

## *SVU Extravaganza in Florida*

“Here comes the sun... always behind rain  
Rain brings tears, the sun warms away pain  
Gone now the doubts that seemed to loom ahead  
Now bright sunshine to fill my life instead!”

The Czechs, and so do the Slovaks, have the saying “Po desti vzdý slunce svítí”, which is comparable to American gardeners, popular quote “The sun always shines after the rain”. The Floridians have, of course, modified it to their own favorite sayings, such as “Sun shines on Florida, as the rain pours on the rest” or “Sun shines and the fun never sets in Florida beaches”, etc. All these sayings are quite appropriate in characterizing our joint SVU Conference and the ASCC Festival held in North Miami on 17-20 March, 2005.

Just as a number of my friends did, such as the Czech Ambassador Martin Palous or Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kacer, Eva and I decided to combine our trip to the Conference with a brief vacation on Florida beaches. Miami is about 1100 miles from Washington, DC which, we figured, would take us cca. 18 hours by car, i.e., roughly two days, with one night stop-over in some motel on the way, if we had an early start. We left on Tuesday morning. To avoid traffic around Richmond, we left a few hours after midnight so that by the midst afternoon we made it to Brunswick, Georgia where we stayed over night. When we left Washington, the temperature was 32 degrees F. While in Georgia, it rose above 40, which was still pretty cold. After a few hours of sleep we decided to move on. The temperature, in the meantime, dropped down again and it began raining. It looked miserable and the drive was difficult, as the rain changed into a downpour. Nevertheless, we drove on and when we reached Jacksonville, Florida, the temperature began rising rapidly. Upon coming to our destination in North Miami at noon on Wednesday, it climbed to 85 degrees. The overflowing sunshine with the blue sky above was a marvelous sight and wonderful welcome.

After checking in the Windsor Inn, we drove immediately to the American Czech-Slovak Cultural Club which was only a few blocks away, to see what the place looked like and also to ascertain how the Conference preparations were proceeding. The Club was located on a four-acre lot, on a grassy meadow, adjacent to a spacious yard for outdoor activities and a large picnic area covered by ancient banyan trees. These are East-Indian fig trees of the mulberry family with branches that send out shoots which grow down to the soil and root to form secondary tree trunks. With Spanish moss hanging over the branches, the trees give a majestic and somewhat mystery, if not spooky, appearance.

SVU Website: [www.svu2000.org](http://www.svu2000.org)

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The extensive property was bordered by a small brook which apparently was used in the old days by the legendary Al Capone, the original owner of the place, for shipping whisky to other locations during the prohibition era. The Club building was apparently purchased by the Czechs, sometimes after the war, who refurbished it into the meeting place for their American Czechoslovak Social Club, with a restaurant, bar, library and sport and picnic facilities. They had their dances there, with Czech music bands, serving Czech cuisine with Czech beer. As I was informed, Alice Masarykova, the daughter of President Tomas Garrigue Masaryk, used to come to the Club occasionally, when she lived in her retirement in the area, as did such personalities as Minister Jan Masaryk or Czechoslovak Ambassador to the UN Jan Papanek.

The main Club room reminded one of a typical Czech American Sokol Hall with pictures and paintings of prominent Czechoslovak figures, such as Tomas G. Masaryk, Edvard Benes and Rastislav Stefanik, intermingled with the paintings of typical Bohemian landscapes, picturesque panoramas of Prague and castles, the Tatra mountains, the Czech and Slovak State insignia, flags and much more. You really had a warm and

When we arrived, our Florida co-organizers had obviously still plenty to do, considering that they were in the midst of paving the yard and the Club road with a fresh layer of asphalt. Only late that afternoon, they started erecting a huge tent and setting up a generator for the electricity in preparation for the Waldemar Matuska concert, scheduled for Friday night. I was a bit concerned about the timing because one of our sessions was scheduled to take place in the tent on Thursday after-noon. Robert Petrik, President of the Club was running around, instructing the Club employees to get the Club ready for the avalanche of people expected the next day. He did not shy away from doing much of the physical work himself. I also had a chance to pitch in by moving and arranging tables and chairs in the Club. The Czech Chef, with several helpers, were engaged in preparing all sorts of typical Czech dishes, such as duck with sauerkraut and dumplings, sirloin tip with dill sauce, paprika chicken, goulash soup, kolaches, etc., everything in huge quantities, expecting some 200 people. Honestly, I don't know how they managed to cook all these dishes in their relatively small kitchen. As I understand it, more people came than were expected, but everybody got served, nevertheless.

Cecilia Rokusek, professor at the Gulf Coast University at Ft. Myers, was responsible mainly for the logistics of the Conference, including the registration. She must have taken off a week from her University responsibilities to be able to handle all the chores. I am sure that she welcomed my wife's help in preparing the registration material. Mrs. Callahan from Nebraska who later sat at the Registration desk for the duration of the Conference, without taking a break, was a marvelous help throughout the Conference.

Despite of all the work that had to be done, the Floridian organizers did not seem to get excited and somehow finished everything on time so that our Conference could get started on Friday morning, as scheduled. Frankly, I was amazed by their somewhat easy-going attitude, calmness, poise and humor – characteristics, which are quite different from us who live in the eastern part of the US where everything is urgent and has to be organized to the last detail beforehand. I suppose, if we lived in the Florida environment, we could get acclimatized to the Southern way of doing things with ease.

From the point of view of the American Czech-Slovak Cultural Club, the SVU Conference brought them a new dimension, by acquainting their members, many of whom having descended from early settlers from the territory of former Czechoslovakia, with the outstanding contributions of Czechs and Slovaks worldwide, as well as bringing them new information in the area of history, literature and the arts, sciences technology, business and medicine. The SVU members, on the other hand, benefitted by being exposed to the ways Czech and Slovak Americans maintain the Czech and Slovak historic and family traditions, from generation to the next, especially the folklore, music, and the cuisine. It was a happy marriage with genuine cordiality and good spirit.

