

# ZPRÁVY SVU NEWS

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[SVU2000.org](http://SVU2000.org)

## 2018 SVU World Congress in Prague

Marking the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences,  
we hold our World Congress in Prague, Czech Republic

**July 10 – 12, 2018**

commemorating the  
**Centennial of the First Czechoslovak Republic**

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 ...	2018 Congress Announcement	8 ...	News from SVU Local Chapters
3 ...	Welcome New Members	17 ...	Míla Rechcigl's Encyclopedia
3 ...	Lecture Tour by Martin Nekola	18 ...	Book by Anna Nessay Perlberg
4 ...	Confessions of Petr Bísek	19 ...	KOSMAS Is Alive!
6 ...	Interview with Elena Sokol	19 ...	2018 Congress Registration Form

## 2018 SVU WORLD CONGRESS IN PRAGUE

Marking the Sixty Years of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences,  
we hold our World Congress in Prague, Czech Republic

**July 10 – 12, 2018**

commemorating the

### **Centennial of the First Czechoslovak Republic**

organized jointly by SVU Praha and the Metropolitan University Prague  
in partnership with the Czech Senate

Program Outline:

Tuesday, July 10, 3:00 PM: Congress Opening, Knights Hall, Wallenstein Palace

Wednesday-Thursday, July 11-12: Academic Sessions, MUP Campus

Papers are solicited within the central theme in the areas of  
history, international relations, culture, librarianship, scientific and economic cooperation, etc.

Suggestions and proposals are welcome now at **[prague2018@svu2000.org](mailto:prague2018@svu2000.org)**

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**Early Bird Registration is now OPEN**

**[svu2000.org/payments/registration](http://svu2000.org/payments/registration)**

*[On-line Registration is preferred, but a printed form is available too as an alternative on page 19.]*

Timely registration is advantageous for participants and it allows efficient planning.

\*

Requests for budget accommodation, or hotel guidance: **[prague2018@svu2000.org](mailto:prague2018@svu2000.org)**

Cultural program and sightseeing options shall be added in Spring 2018  
upon consultation with registered participants.

\*

More information to come progressively at

**[svu2000.org/conferences/2018-prague-congress](http://svu2000.org/conferences/2018-prague-congress)**

Watch for updates.

## THANK YOU, ACTIVE MEMBERS!

The 2018 SVU World Congress is being organized on request from our active members, who were also kind enough to respond to the membership consultation about the most suitable congress date. Thanks to them, the time and the place of this gathering has been determined by the SVU membership.

Thank you very much!  
The next congress is yours. The SVU is yours.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ronald Bednar, PA  
Andrew Fisher, Prague  
Petr Just, Prague  
Yvonne and Peter Iker, CA  
Markéta Hancová, CA  
Martin Mucha, NY  
Martin Palouš, FL  
Jana Robinson, VA  
Nicholas Soukeras, 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 to the past members who have recently returned to the Society.

This December, all members and past members will receive a personal letter from the new SVU leadership.

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## NEW BOOK & LECTURE TOUR BY MARTIN NEKOLA



Our member **Martin Nekola, Ph.D.** – a scholar focused on Czechs in the USA and the Cold War Exile has published the book *České Chicago* (Czech Chicago) in Prague. It is an overview of the history of the Czech community in the “Windy City,” which swelled from several thousands in the 1870s to more than 120,000 after World War I. Czech compatriots maintained a rich cultural and social life and close relations with the old homeland in the heart of Europe. The book also enumerates companies, periodicals, associations and personalities from the famous past of Czech Chicago and presents the topic to a broader public. Dr. Nekola is coming to the USA for research and a lecture tour. You can attend his lectures on the following dates:

September 25: [University of New Orleans](#)

September 28: [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#)

October 2: [University of Chicago](#)

October 4: [Saint Louis University](#)

## CONFESSIONS OF PETR BÍSEK



### When the “Big” Things Are Said Accessibly

I have always admired the simple speaking talent of some people who can talk clearly about the “big” things.

In New York, I listened for many years to the radio program of Karl Haas, *Adventures in Good Music*. Mr. Haas fascinated me not only by his erudition, but also with how comprehensible his talks were. In addition, his hearty and friendly voice was like a handshake that the listener couldn't decline. Last week I had a chance to realize this gift when listening to an interview with the inimitable animator, graphic artist, illustrator, and author Petr Sís.

Similarly, I was lately inspired – for its content and presentation – by the recent re-edition of *Hovory s Janem Masarykem* by Viktor Fischl. This slim book was first published in Tel Aviv in 1952, and then a year later in Chicago. In the Czech lands, it first appeared in 1991 from Mladá Fronta and now from Garamond publishing house. Poet, novelist, and diplomat Viktor Fischl was Masaryk's aide in the Czechoslovak government-in-exile in London. After Jan Masaryk's death, Fischl put together his notes and recollected thoughts of Jan Masaryk from their private conversations. The themes of their talks were diverse and broad – liberty, democracy, and communism; war and peace; humanism, spirituality, arts, and the art de vivre. Jan Masaryk, compared to his father Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, had little formal education but compensated for it with his life experience and profound interest in world affairs. His observations and thoughts are valid even today.

