

# ZPRÁVY

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CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF

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# SVU

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No.1

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## 24<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF SVU

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**CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**Celebrating**

***SVU: 50 Years of Promoting***

***Czech and Slovak Culture and Science Worldwide***

**September 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY**

**Ružomberok, Slovakia**

**Co-Sponsors of the congress are:**

**The Catholic University, Ružomberok and**

**The City of Ružomberok**

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**FIND 2008 SVU CONGRESS REGISTRATION IN THIS ISSUE!!**

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**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM OF THE  
24<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONGRESS  
RUZOMBEROK, SLOVAKIA**

Sunday September 7, 2008	Registration and Welcome Party
Monday September 8, 2008	Formal Opening, Reception and Plenary Session
Tuesday-Thursday September 9-12, 2008	Academic Sessions and Exhibits
Thursday, September 12, 2008	General Assembly Meeting, Closing Ceremonies and Banquet
Friday, September 13, 2008	Visit to Unesco Registry Village of Vlkolinec with Music and Barbecue (Optional)
Saturday, September 14, 2008	Visit to High Tatras or Bešeňová Thermal Spa (Optional)
Saturday- Thursday September 14-19, 2008	6 Day Tour of the Treasures of Slovakia (Optional)

There will be several cultural events during the meeting.

**Lodging:** Rooms have been reserved in several hotels and pensions in Ružomberok. Prices are expected to be in the range of \$21-69 per person/night. The number of available hotel rooms is limited, so it would be advisable to book your room early!

**Reservations can be made after February 15,2008** on-line at: <http://www.nemec@ku.sk> or by mail at:

Katolícka Univerzita v Ružomberoku  
Zahranicne oddelenie  
Nam. A. Hlinku 60  
03401 Ružomberok, Slovakia

An unlimited number of rooms will be available at the Katolícka University dormitories priced at approximately \$14 per person/night. Regularly scheduled transportation to the meeting will be available.

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**CALL FOR PAPERS  
24<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONGRESS  
RUZOMBEROK, SLOVAKIA**

**Deadline for Abstract Submission** (by e-mail ONLY) will be May 31, 2008 to Zdeněk David:  
[zdenek.david@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:zdenek.david@wilsoncenter.org).

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**Editor - Eugene Martin, 53 South Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-1134,**  
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## WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

In September we shall celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society at the 24<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Ružomberok, Slovakia. We have already received a number of abstracts of interesting presentations from members both in North America and in Europe. I urge all of you to send titles of your contributions and abstracts electronically as soon as possible to the Secretary-General Dr. Zdeněk David ([zdenek.david@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:zdenek.david@wilsoncenter.org))

The infrastructure for the meeting is prepared and we hope to have a large number of participants. Please let your friends know about the meeting and encourage them to register for the Congress.

The cultural program of the meeting is of exceptional quality. Our colleagues in Ružomberok are to be congratulated for attracting artists like Peter Dvorsky, David diFiore or Richard Rikkon as well as the Liptov troupe to our Congress. The tourist opportunities in beautiful Slovakia are equally exciting both, four day trips and for the 6 day tour of the “Gothic Slovakia”.

The year 2008 begins well for SVU. Before the Congress we will have four new publications. Proceedings of the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Congress in České Budejovice edited by Dr. Mila Rechcigl and Proceedings of the 2008 Conference in Bethlehem edited by Zdeněk David. Our publications list will have two new major monographs. Dr. Francis D. Raška provides a detailed history of the first fifteen years of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia in a volume entitled *Fighting Communism from Afar: Council of Free Czechoslovakia*. Dr. Mila Rechcigl will address the 50 years of *History of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences*.

During my recent visit to the Czech Republic, I visited a number of organizations and invited them to the Ružomberok congress. In Ružomberok we will hear from the Chairman of the Czechoslovak Foreign Institute, Mr. Jaromír Šlápota, about their international activities and from the Director of the Czech Radio, Mr. Miroslav Krupička, on their broadcast activities for Czechs worldwide. They already promote our congress at [www.krajane.net](http://www.krajane.net)

In January, two events took place in Prague with personal importance to me. The Health and Social Politics Committee of the Senate of the Czech Republic held a seminar to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the global eradication of smallpox and the 20th anniversary of death of my father Professor Karel Raška, who was a key figure in this project. The speakers addressed a number of important issues of public health and stressed Dr. Raška’s role in control of infectious diseases in Czechoslovakia and worldwide, in the development of concepts of epidemiological surveillance and smallpox eradication. I introduced the audience to the state of preparedness against bioterrorism in the U.S.A. and made clear to them that we take this matter seriously. The magazine of Charles University *Forum*, commemorated Dr. Raška in an article *Karel Raška-velikán boje proti mikrobům*.

The Czech Pharmacological Society and the Czech Medical Society held a meeting on the occasion of the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday of my mother, Professor Helena Rašková. An article in *Časopis lékařů českých* called her a “pharmacological legend” and recounted her major accomplishments in particular her role in founding the International Union of Pharmacology and the European Society for Study of

Drug Toxicity. They also listed about thirty of her students who filled many important research posts, not only in the former Czechoslovakia but also in “more distant destinations” such as the U.S.A., Canada and Japan. I wish her good health and I hope that she will attend our meeting in Ružomberok.

In New Jersey, the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Saint Peter’s University Hospital had a sequence of three major inspections: the College of American Pathologists, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Joint Commission of American Hospital Organization. Thanks to the excellent individuals I have the privilege to work with; they did not find a single deficiency and made no recommendations for improvement.

Karel Raska, Jr.

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## LETTER TO SVU FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN INSTITUTE

V Praze dne 30. ledna 2008

Vážený pane prezidente, vážení členové a přátelé Společnosti pro vědu a umění,

oslovujeme Vás, neboť máme zájem započít oboustranně přínosnou spolupráci s aktivními Spolky v zahraničí. V příloze vám připojujeme seznam s některými projekty a iniciativami Československého ústavu zahraničního v posledních dvou letech.

Věříme, že Vás naše činnost zaujme a v budoucnu se setkáme při společných projektech.

