

The Nebraska Happening

What happened in Nebraska during the August SVU Conference was unique and truly phenomenal which cannot be expressed by a better term than "Happening." Those of us who came there from other states or foreign countries felt like Alice in Wonderland or, as the Czechs say, "u Jirikovo videni."

The outpouring of kindness, goodwill and friendship was ever present wherever you looked, accompanied by a broad smile and helping hand. You could feel that it was all genuine.

I came there a day earlier "to check on things," landing in Omaha. I was picked up at the airport and driven to Lincoln, the capital of Nebraska, where our conference was held. By coincidence, it happened to be my birthday. My Nebraska friends threw me a surprise and joyous birthday party and from that point onward things began rolling.

We were all housed in fabulous, brand-new hotel-like suites in Kauffman Center, on the University of Nebraska campus, consisting of living room, kitchen and two nice rooms, for the price of regular student dormitories. Each room was equipped with all the amenities, including thermostats, which allowed one to control temperature in each room. Whenever you needed something, you simply called the front desk and they would promptly take care of your needs. What a difference from the dormitories we had during our previous conferences and congresses. The prepaid food was served in the Selleck Hall, which was situated next to Kauffman Hall where we were staying. The food was excellent and abundant and served in the form of a buffet.

Most of the Conference attendees began arriving on Wednesday afternoon August 1. After registration, which was initially conveniently placed in the Kauffman Center, the participants were treated to a reception in the close-by Wick Alumni Center. Apart from the scrumptious food and good company, we were entertained by music and song. Music performers included Svetlana Yashirin, piano, Budomir Zvolanek, clarinet, and Joel Blahnik and Anita Smisek of Czech Music Alliance. The program included a number of presentations from various Nebraska groups that took part in the Conference organization, including Ron Stiles, President of the Czech Komensky Club; Helen Pejsar, Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln; Glen Riensche, Czech Language Foundation; Merlin Lawson, Dean of International Affairs at UNL; Dr. Oliva, Dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts at UNL; John Fiala, President Elect, Nebraska Czechs Inc., and Mayor Don Weseley. Carmelee Tuma, Assistant to the Governor of Nebraska, brought his personal greetings and presented to the SVU President a special proclamation making him an "Admiral of the Nebraska Navy." It was all in good fun.

The Conference opened the following day in the spacious Nebraska

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Union Auditorium, with all seats occupied at eight o'clock sharp. After the four national anthems (US, Canadian, Czech and Slovak) which were performed by Joel Blahnik, Anita Smisek, Maureen Beck, and the Capital City Czech Choraliers, came words of welcome from the University Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Richard J. Hoffmann, followed by my official opening, in my capacity as SVU President.

Next on the program was Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce, Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee, and Dr. Russell Ganim, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. They were followed by Kate Witek, Auditor of Public Accounts of the State of Nebraska, who brought greetings and a special message from Governor Mike Johanns. On the occasion the Governor proclaimed the days of our Conference, August 1 through 3, 2001, as "Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences Days."

Then came Don Weseley, the newly elected Mayor of Lincoln, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the State Capital Lincoln, mentioning his Czech ancestors who settled in Nebraska in the late 1800s. (His name was originally spelled Vesely.) This was followed by a message from US Senator Chuck Hagel. The official part of the program was concluded with the greetings of Petr Gandalovic, Consul General of the Czech Republic, who addressed the audience on behalf of the Czech Republic. The program ended by a musical performance of the Capital City Czech Choraliers.

After a short coffee and "kolache" break, the SVU Conference started in earnest. Three or more sessions usually ran concurrently, following the printed program. All lecture rooms were equipped with the latest equipment. Most sessions were well attended and went smoothly. Each session was usually concluded with a question and answer period and frequently with an animated discussion. Space does not allow description of individual sessions which ran concurrently for two full days, August 2 and 3. It should be noted that a number of panels were attended by younger audience, as well as by younger presenters, which was one of the main objectives of the conference.

A special plenary session was devoted to the Presidential Symposium, "The Role of Ethnic Organizations in Preserving Our Cultural Heritage", which I had the pleasure to chair, with the participation of chief executive officers of ethnic organizations in the US. The session included representatives of the American Sokol Organization, Bohemia Benevolent and Literary Organization of New York, Bohemian Citizen's Benevolent Society of Astoria, Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland, Czech and Slovak Music Society, Czech and Slovak Society of Oregon, Czech Heritage Society of Texas, Czech Language Foundation of Nebraska, Czechoslovak American National Council of America, Komensky Club, National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Nebraska Czechs Inc., Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln, Nebraska Czechs of Wilber, Oklahoma Czechs, and Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas. The Czech Republic was represented by Jaromir Slapota of the Czechoslovak Foreign Institute and Senator Milan Spacek, Chair of the Permanent Committee of the Senate for Czechs Abroad. Deputy Jiri Karas, Chair of a comparable committee in the Czech House of Representatives, was unable to attend.

During the lunch on Thursday, the participants were entertained by former Miss Czech-Slovak USA Queens. They included Miss Nebraska Czech Queen Nicole Kimbrough who played the violin, Miss Kansas Czech-Slovak Queen Mary Elizabeth Kasper (the 2000 Miss Czech-Slovak USA 1st runnerup), who performed a polka ballet dance, Miss Nebraska Czechs of Wilber Chapter Queen Becky Kastanek, who played a trumpet solo and the 2000 Miss Czech-Slovak USA Queen Karina Molacek, who sang the Czech National Anthem in Czech and English.

During the Friday luncheon the participants were addressed by Chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dr. Harvey Perlman. On Friday afternoon, the SVU Annual meeting was held with the customary State of the SVU Report by the SVU President. The latter, as well as the resolution approved by the General Assembly, are printed separately.

