

ZPRÁVY SVU NEWS

Společnost pro vědy a umění



Society of Arts & Sciences

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Fall 2018

Q3, No 3

Jarmila Novotná

Happy Birthday to You!



Crédits photo: source © G. Maillard Kessler, origin Prague National Theatre Archive and Ludmila Matrajová's archive



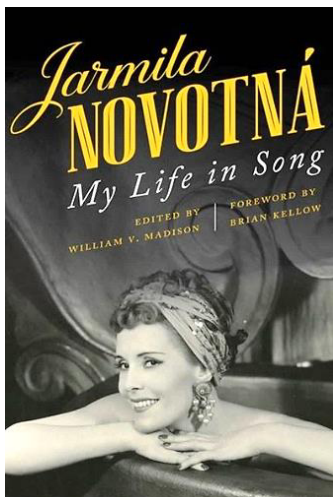
ZÁMEK LITEŇ

In the next edition, we'll bring more about **Chateau Liteň** reviving the name of **Jarmila Novotná** for the past seven years, her musical legacy as a famous opera singer, a celebrity and great patriot, and restoring the **Daubek** family name through the creation of a cultural center in their former Liteň residence. Learn more about **Jarmila Novotná Festival** at www.zamekliten.cz. You may want to get a CD or a biography, check out their e-shop as well.

Jarmila Novotná, My Life in Song: Book Launch and Musical Tribute

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 @ 7 PM Bohemian National Hall, 321 East 73rd Street, New York

by **DAHA** DVOŘÁK AMERICAN
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION



Author and editor **William V. Madison** will speak about the international triumphs of this multi-talented celebrity, who acted as a cultural ambassador for the Czechoslovak nation throughout her career - beginning in Prague with her opera debut as a lyric soprano at age 17 and including 16 years with **New York's Metropolitan Opera**. Her granddaughter, **Tatiana Daubek**, with Daubek's ensemble **House of Time**, will pay musical tribute with a program featuring music of Mozart, Krommer, and Dvořák. Visit the Dvořák Room exhibition of archival Novotná images, courtesy of the **George Daubek Collection**.

See more at: www.dvoraknyc.org

The book, *Jarmila Novotná, My Life in Song* (University Press of Kentucky, 2018), will be available for purchase and signing there. It can be ordered from Amazon and you can also buy an e-book from FNAC.

JARMILA NOVOTNÁ DAUBEK

ONE OF OUR SOCIETY'S FOUNDING DIRECTORS

The 111th Anniversary: b. September 23, 1907 in Praha – Vinohrady, d. February 9, 1994 in N.Y.

1923 Studies opera singing under Emmy Destinn

1925 Debut at the National Theatre as Mařenka in *The Bartered Bride*; introduced to President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk; receives her first film role; studies voice in **Milan**

1928 Her first triumph abroad as Gilda in *Rigoletto* at the Arena in **Verona**

1929 Joins the **Kroll Opera in Berlin** at request of conductor, Otto Klemperer

1931 Poses for Max Švabinský for a portrait on the **100 Czechoslovak crown banknote**; marries Jiří Daubek, son of the Liteň aristocrat and entrepreneur; sings in the ensemble of the **State Opera in Berlin**

1933 Collaborates with the **Vienna State Opera** and is appointed Kammersangerin

1937 Meets **Toscanini** and sings Pamina in *The Magic Flute* at The **Salzburg Festival**

1938 Visits the U.S. and encouraged by Toscanini, signs a contract with the **Metropolitan Opera**

1939 Arrives in the U.S. with her family on the day that Hitler occupies Czechoslovakia

1939–1945 Engages in activities in support of the Czechoslovak nation; records *Songs of Lidice* with Jan Masaryk, which becomes a symbol of resistance back home; gives concerts all over the U.S. and completes a tour of South America

1947 Returns to Czechoslovakia to a nationalized property destroyed by the Soviet Army; despite returned to the family it was re-nationalized in 1948.

1948–1956 Continues her career at the Metropolitan Opera and sings at charitable functions; she stars in **Hollywood** films (*The Search*, *The Great Caruso*); a celebrity known throughout the world in political and cultural circles

1956 She says farewell to her American public and settles in **Vienna** with her husband (where she lectures singing until 1981)

1958 Gets elected as **one of the founding directors of the SVU** at the very first SVU General Assembly Meeting

1972 Visits her homeland for the first time since 1949

1981 Following her husband's death, she re-settles in the USA where she lives amongst her friends and family

1991 Receives State Honor of the **Order of T.G.Masaryk** from President Václav Havel; becomes an Honorary Citizen of Prague and an Honorable Member of the State Opera; establishes the Jarmila Novotná Prize.



Jarmila Novotná, portrait by Adèle Förster
Source: Zámek Liteň, z.s.

CZECH PHILHARMONIC U.S. TOUR

Czech Philharmonic

*The CZECH PHILHARMONIC U.S. Tour
is supported by Karel Komárek Family Foundation*

**Karel Komárek
Family
Foundation**

NEW YORK: Saturday October 27, 2018 @ 8 PM

Venue: CARNEGIE HALL – Stern Auditorium, 881 7th Ave, New York, NY 10019

Program: Dvořák *Cello Concerto, Symphony No. 7*

NEW YORK: Sunday October 28, 2018 @ 2 PM

Venue: CARNEGIE HALL – Stern Auditorium, 881 7th Ave, New York, NY 10019

Program: Mahler *Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection"*

WASHINGTON DC: Monday October 29, 2018 @ 8 PM

Venue: KENNEDY CENTER, 2700 F St NW, Washington, DC 20566

Program: Luboš Fišer *Double for Orchestra, Dvořák Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104, Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70*

EAST LANSING, MI: Tuesday October 30, 2018 @ 7:30 PM

Venue: WHARTON CENTER – Cobb Great Hall, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing, MI 48824

Program: full evening of Dvořák, incl. *Cello Concerto No. 2*

ANN ARBOR, MI: Thursday November 1, 2018 @ 6:30 PM

Venue: HILL AUDITORIUM, Hill Auditorium, 825 N University Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Program: Dvořák *Cello Concerto in b minor, Op. 104, Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings, Op. 48, Francesca da Rimini, Op. 32*

CHICAGO: Sunday November 4, 2018 @ 3 PM

Venue: CHICAGO SYMPHONY CENTER, 220 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60604

SEE OUR INVITATION ON THE NEXT PAGE →

Program: Dvořák *Cello Concerto in B Minor, Symphony No. 9 in E Minor From The New World*

LOS ANGELES: Wednesday November 7, 2018 @ 8 PM

Venue: SEGERSTROM CENTER, 600 Town Center Dr, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Program: Dvořák *Cello Concerto, Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings, Francesca da Rimini*

