let its rival know that it is doing well? In 2011, Pavel has received



Kristýna and Marek Milde are Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary artists working as a collaborative tandem. Originally from Prague, they have lived in New York since 2003. They both received MFA degrees in sculpture and painting from the Queens College, CUNY in 2007. Their work explores cultural mechanism, conventions and codes of the modern lifestyle, while investigating its connection to the context of environment and nature. From 2008 to 2015, while working at the Czech Center NY they curated and organized a wide range of international programs, exhibitions and residencies, supporting artists and cultural exchange between the Czech Republic and United States. The Mildes have exhibited their work in the USA and internationally including at MoMA Studio, Queens Museum, EFA Project Space; Smack Mellon

Gallery, Wave Hill, NURTURE art, Anna Wallace Gallery, Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art (HVCCA), Abrons Art Center, DOX Center for Contemporary Art; Futura and Meet Factory, and have been featured in The New York Times, Czech Television, Flash Art, Hyperalergic and Atribune. *mildeart@hotmail.com, www.mildeart.com*



Paul Linden-Retek was born in Prague and moved to the United States with his mother in 1991. He is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Political Science at Yale University and a Robina Foundation Human Rights Fellow at Yale Law School, where his research focuses on the political philosophy of European integration, cosmopolitan constitutionalism, and law and the humanities. At Yale, he has taught on the politics and theory of human rights, law and globalization, public international law, and the moral foundations of politics. Paul has worked previously as a legal adviser in the Human Rights Section, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic; and the Legal Unit, International Civilian Office/EUSpecial Representative, Kosovo. *paul.linden-retek@yale.edu*



Henrieta Scholtzová is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology and the Center for Cognitive Neurology at NYU. She earned her MD and PhD degrees from the University of P.J. Šafárik, Košice. Henrieta's PhD and postdoctoral studies were performed in the Conformational Disorders Laboratory at NYU, where she worked extensively on designing novel immunotherapeutic approaches for Alzheimer's disease (AD) and prion diseases. Her current research is focused on reducing age-related defects in immune cell function and lowering AD pathology via stimulation of the innate immunity using AD mouse models and squirrel monkeys. She recently received an Alzheimer's Association Research Grant Award to further validate this treatment strategy, laying the foundation for future clinical testing. In

addition, she has been engaged in outreach activities through the Neuroscience Outreach Group at NYU during Brain Awareness Weeks and in establishing a PhD student exchange program between Slovak Universities and NYU. scholtzova@yahoo.com

December / Jazzy Christmas Concert

Peter Moc, a young Czech Dublin-based jazz guitarist, will be joined by two other renown American musicians -- **David Schroeder** (New York University's Jazz Department director) on saxophone and **Sheryl Bailey** (Professor at Berklee College) on guitar -- in a special Christmas concert. The program will include original compositions by David Schroeder, songs from the Great American song book, and jazz renditions of American, Irish and Czech traditional Christmas music.

Sponsored by Kolowratek Foundation.



www.svu2000.org/newyork

SVU-NY 6-Minute Challenge - Alumni's 2016 News



Hana Gregušová (6Minutes IV) will release her third solo CD Twin Flame at the end of December 2016. The album is dedicated to jazz pianists. Hanka selected instrumental tunes written by well-known jazz pianists, vocalized them and wrote her own lyrics to majority of them. This album represents the pinnacle of her cooperation with the Slovak author-pianist Ondrej Krajňák. The album is named after his original composition Twin Flames. It captures the essence of both artists whose music, like karmic twin flames, represents one soul in two bodies, the exquisite balance between a female and male principle.

Bára Jíchová-Tyson (6Minutes-III) Her documentary film The Hatch House was accepted to Fall Festival | Screening: Non-Dance, Dance Film in New York. It is a short, stop motion and live-action documentary exploring an idiosyncratic, cube-like bauhaus cottage and its independent owner, Ruth Hatch. A 1950's sanctuary for artists and intellectuals like Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer, and László Moholy-Nagy, and the Boston Brahmins Jack Phillips, Jack Hall.