In the evening of August 3, there was the SVU banquet, featuring Rechcigl and Petr Gandalovic as speakers, followed by presentations of SVU Presidential citations to selected organizations that have made contributions to the preservation of Czech and Slovak cultural heritage in the US. These organizations were identical with those which took part in the SVU Presidential Symposium, associated with the National Heritage Commission. Additional citations were awarded to Matice Vyssiho Vzdeleni, Slovak American International Cultural Foundation, and Masaryk Club and individuals: Jiri Eichler, Mila Saskova-Pierce, Tom Zumpfe, and Cathleen Oslzly. The latter, who likes to be called "Kacenska," was the chief driving force behind the Conference, received for her extraordinary effort a crystal vase from the SVU and an airfare voucher to the SVU Congress in Plzen next year donated to SVU by Tatra Travel. Czech and Slovak Ambassadors Alexandr Vondra and Martin Butora, under whose auspices the Conference was organized, sent their personal messages which were read.

Other activities concurrent to the SVU Conference included an Accordion Jam session on Thursday afternoon, the Czech Language Foundation Awards Banquet followed by a polka dance Thursday evening in the Cornhusker Hotel Grand Ballroom, the Wilber Children's Beseda Dancers entertaining the same evening at the Cornhusker, and the film "Divided We Fall" showing at the Sheldon Film Theater.

On Saturday, August 4, many of the Conference participants boarded a bus to Wilber, Nebraska to take part in the famous Wilber Czech Festival. This was a happening in its own right, resembling in many ways a traditional Czech "pout," except on a much larger scale, accompanied by a traditional American parade and beauty pageant, culminating in the selection of the Czech and Slovak Queen. SVU Secretary General Frank Safertal, and I, in my capacity as SVU President, had the pleasure of being driven in the parade with our names and office insignia exhibited on the cars.

Judging as a whole, the SVU conference in Nebraska and everything connected with it was a great success, thanks to local leaders and organizers like Cathleen Oslzly, Mila Saskova-Pierce and her husband Layne, Tom Zumpfe,

John Fiala, and Ron and Jitka Stiles, as well as a number of organizations which enthusiastically worked with them as a team. The Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln were the greeters in "kroje"(authentic national costumes), beginning Wednesday in the Kauffman Center and continuing until the final presentation on Friday. They also monitored all presentation rooms in the Nebraska Student Union. They are to be commended for all of their fantastic efforts, including the Wall of Remembrance at the Great Plains Art Collection. The Nebraska organizers found a number of local sponsors which helped to defray costs so our registration fees were kept very low and most of the social and cultural events could be provided gratis. SVU will be forever grateful to them.

Those of you who attended the Nebraska Conference will most assuredly agree that it was a true "happening."

Mila Rechcigl
SVU President

Words of Welcome by Harvey Perlman, J.D. **Chancellor of the University of Nebraska**

Welcome to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We are delighted to be sponsoring and hosting this year's North American Conference of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences.

As you know, the University of Nebraska and the state of Nebraska have strong ties to the Czech and Slovak peoples throughout the world.

– In Nebraska, one out of 10 people have Czech ancestors, and there are about 60 localities where the majority of the inhabitants claim Czech ancestry. Your conference coincides with the 40th annual Czech Festival in Wilber, undoubtedly the largest and best known of the many Czech cultural celebrations in the state.

– Here at the University, we have been offering the Czech language program since 1907. It is one of only 8 such programs in the United States. The courses are offered evenings through our Division of Continuing Studies, and the Czech Language Foundation, a nonprofit organization, reimburses all Czech 101 and 102 students for their required language learning materials.

– The Komensky Club was started in 1904, and it continues to be an active student organization today. The group which includes UNL students and members of the community meets twice monthly during the academic year.

Many of you may also know about a very exciting project that is currently underway because it is being supported not only by the university and the Komensky Club but also by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington D.C. The Czech Heritage Materials Preservation Project is being directed by Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce, associate professor of modern languages, with assistance from Dr. Jitka Stiles, research associate in Food Science and Technology. The Project seeks to create a digital archive of Nebraska Czech histories, photographs and letters, and the group is working with our Nebraska Consortium for a Regional Humanities Center to ultimately get the materials available to the public on the Internet.

I am very pleased that one of our new initiatives has contributed to this effort. The Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience, or UCARE, program enables undergraduate students to work with faculty mentors on actual research projects. Nicole Kimbrough, a senior from Lincoln and last year's Nebraska Czech Queen, has been working with Dr. Saskova-Pierce to translate and transcribe audio tapes containing the oral histories of Nebraska residents of Czech descent. The tapes were recorded in the 1970s by a university archivist and although parts of some conversations are in English, others are entirely in Czech. UCARE, using funds from the Pepsi Endowment, has funded more than 100 research partnerships like this in a wide array of academic disciplines. And next year, I'm pleased to report, we will be doubling the number of UCARE grants that will be made available. UCARE, and other research opportunities for undergraduate students, was one component of the University of Nebraska experience that was recently recognized by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. They named UNL as a Greater Expectations Leadership institution for our innovative undergraduate programs. We were one of only 16 colleges and universities to be honored nationwide.

We're very proud of this achievement and of our many initiatives to make the undergraduate experience at Nebraska a vibrant, challenging and fulfilling one. I appreciate the chance to brag about what we have to offer to such a distinguished group of international visitors, and I thank you for inviting me join you for lunch today and to welcome you to our campus.

I hope you will find as I have, that there is no place like Nebraska.