By combining the SVU efforts with those of the Florida-based American Czech-Slovak Cultural Club, we were able to put together an outstanding academic program, combined with highly enjoyable and entertaining cultural events. The general theme of our joint program was "Czech and Slovak Heritage on Both Sides of the Atlantic". This was our fifth SVU Conference devoted to the subject of Czech and Slovak Americans – a subject, obviously, close to our heart, and one of SVU priorities. The conference was co-sponsored by the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad and was held under the aegis of President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Klaus and President of the Slovak Republic Ivan Gasparovic. The academic program was organized into several major topics, including Czech and Slovak Historic Tradition, Czech and Slovak Contemporary Issues, Echoes from the Old Country, Czechs and Slovaks in the New World, and Presidential Symposium on Preserving Czech and Slovak Heritage. The latter session featured the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the U.S., H.E. Rastislav Kacer, the Czech Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. Martin Palous, and the Director of the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) of the University of Minnesota, Prof. Rudolf Vecoli. I used the occasion, in my capacity as SVU President, to announce the establishment of the new Czech and Slovak Archival Fund which is reported in more detail elsewhere.

Apart from the various sessions bearing on the general theme of the Conference, there was a special symposium and a discussion panel relating to Czech and Slovak Universities and their Cooperation with the Institutions of Higher Learning, with the participation of University Rectors and other high-level university officials from the University of West Bohemia in Plzen, University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, Technical University in Ostrava and the Catholic University in Ruzomberok. The US institutions were represented by the University of Florida and the University of Southern Illinois in Carbondale, both of which have active cooperative agreements with Czech and Slovak Universities.

The attendees had an opportunity to view two special exhibits, one on “Czechs in America”, organized by curator David Kraft and the second showing the paintings of Miami-based George Horak. The new SVU publications, which were exhibited in the Club’s library, included Jan Vicar’s Imprints: Musical Studies and Lectures from the 1990s, Rech-cigl’s Czech American Historic Sites, Monuments and Memorabilia and a two-volume set Czechoslovak American Archivalia, all published through the courtesy of Palacky University in Olomouc. Also shown was a newly issued video cassette and DVD, featuring the highlights of the 22nd SVU World Congress in Olomouc in June 2004. Other exhibited works included SVU Biographical Directory, a collection of Selected English Papers from the SVU World Congress in Plzen and the Proceedings of the Working Conference on Czech and Slovak American Archival Materials and their Preservation, held in Washington DC in November 2003.

The cultural program featured Czech country and western singers, Slovak folk dancers from Masaryktown, FL, the Europa Band from Orlando, Czech folk singers from Key West, etc. Other heritage events included ethnic food and craft demonstrations, folk art booths, ethnic food tasting, an accordion jamboree, and last but not least, the Miss Czech and Slovak Florida Pageant.

The latter was a highly enjoyable charming event, involving young ladies, mostly college students, dressed in Czech and Slovak picturesque folk costumes (“kroje”) from different parts of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia who had to demonstrate their poise and particular skills and respond to questions before a group of judges. These young ladies, each of them accompanied by a court of young charming princesses, also attired in beautiful Czech/Slovak costumes, had to demonstrate their knowledge of and love for the heritage of their ancestors. In their presentations, they were all sincere and very natural. They obviously believed in what they were saying to the point that some of the older folks had a tear in their eyes. This is certainly one of the best un-assuming ways to assure that the children will acquire the love for the roots of their ancestors.

The Matuska Concert on Friday night was a real hit. The tunes he and his wife Olga sang were familiar to most of the audience who frequently joined them in singing. Music seemed to be ever present during the duration of the Conference and the Festival. During dinners and lunches, two noted Slovak singers, Jozef and Dodo Ivaska, sang a medley of traditional Bohemian, Moravian and Slovak folk songs.

There were some 150 pre-registrants for the Conference but a number of additional attendees registered later at the registration desk. Some of the cultural events drew as many as 300-400 visitors. Even though the nearby beaches attracted a large number of our members, there was always a sizeable audience in most sessions.

We were glad to see so many people from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Apart from the two Ambassadors, the roster of attendees included DCM from the Slovak Embassy Miroslav Wlachovsky, Senator Jaroslava Moserova from Prague, Senator and the former Rector of the Technical University in Ostrava Vaclav Roubicek, Rector Josef Prusa and Past Rector Zdenek Vostracky of the University of West Bohemia, Vice Rector Vladimir Palousek and Docent Michael Bauer of the University of South Bohemia, Vice Rector Dalibor Mikulas of the Catholic University of Ruzomberok, Mayor of Ruzomberok Hon. Juraj Cech and his Deputy Pavlik. Palacky University in Olomouc was represented by historian Dr. Karel Konecny and the head of the musicology department dr. Jan Vicar. The Conference was also attended by the Director of the Czech Academy’s Institute for Contemporary History Oldrich Tuma and the historian of the Slovak Academy of Sciences Slavomir Michalek. There was also an official representation from the Cs. obec legionarska (Czechoslovak Association of Legionnaires) at the Conference, led by Col. Ing. Jan Horal, who used the occasion to award medals to selected individuals. Also in attendance was Eva Strizovska, Editor-in-Chief of *Cesky Dialog*, and her assistant. Czech media were also there, including CTK, the Radio Prague and the Czech TV, who were very busy, recording the proceedings and interviewing the participants.

