

SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, DC

Report to the Membership: October 2016

This year our society has continued our efforts to help foster awareness of Slovak cultural and current affairs. The following are the highlights:

Membership

As of September 30, 2016, we had 80 total memberships (42 Individual and 36 Family)

Financial

Our financial status is stable. Our total assets at September 30, 2016 were \$12,437.62. These assets are deposited in our business checking account with Bank of America (\$6,484.754) and a CD account with Lafayette Federal Credit Union (\$5,952.87).

City University

In May, we donated \$3,750 to City University of Seattle which supported 5 partial scholarships to needy students in Slovakia. This sum was the largest amount ever donated by the SASW in a single year.

On September 6th, we held our third annual Café Night fundraiser at Bistro Bohem in Washington, DC for City University Scholarships. Orchester Praževica provided the music for the event and the highlight of the evening was a visit by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. We raised \$410 at this event.

Programs

The following are the events we have held/scheduled during the 14th year of our Speaker Series:

On May 6th, Dr. Martina Hrvolova, a recent graduate of George Washington University Law School and former Slovak Foreign Service officer, gave a talk entitled, "Today's International Challenges for Slovak Lawyers" at the Slovak Embassy.

On September 17th, SASW member Dr. George Mesko held a talk about his new book, "Confessions of a Refugee" in which tells the tale about how he and wife left their home in then-Czechoslovakia for a short-term trip in 1968 that turned into the journey of a lifetime.

On October 1st, Dr. Michael J. Kopanic gave a presentation entitled, "The Slovak Folk Calendar in the Fall," in which he discussed the traditional celebrations and commemorations of the fall season: dožinky, vinobranie, Halloween, and All Saints' Day at the Arlington County Central Library.

On October 22nd, Kevin McNamara will give talk about his recent book about the Czechoslovak Legion, "Dreams of a Great Small Nation," at the Slovak Embassy.

Membership Initiatives

Over the past year, the SASW has embarked on several initiatives to boost our presence on the Internet to attract new members.

We are currently revamping our website www.dcslovaks.org to enhance its functionality and increase the quantity and variety of content that is available to SASW members and visitors. When completed, the new website will have the capacity to play videos and to accept online payments for memberships, events and donations.

We have created public pages in social media sites such as Twitter (<https://twitter.com/DCSlovaks>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/dcslovaks/>) to raise our public profile and generate interest in Slovak topics. If members are active on these social media outlets, please follow these pages and share them with your friends and colleagues.

The SASW has continued to support a social group on the Meetup website (<http://www.meetup.com/dcslovaks/>) to attract younger members and more recent Slovak émigrés.

Other Activities

On March 12th, we held a cooking demonstration at the home of SASW member Eva Jenkins where we showed the attendees how to make traditional Slovak Easter foods such as Paska and hrudka cheese.

On June 11th, we held our annual picnic at the former home of founding member Mille Schoepe-Evans in Fairfax, VA. A special thanks to A.J. Costigan, Phyllis Locklear and Ryan Willt for allowing us to hold the picnic at Millie's house one final time.

On December 4th, our annual Svätý Mikuláš party will be held at the Slovak Embassy. Orchester Praževica will provide the musical entertainment.

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