In our Prague family, there were many books written by TGM and about TGM in our library. Later, during dozens of years of life in the US, similar works progressively took an entire bookshelf. I admit, except for *Hovory s TGM* by Karel Čapek and *Masarykova abeceda*,

I haven't read any of them systematically from beginning to end. From time to time, I just pulled some out of a library and read a chapter or two, according to the themes of my interest or mood. It was rather demanding reading for a hurried man without a deeper humanistic education, but I could do it with some extra concentration.

I read Fischl's *Hovory s Janem Masarykem* with pleasure and interest, from beginning to end, not only for the clarity and simplicity of language of “our Honza” – as my parents' generation called him – when he talked about the “big things,” but also for the joy of life that emanated from his often playful words, even in reflections on negative phenomena, like war.

Viktor Fischl, who died in 2006 in Jerusalem, is on my mental list of people whom I met, but I missed the chance to get to know them closer. There were many. I would mention here just Jiří Škvorecký, Arnošt Lustig, Miloslav Kohák, but also the Czech-British aviator Karel Schick and the Czech-Canadian navigator Vilém (William) Kauders who both fought in the Battle of Britain. The Velvet Revolution threw me practically overnight into the New Age hassle, and I had to cut back my social life for lack of time. I am very sorry about that, but the life goes on.

Jan Masaryk ends his ten commandments with this exhortation:

*Just try it, man, to like people. If you really like them, you'll always prefer giving over taking. Giving, it doesn't mean just gloves for birthday or slippers for Christmas. It means giving also what you have here and here (he pointed to heart and head). The good, the best of you. To share one's life. That is it.*

\*

This Confession of Petr Bísek was published in Czech by Mladá Fronta DNES on August 8, 2017.

**Petr Bísek** lived in the United States from 1965 to 2014, when he returned to Prague. With his wife Věra, he published the Czech and Slovak-American bi-weekly *Americké Listy* for twenty years, from 1990 to 2010. In 1997, he received the Medal of Merit First Class from President Václav Havel for successful lobbying on behalf of the Czech Republic's speedy acceptance into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In 2005, Petr and Věra received the Gratias Agit award for "spreading the good word about the Czech Republic abroad" from the Czech minister of foreign affairs, and in 2010, Petr Bísek received a commemorative medal from the chairman of the Czech Senate.

A long-time loyal and active member of SVU, Petr has also served on the board of directors of the American Friends of the Czech Republic. In the years 1996-2009, he was vice president and president of the Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society of Astoria, Inc., which owns the Bohemian Hall & Garden in Astoria, New York, also known as Bohémka. Under his presidency, the Bohémka grew from near-bankruptcy to a multimillion-dollar business.

Petr Bísek is a certified rowing coach and a master rower. He coached three US Rowing national junior sculling champions, and now he coaches juniors at his "old" club, VK Blesk in Prague.



*Giving the best to the new generations...*

## INTERVIEW WITH ELENA SOKOL, SVU CLEVELAND



*Elena, how long have you been member of the SVU?*

I joined SVU by the year 2000, because I participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Washington DC. Then I presented papers at the next two congresses. In

2004, I attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Congress in Olomouc, where my paper was entitled "In Search of the Other, In Search of Self: Travel Narratives of Iva Pekárková." I believe I joined the Cleveland chapter in 2012.

*Tell me a little bit about your family background. Do they hail from the Czech lands? Did you speak Czech as a youngster?*

I was born in Chicago a second-generation Czech-American surrounded by Czech speakers, my bilingual mother and my immigrant grandparents. Of course, once I began to have "American" playmates I stubbornly refused to speak Czech, though I always understood what my parents tried to keep away from my younger brother and me by speaking Czech.

*Did your family try to travel back to Czechoslovakia while you were growing up?*

Yes. A turning point in my life occurred when our parents took my brother and me on a trip to Czechoslovakia during my last year of high school. Our Czech cousins were wonderful people, so I was quite frustrated by not being able to communicate with them in fluent Czech. I recall how they laughed when, feeling chilly, I announced: "Já jsem zima." I promised I would come back to see them as soon as I spoke better Czech. After studying two years of Czech at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where I majored in Russian and minored in French, I returned to Czechoslovakia for a marvelous month-long stay in the summer of 1963. Then, in the summer of 1969, I spent six weeks in post-invasion Prague, expanding my circle

of acquaintances beyond family and growing more familiar with the Czech cultural scene. Altogether, I made seven trips to Czechoslovakia before the Velvet Revolution, alternating regularly with several longer stays in Moscow and Leningrad. Finally, in 1991, I could spend a full six months in Prague on a research leave, another transformative experience, which led me to shift the focus of my scholarly research from Russian to Czech literature.