LOS ANGELES: Thursday November 8, 2018 @ 8 PM

Venue: SEGERSTROM CENTER, 600 Town Center Dr, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Program: Tchaikovsky *Piano Concerto No. 1, Dvořák Symphony No. 7*

STANFORD: Saturday November 10, 2018 @ 7:30 PM

Venue: BING CONCERT HALL, 327 Lasuen St, Stanford, CA 94305

Program: Dvořák *"New World" Symphony No. 9, Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1*

SAN FRANCISCO: Sunday November 11, 2018 @ 7:30 PM

Venue: DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL, 201 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102

Program: Dvořák *Cello Concerto, Symphony No. 7*

DAVIS, CA: Monday November 12, 2018 @ 7 PM

Venue: MONDAVI CENTER, 523 Mrak Hall Dr, Davis, CA 95616

Program: Tchaikovsky *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Minor, Serenade for Strings, op. 48, Francesca da Rimini*

Get your tickets before they are sold out – try your usual agent or the box office links on the SVU website:

www.svu2000.org/headlines/czech-philharmonic-tour

The Prague Committee of Chicago Sister Cities
International and the Consulate General of the
Czech Republic in Chicago

Cordially invite you to the

CZECH CENTENNIAL CONCERT

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the
Founding of Czechoslovakia featuring

The Czech Philharmonic in Chicago

Sunday, November 4 at 3pm

Chicago Symphony Center (220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago)

Program: Antonín Dvořák - Cello Concerto in B Minor & Symphony No. 9 in
E Minor (*From the New World*)

Reception following at The Richard and Helen Thomas Club, 9th floor at
Symphony Center

Admission: \$100

More Information & Tickets: <https://praguecso.eventbrite.com> or (312) 201-4534

Organizers



The Prague Committee
of Chicago Sister Cities International



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in Chicago

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1918
100
2018
CZECH AND SLOVAK
CENTENNIAL



See also: www.svu2000.org/headlines/czech-centennial-concert-chicago





U.S. PREMIERE AT THE NCSML:

National Treasure: The Art of Joža Uprka from the George T. Drost Collection

October 13, 2018 – March 24, 2019

SVU members in good standing will receive an e-mail invitation to the grand opening of October 12.



Indian Summer 1927, Oil on Canvas, the George Drost Collection

This is the first exhibition of the artwork of **Joža Uprka** in the United States. The NCSML will present stunning oil paintings, posters, and mixed media on loan from SVU distinguished member of long standing **George Drost**, chairman of the NCSML board of trustees.

Joža Uprka (b. 1861 in Kněždub, d. 1940 in Hroznová Lhota) was a Czech painter and graphic artist, whose work combines elements of Romanticism and Art Nouveau to document the folklife of South Eastern Moravia, but to be concrete, we speak about these areas:

Hornácko, Hustopečsko, Kloboucko (Klobouky u Brna), Kyjov – Kyjovsko, the domain of Lednice – Valtice, Luhačovice & Luhačovské Zálesí, Pálava and Nové Mlýny, Podluží and Hodonín, Strážnicko, Uherské Hradiště & surroundings, Uherský Brod & surroundings, Veselí nad Moravou – Veselsko and Ostrožsko, Zlín & surroundings. Areas proud of their folk traditions, areas particularly well maintained and developed.

It is to note that the founder of Czechoslovakia Tomáš Masaryk was from Hodonín, and the SVU founder Jaroslav Němec was from Ořechov u Uherského Hradiště, proud of this region that is known as Slovácko.

More info about the exhibition: www.ncsml.org

Visit also your SVU website at svu2000.org featuring links to the **Joža Uprka Gallery** in Uherské Hradiště and a music podcast.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: 2019 SVU CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO

The John Marshall Law School, June 24–25, 2019

In connection with the successful 2018 SVU World Congress, the new SVU leadership was requested by Wisconsin Czechs and US court interpreters to facilitate a legal-linguistics conference, and, subsequently, to assist with certification of continuing education courses for US-based practitioners interested in Czech language and Czech legal specifics. Both endeavors are underway.

Besides legal linguistics, this conference shall cover the following contemporary themes:

Wills and Decedent's Estates

Respect for the Rule of Law

Immigration Policies – the Legal Problem

Land Use Planning and Environmental Concerns

Judicial Reform and Ethics

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Addressing Backlog of Cases.

Presentations will be made accessible to a wider audience as this has been a tradition of the SVU.

A governance seminar shall be added for SVU members seriously interested in running a local chapter, or a thematic/research group, of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, Inc.

Conference e-mail address:

chicago2019@svu2000.org

Conference venue: JMLS, Room 1200

315 S. Plymouth Ct, Chicago, IL 60604

Accommodation suggestions shall be announced in the next edition of this newsletter.

Conference registrations will be made available soon. Watch the SVU website for updates.

DID YOU KNOW?

The founding fathers of the SVU were lawyers. All three of them. **Jaroslav Němec** obtained his *Juris Doctor* at Masaryk University Law School in Brno (1937) and served as judge and chief military prosecutor. **Jaroslav Polach** (Jay George) obtained his *Juris Doctor* also at Masaryk University (1938) and received a number of war hero honors, including RAF, worked for the CIA and later for the IRS. Both Polach and Němec were important personalities of the Czechoslovak Resistance and the Czechoslovak Exile Army. The third founding father, JUDr. **Václav Mostecký**, studied law at Charles University (1946) and was professor of law at Harvard and Berkeley. By the way, he was the son-in-law of brigadier general Josef Eret. Your newsletter will bring you more of their portraits; this portion of truth and inspiration is a must for the rebirth of our Society.

WORLD PREMIERE AT THE WENDE MUSEUM

Czechoslovakia: Portrait of a Tragedy



Consulate General of the Czech Republic
in Los Angeles



Václav Havel with Jim McDonald (Prague, May 1968)

After the private screening of this unique U.S. documentary at the 2018 SVU World Congress in Prague, its world premiere was screened in Los Angeles by The Wende Museum, in cooperation with the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Chapter of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences. The event was a success, judging by the attendance exceeding the screening room capacity – the Czech Consulate General estimate mentioned 150+ guests, and by the depth of questions from the audience discussed at the subsequent Discussion Panel.

ABOUT THE FILM

Produced during “Prague Spring,” *Czechoslovakia: Portrait of a Tragedy* (1968) features rare interviews with historical figures including Ota Šik, Jiří Hájek, Václav Havel, Jan Werich, Karel Gott, and others. In addition to these prominent figures, the filmmakers sought out a wide range of ordinary Czech citizens who spoke frankly on camera about their struggles, uncertainties, and hopes for sustained political change. Screened only a handful of times upon its release, the film has been essentially lost to the public record for the past fifty years.



