From the Chairman – Reference CCMH desire, from inception, to bridge with like-minded Czech organizations for collaboration: (1) With Galveston Co. Czech Heritage Society as noted through Rudolf Rusnak’s intervention, a gift of a lovely Czech basket for Silent Auction for our CCMH Gala August 27. (2) An earlier interchange with Joe Janak of Victoria’s Czech Heritage Society to promote their Kolache Festival and to comply with their request for ideas on how to start up a museum. (3) With SPJST to initiate an in-house CCMH Lodge Midtown Houston. (4) With Susan Chandler’s Temple Heritage Museum and La Grange’s Texas Czech Heritage Cultural Center for the Josef Lada Art Show and Tell with two out-of-town speakers Daniela Mahoney, Prague-born folk artist from Portland, Oregon, and Susan Chandler, the Temple, Texas Czech Heritage Museum Director. (5) With the Dulka Brothers, John and Mark, of Brenham, Texas for our August 27th Gala. (6) Alan Kristynik of East Bernard, with the Victoria Rusty Steins for our October 28th Oktoberfest, alongside Rudi Lechner’s, Karbach, and Mach Industries via Harry Mach, and (7) even also closer at hand, Harris County Czech Heritage Society where we learned this week from the former president, where we had offered and expected to have their organization relocate on their needed move from their present location to ours did not take place “because CCMH did not have the space on the 3rd floor” (we did). Our representative and theirs was Charlie Walligura. They will relocate to another building’s office space. (8) We are connecting with Karolina Srivatkova, classical pianist/opera producer from Prague and Brno, for a possible concert in 2017. (9) We connect with city officials, (10) with Museum District Association officials, and (11) with Arts & Cultural institutions for CCMH engaging in business. (12) We have connected with Katerina Knoy, who donated a beautiful Pilsen Madonna. (13) We have written and connected our news to the Vestnik for a full listing plus an ad. (14) We have supported the Slavic Festival via Father Paul and (15) the Village News with ads via Sally Miller. (16) We write our newsletter and (17) use Vertical Response messages via Effie and Bill. (18) We Aspire, (19) try to Inspire, and (20) Engage on a morning to night daily basis through talking to our members and friends from early days as well as recent. (21) It’s how we try to keep up to keep giving the message we do here, for future generations too, and for a larger community of our city and suburbs. The beautiful CCMH is what it is, because of you! (22) So please talk to us - write or call - we are always at our Home Office or at the Museum. We will listen because we truly love to interact with each and all of you. It’s how we learn. And if we can do something better let us know it directly, not secondhand, as we did recently, from one of you who thought we had “terribly misspelled in our newsletter,” obviously referring to Oktoberfest, which we said, yes, 9th Annual Oktoberfest on October 28, 2016. If that individual had ever been (or read notice of this event) to Germany or the Czech Republic, they use in their language the celebration of centuries of Oktoberfest. We actually get some accolades even from perfect strangers! In closing, we respect, are grateful for, and enjoy hearing from each and all of you. (23) We will continue to envision, research, design, and produce new programming to our Community. November 19th has “Day of the Lilacs: Liberation of Czechoslovakia, May 6, 1945” by Darrell Hancock. RSVP please for Pilsen Hall exhibit, lecture, and reception. Also, we will hold our annual St. Nicholas event on December 6. In April 2017, we anticipate working with Professor Dr. Brian Conley from Rice University’s Department of Music with his concert on our Petrof Baby Grand Piano of Janacek’s written for same via Beryl Hogseed. We also anticipate, sometime in 2017, to continue our Distinguished Lecture series with Dr. Helmut Schneider of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, on reading Moravian immigration maps. Enjoy the Fall. We will. Bless you!

