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SVU WORLD CONGRESS 2014 IN PLZEŇ

27th World Congress of SVU, June 29th – July 5, 2014,
Plzeň, Czech Republic

Despite its long history as an industrial city, Plzeň has become a flourishing and prosperous center of culture and education in Western Bohemia. To its visitors, Plzeň offers many interesting historical monuments, a diverse and rich cultural life, fine examples of ancient and modern architecture to admire, quality accommodations to enjoy and good and fast transport connections with the Prague International Airport. Plzeň is the European Capital of Culture for 2015.



Měšťanská Beseda, photo PH

The 27th World Congress of SVU will focus on the role of people of Czech and Slovak origin in the making of the modern world in various fields of human activity, including science, technology, art and politics. The congress will take place at the University of West Bohemia and the local branch of the Metropolitan University Prague in the historic center of the city. The participants will be offered accommodations in some local hotels and guest houses of different



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price levels. The large parks, lively streets and many restaurants should ensure a pleasant atmosphere for the meeting. The participants will have opportunities to attend the concerts and other cultural events and to visit some interesting places in the region of Western Bohemia. Prague is located just fifty minutes away by highway. Local university students will take care of the organization and comfort of the participants. Individual panels will cover a wide spectrum of issues—modern history, literature, politics, art, archaeology, the relationship between biology and morality, natural sciences, medicine and selected world and global issues.

EDITOR'S PAGE

SVU and New Ways to Learn?

Czech Radio as a Portal to the World

Like all learned societies the SVU is limited and limitless. It comes from Cold War migrations, and it is bound up with the Czech Lands and Slovakia. On the other hand, the SVU is about the arts and sciences. So, it is about the world and about learning. Limits are good: we use them to fix our identity and to work better, to find what we can contribute to the world, to outline a field we can then work with more abandon. Limits can also wear us down, when their time is passing, when they are becoming less productive. In such a time, a learned society can turn to its limitlessness. Think about and try out new kinds of openness, new ways of learning and attracting new people.

The SVU is well-practiced at putting on conferences for people to read papers and putting out publications for their scholarship. Like our limits and limitlessness, two great categories are at work at conferences and in publications: we speak and we write, we listen and we read. Not so Hegelian is the world of our sources: we mostly use written sources for both the papers we read to audiences and for the scholarship we publish. My apologies here to musicologists, art historians and to all our colleagues who study the arts and mass media. I am thinking more about those of us in the humanities and sciences and about the sources we choose to study, about where we look for answers to our questions. Do we rely too much on written sources? Do we read too much? What if we listened more? Would we do better and enjoy ourselves more as scholars and as people?

I have a long commute that takes almost three hours every weekday. I tried to think, to write in my head, but it never worked. So, I started to listen. For months, years ago, I kept the car radio on scan. Thankfully, in the end, one thing was better than silence (sometimes) in the countryside outside Houston—National Public Radio. Then, last spring, I was teaching a new course on global migration at Texas A&M, and I thought of using radio stories in class. NPR's online archive turned out to be vast: it was thousands of radio stories going back to the nineties. Years of doctoral study in history gave me a good understanding of migration, but the NPR stories gave me a new imagination to use. This I finally realized one morning, while captive and commuting, not searching, when a new story came on about the spring break migrations of American college students. Here was yet another kind of migration, another strange version of what I study and know, and it went back half a century to a film called *Where the Boys Are*. A semester of thrills ended with one more when I read my student evaluations: they wrote how much they loved the radio stories. But amid all the thrills that semester, I also became restless: NPR was not enough. It was American, so like most other domestic broadcasters elsewhere, it used just one language to make sense of the world (English), and it would not go far beyond what was familiar to its audience. I still admired the riches at www.npr.org, but I wondered more and more about other portals elsewhere in the world. My students at the International Studies Department, the memory of what they said and wrote, their diversity and semesters abroad, still keep my mind on it.

I found EBU in Geneva: the European Broadcasting Union is the “world’s foremost alliance of public service media with members in 56 countries across Europe and beyond ...” On its Web site at www3.ebu.ch, under “Our Members,” you can find lists of “Active Members,” “Associate Members” and “Sister Unions,” which gets you to seven broadcasting unions in the Asia-Pacific region, Arab states, Africa, Caribbean, North America and Latin America. Click on “Active Members,” and you get links to 72 “broadcasting organizations” in the 56 countries, arranged alphabetically by country. In the Czech Republic, it’s Česká televize and Český rozhlas. For me, the portal that makes

life really different is Český rozhlas (Czech Radio). I don't have much time or patience for television. But radio gives me what I want and takes no time: I can find a story, put on my earphones, put the iPhone in my pocket and listen when I cook, wash dishes, walk somewhere, drive, wait in line, relax or just get tired of reading. And like NPR, Czech Radio turned out to have an enormous archive to explore. Go to www.rozhlas.cz, click "hledat" (search), then click "hledej" without any search terms, and you get 947,638 results. If you click "audia," you get the 378,328 results that you can listen to (instead of reading). These are the stories with mp3 audio files that you can select, play, download and take with you anywhere on a mobile device as small as an iPhone.

As I keep enjoying the intellectual worlds I now listen to, and as I edit another issue of our learned society's newsletter—the last one before our international conference—I think about what Czech Radio and other Internet portals like it could mean to us, our conferences and our future. Maybe we can imagine the possibilities together and try out our own ways to use them? We could use a portal like Czech Radio to learn more about the Czech Republic. We could better learn how the language is used now to discuss various things, including our own disciplines. We could find new kinds of sources and ideas for our conference papers. We could also find new people to collaborate with, invite to our conferences and attract into SVU. These are just obvious possibilities and simple ideas that occur to me and need more thought and practice. I would like to hear and learn from you, and then to share it.

For my part, I offer a few examples of what I found at Czech Radio. Lately I explore and write about the *Hospodář*, a magazine from Omaha, Nebraska, for Czechs who farmed or who kept gardens or animals, and so I wanted to learn more about the world of the 1920s. At Czech Radio, I entered "pozemková reforma" for the land reform that remade rural society in the First Republic. I discovered and listened to a 38-minute lecture about it by Michal Stehlík, now dean of the Philosophical Faculty at Charles University. It aired on "Leonardo," the program for science and technology. It has its own portal, like Czech Radio's many other programs do. Another day I thought of just entering dates in Czech Radio's search window, "1920," "1921," That's how I discovered Petruška Šustrová and Petr Koura's "Rok po roce" (Year by year): each 30-minute episode is about a single year in Czechoslovakia and the world, and you can listen your way through the first half of the 20th century, year by year.

Sometimes I want to learn more about the sixties in Czechoslovakia, which I seem to remember: I was in first grade in 1969, when I left with my parents. So, I listened to "Vraťte nám vlasy" (Give us back our hair), fifty minutes with authors Filip Pospíšil and Petr Blažek about the misadventures of Czech hippies with an unfriendly state. I even learned a new word from the sixties, an ingenious little Czech neologism for long-haired young men that's like a pill to

make you laugh—“máničky.” My mother likes to remember the sixties, and I like to ask her about them. But when I told her about “máničky,” it evoked new stories that I never heard from her before.