For the Conference participants were reserved relatively inexpensive accommodations in close-by motels and for those who wanted to extend their stay on the beach, rooms were reserved at an ocean resort.

Overall speaking, it was a grand event. I did not find a single person who did not enjoy it. Above all, everybody had a good time and there was plenty of opportunity to rub shoulders with pretty important people from the Czech and Slovak Republics, as well as from the US. The joint SVU Conference and the ACSCC Festival clearly demonstrated that it is possible to arrange concurrently a high level academic event with cultural and social community activities, to the benefit of both. Those of you who missed this great event will regret that you were not there!

In conclusion, I would like to again express my sincere appreciation to Bob Petrik and Cecilia Rokusek who have really outdone themselves to make the event such a memorable happening. They were also very helpful to me in the preparation of the Conference program.

MILA REHCIGL, SVU President

## From the Executive Board

SVU Executive Board held its regular meeting on February 26, 2005 in SVU President's house in Rockville, MD. Practically every Board member was in attendance and there was consequently a quorum of members present. Because of personal reasons, Joseph Kohn resigned from the Board and he was replaced by the Board's vote by Prof. Cecilia Rokusek of the Florida Gulf Coast University.

After a brief discussion, the Executive board reapproved the SVU Mission Statement, as well as the proposed Action Plan, with the stipulation that several of the Board members specify in concrete terms their individual tasks and responsibilities. Of the existing SVU initiatives and committees, the most active is Lois Herman and her Women's Group which continuously supplies new information for SVU Website. The SVU Humanitarian Award's Committee, comprised of Senator Jaroslava Mo-serova, Ambassador Martin Palous and the former Ambassador Martin Butora, are to come up with a suitable candidate for the Andrew Elias Humanitarian Award. There is an urgent need to establish a new committee, comprised of young people, with the responsibility of the SVU "Accent on Youth" initiative.

SVU publication program was briefly reviewed. Mila Rechcigl reported that he concluded editing of the papers from the 2004 SVU World Congress in Olomouc and that the papers were sent to Palacky University for publishing. Selected English Papers from the 2002 SVU World Congress have been published in book form and can be purchased from SVU Treasurer for \$25 plus \$5 for handling. Since only a limited supply is available in the US, the members are encouraged to place their order fast before the supply is exhausted.

VP Vera Borkovec gave a brief report on the status on the monograph *Czech and Slovak Theatre Aboard*, she is editing and provided the final Table of Contents. The monograph is more or less ready to be sent to the printer. VP Dagmar White distributed the outline of her monograph on *Czech Opera in America*, indicating that, in contrast to Vera Borkovec, volume, which is a collection of articles written by different authors, she plans to write most of the book by her-self. She intends to focus on the performance of Czech Opera and its promotion in the US rather than on the performance of Czech Opera singers in America. The Executive Board members felt that she should, nevertheless, include a chapter or two about such singers as Jarmila Novotna and Maria Jeritza, even though they may have not performed in Czech Operas. Similarly, she ought to include such famous operetta composers as Rudolf Friml. It was also noted that Jan Vicar, Prof of Musicology at Palacky University has completed a monograph of his essays which SVU co-sponsored. The book will be available at the SVU Conference in Florida.

Executive Board was pleased about the timely distribution of the last issue of the SVU newsletter *Zpravy SVU*, although it expressed some concern about the quality control aspects, since some of the material was left out in the typesetting and/or the final printing process. The Board would like to see more personal items in the newsletter and admonishes the membership to keep sending newsworthy notices about individual SVU members, including obituaries of the deceased members.

With reference to *Kosmas*, the Board members expressed great satisfaction with the contents and the quality of the periodical, thanks to the editor Clinton Machann and the assistance provided by David Chroust. Suggestion was made, however, to make an effort to expand the number of authors who are contributing articles, especially from universities around the world and also find more interesting subjects to make the periodical appealing not only to scholars but to general readership.

Rechcigl brought the Board up to date on the status of preparation of the forthcoming SVU Conference in Florida. He was solely responsible for putting the program together and also for editing the abstracts. All the work has been completed. The local arrangements and all the logistics which is in the hands of Robert Petrik and Cecilia Rokusek is proceeding very well and is on schedule. The Board members were quite impressed that all that work has been accomplished in a matter of three months, considering that the Conference site was not even selected prior to the October Board meeting. In addition to President Klaus sponsorship, Rechcigl informed the Board that he succeeded in obtaining sponsorship from the Slovak President Gasparovic. The Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs is assisting with the transport of a special exhibit "Czechs in America", which will be shown during the Florida Conference. The Board, as a whole, has been requested to attend the conference in full force.

There was some discussion of the status of SVU Local Chapters, their activities and responsibilities. It was noted that a number of chapters have not submitted their annual reports, as prescribed by the SVU guidelines, which makes it difficult to ascertain what these Chapters are actually doing. Some of the Chapters are, of course, performing splendidly. Executive Board again expressed concern about the inactivity of some of the chapters and the need to revitalize them which falls under the responsibility of VP Vlado Simko. Rechcigl brought the attention to the Board the recent monograph, entitled *Setkani a Hovory 1997-2004*, published by the SVU Munich Chapter, based on the talks, lectures and discussions during their meetings. The Chapter is to be commended for their initiative.

The last item on the agenda was the SVU 2006 World Congress in Ceske Budejovice. After initial delay, the university representatives sub-mitted to the Executive Board further details pertaining to the logistics and local arrangements. In many respects, many of the arrangements will be comparable to those at the last congress at Palacky University in Olomouc. The University has appointed several committees. including finance, information, cultural events, and logistics. Besides the Univer-sity itself, the Congress will be also sponsored by the City of Ceske Budejovice. The principal person responsible for the Congress on the University side will be Vice Rector Prof. Vladimir Papousek and the University Congress program chair will be Docent Michael Bauer. The University submitted their ideas for various socio-cultural events, as well as for excursions to Krumlov and Hluboka.

