

SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, DC

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

www.dcslovaks.org

<https://www.facebook.com/dcslovaks/>

Next SASW Speakers' Event!

Book Discussion: *Out of This Furnace*
with Dr. Charles Sabatos

June 24, 2:00pm
Arlington Central Library*
2nd-floor Meeting Room
1015 N Quincy St.
Arlington, VA

Dr. Charles Sabatos will lead a discussion of Slovak themes in Thomas Bell's classic Slovak-American novel, *Out of This Furnace*.

Thomas Bell's 1941 novel *Out of This Furnace* is the best-known depiction of Slovak immigrants in American literature. It was translated from English into Slovak in 1949 as *Dva svety* (Two worlds). The novel has bridged the gap between Slovak and American culture in three different ways: Bell's use of Slovak dialect, the Slovak translation, and two adaptations from the 1970s (an American play and a film for Slovak television). Bell's novel illuminates the complex relationship between ethnic American writers and their lands of origin, particularly focusing on the literary use of the Slovak language.

Dr. Charles Sabatos is Associate Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey. His main research interests are Central and Eastern European (as well as American) literary history. He has received various grants for research in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, most recently as a visiting scholar at the Institute for World Literature, of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. His article on Thomas Bell won the Slovak Studies Association Award for 2016.

*Arlington Central Library is near the Virginia Square Metro Station. Free garage parking is available.

The SASW Picnic is set for June 11, 2017, at Fort Hunt Park,
in Alexandria VA.
See flyer inside for details.

President's Message

As we draw near to summer, I wanted to update you on several SASW initiatives.

Fundraising: As you may recall from last year's Sv. Mikuláš party, an anonymous donor offered to match contributions to the City University Scholarship Fund up to \$1,500. I am proud to report that the match was fully made thanks to your generous support. We currently have over \$7,000 to fund scholarships this year at City University in Slovakia – the highest amount ever in a single year! We plan to hold another scholarship fundraiser at Bistro Bohem in Washington, DC, in the early fall. Details should be finalized in the coming weeks. **Also, please send in your 2017 membership dues if you have not already done so!**

Social Media: Over the last few months, SASW has been working hard to expand our presence on the Internet and on different social media platforms. I would encourage you to visit our revamped website www.dcslovaks.org, and to let us know what you think. We are working to develop more content for the website so it truly can become a resource for our members and the greater Slovak community. SASW now also has a presence on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/dcslovaks/> and Twitter <https://twitter.com/DCSlovaks>. Please be sure to "Like" our Facebook page or "Follow" our Twitter account, and share them with your friends.

Amazon Smile: Last December, SASW enrolled in the Amazon Smile charitable donation program. Under this program, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the charitable organizations selected by our customers. When you do your shopping on Amazon, please use this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1906440> to support SASW. Donations will only be credited to SASW on purchases made through this link. Please share this link with your family and friends.

Brian Belensky

SASW News and Notes

Recent SASW Events – SASW has started off 2017 with two well-attended and informative events.

On April 21, Dr. Elaine Rusinko, a professor of Russian at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), and Andy Warhol scholar, presented a wide-ranging and fascinating talk about pop artist Andy Warhol and his Rusyn heritage. Enhanced by an extensive slide presentation, Dr. Rusinko established Warhol's Rusyn ethnicity despite popular media referring to him as of Czech origin. The event was held at the Slovak Embassy and was co-sponsored with the Carpatho-Rusyn Society, National Capital Chapter.

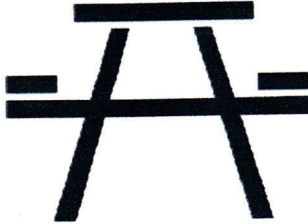
On February 23, Professor Kimberly Zarecor of Iowa State University delivered a talk on her recent book, *Manufacturing a Socialist Modernity: Housing in Czechoslovakia, 1945-1960*. Her book is the first comprehensive history of architectural practice and the emergence of prefabricated housing in the Eastern Bloc. It opens a rare window into the cultural and economic life of Eastern Europe during the early postwar period. The event was held at, and in cooperation with, the Czech Embassy.

New Board Member – Recently, Virginia Sorkin was chosen to join the SASW Board of Directors to complete the term of Ludo Hintos, who had resigned. Virginia most recently worked in information technology at the Library of Congress. She also managed the National Digital Library Visitors Center there. We're glad to have her aboard. Also, with Ludo's departure, Marcel Lorincz agreed to serve as SASW Vice-President.