This year I also wrote and thought more about Russia and Ukraine. The Nebraska *Hospodář* had correspondents there in the 1920s and 1930s. My wife is from Moscow, and we speak Russian. Recent events make me seek other perspectives around the world, at least in the languages I know. Beyond familiar portals like NPR and *The Economist* (London), I turn more to *Der Spiegel* (Hamburg) and sometimes to others, like *Zerkalo nedeli* (Kiev) or *Radio Echo* (Moscow). So, I could watch the whole four hours of Vladimir Putin’s annual public forum, *Na priamoi linii s Vladimirom Putinym*, from April 17th for myself on YouTube. (That was where Edward Snowden asked about mass surveillance in Russia.) I also discovered Czech Radio’s weekly 20-minute program about mass media, *Média Plus*, and listened to an episode that compares al-Jazeera and Russia Today as two state-supported media companies with large audiences in Europe and North America. At the same time I discovered two new voices and two new media outlets and think tanks in the Czech Republic: Dan Macek from *Česká pozice* spoke about Russia Today and Jan Kužvart from the Prague Association for International Affairs AMO about al-Jazeera.

How to make Czech Radio show what it does for entire academic disciplines? One day it occurred to me to put the word “historik” (historian) in the search window. By then I had read enough annotations to the stories at www.rozhlas.cz to notice they often mention the professions along with the names of the people you can hear. I got 12,085 results, including 1,962 audio results. That’s two hundred screens of interviews with historians and stories by them. Then I thought of the medical profession in SVU and the conference panels on medicine I enjoy as a complete outsider. It’s an important discipline in our learned society: I think of our president, Petr Hausner, former president Míla Rechcigl and the late Zdeněk Hruban, my friend in Chicago. So, I search

SVU Executive Board Meeting 4/26/2014

The following members of the Executive Board (EB) were present: Petr Hausner (PH), Hugh Agnew (HA), Dagmar White (DW), Louis Reith (LR) (via Skype), Peter Ujhazy (PU), Ivo Budil (IB) (observer), Lida Cope (LC) (via Skype). The board took place in the home of PH in Potomac Maryland. Minutes were taken by Peter Ujhazy.

PH informed the EB about the work done by the **Bylaws Committee**. This ad hoc committee aimed at removing contradictory language from the Bylaws and enriching the work of the Society by revitalizing the Council through creating the position of Council Speaker. The changes also target the financial stability of SVU by introducing minor changes. The initial proposal dropped presidents of local chapters from the council, subjected spending of over 2,500 to council approval and insisted on balancing the budget every year. These propositions were softened in the final version. Local presidents stay as Council members, the spending limit was raised and there is a provision to strive for a balanced budget, yet it is not an absolute must. The Bylaws committee sent the amended proposal to Secretary General Dr. Michael Kukral for distribution to all paying members for a vote.

The Plzen congress was discussed in detail. **Ivo Budil presented to the Executive Board a detailed itinerary of events** associated with the congress. The program as presented was agreed upon by the Board.

PH informed the EB that **Jiri Stavoveik (E-mail: iurro@iurro.com) retracted his offer to serve as treasurer** of the Society, because of new long term carrier plans. Jiri will, instead, shape our Facebook page. Information for the SVU Facebook should be sent to the above E-mail address.

Hugh Agnew volunteered to fill the position of **Treasurer of our Society**. The executive Board **voted and unanimously confirmed Hugh Agnew in the role of Treasurer of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Science.**



Hugh Agnew, photo PH

The EB voted unanimously on allowing **advertising in Zprávy** and settled on the price of \$100 per full page, \$50 for half a page and \$25 for a quarter page. The proceeds should be used to make Zprávy more attractive, such as by printing the newsletter in color.

Hugh Agnew reported on the work done by the **editorial Board of Kosmas**. Members of the old editorial board will be contacted and asked if they want to continue serving on the board. New members will be added. Ivo Budil agreed to serve on the Editorial Board of Kosmas. Hugh Agnew is in contact with Jiri Sykora, who took over the role of the distribution editor of Kosmas.

Activation of SVU Council

After some eight years of inactivity, the SVU Council has been reactivated to its rightful advisory role of the Society, as the SVU Bylaws prescribe. The SVU Council consists of some thirty distinguished members, elected at large, plus past SVU Presidents and the current presidents of the SVU Local Chapters, who are automatically added to it.

The elected Council members include the following: Prof. Marie Němcová Banerjee, Prof. Ivo Bartěček, Prof., Zdeněk P. Bažant, a former publisher and editor Petr Bísek, Dr. Zora Bútorová, Dr. Josef Čermák, Dr. Katherine O. David-Fox, Prof. Peter Demetz, Prof. Lubomír



Mila Rechcigl, photo PH

Đurovič, Prof. Libor Ebringer, Prof. Ivo K. Feierabend, Prof. Peter Filip, Prof. Libor Grubhoffer, Dr. Milan Hauner, Prof. Josef Jařáb, Prof. Eva Dubská Kushner, Dr. Josef Machač, Dr. Ladislav Macho, Prof. Josef Mestenhauser, Prof. Vladimír Papoušek, Prof. Francis Raška, Prof. Jack E. Rechcigl, Prof. Míla Šašková-Pierce, an internationally acclaimed illustrator, author, and filmmaker Petr Sis, Prof. Aleš Vančura, Prof. Václav Vítek, Prof. Rudolf Zahradník and Prof. Petr Zuman.

To facilitate its work, the Council has elected, from among its members, Past SVU President Mila Rechcigl, as its Speaker, “who shall be responsible for coordination of the Council’s activities and for convening and chairing its meetings,” as the SVU Bylaws stipulate. He shall also be the official conduit with the SVU President and thus with the SVU Executive Board. In fact, there has already been a meeting between him and the SVU President Petr Hausner, during which they agreed on future cooperation, including the revision of the SVU Bylaws and sending it to SVU for vote via Referendum.

Referendum of Members

At the recommendation of the SVU Bylaws Committee, SVU Auditors and the SVU Council, the SVU Executive Board proposes several changes to the SVU

Bylaws which are enumerated below. Beware that only members in good standing (those who have paid 2014 dues) can vote.

**Please mail your vote on the REFERENDUM to: Dr. Michael Kukral,
SVU Secretary-General, 216 Madison Blvd., Terre Haute, IN 47803, USA
Petr Hausner
President SVU**

The Rationale for the changes:

There have been recurrent complaints about the conflicting statements in the present Bylaws which have caused some confusion in their interpretation. Another concern has been the division of responsibilities between various organs of the Society. As the matters stand now, there are few checks and balances in the governance of the Society, which contradicts principles of democracy. To correct this, it is proposed that the General Assembly be made the supreme organ of the Society, while the Council serves as the policy-making body, the way the founding

Fathers of the Society envisioned and planned it. The Society has also experienced some difficulties during the election process which led the Bylaws Committee to streamline the process and delineate responsibilities of the key players to avoid misunderstandings and apparent confusion.

The proposed changes are delineated below:

Article 10. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. *The first sentence should read:* The General Assembly shall be the supreme organ of the Society, except as otherwise provided for in Section 7 of this article. (*replacing:* The General Assembly shall be the deliberative and advisory organ of the Society)

Article 12. SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The following two sentences should precede the text in this article: “Special meetings of the General Assembly may be called at any time at the decision of the Council or upon the written request, stating reasons thereof, of not less than one tenth of the regular members. A special meeting of the General Assembly may also be called by the Executive Board whenever it deems such a meeting necessary.”

Article 15. JURISDICTION OF THE COUNCIL

1. *The first paragraph should read :* “The Council is the policy-making organ of the Society” *in place of:* “The Council is the advisory body of the Society”

3-8. *The text is as follows:*

3. makes decisions regarding expenditures to be borne by the Society’s treasury in excess of \$5,000 (the total expenditure for a given item cannot be divided

into smaller portions to bypass the requirement);

4. makes recommendations to the General Assembly as to who is to be awarded honorary and founding membership. For this purpose it may appoint a special committee which shall screen and select the candidates.

