

# **SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, DC**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**October 2009**

[www.dcslovaks.org](http://www.dcslovaks.org)

### **SASW to Commemorate “Velvet Revolution” Anniversary with Talk and Film about the Catholic Church under Communism**

The Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C., is celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Velvet Revolution” by sponsoring a “double-header” event as part of its Speakers’ Series, focusing on the history of the Catholic Church in Slovakia. The event will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, October 17, 2009, at the Slovak Embassy, 3523 International Court, N.W., Washington, D.C. (near the Van Ness Metro stop).

**At 1:30 pm -- David Doellinger, Associate Professor of History at Western Oregon University, will speak on**

***“The Catholic Church in Slovakia: From the Underground to the Velvet Revolution, and 20 Years Later”***

Professor Doellinger will talk about the Slovak secret church before 1989, the part it played in the Velvet Revolution, and the church's role in the 20 years since the collapse of communism.

**At 3:00 pm -- there will be a showing of the film**

***“Interrupted Lives: Catholic Sisters under European Communism”***

This one-hour documentary explores the lives and experiences of Greek-Catholic and Roman-Catholic nuns in Eastern and Central Europe under communism. This documentary was filmed on location in Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, and the United States.

The program is free of charge. Note that you can come for either the talk or the film, or both. For more information contact [dcslovaks@yahoo.com](mailto:dcslovaks@yahoo.com). Please DO NOT contact the Slovak Embassy directly.

Enclosed in this mailing is the **2009 SASW Membership Directory**. We publish it to encourage interaction and communication among SASW members. It reflects our most current records as of the time of this mailing, but if you have questions, corrections, or changes, please let us know. Send an email to [dcslovaks@yahoo.com](mailto:dcslovaks@yahoo.com) or send a note to Carol Fedorchak at the address on the membership renewal form.

## *Presidents' Message*

SASW is now in the final quarter of 2009. Please join us for our speaker series on October 17, at the Slovak Embassy, for a two-part program on the Catholic Church under communism and after 1989. Professor David Doellinger will talk about the underground Catholic Church during communist times and now. Also, we will show an hour-long DVD on how Roman-Catholic and Byzantine-Rite Catholic nuns survived during communist times.

Our brief annual meeting will be held on November 21 (location TBD). We will elect three board members for a three-year term and have a talk by Dr. Branislav Lichardus, the first Slovak ambassador to the U.S. beginning in 1994. (Currently he is the rector of City University in Bratislava.) If you are interested in running for a board position, please contact Steve Matula at 703-671-3013. And, of course, we will hold our annual Svätý Mikuláš party at the Embassy on Sunday afternoon, December 6. We hope to see many of you at these final three events.

Kathryn Tatko

## *SASW News and Notes*

**SASW Picnic a Success!** – On Sunday, September 20, SASW renewed its annual tradition with a picnic on the property of Jim & Millie (Schoepe) Evans in Fairfax, VA. Upwards of 40 members and friends enjoyed PERFECT weather, special-recipe Slovak sausage, Golden Pheasant (Zlatý bazant) beer, samplings of “Double Cross” Spis vodka, and other delightful foods. Bob Rychlik entertained with a wonderful fujara and flute performance. Special thanks to Jim & Millie (& family helpers), Bob, and all those who helped organize the event.

**Members Attend Reception for Deputy PM** – On September 28, several SASW members, including some board members and “Meetup” group members, attended a reception at the Slovak Embassy for Dušan Čaplovič, a deputy prime minister of the Slovak Republic. Mr. Čaplovič is the highest ranking political representative of the SR in charge of relations with Slovaks living abroad, and he was anxious to meet Slovaks and Slovak-Americans from the area.

**Meetup Group** – The SASW-sponsored DC-area Slovak Meetup group is alive and well on the Internet. You can check it out at < <http://slovak.meetup.com/34/> >. Links to other nationality Meetup groups are available there also.

**SASW Welcomes New Cultural Attache** – In early September, the SASW Board had an introductory meeting with Ms. Terézia Šajgalíková, first secretary for culture and education, press and media, at the Slovak Embassy. Terézia has assumed cultural duties from Michal Pavuk, who will now head the Embassy’s political section. It has been a pleasure to work with Michal, and we look forward to working with Terézia.

**FOS Sponsors Art Exhibit** – The Friends of Slovakia is organizing an art exhibition at the Slovak Embassy to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. It is entitled, “Memories of Slovakia: Slovak Paintings in American Collections,” and will showcase works by established Slovak and Slovak-American artists that are currently held in private collections. The by-invitation opening is planned for November 7, but the paintings will be on exhibit through mid-January 2010. The FOS will also hold a gala dinner celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary (as well as five years in NATO) later in November.

**Slovakia: World Cup Soccer Update** – After a stunning 2-0 victory over Northern Ireland on September 9, in Belfast, Slovakia moved closer to qualifying for its first World Cup appearance since becoming an independent country. With two games remaining in Group 3 play, Slovakia can qualify with a win or draw against Slovenia on October 10, in Bratislava. The Slovak team finishes up group play with a game against Poland on October 14.

