



*News from the Czech Center in the Museum  
District - August 2015*



**From the Heart of Europe to the Heart of Houston,  
The Czech Center Museum Houston**

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Open Monday - Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm

The Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovic to the United States visited us at the Czech Center Museum Houston July 30, 2015 along with the Honorary Czech Consul for the State of Texas Brian Vanicek. They were entertained with a grand reception.

The Endowment for Perpetuity Fund Advances! Below are those embracing the CCMH's needs for future generations to help individuals realize heritage is important in their lives and that this Museum connects People, Heritage, History and the World!

Great News for those who want to learn the Czech Language online. Blinn College will offer credit Czech language online. Movie nights at the Czech Center Museum Houston are a popular success.

**The Consul and the Ambassador Visit CCMH July 30, 2015** - Backstory by Effie M. Rosene, Chair/CEO

The invitations went out to Board Members/Friends/Patrons and Houston Consular Corps personnel. The RSVPs were awaited, unfortunately, many not received until day or evening of! But it turned out to be a great event! Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovic and wife Pavlina left Washington DC with itinerary including a visit to the Governor of Texas in Austin, a business visit with head of HEB Corporation in San Antonio, a stop at Texas Czech Heritage Cultural Center in LaGrange and finally long awaited at the CCMH in the Museum District. Consul Brian Vanicek and wife Joan had traveled the State with them. Chair Effie Rosene had convened a Board Meeting at 4:00pm when Member Wesley Pustejovsky introduced Margot Fucic, the soon to be Mrs. Pustejovsky; thereafter, the Consul and Ambassador who were meeting privately in the Comenius Library joined the Board in Pilsen Hall for an informal meeting including a representative of the Mayor's office, Director of Consular Affairs, Ms. Nike Lukman, for general discussion and commentary. Ms. Lukman said the CCMH was indeed a treasure for the City of Houston and so appropriate to host our distinguished guests. Both Consul Vanicek and Ambassador Gandalovic spoke of issues to the group's interest, the Ambassador commending the CCMH for its stature and mission. Following this activity the group proceeded to Prague Hall for a receiving line to greet all present amid the piano cabaret sounds of Hermann Vacca. Then a benediction by Rev. Paul Chovanec, presentation of the Czech and U.S. flags and corresponding national hymns led by Carolyn Filipp Beseda with her vibrant piano music. After a brief Welcome to the CCMH and the City of Houston by Effie Rosene, they both spoke until time for a Texas Style Casual Buffet on a hot Thursday Summer Night of platters of baby back ribs, various tamales, brisket, honey baked ham, chicken cordon bleu, cheese and crackers and artisan breads, chocolate and cream cakes with strawberries and whipped cream all preceded by shrimp gazpacho cocktails and a selection of local Texas wines and yes, the party lingered! We were so pleased the Ambassador was pleased to have had - he said, "This Texas Style Buffet."

We are always glad to see our often visiting Consul; the Ambassador visited CCMH last in 2011 with an entourage of fifty from the Czech Republic in a trade mission with Foreign Minister H.E. Karel Schwarzenberg when they signed a collaborative paper in our Comenius Library with our Texas A&M Nuclear Institute for civil use of nuclear energy.

*Bill and I actually last saw the Ambassador when we along with him participated in the Life Tribute of Dr. Jiri Papenek, another world renowned Czech Slovak patriot - humanitarian in the historic Bohemian Hall in New York City, remembering it well as I had to follow the address of this worldly Ambassador, well-known individual of the world, you have to know this Houston girl was really grateful for the unexpected kind welcome and response of New Yorkers there.*

Once again we thank Consul Vanicek for his efforts in orchestrating the Houston visit with the Ambassador.