5. elects Fellows of the Society, according to the provisions of Article 26. For this purpose it may appoint a Fellows Nominations Committee which shall make the nominations to the Council based on the recommendations of the peers. Nominations from the floor will not be accepted.

6. decides, according to Article 9, about the expulsion of a member;

7. if any officer elected in accordance with Article 23 dies or is unable to exercise his/her function or resigns, the Council approves another candidate, suggested by the Executive Board, to exercise the respective function for the unexpired balance of such officer's term of office;

8. the Council may also remove any officer from his/her function for mismanagement and/or for violation of the SVU Bylaws.

This replaces the old text which read as follows:

3. makes recommendations to the Executive Board as to who is to be awarded honorary and founding membership. For this purpose it may appoint a special committee which shall screen and select the candidates.

4. makes recommendations to the Executive Board as to the selection of Fellows of the Society, according to the provisions of Article 25. For this purpose it may appoint a Fellows Nominations Committee.

Article 16. MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

The text is as follows: "To facilitate its work, the elected Speaker shall be responsible for coordination of the Council's activities and for convening and chairing its meetings.

The Council shall make decisions by the vote of its members in meeting or in writing, including e-mail. Its members may be represented by proxies; no one may represent by proxy more than one member. All members of the Council shall be notified of any meeting by not less than 14 days prior to the meeting. Members of the Council who are unable to attend a meeting of the Council personally, shall submit their motions and/or recommendations in writing by mailing or delivering the same to the Speaker not less than three days prior to the date of the meeting. The Council shall be qualified for the transaction of business if not less than 10 members of the Council are present or represented. The Council may also adopt resolutions without a meeting in writing. In order to be valid such resolution must be signed by the majority of the participating (voting) members of the Council. "

The text replaces the following old version:

"The Council shall meet as the needs of the Society may require. Its meetings shall be governed by the same procedural rules as the Executive Board, with the exception that its members may be represented by proxies. No one may represent by proxy more than one member. One third of all the members shall

constitute a quorum. The Council may also adopt resolutions without a meeting in writing. In order to be valid such resolution must be signed by the majority of all the members of the Council. The Council shall elect its own chairman (called Speaker), but the President of the Society shall have the right to appoint a pro tempore Speaker until such election takes place.”

Article 18. JURISDICTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. *The following sentence should be inserted after the first two sentences:* “Each of the Committees should include at least one Executive Board member.”

Article 19. JURISDICTION AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

1. *The following should be added at the end of this paragraph:* “As the chief executive officer, besides his/her leadership role to meet the Society’s objectives, he also bears the overall responsibility for the management and fiscal affairs of the Society.”

5. *This paragraph should end with the following text:* “Together with the SVU President, he shall make a concerted effort to prepare annually, if at all possible, a balanced budget for the coming year which has to be approved by the Executive Board. He shall prepare yearly the Federal Income Tax return for the whole Society. Treasurer's responsibilities are not transferable. ”

Article 23. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

2b. *The following text should be added at the end of this paragraph:* “It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to provide the Nominations Committee with an updated list of all SVU members who have paid their dues in a timely fashion to assure that only the eligible members are nominated and/or elected. ”

This will replace the statement: “It will be the Nomination Committee’s responsibility to Determine whether a nominee meets these requirements. ”

The SVU members are requested to vote on the proposed changes:

I agree with the proposed changes: YES or NO

I am a duly paying SVU member: YES or NO

YOUR SIGNATURE: _____ (signed)

Print Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Email: _____ Phones: _____

Date: _____

**Please mail your vote on the REFERENDUM to:
Dr. Michael Kukral, SVU Secretary-General, 216 Madison Blvd., Terre Haute, IN 47803, USA**

SVU CHAPTERS

Editor's note: How many of you, my dear SVU colleagues and readers, would like to read about our local SVU chapters? What would you like to read about them, how much, how often and in what format? I welcome your sentiments and ideas. I want to give our readers what they want. Our president, Petr Hausner, suggested that I make this issue more about the chapters. Former president Mila Rechcigl suggests a regular column. I would like to open a window on the life of our chapters myself, and all the more so if many or most of our readers really want to read about them.

The trouble is actually writing about the chapters. I found that it's not easy to do. When I asked some of our chapters for narratives about their work—and in this, as in so much else, I am grateful to Petr Hausner for his kind help and dedication—they kindly obliged me. But the texts I got are so different from each other that I still don't see a good way to “edit” or “work” them into some coherent and readable whole or column. Often it's a calendar of activities or a list of officers elected. Sometimes it's a narrative. Some texts are a paragraph or two and others much longer. Our chapter in Cleveland, Ohio, publishes a newsletter all its own, several handsome pages of articles and pictures. Some people write from the chapters in English and others in Slovak or Czech. I'm grateful for all their texts. Every one of them rewarded me with a new understanding of what our SVU colleagues do together in the cities where they live and work. And the diversity among the texts is another good thing, all the diversity in language, voice, format and style that happens when people write what they want.

I don't want to tell people how to write or what to write. I don't even want to edit their work. My sentiment is for a bulletin-board approach, to treat the space for chapter reports in this newsletter like a “bulletin board” where their authors “tack up” what they wrote. Let the lists and calendars hang there next to the narratives and reflections, and let the different languages coexist too. (Translation is illusion, some translators say.) Or is that better to do on our Web site? Another approach is to treat all the original texts from chapters as raw material to pick over, paraphrase and recast into something new that aims to be more consistent and readable. It's possible to do it well—but also poorly and with controversy. But what do you think? What are your ideas? Maybe you would like to become our editor for chapter reports? Write to me at dchroust@tamu.edu.

To make a start, I offer three chapter reports this time. In the first two, I resorted to translation and the paraphrase-and-rewrite method to rework an email from SVU Basel and a bulletin from SVU Britain. In the third, I used the “bulletin-board” method to let SVU Los Angeles and our president, Petr Hausner, speak for themselves.

SVU Basel, Switzerland

Chairman Dr. Dušan Šimko writes (in Slovak) that the chapter has over thirty members, is self-supporting and collaborates on its public programs with *Domov*, another local association of Czechs and Slovaks. Basel University's departments of history and Slavic studies are the usual venues for the SVU chapter's programs. The chapter invites, at its own expense, scholars, artists, writers and filmmakers from the Czech Republic and Slovakia to present and speak about their work.

The Basel chapter is ageing and finds it hard to attract new members. More recent arrivals do live and work in the city. Medical doctors, chemists and engineers work in the local chemical and pharmaceutical industries in companies like Novartis and LaRoche. Sometimes they attend SVU programs, but they do not join the society. "I'm too engrossed in my work" is a common explanation. They have little free time and want to spend it on sports or travel. Politics is now a matter of indifference and not a motivation for joining SVU.

"Still, I don't rule out the possibility," writes Dr. Šimko, "that sometime later this new group of Czechs and Slovaks or their children will become more interested in our activities," and he wishes SVU's executive board and all its chapter much success in their efforts.

In the first three months of 2014 SVU Basel hosted three visiting lecturers: Professor Jozef Sopko spoke in German on the "Fascination of High and Low Voices," Dr. Zdeněk Doskočil in Czech on "Gustáv Husák and His Times," and Lena Lešková in Czech or Slovak on "Modernism in Košice." SVU Basel also hosted three film screenings: *Murderer by Votation*, *Noc na Karlštejně* and *Cigarety a pesničky*, whose author, ethnographer Jana Belišová, came to speak about the film. Musician Hana Frejková gave a concert of Yiddish songs with her daughter and two fellow performers. Similar programs are ahead on SVU Basel's calendar for the rest of 2014. A striking example is a public discussion on the "state of Czech society," scheduled for this November 19th.

