



News from the Czech Center in the Museum District - December 2015



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

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Open Monday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Read about the Czech Center Museum Houston's Annual Gala in Prague Hall. Note the great upcoming events to include Grand Opera Rusalka teaser; Bill Boyce and the Second Lecture Series; Exclusive United Nations Exhibit with Slovak Dr. Slavo Michalek.

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 as this Museum connects People, Heritage, History and the World.

*Join us to Celebrate Saint Nicholas Day Sunday
December 6, 2015.*

Great News for those who want to learn the Czech Language. Credit course or to audit at Blinn College.

Wishes for a Blessed Holiday Season

Celebrate Saint Nicholas Day with us! The Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers of The Czech Center Museum Houston in the Museum District Wishes you on Saint Nicholas Day All the Blessings of the Holiday Season! Come Celebrate with Holiday Foods and Beverages **Sunday, December 6, 2015 - 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** in Prague Hall. Don your Holiday Finery. Enjoy this evening at the Czech Center Museum Houston Decorated in Moravian Stars and twinkling lights of the magnificent Bohemian chandeliers. You will be greeted by St. Nicholas, the Bishop and his assistants, the Sweet Angel and incorrigible little Devil. Enjoy a seasonal punch and a Cash Bar of Czech Beers and Wines. 🎵 Draw Christmas Spirit from Houston's 🎵 104 Heritages in this case, the Czech and Slovak, RSVP prepay for attending guests by December 2, 2015 to 713-528-2060 or events@czechcenter.org. **Admission: \$15.00; Children \$7.00** by cash, check to CCMH or VISA, MC & Discover. The evening features a film, the legendary Czech Christmas Mass, *Ceske Vanoce Mše* composed by Jan Jakub Ryba in 1795. The film is an animated version of the Nativity by Josef Lada, beloved Czech writer, artist, illustrator in characterization inspired by Disney Productions. *Children receive small gifts from the CCMH.*



Who was Saint Nicholas? The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, born during the third century in the village of Patara. The area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children and his concern for sailors and ships. The Roman Emperor ruthlessly persecuted Christians, and he suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. St. Nicholas is patron of seamen and protector of children and ferrymen.



Look for CCMH annual Nativity Exhibit – The Museum's treasured wooden scene, gifted in March 2000 by lifetime members Dortha and Henry Pekar family, "the Betlem" handmade by artist and sculptor Josef Michalcak. Mr. Michalcak was from the Roznov area in Moravia, Czech Republic and sculpted even in his last years in blindness. Don't miss it!

CCMH Calendar of Events

- **December 2015** Don't forget your year-end donation with deepest appreciation!
- **December 4, 2015** As part of International Czech Festival at the University of North Texas is a traveling presentation of Jan Jakub Ryba's Christmas Mass performed in Czech which is the keynote of the festival to be performed at St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church, 13350 Ashford Point Drive, Houston, Texas 77082, Friday, December 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Honorariums would be appreciated.
- **December 6, 2015, Sunday** 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 for more info.
- **December 15, 2015** Houston Grand Opera presents a promotional musical preview of Antonin Dvorak's Czech classic *Rusalka* at CCMH 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. for Opera and Wine. Discount tickets to the Wortham Theatre to be announced of a 20% discount for this performance or another holiday performance. Coming are the vocalist, the pianist, the dramaturge and support staff. Reception follows.
- **Watch for Pekar Family Nativities Exhibit** December through January.
- **January 9, 2016** **Second Distinguished Lecture Series** featuring Houstonian Bill Boyce, a review of his book for sale and signing of *Miss Fortune's Last Mission*. 4:00 p.m. For information call 713-528-2060.
- **January 13, 2016** Board of Directors retreat.
- **January 21, 2016, Thursday** CCMH is honored to present an exclusive exhibit of History and of the United Nations including the time period era 1948 - 1968 with the Czech-Slovak involvement presented by Dr. Slavo Michalek, Director, Institute of Academic Sciences, Slovak Republic, Bratislava. The history of the United Nations including Q&A interaction with the audience. Time to be announced.



Special Gala Thank You To: Therese Marik Wagner for her usual beautiful design artistry of fresh table flowers, Carol Vacca, Eva Maria Campo, Ginny Stoner, Juana deJesus Wilson, Marie Mann, Sherry and Lindsey Pierce, Cathy and Larry Anderson, Joe Peterson, Sharon Clay and staff Clay Zapalac and Andrea Peterson, also Grace England, Kate Peterson and James Ermis. The volunteers handled grandly all the needs of the silent auction and bazaar and its wrap-up. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your significant efforts to make the Museum's twenty-first annual Gala a success. While the attendance was the smallest ever, we could not appreciate you more. Our deepest appreciation, our love and God's Blessings are wished you by two other venerable volunteers, Effie and Bill Rosene on behalf of the Board, Staff and Members and Friends. To Brian Vanicek, Honorary Czech Consul of Texas for his informative presentation on Czech and U.S. relations. To Drs. Ervin and

Karolina Adam for their ideas. To Carolyn Filipp-Beseda for the delightful big-band sounds of Houston's Jazz Medics. We only wish the attendance had been larger, but the enjoyment could not have been more. We engaged weeks of planning, the evening's dinner and beverages, valet and security services, even the weather could not have been better. One constant which never ceases to warm us for which we are grateful is the thanks we receive for having built the CCMH as a symbol of Heritage for the City, State and the U.S.