Among the guests attending: **First Row** left: Pavlina and Petr Gandalovic; Sandra Pickett, Dr. Glenn Sternes, Ed Pickett, Doug Stoner; Brian Vanicek, Effie Rosene; Ricarda Redeker and Brian Vanicek; Sharlene Rothen and Laverne Nash; **Second Row** left: Henry and Barbara Hermis, Nina and Ray Vitek; David Miller MD, Ervin Adam MD, Brian Vanicek; Ambassador Gandalovic; Eva Campo and Ambassador Gandalovic; Wesley Pustejovsky, Margot Fucich and Pavlina Gandalovic; **Third Row** left: Maggie Mabry and Lorainne Rod Strmadel Green; Three Deacons from Czech Republic: Deacon Jiří Luňák, Deacon David Tyleček, Deacon Jaroslav Laštovička, Mirek and Katka Malek; Barbara Mikulik, Neal Adamcik and Jean Rayhill; Carolyn Filipp Beseda; Stephanie and Joan Vanicek, Nike Lukman.

**Scholarships** The Czech Center Museum Houston is proud to announce the names of the awardees of its annual **Thelma Burnett Maresh** Greater Houston Community Foundation endowed scholarship recipients who are: Morgan Elizabeth Sullins - Texas A&M; Grace Marie Jahn - Sul Ross State; Joseph Sean Buckle - Texas A&M; Logan Christopher Taylor - Texas State University; Eric Bernard Johnson, Jr. - University of Texas Permian Basin.

**Board Member Grace England writes:** "My Dear Friends, With much heartache and sadness, I want you to know that my dear husband, William Mitchell England - Bill, died suddenly early Saturday morning, August 22, 2015. His heart simply stopped, and he collapsed in our home. Bill recently and joyfully celebrated his 83rd birthday on August 8th. Most of you know that Bill has not been in good health during the past several years. However, he has been a real trouper and a caring husband and grandfather throughout that time. He will be greatly missed by countless friends, relatives, and associates. A visitation will be held Friday evening at Klein Funeral Home-Champions in Spring, Texas, from 5:00 to 8:00pm. A Memorial Service will be conducted at St. Timothy's Anglican Church in Spring, Texas, Saturday afternoon, August 29, at 1:00pm. With heartfelt appreciation for your friendship."

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**Notes from the Chairman:** While good, it has been an unusually long hot summer or so it seems, and we, Bill and I, are looking forward to cooler days. Fall is always exciting. It evokes thoughts of new beginnings. In other words, the new colorful foliage of trees or even magnanimous thoughts raised in various Board Meetings or by various CCMH members at one time or another such as: some further growth and development of the organization such as a Solar Panel array shading the Honor Memorial Courtyard, a Sculpture Garden on the raised portion of the north side parking lot, even still painting the ceiling coves on the first and second floors which long for the usual Baroque paintings of mythology or other Czech Slovak depictions in their cathedrals and palaces. We look forward to our annual tradition since inception of CCMH - St. Nicholas Eve Celebration this year accompanied hopefully by a beautiful display of the Pribyl Family Immigrants authentic Nativities and yes, very excited for the annual forthcoming fundraiser Gala this year on November 14, 2015, a Saturday evening. Let us hear from you who are excited as we are about these forthcoming possibilities. Give us your ideas, your suggestions to raise the Fund for Perpetuity Endowment - another absolute must for the Future Generations!! Thank you so much and God's Blessings. Effie and Bill Rosene

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**The CCMH Member's Loan Investment Program** was instigated in 2010 as a way to retire the building's bank mortgage with its required monthly payment. From its members, CCMH received sufficient funds from seventeen persons which were used for this purpose. Since that auspicious beginning, eight very generous individuals have forgiven or donated \$165,000 or 26% of the funds initially received. These were Cynthia Gdula and Charles Westervelt, Marek Family Companies, Laverne Nash, Ed and Sandra Pickett, Mary and Frank Pohluda Jr., Wesley Pustejovsky, Lorraine Rod Green and Effie and Bill Rosene. The Picketts and Rosenes donated the interest on their loans to the Center. The certificates issued for the remaining eleven loans will terminate in 2015 to be replaced with new certificates, if the holder so indicates. Several have so indicated to continue at this time. The CCMH's Board of Directors has authorized the continuation of the **Loan Program to be offered to other members and friends at this time**, with issued certificates receiving a 3% interest return on their investment with funds received in this new program to be placed in the Center's Endowment for Perpetuity Investment Fund. Please contact **Bill Rosene** at 713-528-2060 or email to [billrosene@yahoo.com](mailto:billrosene@yahoo.com) if you are interested in joining with us in this program. Your investment in this matter is highly important and beneficial to the Czech Center Museum Houston.