SVU in Britain

Our chapter in Britain sent a retrospective bulletin (in Czech) on its activities in the year 2013. Beryl Tučapský, an outstanding singer in their midst, passed away on August 14th. The chapter got together for eight cultural productions in four different places—at the Velehrad center, the Czechoslovak club, Heythrop College and the Czech embassy. Six public lectures sought out their audiences with the following titles (in my translation from the Czech—dzc): "What did space flights teach us, and how to continue them in our post-crisis times?" (Jan Jůn), "Back into emigration: the lives of Czechoslovak Royal Air Force veterans in Great Britain after the Second World War" (Dr. Ivana Polley), "In a labyrinth of traditions: can we humanize religion and save mankind?" (Dr.

Karel Werner), “The arts in Terezín in World War II” (Zdenka Fantl), “Transfer of the Sudeten Germans from Czechoslovakia: some reflections on the question of collective guilt” (Milan Kocourek), “Communist show trials in Czechoslovakia: the cases of Horáková a Schling” (Karel Schling).

Another event was the presentation of compiler—and BBC Czech service veteran—Milan Kocourek’s new book *Volá Londýn: historie českého a slovenského vysílání BBC v letech 1939-2005* (London calling: a history of the BBC’s Czech and Slovak broadcasting service in the years 1939-2005) from the Otto publishing house in Prague. Yet another was the screening of Marian Werner’s *Antonín Tučapský – České vigilie*, a recording of a concert in the Prague basilica of St. Jacob.

The British SVU bulletin also describes several other public events in the chapter’s life: award ceremonies, discussions, performances. Literary historian Bohuslava Bradbrook received the Gratias agit award from the hands of foreign minister Karel Schwarzenberg as an outstanding contributor to the Czech Republic’s good reputation abroad. Her two colleagues from the SVU British chapter, Děvana Pavlík a Sylva Šims, earned the Zdeňka V.Tobolka award at the Olomouc conference of the Czech librarians’ association for their work to “advance Czech librarianship.”

SVU Los Angeles

On the other side of the world, L.A. chapter president Lida Sandera wrote another report. Working as a real estate agent, Lida wrote by email between appointments and events in a busy life and big city, without much time for reflection or polish. But such writings can inform and affect us in their own way, and Lida’s email is a good example of it:

“I am trying very hard to make our Chapter alive again. Unfortunately the long distances, busy FRWYs and aging of our members is not helping ...

“We did achieve now, that more younger people are coming to movies, concerts, but unfortunately they do not want to be members. We do have now 33 members who do pay membership.

“Many of our ‘older’ members unfortunately passed away last year, but we got 15 new members and we are working on getting more ...

“We are small, but very busy with organizing together with CR Consulate concerts, poetry evenings, movies, art exhibitions ...

“Last year we did:

1/one or 2x a month czech movie , trying to choose with english subtitles

-
- 2/Concert Jaroslav Sveceny & Julia Svecena
 - 3/Concert Jana Fabianova
 - 3/Concert Pavel Kohout & Jenifer Paulino
 - 4/La Film festival: 'Czech That Film' in May 2013 / 2nd year
and becoming very popular/
 - 5/ David Ondricek in LA: movies
& discussion
 - 6/Jiri Menzel in LA: movies
and discussions at The
Academy of Motion
Picture
 - 7/ Edward Einhorn's United
Theatre from NY
 - 8/Concert Emil Viklicky &
Benny Goblin
 - 9/poetry reading with poet
James Ragan
 - 10/exhibition of artist J.Gebr
 - 11/exhibition Aja Bufka
 - 12/discussion with Bishop Va-
clav Maly
 - 13/movie & discussion with Ivan Passer
 - 14/Annual Christmas Party
 - 15/Wende Museum /exhibition & movie/
 - 16/exhibition of photography by Paul Goldsmith
 - 17/Concert with violinist Ivan Zenaty
 - 18/Iva Bittova concert ..."



Ivan Passer's movie

... to which SVU President Petr Hausner replied ...

"Dear Lida

"You put up an impressive program last year. I laud you for that. Don't be shy and send us some pictures from your activities, to be printed in Zpravy. A little summary, what you think, what you miss, what you want, what would you do with more money - that could bring you donations

"The membership dues are such a meager contribution, 40 dollars a couple, 35 an individual. Interestingly, many chapters have found ways to create regular income. The Washington Chapter has once a year a Bazaar which brings in many thousands of dollars, others e.g. Jan Soukup in Canada raise money through a Casino, they bring in substantial amounts of money etc. You could easily ask for donations in addition to the dues. We need the dues to run the Society, never pay any luxury item out of them, just payments to the printers, insurance companies, postage, mailbox rental, webhosting,

MemberClicks database hosting etc. and most importantly printing. I still believe that Zpravy can pull us together, and thus is worthwhile. Zpravy have to get better and more interesting. We have a very tough time to balance our own budget as is and do have yearly balance shortfalls as is. I think the question is more about how can we provide you with necessary services, programs, ideas to make your life easier, rather than giving you money which would be in the neighborhood of \$200, far less than what you really need. Please ask other chapters for ideas.

“For the young people we are going to have an active Facebook. Do not hesitate to send information and other chat to iurro@iurro.com to be placed on the Facebook. I hope that can bring younger people in, we need a momentum among the younger people, so that they can take over. Petr H.”

OPINIONS

Quo Vadis SVU?



Vlado Šimko, photo PH

This was the title of my commentary on the future of SVU in Zpravy, July 2012. And this is, in essence, the nagging challenge of an anonymous “reader” headlining the Zpravy SVU November – December 2013. At the very start, if anything, this person’s qualification of SVU as “elderly guys getting together for coffee and danish” reveals his ignorance of facts.

Our response must not be lukewarm, anemic and defensive. It has to be strong and affirmative, expressing the confidence based on positive SVU accomplishments in the half century of its existence.

Yes, there is a generation problem. The standard bearers of the post – 1968 exile are disappearing due to natural attrition. Yet, the repeated pessimistic predictions of age related decay never quite materialized. Surprisingly, proving the vitality of the organization, as the past SVU actors gradually disappeared there has always been a new wave of younger enthusiasts.

I have been close to SVU for decades and for many executive boards to notice

this spontaneous regeneration, continuously invigorating the organization. Best example is the New York SVU: in recent years it has been brimming with a plethora of activities, more than matching the government sponsored Czech Center. Notice the activities at the SVU Nebraska, mind the monthly programs at SVU Munich.

The founding fathers of SVU are mostly gone, yet the world congresses attest to SVU high prestige! Think of the Prague address of Shirley Temple Black, the thunderous fireworks over Spilberk's sky in Brno, the city-wide celebration in historic Tabor, the participation of highest academic authorities at our meetings at the universities of Prague, Olomouc, Plzen, Budejovice and elsewhere. These were not "conferences" mockingly placed by the anonymous reader in quotes.

"The normalization of political situation after 1989" has not defeated the original mission of SVU and of other democratic exile organizations. We have to actively participate in the historic traditional role of our two nations in contributing to European stability. This is even more evident now, in face of Putin's neo-imperialism and the leftist political potential in our home countries. We have to continue, at an academic level, in advocacy of a civic society and of traditional humanistic and moral values.

You know what? The reader-doubter's loss of faith in SVU is typical, pathognomonic for our folk: Intelligent but uncertain about our geopolitical and moral heritage, slavistically (slavishly) "bolestinsky" depressive, whiningly non-constructive, ready to run away from the wolves.

