



News from the Czech Center in the Museum District - March - April 2016

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

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



Ensure our Gala 2016 Success! Save the dates of the CCMH's coming Events in 2016. We have lost prominent members Ray Snokhous and Julie Halek Kloess recently.

The Endowment for Perpetuity Fund Appeal continues its mission for future generations. Please watch for your appeal in the mail. Read about a Summer language course in Brno.

Members Friends Dinner March 5, 2016 honored member Robert J. Dvorak. SPJST Lodge 232 Houston-Midtown meeting.

Save the Dates

CCMH Calendar of Events 2016

Movie Nights: April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 7, November 11, December 9

January 21 to February 28, 2016: Exclusive exhibit of History of the United Nations including the time period era 1948 - 1968 with the Czech-Slovak involvement.

Board Meetings: 2016 - April 5, July 5, October 4; January 10, 2017

March 5, 2016: Members Family Friends Dinner to commemorate the beginning of CCMH March 6, 1996.

March 22, 2016: SPJST Lodge 232 Midtown reception, dinner and meeting. All interested members invited.

August 27, 2016: CCMH's Twenty-Second Gala Please mark your calendar for this very important event to include Raffle for a trip to the Czech Republic, Silent Auction, Bazaar.

October 28, 2016: Czech National Day/Oktober Fest serving a dual function.

November 17, 2016: Lecture Reception acknowledgement, a commemoration of communist overthrow and return to democracy in 1989.

December 6, 2016: St. Nicholas Event

Watch for announcements of future events.

From the Chairman: We pride ourselves on being friends who remember friends always, not only at their passing from this earth, but certainly we wish to convey our thoughts on the death of **Raymond J. Snokhous** of West, Texas. He, of gargantuan stature of being and humanity, was one of our early mentors and builders of the Czech Center Museum Houston. In the early formative days when pebbles and rocks were strewn or rather thrown in our path, he reminded us we were capable to build and direct whatever we thought was necessary and appropriate to achieve the goals of a spectacular example of Czech Slovak heritage, the Czech Center Museum Houston. He was certainly proud of his heritage! He did not hesitate to enlist his friends and acquaintances to help achieve these goals. While we did not know all his family intimately, we felt we knew Ray Snokhous in those early times. He helped us learn to avoid some pitfalls and we appreciate that. He knew we were good to him too. In a Capital Campaign Development meeting, we saved a seat next to his wife to be, Clarice! He was a lot of business, but he could be fun. Wherever R.J. Snokhous arrived on his departure we certainly hope they were prepared! At this time the office of Chairman and CEO Effie Rosene and W. G. Bill Rosene VP Admin and CCMH volunteers extend our deepest sympathy, love and prayers to his and his extended family on behalf of the Czech Center Museum Houston. We certainly cherish our memories of him too! May he rest in Peace!



"Hats off" for our President and Vice Chairman James Ermis shown with Effie Rosene for **twenty-one** years of volunteer service!

Raymond

of Houston, passed away Friday, February 26, 2016 at his 1929 in West, the son of the late Ludwíg J. "Louis" and graduated from the University of Houston and South Texas in the United States Army with the 101st Air Borne September 5, 1952 he married Jolene Grant in Houston. Raymond then married Clarice Ann Marik on November 20, Republic. Raymond was employed by Gulf Oil Corporation Houston Lighting and Power Company as Group Vice President of External Affairs and retired as Senior Vice-President of Government and Regulatory Affairs. He served as the Honorary Consul General Emeritus of the Czech Republic for the State of Texas. He will be truly missed by all of his family and friends.



