

2021

October 23, 2021 – Prof. Josette Baer, University of Zurich (Switzerland), discussed her book *Seven Slovak Women. Portraits of Courage, Humanism, and Enlightenment*, introducing two of the women portrayed in her book. "Seven Slovak Women. Portraits of Courage, Humanism, and Enlightenment"

September 9, 2021 – Sarah Hinlicky Wilson shared her third/fourth-generation experience as a Slovak-American living in post-communist Slovakia for a year, as depicted in her book, *I Am a Brave Bridge: An American Girl's Hilarious and Heartbreaking Year in the Fledgling Republic of Slovakia*, and also how she came to write this book. "I Am a Brave Bridge: An American Girl's Hilarious and Heartbreaking Year in the Fledgling Republic of Slovakia"

June 10, 2021 – Robert "Bob" Glowacky, wildlife filmmaker, described his journey to the Tatra Mountains, where he filmed a short documentary about the Slovak čuvač, a breed of dog traditionally used to guard livestock. "Bringing Back Bodrik: A Traditional Solution to a Modern Problem"

May 15, 2021 – Prof. Kevin Deegan-Krause, Wayne State University, and Prof. Tim Haughton, University of Birmingham (U.K.), used a decade's worth of research to explain Slovakia's plethora of political parties and the country's rapid political changes. "The New Party Challenge in Slovakia: Understanding and Dealing with Constant Political Change"

April 17, 2021 – Dr. Kenneth Janda, Professor Emeritus, Northwestern University, discussed his book, *The Emperor and the Peasant*, which juxtaposes the experiences of Franz Josef I, Emperor of Austria-Hungary, and Samuel Mozolák, a peasant soldier who was killed in combat on the Eastern Front in World War I. "The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire"

March 6, 2021 – Prof. Edward Snajdr, CUNY, discussed the role of environmentalists in Bratislava and their role in the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia. "Zelený Nahlas: Environmentalism in Slovakia in the Revolution and After"

February 6, 2021 – Dr. Zuzana Palovič, Global Slovakia, revealed how 21st-century Slovakia is transforming, thanks to reverse migration, knowledge-transfer, and first-hand contact with the wider world. "The Great Return: How Reverse Migration Is Transforming Slovakia in the 21st Century"

January 12, 2021 – Cecilia Rokusek (president), Stefanie Kohn (curator), and Dave Muhlena (director of the library), National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML), participated in a live interactive presentation on NCSML's current and future exhibits, the library's collections and services, how NCSML survived three major disasters in the past 12 years, and how change came much earlier than anticipated. "The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in 2021"

2020

December 13, 2020 – Dr. Gabriela Bereghazyová and Dr. Zuzana Palovič, Global Slovakia, presented stories of known, unknown, peculiar, and touching Slovak and Czech Christmas customs. “Slovak and Czech Christmas Traditions”

October 31, 2020 – John Righetti described life in the Pennsylvania coal-mining communities inhabited by immigrants from Austria-Hungary at the beginning of mass immigration to the United States. “Coal Mine Culture – a World of Its Own”

October 24, 2020 – Bill Tarkulich provided a broad overview of the events that precipitated the Battle of Dukla Pass, and the battle’s impact on the future of the country’s villages and people. “The Battle of Dukla Pass”

2019

October 19, 2019 – Dr. Paul S. Valasek spoke about life on board trans-Atlantic steamships for immigrants during 1890-1950. “Immigrant Steamships 1890-1950”

October 10, 2019 – Dr. J. Luke Ryder, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, discussed the course of events that led to the Slovak National Uprising (Slovenské národné povstanie – SNP) in 1944, their significance and legacies. “The Slovak National Uprising (Slovenské národné povstanie – SNP)”

September 28, 2019 – Prof. Susan Mikula, Benedictine University, spoke about the events of 1939 and its impact on Slovakia. “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Slovakia in 1939”

May 4, 2019 – Kevin McNamara talked about Milan Štefánik’s major contributions to the independence movement that finally liberated the Czechs and Slovaks in 1918. “Six Events that Made Milan Štefánik a Founding Father of Czecho-Slovakia”

2018

November 3, 2018 – Dr. J. Luke Ryder, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, gave a talk on the communist takeover in 1948. “Prelude to February 1948: Crisis in Slovakia and the Roots of a Communist Coup D’Etat”

October 20, 2018 – Prof. Martin Votruba, University of Pittsburgh, led a discussion of the events of 1848 and their meaning for Slovak nationhood. “1848: Slovaks between Imperial Vienna and Antagonistic Budapest”

September 29, 2018 – Prof. Gregory Ference, Salisbury University, spoke about the events of 1918 and the Pittsburgh Agreement. “The American Formation of Czecho-Slovakia: the Cleveland Agreement and the Pittsburgh Pact”

