

ZPRÁVY SVU NEWS



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Crédit photo: Peter Ujházy, 2015 SVU Conference in Charlottesville, VA.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Rachel Corbett, NY

Elizabeth Cernota Clark & Dr. Thomas S. Clark, TX

Sharka DiVito, CA

Vera Dolansky, CA – *in memory of the late Marie Dolansky*

Stephen Lahey, NE

Annamaria Lukes, MA

Petra Niedermayerova, MA

Mojmir Tyrlik, MD

Jan Zika, NY

Alex Zucker, NY

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 have returned to the Society.



MEMBER'S BOOK



Rachel Corbett is our new member, grand-daughter of long-time SVU member Olga Chyle Jung. Her outstanding book, *You Must Change Your Life*, has won the 2016 Marfield Prize, the National Award for Arts Writing.

Rachel tells *The Story of Rainer Maria Rilke and Auguste Rodin*. Rilke's *Letters to a Young Poet* has sold millions of copies and inspired generations on how to

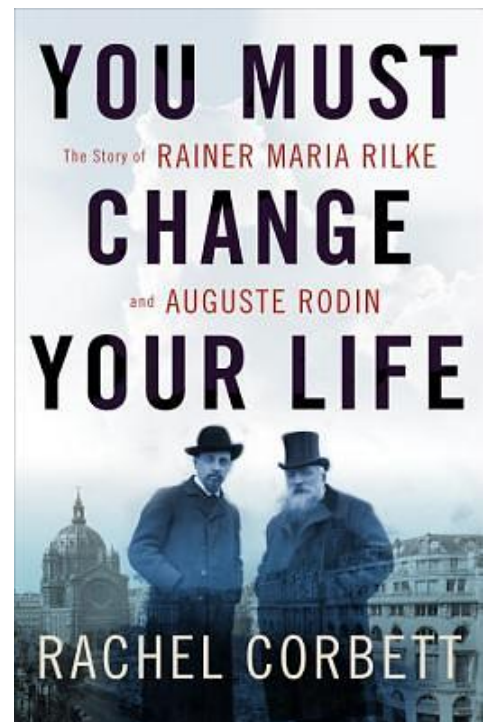
lead an artistic life. Rodin is one of the most important French sculptors of the second half of the 19th century, considered one of the fathers of modern sculpture.

Rachel is the editor of *Modern Painters* magazine. Her journalism has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Art Newspaper*, *BBC Culture*, *New York* magazine, and others. She was raised in Iowa, graduated from Columbia University and the University of Iowa, and now lives in Brooklyn, NY.

More at rachel-corbett.com



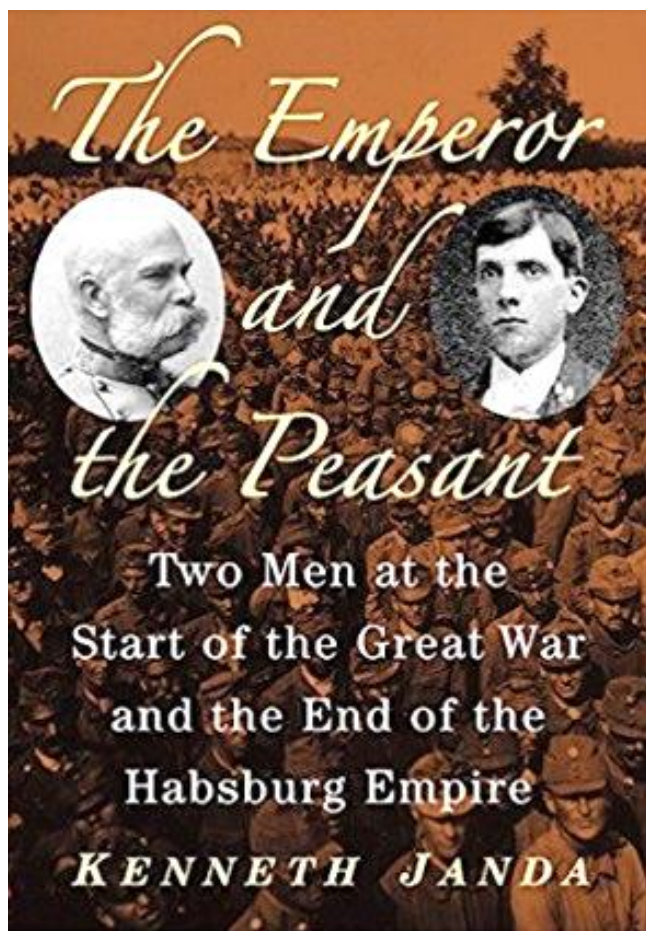
Flash the QR code to read this article on-line:



MEMBER'S BOOK



Kenneth Janda is author of *The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and at the End of the Habsburg Empire*, which will be published in the fall of 2017 by McFarland & Co.



As described in the publisher's release on Amazon:

There was more to World War I than the Western Front. This history, presented as two intertwined narratives in alternating chapters, juxtaposes the experiences of a monarch and a peasant on the Eastern Front. Franz Joseph I, emperor of Austria-Hungary, was the first European leader to declare war in 1914 and the first to commence firing.

Samuel Mozolák was a Slovak laborer who sailed to New York--where he fathered twins who were taken as babies (and U.S. citizens) to his home village--before being drafted into the army and killed in combat. The author interprets Franz Joseph's view of the war from the perspective of the emperor and his contemporaries, Kaiser Wilhelm II and Tsar Nicolas II. Mozolák's story depicts the life of a peasant conscript in an army staffed by aristocratic officers, and illustrates the pattern of East European immigration to America. Both stories are enlivened with references to the art and culture of the period.

