

ZPRÁVY SVU NEWS

Společnost pro vědy a umění



Society of Arts & Sciences

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December 2017

Q4, № 4



TIME TO REGISTER

2018 SVU World Congress in Prague

Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences,
we will hold our 2018 World Congress in Prague, Czech Republic

July 10 – 12, 2018



2018 SVU WORLD CONGRESS IN PRAGUE

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

July 10 – 12, 2018

commemorating the

Centennial of the First Czechoslovak Republic

and celebrating

100 YEARS OF CZECH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

in collaboration with the **SVU Praha Chapter** and **Metropolitan University Prague**,
supported by the **U.S. Embassy in Prague** and the **Czech Senate**

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

Suggestions and proposals are welcome now at **prague2018@svu2000.org**

Program Outline (tentative – please watch for updates):

Tuesday, July 10	3 PM: Congress Opening, Knights Hall, Wallenstein Palace 6 PM: Opening Concert by Prague Film Orchestra (<i>place to be announced</i>)
Wednesday, July 11	10 AM ~ 11:50 AM: Diplomatic Panel, MUP Campus 1 PM ~ 4:30 PM: Academic Sessions, MUP Campus
Thursday, July 12	10 AM ~ 2:30 PM: Academic Sessions, MUP Campus ~3 PM: SVU General Assembly Meeting, MUP Campus

Please register at svu2000.org/payments/registration

[On-line Registration is preferred, but a printed form is available as an alternative on page 43.]

Please send your requests for information, hotel guidance, or budget accommodation to:

prague2018@svu2000.org

THE CENTENNIAL OF U.S.-CZECH RELATIONS



Crédit photo: U.S. Embassy Prague

H.E. Stephen B. King, U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic

Prague, Bubeneč, December 11, 2017: The Centennial Year of U.S. – Czech Relations was launched by H.E. Stephen B. King, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Czech Republic. In his typically cordial speech, Ambassador King mentioned some of the many U.S. ties to the founding of Czechoslovakia, cultural relations and economic cooperation. The U.S. Embassy in Prague will celebrate 100 years of U.S.-Czech relations by supporting projects highlighting the mutual friendship and history of the two countries. You can see updates on these events at <https://cz.usembassy.gov/centennial> From this page, you can also download the publication *Masaryk & America*, written by our late member George Kovtun.

The SVU is renowned for fostering ties between the U.S. and the Czech Republic for the past six decades. For the 2018 celebrations, we are partnering with Metropolitan University Prague and we are proud to announce that our special conference on **100 YEARS OF CZECH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP** is supported by the U.S. Embassy in Prague as part of the Centennial Year of U.S.–Czech Relations. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of our 2018 Prague Congress! For more information, write to: **prague2018@svu2000.org**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jo Ann Hajek, Bennington, NE – *individual member*

Jakub Horáček, Prague – *student member*

Carl Olson, Irvine, CA – *student member*

Karen Marie Sandrick, Chicago, IL – *individual member*

Iveta Stefancova, Washington, DC – *student member*

The Czechoslovak Talks, Prague – *institutional member (see page 5)*

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

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

We warmly welcome all the past members who have recently returned to the Society!

* * *

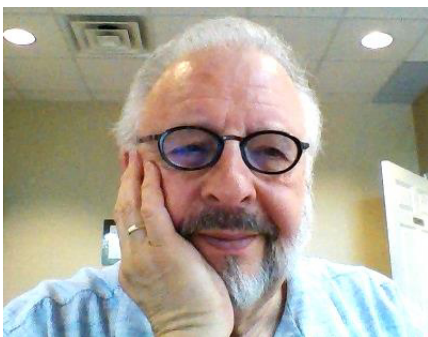
OUR INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS



THE CZECHOSLOVAK TALKS

Created in 2016 by the Dotek Endowment Fund

Prague, Czech Republic



JOSEPH SWOBODA PhD, LLC

Mental Health Practice

Lincoln, Nebraska, USA



National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Est. 1978

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA

INTRODUCING OUR NEW INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER



The Czechoslovak Talks project was launched in 2016 by the Dotek Endowment Fund. Since 2008, this endowment fund has been involved in activities supporting relations between Czech and Slovaks living abroad and institutions in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. See the list of our projects at:

www.dotek.org/cz/projekty.

One of the patrons of the project is the law firm H&P Law s.r.o. dealing with legal aid to Czechoslovak compatriots, specializing in property and inheritance law. The Dotek Endowment Fund, in cooperation with our patron, H&P Law s.r.o., has helped many Czechoslovaks from around the world, and it has listened to the very inspiring life stories of our Czechoslovak compatriots, which should be preserved for future generations.

The Czechoslovak Talks project embraces the life stories of Czechoslovaks around the world – the stories of their personal ups and downs, the opportunities and obstacles they encountered, all part of the life experiences that we would like to preserve for future generations.

We publish most of the personal stories on our website at www.czechoslovaktalks.com

If you want to be part of The Czechoslovak Talks, or if we could help you in some way, contacts us by email at m.kanakova@czechoslovaktalks.com

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info@czechoslovaktalks.com | www.czechoslovaktalks.com



Peter Messner

"Maybe my life was a hodgepodge of wonderful coincidences, I don't know. Now that I am 80 years old and my wife, whom I have known and loved practically all of my life, recently died, I think about this a lot.

My name is Peter Messner, and this rather German name has helped me several times, even though I am of Jewish origin. Before the war, we lived in Czechoslovakia, and when Hitler came to power in Germany, my foresighted father had a feeling that this would not turn out well and decided to emigrate. He just came to me one day and announced to my mother, me, and my siblings that he managed (for a lot of money) to get visas to Ecuador. We were supposed to leave for Genoa, Italy in two days and wait there two weeks for a ship.

„ *Before the war, we lived in Czechoslovakia, and when Hitler came to power in Germany, my foresighted father had a feeling that this would not turn out well and decided to emigrate.*

It was a big rush, you know, but in the end, we all packed and set off for Italy. In Genoa, we lived in a small but clean hotel at the edge of town. We did not leave the hotel very often, because we, of course, knew about the Italian fascists' hatred of Jews. But once when father went out shopping, he saved a person. A car was about to run him over, and he pulled him up from the ground at the last minute. The person understandably felt gratitude towards my father and gave him a business card with words written on it that if he needs anything, he could turn to him.

The name on the business card was of a high-ranking member of the National Fascist Party of Italy. A paradox, isn't it?

On the day of departure, there was a lot of confusion, and we waited two hours in line for boarding. When it was our turn, my father realised that he had left the passports in the hotel safe. Since the next ship was to depart in a month's time, we couldn't do anything else but take a taxi and try to present the documents during the last hour before the ship was scheduled to depart. But when we arrived at the port, we heard this large noise. The ship that we were supposed to take was blown up by a torpedo. Nobody survived. To the customs officers, we didn't survive either.



We were on the list of passengers on the sunk ship. We didn't have anywhere to live, and our remaining money would hardly be enough for new tickets ... Then my father remembered the business card. He called the number on the card, and in several minutes, the fascist that he rescued was standing in front of us. He offered us accommodation in his house for a whole month, and prior to departure, gave father a letter that should be presented to the military or the police in the event of any problems.

My father told me one day after getting back from work that he managed to arrange school for me in the United States. And so I left for the land full of opportunity, which I had not even dreamed of yet. I was thrilled, but the problem was that I had to leave after my studies. So I got this life-saving idea that I would join the army. Surprisingly, they accepted me, and I worked as a bartender in an officer's club during the Korean War.

One day, I brought a cocktail to a certain general who asked me who I was and where I was from. I truthfully told him that we are from Czechoslovakia and that my family is in Ecuador. I also mentioned that I must return to Ecuador after finishing my military service even though I would rather stay in the United States. The general was thinking and then said that the only possibility is for the US Senate to grant an exception and that this is a difficult thing, but that he would try to arrange this for me. And believe it or not, in two months' time, I received it. I only found out later that this general was Dwight D. Eisenhower.

My life is full of interesting coincidences. In relation to Czechoslovakia, for instance, I found out that I own a house in Prague that the communists forgot to confiscate. Thanks to Czech friends, I managed to get it back. However, I have not been to the Czech Republic, and due to my advanced age, I unfortunately have no plans to do so."

**In his old age, Peter Messner got married for a second time,
and he lives a happy and satisfied life in the USA.**

WWW.CZECHOSLOVAKTALKS.COM



INTRODUCING OUR MEMBER:

KYTKA HILMAR JEZEK



Kytka Hilmar-Jezek was born Květoslava Hilmarová in Prague. She is a descendant of František Matěj Hilmar, the Czech composer who is credited with composing the first polka. She arrived in the United States in 1968 with her parents, who emigrated to the United States and received sponsorship of Mr. Emil Wagner, co-owner of the Mount Airy Lodge in the Pocono Mountains and 1995 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his social, public and business life and involvement in Czech and Slovak activities.

Excelling in English after only one year, she was the translator for her extended family's business dealings since the age of six. Kytka's organizational skills led her to Los Angeles, where her creativity and skilled eye won her an apprenticeship with an art director. She was his assistant, responsible for the visual style in catalogues, magazines, product packaging, and music video productions at the onset of MTV, creating the overall design and organizing the unified vision of each brand, including those of world-renowned fashion houses, for over 10 years.

Kytka moved to Washington State, where she immersed herself in natural parenting and Waldorf education, a pedagogy which emphasizes the role of imagination in learning, striving to integrate holistically the intellectual, practical, and artistic development of pupils.

Seeing an open market, she used her skills and became founder and CEO of Hedgehog Farms, Enchanted Fairy Dreams, W.I.S.H. (Waldorf Inspired Students at Home), the Hip Hammock (baby carrier), The Waldorf Community Exchange and Waldorf Homeschoolers, which she maintained for 20 years. In addition, Kytka was one of the founding parents at Three Cedars Waldorf School, where she served on the advisory board and as a trustee, and co-arranged a matching grant program from Bill Gates and Microsoft for the school. She has been honored in the Alternative Education Hall of Fame since 1996 for her work on natural parenting and for children.

She volunteered alongside numerous midwives and Dr. Paul Fleiss, becoming a Certified Childbirth Educator, Labor Assistant and Birth Advocate active in numerous campaigns for birthing and infant rights. Kytka then became a graduate of Clayton College of Natural Health, where she earned her Doctor of Naturopathy degree. Continually on a quest for learning, in 2001s Kytka and her family packed over 4,200 books into a shipping container and moved into a quiet isolation that enabled her to read, study, and homeschool her own children. During this time, she also authored and published her first book.

