

ZPRÁVY

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Dr. Robert Řehák, cultural attaché at the Czech Embassy in Washington, receiving a set of US National Parks DVDs from the SVU Washington DC chapter on June 7, 2016, in appreciation of his wonderful work in support of the Czech community in Washington and for promoting Czech culture, science and spirituality.

From left: *Roman Kostovský, Ota Safertal, Dr. Robert Řehák, and Helena Fabry*



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Working Together across the Atlantic to Make SVU's Bratislava World Congress a Success

In Prague's Café Slavia, SVU Prague President Dr. Alena Morávková (left) met with Suzanna Halsey (SVU New York) and Dr. Mary Stegmaier (SVU Missouri). They discussed the upcoming SVU World Congress in Bratislava and how to attract new, younger members.



The SVU Bratislava Congress Is Approaching ...

(See Registration Form on page 31)

This year will mark the 90th anniversary of the Prague Linguistic Circle, perhaps the most famous Czechoslovak scholarly association. one that launched the Structuralist approach to humanities and social

sciences. To celebrate this occasion, Dr. Ondřej Sládek, Head of the Theory Department at the Institute for Czech Literature, Academy of Sciences, will organize at the Bratislava Congress a panel devoted to the intellectual heritage of this venerable group.

For Dr. Sládek's credentials, see <http://www.ucl.cas.cz/cs/pracovnici/nevyzkumni-pracovnici/142-sladek-ondrej?personid=86>.

Submitted by Peter Steiner, psteiner@sas.upenn.edu

SVU Executive Board Meeting Minutes, April 9, 2016

Meeting started at 11:00 am. *Present: Hausner, Agnew, Holbik, Vlk, Reith (via Skype) and Ujhazy (Excused: Stavovcik and Steiner)*

1. Call to order – Quorum was achieved
2. Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2016 SVU Exec. Board meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Currently, the budget is balanced. We expect additional contributions, but also expenses. There is an increase in donations.
 - b. DC Registration: In order to establish a CD account in the Synchrony GE Capital Bank, a new, less than 12 years old, certificate about the registration of SVU at the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs is needed. The current one is from year 2007. Also, an SVU Executive Board resolution is required. The Board discussed if a CD account is needed under these circumstances, taking into account low interest rates. A vote was taken resulting in a unanimous No. Bruce Vlk made a motion for Thomas Holbik to open a savings account at the M&T Bank, while completing the paperwork for the Synchrony Bank CD. The remaining balance will stay in liquidity/checking account with no interest. Thomas Holbik seconded the motion, and all voted Yes.
 - c. There will be initial expenses, but also revenue related to the World Congress in Bratislava.
4. The Board discussed Suzanna Halsey's proposal about the crea-

tion of the SVU Akademia Hub USA. (See proposal for the Hub below.) This would be a virtual center for Czech and Slovak scholars and students in the USA in cooperation with educational institutions and organizations in the USA and in the Czech and Slovak Republics. There should be a condition that participants be members of SVU. The Board in principle supports the Hub and can explore possibilities for a grant and its conditions. Suzanna Halsey should prepare a grant proposal and forward it to the SVU Council. Petr Hausner, Hugh Agnew, Jiri Eichler, and Bruce Vlk are open for consultations. Hana Waisserova is also interested according to Luis Reith. Contact Suzanna Halsey with any additional suggestions. *Zprávy SVU* should make an announcement about the Hub.

5. Reach out to the Czech government to secure a grant to Jiri Eichler for running SVU Website.
6. Preparation of SVU Congress in Bratislava 2016. Hugh Agnew wrote a call for papers in English. Together with Peter Steiner and Peter Ujhazy, Czech and Slovak versions were prepared too, vetted by Eva Hanusovska. These will be released on the SVU website and in *Zprávy SVU*. Accommodation: Eva Hanusovska points out there are many hotels in the vicinity of the meeting, and they can be booked through Bookonig.com. She has been asked to itemize costs of events for the registration form. We will need to recruit well-known speakers to attract attendees to the meeting. Peter Ujhazy suggested as an example the former Prime Minister of Slovakia Iveta Radicova. We can approach her through several people. Bratislava SVU Board has suggested several cultural events. Luis Reith suggested Elena Metnanova and Monika Moskovcakova. Bruce Vlk will inviate the Timber Foundation, panel of Slovak entrepreneurship with Vladimira Briestenska. The Slovak ambassador to the US expressed interest in helping out. Can Jiri Stavovcik (IURRO) display art? Bruce Vlk will reach out to Virginia group, NCSM, and other groups. Additional names were suggested: Butora, Butorova, Slysko, Tesar, Halsey, McPherson, McNamara, Mikulas. Peter Ujhazy will send out invitation letters. Eva Hausner volunteered to head the Women's Panel. Quite possibly, Slovak and Czech will be used

in some presentations, besides English. Bruce Vlk prepared an invitation postcard. Action items: registration form, timesheet, maps. Peter Ujhazy will request grant support from the Slovak Foreign Ministry.

7. Elections 2016 – the ballot has to go out on at the earliest on July 15, 2016, and at the latest on August 10, 2016, as per By-laws.
 - a. Following members were proposed for the Nomination Committee:

Suzanna Halsey, Vlado Simko, Mila Saskova Pierce, Cecilia Rokusek, Mary Stegmaier, Paul Burik, Lida Sandera, Milica Hasalova Moravcik. Peter Ujhazy made a motion, Hugh Agnew seconded, and all were in favor of the proposal. Petr Hausner will contact above-mentioned members.
 - b. Dolina and Charvat were suggested for the reconciliation committee.
8. Committees - Bring arts and sciences back into the Society. There was a suggestion to establish new committees, but young people do not believe in them. An Internet hub sounds better. Any in-person activity needs to provide babysitting services for young families to be able to participate. A program for young children was proposed.
9. SVU Media
 - a. *Kosmas* issues were printed with errors that needed to be fixed. This was done, but there is still a delay with additional issues
 - b. *Zprávy SVU*: the newest issue is almost ready, it will include information about the World Congress in Bratislava, profiles of SVU New York's 6 Minutes' program participants, a piece on the regional conference in Charlottesville, VA, and a timely editorial by David Chroust.
10. Date of next meeting: June 25, 2016.
11. Addendum:
 - a. Paul Burik, Suzanna Halsey, Milica Hasalova Moravcik Vlado Simko and Mary Stegmaier accepted the nomination to the Nomination Committee.

