



Embassy of the Czech Republic
in Tel Aviv

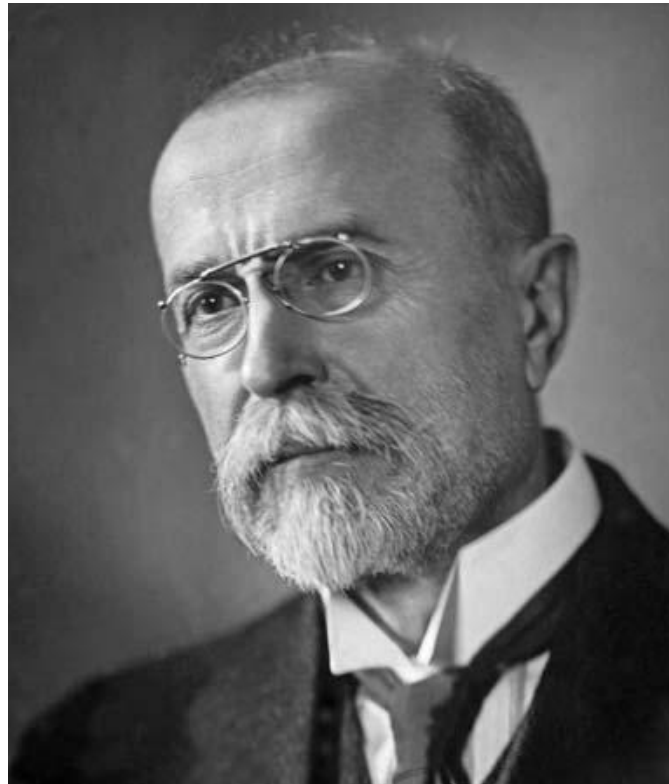


CZECH CENTRE
ČESKÉ CENTRUM

INVITATION

President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk An Intellectual on the Throne, A Man of Our Times

lecture and discussion with Dr. Petr Janyška, Czech Diplomat and Journalist



EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Thursday November 2, 2017 at 18:00

Zeitlin Street 23, Tel Aviv

Entrance free

President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk

Lecture on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of Masaryk's visit in Palestine

In 1918, almost hundred years ago, Thomas Garrigue Masaryk became the first President of the newly established Czechoslovakia. An unusual personality, a unique life. Born in a poor family, acceding to the position of professor of sociology at the Vienna and later at the Prague university, deputy to the Austrian parliament, he had been engaged through all his life in political and social struggles. His aim: the „Truth“.

When the First World War starts, in 1914, he has the age enabling him to retire. Instead, he takes the way to emigration abroad and during four years is extremely active in favour of establishing an independent state of the Czech nation. When he succeeds and becomes the head of this state for almost twenty years, an immense task is in front of him: to lay down the Czechoslovak identity. Sensible to social condition of the labour classes, he promotes women in their emancipation, corresponds with leading intellectuals of Europe.

When the Nazis take power in Germany, he opens the frontiers to many Jewish and democratic refugees.



Dr. Petr Janyška, Czech journalist and diplomat



Petr Janyška graduated in linguistics at the Prague Charles University. He then worked as a translator and had also published in the Samizdat press. During the events of 1989, he joined the Civic Forum movement that initiated the political change. He had then contributed significantly to establishment of the first independent media, as a co-founder of the weekly Respekt, deputy Editor-in-chief of the daily Lidové noviny or author of the first TV talk-show Respektování. Since 1995 he had joined the new Czech diplomacy, as Ambassador to France and later as Ambassador to UNESCO or director of the Czech Cultural Centre in Warsaw. He has been lecturing at the Charles University in Prague, is an author of hundreds of articles. He was decorated by two main French awards. Interested in politics and modern history, he is also an author of a preface to a book of

interviews with T. G. Masaryk written in the 1930's.

In his lecture he will propose an analysis of what made T. G. Masaryk unique in the then Europe and whether there may be some links between him and the President Vaclav Havel seventy years later.