Such attitude typically tarnishes or place among other Central European nationals. While the Poles cling together, we have to shop at Polish delicatessen, in shortage of Czech and Slovak equivalents. The German states after 1989 united while we boast of peaceful separation...

The doubter calls for SVU dissolution. If that happened we might see him attending cultural activities at the Kosciuszko Foundation, at the Goethe Haus or the Schlaraffia Society. Not only Poles but also Croatians, Ruthenians and Slovenians cherish their cultural organizations. So be it also with SVU.

Vlado Simko, New York

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING

Jiří Stavovčík: manages the SVU Facebook page. You can send him your narrative and pictures to be hung on the SVU Facebook page. Jiří is an artist and has a gallery in Alexandria, where you can see his exciting drawings and breath taking oil paintings. You can write to him at iurro@iurro.com. Visit his retrospective exhibition:



Jiří Stavovčík's art

RETROSPECTIVE - Artist's Reception

Sunday, June 1st, 2014, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Artspace 109, 109 North Fairfax Street, 3rd floor, Alexandria, VA 22314

Andrew M. Drozd: I was born in 1963 in Richmond, Texas. My family moved around several times in this area while I was young. We lived mostly in Rosenberg and Orchard. After I completed the first grade, we moved to Missouri for three years, returned to Rosenberg, Texas, for one year, then moved to Laplace, Louisiana. I went to both junior-high and high school there. I graduated from East St. John Parish High School in May 1980 and entered Louisiana State University the next fall. I had a double-major of History and Russian Area Studies and received my B.A. in May 1984. From there I moved to Austin and entered the U. of Texas in the fall 1984. I received an M.A. in History in Dec. 1986 and an M.A. in Russian Literature in May 1988. I went abroad for the first time in the summer 1988 when I participated in two summer schools in Czechoslovakia. The first was in Prague in July, the second in Olomouc in August. I followed this up by going to the Soviet Union in September, where I studied at Leningrad State U. for the fall semester. I entered Indiana U. in the fall 1989 where I obtained a Ph.D. in Russian literature with a minor in Czech Studies (May 1995). I have been working at U. of Alabama since the fall of 1994. Initially I was hired as a visiting instructor for the first-year and became an assistant professor in the fall 1995. I received tenure and was promoted to associate professor in 2001.

In terms of Czech studies I am mostly self-taught. I was always very interested in history and a voracious reader. By the time I was out of high school, I knew Czech (and Slavic) history fairly well. I did manage to take a couple of classes on Czech literature while I was at U. of Texas, but in this field, too, it has mostly been a self-taught effort. In terms of the Czech language: although my father is a native-speaker of Czech, my mother was not of Czech background and I mainly heard English at home. I did learn a few words from my father's relatives, but, essentially, I knew very little Czech until around the age of 19 when I decided to teach myself. From that point I have devoted a lot of attention to the language, but there have been periods when I have not had as much time as I would have liked (dissertation, that sort of thing). I did take one course in Czech at U. of Texas when I attended but my self-teaching had already put me well beyond that level. As a result, I resorted to working Czech into my graduate studies wherever possible. For example, I took a Slavic folklore class while at Texas and wrote my seminar paper on Moravian folktales; my thesis for my history M.A. focused on a topic that required the reading of lots of sources in Czech, and so on. As noted above, I was able to go to Czechoslovakia in 1988 and since that time I have traveled to the Czech Republic as much as I can work in. While I am mostly self-taught, I have worked in some formal training. I attended the two summer schools in Prague and Olomouc, I was able to take an advanced Czech course while attending Indiana U., and during the year I spent in Brno (2002-03), I signed up for a couple of classes in advanced Czech at Masaryk U. In recent years I have devoted a lot of attention to Czech-Russian literary interrelations which allows me to combine both of my specialties. In particular, I have been working on the poet F. L. Čelakovský but given the intense nature of my teaching schedule, I have had a lot of trouble getting the book finished.

Marcela Sulak, born in Louise, Texas, 1968, is director of the Shaindy Rudoff Graduate Program in Creative Writing and Senior Lecturer in American Literature at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat-Gan, Israel. Born and raised on a rice farm in South Texas, she attended the University of Texas at Austin, where she received a BA in Psychology and Honors English. Sulak received an MFA and an MA at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, winning the William Mitchell Award for Best Graduate Creative Thesis. She holds an MA in Religious Studies from Villanova University. Her thesis is a collection of interviews called "A Paradigm for Survival: An Historical Analysis of the Czech Catholic Church and Socialist Society 1945-1989." Sulak's Ph.D. in English is from the University of Texas at Austin with concentrations in Poetry and Poetics, American Literature, and a certificate in European Studies. Her Ph.D. dissertation is called "Ligatures of Time and Space: 1920s New York as a Construction Site for 'American' Identity in the Long Lyric Poem." She is a four-time recipient of the Academy of American Poetry Prize, and has won five FLAS prizes for the study of Czech and Yiddish.

Sulak is the author of two collections of poetry, *Immigrant* (Black Lawrence Press, 2010) and the chapbook *Of All The Things That Don't Exist, I Love You Best* (Finishing Line Press). Her essay "Getting a Get" was runner-up in the 2012 *Iowa Review* nonfiction competition, and her other essays appeared in *Poet Lore*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, and in anthologies and collections. She is currently co-editing *Family Resemblance: An Anthology and Exploration of 8 Hybrid Literary Forms*, forthcoming in 2015 from Rose Metal Press. Sulak translates from Spanish, French, Czech, German, Yiddish and Hebrew. Three collections have been published from the Czech: *May* [Máj] by Karel Hynek Mácha (Twisted Spoon Press, 2005, 2nd edition 2010), and *Bouquet* [Kytice] by Karel Jaromír Erben (Twisted Spoon Press, 2012). From French she translated *Bela-Wenda: Poems of Congo-Zaire* by Mutombo Nkulun'Sengha (Host Publications, 2011). The Prague National Theater has used Sulak's translation for its subtitles to Mácha's *Máj*, and so has the film production of Erben's *Kytice* and the Warsaw Film Festival.

Marcela Sulak has worked as a free-lance writer and teacher in Caracas, Venezuela; Rothenburg-am-Neckar, Germany; and České Budějovice, Czech Republic. She has studied in Vilnius, Lithuania; Zlín and Prague in the Czech Republic; and Tübingen, Germany. Her research has brought to her Paris, London, Amsterdam, Santiago and Lima. After her Ph.D., Sulak taught at the American University in Washington, DC. Now at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, she also hosts the radio show "Israel in Translation," which explores the poets and writers for whom the streets of Tel Aviv are named (TLV 1). Sulak is poetry and nonfiction editor for *The Ilanot Review*, associate editor at *Tupelo Quarterly*, and serves on the advisory board at *Granta Israel* and the *Ostrava Journal of English Philology*. For her Web site see <http://www.marcelasulak.com/>.

IN MEMORIAM

Josef Anderle, a long-time SVU member in Chapel Hill, passed away on February 10, 2014, at the age of 89. He was born in Prague on June 11, 1924, and earned degrees in history from Charles University (dipl., 1948) and the University of Chicago (Ph.D., 1961). Anderle taught at the University of Chicago before joining the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1962, becoming a full professor there in 1970. Anderle was a specialist on Czechoslovak history. He also co-authored *Latvia: An Area Study* (1966) and a co-edited *Progressive Czech* (1965). He was instrumental in establishing the Czechoslovak History Conference and received the J.A. Komenský Medal (1991). Josef is survived by his son and his four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Sonia in 2003.