J. Snokhous - 1929-2016, of West, formerly residence. Raymond was born August 18, Sidonia (Dvorsky) Snokhous. Raymond College School of Law. He served his country stateside during the Korean War. On She preceded him in death on April 11, 1997. 1999 in Maadalena, Moravia, Czech from 1952 through 1983. In 1983 he joined

CCMH Grand Patron Julie Halek Kloess Remembered On Monday, March 7, 2016, at 12:30 a.m. in San Antonio, Texas, Julie Halek Kloess' life's journey ended at Fort Sam Houston going, her close friend stated, to join her husband, Dr. Edward Kloess. A real cornerstone of our foundation, Julie will always be a part of us. Her namesake third floor's Kloess Pilsen Hall, numerous Beveled glass windows and doors, the Grand Chandeliers, the Baby Grand Petrof Piano, and if you sit in our lovely cranberry chairs at a table of elegant white and black linen, you sat at our lovely Julie's table. The Czech Center Museum Houston pays a tribute to Julie Halek Kloess celebrating her life and gifts to the Czech Center she supported so graciously and proudly. We will so miss our Julie, but still much of Julie remains with us to inspire us that we must carry on in her place. A memorial service was held at Fort Sam Houston on Wednesday, March 9, 2016; her formal resting place, as she wished it, will be in the land of her birth.



Contributions in Mrs. Kloess and Mr. Raymond Snokhous' honor may be offered to CCMH for various upcoming and ongoing projects, i.e. the outdoor Sculpture Garden, Landscape beautification, or Endowment for Perpetuity. May they both rest in Peace! Effie Rosene, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and W. G. Bill Rosene, Vice President Administration will especially miss their presence!

Good Morning March 6, 2016. We send greetings and gratitude to many for last evening's March 5, 2016 Members Friends Dinner Event Benefit for the Czech Center Museum, thankful for a beautiful happy occasion. Any financial proceeds necessary to cover the operational costs and for Benefit purposes we do not know at present. We are personally grateful for the many positive comments from food to music, the Museum's beauty and purpose. We welcomed an added bonus of numerous guests from our Museum's formative years and efforts, but experienced sadness at the lack of attendance of a couple stalwarts, supportive Members Friends since inception. We extend from our hearts Thanks to all who helped - our staff, Clay and Jasmina, our volunteers, Dr. Grace England, Eva Marie Campo, Carol and Herman Vacca, Juana Wilson, Virginia Stoner, Bill Rosene, Sharon Willis Clay, Larry and Cathy Anderson, the inimitable floral artistry of Therese Marik Wagner, a room full of fresh flowers, to the Hauerland girls, Paulette, Cana and Marianna, Carolyn Phillip Beseda, our Board members Rev. Paul Chovanec, Wesley Pustejovsky, Chris Hlavinka, Grace England, Caroline Freeman. We thank all the Dvorak family, to Donna and the wonderful, melodic Brass Quintet Musicians, to Robert J. Dvorak our honoree, and the man of the evening. If there is anyone we have not noted it is not with malice, but with Thanks. Thanks to our Honorary Czech Consul for going out of his way to make our event and certainly thanks to those noted as underwriters beyond admission. Effie M. Rosene, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and W. G. Bill Rosene, Vice President Administration on behalf of the Czech Center Museum Houston.

Members and Friends Dinner Honoree Robert James Dvorak



a first generation Czech American composer, a native of a Czech area of Chicago, was the honoree at the Member and Friends event on March 5, 2016. He was born October 3, 1919 and was steeped in his Czech heritage by his Czech father, a musician as well, a trumpet player in his own right, and by his Norwegian mother who faithfully adapted to his father's heritage. An accomplished musician, conductor and composer, musical gifts were fostered by acclaimed music teachers in the Chicago area from early youth. His music performance and composition were pursued throughout high school under Louis M. Blaha, who mentored him as a young man. The Chicago Music College Conservatory recognized his ability by awarding him a full scholarship for his collegiate and graduate studies in music composition, French horn performance and conducting. His West Point Symphony was composed while stationed in the Army at the West Point Academy. The Army recalled him during the Korean War to serve as the Assistant Conductor of the West Point Band. Robert related, "In 1946, following my brother's and my return from service in World War II, our father was terminally ill from the age of 39 with a blood clot in his brain." My dad, Bohumil Vaclav Dvorak, grabbed me strongly by the hand and said to me, "You are the oldest of the two sons I have. I want you to promise that you will help me as well as yourself to do what you can to perpetuate the lessons that can be taught by a much older and wiser civilization."