Message from the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic Martin Bútora to the Participants and Guests of the Nebraska SVU Conference

August 1-3, 2001, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
In Washington, August 1, 2001

Dear President Rechcigl, Honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

It is my privilege and pleasure to greet you all at this distinguished forum and wish you success in your challenging endeavor.

I still have in my memory the last year's SVU World Congress held in Washington when more than two hundred of participants came to our residence to discuss the issues of civil society and democracy in the new millennium and to enjoy excellent ties between the Czech and Slovak communities.

And we were happy to welcome the Czech Ambassador Alexandr Vondra, the SVU President Mila Rechcigl, and many of our Czech friends at the opening of new Slovak embassy building here in Washington this June. That was another occasion to remember common heritage of our forefathers who made their way to America in search of a better life, and have contributed with their labor and sacrifice to the building of this country. As we celebrated the opening of the new Slovak chancery, we also paid our tribute to all Americans whose work forged the freedom we enjoy today — from President Woodrow Wilson to the American soldiers fighting in the Slovak anti-Nazi resistance in 1944 and liberating Plzen in 1945, from the Americans who helped to conquer communism to those who are now helping to transform our friendship to strategic partnership. We in Central Europe have good reasons to see how important the role of the United States is. We remember a Europe disunited, subjugated to dictators, torn by wars, traumatized by Nazism and Communism. That was not a good Europe — and one of the reasons it happened was a lack of American presence. For us, the strengthening of trans-Atlantic links is not just an empty phrase: it is our vital interest.

Having arrived from Bratislava just a few hours ago, I will be anxiously awaiting the abstracts of your debate the topic of which I find very stimulating. You will talk about the Czech and Slovak legacy in America, about the ways to preserve and develop this heritage for and among the young people. I believe that the present state of affairs opens an excellent opportunity for not only SVU members but all Americans of European heritage to make sure that these links remain vital.

Please accept my warm regards to the participants of the conference.

MARTIN BÚTORA, *Slovak Ambassador to the United States*

SVU STUDENT AWARD FOR THE YEAR 2001

This year's Dr. Joseph Hasek Student Award (SVU) went to DANIEL NEVAL, a graduate student at the University of Zürich, Switzerland. The award-winning paper is entitled "Edvard Benes: der Erbe des Präsidenten und Befreiers" and was written for a course on "The Use and Abuse of Power by Political Leaders of East European Countries in the 20th Century."

The Student Award Committee, consisting of Prof. Vera Borkovec, Prof. Ivo Feierabend and Prof. Milan Hauner, unanimously agreed to give this year's prize to Mr. Neval. The readers found the paper exceptionally well written and thoroughly researched. It is a very exhaustive political biography of Czechoslovakia's second president and the presentation is quite impressive. The essay is definitely worthy of the award.

Mr. Neval will receive a prize of \$200 from the Joseph Hasek fund, a year's membership in SVU and a Certificate of Merit. The members of the Student Award Committee wish to congratulate Mr. Neval and wish him the best of luck in his graduate studies.

42nd Meeting of SVU General Assembly

Lincoln, NE, August 3, 2001

The 42nd SVU Annual Meeting was held on the occasion of its historical conference at University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, August 1-3, 2001. A meeting of the General Assembly of SVU was called for 4 PM on Friday, August 3 at the Regency Suite, University of Nebraska Student Union. Since insufficient number of members assembled at the scheduled time, the Assembly was reconvened at 5 PM.

After the official opening by SVU President, Mila Rechcigl, the meeting proceeded smoothly and on schedule. Clinton Machann was appointed recording secretary and Frank Safertal and Tom Gibian verifiers of the Minutes. Rechcigl then named the Resolution Committee, consisting of John Fiala, chair, and Mila Saskova-Pierce and Cathleen Oslzy, members. Executive Secretary, Frank Safertal then proceeded to read the minutes from the last Annual meeting which were then approved. The General Assembly was subsequently asked to stand up to honor the memory of the deceased members.

Rehcigl then presented the customary SVU President's Report on the State of SVU 2001, the text of which is printed separately. This was followed by reports from the key organizers of SVU NE Conference, Mila Saskova-Pierce and Cathleen Oslzly who received a well-deserved applause. SVU Webmaster Jiri Eichler from Prague was introduced next with our thanks for his labors on SVU Website.

The *Kosmas* Editor-in-Chief, Clinton Machann, gave a brief account on *Kosmas* with his appeal to members to publicize and subscribe to this only English scholarly periodical devoted to Czech and Slovak studies and subjects.

At SVU President's request, Secretary-General Safertal read the statement from the Executive Board concerning the selection of Father Anton Srholec of Bratislava as the first winner of the Elias Human Tolerance Award. In the absence of VP Vera Borkovec, he also announced the selection of Daniel Neval of Switzerland for the Student Award .

In the meantime the Resolution Committee completed their work on the resolution which was read to the Assembly by Committee Chair, John Fiala, and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned on schedule at 6 o'clock sharp.

Resolution of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences

On the Occasion of its Forty-third Annual Meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, August 3rd, 2001

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Holding its forty-third annual meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, in the year of 2001, it continues to reaffirm the principles of "The Czech and Slovak Legacy in America and Preservation of Heritage with the Accent on Youth." Thus, it resolves the following:

WHEREAS: The Czech and Slovak legacy is important to Nebraska and the Americas, and

WHEREAS: The Czech and Slovak Heritage continues to be a strong motivation for culture and traditions, and

WHEREAS: The Czech and Slovak youth is involved in important ethnic, workshops, leadership and social activities, and

WHEREAS: Above all, the Society's goals are the enhancement of human values and ethical principles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Czechs and Slovaks are bound together in many ways. We are tied together by ancestral relationships and the pride of continuing the legacy of traditions and culture. We are known for independence and innovations to further our worth in society. In Nebraska there is a strong togetherness rather than a oneness which should be strived for everywhere in America. It exemplifies the strong belief in traditions of working together for legacy preservation. Our ethnicity has been important to the Americas for development from immigration days to our current economic existence. We endeavor to be constructive and committed to a betterment of America as a society with principles of a democratic culture. The "Velvet Revolution" was the beginning of human rights and freedom from human oppression and the Czech and Slovak love of freedom thus cannot be conquered or extinguished.