John D. Čipera passed away on February 7, 2011. Čipera was born in Olomouc on August 7, 1923, and studied agricultural engineering at the Technical University in Prague. After emigrating to Canada, Čipera earned a master's in biochemistry at the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry at McGill. Then he worked as a research scientist at Canada's Department of Agriculture in Ottawa. Čipera was a specialist on connective tissue chemistry.

Marie (Plodr) Dolanský was born November 1, 1920, in Vienna, Austria, of Czech parents. After attending Czech private schools in Vienna, and classical training on the piano, Marie moved to Prague in 1938 to study at Charles University and the teachers' academy. After WW II broke out in September 1939, the Nazis closed the teachers' academy and all other Czech institutions of higher learning for the duration of the war. Marie moved to Brno, where she could continue her teachers' training, which she completed in June 1940. In order to be certified to teach at secondary schools, she also had to pass further exams in German, Czech, physical education and music. Marie started her teaching career in January 1942 in Vysoké Mýto and transferred three years later to Benešov, where she taught until 1948. In 1946, she married Ladislav Dolanský, and they decided to pursue further graduate studies in the USA. Marie received her Ed.D. in 1952 from Boston University, in the fields of educational measurement and guidance. After working in educational and vocational guidance for several years, she went to teach mathematics at Northeastern University in 1955 and stayed to 1981. Then Marie taught at San Diego State University and at several community colleges until her retirement in 1994.

In her spare time, Marie devoted herself to various Czech organizations: she served on the Masaryk Club's board in Boston and as executive secretary in San Diego for both the Czech and Slovak Cultural Association and for the Friends of Czechoslovak Music organization. For several years she was music director at the House of the Czech and Slovak Republics in Balboa Park. In retirement Marie spent some time writing memoirs about her life in Europe (*We and Our Ancestors*) and her life in the United States (*In Praise of America*). She also wrote a *History of the Friends of Czechoslovak Music Organization in San Diego*. She translated Viktor Fischl's book *Hovory s Jaem Masarykem* into English as *Talks with Jan Masaryk*. Marie often translated articles from Czech into English for the diaspora journal *Český dialog* in Prague. Marie passed away on March 8, 2014, at the age of 93. She leaves her children, Vera Dolansky and Jan Dolansky, both of San Diego, and 3 grandchildren.

Vladimír Holeček, a pharmacist, died on June 6, 2013. He was born in Domažlice, Czechoslovakia on May 5, 1925, and received his Ph.Mr. degree from Charles University in 1948. After coming to the US, he settled in Berwyn, IL, where he opened his own Holecek Pharmacy. Besides pharmacy, he loved music, having graduated from Music School in Klatovy in 1945.

Stanislav (Stanley) Kalkus passed away on May 22, 2013, in Prague at age 82. After problems with the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia in 1948-1950, Stanley managed to escape to the Soviet zone in Austria and eventually to West Germany. In 1952 he married a fellow Czech, moved to the United States and graduated from the University of Chicago with a master's of library sciences and later completed his doctorate. After some time as a librarian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Stanley worked for the US Army in Germany and travelled to bases in Morocco and elsewhere in the world. He joined the US Navy as a librarian and there, thanks to his professionalism, hard work and dedication, he eventually became director of the Department of Navy's library.

After the communist regime ended in Czechoslovakia, Stanley offered his services there. This was gratefully accepted, and Stanley got involved in many projects to improve library and information services in his native country. He worked with Parliamentary Library Director Dr. Karel Sosna and helped to develop the CERGE information center (Center for Research and Graduate Education) in Prague. After retirement from the US Navy in 2003, Stanley joined the UISK (Institute for Information Studies and Librarianship) at Charles University as a teacher and researcher. Again, his professional knowledge and experience helped to improve the education of future information specialists and librarians. He was very popular among his new colleagues and especially students, who called him "Stanley" among themselves. He was a very friendly fellow, always willing to share experience and stories with his friends. He bears much credit for the improvement of Czech librarianship. Stanley is survived by his wife Marta and three children.

Bořivoj Korecký died on August 28, 2011, at the Ottawa General Hospital. He was born on September 9, 1929, in Prague and graduated from the Charles University medical school in 1955. Korecký became an assistant and later associate professor at Charles University in the Department of Pathophysiology (1955-1966). He then moved to Canada and became a professor in the University of Ottawa's Department of Physiology. Korecký made significant contributions to cardiovascular science, publishing one book, over 80 papers in peer-referred journals and was an associate editor at the *Canadian Journal of Physiology* and at *Pharmacology and Circulatory Shock*. His research focused on heart transplantation, angiogenesis (heart vessel growth) and muscle mechanics. He was a successful supervisor, graduated 7 MSc and PhD students, 12 post-doctoral fellows and visiting scientists. Korecký also supported the medical and scientific community in Czechoslovakia and when political changes occurred in his home country, he organized the donation of five hemodialysis machines to Bratislava. He also helped initiate a Czech and Slovak Travel Fund at the University of Ottawa's Development Fund, and it enabled several medical researchers to undertake research in Ottawa .

Karel Kulp died peacefully on September 12, 2013, at age 93. He was a native of Kroměříž, where he was born on February 28, 1920, to a family that operated sugar and yeast factories. In the years before and after the war, Kulp obtained an engineering degree in chemistry from the Technical University in Prague. In 1947, he traveled to the US to study distillation technology in order to bring it back to the family business. After the Communist coup d'état his family advised him to stay in the US. His wife Vlasta, also a refugee, was in a similar situation when they married in Chicago in 1955. They settled near Chicago, where Karel worked for the American Institute of Baking (AIB) as a cereal chemist. Kulp moved to Kansas in 1977 but remained at AIB another eleven years, at which point he was the director of Cereal Chemistry Research. He was named a fellow of the American Association of Cereal Chemists, of which he was an active member. Even after retirement, Kulp wrote, edited and co-edited several books on cereal chemistry. He is survived by Vlasta, sons Thomas and Charles, daughters-in-law Kristen and Eva, and grandchildren Patrick, Katherine, and Adam.

A Loving Wife's Memory of Her Distinguished Husband, a Leader of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia, Mojmír Povolný (1921-2012)

We met in 1955 and I would drive him from Philadelphia to New York for his meetings. I saw the tears or the joy in those beautiful brown eyes as the fortunes of his beloved country swung back and forth, I would try to comfort him but sometimes no comfort was possible. When we were serving for the Quakers in Tokyo and heard of the Hungarian revolt and the Soviet repression and no nation, and not even the United Nations, lifted a finger or voice to protest, he just lay on the bed in our tiny apartment and wept and wept. But we pulled ourselves together, Mojmír went to his desk to complete his day's work and I went to prepare my lesson for teaching English to my Japanese students.

There are many other scenes in my heart: Mojmír's return to Czechoslovakia in 1989—not after five years as he expected but after forty. He was dignified, gave a short speech in Czech. I understood the solemn beauty and as always had to keep my cool and hold back my tears. I have heard many of Mojmír's excellent speeches and watched him hold back his own tears glistening in his sparkling brown eyes. The only response to beauty is tears, which are the highest, deepest compliment to perfection one can make. Is it only a woman's response? But then I am that I am. As ever Joyce Povolny.

SVU WASHINGTON CHAPTER SPECIAL EVENT

Ivo T. Budil, “Emancipation in the 19th Century, Attempts and Failures – Franz Kafka”



Ivo Budil's presentation, photo PH

Professor Ivo T. Budil's presentation to the Washington SVU Chapter on 4/26/14 reflected his research into the intellectual history of modern racism, also brilliantly demonstrated in his book *Úsvit rasismu* (2013). He showed the role of anti-Semitism in the West's developing racial thinking and historical consciousness in the intellectual history of the 19th century.