Iva Knobloch (6Minutes-I) co-edited with Radim Vondráček a book *Design v českých zemích 1900-2000* (Design in Czech Lands 1900-2000, in Czech). The publication in its twenty chapters presents, for the first time, the evolution of Czech design in the 20th century. Published by Academia - Uměleckoprůmyslové museum v Praze, 2016.

Andrea Průchová (6Minutes-II) has translated into Czech one of the most stimulating and influential books on art in any language, *Ways of Seeing* by John Berger, first published in 1972. The translation *Způsoby vidění* is the accompanied by Andrea's afterward essay. Published by Labyrinth 2016. *www.kosmas.cz/knihy/213370/zpusoby-videni/.*





Paul Linden-Retek (6Minutes-IV) has an article *How Refugees Can Save Europe* published in January 2016 in the prestigeous Boston Review: Political and Literary Forum. Europe's fortress walls and border fences are returning, along with a storm of xenophobia that threatens to shatter the post-national polity Europeans have been building, however imperfectly, for decades. Dissatisfied Europeans, rebelling against the distant Brussels technocracy, are experimenting dangerously with forms of illiberalism that national constitutional institutions seem powerless to resist.

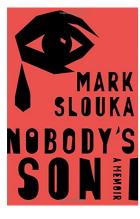
https://bostonreview.net/world/paul-linden-retek-refugees-european-project

Henrieta Scholtzová (6Minutes-IV) has colaborated on a study published in Journal of Neuroscience (2016). Scholtzova H, Do E, Dhakal S, Sun Y, Liu S, Mehta PD, Wisniewski T. *Innate immunity stimulation via Toll-like receptor 9 ameliorates vascular amyloid pathology in Tg-SwDI mice with associated cognitive benefits.* Also, she and her team have received the



AARG- Alzheimer's Association Research Grant for Project CAA Treatment via Innate Immunity Stimulation and MRI Detection in Primates. The studies will be the first to evaluate the 1018 ISS treatment effects and long term safety in aged SQMs with established pathology. 1018 ISS efficacy on amyloid deposits will be correlated with behavioral assessments, biomarker evaluation, and our novel MRI methodology using USPIOnanoparticles, which will allow the 1018 ISS treatment to be followed longitudinally.

New Books by Members

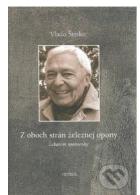


Mark Slouka, Nobody's Son: A memoir

"There comes a time in your life when the past decides to run you down," Mark Slouka writes in this heartbreaking and soul-searching memoir about one man's attempt to reckon with the past.

Born in Czechoslovakia, Mark Slouka's parents survived the Nazis only to have to escape the Communist purges after the war. Smuggled out of their own country, the newlyweds joined a tide of refugees moving from Innsbruck to Sydney to New York, dragging with them a history of blood and betrayal that their son would be born into.

Author of the acclaimed book "Brewster".



Vlado Šimko, Z oboch strán železnej opony (From Both Sides of the Iron Curtain). (in Slovak)

Memoirs of a physician nutritionist, gastroenterologist and a writer. A graduate of Komensky University in Bratislava (1956), emigrated with his family in 1959 to the US at an invitation from Cornell University, then became a professor of medicine at SUNY and for decades actively participated in the executive board of the Society of Arts and Sciences, in Council of Free Czechoslovakia and in its successor, the Comenius Academic Club. His book contains a segment that comprehensively describes history of our ethnic organizations in the USA.

Remembering



František (Frank) Backer (1921-2016) passed away at age 95 in Sandy Spring, Maryland on October 17, 2016. Frank leaves his brother, Ivan, of Hartford, Connecticut, whose recently published memoir *My Train to Freedom: A Jewish Boy's Journey from Nazi Europe to a Life of Activism* provides further details about Frank's life. Frank was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and left for college in England immediately after the Nazi invasion of his country. He volunteered for the armed forces in 1939 and served in a Czechoslovak regiment attached to the British army. He was with the French army in 1940

