

# ZPRÁVY NEWS

Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences  
Společnost pro vědy a umění  
[www.svu2000.org](http://www.svu2000.org)

Volume LIX

January – March 2017

No. 1



©Suzanna Halsey

Czech fairy tales performed by the Czechoslovak American Marionette Theater in New York City.

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## President's Message



Dear Friends,

I have always been fascinated by Switzerland. For instance, isn't it

curious that nobody seems to know the name of its president? (I just looked it up: it is Ms. Doris Leuthard.) Does it mean that Switzerland is a failed country? No, it is highly successful and it works quite well, and that is why we typically do not know any of its politicians' names. The Swiss simply set the rules and then they follow them. The names of their politicians do not need to be in the headlines. That is in fact the way many successful governments operate.

I believe that SVU managers should be as invisible as the governing body of peaceful and prosperous Switzerland. They should maintain the SVU as a platform on which its members share the pleasures of learning about Czech and Slovak matters, and enjoy their togetherness and camaraderie. Nothing more and nothing less. The SVU president and the Executive Board should be inconspicuous and unobtrusive, and their reports should be as boring as Swiss politics.

The path toward this desirable form of boredom starts with establishing the rules. This is why I am happy to report that the revised Bylaws have been overwhelmingly approved in a general referendum. (More members than ever before participated in this referendum.) The new Bylaws

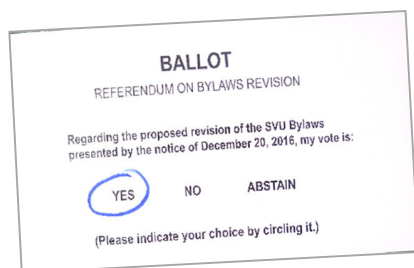
will enable us to streamline communication between the different units of the SVU, decision-making throughout the organization, and indirectly, networking for all of us.

All organizations' public image requires a facelift from time to time. This is why the Executive Board of the SVU has agreed for us to join with AdLab, a group of students of advertising and public relations at Boston University. The deal is for AdLab to propose, among other improvements, a new SVU logo and create a brochure that would properly introduce and describe our organization. AdLab will also create a new template for *Zprávy*, which is already much improved and expanded but would profit from a touch of modernity. Our next task is to decide what to do with the SVU periodical *Kosmas*.

I am encouraged by some of the new initiatives by our younger members, including Filip Tuček who has volunteered to help build SVU Europe and Jiří IURRO Stavovčík of Washington, DC, who has launched the SVU Visual Arts initiative. Veronika Tuckerová has revived from its long slumber the SVU branch in Boston. The first two meetings have already taken place, and new speakers are lining up.

I trust that you will enjoy perusing this issue of *Zprávy*, and that you will find it informative and inspiring for all your future endeavors as members of the SVU.

Igor Lukes



## Referendum!

Thank you all who participated! **151 of 170 (89 %) of valid votes supported the by-laws revision.** We have received 171 responses out of 314 ballots that were mailed to eligible voters in December 2016. It marks a **record participation of 54.46 %.**

1 response was invalid. 10 respondents abstained (5.88 %) and 9 voted against (5.29 %) the changes.

The electronic voting will make the process easier, faster and cheaper. Please keep us informed if your email or postal address changes to make communication with you more effective. Several ballots were returned because of an incorrect expired address. Some of you admitted that you have misplaced the envelope during the winter holidays.

The revised Bylaws came into effect on February 18, 2017.  
Full text of the Bylaws is available on the SVU website.

## SVU EUROPE

[www.facebook.com/svu.europe/](http://www.facebook.com/svu.europe/)



Peter Sís

In February, the new initiative **SVU Europe** was established, primarily to attract the new generation in Europe. It will offer guidelines for the formation of new chapters. Filip Tuček, MA, represents the SVU Executive Board in Europe to facilitate SVU's communication and cooperation with universities and other institutions. We would like to encourage groups in Prague, Brno, Bratislava, Munich and London to share news about their events or members at: **europe@svu2000.org** or post them directly to **www.facebook.com/svu.europe**.

## SVU VISUAL ARTS

[www.facebook.com/svuvisualart/](http://www.facebook.com/svuvisualart/)



IURRO Brooklyn Warehouses, 2012

On April 4th, 2017, SVU will officially launch the new group SVU Visual Arts. Its founder is the artist Jiří IURRO Stavovčák, who had a solo exhibit at the Czech Embassy in Washington, DC. It will be the first professionally focused group within SVU opened to all visual artists, art connoisseurs, art historians, journalists, etc. The group will promote Czech and Slovak visual artists and art around the world.



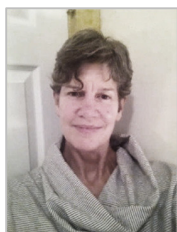
## SVU Chapters News

### BOSTON, MA

[www.svu2000.org/boston](http://www.svu2000.org/boston)

**On February 18**, Miroslav Dlouhý presented the talk **“The Evolution of IT: From the Simplified to the Diverse.”**

For the past 50 years, IT solutions required that data comply with strict standards. Make a simple spelling mistake, enter information into a wrong field, and you would likely not be able to achieve the intended results. In short, IT required that the diverse world around us be simplified and standardized in order for us to use the power of computing. Mr. Dlouhý discussed whether we have now finally reached a breaking point, overcoming the limitations of IT technology of the past 40 years. The new technology, called Big Data, is finally changing this paradigm by being capable of using less than perfect data, while still delivering valuable insights.



