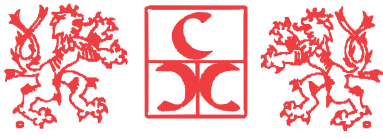


## THE NEWS OF THE



## CZECH CENTER

Czech Cultural Center

Houston, Texas

(KULTURNI CENTRUM CESKE)

**It is often safer TO BE IN CHAINS THAN TO BE FREE. Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old. Franz Kafka (1883 – 1924) YOU SHOULD NEVER PASS UP a chance to turn crisis into opportunity.**

**Rahm Emanuel**

## King George of Podebrady

*George of Podebrady reign was one of the better times for the Czechs. In the course of two centuries, conquerors, ethnic groups, religious wars have devastated this small country sometime referred to as “The Bread Basket” of Europe. Many for their own reasons have used brutal force to achieve their goal. Among the standouts that have brought peace, prosperity and human rights are St. Wenceslas, Jan Hus, Charles VI, King Rudolf II, Masaryk and Havel. King George of Podebrady deserves to be among this group for his pacifist skills that were felt all over Europe and brought relative calm to Bohemia and Moravia. In between these leaders’ relatively stable times succeeding leaders pursuing their own goals rather than their subjects have brought them havoc. The problem has always been that their successors did not have the skills or desire to have a noble cause. George of Podebrady was an exception.*

Into the complicated succession process entered a Czech nobleman, George of Podebrady (1420 - 1471), scion of an Utraquist (Hussite) family that suffered heavily during the Hussite wars. He had been elected temporary manager of the nearly rudderless kingdom and decided that in addition to his other duties he would assume also the task of bringing harmony to the still sensitive relationship between the Hussites and the Czech Catholics. He had been immersed in the nation’s politics

for more than two decades having taken part in the fratricidal battle of Lipany when only fourteen years of age and ever since participating in regional and town meetings, always trying to bring a balance between the Hussites and the Catholics, who usually had the support of the king. Using the country’s military forces, he seized Tabor and Prague, and finally was able to bring the teenaged King Ladislav Posthumus to Prague. The cordial relationship that developed between the Utraquist administrator and the youthful Catholic monarch promised to bring new peace and understanding to the religiously divided nation. Yet, fate intervened once more when Ladislav Posthumus died at the age of eighteen. A year later, in 1458, the now despairing Czech nobles elected the administrator himself as their king. Despite an already long list of challenges that King George of Podebrady was facing



*(George of Podebrady continued on page 10)*

## Gala 2010



A Night of Fundraising with Music, Dinner and Dance benefiting Comenius Library Gala 2010 has come and gone! Few people are aware of what it means to produce a Gala. The end result seems so smooth why are the persons that have worked so hard on making it happen so relieved when it is happily at an end? Donna Dvorak wrote us something about the seemingly effortless happening and it is so true: “Everyone loves to look at the beautiful grace and elegance of a swan as it glides across the water. It looks so effortless, so tranquil. No one sees the frenzied kicking and paddling that’s going on beneath the surface. No one even notices the “machinery” that makes it go. It’s the artist’s job to never distract their audience with the nuts and bolts of a performance. You must always strive to put them at ease. Let them enjoy. The goal is to always have an audience walk away exclaiming: Beautiful! They made it seem so effortless!” We hope our attendees had this same experience with Gala 2010. We certainly hope so and at least remarks made to us seem to indicate that everyone had a great time and that all that “paddling” was worth while.

And there was a great deal of “paddling” that took place to present this and all the estimated forty-six memorable events the Czech Center Museum has presented, which includes annual Members and Friends Dinners and *Svaty Mikulas* (Saint Nicolas) Christmas season events and certainly annual Galas. Our great Gala Committee with Auction Chairs, Ray and Nina Vitek and the outstanding work of committee members: Barbara & Henry Hermis, Barbara & Cliff Malek, Sally Miller, Wes Pustejovsky, Fr. Paul Chovanec, Judie & Paul Pasemann, Bob & Joan Connor, Robert Dvorak, James Ermis, Sherry & Lindsey Pierce, Ashley Vitek Ben-David, Larry & Cathy Anderson, Brettne Vitek Frewin, Carol Triska Vacca, Effie & Bill Rosene, Kevin & Ashley Hermis, Brian Hermis, Judie Divin started from our first call for Committee members in May while we were in the Czech Republic to eventually meeting once a week, then almost daily in the last week. The in-house work continued daily for 8 to 10 hour days. The Silent Auction details included hundreds of letters to acquire auction items, the sale of the 100,000 miles drawing, Live Auction items had to be found and posters made to show the audience, baskets made for five drawing tickets and Effie receiving

*(Gala continued on page 5)*

## From the Chairman

Effie M. Rosene

"Building the future...remembering the past...leaving a legacy."  
"May the work I've done speak for me!"