Kate Dollenmayer, Georges Eichler, Kaja Perina, Joes Segal (Los Angeles, August 2018)

The Wende Museum, specializing in the Cold War artefacts, has preserved and digitalized the only remaining copy of this 50-minute documentary, with financial support from the National Film Preservation Foundation sponsored by the U.S. Congress. The late U.S. Ambassador **Rudolf Perina**, distinguished member of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences, who personally took part in the 1968 film making and its 2018 preservation, had planned to introduce this film to the public in person. He passed away in June this year (see also *SVU NEWS* No. 2/2018). The film was introduced by his daughter **Kaja Perina** who lives in New York. The Society's Secretary General **Georges Eichler** came from Paris to honor the late Ambassador Perina and to take part in the Panel Discussion. **Kate Dollenmayer**, American actor and film preservation specialist, who has credit for preserving this film, took part in the Panel as well. The Panel was moderated by **Joes Segal**, chief curator of the Wende Museum.

The audience was greeted by **Justin Jampol**, the Wende Museum's founder and director, by **Adam Hyman**, Executive Director of Los Angeles Film Forum, and by Consul **Josef Smyček** of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles. **Jim McDonald**, the film's main figure, was present and applauded.

The Los Angeles Chapter of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences sponsored a first-class reception in the museum's garden before the actual film screening, and the guests appreciated the Czech specialities.

It is to note that the Czech Television, upon recommendation made by the SVU, has expressed interest in producing a Czech version of this film for TV broadcasting. The SVU is here also to facilitate screenings in cooperation with the Czech Centers and other Czech foreign service antennas, as well as through the SVU's local chapters worldwide. Also, the French film festival CZECH-IN expressed interest in co-producing a French version and its screening within the 2019 Spring programming in Paris and other cities. A DVD production is one of the suggestions made by the audience.

MEMBERS' NEWS



Karolína Syrovátková Performing at KENNEDY CENTER

Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, September 30

*Czech programming on Millennium Stage
is generously supported by
Karel Komárek Family Foundation*



Young member of the SVU, **Karolína Syrovátková** is known for her innovative approach to performing, in which she combines her pianistic and dramatic talents to create shows about famous composers. Her series *Living With the Great Composers* combines theater and a classical piano recital in an educational, accessible, and fun format. She has written and acted out personae of Fanny Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann, Olga Janáček, and Caroline von Esterházy.

She is the winner of several international competitions including the North London and the Sidney M. Wright Presidential Competition. Her vision as a musician is

deeply rooted in both the pianistic lineage of European (École normale de musique de Paris, Prague Conservatory) and American schools (University of Maryland: BM, University of Texas at Austin: MM and DMA) and in the well-established principles of the Alexander Technique (AmSAT Certified Teacher). In addition to an active performing and teaching career, Karolina's multifaceted musical vision has led her to launch classical music series both in the US and in Europe. She has been a champion of Czech music, particularly the music of her distant relative Bedrich Smetana and of Leoš Janáček. Her latest CD of Janáček's complete piano music will be released in December 2018. Her experimentation with bridging the gap between classical music and its audiences has led her to create a new art form she calls a "drama concert."

More information and videos at: www.pianistkarolina.com

PROGRAM: Josef Suk: *The Spring*, Leos Janáček: *On the Overgrown Path*, Zdenek Fibich: *Poem*, Vítězslava Kaprálová: *April Prelude op.13*

Congratulations, Karolina!

The SVU will seek opportunities to introduce you to our communities in other cities as well.



Kevin McNamara

Continuing His Successful Presentations

The *Inaugural Frank A. Belousek Lecture* in Czech History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in Lincoln, NE, on Tuesday, **October 2**, at 4:00 pm, in the Abbott Auditorium of the Sheldon Museum of Art on the university's campus. The talk is titled "Reluctant Warriors: How One Professor and 50,000 POWs Destroyed an Empire, Founded a Republic, and Remade the Map of Europe." McNamara will also meet with students, as well as autograph copies of his book, *Dreams of a Great Small Nation* (New York: Public Affairs).

A former journalist, bureau chief, and U.S. congressional aide, McNamara is an associate scholar of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, Philadelphia, PA, and a former contributing editor of *Orbis*, its quarterly journal of world affairs. Learn more at www.kevinjmcnamara.com

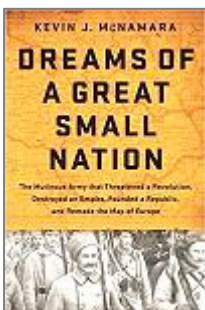
On Thursday, **October 4**, at 4:00 pm, McNamara will speak in the 4th floor Atrium of the **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars**, Washington, DC. He will be joined by Michal Ksinan, PhD, a member of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, who earned his doctorate at the Sorbonne. They last spoke together at the Bratislava Castle in the Slovak Republic last May.

McNamara will also discuss the topic of his book in a talk at **Bohemian National Hall** in New York City on Wednesday, **October 24**, 2018, at 7:00 pm, on the 3rd floor of the Hall at 321 East 73rd Street, New York. Copies of the book *Dreams of a Great Small Nation* will be sold and signed.

Historická Revue, a history periodical based in Bratislava, will publish two excerpts from his book, one on the contributions of Milan R. Stefanik to the Czecho-Slovak independence movement, and the other on the Czecho-Slovak Legion's seizure of Siberia in 1918, both in its Fall 2018 issue.

Academic Questions, a quarterly journal of the National Association of Scholars, based in New York, will publish Kevin's essay and profile of Tomas G. Masaryk, the Charles University professor who became the first president of Czecho-Slovakia, in its December 2018 issue.

Finally, the museum exhibit based on his book, *Guts & Glory: The War Train that Shaped a Nation*, will remain open through December 31, 2018, at the **National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library** in Cedar Rapids, IA. See also *SVU NEWS* No. 1/2018 page 20.



McNamara's book earned high praise in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Library Journal*, two journals in the United Kingdom (*History of War* and *The Literary Review*), two newspapers in the Czech Republic (*Hospodářské Noviny* and *Lidovky*), and a Slovak news magazine, *Týždeň* (*The Week*).

His book was also the subject of a two-part interview on *Radio Prague*, two interviews on Czech TV, and was excerpted in three U.S. periodicals (*Russian Life*, *Military History Quarterly*, and *Slovo*).



Petr Just:

***Century of Czech Presidency:
From Masaryk via Havel to Zeman***



University of Nebraska Lincoln, Burnett Hall, August 27

Petr Just is Czech political scientist and he works at Metropolitan University Prague that hosted the 2018 SVU World Congress.

