



LA GRANGE, TEXAS

# NÁŠ ČESKÝ ŽIVOT

“OUR CZECH LIFE”

(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)

WINTER

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 3

TCHCC'S HERITAGE FEST AND MUZYKY, MUZYKY took place on October 16 & 17 with various activities, outdoor displays and booths. The event ended with dancing on the new amphitheater dance floor and a musical recreation of the Joe Patek Orchestra's music.

The CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AND GALA closed out the year of 2015 on December 5 with music in the Koliba Lobby provided by the Taylor Czech Chorus, a pastry booth manned by Doris Koliba and Barbara Brauner was set up next to the new Christmas Tree that was donated by Richard and Molly Cernosek, gift shop visitors, genealogy research in the library and displays and demonstrations were held in the museum and in the Czech Village. In the evening, the Fifth Annual Gala recognized the Leo Majek, Sr., Orchestra and Alfred Vrazel for his 2014 International Polka Music Association Pioneer Award. Music was provided by the Czechaholics.



*Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture and heritage of Texans of Czech ethnicity.*

**Náš Český Život**  
**"Our Czech Life"**

**TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER**

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La Grange, Texas 78945-0006  
(979) 968-9399 Toll Free (888) 785-4500  
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Newsletter Policy: The purpose of Náš Český Život is to disseminate news of the development and activities of the center, as well as to publish material on the history, culture, and accomplishments of Texas Czechs. Náš Český Život does not involve itself in matters of a political nature.

Newsletter Address: All articles, photographs, advertising and correspondence should be directed to Retta Chandler or Janis Hrncir, co-editors, P. O. Box 6, La Grange, Texas 78945 (979) 968-9399.

Articles: Anyone may submit articles, which will be accepted for inclusion as space permits and subject to review and editing as necessary. All articles must be typewritten. The publication is not responsible for the return of unsolicited material not submitted with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Ads: Contact the co-editors regarding advertising. Advertising Rates: We will accept limited advertising-only standard business card size (3 1/2" X 2") - \$20.00 per issue; Send camera-ready business cards to co-editors.

**The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, Inc. does not endorse or guarantee the products or services that are advertised in this publication.**

**OUR MISSION**

The MISSION of the TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. is to provide a central facility for the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture and heritage of individuals of Czech ethnicity who can trace their ancestry to the Czechs who immigrated from the present day Czech Republic or former Austria-Hungary (including Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Silesia), to honor those immigrants, and to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary and educational purposes.

**The GOALS of the TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. are:**

To educate the public about the past and present contributions and status of persons of Czech descent

To encourage the study and preservation of the Czech language, fine arts, music and dance

To provide for the preservation and exhibition of artifacts that are historically significant to the Czech people of Texas

To provide a library and archives for the collection and preservation of books, newspapers, periodicals, family histories, research material, photographs and all printed data of historical significance to the Czech people of Texas

To provide adequate space for gatherings, meetings and educational activities for the benefit of the Czech people of Texas

To encourage and promote a cultural exchange program between the Czech people of Texas and the citizens of the Czech Republic

To provide the public with updated information regarding Czech-related activities and historical sites in Texas, the United States and abroad.

You are invited to continue receiving the newsletter Náš Český Život and an annual calendar by sending in your ANNUAL SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP. This journal will only be sent to members. Support your Center — **JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY.**

**2017 TCHCC CALENDAR**

**The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center  
(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)  
is approaching 20 years of age!**

**To celebrate this milestone and to THANK all of our members we wish to honor them by filling the 2017 calendar with pictures of their families. It is the best way we can think of to thank those who have supported us throughout these years monetarily, through attendance at our events, and by volunteering.**

**The picture can be from any decade up to the present. Perhaps you had a family portrait made, or took a COLOR picture during the holidays when all of the family was home. Please submit them as a photo that cannot be returned by mail to**

**TCHCC, P. O. Box 6, LaGrange, Tx 78945**

**OR**

**email tiffs or jpgs to Janis@hrncir.com**

**Deadline: July 1, 2016.**

## *A Letter from TCHCC President Retta Slavik Chandler*

As we review the events and programs that were held at TCHCC and the additions to the Czech Village in the past year of 2015, it is a small wonder that the year flew by so quickly. In this edition of *Nás Český Život*, we have included as many pictures as we had available to share with you most of our events. In addition to these, we are very pleased to say that the number of people who use our library for genealogical research is steadily increasing and so are the groups who come for the day to tour our Texas Czech Center and Texas Czech Village. We are especially delighted to host tours for school children.

We are extremely grateful to Donna Zapalač Mueller, Stephanie Mueller, the Zapalač Family, the Dickson-Allen Foundation, Mark Hermes, South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters Club and all the volunteers for their contributions to restore the Zapalač DeLoach No 1 Saw Mill. This was a major two-year project that required intensive engineering to get all of the parts moving again after being idle for many years. Thank you to all.

Additionally, we want to thank the Richard G. Cernosek Family for providing the funding to build a large building for us to store our equipment and to have a place to work on projects for the Center.

Another addition to the village that addressed a safety issue was the small bridge that provides access to the Texas Czech Village. Thank you to the Texas Women's League for the funding to build this bridge.

We want to thank our generous sponsors of the Heritage Festival and Muziky, 2015 for helping to make this a very successful event.

We also want to thank Gene Oeding, President of Balcones Minerals Corporation and Muldoon Minerals, Inc. for underwriting the 2015 TCHCC Gala that was a huge success. Thank you to them and to ALL of our sponsors.

This coming year of 2017 will be the twentieth anniversary for TCHCC since it was incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. To thank all of you for your contributions, we will dedicate the 2017 Calendar to our members and fill our calendar with family pictures. Submit your picture by July 1. More information is included on the first page of this newsletter.

Below is a brief review of the highlights of the last nineteen years leading up to our twentieth year in 2017.

### **It All Began...**

**December 5, 1995:** Texans of Czech Ancestry (TOCA) agreed to spearhead a project to develop a central place to preserve artifacts relating to Texas Czech Immigrants. Officers were elected for the year 1996-1997. Voting Directors from Czech-founded organizations were named.

**1996-1997:** Committees were formed and the organization met each month to develop a mission statement and to decide on the scope of the project. Following fund-raising efforts and the selection of a site for the Center, applications were submitted to form a new organization that would become a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The proposal submitted by the City of LaGrange that included acreage and space for a main building and other structures was accepted.

**1997:** Officers and directors of Texans of Czech Ancestry became interim directors of the newly-founded non-profit organization named Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center. TCHCC contracted with the LaGrange Chamber of Commerce for office space in LaGrange to start fund-raising for the project. The City of LaGrange funded Phase I which was a Walking Trail that included ten stations on the property.

**1998:** A Walking Trail Groundbreaking Ceremony was held. Governor George Bush, State Comptroller, John Sharp, State Senator Kenneth Armbrister, State Representative Robby Cook, Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka and LaGrange Mayor Dave Noak were on hand for the joyous celebration. The Fayette Czech Singers entertained the crowd. A reception was held in the Fair Pavilion for all present. LCRA offered a matching grant for an amphitheater to be built along the lower Colorado River. The grant was matched by Sanford Schmid. SPJST Lodge 118 hosted a fund-raiser with all proceeds dedicated to TCHCC. RVOS pledges \$25,000.00 for development of the Center.

**1999-2000:** Special fund-raising events were held in Austin and Ennis. Many Czech organizations, individual lodges and societies make donations. The Jonathan and Peggy Kalich family donate the historic family home to the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center. Kana Brothers move the home to the site. Robert Slovak and his Crew from Ennis spent the summer restoring the home to its original state. Volunteers cleaned and painted the home while plans for the amphitheater continue.

**2001:** Grand Opening of the Kalich House was held on October 21. San Antonio Czechs sponsored their first annual Gala for TCHCC.

**2002:** First Annual Spring Celebration (Slavnost/May Fest)

**2003:** Second Annual Spring Celebration -and the beginning of the Tribute to Immigrants.

**2004:** Third Annual Spring Celebration- and First Annual Muziky, Muziky Celebration in the Amphitheater.

**2005:** Czech Heritage Day, June 5, 2005, Fifteen Czech Organizations of the Dallas, Ft. Worth, and Ennis area, chaired by Laddie Gajdica & Bob Liska, raised funds for TCHCC at the Dallas Czech Club. William and Betty Melnar pledge \$200,000.00 to the Building Fund for the Library area.

**2007:** TCHCC received the Gratias Agit Award from Czech Foreign Ministry.

**2009:** New TCHCC Building was dedicated.

**2010-2015:** Czech Village continues to expand with additional restored and some new buildings. Annual events continue. Tours and individual visitors are greeted by docents six days a week.

The Seventh Annual Hovezi Reunion was held in LaGrange at the City Library on Saturday, August 23, 2015. The reunion brings together people that have ancestors and family that immigrated to Texas and America from the village of Hovezi, Vsetin District, Czech Republic.

Submitted by Ted Kaspar



It was started seven years ago by T. J. Slansky and Ted Kaspar due to meeting many people that came from Hovezi as they attended many Czech functions. “We wanted to find as many of these people that we could and organizing a village reunion seemed to be a good format. We did not anticipate having it as an annual event but as the word got out, more people signed up for the reunion” said Ted Kaspar.

The programs vary. They include sharing family lineage, research, family stories and programs on anything that might apply to Hovezi and the neighboring villages such as Huslinky. “On the average, 35 plus attends. We have 90 people on the registration list that settled in Texas as well as three families that immigrated to other parts of the US” said Ted Kaspar. A highlight is the greetings and best wishes sent by the Mayor of Hovezi, Antonin Konarek to those in attendance.

NEXT YEAR’S REUNION WILL BE HELD AT TCHCC ON AUGUST 8, 2016.

Contact Ted Kaspar for information at [tokbrz@brazoriainet.com](mailto:tokbrz@brazoriainet.com)

# HERITAGE FEST 2015



The Dujka Brothers provided the Friday Night Entertainment on the Deck. Top right: Mark Dujka, Garrett Neubauer and Mason Nesvada entertained the crowd that enjoyed dancing and sitting under the trees enjoying the music. Below left, members of the Migl family were in attendance while Mildred and Bill Bohlmann along with Mildred's sister Wendy Klesel Hrcir sang the night away (bottom left).





**MUSIC by  
the Shiner  
Hobo Band**

**TAROKY**

**FUN FOR  
ALL**



*Heritage Fest Pictures courtesy of Gary McKee*



# HERITAGE FEST 2015

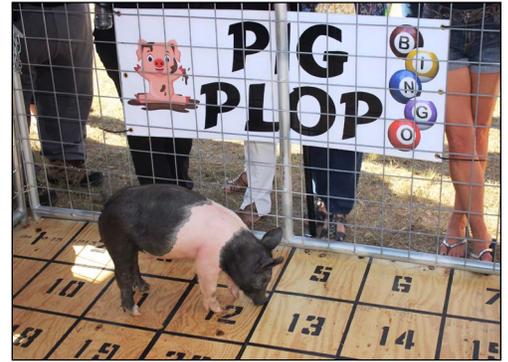
The Enzian Baum Band entertained in the afternoon. Left to Right : Jason Keepers, Bill Holt and Robert Herridge.



Top Right: Evelyn Buckhorn demonstrated noodle-making.  
 Left Center: Winners of the kolače eating contest proudly display their medals.  
 Right Center: Two dairy calves courtesy of Kainer Dairy, Weimar, provided entertainment for the young and old alike. Pictured is Cathleen Noska, who made sure that the calves had plenty of water at the Janak Barn.  
 Bottom right: University of Texas' Slavic Department Students attended with their teacher - Christian Hilchey and enjoyed the festivities, especially the kolače eating contest sponsored by SPJST.



# HERITAGE FEST 2015



The day included a children's train ride sponsored by KJT, demonstrator Karen Musgrove (spinning and weaving) pictured in the museum, Maggie's Fabric Patch owners Earnest and Maggie Grmela with Polka King and Queen Michael and Deborah Svatek Logue of the National Polka Festival in Ennis, Texas (pictured in the Koli-ba Foyer) including outside vendors Terry Brooks and Patsy Robertson. The day also included events such as a pig plop contest, music, food and demonstrations including corn grinding and shelling demonstrated by South Texas Wheel Spinners and Crank Twisters Club Members Kevin Prause and Clayton Muehr (below left) and Richard and Patrick Hoffman (below right).



## HERITAGE FEST 2015

Top left: TCHCC Music Consultant George Koudelka and Polka Legend Alfred Vrazel were on hand to help with the Muziky performance at the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater held during the evening. The Legends Series featured the Joe Patek Orchestra, Part II. George Koudelka joined the band members. Alfred Vrazel emceed.

Top Right: Mary Ann Kana, Liz Kallus and Verlene Kuntschik volunteered as ticket sellers. Center: Band members included Daniel Malek, Joe Zetka, Jr., Paul Darilek, John Dujka, George Koudelka, Johnnie Voldan, Lawrence Wagner and Mike Marek. The music was arranged by Donnie Wavra (who was not able to attend).

Bottom left: Mark and Wyatt Hermes and Rita Janak take a spin around the grounds.





**In October, the Zapalač Saw Mill was completed and is now being used for exhibits.**

Top left: Saw mill donor Donna Zapalač Mueller, Hostyn Pastor Reverend Dan Kahlich and TCHCC President Retta Slavik Chandler (L-R) dedicated and blessed the saw mill. Center left: A 1918 Avery 18-36 did the honors of operating the mill for the dedication at the Heritage Fest.

Below Right: Morgan Chappell (left) of El Campo and James Gerdes (right) of Edna, along with members of the South Texas Wheel Spinners and Crank Twisters Antique Farm Equipment Club operated the saw mill for the first time. Chappell and Gerdes put in many hours getting the saw mill in operating condition.

Right: The University of Houston Moores School Concert Chorale, directed by Dr. Betsy Cook Weber, were featured by The Arts of Rural Texas and performed in the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater on a cool September evening. The event was free to the public, thanks to Mr. Schmid.

Below: The Texas Women's League provided the funding for a walking bridge that was much needed in helping visitors walk safely between the main building and the Czech Village. Schnell Hauling of La Grange donated the final setting of the bridge.



A Windmill was installed on the grounds between the Migl House and Salas House. The windmill was donated by Wick Well Service and installed by Mark Hermes, Johnnie Polasek and J. G. Hrcir along with help from the City of La Grange.

**THE ORPHAN TRAIN CONFERENCE** was held at TCHCC on October 31. Over seventy people attended in spite of the flooding conditions. Alison Moore and Linda Fulmer, the organizers of the conference, were very pleased to receive feedback from relatives of orphan train riders and have made many contacts for the future. Alison Moore and the National Orphan Train Complex sponsored the event along with a grant provided by Humanities Texas.

Presentations by Alison Moore and Linda Fulmer were presented and several orphan train descendants shared their stories. There was an open sharing session and interviews and video taping provided by Pearly Gates.

Alison and Linda want to send out a “Thank you to Janis, Mark and all the staff, volunteers and cooks for making our Orphan Train Event so successful. It was worth the drive just for the delicious food! We appreciate the warm welcome and all the hard work to prepare for our time in your beautiful Center. It was a day to remember.”

Top left: Phillip Lancaster and Alison Moore sang a touching song which was part of the opening slide show. Top right: Alison Moore, Retta Chandler, Linda Fulmer and Pearly Gates. Below left: the attendants at the conference included descendants of John J. Dunn/Janda family. In the foreground are Abigail, Bethany and Jonathan Dunn. Below Right: Family members of John J. Dunn/Janda were present and shared memories of their ancestor. Through the conference they were able to meet others who personally knew their ancestor, John Dunn. John’s story was published in the previous newsletter. Standing left to right: Rod Hall, John Dunn, Harold McCollum, Denise Dunn Hall, Bethany Dunn, Linda Dunn Fulmer, Mark Dunn. Seated: Barham Fulmer, Phyllis Dunn, Nancy Dunn McCollum, Susan Mccollum DeBose.

**For information about the Orphan Train Complex or if you have information to provide about an orphan you knew, please contact Alison Moore at [orphantrain99@yahoo.com](mailto:orphantrain99@yahoo.com).**



**December 5, 2015**

**TCHCC'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AND GALA** were held on the grounds. The Open House began in the main building with musical entertainment by the Taylor Czech Choir. The Gift Shop was teaming with visitors wishing to make Christmas purchases and visitors enjoyed the museum exhibit of the early Czech communities in Fayette County. Genealogy research was conducted in the Melnar Library with assistance of volunteers Sue Valenta Camarillo, Arnold Pechal and T. J. Slansky. Outside, on the grounds of the Czech Village, visitors toured the homes that were decorated in Christmas finery. Some of the volunteers included: Carolyn and Bob Heinsohn, Carol Kitchen, Georgia Vyvial, Georgia Funderburk, Robert Svrcek and Mary Vasek.

**WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO CAME OUT TO HELP.**



Top left: Chicken noodle soup and sandwiches were served by Bob Svrcek, Georgia Vyvial and Mary Vasek. In the evening, the Annual Gala took place in the Fair Pavilion. This year's honorees were the Leo Majek Orchestra, who have been performing for over 115 years, and Alfred Vrazel. Alfred was recognized for winning the Pioneer Award given annually by the International Polka Association.

Center: Members of the Leo Majek Orchestra. Below left: Msgr. Joe Hybner and Donna Vanek. Below right: Members of the Alfred Vrazel family--photo courtesy of Patsy Polasek.





Top Left: Betty Danner & Cathleen Noska. Top Right: William & Anna Marie Moncrief Family. Center left to right: Honorary Czech Consul General Emeritus Ray & Clarice Snokhous; Dorothy Holub and daughter Shirley; Pat & Charles Kriska. Below Left to Right: Alfred & Bernice Vrazel; Jerry & Martha Majek; Julius & Jeanie Dubcak.



Bottom left: Jean and Waymond Davis, Cheryl and Mayo Walker and Janis and J.G. Hrcncir  
 Bottom Right: Johnnie and Lorenda Polasek, Carolyn and Bob Heinsohn, Msgr. Joseph Hybner

## **Czech Weddings of Yesteryear**

by Carolyn Heinsohn

The weddings for couples today have drastically changed from those of our ancestors, and with each generation, the traditions of the past are increasingly forgotten or eliminated. Very few contemporary bridal couples incorporate the wedding traditions of days gone by into their ceremonies or celebrations because of modern conveniences, technology, marketing, the media, and most of all, the blending of ethnicities which dilutes traditions. The wedding march is the only “constant” that still seems to prevail if one or both of the bridal couple has Czech ancestry.

Weddings for Texas Czechs in the 19th and early 20th centuries were generally held in late October or November when harvesting was done, and the weather was still fairly decent. Usually they were held on a Monday or Tuesday. Wednesdays were acceptable only if the other two days were already taken by someone else in the community. No invitations were sent out; instead, two or three groomsmen did the inviting in person. They rode by horseback from house to house, firing a pistol to announce their arrival. After being invited into the house, one of the groomsmen made a speech inviting the family to the wedding. They were then often treated to a drink of schnapps, homemade wine or beer before leaving. Sometimes it took them several days to get around to all of the invited guests, who lived miles apart. Of course, the extra added time that it took to visit and share libations affected their endeavors.

No matter the size of the wedding, it was always held at the home of the bride’s parents. Lumber was borrowed from a lumberyard in a nearby town to build a dance platform with benches all around the perimeter. Since meals were usually served outside, tables had to be built with benches, as well as a framework for canvas tarps to provide shade or protection from rain and unexpected cold weather. After the wedding, everything had to be dismantled and hauled back to town. Lumberyards apparently had a used lumber section for wedding purposes.

Noodles were made a few weeks ahead of time for chicken noodle soup. A calf for beef stew meat and a hog for sausage would be butchered. Fryers for fried chicken were killed and cleaned the day before the wedding, since there was no refrigeration. Also, kolaches, apple strudels, a wedding cake and other food had to be prepared the day before, so a large number of helpers were required.

On the day of the wedding before leaving to get married, the bride would kneel before her parents thanking them for the care and love given to her. The parents would then give their final blessing, making the sign of the cross over her head. The wedding service generally took place at 8 a.m. at the local church if the couple had a church wedding.

All of the guests would then travel back to the bride’s home for the all-day celebration, which began with a wedding breakfast of kolaches, strudel, bacon and eggs. The bridesmaids pinned sprigs of cedar tied with colored ribbon onto each guest’s clothing. In the Old Country, rosemary, which is the symbol of fertility and good luck, was used. However, rosemary was not readily available here, so cedar was substituted.

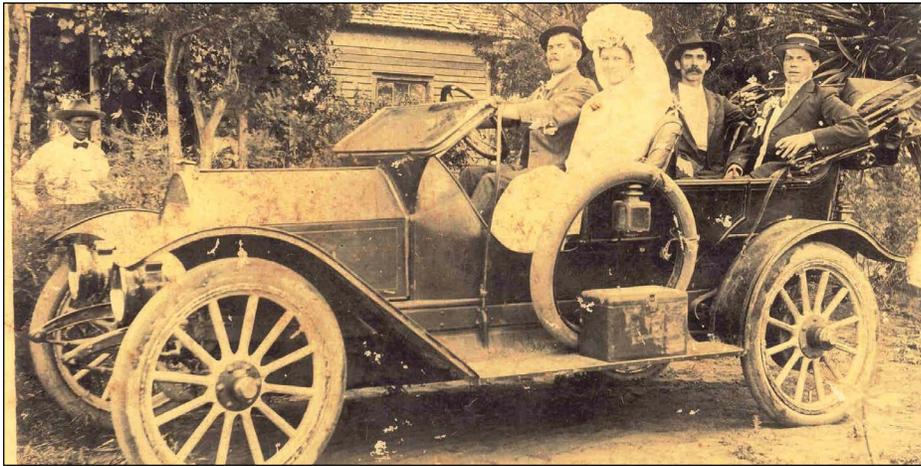
A band played from noon until the wee hours of the next morning. The musicians were treated to as much food and drink as they wanted, so one can imagine the musical acumen after long hours of playing. Of course, no one really cared, because everyone was having a wonderful time.

Very late at night, the unveiling ceremony took place. The bridal couple would generally sit on chairs in the middle of the dance floor, where the bride's veil was removed by her parents and replaced with a bonnet. Sometimes, she was also given a doll to hold and an apron to wear. An old hat was placed on the groom's head, and sometimes he was given a pipe to hold. The saga of how the bride and groom had to now leave their parents and be ready for the duties of a wife and mother and husband and father were expressed in a traditional song sung in Czech by the wedding guests.

In the early days, a farmer's son was usually expected to continue farming. The couple had to begin looking for a rent house months before their wedding. If a farmer had done well, he might have been able to purchase land for his sons, if he had any. That land was then given to the couple when they married; however, this was not very common. The boy usually received a pair of horses and a plow from home for his start. The girl received the most essential furniture – a bed, a dresser, a wardrobe or armoire, a kitchen table with chairs, a kitchen safe and a cook stove, if she was one of the fortunate ones. From then on, they were on their own. Occasionally, the families would give the couple a cow and a few hens. If the girl had saved money from chopping or picking cotton for others, she might have enough to buy a rocker, a sewing machine or a trunk for her new home.

There were no bridal showers or honeymoons, and the gifts from guests were small. The bridal couples of yesterday could not have ever imagined the expenses incurred for many present-day weddings, gifts and honeymoons. How things have changed through the years – all except the basic vows!

*Joseph Hlubik and Frances Lanca, daughter of Tom and Teresa Matula Lanca, early settlers of Moravia, Texas, were married at St. John, Fayette County, Texas on July 24, 1910. Witnesses in the rear of the car were Frank Wenglar and Johann Rauluah. TCHCC Collection.*



TCHCC'S CZECH CLASSES  
will be changing dates and instructor

Classes will be held on the Second Saturdays of  
the month beginning at 1 PM

TCHCC has invited Alice Adam to teach our Conversational Czech Classes on the second Saturdays of each month. This is a change from the Sunday schedule we have had in the past.

Ms. Adam is a Houston lawyer by profession and a native-born Czech from Prague who immigrated to the US in 1968.

Pictured left to right: Clarice Snokhous, Alice Adam, Retta Chandler and Colleen Root.



**The Third Grade Class of Sacred Heart Catholic School** of Hallettsville, Texas spent the day participating in our “School Tour Program”. Teacher Shanna Grahmann Clark and thirteen students (along with a few parents) were treated to an educational program provided by Carolyn Heinsohn, Cathleen Noska and Janis Hrcncir. They enjoyed a chicken noodle soup and chicken salad sandwich lunch and were given a tour of the Czech Village by Carolyn Heinsohn and Mark Hermes.

*TCHCC provides School Tours to any school wishing to explore the Czech heritage and traditions.*



## CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS

(August - December, 2015)

### PLATINUM BENEFACTOR

Ben and Doris Koliba (Koliba Chapel)

### FOUNDER

Richard G. & Molly Cernosek

### SPECIAL FRIEND

Joseph J. & Lucy Lamer

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Florian Frnka Family

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Dennis and Janice Marek

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Behal Family

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(Two Bricks) *In Memory of RVOS #22*

RVOS Lodge #22, New Taiton, Texas

*Richard Lesikar, Phyllis Lesikar*

Richard & Phyllis Lesikar

*Kilroy and Elvis Were Here December 2015*

Richard Lesikar

## SPECIAL HONOR

*In Honor of Ardie Holsinger*

from Mannie Fritsch-Schmid

*In Honor of Johnnie & Lorenda Polasek*

on their Birthdays from Georgia Vyvial

### HERITAGE FEST 2015 SPONSORS

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South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters Club

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## **GRANTS**

Bill and Julie Bishop/Grant from  
Community Foundation of  
Louisville for 2016 Heritage Fest  
Humanities Texas Grant for  
Orphan Train Gathering  
Dickson-Allen Foundation Grant  
for Zapalač Saw Mill Project  
City of La Grange Tourism Grant  
for the 2015 Heritage Fest

## **MELNAR LIBRARY FUND**

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of Edna Janak  
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Theodore J. & Myrna Slansky

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William & Anna Marie Moncrief  
Bradley Loehr  
Johnnie Joe & Lorenda Polasek  
Dorothy Rohan Holub  
Charles & Retta Chandler  
Kenneth & Cathleen Noska  
J. G. & Janis Hrnecir  
Waymond & Jean Blaha Davis  
Hon. Czech Con. Gen. Emeritus  
Ray J. Snokhous  
Doris M. Mills

### **ENDOWMENT FUND**

CHS-Ft. Bend Co.  
Fr. Stephen Nesrsta  
Paul L. and Lillie Mae Burnside

## **MUSEUM EXHIBIT DONATION**

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Paul L. & Lillie Mae Burnside  
Robert & Diane Podhrasky  
Allen W. Bartosh

## **SAN ANTONIO GALA**

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Lambert, Anthony & Stephen Bily  
CHS-Bexar County Chapter  
Charles and Retta Chandler  
Richard G and Molly Cernosek  
J & C. B. Gajdos  
Ron and Carolyn Hrnecir  
Barbara Hruby  
Mary Ann Kocurek  
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Jeffrey and Hattie Poole  
Sanford & Mannie Schmid  
Hon. Czech Consul General Emeri-  
tus Raymond & Clarice Snokhous  
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Irene Szwarc  
Michael Szwarc  
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Kathy Smith  
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Rev. J. A. Wagner/Casa de Padres  
Rev. Msg. Emil Wesselsky  
T. A. Wilson  
Bishop John W. Yanta  
Ladik A. Zezula

## **FLAG SPONSORSHIP**

Anonymous

## **BELFRY FUND DONATIONS:**

*In Memory of Anna M. Baker*  
CHS-Ft. Bend Co.  
*In Memory of David Migl*  
CHS-Victoria Co.

## MEMORIALS

### *In Memory of Geraldine Hlozek*

Jeannie M. Angeli

### *In Memory of Edna Kubos Janak*

Edith Molberg

Patricia A. Parma

### *In Memory of Claudia Matcek*

Gilbert & Vlasta Vitek

### *In Memory of Mary Ann Kainer*

Hattie Drozd

### *In Memory of Frank J. Mikula*

Henry & Jane Zimmerman

### *In Memory of David Kocurek*

Vikijane S. Bear

### *In Memory of Henrietta Zavodny Slavik*

Edith Molberg

### *In Memory of Thomas Stavinoha*

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### *In Memory of Betty Urbanovsky*

Helen E. Mikus

### *In Memory of Terry Vyvial*

Oscar Anderson

Nathan & Pat Brown

Georgia Vyvial

### *In Memory of Elmont Vyvial*

Donna Merkle

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP 2016

Gladys R. Almaguer

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Dorothy Rohan Holub

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Dennis Janecek

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Aileen Shefcik Janik

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Dennis Kalich

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Margaret M. Kallus

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Frank Svrcek

Irene Szwarc

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Georgia Vyvial  
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Robert Wilson  
Craig & Karen Wright  
Diane Pospisil Wright  
Vlasta Zuhlke

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Alice Adam  
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William and Marilyn Baca  
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A. J. & Jennifer Batla  
Harry & Jeanne Behal  
Dick W. & Joy E. Bily  
Gary & Melda H. Boyd  
Paul L. and Lillie Mae Burnside  
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Harvey Kalich  
Phillip & Debra Konarik

Jim and Marilyn Kothmann  
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Andrew & Pamela Kutac  
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Robert & Diane Podhrasky  
Johnnie Joe & Lorenda Polasek  
Herman and Georgia Popp  
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Diane Pospisil Wright  
Dominic & Jolene Pospisil  
Norman & Betty Jean Prasatik  
Ron & Kay Pruett  
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Daniel & Jeanette Pustka  
Joe & Elizabeth Ripple  
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William H. Schovajsa  
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B.W. & Sandra Sisa  
Theodore J. & Myrna Slansky  
Albert & Margaret Smaistrila  
Billy & Marcella Teague

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Rita J. Vanek Family  
Eugene & Henrietta Veselka  
Gilbert & Vlasta Vitek  
Ted & Sarah Vitek  
Alfred & Bernice Vrazel  
Paul & Dottie Watthuber  
Walter & Lucy Walicek  
Craig & Karen Wright  
Ann Zahn gift from  
Shirley Michka  
Norman & Theresa Zetka  
Jeanette & Ervan Zouzalik

#### **BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP 2016**

McDaniel & Co.  
KJZT Society #43  
Granger Villa, Inc.  
Weikel's Store and Bakery

#### **LIBRARY/MUSEUM DONATIONS**

**Ray Bacak:** Czech books  
**Mr. and Mrs. Ron Ballard:** 11  
polka albums  
**Delores Baca Batla:** album of Ray  
Baca 1970  
**Tom & Betty Barta Cannon Barta:**  
religious picture, framed wedding  
picture  
**Georgia Brand:** 150+ books from  
the Collection of Czech author  
Vlasta Javoricka  
**Dayne Cabiness:** Bible, prayer  
book, Czech dictionary  
**Ervin J. Cernoch:** Tarok Card Plate  
with Stand made in CZ  
**Janette Hruska Couch:** parents'  
books/pictures/memorabilia  
**Margaret Denning:** Translated  
Czech correspondence 1920-1968  
of Verna Repka Stavinoha family  
**Elizabeth Klimov Dowling:** Kyjov  
kroj and various pieces of fabric  
**Mickey Hagens:** Otilie Schwartz  
framed certificate/2 book shelves  
**Rebecca L. Hegar:** Modern Czech  
Print, 5 books

**Jerry Janecka:** books **Lawrence & Bernice Kallus** (Estate of Robert Kallus): canning jar holder, strainer  
**Donna Kaspar:** posters of Prague  
**Doris Sykora Koliba:** linens, wall mount matchbox holder, crystal rosary, 3 framed bobbin lace picture, 1 picture of Prague  
**Marilyn Kallus Kothman:** hand made model of a sailing ship, books, kroje books, pillows sewn by Bernice Kallus  
**Angelina Genzer Kretzschmar:** Chest of drawers and photo of R. Sebasta  
 Pat Kriska: two complete kroje  
**Rita Koziel:** wedding picture and 6 original immigration/birth documents  
**Frankie Kubicek:** Czech books  
**Joe and Lucy Lamer:** Polka albums, Czech Symposium 1978 program, passenger receipt  
**Iva Lilie:** photos  
**Michael J. Mc Clure:** Stained glass window of Mary Parma Kebrle  
**Charlotte McElroy:** 1890 Children's Czech book, doily, toaster cover given in memory of Angeline Kajs Simek  
 Gary Mc Kee: 78 record album  
**Darrell Matula:** Cast iron vice  
**Henry Naizer:** Personal journals and family history  
**Elizabeth Neuvar:** Family history, letters from ancestors in Ticha  
**Pat Parma:** *Mnisi*, author Robert Janak, donated in memory of his mother, Edna Janak  
**Arnold Pechal:** *Emigrants to Texas from Zlin 1850-1918* book of Dr. Simicek  
**Sr. Rebecca Pirkl:** books  
**Jonathan Ratcliff:** family history  
**Laddie & Doris Ripple:** ceramic bowl made in CZ donated in memory of Rosalie Mary Pavel Ripple  
**Eileen Rosipal:** books on Frenstat, 1 book on Prague

**Fred & Theresa Ross:** 2 bibles, souvenir from Willow Springs School  
**Lydia Sablatura:** Photos, notes, documents, KJT ribbons, rosary  
**Donald Sands:** Tesla Poem Radio made in Prague  
**Donna Sears:** Hovezi book  
**Richard Simunek:** book, Lone Star School (autographed)  
**Vladimir Smejkal:** Kobyli kroj  
**Olena Stavena:** Family histories - six on Janica & Lubojasky family, one on Matias Volcik family  
**Irene Swarzc:** 10 Czech books  
**Richard Sykora:** Czech glasses, rosa vase, frames and books  
**Erwin Sladek, Jr.** in honor of **E.A.&Frances Sladek:** tools for making sausage, hog scalding vat, ironing boards, beehive smoker, knives, etc. from Kruez Meat Market in La Grange and Sladek Farm.  
**Marsha Turner & Franklin Ferguson:** Kroje, Czech dolls, books given in memory of Lucille J. Hlavinka Ferguson, East Bernard, Texas. She was "a proud Texan who never forgot where she came from".  
**Amy Vacula:** Bible, Czech map, Sokol songbook  
**Loretta Valenta** (Janda family): WWII knife, scabbard, photo of Richard Janda  
**Ron & Susan Wallace:** US Flag, American Legion Post 102, in memory of Ray Hrbacek

**THANK YOU**  
**RICHARD AND MOLLY**  
**CERNOSEK**  
**FOR DONATING THE**  
**NEW CHRISTMAS TREE**  
**THAT FILLED**  
**THE KOLIBA LOBBY.**



***Brasher-Gunn of La Grange recently donated \$1000 to TCHCC to sponsor the Biergarten (Pivo-var) Tent at the Heritage Fest and Muziky on October 16-17. Mark Hermes, TCHCC Manager/Fest Chairman accepting the donation from Seth Gunn.***

***TCHCC would like to thank all our sponsors.***

## CHANGE OF DATE NOTICE

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Marak has changed the day they celebrate their parish picnic. They now hold their picnic on the second Sunday of September. This year, that will be  
**September 11, 2016.**

**TCHCC Memorials can be made to your deceased loved ones or to honor a family member that is still active in promoting Czech culture and tradition.**

**IMMIGRANTS' WALL**

A stone wall with engravings on plaques that include the name(s) of the immigrant(s), village of origin and date that he/she/they arrived in the United States. Plaques are available for \$2500. Contact us for details.

**ENTRY PAVING STONES**

A 12" x 12" pink granite stone will be engraved with your choice of wording up to 40 letters. These stones are in the entryway of the Czech Center and are available for \$1,000. Contact us for details.

**ROSE GARDEN MEMORIAL**

For \$250 a brick will be placed along the Rose Garden path that lines the entry sidewalk to the Czech Center. The brick will be inscribed with your choice of wording. Contact us for details.

**MEMORIAL BRICK PAVERS**

A brick paver will be engraved with your choice of wording for \$100. The bricks will be placed in the sidewalk leading from the flagpoles to the steps that enter the Czech Center. Contact us for details.

**BELL & BELFRY**

For donations of \$50 or more, inscriptions are placed on the memorial sign. For donations under \$50, a record of donation is made on a parchment list.

**AMPHITHEATER SUPPORTERS**

A designated amphitheater seat will be reserved with your name plate. Participant can reserve this seat whenever there is an event at the Amphitheater by calling ahead. Seats range: \$1,000, \$750 and \$500.

**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE CENTER.**

**Donation amounts are recognized by levels:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Endowment Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintenance and Operations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- \$200,000    \_\_\_\_\_ Five Star
- 100,000     \_\_\_\_\_ Platinum Benefactor
- 50,000      \_\_\_\_\_ Gold Benefactor
- 25,000      \_\_\_\_\_ Silver Benefactor
- 10,000      \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze Benefactor
- 5,000        \_\_\_\_\_ Benefactor
- 2,500        \_\_\_\_\_ President's Circle
- 2,000        \_\_\_\_\_ Pioneer
- 1,500        \_\_\_\_\_ Heritage Friend
- 1,000        \_\_\_\_\_ Founder
- 750          \_\_\_\_\_ Steward
- 500          \_\_\_\_\_ Patron
- 250          \_\_\_\_\_ Donor
- 150          \_\_\_\_\_ Special Friend
- 100          \_\_\_\_\_ Friend

**Membership from  
January 1—December 31**

- \$250    \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate
  - \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Profit Organization
  - \$ 50    \_\_\_\_\_ Family
  - \$ 35    \_\_\_\_\_ Individual
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other ANNUAL SUSTAINED MEMBERSHIP (yearly)
- Benefits: Annual Calendar and Nas Cesky Zivot newsletters

**MEMORIALS can be made to honor someone living, on their birthday or anniversary etc., or the memory of a deceased friend or family member.**

FOR \_\_\_\_\_

Send Acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor: Name \_\_\_\_\_

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TCHCC, P.O. Box 6, LaGrange, TX 78945-0006



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CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:  
[www.czechtexas.org](http://www.czechtexas.org)

### 2016 UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 9 TOCA Annual Banquet 4 PM, Hanslik Hall  
May 15 Slavnost "May Fest" and Tribute to Immigrants  
of 1920 and earlier  
June 25 TCHCC & CHS Youth and Family Day  
October 14-15 Heritage Fest & Muziky  
December 3 TCHCC Christmas Open House and 7th Annual Gala  
\* Second Saturdays of the Month: Czech Conversational Classes 1 PM



#### **FLAG SPONSORSHIP**

Sponsorships are being accepted to cover the replacement cost of the flags that grace the front of the Center. The flags are replaced twice a year. Please consider a sponsorship.

***Current Sponsor: In Honor of Our Czech and Slovak Immigrants.***

***Donor: Anonymous.***