Since 2007, Kytka has authored over 25 books about natural parenting, alternative medicine for children, reiki, homeschooling and Waldorf education. In addition, she has ghostwritten over 50 books for her clients and another 30 in various

genres under multiple pen names. She has spoken at numerous conferences and has taught workshops on book writing, self-publishing, digital publishing, and marketing authors and books. She has conducted webinars, podcasts and created programs assisting people with how to tell their stories. Honoring her Czech roots and having a lifelong passion for giving back, she has assisted numerous Czechs with their relocation to the United States by offering her help as a translator and with getting accustomed to life in the United States.

She is the Executive Publisher at Distinct Press, where she is actively recruiting and publishing Czech and Slovak writers in the United States. Plans for 2018 include the launch of the *Czech Out ...* educational book series for children, as well as a *Czech Revival* series, which introduces unknown Czech authors to American readers.

Passionate about her Czech roots, Kytka co-founded and co-created the website tresbohemes.com with her daughters, Zanna and Zynnia, a site where they share information about the culture, heritage, traditions, history, and society of the Czech Republic. To date they have researched and written over 750 posts without any sponsorship or assistance for their long hours of work and commitment.

Kytka, Zanna and Zynnia organize tours twice a year to the Czech Republic. Through tendaysinprague.com, they are introducing Americans to the beauty of the Czech Republic.

In little spare time, she enjoys collecting old WWII letters and preserving old photographs and adding to the archives at The Photo Vault.



As of December 2016, The Czech North American Chamber of Commerce & Culture Inc. announced plans to align with Distinct Press to encourage the publishing of Czech and Slovak authors from the United States and Canada, as well as translations of books by Czech authors. They have welcomed aboard Kytka Hilmar-Jezek to their Board of Directors in a move to reach younger audiences and expand their range of services to the Czech community worldwide.

Learn more on Kytka's websites:

www.tresbohemes.com

www.distinctpress.com

www.tendaysinprague.com

* * *

CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO SVU MEMBERS

Kytka has kindly agreed to share in *Zprávy* her photos of **Waldemar Matuška and his wife Olga**, which she personally took at his first studio recording in the USA in 1986. These photos have never been published in any print media. Enjoy the premiere!



© Kytka Hilmar-Jezek

Note from the editors: SUPRAPHON offers 42 Waldemar's albums, including the one we're featuring here. You can buy and download individual songs for 90 cents, or albums



*@ av. \$4.50 for MP3, or
@ av. \$5.90 for FLAC (hi def).*

Just visit

*www.supraphonline.cz
and enter MATUSKA*

This shot was actually used for the album cover. Crédit photo: Kytka Hilmar Jezek

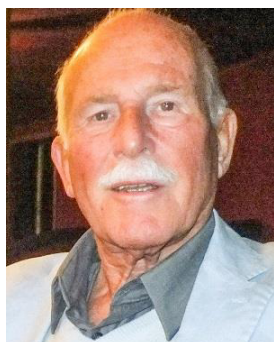






© Kytka Hilmar-Jezek

OUR MEMBERS' NEWS



Lubomir Novotny of Toronto has been selected as the new president of the Czech North American Chamber of Commerce and Culture Inc. On November 8, 2017, the Chamber's board of directors voted to approve Mr. Novotny for the position.

"I am honored to take over the role of President and CEO of the Czech North American Chamber of Commerce and Culture," said Novotny. "The Chamber's work is vital to the Czech business community, and I look forward to working with the Chamber's board, volunteers, and staff to grow the organization, to promote its interests, and to ensure the livelihood of Czechs in North America and Canada."

Novotny takes over this new role in the Chamber with extensive business experience, having most recently served as the Chamber's executive director. He has been a part of the Chamber since its founding on January 6, 1981, when he and its previous president, Mr. Karel Velan, agreed that an organization of this type was much needed for the Czech-American and Czech-Canadian communities.

Since then, Novotny has completely immersed himself in various Chamber's projects, organizing conferences and trade shows in Canada, publishing the Chamber's trade magazines and especially developing and launching its website, czechevents.net, which became a popular Web source for Czech expatriates in North America, attracting the highest number of visitors of any such media. Mr. Novotny has the experience and expertise to lead the Chamber. Before his involvement with the Chamber, he worked in the production of all genres of films, from short films to feature films, as well as commercials.

His career in Czechoslovakia culminated in his role as the founder and managing director of the publicity programs of Czechoslovak Television in Prague. That post ended in August 1968 with the occupation of Czechoslovakia.

Novotny then left the country for England, and in early 1969 he took a managerial job at CFTO Television in Toronto, Canada. In 1989, at the onset of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, Novotny was among those who formed the Canada-Czechoslovakia Chamber of Commerce, where he became managing director. He soon also launched the monthly magazine *Gateway to Czech Trade*, sponsored by the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade. With Thomas Baťa and Karel Velan, he organized the Czech North American Chamber of Commerce Inc. in Boston, Massachusetts, on October 28, 1998. That Chamber is registered as a non-profit organization in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 2006, the organization redirected its focus from trade to culture and was then renamed the Czech North American Chamber of Commerce and Culture Inc. At that time, Mr. Novotny created the czechevents.net website, which informs Canadians and Americans of both Czech and Slovak heritage about upcoming cultural events and offers news and information about trade and many other subjects. The website is visited each month by over 100,000 Czech and Slovak expatriates living in North America and Canada.

President Novotny succeeds Karel Velan, another faithful member of SVU, who passed away on September 29, 2017, after more than 35 years in support of the Chamber.



Eliska Hasek Coolidge has a new book out – the second Czech edition of her memoir, *Pět amerických prezidentů, česká babička a já* (Five US Presidents, a Czech grandma, and me).

The second Czech edition is an updated and expanded version of a book of memoirs from a successful Czech woman who emigrated in 1949 to the United States, where she worked in the White House under JFK and was a special assistant to Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter.

This edition is available in electronic formats (ePUB, Kindle, PDF) for about \$8.95 at alza.cz

The printed book can be ordered directly from the publisher, Mladá fronta, or from other booksellers. You can read an excerpt from this book in our **READ IN CZECH** section on page 42.

Eliska Hasek Coolidge launched her career in 1959 by enrolling in the prestigious Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. Upon graduation cum laude, she joined the White House staff as an assistant on the speechwriter's staff, and she later created the Office of Presidential Messages, where she served for 18 years as director and as a Special Assistant to the President. In the Reagan-Bush administration, she served for nine years in the U.S. Department of State, first on the personal staff of Secretary of State George Shultz, later as Congressional Liaison Officer for the Inter-American Bureau, as Assistant Chief of Protocol of the US, and finally as US Alternate Delegate to the Organization of American States.

Mrs. Coolidge was born in Prague in the family of František Hašek, Czech banker, stock exchange president and patriot, who was executed in 1942 by a Nazi firing squad. She escaped from Communist Czechoslovakia in 1949 and spent her entire life in the United States.

Upon her return in the 1990's to the Czech Republic, Mrs. Coolidge set up Coolidge Consulting Services. Since 1998, among other objectives, she has dedicated her efforts primarily to the Art and Management of Social Skills and to Diplomatic and Business Protocol.

As the granddaughter, daughter and wife of bankers, Mrs. Coolidge lived what she now teaches. Her etiquette courses reflect her long years of engagement in business and diplomatic circles in Washington, New York, Boston and around the world. Her courses are intended for all who seek to perfect their social and communication skills and business success in an increasingly competitive world.

Her clients include ministers, diplomats, business executives, bankers, lawyers, private citizens and most recently children and teenagers.

In 2003, Mrs. Coolidge was honored as "An Outstanding Czech Woman in the World" by the Czech Senate, the Lord Mayor of Prague, and the Rector of Charles University. In 2017, she received the Medal of Merit, First Class, from the President of the Czech Republic.

Learn more at: ehc.cz



Kenneth Janda presented his book

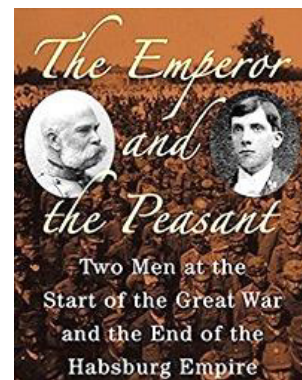
The Emperor and The Peasant

at the 2017 CGSI Conference in Pittsburgh, PA in October 2017.

See the article about this book in our Zpravy #2 – June 2017 on Page 3.

Learn more at:

janda.org





Charles Ota Heller has a new book out: *Ready Fire Aim!*

Susan Moger, who wrote *Of Better Blood* (susanmoger.com), is sharing her review with us:

"Terror was a fact of life in author Charles Ota Heller's early life under Nazi occupation in Czechoslovakia during World War II. Hidden by friendly neighbors, he avoided the fate of many family members during the Holocaust, but the impact of that childhood, brilliantly told in his first book, *Prague: My Long Journey Home*, lingered even after his family's escape from communism and emigration to the United States.

Readers of Heller's *Ready, Fire, Aim*, are skillfully introduced to those childhood lessons in terror in chapters one and two. About an interminable investigation of his company, CADCOM, by the FBI (on a trumped-up charge), he writes, "I didn't survive the Nazis and escape from the Communists so that I... would be subjected to arbitrary punishment by faceless bureaucrats in America." The terror continues to surface over the years of business and academic challenges and triumphs.

The sub-title of Charles Ota Heller's fascinating book—*An Immigrant's Tales of Entrepreneurial Terror*—says a lot. The words *Immigrant* and *Entrepreneur* are highly significant to the author. As a 13-year-old immigrant arriving in the U.S. in 1949, Heller spoke two words of English, "Sank you." Before disembarking, his father impressed on him two things. (1) "Forget everything that happened to you on the other side of the Atlantic." (2) "Start learning to speak fluent English: a year from now, I want you to speak without an accent."