S upřímným pozdravem

Jaromír Šlápota  
předseda

Československý ústav zahraniční

### Rok 2006

- Za pomoci našeho velvyslanectví v Záhřebu bylo předáno Daruvarské škole a Končenické škole technické vybavení pro 6 tříd (počítačová a vizuální technika)
- Rovněž pro Školský spolek Komenský ve Vídni jsme nakoupili technické vybavení pro další 3 třídy, takže žáci mají možnost výuky stejnou technikou již v 9 třídách
- Pro Klub T.G. Masaryka v Plovdivu v Bulharsku zakoupeno DVD a CD
- Zahájen další projekt, a to úprava a kompletní vybavení tělocvičny školy ve Vídni
- Vydání učebních textů pro studenty bohemistiky bohemisty na Lvovské univerzitě
- Třítýdenní kurz českého jazyka s vlastivědným a kulturním poznáním České republiky pro krajany a studenty bohemistiky
- Zajištění výuky výtvarného kroužku na škole ve Vídni
- Zakoupeny učebnice českého jazyka a CD pro krajanský spolek SOKOL Melbourne z Austrálie
- Podpora účasti uměleckého souboru z Náchoda na festivalu hudeb v Chorvatsku
- Vydáváme měsíčně náš Bulletin a tiskovinu O čem píše krajanský tisk, publikujeme informace o ČSÚZ v měsíčníku Český dialog

### Rok 2007

- Nejrozsáhlejší projekt roku 2007 - rekonstrukce a vybavení náčiním tělocvičny Školského spolku Komenský ve Vídni;
- CD a knihy s vlastivědnou tematikou pro katedru bohemistiky Národní univerzity Ivana Franka ve Lvově
- Vybavení knižním fondem a DVD pro krajanský spolek Česká beseda ve Lvově

- Předplatné dvou jazykových časopisů pro bohemisty v Kyjevě, Pětěrburgu a Lvově
- výukové CD pro bohemisty ve Lvově a českou školu v Daruvaru
- Vybavení dalším sportovním náčiním a rovněž výtvarnými potřebami pro školu ve Vídni
- Velké množství didaktických pomůcek pro školy v Chorvatsku
- Zhotovení taneční obuvi pro umělecké soubory Holubička a Jetelíček v Chorvatsku a nákup kontrabasu pro soubor v Záhřebu
- Další skříně s výtvarnými pomůckami pro mateřské školky a základní školy v chorvatském Daruvaru a Končenicí a další malotřídky v Chorvatsku
- 18. ročník třítydenního kurzu českého jazyka s vlastivědným a kulturním poznáním České republiky pro krajany, studenty z krajanských škol a studenty bohemistiky;
- Zajištění výuky výtvarného kroužku na škole ve Vídni;
- Učební a výtvarné pomůcky pro české školy v Chorvatsku
- DVD filmy pro krajany v Sýrii, školu v Daruvaru a Končenicí
- Výtvarné pomůcky pro Školský spolek Komenský ve Vídni
- televizor a video pro Školský spolek Komenský ve Vídni
- Finanční podpora aktivity Českého krajanského spolku BESEDA v Belgii
- Výpočetní technika pro dalších 5 tříd pro české školy v Chorvatsku
- Technické vybavení pro českou redakci Rádia Daruvar
- Vydáváme měsíčně náš Bulletin a tiskovinu O čem píše krajanský tisk, publikujeme informace o ČSÚZ v měsíčníku Český dialog

Významným dlouholetým projektem ČSÚZ je realizace památníků T. G. Masaryka pro krajany ve světě prostřednictvím veřejných sbírek na počtu zakladateli Československé republiky. Díky T.G. Masarykovi byl v roce 1928 založen Československý ústav zahraniční.

V roce 2000 byl ČSÚZ realizován památník T.G.Masaryka v Mexico City, v roce 2002 byla odhalena busta T.G. Masaryka v Užhorodě, v roce 2003 nová busta v Sankt Petěrburgu a v roce 2004 společný památník. T.G. Masaryka a M.R. Štefánika v Košicích.

Contact: Romana Drobikova, Director  
P.O. Box 95  
Karmelitska 25, 11831 Prague 1, Czech Republic

## US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES HAVE CZECH ROOTS

As has been reported by Telegraph.co.uk and other sources, John McCain, the Republican presidential contender, and Barack Obama, his Democrat rival, are of royal blood, both having descended from the same Scottish king.

They share a common bloodline that can be traced to William I of Scotland, or William the Lion, the monarch who ruled Scotland from 1165 to 1214. Obama was born in Hawaii to an American mother and a Kenyan father, later living in Indonesia. The Arizona senator McCain has the same royal lineage.

Both Mr McCain and Mr Obama can trace their ancestry to Isabel of Scotland, an illegitimate daughter of William the Lion with a daughter of Richard Avenal. Mr McCain's four-times great-grandparents, Hugh and Agnes McCain, immigrated to Caswell County, North Carolina, in 1778. Mr Obama's maternal ancestor, Edward FitzRandolph, immigrated to America more than 100 years earlier.

According to research by Czech-American historian and genealogist Mila Rechcigl, King William the Lion's roots can be traced to Duke Boleslav I of Bohemia (ca 900-967), Duke Vratislav I (877-ca 919) and Duke Borivoj I (ca 842-894). He, also, independently found that both Obama and McCain have descended from King Edward I of England (1239-1307) whom he was previously able to link with King Vratislav II of Bohemia (-1091). Interestingly, Mitt Romney, who recently bowed out of the presidential race, had similar lineage.

Among the other serious contenders for US presidency, only Hillary Clinton, who apparently lacks any royal blood, cannot be linked with the Bohemian royalty. Nobody wants to predict the outcome of this year's elections but it should be noted that as many as 39 out of 43 Presidents, i.e. 90%, had royal blood.