This book is not just an historical narrative about World War I and Slavic immigration to America. It reflects my wife's family history. The peasant, Samuel Mozolák, was my wife's grandfather. Her father, John, was Samuel's son, born to Samuel and his Slovak wife in 1906 as one of twins. Both babies (boy and girl) were taken to be raised in Slovakia before they reached six months old. They were 12 when their father died in the 1918 battle of the Piave River in Italy—just weeks before the November armistice.

After living all but the first six months of his life in Samuel's home village of Krajné, John immigrated here as a U.S. citizen in 1927 at the age of 21 with his young Krajné wife. Born in 1939 in New York to first-generation immigrants, Ann spoke Slovak before English and became active in city Sokol activities. In 1958, she won first place in individual gymnastics competition at the XIII Slet in the Northeastern Division at Cleveland. Ann graduated from Hunter College in 1960 with a Russian major and earned her M.A. in Russian Languages and Literature at Indiana University in 1962.

We met at Indiana, where I received my PhD

in political science in 1961. We married that year in the Slovak Lutheran Church on 20th Street in New York. I retired from teaching political science at Northwestern University in 2002. Ann retired from Northwestern as head of Social Science Computing Services in 2006. In 2013, we moved permanently to Saint Paul, Minnesota, where we both have been involved in the Minnesota Czech and Slovak Sokol, the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, and the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. I prepared a paper for the 2016 SVU Conference in Bratislava but illness prevented me from attending. However,

a revised version of that paper, "More Slovaks in the U.S. Than Czechs? Who Says? When and Where?," will be published in M. Mark Stolarik's *Slovakia 2017*.

More information about my previous papers and publications, including my C.V., is available on my website:

<http://janda.org> | [amazon.com/dp/1476669570](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1476669570)



MEMBER'S TRANSLATIONS



Alex Zucker studied Czech under Peter Kussi as a graduate student in Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (1988–90). He began translating during his years in Prague (1990–95), where he worked for the Czechoslovak News Agency and *Prognosis* newspaper. In 2010, he won the National Translation Award from the American Literary Translators Association for *All This Belongs to Me*, his translation of Petra Hůlová's debut novel, *Paměť moje babičce*. He also works in editing and communications, and from 2014 to 2016 he served as co-chair of the PEN America Translation Committee. More at alexjzucker.com

Alex also maintains a list of Czech works in English translation (1987–present; excluding reissues) at bit.ly/czechlitenenglish

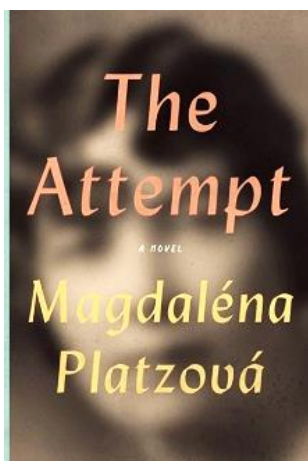


ANGEL STATION
by Jáchym Topol
Dalkey Archive Press
(2017)

"Zucker explains in a rich translator's note that this brutal little novel by inventive wordsmith Topol (*The Devil's Workshop*, 2013, etc.), published in Czech in 1995, is the third entry in a prose triptych depicting Prague as the city evolved beyond the end of communism. It accomplishes its goal, as does its 2000 no-budget film adaptation (*Anděl Exit*). However, with its harsh colloquial language, colorful descriptions, and heavy focus on drugs, the novel recalls nothing so much as Irvine Welsh's cult classic, *Trainspotting* (1996)."

— Kirkus Reviews

dalkeyarchive.com/product/angel-station-2



THE ATTEMPT

by Magdaléna Platzová

Bellevue Literary Press
(2016)

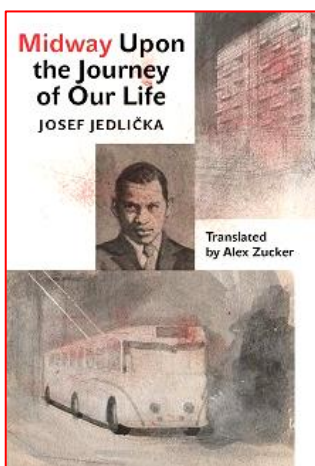
"... Platzová's ultra-restrained curation of her material, translated with equal restraint and discrimination by Alex Zucker, has excluded every superfluous detail, every hint of preachiness or sentimentality or pat morality. The result is a powerfully distilled meditation on the meaning of freedom, a ferocious complexity lurking beneath its smooth and hypnotically readable surface."

— *Words Without Borders*
blpress.org/books/the-attempt/
LOVE LETTER
IN CUNEIFORM

by Tomáš Zmeškal

Margellos World
Republic of LettersYale University Press
(2016)

"Tomáš Zmeškal's fascinating novel of 2008, here adroitly translated from the Czech by Alex Zucker, plays between these poles of fantasy and bureaucracy, and their different ways of managing human life."

— *Times Literary Supplement*
yalebooks.com/book/9780300186970/love-letter-cuneiform
MIDWAY UPON
THE JOURNEY
OF OUR LIFE

by Josef Jedlička

Karolinum Press
(2016)

"One of the outstanding works of 1950s Czech literature, Josef Jedlička's *Midway Upon the Journey of Our Life* is a book of and out of its time: an expression of disillusionment with the oppressive Stalinism of Czechoslovak Communism, it was first published in a censored version in 1966, and only appeared in full in 1994, after Jedlička's death and the fall of the Communist regime. This excellent translation by Alex Zucker, elegantly published by Karolinum Press, is its first into English."