June 15, 2018 – Prof. Leslie Waters, Randolph Macon College, discussed the First Vienna Arbitration in 1938, which transferred the territory of southern Slovakia to Hungary, and the effects on its population. “Borders on the Move: A Look at Southern Slovakia’s Tumultuous 20th Century”

May 4, 2018 – Ted Russell, former U.S. ambassador to Slovakia, talked about his personal experiences in Czechoslovakia and Slovakia around the time of Slovak independence, and Prof. James Krapfl, McGill University, spoke about the events leading up to Slovak independence in 1993 and their influence to the present day. “The Velvet Revolution and Divorce / Remaking Slovakia”

April 21, 2018 – Dr. Carol Leff, University of Illinois, gave a talk about the events surrounding the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia. “Czechoslovakia in 1968”

2017

October 21, 2017 – Dr. Paul Hinlicky gave a talk on “Lutheranism in Slovakia: From the Reformation to Samuel Štefan Osuský.”

June 24, 2017 – Dr. Charles Sabatos led a discussion on the classic historical novel, *Out Of This Furnace*, which tells the tale of a Slovak/Rusyn family in Braddock, PA.

April 21, 2017 – Dr. Elaine Rusinko gave a slide presentation on "Andy Warhol: The Carpatho-Rusyn King of American Pop Art."

February 23, 2017 – Dr. Kimberly Zarecor discussed her recent book, *Manufacturing a Socialist Modernity: Housing in Czechoslovakia, 1945-1960*.

2016

October 22, 2016 – Kevin McNamara discussed his recent book *Dreams of a Great Small Nation*, a history of the Czechoslovak Legion and its role in the creation of Czechoslovakia.

October 1, 2016 – Prof. Michael J. Kopanic spoke about Slovak traditional celebrations and commemorations in his talk “Celebrating and Commemorating: The Slovak Folk Calendar in the Fall.”

May 6, 2016 – Dr. Martina Hrvolová spoke on the topic “Today’s International Challenges for Slovak Lawyers.”

2015

October 31, 2015 – Prof. M. Mark Stolarik, Professor of History and holder of the Chair in Slovak History and Culture, University of Ottawa, lectured on the topic “Slovak Immigration to the U.S. and Canada: Similarities and Differences.”

September 19, 2015 – Prof. Jana Kopelentova-Rehak, University of Maryland, spoke on the topic of Slovak political prisoners during the communist era. Her talk was based on research she had done for her book *Czech Political Prisoners*.

April 25, 2015 – Robert Dvorchak, long-time journalist with the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, spoke on “Birds of Passage: Achieving the American Dream,” which dealt with Slovak immigrant history, including his own self-published family history.

2014

October 18, 2014 – Prof. Kevin Deegan-Krause, Associate Professor of Political Science, Wayne State University, spoke at the annual meeting on the topic “The 2014 Slovak Presidential Election and What’s Next for Slovakia?” He discussed the election of President Andrej Kiska and its implications for Slovakia.

September 27, 2014 – Prof. Martin Votruba, Director of the Slovak Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh, spoke on “World War I and the Slovaks.”

April 28, 2014 – Rick Zednik, author and co-founding editor of the *Slovak Spectator* (Bratislava) newspaper, delivered a talk on the topic “Slovakia in the EU Ten Years On: Promises Fulfilled?”

2013

October 26, 2013 – Dr. John Palka, grandson of Dr. Milan Hodza (prime minister of Czechoslovakia 1935-38), discussed his recent book in a talk entitled, “*My Slovakia, My Family: One Family’s Role in the Birth of a Nation.*”

June 15, 2013 – Prof. Joseph M. Samson, Ferris State University, gave a two-part talk on “Slovak Folk Architecture.” The talk covered “Traditional Homes and Villages” and “Village Worship Spaces.”

May 18, 2013 – Diana Židová, a doctoral student at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia, spoke on the topic “Slovak American Writers: Little Known or Not at All,” which dealt with little-known American writers who embraced their Slovak ancestry in various literary works.

2012

October 13, 2012 – Dr. Joan Mohr gave a lecture on her book *The Czech and Slovak Legion in Siberia, 1917-1922*, about the famous Czechoslovak Legion in World War I.

June 3, 2012 – Former U.S. Ambassador Vincent Obsitnik gave a talk, “Reflections on my Time as Ambassador to Slovakia and Slovakia Today.”

March 17, 2012 – Mark Wansa discussed his novel *The Linden and the Oak*, about two Carpatho-Rusyn families living in Slovakia in the early 20th century. The event was co-sponsored with the National Capitol Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society.

2011

November 21, 2011 – Prof. Marta Botiková, Chair, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Comenius University, Bratislava, spoke on “Slovak Family Traditions.”