Mark Your Calendars – Looking ahead, the SASW annual membership meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, October 21**, with Dr. Paul Hinlicky of Roanoke College, who will discuss (continued pg.3)

SASW PICNIC

SUNDAY 12:00 - 5:00 PM JUNE 11TH



FORT HUNT PARK, AREA C-002
8999 FORT HUNT RD, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22308

DIRECTIONS: FROM ALEXANDRIA TAKE THE GW MEMORIAL PARKWAY FOR ABOUT 12 MILES. TURN RIGHT ONTO FORT HUNT PARK AND CONTINUE TO THE PARK.

SAUSAGES, HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, SALADS, DESSERTS,
DRAFT BEER & SOFT DRINKS



GAMES FOR ADULTS AND KIDS

CONSIDER BRINGING A DESSERT OR SIDE DISH/SALAD TO SHARE

MEMBERS:

SINGLE: \$10

COUPLE/FAMILY: \$15

NON-MEMBERS:

SINGLE: \$15

COUPLE/FAMILY: \$20

PREPAID RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

SEND YOUR CHECK TO:

SASW
P.O. BOX 2502
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22152-2502

OR

PAY THROUGH PAYPAL:

PAYPALME/DCSLOVAKS

RSVP DEADLINE: JUNE 5TH (12:00 PM)

PLEASE CONTACT RSVP@DCSLOVAKS.ORG IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

News and Notes (*continued*)

"Lutheranism in Slovakia: From the Reformation to Samuel Stefan Osusky." Also, the popular SASW Svätý Mikuláš party is scheduled for **Sunday, December 3.**

European Union Month of Culture Events – Each year, the month of May brings to the Washington area the celebration of the European Month of Culture. All 28 EU countries host events, with the flagship event being the **EU Open House on Saturday, May 13**, when each of the embassies welcomes the public and provides a taste of their unique culture. At the Slovak Embassy you can enjoy traditional music and dance performances, taste Slovak drinks and typical Slovak food, learn about the traditional musical instrument the *fujara*, enjoy Slovak culture and art, win a special prize in a knowledge quiz about Slovakia, and meet the Ambassador.

As part of the month's celebration, on **Thursday, May 18**, there will be an opening of the photography exhibit, *Like a Drop of Ink in a Glass of Milk – Slovak Photographer of the Year 2016, Dusan Kochol*. For information about these events, check out, <http://events.euintheus.org/events/categories/european-month-of-culture>.

Slovak Wines Now Available in the DC area! – Wine from Slovakia is now available in the DC area, and for shipment to other states. The selection of wines is produced near the village of Limbach, with a long history of Slovak wine-making, close to Bratislava (Okres Pezinok). The wines are offered under the LIMBA brand and are available at **Potomac Wine and Spirits, 3100 M St., NW, Washington, DC (in Georgetown)**. You can also order by calling 1-800-333-2829; they can be shipped to most states. To order online go to www.potomacwines.com, then click on 'Country' (left side) and scroll down to 'Slovakia'. These wines were recently featured at a wine-tasting event in Pittsburgh and got a favorable reception.

Slovakia Tours – Each summer there are a number of tours to Slovakia, where you can experience the country and its culture, and possibly visit (or search for) Slovak relatives. Usually this information can be found in the *Jednota* newspaper published by the First Catholic Slovak Union, or on their website at www.fcsu.org. Click on the 'Community' tab and enter 'Tours of Slovakia' in the search box. Among the tours available are:

July 7-16 – Treasure Tour with Helene Cincebeaux: contact Helene at helenezx@aol.com or call (585) 342-9383.

July 29-August 11 – 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia and its Neighbors: contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or call (412) 956-6000.

September 8-17 – Slovakia Heritage Tour: Contact Judith Northrup Bennett at slovakiaheritage.com or call (978) 544-5144.

CGSI Genealogy Conference – The 16th annual Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) Genealogical/Cultural Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, this year, from **Tuesday, October 17 thru Saturday, October 21**, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Pittsburgh International Airport. This excellent conference includes presentations, cultural programs, neighborhood tours, and networking sessions. Contact: PaulMCzech@comcast.net or mail, CGSI, P.O. Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 55116-0225.