2. The importance of preserving our rich heritage needs to be passed on to individuals, families, businesses and organizations for future generations. Such support comes from the study of Czech and Slovak language, music, fine arts, dance and educational activities for the benefit of all Czech and Slovaks. Pride of heritage is displayed throughout Nebraska and the Americas by various festivals and celebrations, which have been passed down from generation to generation. With our many contributions, we need to let the world know of our heritage pride. This heritage is being kept alive to reinvigorate the present and to give us confidence for the future.

3. An important criterion for the preservation of this legacy, heritage and cultural tradition lies in our Czech and Slovak youth. We must cultivate youth resources to strengthen our future existence. Conveying our knowledge of history and ideology to youth as ambassadors of their ancestry is an important tool of promoting culture among Czechs and Slovaks and society as a whole. Encouraging youth to study their Czech and Slovak roots directs them towards leadership and participation in future "youth movements" of heritage, culture and tradition growth. Let us exemplify youth as our future of someone special who will carry on strong ethnic identity as vibrant threads in America's tapestry.

4. The preservation of heritage and culture are foremost among the SVU goals. The organization supports the revitalization of Czech and Slovak communities in North America to maintain the framework of shared cultural and civil space.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SVU:

ENDEAVOR, to enhance and strengthen relationships of Czech and Slovak heritage worldwide

AFFIRM, our ancestral connections with worldwide Czech and Slovak friends and communities
PURSUE, all means to preserve Czech and Slovak historical artifacts and records for worldwide observation
URGE, intensive programs to reflect the wit and wisdom philosophy and the heritage of Honesty and Strength
DEVOTE, ourselves towards continuing peaceful society achievement so that our Czech and Slovak tradition continues to enrich North America and worldwide.

Approved by SVU General Assembly on August 3, 2001

Frank Safertal
SVU Secretary-General

Miloslav Rechcigl
SVU President

SVU Receives Donation

The Washington, DC-based Folger Fund has awarded SVU a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to establish the Joseph Hasek Memorial Fund. The latter, which will be established as an Endowment, will be used primarily to partially fund short-term study/research visits of selected students from CR/SR in the US or US students in CR/SR. Stipends will be relatively small since only the interest proceeds will be used. It is hoped that the idea will attract other donors to make the Memorial Fund a viable enterprise.

Activities of Members

PETER A. TOMA is a professor emeritus of political science and international relations at the University of Arizona. He was the recipient of several scholarly honors and held numerous administrative positions. He is former director of an Educational Professions Development Act (EPDA) institute in international affairs at the University of Arizona and former director of an area program on Europe and the USSR in the National War College. Professor Toma has authored numerous scholarly books and articles including *International Relations: Understanding Global Issues* (1991) and *Socialist Authority: The Hungarian Experience* (1988).

Together with Dusan Kovac of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, at Bratislava, he recently co-authored the book *Slovakia: From Samo to Dzurinda*, published by Hoover Institution Press (2001). In this book, the authors examine the Slovak's Slavic ancestors and the emergence of a modern Slovak nation, the postwar communist dictatorship and the "Prague Spring," the fall of socialism from the "Velvet Revolution" to the breakup of the Czechoslovak Federation, and the ongoing process of trying to establish democratic institutions in today's independent Slovakia.

BLANKA SEVCIK GLOS And **GEORGE E. GLOS** co-authored a recently published monograph, *Czechoslovak Troops in Russia and Siberia during the First World War*, published by Vantage Press, New York (2000). It relates the story of their fathers, Frantisek Sevcik and Jan Glos, respectively, and other Czechoslovak enlisted men and officers, who surrendered to the Russians as prisoners of war and who subsequently formed an independent army to fight the German and Austro-Hungarian troops.

RADOMIR LUZA is the author of a newly published monograph, *Cesko-slovenska socialni demokracie. Kapitoly z let exilu 1948-1989* (The Czechoslovak Social Democracy. From the History of its Exile, 1948-1989). The book was published by Ceskoslovenske demokraticke stredisko a nakladatelstvi Doplnek in Prague and Brno (2001).

MILAN HAUNER, in cooperation with Marek Durcansky, Vaclav Podany and Michal Sulc, prepared and published critical edition of Jan Opo-censky's monograph, *Formovani Ceskoslovenskeho zahranicniho odboje v letech 1938-1939 ve svetle svedectvi Jana Opocenskeho*. The book was published by Archiv Akademie ved Ceske republiky in the publishing house Arenga, Prague (2000).

VLADIMIR PAPOUSEK compiled and edited a monograph about the literary figure Milada Souckova, a longtime SVU member, who lived in exile in the US until her death in 1983. The book, entitled *Neznamy clovek Milada Souckova*, is based on materials presented at the conference in Ceske Budejovice on 19-20 February 2000. It was published by Ustav pro ceskou literaturu AV CR in Prague in 2001.

Vladimir Papousek, who is associated with the Pedagogical Faculty of the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, is the author of the earlier biographical study about another well known SVU member, Egon Hostovsky, which was published in 1996 by the publishing company H&H, under the title *Egon Hostovsky, Clovek v uzavrenem prostoru*. In addition, he wrote an interesting essay about "Czech-American Poetry from the Beginning of the 20th Century," which appeared in Czech periodical *Estetika*, vol. 36, 1-3 (1999).