What needs to be clarified are the hotel and the dorm accom-modations. The Executive Board found the proposed prices relatively too high and requested the University representatives to negotiate a better deal, particularly since we would be reserving a block of rooms. There were other issues raised which will need to be clarified. The Board also emphasized the need to have a sizeable representation from the Czech and Slovak Republics at the Congress – speakers as well as passive participants.

At the conclusion, the Board members agreed on the next meeting to be scheduled for May 14.

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## **New Faces on Executive Board**

### **CECILIA ROKUSEK – *Vice President***

Dr. Cecilia Rokusek has had a 28-year career in higher education. During that time she has distinguished herself as an outstanding teacher, scholar, and administrator.

Born and raised in Tabor, South Dakota, she was able to maintain her Czech heritage. Throughout high school and college, Dr. Rokusek was active in the Czech Heritage Preservation Society in Tabor. She was also active in numerous Czech theatrical productions in the area.

After completing her Master's degree at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln where she was a Regents Scholar, Dr. Rokusek started her academic career at her undergraduate alma mater, Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota. During her six-year tenure there she served as an Assistant Professor and Chair of the Dietetics Program. In 1982 she joined the faculty at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine. In 1983 she received her doctorate from the University of South Dakota in Adult and Higher Education Administration.

In 1987 she was appointed to a key administrative position in the School of Medicine where she served as the Executive Director for the Center for Developmental Disabilities and Assistant Vice President of Health Affairs. In 1993 she accepted a deanship at Governors State University in University Park, Illinois. She served as Dean of Health Professions and full professor there until 1999 when she moved to America's newest state university in Fort Myers, Florida. She is now serving as Special Assistant to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. Dr. Rokusek was recently elected national chair of the Health Division for the American Association on Mental Retardation.

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SVU president M. Rechcigl presents SVU donation to IHRC Director Rudolph Vecoli

## In Memoriam

### GLEB NIKOLAEVICH ZEKULIN (1922-2004)

We are sad to announce the death on Monday, June 14, 2004 of Gleb Zekulin, Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto. Through-out his life he retained both his solid roots in Russian culture and a no less strong affection for the Czech people and their very different cul-ture. He is survived by Lilit, his wife of 60 years, four of his five chil-dren, Nicholas and family (Calgary), Anthony and family (Brampton), Lilit Thwates and family (Melbourne, Australia), Gleba Deacon and family (Calgary) and the family of Xenia Hartley (Canberra, Australia).

He was born in Prague in 1922 into a Russian émigré family, grad-uated from the Lycée Française in that city, and spent several years of the war as a forced laborer in Germany. After the war he graduated from the Vysoka skola ochodni of Prague with a degree of Ing. Commerce (1948). After a daring escape from Czechoslovakia in January 1950, the family settled in England where he earned an M.A. in Russian from the University of Liverpool (1958), where he was simultaneously a part-time Tutor. In 1956 he was appointed Tutor at Glasgow University and then, in 1963, the family immigrated to Canada, where he had been ap-pointed Associate Professor of Russian at McGill University. In 1968 he joined the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the Uni-versity of Toronto, where he served as Associate and then Full Professor of Russian and Czech, as well as five years as the Director of the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, until his retirement in 1987.

He specialized in Russian literature of the 19th and 20th century and Czech and Slovak literature of the 20th century. He was deeply con-cerned with Czech affairs; he offered courses in Czech language and literature, and was closely involved with the '68 publishing-house in Toronto. Most of his work, however, was devoted to the Russian literature of the nineteenth century, and in particular to Pushkin, Gogol and Dostoevsky, about whom he published articles and offered courses. He was a regular contributor to conferences both in Canada and abroad, and he was an active member of the International Dostoevsky Society. He is also credited for his role in the maintenance and strengthening of Slavic studies in Canada.



### ZDENKO RAKUŠAN (1923-2005)

Zdenko Rakušan was a native of Hradec Kralove where he was born on July 19, 1923. He held a degree of "Akademicky architekt" from the Akademie výtvarnych umeni in Prague (1958). After coming to the US, he practiced architecture in Washington, DC where he lived. He spe-cialized in the design of offices, apartment buildings and residences. He was also a writer and the author of two monographs *Byt ci nebyt* (1963) and *Kniha o erbech* (1970).

In her eulogy, Dagmar White recalled his association with the Vien-na Light Opera Company. "Zdenko was always one of the lynchpins of the company, right from its beginning in 1976. He was a member of the board of directors. He was a set designer, set builder, architect, and light designer. With his wonderful talent and his theatrical know how he could produce beautiful sets on a minuscule budget. Without him the company could not have existed."

"Some of the Washingtonians may remember his marvelous sets for the productions of The Merry Widow, The Student Prince, The Gypsy Baron, Naughty Marietta, The Land of Smiles, Rose Marie, The Tales of Hoffmann, The Impresario, Die Fledermaus, Down in the Valley, and two productions of The Bartered Bride. During the second production of The Bartered Bride, he was already ill, but did the design with the help of his friend Jan Gabrini. He even made a charming maquette of the set. And we all loved the design for Amahl and the Night Visitors, which became part of the company repertoire, repeated over and over again."

He will be missed.