- b. Mila Saskova Pierce, Cecilia Rokusek and Lida Sandera declined.
- c. The Nomination Committee elected Suzanna Halsey chair and Suzanna Halsey accepted. The Nomination Committee is aware of the deadlines.



Thomas Holbik, Dagmar White, Peter Ujhazy, Louis Reith, Hugh Agnew, and Jiri Stavovcik at the board meeting on June 25, 2016. *Photo Petr Hausner*

SVU **A**KADEMIA HUB USA

A Proposal by Suzanna Halsey and Filip Tuček

To create a network for Czech and Slovak Scholars and Professionals in the United States of America

GOALS

- To create a virtual center for Czech and Slovak scholars and students in the USA in cooperation with educational institutions and organizations in the USA and the Czech and Slovak Republics.
- To identify faculty of Czech and Slovak descent at US universities interested in cooperation and becoming academic *ambassadors* at their institution and mentors to the new generation of academics.
- To create and maintain a database of individuals, institutions and

organizations in the USA related to Czech and Slovak studies and to be a conduit of information about visiting scholars.

- To promote Czech and Slovak scholars and their work through lectures and presentations at universities and colleges, as well as to the American public and business community.
- To facilitate communication between Czech/Slovak *ambassadors* in each state and virtual meet-ups through social media and a website.
- To create an Internet-based interactive newsletter to publicize lectures, work, research and accomplishments of Czech and Slovak artists, scholars and scientists in the USA.
- To cooperate with and assist US, Czech and Slovak foundations that offer scholarships to Czech and Slovak students.
- To offer practical services to visiting scholars, such as accommodation and finding contacts in the local community.

To make this project a success, a paid program coordinator and/or public relations specialist will be needed. He/she has to be a bilingual *people person* with organizational skills. This person needs to engage and communicate with the HUB *ambassadors* to facilitate the exchange of information and distribute it from the Web site and social media to SVU members. Proposed sources of funding are SVU, grants from Czech and Slovak governments and institutions, private donors, membership, services and sales.

Those already interested in cooperation include Tomáš Grulich, Standing Committee for Czechs Living Abroad, Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, Prague; Branislav Klesken, LEAF Slovak Professionals Abroad Program, Bratislava; Pavla Niklová, Václav Havel Library Foundation, New York; and Jiří Pehe, New York University in Prague.

Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please contact: Suzanna Halsey (SVU New York) sh34@nyu.edu.

News from SVU Chapters

The following five articles (arranged alphabetically by location of SVU chapter) are from local SVU chapters about their events and efforts. Paul Burik and Ginny Parobek both write from the Cleveland, Ohio, chapter. How did the city's Czechs and Slovaks remember the 1915 Cleveland agreement on Czechoslovakia as a future state? Burik writes about that, while Parobek interviews the new host for the city's Czech radio program. Mila Saskova-Pierce tells us about the Nebraska chapter. Suzanna Halsey kindly sends us three handsome posters promoting the New York chapter's events. Frank Saftertal takes us to a wonderful performance of Leoš Janáček's Makropoulos Affair in Washington, DC. And Petr Hausner informs us about a lecture organized by the Washinton chapter.

Do you wish to see and read more about the life of SVU's chapters in this newsletter? Please send me your photos and news about what (and how) your chapter is doing. Your suggestions about what Zprávy SVU should print are welcome.

Your editor, David Chroust

● CLEVELAND

The Cleveland Agreement of 1915: A Seed that Blossomed into the Flower that Was Czechoslovakia

by Paul Burik, Cleveland SVU Chapter

A little known event took place in Cleveland, Ohio, on October 22-23, 1915, but it was a fundamental stepping stone to the formation of Czechoslovakia. The government in exile, led by T.G. Masaryk, relied heavily on support from America during the formative years pri-

or to 1918. Masaryk traveled to the US frequently and lectured twice in Cleveland at the Bohemian National Hall (BNH). It was imperative that the Czech and Slovak communities in the US be supportive and willing to collaborate.

The pivotal moment occurred at the Bohemian National Hall, now the Czech Cultural Center, located at 4939 Broadway Avenue, to this day a vibrant place operated by Sokol Greater Cleveland. There, the document known as the Cleveland Agreement was conceived and approved by the Bohemian National Alliance, headquartered in Chicago, and the Slovak League of America, based in Cleveland. In this Agreement, the delegates agreed to work in unison to pursue independence for their respective peoples by collaborating in the effort to form a free union of Czech and Slovak states. The five points of the agreement were:

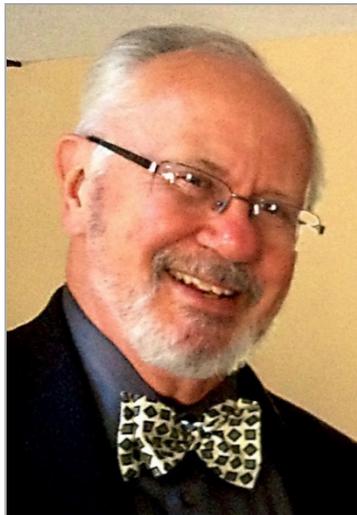
1. Independence of Czech and Slovak lands;
2. Federal union of Czech and Slovak nations with full autonomy of Slovakia with its own government, use of Slovak language and cultural independence;
3. Free elections;
4. Form of the government to be democratic, similar to that of Great Britain;
5. These items form a basis of mutual agreement and can be altered only by agreement of both parties.

This document was first formal agreement between the two nationalities on the formation of Czechoslovakia. The later Pittsburgh Agreement of May 31, 1918, augmented the Cleveland Agreement and became the call for an independent Czechoslovakia, which finally appeared later that year on October 28th. T.G. Masaryk was elected president of the new country.