We Celebrated October 28 - Czechoslovak Independence Day at our October Festival! Czechoslovak independence was declared on Wendecas Square on October 28, 1918, beginning a new era for two nations which had previously been part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The majority of Czech society did not regard the Austro-Hungarian state as their own. However, the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 put national questions within the multi-national Austro-Hungarian Empire on the backburner. The only real “war against a central power” was carried out by Czech exiles led by TG Masaryk and a small circle of supporters. During 1916 Masaryk, Edvard Beneš and MR Štefánik established what was later called the Czechoslovak National Council; it became the main force in the anti-Austrian resistance. Domestic politicians appeared on the scene with the Three Kings’ declaration at the start of January 1918. The declaration was launched with a coordinated call for independence both at home and abroad. One of the hottest issues within the framework of the declaration and maintenance of independence was the supplying of the Austrian military with food exported from Bohemia and Moravia. The agricultural council led by Antonín Svehla attempted to keep and hide as much supplies as possible. In the early hours of October 28, 1916 the agricultural council, in the name of the National Committee, took over the cereal institute in order to prevent the transport of grain to the front. This was followed by the dissemination of information recognizing Austro-Hungary’s peace conditions. That evening the National Committee issued the first law on the establishment of an independent state. In this way, two weeks before the end of the war this day is now known as the day the "First Republic" was founded. The term applies

We share our Oktober Fest success and comments by the Chairman. Your Chance to Win! Send us Your Entry for a Trip to the Czech Republic via Prague.

The Endowment for Perpetuity Fund Appeal continues its mission for future generations. Please watch for your appeal in the mail.

Josef Lada Exhibition and Art Show and Tell October 22, 2016 Continues in Pilsen Hall Through January

From the Heart of Europe to the Heart of Houston,
We Welcome You to Josef Lada Exhibit Ongoing in Pilsen Hall (1897 – 1957 Czechoslovakia) Artist, Illustrator, Writer, News and Book Caricaturist. The Art and Artifacts came directly from Prague Museums of Art, Literature, Art Galleries and a private collection of grandson Martin Lada accompanied by a delightful Trunk Show and Sale of Lada cosmetics, children’s toys and activity books and an array of early Christmas shopping gifts benefiting the shopper, the receiver and the Museum.

Josef Lada is best known as the illustrator of Jaroslav Hašek's World War One novel The Good Soldier Švejk. Born in the small village of Hrusice in a cobbler's family, he went to Prague at the age of 14 to become an apprentice binder. Entirely self-taught, he created his own style as a caricaturist for newspapers, and latter as an Illustrator. He produced landscapes, created frescoes and designed costumes for plays and films. Over the years he created a series of paintings and drawings depicting traditional Czech occupations, and wrote and illustrated the adventures of Mikš, a little black cat who could talk. Lada produced nearly 600 cartoons of the Švejk characters, depicting Austria-Hungary officers and civil servants as incompetent, abusive and often drunk. All subsequent editions of Švejk used Lada's illustrations, except for the 2008/2009 Czech edition illustrated by Petr Urban. 

"Book of Sirach verses 14-17. One of our favorite scripture verses from our friend Allen Livancic.

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." Henry Ford

"The single most important thing to remember about any enterprise is that there are no results inside its walls. The result of a business is a satisfied customer." Peter Drucker (and a non-profit)

Enter Now Through November 28

There is still time to enter to win a Trip to and from Prague

Win A Trip

A Round Trip Ticket for two to Prague, Czech Republic

Economy Airfare – Restriction on amount of Ticket

Must be used by October 1, 2017

Raffle Tickets $25 for One Ticket or $100 for Five Tickets

Call (713) 528-2060 for more detail or email at events@czechcenter.org

Do Not Need to be Present to Win!

Alert! Coming Soon!! We invite you to hear Darrell Hancock talk and exhibit TRAVEL BACK IN TIME, “To The Day of Lilacs” at Czech Center Houston Museum: ON THE MORNING of May 6, 1945, Gen. George S. Patton’s Third Army rolled into Pilsen’s Republic Square. Western Czechoslovakia was free at last from more than six years’ German occupation. The Czech people greeted their liberators with kisses and mountains of lilacs, piled high on American tanks, trucks, and jeeps. Seventy years later, May 2015, the city celebrated liberation again, with ceremonies, food, drink, music, a miles-long Convoy of Freedom, American flags, kisses, and mountains of lilacs. Local photographer and friend of the Museum, Darrell Hancock, was there. On November 19, 2016 the Museum will open an exhibit of his photographs of the festival. He will also speak on the story of the liberation and Pilsen’s remarkable 2015 celebration, illustrated by never-to-be-forgotten images of thousands of Czech people waving American flags. World War II veterans: please call 713-882-4608. We will honor your attendance.

