

SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, DC

Report to the Membership: October 2017

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, 2017, we had 85 total memberships (42 Individual and 43 Family), an increase from the total of 78 memberships (42 Individual and 36 Family) in September 2016.

Financial

Our financial status is stable. Our total assets at September 30, 2017 were \$13,898.83. These assets are deposited in our business checking account with Bank of America (\$7,916.09) and a CD account with Lafayette Federal Credit Union (\$5,982.74).

City University

In May, we donated \$5,250 to City University of Seattle which supported seven partial scholarships to needy students in Slovakia. This sum was the largest amount ever donated by the SASW in a single year, topping our previous high of five scholarships in 2016.

On November 5th, we will hold our 4th annual Café Night fundraiser at Bistro Bohem in Washington, DC for City University Scholarships. Orchester Praževica will provide the music for the event.

Programs

The following are the events we have held/scheduled during the 15th year of our Speakers' Series:

On February 23rd, Dr. Kimberly Zarecor gave a talk about her recent book, *Manufacturing a Socialist Modernity: Housing in Czechoslovakia, 1945-1960* at the Czech Embassy.

On April 24th, the SASW co-hosted with the Carpatho-Rusyn Society at the Slovak Embassy a slide presentation titled, "Andy Warhol: The Carpatho-Rusyn King of American Pop Art," by Dr. Elaine Rusinko. This event attracted one of the largest audiences for a Speakers' Series event.

On June 24th, Dr. Charles Sabatos lead a discussion of Slovak themes in Thomas Bell's 1941 novel, *Out of This Furnace*, the best-known depiction of Slovak immigrants in American literature, at the Arlington County Central Library.

On October 21st, Dr. Paul Hinlicky will give a talk at the Slovak Embassy about the history of Lutheranism in Slovakia and focus on prominent Slovak Lutheran intellectual Samuel Štefan Osusky, who was imprisoned during the Nazi occupation and sent into internal exile during the communist era.

For 2018, we are lining up speakers for an interesting series of talks about prominent years in Slovak history that end with "8" – 1918 (the founding of Czechoslovakia), 1948 (the Communist takeover), 1968 (Prague Spring) and 1988 (Velvet Revolution).

Membership Initiatives

Over the past year, the SASW has continued with several initiatives to improve our outreach to attract new members.

We have revamped our website www.dcslovaks.org and we are working to increase the quantity and variety of content that is available to SASW members and visitors.

We are actively maintaining public pages on 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. Please follow these pages and share them with your friends and colleagues to boost the society's internet presence.

In 2018, the SASW will be examining additional ways to be more fully engaged with our current membership and improve our marketing efforts towards potential members.

Social and Cultural Activities

On May 7th, a pirohy making demonstration was held at the home of SASW member Ludo Hintos.

On June 11th, our annual picnic was held at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria, VA.

On December 3rd, our annual Svätý Mikuláš party will be held at the Slovak Embassy. Orchester Praževica will provide the musical entertainment.

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.

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