when it fell to the Germans and later was awarded the highest French military decoration, the Croix de Guerre, for bravery in escaping capture. Frank seldom spoke of this honor but wore the medal when he and close friend Tom Gibian were recognized at a special ceremony in 2013 on Czech Army Day at the Czech Embassy in Washington DC. At the end of the war Frank participated in the encirclement of Dunkirk where 15,000 Germans surrendered. He remained in Europe to guide relief convoys to Czechoslovakia. At age 26 he enrolled at Columbia University earning a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering and a Masters degree from Stevens Technical Institute. Making use of his foreign language skills he moved to Zurich and later to Hamburg to work as a research chemist. In the 1970's Frank became Managing Director of a company manufacturing adhesives in Teheran, Iran. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 forced him to flee and eventually settle in New York City. In 2002 he moved into Friends Retirement Community in Sandy Spring. Frank continued to lead a busy life and served in volunteer positions at the Quaker facility including Chair of the Program Committee. Frank's kindness and loyalty to others throughout his active and committed life resulted in many enduring friendships. He will be greatly missed.

Welcome New Members

- ➢ Fabio Banegas, CA
- Jana Bertkau, MA
- Laura Blecha, DC
- Erin Cornell, VA
- Cristina Cornell Sindhu, VA
- Antonie Doležalová, Prague, CZ
- Vera Dvorak, NY
- Dino Dvorak, NY
- Martina Fišerová, NY
- Dagmar Frinta, NY
- John Frybort, IN
- David and Christine Gibian, PA
- ➢ Riles Good, NE
- Hana Gregusová, NY
- Monika Hanková, NY
- Margaret Hardesty, CA
- ➤ James Hejtmancik, MD
- ➤ Michal Horny, MA
- ➤ Hilarie Huley, VA
- Stanislav Jansta, FL
- Krysten Jenci, MD
- Ivo Jenik, DC
- Kytka Jezek, FL
- Zanna Jezek, FL
- Zynnia Jezek, FL
- Joseph Swoboda PhD LLC, NE
- Ondrej Kalous, CA
- Zdena Kráľová, Nitra, SK
- > Charles Kreysa, CA

- John Kuchera, NY
- Katerina Kyselica, NY
- > Daniel Leeds, MD
- Paul Linden-Retek, CT
- Peter and Gabriela Mahrer, CA
- > Stephen Maro, VA
- Robin McClanahan, NE
- Kevin McNamara, PA
- Dennis Mikolay, NJ
- Dalibor Mikulas, Dolny Kubin, SK
- Veronika Misunová, Bratislava, SK
- Pavlina Moskalykova-Solo, CA
- ➢ Gail Naughton NCSML, IA
- Radka Nebesky, MD
- > Anna Nessy Perlberg, IL
- > Anna Pravdová, Prague, CZ
- > Andrea Průchová, Prague, CZ
- Henrieta Scholtzová, NY
- Milan Schonberger, CA
- Anthony Silvagni, FL
- Mark Slouka, NY
- Linda Taborek, NE
- Rani Taborek, NE
- Filip Tuček, Prague, CZ
- Veronika Tuckerová, MA
- Magdalena Urbankova, NJ
- Ivana Vršanská, Žilina, SK
- Xinhe Zheng, QC, Canada

What a nice year! New members, welcome and please take an active part in the life of the SVU.

Warm welcome also to the numerous past members who have returned to the organization in 2016.

Special thanks go to **Petr Hausner**, former SVU President, sponsor of the student membership drive, for having paid first year membership fee for **fifteen (15)** young members in 2016.

Stop Paper: Call for Subscriptions

All members in good standing now receive printed newsletter into their mailbox, and, simultaneously, an e-mail with a link to its electronic version (PDF). Members who wish to stop receiving paper version of the newsletter, please indicate your choice by e-mail to: **records@svu2000.org** Thank you.

Special thanks to Mary Stegmaier.

Wishing you Merry Christmas and Hanukkah, and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Your input and contributions are welcome.

Please submit your texts and images in WORD and JPG formats to: **zpravy@svu2000.org** Send address changes to: **records@svu2000.org** For better reception, please add SVU email addresses into your address book and/or whitelist.



Zprávy SVU (SVU News) (ISSN 0036-2050)

Date of issue: December 2016. Volume 58, No. 4

Periodical Postage Paid at Vienna, VA and additional mailing offices.

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Edited and produced by: CZechmatters

Zprávy SVU (SVU News) (ISSN 0036-2050) Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) 321 E 73 St New York, NY 10021

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