## **NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS:**

### **New York Chapter (SVU NY)**

**invites you to attend the following lectures:**

#### **March 1, 2008 [Sat., 3 pm]**

Martin Palous: "JAN PATOCKA ABOUT THE CZECHS"

*H.E. Mr. Martin Palous, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United Nations, will deliver a talk about the outstanding Czech philosopher Jan Patočka and his thoughts about Czechs and their place both in Europe and in the world. Mr. Palous' long-lasting passion for the philosophical giant has been proved in many ways, in academic milieux as in active politics, and the lecture will offer a unique opportunity to hear not only Mr. Palous' interpretation of Jan Patočka but also his own account of his experience as a politician in practical life, too.*

#### **April 12, 2008 [Sat., 3 pm]**

Jitka Horejsova: "NEW BACK-PAIN RELIEF FROM PRAGUE: *THE SMISEK METHOD* (SM)"

*After more than 30 years of clinical experience and treatment of patients with severe back-pain, Richard Smíšek, MD, myoskeletal medicine specialist in Prague, Czech Republic, discovered that the key to a healthy posture is in the "spiral muscle chains". He developed an effective method to correct imbalances in these muscles. The Smisek Method is now available in the USA thanks to Dr. Jitka Horejsova, who is offering certification courses, and the textbook by Dr. Richard Smisek, Spiral Stabilization and Regeneration of the Spine, throughout the USA, to Occupational Therapists, Chiropractors, Personal Trainers and other Rehabilitation Professionals intending to become certified and trained "SM Professionals."*

#### **May 10, 2008 [Sat., 3 pm]**

Franta Nedved: "MEET THE ARTIST"

*A native of Prague, Franta Nedved now lives in New York City. Franta's formal education began in film production, and he holds a degree in fine arts from the Film Institute of Technology, Czechoslovakia. He continued his education in painting and sculpture at The Ringes Atelier of Prague. Franta also studied art restoration in the Vatican. Awarded the Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant that recognizes artists with outstanding talent, Franta has also worked to renovate the great murals of Radio City Music Hall in New York City along with churches and national monuments. Franta has exhibited widely since then in New York City's studios and galleries.*

#### **June 14, 2008 [Sat., 3 pm]**

Halka Kaiserova: "VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE SCHENGEN AGREEMENT"



*Before the implementation of the Schengen II Agreement, citizens of western Europe could travel to neighbouring countries by showing their national ID card or passport at the border. Nationals of some countries were required to have separate visas for every country in Europe; thus, a vast network of border posts existed around the continent which disrupted traffic and trade-causing delays and costs to both businesses and visitors. Since the implementation of the Schengen rules, border posts have been closed. The Czech Consul General, Mr. Halka Kaiserova, will deliver an insightful analysis into the pros and cons of the Schengen Agreement, with a special focus on the place of the Czech Republic within a borderless region among the countries of the European Union.*

All events take place in:

**The Bohemian National Hall, 321 E 73<sup>rd</sup> Street (between 1st and 2nd Ave.).**

### **BULLETIN OF THE BRITISH CHAPTER OF SVU**

Our group met at Velehrad seven times and once we made a trip to Didcot, Oxfordshire. 1/27/07 Dr. Bohunka Bradbrooková: Czech prose 1940 through 2005  
2/24/07 Peter Očovský: Croatian Priest Tomislav Poglajen Kolakovič – Political refugee in Slovakia during WWII.  
3/31/07 Concert of Czech music at Didcot: Antonín Dvořák – Mass in D major and Jan Křesadlo - Missa Glagolica  
4/28/07 Neil W. Rees: The Masaryk Family in Britain  
5/26/07 Zuzana Slobodová: Czechs and Slovaks in the United Kingdom since joining the EU  
9/29/07 Zdeňka Fantlová: Theater Culture in Terezín during WWII  
10/27/07 Dr. Miroslav Krupička: Our Countrymen in Europe and in America  
11/24/07 Jan Jůn: Vyklizení pozic anebo nadějně vyhlídku zemí, Nové Evropy v Evropské unii?

The general assembly meeting took place on February 24, 2007.

### **Notes from the Editor - Kosmas 21.1 (Fall 2007)**

This issue of Kosmas opens with three historical articles. The first two are related to the Czech National Awakening of the nineteenth century and the first modern efforts to create a Czech national identity. Contributors Zdeněk V. David and Andrew M. Drozd add to our understanding of this complex and fascinating chapter in Czech and Czechoslovak history. David emphasizes the central influence of the Utraquist mainstream of the Bohemian Reformation as the most important source of ideas informing the "awakening" movement, and Drozd studies the interesting, primarily positive, response of the Russian writer Aleksandr Pypkin to the awakeners. Both David and Drozd offer revisions in popular generalizations about this historical period; for example, David differs from views about the centrality of the Unity of the Brethren and the "speculative idealism of German Romanticism" rather than the "liberal mellow mainstream" Utraquists as sources of the awakeners' ideas, and Drozd challenges the stereotype of "the Slavophiles as the true and only source of Russian Pan-Slavism." Readers will discover important historical information about the background of the National Awakening that adds to what we know from works such as Derek Sayer's 1998 book *The Coasts of Bohemia* (Princeton UP). In our third article, Francis D. Raška extends his historical study of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia-established in early 1949, following the Communist takeover in 1948-that he began in a Kosmas article appearing one year ago. As I pointed out in my Notes for that issue, the story of this first political organization of its type to be formed by political exiles from

a Soviet-dominated European country deserves to be told, and it has a special relevance to the founders of our sponsoring organization, SVU.

The essays, letters, interviews, and poetry appearing in this issue offer a wide variety of topics and genres. Many of our readers will already know about Bronislava Volková and the Czech program at Indiana University, but I am confident that Matthew Konieczny's essay will be appreciated by former students, and I hope that it might help to attract potential students in the future. Ivan Margolius's essay about his father is taken from his recent book *Reflections of Prague: Journeys Through the 20th Century* (John Wiley & Sons); Margolius, known for his publications about history and architecture, gives us poignant images of the man who was later executed after a Stalinist show trial in 1952. Thomas Hauner's essay comparing the satire of Jaroslav Hašek in his portrayal of the Good Soldier Švejk with that employed by Zdeněk Svěrák and Ladislav Smoljak in their Cimrman plays was a winner of the Dr. Joseph Hasek Student Award, sponsored by SVU, for 2007. Our best wishes go to Hauner, who recently graduated from the University of Chicago with a BA in Economics, and our special thanks to Vera Borkovec for developing the idea for this award which has promoted an awareness of Czech and Slovak culture among college students since 1987.