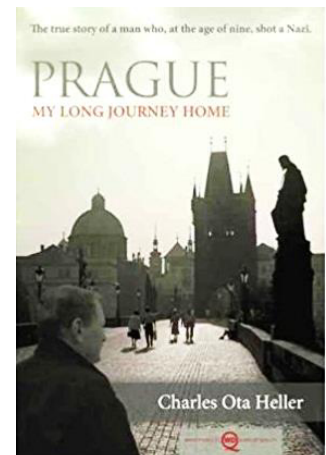
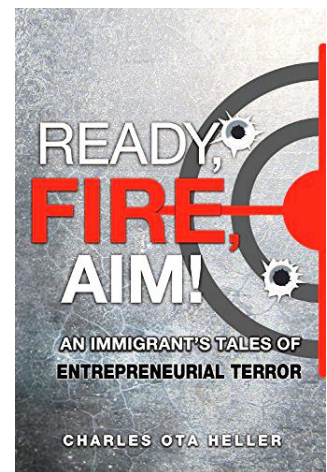
Heller took his father's advice to heart. In this book, as in his life, Heller returns often to his father's example and advice on many topics. The immigrant thread, easy to lose sight of as these 'tales' of business and academic successes and challenges unfold, is skillfully woven through the book.

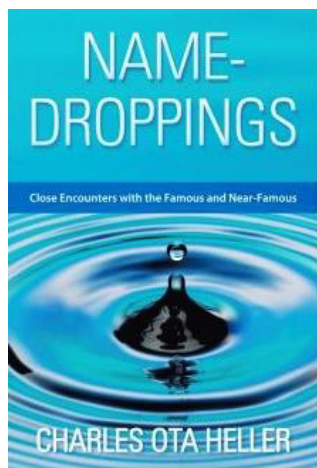
'Mr. Entrepreneurship,' Heller's media-created name, is referenced near the end of the book. It sums up Heller's achievements, not only in starting and running businesses, but also in using his knowledge and experience to guide others. Heller's tales from the trenches of the business world seamlessly incorporate his personal life and feelings. His signature style, clear, self-deprecating and compelling, reveals much. His passionate devotion to family and respect for family history shines through. In a satisfying development, his father's admonition "to forget" is revisited by Heller later in life. He powerfully documents the experience of allowing long-ignored memories to flood in.

Heller weaves a compelling tapestry stretching from Europe in the last century to the United States, and back to Europe again. I recommend this book to all readers for its appealing narrator, meaningful content, and its sensibility—an un-self-pitying, learn-from-my-mistakes attitude. I recommend it most of all as a portrait of an American Dreamer."

* * *

Charlie was born in Prague three years before the country was occupied by Germany. Today, he is a writer, having published an award-winning memoir, *Prague: My Long Journey Home*. It was translated into Czech



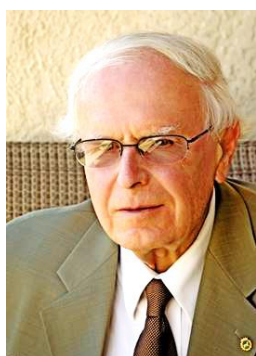


and published by
Mladá fronta in 2011
Dlouhá cesta domů.

His lighthearted memoir,
titled
*Name-droppings: Close
Encounters with the
Famous and Near Famous*
was published in 2013.

All three books exist also in ePUB and Kindle formats. Ordering info and more:
charlesoheller.com

Charles Ota Heller has three engineering degrees and was the recipient of Maryland's "Entrepreneur-of-the-Year" award, Oklahoma State's Lohmann Medal, and CUA's Alumni Achievement Award. He was the youngest-ever tenured professor at the Naval Academy and the first professor of practice in the history of the University of Maryland. In 2015, Charlie was inducted into the Oklahoma State University CEAT Hall of Fame.

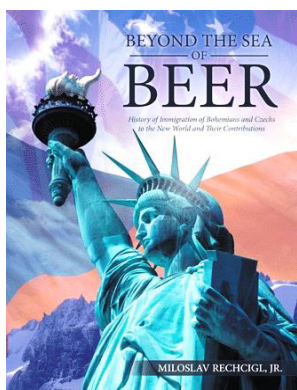


Zdenek Bazant, an expert in materials science who is renowned for advancing the knowledge regarding probabilistic theory of materials and structures, has been honored by The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), an international organization with

more than 130,000 members.

Zdenek Bazant, a professor at Northwestern University and former director of Northwestern's Center for Geomaterials, received the ASME Medal at the Society's 2017 International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition in Tampa, Florida.

The prestigious **ASME Medal** recognizes Bazant "for developing a statistical theory of the strength and lifetime of quasi-brittle materials of random material properties, as well as verifying it with experimental evidence and demonstrating its relevance to structural safety." ASME further cites Bazant "for formulating a kinetic energy release theory for material comminution into particles or random sizes under extreme strain rates." A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Bazant is the recipient of seven honorary doctorates from universities around the world. Congratulations!



Beyond the Sea of Beer
*History of Immigration of
Bohemians and Czechs to the
New World and Their
Contributions*

by Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr.
AuthorHouse, Nov. 2017

A comprehensive history of
immigrants from the historic

lands of the Bohemian Crown and its successor states, including Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic. Readers will find lots of new information in this book that is not available elsewhere.

The title of the book comes from a popular song of the famous Czech artistic duo, Voskovec and Werich, who described America in those words when they lived here, reflecting on their love for this country. It covers the period starting soon after the discovery of the New World to date. The emphasis is on the US, although Canada and Latin America are also covered. It covers the arrival and the settlement of the immigrants in various states and regions of America, their harsh beginnings, the establishment of their communities, and their organization. A separate section is devoted to the contributions of notable individuals in different areas of human endeavor.

MÍLA ŠAŠKOVÁ-PIERCE HONORARY CONSUL IN NEBRASKA



H.E. Hynek Kmoníček Czech Ambassador to the U.S., Governor Pete Ricketts, Dr. Míla Šašková-Pierce, General Daryl Bohac

No other state in the United States has a higher percentage of Czech-Americans than Nebraska. Czechs started to arrive to Nebraska in the second half of the 19th century. I, as well as all other visitors in Nebraska from the Czech Republic that I met, have been profoundly impressed by the respect that our countrymen and their later generations built here for our country, as well as by how proudly the Czech-American families that have lived here, sometimes for more than 150 years, still treasure their Czech heritage.

This makes the opening of our new Honorary Consulate in Nebraska truly a special occasion. The official appointment of Dr. Míla Šašková-Pierce took place at the Nebraska Club, and we were honored by many special guests, including including Nebraska's Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley, State Secretary of

Nebraska Hon. John Gale, Nebraska State Secretary John Gale, Nebraska state senators of Czech ancestry Hon. Carol Blood, Hon. Roy Baker and Hon. Bob Krist, representatives of the Nebraska National Guard (which has been a partner of the Czech Army since 1993), including the Guard's commanding officer, Major General Daryl Bohac, and Major General Michael Navrkal, representatives of the University of Nebraska, including Executive Vice President and Provost Susan Fritz, Chancellor Ronnie Green, and Associate Vice Chancellor Michael Zeleny, the mayor of Wilber, which is the Czech Capital in the United States, as proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan, Hon. Roger Chrans, representatives of Czech-American

organizations of Lincoln, Omaha, York and Wilber and other Czech-Americans. Without the lifelong work and support of these many guests, Czech Nebraska and Czech-American relations would not be the same.

Dr. Míla Šašková-Pierce does not need an introduction in Nebraska. Her professional career is closely linked with the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and its Department of Modern Languages. Without her, we would probably not be celebrating 110 years of the uninterrupted teaching of the Czech language at the University. For many years, she has been the driving force behind many Czech-American projects well beyond this department. Most recently, she was instrumental in the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the University and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic. The University is by no means the limit of her work for the Czech Republic. She has been a member and dedicated supporter of many Czech-American organizations, including the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. Unofficially she has already excelled for years as a representative of the Czech

Republic in Nebraska. So, I have no doubt she will continue to do so officially.

I am proud to have been a part of the nomination process for Dr. Šašková-Pierce. I congratulate her and wish her a lot of success in her new role!

During my October 22-24 visit in Nebraska, my wife Kateřina and I had the pleasure of accompanying the ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States, Hynek Kmoníček, and his wife, Indira Gumarová. Our program included a Czech Language Foundation Banquet, which celebrated 110 years of the Czech language program at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, meeting with Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts, visits to the Nebraska National Guard, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, including its Czech historical archives and Innovation Campus, and the Czech Capital in the United States, Wilber.

*Bořek Lizec, Consul General of the Czech Republic
in Chicago*

Crédit photos: Consulate General

*Kateřina Lizcová
Kulhánková,
C. Blood,
Míla Šašková-Pierce,
Bořek Lizec*



IN MEMORIAM



A good person has left us. **Boris Rajek** was born in Čadca, a town in northwest Slovakia, on July 30, 1937, and he died in Los Angeles on October 23, 2017. Boris's parents met when his mother, Ludmila née Zlámalová

from Dřevohostice near Přerov in Moravia, came to Čadca to teach business and office skills in the local school, where she would teach until retirement. Boris's father, Ludovít Reich, changed the family name to Rajek in 1938, as a radical new antisemitism came from Hitler's Germany.

The family operated a hotel in Čadca, but the Nazis and their allies took the property and the life of Boris's father, who perished in a concentration camp. Boris was the only son. He took part in the local Boy Scout group, which continued to gather and to carry on its good work in the beautiful forests and mountains around Čadca through the Communist years. After finishing *gymnázium*, a classical high school, Boris went to Bratislava, the Slovak capital. Here he studied at the Technical University and graduated as an electrical engineer. After the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, Boris left his occupied country with a friend. They went to Vienna and wanted to go to the United States. Luckily, Boris's friend had an uncle in America, who could sponsor them. After all the required procedures, the two men arrived in California in February 1969.

Boris found employment in a refining company, Torrance Oil, and worked there until retirement. From 1972, he lived in Venice Beach. It did not take long, after his arrival in California, for Boris to get

involved in the Czechoslovak community and become very active in its cultural life. He joined the Czech Catholic Mission organization. For a long time, Boris was president of the SVU chapter in Los Angeles and also of the local chapters of the Czechoslovak National Council of America and the American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees.

While others devoted themselves to their own families, Boris made all the countrymen in Los Angeles his family. His home was a salon and gathering place for the whole Czech and Slovak community here on the Pacific coast. On thousands of weekends over the decades, Czechs and Slovaks gathered at Boris's home to relax, cook, eat, drink, relive old times, talk about what was happening in the world, watch films and recorded television programs from Czechoslovakia, and enjoy the warmth of their collective companionship. Boris also took in many arrivals and gave them a place to stay until they could start their new lives. For all his service, generosity and humanity, Boris deserved but never received official recognition from his native country.