**On March 18**, SVU Boston will host Nonie Valentine and her presentation **“Towards and Away from Democracy: What Czechs Know?”** Could it be that Czechs have a better than average “nose” for the dismantling of

democratic freedoms? She will reflect on personal experience and its value in a transitional era - first her own stories about the early post-communist period in the Czech Republic, then the audience members will talk about their own experience - in light of current concerns about the fragility of democracy here and abroad. Nonie Valentine was a psychological consultant and therapist in Brno and Prague from 1992-2012. She will reflect on the themes of clients: the hard-to-break totalitarian habits of mind, the agendas of westerners, power struggles, and the experience of returning emigres. Is there a psychology of democracy and even a *civic personality*?

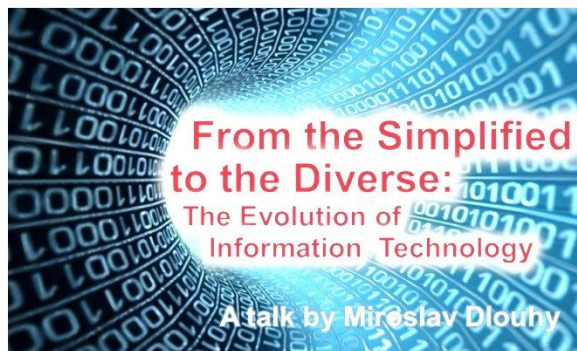
## January – March 2017



The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences/ Boston

Společnost pro vědy a umění/ Boston

[www.facebook.com/svu.boston](http://www.facebook.com/svu.boston) [www.svu2000.org](http://www.svu2000.org)



Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 4:00 pm



**On March 28**, SVU Boston helped organize Msgr. Tomáš Halík's lecture **“Making the World Think Again: Reason, Hope, and Faith in an Age of Populism.”** Tomáš Halík, winner of the 2014 Templeton Prize, is a Czech priest and philosopher. He risked imprisonment for illegally advancing religious and cultural freedoms after the Soviet invasion of his country, and has since become a leading international advocate of dialogue among different faiths and non-believers. At the Center for the Study of Europe, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University.



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## CLEVELAND, OH

[www.svu2000.org/cleveland](http://www.svu2000.org/cleveland)

**In February, Poetry of Prague** – photo exhibit from February 23 to March 20, 2017, in the Intown Club, at the Idea Center.



**The Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF)** will take place at the Tower City Cinemas from March 29 to April 9 this year. SVU will be a community partner for a film on the Prague Spring called *That Trip We Took with Dad*. The film deals with two Romanian brothers who are taking their father for medical treatment to Germany when their journey is tripped up by the events of the “Prague Spring” – the invasion of 1968. Also of interest is Czech-Slovak film *The Teacher*, supported by Cleveland Bratislava Sister Cities project. It deals with a Communist teacher abusing her position to spy on her student’s parents.

### Czech Cultural Garden in Cleveland, Ohio

The Czech Cultural Garden, located on East Blvd just south of St. Clair, proudly represents the Czech community here in Cleveland. It was dedicated decades ago, and it features numerous

busts of important personalities from the country’s history. These include composers Antonin Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana. Also featured is Jan Amos Komenský, called a “father” of modern education, and T.G. Masaryk, first president of Czechoslovakia. The statues were made by Frank Jirouch, Cleveland-born sculptor of Czech descent.



The president of SVU Cleveland chapter, Paul Burik, and his wife work with The Czech Cultural Garden Association to maintain the garden.

For more information visit:  
[www.czechculturalgarden.webs.com](http://www.czechculturalgarden.webs.com).

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## EDMONTON, CANADA

[www.svu-edmonton.org](http://www.svu-edmonton.org)

In December 2016, we co-sponsored the **Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies** and its Christmas concert. Our choir is the first group on the left side in the photo. It is from the last piece, “Silent Night”, sung by all the choirs participating in the concert... Polish, Austrian, and ours. We collaborate closely and provide annual donation to the Wirth Institute program supporting doctoral students from the countries supporting this institute (i.e. the countries that were a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire). Our support helps to bring one PhD candidate student from the Czech Republic annually to the University of Alberta.



In January 2017, we had our **Annual General Meeting**. One item of future programming we discussed was our possible activities in the calendar year 2018 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's founding ...and also as a reminder of the 50th anniversary of the events in 1968 and the end to the “Prague Spring” of Communist leader Alexander Dubček. This is a work in progress.

One of the projects that we will try to bring to completion is a “book of memories” of SVU members and other Albertans of Czech and Slovak descent, memories of their arrival and early life in Alberta, especially as related to the 1968.

In February, we had one of our “SVU Once a Month” lectures. Peter Hála, PhD, Masaryk University, presented “**Slovak Gypsy Songs: A Musical Journey.**”



This interesting and very well attended presentation introduced the troubled history and the bewildering culture and customs of the Roma, especially as they pertain to Slovakia and former Czechoslovakia. However, the focus was on Gypsy music. What are the key elements and secrets of Gypsy music? What makes it so irresistible and charming? Illustrations, musical excerpts and video clips were all part of the event.