The Cleveland Chapter of SVU, along with Sokol Greater Cleveland, which owns and operates the BNH, and the Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities organization, a leading Slovak group in Cleveland, organized a commemorative weekend to celebrate 100 years since the Cleveland Agreement. On Saturday, October 24, a formal dinner was held with presentations about the historic agreement from Father Michael Brunowsky for the Slovak community and Dr. Stephen Sebesta for the Czechs. Over 100 people were in attendance. On Sunday, October 25, Smetana's opera *The Bartered Bride* was staged at the BNH. Both events were held in the same building where the Cleveland Agreement was signed—how appropriate!

The “Czech Voice of Cleveland” Has a New Radio Host: John Sabol

by Ginny Parobek, SVU Cleveland Chapter



Back in 2008 when Clevelander John Sabol approached the publishers of the popular *Images of America* book series to write separate volumes of the Cleveland Czech and Slovak communities, they suggested instead that he combine the two groups into one volume. Sabol instead wryly commented that he “knew better than that: the two peoples came to Cleveland in separate waves and didn’t mix too much. Each had their own churches, halls and traditions even despite the advent of Czechoslovakia. They did not give up their individual identity.”

Sabol eventually won out. In 2009, he and fellow Slovak writer Lisa Alzo published *Cleveland Czechs* and *Cleveland Slovaks*. No stranger to the pen, Sabol was an editor at the old *Cleveland Press* newspaper and later worked in communications for Ernst & Young until re-

tirement in 2008. Along the way, Sabol has authored multiple ethnic church histories and genealogical articles. He is a well-regarded historian in the city of Cleveland.

John Sabol, 70, can now add “Czech radio” host to his resume. In March 2016 he took over the reins of the “Czech Voice of Cleveland” radio program from longtime director Joe Kocab. The following interview seeks to reveal more about Mr. Sabol, his past endeavors and the new plans for the radio program now christened “The New Czech Voice of Cleveland.” It airs on WHKW 1220-AM on Sundays from 3pm-4pm.

1. John, let’s start with how you became involved with SVU: how long have you been a member?

Actually, I’m a relatively new member to SVU and its Cleveland chapter.

2. How did the Cleveland chapter assist with the transition period from the old Czech Voice radio program to the New Czech Voice?

SVU Cleveland assisted with funding to ensure that this important community asset remains available. It provided essential funding to help send a mailing to many Czech Voice listeners, seeking dedications and contributions for upcoming holidays. These contribution requests are important to the program. Like many nationality shows, our expenses can be overwhelming, and these gifts help pay for air time, new music and other expenses. Contributions throughout the year are truly welcome.

3. Having met you personally within the Slovak community, I was surprised to hear that you took over the helm of a Czech program. You obviously feel comfortable in both realms. Do you have prior radio experience?

I have no radio experience whatsoever, but have given many talks about my books and genealogical topics. So, I’m accustomed to

speaking to audiences. Right now I'm a little more scripted than I would want to be, but I want to be sure I say everything I want to say—and that I say it correctly.

4. I see from past publications that you list your mother and grandparents as being of Czech heritage?

My father's family is Slovak from the northeast corner of Slovakia. My mother's family is Czech, with my grandfather's parents coming from Otesice, near Plzeň and my grandmother's family coming from Olešná near Písek. Members of my mother's family have lived in every Czech parish on the East Side of Cleveland. I attended the all-male Benedictine High School in the old Slovak neighborhood on the east side.

5. Can you speak either Czech or Slovak? Where have your travels taken you?

My wife and I know enough Slovak to get in and out of trouble. I was raised in an English-speaking home, although my father was fluent in Slovak. My wife was raised in a home where her father, a Slovak immigrant, and her mother spoke Slovak to their parents. Jeanne and I both attended Nativity BVM School in Cleveland, where it was expected that we pray and sing in Slovak. In 1973, Jeanne and I took Slovak lessons and fine-tuned our Slovak during three trips to Slovakia. I can pronounce written Slovak well, and often I have a pretty good idea what I am saying. I'm gradually learning Czech pronunciation and eventually I hope to learn enough Czech to have a good idea what is said or written.

6. I see that the term "New" has been added to the radio program "Czech Voice of Cleveland." Do you plan to make some new changes to it as time goes along?

I'm hoping to have some in-studio and phone interviews as soon as I can master the weekly pace of preparing and taping the show. At the same time, I hope to continue some of the features that make this type of show popular with the community it serves. I would like

to be able to distribute the show as a podcast as long as there are no copyright issues. This would give people the opportunity to listen to the program when they want to listen instead of being tied to a 3-4 p.m. time slot on Sunday.

7. Did I hear mention that the program has listeners tuning in from all over the US and Canada?

We do have a group of listeners in Chatham, Ontario, directly across Lake Erie from Cleveland. And there are folks in Nebraska, Florida, California and elsewhere who are tuning in via the Internet.

8. Can you say a few words about your predecessor, the living legend, Joe Kocab?

I have known Joe for almost as long as he was on the air. He used to write to me when I was a reporter for the old *Cleveland Press*, and I have given him music to use on the Czech Voice of Cleveland. Joe was also a great help when I was writing my book *Cleveland Czechs*, which was published in 2009. His knowledge of the Czech community is encyclopedic, and I am humbled to be doing this program. He has been a great help during my starting weeks, and I'm hopeful that he can continue to provide input for a long time.

9. May I include your email address at our article's conclusion so that *Zprávy SVU* readers can contact you if they wish?

Yes, readers are welcome to contact me at sabolj@aol.com.