His professional interests include mainly comparative politics (forms of government, coalitions, bicameralism, presidency), political systems of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and other Central European countries. He has authored or co-authored 7 books, more than 30 chapters in collective monographs and 20 scientific articles on the topics of his interest.

Petr's ties to Nebraska date back to 1994, when he came as foreign exchange student to Lincoln High School for 1994/1995 academic year. During his Lincoln study stay he also took part in number of Komensky Club activities. He has kept contacts with Nebraska since then and has returned back several times (1999, 2012, 2015, 2016 and most recently in 2018), as well as has played host for several Nebraskans travelling to Czech Republic. During one of his returns to Nebraska, a 1999 six-week summer stay, he conducted research on Nebraska unicameralism for the purpose of his B.A. thesis he was writing at that time. He later also published two scientific articles about Nebraska unicameralism in Czech and Slovak journals.



Elizabeth Cernota Clark:

Lidice, remembered

a personal essay by Elizabeth Cernota Clark is featured in the 2018 edition of *Ten Spurs*, the journal of The Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference at the University of North Texas, Denton. The essay is a remembrance of growing up near Chicago at a time when her parents and immigrant grandparents were coming to grips with the tragedy of Lidice. Clark's blog, *Lidice lives*, a component of her ongoing research/writing project, explores the varied aspects of Lidice, past and present. See at: <http://lidicelives.wp.txstate.edu>

Cernota Clark is a senior lecturer in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Texas State University, San Marcos, where her husband, **Thomas Clark**, is a composer and director of the School of Music. He has taken inspiration from their visits to Lidice for *Lidice Remembered*, a piece for seven cellos premiered in February 2018. See also: <http://tclarkmusic.wp.txstate.edu>



Antonie Doležalová:

A History of Czech Economic Thought

Antonie Doležalová is a faithful member of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, prominent speaker at the SVU World Congresses; Associate Professor at the Institute of Economic Studies, Charles University; Senior Member, Robinson College, Cambridge University.

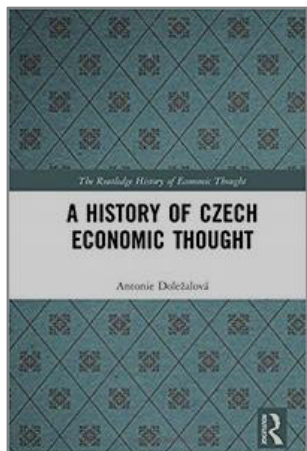
In her lectures and research, Antonie is focused on economic history in the Czech lands and CEE at the late 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries and explore the following themes: the history of Czech economic thought; the history of Czech and Czechoslovak economic policy; the phenomenon of individual and group interests including nationalism and philanthropy; and history of historiography.

She has published 7 books, 23 studies in peer-reviewed journals, co-authored 7 Czech and 18 international monographs, 3 university text books; 15 articles indexed within the Web of Science Core Collection.

From 2007, she has managed the first Czech virtual library "Bibliotheca economica", which contains already over 700 books written by Czech economists before 1948. She is a regular contributor for Czech newspapers and popular magazines.

In 2017, she organised the round table titled *Alice Teichova's Contribution to the Development of the Business History* for the European Business History Conference in Vienna. At the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies 2018 Conference in Cambridge (UK), she chaired the panel titled *Historical Background to Prague Spring 1968*. At the jubilee 2018 SVU World Congress in Prague, she presented her paper *How to pay for the State: Economic Consequences of the Establishment of Czechoslovakia*.

At the 18th World Economic History Congress in Boston in 2018, Antonie chaired a panel titled *Behind the Iron Curtain: Waves of Globalization in Historiography of Economic History* focused on the historiography of economic history as it was developed on both sides of the Iron Curtain and on the transfer of ideas between the exile historians and those historians who stayed in the home countries.

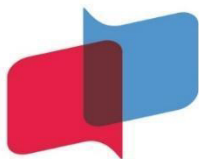


Situated in the turbulent heart of Europe, the Czech Republic has suffered from significant discontinuity in its historical development, but its economic thinking has not until now been subject to a full analysis. This book offers a history of Czech economic thought from the late Middle Ages to the present day. It traces methodological developments and the relationship between economics and politics, and introduces not just pioneering figures in the field but also those whose lives and careers were thwarted by history, as well as Czech exile thinkers, including SVU activities. Identifying key themes in Czech economic thought, the volume considers which branches of economic theory have had the greatest influence on Czech thought, and explores the relationship between Czech economic thinking and wider established schools of thought.

Publisher: Taylor and Francis Routledge Series; 1st edition (June 18, 2018), ISBN: 978-1138914162

The book is available in hardcover edition (214 pages) and as a Kindle book, but also in the popular e-PuB format. Available at AMAZON, BARNES & NOBLE, Swiss EX LIBRIS, French FNAC (the ePub).

MORE OF OUR MEMBERS' NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT IN CZECH



THE CZECHOSLOVAK TALKS

Hlavní činností projektu *Czechoslovak Talks* je sběr, zpracování a publikace životních osudů českých a slovenských krajanů po celém světě – příběhy osobních vzestupů a pádů, příležitostí a překážek. Příběhy Čechů a Slováků, jejichž životní zkušenosti by neměly zůstat v zapomnění, ale zachovány pro budoucí generace. Veškeré příběhy průběžně publikujeme na našem webu: www.czechoslovaktalks.com

KOMIKSOVÁ KNIHA O KRAJANECH

Koncem letošního roku připravujeme vydání **komiksové knihy “Stories of our Czechoslovaks”**, která formou komiksu zpracovává vybrané příběhy krajanů z Austrálie, USA, Kanady a Jižní Ameriky.

Jako zástupce za českou krajaňskou komunitu v Kanadě byl vybrán pan Kroupa.

Náměty na další příběhy můžete zasílat na naši e-mailovou adresu.

PODPOŘTE NÁS

Pokud máte zájem aktivity projektu *Czechoslovak Talks* podpořit a přispět na tvorbu komiksu, pak můžete formou finančního daru (odkaz **“Donation”** naleznete na našich webových stránkách).