Among those who came to sojourn with Boris from Slovakia and the Czech Republic were the editor Viliam Jablonický, actress Silvia Šuvadová, and the singers Honza Vyčítal, Jaroslav Huťka and Karel Kryl. Marta Slezáková wrote about her time with Boris in her book, *Všetci sú v Amerike* (They're all in America). American astronaut Eugene Cernan was a friend, and Boris accompanied him in 1994 to Slovakia and to Kysuce, the

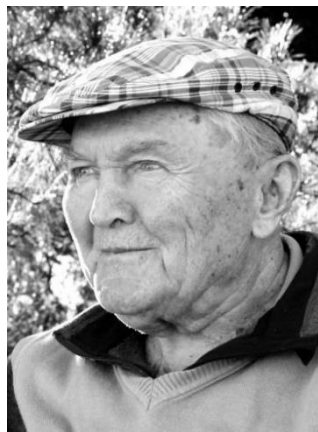
native region of Cernan's family, in northwestern Slovakia, from where the family went to America. Boris himself left no record of all the people who came to his house to see friends, talk or to stay. There were thousands of them over the decades.

Boris loved books and saved a lot of Slovak and Czech libraries, left behind by their deceased owners, from destruction. He distributed many books from these libraries to friends. Boris had a huge library of his own, with countless books and some two thousand movies and recordings of music and television. Most of this audiovisual library came from Miro Golis, Boris's lifelong friend in Čadca, who sent them to Boris in package after package. The two men would not see each other

again until 1990. Boris shared everything from his library with the community around him and with anyone who wanted to read, watch or listen to something.

Lately his health was failing. He had a couple of strokes. Each of them took months of rehabilitation and brought him a lot of suffering. His blood pressure rose so high, the doctors could not control it. He felt it was impossible to go on this way anymore.

Contributed by the SVU chapter in Los Angeles and its president, Lida Sandera, with material from two appreciations of Boris Rajek written in Čadca by PhDr. Rudolf Gerát of the Spolok priateľov Čadce (Friends of Čadca association) in 2007 and 2017.



Peter Rudolph Hruby, 96, died peacefully in his Annapolis home on September 26, 2017.

Mr. Hruby was born in 1921 in Czechoslovakia. He fled to Switzerland as a political refugee when the Communist Party seized power in 1948.

In Geneva, Mr. Hruby founded *Skutečnosť* (Reality), a journal promoting European democracy, and began work on his PhD, which he returned to complete in 1978.

Mr. Hruby worked for Radio Free Europe in Germany and then in the United States, after emigrating in 1957. He taught on US military bases through the University of Maryland. In 1971, Mr. Hruby moved to Perth, Western Australia, to join the faculty at Curtin University. In 2002, Mr. Hruby returned to Prague, where he taught at Charles University until 2007. During the course of his

academic career, Mr. Hruby published numerous scholarly articles and four books. Mr. Hruby was married to Zdena Hyblová (now Zdena Heller) from 1953 to 1960. Their daughter, Katherine (Kačenka) Hruby, lives in New York City.

Mr. Hruby and Shirley Winter Hruby (d. 2004) were married in New York City in 1965, and they enjoyed many happy years in Australia, where they raised their daughter, Milena.

Mr. Hruby moved to Annapolis in 2007 to be close to Milena and her family. During the last decade of his life, he enjoyed Annapolis's symphony, ballet, opera, art galleries and fine dining, and he shared his love for nature, music, and chess with Milena's family. He will be greatly missed by his daughters, his son-in-law Jeffrey Smith, and his adored grandsons Nathaniel and Caleb.

Kindly submitted by Milena Hruby Smith, daughter



Entrepreneur, philanthropist and loving patriarch of the Velan family, **Karel Velan** passed away peacefully in his sleep on Friday, September 29, 2017, at the age of 99.

Born on February 8, 1918, the son of a Czech father and a Polish mother, he grew up in Żywiec, a Silesian beer-brewing city in Poland. His mother died of leukemia when he was only 10 years old, and his father and sister died during the Second World War. In 1941, Karel met and married his lifelong love, Olga, in Brno, then in the occupied Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. After the war, he completed his Master of Engineering studies at the University of Brno.

After the communists seized power in Czechoslovakia in 1948, Karel and Olga escaped with their two sons, first settling in Switzerland and then coming to Canada in 1949. Karel's ability to speak six languages gave him greater options for immigration. In 1950, he founded Velan Engineering Ltd. in his new hometown of Montreal and soon patented a revolutionary bimetallic steam trap, his first of many successful patents. Always a global visionary, Karel established the company's first overseas manufacturing plant in 1954, and in 1956 he travelled around the world in order to build a network of international distributors. The company grew to be a world leader in industrial valves, employing 1,900 people and manufacturing valves in 9 countries on three continents. Passionately dedicated to the valve business he founded, Karel continued to come into the office until the age of 96, culminating a career of steadfast and inimitable leadership spanning more than six decades.

Karel received recognition for his hard work, excellence and devoted service to society: notable awards bestowed on him are the Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Quebec, Quebec's Entrepreneur of the Year (1996), Grand Prix d'excellence from the Quebec Order of Engineers, Engineers Canada Gold Medal Award, Officer of the Order of Montreal, Telus Great

Humanitarian Award, Jan Masaryk Award, Association of Fundraising Professionals Jury's Pick Award, Great Rotarian of the Century (from the Rotary Club), and Paul Harris Fellow. He was also proud to be the only businessman to receive an honorary membership in the CSN Union.

Philanthropy was always a very important priority and passion for Karel, and this went well beyond just donating money, because he was personally involved in many charitable projects. Among his notable achievements were the Olga House for homeless women, which he founded with La rue des Femmes, his own Velan Foundation and Velan Foundation Award, given annually to a Canadian for "distinctive and outstanding humanitarian work overseas." Karel was a founding member of the Olga Havel Foundation in the Czech Republic. In the Brno region, where he and Olga met, he created the Domov Olga as a skill center for people with special needs, as well as a center for Roma children. For his work on a project for the Kanasatake Mohawk Band near Montreal, he was named, Kanerahtio (Good Leaf), and Honorary Chief of the Bear Clan Family.

I first met Karel Velan in 1985, when he was visiting Toronto. At that time, the Canada-Czechoslovakia Chamber of Commerce was four years old and still learning and making its first steps. Karel helped to launch the Czech-Canadian Chamber of Commerce and became its president. Together with Thomas Bařa and Petr Pithart, who was president of the Czech Senate, Karel was also a co-founder and president of the Czech-North American Chamber of Commerce and Culture Inc., founded in 1998 in Boston on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's creation. This Chamber of Commerce, thought registered in the United States, has an office in

Toronto, and promotes commercial ties between the Czech Republic, Canada and the United States. Since the Canada-Czechoslovakia Chamber of Commerce opened its office on January 6, 1981, I worked with A.K. Velan on many occasions, and I am grateful to him for all that he did as our executive director. Karel was always there with advice, assistance, and support both moral and financial.

Karel was enthusiastic about the new post-Velvet Revolution, free Czechoslovakia. He travelled there immediately and gave seminars on "How to run a business in a free society" to industrial managers used to government directives. The Velans made the Goodwill Committee of the Olga Havel Foundation successful: in 1991, they organized Olga Havel's visit to Canada and, over time, they sent more than half a million dollars to charitable and humanitarian projects in the Czech Republic. Projects like Charity Blansko, the Brno Children's Hospital, continuing education visits for Czech doctors in the United States and Canada, the Olympic Games for the Mentally Handicapped, and flood relief.

Another hobby of Karel's was music. He supported the concerts of visiting Czech artists and ensembles in Canada. And in 1991, to commemorate 150 years since Antonín Dvořák's birth, Karel, together with Josef Suk and Alain Nonat, established the Antonín Dvořák Foundation in Montreal. Besides promoting contacts between American, Canadian and Czech businesses, the Foundation's chief goal is to help increase the number of top Czech classical music interpreters and artists performing in North America. I wish to thank Karel Velan for more than thirty years of joint work for the country of our birth. Working for the Czech-North American Chamber of Commerce & Culture has been both demanding and rewarding. I wish to thank Karel for all these years of support, and I will honor him with my ongoing work for the Chamber, where I will do my best!

Lubomír Novotný, Toronto

Note from the publisher:

DO NOT FORGET,

*Our website features
a special section:*

REMEMBERING

at

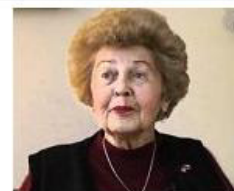
svu2000.org/remembering



Frank Backer (1921-2016)



Alexej Bořkovec (1925-2010)



Vera Bořkovec (1926-2014)



Thomas Gibian (1922-2015)



Henry Hahn (1928-2007)



Milos Halouzka (1922-2006)



Joseph K. Hasek (1911-2001)



Vaclav Havel (1936-2011)



Karel Holbik (1920-2006)



Belatedly I have heard about the passing of Andrew Eliáš, an economist and a long-time editor of *Zprávy SVU*.

I got to know Andrej or Andrew Eliáš in Washington through the late Čestmír Ješina. As he acknowledged in his amusing, intimate autobiography, I made him join the SVU and “introduced him to the elite of the Society.” It was also at my suggestion that he was named, by the SVU Executive Board, a program coordinator of the Fourth SVU World Congress in 1968.

His life story could be made into a movie. He was born on May 5, 1926, in the industrial town of Prešov, in Eastern Slovakia, in the Šariš region. This made him a *Východniar* (Easterner) at heart, of which he was immensely proud. He still knew the dialect of the region, which is quite different from standard Slovak. His original name was Dubravín, which he changed to Eliáš after coming to America.

As he relates in his autobiography, he had a rather turbulent youth. He was brought up by his grandmother in Prešov until he was five, after which he was returned to his mother, apparently by court order, with whom he then lived in the nearby village of Hanušovce nad Topľou. As told by his mother, who first appeared to him as a stranger, his father apparently left them and emigrated to America, where he remarried, without getting a divorce. When Andrej became a little older, he discovered some hidden documents in the house which implied that his biological father may have actually been Holz, the richest person in the village, whom Andrej’s mother had taken to court, alleging that he was his father and claiming financial support from him. This made Andrej very unhappy, because there was nothing more humiliating and shaming in the world at a Catholic school, which he attended, than the epithet “Jew,” considering that Holz was a Jew, as Andrej wrote. As he also mentioned in his memoirs, he would have liked to conclude his story by revealing the identity of his real father, but his mother took this secret with her to the grave.