— *Times Literary Supplement*
press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/M/bo23356066.html

FROM SVU LOCAL CHAPTERS

BOSTON

svu2000.org/boston

March 18, 2017:

A Talk by **Nonie Valentine**

April 29, 2017: Czech Underground Music & Art

Veronika Tuckerová and **Michael Kilburn**



Towards and Away from
Democracy: What Czechs Know?

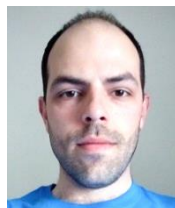
Veronika Tuckerová reflected on the recently opened exhibition at Prague's National Gallery: "Charta Story".

Michael Kilburn discussed the antipolitics of the underground movement and its relation to dissent.

May 13, 2017: Introducing Czech Fulbright Scholars



Lucie Jarkovská, a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Massachusetts in Boston in 2016/2017, has earned her PhD in sociology at Faculty of Social Studies at Masaryk University in Brno, where she now teaches gender studies. Her main research areas are gender and education, gender socialization and sex education. Her current research explores how sex education was framed and used in political processes in Central and Eastern European countries.



Filip Krůčka is a PhD candidate at the Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures, Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, Charles University in Prague. He currently holds a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue his research at Boston University. His dissertation project focuses on the work of William Faulkner from the perspective of contemporary cognitive science and philosophy of mind.



More information and photo galleries on SVU Boston website: svu2000.org/boston

CLEVELAND

svu2000.org/cleveland

The Cleveland chapter held its annual membership dinner meeting in April with 22 people in attendance. Agenda items: report on past year's activities, including participation as a "community partner" in the Cleveland International Film Festival, recent financial support of the Lucina Dance Ensemble and Eastern European Congress of Ohio, activities which took place already in 2017 were presented by President Paul Burik. Also, upcoming events were announced.

After the meeting, following the NY Chapter example several 6 minute presentations were made: **Barb Golias** – "Mucha's Slavonic Epic: The First Frame," **Georgia Maresh** – "Community Theater: What It Takes," **Ted Krejsa** – book review of *Bliss Was It in Bohemia*, **Carolyn Huber** – "Brief Overview of Czech Engravers," and **Paul Burik** – "Czechia: Birthplace of the Nuclear Age" (clue: Jáchymov). These presentations were enjoyed by all, and we will likely repeat this format in the fall.

The Chapter organized a performance by the Singer's Club of Cleveland in May. The performance at the Czech Cultural Center, aka Bohemian National Hall, in Cleveland featured Czech and Slovak music. Special thanks to our members Tom and Elsa Pavlik, who spearheaded this effort.



Carolyn Huber gives a presentation on early Czech engravers and their impact on postage stamps.



In June SVU Cleveland and the Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities will jointly present a lecture by Jonathan Kinser, PhD candidate, on his thesis work about the Ku Klux Klan's impact on the Slovak community in 1920s Youngstown. Paul Burik assisted with translation of Slovak newspaper articles – an eye-opening endeavor.

The Chapter is also making arrangements to meet with visiting artists: Slovak conductor Juraj Valcuha and Czech singer Martina Janková later in the summer, when they perform in Cleveland.

SVU Cleveland website can be visited at svu2000.org/cleveland

LOS ANGELES

svu2000.org/los-angeles

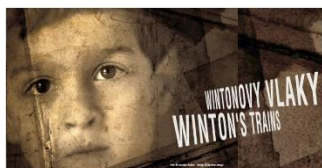


Marino Radačič, Pavlína Ciorobea, Pavol Šepel'ák, Aneta Campbell, Lenka Wallace, Jiří Bouška, Jiří Plavec



SVU-LA organized the CZECH THAT FILM Festival in Los Angeles from March 23 to April 17. We had here the movie directors themselves, who screened their movies at the festival: Filip Renč, Radek Bajgar, Jan Hřebejk. After the movies, we organized a Q&A with each director, and the movie festival was an immense success!

Check out the photos on our new website at svu2000.org/los-angeles



On April 30, we opened the exhibition *Winton's Trains* at the Museum of Tolerance, in the presence of Olga Menzelová who produced this exhibition. The event opened under the auspices of Martin Stropnický, Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic, and Jiří Vávra, First Deputy Mayor of Prague.

More at svu2000.org/los-angeles/2017/european-echoes/



On May 20, we organized a screening of the Czech film *The Devil's Mistress*, portraying the fascinating true story of Lída Baarová, the famous Czech actress, and her relationship with Joseph Goebbels, propaganda chief of Nazi Germany.

More at svu2000.org/los-angeles/2017/the-devils-mistress/



Pascal Ladreyt, Michal Sedláček, Marie Kružíková, Filip Renč, Pavol Šepelák, Pavel Stonáček

NEBRASKA SVU Chapter and a Small Excursion into the Past and Future

The Czech Language and Culture Program will celebrate 110 years of its existence in the fall 2017 semester. The Program is one of few in the United States that offer three levels of Czech language every year. It collaborates with other departments, notably History and Political Sciences, to provide instruction and choices to students who minor in Czech.