In March, we will co-sponsor a concert of the internationally-acclaimed **Pražák Quartet** string ensemble. Its remarkable musical virtuosity has been enjoyed by audiences everywhere for over 40 years. [www.Prazakquartet.com](http://www.Prazakquartet.com)



## LINCOLN, NE

[www.svu2000.org/nebraska](http://www.svu2000.org/nebraska)



SVU Nebraska cooperates closely with the Komenský Club at the University of Nebraska and so it enjoys the advantages of a strong Czech Studies program.

### July 2016: A Special Reception for Visiting Czech Dignitaries

In cooperation with the Czech Language Foundation (CLF) Visitors included: Dr. Jiří Jířsa, 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 2016:

**HAVELIANA Film and Talk Series**, commemorating the 80th birthday of Václav Havel. The screenings of films *Citizen Havel* and *Leaving*. Interpretive remarks by Dr. Hana Waisserová and Dr. James Le Sueur.

Department of Modern Languages, UNL Czech Komenský Club, and Czechoslovak Society for Arts and Sciences (SVU) Present

**HAVELIANA FILM SERIES**

Commemorating 80th Birthday of Václav Havel

**WE October 5 - Citizen Havel (Obyčasný Havel, 119 min, 2000)** Independent documentary that provides an intimate look at a president, a former political prisoner, thrust into international spotlight, while leading his country out of its communist past into democracy.

Aftertalk by Dr. Hana Waisserová  
Language Lounge BURN 302, 6:30- 9:00 p.m.  
Pizza served



**WE November 30 - Leaving (Odházet, 94 min, 2011)** Absurdist and satirical look at the life of an ex-politician. Written and directed by Václav Havel.

Aftertalk by Dr. James Le Sueur  
Language Lounge BURN 302, 6:30- 9:00 p.m.  
Pizza served

## CZECH SPRING 2017

### March 1-April 11: Charter 77 Exhibition Commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

It includes archival and library materials (the Czech Heritage Special Collection) from the University of Nebraska archives. The exhibition also displays excerpts from the Charter 77, as well as lists of signatories and news coverage from that time.

### March 9: Totalitarian Regimes and Their Dissidents (Global Café Series)

A talk by Dr. Hana Waisserová



UNL Global Studies presents GLOBAL CAFE

**TOTALITARIAN SOCIETIES AND ITS DISSIDENTS**

Thursday, March 9th, 2017 | 3:00PM-4:00PM  
Nebraska Union Colonial A

**SPEAKER: DR. HANA WAISSEROVÁ**  
LECTURER OF CZECH



**March 30: Open house. The Czech Heritage Collections** at the Archives and Special Collections of the University Libraries. Books, journals, periodicals, diaries of Czech immigrants, correspondence and photos of journalists during and after World War II and later historical events.

### March 30: Good King Wenceslas: Bohemian Patron Saint in European Context

A talk by Dr. David Goldfrank

In cooperation with UNL Classics and Medieval Series

### April 10 and 11: Jazz Concert



### Laco Deczi and Celula New York

A talk by the irreverent Slovak-American jazz musician about his experiences 40 years ago.

## LOS ANGELES, CA

In January SVU-LA promoted the special exhibit **Tribute to Jaroslav Gebr** at the Art Directors Guild's Gallery 800 in North Hollywood, CA, celebrating the legendary motion picture artist.

Gebr was a prodigy from a small village outside of Prague. He escaped Communist-occupied Czechoslovakia in 1949. His paintings appeared in such films as *My Fair Lady*, *Camelot* and *The Sound*

*of Music*. Gebr is best known for his full-scale reproduction of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel for *The Shoes of the Fisherman*. A proud member of the Art Directors Guild since 1972, Gebr was head of the Scenic Arts Department at Universal Studios and worked with some of the biggest names in Hollywood, including Steven Spielberg, Clint Eastwood, Alfred Hitchcock and Vincente Minnelli.



Our group had a great pleasure to host an evening **Chatting with Ivan Passer**, the Czech film director, collaborator of Miloš Forman during the 1960's New Wave cinema. Passer's best-know films are *Intimate Lighting*, and *The Cutter's Way*. He has directed many films in the USA.

*From left:* Ivan Passer, Lída Sandera, president SVU LA, James Ragan and Pavol Šepelák, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles.



### BOHEMIAN GLASS SHOW

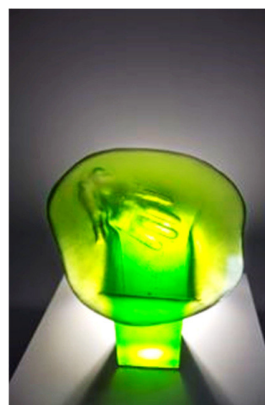
You are cordially invited to Bohemian Glass Show.

January 7th / 2017  
6 pm - 9 pm

knupp gallery LA  
1923 Santa Fe Ave / 90021 / Los Angeles

RSVP by January 3rd, 2017  
ondrej.sichal@lasvit.com  
info@knuppgallery.com

**LASVIT**



SVU LA also supported and promoted an opening of an exhibit of Czech Glass artists at the Knupp Gallery LA.

Jan 7 to Feb 28, 2017.  
[www.knuppgalleryla.com](http://www.knuppgalleryla.com)



## MUNICH, GERMANY

[www.svu2000.org/nemecko](http://www.svu2000.org/nemecko)



Since SVU Germany missed the last issue deadline, here are some highlights of their 2016 events:

**March:** Milena Štráfěldová, a reporter for the international edition of Czech Radio read from her new book *Guláš pro Masaryka*, (Gulash for Masaryk), and a discussion followed.

**April:** “Prague and Jews”, a talk by Petr Brod, journalist and a former reporter for Radio Free Europe.

**May:** SVU cooperated with the Czech Center Munich on the exhibit “Ex-libris”, at the museum in Chrudim, Czech Republic.

**June:** “Konflikt mezi dobrem a zlem v současném světovém dění” (Conflict between good and evil in today's world), a talk by Jiří Pešek, Evropské centrum starého sakrálního umění.

**July:** Screening of a biographical film *Two or Three things that I know about him*, directed by Malte Ludin, son of Hanse Ludina, German representative of national socialism and the Third Reich, who participated in the deportation of Slovak Jews.

**September:** In conjunction with the exhibit “Karel IV. - císař na čtyřech trůnech.” Jan Šícha presented his book *Moudrý panovník v čase katastrof: po stopách císaře Karla IV mezi Prahou a Norimberkem*. The co-author is Jiří Fajt, director of the National

Gallery Praha. In cooperation with the Czech Center Munich.

**October:** “Lost Syria”, a talk and photo presentation by Hana Vogel, as part of the series “Na cestách s ruksakem”.

**November:** “Symposion“, a traditional program popular with Czechs, Slovaks and their German friends. It included a concert of the chorus from the legendary Semafor theater in Prague, with the singer Olga Párková. In cooperation with the Czech Center and the Adalbert Stifter Association.



**December:** “Eliška Ciklová and Guests”, an annual advent event of Christmas poetry and music.

**January:** Screening of film *Obecná škola*, to remember birthday of its director, Zdeňek Svěrák.

**February:** “Problémy obnovy společného dědictví Čechů a Němců“ (The problem of renewing the common heritage of Czechs and Germans), a talk by Zuzana Finger, Heimatpflegerin Sudetoněmeckého landsmanšaftu.



**March:** “Pražská divadla malých forem 60. let minulého století“, a lecture with film clips by L. Pavlík, president of SVU Nemecko.

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## PRAHA

[www.svu2000.org/praha](http://www.svu2000.org/praha)

In December, our VP and Maestro pianist Radoslav Kvapil presented a **lecture and recital on “Chopin, the Patriot”** (in Czech). Kvapil performed several polonaises and talked about Chopin’s patriotism in music.

Andante spianato und Polonaise

Fr. Chopin



In February, Lenka Jungmannová, PhD, Institute for Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences, gave a talk on Václav Havel as a playwright and analyzed his theater plays in the context of his entire body of work.



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## WASHINGTON, DC

[www.svu2000.org/washington-dc](http://www.svu2000.org/washington-dc)

In January, we organized a social evening as a thank you for our volunteers at Marx Café. We enjoyed phenomenal Central, Eastern and

Southeastern European Gypsy Jazz performed by **Orchester Praževica**.





## NEW YORK, NY

[www.svu2000.org/newyork](http://www.svu2000.org/newyork)

In January 2017, SVU NY organized a farewell event for the Slovak Consul General Jana Trnovcová, whose diplomatic posting came to an end. She was an exceptional friend and generous collaborator to SVU. Moderated by Suzanna Halsey, the evening was attended by about 100 friends and featured fifteen speakers including Czech Consul General Martin Dvořák, Josef Baláž, Vlado Šimko, and short performances by Katarína Vizina, Peter Breiner, Ladi Šmigura and our board directors, the puppeteer Vít Hořejš and Gabriel Levický, who gave the consul one of his whimsical collages, *Gablerages*. SVU NY presented her with a collage of flyers of all events that SVU NY produced in cooperation with the Slovak Consulate General in NY. The new consul

General of Slovakia, Ladka Begec, also attended.

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences/ New York  
Společnost pro vědy a umění/ New York

**d'a kujeme!**

A farewell evening with  
**Jana Trnovcová**  
Consul General of the Slovak Republic  
Friday, January 27, 2017 at 7pm

Speakers and performers

- Josef Baláž
- Suzanna Halsey
- Martin Dvořák
- Pavla Niklová
- Katarína Vizina
- Otto Ráček
- Vlado Šimko
- Eva Derman
- Gabriel Levický
- Vít Hořejš
- Ladi Šmigura
- Katarína Nováková
- Lucia Mitro
- Sabina Sabados
- Vlado Kormos
- Peter Breiner

A light reception will follow the program.

In cooperation with the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York and with the support of Czechoslovak Solidarity Council and the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association.

design by czechmatters

In February 2017, our president, Christopher Harwood, PhD, presented the talk “The Unbearable Weight of Paternity: The Problem of Fatherhood in the Fiction of Milan Kundera.” Harwood examined the theme in Kundera’s fiction of the uneasy relationship between men and their real or hypothetical offspring, and he surveyed several examples of problematic fatherhood and paternity-avoidance in Kundera’s novels.

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences/ New York  
Společnost pro vědy a umění/ New York

**THE UNBEARABLE WEIGHT OF PATERNITY:**  
The Problem of Fatherhood in the Fiction of Milan Kundera

A talk by Christopher Harwood

Wed, Feb 22, 2017 at 7pm  
Bohemian National Hall (3rd fl)  
321 E 73 Str., NYC

RSVP: [newyork@svu2000.org](mailto:newyork@svu2000.org)

Christopher Harwood, PhD, has been Lecturer in Czech in the Slavic Department of Columbia University since 2001. He also works occasionally as a freelance translator (from Czech and Russian to English) and interpreter (between Czech and English). His professional interests focus on methods for teaching Czech as a foreign language and on 20th- and 21st-century Czech literature and culture. In various contexts over the years, he has taught Czech, English, German and Russian as foreign languages. He holds BA (1985), MA (1988) and PhD (2000) degrees in Russian literature from Columbia University.

Our events are made possible by the support of the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association (BBLA).

design by czechmatters

In March 2017, Charlotta Kotik, the great granddaughter of T.G. Masaryk and his Brooklyn-born wife Charlotta Garrigue, will present an illustrated talk, “The Role of the Arts and Culture in the Masaryk Family”, to illuminate the role of humanities in the family that has roots in both European and American cultural tradition.





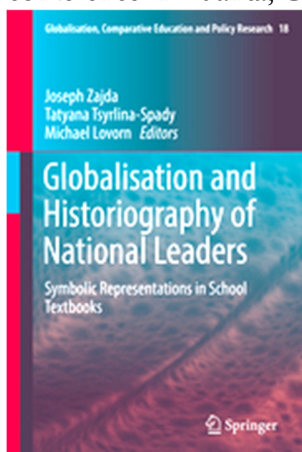
## Members' News

**Charlotta Kotik** curated the exhibit “Politicizing Space” at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice CUNY in NYC, which runs until March 31. The architecture and art of the urban space can be used to control the lives of its inhabitants; they can restrain their movements and install hierarchies beneficial to those in power. The eleven artists in *Politicizing Space* critique and subvert these purportedly aesthetic and artistic gestures by reinterpreting the symbolic mechanisms of control. Also under consideration is the age-old question of the balance of power between the art object and the viewer and the

inherent competition for domination of the given locale. Charlotta offers guided tours to SVU members.



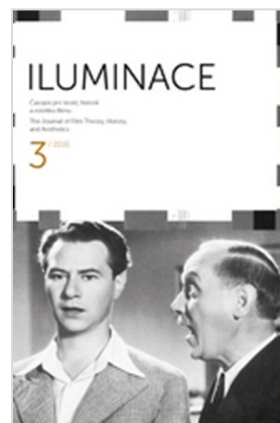
**Andrea Průchová** has published the chapter “How Do Czech Children Remember Their ‘Father’? Visual Representations of the First Czechoslovak President, T. G. Masaryk, in Czech History Textbooks in Communist and Post-communist Times,” in the edited volume *Globalization and Historiography of National Leaders: Symbolic Representations in School Textbooks*. Průchová will present it at the Comparative International Educational Society conference in Atlanta, GA, in March 2017. The



book demonstrates ideological imperatives of globalisation that impact historical narratives and history textbooks. Průchová evaluates the problematic relationship between globalisation, ideology, the state, and history education. It is a valuable sourcebook of

ideas for researchers, history educators, practitioners and policymakers, and it is a timely overview of changes in history education and policy research around the globe.  
[www.springer.com/kr/book/9789402409741](http://www.springer.com/kr/book/9789402409741)

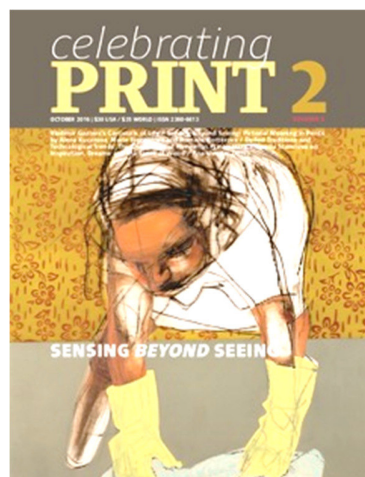
Also in January, Andrea has published her interview with **James Elkins**, an art historian and visual theorist at Art Institute of Chicago, in the magazine *Illuminace*, under the title “**The Institutional Criticism of Academic Writing:**



**Participatory Writing, Allegorical Reading, Experiment.”** *Illuminace* is a peer-reviewed journal for scholarly reflection upon cinema. Published by the National Film Archive and Czech Society for Film Studies (CEFS).

**Katerina Kyselica (NY)** and her studio KADS New York will present at the 18th **Annual Boston Print Fair**, (April 6-9) at The Cyclorama/Boston Center for the Arts, showing exquisite modern and contemporary prints and mixed media works created by renowned European artists.

