

Conference: Bohemian and Czech Jews in America

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, DC, and American University's Jewish Studies Program and Department of History present the international conference "Bohemian and Czech Jews in America" on April 14, 2010, 10 am–3:30 pm. The aim of the gathering is to appraise the history of the Jewish community of Bohemian and Czech origin in the United States, as well as to acknowledge the achievements of this vibrant yet not well-known community and examine its proper place in American society, culture, science, and politics. **The conference will be opened by H. E. Jan Fischer, the Czech Prime Minister. The schedule is below.**

Please R.S.V.P. by April 9 to czech_events@yahoo.com or 202/274–9105. A limited number of seats are available. Location of the event: Embassy of the Czech Republic, 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

In addition to the conference, the Embassy will have on view Czech photographer Karel Cudlín's exhibition: *Rebirth of Jewish Life in Bohemia and Moravia after 1989*. Twenty-nine black and white pictures offer an intimate look inside Jewish life and culture. Award-winning photographer Karel Cudlín has captured key moments that have shaped the course of history such as the Velvet Revolution, Czechoslovakia before 1990, and the Presidency of Václav Havel. His work has been featured in over 60 cities in both the U.S. and Europe as well as in numerous private collections. He has been awarded 16 Czech Press Photo prizes since 1996.



***Photo by Karel Cudlín | Ritual first haircut (upsherenish), Prague, 2000, gelatin silver print, 10.6 by 14.7 in.**

Caption: In the Jerusalem Talmud, there is the prohibition against the consumption of fruit from new trees for a period of the first three years. In similar fashion, Jewish boys do not have their hair cut until their third birthday, at which time the family holds a celebration that is called by the Yiddish word upsherenish (lit. haircut) and the boy's hair is cut for the first time. It is considered a great honor for family members and friends each to get a snip.



The Embassy of the
CZECH REPUBLIC



COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, D.C.

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present the international conference**

“BOHEMIAN AND CZECH JEWS IN AMERICA”

The Embassy of the Czech Republic, Washington, DC

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

APRIL 14, 2010

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| 9:30–10 AM | Registration |
| 10 AM | Welcome by H.E. Petr Kolář , Ambassador of the Czech Republic |
| 10:10 AM | Opening remarks by H.E. Jan Fischer , the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic |
| 10:30–11:00 AM | Mila Rechcigl (former President of The Society for the Arts and Sciences): <i>“Bohemian and Czech Jews in American History”</i> |
| 11 AM–12:30 PM | 1st Panel and Q&A. Moderated by Jenna Weissman Joselit (Smith Professor of Judaic Studies and Professor of History, The George Washington University) Petr Brod , journalist and author, Prague: <i>“Jewish Czechs and Germans into American Jews: Changing Identities of Immigrants from the Bohemian Lands in the 20th Century”</i> Wilma Iggers , Canisius College, Buffalo: <i>“Hans Kohn: Citizen of Many Worlds”</i> |
| 12:30 –13:45 PM | Buffet lunch at the Embassy |
| 2 –3:30 PM | 2nd Panel and Q&A. Moderated by Pamela Nadell (Inaugural Patrick Clendenen Professor of History and Director, Jewish Studies Program, American University) Mark Talisman , President of Project Judaica: <i>“Infusion of Jewishness and History and Politics from Prague to the U.S. and Back: Czech Jewish Life in the Communist Era”</i> Helen Epstein , author and journalist: <i>“An Ethnography of the Post-War Czech-Jewish Community of New York City”</i> Peter Demetz , Yale University: <i>“From a Different Perspective”</i> |
| 3:30 PM | Closing of the Conference |