### Stoleté výročí narozenin FRANTIŠKA KLÁTILA (1905-1972)

U příležitosti 100. výročí narozenin Františka Klátila, vydala jeho vdova, Dr. Milada Klátilová, vkusnou pamětní publikaci, nesoucí nápis *František Klátíl (1905-1972). Česky noviář, spisovatel, bás-ník, poslanec, vydavatel, zahraniční voják, námořník.*

Citujeme z úvodu: „Uryvky z Františkových spisů jsou obrazem jeho nitra a lásky k člověku a národu. Když jiní zoufali, František zpíval hlasem naděje, a nikdy neztratil víru v návrat do osvobozené vlasti. Od dětství toužil po dobru a kráse — našel je i v té chudobě svého domova. Františkova universita byl život. Byl pyšný na

svůj dělnický původ a ctil hrdiny, co denně tkají práci. Celý život bojoval za lidská práva slovem a perem. Jeho socialismem byla Masarykova humanita: láska k bližnímu.“

Čest jeho památce!

## SVU Local Chapters

### Minnesota SVU Chapter

Major change in MN Chapter of SVU happened in April when Ivan Furda (President of MN Chapter since it started) resigned and moved to Florida. After Ivan's resignation, I was elected as new President of the MN Chapter on March 27.

Besides SVU, there are three other Czech and Slovak organizations very active in Minnesota: Sokol, Genealogical Society, and Czech and Slovak Cultural Center. SVU is trying to shape its specific contribution to the Czech and Slovak community in MN.

Because of limited personal resources, MN Chapter of SVU is (1) participating on organization of some activities of other Czech and Slovak organizations, (2) Coming with its own activities, organized with help from other organizations. Close collaboration with other Czech and Slovak organizations (in particular with Czech and Slovak Cultural Center and with Sokol) in MN is critical for providing successful activities for the Czech and Slovak community. Main task for SVU is now to get new active board members. At this time SVU is mainly trying to organize a few specific and original activities.

Main activity in 2004 was the seminar on the "Role of Beer in the Czech and Slovak Societies" with two presentations, one on the Role of Beer in the Czech and Slovak society, and economical and historical analysis of the dispute between Budvar and American Budweiser. This was one of the most successful Czech and Slovak activities in Minnesota, with over 80 participants (see attached flier).

Next activity of MN Chapter of SVU will be the Panel discussion on Czech, Slovak, and American Citizenship and Immigration Laws and Regulations scheduled for February 4. Because of this topic that is critical for many recent Czech and Slovak immigrants, we expect large response and participation from the Czech community here.

*LADIA PUST, Chapter President*



### SVU Nebraska Chapter

#### Fall 2004

We have been very busy this year. This summer our chapter sponsored a room for the Nebraska Czech Queen at Hotel Wilber during the Wilber Czech Festival. Our Czech Language Foundation began a Scholarship Partnering Program with individuals and organizations to help provide scholarships for students in the Czech language courses at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).

I am pleased to report that the SVU Nebraska Chapter took the lead and was the first to sponsor a scholarship. The recipient is Dennis Klimes, a vocal music major here at UNL. He wants to have perfect Czech pronunciation in his vocal career and our Chapter chose him to receive the scholarship because we feel he embodies one of the most important goals of our Chapter: our youth initiative. Dennis gave a Junior Recital this fall and sang several songs composed by various Czech composers. He was superb. We hope to showcase him at some upcoming SVU Nebraska Chapter events. We will share more information about the CLF Scholarship Partnering Program in future SVU Newsletters.

Our chapter received a grant from the Czech Foreign Ministry to help enrich and enhance our Czech programs at our university and in Czech community for fall 2004. Dr. Michael Klimesh from Spillville, Iowa presented his talk on the "The Spillville of Antonin Dvorak's Sojourn: An Inspiration for the American Quartet" in September.

We also hosted a dinner in his honor and had a literary discussion about "The Good Soldier Svejk," led by members Dr. Mila Saskova-Pierce and Dr. Joseph Swoboda.

Our second speaker came in October. Dr. Mojmir Povolny gave a lecture entitled "Edvard Benes: Democracy Today and Tomorrow – After 65 Years." Dr. Povolny spent four days in Lincoln and was able to meet many members of our Czech community. I also took him on a one day tour of the "Bohemian Alps of Nebraska." He wrote about his days in Czech Nebraska in a recent issue of *Americke Listy*.

On November 4, Dr. Vratislav Janda, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Czech Embassy was our invited speaker at a recognition banquet for students of the Czech Language at UNL. The topic of his talk was "15 years After the Velvet Revolution." There were nearly 100 people at this banquet and the talk was followed by a very stimulating discussion. Dr. Janda then went out with the students, including several of our current Robitschek Scholars.

Our theme for this fall was to join the World in Celebration of Antonin Dvorak's Music; thus we sponsored three events that focused on Dvorak.

Following is our Calendar of Events for Fall 2004, cosponsored with the UNL Czech Komensky Club:

- Sept. 16 – Film: “Antonin Dvorak”
- Sept. 23 – Michael Klimesh Dvorak Lecture
- Oct. 11 – Mojmir Povolny Lecture
- Oct. 12 – Film: “Dark Blue World”
- Oct. 26 – John Svagera Lectu-re: “Antonin Dvorak and his Significance for World Music”
- Nov. 4 – Dr. Vratislav Janda Lecture and Student Recognition Banquet
- Nov. 12 – Film: “Zelary”
- Nov. 15 – International Food Day at the UNL Student Union. Czech food provided by the SVU Nebraska Chapter and the Komensky Club
- Dec. 7 – SVU Nebraska, Ko-mensky Club Christmas Party

*KACENKA OSLZLA*  
*Chapter President*

### **Nebraska Chapter Officers for the 2004-05 Year**

Elections were held on late this fall and our officers remain the same for 2004-05. They are:

*President:* Kacenska Oslzla

*Vice Presidents:* Dr. Joseph Swoboda and Helen Pejsar

*Secretary:* Layne Pierce

*Treasurer:* John Fiala



### **Central Texas SVU Chapter**

Chapter President and *Kosmas* editor Clint Machann has been working steadily with Vice-President David Chroust, managing editor of *Kosmas*, in planning and publishing the journal on a regular schedule.