After finishing high school, he was drafted into the Slovak army, at a time when Slovakia had declared its independence from Czechoslovakia and became an ally of the Third Reich, following the Munich Agreement. The year 1944, however, saw the outbreak of the Slovak National Uprising against the fascist regime, in which the whole of Eliáš’s unit took part. He then made contact with the partisans around Banská Bystrica, with whom he got to the Eastern Front. There he joined the Soviet Army, which subsequently sent him to liberated Košice, to join the reestablished Czechoslovak Army. As an active participant in the insurgency, Eliáš was put forward for promotion and decoration, but it was not until 1995 that he was rehabilitated and promoted to the rank of major.

After the Communist takeover of the restored Czechoslovakia in February 1948, Andrew Eliáš legally emigrated to the US, which was facilitated by his wife’s American citizenship. Landing in New York, for the first three years he had to do manual work, earning, as a beginner, seventy-five cents an hour. Nevertheless, he managed to enroll at Columbia University, which awarded him both a bachelor’s and master’s degree, followed by a doctorate in economics at New York University. While studying, Eliáš contributed articles about the Slovak Uprising to the Czechoslovak ethnic press in the US and was editor of two such periodicals.

Having acquired a doctorate, he then joined the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Export Administration in Washington, DC, where he specialized in Central and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, becoming a recognized authority on the Communist economic system and East-West trade. He was often invited to the Czechoslovak embassy, as well as to other Communist embassies in Washington, on account of his government

position relating to East-West trade. Nobody else among us would get away with something like that at that time. In the last few years, in addition to his government job, Andrej got involved in various business ventures, with which he continued after his retirement. As he stated in his memoirs, these ventures made him a millionaire.

Andrej did not devote much space in his reminiscences to writing about SVU, although he was involved quite a bit and for a number of years. In one passage, he writes:

"I continued to meet members of the SVU, most frequently Rechcigl, who was not only the driving force of the whole organization, but also had the final say on who was appointed to what office. At his prompting I wrote some talks for the SVU Congresses and accepted the post of editor of the bi-monthly bulletin, *Zprávy SVU*, which the Society published."

"Rechcigl was also an expert in diplomacy. I remember how once at a meeting of the Board he noticed that one lady member kept having a go at me, and the minute I got home he was already on the phone telling me not to take it to heart. The eagle does not go after flies, he observed. Well, who would not value such a friend?"

Those were nice words indeed, even though a bit exaggerated as to my importance. We became very good friends and saw each other often, either in the Cosmos Club, where I would invite him to lunch, or some good restaurant, where I was his guest.

Elsewhere in his memoirs Eliáš wrote, "Rechcigl phoned me often, praising me not least for my organization of the Fourth SVU World Congress. As I discovered, he had the last word in the SVU, even though he held no official post (at that time). He invited me to lunch one day and offered me the post of chairman of the Society's publication program, which I accepted. About a week later I received my official letter of appointment from the Board. I regarded it as a great honor. After all, there were a number of Czech writers and poets who were more qualified for the position than I was, and even such

notables as the writer Radimský (Petr Den) and the poet Jiří Škvor (Pavel Javor) voted for me."

In the first few months in 1975, Andrej helped to edit the *Zprávy SVU*, and starting in November 1988 and through the years of my return to the presidency, until my retirement in 2006, he was the editor-in-chief of the newsletter. He did a fantastic job. We were in frequent contact then, since I was in the best position to keep supplying him with the news from the Executive Board and had all knowledge about the various activities in which the Society was involved.

In 2001, on his initiative, and with my encouragement, the SVU began bestowing on selected individuals the annual SVU Human Tolerance Award, bearing his name. The Award, which was accompanied by a prize of \$1,000, was given to individuals whose life and work symbolized the living value of human tolerance. It was given out for several years, until the worsening economic situation in the country forced Elias to withhold further support for this purpose.

We continued meeting for an occasional lunch, but less and less often in the last few years. It was a shock to me when I heard of his passing. When I contacted his son to learn what happened, this is what he wrote: "Dad fell and broke his hip and never recovered, his heart gave out 7 months later, on May 8, 2017. Dad wanted to keep it private, no obituary or big service. The service was for immediate family only. Thank you again for your kind words, Dad always spoke highly of you."

Andrew Elias's passing is a great loss for us all, especially those who knew him personally. Words cannot describe what I am feeling.

Mila Rechcigl

Note: The autobiographical quotes above are from Andrew Eliáš, *I Chose America* (Bratislava, 2001).

FROM OUR LOCAL CHAPTERS



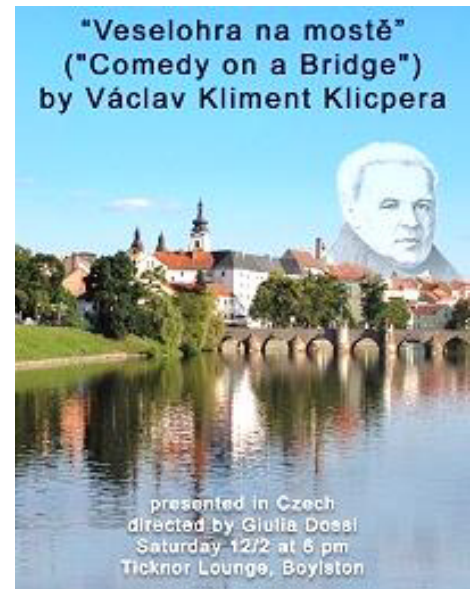
*Note from
the publisher:*

*Thank you,
Veronika!*

The Boston Chapter of SVU started on December 10, 2016 with a talk by Aviezer Tucker on "Czech Legacies of Totalitarianism," and the year 2017 has seen another five interesting meetings: a talk by Miroslav Dlouhy on "The Evolution of Information Technology," a talk by Nonie Valentine on democracy in transitory societies, a presentation on "Czech Underground Music & Art" by Michael Kilburn and Veronika Tuckerová, presentations by Fulbright scholars Lucie Jarkovská and Filip Krtička, and a talk on "Legacies of Czech State Socialism in Gender Equality" by Barbara Havelková.

Check out the photo galleries on the chapter website at svu2000.org/boston

We finished this wonderful year on December 2 with a festive premiere of the Czech play *Veselohra na mostě* (Comedy on a bridge) by Václav Kliment Klicpera, produced by students of Slavic Languages at Harvard.



Our chapter is dedicated to advancing the understanding of Czech, Slovak and Rusyn cultures by people of all backgrounds. See what we do at svu2000.org/cleveland

Looking Back at 2017

The Cleveland chapter hosted or participated in several events last year. Here is a brief recap: **Poetry of Prague**, a photo exhibit at The Intown Club in February. **The Cleveland International Film Festival**: Our Chapter was a community partner for a film on the Prague Spring, *That Trip We Took With Dad*. **SVU Cleveland annual meeting**, on April 26 at Braumeister Restaurant with program of several short, 6-minute presentations on topics of interest by our members including Barb Golias, "Mucha's Slovanic 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"; Paul Burik, "Czechia: Birthplace of the Nuclear Age."

Singer's Club Performance: The Chapter supported a performance by Singer's Club of Cleveland in May. The performance at the Czech Cultural Center, aka Bohemian National Hall, featured patriotic music as it was a Memorial Day weekend. Special thanks to our members Tom and Elsa Pavlik who spearheaded the effort.

Our Chapter partnered with the Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities in June for a presentation by Jonathan Kinser, then a PhD candidate--now Dr. Kinser--to hear a summary of his thesis work on the Ku Klux Klan's impact on the Slovak community in Youngstown in the 1920's: **"KKK and the Slovak Resistance."** **Picnic in the Czech Garden**: The Chapter held a summer

picnic on August 13. As part of the program, our members gave presentations on the various busts in the Garden. Paul Burik discussed Jindřich Šimon Baar, Carolyn Huber presented the story of Karel Havlíček Borovský, and Georgia Maresh shared her research on František Palacký. Food and stories were shared for a pleasant summer gathering.

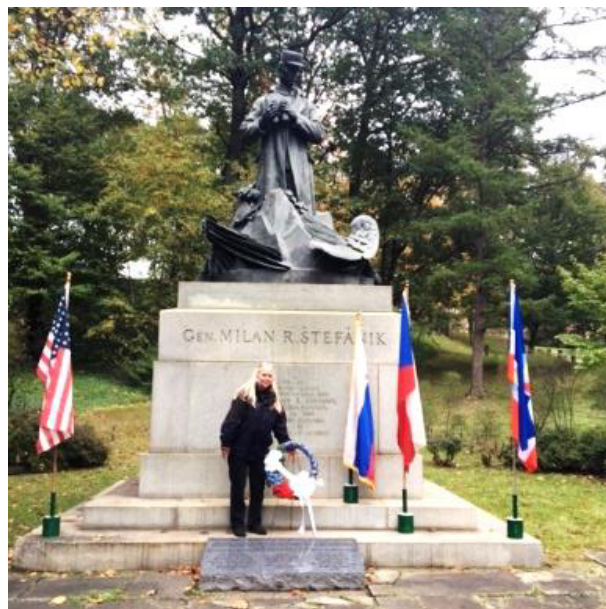
Janáček opera *Cunning Little Vixen at Severance Hall*: Our chapter hosted Czech operatic soprano Martina Janková for her tour in Cleveland. **SVU at the Art Museum:** In October the Chapter and Sokol Greater Cleveland represented the Czech community with a display of Czech dolls and their respective regions at the Museum's International Day.



Cleveland Art Museum, SGC dancers also performed

Most recently: **99 years of Czechoslovakia**, the Cleveland Chapter celebrated the 99th anniversary of this historic event on October 28th by placing wreaths at the statues in the Czech, Rusin and Slovak Cultural gardens here in Cleveland. Celebration began with playing of national anthems and brief comments at the statue of T.G. Masaryk in the Czech Cultural Garden, then short parade of flags proceeded to the Rusin Cultural Garden about 500 feet down the street and a wreath was placed there at the bust of Father Duchnovich. After brief remarks, the attendees, once again led by the three flags strolled down another 500 feet to the Slovak Cultural Garden. Father Michael Brunovsky delivered brief comments about the role of General Štefánik, and a wreath was placed at the monumental statue of Milan R. Štefánik. Warm

beverages and pastries were enjoyed by the attendees on this cool October day.