Let us hear your suggestions for next year's greater success in attendance, participation and fundraising to meet the Museum's needs in Endowment, Building and Landscape, Repair and Embellishment, Sculpture Garden, Mural Painting repair and numerous other necessities and amenities. The upcoming Board retreat will entertain these issues also.



From top row l to r: Frank Pokluda, daughter Nikky Lang, Larry Pflughaupt, Effie and Bill Rosene, Andrea Peterson, Clay Zapalac, Jana & Clayton Nash, Karolina Adam, Ervin Adam, Dorothy and Larry Pflughaupt, Bill and Marietta Hetmaniak and

family, Sharon Willis Clay, Carolyn Filipp-Beseda and Jazz Medics colleagues, Brian Vanicek at podium, Sherry Rosene Pierce, Larry and Cathy Rosene Anderson, James Ermis, Viera Sarivada, Regina Knox, Frank Pokluda, Katherine Jones, Jere and Sue Ann Wallace, John Jones, Brian, Joan and Stephanie Vanicek.

The Jazz Medics that performed at Gala 2015 is a popular big band playing jazz, swing and music from the big band era, although contemporary music can be heard as well. Originating in 1965 and founded by Dr. Denton Cooley and Dr. Grady Hallman, noted heart surgeon and cardiologist, respectively, the band was first composed of only physicians. Its original name was The Heartstrings, evolving later as The Heartbeats, due to the added wind instruments. Finally in 1974 the band was renamed Jazz Medics which reflected the diversity of careers held by the musicians. The band managers are Dr. Sid Schwartz and Carl Winbigler, directed by Thomas Dybala and performing at the Gala were Woodwind: Carolyn Filipp-Beseda, Shane Coperrude; Brass: Mark Pillsbury and Carl Winbigler; Rhythm: Dr Schwartz, Chris Keuther and David Ciesielsk. The vocalists were Carolyn Beseda and Thomas Dybala. The band performs for engagements at all events should you need music for occasions of listening or dancing.



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 following 75 members and friends have rallied to this effort as we go to press:

Dr. Ervin Adam family, Larry and Cathy Anderson, Nita R. Bagley in memory of T.P. Boyett, Dara Bartak, Joyce Bartos, Alma Berger, Mary Boul, Brianna Bruckner, Ambassador William and Catherine Cabanis, Rev. Paul Chovanec, Richard Collins, Inez Dokupil, Lillian Dulaney, Robert Dvorak, Patsy Faltisek, Caroline Freeman, Veronica Frost, Cynthia Gdula and Charles Westervelt, Sarah George, Adelm Graham, Gerry Hamil, Purvis & Lynn Harper in honor of James Ermis; George Havlik, Marietta Hetmaniak, Chris Hlavinka, Anna Frances Hornak, Thomas Hrcirik, Stella Hwang, Loraine Ivy, Joseph Jankovic, MD, Dennis Jasek, Ann Popelka Jurecka, Phillip Kasik, David Killen, KJZT 8 Liz Zemanek, Julie Kloess, Joseph Kocab, Theodore Lapesch, Edward F. Lukasek, Marek Family Foundation 3x, Michael McCarthy, Marcella Miley, Emma Montgomery, Daniel Neskora, Gladys Oakley, Timothy Opatrny, Theresa Parker, Eric and Amber Pastusek, Sandra Pickett, Frank Pokluda III, Armin Porter, Lorraine Strnadel Rod 2x, Hugh and Ann Roff, Treena Rowan, Maxine and Dane Rudloff, Sandra Rutherford, Agnes Shimanek, Albert Smaistrla, Lilian Sorrels, Vera Sourada, Bradley Stavinoha, John Stavinoha MD, Michael W. Stavinoha MD, Lana Sullenger and Laura Lancaster, Jerry and Louise Terrill, MD, Carol and Hermann Vacca, Brian Vanicek, William Vavrik, Juana Wilson deJesus, Carolyn Zaskoda, Georges Zemanek, Norman Zetka (Names in bold added since last news.)

The Endowment will relieve the constant striving for funds over, above and beyond basic admission and membership dues. Building for future Generations. This effort continues so please consider Gifts to **the Endowment Fund at this time.** **Your**

gift may be made on-line right here: <http://www.czechcenter.org/endorment.html>, or make a check payable to CCMH, or please call the office at 713-528-2060 to order.

Shop at Kroger's? Have a Plus Card? Help our Museum by registering your card every time you shop at Kroger's - as a small percentage of your purchase each time is donated to our organization. Go to www.kroger.com; click on register; enter personal information and designate Czech Center Museum Houston, d/b/a Czech Cultural and Community Center Kroger charity account number **82266** as the designee for your contribution from your purchases. If you cannot register online, call the number on the back of your card and ask that your card be linked to account number **82266**. Every little bit helps. Call 713-528-2060 if you have questions or need help entering online.

Our Gala 2015 Honoree Benefactor Julie Halek Kloess Mrs. Kloess was born September 9, 1921 to Vaclav and Anna Tobermanova Halek on a small farm in Mecholupy northeast of Klatovy and southwest of Prague Czechoslovakia. Julie epitomizes the sayings above as she is a living example. At age six the family moved to Pilsen where her father was employed in the paper mill. She resided there eighteen and one-half years finishing school, studying Drama and participating in Sokol Theater productions which required traveling from town to town performing. In March 1938 prior to World War II, Germany occupied the Czech lands. The occupiers decreed that all born from the year of her birth 1921 were to be sent to Germany for slave labor in factory, farm or hotel work. Julie was sent to Hotel Platerhof in Bavaria close to Berchtesgaden (today it is the American owned Hotel Walker). She worked 16 hour days, no pay, very little to eat of poor food. From the windows she saw the high Nazi officials even Eva Braun, Hitler's partner. She and her close village friend, Vlasta Vysteinova, were then sent to Berlin to work in the hotels throughout the air raids. They lived in barracks and when everything was destroyed by the incessant bombing, they were sent to Pilsen and then again sent back to Berlin. Her father was dying of cancer and she was allowed to go home three days; her brother in Munich was not allowed so he escaped and upon seeing their father, the father then died within hours. Her brother remained hidden by the underground and was never discovered by the Nazis. She was detailed to work Dresden hotels on February 13, 1943 and at 8:00 p.m. came the announcement American and British planes were coming to bomb. Dresden was full of refugees and prisoners of war. Julie and friend stayed in basement tunnels to survive the fire bombs as the city burned, going from house to house underground as the streets literally melted and fire entered. A second wave of air raids occurred with the B17s again dropping thousands of firebombs. 90,000 people died that night. A man, her "Angel," stepped through a hole into a church basement leading some 200 people to the river water to keep from burning. When the air raid had ceased in the incredible confusion they found a train leaving and they lay hidden in the coal car to escape, arriving eventually in France. In 1945, Julie and her friend worked in a Camp for German prisoners manned by Polish guards. She met an American Colonel, Dr. Godil, who helped her get work in the American hospital there. Julie says they had a choice of working with Americans or Russians. They were fearful, but chose the Americans though all they knew about Americans were the Chicago gangsters from the movies. All of their belongings and documents were destroyed; they needed to get back to Munich where she met American Dr. Edward Kloess and his associate Roger Saunders. In time Dr. Kloess asked her to marry him; she felt there was too much age difference - 20 something years. She instead married his best friend, Roger Saunders, and Dr. Kloess was their "best man" who eventually married her girlfriend. Roger went from Army to Air Force in Titan missile work and they moved to the United States first to Arkansas, then Kansas and eventually to Denver, Colorado with the Strategic Air Command. Her husband traveled to Japan and after eight days there, he died of a heart attack at the age of 45. Julie meanwhile had been caring for his parents, who subsequently died. She took a job as a surgical secretary in the intensive care unit of Denver General Hospital where she worked 24 ½ years buying a home, alone in a new country and needing to be self-sufficient. In 1985 Dr. Kloess called after her girlfriend, his wife, had died asking to visit her. He said, "40 years ago you didn't want me, but marry me now." She did in 1986. They moved to Bellville, Illinois, his home. Retired, he had served 32 years as an Air Force physician, living there until 1992 after which they moved to San Antonio where he had many retired Air Force friends. Ten months later he died. In retrospect Julie was age 28 when she married her first husband. Upon his death after 14 ½ years, she remained single and on her own for 26 years in a very different adopted country. Her second husband died after seven and half years of marriage in 1992. Today, Julie is a vivacious, robust, beautiful lady still filled with great spirit - of the right stuff of what counts! *Ed: From an oral interview to Effie Rosene*



Cooking Like a Czech - Spicy Pork with Dumplings and Sauerkraut Ingredients: About a 2 lb pork roast, 4 garlic cloves, 1 teaspoon salt, a little pepper, 1 teaspoon caraway, 4 bay leaves, 8 grains of allspice, 8 grains of black pepper, 4 juniper berries, 5 spoonfuls of oil, ¼ liter of cold water, 3 tablespoons flour, ¼ liter water. Peel and crush garlic, mix with salt and pepper and caraway seeds. Spread this mixture on the meat. Quarter the bay leaves and insert into the cuts in the meat, together with the spice, peppers and juniper berries. Briefly brown the roast in the oil and pour on the hot water. Place covered roasting dish in preheated oven at 200 degrees and roast for two to two and one-half hours. Turn the meat after an hour. Then leave in a warm place and strain the juice. Mix the flour, add the water and simmer on low heat for 15 minutes. Carve the meat and serve the sauce separately.



Talking About What We Eat! *Of course, we are not in the medical advice business nor do we give it. However, an article in the Chronicle by the You Docs caught our attention recently as we frequently stop for a hamburger or eat at one of the restaurants listed in the article titled: Antibiotic resistance is growing concern. Bacteria's resistance to lifesaving antibiotics is a concern and one of North America's top five health threats sickening more than two million and killing 23,000 people a year. Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria become used to antibiotics and develop ways to protect themselves from those and related ones. The bacteria also spread the word to other bacteria, some of which cause serious infections. Then when you need an antibiotic it can no longer do its job. A major cause of this is the abundance of antibiotics in our food supply. Some chain restaurants are getting that message and some are not! In a survey of the major ones, Chick-fil-A received a "B" rating and pledged to be free; McDonald's, a "C"; Applebee's, Arby's, Burger King (where we go), Chili's, Dairy Queen, Denny's, Domino's, IHOP, Jack in the Box, KFC, Little Caesars, Olive Garden, Outback Steakhouse, Papa John's, Pizza Hut, Sonic, Starbucks, Subway, Taco Bell and Wendy's received failing grades of "F." So, we guess you should take this into consideration?*

We Need Volunteers: We honor them, not just today, but every day, our Volunteers, members of the Czech Center Museum Houston Guild. They Tend the Prague International Gift Shop, Give Docent Historical Tours, Meet every visitor to the CCMH from around the world, and Answer every telephone call for its execution. **We honor their "stepping up" in great attitude and aptitude to administer the Museum's needs. Please join us in any hours or days you can commit to this special group. Call 713-528-2060 or 713-682-4608. We promise you will be glad you did! It's special work from the heart. Thank you.**

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. The CCMH's Board of Directors has authorized the continuation of the Loan Program 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. *If you are interested in joining with us in this program, please call. Your investment in this matter is highly important and beneficial to you and the Czech Center Museum Houston.*

St. Nicholas Holiday Celebration - Prague Hall – Czech Center Museum Houston – December 6, 2015

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. _____ Email: _____

Unable to attend but wish to make a contribution to the Endowment for Perpetuity in the amount of \$ _____

My End of the Year Donation to the Czech Center Museum Houston \$ _____

I wish to make the following reservations: _____ Reservation/s @ 15.00 \$ _____ Children (10 to 3) @ \$7.00 _____

Credit Card VISA, MC, Discover: _____/_____/_____/_____ Exp _____/_____

Return to: CCMH, 4920 San Jacinto Street, Houston, Texas 77004 or 713-528-2060 or czech@czechcenter.org

NEW! Read a virtual *Docent Historical Tour* of the Czech Center Museum Houston by clicking the following link: <http://www.czechcenter.org/VerticalResponseEmails/pdfs/Docent-Tour-Czechvar.pdf>.

For your Viewing and Listening Pleasure at the Czech Center Museum Houston:

- **CCMH Foyer.** Art Nouveau Beveled glass doors and windows; The 1850 palace low-boy chest with Hanak Biblical Times Ceramics Art Collection by Czech Karel 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.** A collection of heirlooms, antiques and only twenty items left of 100 year-old collection, jewelry, and art.
- **Grand Staircase Landing and Pilsen Hall** features magnificent artworks of Houston's own John Pavlicek, his art showing regularly at Gremillion Gallery remembering the early Immigrants.
- **Prague Hall Ballroom** filled with permanent exhibits of Czech Masters 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 Photo Gallery; Folk Art *Galerie* with 1750s era village wedding and models with festival dress and permanent exhibit of the Ottavik 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.

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>

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.



Mural of Prague Bridge
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.*

Sayings for your consideration: *"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.

View the latest issue of CCMH Newsjournal: www.czechcenter.org/news/pdfs/Czech_News.pdf

View our blog: www.czechcentermuseumhouston.wordpress.com

View special items for purchase: www.czechcenter.org/giftshop/giftshop.asp