Join us: 6:00 p.m., November 19, 2016, Pilsen Hall, Czech Center Museum Houston, 4920 San Jacinto at Wichita, Houston, Texas 77004. RSVP Please: 713–528-2060. Reception: meet the Author in Brno Galerie.

Help Spread the word about our Mission: The CCMH exists to celebrate culture, language, scholarship and arts preserving history and heritage, espousing the significance of knowing one’s ancestry that all roots are important to being a citizen of the world. It is our organization’s belief that education and charity are cornerstones to enhancing a Civil Society in these challenging times. Our Organization is a Museum and Cultural Center open six days a week where visitors, local and out-of-town, are attracted to the Center by its proximity to the other Museum District Museums and the Medical Center where we are sourced by maps, visitors’ guides, newspaper articles, notice of our events by email and our websites. All the organization’s events are open to the general public. We have noted that many persons of other heritage have developed their interest and have come to us via a love of Czech classical music composers, authors, history, art, military service, student exchange, and other exposure to the culture.
Subscribe to Texas Polka News; Earn Money for Czech Center Museum Houston. The Texas Polka News is having a subscription drive to reach 3,000 subscribers by 2018 to celebrate the paper’s 30th anniversary. Now thru January 31, 2018, when you subscribe or renew your subscription, TPN will donate $5 of the subscription price to the Czech Center Museum Houston. And that’s not all! In June 2018, the paper will award $3,000 in prizes to clubs and organizations that turned in the most subscriptions/renewals. This is a great opportunity to earn money for our museum! Read more about the subscription drive at http://texaspolkanews.com and subscribe online or send in a check for $25 to Texas Polka News, PO Box 800183, Houston, TX 77280. Be sure to designate Czech Center Museum Houston to receive the $5 donation via Theresa Cernoch Parker.

You have got to read this CZECHered PAST by Beverly A. Hajek. This is a true story about an amazing man born in 1890, the fate that changed his life, and how he overcame heartbreaking obstacles. This story was kept in a secret place deep in his heart and mind, never sharing one word with his family for 50 years. Not until seconds before his death in 1963 did he realize the importance of enlightening his heirs, but of course it was too late at that point. Almost 30 years after his death, his son stumbled upon a revelation that sent shock waves through the entire family. Now it was up to someone to do extensive research and try to piece the puzzle together. The author cunningly weaves the facts into an intriguing story filled with history, memories and triumphant events that transformed this man’s prolific life. The story finds its way from Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic) to Texas and finally to several eastern states. Not until 2015 did the author feel prepared to tackle this larger-than-life story and introduce it to the world. This riveting book will be in our gift shop the next time you are in. Please call 713-528-2060.

Beverly A. Hajek - Bev has been fortunate enough to travel extensively over the years. She has been in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Africa, Australia, Caribbean, Europe, Tasmania and the Arctic to see the northern lights. Now that she is retired, she plans to turn her efforts toward her other passion, writing. Her debut novel is a true story of a 100 year old family secret that she and her husband accidentally stumbled upon. It offers the mesmerizing life story of her father-in-law, Edward J. Hajek, founder of the Hagerstown Business College in MD. She invites you to come along on this larger-than-life journey of a life well lived and a love lost forever.

Katerina Knoy Donation of a Pilsenska Madonna to the Czech Center Museum. We are grateful for this beautiful version of painted porcelain ceramic which stands approximately eighteen inches high. It is a copy of an altar piece at St. Bartholomew. According to Ms. Knoy, she purchased it in Stare Mesto Prague in 1998 while traveling the country. It traveled the country in her knapsack. The dominant of the city of Plzeň is the spire of the Church of St. Bartholomew – the highest spire (103 m) in the Czech Republic. The pilgrims come here to visit the Madonna of Pilsen, the Gothic sculpture placed on the main altar. According to the legend, a blind man made this medieval work of so-called “beautiful style.” The legend says that the Virgin Mary asked him to make the sculpture and was guiding his hands during the work. Since she was content with the result, she gave him back his sight, so that he could see his beautiful work. Madonna is on view at CCMH.