October 29, 2011 – Prof. M. Mark Stolarik, Professor of History and holder of the Chair in Slovak History and Culture, University of Ottawa, discussed his latest book, *The Prague Spring and the Warsaw Pact Invasion of Czechoslovakia, 1968*, which included new material that became available after the fall of communism.

April 30, 2011 – Dr. George Meško spoke about his latest book (published in Slovak), *Communism's Twisted Paths into Christian Slovakia*.

March 22, 2011 – Dr. John Palka spoke about his book *My Slovakia, My Family*, in which he told the story of both the Slovak nation and his extended family, which includes his Slovak maternal grandfather, Milan Hodža, the Czechoslovak prime minister from 1935 to 1938.

March 12, 2011 – Lucy King, from western Pennsylvania, spoke about her book *Tales from Slovak Castles*, co-authored with Sylvia Lorinc. The book is based on Dr. Ľudovít Janota's *Slovenské Hrady* (1935).

2010

October 23, 2010 – Marcel Jesenský, doctoral candidate in history, University of Ottawa, spoke on “Between Realpolitik and Realism: The Slovak-Polish Border, 1918-47.”

September 19, 2010 – Tom Sadauskis, a genealogist, talked about how our ancestors came to America and how we can find their records. The event was co-sponsored with the National Capitol Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society.

May 22, 2010 – Ben Sorensen, a musician from North Carolina, spoke on the topic “*To je ale Muzika!* What's So Slovak About Slovak Pop Music?” He also performed some of the music on his *fujara* and *pišťalka*.

April 17, 2010 – Jadranka Važanová, from New York City, spoke on “*Svadobné nôty: Ceremonial Wedding Tunes and Slovak Traditional Culture.*”

2009

November 21, 2009 – Branislav Lichardus, former Slovak ambassador to the United States, spoke about his experiences as the first ambassador from Slovakia to the U.S., and about his current experiences as the rector at VŠM/City University.

October 17, 2009 – Prof. David Doellinger, Western Oregon University, gave a talk on “The Catholic Church in Slovakia – From the Underground Church to the Velvet Revolution, and During the Past 20 Years.” The event included a showing of the documentary film “Interrupted Lives,” about the lives of Roman Catholic and Byzantine-Rite Catholic nuns in Slovakia, Lithuania, Romania, Hungary, and Ukraine under communism.

April 25, 2009 – Owen V. Johnson, Associate Professor of Journalism, Indiana University, spoke on “The Media and the Nation in 20th-Century Slovakia,” about how Slovak mass media used a variety of ways to foster a sense of nationhood among the people of Slovakia.

March 14, 2009 – Lisa Alzo, genealogist and author, discussed her book *Baba’s Kitchen*, about the recipes and life lessons she learned from both her Slovak and Rusyn grandmothers. The National Capitol Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society co-sponsored the event.

February 21, 2009 – John A. Scherpereel, Assistant Professor of Political Science, James Madison University, spoke on how both internal and external forces have shaped Slovak democracy during the past 20 years.

2008

November 1, 2008 – Prof. T. Mills Kelly, George Mason University, spoke on the topic “1989 in Slovakia: Why Communism in Czechoslovakia Failed So Spectacularly.”

October 9, 2008 – Author Michael Genelin spoke about his book *Siren of the Waters*, a crime novel featuring the character Jana Matinova, a commander in the Slovak police force.

September 20, 2008 – Prof. Martin Votruba, Director of the Slovak Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh, gave a talk on “Crossing the Continents and the Atlantic: An Early Slovak Account,” focusing on an early Slovak immigrant’s actual journey from Europe to Wisconsin.

April 12, 2008 – Margarete Hurn discussed her book *The Foreigner’s Guide to Living in Slovakia*.

2007

October 6, 2007 – Prof. Stanislav J. Kirschbaum, York University, Toronto, one of foremost North American scholars of Slovak history and affairs, gave a lecture on “The Scope and Meaning of Contemporary Slovak Politics.”

March 17, 2007 – Jim Lukach, an author from New Jersey, gave a talk based on his collection of essays, *Lost Inside the Happy Noise*. The book deals with the author’s personal experiences as a young teacher of English in the heady days of the post-1989 era in Slovakia.

2006

October 28, 2006 – Valda Vikmanis-Keller and Carol Volk, Slovakia desk officers, U.S. Department of State, spoke at the annual meeting on the topic, “The New Slovak Government Under Robert Fico: The First 100 Days.”

June 3, 2006 – Dušan Holík, Slovak folk musician and instrument maker, demonstrated and discussed Slovak folk music on the *fujara*, *koncovka*, and various flutes. He was joined in the presentation by local musician Bob Rychlik.

May 20, 2006 – Joanne Medvecky presented and discussed her film “Legacy of Faith,” about three generations of Slovak parishioners at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, in New York City.

March 25, 2006 – John Righetti, National President, Carpatho-Rusyn Society, lectured on “Slovaks and Rusyns: Similarities and Differences.”