PETR CERNÝ, F.R.S.C., profesor mineralogie na University of Manitoba ve Winnipegu, byl po svém odchodu do penze v minulém roce zvolen emeritním profesorem a zůstává aktivním členem akademického sboru na katedře geologických věd. Za svou spolupráci s argentinskými geology ve výzkumu jejich ložisek vzácných kovů, jako je např. tantal, berylium a lithium, byl Dr. Cerný letos poctěn korespondenčním členstvím v Asociación Geológica Argentina a medailí této společnosti, která je ovšem, jsouc argentinská, ze stříbra. Petr Cerný byl letos rovněž zvolen do rad Učené společnosti české republiky (Czech Learned Society), která sdružuje celné vedce českých přírodních a humanitních věd doma (rádní členové) a v zahraničí (cestní členové).

In Memoriam

ANDREW J. LASKA (1927-2001)

Andrew J. Laska, 73, of Weston, died on May 23, 2001 after a short illness. He was a resident of Weston since 1964 and the husband of Vera Laska for 52 years.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, son of the pre-communist Czechoslovak ambassador to Mexico, Dr. Vaclav Laska. As the son of a diplomat, he received an international education: French high school in Algiers and Prague, bachelor's degree from the University of the Americas in Mexico City, and a master's degree in international economics from the University of Chicago.

He was a long time employee of the Kendall Company; for three years he headed the Cuban branch of the company, and for five years he was the director of the highly successful Kendall do Brasil, which he established in 1959. In 1964 he returned to the home office in Boston, where he filled several executive positions. As the representative of the International Division, he traveled all over the world and was instrumental in the founding of Kendall branches in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. He fluently spoke Spanish, Portuguese, and French. He retired as a director of Marketing International Division in 1988.

In his younger years he excelled in mountain climbing and horsemanship. He was a chess champion and an experienced bridge player, together with his twin brother Jim, who was the bridge champion of Mexico. During World War II, he served with the anti-Nazi resistance and was wounded in battle. Throughout the Cold War, he continuously supported refugees from Cuba and Czechoslovakia. He served on the Board of Visitors at Duke University's Nicholas School in the Division of Earth & Ocean Sciences. He was a collector of art, and after his retirement successfully devoted himself to photography.

He was the father of Thomas V. Laska, a graduate of Weston High School and of Duke University, who died tragically at the age of twenty. He leaves his wife, Vera Laska, professor at Regis College and Town Crier columnist, and his son Paul Andrew Laska, graduate of Weston High School and of Springfield College. He will be sorely missed.



ALBERT SPIEGEL (1917-2001)

Albert Spiegel, M.D., 83, died on July 10, 2001 at his son's home in Macon, Ga. Dr. Spiegel was born in Velky Berezny, Subcarpathia, in 1917. He graduated from the German Gymnasium in Brno, Moravia and, after the war, obtained his medical degree from the Charles University in Prague. His education was interrupted by World War II and he served from 1939 to 1944 with the French Foreign Legion in North Africa. He returned to Prague with the Czechoslovak Army in 1945.

After the war he was the Chief of Pediatrics in Most, Bohemia. He emigrated with his family to the U.S. in 1964 and practiced pediatrics in Fairfax, Virginia from 1967 until he retired in 1991 at the age of 74. Since his retirement he divided his residence between Vienna, Va. and Naples, FL. His interests reflected his diverse background. Fluent in six languages, he had profound and abiding interest in the world around him, especially history and music, but above all in his adopted country, the U.S., for which he had the greatest affection and admiration.

He remained a member of the Northern Virginia Medical Society and was a member of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences.

He is survived by his wife, Alice Spiegel; a son, John Spiegel and daughter-in-law, Rosemary Spiegel, of Macon; a sister, Katharine Laufer, and brother, Zoltan Spiegel, both of Long Island, New York; two grandchildren, John and Audrey Spiegel and Greer Thompson of Macon, two nieces and one nephew.



JOHANNA KARLÍKOVÁ-HODKOVÁ (7. 5. 1907-13. 4. 2001)

Narodila se v Poděbradech v zámečku Karlíkov u Labe. Byla dcerou Václava Karlíka z Nežetic, spolumajitele a ředitele cukrovaru v Poděbradech, a Antonie Karlíkové roz. Bezdiákové. Byla vnučkou slavného chemika a cukrovarníka Dr. Tech. H.S. Ing. Hanuše Karlíka z Nežetic, ředitele cukrovaru v Nymburce, a Josefa Bezdička, spisovatele hospodářských knih a ředitele panství knížete Kinského ve Zlonicích.

Prožila krásné mládí v Poděbradech, v Grádu v Itálii, kam rodina jezdila na prázdniny, a ve starobylém hradě Kámen u Tábora, kde navštěvovala svého strýce Jaroslava Bezdička, kterému hrad v té době patřil. V létě také bývala u svého dědečka Josefa Bezdička v zámku knížete Kinského ve Zlonicích.

Po maturitě z Dívčí reálky v Praze studovala v Paříži na univerzitě Sorbonně. Po návratu z Paříže se roku 1929 provdala za Mudr. Bohdana Kallmünzera. Měla s ním dvě dcery, Hanu a Bohdanu. Roku 1949 opustila s dcerami a s druhým manželem vlast a přistěhovala se do Spojených států v roce 1957. Po pětiletém zaměstnání v elegantním dámském obchodě v Beverly Hills si otevřela svůj vlastní podnik, který vedla až do odchodu do důchodu.

V roce 1961 se provdala za Jiřího Hodka, výrobce, obchodníka, podnikatele a bývalého partyzána v Jugoslávii za druhé světové války.