ZAPOJTE SE

Pokud se chcete stát součástí projektu *Czechoslovak Talks* či znáte někoho ve svém okolí, jehož životní příběh by měl být uchován pro další generace, kontaktujte nás:

The Czechoslovak Talks

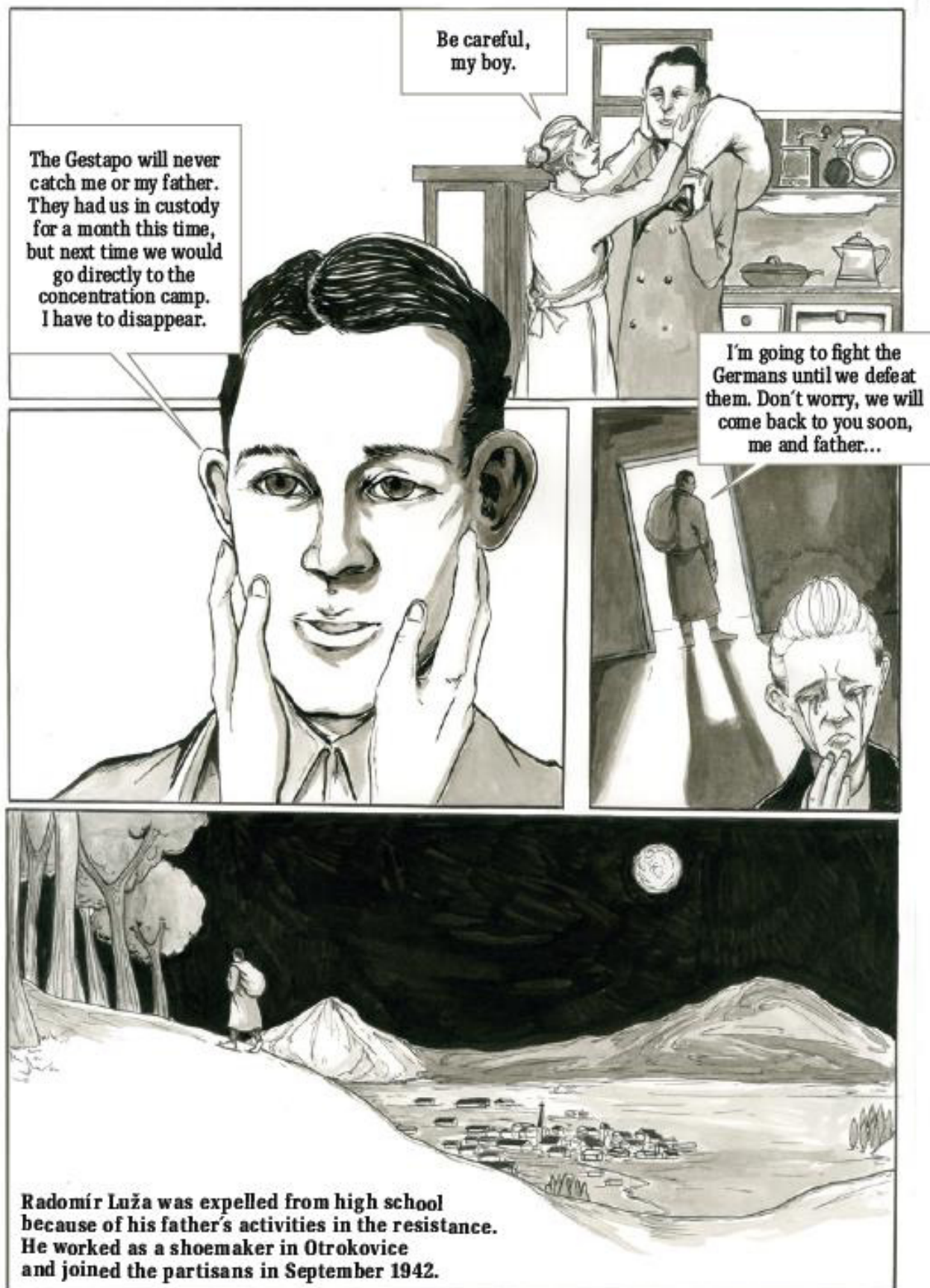
Martina Kanakova, Project Manager: m.kanakova@czechoslovaktalks.com

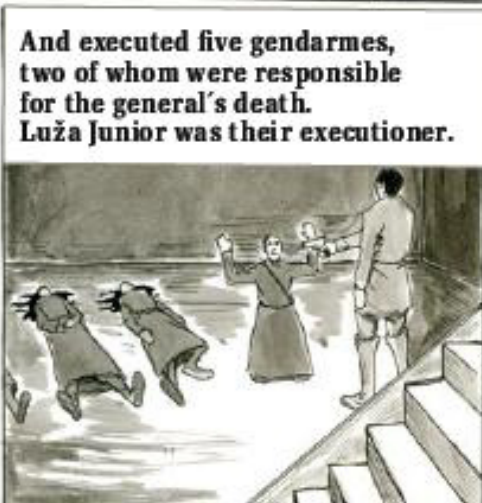
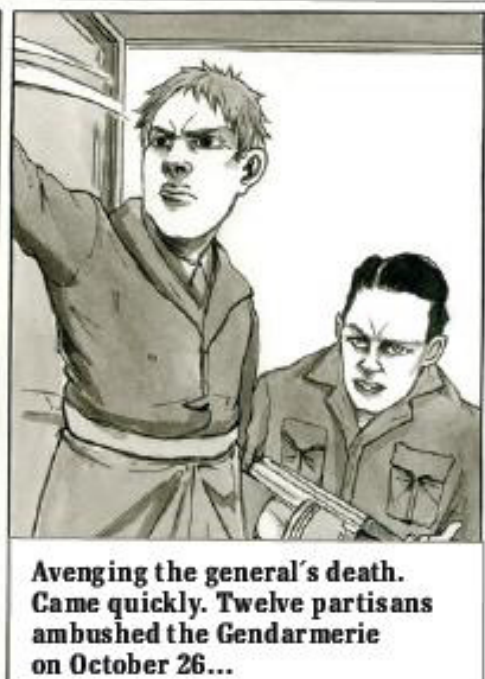
Tel. CZ +420 221 719 041 | Tel. USA +1 (315) 636-6065

info@czechoslovaktalks.com | www.czechoslovaktalks.com

Preview of the book in preparation: *"Stories of our Czechoslovaks"* (only 3 first pages from the Radomír Luža booklet)







FROM THE 2018 SVU WORLD CONGRESS



Prof. Michal Klíma, Rector, Metropolitan University Counsellor Joann Lockard, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy

Dobrý den, paní a pánové.

Dr. Klíma and distinguished guests, it is an honor for me to represent the United States Embassy here today. Ambassador King is unfortunately out of the Czech Republic today, but thank you very much for having me in his place. I know he very much would have liked to be here to talk to you today.

The American Embassy is very proud to support this conference as part of our centennial celebrations this year. As you all know, 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia as well as the centennial of U.S.-Czech relations. The United States has proudly been a part of your country's history from its beginning 100 years ago. The initial creation of Czechoslovakia occurred not in Prague or even Bratislava, but in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where Tomas Masaryk and the leaders of the Czech and Slovak diasporas met to sign a declaration attesting to their intent to create an independent state. Article four of that declaration read, "The Czechoslovak state will be a republic, its Constitution will be democratic." Masaryk went on to draft the official Czechoslovak declaration of independence in Washington, which became known as the Washington Declaration. And the First Republic's Constitution was modeled on the American one.