Kosmas does not often publish personal correspondence, but we trust that the excerpts from letters by brothers Jan and Ferdinand Příbyl from the 1870s and 1880s, along with commentary by Bette Stockbauer, will be of considerable interest to anyone who has studied Czech immigration to American during that historical period. The Příbyl letters are compelling, offering insights into the "immigrant experience" from both sides of the Atlantic, the hopes and anxieties of immigrants and potential immigrants. As readers will learn, Ferdinand Příbyl was an artist and I want to point out that his painting of the "Bethlehem scene," to which Stockbauer refers at the end of her commentary, is part of a Christmas exhibition at the Institute of Texan cultures at San Antonio (20 November 2007-6 January 2008). If you visit the web site provided by Stockbauer you will find an image of this work along with additional information.

# **PROF. ING. ZDENĚK P. BAŽANT, PH.D., DR. H. C., MCCORMICK SCHOOL PROFESSOR AWALTER P. MURPHY PROFESSOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING AND MATERIALS SCIENCE AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY 70 LET**

Prof. Zdeněk P. Bažant, přední světový odborník v oblasti mechaniky konstrukcí, především betonových, se v první polovině prosince dožil sedmdesáti let.

Zdeněk P. Bažant se narodil v Praze v rodině známých českých inženýrů a profesorů ČVUT jako syn Prof. Ing. Dr. Zdeňka Bažanta, DrSc. ml., jednoho z nejpřednějších odborníků v oblasti geotechniky, a jako vnuk Prof. Ing. Dr. Zdeňka Bažanta, zakladatele celého oboru stavební mechaniky v tehdejší Československu. V roce 1955 byl jedním z „vítězů“ v celostátním kole Matematické olympiády Československa. V roce 1960 absolvoval (se samými výbornými) Fakultu inženýrského stavitelství ČVUT v Praze. Lze vysvětlit jen politickými důvody, že na ČVUT ani v ČSAV-ÚTAMu nebyl přijat na aspiranturu. Hodnosti kandidáta věd (CSc.) nicméně dosáhl v roce 1963 externím studiem v ČSAV během tříletého zaměstnání (1961 až 1963), kdy pracoval jako úsekový stavbyvedoucí na stavbě obloukového mostu přes Vltavu ve Zbraslavi a jako mostní inženýr v Dopravoprojektu. Zde se proslavil projektem předpjatého komorového mostu přes Jizeru u Kořenova, který má značné půdorysné zakřivení, se středovým úhlem 30° v každém poli. V roce 1964 získal, spolu s architektky Ivem a Miladou Obersteinovými, 2. cenu (mezi osmnácti návrhy) ve veřejné anonymní soutěži na most přes Dunaj v Bratislavě (zavěšený předpjatý komorový nosník).

V pohledu zpět, Zdeněk nelituje, ale je naopak rád, že byl donucen získat praktické zkušenosti (díky nimž např. dosáhl v Illinois autorizace – titulu registrovaného konstrukčního inženýra).

Během let 1964 až 1967 pracoval na výzkumu kompozitů v Kloknerově ústavu ČVUT, postgraduálně studoval teoretickou fyziku na Karlově univerzitě a absolvoval půlroční stáž v Paříži. V předvečer odchodu do Ameriky v září 1967 se stihнул na ČVUT habilitovat a získat titul docenta pro betonové konstrukce. Po patnáctiměsíčním post-doktorském stipendiu Fordovy nadace na Torontské univerzitě přešel v lednu 1969 jako hostující výzkumný pracovník na University of California, Berkeley, v té době nejpřednější pracoviště v oboru teorie stavebních konstrukcí. Koncem roku 1969 se stal docentem (Associate Professor) na Northwestern University v Evanstonu, předměstí Chicaga, kde byl v roce 1973 jmenován řádným profesorem pro obor stavebního inženýrství a mechaniky materiálů. Zde též zastával funkce ředitele Centra pro beton a geomateriály (1981 až 1987) a vedoucího programu v oboru mechaniky konstrukcí a materiálů (1974 až 1978, 1985 až 1989). Vykonával řadu prestižních funkcí, např. prezidenta Společnosti inženýrských věd (SES) v USA, šéfredaktora Journal of Engineering Mechanics, ASCE, oblastního redaktora pro USA v International Journal of Fracture, předsedy divize pro předpjaté reaktorové nádoby v IA-SMIRT, zakladatele a prvního prezidenta společnosti IA-FRAMCOS (Fracture Mechanics of Concrete Structures), jakož i společnosti IACONCREEP (Creep and Shrinkage of Concrete Structures), člena národní komise pro teoretickou a aplikovanou mechaniku USA a předsedy mnoha technických komisí.

Přínosy Prof. Bažanta v oblasti stavebního inženýrství a materiálů jsou světového významu. Zásadním způsobem posunuly úroveň poznání a vytvořily „školu“ jeho spolupracovníků, následovníků a žáků v mnoha zemích celého světa – jde o velmi rozsáhlé spektrum zájmů a přínosů, z nichž lze např. jmenovat nelokální teorii kvazikřehkého lomu; prvenství v zavedení nelokality k účelu regularizace okrajové úlohy poškození materiálu; objevy zákona vlivu velikosti na únosnost kvazikřehkých konstrukcí, modelu svazku trhlin a normové metody využívající tento zákon pro stanovení energie kvazikřehkého lomu; termodynamiku nepružných konstrukcí; reologii a vysokoteplotní jevy v betonu; multiškálové modely mikrostruktury a nelokálního změkčujícího poškození materiálu; teorii lokalizace v heterogenních kvazikřehkých materiálech; stabilitu a konečné deformace trojrozměrných a nepružných konstrukcí; výpočet pravděpodobnosti porušení; teorii dotvarování, difúze a hygrotermálních jevů v betonu, s jejich statistikou v náhodném prostředí; teorii singularity napětí u třírozměrných vrubů; zákon velikosti pro případ vrubu konečného úhlu, mechaniku lomu vláknitých kompozitů, sendvičů a tuhých pěn (s použitím pro velké lehké lodě); porušení mořského ledu a skalních masivů; ztekucení podloží; chování reaktorových nádob a obálek při nehodách; teorie vzniku sněhových lavin; materiálové modely pro průnik střel betonovými bunkry a horninami; odchylky od klasické teorie plasticity kovů v mikronovém měřítku; a nedávno odvození zobecněného Weibullova rozdělení z interatomového potenciálu a aktivační energie, s důkazem, že práh tohoto rozdělení musí být nulový, a výpočet pevnosti pro pravděpodobnost porušení nižší než  $10^{-6}$ . Jeho výzkum byl bohatě financován federální grantovou agenturou (NSF), ministerstvy (DoE, DoT), americkým námořnictvem, letectvem, armádou, jakož i různými americkými a zahraničními firmami. O jeho všestrannosti a sledování neaktuálnějších problémů svědčí i jeho okamžitá reakce na zřícení budov World