He grew in his art through positions in churches and schools as teacher, organist, band, orchestra and choral director and Administrator. He headed the fine arts department of the Cicero-Berwyn high schools and junior college system while continuing with his composing of vocal solos, chorales, chamber music, concert band and orchestra works, among which are the renowned West Point Symphony. Robert has made multiple trips to the Czech Republic and to Europe with students, on business, interviewing and studying other composers' works. Anyone familiar with Robert knows even in his quiet time he is hard at work in his mind composing, editing and listening to other composers' music.

After retiring, Robert joined his family in Texas and also the Czech Center Museum Houston to fulfill a pledge to his father that he would not forsake his heritage. He is a founding member of this organization, a steadfast board member of many years, always willing to volunteer his time whenever called. He has served as board member on the Education Committee, Scholarship Committee, Executive Committee and Prague Arts Council. While editing for publication his multitudinous works he still finds time to give to our organization!

He is an accomplished raconteur, an engaging speaker and always a gentleman. He was presented the Comenius Award by this organization for his unflinching zest in keeping alive his heritage through education. He has certainly gained and satisfied his pledge to his father to proudly pass on his heritage to his son and grandchildren and to any other he meets. We are proud to claim him as a friend and, yes, he has contributed greatly to helping "build a castle," the Czech Center Museum Houston.

Member Friends Dinner Event Pictures



Row 1: The Dvorak Table; Margot Fucich and Wesley Pustejovsky, volunteer bartenders; Effie Rosene, Alfonso Duncan. Row 2: Rudolph Rusnak, Rev. Paul Chovanec, Steve Vrana, Donna Drastata; Carolyn Filipp Beseda, Joan and Brian Vanicek, Susan Jezek; Nina Vitek, Carol Vacca. Row 3: Hermann Vacca, Carol Vacca, Ronald Rod, Lorraine Rod Green; Cana Hauerland, Ray Vitek, Maranna Hauerland; Hutch Dvorak with father Robert J. Dvorak. Row 4: Rev Paul Chovanec and Dr. Glenn Sternes; Henry Hermis, Ashley and Brian McCann Hermis, Marek Foundation Table, Marietta Hetmaniak in background.

Arlington Heights, IL attorney has eclectic mix of art George Drost doesn't always surround himself with legal documents and courtroom drama. He likes drama that can be found in oil or sculpture... or even in etchings. He is a collector of fine art as an investment and has traveled around the world and collected mostly contemporary Czech art for enjoyment and for an investment. The collection includes about 500 paintings, sculptures, etching and other media and declined to say what the collection is worth. While some pieces are at his home, others are displayed elsewhere, including at the Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, or at his alma mater, Augustana College. He's now planning a special exhibit in 2018. "Unlike the emotional ups and downs of the stock market, investing in art can add a level of personal fulfillment that traditional investments simply can't provide," said Shankar Iyer, a financial adviser with Merrill Lynch who works with him. His parents were also art collectors who came to the United States around 1950, and he returned to his native country in 1990 for the first time and has made several trips since then, often buying artwork from Czech, Slovak and other artists. His father also was an attorney, and the younger George Drost followed in those footsteps. His brother, Rudy, went into the insurance and banking business. He has been an attorney since he graduated from DePaul University in 1972. He worked three years for the IRS, then for a private company. By the mid-1980s, he helped start the law firm of Drost Kivlahan McMahon & O'Connor LLC in Arlington Heights. The firm now has 11 attorneys who focus on various legal fields, including estate planning and commercial real estate. He also has been involved with various organizations that help strengthen ties between the United States and the Czech Republic, including the American Friends of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C. and the John Marshall School of Law Czech and Slovak Legal Exchange Program. He has been honorary



consul of the Czech Republic for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin from 2001 to 2006. And just as he has an eclectic mix of art, he also has had a variety of kids at his home. He resides in Arlington Heights with his wife, Beth. They have three grown children and 12 grandchildren. He and Beth also have served as foster parents to more than 30 kids. The foster kids were for short periods of time until they were permanently adopted. "We have to learn how to help these families," he said. "There's a variety of kids from families who do drugs, need some type of support or have been abused. They are a rainbow of races," he said. *Published 2/14/2016 in the Daily Herald by Anna Marie Kukec Ed: Effie and Bill Rosene were interested in a painting in an antique store in Brno, waited several days thinking about it, and Mr. Drost bought it before we returned! But we established a good relationship!*