*What especially sticks out in your early teenage visits?*

On that fateful first trip to Europe in 1960, I quite fell in love with cousins on my father's side of the family, who came from the village of Chodov (near Domažlice) in West Bohemia. And I have enjoyed their generous hospitality over the decades. Even in the bleak days of communism, they exuded warmth and joy. Indeed, I do still have strong memories of those times. Besides the infamous shortages in stores, I vividly recall how dark Wenceslaus Square was in the evening – there were no neon signs or lights in store fronts, such a contrast to Western cities. We had just come from Amsterdam and Paris. And there were virtually no cars on the streets. We drove into Czechoslovakia in a VW beetle, which always attracted a bunch of young boys when it was parked on the street, both in the countryside and in Plzeň, my grandparents' hometown.

On my second trip, in 1963, I recall how cousins took me to dinner at an elegant new restaurant in Prague, housed in the modern round building that had been the Czechoslovak pavilion at the 1958 World's Fair in Brussels. We went there on a Thursday, which turned out to be a "meatless" day, so the only entrée on the menu was cauliflower cutlets.

*When did you decide to specialize in Russian studies?*

My original interest in Russian culture also dates to my early childhood. As it happens, during the war my father spent the last 13 months of his service in the Army Air Corps in the Soviet Union. So, he came home from Europe with incredible photos, stories, souvenirs, and some knowledge of Russian, which he improved while completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Chicago on the GI bill. It was from him that I first learned the Cyrillic alphabet.

In high school, I studied Latin and French. When I began my studies at the University of Colorado, I decided to major in Russian, but take all the Czech they offered, which was two years. I didn't consciously choose the teaching profession until well into my graduate studies in the Slavic Department at the University of California, Berkeley.

*Were your interests in Czech literature "always there?"*

My mother raised us on *české pohádky* and *lidové písně* (she was a professional pianist who also loved to sing). The first opera I saw as a child in Chicago was Smetana's *Prodaná nevěsta*, sung in Czech. My formal introduction to Czech literature came in graduate school, where I pursued Czech as my "required" second Slavic language. When the College of Wooster (Ohio), where I taught for 22 years, introduced a major in Comparative Literature, I was able to create a course entitled "Text and Context in Central Europe" where we read works of Czech, Polish and Hungarian literatures in translation and also watched films. I did find occasional opportunities to teach Czech language and literature as well. One of my students from that course fell in love with Czech culture and even asked to do a tutorial with me in Beginning Czech. Some years later I encountered him in Prague!

*Do you still return to the Czech Republic to visit family?*

Indeed, I do return to the Czech Republic regularly to visit family, friends, and colleagues. My husband, Yuri Popov, and I have a small flat on the edge of Vinohrady (across the street it's already Vršovice), just a short walk to the neighborhood where the writer Daniela Hodrová lives and has set all her novels.

*What are you working on now since retirement?*

By 2009, when I retired from teaching, I had already devoted considerable time and energy to a large project on the prose writing of contemporary Czech women. My initial interest in the topic, which germinated during my first "Prague Spring" in 1991, soon led me to pursue a series of interviews with women writers (born in the first two decades after World War II). Between 1996 and 2007 I spent a total of five semesters of research leaves in Prague, interspersed with shorter summer visits. During those years I presented innumerable papers and published several articles, and have amassed abundant materials towards a book-length study. Meanwhile, an unexpected opportunity arose, for which I have temporarily moved this project to the back-burner.

One of the writers whom I first interviewed in 1996 is Daniela Hodrová, who has pursued a dual career both as an eminent writer of fiction, as well as a prolific literary scholar. I became involved in the English co-translation of Hodrová's first novel *Podobojí*, which came out in May 2015 as *A Kingdom of Souls*. Subsequently, our British publisher Michael Tate of Jantar Publishing has encouraged co-translator Veronique Firkusny and me to translate Hodrová's next two novels— *Kukly* (Puppets and Pupae) and *Théta*, which together with *Podobojí* form a loose trilogy— *Trýznivé město* (City of Torment). Hodrová writes a rich poetic prose, which offers her translators into English (or any language) both an exhilarating intellectual challenge, as well as a deep emotional experience. While Hodrová's fiction makes serious demands on translators and readers alike, her writing represents a major contribution to contemporary Czech culture (as acknowledged by several major literary prizes she has won over the past few years) and richly deserves to be accessible to Anglophone readers.

by **Virginia Parobek**

SVU Cleveland chapter member

## FROM SVU LOCAL CHAPTERS

### BOSTON

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



Our Boston Chapter has inaugurated the 2017/2018 academic year by hosting a prominent speaker Barbara Havelková, who presented her new book on *Gender Equality in Law* on September 9, 2017, at the Harvard University Campus.

More information and photo galleries on SVU Boston Chapter website: [svu2000.org/boston](http://svu2000.org/boston)

Barbara is a Shaw Foundation Fellow in Law at Lincoln College and Faculty of Law, University of Oxford. She teaches EU law, public law, human rights, comparative equality law and feminist jurisprudence. Her research concentrates on the legal regulation of gender during state socialism and in the post-communist transition in Central Europe.

Barbara completed her first degree in law at the Charles University in Prague, and also holds an LL.M. from Europa-Institut of Saarland University and a DPhil from Oxford. She was previously a lecturer and fellow at the University of Cambridge and visited several law schools as a guest researcher, including Harvard University and University of Michigan as a Fulbright scholar and the NYU as an Emile Noel Fellow.