The other half of my first team, 57 years, December 1, 2010

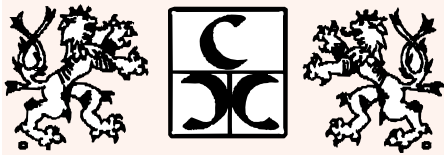
Dear Friends, Members, Friends to be:

Greetings from the Czech Center Museum Houston. First, let me tell you how important you are to this organization and how much we thank you for your gift of Support and Membership. We cannot do without it. Let me convey that while the Recession is really hurting us, on the contrary, we have never had larger demands for our services: needs for educational events, i.e. the Christmas Epiphany and Astronomy, Dr. Carolyn Sumners, etc. The arts: University of Houston Clear Lake Dr. Sandria Hu's Art and Artists of the World from the Czech Republic, Serbia, and Mexico; Czech Art Glass designers Master carvers/engravers from Novy Bor and Kromeriz, demonstrating that centuries old art in our Brno Gallery, In music: Jitka Frankova of Ceske Budejovice and Prague piano concert of the Masters on a Grand Steinway; from Missouri by way of Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic former Houstonian Michael Sust, bass baritone and Family singers of folk, village and wine songs, Czech and American hymns and ecclesiastic and operatic arias, etc in theatre: Kingwood Lone Star College, Opera Vista and the University of North Texas Denton and Dr. Tom Sovik with an incredible production of *The Bartered Bride* Bedrich Smetana's "national opera" in Czech; Our August 28th Gala was an outstanding success honoring Clarice and Ray Snokhous for their long years of volunteer service and honoring our Lifetime Members, Founders, Benefactors and *Velke Kolo* with a special Czech dinner on October 28, 2010 the founding day of Czechoslovakia after World War I. On an every day basis, we teach history and the need of knowing one's ancestry as well as others' to be a good American, a citizen of the world in this global community. We enjoy numerous group tours for purpose of lecture, tour and even catered luncheons for our public guests from all points. A visitor stated, "The City of Houston and State of Texas must be very proud to have this lovely Baroque Palace in its midst teaching and entertaining people from all over the world." Ambassador Eisenbruk from Prague was awed, "A group of Volunteers built something of this magnitude to commemorate their ancestry roots." We have had the honor of being called, "Great Americans making a difference" by Eugene in Afghanistan, of being told by two young high school exchange students from abroad, "For the first time we are proud to be who we are," I was recently awarded "Mayor's Volunteer of the Year for making Houston a better place to live." I would not accept it without sharing it with my husband Bill (The Swede German) who made me realize it was important "For us all to know who we are" so we can be good citizens of the world not just Houston, Chicago or Sugar Land. That Honor is for the Czech Center Museum Houston, not the two of us! Most importantly let me tell you how important your support is. It is why we are here. We proudly represent you every day of the week while we do our community outreach. Thank you for your Gift and your Membership to our current Capital Campaign and continued operation and expansion of our services. If you think we are passionate about this you are right. Think of the Legacy you help leave behind, an educational arts institution, one of Houston's eighteen fine Museums! Please help. The quote on the first page by Rahm Emanuel "You should never pass up a chance to turn crisis into opportunity" has forced us to "think outside of the box." I am sure that many of you are facing moments of crisis whether it is emotional or economically and if your income has been affected as ours has you examined every facet of your operation to counter the effects of the crisis. Once again our faith is in our members and friends recognizing the importance of the Czech Center Museum Houston. Please visit and share your ideas.

With the recession forcing us to examine all aspects of our operation – revenue and expenses – we have examined ways to reduce the effect of the Center's loan interest and we are offering Loan Certificates to our members and friends yielding 4½% Please see elsewhere in this communication for information on your participation.

So we write wishing you, Good Health, God's Blessings and the Hope you will wish us success in this our mutual endeavor.