Czech Tatra T97 Automobile The pioneering Czech car manufacturer Tatra was a leading proponent of aerodynamics in Eastern European car design. By licensing Paul Jaray's pioneering aerodynamic principles that influenced the design of the Zeppelin airship, Tatra explored the potential of Jaray's ideas for design of automobiles. Ultimately, Tatra applied the new science of streamlining with the wind-tunnel test to develop the first serially produced, aerodynamically styled luxury cars powered by air-cooled, rear-mounted engines in Europe. The T97's aerodynamic bodywork evolved from earlier streamlined models, the T77 (1934) and the T87 (1936), also designed by Hans Ledwinka, who joined Tatra as chief engineer in 1923. Ledwinka is considered a visionary in the creation of the most technically advanced passenger cars. While it is a shorter, scaled-down version of its predecessors, the T97 retained the original's innovative body style, including its rounded front. Long fastback tail with small rear window and dorsal fin, as well as integrated fenders, which reduce wind resistance. Although the T97 attracted positive attention at its world debut at the 1939 Berlin Auto Show, only 508 were ever made due to the outbreak of World War II when an order from Nazi Germany ended commercial production of the T97 in 1939 in favor of the Volkswagen of "people's car" for the new autobahns. *Courtesy of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts.*



Ed: *Tatra is a Czech manufacturer producing vehicles in Kopřivnice; it is owned by Tatra Trucks company, based in Ostrava. It is the second oldest company producing cars and has an unbroken history after Daimler. The company was founded in 1850 as Schustala & Company, later renamed Nesselsdorfer Wagenbau-Fabriksgesellschaft when it became a wagon and carriage manufacturer. In 1897, Tatra produced the first motor car in central Europe, the Präsident automobile. In 1921, it changed its name to Kopřivnická vozovka a.s., and in 1919 changed from the Nesselsdorfer marque to the Tatra badge named after the nearby Tatra Mountains on the Polish-Czechoslovak border at the time (now this range is on the Polish-Slovak border). During World War II, Tatra was instrumental in the production of trucks and tank engines for the German war effort. Production of passenger cars ceased in 1999, but the company still produces a range of primarily all-wheel-drive trucks, from 4x4 to 18x18. The brand is also known as a result of Czech truck racer Karel Loprais: in 1988–2001 he won the off-road race Dakar Rally six times with the Tatra 815.*

Summer Course to study the Czech Language Masaryk University in Brno is offering a summer course for all levels commencing July 16, 2016 to August 13, 2016 with a focus of lessons for five hours in the morning and consists of an intensive language course, special seminars and lectures. The program also includes day long excursions to places of historical interest. The fee for the four-week course is CZK 34,400 or about \$1,500.00 which includes registration and tuition fees, accommodation, half-board meals and costs associated with excursions. A registration fee of CZK 5,000 is payable by July 15, 2016 at the latest. *Eva Rusinova, Director of the Department of Czech for Foreigners*



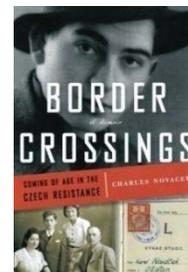
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Czech Lesson The touch of wood lesson. The Czech word for wood or timber is *drevo*. In metaphorical use it also means a clumsy person. One can also sleep like a piece of wood - *spat jako drevo*. People can be stupid like wood - *hloupy jako drevo* or deaf like wood - *hluchý jako drevo*. Although Czechs more often say *hluchý jako poleno* - as deaf as a log, or *hluchý jako perez* - as deaf as a tree stump. The expression *sladký drevo* or sweet wood is a poetic name for a guitar. The short Czech word *les* means forest. *Nosit drevo do lesa* is to carry wood to the forest, or to use an English idiom, to carry coals to Newcastle. If a child is growing up without enough supervision, if he or she is allowed to run wild, Czechs say *roste jako drevo v lese* - he or she is growing up like timber in the forest. About people who can bear a lot, who let people behave badly to them and do not protest, Czechs say *necha na sobi drevo tipat* - "He lets others to chop wood on him" or he lets people walk all over him. The next expression has a similar meaning to the English phrase "you can't make an omelet without breaking some eggs." It goes: *kdy se kaci les, padaji trisky*, and the literal translation is "when a forest is being cut down, splinters fall," meaning there are unpleasant side effects to important things. Another idiom: *Pro stromy nevidit les* means "not to see the wood for the trees." The meaning is the same in both Czech and English: to be so involved in the details and not realize the real purpose or importance of the things as a whole. A moralizing phrase: *Jak se do lesa vola tak se z lesa ozyva* - "the way you shout at the forest, the way the sound comes back." The closest English idioms would be "you get as much as you give" or "what goes around comes around." *Na shledanou*. Thanks to Radio Prague.

Endowment for Perpetuity The Czech Center Museum Houston has issued a call and appeal for our friends and members to contribute to a permanent Endowment to perpetuate this institution going forward and will recognize those who have made gifts as your legacy to this organization by a plaque in the foyer of the Center. We all want to be remembered for what we stand for and for the things that are important to us. Your legacy is what you leave for the future, leaving your mark and honoring what matters in your life. There are many ways you can leave your legacy to CCMH outright or a direct contribution. 1) *Consider Honoring a friend or loved one by honoring someone important in your life. Inscribe your name or your honoree's name on a tile as a lasting and meaningful memento of thoughtfulness.* 2) *Bequest an inheritance through your last will and testament. You may also want to consider charitable gift annuities, endowed gifts, charitable lead gifts, real estate and designating life insurance policies which in this instance you might want to consider our friends at SPJST, KJT, KJZT, etc.* 120 Members and Friends gave \$194,000 in 2014 and 180 gave \$139,000 in 2015. Some of this number gave multiple times so please join those by your contribution. Please call 713-528-2060 for help or more information.

Border Crossings, by Charles Novacek, a memoir of coming of Age in the Czech Resistance. Originally from Czechoslovakia, later of Detroit, Michigan, he finished his memoirs, which were published by Czech author, Sandra Novacek after Charles' death in 2007. We, at CCMH, learned about the book early, read it, and retained a permanent copy for the Czech Center Museum Houston in our Comenius Library. We then reread it having called Mrs. Sandra Novacek to see if she had written any further books. She has; this time a children's book illustrated with early Czech Memories of Charles. She plans to send it to us in the future. In the meantime, if you are Czech, Slovak, Hungarian or even German, this book is a well-told and dramatic story of a young man whose comfortable life is abruptly transformed by the savagery of World War II. Forced to rely on primal instincts and his familiarity with the rugged highlands of Moravia, he casts his lot first with the anti-Hitler Underground and then with the resistance to the Nazis' communist successors. He escaped his homeland in 1948 and finally to Detroit where he was a Civil Engineer for thirty-three years. If you wish to own a copy of this book, we will order it for you to really relive World War II history as it impacted the world and particularly our Czech-Slovak heritage; please let us know if you wish a copy. Call 713-528-2060.



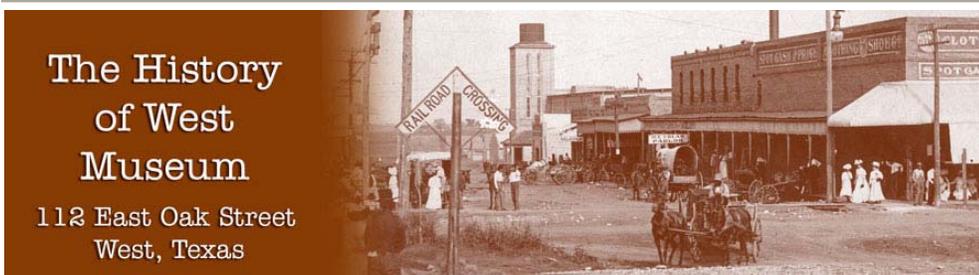
Meet Our Newest Volunteer, Jere Fojtik (pronunciation *foy-tik*). Let me introduce you to our newest Volunteer. Jere comes from a long lineage of Czech Heritage besides her family name also including Pesak and Janak ancestry. Born one of four children to Czech immigrant's cotton farmers in Needville, Texas, she brings with her a love of people, work and hoping each day to make a difference. She has visited the Czech Center Museum Houston at least five times with a very dear friend who passed from her life in January, but not before taking her to Prague, Czech Republic to experience the land of her Czech heritage. A friend of the author of Miss Fortune's Last Mission, we met them both at the Bill Boyce Book