The United States stood with Czechoslovakia in the beginning, and we are proud to stand with you together as allies now, 100 years later. The path we have walked to get here has not always been a smooth one and, unfortunately, this year we also mark the anniversaries of some of the darkest days. But I hope that those memorials will serve as a reminder to just how important our alliance as strong, independent democracies actually is.

This week, most of the eyes of Europe will be on Brussels and the NATO summit. We face new geopolitical threats today that our alliance must pull together to address – a resurgent aggression from the East, the threat of terrorism, and even cyber insecurity threaten our daily lives and our friends and allies. But we cannot deal with these dangers alone as just the United States or individual European countries. We must come together and commit the resources necessary to preserve our democratic ideals and way of life. We must continue to use all the tools at our disposal to address the problems that face us – diplomacy, economic strength, and our joint defense institutions.

At the Embassy, we are focused on these areas every day with our Czech partners. Ambassador King often uses the analogy of a three-legged stool to describe the pillars of the U.S.-Czech relationship: Security, Economic Prosperity, and Friendship. The most important of these is friendship.

The United States and the Czech Republic are also bound together, not only by our shared history, but by the thousands of Czechs who ventured to the United States to build new lives in towns like New Bohemia, Virginia; Praha, Texas; or Pilsen, Wisconsin. I know that some of you, right in this room, share that experience.

I have actually been looking into the story of one Czech immigrant to the United States. He left a small village near Pilsen and ventured to the coal country of Pennsylvania. He married another Czech immigrant and supported his family of nine children by working in the coal mines and creating beautiful wooden furniture. After losing his wife, two children, and even his own left eye, he continued to work and live the American dream. His granddaughter recently uncovered his letters in an old family trunk and asked me if I could help her find his story. His story, like those of many other Czech-Americans, forever links our two nations. The United States is stronger because of what Czech immigrants – like some of you - brought to our nation.

The United States and the Czech Republic will continue to stand together as we look to the next 100 years of our friendship. There will be challenges, but I am confident that, in 2118, we will still be standing alongside one another as friends and allies.

Thank you for having me here today. I wish you the best of luck with this conference and the rest of your events this week.

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences wishes to reiterate thanks to U.S. Embassy Prague for its support. Thank you, Ambassador King, thank you, PAO Lockard, and thank you, staff members!

FROM THE 2018 SVU WORLD CONGRESS



Georges Eichler, Tomáš Grulich, Jří Korynta, Sala Terrena, Wallenstein Palace, July 11, 2018 Crédit photo: Czech Senate

The Czech media have covered the jubilee SVU World Congress in Prague more attentively than in the previous years. Some of them also echoed the remarks made by **Senator Tomáš Grulich**, Chairman of the Czech Senate's Standing Commission for Compatriots Living Abroad, relating to the importance of the SVU.

Senator Grulich is a respected expert in research of the archives of the communist secret police ("Stb") and he discovered, in the archive of Gustáv Husák, an interesting *Situation Report* from 1966, classified *Secret*, declassified only in 2017. This report gave a comprehensive 23-page account on Czechoslovak emigration – describing what the communist regime had to fear the most. It has not been of common knowledge that the communist intelligence service, at that time, considered the SVU to be "the second most dangerous organization" right after Radio Free Europe.

With senator's permission, the SVU newsletter brings an exclusive selection of quotes from this report, in the Czech original with English translation. We're quoting from the file "A-O 1712/65-66" of Sept. 5, 1966.

Československá emigrace v západním světě zaujímá vůči socialistickému Československu v podstatě jednotné stanovisko, t.j. přeje si změnu zřízení v ČSSR. Jinak je v emigraci značná nejednotnost a roztržitost, vyplývající z bývalé politické příslušnosti, osobních zájmů a ambicí... V posledních letech lze pozorovat, že činnost vrcholných emigrantských organizací /s výjimkou slovenských separatistů/ stagnuje... Příčinou tohoto úpadku je vývoj v mezinárodních vztazích a v mezinárodní situaci, a stárnutí prominentní politické emigrace, jejíž příslušníci se v minulosti nejvíce exponovali. To se především projevuje ve vrcholné organizaci čs. emigrace, Radě svobodného Československa. Někteří zemřeli – Hubert RIPKA, Vojta BENEŠ a další, jiní pro pokročilou senilitu a neschopnost přizpůsobit se situaci, nejsou schopni nějaké významné akce – ZENKL, OSUSKÝ, JOSKO, SLÁVIK apod. ... [naopak] ti, kteří mají fyzické a intelektuální schopnosti, vyvíjejí činnost na jiných úsecích...

Je to především Rádio Svobodná Evropa, které zaměstnává řadu prominentních emigrantů: STRÁNSKÝ, HERBEN, FIRT, VANĚK, ČEP, dříve TIGRID, PEROUTKA, občas dopisuje MAJER. Jsou to v současné době tzv. ideoví vůdci. U těchto osob se však již velmi silně projevuje důsledek stáří. Stránskému je 82, Peroutkovi 71, Herbenovi 66 – vážně nemocen, Firtovi 69. Přesto je nutno hodnotit činnost těchto stárnoucích prominentů jako nebezpečnou, protože jsou to zavilí a zkušené nepřátelé, a v nepřátelské propagandě mají i v současné době vliv a účast... Pro aktivní činnost jsou však důležitější mladší jako např. dr. PECHÁČEK, ELIÁŠ, NETÍK, BELÁK, BELUŠ, KOHÁK, KULHÁNEK a další.

Emigrantskou organizací, která v posledních letech získává na významu, je Společnost pro vědy a umění /SVU/ se sídlem v USA. Má již přes 900 členů, kteří se rekrutují z řad emigrantů a krajanů, působících v oblasti vědy, kultury a umění. Jejími členy jsou spisovatelé, umělci, novináři, profesori. ... Společnost vydává měsíčně “Zprávy SVU” a čtvrtletník “Proměny” /redaktor Ladislav RADIMSKÝ/, blížíci se svým obsahem a stylem “Svědectví”. Společnost má ve svém programu boj proti socialistickému zřízení v ČSSR. Snaží se vést tento boj na vysoké intelektuální úrovni, udržovat mezi svými členy myšlenku na odboj, ... Společnost má své dopisovatele v evropských státech. Řada členů má vynikající společenské postavení.