2005

October 29, 2005 – James Mace Ward, doctoral candidate in history, Stanford University, spoke on his dissertation topic, “No Saint: The Life and Lives of Jozef Tiso, 1887-2004.”

September 17, 2005 – Prof. Patricia Krafcik, Evergreen State College, spoke on “Jánošík as a Symbol of Freedom in Socialist Slovakia – Almost.” The lecture was followed by a showing of a 1921 silent film on Jánošík.

June 25, 2005 – Fr. Gerald J. Sabo, S.J., Associate Professor of Slavic Languages, John Carroll University, lectured on the literary topic “What was Gavlovič (1712-87) Thinking?: *Valaská škola* (1755).”

April 2, 2005 – Dr. Lucy Bednar, Assistant Professor of Technical Communication, James Madison University, spoke on the topic “Slovak Folk Tales: What They Tell Us About Slovak Character and Culture.”

2004

November 6, 2004 – Vincent Obsitnik, Member of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America’s Heritage Abroad, spoke about his work for the commission, mainly focusing on the preservation of wooden churches in eastern Slovakia.

October 9, 2004 – Prof. M. Mark Stolarik, Professor of History and holder of the Chair in Slovak History and Culture, University of Ottawa, spoke about his forthcoming book *Where is My Home? A Slovak Odyssey in the 20th Century*, focusing on the Slovak immigration experience from the late 19th century through the World War I period.

July 10, 2004 – Dr. Gregory Ference, Professor of History, Salisbury State University, spoke on the topic “Konstantin Culen: Early Chronicler of Slovaks in America.”

May 15, 2004 – Lisa Alzo, author and genealogist, spoke about her recently published non-fiction book *Three Slovak Women*.

March 6, 2004 – Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., a specialist in Slovak and Slovak-American history, spoke on the topic “From Slovakia to America: The Immigration Experience.”

2003

October 25, 2003 – Peter Kmec, Deputy Chief of Mission, Slovak Embassy, spoke on current political and cultural developments in Slovakia.

July 19, 2003 – Dr. Lil Junas, Associate Professor of Journalism, Wartburg College, and author of *My Slovakia: An American’s View*, spoke on the topic of “Slovak Lifestyle in the Past Ten Years.”

May 3, 2003 – Prof. Martin Votruba, Director of the Slovak Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh, presented a lecture on “The Slovak National Awakening in the 19th Century,” which dealt with the literary history of Slovakia. This talk officially initiated the SASW Speakers’ Series.

2002

October 19, 2002 – Darcy Zotter, Slovakia Desk Officer, U.S. Department of State, gave an update on Slovakia.

2001

November 17, 2001 – David Cooper of Columbia University spoke about his recent book *Traditional Slovak Folktales*, a translation of Slovak folktales collected by Pavol Dobšinský.

October 31, 2001 – Dr. Zora Bútorová, Sr. Researcher, Institute of Public Affairs, Bratislava, and Dr. Sharon Wolchik, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, George Washington University, spoke about the roles of women in Czechoslovakia under communism, and in the current-day Slovak and Czech Republics. The event was held in the European Division of the Library of Congress.

May 5, 2001 – Cris Dunnett, Slovakia Desk Officer, U.S. Department of State, spoke on current events in Slovakia.

2000

September 10, 2000 – Rev. Paul Hinlicky, theology professor at Roanoke College, Virginia, spoke on “Church and Society in Post-Revolutionary Slovakia.”

January 19, 2000 – Dr. Soňa Šimková, Slovak theater critic and professor at the Academy of Music and the Dramatic Arts in Bratislava, discussed the financing of Slovak theater. The event was held in the European Division of the Library of Congress.

1999

October 30, 1999 – Dr. Pavol Demeš, foreign policy advisor to Slovak President Michal Kováč, gave a talk at the annual meeting on “Slovakia: 10 Years after the Velvet Revolution.”

1998

October 25, 1998 – Tom Skladony, former SASW President, spoke on “The Slovak Elections in Context: What Next for Europe’s Youngest Democracy?”

June 1998 – Dr. Iveta Hricová, Consul, Slovak Embassy, gave a presentation on “Applying for Slovak Expatriate Status.”

April 25, 1998 – Dr. Eva Kellerová, wife of Slovak Ambassador Branislav Lichardus, gave the third in a series of lectures on “UNESCO Heritage Places in Slovakia.” There were two prior talks in this series.

1997

October 18, 1997 – Dr. Miroslav Musil, Counselor for Cultural Affairs, Slovak Embassy, presented a film and gave a talk on the life of Count Móric Beňovský, Slovak-born “King of Madagascar.”

September 6, 1997 – Tom Skladony, former SASW President and advisor to Slovak President Michal Kováč, spoke on current events in Slovakia.