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**Thanks to Friends of the Czech Center Museum Houston** who have made a contribution to the CCMH Endowment Fund Appeal. We are grateful to those supporters who will help our museum remain one of Houston's treasured gems and who have recognized, in their generous and thoughtful gifts, this critical component of support to establish an Endowment to allow CCMH to continue its mission for future generations. The Endowment will relieve the constant striving for funds over, above and beyond basic admission and membership dues. This effort continues, so please consider Gifts to the Endowment Fund at this time. The following have made a contribution for which we are grateful: **Board Member Caroline Freeman, Adelma Graham Veronica Frost, Purvis and Lynn Harper in honor of James Ermis, Marietta Hetmaniak, Joseph Jankovic, MD, Ralph Marek, Ed and Sandra Pickett, Albert and Margaret Smaistrila, Liz Zemanek – KJZT.** [Your gift may be made online right here](#), or make a check payable to CCMH.

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**Czech Museum Member Visits Salt Lake City, Utah.** Our 200 Club member Carolyn Filipp Beseda recently returned from Salt Lake City, Utah as a delegate to the 29<sup>th</sup> International Convention of Alpha Delta Kappa, which was held July 8-11, 2015. ADK is an honorary professional teachers' organization with a membership of 33,000 active and retired educators. In addition to her duties as delegate representing the Texas Omicron chapter, Carolyn was clarinetist in the wind ensemble that accompanied the seventy-five member chorus which performed prior to each of the convention's sessions. She also played for the memorial service and reception as a member of the convention's woodwind quartet. Following the convention, she was delighted to hear the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and an organ recital at Temple Square, located on 35 acres in downtown Salt Lake City. Cognizant of the world's largest genealogical library, Carolyn researched the Filipp, Slovacek & Miculka surnames in her family tree at the J. Smith Memorial Building. She said that the volunteers that assisted her were very kind and experts in genealogical research. Because of her love of nature, she made an excursion to Antelope Island State Park, where she waded in Great Salt Lake, a remnant of pre-historic Lake Bonneville of the Ice Age. Currently, the lake covers 1,700 square miles. She said the surroundings were so peaceful and surreal that one knows this beautiful area must be one of God's masterpieces!



**Vaclav Havel's Farewell Address to the Nation Twelve Years Ago is a Study in Humility.** Vaclav Havel, the former dissident playwright whose revolutionary movement peacefully toppled communism here 13 years ago marked the end of his presidential term February 2, 2003. "I bid you farewell as your president," Havel said at the end of his address on state television just hours before his term's expiration at midnight. "I remain with you as your fellow citizen." During the prerecorded five-minute speech, he thanked the Czech people for their support and asked their forgiveness for his mistakes. He also alluded to the dramatic events that have marked the nation's transition from communism to democracy since he first took power in 1989. "During this time, I have been witness and party to many epochal events at home, in Europe and in the entire world," Havel said, looking more relaxed than during other recent speeches. "I consider this to be a great gift that fate has bestowed on me, for which I shall never cease to be thankful." The Czech Republic joined NATO under Havel's leadership in 1999 and was invited last year to join the European Union. But on the document front, Havel has been criticized for holding on to an idealism that increasingly has distanced him from regular Czechs. Some believe he overstepped the bounds of his office as president, meant to be a largely ceremonial post, but others fault him for not doing enough to prevent Czechoslovakia from breaking into separate Czech and Slovakian republics in 1993. The rupture happened peacefully, unlike what has happened in other former communist territories. During his address, Havel also touched on current political matters, saying "it is no great disaster" that parliament has not yet chosen his successor, but expressing hope the country will get its second president soon. Later in the evening, about 200 people gathered at the presidential palace, Prague Castle, to watch the presidential flag lowered at midnight. The castle guard orchestra then played the Czech national anthem. "We will miss him; he did a lot for us," said Helena Fejkova, a dress designer who watched the ceremony with her husband. "Now we don't know what will come next." As president, Havel struggled to keep a

busy schedule despite a long history of respiratory problems dating back to his years in communist jails. A former chain smoker, he suffered from chronic bronchitis since a third of his cancerous lung was removed in 1996.