Byla to vynikající, všestranně nadaná, inteligentní a krásná žena. Byla velkou českou vlastenkou, milovala českou historii a obdivovala české hrdiny. Skoro do posledních chvil si pamatovala důležitá data z českých dějin. Mluvila plynule nejenom česky, ale také francouzsky, německy a anglicky.

V posledních letech žila v Pacific Palisades v Kalifornii v malebném prostředí ve svém condominiumu s výhledem na Pacifický oceán a nedaleko své dcery Bohdany a jejího manžela Dr. William Perkinse. Svůj poslední rok prožila v Saratoga v Kalifornii u své dcery Hany Miklové v okruhu své milované rodiny, která jí poskytla výbornou a láskyplnou péči do poslední chvíle.

Mnoho let byla členkou SVU a měla tam mnoho přátel.

*HANA KALLMÜNZER-MIKL, BOHDANA KALLMÜNZER-PERKINS, dcery
DR. WILLIAM PERKINS, zet'*



JOSEF KRATOCHVIL (1915-2001)

Hovořím-li o exilu, vnímám toto krajně bolestivě; jsem dítětem po-únorového exulanta a to celý život bolí. Narodil jsem se čtyři dny po odchodu mého otce do exilu, jako pohrobek člověka, který tolik miloval svoji zemi, že nemohl souhlasit s tím, jak zločinecká organizace komunistů tuto zemi ničí. Odešel do exilu, aby tak jak mnoho jiných pro tuto zemi pracoval a také zemřel v ideálech svobody. Měl jsem asi začít, že zemřel univerzitní profesor, senátor, skaut, vědec, spisovatel, čestný občan města Brna, voják-zpravodajec exilové protikomunistické organizace generála Moravce, zakladatel českých škol v exilu, vydavatel českých učebnic, pracovník SVU, člen exilové vlády, polární badatel, ornitolog atd., ale především člověk, otec, dědeček, manžel, přítel.

PhDr. Ing. Josef Kratochvil – Baby. Zemřel tak, jak žil, jeho smrt má podivná zákoutí a je plná opuštěnosti exulanta. Zemřel dne 11. 5. 2001 v nemocnici ve Stuttgartu. Zůstal po něm jen bohatý archiv plný korespondence mezi dcerou Prezidenta osvoboditele (jak vždy říkal T. G. M.) Alicí G. Masarykovou, paní Kvapilovou, Velémem Fanderlíkem, kardinálem Beranem, prof. Bromem, Hynkem Trhlíkem a dalšími exulanty. Domnívám se, že takový osud postihl mnoho exulantů, lidí, kteří příliš milovali svoji zemi a proto museli odejít. Jsme čtyři děti a maminka, kteří na svého otce vzpomínáme a jsme hrdí na to, že zůstal věrný celý život odkazu T. G. M. Je řada míst ve světě a spousta dětí, které díky jeho výchově nezapomněly na svůj rodný jazyk. Jsem hrdý na to, že jsem jeho syn, až jsem žil v komunistickém Československu bez otce, a byl jsem v číně jeho ideálům, což nebylo zrovna lehké. Otce nahrazoval nejstarší bratr spisovatel Jiří Kratochvil, který při svých návratech z dětských domovů a při krocích do dospělosti vždy ukazoval na to, že hlavní je čistý štít člověka, a že neseme jméno nejen otce, ale i děda moravského filosofa Prof. Dr. Josefa Kratochvila a dalších, které nás zavazuje k skautským ideálům cti svobody a spravedlnosti. Jsem vděčen otci za to, že vstřípil Jiřímu tyto ideály. Jsem rád, že ani moje děti se nemusí stydět za mne.

Dnes, již s úsměvem, vzpomínám na výroky vyšetřovatele StB kpt. Malého, když jsem řekl, že bych si přál tatínka aspoň jednou vidět, odpověděl: „Však on je v dobré kondici, sportuje, jistě ho jednou uvidíte.“ Netušil, jak měl pravdu. Jejich režim padl a my jsme se setkali.

Další moje vzpomínka hovoří o podivném myšlení komunistů. U dveří našeho domu v roce 1987 zazvonil ideologický pracovník Krajského výboru strany s dotazem co si o práci komunistů a krajského výboru myslí tatínek a jeho spolupracovníci. Je humorné, že se na tyto věci ptali mne, který nemohl cestovat a marně léta podával žádosti na úřad pasů a viz o možnost navštívit otce. Vždy sdělili písemně, že se vycestování neslučuje se zájmy státu. Naštěstí je tato etapa za námi. Tatínku, co si myslíš o práci dnešních komunistů dnes tam nahoře? Jsi opět exulant nebo jsi konečně doma u svého otce???

JAN KRATOCHVIL, Brno

The 21st Anniversary SVU World Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 21st SVU World Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences will take place in the Western Czech Metropolis of Pilsen, from June 24-30, 2002. This Congress will be under the auspices of the Rector of the University of West Bohemia and the Mayor of the City of Pilsen.

The overall theme of the Congress is “The Transformation of Czech and Slovak Societies on the Threshold of the New Millennium, and their Role in the Present Global World.”

Pilsen is an especially suitable place for the discussion of such a theme. Practically all of the famous, as well as tragic, Czech events affected this city's dazzling history. The present day face of Pilsen, with renovated facades of houses, super modern "hypermarkets" and new technological industrial zones, contrast with the monotone gray color of vast panel housing blocks. This scenery is an illustrative reflection of the divided feelings and dilemmas representative of the Czech society as a whole, which is in the middle of a difficult post-communistic modernization, integrating into the European Union, and also fighting against the many challenges and threats of world globalization without any possibility of long-term preparation and maturation.