Marie Golias places a wreath by the Stefanik statue

The Cleveland SVU Chapter also provided financial support for the **New Czech Voice of Cleveland**, our member John Sabol's weekly radio program, and for the **Lucina Slovak Dancers** as they toured Slovakia this past summer.

Coming up in 2018

2018 will be a special year as we will be celebrating the centennial of Czechoslovakia! Stay tuned for events! You will be receiving membership email in January. Please rejoin and support the local Chapter. We will likely participate in the Film Festival in March again, and in April we will have our annual membership meeting.

As numerous activities are planned for 2018 to honor the 100-year anniversary, both SOKOL and SVU are dedicating their gatherings in Prague to that event. Here in Cleveland, a trip has been organized to attend the SOKOL Slet and an extension to attend the **SVU Congress** is available. The tour starts in Munich on June 24, with stops in Innsbruck, Salzburg, Český Krumlov and Písek before arriving in

Prague in time for the opening day parade for the Slet. Trips to Kutná Hora and Karlštejn Castle are included. As noted, an extension to include the SVU conference is available, and the tour is open to all from anywhere in US. Contact Vlad Nemecek at vjnemecek@aol.com for more information and pricing, and please put "Cz. tour 2018" in the subject line.



"Krtek" the Czech "Mickie Mouse" readies for the holidays

The Celebrations of the Season!

A few years ago, I approached my Cultural Gardens colleagues to share their holiday customs. The following is a brief summary for your enjoyment.

The Christian religion may have the greatest claim on this season, but other faiths too find a reason to celebrate. The Jewish community celebrates Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, which this year begins on Christmas Eve, December 24. It is an eight-day celebration, with candles lit progressively each day to celebrate freedom from oppression. Gift-giving is not traditional, but in our times parents is not traditional, but in our times parents may give a holiday gift to a child. Oil is significant to the Hebrews and as such is used in the traditional *latka* potato pancake. Similarly, the Muslim community celebrates Aid Al Filtr for three days, with communal and family gatherings, such as a breakfast gathering before going to the mosque.

For the Christians the celebrations begin with St. Nicholas day, December 6. A bishop in Asia Minor

(now Turkey), known for his assistance to the needy, dropped a piece of gold into a young maiden's stocking which was hanging out to dry, in order for her to have a dowry and be able to marry. So started the tradition of stocking-stuffing, and the bishop eventually became Saint Nicholas. No, he does not look like the Santa Claus in a red suit and white beard that Madison Avenue ads created in the recent past. In Europe this day is celebrated by a figure dressed as a bishop, accompanied by the devil and an angel who brings treats, such as an apple or orange, to the good children, while the devil rattles chains at the not-so-good children. Walking from house to house, this celebration becomes a community event, like trick-or-treating on Halloween.

December 24 is Christmas Eve, and Christians everywhere celebrate the birth of Jesus. The date coincides with a pagan celebration in Roman times. Emperor Constantine declared it so in the 4th century AD. Most modern historians believe he missed the date by about four days, but no one would argue with the emperor. Germany was the birthplace of the decorated Christmas tree, a tradition that spread worldwide. Traditionally the tree was decorated with candy wrapped in foil, fruit and nuts and lit with candles (now electric). The tree magically appears as a gift from the Christ Child on Christmas Eve to children in Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and many other nations. The Christ Child is a religiously inspired entity without a visual form. In Ireland holly and ivy are brought into the home, a tradition that predates Christianity. Candles in the windows are meant to guide the Holy Family of Mary and Joseph, along with any travelers, as a sign of welcome.

Gifts are exchanged on Christmas Eve between family and friends. In Latvia Ziemassvetku Vencis, a figure similar to Santa Claus, but with Latvian designs on his coat, presents the gifts. "Santy," aka "Father Christmas," does the

giving in Ireland. Food plays a big role in the celebrations. Christmas Eve dinner is not right without fish for the Czechs. The Slovenians also serve fish or pork. Pork and sauerkraut are served by the Latvians. Germans like pork and red cabbage. Lamb, turkey or pork, with grape leaves and Greek salad, is the choice of the Greek community, topped with baklava pastry. Goose with rashers (bacon) is the Irish favorite. Potica (nut rolled bread) is traditional with Slovenians, and tort is the favored in Germany.

Relatively new celebration is that of the African American community: Kwanzaa. It starts on Christmas Day. Seven candles are lit each subsequent day to celebrate desired principles, including unity, self-determination, responsibility and purpose.

For SVU Cleveland Chapter by Paul Burik

paulb54@centurytel.net

SVU

— Los Angeles —

See what we do at svu2000.org/los-angeles



CIMBAL BY THE SEA on Sept. 24 was an immense success! Unforgettable rousing folk music, vibrant costumes, and great company. Sunset at Santa Monica Pier.

Cimbal by the Sea / Cimbálovka u moře

MUŽIČKA

A traditional Czech folk music ensemble

Sunday
September 24, 2017
5 PM

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences in LA 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

Please RSVP by September 22 at: svu.losangeles@gmail.com

PAVEL ŠPORCL
IN A FALL CONCERT

OCTOBER 7, 2017
7:30 PM \$22/\$27

PAGANINI
BACH
on a blue violin

POINT LOMA
ASSEMBLY
3035 TALBOT, SD
TICKETS 661 788 7428

JOIN US, STAY WITH US, ENJOY!

PRESENTED BY
WWW.AROUNDTOWNWITHMARKETA.COM & COMPANY

Palpat Artists International
in cooperation with Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences in Los Angeles
under the auspices
of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles
Present a Leading Czech Violin Virtuoso

Pavel Šporcl

TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 10, 2017

AT THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS "MOROCCAN" HOME OF SARI ZELIKOWSKI

7:00 PM Wine & Social
7:30 PM Concert

Suggested minimum donation \$30 Cash/Check at the door

RSVP BY OCTOBER 1 AT: INFO@IPALPITI.ORG OR AT 310.205.0511
Address will be given after confirmed reservation



PAVEL ŠPORCL performed in San Diego and in Los Angeles in October. *Photo by Yana Bridle, SVU member.*



The Los Angeles Chapter of SVU proudly sponsored a music performance by Lenka Morávková for **Mikuláš 2017**, organized by the Czech School of Los Angeles on December 9 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Los Angeles.


A unique live music show by Lenka Morávková and her "**Bohemian Cristal Instrument**". An extraordinary experience, which immerses you into a world where futurism and tradition becomes one.

Crédit photo: Deník

October 16, 2017: Vernissage at the Czech Consulate

Jaroslav Gebr, native of Písek in the Czech Republic, has been the long-time head of the Scenic Arts Department at Universal Studios. He worked for some of the biggest names in directing, including Alfred Hitchcock, Steven Spielberg and Clint Eastwood. His works have become part of the private collections of many A-list actors, directors and producers--Kim Novak, Lucille Ball, Roddy McDowell, Barbara Streisand, Joan Crawford and many others. This exhibition featured Jaroslav's work from the film and television productions that he contributed to. The exhibit and tribute was organized by Jaroslav's son, **Thomas Gebr**, and Archivist-Curator of the Gebr Art Estate, **Renne Disisto**. Both were present at the exhibition opening.

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles in cooperation with the Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences in LA cordially invite you to the opening of tributary exhibition dedicated to the late great Hollywood artists with Czech roots



Jaroslav Gebr
MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017 AT 6 PM
 CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN LOS ANGELES
 10990 WILSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 1100, LOS ANGELES, CA 90024
 RSVP BY OCTOBER 13 AT:
 RSVP.CZECHCONSULATE@GMAIL.COM



Thomas Gebr (son of Jerry [Jaroslav] Gebr), Pavol Šepelák (Consul General of the Czech Republic in LA). Crédit photo: SVU-LA



The chapter site is at svu2000.org/nebraska

SVU Nebraska had a great year! It put on many events with the Czech Komensky Club at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL).

In spring, we put up a Charter 77 exhibition (with UNL libraries), followed by a “witness talk” by Laco Deczi, a jazz concert by Laco Deczi, and talks on totalitarianism by Hana Waisserova, and on St. Wenceslas by David Goldfrank. We did two Open Houses at the Czech Special Archives UNL.

In the fall, we had more talks: on “The Psychology of Democracy” by Martina Klicperova-Baker, on “The Formation of Czechoslovakia” by Bruce Garver, on “Beer and Nationalism” by Alison Olson. Míla Šasková-Pierce was appointed the Czech Honorary Consul for Nebraska [see page 18]. We also ran a beneficiary goulash-and-dumplings cooking day and organized a trip to Wilber, the Czech capital of America.



Gathering at Charter 77 Exhibition for the Witness Talk by Laco Deczi (KC archive)

The Nebraska Chapter of SVU met on November 19, 2017, at Summerset Court Club House in Lincoln at 7:30pm after co-hosting visitors from the Czech Ministry of Agriculture, part of a delegation from the Czech Republic to the University of Nebraska to develop research collaborations and student exchange. The delegation, led by Ing. Pavel Sekáč, Ph.D., Deputy Minister for the EU Funds, Science, Research and Education Section, also visited several rural agricultural sites.

Those in attendance at the SVU Nebraska Chapter were its president, Joe Swoboda, Vice-President Mila Šasková-Pierce, Secretary Layne Pierce, Deb Polacek,

Marvin Polacek, Hana Waisserova, Kurt Aksamit, Lois Rood, Brian Bulin, and Alison Orten.

Discussion was about how to commemorate the 50th anniversary of 1968 and 100th anniversary of Czechoslovak independence in 2018. The group discussed the formation of a Nebraska chapter panel at the SVU Congress, and present papers on the role of Nebraska and the Midwest in the formation of Czechoslovakia. The discussion included preliminary planning for our attendance at the SVU World Congress in Prague in July 2018.



Visiting old Bohemian "Big Blue" Cemetery at Wilber (from KC archive)

General discussion ensued about how to recruit and better involve new members and students. Collaboration with the Komensky Club and the Czech Language Foundation will continue in this matter.

The next meeting of Nebraska SVU will be held on January 7, 2018, 2:00 p.m., at the Swoboda residence in Lincoln.

COMING UP IN SPRING 2018:

From April 3 to April 7, 2018, the Department of History at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, will sponsor a major international event to commemorate the **50th Anniversary of the Prague Spring** and the effects of the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. Take a look at the Prague Spring Symposium program at

<https://praguespring50.unl.edu/welcome>

Josef Sudek Photo Exhibition will be part of the event.



UNL Sheldon Museum of Art: Last Roses, gift of the artist

SVU

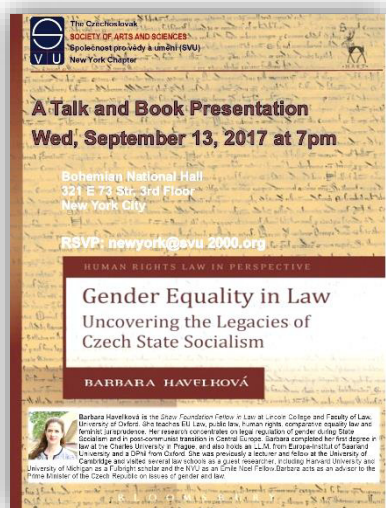
New York

The chapter site is at svu2000.org/newyork

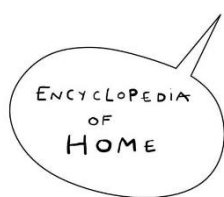
September 2017:

Gender Equality in Law: Uncovering the Legacies of Czech State Socialism

A talk and book presentation by **BARBARA HAVELKOVÁ**, PhD, University of Oxford, UK. Dr. Havelková teaches EU law, public law, human rights, comparative equality law and feminist jurisprudence. In her talk, she discussed the gender equality law and its serious challenges in the Czech Republic and in countries of post-Socialist East Central Europe. In the audience, we welcomed the Hon. Miroslav Rameš, the new Consul General of the Czech Republic.

**October 2017: A-1 Architects Naturally**

Our audience was delighted and impressed by two young and brilliant architects **LENKA KŘEMENOVÁ** and **DAVID MAŠTÁLKA**, partners in the Prague-based A1 Architects studio. Surrounded by photographs by **Ester Havlová**, they presented the A1 Studio's theory of natural architecture, showed examples of their beautiful work, and introduced their upcoming book *Encyclopedia of Home*.

www.a1architects.cz


November 2017: Czech Landscape Architecture: Reflections

STEPHAN YARABEK of Hudson & Pacific Designs in Saugerties, NY, and director of Friends of Czech Greenways, talked about his work in Czechoslovakia in 1990s, the history of the Czech Greenways and Friends of Czech Greenways program, including the Lu and Tíře Chmelař Herb Garden in Valtice and the educational programs administered by FCG. He paid tribute to the founders, the late Lubomír and Tíře Chmelař, who after the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia in 1989, co-founded the Greenways/Zelené stezky and Prague-Vienna Greenways program. They actively promoted cultural and environmental preservation and landscape architecture education in the country. Thanks to their effort, the Lednice-Valtice Chateaux and were added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 1996. The second speaker was **ZUZANA AMBROŽOVÁ, PhD**, Department of Landscape Architecture at Mendel University Horticulture School in Lednice, and a 2017 Fulbright Research Scholar at the University of California at Berkeley. Her spirited talk delighted the audience. She presented Czech historic gardens, the landscape architecture program at her university, and her own work focusing on public spaces in small towns, especially her native town of Lanškroun. In cooperation with Friends of Czech Greenways NY.



November 29, 2017: 6-Minute Challenge



The seventh edition of this series introduced nine brilliant Czechs and Slovaks in six-minute presentations.

More event photos are available in albums on our Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/svu.newyork



Our chapter is dedicated to promoting Czech and Slovak culture in the Greater Washington DC metro area. See what we do at svu2000.org/washington-dc

The Washington DC Chapter of SVU was again very productive this fall. We hosted a special lecture by Holocaust survivor and renowned Czech-American geneticist **Renata Laxova**, "Mendel under Communism," on September 24, 2017. A big audience came to hear Laxova's childhood story of survival and her escape from Czechoslovakia in a *Kindertransport*, organized by British humanitarian **Nicholas Winton** on the eve of World War II. She talked also about her return to her homeland to study and to pursue a career in genetics and also about the ruling Communist Party's pseudoscientific take, under the direction of Trofim Lysenko in the Soviet Union, and on Mendel's principles of inheritance.

Crédit photos: Washington DC Chapter



About Renata Laxova

Renata Laxova is a Czech-American pediatric geneticist and an Emeritus Professor of Genetics at the Departments of Pediatrics and Medical Genetics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the discoverer of the Neu-Laxova syndrome, a rare congenital abnormality involving multiple organs, with autosomal recessive inheritance.

Laxova was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, into a Jewish family and survived the Holocaust by leaving in a *Kindertransport* to England in 1939. After the war, she studied in Brno and received her degrees in Pediatrics (MD) and Medical Genetics (PhD) from Masaryk University. In 1968, she escaped a second time to England, where she worked with Lionel Penrose at the Kennedy-Galton Centre for Medical and Community Genetics in London on mental retardation. From 1975 until retirement, she worked at the UWM on her main clinical and research interests – mental retardation genetics, genetics counseling, prenatal diagnosis of genetically determined disorders, and cancer genetics. In addition to her participation in many university committees and volunteer activities, she is a member of the Medical School Human Subjects Committee.

*Submitted by Otakara Safertal,
Co-chair of the Washington DC Chapter*

SVU WASHINGTON DC TALKSHOW:

The Six Minute Challenge, November 16

SVU-DC members and friends had the opportunity to experience six wonderful and enlightening presentations by professionals from all walks of life in the Greater Washington DC Metropolitan Area. We thank all of our panelists for participating and creating such a great event. We are also very grateful to the Slovak Embassy for their hospitality. **Special thanks to Terézia Filipejová**, cultural attaché. Once again, the Six Minute Challenge in DC was a success!



The Washington DC Chapter of SVU organized its traditional Christmas Bazaar on November 11 at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Bethesda.





Frank Safertal [moderator and panelist] is a technology executive and engineering consultant with over twenty-five years of experience with technology companies such as Nortel, Hughes Aircraft and GE. He is a partner/ director of Actionable Strategies, LLC, a Bethesda, MD, based consulting company. Frank was for several years Secretary General of SVU. In his spare time, Frank is President of the Wilsonian Club Inc., a Washington DC based 501 (c) (3) organization.



*Terézia Filipejová, Cultural Attaché
Embassy of the Slovak Republic*



Kevin J. McNamara, SVU member, is author of a comprehensive historical narrative of the Czechoslovak Legion in World War I, *Dreams of a Great Small Nation*. A former journalist for Calkins Media and aide to the late US congressman R. Lawrence Coughlin, Kevin McNamara is an associate scholar at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia, PA, and a former contributing editor to its quarterly journal, *Orbis: A Journal of World Affairs*. He earned a BA in journalism and an MA in international politics from Temple University, where he was a student of noted military historian Russell F. Weigley. He lives in Philadelphia, PA.



Antonín Bartoš, SVU member, received his Bachelor and Masters of Science degrees in 1968 and 1972, respectively, with an emphasis in electro-physics. His past work was in electromagnetics (including a patent for ship protection against anti-ship cruise missiles), ultrasonic material characterization, communications and speech processing in extremely noisy environments. In addition to their current work, Bartoš and Jeřábek have also collaborated on an industrial ultrasonic-based system for Weyerhaeuser (monitoring wood product quality-assurance), which was presented in Prague at the International Conference for Speech and Signal Processing in 2011. A superset, of the current speech processing work presented today, has been submitted

for publication, and is an example of Czech-US collaboration in speech processing research, with other contributors from the US Department of Defence and the Naval Research Laboratory, the Brno University of Technology and Phonexia Ltd., also in Brno.





Michaela H. Janotová was born in Malacky, Slovakia, and grew up in the midst of democracy, capitalism and civil-society building. While interested in journalism since early age, she became excited by her country joining the European Union. Michaela pursued both of these interests and earned master's degrees in journalism and European studies. For several years she worked as a foreign news reporter on EU affairs for major Slovak broadcast media. Later, as a spokesperson and communications department director, she helped her native city to build its name and brand. Today Michaela works as a senior media monitoring analyst for a global communications firm here in DC, while still writing for Slovak media. Although the focus of her reporting is US affairs, she welcomes all stories about Slovaks living in this area. She also teaches Slovak language at the Sokol Washington school.



Marianna Kramáriková joined the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) in 2006. She has extensive knowledge of how to develop voluntary, consensus-based industry standards for a variety of ICT segments. Her background in marketing and sales enabled her to quadruple active member participation within the key technologies she is involved in at TIA. She holds a MS PSCI master's degree from the University of Matej Bel in Slovakia, a Certificate of Public Administration from the Hochschule Harz in Germany and a Certificate of Public Relations from Georgetown University in the US. In 2014, she acquired the Associate Standards Professional Certification, to affirm her competence in the standards profession.



Ladislav Jeřábek was born in Prague in 1983. In 2004, he interrupted his studies at the Czech Technical University in Prague to work as a life guard in the US, to the great dismay of his parents. He received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (Summa Cum Laude) from the University of DC in 2010, and a Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 2014. His past academic interests included how noise affects phoneme recognition, small vocabulary word recognizers, and speech enhancement/ noise reduction algorithm

effects on speaker/ gender/ language identification. In addition to his research interests in ultrasonic and speech digital signal processing, he has over 15 years of IT and software engineering experience in the commercial sector.



READ IN CZECH



svu2000.org/nemecko

V SVU Mnichov se za posledního půlroku odehrálo mnoho důležitých věcí, které stojí za pozornost.

Co se týká programové nabídky, tak léto proběhlo standardně, a i když byly prázdniny a dovolené, tak účast na našich přednáškách byla velice dobrá.

V červenci jsme pořádali přednášku s poněkud potměšilým názvem „Neznámý noční život velkoměsta“. Ovšem jednalo se o zcela jiné téma, než by každý očekával. Přednášející pan Josefa Hajda, který je sice již zasloužilým rentiérem, byl celý svůj profesní život zaměstnancem města Mnichov a měl na starosti regulaci zvěře v městských parcích. A tak jsme měli možnost zjistit, jaká zvířata se ve městě pohybují, jak se s nimi zachází, když se přemnoží, jak naopak se vysazují druhy nové, resp. druhy, které zde byly původní, domestikované, ale zmizely.