The Czechoslovak emigration to the Western world takes essentially a common position, i.e. it wishes a change of the régime in the CSSR. Otherwise, the emigration is considerably inconsistent and fragmented, resulting from their former political affiliations, personal interests and ambitions... In the recent years, it can be observed that the top emigration organizations' activity is stagnating /except for the Slovak separatists/... This decline is caused by the development in international relations and in international situation, and by aging of the prominent political emigration whose members were the most engaged. This is reflected primarily in the top organization of the Czechoslovak emigration, the Council of Free Czechoslovakia. Some have died – Hubert RIPKA, Vojta BENEŠ, etc., while others for their advanced senility and inability to adapt to the situation are not capable of any significant action – ZENKL, OSUSKÝ, JOSKO, SLÁVIK, etc. ... [on the other hand] those with physical and intellectual abilities do develop their activities in other sectors...

In the first place, we are speaking of Radio Free Europe that employs a number of prominent emigrants: STRÁNSKÝ, HERBEN, FIRT, VANĚK, ČEP, formerly TIGRID, PEROUTKA, and sometimes MAJER corresponds. They are currently the so-called ideological leaders. However, these persons are very strongly affected by their age. Stránský is 82, Peroutka is 71, Herben is 66 – seriously ill, Firt is 69. Nevertheless, it is necessary to view these aging notables' activity as dangerous, because they are grimly determined and experienced enemies, and they keep their influence and participation in the enemy's propaganda even today... For action, however, the younger persons are more important, like dr. PECHÁČEK, ELIÁŠ, NETÍK, BELÁK, BELUŠ, KOHÁK, KULHÁNEK and others.

An émigré organization that gains importance in recent years, is the [Czechoslovak] Society of Arts and Sciences /SVU/ registered in the U.S.A. It has 900+ members recruited from among emigrants and compatriots working in sciences, culture and arts. Its members are writers, artists, journalists, professors... The Society publishes a monthly “Zprávy SVU” and a quarterly “Proměny” /editor Ladislav RADIMSKÝ/ that is close to “Svědectví” by its contents and style. The Society has in its program a fight against the socialist regime in the CSSR. It strives to maintain this fight at a high intellectual level and to preserve the idea of resistance, ... The Society has correspondents in European states. A number of members have excellent social status.

FROM THE 2018 SVU WORLD CONGRESS

**SVU President's Reflections on the World Congress**

My first impression from the glance at the program of the 29th SVU World Congress in Prague was the feeling of balance. That means the equilibrium between Science and Art, which the founders of the Society of Arts and Sciences had in mind when they established the Society sixty years ago. The purpose of the Society of Arts and Sciences was to enable continuity of the creativity of independent minds of the persons of Czech and Slovak origin in exile. Human inventiveness has various means to express itself. It can be science and technology on one hand, or artistic performance on the other hand. In this sense, the 29th World Congress fulfilled the mission of the SVU and met the wishes of its originators.

The Congress opening in the Main Hall of the Wallenstein Palace, which was followed by vernissage of the exhibition on the history of Czechoslovakia, was a dignified ceremony and commencement of the event. It was topped by live performance of Vít Hořejš, world renowned puppeteer and storyteller, at the American Center in Prague.

The first Plenary Session of July 11 was opened by Marek Beneš, director of Metropolitan University Prague and by professor Michal Klíma, rector of Metropolitan University. Honorary guests included Joann Lockard, Counselor for Public Affairs of the U.S. Embassy in Prague, on behalf of H. E. Stephen B. King, Ambassador of the United States to the Czech Republic; Hon. Eliška Hašková Coolidge, former director of the White House Office of Presidential Messages; former Czech Ambassador Martin Palouš; and professor Milada Polišenská, vice-rector and chief academic adviser at Anglo-American University in Prague. They gave remarks on the history, importance and prospects of the Czech – U.S. relations and added their own individual perspectives. Distinguished SVU members Hugh Agnew, Paul Burik and Gregory Ference started the academic program of the 29th SVU World Congress.

*Professor Hugh Agnew
of George Washington University*

*Crédit photos:
Metropolitan University Prague*





Gregory Ference, Hugh Agnew, Paul Burik presenting to a full auditorium

After a busy day, participants could appreciate a repose during the magnificent concert by Prague Film Orchestra in the Wallenstein Garden and the dinner cruise hosted by Pavlína Moskalýková Solo that included the Golden Europea Award ceremony honoring Vladimír Mišík and Lída Sandera.

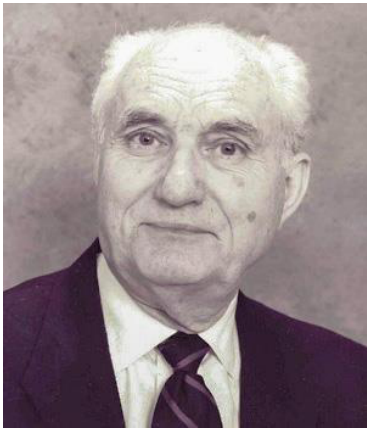
The exclusive private screening of *Czechoslovakia - Portrait of a Tragedy* on July 12 presented one of the intellectual and emotional peaks of the event. The attendants honored the memory of the formidable personality of the late ambassador Rudolf V. Perina, one of the authors of the film, who died suddenly in Washington D.C. on June 14, 2018.

Plenary PM Session of July 12 – Youth Panel on *How my stay in the United States influenced my professional career back in Czechia/Slovakia*, organized by Věra Dvořáková, involved eleven interesting testimonies on work and study in North America and importance of this experience for the professional endeavors. The Session demonstrated potential utility of the SVU as an institutional platform for a network of gifted young people exploiting the knowledge and skills acquired at the American universities.

It is up to the participants to assess how successful the 29th World Congress was. I am convinced that behind the multitude of sessions, lectures and cultural events we could see marks of the true revitalization of the Society of Arts and Sciences and the evidence of its vitality. The SVU does not need to seek its *raison d'être* in the past – defined by what happened to Czechoslovakia in 1948 and lasted for too long. The SVU will continue seeking to connect Czechs and Slovaks worldwide, to nurture mutual inspirations and pride of achievements, to promote the Czech and Slovak intellect in the world affairs, to partner with the Czech and Slovak foreign services in promoting our culture in the world, to partner with academic institutions and compatriot networks in meaningful projects of international cooperation in culture, research and education. Last but not least, I would like to thank my friend Georges Eichler, not only for being the power that enabled this Congress to happen, but also for being the source of my optimism with regard to the Society's visions I've just briefly mentioned.

Ivo Budil

IN MEMORIAM



Miroslav Lebeda

b. October 20, 1922, d. July 28, 2018

Miroslav Lebeda died peacefully on July 28, 2018 in the Heatherwood Retirement Community, Burke, Virginia. By his side was his wife, Jiřina Lebeda and family.