Barbara acts as an advisor to the prime minister of the Czech Republic on issues of gender and law.

### CLEVELAND

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

On June 12, 2017, our Chapter partnered with Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities program for a presentation by Jonathan Kinser, PhD, to hear a summary of his doctoral thesis work on the KKK's impact on the Slovak community in Youngstown in the 1920s. The well attended meeting of about 30 listened to Dr. Kinser describe the versions of the Ku Klux Klan: the southern version was more racially oriented and the northern version was more ethnically biased.

Did you know that there was an African American chapter of KKK in Ohio? Discussion followed about the Slovak resistance which was more political than the Italian community reaction which was more violent. SVU's Paul Burik, who translated many of Dr. Kinser's research articles, presented a few excerpts from Slovak newspapers at the time that illustrated the often violent events that took place and the role of Slovak women in organizing political opposition.



Also this summer the Chapter held a picnic in the Czech Cultural Garden on August 13th. Several members enjoyed a sunny afternoon and the culturally rich environment of the Garden. Brief presentations were made on three of the six busts located in the Garden: Jindrich Simon Baar, Karel Havlíček Borovský, and František Palacký. We discussed ideas to commemorate 100 years since the 1918 founding of Czechoslovakia next year, in 2018.

*Cleveland Chapter members enjoy a picnic in the Czech Cultural Garden with the statue of T.G. Masaryk.*

Also, the Chapter hosted Martina Janková, Czech opera star, while she was in Cleveland to perform the lead role in Janáček's *Cunning Little Vixen* with the renowned Cleveland Orchestra. A tour of the city and some of its Czech venues illustrated the Czech, Slovak and Rusyn heritage in Cleveland. Martina enjoyed the revitalized downtown area the most, and she shared her point of view on the artist's experience abroad over a lunch at the Art Museum.

### **Coming Up:**

Janáček's opera *Cunning Little Vixen* will be performed in its original Czech at Severance Hall on **9/23, 9/24 and 9/26**.

**10/8** – Cleveland Art Museum will host an International Day. Our Chapter and Sokol Greater Cleveland will represent the Czech community.

**10/28** – A ceremony will be held at the Czech Garden's statue of T.G. Masaryk to commemorate 99 years since founding of Czechoslovakia.



*Martina Janková (L) with SVU's Carolyn Huber and John Crown, with bust of Dvořák in the background.*

## LOS ANGELES

[svu2000.org/los-angeles](http://svu2000.org/los-angeles)

On August 27, 2017, the Czech-Slovak group in San Diego hosted a CS House at Balboa Park. Homemade pastries were served, with coffee and lemonade.



## Coming Up:

**SUNDAY 9/24 @ 5 PM – CIMBAL BY THE SEA**

SVU Los Angeles Chapter

and

the Consulate General of the Czech Republic  
in Los Angeles

invite you to join us oceanside  
on the West end of Santa Monica Pier

for an unforgettable evening of rousing folk  
music, vibrant costumes, and great company.

Santa Monica Pier, CA 90401

(see our SVU-LA website [svu2000.org/los-angeles](http://svu2000.org/los-angeles))

## PAVEL ŠPORCL COMING TO CALIFORNIA



Pavel Šporcl's extensive repertoire is comprised of 40 violin concertos, countless sonatas, along with numerous chamber and virtuoso compositions. His performances garner both popular and critical acclaim. Reviews of the inaugural concert of the Czech Philharmonic's 2001-2002, season which took place at Prague's Rudolfinum under the baton of Vladimir Ashkenazy, was recorded and broadcast by both Czech Television and Czech Radio. For his performance in Dvořák's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in A minor, critics lauded Pavel Šporcl as "a talent that is born once in a century..."

Šporcl has appeared with major orchestras, including Orchestre National de France, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphonic Orchestra, Yomiuri Nippon Symphonic Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Russian National Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Kyoto Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Sinfonia Varsovia, Slowenische Philharmony, New World Symphony Orchestra, Staatskapelle Weimar, Hungarian Radio Orchestra, conductors V. Ashkenazy, L. Pesek, V. Fedoseyev, J. Bělohlávek, R. Mintzuk, A. Nelsons, Y.P. Tortelier, G. Pehlivanian, J.J. Kantorow, T. Kuchar, and also at prestigious venues, like Suntory Hall Tokyo, Disney Hall Los Angeles, Alte Oper Frankfurt am Main, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Gasteig Munich and festivals such as Rheingau Music Festival, Schleswig-Holstein festival, Prague Spring, Festival International de Colmar, La Folle Journée Nantes, Radio France, ...

In summer 2004, he debuted with tremendous success at the Salzburger Festspiele. He has cooperated with great colleagues such as Josef Suk, Shlomo Mintz, Nikolai Lugansky and Gavriel Lipkind.



Our member **Markéta Hancová** is organizing Pavel Šporcl's concert in San Diego, CA.

Time: October 7, 2017, 7:30 PM

Place: Point Loma Assembly, 3035 Talbot Street, San Diego, CA 92106

Tickets: (619) 788-7428

Learn more at [aroundtownwithmarketa.com](http://aroundtownwithmarketa.com)

**Pavel Šporcl will give a concert also in LOS ANGELES** to celebrate our National Day of October 28!

Follow our website for details on time and place!