Prof. Budil emphasized that **ideas have consequences** and showed how much the intellectual configurations that emerged in the 19th century contributed to the fatal political developments that wounded Europe in the first half of the 20th century. The idea of race and racial ideology transformed the traditional, religiously motivated anti-Semitism into the extremely aggressive form of racial anti-Semitism that culminated in the tragic events of the Holocaust.

In mid-19th century, racial thinking became a ubiquitous part of Western culture. It was considered the key to understanding human history and the destiny of nations and individuals. British conservative prime minister Benjamin Dis-

raeli played a crucial role in the propagation of racial thinking among educated European classes. In his so-called “Young England” political trilogy—the novels *Coningsby* (1844), *Sybil* (1845), and *Tancred* (1847)—Disraeli outlined the concept of presumed Jewish and Semitic spiritual and racial superiority, which he predicted would ignite the religious and social regeneration of Western civilization.

Disraeli’s vision of Jewish and Semitic supremacy was challenged and openly questioned by the French scholar and orientalist Ernest Renan. His principal work, *Histoire Générale et Système Comparé des Langues Sémitiques* (1855), strongly influenced Western racial thinking in the second half of the 19th century. Renan credited himself as the first scholar to draw attention to the alleged racial inferiority of Semites compared to the Indo-European (or Aryan) “superior” race. Renan and his followers rejected and denigrated Semitic contributions to Western civilization and so opened the way for the rise of Aryan ideology in modern political culture.

A new generation of racial thinkers, such as Georges Vacher de Lapouge, Houston Stewart Chamberlain, Otto Ammon and Ludwig Woltmann, and especially the expansion of social Darwinism encouraged a completely new version of very aggressive and dynamic anti-Semitism, which exploited the arguments and high reputation of contemporary science to create an original ideological configuration over-shadowing science and paving the way for Nazi racial totalitarianism and genocide.

The success, resilience and “eternal return” of modern anti-Semitism relied on the convergence of three powerful factors: competition for resources in modern society between different ethnic groups; emergence of a new “Aryan” identity for the West from oriental studies and the exclusion of Jews as “foreign ethnic elements”; and the authority of modern science in guise of racial anthropology. This was the world that frightened Franz Kafka so much. Since all forms of racism endanger mankind, Prof. Budil’s brilliant presentation gave us much to think about.

Ivo Budil and Petr Hausner

MEMBERS REPORT

Progress Report on Czech 202 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (May 2014)

The spring semester at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln just ended this first week of May 2014, so this is a good time for a progress report. Prof. Hana

Waisserová prepared two refreshingly “different” exercises for her class. The first final exercise was to “blabberize.” It relies on a Web site that’s easy to find via Google. Each student had to put Czech words into the mouth of a chosen figure or image, whose lips would then move as though speaking. So, Carter Hulinsky selected a Czech translation of the song about “Dr. Prentice, the painless dentist.” For Linda Taborek the subject was her pet cat, DARTH Puffyball, and for Sasha Denton it was Ján Vojak, a guard at the Prague Castle she had photographed in his magnificent Havel-designed uniform, standing at attention like an English Beefeater at the Tower of London. Louis Reith, the “stary chlovek” of the class, weighed in with a statue of the famous Venus de Milo in the Paris Louvre, uttering the little poem “Jsem Aphrodite z Milosu,” which tried to use all the Czech adverbs the class had studied in its last few weeks.

The Final Project, for the last week of class, required each member to prepare a 500- to 1000-word Czech essay with illustrations. Carter Hulinsky presented a biography of the late Arizona senator and presidential candidate (1964) Barry M. Goldwater. Linda Taborek assembled an imaginative and entertaining gallery of pet animals (plus husband and daughter) for “Who Lives in Linda’s House?” We learned that at least two more cats, besides “DARTH Puffyball,” manage to live harmoniously under one roof in Linda’s house, together with a dog and several other animals. Sasha Denton produced a hand-colored and hand-written biography, complete with her favorite desserts, vegetables, fruit, drinks, meats, colors, books and films, pets, music (especially Pink), sports, games (Monopoly), favorite numbers, and a memorable recent trip through the Czech Republic. Finally, Louis Reith, after much thought and hesitation, weighed in with “Ludvik’s Golem.” This was a preview of his proposed paper at our SVU World Congress in Plzeň this July. He will try to trace the origin of the entire Superman-Batman-Spiderman and similar “Superhero” comic book and action film genre back to the Golem of Rabbi Loew’s sixteenth-century Prague.

Finally, each student had to mount his or her project on the class blog and then “page” through their own “story book” (see “Story jumper” via Google search engine to see what it’s all about) for other class members. We all agreed Prof. Hana had indeed found a unique Final Project to stimulate the imagination and talents of her students. The class gathered with Prof. Hana for a farewell lunch last Monday at McKinney’s new Irish pub in the Haymarket District of Lincoln. (Nebraska’s capital has no Czech restaurant or pub to match the Bohemian Café in South Omaha.) Now all we need next year are more Czech language students for Prof. Hana’s new classes. We plan to work on that project throughout the summer months.

“Ludvik Ján” Reith

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences,

An exciting exhibition is coming to Agora Gallery, NYC. The exhibition, *Figurative Realms*, will feature the work of Swiss artist Sylva Kanderl from June 10 to July 1, 2014. The opening reception is on Thursday, June 12, at 6-8pm.

Olga Kubli—Agora Gallery

About the Artist:



[Kanderl's art](#)



[Sylva Kanderl](#)

Czech-born **Sylva Kanderl**, now living in Zurich, took her early inspiration from her teachers, Aimé Venel, G. Gschwendtner, VOKA, and B. Klimmer. She worked out her own style by “following [her] feelings and fantasy, and freeing [her] soul,” as she explains. Her abstract-figurative oils on canvas, infused with surreal components in delicate colors, seem partially schematic. Each work is at once inspirational and revelatory, uniting the artist’s expression of fantasy with deeper insights into the subject portrayed.

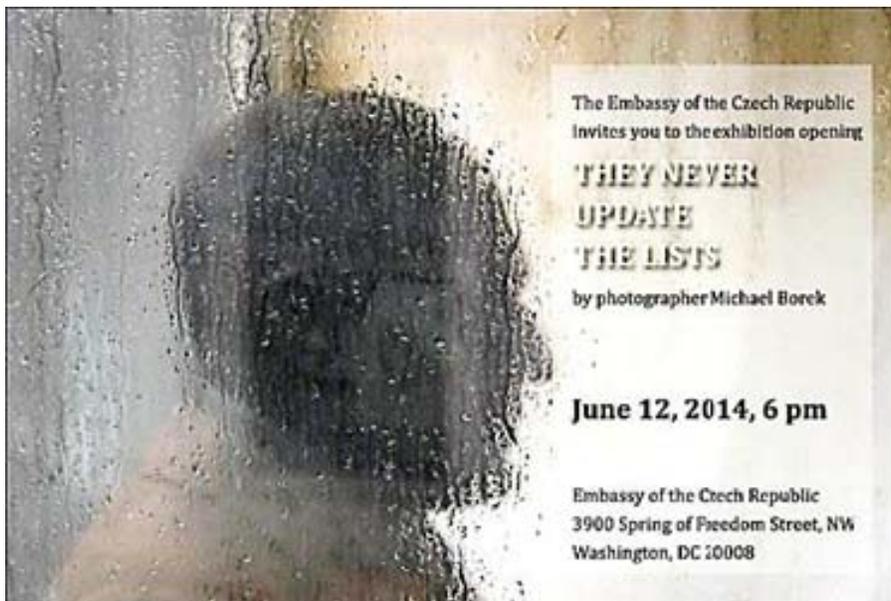
As people increasingly become the focus of her work, she seeks to harmonize colors, shapes and the different techniques into a presentation that is emotionally stirring and evocative. Drawing on photos of women as loose templates, Kanderl improvises, edits and brings life to her subjects in elegant relief. Each work suggests a passionate use of smooth oil colors, often using *Alla-prima* with various techniques intended to let the painting to tell its own story. In each work, we clearly see Kanderl’s personal set of rules that reflect her thoughts, feelings and personality.

Gallery Hours: Tue.-Sat. 11-6
Gallery Location: 530 West 25th St,
Chelsea, New York

URL: www.agora-gallery.com/artistpage/Sylva_Kanderal.aspx



INVITATION



Michael Borek's art

The Embassy of the Czech Republic invites you to the solo photography show *They Never Update the Lists* by Michael Borek on **June 12, 2014, at 6:00 pm**. The exhibition addresses the themes of alienation and absurdity, and it commemorates the 90th anniversary of Franz Kafka's death.

A reception with light refreshments follows the opening.

Location: Embassy of the Czech Republic, 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

RSVP by June 10: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/exhibition-opening-they-never-update-the-lists-by-michael-borek-tickets-11712798295>

FROM THE ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

"I try to appreciate with my camera things that are seemingly obvious, but yet multilayered, absurd, and surreal."--Borek

In the 1980s, when I lived in Prague, I worked as a freelance interpreter. I got a job assisting a Swedish writer who was writing a book about Prague. One chapter of his book was dedicated to Franz Kafka, and as part of his research, we went to the insurance company where Kafka had worked. I asked the watchman on duty where Dr. Franz Kafka's office was. (These days, such people are described as receptionists, but the title "watchman" befits the spirit of Kafka much better.) The watchman checked one list and then another. He asked me to repeat the name, and checked his lists again. Finally, he told me in exasperation: "You'll need to go upstairs and ask them where he sits. I can't put up with this place much longer. They never update the lists!"

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Michael Borek, a photographer and freelance interpreter in Bethesda, Maryland, comes from Prague. Only after graduating from the School of Economics in the 1980s did he realize he didn't want to work as an economist in the old regime. Instead, he took a job as a night watchman and went to intensive English courses by day. After passing the exams, he went to work as a freelance interpreter. It gave him more freedom to pursue his interests. One of them, photography, stayed with him all his life and turned into a second career.

Borek grew up in what he describes as "newly created, cheerless urban landscapes." He found these constructions depressing and felt drawn to older buildings. Their dilapidated and deteriorating condition only increased their appeal. In the United States after 1992 Borek stayed fascinated by the "visual archeology" of urban decay—and the suggestion that things are not as they seem. His work as an interpreter took him to nearly all of the US states, and he never goes without his camera. He has accompanied two American presidents and three Secretaries of States on their trips to Prague. www.michaelborek.com.

Time to vote! Election Ballots and a Referendum were recently mailed to SVU members.

Election of the SVU Officers for 2014-2016

This is the official ballot containing nominees chosen by the Nominations Committee. No petitions were received. You will vote for the Nominee on the list by inserting an “X” on the appropriate line. If you wish to vote for a candidate of your choice who is not on the list, you may do so by writing his/ her name on the empty line in Write In column and entering an “X” on the line next to it. Please ensure that your candidate is a paying member of the Society.

Executive Board	Vote	Write In Candidate
President	Petr Hausner	_____
Executive Vice President	Peter Ujhazy	_____
Vice Presidents	Hugh L. Agnew	_____
	Ladislav Goc	_____
	J. Fielding Hejtmancik	_____
	Louis Reith	_____
	Jiří Stavovčík	_____
	Peter Steiner	_____
	Bruce Vlk	_____
	Dagmar White	_____
Secretary General	Charles J. Kulp	_____
Treasurer	Thomas Holbik	_____

SVU Council

Marie Němcová Banerjee	Libor Grubhoffer	Vladimír Papoušek
Zdeněk P. Bažant	Milan Hauner	John Pohl
Petr Bísek	Alena Heitlinger	Jack E. Rechcigl
Ivo Budil	Josef Jařáb	Míla Šašková-Pierce
Josef Čermák	Joseph Kohn	Michael Seng
Peter Demetz	Eva Dubská Kushner	Petr Sis
Zdeněk David	Igor Lukeš	Marcela Sulak
Andrew Drozd	Ladislav Macho	Václav Vitek
Ivo K. Feierabend	Josef Mestenhauser	Rudolf Zahradník
Peter Filip	Václav Pačes	Petr Zuman

Write In Candidate(s) for SVU Council _____

Auditors of the accounts

Jiří Eichler Svaf'a Kuděj
Suzanna Halsey Michael Kukral

Conciliation and Arbitration Committee

Raymond Batla Ivo Feierabend
Ján P. Skalný

Mark with X in case you are voting for the entire list of candidates, with no write-in candidate

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Voting is confidential. Place the ballot into an envelope, seal it and indicate that it is a ballot.

Place the envelope into another envelope bearing your signature, legibly written and your written address. If husband and wife are both voting members, please make one copy of the ballot and mark the envelope "TWO BALLOTS". Ensure that the outer envelope has signatures of both parties.

Mail the envelope to the following address: Election Inspection Committee, c/o Zdenek Vich, 9613 Shadow Oak Dr., Montgomery Village, MD 20886-1125.

Ballots must reach Election Inspection Committee no later than June 21.

Please note: Only members in good standing (who have paid the current 2014 dues) can vote.

Michael Kukral
SVU Secretary-General

Time to vote! Election Ballots and a Referendum were recently mailed to SVU members.

Please mail your ELECTION BALLOTS as directed and no later than JUNE 21 to:

**Election Inspection Committee
c/o Mr. Zdenek Vich
9613 Shadow Oak Dr.
Montgomery Village, MD 20886-1125
USA**

Please mail your vote on the REFERENDUM to:

**Dr. Michael Kukral
SVU Secretary-General
216 Madison Blvd.
Terre Haute, IN 47803
USA**

How to Get from the Prague Airport to Plzeň

Want to save money? If you have 40-50 Czech crowns (about \$2) go to the MHD desk (Prague mass transit) by the doors leading out of the terminal at Prague's Václav Havel's – (former Ruzyně) airport. It's open 7 am to 10 pm daily. Buy a *přestupní jízdenka* (transfer ticket) there or from the bus driver. Go outside and find the stop for bus number 119 to the Dejvická line-A metro - station (last stop). It runs every 10 minutes and takes 24 minutes. Then take the metro anywhere you want. To get to Plzeň by train, transfer from line A at the *Muzeum* station to line C, direction Letňany, and get out the next stop, which is the Main Train Station “*Hlavní nádraží*“. To get to Plzeň, go online to www.idos.cz and find the train or bus connection that suits you. Trains are scenic, cost just 119 crowns (\$6) and run every hour at a quarter past the hour from Prague's *Hlavní nádraží*. Buses also go every hour, on the hour, most from the *Zličín metro stop on the line B* (from the Airport take the bus number 100). For money at good rates, go to the popular place called “eXchange” off *Staroměstské náměstí* (Old Town Square) to the southwest, open 9 am to 8 pm daily or even better use your debit or money card at any VTM.

Happy traveling! David Chroust