**Spring Symposium in Nebraska** – The Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will hold a symposium April 7-10, 2010, entitled “Czech and Slovak Americans: International Perspectives from the Great Plains.” The submission deadline for contributing a paper is November 1. For more information, go to < [www.unl.edu/plains](http://www.unl.edu/plains) >.

# SASW Calendar of Events

## *Mark your calendar for upcoming events!*

**Saturday, Oct. 17 1:30pm** – Program commemorating 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. A talk by David Doellinger, and a film focusing on the Roman-Catholic and Greek-Catholic nuns in Slovakia under communism.

**Saturday, Nov. 21 SPECIAL EVENT!** – Talk by former Slovak Ambassador Branislav Lichardus, rector of VSM/City University in Slovakia. He will give a detailed account of the opening of diplomatic relations between Slovakia and the U.S. following independence. His presentation will also include information about the programs at VSM/City U. and an update on current happenings at the school.

Preceding the event will be the SASW annual membership meeting, which will include the election of three board members.

The exact time and location of the meeting and talk are still being worked out; information will be forthcoming in November.

**Sunday, Dec. 6** The **SASW Svätý Mikuláš Party** at the Slovak Embassy. Details forthcoming in November.

## Other Event of Interest

**Sunday, Oct. 25 12 noon to 6 PM** – **Annual Czech and Slovak Festival**, sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association (CSHA) of Maryland. At the Baltimore 45 Association, Inc. Hall, (formerly Tall Cedars Hall), 2501 Putty Hill Avenue, Parkville, Maryland (corner of Old Harford Road and Putty Hill Avenue). Admission: \$5.00. For more information:

<[http://www.panix.com/~czslha/CSHA\\_Events/Festival/festival.php](http://www.panix.com/~czslha/CSHA_Events/Festival/festival.php)>.

**Notable Departures** – Over the summer we were informed of the passing of **Andy Kasper**, who lived in the Washington area for a period and then moved to Bratislava. He was known by a number of SASW's early members. We extend condolences to his wife Renata and son, Andy. We were also saddened to hear of the passing of **Amb. Julian Niencyk**, who was the U.S. ambassador to Czechoslovakia from 1986-89. His obituary appeared in the *Washington Post* on September 22. We also learned of the death of **Maria Gulovich Liu**, a Slovak who worked with the resistance during WWII. Her obituary appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* on October 1 and can be accessed at < <http://www.latimes.com/news/obituaries/la-me-maria-gulovich-liu1-2009oct01,0,6099632.story> >.

## Directions to the Embassy of Slovakia

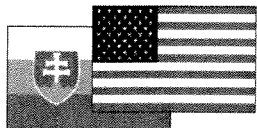
3523 International Court NW, Washington DC

**From the Beltway north of DC:** Take Wisconsin Ave. south to Van Ness St. NW. Turn left onto Van Ness and proceed east, crossing the intersections of Van Ness with 38<sup>th</sup> St., 37<sup>th</sup> St. and Reno Road. Just east of Reno Road, turn left (north) onto International Court. If you reach Connecticut Ave., you have gone too far on Van Ness. The Slovak Embassy is on the east side of the cul-de-sac at the north end of International Court, directly across from the Austrian Embassy.

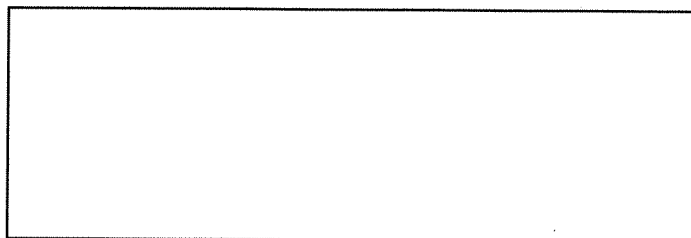
**From downtown DC:** Take Connecticut Ave. north to Van Ness St. NW. Turn left onto Van Ness, proceed west about 500 yards, and turn right onto International Court (see above, if you reach Reno Road you have gone too far).

**Parking:** Garage parking is available at the Van Ness Center on Connecticut Ave. Limited on-street parking is available on Van Ness and on 36<sup>th</sup> St.. Some street parking may be available on International Court.

**Metro:** The Van Ness-UDC Metro stop on the Red Line is just north of the intersection of Van Ness and Connecticut.



SLOVAK-AMERICAN SOCIETY  
OF WASHINGTON  
5217 ELLICOTT COURT  
CENTREVILLE, VA 20120-1727



**SLOVAK-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL/DONATION FORM**

New membership or renewal runs thru the end of 2010

Individual membership (\$15/year) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family membership (\$20/year) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional tax-deductible donation:

VSM/City U. scholarship fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SASW General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP+4** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE:** Home: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Work: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C.

**MAIL THIS FORM TO:**

**SASW--Carol Fedorchak  
3309 Dunnington Road  
Beltsville, MD 20705-3206**

\_\_\_\_ Please do NOT include my phone number in the Annual Membership Directory

\_\_\_\_ Yes! Please contact me to help out with Society events

(10/09)