*Ed: Vaclav Klaus was elected president to succeed Havel.*

**Need to Learn More about Texas-Czechs?** Check Honorary Board Member Robert Janak's website, Janak's Texas-Czech Articles and Photos at <http://www.janakstexasczecharticlesandphotos.com>.

### 2015 Calendar of Events - Check this date!

- **Remembering June 10, 2015** which marked the 73rd year since the Czech village of Lidice was razed to the ground by Nazis in 1942. More than 80 children besides adults died in the event during and soon after that day.
- **September 27, 2015** Houston Slavic Heritage Festival - <http://www.houstonslavicheritagefestival.com>; email [info@houstonslavicheritagefestival.com](mailto:info@houstonslavicheritagefestival.com).
- **October 24, 2015** Czech Oktoberfest, CCMH also remembers National Czech Slovak Day Democracy on October 28, 1918 First Republic. RSVP to: 713-528-2060 or [czech@czechcenter.org](mailto:czech@czechcenter.org).
- **October 24, 2015** Czech Heritage Society Harris County, Saturday, Soup Tasting 2:00 to 6:00pm at SPJST Lodge 172, 3906 Preston Rd, Pasadena.
- **November 14, 2015 Annual CCMH Fund Raising Gala** Also remembering November 17, 1989 the Velvet Revolution End of Communism in Czechoslovakia in 1989 leading eventually to the second Republic 1992. RSVP to: 713-528-2060 or [czech@czechcenter.org](mailto:czech@czechcenter.org) for more info.
- **December 6, 2015** Saint Nicholas Eve Celebration with the Bishop, Angel, and Devil. A Holiday Dinner for friends, families, and children. RSVP to: 713-528-2060 or [czech@czechcenter.org](mailto:czech@czechcenter.org) for more info.

**Great News for Those Who Want to Learn the Czech Language!** There now is a chance to study the Czech language in a college setting! Becky Garlick, Director of the Schulenburg Campus of Blinn College, informed us of a wonderful new class that will be offered at Blinn College: The course CZEC 1411 will be offered via distance learning in the fall. Participants from all over Texas and the nation who are interested in learning the CZEC language can participate in a live class on their own computers. The class will be offered via distance learning on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:30-8:45am. To participate, you will need the following: (1) a computer with internet access and (2) speakers and a microphone (or a headset is preferred). Simply log into the class on your computer to participate in a live class! Dual Credit students and students of all ages are encouraged to enroll. For questions or information, call 979-743-5222.



**Words to Live By:** "One must give respect to receive respect." "Kindness is repaid by kindness." "Supposedly small typos or small screwups can add up to big mistakes whether in daily or organizational life!"

**From the Chairman - Finding a Piece of World History in Houston Texas:** This month I was thrilled to be presented a Silver Medallion, possibly pewter or some other metal, the real value was realizing it documented a tragic time for the world, the invasion of Czechoslovakia on March 15, 1939. The medallion is inscribed with a young Czech man (maybe a Czech worker or soldier) in shirt sleeves rolled up on his arms outstretched on two pillar columns each with a German swastika and a helmet on top. Behind him is a cityscape with Prague Castle in the background, a mother with child in her arms on his one side, a young boy clinging to his legs on the other. Inscribed is *Pravda Vitezí (Truth will prevail) Czechoslovakia will be free again*. On the reverse side again the date March 15, 1939, the Czech national emblem and in Czech: "Republika Ceskoslovenska." This is known to commemorate the date that the German army invaded Czechoslovakia and was offered at the Czechoslovak Pavillion World's Fair 1939 as a fundraising effort for the nation.