Pilsen, more than any other Central European city, in the past possessed the geographical burden of being on the border of the Eastern and Western worlds – much more as compared to other European cities. By June 2002, it should become the location of critical reflections of the past, unbiased evaluations of the present, and sober views to the future of the Czech and Slovak societies from the world contextual point of view.

The Congress themes will be devoted to general civilization and his-torical questions, which will include discussion panels on Multicul-turalism – Challenge, or Threat?, Planet Earth in Jeopardy?, The Effect of Nuclear Energy on the Environment, Will Middle Europe Survive until the Year 2100?; Proteus' Face of Totalitarianism – Comparative Criticism of Communism, Nazism and Fascism; and The Face of the First Republic – Legends and Facts.

There will be lectures discussing different cultural themes in the frame of panels: Czech Literature at the Break of the 20th and 21st century, Shakespeare in Czech Literature (Problems of Authors Using English Language), Present Czech Architecture, Czech Structuralism and its International Echo (Personality and Works of Roman Jacobson), Changes in Czech Puppet Shows, Czech and Slovak Music of the 20th Century, Jewish and Czech Culture: Mutual Influences, and The Beginnings of Czech State in International Context.

Problems of the sciences, education, and the economy will be intro-duced in discussion panels as: Universities and their Role of Education in the 21st Century, Possibilities of Current Medical Science, Informational Technology, and Economic Views of the Czech Republic, History of Czech Beer, and History of Skoda Factory: World and Czech Industrial Tradition.

Topics regarding present Czech and Slovak societies, political and spiritual life, and destinies, past, present, and future Czech and Slovak communities abroad will be addressed in discussion panels including: Media and Democracy, European Integration: Euro Skepticism and Euro Optimism, Belief and Czech Society, Czechs and Slovaks in America, Czech and Slovak Museums, Czech and Slovak Library Archives and Collection Development, Role of Ethnic Organizations in Preserving Our Cultural Heritage, Genealogy, and The Constitution and Voting Systems: Czech and American experiences.

Special discussion panels will be focused on various problems of young generation including lectures devoted to The Assimilation and Acculturation of Youth, Youth Movement, Student Exchange Programs, and Teaching Czech Language.

For Congress attendees, a rich and attractive evening cultural program will be prepared, where interested persons will be able to choose between many theatrical performances, concerts of classical, jazz or even folk music, as well as literary events. The Ceremonial Reception of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences will be included in the program. At the end of the Congress the organizers will prepare two alterna-tive group excursions into Western Czech spa cities (Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně, Františkovy Lázně), or into regional, architecturally and historically magnificent castles and chateaus. Accommodation will be provided for interested people in the local hotels and pensions, or in student dormitories. Regarding meals, the Congress attendees can choose from a variety of high quality and inexpensive restaurants, located in the city center (reservations will be arranged prior to the Congress with the restaurants' owners).

All the members and friends of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences are cordially invited to attend the 21st SVU World Cong-ress. Also, significant authorities of Czech and Slovak political, cultural, intellectual and spiritual life, including the President of the Czech Re-public, the Prime Minister, and Presidents of both chambers of the Parliament will attend. Interest and active attendance of the public at large is expected.

Organizers of the Congress, in cooperation with the SVU Executive Board, are hopeful of creating an inspirational and friendly environment in Pilsen. They hope that this will contribute to a deeper understanding of the larger challenges of civilization, in front of which the Czech and Slovak societies are standing, on the threshold of the 21st century. Finally, they wish to further the relationships between domestic Czechs and Slovaks and those Czechs and Slovaks living abroad.

We call on all scholars, scientists, students, humanists, civil society advocates, entrepreneurs, community leaders, politicians, small businessmen, lawyers, clergy, futurists, social and cultural workers, agriculturists, health workers, environmentalists, media representatives, computer experts and anybody else who is interested in these matters to take advantage of the program, come with us to Pilsen in large numbers and present their papers.

PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Institutional Affiliation and Position: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Title of Proposed Talk: _____

I'd like to organize a separate section/discussion panel or symposium (specify) _____

Additional Comments/Suggestions: _____

Preregistration form should be sent to Ivona Skanderova, Faculty of Humanities, University of West Bohemia, Sedlackova 31, 306 14 Pilsen, Czech Republic; tel.: (420-19) 732 08 69; fax: (420-19) 722 29 67; e-mail: yvonne@kaj.zcu.cz.

In case of additional questions, contact Ivo Budil on: budil@ksa.zcu.cz; or Andrea Pesicova on: pesicova@rek.zcu.cz

Send your inquiries and suggestions also to: SVU President, Miloslav Rechcigl, 1703 Mark Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; tel.: (301) 881-7222; fax: (301) 881-9667; e-mail: rechcigl@aol.com; and/or Ivo Budil, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, University of West Bohemia, Pilsen; Sedlackova 31, 306 14 Pilsen, Czech Republic; tel.: (420-19) 732 08 69; fax: (420-19) 722 29 67; e-mail: budil@ksa.zcu.cz.

From New SVU Rolls

PETER STEFAN COSTOLANSKI is employed by the World Bank, Washington, DC, where he occupies the position a Team Assistant. He is a native of Washington, DC and has been educated at Virginia Tech University (B.A. in History, 1989), Charles University (Certificate in Czech Studies, 1995) and University of London (M.A. in Contemporary East European Studies, 1996).

R. THOMAS ZUMPF is a professional engineer and owner/president of R. T. Zumpfe Engineering, Inc., Lincoln, NE. He is a native of Lincoln, NE and holds engineering degree from the University of Nebraska.