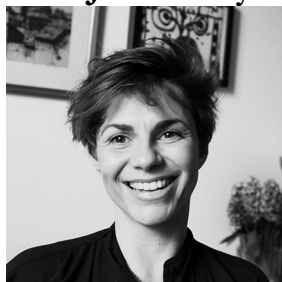
Katerina is an artist, curator, and editor. She founded **Celebrating Print**, a specialty art magazine that features scholarly articles, essays, interviews and projects exploring printmaking and print-related culture in Central and Eastern Europe. The publication is the only source of information in English on the art of printmaking in Central and Eastern Europe. The goal is to bring English-speaking readers closer to the region's rich history and its centuries-long printmaking traditions, as well as to join the global art community in the discussion of the medium's contemporary practice. In a number of countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the lack



of engaging writing on printmaking misleads the public perception of what values and significance the medium carries for visual culture of the region. In some countries, the medium is almost ignored in the terms of its

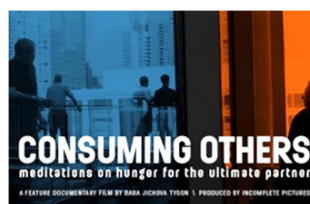
contemporary practice. This lavishly illustrated publication with expert reviews and analysis strives to change it—to encourage a research in printmaking in the region and elevate its status in the contemporary art scene as an art medium with a long tradition of excellence and undiscovered achievements in innovative experimentation and interdisciplinary crossovers.

**Bára Jíchová Tyson**, Czech-born, award-winning filmmaker, and an artist recognized for her visual style, is completing her first feature documentary film **Consuming Others**. It is a film essay about adultery and the human struggle between love and desire. Recorded over five years with lovers, husbands, wives, mistresses, and participants in non-traditional, polyamorous relationships, the film explores our hunger for the perfect relationship with others—and with ourselves. It combines over 50 ethnographic interviews, archival footage, animation, and motion photography.



Bára's films have been screened in the US and internationally, and her collage and photography work have been exhibited in NYC galleries. A 2016 recipient of The MacDowell Colony fellowship, Bára lives and works in NYC.

She is currently seeking help to find the necessary funding to finish her work. [www.fracturedatlas.org](http://www.fracturedatlas.org)



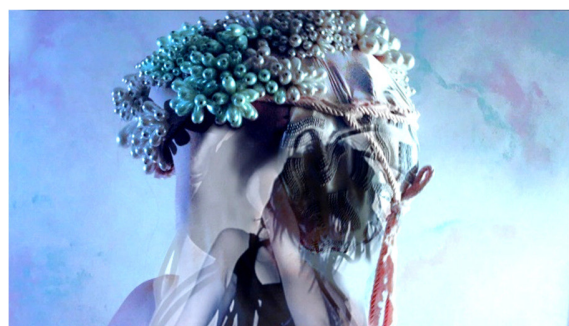
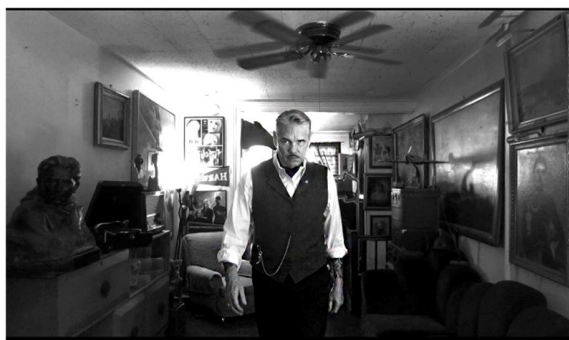


**Vít Hořejš** has created and directed a new program with his Czechoslovak American Marionette Theatre in New York. *The Three Golden Hairs of Grandfather Wisdom*, (the title recalls Karel Jaromír Erben's folktale, "Tři zlaté vlasy děda vševěda"), is a blend of Czech fairy tales. Some of the marionettes come from Madeleine Albright's childhood set, some were found in the old Czech Jan Hus Church's attic in Manhattan, and some are custom-made by Czech artists in Prague. Songs from Smetana's *Bartered Bride* - "Proč bychom se netěšili," "Znám jednu dívku", - and the Slovak classic "Tancuj, tancuj, vykrúčaj" are sung by American actors. In the old tradition of Czech puppetry, commentaries on the current affairs pop up here and there. At the Theater for New City, until March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. [www.czechmarionettes.org](http://www.czechmarionettes.org)



©Suzanna Halsey

**Radka Salcmannová** has completed her new short film *The Raven*, a new interpretation of the iconic Edgar Allen Poe poem shot in Brooklyn. Radka is a filmmaker, artist and designer known for her signature surrealism. Radka graduated in 2011 from the Prague Institute of Art and Design, and Architecture, respectively, before moving to New York City. [www.radkasalcmannova.com](http://www.radkasalcmannova.com)



**Veronika Tuckerová, PhD** was the writer and consultant for the exhibition commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Charter 77 Declaration and its artist-signatories. Organized by National Gallery in Prague in cooperation with the Jan Patočka Archive, Václav Havel Library, Libri Prohibiti and others. Opening March 14, 2017 – January 19, 2019, Salmovský palác, Hradčanské nám. 2, Prague 1.

## PŘÍBĚH CHARTY 77



## CHARTA STORY.



## Congratulations!



**Pavel Jelen received the International Dairy Federation (IDF) Award 2016**

**The Vilcek Foundation**, founded by SVU members **Marica and Jan Vilcek** in New York, has announced nine 2017 winners of the Vilcek Prize. VF recognizes the contributions of immigrants to the arts and sciences in the United States by awarding prizes to foreign-born artists and scientists. In 2016, a Czech born theater director Blanka Žižková was awarded The Vilcek Theater prize for her work at Wilma Theater in Philadelphia. [www.vilcek.org](http://www.vilcek.org)

Professor emeritus Pavel Jelen received a prestigious IDF award at the annual World Dairy Summit in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Since its inception in 1903, the IDF is the world's authority on all matters dairy and contributes to progress in the dairy sector. As a Professor at the University of Alberta since 1973, Pavel has taught the subjects of Dairy Science and Technology as well as Food Engineering and Food Preservation. Many of his Canadian and international students have moved to important positions in industry, government and academia, some garnering accolades and prestigious prizes themselves. He feels humbled by this international recognition. Pavel Jelen is president of the SVU-Edmonton Chapter in Canada.