The 1939 commemorative medal presented by personal and CCMH friend Sharon Willis Clay to Effie Rosene August 1, 2015.

**Ambassador Gandalovic** - Presentation of the Czech - U.S Friendship Medal of the Czech Embassy at a reception for him on July 30, 2015 to Effie Rosene at the Czech Center Museum Houston.

*Ed. Both medals here and above will be on permanent display at the Czech Center Museum Houston*



Translation  
(1) Hunger is best Cook (2) Eat at home what you have and elsewhere what they offer  
(3) A better kitchen than an apothecary

### Best Czech Recipes

For many people, old Bohemia is the capital city Prague - Golden Prague and the peaceful countryside of Moravia arouse nostalgic memories of the good old times. In just as in the days of the Emperor, people flock to the Czech Republic today to titillate their taste buds with excellent local specialties of Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), Marianske Lazne (Marienbad) or Frantiskovy Lazne, to the ingenious single pot rustic concoctions in the Krkonese (Giant Mountains) and the Sumava. Bohemia cuisine is influenced by two major culinary themes, the German-Czech tradition, with its strong regional variations, dominating naturally in those parts of the land which were inhabited mostly by German-Czech Slavonic cooking and eating customs which are entirely different from the

cuisine of other Slavic countries such as Russia and Poland. A glance at the history of this land is enough to show how many other influences were added to these important original sources. King Charles IV brought among other things wine grapes from Burgundy; Joseph Groll introduced Pilsen Beer from Bavaria; and the Tiroleans living in Volary brought not Tirolean dumplings but a little something of their Alpine eating habits to south Bohemia. The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw many additions from Slovak cuisine, and subordination to the Soviet empire did not fail to leave its traces. The diversity of its origins justified Czech cuisine incorporation into European cultural heritage, nourished as it has been from time immemorial by both national identities and foreign influences. This book gathers best recipes from both former times and present day. Recipes are presented in such a way that they can be easily prepared in the average modern kitchen. We wish you successful cooking and "bon appétit" or as we say here "dobru chut!" Author Harald Salfellner, published 2005.

**Sample recipe of pastries** - most recipes serve four persons: **Lomnice Cookies (Lomnicke Suchary)**

¼ liter milk; 25 g yeast; a little sugar; 500 g flour; 350 g butter; 3 egg yolks; pinch of salt; grated lemon rind; ½ grated nutmeg; a knife-tip of grated fennel powder; four vanilla sugar wrappings. Heat the milk (do not scald); dissolve the yeast in the milk; add the flour, butter and egg yolks. Work the mixture into the dough. Mix salt, lemon rind, nutmeg and fennel into the dough. Leave dough to rise for thirty minutes. Roll out flat in two pieces; place on greased baking tray and leave to rise another twenty minutes. Bake at 200 degrees for about thirty minutes. The following day cut into slices about a finger thick and leave to dry out at 120 degrees. While still warm, wrap in the vanilla sugar wrappings. Dobru Chut!

For future recipes, check the next CCMH newsletter!

Ed: I purchased this book in 2005 in the only English print bookstore in Brno in midtown square.

**For your Viewing and Listening Pleasure at** Czech Center Museum Houston

- **Brno Gallery** - Ceramics by Hanak highly awarded academic artist for bringing past history to the future; a gemstone globe on the antique lawyer's desk; the Pekar family gold table holds ceramics and awards.
- **Wenceslas Chapel** - Czech crystal chandeliers, stained glass windows, antique castles/chateau furniture and paintings; King Wenceslas on his horse is as on Wenceslas Square in Prague.
- **Brno Gallery** - Porcelain and numerous collections, paintings, and antique furniture with King Rudolf II to greet you!
- **The Presidents Room** includes the Ermis ceramics collection, Rev. Paul Chovanec Moser collection, Eggermann, Bohemian crystal, Brychta figures and Hoffman boudoir pieces and the Presidents' portraits.
- **Prague International Museum Gift Shop** - collection of heirlooms, antiques and only twenty items left of 100 year-old collection, jewelry, art, ceramics, and porcelain.
- **Grand Staircase Landing and Pilsen Hall** features magnificent artworks of Houston's own John Pavlicek, his art showing regularly at Gremillion Gallery.
- **Prague Hall Ballroom** filled with permanent exhibits of Czech Master's Alfons Mucha, father of the **Art Nouveau** Movement and Czech born American international artist to presidents, royalty and art patrons of all ages Kamil Kubik **Impressionist** of landscape and cityscape paintings plus more crystal chandeliers and Petrof baby grand piano.
- **Pilsen Hall** features Roy Cullen's Prague International Ballet in Houston debut; Folk Art *Galerie* with 1750s era village wedding and models with festival dress and permanent exhibit of the Ottervik Collection of 1289 pieces of Czechoslovakian Art Glass/Ceramics 1918 - 1938. Note the two Special Effects Photography by Czech/Slovak born New York artist Jaroslav Pecha on the west wall.
- **Comenius Library** – A permanent exhibit of early Czech immigrant rancher/farmer/photos who came to America from *Velky Ujezd*, Czech lands then Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1903 - the Frank Joseph Tomek family to Cameron, Texas.

**Good Reads Available at our Prague International Gift Shop:**

**Texas Czech Bands** by CCMH Members Jimmy Brosch with Theresa Cernoch Parker.

**Rustic Baroque** - A novel by Jiri Hajicek - Set in South Bohemia about a decade after the Velvet Revolution.

**Border Crossings** - A Memoir that Reads Like a Thriller! by Charles Novacek.

**Prague, My Long Journey Home** - by Charles Ota Heller. A memoir of Survival, Denial and Redemption, providing a window into one Czech American's experiences!

**The Czech Pioneers of the Southwest** by Dr. Henry R. Maresh - a must read for research of your genealogy.

**Living Longer Than Hate** - **W. J. Bill Morgan's** life, a Story of Survival and Success by C.S. Ragsdale.

**Fields of Light, A Son Remembers His Heroic Father** by CCMH Member Joseph Hurka.

**Žižka - The One-Eyed** - A grizzled warrior, he rose from service as a mere bodyguard at the court of King Wenceslas to lead armies of peasant men and women. By Jim Fuxa, CCMH member.

For information on these books and to order, call 713.528.2060 or visit our website [www.czechcenter.org](http://www.czechcenter.org).

You are welcome to view this organization's **IRS Form 990** available on the Guidestar website. Note this organization's name on filing was the Czech Cultural and Community Center, which now does business as the Czech Center Museum Houston. <http://www.guidestar.org/FinDocuments/2011/760/496/2011-760496649-08e34299-9.pdf> Interested Members may also view financial records by appointment.

**Czech Language Online Daily** It would be impossible not to learn from these simple distinct lessons. Try it now!  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bY9cp7r2CZc>.



2014 – A Houston Cultural Destination Point: Czech Center Museum Houston and the Charles Bridge of Prague at 4920 San Jacinto and Wichita in the Museum District!

"When we build let us think that we build forever. Let not it be such for present delight or for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will think of us for. And Let us think, as we lay stone upon stone, that a time is to come when these stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them, 'See this our father did for us'." John Ruskin



**An Irish Toast:** There are good ships, and there are wood ships, The ships that sail the sea, But the best ships are Friendships – And may they always be.

Time goes by so fast; people go in and out of your life. You must never miss the opportunity to tell these people how much they mean to you." Anonymous

"Those that say that individuals are not capable of changing anything are only looking for excuses." Václav Havel

"To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root." Chinese and Czech Proverb

Questions or comments or to be removed, please email first and last name to Effie M. Rosene, Chair/CEO on behalf of Board of Directors, Volunteers and Members and Friends.

This organization is supported in part by a grant from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance and by the contributions of our Friends, Members and Volunteers