MOSAICS OF FAITH UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS CONCERT AND SYMPOSIUM - A great event you should have missed was the Mosaics of Faith, University of St. Thomas Concert held at the Chapel of St. Basil February 28, 7:30 p.m. which included performances by Organist – Anna Marie Flusche, O.P. of Hosanna Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas; Jewish Cantor Vadim Tunitsky of Congregation Emanu El, Houston, Texas; Mignon Thurow Cantor of St. Basil Byzantine Catholic Church, Irving, Texas and the University of St. Thomas Brass Quintet. The next evening’s, February 29, reception and program panelists were Dr. Michael Sust, pastor of Harvest Bible Church, St. Louis, MO; Rev. Elias Rafaj, pastor of St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, Houston, TX; Most Rev. Peter Esterka, STD, Auxiliary Bishop of Brno, the Czech Republic and Dr. David Brenner, Visiting Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Jewish Studies at the Honors College, University of Houston. It was an enlightening commentary on past history and today’s happenings in the area of faith and culture in the Czech Republic. Moderator was U.S.T. Dr. Rogelio Garcia-Contreras, Assistant Professor Center for International Studies, Coordinator Rev. Paul Chovanec, St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church, Houston.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS DINNER, MARCH 3, 2012 - Our heart hurts for those of you unable to enjoy with us CCMH’s Eighteenth Annual Members and Friends Concert, Dinner and Treasures Bazaar (around 200 did). The evening began in Pilsen Hall with passed hors d’oeuvres - beef on a stick and huge shrimp in gazpacho shots. There were great wines but the three newest Czech Bright Lager Beers - Žatec brewed since 1004, Czech Rebel since 1333 and Staropramen since 1864 proved very popular. From the beautiful views from, and viewing of Pilsen Hall exhibits the crowd navigated to Prague Hall to dinner and concert. The ten member all Brass Orchestra from Moravia, Czech Republic, Stříbrňanka had the large crowd dancing from first beat to the last. When on departure a renowned international cardiologist Earl Beard, M.D. and wife Lovie announces to musicians “that was the most fun party I’ve experienced in 90 years,” (dancing every dance), you know you’ve had a class act in a Baroque setting! The orchestra was truly superb, interacting musicians, from Folk to Classical to “on Blueberry Hill!” We are grateful to C.E.F.T. and Professor Tom Sovik of UNT Denton visionary efforts to bring such quality music to Houston and Texas. Should you be interested we will be getting their CDs. Should you be interested we have for sale beautiful Collectible gold crested, footed Zatec glasses…only at CCMH! It was a great week all open to the public for education, history, heritage, the arts. It included, the above vocalists, academics from U.S.T., Ambassador from Prague and Deputy Ambassador from the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C., Texas Czech Consul General Ray Snokhous, Bishop Peter Esterska, STD of Brno, Czech Republic from California who tends to the flock of Czechs in diaspora of the United States, Canada and Australia, and of course all our significant visitors from our Texas and other destinations.

FOTOFEST HOUSTON EVENING RECEPTION FOR CZECH AND SLOVAK ARTISTS - Monday, March 19, 2012 the Czech Center Museum Houston hosts a Welcome to Houston Evening Reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for FotoFest Houston attending artists from the Czech Republic, Vojtěch Aubrecht and from Slovakia, Bohunka Koklesová, Jana Hojstričová, Miro Švolík and Lubo Stacho. Open to the public. Please RSVP to 713-528-2060 or events@czechcenter.org. Mix and Mingle with the artists and enjoy a PowerPoint presentation by University of Houston Clear Lake Art Gallery Coordinator Jeffrey Bowen.

CZECH IMMIGRANT RANCHERS EXHIBIT - We know you know CCMH is a greater promoter of our hometown Houston, Texas and environs. The Houston Rodeo is a great tourist, visitor attraction. What you don’t know, CCMH is proud to do its part by featuring a member’s 1890s Czech immigrant family who initiated cattle ranching in Matagorda County. Board Member Paul Chovanec gave the history of the Chovanec and Cornelius Ranching Family as depicted by a great Ranch House montage from the 1890s created by twin sisters, his cousins Danelle Cornelius and Danette Cornelius of Houston, Texas and environs. The Houston Rodeo is a great tourist, visitor attraction. What you don’t know, CCMH is proud to do its part by featuring a member’s 1890s Czech immigrant family who initiated cattle ranching in Matagorda County. Board Member Paul Chovanec gave the history of the Chovanec and Cornelius Ranching Family as depicted by a great Ranch House montage from the 1890s created by twin sisters, his cousins Danelle Cornelius and Danette Cornelius of Houston, Texas and environs. The Houston Rodeo is a great tourist, visitor attraction. What you don’t know, CCMH is proud to do its part by featuring a member’s 1890s Czech immigrant family who initiated cattle ranching in Matagorda County. Board Member Paul Chovanec gave the history of the Chovanec and Cornelius Ranching Family as depicted by a great Ranch House montage from the 1890s created by twin sisters, his cousins Danelle Cornelius and Danette Cornelius of Houston, Texas and environs. The Houston Rodeo is a great tourist, visitor attraction. What you don’t know, CCMH is proud to do its part by featuring a member’s 1890s Czech immigrant family who initiated cattle ranching in Matagorda County. Board Member Paul Chovanec gave the history of the Chovanec and Cornelius Ranching Family as depicted by a great Ranch House montage from the 1890s created by twin sisters, his cousins Danelle Cornelius and Danette Cornelius of Houston, Texas and environs.

DOING BUSINESS IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC - SARIO (Slovenské investície a rozvoj obchodu agentúra) invites those interested in forming a business relationship with Slovakia to attend a seminar in Dallas on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. at the World Affairs Council, 325 N. St Paul, Suite 4200. Mr. Robert Simoncic, SARIO CEO and Slovak Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Peter Burian heading the delegation, the seminar will inform attendees of Slovakia being the best gateway for US companies that want to thrive in the European Union. Along with unparalleled support it is important to note that they have the highest GDP growth in the Eurozone for 2012. Please send this notice to your interested Slovak friends. For more information: http://www.sario.sk/?events-and-projects-sario&event=231

THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION’S ANNUAL CONVENTION - convenes in Pilsen Hall at the Czech Center Museum Houston on June 7, 8, & 9, 2012. Mark your calendar. The Czech Center Museum Houston is honored to hold the group’s Seminars, Antiques Show, Vendors and Collectors of Austrian, Bohemian, Moravian, Silesian...
MOVIE TIME
In 1938, Nicholas Winton, a 20 year old London stockbroker visiting Prague, then Czechoslovakia, organized a rescue of 669 Czech Jewish children in danger of deportation and arranged for seven rail-sea transports of the children. For more than half a century, Winton did not speak of these events. Had not his wife found a suitcase in their attic filled with documents and transport plans, the story would have remained locked away. Jewish Community Center, 5601 S. Braeswood, Showtime 1:00 p.m. Friday, March 16, 2012. Nicholas Winton Film read more link: http://www.erjcchouston.org/filmfest.

LIDICE COMES TO LIFE FOR VISITORS
June 10, 2012 is the 70th anniversary of the Lidice destruction. To commemorate one of the worst tragedies of Czech History, a unique project has been created that will allow listening to the old town sounds and to imagine its life. The town was completely destroyed by the Nazis in 1942. Thanks to a particular audio work, Lidice will revive when visitors walk through the empty land where the town was and listen to the sounds and conversations of its people just before the Nazis arrived. Tereza Sennotamova, the author, imagined walking through the town and recreated sounds of a former lake, of children playing, of conversations of the few survivors of Lidice. These scenes will be offered to visitors so they can remember Lidice of 70 years ago. They will receive audio-phones and an intelligent telephone with GPS included. Walking through the valley of Lidice, the phone will choose the texts depending on the visitors position. Each visitor will be able to imagine the Mill, the Church, the Tavern or the School and listen to conversations and stories about this town as if the former inhabitants were next to them. The project is using state of the art technology for a very intense experience. The 65 texts in Czech and German languages will be presented for the first time June 9, 2012, just before the 70th anniversary of Lidice's devastation.

NEW FORMATIONS: CHANGE AND CONTINUITY IN CZECH AVANT – GARDE ART
- Mary Cullen gave a fascinating talk and tour of the fabulous Roy and Mary Cullen exhibit of Czechoslovakian Art, Glass and Ceramics at MFAH, Thursday 10:00 a.m. March 8. The group included Consular Corp spouses and volunteers from the Czech Center Museum Houston coordinated by the Czech Texas Consul’s wife Clarice Snokhous. The collection in place since November will be removed after Sunday March 11. Through this art Mrs. Cullen has provided the history of the Czech Slovak lands of the 45 year Communist period which the world had otherwise missed knowing.

PRAGUE INTERNATIONAL GIFTS SHOP
is filled to the brim with collectibles Easter, Communion and Graduation gifts, figurines, antique laces, icons, dreidels, pottery, porcelain, crystal, handmade jewelry, vintage jewelry, Swarovski crystal and garnet jewelry, puzzles, wooden toys, marionettes, books & cookbooks, textiles and much more. We have the recently released “Jimmy Brosch Remembers Twenty Legendary Texas Czech Polka Bands,” written by Theresa Cernoch Parker along with the accompanying CD and Polka On T-shirt. This is a great opportunity for unique, hassle-free shopping with some reduced prices of up to 20%. Open daily Monday through Saturday, 10:00am to 4: Yes, we also ship.

For your viewing and listening pleasure:

- Wenceslas Chapel, Czech Crystal Chandeliers, Antique Castles/Chateau furniture, glass and porcelain and numerous collections in Brno Gallery
- Czech Masters Alfons Mucha, Father of the Art Nouveau Movement Collection and Kamil Kubik Impressionist landscapes fill the Prague Hall ballroom along with more Crystal Chandeliers
- The Ottervik Collection in Pilsen Hall Czechoslovakian Art Glass/Ceramics 1918 – 1938
- Czechs as Texas Ranchers – A History of Cowboying since 1890. Showing cattle at Houston’s Rodeo, Comenius Library
- Folk Art Gallerie; Sale of Books and Art Treasures - new additions added daily. Pilsen Hall
- Coming March 19, 2012 – Reception for Foto Fest Houston, Artists from the Czech Republic and Slovakia – Brno Gallery

Paste http://www.czechcenter.org/news/pdfs/2011-fall-winter.pdf to view the latest issue of the The News of the Czech Center. You will see photos of attendees at Gala 2011, and other articles. A work in progress with more pages to be added will be printed for mailing to our members and friends.

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

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 Members and Volunteers.