● LINCOLN

Report from SVU's Nebraska Chapter

By Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce

SVU's Nebraska Chapter continues to be a cultural bridge between the USA, Nebraska and our ancestral countries. In cooperation with the Czech Language Program at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln,

we build a supportive platform for young people of Czech, Slovak and other ethnic ancestry who are interested in fostering reciprocal cultural exchanges with the Czech and Slovak Republic, so vitally needed these days. Within this program, SVU mem-



bers are working on securing scholarships for students involved in Czech and Slovak heritage and enrolling them in the Czech Language program at UNL. One of the scholarships, named for Mila Saskova-Pierce and raised by Glen Riensche, will go to a student involved in the preservation of the Czech heritage in Nebraska. A second scholarship will be offered to a third-year student of Czech for study in the Czech Republic for a whole year (Joe Vosoba).

Our SVU chapter plans cultural programming in Nebraska together with the UNL Czech Program and the student UNL Czech Komensky Club. One project is to continue and coordinate the effort to digitally preserve past documents on Czech and Slovak lives on the Great Plains. This continues the work of former UNL archivist Josef Svoboda. We try to involve the younger generation in digitizing and preserving our respective cultures, so that knowledge and understanding will pass to the next generations, and to further our historical narrative. We plan to create opportunities for the Nebraska public to experience living Czech and Slovak culture by working with and arranging organizational support for local and visiting artists and scientists who are actively involved in the Czech and Slovak realms. We also want to support the cultural endeavors of other groups in the Midwest. Here is our March 2016 calendar:

March 3 – Dr. Simona Fojtová, “Feminist Encounters of the Czech Kind,” Ubuntu Room, Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center, 6.30-8:00 p.m.

March 10 – Czech Music and Dance: The Dudyband and Petr Jirsa.

Concert and Dancing Workshop. Dancing Contest with prizes! Great Plains Room, UNL East Campus, 6.30-8:00 p.m.

March 30 – Dr. Jiří Hutečka, “UNL Czech History Harvest,” and Dr. Bruce Garver, “Czech-Americans in Nebraska,” Burnett Auditorium 115, UNL City Campus, 6:30-8:00 p.m. With special thanks to Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures, Women’s and Gender Studies Department, History Department and Senate Convocation Fund.

● WASHINGTON

Janáček’s Opera *Makropoulos Affair* Performed in Washington

by Frank Safertal

One of the highlights of cultural life in Washington, DC, last fall was a concert production of *The Makropoulos Affair* (Věc Makropoulos in



the original Czech), organized jointly by the Embassy of the Czech Republic and the SVU Washington DC chapter. The performance was at the Czech Republic’s embassy on November 18,

2015. The event was part of the *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2015–Karel Čapek*. Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Zajíček opened the performance.

It was a world premiere of the *Makropoulos Affair* in its concert version, with the music and libretto of Leoš Janáček’s opera, which in turn is based on the play by Karel Čapek. Written by the brilliant

Czech-American concert pianist Karolina Syrovátková, the performance mixed Janáček's music, opera dialogue and scenes and a narrator who enters and exits in appropriate moments and explains various events and personalities.



This remarkable performance gave the audience the opportunity not only to hear Janáček's music in a piano interpretation, but also to listen to selected arias of the opera in a chamber environment. Performing artists included:

- Karolina Syrovátková Piano / acting several personalities
- Susanne Karpov Soprano / Emilia Marty
- Patrick Cook Tenor / Albert Gregor
- Robert Řehák Albert Gregor / Dr. Kolenatý
- Clopper Almon Narrator

Fans of opera probably know the *Věc Makropulos* as performed on world operatic stages. The first performance of the opera was in Brno in 1926. Many operatic audiences will remember memorable performances, such as the one at the 1995 Glyndebourne festival with Anja Silja as Emilia Marty and the 1996 New York Met performance with Jesse Norman as Marty. Now this unique performance in Washington was a huge success with the original piano, transcript, introduction of a narrator, quality of soloists and even a cameo role for the cultural attache of the Czech Republic, Dr. Řehák. The performance was especially hard and complex for the piano soloist, Karolina, as she was switching between playing the piano score and a speaking role. That's a very difficult task: it requires a high degree of concentration.

We had the opportunity to meet Karolina a couple of days after the performance, and she shared with us her long love for Janáček's music and why she decided to write the shortened concert version. Born in Prague's Podolí neighborhood in a musical family, Karolina started playing piano at age five, eventually working her way through the Prague Conservatory and the Academy of Musical Arts (AMU) as a student of Professor Rezek. She always had a strong desire to study abroad and eventually managed to obtain a musical scholarship at the University of Maryland. She then continued with her studies, obtaining a master's and summa cum laude doctorate degrees at the University of Texas in Austin. Karolina also met her future husband at the University of Texas. Karolina had her first full concerto performance at the 2001 Sewanee University of the South festival, where she won the competition with a Beethoven concerto, accompanied by a full symphonic orchestra.

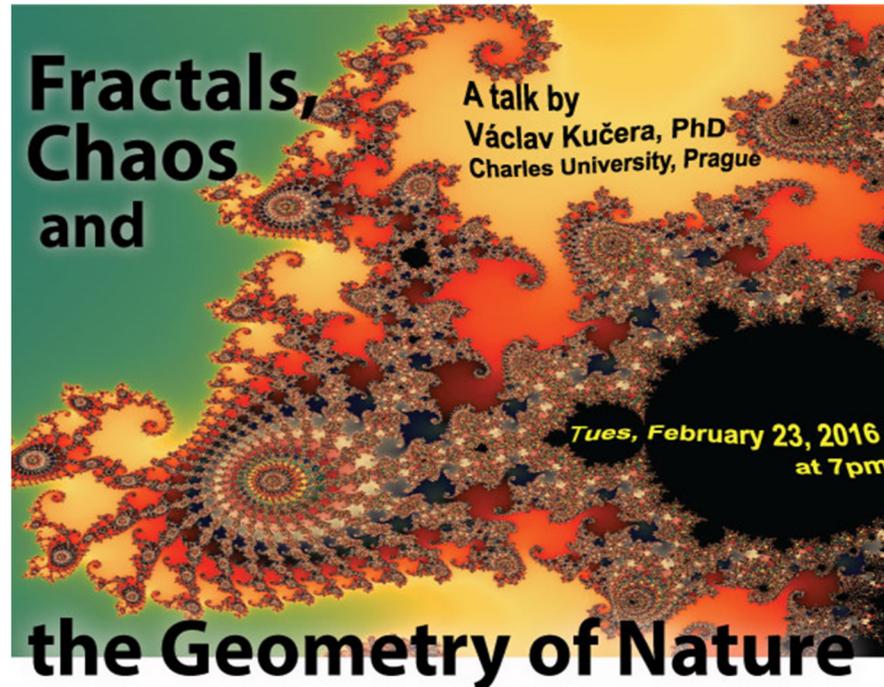
Karolina has always loved Janáček's music. Her dissertation, titled "In Search of the Vanished Present in Janáček's Cycle of Piano Miniatures 'On the Overgrown Path' (Po zarostlém chodníčku)," was nominated to receive the best recital award. She is now working on a book and a recording project of Janáček's entire opus of piano works.