Gift Shop Love Gifts - If by chance you missed getting any or needing any, it is never too late to share love. We offer options from $6 to $15: magnets, books, ornaments, earrings even for your youngest shoppers. We offer a new permanent exhibit of Bobble Heads in our awesome museum for the young at heart. Ed: Effie Rosene

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.

Joe and John Gindele, New York authors of Yorkville Twins, an incredible literary piece about humanity worthy of gifting to anyone else you know even if they are not usually avid readers, sent the pictures above of Effie, Minnesota with the greeting; “Hi, Effie and Bill, we drove towards the Canadian border to see the leaves changing and found ‘your’ town and restaurant. Had a delightful time. Regards, John and Joe.”
Contribute by becoming a Volunteer: Volunteers are the lifeblood of this organization, and we have been honored to have some great ones. They have served a long time, but we need additional volunteers as some have retired for reasons of health or to care for loved ones. Volunteers participate in the cultural events and are the mainstay of these. Please call Effie to discuss a role you can play that will help the organization. It is an admirable profession! We need you!

Wanted: Water Color and Oil Artists: Check the view of Mikulov herein. We need paintings of Czech and Slovak scenes for display and sale. We know we must have some talented artists on board, or if you know one, not necessarily ethnically Czech or Slovak or any age, please let us know. We can supply subject matter that is meaningful and the rewards of doing this can be many along with name recognition. Please let us know if you are interested. Email us at czech@czechcenter.org or call 713-662-4608.

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.

The CCMH Festive Oktoberfest and Czech National Day held on October 28, 2016 in Prague Hall was a time to meet with friends, dance, taste wine and beers, and celebrate the independence and establishment Czechoslovakia as is designated as its First Republic. Effie Rosene, Chair and CEO, welcomed the crowd saying Prague Hall had turned into a dance emporium! We are grateful with heartfelt thanks for Rev. Paul Chovanec, Dr. Glenn Sternes, Alan Kristynek and the great Rusty Steins orchestra of Victoria for their commentary. Also thanks to staff Amanda, Clay and Jasmina and to volunteers Britannia, Sally, Lynn, Virginia, Carol, Jenifer, Sherry and Lindsey Pierce for all their efforts in making the 9th Annual Czech Oktoberfest at the Czech Center Museum Houston, one of the city’s nineteen fine museums in the Museum District. Of great significance to this event success are our community partners, Karbach Brewing Company for their Weiss Verse beer tastings, CCMM for Czech Masters Pilslner Urquell and Czechvar Beers, Randy Hines Kolache Shop for the tasty treats, Rudy Lechner’s for the sauerkraut and sausage, Mach Industries’ Harry Mach and lastly the Rusty Steins and Alan Kristynek. Certainly our very hearty thanks to table buyer Laverne Nash, certainly all our attendees, and those who bought raffle tickets and participated in the Silent Auction. Thank you again on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Ed: Effie M. Rosene

Donate by Registering your Kroger Card. Shop at Kroger’s? Have a Plus Card? By registering your card every time you shop at Kroger’s, a small percentage of your purchase is donated to our organization. Go to www.kroger.com, click on register, enter personal information and designate Czech Center Museum Houston, dba Czech Cultural and Community Center Kroger and 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.

Don’t Ever Underestimate Experience. A ship engine failed; no one could fix it. Then they brought in a man with 40 yrs. on the job. He inspected the engine carefully, top to bottom. After looking things over, the guy reached into his bag and pulled out a small hammer. He gently tapped something. Instantly, the engine lurched into life. The engine was fixed! 7 Days later the owners got his bill for 10k. “What?!” the owners said. “You hardly did anything. Send us an itemized bill.” The reply simply said, “Tapping with a hammer - $2. Knowing where to tap - $9,998.”

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.

"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.

View our blog: www.czechcentermuseumhouston.wordpress.com
View special items for purchase: www.czechcenter.org/giftshop/giftshop.asp