He was born in Pardubice, Eastern Czech Republic, to Josef and Anna Lebeda. From a young age of five, he was singing in concerts for several years as his sister, Libuše, accompanied him on the piano. He studied in the Pardubice Gymnasium for boys and graduated in 1941. At the age of 16, he decided to become a musician, a passion that lasted all of his life. He attended the Prague Conservatory where he focused on conducting, his studies were interrupted by World War II, and he graduated from the Conservatory in 1948.

On October 9, 1948, Miroslav married Jiřina, née Řezníčková, whom he met in Nové Město nad Metují in 1944. She was his life partner in every way, they were never apart for close to seventy years of their marriage. They had two daughters, Radmila Bartos of Springfield, Virginia, and Susan Lucak of New York, NY.

In the late 1940s and 1950s, Miroslav worked with or conducted orchestras in Ostrava, Pilsen and Teplice. In 1955, he became the director of the Public School of the Arts in Teplice which subsequently became a conservatory. He also conducted Krušnohorský pěvecký sbor in Teplice for many years. In 1967, he received a doctorate degree with honors in composition from the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. He composed a Concert for Piano and one act opera called Happy Marriage based on Anton Chekhov's short story called *The Salty Tears that the World Sees Not*. In 1967, he became a director of the Public School of Arts in Košice, the Smíchov district of Prague. For several decades he taught musical theory and composed many works for children which were published. He also composed lullabies for all his grandchildren as well as his great grandchildren.

On August 21, 1968, Miroslav decided to leave Czechoslovakia after the invasion by the Warsaw Pact countries. The emigration occurred on April 18, 1969 when he took his family to Vienna, Austria. With his wife and two daughters he came to the United States of America on July 25, 1969.

In the United States he supported his family in many different ways, as a polisher of golden watches, a coffee man in the Equitable Building on Wall Street, and a clerk in an investment company. For many years, he played on the organ during Czech Sunday Masses in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Astoria, New York, and conducted the Velehrad Choir to keep Czech musical life in New York City alive. In 2005, he conducted Bohuslav Martinů's *The Opening of the Wells* in Northern Virginia. The piece is a pastoral chamber cantata for speaker, soloists, chorus, strings and piano. It was a very successful event.

He is survived by his wife (Jiřina), daughters (Radmila, Susan), son in law (Anthony), grandchildren (John, Frank, Natalia, Peter), grand-daughters in law (Monica, Haleigh) and great grandchildren (Mikayla, Elizabeth, Margaret, Jonah, Rowan).

The SVU is grateful to Susan Lucak and Radmila & Anthony Bartos.

RESULTS OF THE 2018 SVU ELECTION

Total Eligible: 269

Total Ballots Cast: 150, of which 78 electronically

Participation: 55.76 %

APPROVE: 138 ... id est 92.0 %

ABSTAIN: 9 ... id est 6.0 %

DISAPPROVE: 3 ... id est 2.0 %

The tabulated results delivered by the professional provider Survey and Ballots Systems (SBS) on July 9, 2018 were announced to the SVU General Assembly on July 12, 2018 and they were immediately published on the SVU website. Summary of other GA reports shall be shared with SVU members in good standing by means of an attachment to the December Dues Letter.

THE NEW SVU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: **Ivo Budil**

Secretary General: **Georges Eichler**

Treasurer: **Thomas Holbik**

Executive Vice-president for Academic Liaisons: **Hugh Agnew**

Vice-president for Academic Exchange Programs: **Michael Seng**

SVU Directors receive no compensation for their work. SVU business travel is at their own expense.

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The Society has a group tax-exempt status under IRC Section 501(c)(3), covering all its chapters in the U.S.

LÍDA SANDERA HONORED WITH GOLDEN EUROPEA



Kristian Kodet, Pavlína Moskalyková Solo, James Ragan, Georges Eichler, Eliška Hašková Coolidge, Vladimír Mišík, Lída Sandera, Adam Mišík, Michal Sedláček

The 2018 Golden Europea Award went to **Lída Sandera**, leader of the SVU's Los Angeles Chapter, and to **Vladimír Mišík**, Czech rock guitarist and singer. The award ceremony took place at a prestigious dinner cruise hosted by Pavlína Moskalyková Solo, president of the European Union of Arts Foundation (EUAF). This romantic evening of July 11, 2018 was part of the social program of the 2018 SVU World Congress.

Lída Sandera was born in Prague, where she also grew up. She studied microbiology at the Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague. She left Czechoslovakia on August 23, 1968 with only five dollars in pocket, university diploma, and four photo negatives showing Russian soldiers and tanks on the first days of invasion. As she had no money, Radio Free Europe gave her 250 Deutsche marks for these films, the next day she got a job at BMW. In the first two years of her emigration, she lived in Munich and in 1970 she moved to the United States. She worked for ten years as dental technician in Los Angeles before starting a successful career as real estate agent in the 1980s. She is known as generous host of prominent artists who come to visit Los Angeles, and as one of the most active Czech expatriates in the United States. She has been active member of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences since 1980s and she has been chairing its Local Chapter in Los Angeles (SVU-LA) since 1995. Under her leadership, the SVU-LA Chapter became a respected organizer of cultural events attracting not only the Czech community, but also large numbers of the U.S. public. Lída found the recipe for constantly recruiting new members including young people, and this way SVU-LA became clearly the most dynamic local chapter of the SVU. SVU-LA has been a reliable partner of the Czech foreign service representation on the U.S. West Coast in promotion of the Czech culture – from cinematography and fine arts to music of all genres. The Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs honored Lída Sandera with GRATIAS AGIT award in 2015.



2018 SVU SPECIAL CENTENNIAL AWARD

Wallenstein Palace, Prague, July 10, 2018:

At the occasion of the 29th SVU World Congress,
marking the Sixty Years of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences,
commemorating the Centennial of the First Czechoslovak Republic
and celebrating 100 YEARS OF CZECH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

three outstanding personalities received

SPECIAL AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CZECH-AMERICAN RELATIONS

Eliška Hašková Coolidge

Pavčina Moskalyková

Milada Polišenská

The ceremony was hosted by the Czech Senate's Standing Commission for Compatriots Living Abroad.



Exceptionally, the SVU World Congress opening ceremony was programmed to include the SVU Prague Chapter's annual awards. SVU Praha awarded **Petr Bísek, František Fenič, Veronique Firkusny, Vít Hořejš, Václav Hudeček, Louis Reith, Joseph Rostinsky** and **Petr Sís**. SVU Praha also honored **Georges Eichler** with a Special Recognition for the 2018 World Congress organization and for the long-time support he has provided to the Prague Chapter.

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

The next issue is scheduled for December 2018. Deadline for submissions is November 30, 2018.

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

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



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