Having performed on four continents, Karolina (now living in California) is a superb ambassador for Czech music and for music in solo



and chamber settings. She has been featured on Czech Television, GCTV and Austin's KMFA Fortepiano Radio Series. An avid chamber musician, she won the Sidney M. Wright Endowed Presidential Scholarship competition in Piano Accompaniment. We would like to thank Karolina, on our personal behalf and on behalf of the audience, for a remarkable musical experience, and we wish her all the best ahead. Let us hope that the future will bring Karolina back to Washington DC!

● **New York: Events January – March 2016**



**Fractals,
Chaos
and**

A talk by
Václav Kučera, PhD
Charles University, Prague

Tues, February 23, 2016
at 7pm

the Geometry of Nature

Clouds are not spheres nor are mountains cones! What then is the shape of a cloud? Or a mountain? Classical geometry does not provide the answers. Can the shapes of nature be described using mathematics? Is there a formula for a fern leaf?

Answers to these questions are surprisingly simple, intuitive and beautiful though it took two millennia to discover them. The lecture will present the basic ideas behind fractals and chaos theory and the elegance and beauty they possess.

RSVP:
newyork@svu2000.org

Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) 
At Bohemian National Hall
321 E 73 Street, 3rd floor, New York



VÁCLAV KUČERA, PhD, is senior assistant professor at the Department of Numerical Mathematics at Charles University in Prague. He specializes in the theory and practice of numerical methods for partial differential equations, especially computational fluid dynamics. Currently, he is a Fulbright Lecturer and Research Scholar at Brown University in Providence, RI.

Our events are made possible by the support of the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association (BBLA).



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An illustrated talk by Prof. Jiří Pelcl, UMPRUM Prague

After 1909, Prague was considered the second most popular center of European Cubism after Paris. In his talk, Professor Jiří Pelcl will present the amazing era in Czech art history with focus on Cubism as applied in the Czech architecture, furniture design and other applied arts.

In conjunction with a new extensive exhibit at the **Museum of Cubism in Prague**, in an outstanding piece of Cubist architecture by Josef Gočár, the Black Madonna House. www.cz-kubismus.cz/en/

Free and open to the public.
 Suggested donation \$5.00



RSVP:
newyork@svu2000.org

Jiří Pelcl is a prominent personality in the field of design in the Czech Republic. Aside from applied design activity for industrial manufacturing, he works in the area of design theory and lectures at colleges and universities at home and abroad. He is a professor at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design (UMPRUM) in Prague and its former rector (2002–2005). His design work has received many awards and is represented in the permanent design collections around the world. Currently, he is a visiting Fulbright Masaryk Scholar at the Pratt Institute researching history of the Shaker furniture style. www.pelcl.cz



Our events are made possible by the support of the **Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association (BBLA)**.

CzechMatters Design



Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in New York (SVU NY)
at Bohemian National Hall
321 E 73 Street, 3rd floor, New York

6x Minutes Night

Czech and Slovak Artists Living in New York



**Thursday,
March 24, 2016
at 7pm**

Bohemian National Hall, 3rd fl.
321 E 73 Str., New York City

Free and open to the public.
Suggested donation \$5.00.

Meet Czech and Slovak artists, musicians, filmmakers, photographers, singers and designers living and working in the New York City area. Their challenge is to present themselves and their project in a short presentation limited to six minutes each. In English.

Moderated by Christopher Harwood

RSVP: newyork@svu2000.org

For more details visit: www.svu2000.org/newyork/

In cooperation with the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Center in New York

Our events are made possible by the support of the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association (BBLA).

This endeavour, the "6-Minutes Night", certainly deserves to be copied by both US and non-US chapters. It helps to draw young achievers into the SVU community, enables them to introduce themselves, make new friends, and hopefully also find supporters. The current SVU Board strongly believes that this is one of the best ideas for growing the SVU membership. Drawing a critical mass of younger scientists, artists, and other achievers is the most important immediate business of our Society. We must also empower this generation in organizing themselves and learn from them the use of social media.

Share Your Knowledge Series

Saturday, June 25th, 5 PM – 8 PM at the residency of Eva and Petr Hausner

Gravitational Waves from Monster Black Hole Collisions

A talk by Laura Blecha, University of Maryland



Einstein's theory of gravity predicts that when two black holes collide, they emit enormous amounts of energy in "gravitational waves"—ripples in the fabric of spacetime. These gravitational waves were recently detected for the first time ever, providing a spectacular confirmation of Einstein's theory and opening an entirely new window to the universe. Dr. Blecha (described these exciting results and the future prospects for detecting black hole collisions on an even grander scale, in the centers of colliding galaxies.

A great talk by a new SVU member! Dr. Blecha works on a very hot topic, namely gravitational waves, which were very recently detected and witness collisions of black holes. Dr. Blecha gave us an insight into the biggest events happening in the universe, the collisions of black holes at the center of galaxies. She explained how gravitational waves are going to change astronomy and described the extremely precise devices used to measure gravitational waves.

The evening was organized by the Washington SVU chapter, by Eva and Petr Hausner, Katerina and Peter Ujhazy, and the Czech Embassy in Washington.