The Czech Program at our university went through rough times. First, in the beginning, in 1907, Nebraska's Czech community had to prove to the university chancellor and to the state legislature that Czech was a language cultured enough to be included in the university curriculum. It was the Czech legislators who swayed their colleagues (and some say they did it with an underhanded maneuver) to vote for the Czech program in exchange for a tax exemption for the Burlington Railroad. The Czech language proposal passed and the Burlington exemption did not. Some allege there was Burlington money passed around, and the Czechs revealed it only after the Czech language got a positive vote.

In 1919 the Czech Program was in danger of being discontinued. Its teacher, Dr. Šárka Hrbková, a native of Cedar Rapids, was fired. She was involved in the university feminist movement that was able to obtain female restrooms in addition to the one that existed since 1869. She also collaborated with the university's anti-German groups, reporting on pro-German activities. After learning about plans to close the Czech Program, the Czech community mobilized in its defense. After intense negotiations, Professor Orin Štěpánek arrived to continue the Program. He returned to do so from Prague, where he was studying Slavic Languages. He was a veteran of World War I who served as an American-born volunteer in the Czechoslovak Legion.



Now let's jump ahead 72 years: In 1993, the University tried to discontinue the Czech Program on the basis of low enrollment and a need to lower expenses in the Department of Modern Languages. The Czech community, led by Evelyn Caha, mobilized once again. The students who were then enrolled in Czech testified before University governance bodies, and in the end the Program was restored—but only as a part of Continuing Education instruction delivered in the evenings. Káťa and Jim Koubek recruited students and taught the classes for a number of years for the paltry pay in that academic division. The Czech Language Foundation was formed to communicate with the University and to protect the Program.

The Czech Komensky Club, founded at the University of Nebraska in 1904, restarted its busy program in 1989, when Mila Saskova-Pierce was hired to teach mainly Russian and as chair of the Uncommonly Taught Languages Section. In 2001 the Czech Komensky Club and Czech Language Foundation sponsored and organized SVU's 2001 North American Conference in Lincoln. The conference was a success, and it energized the Nebraska Czech community, the Komensky Club and the Czech Language Program.

The Nebraska Chapter of SVU formed, with Jitka Stiles and Cathy Oslzly at its head. When Cathy Oslzly retired from the Nebraska SVU, the Komensky Club took over the organization of cultural events at the University and in Lincoln. About ten events a year were offered to the Czech community as well as to SVU Nebraska members.

In 2003 Czech classes were transferred from the Division of Continuing Education back to the Department of Modern Languages, and in 2007 the Czech Republic's Ministry of Education, and Sports, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its representative, Zdeněk Lyčka, sent an offer to provide a qualified teacher of Czech. The latest lecturer, Dr. Hana Waisserova, has been a very active instructor with a knack for working with both the Nebraska Czech community and

other University departments. An SVU vice-president and an experienced teacher, she took over the cultural program and merged the efforts of the Komensky Club with the Nebraska SVU. Once again this fall, SVU Nebraska and the Czech Komensky Club plan a robust program.

In August 2017, Dr. Martina Klicperova will present a lecture in English based on her books, notably *Psychologie demokracie, transformace a totality*. On the evening of October 22, 2017, at the annual Czech Language Foundation Banquet, Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce will be officially installed as the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for the state of Nebraska. Various Czech dignitaries will be in attendance, including Dr. Borek Lizec, the General Consul of the Czech Republic in Chicago, and, hopefully, the new Czech Ambassador, Dr. Hynek Kmoníček. The banquet will also celebrate 110 years of Czech language and culture instruction at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In the spring, the Czech Program, together with the Department of History, will host a conference dealing with Czechoslovakia in 1948 and 1968. Please consider the call for papers issued for this conference! We are planning other events and promise an interesting academic year of programs in 2017-2018 for all who are interested!

Mila Saskova-Pierce, Lincoln, Nebraska.



Sarah Hrbek (Dr. Šárka Hrbková) in the middle



svu2000.org/nebraska

NEW YORK

svu2000.org/newyork

In **March 2017**, our SVU member **Charlotta Kotik**, great-granddaughter of T. G. Masaryk and his Brooklyn-born wife, Charlotta Garrigue, lectured on **"The Role of Arts and Culture in the Masaryk Family,"** illuminating the role of humanities in her family, which had roots in both the European and American cultural traditions.



Charlotta Kotik is an independent curator living in Brooklyn. She teaches at the School of Visual Arts, NYC, and at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. As a former Head of the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Brooklyn Museum, she initiated new programs, such as the Grand Lobby Projects and Working in Brooklyn series to document the energy of the nascent Brooklyn art scene. She is a board member of the Jindrich Chalupecky Award, an important award for young visual artists in the Czech Republic. She is also a member of the national Executive Board of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences.



Helena Fisera, Gabriel Levicky, Suzanna Halsey, Vit Horejs, Charlotta Kotik, Chris Harwood, Georgina Silhan

In **April 2017**, we hosted what was already the fifth **SVU 6-Minute Challenge**, introducing Czechs and Slovaks involved in interesting studies or projects. We are very happy that our SVU colleagues in Washington, DC, will organize their own 6-Minute Challenge. Our fifth installment in April 2017 included the following eight participants:



Andrea Cumpelik is finishing her bachelor's in neuroscience at NYU, where she also does research on associations between reward and place, and how they go wrong in addiction. She has presented her work at the annual Society for Neuroscience conferences in 2015 and 2016, as well as the Max Planck Symposium. After graduation, Andrea plans to pursue a PhD in Europe and to continue a career in neuroscience research. Andrea serves as the president of NYU's Society for Undergraduate Neural Science, and she contributes to the *Medical Dialogue Review*, a student-run journal at NYU. She strongly believes that more scientists should know how to communicate their work to the general public, which funds them, especially in the light of recent political events. Email: acumpelik@nyu.edu



Josef Machač, MD, was born in Přerov, Czechoslovakia, and lived in Olomouc until 1964, when his family emigrated and settled in the town of Bohemia on Long Island, NY. He received his bachelor and MD degrees in 1975 and 1978, respectively, at Brown University, and received postgraduate training at the Mount Sinai Hospital in NY. From 1986 until 1995, Josef headed the stress ECG and nuclear cardiology laboratory at Mount Sinai. In 1992, he became Director of Nuclear Medicine and in 2003, Professor of Radiology and Medicine. Dr. Machač has authored or co-authored 120 scientific papers in peer-reviewed publications, and 18 book chapters, and he has trained numerous residents and fellows. He retired in July 2016. For the last 3 years, he has been volunteering part-time as a general internist and cardiologist at the Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative (BVMI) clinic in Hackensack, NJ, for working people who cannot afford health insurance, where he was asked last year to organize an obesity treatment program. Josef has been an active member of the Czechoslovak Society for Arts and Sciences (SVU) since 1980. Email: josefmachac14@gmail.com

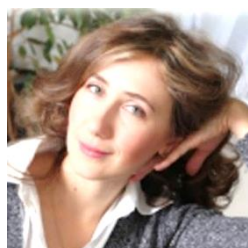


Elizabeth Molnar Rajec, PhD, professor emerita of Germanic languages and literature, was born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. She escaped to Austria by crossing the Iron Curtain. Since 1957 she has lived in New York, where she gets to use all five of the languages she can speak fluently. While studying, she supported herself by working in the fashion industry. She graduated from Columbia University (BS) and Rutgers University (MLS). In 1974, she received her PhD from CUNY with a dissertation on onomastics in the works of Franz Kafka. Later, she worked as a university librarian. In 1980, she was a Fulbright scholar researching Ferenc Molnar in Budapest, Hungary. She has served as president of the Kafka Society of America. She has published extensively on Franz Kafka, Ferenc Molnar and on literary onomastics. She has exhibited her kaleidoscopic photomontages in twelve solo exhibits. Elizabeth is also a longtime member of the PEN Club and SVU. Email: erajec@yahoo.com



Anna Rathkopf lived in Prague until 2005, when she met her American husband and moved to New York City. She received her MA in Jewish Studies from Charles University in Prague and continued her work at the Center for Jewish History and then at the NYS Holocaust Claims Processing Office in New York. Her love for reading and photography led her naturally to blogging. At first, her blog was intended for her Czech friends. It gained popularity and was nominated for a Czech blogging award.

Her husband suggested writing it in English as well. The idea of an English blog titled *Czech Mom NYC* took a real turn this past December, when Anna was diagnosed with breast cancer. She and her husband, a professional photographer, decided to create a project called *HER2*. HER2 is the name of a protein that indicates a more aggressive type of cancer - but also a dark play on words. The goal of this project is to raise awareness about the possibility of cancer in people under 40 and the importance of relationships and love during adversity. Website: czechmomnyc.com



Karolína Syrovátková, DMA, is an internationally recognized pianist called by *ABQ Review* "a true poet of the piano." Born in Prague, Karolína began her professional music studies at the Prague Conservatory in the Czech Republic. In 2002, she moved to the USA to pursue her studies. She is the winner of several international competitions, including the North London and the Sidney M. Wright Presidential Competition. She received her BM from the University of Maryland and an MM and DMA from the University of Texas at Austin, *summa cum laude*. Her project about Janáček's music, *In Search of a Vanished Present*, has been nominated for several awards. Karolína has frequently appeared in concerts and master classes in Europe, North and South America and China. As a conductor, Karolína performed at the EAMA festival at the L'École normale in Paris. She is currently recording the entire piano works of Leoš Janáček. Karolína created the classical music series *Living with the Great Composers*, incorporating dramatic performances into her concerts. Website: karolinasyrovatkova.com



Magdalena Urbánková, born in Prague, has spent the last 20 years in the lovely Garden State. She received her BA in History and Political Science from William Paterson University. She studied art privately. Currently, she studies with Julie Friedman. Besides her paintings and murals she also creates art lessons promoting Czech cultural heritage and history and supporting bilingualism in Czech-American children. Each art project introduces a Czech artist, such as Josef Čapek, František Kupka, and Josef Lada. Currently, she is working on developing art projects based on

the lives of persons of Czech heritage in the US and how the immigrant experience of their families influenced their lives. The series will include persons of Czech heritage both from the past, such as Eugene Cernan, Anton Cermak, Louis Brandeis, and from the present, Meda Mládková and Madeleine Albright. Website: magdamurals.wordpress.com/current-work



Adela Wagner is a New York-based photographer, visual activist and lighting designer. In her projects, she transforms contemporary social issues into visual concepts with which she hopes to provoke questions and debate. And to raise awareness and contribute to change. Adela's artistic journey started in Prague, in the Czech Republic, and continued with residencies and exhibitions throughout Europe. She received her BA from the University of Economics in Prague. She later studied at the International Center of Photography in New York, where she was a teaching assistant. Her work received a prize in the Alter Ego European competition on cultural diversity, and since then it has been exhibited in more than 22 countries of Europe, as well as around the USA.

Website: adelawagner.com



Jan Zika is a media expert and former Czech Television news anchor with a PhD from the Institute of Economic Studies of Charles University in Prague. He worked briefly in investment banking, but then followed his passion for audiovisual media to become an executive producer and host at Z1, the Czech Republic's first private TV news channel. He subsequently hosted his own business news show, conceived the first continuous finance-focused programming in Czech history, and led the redesign and rebranding of the channel. In 2011, Jan moved to Czech Television, where he presented over 2000 hours of live programming and was recognized for reviving the company's presentation style and increasing audience engagement. Since 2015 he has worked for NBC Universal, managing on-air graphics design and implementing projects for NBC News and MSNBC, including NBC's 2016 general election augmented reality graphics.



In May 2017, we cooperated with the Czech UN Mission to introduce to our audience its eight ranking diplomats, who enlightened us about their work in various committees of the UN and amused us with their insider stories and personal journeys into diplomacy. The evening was moderated by Jiří Ellinger, deputy permanent representative.

Milan Konrád, Kristina Hornáčková, Karel Komárek, Jiří Ellinger, Pavel Šusták, Monika Studená, and René Zelený



Photos of all our events can be viewed in our Facebook page photo albums at facebook.com/svu.newyork

Upcoming events in New York



On June 7, we will screen the 2010 Slovak documentary film *Junáci z prachu* (Scouts rising from the dust), about the persecution of Scout members during communism in Slovakia. The Scout organization in Czechoslovakia had to arise from ashes three times. It was banned for opposing the totalitarian regimes of the Nazis in 1940-1945, of Communists in 1950-1968 and again from 1970 to 1989. Come share your scout story! Moderated by **Garbriel Levicky**.

In cooperation with Ústav pamäti národa (Nation's Memory Institute) in Bratislava and the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York

RSVP: newyork@svu2000.org



On June 21, we will host an informal chat with **Martin Dvořák**, Consul General of the Czech Republic in New York, whose posting is coming to an end this summer.

In July, SVU-NY will present **ten outstanding Czech pre-university students** following their summer academic studies programs at Princeton University. The program is sponsored by the American Fund for Czech and Slovak Leadership Studies (www.afcsls.org).

WASHINGTON DC

svu2000.org/washington-dc

June 7, 2017: The Six Minute Challenge

Moderated by **Natalie Safertal Masri**



As Founder of Brave May, Natalie Masri consults with organizations on strategic solutions and impactful partnerships in the areas of women's economic empowerment and leadership, diversity inclusion, and sustainability. Her most recent work involved managing a multi-stakeholder partnership with the United Nations on the role of business in women's economic empowerment and as well as a partnership with the U.S. India Business Council on investing in women and youth in India. As a former Senior Director of the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Center of Women in Business, Masri worked with women executives and entrepreneurs, military spouses and corporations to promote the economic, financial, and social advancement of women into leadership positions.

She developed strategies for companies to better incorporate women at every level, promoting mentorship, sponsorship, networking and the significance of how women are reshaping the entrepreneurial landscape. Natalie spent time working in Prague, at the Center for Democracy and Free Enterprise (CDFE), a non-governmental organization dedicated to integrating the Czech Republic into NATO and the European Union and to promoting active citizen involvement in democratic processes. She resides in Charlottesville, Virginia, with her husband and three children.

Panelists:

Martina Hrvolova PhD. LL.M.



Martina Hrvolova manages the Europe Program at the Center for International Private Enterprise in Washington, DC, one of the core institutes of the US National Endowment for Democracy and a US Chamber of Commerce affiliate. Previously, she served as a human rights expert of the Slovak Foreign Service as the Executive Secretary of the Slovak Chairmanship of the Council of Europe. Between 2010 and 2015, Martina was posted to the Slovak Missions to NATO and EU in Brussels, primarily advising on public affairs, NATO Partnerships, and EU expansion in the Balkans. Martina is passionate about volunteering at OSCE election observation missions in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. She has earned her degree in International and Comparative Law at George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC, and a PhD in European Civil Law from the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia.



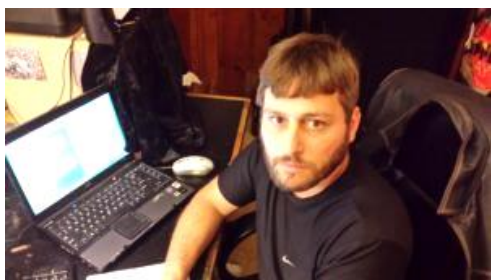
Joseph Harvey, Nick Kiefer and Abby McGovern

This team of high school students from Frederick, Maryland, will share their experience working on their project for National History Day, a nation-wide history competition, in which students present historical research based on a yearly theme. The trio took on the challenge of this year's theme, "Taking a Stand in History," and created a documentary depicting Dubček's Prague Spring democratic reforms and the Warsaw Pact invasion of 1968 that consequentially led to the self-immolation of Jan Palach. They will share their research on how Jan Palach's actions inspired the citizens of Prague and influenced the Czech democracy movements twenty years later, when the student march on the anniversary of Palach's death eventually provided the spark for the Velvet Revolution.

Ivo Jeník



Ivo Jeník studied law at Charles University in Prague, the Sorbonne in Paris and Columbia Law School in New York. He practices international law, working at the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor. Among other things, he is responsible for activities related to supervisory capacity building, innovative finance, regulation of complex products, and dispute resolution. Previously, Ivo worked with the Responsible Financial Access team at the World Bank, where he specialized in financial consumer protection and alternative dispute resolution, providing technical assistance to client countries, including Indonesia, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, and many more. Before joining the World Bank, Ivo was Head of the Collective Investment Department of the Czech Financial Ombudsman.



Roman Kostovski has degrees in Russian Language and Linguistics from the College of William and Mary and University of Maryland. He holds a post-graduate certificate from Charles University in Prague. He has taught Czech at George Washington University and worked as a Central and Southeastern European Media Analyst at Georgetown University. Roman translates poetry and prose from Bosnian,

Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Macedonian, Russian, Serbian and Slovak into English. His translations have appeared in numerous journals, including *Absinthe: New European Writings* and *Watchword Press*. Roman's translation of Arnošt Lustig's *Porgess* was published by Northwestern University Press in 2006, and his translation of Viktor Dyk's Czech classic, *The Ratcatcher*, was published by Plamen Press in 2014. He is a recipient of the 2017 National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship for the translation of Hana Androniková's novel, *Heaven Has no Ground*. Roman founded Plamen Press in 2013, an independent publishing house promoting literature from Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe throughout the English-speaking world. He works and resides with his three children in Washington, D.C.

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.

Vladimir Wolf



Originally from eastern Slovakia, Vladimir Wolf studied biology at the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. He completed his postgraduate studies at the University of Bern in Switzerland, where he focused his research on breast cancer. After completing his PhD, Vladimir relocated to Bethesda, Maryland, and began work at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), where he furthered his studies in the biology of cancer. Vladimir later broke out of academic

research and began working for the biotech companies Trophgen and QIAGEN. After receiving an MBA, he founded an independent consulting firm, Pleiades Consulting LLC. For the past two years, along with fellow Slovak scientist Pavol Cekan, Vladimir established MultiplexDX Incorporated, a company based in the US and Slovakia that focuses on developing a reliable, accurate, quantitative and inexpensive diagnostic test for breast cancer—Multiplex7+™. His company's primary goal is to eliminate misdiagnosis in breast cancer testing. MultiplexDX was the Overall winner of the 2016 StartUp Slovakia Award. It was also listed among the 100 most innovative Slovak companies. After receiving funding from the European Union, MultiplexDX built a new R&D facility in Košice, which is the first of its kind. Vladimir continues to live in the area with his wife Eva, a virologist, and their 14-year-old daughter.

SVU EDMONTON, ALBERTA

svu-edmonton.org

May 24, 2017: Raymond Carver: Why Don't You Dance?

Performed (in Czech) by Jiří Lábus, accompanied by Emil Viklický

Czech - Canadian Jazz Duo

Kent Sangster – saxophone

Emil Viklický – piano

Czechoslovak Society for Arts and Sciences Presents Two Events

Czech - Canadian Jazz Duo

Kent Sangster (saxophone)
Emil Viklický (piano)

May 24, 2017, 8:30 pm
University of Alberta Faculty Club
11435 Saskatchewan Dr, Edmonton
Admission \$20 (students \$10)
E-mail: tickets@svu-edmonton.org

2

1

Raymond Carver
Why Don't You Dance?
Performed (in Czech) by Jiří Lábus,
accompanied by Emil Viklický

May 24, 2017, 6:00 pm University of Alberta Faculty Club
Admission by donation 11435 Saskatchewan Dr, Edmonton



SVU PRAHA

svu2000.org/praha

On May 23, 2017, the 16th edition of the **SVU PRAHA Prize** was awarded in the Wallenstein Palace of the Czech Senate, in co-operation with the Senate's Compatriots Commission.



The 2017 SVU PRAHA Prize Laureates are:
Jiří Anderle – painter a graphic designer
Gabriela Beňačková – opera singer
David Eben – musician, music historian
Jan Hora – organist and music educator
Josef Michl – chemist
Ivan Passer – screenwriter, film director
Vilém Prečan, CSc. – historian
Bohdan Pomahač – plastic surgeon
Stanislav Zindulka – actor

Credit photos: Czech Senate

*Tomáš Grulich, Chair of the Senate's Compatriots Commission, Alena Morávková, Chair of SVU Praha
 Jaroslav Kantůrek, Special Envoy for Czechs Living Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*



Prize Laureates: Jiří Anderle, David Eben

Jan Hora, Vilém Prečan, Jakub Zindulka, Josef Michl

READ IN CZECH

SVU NĚMECKO - MNICHOV

svu2000.org/nemecko

SVU Mnichov uspořádala do května t.r. několik zajímavých akcí, které přilákaly poměrně početné krajské publikum.

V březnu se konala multimediální přednáška „Divadla malých forem v Československu v 60. letech minulého století“, kterou vedl předseda SVU Mnichov pan **Ladislav Pavlík**. Přednáška byla doplněna mnoha video- i audio- ukázkami z pražských a mimopražských divadel, doplněna tištěnými dobovými materiály (plakáty, programy divadel, sborníky).



Dubnový termín byl věnován Martinu Lutherovi. Přednášku s názvem „Všichni jsme husité – Luther jako nástupce Husa“ s mnoha ukázkami a přinesenými materiály měla doktorandka Ludwig-Maximilian Universität Mnichov paní **Věra Drozdová**.

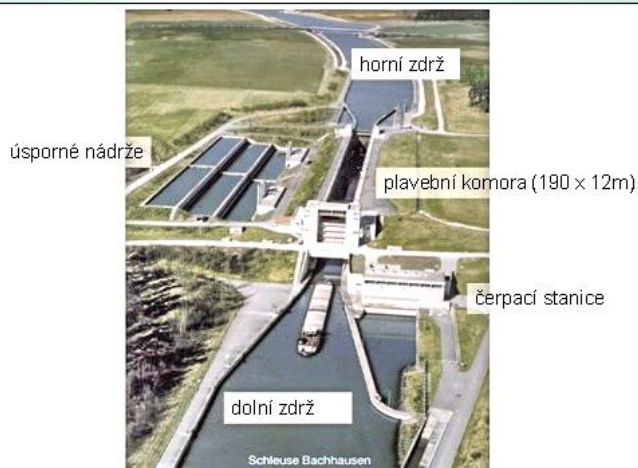
Květnovou přednášku pro nás uspořádal český rodák, žijící od r. 1968 v Mnichově, pan **Pavel Kröbl**, který svůj profesní život zasvětil vodohospodářským stavbám. Jako konstruktér a plánovač se také podílel na jedné z největších vodních evropských staveb, a to na stavbě vodního kanálu Rýn-Mohan-Dunaj, který spojuje Severní a Černé moře. Jeho poutavé vyprávění o celé stavbě, a hlavně o části mezi Mohanem a Dunajem, která je zde v Bavorsku, nedaleko Mnichova, všechny uchvátilo.

Posluchači se dozvěděli nejen o této velkolepé stavbě a jejích technických parametrech, ale i o problémech i výhrách s ní spojenými, tj. o hospodaření s podzemními vodami, o oživení dříve nezajímavých oblastí po dostavbě kanálu turistickým ruchem atd. Pan Kröbl svým zasvěceným výkladem, který pojal populárně-naučnou formou, aby mu i posluchači, kteří nejsou zcela technicky zdatní, porozuměli, si získal mnoho příznivců a těšíme se, že pro SVU udělá v budoucnosti další podobnou přednášku.

Fotografie nám poskytl pan Kröbl:

Main-Donau-Kanal

Plavební komora Bachhausen



Vodní cesta Rýn - Mohan - Dunaj



V červnu nás čeká návštěva vernisáže výstavy v Českém centru. Výstavu s názvem „Bedeutende Tschechen“ (Významní Češi) pořádá společně s Českým centrem mnichovský Spolek Adalberta Stifttera, pod záštitou Bavorské státní kanceláře a za podpory Česko-německého fondu budoucnosti. Jedná se o významné Čechy, jako byli Tomáš Baťa, Karel Čapek, Ema Destinová, Antonín Dvořák, T. G. Masaryk, Alfons Mucha a další.

Blanka Fajkusová
SVU Německo (Mnichov)

referentka pro práci s médii
Mnichov, 18. 5. 2017

PROSPECTIVE 2018 SVU CONFERENCE AT PRAGUE'S METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Please write your thoughts and preferences about the 2018 SVU global gathering to zpravy@svu2000.org. We have a kind offer from Dr. Ivo Budil and the Metropolitan University in Prague to organize and host the 2018 SVU Congress there. Here are some questions to consider:

- 1) Would you like to participate? What dates would best fit your travel plans?
Should the SVU conference coincide with the 2018 Sokol Slet of June 30-July 8, the annual Compatriot Conference in Prague, usually at the end of September, or perhaps some other event in Prague?
- 2) If you attended past SVU congresses, what would you suggest be done differently?
- 3) If you have not attended, what exactly prevented you from attending?
- 4) What would make you attend?
- 5) What is it that you would basically expect from the SVU global gathering?

We would really like to know what you think! Please write to us!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Quai d'Orsay, Paris - the place where the Paris peace negotiations took place. Crédit photo: Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères. The Treaties were signed in Versailles, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Neuilly-sur-Seine, and Sèvres.

2018 Conference in Washington DC: **CREATION OF THE NEW EUROPE** **June 1, 2018**

For Conference details, please email: wilsonianclub@gmail.com

Celebrating 100th anniversary of the creation of new national states in Central/Eastern/Southern Europe following the Paris Peace Conference (01-18-1919 to 01-21-1920)

Objectives:

- Celebrate creation of new national states in Europe
- Discuss political and logistical challenges associated with a new state creation
- Celebrate historical personalities that participated in the process – Masaryk, Štefánik, Wilson, Dmowski, Paderewski, Venizelos, and others
- Yesterday's creations – tomorrow's challenges – historical perspectives on the challenges of new states (examples: German minority in the Czech Republic, Kosovo, transfer of ethnic communities to new states, etc.)
- Conference to be complementary to individual Embassy events and activities.

Conference organizers and sponsors:

SVU Washington DC Chapter, Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences (SVU), Wilsonian Club, Embassy of the Czech Republic, Embassy of Slovakia - Conference venue, Embassies of Poland, Hungary, and Romania (potentially other), Woodrow Wilson House.

PERIODICAL

Zprávy SVU / SVU News (ISSN 0036-2050)
Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)
PO Box 590551
Newton, MA 02459, USA

Your news and thoughts are most welcome and can be sent to: zpravy@svu2000.org

The next issue is scheduled for September 2017. Deadline for submissions is **August 31, 2017**.

Members who wish to stop receiving paper version of the newsletter, please indicate your choice by e-mail to: records@svu2000.org

Please send your email or postal address changes to: records@svu2000.org

This issue was assembled by an SVU member in Paris, France, at no charge whatsoever.

The texts were proofread/edited by an SVU member in Houston, Texas, at no charge whatsoever.



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