Also, there is important news from the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas, of which Machann is chairman. After celebrat-ing its 50th anniversary in Austin on October 20, 2004 (in a ceremony that included the participa-tion of Ambassador Martin Palous) the CEFT received substantial financial contributions that will facilitate the establishment of The CEFT Frank J. and Hermine Hurta Kostohryz Residency in Czech Music and Culture at the Univer-sity of North Texas in Denton. This important new cultural and educational program will encourage exchanges of prominent composers and performers, as well as students of music, between UNT and institutions in the Czech Republic.

Additional information about the anniversary celebration and the Residency in Czech Music project can be found at the CEFT web site <http://www.ceftx.org>.

The CEFT Hlavinka Fellow-ship, which brings Czech graduate students to study in the College of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M and teach Czech language courses open to the general public, is in its sixth year, and the current Fellow is Martina Vranova, of Masaryk Uni-versity in Brno.

Thanks to the efforts of Chroust, it is likely that two im-portant biographical and historical reference sources will be purchased by the Texas A&M University lib-rary: K.G. Saur Verlag’s “Czech and Slovakian Biographical Ar-chive” and ProQuest’s microfilm of the leading Czech daily news-paper *Narodni listy* 1861-1914. The Sterling Evans Library is steadily expanding its already substantial holdings in Czech and Slovak materials.

Finally, Vaclav Bartuska, desig-nated Director of the new Vaclav Havel Presidential Library in the Czech Republic, visited the Bush Presidential Library on the Texas A&M campus on October 15, and SVU Chapter officers had the opportunity to meet with him. Possibly there will be some sort of collaboration between the two institutions in the future.



### **Švýcarská skupina SVU**

#### **Rok 2003**

#### **Pudr a benzín V+W**

V pátek 7. února 2003 pořádá švýcarská pobočka Společnosti pro vědy a umění (SVU) spolu se spolkem Domov v posluchárně Slovanského semináře Uni Basel pro-mítání filmu režiséra Jindřicha Honzla Pudr a benzín (1931), prvního autorského filmu dvojice Voskovec+Werich.

**Výročí narozenin T.G. Masaryka (7. 3. 1850)** oslavíme letos před-náškou Doc. Dr. Evy Broklové na thema „Československá republika od jejího založení do konce 2. světové války“. Na přednášku, která se koná v pátek 7. března 2003 v posluchárně Slovanského semi-náře Uni Basel a která volně na-vazuje na přednášky prof. Kvačka a prof. Liptáka, vás srdečně zve spolek Domov a švýcarská pobočka Společnosti pro vědy a umění.

#### **Praotcové**

*přednáška Luika Frýborta*



Vážení krajané, spolek Domov a švýcarská pobočka Společnosti pro vědy a umění (SVU) vás srdečně zvou na přednášku pana Luika Frýborta, známého českého publicisty žjícího v exilu v německém Hannoveru. Přednáška se koná v pátek 4. dubna 2003 v posluchárně Slovanského semináře Uni Basel.

### **Ivan Wernisch a Petr Placák v Basileji**

V pátek, 16. května 2003 přijedou z Prahy známý básník pan Ivan Wernisch a redaktor a spolu-vydavatel kulturního časopisu *Revolver Revue* a studentských novin *Babylon* pan Petr Placák. Literární večer se bude konat v Quartier-Zentrum Bachletten. Akci pořádá švýcarská pobočka Společnosti pro vědy a umění SVU a spolek Domov.

### **Režér Juraj Jakubisko v Basileji**

V pátek, 13. června 2003 přivítáme v posluchárně Slovanského semináře Uni Basel význačného slovenského režiséra žjícího v Praze Juraje Jakubiska a jeho man-želku, herečku a filmovou podnikatelku Deanu Horváthovou.

### **Exil in Basel**

Ve čtvrtek, 18. září 2003 se ve Wildt'sches Haus Uni Basel koná vernisáž nové knihy *Exil in Basel*. Dušan Šimko nám v ní předkládá 20 interview s československými uprchlíky roku 1968 a let pozdějších z Basileje a okolí. Krajané v nich vyprávějí o svém životě v Československu, svém útěku do Švýcarska, svém soužití se zdejšími prostředím a o svém vztahu ke staré vlasti. Kniha je doplněna portréty zúčastněných od švýcarského fotografa Rolanda Schmida.

## **Rok 2004**

### **Peníze nebo život V+W**

V pátek, 23. ledna 2004 pořádá švýcarská pobočka Společnosti pro vědy a umění (SVU) spolu se spol-kem Domov v posluchárně Histo-rického semináře Uni Basel promítání filmu režiséra Jindřicha Honzla *Peníze nebo život* (1932).

### **Večer s Kristinou Vlachovou v Basileji**

V pondělí, 8. března 2004 uvítáme v Basileji v posluchárně Histo-rického semináře Uni Basel paní Kristinu Vlachovou, novinářku, režérku dokumentárních filmů a scenáristku celovečerních filmů.

### **Režér Jiří Menzel v Basileji**

V pondělí, 5. dubna 2004 přivítáme ve sklepním divadle Slovanského semináře Uni Basel, jednoho z nejvýznačnějších českých režisérů, Jiřího Menzela. Večer pořádá švýcarská pobočka Společnosti pro vědy a umění (SVU) spolu se spol-kem Domov.