V srpnu jsme promítali film/muzikál „Starci na chmelu“, tak jak k těmto horkým letním dnům patří. Následně proběhla diskuse o dobové kinematografii.

A v září jsme měli po dlouhé pauze přednášku ve slovenštině. Ujala se jí naše nová členka, paní MVDr. Lýdia Bartková, která pracuje ve veterinární ordinaci a zároveň zachytné stanici pro nalezená zvířata. Přednáška se jmenovala „Rozumiete reči vášho štvornohého priateľa?“ s podtitulkem „Komunikácia psa a mačky s okolím“ a byla multimediální, s mnohými ukázkami, a krátkými šoty. Nemusím asi zdůrazňovat, že sál byl zcela zaplněn, protože v dnešní době chová téměř každý svého domácího mazlíčka, a tak se večer protáhl díky diskusi s paní doktorkou a mnoha dotazům posluchačů.

V říjnu t.r. se odehrála v SVU Německo pravidelná valná hromada, byl zvolen staronový výbor, s malými úpravami funkcí členů výboru.

A nyní nejdůležitější událost, týkající se SVU Německo v tomto roce: v loňském roce dostala SVU nabídku od ředitele Českého centra v Mnichově, pana Dr. Ondřeje Černého, na využívání prostor Českého centra, které patří České republice, ke svým akcím.

Několik programů během roku proběhlo ve společné režii, abychom si vyzkoušeli, zda je tento model spolupráce pro obě strany akceptovatelný. A tak k 1. listopadu 2017 byla nakonec podepsána „Smlouva o spolupráci“ mezi SVU Německo a Českým centrem Mnichov, kdy SVU má pro své pravidelné úterní termíny prostory Českého centra zcela k dispozici, včetně možnosti používání veškerého vybavení. Jedná se o velkorysou nabídku českého státu směrem k SVU, uznání její dlouholeté a pravidelné činnosti a práce pro krajanskou komunitu.

Součástí dohody je i věc zcela samozřejmá, ač tomu doposud tak nebylo, a to oboustranná spolupráce mezi oběma subjekty, a tedy vytváření synergických efektů, které povedou k tomu netříštit zájmy a akce, které k tomu budou vhodné a budou časově i tematicky odpovídat zaměření SVU, pořádat společně. Tím se docílí i spokojenosti jak návštěvníků Českého centra, tak členů a podporovatelů SVU, kteří nebudou již zažívat občasná dilemata, jaký program navštívit, zda SVU či ČC, k čemuž občas, chtě-nechtě docházelo.

A tak SVU po dlouhé době opustila zapůjčené prostory České katolické obce, přesunula své aktivity do Českého centra a její výbor i členové se těší z nových prostor a hlavně z možností, které se SVU při spolupráci s Českým centrem do budoucna otvírají.

Počátkem listopadu tedy proběhla první oficiální společná akce, a to vernisáž výstavy „Krajinou Šumavy“, která byla uspořádána při příležitosti 100. výročí založení Sdružení českých umělců grafiků Hollar (SČUG Hollar). SVU obstarala pro tento večer hudební

doprovod dvou klavírních umělců, pana Jana Čecha, docenta hry na klavír na mnichovské Vysoké škole hudební, a jeho syna Janicka Čecha, mladého, nadějněho klavíristy, nositele 1. ceny v celoněmecké soutěži "Jugend musiziert" (2017, Paderborn).

Celá akce probíhala pod záštitou a za přítomnosti nové generální konzulky v Mnichově, paní Kristiny Larischové, která, společně s ředitelem Českého centra Mnichov panem Dr. Ondřejem Černým oficiálně přivítali SVU Německo v českých prostorách a poděkovali panu předsedovi SVU Pavlíkovi za jeho dlouholetou činnost.

A nyní je již prosinec, čas adventní, a tak v úterý 12. 12. bude SVU pořádát svou tradiční předvánoční akci „Vánoční poezie-slovem-obrazem-hudbou“, kterou bude uvádět paní Eliška Ciklová.

Hned následující den, tedy ve středu 13. 12. 2017 v 18:00 hod., se koná již 7. ročník akce „Česko zpívá koledy“, kterou každoročně vyhlašuje redakce regionálních novin „Deník“. Zpívá se ve stejný den i čas na náměstích nejen v České republice, ale po celém světě a vloni se k akci připojilo již více než 800 obcí a měst v ČR a v zahraničí. A tak ve stejnou dobu mohou znít české koledy zároveň v Praze, Milanu, Mnichově, Aténách i Madridu. Lámala jsem si hlavu, jak by bylo možné zorganizovat pro americké členy SVU s časovým posunem oproti Evropě, ale na nic jsem nepřišla. Takže si musí američtí kolegové nějak poradit sami ☺. Pravidlem je, že všichni krajané, kteří se zpívání zúčastní, si udělají společné fotografie, které jsou poté zaslány na adresu organizátora v ČR, a jsou v dalších dnech zveřejňovány v regionálním Deníku i jeho internetové verzi. SVU se k této milé a příjemné akci každoročně připojuje a pravidelně organizuje zpívání koled na poetickém vánočním trhu na Rindermarktu v centru Mnichova. Vzhledem k tomu, že akci SVU propaguje nejen pro členy SVU, ale i prostřednictvím dalších mediálních kanálů, schází se na tomto zpívání koled každoročně v průměru 50 a více krajanů, od maminek s kočárky, přes studenty, mladé rodiny s dětmi, po babičky a dědečky, kteří tam přivádějí svá vnoučata.

Každý přichází má s sebou buď již vytištěný zpěvník s koledami, které se daný rok zpívají,

anebo díky pomoci krajanů jsou vytištěné zpěvníky k dispozici přímo na místě. Na kytaru nás, již tradičně, doprovází kytarista pan Lubor Hraník. Zároveň krajané s sebou nikdy nezapomenou přinést na ochutnávku jak již napečené vánoční cukroví, tak vaječný koňak a jiné laskominy, takže díky tomuto organizovanému zpívání se vytvoří na vánočním trhu úžasná domácí atmosféra, potkávají se spolu lidé, kteří se například již dlouho neviděli a ztratili na sebe kontakt, a tak se jedná mnohdy i o velice dojemné situace.

Pro další informace je možné navštívit přímo stránky www.denik.cz/cesko-zpiva-koledy, kde je k nalezení mapa, na které jsou označena všechna města, která se již ke zpívání přihlásila, a tedy i Mnichov, Rindermarkt.

Krátce po Novém roce nás čeká další zajímavá přednáška, SVU přijde navštívit nová generální konzulka v Mnichově, paní Kristina Larischová, která nám krátce povypráví o svém profesním životě a zbytek bude, jako obvykle v takovýchto případech, věnován diskusi s novou paní GK.

A v únoru.... fašink, fašank, Fasching, masopust...!!! ☺ Doprovázený fotografiemi Markéty Luskačové o historických podobách masopustu v Čechách. Ale to vše se laskavý čtenář dozví až v dalším díle mnichovského pokračování... ☺.

Blanka Fajkusová

referentka pro práci s médii; SVU Německo (Mnichov)



Ukázka z knížky vzpomínek naší členky Elišky Haškové Coolidge [anotace na str. 15]

Babička s námi neutíkala, chtěla tu počkat, jestli se všichni v pořádku dostaneme ven, a teprve pak že půjde za námi. Zatím za námi do Mnichova přijela ještě mamínčina sestra a bratr s rodinami, všichni jsme bydleli v jednom bytě a čekali na papíry do Francie. Když se je podařilo získat, najal strýc v pařížském předměstí Le Vésinet vilu v 11 Rue Watteau a zase jsme byli pohromadě.

Krátce nato odjela maminka s bratrem a se svým budoucím druhým mužem Milanem Smutným přes Irsko do Anglie. Moji rodiče byli v tu dobu už rozvedeni, protože pro maminku bylo nemožné žít v Praze a manžela mít v Americe. Ale proč se v emigraci rozhodli rozdělit i mě s bratrem a každý si do dalšího života vzít jednoho, nevím. Ani po letech jsme si to s maminkou nevysvětlily. Milan Smutný byl syn Benešova kancléře, který válku prožil po prezidentově boku v Londýně a jehož rodina tam byla už zabydlená. Milan pracoval pro BBC, byl to slušný, hodný člověk a po letech jsem se s ním spřátelila.

Ve Francii jsem tehdy zůstala s rodinou tety Saši. Měla jsem ji moc ráda, s bratrancem Fandou jsme byli velcí kamarádi, přesto jsem se cítila opuštěná. Bydlela jsem v internátě, chodila do školy. Šest měsíců jsem ještě čekala, než mi tatínek vyřídí ve Washingtonu imigrační dokumenty.

O můj odlet do Ameriky se postaral Jan Mládek. Spolu s Františkem Schwarzenbergem a Vladimírem Kabešem, bývalým majitelem firmy Aero, patřil mezi tatínkovy nejbližší kamarády a pro mě byl prostě strýcem. Později v Americe jsem od něj dostala své vůbec první kolo, a když mi bylo šestnáct, daroval mi první voňavku. Byla od Guerlaina a strýček Jenda k ní tenkrát s gestem gentlemana dodal, že to je značka pro blondýnky.

Jan Mládek byl nesmírně elegantní, vzdělaný muž, takový renesanční člověk. A velmi talentovaný finančník. Jako mladý bankéř byl druhým naším zástupcem, který po Ladislavu Feierabendovi podepsal za Československo v Bretton Woods smlouvu, na jejímž základě byl po druhé světové válce vytvořen Mezinárodní měnový fond. Těsně před únorem 1948 dostal nabídku, aby se ve fondu vzdal československého kontingentu a šel pracovat do mezinárodního. Přijal ji a zachránil si tak život i kariéru. Později se v Mezinárodním měnovém fondu stal velmi úspěšným ředitelem Central Banking Service. Už jako padesátiletý se oženil s Medou, dnes proslulou sběratelkou obrazů, která po roce 2000 založila na pražské Kampě galerii.



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✂ - - - - -

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Your news and thoughts are welcome at: zpravy@svu2000.org

The next issue is scheduled for March 2018. Deadline for submissions is February 28, 2018.

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