Trade Center 11. září 2001, kdy během několika dní zpracoval fundované vyjádření k jeho příčinám, které bylo v USA brzy publikováno a přeloženo do sedmi jazyků.

## CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### SVU STUDENT AWARDS FOR THE YEAR 2008

#### Dr. JOSEPH HASEK AWARD

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) is announcing a competition for the 2008 Dr. Joseph Hasek student awards. The names of the winners will be announced in the Society's newsletters.

The main purpose of the Society's awards is to generate and encourage scholarly interest in Czech and Slovak affairs among university students living outside the Czech and Slovak republics. There will be one prize for the best undergraduate and one for the best graduate study dealing with some aspect of Czech and/or Slovak history, politics, or culture. The winners will receive the \$250 Dr. Joseph Hasek award, a year's membership in the Society, which includes a year's subscription to the Society's newsletter, and a Certificate of Merit.

The following rules apply:

- 1) The paper must be submitted **by the professor** in whose class it was presented and should be accompanied by his recommendation.
- 2) The study must have been written for an undergraduate or graduate course during the academic year 2007-2008. Chapters of theses or dissertations are not admissible.
- 3) The deadline for submission is **MAY 15, 2008**.
- 4) The study essay should be submitted in triplicate to professor Vera Borkovec, 12013 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902. It must be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted in Czech, Slovak, or any of the major Western languages (English, French or German).
- 5) The Student Awards Committee which will judge the quality of the submitted essays consists of:  
Prof. Ivo Feierabend (San Diego State University), Prof. Milan Hauner (University of Wisconsin), and Chair, Prof. Vera Borkovec (American University)
- 6) Submitted papers are not returned.



## DORMITORY-LIKE ACCOMMODATIONS

Pension Trio - single room - per bed/per night	<i>Price: 400 skk</i>
Pension Trio - cell of two rooms - per bed/per night	<i>Price: 350 skk</i>
Pension Trio - cell of three rooms - per bed/per night	<i>Price: 300 skk</i>
University Dormitory per bed per night - shared bathroom facilities	<i>Price 250 skk</i>

### OPTIONAL EVENTS:

There are 5 *optional* cultural events planned during the 24<sup>th</sup> SVU World Congress:

- An evening of folklore with troupe Liptov
- An evening of piano with Richard Rikkon
- An evening of opera with Peter Dvorsky
- Spevokol Organ with David di Fiore
- Choir of the Catholic University

Each of the evening events will include a wine reception.

There are 3 **optional** trips:

- A Saturday trip to the UNESCO registry village Vlkolinec with the Liptov troupe and barbecue
- On Sunday you can take an optional trip to the high Tatras; or you can travel to the Besenova thermal spa with lunch and transport
- Following the conference you can take a 6 day trip - "Gothic Treasures of Slovakia" conducted by Mr. Krompholz

**MAIL-IN REGISTRATION**

**24<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF SVU**

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**CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**Celebrating**

*SVU: 50 Years of Promoting*

*Czech and Slovak Culture and Science Worldwide*

**September 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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**MAIL TO:**

**Dr. Eugene Martin**

**53 South Drive**

**East Brunswick, NJ 08816-1134**

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**Conference Registrant:**

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**Name of accompanying person:**

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**Address:**

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**Email:**

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**Phone:**

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**Fax:**

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**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:**

<b>category</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
SVU Member	\$120	
SPOUSE	\$ 70	
NON-MEMBER	\$145	
NON-MEMBER SPOUSE	\$ 85	
<b>CONFERENCE REGISTRATION</b>	XXXXXXXXXXXX	

*These PRICES APPLY ONLY until May 31, 2008.*

*After that time an additional charge of \$20 late fee will be applied*

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## ACCOMODATIONS:

**Meals and lodging must be reserved in a separate transaction:**

**On-line:**

Email [nemec@ku.sk](mailto:nemec@ku.sk)

**By mail:**

Katolicka Univerzita v Ruzomberku  
Zahranicne oddelenie  
Nam. A. Hlinku 60  
034 01 Ruzomberok  
Slovakia, EU