### **Film o procesu s Dr. Miladou Horákovou**

V pátek, 23. dubna 2004 v posluchárně Slovanského semináře Uni Basel promítá spolek Domov a SVU dokumentární film o procesu s Dr. Miladou Horákovou (40 minut) a přibližně stejně dlouhý dokument o tzv. Pražském povstání roku 1945.

### **Přednáška Lubora Jílka v Basileji**

Přednáška na thema „Masaryk, budoucnost Evropy a národností meziválečného Československa“ se koná 30. dubna 2004 v posluchárně Slovanského semináře Uni Basel. Přednášku pořádá švýcarská pobočka Společnosti pro vědy a umění (SVU), jejíž je pan Lubor Jílek z „Centre d'archives européennes“ evropského institutu ženevské university členem.

### **Večer s Ivanem Vyskočilem v Basileji**

Ve čtvrtek, 10. června 2004 se nám naskytne vzácná příležitost strávit zajímavý večer s prof. Dr. Ivanem Vyskočilem, hercem, dramatikem, psychologem, režérem a spisovatelem. Večer pořádají švýcarská pobočka Společnosti pro vědy a umění (SVU) a spolek Domov v posluchárně Slovanského semináře Uni Basel.

### **60. výročie Slovenského národného povstania**

Pri príležitosti 60. Výročia SNP (29. 8. 1944) sa bude konať v piatok, dňa 17. Septembra 2004 o 19 hod. v Historickom seminári Univerzity Bazilej prednáška s významným slovenským historikom PhDr. Jozefom Jablonickým (SAV Bratislava).

### **Ústav pamäti národa, Bratislava**

Stretnutie s pracovníkmi ÚPN sa koná dňa 26. Októbra 2004 v Historickom seminári Univerzity Bazilej o 18:30 hod. Prednáša pán Ján Langoš, predseda správnej rady ÚPN a jeho kolegovia páni Lehký, Košický a Kalina.

**Film Hej rup!**

V pátek, 19. prosince 2004 v 19:30 hod. pořádá švýcarská skupina SVU spolu se spolkem Domov v posluchárně Slovanského semináře Uni Basel, Nadelberg 4 promítání filmu režiséra Martina Friče Hej rup! (1934).

# ATTENTION SVU MEMBERS!!!

## ***New SVU Publications Now Available for Sale***

Until recently we have had difficulties in meeting the members demand for SVU publications that have been printed in the Czech Republic, such as the *SVU Biographical Directory*, because we did not have sufficient copies available in the US due to the high cost of shipping the publications from Europe. We are pleased to inform you that we have now received a new shipment of *SVU Biographical Directory*, the long awaited *Selected English Papers from the Plzen SVU World Congress in 2002*, as well as the monographs published by Palacky University in Olomouc in 2004 and the Proceedings from our Archival Conference.

The publications in question are as follows:

1. *SVU Directory. Organization, Activities and Biographies of Members*. Compiled by Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr., Eva Rechcigl, and Jiri Eichler. Washington, DC: SVU Press, 2003. 368 p. Price: \$25.

An impressive publication comprised of some 3000 biographical entries of individual members, listing their addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails, apart from information of their education, publications and the areas of their expertise. Includes classification of members by subject and by geographical location. In many respects, it represents the "cream of the crop" of the Czech and Slovak intellectuals and other professionals interested in Czech/Slovak matters and affairs. An indispensable source of information for scholars, students and professionals interested in the thing Czech or Slovak. The SVU Directory, now in its 8th edition, has always been the SVU bestseller and it is the best business card SVU has to offer its members.

2. *Czech-American Historic Sites, Monuments, and Memorabilia*. Olomouc-Ostrava: Centrum pro ceskoslovenska studia pri Katedre historie Filozoficke fakulty Univerzity Palackeho v Olomouci, 2004. 142 p. Price: \$15. Listing of historic sites and monuments in the US that have some bearing on Czech immigrants, their life and activities in their new homeland. Based on comprehensive survey undertaken by SVU, in co-operation with the major Czech-American organizations, associated with the National Heritage Commission, as part of their effort to preserve the Czech heritage in the US. Important resource for scholars and students and community leaders.

3. *Czechoslovak Archivalia*. 2 Vols. Olomouc-Ostrava: Centrum pro ceskoslovenska studia pri Katedre historie Filozoficke fakulty Univerzity Palackeho v Olomouci, 2004. 206 p., 368 p. Total price: \$25.

Listing of US-based archival materials and library holdings relating to emigres and exiles from the territory of former Czechoslovakia and relevant holdings bearing on their ancestral land. Based on comprehensive survey undertaken by SVU in cooperation with the National Heritage Commission. The first volume encompasses US government repositories, university-based collections, collections maintained by public museums and libraries, collections of ethnic and other cultural organizations. The second volume covers personal papers and collections, including notable personalities, as well as lesser known individuals, emigrants and exiles, who have distinguished themselves in public life and professions. An indispensable resource for scholars and students.

4. *The Transformation of Czech and Slovak Societies on the Thresh-old of the New Millennium and their Role in the Global World*. Selected Papers from the 21st World Congress, University of West Bohemia, Plzen, Czech Republic, June 23-30, 2002. Edited by Jan P. Skalny and Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr. Plzen: Ales Cenek, 2004. 640 p. Price: \$25.

Includes selected English papers from the 21st SVU World Congress. As the general theme implies, the aim of the Congress proceedings was to look at the Czech and Slovak society, from various aspects, with the perspective of the future in the new Millennium. In addition to the main theme, there were other sessions relating to Czech and Slovak matters, including the Czechs and Slovaks abroad and the preservation of Czech and Slovak cultural heritage abroad. Various facets covered encompassed history, politics, law, economics, business, civil society, women's issues, religion, environment, information technology, international relations, media and journalism, etc. There was hardly a subject or discipline that was not included. A separate section is devoted to Czech and Slovak Americans on Behalf of their Homeland.