Readers of *Zprávy* know that the SVU Los Angeles Chapter supports the CZECH THAT FILM FESTIVAL, which could not miss this year's Karlovy Vary International Film Festival:

*Jan Hřebejk, Michal Sedláček,  
Pavel & Martin Stonáček*



*Martin Stonáček, Lída Sandera, Martina Stonáčková, Pavel Stonáček, Marie Kružiková*

## NEBRASKA

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

**CZECH RESEARCHER SPEAKS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN  
ON THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE – *Louis J. Reith***



**Dr. Martina Klicperova-Baker**, a senior researcher from the Institute of Psychology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, was a guest speaker at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln on August 22, 2017.

She was invited by the university's Czech and Global Studies program, co-sponsored by the Komensky Club of UNL and by the Nebraska Chapter of SVU, to discuss the state of democracy in Europe today. Her research has focused upon the psychology of democracy and the transition to democracy in her own country, as well as in a broader global perspective.

Dr. Klicperova-Baker opened her presentation by referring to her own experience of living with, and losing, democracy in her own country. "Thank you for sharing with me your solar eclipse," she began. "The day of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 was the day of the eclipse. It is a day ingrained in our memory, it began an age of totality that lasted 20 years." Quoting Madeleine Albright, she said: "While democracy, in the long run, is the most stable form of government, in the short run it is the most fragile." Despite the "permanent tension" of democracy, Klicperova-Baker called it the form of government that best secures the rights and self-actualization of its citizens: "Democracies are killing fewer of their own citizens than other regimes," she noted, "and real democracies do not wage war with each other."

Pointing to the examples of Canada and Australia as secular democratic systems in which citizens enjoy a high quality of life, she conceded that "while democracy is imperfect, we don't have anything better. The more we approach [an ideal] democracy, the more it is running away from us. It is always on the horizon." Around the world, she noted, the number of people living under democratic institutions is growing, but the

number of those in autocracies remains stable: "Humans are not necessarily naturally predisposed to a positive democratic co-existence," she said. "The human psyche is, to a great degree, selfish and self-serving."

She then examined the structure of democracy, breaking it down to its simplest values in terms of the French Revolution's motto of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity." "Liberty, or freedom," she continued, "is exemplified by less frustration and, in turn, less aggression," Klicperova-Baker said. "Equality or vertical closeness, appears when the gap between the law and popular sovereignty is small; the law applies to everyone and almost all people can vote or get elected. Fraternity, or horizontal closeness, is apparent in humanism, civic culture, and civility." Expanding on her final point of civility, Klicperova-Baker continued: "Civility is the most important aspect of democracy. Benevolence and respect: that is the cushion that is the buffer to permanent conflicts in the world." She pointed to the Velvet Revolution and the Velvet Divorce as two events in recent Czech history that highlighted the importance of civility: "They were not even stepping on the grass," she said. "It was a moral revolution, more like a cultural festival."

In assessing the state of democracy in Europe today, she stressed the importance of looking at specific groups of people rather than at entire nations. "What is important? We found democracies, whether religious or secular, in every country. We cannot forget about the minority, the people who have it very tough in those countries." How then should one regard minorities? "The democracies have to stand their ground; they have to fight for free and honest media. To call this era post-factual or post-truth . . . we must not accept that. We cannot let that kind of language win."

## NEW YORK

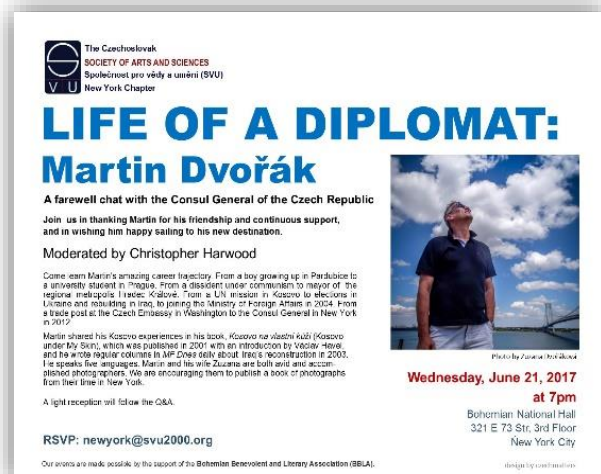
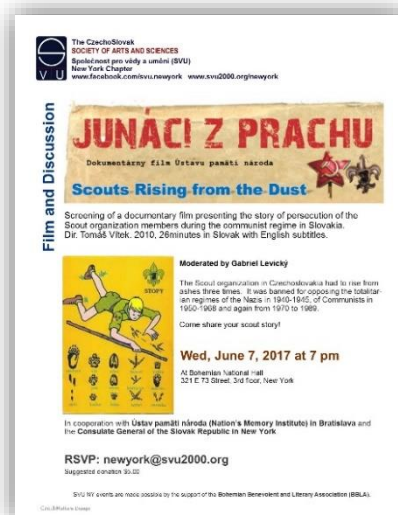
svu2000.org/newyork

## JUNE 2017

Screening of the documentary film *Junáci z Prachu* (Dir. Tomáš Vítek. 2010, 26minutes in Slovak with English subtitles) presenting the story of the persecution of the Scout organization members during the Nazi and Communist regimes in Slovakia. Moderated by Gabriel Levický.