## OPTIONAL CULTURAL EVENTS AND TRIPS

<b>cultural events</b>		<b>COST</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
An evening of opera with Peter Dvorsky <i>Includes wine reception and eventual souvenir gift</i>	<i>Monday evening- September 8, 2008</i>  <i>Hlinka's Cultural House</i>	\$10		
Spevokol Organ with David di Fiore <i>Includes wine reception and eventual souvenir gift</i>	<i>Tuesday afternoon September 9, 2008</i>  <i>Organ Hall Rector's Building</i>	\$ 10		
An evening of piano with Richard Rikkon <i>Includes wine reception and eventual souvenir gift</i>	<i>Tuesday evening September 9, 2008</i>  <i>Hlinka's Cultural House</i>	\$10		
An evening of folklore with troupe Liptov <i>Includes wine reception and eventual souvenir gift</i>	<i>Wednesday evening September 10, 2008</i>  <i>Hlinka's Cultural House</i>	\$10		
An evening with the Choir of the Catholic University <i>Includes wine reception and eventual souvenir gift</i>	<i>Thursday evening September 11, 2008</i>  <i>Hlinka's Cultural House</i>	\$10		
<b>OPTIONAL TRIPS</b>				
Trip to Vlkolinec with the music of the Liptov troupe and barbecue. <i>Includes transportation and barbecue</i>	<i>Saturday, September 13, 2008</i>	\$40		
A trip to the high Tatras <i>Includes transportation and LUNCH</i>	<i>Sunday, September 14, 2008</i>  <b>CHOOSE ONLY ONE TRIP ON SUNDAY!!</b>	\$40		
A trip to Besenova thermal spa <i>Includes transportation and LUNCH</i>	<i>Sunday, September 14, 2008</i>  <b>CHOOSE ONLY ONE TRIP ON SUNDAY!!</b>	\$40		
A 6 day trip - "Gothic Treasures of Slovakia" -Mr. Krompholz <i>Includes transportation and lodging for 2</i>	<i>Sunday Sept. 14- Friday, September 19, 2008</i>  <b>DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ACCOMMODATIONS for 2</b>	\$1680		
A 6 day trip - "Gothic Treasures of Slovakia" - Mr. Krompholz <i>Includes transportation and lodging for 1</i>	<i>Sunday Sept. 14- Friday, September 19, 2008</i>  <b>OCCUPANCY ACCOMMODATIONS for 1</b>	\$970		
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	<b>TOTAL OF ALL EVENTS</b>	XXXX	XXXX	<b>\$</b>

## SVU CONGRESS RUZOMBEROK

### Optional tour: Gothic treasures of Slovakia

This optional tour starts Sunday, September 14, 2008 in Ružomberok and ends on Sunday, September 21, 2008 either in Bratislava or Vienna, depending which airport will be chosen by the organizers of the Congress for the participants to arrive and depart. The tour covers significant historic sites in NE Slovakia, most of which are Gothic treasures from the 13<sup>th</sup> C. A refreshing raft trip on the river Dunajec is included for recreation and relaxation. UHS indicates a UNESCO Heritage Site.

#### Day 1. Sunday 9/14.

From Ružomberok we travel to Pribylina where we stop at a Liptov area skanzen (a collection of Liptov village buildings). We then follow on the scenic road at the foot of the High Tatras toward our next stop in Kežmarok for lunch. Elevated to a city in 1269, Kežmarok boasts several interesting churches and a city castle. After lunch we continue to Stará Ľubovňa for the night.

#### Day 2. Monday 9/15.

Trip to Červený Kláštor. It is Monday and all monuments in Slovakia are closed and so is the old monastery. We will try to gain entrance through personal contacts. We will however take a relaxing rafting trip through the wide picturesque canyon of the river Dunajec, which makes here the natural border with Poland. In the afternoon our bus ride along the Polish border will take us to Bardejov (UHS).

#### Day 3. Tuesday 9/16.

Bardejov is a walled-in 13<sup>th</sup> C merchant town. The Gothic church of St. Egidius has thirteen hand carved winged altars, some by the famous Master Paul of Levoča. A regional skanzen is next to the city. A nice small icon gallery is also open for a visit. Then, on our way to Levoča we stop at the village Hervartov to see the 16<sup>th</sup> C wooden church, the oldest such church in Slovakia. We will also make a brief stop in Presov, the center of the Uniate (Greek Catholic) church in Slovakia and see the Uniate cathedral as well as the Gothic church of St. Nicholas, both in the center of the city. For the night we move to Levoča.

#### Day 4. Wednesday 9/17

In the morning we visit the church of St. James. The almost 60ft tall hand carved altar by Master Paul of Levoča in the late Gothic church of St. James is the tallest in Europe. There are additional points of interest in this medieval town, the Baroque church of the Holy Spirit, the restored Renaissance city square and the preserved walls protecting the town. We will also visit the nearby village Spišský Štvrtok with the early 13<sup>th</sup> C Gothic church of St. Ladislaus built by Hans Pusbach, one of the builders of St. Stephens Cathedral in Vienna. Overnight in Levoča.

#### Day 5. Thursday 9/18

Today we travel to nearby Dravce, a village with one of the most valuable early-Gothic churches decorated with priceless wall paintings from the 14<sup>th</sup> C. The mid-13<sup>th</sup> C church in the village of Žehra (UHS) is adorned with frescoes from four centuries. The fortified Spiš Chapter (UHS), the ecclesiastical administration seat of the region, boasts a Romanesque/Gothic church. Finally we will tour the expansive ruins of the Spiš Castle (UHS). Overnight in Levoča.

#### Day 6. Friday 9/19

In the morning we travel to Betliar, a luxurious manor house furnished with original furniture and collections of the Andrassy family. After lunch in Rožnava, a town with a preserved medieval city square we visit the Gothic castle Krásna Hôrka, one of the best preserved castles in Slovakia. Overnight in Zvolen.

Day 7. Saturday 9/20

On our way to Bratislava we make stop in Nitra. The oldest church on the proper of the former Czechoslovakia is in Nitra. It was built at about 820 AD, some 40 years before St. Constantine and St. Methodius arrived to Christianize the Slavs of the great Moravian Empire. The tour ends in Bratislava.

Day 8. Sunday 9/21

The coach will take tour participants to the airport for a trip back home. For those who would like to spend a few more days in Bratislava we can arrange for an extension.

Cost: \$ 840.00 double occupancy, \$ 970.00 single occupancy.

Included in cost: Hotel accommodation incl. breakfast, admissions to sightseeing monuments, raft trip, transportation by A/C coach, full time escort.

Not included:

Airfare. Participants purchasing airfare for SVU Congress will specify return on 9/21 for return to their home.

Meals other than breakfast.

Tips and gratuities.

Travel insurance is recommended and available upon request.

A minimum number of twelve participants required for tour to take place.

**Note: Due to the volatility of currency exchange rates price subject to change.**

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## OBITUARIES - NOTE TO SVU MEMBERS

In my responsibly of keeping track of the SVU deceased members, it is my intention to publish in this column not only the most recent obituaries, but to also periodically include obituaries of those members who died earlier, just as soon we learn that a particular member passed away. In today's column we are, in fact, publishing obituaries of six distinguished members who died several years ago. This is the least the Society can do to remember their life-long careers and achievements.