SVU President Petr Hausner and speaker Laura Blecha presenting an address to the SVU Executive Board and friends in the Hausner residence, June 25, 2016.

Photo Louis Reith

In Memoriam

Rosie Bodien (1943-2015)

Former SVU member Rosie Bodien died on December 25, 2015. She was founder of the Czech-Slovak Interest Group of the Eastside Genealogical Society. She had been the coordinator for the Western Washington Czech Slovak Interest Group for more than a decade and was instrumental



in outreach for SVU's 2013 Seattle Regional Conference. Rosie grew up in North St. Paul, Minnesota, and recalled learning to polka and waltz with her father at their local Sokol hall. As a member of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, she had spent years researching Czech and Slovak culture. She began collecting Czech glass and figurines in the 1990s and amassed one of the largest collections of Brychta figurines in the country. Jaroslav Brychta (1895-1971) was a professor and artist at the Secondary School of Glass Studies in Železný Brod, Czechoslovakia, founded in 1925. There he pioneered a new method for creating glass figurines. These figurines depict people at work, celebrating holidays, their customs and their traditions. Rosie also collected Czech glass perfume bottles from the early 1900s.

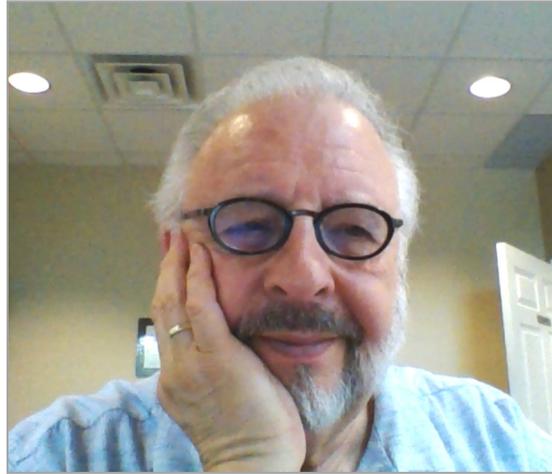
During her battle with cancer, she and her husband Dan traveled the country and made arrangements with Czech-American museums to donate much of her collection. She was well-known and loved in this country and abroad for her energy and enthusiasm for our culture. Rosie Bodien was a true ambassador of Czech and Slovak culture in America.

Bruce Vlk, SVU Vicepresident

THE INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS OF SVU

*As part of our successful membership drive in 2016—and we can already see solid growth in all categories of SVU Membership, we are pleased to announce the gratitude of SVU to two institutional members. In this issue of Zprávy SVU, we are introducing **Joseph Swoboda LLC** of Lincoln, Nebraska. In the next issue, we'll introduce the National Czech and Slovak Museum of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This category of SVU Membership deserves the strategic attention of the SVU leadership for the future, because it broadens our possibilities and networking potential as we concentrate on meaningful projects.*

Joseph Swoboda, LLC



As I grew up in my hometown of Schuyler, Nebraska, a small Czech, German and Irish town populated by many immigrant families, I barely was conscious of my Czech heritage. Although my father, aunt and uncle spoke Czech fluently, they had to learn to

speak, write and read the Czech language outside the home as my grandfather forbade the use of his native Czech language in the home once he immigrated to the United States. Sadly, I paid little heed to my father's offer to teach me Czech, but I learned to love the sound and lilt of the language while growing up as my aunt and uncles and others with Czech heritage spoke it frequently. In addition, I did play in many polka bands as a young man, and I was exposed to many fine musicians of Czech ancestry—including a number my age who spoke Czech at home and often on the bandstand.

I always thought that I would one day learn to speak Czech and to get more involved in Czech culture, and I hoped to travel to Czechoslovakia. While completing school, getting married and starting a family, those dreams were essentially left as dreams. Until 2001, that is. It was then that The University of Nebraska, in conjunction with the Czech Language Foundation (CLF) and other Czech organizations, put on an amazing conference regarding Czech history, culture, and Czech language promotion. This event sparked many of my family, and friends and acquaintances to become more involved in learning about our Czech culture and heritage, but also to push for continued

language instruction at UNL. I became active as a member of CLF at that time and also joined the Nebraska Chapter of SVU at its first meeting, held in August 2001.

Since 2001, I have remained active in both Czech organizations and currently serve as the chair of the CLF Scholarship Partnering Committee, a program that has provided qualified students of Czech classes at the University of Nebraska a \$300 scholarship per semester of study. Since its inception in 2004, we have provided scholarships to every qualified student enrolled in Czech language classes. In addition to belonging to Czech organizations, I and my wife, Mary Douglas Swoboda, are currently co-chairs of the Nebraska Chapter SVU. Although the chapter meets on an as-needed basis, we continue to sponsor a scholarship to a student at UNL and have been active along with CLF in promoting Czech activities in Lincoln and in the state.

Involvement in SVU has afforded me, and my family, opportunities to travel to the Czech Republic as part of several SVU World Congresses in Plzen, Olomouc and Ceske Budejovice in addition to participating in the state-side conference in Cedar Rapids in 2003. Since I am a mental health professional, a psychologist who has worked with severely mentally ill individuals for most of my career, I have an associated interest in how mental health services and science serves this population, not only in the USA but in the Czech Republic. As part of my career I developed a private practice in addition to public service at a local community mental health center here in Lincoln and Lancaster County, Nebraska. In the mid-2000s I incorporated the private practice into a Limited Liability Company for purposes of providing clinical psychology services to a broader population of clients including familial and cultural impacts on their mental health. As part of that LLC, for example, I included the study of rates of suicidality amongst Czechs not only in the USA but in the Czech Republic and have presented these results at SVU conferences and other

venues. In addition, in 2003 I presented on a model for intensive community support for SMI populations at the Eastern European Society for Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology in Prague, Czech Republic. This LLC now has become an institutional supporter of SVU and affords me the opportunity, and the time, to continue my activities with Czech studies, Czech culture and heritage, not only from a professional standpoint but from a personal one, too.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Dear SVU Members,

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all of you for your continuing support of SVU. Your loyalty to the true legacy of this organization, together with our 2016 Membership Drive, helped to reverse the historic trend of declining membership numbers. This year, for the **first time in fifteen years**, the numbers of paying members are growing, and this is happening in ALL categories of membership. We have so far 29 new members, of which 15 are students. We also appreciate the energy and the intellectual input coming from the 6-Minutes Program of our New York Chapter. SVU President Dr. Petr Hausner has personally sponsored the first year of student membership for seven talented students who showed interest in SVU.

It is obvious that the emphasis on transparent governance based on best practices is finally paying off. In the field of membership data management, the results of this policy are already visible in the new quality of the records, in returns of past members to SVU (some of them after a decade), and in careful inspection of who is in good standing. Also, the rigorous review of the historic financial records of SVU allows us to definitively talk about real numbers. In order to underline this new approach and to set it up for the future, the official membership statistics became publicly available, and they are being updated on a regular basis on the SVU Website at <https://www.svu2000.org/>. Charts 1 and 2 show the data summary from 2001 to 2016, and the current composition of membership, respec-

tively. Table 1 shows more details. The numbers are as of June 30, 2016, and the count continues. Thank you all for your cooperation ... and keep it up!

*Petr Hausner, SVU President, Thomas Holbik, SVU Treasurer,
Georges Eichler, records analyst, former SVU Auditor*

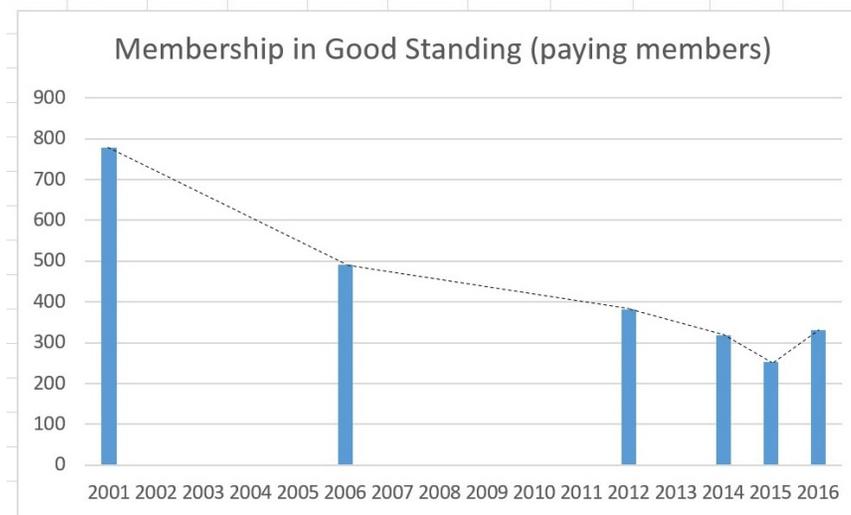


Chart 1 – Summary of SVU Paying Members in 2001, 2006, 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2016

Chart 2 – Current Composition of SVU Membership

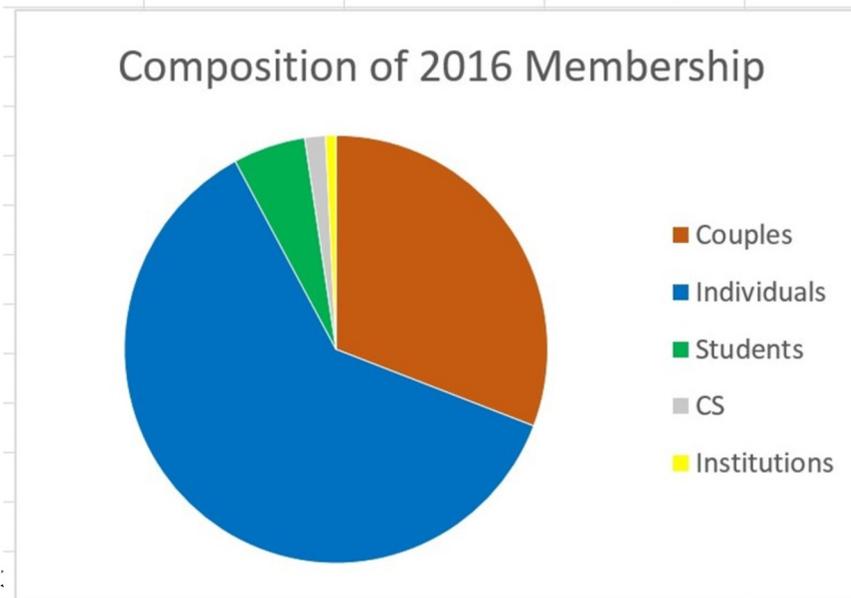


Table 1 – Detail of Paying Members Data

MEMBERSHIP IN GOOD STANDING—PAYING MEMBERS DATA
2001 Couples: 160; Individuals: 453; Students: ?; Institutions: 1; CS: 4 <i>Stamp: December 31, 2001</i>
2012 Couples: 84; Individuals: 201; Students: 13; Institutions: 0; CS: 0 <i>Stamp: July 31, 2012</i>
2014 Couples: 76; Individuals: 159; Students: 6; Institutions: 0; CS: 2 <i>Stamp: December 31, 2014</i>
2015 Couples: 61; Individuals: 123; Students: 3; Institutions: 0; CS: 4 <i>Stamp: July 31, 2015</i>
2016 Couples: 75; Individuals: 154; Students: 15; Institutions: 2; CS: 4 <i>Stamp: June 30, 2016</i>

DONATIONS FROM SVU MEMBERSHIP

SPECIAL THANKS go to twenty-one SVU Members who, by June 30, 2016, raised a total of \$1,052 for the year 2016 with their generous donations beyond regular membership dues:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Madeleine Albright | Maria and Ron Banerjee |
| Josef and Judita Beles | Jan M. Charvat |
| Tony and Eva Coufal | Ruth Davis |
| Robert Evanson | Judith Fiehler |
| Martina and Milos Forman | Petr Hausner |
| Tomas Hudlicky | Thomas Kolsky |
| Charlotta Kotik | Frank Nosek |
| George Novak | Irene B. Pitra |
| Hana Romovacek | Ludmila Schwarzenberg |
| Suzanna Simor | Jan and Marica Vilcek |
| Bohuslav and Blazena Vodicka | |

Thomas Holbik, SVU Treasurer

Georges Eichler, records analyst, former SVU Auditor

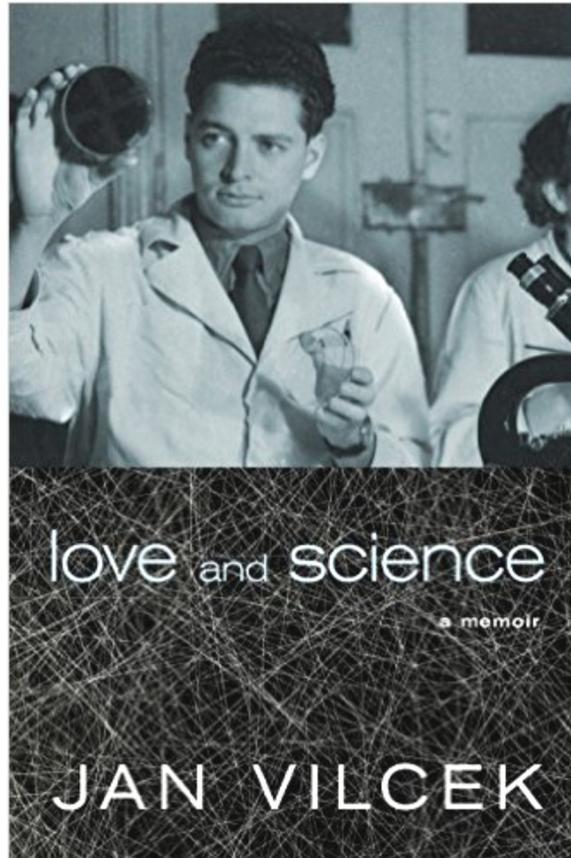
NEW BOOKS

Jan Vilcek: Love and Science

By Peter Ujhazy

Jan Vilcek, a living legend among scientists and altruists, offers this beautifully-written memoir praised by experts and laymen for its enticing narrative. Capturing the fascinating story of a Slovak-American scientist who was ultimately awarded the US National Medal of Technology by President Obama, Dr. Vilcek leads us through his personal and world history with an elegance matched only by his scientific endeavors. From early on, he

was influenced by world class scientists whose advice guided his career. Later, as the head of his famous laboratory at New York University, he trained many researchers who themselves became international leaders in their scientific discipline and beyond. Dr. Vilcek's contributions to science, specifically immunology, virology, and cancer research are numerous. But he will be always remembered as the author of the first clinically successful antibody against tumor necrosis factor, a key molecule in inflammatory processes such as rheumatoid arthritis. However, scientific success is



not the end of Dr. Vilcek's story. His true humanistic values are reflected in his more than generous support of creative minds that made their imprint in science and the arts. Together with his wife Marica through The Vilcek Foundation, they support young immigrant scientists and artists and recognize outstanding achievers in both areas. I wholeheartedly recommend this inspiring reading to anyone who yearns to accomplish something bigger than life.

See www.amazon.com/Love-Science-Memoir-Jan-Vilcek/dp/1609806689/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1466482165&sr=8-1&keywords=Jan+Vilcek

Prizes of the Society of Arts and Sciences, Prague Handed Out

The Prague Chapter of the Society of Arts and Sciences together with the Permanent Committee for Compatriots Living Abroad of the Senate of the Czech Republic handed out on May 10th 2016 for the fifteenth time prizes of the Society of Arts and Sciences. Honored were representatives of different artistic and scientific fields.

Adolf Born – painter

prof. Ing. Jiří Drahoš, DrSc., dr. h. c. – physical chemist

Juraj Herz – movie director

Vojtěch Jasný – movie director

prof. Mgr. Pavel Jungwirth, CSc., DSc. – physical chemist

Jiří Kylián – dancer and choreographer

Jiří Nekvasil – operatic and dramatic director

Václav Postránecký – actor

Doc. PhDr. Věra Ptáčková – theoretic scenographer

2016 SVU World Congress
"The World in a Time of Change"
 Bratislava, Slovakia
 September 1-4, 2016

Registration Form

Name:	<input type="text"/>		
Address:	<input type="text"/>		
Telephone:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Email address:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Registration fee:	Per person		
SVU member	\$115	<input type="text"/>	
Member spouse	\$85	<input type="text"/>	
Non-member	\$160	<input type="text"/>	
Non-member spouse	\$125	<input type="text"/>	
Local member (SK,CZ)	\$30	<input type="text"/>	
Local non-member (SK,CZ)	\$45	<input type="text"/>	
Students and retirees living on a pension	\$10	<input type="text"/>	
New SVU Membership (US only)	\$40	<input type="text"/>	
Meals and Outings			
Thursday Concert and Reception	\$0	number of participants	<input type="text"/>
Recommended Tour (Saturday):			
Čer. Kameň, Smolenice, Gymnic, Banquet	\$30	<input type="text"/>	
Optional Tours:			
Danube River Journey: Danubiana Gallery	\$15	<input type="text"/>	
Bratislava Castle, Old City Hall; Bratislava siteseeing on a city train	\$13	<input type="text"/>	
Danube River Journey: Devin Castle	\$13	<input type="text"/>	
Grand Total	\$	<input type="text"/>	

Complete registration on the SVU website or mail completed registration form with your check (preferably in US \$) made payable to "SVU World Congress 2016" to: **SVU, P.O. Box 590551, Newton, MA 02459**

Hotel accommodations can be booked individually at <http://booking.com> (e.g. Hotel Tatra, Hotel Loft)
 Alternative accommodation can be booked individually at <https://www.airbnb.com>

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Periodical



Prizes of the SVU Praha handed out in the Knights Hall of the Valdštejnský Palace in Prague