Presented in cooperation with Ústav pamäti národa (Institute of National Memory) in Bratislava and the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York.

**Life of a Diplomat: Martin Dvořák.** A farewell conversation with the Consul General of the Czech Republic. Moderated by Chris Harwood. The audience learned about Martin's amazing career trajectory. From a boy growing up in Pardubice to a university student in Prague. From a dissident under communism to the mayor of the regional metropolis Hradec Králové. From a UN mission in Kosovo to elections in Ukraine and rebuilding in Iraq, to joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2004. From a trade post at the Czech Embassy in Washington to the Consul General in New York in 2012 and the ambassador to Kuwait and Qatar in 2017.




## JULY 2017

SVU New York Chapter has partnered with the Fund for Czech and Slovak Leadership Studies (AFCSLS) for a special presentation of *6-Minute Challenge- HS Special Edition*. Ten Czech outstanding 15-18-year-old students following their summer academic studies program at Princeton University presented themselves and their academic aspirations. They were impressive, smart, witty and spoke excellent English. These students were selected in a tough competition of about 300 best Czech applicants to participate in the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Summer Program at one of twenty-four university campuses in the United States. CTY is a program of Johns Hopkins University. Once nominated, each student chooses a course and spends three weeks of intensive studies with about 15 other students from all over the world sharing the same interests and the love of learning. We are looking forward to welcoming another CTM group in 2018.


The Czech program CTM (Centrum pro talentovanou mládež) hopes to recruit mentors from among the SVU members.



More photos from our events can be viewed on our Facebook page [facebook.com/svu.newyork](https://facebook.com/svu.newyork)



The Czechoslovak  
SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
Společnost pro vědy a umění (SVU)  
New York Chapter




American Fund  
for Czech and Slovak  
Leadership Studies

High School Special!

The sixth

# 6-Minute Challenge



**Sunday, July 16 at 6pm**  
Bohemian National Hall  
321 E 73 Str  
New York City


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

Moderated by Martin Herman, AFCSLS president

**Meet ten Czech outstanding 15-18 year old students following their summer academic studies program at Princeton University. They will present themselves, their experience at Princeton, and their academic aspirations. In English and in six minutes!**

These students were selected in a tough competition of about 300 best Czech applicants to participate in Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Summer Program at one of twenty four university campuses in the United States. CTY is a program of Johns Hopkins University. Once nominated, each student chooses a course and spends three weeks of intensive studies with about 15 other students from all over the world sharing the same interests and the love of learning.

**Students:** Michael Buchar (Praha - web design), Anna Hrubá (Praha - robotics), Emil Javůrek (Praha - mathematics), Oliver Laryea (Praha - nanotechnology), Filip Novotný (Jihlava - astronomy), Ondřej Pelánek (Brno - ornithology), Martin Píček (České Budějovice - micro controllers), Kristýna Pokorná (Praha - science promotion), Ondřej Tůma (Zlín - electronics) and Vojtěch Turiand (Brno - applied mathematics).



The Czech students' participation is sponsored by the American Fund for Czech and Slovak Leadership Studies (AFCSLS) [www.afcls.org](http://www.afcls.org)

SVU events are made possible thanks to support of the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association (BBLA).

design by czechmatters

## WASHINGTON DC

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

Pictures from SVUW chapter annual meeting and champagne reception on 9/10/2017, held at Whitley Park, Bethesda, MD.

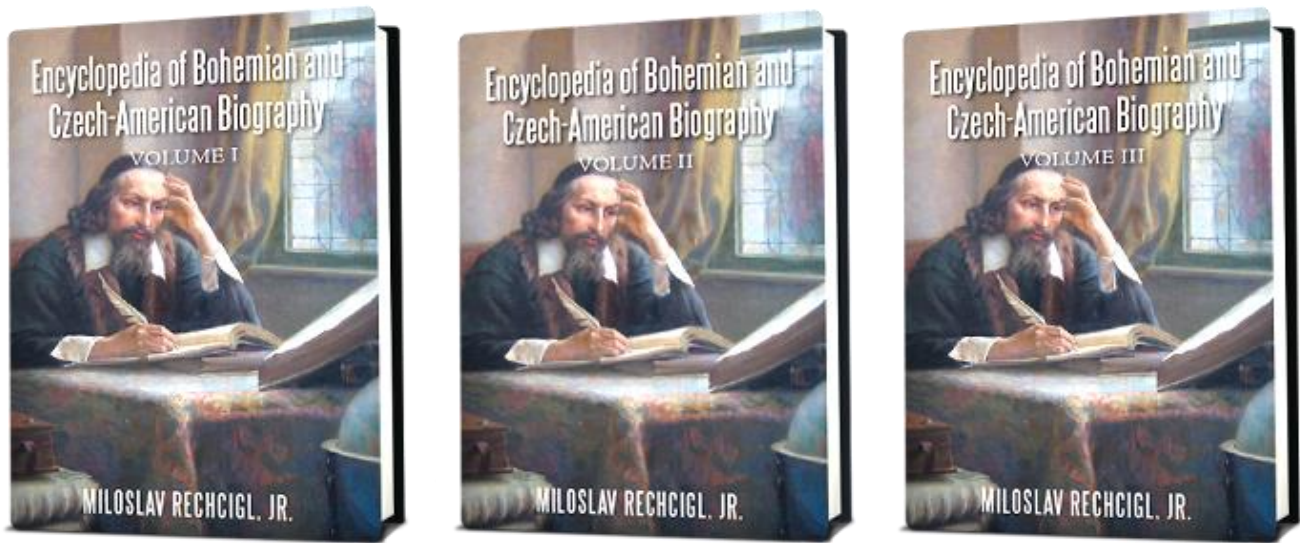


Meeting agenda included:

- Financial report;
- Review of last year's activities;
- Upcoming events include Christmas Bazaar on 11/11, 6-Minute Challenge networking event on 11/16, Mendel under Communism lecture on 9/18;
- 2018 elections - formation of nominating committee;
- June 2018 Creation of the New Europe conference.

Follow our SVU-DC website at [svu2000.org/washington-dc](http://svu2000.org/washington-dc) and our FB page at [facebook.com/svuwashington](https://facebook.com/svuwashington) for the schedule of our upcoming events.

## MÍLA REHCIGL'S ENCYCLOPEDIA



### **The Encyclopedia of Bohemian and Czech-American Biography Volumes I, II and III**

This encyclopedia covers a universe, starting a few decades after the discovery of the New World, through the escapades and significant contributions of Bohemian Jesuits and Moravian Brethren in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and the mass migration of the Czechs after the revolutionary year of 1848 up to the early years of the twentieth century and the influx of refugees from Nazism and Communism.

This encyclopedia encompasses significant individuals from the earliest known entry of a Czech on American soil to date, including our contemporaries. Included are not only those individuals born in the Czech Lands who immigrated to America, but also their descendants, irrespective of the generation.

For easier use, instead of alphabetical arrangement, the publication has been arranged into specific sections by various facets and areas of human endeavor, covering business, religion, government & politics, law, music, dramatic art, visual art, creative writing, publishing, media, education, activism & reform, the humanities, social sciences, biological sciences, physical sciences & mathematics, engineering, medicine, military, exploration, espionage, sports, modeling, and recreation. The publication, however, has an alphabetical index as well. More information and ordering at [www.milarehcigl.com](http://www.milarehcigl.com)

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## SVU ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Some years back, the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU), at the initiative of the then SVU president, Dr. Míla Rechcigl, deposited its archival material at the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC), University of Minnesota. When they ran out of space, the remainder of the archival material, which was supplemented with the missing material, was deposited at the University of Nebraska Library, Lincoln, in 2016.

Míla Rechcigl, who, in addition, has maintained his own SVU files, has now donated them, together with other historical and research material, to Palacký University, Olomouc, i.e., to the Center for Czechoslovak Exile Studies, which has established significant archival collections in this area. This way, the Czech and Slovak

scholars in the Czech and Slovak Republics will have access to the most important historical material pertaining to the activities of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU).

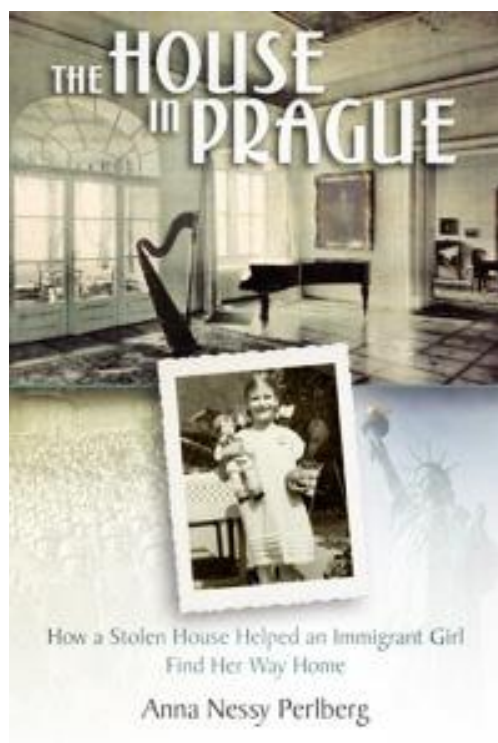
Up to Míla's retirement from the SVU leadership, the combined SVU archival collections, at the two US Universities were complete. It was hoped that his successors would subsequently also deposit their SVU papers into the archives, since the retiring officers are responsible for promptly yielding all documents to the Society. Unfortunately, this matter did not receive its due attention.