In this connection, I appeal to members to please keep me informed if they learn of the death of any of our members so that we can honor their memory. Please send your information to the following e-mail: [SVU1@comcast.net](mailto:SVU1@comcast.net).

Thanks for your understanding and your help>>

Míla Rechcigl  
SVU Archivist

### **Alena M. Polesný (1911-2007)**

A long-time SVU member Alena Polesny, 96, passed away early Monday morning November 26, 2007 at her home in Altamont, N.Y. Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia on January 9, 1911, she was the only child of Frantisek and Marie Provazník. After completing a liberal arts education she earned her doctor of medicine degree from Charles University, Prague in 1934. She was able to combine family, a medical career, love of sports and the outdoors, and a passion for world travel, literature and music. She specialized in dentistry which she practiced until immigrating to the United States, at which time she became an anesthesiologist, training at Deaconess Hospital, Flushing, N.Y., and practicing and teaching in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the NY State Medical Center in Albany and becoming chief of anesthesiology at Child's Hospital in Albany, N.Y. She was an avid athlete, enjoying canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing, horseback riding and competing in skiing, in which sport she became women's downhill, grand slalom and cross country champion in Czechoslovakia. She married Karel Polesny, M.D. in 1937. They lived first in Prague and then in Mlada Boleslav, Czechoslovakia. Her life was interrupted by the 1948 Communist Putsch, as a result of which the family with three young daughters fled to West Germany. After a year in a refugee camp they spent two years in West Pakistan, where she was captain in the Pakistan Army Medical Corps. The family arrived in the United States on November 9, 1952 and lived in Flushing N.Y., Cincinnati, Ohio, and Schenectady. In 1970, Alena and Karel built a house in rural Altamont. The "city girl" cherished the country, where they kept cows, sheep, rabbits, chickens, geese and bees, and cultivated a garden in which she raised most of their vegetables. She taught countless friends how to identify and enjoy wild mushrooms and shared her red current patch with all. She still found time to read, travel throughout the world and visit her daughters and their families in Mass., Calif. and Ore. Yearly, she and her Czech friends created a booth featuring Czech food and drink at the Schenectady Art Museum's International Festival. Her love of culture included classical music, opera, ballet, art, cinema, and literature. Her energy and influence were boundless; her life was one great adventure.

## **Jan Lang (1919-2007)**

A long-time SVU member, Father Jan Lang was an indefatigable and charismatic priest. He spent most of his life in exile from his native Czechoslovakia, in Britain, from where he did his best to keep the sufferings of Czechs and Slovaks in the public eye. As well as ministering to his fellow exiles, he campaigned constantly against the human-rights abuses of the Czechoslovak communist regime, and offered valuable outside support to dissidents active within Czechoslovakia itself. Lang learnt the crucial importance of human rights through bitter experiences early in his life, during the Nazi occupation of the Czech Lands. Born in the Moravian town of Rajhrad in 1919, he studied at a Benedictine college and then joined the Jesuits and became a theology student.

After their occupation in 1939 the Nazis closed many institutions, and Lang moved to Prague to continue his studies. But in 1944 he was arrested and sent to the concentration camp at Terezin, where he nearly died from typhus. Later he would play a prominent role in the international campaign to secure compensation for concentration camp victims from postwar German governments. After the war Lang was sent to continue his studies in London, which is where he found himself at the time of the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia early in 1948. Aware of what Stalinist rule would mean, particularly for those associated with the "imperialist" West, many Czechs and Slovaks then in Britain opted to stay, and others soon arrived as refugees. Lang became their spiritual leader and a formidable organizer of the exile community - not only in its religious life but also in its welfare provision, centered from the 1960s on a building, named Velehrad, in Notting Hill.

He was a prominent member of groups in Britain supporting Czechs Persecuted for their political beliefs, and he arranged marches through London to draw attention to events such as the anniversary of the 1968 invasion. He also organized the publication in Britain of material banned by the Communists that could be smuggled into Czechoslovakia to be used by anti-communist groups. While some priests in Czechoslovakia itself were prepared to compromise with the regime, Lang's denunciations of communism were unambiguous. He was a regular broadcaster from Bush House for the Czechoslovak service of the BBC, where sermons from exiled priests often offered spicier fare than the measured tones of BBC news reporting. After the end of the Czechoslovak Communist regime in 1989 Lang remained in Britain - like many long-term exiles, he felt it was too late to move back.

In London, meanwhile, there was a new generation of arrivals from his homeland to care for and advise - no longer political refugees, but the first of the many thousands of mainly younger Czechs and Slovaks taking advantage of new economic and educational opportunities as Cold War division finally melted away.

Adapted from the Times

## **Mojmír Drvota (1923-2006)**

Mojmír Drvota died on April 27, 2006 at the age of 83. He was a native of Prague and graduate of Palacky University in art history. After coming to the US, he obtained an additional degree in library science from Columbia University. He was a writer/director who wrote a number of plays, novels and poems. He wrote and directed the film "A Distant Journey." Mr. Drvota taught filmmaking at both Columbia and Ohio State University.

### **Louis Gogela Sr. (1917-2005)**

Those who knew the SVU member Dr. Louis Gogela Sr., remember the Lincoln physician as a gifted neurosurgeon with a gentle touch. Gogela, who practiced medicine for more than 50 years, died on May 10, 2005 at age 87 at his home. He suffered from prostate cancer. Gogela was one of the founders of Lincoln's College of Neurological Surgeons. He started several small neurosurgery clinics in western Nebraska and visited them until he retired at age 80. He was president of the Lancaster County Medical Society in 1966. Gogela, who was born in Omaha on June 17, 1917, to immigrant parents from Czechoslovakia, graduated from Central High and earned a bachelor's degree from Creighton University. He served a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, received a master's degree in neurosurgery from the University of Minnesota, and was a clinical instructor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

### **George Brecher (1913-2004)**

George Brecher, M.D., long-time member of SVU, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Laboratory Medicine at the University of California School of Medicine in San Francisco (UCSF), died on July 5th, 2004 at the age of 90. He was born in Olomouc on 5th November 1913 and a graduate of German University of Prague Medical Faculty. He founded the Department of Laboratory Medicine at UCSF in 1966 and then led the department for 12 years. He was a past President of the American Society of Hematology (1973) and a member of the Association of American Physicians and the French Legion of Honor. > Before coming to California, he served as the Chief of the Hematology Section in the Department of Clinical Pathology at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from 1953-1966. That's where I first met him. > He remained a member of the faculty at UCSF following his retirement from the chairmanship of the Department of Laboratory Medicine, and continued to carry out research at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. > His career as a widely-accomplished biomedical investigator extended for half a century, and was characterized by the development of improved tests for use in clinical hematology, the introduction of computers into the clinical laboratory, and important original biomedical investigations. > >

### **Thomas G. Winner (1917-2004)**

A long-time SVU member and once its Vice President, Thomas G. Winner died of pneumonia on August 20, 2004. He was born in Klatovy on May 28, 1910. He was a native of Prague and fled Czechoslovakia in 1939 after winning one of twenty fellowships raised by Harvard students to help peers escape Nazi-occupied Europe to study at Harvard. He obtained his education from Harvard and Columbia University, specializing in Slavic languages and comparative literature. He was a professor of Slavic languages at Brown University from 1966 to 1982. At Brown he organized and directed the Center for Research in Semiotics, the first such center in the United States. He also edited the Brown Slavic Reprints. He was previously a professor at Duke and the Univ. of Michigan. Twice awarded a Fulbright, he held five visiting professorships and received numerous other awards and honors. He was the author or editor of twelve books, more than 130 journal articles, and many reviews of scholarly books. His writing focused on the Prague Linguistic Circle, a group organized before World War II but suppressed during the years of German occupation and postwar Communist rule. During World War II he worked in the Office of War Information. >

### **Ivan Alexander Getting (1912-2003)**

We apologize for being so late with Dr. Getting's obituary, one of the most distinguished SVU scientists, who was recipient of SVU honorary membership, the highest honor the SVU can bestow on its members. He was an American physicist and electrical engineer, who was credited (along with Bradford Parkinson) with the development of the Global Positioning System (GPS). > Ivan Alexander Getting was born on 18 January, 1912 in New York City to a family of Slovak immigrants and grew up in Pittsburgh, PA. He earned his B.S. in Physics from MIT in 1933 and attended Oxford University as a graduate Rhodes scholar and earned his D.Phil. in Astrophysics in 1935. Ivan Getting's scientific career began in 1935 at Harvard University. In 1940, he went to the MIT Radiation Laboratory as director of the Division on Fire Control and Army Radar, where his group developed the first automatic microwave tracking fire control radar-the SCR 584-which was credited with helping to save London from destruction by V-1 buzz bombs during World War II. He also led the development of the Navy GFCS MK-56 anti-aircraft fire control system. He was head of the Naval Fire Control Section of the Office of Scientific Research and Development and a member of the Combined Chiefs of Staff Committee on Searchlight and Fire Control. He also served as special consultant to Secretary Stimson on the use of radar by the Army.

From 1945-50, Dr. Getting was professor of Electrical Engineering at MIT and head of the Radar Panel of the Research and Development Board of the Department of Defense. From 1950-51, he devoted full-time service to the Korean War effort as assistant for Development and Planning for the Air Force. From 1951-60, Dr. Getting served as vice president, Research and Engineering at Raytheon Company and also provided technical assistance to U.S. government agencies. His leadership as a "military scientist" was recognized by his election as president of The Aerospace Corporation when it was established at the request of the Secretary of the Air Force in 1960. He was a recipient of numerous honors, including the U.S. Medal of Merit.

### **Lewis Weiner (1910-2003)**

A long time member of SVU, Lewis Weiner passed away on September 15th at the age of 93. He studied at Charles University and later at the University of Southern California, which awarded him his engineering degree in 1943. He was a mechanical engineer by training who was employed by the Walt Disney Production in Los Angeles, as a consulting engineer. He had over 30 patents to his credit in dye casting, packing, shuttles loom, slider assembly machines, zipper chain manes, film projection and film camera. >>> He is best known, however, in is capacity as past president of the Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jewry, Inc. The Society was founded by Dr. Kurt Wehle in 1961 to publish historical essays describing Jewish participation in every aspect of Czechoslovak life between the two World Wars, thus counteracting the distorting revisionism of the Czech Communist regime. Lewis Weiner followed Kurt Wehle, Hugh Colman, and Ludovít Sturc as President of the Society. He brought his vast energies, broad vision and total dedication to the Society in the 1980s and early 1990s, supervising the publication in 1984 of the most challenging volume in the Society's trilogy, The Jews of Czechoslovakia, dealing with the Holocaust, as well as six annual reviews in the subsequent years, ably assisted by Gertrude Hirschler. Lewis Weiner's leadership was characterized by gentlemanly grace, dignity, a generous spirit and dry wit. He was a true heir of Tomas Masaryk's legacy and a worthy son of the Jewish people; his contributions a substantial tribute to the rich, complex and tragic story of Czechoslovak Jews. >

### **Vera P. Kistler**

March 23, 1929 – August 3, 2006

Dr. Vera Polenova Kistler, 77, of Darlington died Thursday, August, 3, 2006 at her residence following a long illness.



A memorial service was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2006 at 6 p.m. in the Trinity United Methodist Church in Darlington directed by Kistler-Hardee Funeral Home. A visitation and reception celebration of her life immediately followed in the church fellowship hall. The family received visitors and friends at 123 Edwards Avenue, Darlington until that time. A private burial will be held at a later date.

Dr. Kistler was born in Volyne, Czechoslovakia, a daughter of the late Karel and Anna Sykorova Polena. She was an accomplished author, composer and musician having received numerous awards in all venues, including Darlington's Citizen of the Year as well as The Order of the Palmetto by the Governor of South Carolina.

Vera loved her family, friends, and her Lord. She was predeceased by her husband of fifty years, Thomas Calhoun (T.C.) Kistler.

Survivors include one daughter, Yana K. (John) Mathis of Manning, SC, and one son, David Kistler (Ann Ferree) of Fairbanks, Alaska and a special niece, Harriet Perkins (Michael) of Florence, SC.