JOAN McGUIRE is a graduate student and Teaching Fellow at the University of Pittsburgh. She is a native of Denver, CO and holds academic degrees from University of Colorado (B.A. in History, 1972) and University of San Diego (M.A. in History, 1985). She expects her Ph.D. degree from the History Department at the University of Pittsburgh in 2002. She specializes in American history, Czech and Slovak immigration history and history of Czech and Slovak Legion-Siberia 1917-1920.

BONNIE A. BARLETT is a retired Special Education Teacher from Allegheny Intermediate Unit. She is a native of Homestead, PA and holds academic degrees from Slippery Rock University (B.S. in Elementary/Special Education, 1964; M. Ed. in Special Education, 1972).

SUSAN SIM TATTERSON holds the position of Human Resources Manager at TecSec, Inc., Vienna, VA. She is a native of Prague and has obtained education from University of Pittsburgh (B.A. in Sociology and Russian, 1972) and the Johns Hopkins University (Business Studies, 1991-93). Her interests are in the human resources area and business.

JAN KAPLAN is a freelance producer/director with extensive background of film, television and video production. He is a native of Prague and has lived in England since 1968. Initially trained as a Film Editor in Prague Television. In Britain, he attended a full-time course in film making at the London School of Film Technique and a two-year Director Training course at LWT. Since 1973 worked as a freelance director/producer on a wide range of projects.

MILAN KOCOUREK is a freelance journalist, working as London correspondent for Radio Praha, *Lidové Noviny*, etc. He was formerly with BBC. He is a native of Liberec and holds degrees from the University of Dundee (M.A., 1992) and the University of Birmingham (M.Sc. in Social Sciences). He is a specialist on United Kingdom, history and monarchy. He is the author of *Dejiny Sokola londýnského* and *Na začátku byla invaze* (London, 1992).

KATHERINA KAROLINE HAUNER is a student, currently holding the position of an instructor at Kaplan Test Preparation, Inc. She is a native of London, UK and holds academic degree from the University of Chicago (B.A. in Psychology with specialization in Biopsychology, 1999). She graduated with General Honors and Special Honors in the Department of Psychology.

LIBOR KOZAK is a postdoctoral Fellow at the National Cancer Institute, NIH, Bethesda, MD. He is a native of Ostrava and holds academic degrees from Masaryk University (Dipl. in Biochemistry, 1985) and the Czech Academy of Sciences (Ph.D. in Molecular Biology, 1997). He has written some forty papers in scientific journals in the area of biochemistry, molecular biology, medical genetics, metabolism, etc.

VLASTA POKLADNIKOVA works as an independent management consultant. She is a native of Policka and has academic degrees from Stanford University (B.A. in Economics, 1997; M.A. in Organizational Studies, 1999).

ZUZANA B. LEWIS is a student and lives in Suitland, MD. She attended a private gymnasium in Tábor, CR and Gulf Coast Community College (Associate in Arts, 2000).

MELVIN N. VESELY is a retired educational administrator, formerly employed by the Pittsburgh Board of Education in the capacity of Director of Testing and Research. He has a B.A. degree in education (1950) and Master of Letters degree in mathematics (1954).

SUSAN CATHERINE KRAMER holds the position of Director of Community Investment with the United Way of Schenectady County. She is a native of Aurora, IL and holds degrees from Governors State University (B.A. in Communication Sciences, 1976) and Regent College, Vancouver (M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies, 1982). She has a particular expertise in assessing/measuring results achieved through Human Service and Philanthropic Organizations.

LUDMILLA PAREZ SASKOVA is a student at University of Idaho, majoring in history. She is a native of Prague and holds B.S. degree from Boston University. She earns her living as graphic and web designer and filmmaker.

JOHN LAWRENCE FIALA is a retiree from State Farm Ins. Co., Bloomington, IN where he served as Claims Administrator. He is a native of Raymond, NE and holds academic degrees from Chadron State College and Nebraska Western College. He is the founder and current chairman and Pageant Director of the Miss Czech-Slovak USA Pageant and a charter member of the Czech Language Foundation, Lincoln, NE.

FOCUS ON YOUNG GENERATION

DANIEL NECAS — Born in the town of the real Budweiser Beer – Budvar, Ceske Budejovice (Budweis) in the Czech Republic, Daniel later moved to Prague where he attended the College of Liberal Arts (Filosoficka fakulta) at the Charles University. After finishing his Master's degrees (magistr filosofie) in modern philology (Czech and English) he enrolled in the PhD program at the Czech Department there.

At twenty-seven he relocated to Wisconsin, U.S.A., the homeland of his wife Camille (also a member of the SVU) who had previously spent five years living in the Czech Republic. Following their arrival in the United States in 1999, Daniel explored the world of furniture delivery in a small town of Wisconsin for four months. Later he volunteered at the Immigration History Research Center of the University of Minnesota in Saint Paul. Three months later he was offered a part time position as a library and archives project assistant. As the need to support family of four was becoming more and more urgent, he accepted a full time position of administrative/clerical assistant at the same institution. After two years in the United States and almost two years of service and obtaining experience at the IHRC, Daniel became its Assistant Curator in July 2001. Between July 2000 and July 2001, Daniel also worked as a part time Archives Assistant at the University Archives/Area Research Center of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Utilizing his experience in library science, teaching both high school and college, linguistics, literary and historical research, Daniel enjoys working with the collections of the IHRC including the Czech and Slovak as well as other Slavic American collections.

Daniel's areas of interest include library science, cultural history, migration studies, literature, linguistics, translation, book art, typography, fine arts, travel. Favorite cities of the world are Chicago, IL, the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area, MN, Washington, DC, Roma, Italy, Praha, Ceske Budejovice and Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic.