

TCHCC
Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, Inc.
LA GRANGE, TEXAS

NÁŠ ČESKÝ ŽIVOT

“OUR CZECH LIFE”
(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)

SUMMER 2018

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 2

TCHCC SLAVNOST WEEKEND

Saturday, May 19, and Sunday, May 20 were two days full of activities at TCHCC. Saturday evening, “The Stand-In”, a comedy, was performed in the Amphitheater. Sunday’s Annual Slavnost featured a variety of activities including music by The Travelers Band from Columbus and Eva Adams Česká Kapela from the Czech Republic.



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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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 Hrcir, 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.

FOLLOW US ON

Twitter @TexasCzechHCC

and Instagram @czech.texas.lagrange

We are currently taking 2018 memberships
and donations online.



FLAG SPONSORSHIP is available. Sponsorship can be made in Memory of or in Honor of an individual or group. \$250.00. Contact TCHCC for details.

President's Letter

August 2018

Many thanks to all of you who are supporting us with memberships and additional donations. With your contributions and our generous volunteer team, we are able to be open to the public six days a week. An increase in visitors this year is good news to all of us. It also means that we need to continue with our work to provide interesting exhibits, educational displays and programs, and to make TCHCC a welcome place to tell the story of those who emigrated from the Czechlands and made Texas their new home—Naš Nový Domov. Through their endeavors, succeeding generations have had new opportunities presented to them.

Presently, our restoration, maintenance, operating expenses and salaries have been covered with donations, in-kind contributions, and volunteer work. To insure that we can continue our work in the future, an Endowment Fund was initiated by William and Betty Melnar several years ago with a generous donation. We added some to this fund since that time and have not used any of the funds. Our plan is to increase the principle sufficiently so that the interest will help to pay for the operation of the Center in the future. **Mr. Melnar offered a challenge grant for the Endowment Fund. If we can raise \$50,000.00 by December 15, 2018, he will match it with \$50,000.00. Help us reach this goal. Any amount will make a difference. You can track our progress on our website: www.czechtexas.org.**

Plans for the coming events are being finalized. Join us during the Czech Heritage Festival, October 19-20, 2018, for two days when we celebrate our Czech heritage and traditions. Highlight of this year's festival is "The Legends Series, Part V" featuring The Legacy of the Vrazels' Polka Band at the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater on Saturday from 7-9 PM. (See full-page flyer on page 9 in this issue for more information).

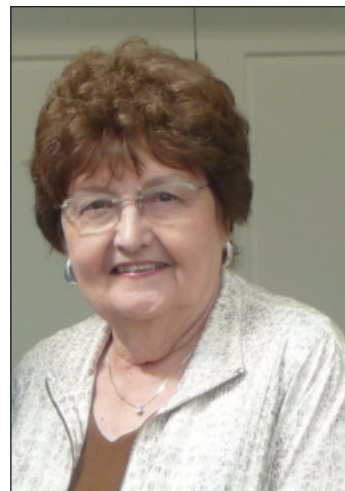
Following the October event will be our Annual 2018 TCHCC Gala on December 1, 2018 at the Pavilion Hall. We will recognize three more groups or individuals who made significant contributions to promoting Czech music in Texas. Without the generous efforts of all of our musicians, we may have lost a part of our heritage that is very dear to us. This year we will honor the following: The Galveston Czech Singers, Gene Lichnovsky, and Harry Czarnek and the Texas Dutchmen.

We invite you to visit the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center. The WWI exhibit in the Museum and the Lidice Exhibit in the Library will close on November 17. We will have a special program on November 4 to honor WWI veterans. Thank you to Janis Hrnrcir, Carolyn Heinsohn, Mark Hermes, and Mary Vasek for the planning and placing these exhibits.

Thank you to our volunteers and docents, who show our Czech Center to visitors, help with tours and who help with genealogy in the Library and also dust and clean as needed. Thank you to Lorenda Polasek and all of her helpers who work in the Gift Shop. Thank you to Georgia Vyvial, Georgia Funderburk, Georgia Kovar, Gene & Waymond Davis, Joe Lamer, Marilyn Cernoch, Johnnie Polasek, Mary Vasek, Marilyn Kothmann, Wilson Huffer, Cathleen Noska, Janis Hrnrcir, and Carolyn Heinsohn who come at least one day each week to promote Czech heritage. Thank you for your generous contributions.

Our latest project has been in the planning stage and on our wish list since 2003 when John A. Kuba donated a Kluge Printing Press and miscellaneous items to TCHCC. This printing press was used in printing Czech newspapers by the Kuba Printing Company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Soon after that, Mr. Adolph Novy of Adolph's Litho Services, Inc., offered to bring the press to his shop in Hutchins, Texas, and restore it for exhibit at TCHCC. We had a problem because we did not have a place to properly display this press. In 2017, the Molly and Richard Cernosek Family fulfilled that wish when they offered to contribute to the funding of a new building to house this printing press and the related items that accompanied it. Further fulfilling this wish, the Sanford & Mannie Schmid Trust, and Regina Keilers made it possible to build a beautiful building. Mr. Novy brought the press and additional items from his shop to La Grange. He also donated additional items that we can use in the museum. We thank him for his generosity and patience in storing this press for so many years. The building needs some finishing work and the displays need to be put in place. Dedication is planned for March 16, 2019.

Thank you to all of you for your generosity.

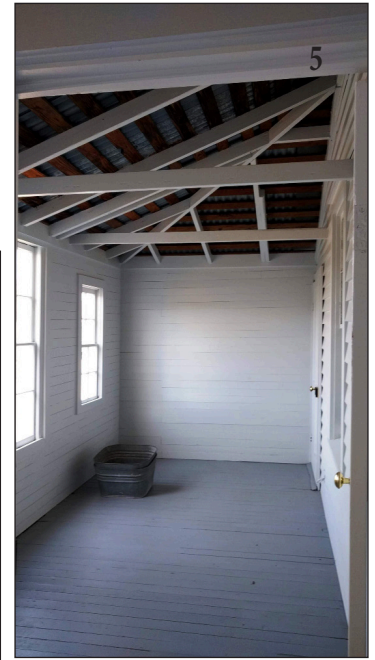


*TCHCC President
Retta Slavik Chandler*

Retta Slavik Chandler

Addition and Repairs at TCHCC

The Hluchanek-Salas House received a new paint job on the outside and an old bathroom was remodeled and a washroom was re-created. 1. The Hluchanek-Salas House before a new paint job. 2. The house after it was painted. 3. Old bathroom tub area. 4. Old bathroom outer wall. 5. New washroom.



TCHCC Manager Mark Hermes

Members and Friends,

I thank you for all your efforts to make TCHCC the best Czech Museum in Fayette County 3 years running!! We could not have had this honor without everyone continuing to pitch in every year. If you would like to join our weekly volunteers, just stop by or give us a call. We would love to hear from you. Too far away to travel weekly?? Not a problem! There are things that could possibly be done from your home. I would be happy to visit with you about those possibilities.

As the years go by, seemingly quicker each time, we have continued to develop and improve the Center and the grounds. Maintenance takes a huge toll on us. There is constantly upkeep that needs to be done. Everything including watering plants and landscaping, mowing, carpentry repair, painting, washing, dusting, mopping, you name it.... I have been looking for individuals or families that could 'adopt' a landscape area like the Main Center beds, Amphitheater, a project, etc. Some require more than others. The amphitheater needs hand watering and small maintenance twice a week. The Main Center has a sprinkler system. It would only require freshening up once every couple of weeks. Village buildings could use dusting once a month. Anyone interested can contact us here at the Center by phone or email.

The Printing Museum is coming along and I am happy to say that we are finished with the main construction. Work on the displays will begin shortly. I am looking for an old small wood heater to put inside for authenticity. Also, other small items that would fit in an early shop of its kind. Please send or email photos of artifacts for consideration that might work for this display. We are also looking for a copy of the OBZOR newspaper. We have several of the others, but none of the OBZOR. Anyone that might have a copy we could borrow is encouraged to let us know.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Heritage Fest!! Thank you!! Mark Hermes

The American Czech Theatre presented "The Stand In" at the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater on Saturday, May 19, 2018 to a packed audience. The play was written by Ladislav Smoljak and Zdenek Sverak, translated by Andrew Roberts, produced by Sarah Reynolds with the Executive Producer Sarah Wilhelm.



Sarah Wilhelm with her grandmother Retta Chandler

SLAVNOST 2018

This year's event featured two musical groups, the Travelers Orchestra from Columbus, maypole dance, and an Immigrant Wall recognition along with food, festivities and fun. Special Guest Appearance by Eva Adams Česká Kapela, with musical students from Pardubice, Czech Republic entertained under the tent.



Top left: The Travelers Orchestra. Top right: George Koudelka announced. Below left: The annual maypole dance was performed led by Cathleen Noska.

*Another stone was added to the Immigrants' Wall.
L-R: TCHCC Vice President Bill Schovajsa, Frank Kubicek, Miss Texas Czech Slovak Queen 2018 Brianna Blattman, and SPSJT President and TCHCC Board Member Brian Vanicek were part of the dedication ceremony recognizing Frank Kubicek's ancestors: Vojtech and Rosalie (Bena) Dlouhy & Family, Krc, Bohemia 1906.*

ENDOWMENT FUND CHALLENGE

Bill Melnar has come forward to pledge \$50,000.00 to the Endowment Fund if our members and patrons will match the pledge by December 15, 2018. CONTACT US TODAY TO DONATE AS LITTLE OR AS MUCH AS YOU CAN (Credit Cards & PayPal).

1-888-785-4500, info@czechtexas.org

[TRACK THE PROGRESS ON OUR WEBSITE - WWW.CZECHTEXAS.ORG](http://WWW.CZECHTEXAS.ORG)



Top Left: Alfred & Bernice Vrazel visited with John Dujka and Kim Macik Jobb. Top right: Danny Zapletal and David Slovak of Ennis joined Vašek Sevčík and the Česká Kapela. Center right: Alfred Vrazel and Vašek Sevčík entertained. Bottom right: Robert Herridge of Enzian Buam Band tried out the violin belonging to a member of Česká Kapela.

SLAVNOST FESTIVITIES MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR VOLUNTEERS



Mark Jašek, Art Migl, Jim Jašek, and Thomas Motal replaced an interior wall in the Migl House that had been damaged by Hurricane Harvey.



Annette Kohoutek, Vlasta Vitek, Phyllis Teykl, Eileen Rosipal of CHS Travis-Williamson County served out the pastries.



Top right: Susan Sinclair and Leslie Kovar help sell raffle tickets. Mark Hermes gets help from (center right) Doc Darilek, (below left) Danny Zapletal, and Bill Schovajsa (below right).



Joan McGuire Mohr Presents

Guest Speaker Joan McGuire Mohr, Ph.D., author and lecturer presented a mesmerizing talk and Power Point on the plight of the Czech and Slovak troupes during WWI in the Hanslik Hall on June 22, 2018. She was able to bring to life the events and personal accounts of her research which was published in her book *The Czech and Slovak Legion in Siberia, 1917-1922*. This book is a must-read in 2018 as the 100th Anniversary of Czech Sovereignty approaches. Not only did she speak and autograph her books, but she was able to remain at TCHCC overnight and participated in the annual TCHCC/CHS Youth Day that was held on June 23.

Top left: TCHCC President Retta Chandler received a copy of her book. Top Center: Dr. Mohr presented. Top right: Liz Kallus, Janis Hrnecir, Cathleen Noska, Speaker Joan Mohr, Marilyn Kothmann, Retta Chandler, and Susan Chandler. Below left: Vlasta Vitek helps Joan Mohr with the rules of Czech Bingo. Below right: Dr. Mohr joined the Youth Day participants on the hayride.



Book Jacket: During World War I, a specialized Russian battalion comprised of ethnic Czechs and Czech and Slovak prisoners of war -- The Legion -- became a pawn in an international game of power and deceit. The Legion's detour through Siberia became the greatest human interest story of the war, chronicled weekly in the *New York Times* and *New York Herald*. More than half of the Legion's troops lost their lives as the evacuation of Czech and Slovak POWs through Vladivostok precipitated the murder of the Russian royal family and forced the Legion to act as protectors of the Russian treasury and the Trans-Siberian Railway while the White and Red armies battled. For political purposes, tales of the Legion's odyssey have been buried or expunged. This volume offers the seminal account of this hidden yet epic journey, shedding light on a fascinating but forgotten facet of World War I.

NOTE: The events of the Czech and Slovak soldiers was also covered in Texas papers - including the *Novy Domov*. You can see more in the museum exhibit.

About the Author: Joan McGuire Mohr is a United States historian and writer in military history, historical fiction, and biography. An expert in US Immigration History, she discovered information on the Czech and Slovak Legion and their trek through Siberia which prompted the research that led to the writing of *The Czech and Slovak Legion In Siberia, 1917-1922*. The book was published by McFarland & Company in 2012.

Dr. Mohr has served as a contributing historian at the Czech and Slovak National Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and lectured at the Museum of Applied Arts in Budapest, Hungary. She also leads lecture tours into Hungary and Transylvania. Dr. Mohr has studied at the Charles University in Prague and the Comenius University in Bratislava. Living among Slavic immigrants in Denver, Joan became interested in their history. Dr. Mohr graduated from Colorado University, then University of San Diego, and received a doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh. She currently lives in San Diego.



- ☆ Hospoda ^(BEER GARDEN)
- ☆ Train Rides
- ☆ Music
- ☆ Village Tours
- ☆ Demonstrations
- ☆ Antique Tractor & Car Show
- ☆ Arts & Crafts



Heritage Festival & Muziky

October 19th and 20th

250 West Fairgrounds Road, La Grange, Texas

Friday, Oct. 19th

~ Octoberfest on the Deck ~
4:00 PM to 10:00 PM



Czech Style
Chicken & Dumplings Served!!
Music 6:00 - 9:30 PM
with The Dujka Brothers
FREE Admissions



Visit The Czech Village



1-888-785-4500
czechtexas.org
info@czechtexas.org

MAIN STREET & VISITORS BUREAU

Saturday, Oct. 20th

Opening Ceremony - 10:00 AM

KJT State Taroky Tournament • Museums & Czech Gift Shop
Antique Farm Equipment & Car Shows
Arts & Crafts • Children's Activities • SPJST Kolač Eating Contest



~ Heritage Demonstrations ~

Saw Mill • Blacksmithing • Corn Shelling & Grinding • Textiles
Noodle Making • Hay Press • Wine Making • Sausage Making
Peanut Threshing and MORE!!



~ LaGrange Ford Hospoda ~ "Beer Garden"

Shiner Beer Stage
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
FREE Admissions

Jerry Haisler & the Melody 5
and Enzian Buam



~ Amphitheater ~ \$10 Admissions

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Muziky, Muziky
"THE LEGENDS SERIES" Part V
Featuring
The Legacy of
the Vrazels' Polka Band



~ Saturday Night Fireworks Finale ~ Proudly Sponsored by H-E-B

TCHCC Tour Recognized Dr. Josef Šimíček and Drahomír Strnadel

The Czech Republic Grand Tour 2018 included an appointment in the Frenstat City Hall where members of the municipal council welcomed all. The focus of the gathering was to recognize and thank two individuals who have helped thousands of Czech Texans find their ancestors.

Because of the tireless efforts of Dr. Josef Šimíček and Drahomír Strnadel that have spanned over twenty years, Texans have been able to find, visit their ancestral homes, and meet relatives.

The reception began with a greeting from Frenstat Mayor Mgr. Zdeňka Leščišínová and Deputy Mayor Mgr. Pavel Mička (below left). Councilman Jiří Unruh led all of us in the song *My jsme Valaši* (We are all Valachs) (below right).

A brief accounting of their achievements was read by TCHCC library and genealogy volunteer Janis Hrnčíř. Šimíček and Strnadel were presented recognition certificates and a Texas Czech hat and shirt. The presentations were performed by Czech Heritage Society of Texas representative Jean Blaha Davis and TCHCC Board Member J. G. Hrnčíř. These are small gifts for two gentlemen who have done so much! Dr. Šimíček was not able to meet us at City Hall and his presentation was made in Lichnov at his museum.

After the presentation recognizing these two men, all in attendance from Texas signed the guest book and a reception followed.

The day also included visits to the Lichnov Museum of the Czech Emigrations to Texas and Strnadel Brothers and Jan Knebl Museum in Trojanovice.

A special thank you to Jiří Unruh, Mirek Faldyn and Patsy Robertson for coordinating the day.



Top left: Frenstat Mayor Mgr. Zdeňka Leščišínová. Top right: Deputy Mayor Mgr. Pavel Mička.





Josef Šimíček

Josef Šimíček, MD

Josef Šimíček was born on January 28, 1940 in Bernatice nad Odrou. He studied in Prague, at the Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, between 1957 and 1963.

After his studies, he worked for a year as a doctor in the Nový Jičín hospital (1964–1965). Between 1965 and 1969 he worked at the outpatient clinic in Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, and, between 1969 and 2001 he was a general practitioner in Lichnov. During this period he started to be active in the town's public affairs, for example being a chairman of the cultural committee. He then became the mayor of Lichnov for eight years.

For three years, from 1990 to 1993, he participated in the publication called "700 Years of the Lichnov Municipality," published in 1993, being its co-author. At that time he became interested in emigration to America from Lichnov and the surrounding villages. Later he researched more parts of Wallachia and other parts of Moravia.

In 1994, with the help of the Municipal Authority, he set up an exhibition in the building of the former kindergarten, which was called "Hope is Called Texas." He established contacts with associations of compatriots, i.e. with The Czech Heritage Society of Texas, and, later, with the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, and The Czech Genealogical Society of Texas.

In 1996, he travelled to the USA after the invitation of the compatriots, and he visited Czech settlements in Texas. In the following years he began publishing books on emigration to America used by the Lichnov Museum.

In 2001, he retired as a doctor and became the Mayor of Lichnov (2002-2010). He currently takes care of the exposition of the emigration from Lichnov. He has written approximately 25 books detailing emigrants to Texas and it does not appear that he is slowing down.

He is married to Vera, has two children and four grandchildren.

Drahomír Strnadel

Drahomír Strnadel was born on August 15, 1941 in Trojanovice. After graduating from high school in Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, he studied at the Pedagogical Institute in Ostrava. From 1963 to 1990 he worked as a teacher in Frenštát pod Radhoštěm and Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, and from 1990 to 2006 he was the mayor of Trojanovice.

In 1967 he married Eva and has a son, David and a grandson.

Leopold Pustka, his brother-in-law, visited Texas and became interested in the emigration of Czech citizens to Texas. This prompted him to study archival materials about the immigration in archives in Frýdek-Místek, Olomouc and Brno which he began in 1975. Much information was also provided by the archives in Hamburg, Bremen and Vienna.

In 1979 he contacted Albert J. Blaha, President of the Czech Heritage Society (CHS) in Texas. On his recommendation, he published the archival documents in his book *Immigration From Frydek District between 1850 and 1900*. The book was published by the Czech Heritage Society of Texas in 1996. In 1996 he also received the CHS Annual Award in Frydek in Texas.

Also in 1996 he visited Texas with a group of 14 businessmen and his son David. The group of businessmen donated \$ 3,000 to the Czech Heritage Society and \$ 1,000 to the Publishers of *Hospodář* and *Našinec* magazines.

His first trip to Texas was in 1989 together with Jiří Zátopek and cameraman Zdeněk Úlehla where they documented the lives of their compatriots in Texas. A two-part film called "Texas Moravians" was broadcast on several occasions by Czech Television. Another significant visit to Texas was in 2002. Members of his group included Frenštát's deputy mayor Petr Kubenka and Rudolf Swieczek, a Frenštát's priest. This trip was documented by Jiří Unruh. The driver and interpreter was his son David.

In 2006 he cooperation with the CHS of Texas and organized a tour of the Wallachian ensemble of Radhošť to Texas. Within a two weeks period, 16 performances took place. The interpreter and driver was again his son David. On two occasions, his wife Eva also spent time in Texas.

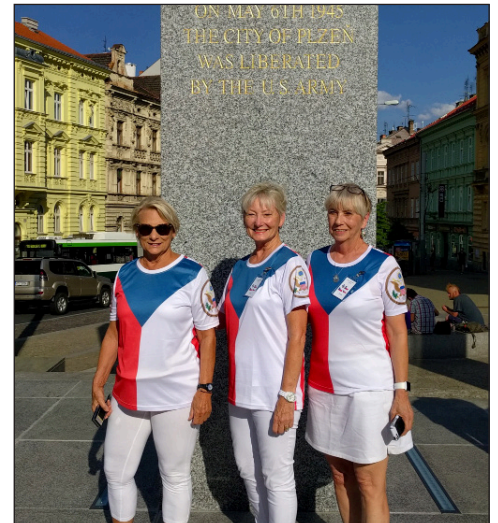
In addition to these activities, he participated in the creation of the exposition about the emigration to Texas, which is located in the museum in Frenštát pod Radhoštěm and maintains the Strnadel Brothers and Jan Knebl Museum in Trojanovice. He still keeps in touch with his countrymen in Texas.



Drahomir Strnadel

CZECH REPUBLIC GRAND TOUR 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The group of 28 Czech Texans toured historic towns, castles, chateaus, museums, churches, factories, winery and more including: Strnadel Museum in Trojanovice (top left), and the Thank You America Memorial in Pilzen. At Pilzen the Gajdica sisters took a picture with their US/CZ shirts and a picture was taken of US Vets Johnnie Polasek, Laddie Gajdica, J. G. Hrnecir, Ron Pasak and John Krenek. A special surprise was a visit to the home of Eva Adams and Vašek (Below left). The group toured their guest house and recording studio. While there, Laddie Gajdica of Ennis joined in with his accordion.



MAY SCHOOL TOURS: Middle school children from Moulton School and St. Anthony's Catholic School in Columbus toured the TCHCC Complex. They received Czech history and cultural presentations, enjoyed a home cooked lunch, and toured all of the Czech Village facilities.



Moulton School children were chaperoned on their trip by George Koudelka, their music teacher. He provided musical instructions, a sing-a-long, and valuable musical information while touring the Texas Czech Music Museum (pictured center).



St. Anthony's Catholic School children are pictured below receiving Czech lessons from TCHCC President Retta Chandler.





St. Anthony's Catholic School, Columbus



LJA Engineering of Houston and Austin held their "Meeting In The Middle" Picnic at TCHCC in May. The day was a way for the two separate offices to get to know each other.

CHS/TCHCC Youth Day 2018

A big thank you goes out to CHS for coordinating this annual event. This year's coordinators were Vlasta Vitek & Eileen Rosipal.



UPCOMING MUSEUM EXHIBIT

TWO-STEP YOUR WAY THROUGH TIME ON A TOUR OF HISTORIC TEXAS DANCE HALLS



Saving Texas Dance Halls, One Two-Step at a Time

Dance Hall Photo Exhibit: November 26, 2018 to February 9, 2019

The exhibit includes 36 photographs.

The photos in this exhibit illustrates the diversity and vastness of Texas itself and serves as a reminder of what we have and what we are at risk of losing without preservation efforts of this precious resource. Texas Dance Hall Preservation is committed to saving these historic dance halls and the authentic music and culture that is ingrained in them. Visit their website: www.texasdancehall.org.

Right: We are happy to announce that the newspaper museum is nearing completion. Monetary donation are welcome to help complete the inside display.

An opening ceremony will be held on
March 16, 2019.



HIS JOURNEY HOME AND A FINAL RESTING PLACE

The remains of Cardinal Josef Beran has returned home after 49 years. Buried in Rome, his final wish was to be buried in Prague. On March 20, 2018 his wish was realized. His body now rests in St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague.

CZECH CARDINAL'S LAST WISH TO BE RESPECTED AFTER ALMOST 50 YEARS

By Ruth Fraňková 20-04-2018 RADIO PRAGUE

The remains of exiled Czech Cardinal Josef Beran have been taken from the Vatican's St Peter's Basilica. On Friday, they will be flown to Prague and later buried in Prague's St. Vitus Cathedral. Cardinal Beran was exiled to Rome in 1965 and died there four years later. He was buried in the Vatican because the communist authorities didn't approve his final wish for his body to be returned to his homeland.

The remains of Cardinal and Prague Archbishop Josef Beran were taken out of St Peter's Basilica, the final resting place of popes, on Thursday evening in the presence of a Czech delegation comprising church and state representatives.

Along with the coffin, a small bag with earth from Beran's homeland, which was placed in his grave in 1969, was also taken out from the chapel to be returned to the Czech Republic. A commemorative plaque will be installed in St Peter's Basilica as a permanent memorial to the Czech cardinal, whose name became a symbol of resistance to the communist regime.

The coffin was then moved to the Nepomucenum, the Czech papal college in Rome, where the cardinal died in 1969. Zdeněk Wasserbauer, auxiliary bishop for the Prague archdiocese, who is involved in the beatification process of Cardinal Beran, shared a memory of one of Beran's fellow prisoners from the Nazi Dachau concentration camp: "When work was interrupted at noon, all the prisoners rushed to stand in line for food. But Beran went to the chapel to kneel before Christ and pray, risking that no food would be left. Isn't this the greatest example of inner freedom?"

The event was attended by dozens of church representatives, but also by ordinary Czechs living in Rome, some of whom attended Cardinal Beran's burial back in 1969.

The Czech delegation was headed by Culture Minister Ilja Šmíd, who said Beran's return to his homeland was a big triumph and a final end to his emigration. He also said the repatriation of Cardinal Beran could help improve relations between Czech society and the Catholic Church.

According to the Czech Ambassador to the Vatican, Pavel Vošalík, repatriation of Cardinal Beran to his homeland could be an inspiration for his compatriots: "Cardinal Beran's story will be concluded, but at the same time it will live on as an experience, a lesson or a message that we will take to the Czech Republic with us.

"Hopefully, someone will think about what the cardinal warned against and what he suffered for, and whether this only applies to the past."

A liturgy will be held in the Nepomucenum college in Rome on Friday afternoon before the remains of Cardinal Beran are flown to his homeland. Half a century after his death, Cardinal Beran's last wish to be buried at home will be finally fulfilled on Monday, when his coffin will be put in the tomb of Prague archbishops in Saint Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle.

NOTE: Many Texans remember his visit to the US in 1966. He visited Hallettsville, Shiner, Praha, Hostyn, La Grange, Austin, West, Ennis, Dallas and Granger. His visit is documented in the book: *Novým Světem*. You can view a copy in the TCHCC Library or read more on the Radio Prague website.

Photo: His final resting place in St. Vitus, Prague.



*The Story Behind the Sculpture of the
Memorial to the Children Victims of the War, Lidice*



Marie Uchytlova was born on January 17, 1924 in Pilsen. She studied under several professors of sculpture and became a sculpture herself.

In 1969 Uchytlova began plans for a memorial which would commemorate the 82 local children who died at the camps as well as be a monument that would symbolize the "13 million child victims of World War II." She began by meeting the surviving mothers of the children, viewed pictures of them, and gave the sculptures physical features and personality traits of the children. In March of 1989 Uchytlova finished the plaster images of the children. Uchytlova died suddenly eight months later and in 1990 her husband, Jiri Hampel, worked to complete the work in bronze castings. The statues were added as they were completed with the last seven completed in 2000 and are set in a meadow where the villagers had been killed during the war.

Financing was provided by donations from the Government of the Czech Republic, individual and foreign donors. Marie died unexpectedly of a heart attack the evening before November 17, 1989 - the date of the Velvet Revolution. Read more at www.lidice-memorial.cz.

**WWI Recognition Ceremony and Celebration of 100 years of Czech Sovereignty
November 4, 2018
(NOTE Date change from November 3)
Hanslik Hall**

**1 PM Opening Celebration of 100 Year of Czech Sovereignty
Celebration Birthday Cake and Refreshments**

2-3 PM Recognition of WWI Soldier Descendants of ANY NATIONALITY

**Please notify TCHCC if you can attend and an information form will be sent to you on which you can provide information about your ancestor(s) who served in WWI.
ALL ARE WELCOME - even if you have no ancestor who fought in the Great War.**

SUMMER VISITORS: Peter and Stanislav Vodenka visited TCHCC. They were accompanied by Darwin and Nancy Machu. Peter was in Texas on a speaking tour. His book, *Journey For Freedom, Reflection from Communist Czechoslovakia* tells about his family's experiences in escaping Communist Czechoslovakia. Top left: Cathleen Noska, Retta Chandler, Peter Vodenka, Stanislav Vodenka, Georgia Funderburk, and Marilyn Cernoch. Top right: Nancy and Darwin Machu with Stanislav and Peter Vodenka. Center Left: Mark Hermes provided a tour of the village houses. Center Right: Michaela Prihracki from Žilina, Slovakia with her host family Charles and Irma Aschenbeck of Schulenburg. Below: The Sikora Family presented a check for an Immigrants' Wall inscription.



DONATIONS**May 1 to July 31, 2018****BENEFACTOR**

J. G. and Janis Hrcir
 Joseph F. Kocurek Estate
 RVOS Farm Mutual Insurance Company
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 Fayette Savings Bank, SSB

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INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP 2018

Agnes E. Burge
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 Elizabeth Hubenak McCrea
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 David J. Slavik

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP 2019

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FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 2018

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 David & Michelle Slovak

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 2019

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GIFT MEMBERSHIP**2019 Gift Membership from Agnes E. Burge**

Diane Burge McRae

MAYFEST 2018 DONATIONS

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MAYFEST SPONSORS

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 South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters

BELFRY FUND*In Memory of Raymond E. Mican*

CHS Fort Bend County

In Memory of D. W. (Bill) Knebel

CHS Victoria County

CZECH VILLAGE

John E. Gruener Family

MIGL HOUSE

Migl Family Homestead

PRINTING SHOP

Sandford & Mannie Schmid Charitable Trust

MELNAR LIBRARY

Irene Szwarc

MEMORIALS**In Memory of Rita Brossmann**

Mark & Ashley Hermes

South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters

In Memory of Isadore Drab

T. J. & Myrna Slansky

In Memory of Annie Mae Wilbeck Gloeckner

Leroy & Carolyn Bennetsen

In Memory of Jodie Hermes

South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters

Mark and Ashley Hermes

In Memory of Henry Holubec

Charles and Retta Chandler

In Memory of Alice Cepak Janecka

Cepak Family Charitable Fund

In Memory of Doris Marie Koliba

Clarice Marik Snokhous

In Memory of Edmond Kozlovsky

T. J. & Myrna Slansky

In Memory of Irene E. Mazoch

T. J. & Myrna Slansky

In Memory of Sanford Schmid

Clarice Marik Snokhous

In Memory of Howard Wolf

Jim D. and Marilyn Kothmann

In Memory of Edward Zatopek

Thomas & Linda Lycka

Jeffrey Cook

In Honor of Benedict & Dianna Kallus on their 50th**Wedding Anniversary**

Georgia Vyvial

Lee & Carolyn Surface

ENDOWMENT FUND CHALLENGE**Matching Fund: \$50,000.00 by December 15**

Fort Bend CHS

In Honor of Johnnie & Lorenda Polasek on their 55th Wedding Anniversary

Mark & Ashley Hermes
Jim D. and Marilyn Kothmann
Kenneth & Cathleen Noska
Lee & Carolyn Surface
Georgia Vyvial

ENTRY PAVING STONE

In Honor of the Repka and Rader Families

Eugene J. Repka
In Honor of Raymond and Judy Uherek
Raymond E. & Judy Uherek

In Honor of August & Catherine Uherek, Sr.

Raymond E. & Judy Uherek

PAVING BRICK

In Memory of Donald and Mary L. Pavlik Zajack

Darlene Schlitzberger

In Memory of Charles and Mary Kozel

John and Lillian Kozel

In Memory of Father Charles Kolek, O.S.B.

Kolek Family Reunion

In Honor of SFC Eunice Boedeker

Frank Kubicek, Jr.

In Honor of SFC Frankie Kubicek

Frank Kubicek, Jr.

In Honor of Lori Lynn Sedlar Jones

Louis W. Sedlar

In Honor of Lana Lea Sedlar

Louis W. Sedlar

In Memory of Benedict Frank Urbish

Celeste Urbish Orr

Eugene J. & April Ann Repka & Freda Ann Rader

Eugene J. Repka

IMMIGRANT WALL

Vojtech and Rosalie (Bena) Dlouhy & Family Krc, Bohemia 1906

Frankie Kubicek

Jakub and Mary Sykora, Palkovice 1881. Filip, Marianna, and Adolf Sykora (Sikora)

Sikora Family Reunion & Dale and Patricia Sikora

MUSEUM WWI EXHIBIT

In Honor of Frank Slavik

Charles and Retta Chandler

In Honor of Josef Lesak

Great Granddaughter Janis Blanton Hrcir

Mary Jane Kocurek

PERPETURAL ROSE GARDEN STONE

In Honor of Dennis & Brenda Polak Family

Dennis & Brenda Polak

In Honor of the Vavra Family

Lillie M. Brightwell

In Appreciation of Jim and Claudia Matcek for their dedication to Czech Youth Day

Czech Heritage Society of Texas

To Honor 125th Immigration Anniversary of John and Marie (Dloughy) Kolek 1894-2019

Kolek Family Reunion

In Memory of Irene Mazoch

CHS - Bexar County Chapter

In Honor of the Repka and Rader Families

Eugene J. Repka

In Memory of Jan Kozlovsky - Vsetin, Moravia

Alice F. Vida

In Memory of Maria Orsak - Novy Hrozenkov

Alice F. Vida

In Memory of Joseph and Agnes Kozlovsky Family - Taylor, Texas

Alice F. Vida

In Memory of Edmund and Myrjean Kozlovsky Family

Alice F. Vida

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM DONATIONS

Dick Bily: Framed Czech Insurance Company

Porcelain street sign

Agnes Burge and Diane McRae: Czech books, newspaper articles, maps, pictures

Aurelia Cerny and Rudy Klecka Family descendants: Family pictures, books, personal letters

Linda Fulmer: Leopold and Minnie Janda Family History

James and Mary Ann Harrison: 1920-30s oak rocking chair, press back chair with spindle back with leather

Carolyn Heinsohn: 10 Books and 1 album of Bohemian Songs

Joe Hlavinka: 2018 Czech Catholic Calendar

George & Barbara Stratton Hruby Family: Sculpture of Mary and Jesus, Rosary from Jerusalem

KJT: Bishop John and Msgr. Alois Morkovsky books, items, display case

KJZT#23, Lillian Kallus: 125 year-old Hostyn banner, 2 badges, 2 Junior scrapbooks, trophies and photo album

Edward Klecka: CHS Week sign welcoming Strnadel group

Angelina Kretzschmar: St. John Ammannsville Parish Book, box of copy paper

Lilian Kallus: Supak Reunion Files & Family History Book

Rita Kozel: two embroidered pillows

Pat Kriska: Sokol Medal of Frank Spaniel, Ellis County, Glass Crucifix Candle

Stephen and Oldrich Dobry Lacina: Video

Joe & Lucy Lamer: 14 Czech books (dictionary, language books, song books)

Darlene Meyer and Linda Wells: 3 kroje from Plzen, one American Czech Singer kroje from Victoria Czechs and album

Bill Melnar: 10 books (Colorado County Records, Moravia to Texas Melnar Memoirs 2002-2017)

Walter J. Merka, Jr.: Jan Kopecky Family History

Merlene Pazderny and Carolyn Heinsohn: Books and frames for Salas House and Museum

Jeff Rocen: 20-30 bobbin lace items

Sylvia Jez Schiller/Estate of Alois and Willie Mae Mlcak Jez: 5 books in Czech, 3 novels, foot pedal operated sharpening stone

Patricia Parma: Rev. Vaclav Bily pictures, Red Czech Glass, Beskedy Book, prayer book

Virginia Prasatik Thomas: kitchen and farming tools belonging to Raymond and Alice Prasatik

Barry Vasek: Gentlemen's Traveling Trunk owned by John Dominique Kovar

Sheri Prasatik Zoch: Playbills of Czech operas, plays, etc. in which her father performed.



APOLOGIES: We apologize for misspelling Jo Ann's name. Pictured below is Jo Ann Glanz and Sharon Manor.

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 & 20TH ANNIVERSARY STONES

A 12"x12" pink granite stone will be engraved with your choice of wording up to 40 letters for \$1000. These stones are in the entryway of the Czech Center. Contact us for details. **ONLY 2 ANNIVERSARY STONES LEFT.**

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 painted on the memorial sign. For donations under \$50, a record of the 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: _____

**Membership from
January 1—December 31**

- \$500 ___ Corporate
- \$200 ___ Non-Profit Organization
- \$ 75 ___ Family
- \$ 50 ___ Individual

ANNUAL SUSTAINED MEMBERSHIP (yearly)
Benefits: Preserving YOUR Heritage, Annual Calendar and *Nas Cesky Zivot* newsletters

ENDOWMENT FUND CHALLENGE
Bill Melnar has come forward to pledge \$50,000.00 to the Endowment Fund if our members and patrons will match the pledge by December 15, 2018.

CONTACT US TODAY TO DONATE AS LITTLE OR AS MUCH AS YOU CAN. (Credit Cards & PayPal Accepted).
1-888-785-4500, info@czechtexas.org

TRACK THE PROGRESS ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.CZECHTEXAS.ORG

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 _____
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Address _____
City/State/Zip: _____ Phone _____
Message: _____

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WWW.CZECHTEXAS.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS 2018

- March - November 17 WWI and 100 Years of Czech Sovereignty (TCHCC Museum)
March - November 17 Lidice Exhibit (Melnar Library)
October 19-20 Heritage Fest/Muziky
Friday: Octoberfest on the Deck: Music by the Dujka Brothers 6-9:30 PM
Our famous Chicken & Dumplings served beginning at 5:30 PM
Saturday: Music by Jerry Haisler & the Melody 5 and Enzian Buam 11:30-6 PM
Antique Farm Equipment & Car Show, Saw Mill, Kolače Eating Contest
Heritage Demonstrations & Booths, KJT State Tarock Tournament
Muziky, Muziky Performance at the Amphitheater - 7-9:30 PM
The Legacy of the Vrazels' Polka Band
Fireworks Finale 9:30 PM
November 4 WWI Recognition Ceremony and Celebration of 100 years of Czech Sovereignty
Hanslik Hall, 1 PM Opening Celebration - 2 PM Recognition of WWI Soldier Descendants
November 26 Dance Hall Exhibit Opens in TCHCC Museum
December 1 Annual Gala, Pavilion Hall 6-9:30 PM - Advance Tickets
Honoring Czech Musicians and Bands.
2018 Honorees: Harry Czarnek & the Texas Dutchmen, Galveston Czech Singers,
and Gene Lichnovsky
Silent Auction, Culinary Creations, Presentation, Raffle
Music & Dancing by the Czechaholics Band