## Conferences

**Czechoslovak Studies Association Workshop**, April 20-22, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC

**National Association of Foreign Student Advisers (NAFSA) Conference**, May 28-June 2, in Los Angeles [www.nafsa.org/](http://www.nafsa.org/)

**Comenius Academic Club Conference**, June 21-23, New York, [comeniusacademicclub.org](http://comeniusacademicclub.org)

**ASEEES Convention**, November 9-12, Chicago, <http://aseees.org/convention>

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# KOSMAS Journal

## Editor's Message

I would like to thank all our readers, subscribers, and contributors for their continued patience. Since I became editor three years ago, the journal has – due to logistical and other issues – been unable to catch up with the solar calendar. In an age when printed serious journals are in trouble nearly everywhere, the costs of production in hard copy are hard to justify with a low subscription price and a shrinking base of subscribers. And to grow the subscribers list we need a continuous supply of contributions to bring out new issues and catch the calendar! A vicious circle!

The Executive Board is considering options, but in the meantime, I am delighted to announce that the next issue of *Kosmas* will be distributed (at last) in **April 2017**. Will that become the farewell issue? We sincerely hope not! But we would like to know what you, our members, want this journal to do for you. What do you want to read about? What could you contribute? Do you care? Let us know!

Below you can see the prospective contents of the upcoming issue and the contents of the previous issue, Spring 2015, which was dedicated to Jan Hus on the anniversary of his death in 1415. A limited number of copies of this issue is still available.

Hugh Agnew, Editor, *Kosmas*

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## Upcoming Issue

**Czech Radio's 400,000 Online Audio Files and Self-Learning on the Go: Some Reflections**

By David Z. Chroust

**Loss and Mourning in the G Minor Piano Trios of Smetana and Dvořák**

By Michael Pfeiffer

**Czechoslovakia: The Presidential Election of Edvard Beneš in 1935**

By Jaroslav Rokoský

**The Influence of Patočka's Philosophy on Václav Havel's Political Thought**

By Zdeněk V. David

**Writers behind Bars: The Prison Fate of the Spořilov Friends and Neighbors, Zdeněk Kalista and František Křelina**

By Renata Ferklová

## NOTES:

**The Bohemian Identity of Martinus Hermanzen Hoffman Revisited**

By Miroslav Rechcigl, Jr.

## BOOK REVIEWS:

**Groman, Martin, *Stanislav Budín, Komunista bez legitimace*, Prague: Ústav pro studium totalitních režimů, 2015, 270 pp.**

**Drábek, Jan, *Dva životy Vladimíra Krajiny*, Prague: Toužimský a Moravec, 2016, 208pp.**

By Jiřina Šiklová

**Kovály, Heda Margolius. *Innocence, or Murder on Steep Street*. Trans. Alex Zucker. New York: Soho Press, Inc., 2015, 235 pp.**

By Tracy Burns

**Funda, Evelyn, *Weeds, A Farm Daughter's Lament*, Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2013, 297 pp.**

By Mila Šašková-Pierce

***Performing Captivity, Performing Escape. Cabarets and Plays from the Terezin/Theresienstadt Ghetto*, edited and with an Introduction by Lisa Peschel, London: Seagull Books, 2014.**

By Hana Waisserová

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## Special Edition



### **JAN HUS IN HISTORY AND LEGACY 1415-2015**

Guest Editor Thomas A. Fudge

This issue is dedicated to Jan Hus in honor of the six hundredth anniversary of his death at the stake at the Council of Constance in 1415.

#### **Editor's Introduction: Jan Hus at 600**

By Thomas A. Fudge

#### **Stanislaus of Znojmo and Prague Realism: First Principles of Theological Reasoning**

By Stephen E. Lahey

#### **The Synagogue of Satan: Jan Hus, Preaching and Anti-Judaism**

By Reid S. Weber

#### **Jan Hus and Faction Formation: The Evidence of Hus's Post-1412 Writings**

By Marcela K. Perett

#### **Jan Hus in Exile: The Nature and Development of Spirituality**

By Antonín Váhala

#### **Master Štěpán of Pálec and Hus's Trial**

By Jiří Kejř

#### **Jan Hus in Utraquist Art during the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries**

By Milena Bílková

#### **The Legacy of Jan Hus in the Unitas Fratrum**

By Craig D. Atwood

#### **Masaryk's View of Jan Hus and the Bohemian Reformation**

By Zdeněk V. David

#### **The Secret Life of a Heretic's Coat: Jan Hus and the Modern Pilgrimage of a "Medieval Relic"**

By Thomas A. Fudge

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For information about the past issues or to order a copy please visit the KOSMAS website page [www.svu2000.org/kosmas](http://www.svu2000.org/kosmas) or write to: [kosmas@svu2000.org](mailto:kosmas@svu2000.org).