## **SVU Establishes a Special Study Fund**

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) has, for some time, been concerned about the deplorable state of Czech and Slovak related archival materials in America. Although some of these materials have been deposited in existing archives, the majority of documents are still in private hands. Their owners are frequently unaware of their historic value and, as a consequence, many of these precious materials are destroyed or lost. It is for this reason that SVU had convened in November 2003 in Washington, DC, in cooperation with the Embassies of the Czech and the Slovak Republics, respectively, a "Working Conference on Czech and Slovak American Archival Materials and their Preservation".

The Conference was a huge success. It was attended by archivists from the major archival institutions on both sides of the Atlantic, historians, as well as ethnic community leaders representing Czech and Slovak communities in the US and Canada. This was not just a "show-and-tell" type of meeting, as most conferences are, but a genuine working conference in which issues were presented, discussed and solutions sought. As a result of the Conference, the participants unanimously agreed to launch a concerted effort leading to the preservation of Czech and Slovak documents and other memorabilia for the future, irrespective of where they are. This goal, of course, is feasible and attainable only with the participation and cooperation of the entire Czech and Slovak community in the US and Canada. The mechanism for cooperation is already in place in the recently created National Heritage Commission, comprised of the major Czech ethnic organizations in America.

Several specific recommendations of the Conference have already been implemented, including the establishment of a new umbrella organization, "Czech & Slovak American Archival Consortium" (CSAAC), encompassing the major institutions that maintain such archival materials. The Consortium's official website "Czech & Slovak American Archivalia," hosted by SVU, can be accessed on the following address:

<http://www.svu2000.org/archivalia/index.htm>

Another recommendation of the Conference was to prepare a tentative Directory of Czech and Slovak related archival materials in America. Thanks to the efforts of SVU, which conducted a comprehensive survey in this regard, and which I had the pleasure to direct, and in fact, to carry out, such a Directory now exists. As was previously announced, it was published a few months ago, under the title *Czechoslovak American Archivalia*, through the courtesy of the Center for Czechoslovak Exile Studies of the Philosophical Faculty at Palacký University in Olomouc, as a two-volume set, which was available for everyone to see at the new book exhibit at the recent SVU Conference in Florida. It is a listing of US-based archival materials and library holdings relating to emigres and exiles from the territory of former Czechoslovakia and relevant holdings bearing on their ancestral land. The first volume encompasses US government repositories, university-based collections, collections maintained by public museums and libraries, collections of ethnic and other cultural organizations. The second volume covers personal papers and collections, including notable personalities, as well as lesser known individuals, emigrants and exiles, who have distinguished themselves in public life, and professions. It is an indispensable resource for scholars and students.

One of the major unresolved issues that was brought up by the above Working Archival Conference was the paucity of funds to prepare inventories of the existing archival collections and to enable scholars and students to conduct research in the archives. Having this in mind, SVU, which has recently deposited its archives at the University of Minnesota's Immigration History /Research Center (IHRC), has used the occasion of the SVU Florida Conference, to announce the establishment of a special Czech and Slovak Archival Study Fund at IHRC. In my capacity as SVU President, I had the pleasure of presenting a check, in the amount of \$10,000, to Director of the Center, Prof. Rudolph Vecoli, at the banquet, attended by some 300 persons, including the representatives from the Czech and Slovak Embassies and other dignitaries, from the Czech and Slovak Republics, as well as a number of American Czech/Slovak community leaders.

It is hoped that the SVU's example will be infectious to inspire other Czech and Slovak ethnic organizations to join in this important and noble endeavor. When the Fund will reach the level of \$25,000, the University of Minnesota will start matching these donations with their own money. Just before I stepped on the platform to announce the SVU donation, I was gratified to get commitment from Prof. Jan Hird Pokorny, on behalf of their American Fund for Czechoslovak Relief (AFCSR), to give a comparable amount to IHRC next year.

We want our members to be aware of this, in the hope that they will send in additional donations so that the Fund can grow and become an important financial resource to enable the students and scholars from CR and SR, as well as from the United States, to conduct serious research in our Archives and at IHRC. At the same time, we appeal to our members and to ethnic organizations to assure that their archival materials are deposited in IHRC or other comparable archival institutions and thus preserved for the future.

*MILA REHCIGL, SVU President*

## **ACCENT ON YOUTH**

### **Euroculture Programme at Palacký University Olomouc**

Euroculture, a one-year Master's programme, is an interdisciplinary and inter-university programme conducted jointly by nine renowned European universities.

The aim of the Euroculture programme is to provide its European as well as non-European students with a solid understanding of historical, religious, political and cultural aspects that have played and will play an essential, but often neglected, role in the European integration process. Having developed skills which facilitate collaboration in trans-national multi-disciplinary networks, the graduates can thus expect to be far better

qualified to implement their knowledge in such diverse fields as cultural management institutions, journalism, business, teaching and all layers of government.

The programme consists of two semesters, linked by a 10-day Intensive Programme (IP). Participation in the MA programme enables the student to study at two European universities. Students will begin at Palacký University for the first semester, and then, in most cases, at a partner university for the second semester, where the student writes and defends a MA thesis.

The programme is open to students who have successfully completed three years (Bachelor's degree or 180 ECTS points) of university studies.

Tuition fee: 3200 EUR (ac. year 2005/2006).

Several scholarships are available:

5) for students from developing countries or countries undergoing economic or social transformation (the scholarships will cover tuition, accommodation and basic board).

6) for Czech and Palacký University Olomouc students (the scholar-ships will partly cover tuition).

The deadline for applications is May 31th 2005.

Radmila Slabakova, PhD.

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