It is imperative that the important SVU documents be preserved for the future. There is a concern that the SVU papers may get lost, unless they are preserved in permanent archival collections. Therefore, former SVU presidents Karel Raška, Petr Hausner, Igor Lukeš, as well as members of their Executive Boards, are requested to kindly send their SVU papers to SVU Archivist Míla Rechcigl: [svu.one@gmail.com](mailto:svu.one@gmail.com) & [archives@svu2000.org](mailto:archives@svu2000.org)

Thanks to Míla's initiative, the SVU newsletter *Zprávy SVU* has been systematically sent, since 2016, to the Love Library of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

## BOOK BY ANNA NESSY PERLBERG

Our member **Anna Nessay Perlberg** has lived a remarkable life. From her early years of privilege in Prague, to the struggles of a young immigrant in New York City, from her years at Barnard College and Columbia University to a career of service and a loving and story-filled marriage with her poet-husband Mark Perlberg, Anna has lived by the humanitarian principles that were instilled in her by her parents.



Anna's compelling memoir, *The House in Prague, How a Stolen House Helped an Immigrant Girl Find Her Way Home* published by Golden Alley Press in 2016, welcomes us into her early life in the elegant house near the Castle in Prague. We meet her shining and beautiful opera singer mother, friend of Albert Schweitzer and Arnold Schoenberg; and her father, counsel to the family of Czechoslovak President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk.

With Hitler's rise to power, everything changes. Anna's father is Jewish and that, coupled with their political connections, puts the family in great danger. So, their harrowing escape to a new life in America begins.

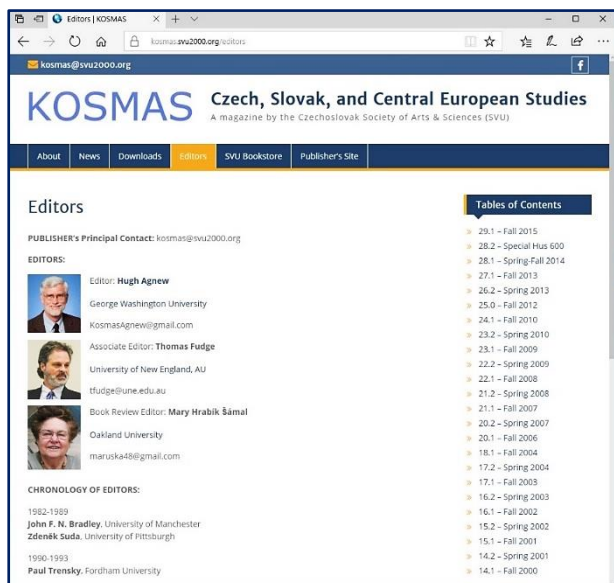
*The House in Prague* is a memoir in two parts. In Part I, through Anna's young voice we learn of the family's escape from the Nazis, their voyage to Ellis Island, and her struggles to become an American girl in a city teeming with immigrants and prejudice.

In Part II, present-day Anna shares stories of the successes and failures of her immigrant family, their cherished Holocaust survivors, and life with her poet-husband and their children. And

through it all, there is the house in Prague, elegant, unchanging, helping Anna to find her own way home. *The House in Prague* is written with straightforward, lyrical clarity. Neither a romanticized view of the past, nor an unkind tell-all, Anna shares her life in a way that helps us understand our own.

## KOSMAS IS ALIVE!

Be it known that KOSMAS has a new website at [kosmas.svu2000.org](http://kosmas.svu2000.org) that makes available the full-text electronic version of this journal, and that will progressively do the same for past issues.



KOSMAS continues in both printed and electronic formats. In fact, more and more subscribers, including libraries and institutional subscription agents, demand both versions. The next issue of KOSMAS will review books about champion runner Emil Zátopek, recollections of Evelyn Funda growing up in an Idaho Czech immigrant farming family, Czech society immediately before and after the Velvet Revolution, and agrarianism in the 19th and 20th century. The reviewers include Tracy A. Burns, Mila Saskova-Pierce, David Aitken and Mary Hrabik Samal.

As soon as the next issue is completed, the entire family of subscribers will be informed.

Original papers are solicited at [kosmas@svu2000.org](mailto:kosmas@svu2000.org)

## 2018 SVU PRAGUE CONGRESS REGISTRATION FORM

Please consider, **preferably**, to register on-line at [svu2000.org/payments/registration](http://svu2000.org/payments/registration)

If you prefer to send a paper form along with your check payable to SVU, to the following address: SVU, PO Box 590551, Newton, MA 02459, USA, you can use this form:

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**Full Name:**

**E-mail:**

**Address:**

### **Information about the Registration Fee – Please select the appropriate category:**

SVU Member Individual ... \$40.00 ☐

SVU Member Couple ... \$50.00 ☐

Non-Member Individual ... \$50.00 ☐

Non-Member Couple ... \$60.00 ☐

Bundles: Congress + Indiv. Membership ... \$80.00 ☐

Congress + Couple Membership ... \$95.00 ☐

Pensioner with no other income ... \$10.00 ☐

Student enrolled at school ... \$10.00 ☐

**2018 SVU Congress Registration Fee or 2018 Bundle:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to this Congress – Optional: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your news and thoughts are welcome at: [zpravy@svu2000.org](mailto:zpravy@svu2000.org)

The next issue is scheduled for December 2017. Deadline for submissions is **November 15, 2017**.

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)

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



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