Jednota Mass – Local branch 856 of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) plans to hold its yearly Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on **September 17, 2017**, at 11am, in the Crypt Church. For more information, contact Marion Mistrik at (301) 654-5638 or Steve Matula at (703) 671-3013.

Early 2017 Sees the Passing of Noted Slovak Americans

Earlier this year saw the passing of two major Slovak-American figures, astronaut **Eugene Cernan** and social philosopher **Michael Novak**. Both were nationally and internationally known and recognized for their accomplishments.

Eugene Cernan was a Navy test pilot who went on to become a NASA astronaut and achieved enduring fame as the last person to walk on the moon, as part of the Apollo 17 mission in December 1972. He began his career as an astronaut in 1963 after obtaining an electrical engineering degree from Purdue University in 1956, and a master's degree in aeronautical engineering in 1963, from the Naval Postgraduate School. He participated in a Gemini space program mission, during which he performed space walks and became the youngest American in space at the age of 32. He then participated in the Apollo 10 mission, which did the preparatory work for the Apollo 11 mission that landed Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the moon in 1969. After several other Apollo missions landed astronauts on the moon, Cernan was on Apollo 17, which was the last to do so in 1972. After retiring from the Navy and NASA in 1976, Cernan continued his career in the private sector and continued to promote the value of continuing space exploration.

Cernan was born in Chicago, on March 14, 1934, the son of Rose (Cihlar) and Andrew Cernan. His father was of Slovak descent and his mother was of Czech descent. Cernan also served on the Board of Advisors of Friends of Slovakia and the American Friends of the Czech Republic. He passed away on January 16, at the age of 82.

Michael Novak was a Roman Catholic social philosopher who became particularly recognized for developing the intellectual argument that on moral and ethical grounds, free-market capitalism represented a superior social system. His arguments emerged in the 1980s as Western democracies battled the Communist powers, and saw validation as the Soviet Union collapsed at the end of that decade. He passed away in Washington at the age of 83.

Novak, a former Catholic seminarian, began his career as an important thinker on the political left. He opposed the Vietnam War and touted reforms in the Catholic Church. However, as his thinking evolved, he came to question many of the positions of the left and turned his writings to exploring the moral argument for the capitalist system in comparison with socialism. In 1982, he wrote a highly successful book, *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism*, where he argued for the moral superiority of capitalism as a social system based on liberty, individual worth, and Judeo-Christian principles. He developed his ideas further in several other works, and gained recognition among free-market devotees and conservative politicians, such as Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, as well as among eastern European figures such as Lech Walesa in Poland and Václav Havel in Czechoslovakia. Over his lifetime, his writings ranged over a variety of topics, and in 1994, he was awarded the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, which is a highly prestigious award in the field of theology.

Michael Novak was born September 9, 1933, in Johnstown, PA, the grandson of Slovak immigrants. He grew up in Indiana, PA, and McKeesport, PA. He attended Notre Dame University and received bachelor's degrees from Stonehill College in Massachusetts and Gregorian University in Rome. Novak also attended Catholic University in Washington, DC, for a period of time. He went on to receive a master's degree from Harvard, and then held several academic positions. Mr. Novak was always proud of his Slovak-American heritage and was well known to the Washington-area community, as he spent the latter part of his career as a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. He even gave a talk to the Slovak American Society of Washington in its early years, and, in 2000, delivered the inaugural Annual Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington.

SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D. C. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION / DONATION FORM

New membership or 2017 renewal runs through 12/31/2017.

Individual membership (\$25/year) \$ _____

Family membership (\$35/year) \$ _____

Tax-deductible donation (optional):

City University Scholarship Fund \$ _____

SASW General Fund \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Mail your check (made out to the Slovak American Society of Washington, DC) and this form to:

**SASW Membership
P.O. Box 2502
Springfield, VA 22152-2502**

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ ZIP+4 _____

TELEPHONE Home: (____) - _____ Work: (____) - _____

E-MAIL _____

Please Circle Your Selections:

Contact me to help out with SASW events: Yes No

Send my copy of the Newsletter via (select one): USPS Mail Email

The Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.
Contributions and membership dues are tax-deductible.

2017 Board of Directors:

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Ray Luca
Rich Palaschak
Virginia Sorkin

**Website: www.dcslovaks.org
Email: dcsllovaks@yahoo.com**



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