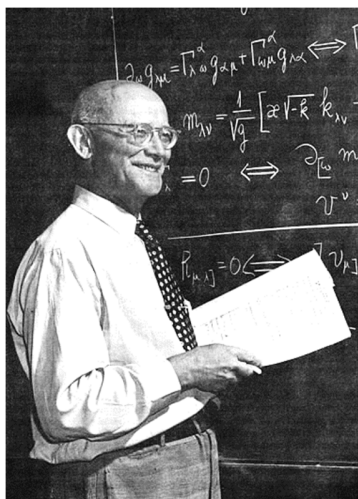
## Echos from the Past

Our Society was conceived sixty years ago. Its founder and first president, Václav Hlavatý, is remembered in the following excerpts from Martin Nekola's essay, echoing Hlavatý's thoughts about SVU's purpose and challenges.

### Václav Hlavatý

SVU's Founder and the First President  
(1958-1962)

Václav Hlavatý (1894-1969) belongs among Czechoslovakia's most prominent Scientists. His work in the mathematics of relativity and his collaboration with Albert Einstein in the 1950s made him famous around the world. After the



Communist coup in February 1948, Hlavatý moved with his family to the USA and, in addition to his academic career, worked tirelessly as an important member of the exile community for the return of freedom and democracy to his homeland.

(...) The idea for the formation the SVU came from the May 1957 conference of the Czechoslovak National Council of America (Československá národní rada americká), the major and the most influential compatriot organization in North America with more than 250,000 members and 16 regional branches. The idea was to concentrate the scientists and the artists in exile, to maintain the rich tradition of free Czechoslovak science abroad before it could be restored back home, to follow the latest developments in various academic and cultural disciplines and to contribute to international scientific life.

Although scattered throughout the world, Czechoslovak scientists wanted to stay in touch, to meet regularly to exchange experiences, and to inform others about their own successes. The newly formed SVU should have met all these requirements.

Hlavatý himself emphasized the activity of Czechoslovak scientists, artists, authors, teachers, and lecturers as one of the main tasks of the exile: (...) *"This current exile consists of many outstanding researchers and it would be a sin not to show them to the world."*

(...) SVU gradually established, besides a headquarters in New York City, seven regional chapters in North America and Europe (Chicago, Boston, Pittsburgh, Washington D.C., Montreal, Toronto, Munich). From the first 198 members in June 1958, numbers increased to more than 1300 in a decade, after the arrival of a new wave of Czechoslovak émigrés in 1968.

(...) He insisted that SVU needed to be a living body based on the participation of enthusiastic young people, to avoid the unenviable fate of other exile organizations, blunted by few aging conservatives. He saw this support of succeeding generations as crucial. In the closing speech at the fruitful first SVU congress in 1962 he stated: *"It is clear our national group will prevail if we are able to meet the intellectual needs of youth."*

Excerpted from the essay "Václav Hlavatý - World-Famous Czechoslovak Mathematician and the First President of SVU" by Martin Nekola, PhD. In: *Comenius: Journal of Euro-American Civilization* vol. 3, no. 1 (2016)

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## Welcome New Members

Miroslav Dlouhý, MA

Thomas Gebr, CA

Tomáš Křížek, Prague

William Lorié, DC

David Oupicky, NE

Radka Salcmannová, NY

Judy Smetana, KS

Bára Jíchová Tyson, NY

Barbara Whitney, MD

We have seen another nice three months of new members joining!

**Welcome and please take an active part in the life of the SVU.**

Warm welcome also to the past members who returned to the Society last December.

## Special Thanks to Donors

Special thanks go to twenty-two SVU members who have together raised a total of \$1,250 with their generous financial donations beyond regular membership dues:

Madeleine Albright, DC

Maria and Ron Banerjee, MA

Josef and Judita Beles, CA

Katherine Cartwright, DC

Jan M. Charvat, Switzerland

Tony and Eva Coufal, PR

Ivan Furda, FL

Ladislav and Eva Hanka, MI

Petr and Eva Hausner, MD

Ann Cervin Huber, MD

Charlotta Kotik, NY

Col. Eugene Krizek, VA

Igor Lukes, MA

Dennis Masar, NJ

George Novak, GA

John Palka, WA

Stanley Prochaska, VA

Ludmila Schwarzenberg Bidwell, NY

Stephen and Patricia Sebesta, OH

Joseph Swoboda, LLC, NE

Jaromir Ulbrecht, VA

Vaclav Vitek, PA

## Save Paper

Members who wish to stop receiving paper version of the newsletter, please indicate your choice by e-mail to: [records@svu2000.org](mailto:records@svu2000.org). Thank you for saving the world's forests.

## Membership Dues

We keep receiving the 2017 dues payments. Thank you! Checks are still accepted, but you may want to make things simple by paying on-line at [www.svu2000.org/payments](http://www.svu2000.org/payments)

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## Your input and contributions are welcome.

Please submit your texts and images in WORD and JPG formats to: [zpravy@svu2000.org](mailto:zpravy@svu2000.org)

Next issue is scheduled for June 2017.

Deadline for submissions is **May 22, 2017**.

Please send your email or postal address changes to: [records@svu2000.org](mailto:records@svu2000.org)



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