Review in January. Then hearing from her the day after our Members Friends Dinner of March 5, 2016 she sent a beautiful note quote, "What a lovely, happy event I had enjoyed so much." I told her not unlike the telephone calls I unfailingly received following every event from Honorary Board Members in the past years, the deceased Charles Saunders and Frank Pohluda Jr. always so encouraging and positive about their beloved Czech Center Museum Houston. Jere brings to us forty-seven years of employment, education, business and volunteering experience, including with Houston icons such as Gus Wortham, John Mitchell Corporation, Sears and Sakowitz retail. We welcome Jere as the newest in our Czech Center Museum Houston family all of whom we so cherish. *Effie M. Rosene, Editor, Chairman, CEO*

SPJST Lodge 232 Houston Midtown to be based at CCMH was formally ceremonially presented to members of the lodge, interested members of other lodges joining the new lodge and members attending from other Houston lodges. The President of SPJST Brian Vanicek invited members and prospective members of charter Lodge 232 Houston Midtown to be based at CCMH to attend and celebrate the organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2016. The event attended by several officers from the SPJST Home Office went through the founding ceremony that was attended by members of other Houston Lodges. A reception and dinner followed by the organizational meeting. Among the items covered were the election of officers, explanation of benefits and a discussion of ways that the Czech Center Museum may be integrated as the central focus of the Lodge 232 Houston experience. Officers elected by attending members were C.W. Roberts, President, Clay Zapalac, Vice President, James Ermis, Treasurer and Cathy Rosene Anderson, Secretary. Members of sister SPJST lodges in the vicinity attended and shared their support for the new lodge.



Donna Drastata, daughter of patrons Pam and Bill Drastata with Effie Rosene at the March 5, 2016 Members Friends Dinner. Thanks to Steve Vrana for bringing this vivacious pretty lady to the party!



A recent visit to West to enjoy the amenities of her visit to the West Texas History Museum by Member Eva Maria Campo reminded us of the CCMH's donation to the Museum which was raised to give recognition and to memorialize the death of twelve firefighters



responding to the tragic explosion in West of a fertilizer plant there. In March 2013 an historic building in downtown West, Texas was purchased for a Museum. Exhibits to showcase the early ancestors, businesses, churches, city leaders, farming and ranching and the impact of Czech culture on the town was to be the mission. After the tragic event the Museum would not be complete without a tribute to the heroes of the April 17, 2013 fertilizer plant explosion. Three weeks after the board of nine volunteers reached into their own pockets to purchase the 1896 building, the plant exploded, killing 15 people, 12 of who were firefighters and first responders. Museum fundraising was put on hold as the city worked to recover, but a room was dedicated to honor those who died as well as the city's recovery. CCMH's Members and Friends donated in excess of ten thousand dollars

for the purpose of memorializing the fallen firefighters which according to Georgia Hutyra, Board President, pictured above, is still a work in progress. All of us look forward to attending the opening of this worthy endeavor.

Please consider joining the tile holders shown who are waiting to have their tiles inscribed in the next Memorial/Honorary Tile installation. It is a way to celebrate and remember your heritage while you help grow the Museum. Honor a friend or loved one. Inscribe your name or your honoree's name on a tile as a lasting and meaningful memento of thoughtfulness. It is for someone you love. It is for someone who made a difference. It is for you! Celebrate Honoring Someone important in your life or your association with the Czech Center Museum Houston. Inscribe Your Name or your Honoree's Name on a gold engraved black marble tile as a lasting and meaningful memento of thoughtfulness and support of the mission of this unique new site. **Tile contribution by size:** 12x12 \$5,000 - gold frame surround; 12x12 \$1,000; 8x12 \$750; 6x12 \$500; 4x12 \$250



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>.

You are welcome to view this organization's **IRS Form 990** available on the Guide Star 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.

"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



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.

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