On behalf of the Board, Staff, Volunteers we wish for you a wonderful Holiday Season!  
*S Panem Bohem, Effie Rosene*



### The News of The Czech Center

Czech Center Museum Houston  
In the Museum District  
4920 San Jacinto Street  
Houston, Texas 77004  
Telephone: 713-528-2060  
Fax: 713-528-2017

Email: [czech@czechcenter.org](mailto:czech@czechcenter.org)  
Chairman@[czechcenter.org](mailto:czechcenter.org)

Webpage: <http://www.czechcenter.org>  
[www.houstonreceptions.org](http://www.houstonreceptions.org)  
Blog: [www.czechcentermuseumhouston.wordpress.com](http://www.czechcentermuseumhouston.wordpress.com)

Vol. XVII, No. I Winter 2010

From the Chairman, Member Updates,  
George of Podebrady, Gala 2010,  
Passing of Friends

Quote on the Cover  
Kafka & Emanuel

Effie M. Rosene, Editor/Contributor  
Publication Committee: W. G. Bill Rosene  
Website: in-house

*The News of the Czech Center* is published by the Czech Center Museum Houston to inform members, donors and interested parties of the Center's activities. Editing, Design and Production is accomplished in-house by the Center's Development Board.

Send articles and activities well in advance to the above address, attention Editor.

The opinions expressed in *The News of the Czech Center* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Czech Center Museum Houston.



haa houstonartsalliance

This organization is funded in part by a grant from the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance.

### OUR MISSION

The Purpose of the Czech Center Museum Houston is to unify the Czech/Slovak American Community around issues of importance and provide a central focus for all things Czech related, serving as a clearing house for information useful for members, visitors, individuals, organizations, and the media. The CCCH will:

Promote the Czech Culture and Heritage by preserving, recording and celebrating the language, scholarship, and the arts of Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Silesia;

Sponsor activities and events to accent special persons, places and provide a forum for lectures, concerts, exhibits and interaction with citizens visiting from the Czech and Slovak republics; Provide Czech language instruction, a museum, archives, genealogy research facilities, and a library for history and contemporary research of the Czech peoples;

Perform works of charity and mutual aid which include granting scholarships to promote the continuation of our cultural heritage.

## Member Update (January 6, 2010 – November 1, 2010)

### New Memberships

#### *Velke Kolo*

Jane Cyva

#### *Founder*

Hana Hillerova Harper

#### *Patron*

Ed Petru  
& Dorothy Spaniel Petru

#### *Friend*

Brian Emr  
James Patrick Herlihy  
& Katherine Abba  
Wilfred & Kay Krenek  
Marie Zinnante

#### *Family*

Mark & Robyn Grindel  
Donald & Gloria Heid  
Frances & John  
Istvan Family  
Larry & Patricia Krc  
Jean Krchnak Family  
Father Lubomir Kupec  
& Tatiana Kupec  
Theresa Seegers Parker  
& Family  
Edwin & Wilma Tichavsky  
Family  
James & Patricia Hoepfl  
W.K. & Rosalie Leonard  
Bill & Janie Sitka  
Al & Georgia Gavranovic

#### *Individual*

Laura Bunt-MacRury  
Jennifer Hill  
Wendy Horak  
Shirley Lezak Tangedahl  
Marcus Weise

#### *Member Renewals*

Mary Ann Akers  
Rosalie Sofka Bannert  
Dara Bartak  
Rosie Bodien  
Joyce & Willie Bohuslav  
Lorence & Zora Bravenec  
Ann & George Broze  
E.J. Chromcak  
Lillian Horak Dulaney &  
Family  
Jan & Mary Ann Dura  
Hutch & Mary Jo Dvorak  
John & Peggy Dybala  
Barbara Fosdick  
Veronica Frost  
Elaine Gallagher  
Henrietta & John Haessly  
Milton E. Havlick, Jr. &  
Sibley Kopmeier-Havlick  
Floanne Hayward  
Marietta & Bill  
Hetmaniak  
Beryl Hogshead

Dorothy Howard  
Hope Colleen Hruska  
Charlene Hurta  
Ann Jurecka  
Matthew Jurick &  
Vesna Stavel Jurick  
John Kahanek III &  
Sonia Kahanek  
Beverly Lezak Koym  
Garry Kramchak  
Betty Kucera & Family  
Alyce Krupa  
Eugene Labay  
Edward Lukasek  
Glen & Carolyn Gerken  
Dal Knight, Jr.  
& Kay Bily  
Eleanor Liebham &  
Thomas Leibham  
Darren Maloney  
Helen Dziadek Marsh &  
Roger Marsh  
Beverly Maurice  
& Bob Hindman  
Roger Mechura &  
Alan & Sharon Meek  
Gary Meek  
Leta Mae Middleton &  
Margie Horn  
Shirley Machocky Nelson  
John Pavlicek  
Maria & Paul Pavlik  
Olga Pechak  
Ellen & Richard Peguero  
Charles Sikora &  
Marilyn Sikora  
Diane Sikora  
Thomas Sikora &  
Lindsay Sikora  
Lisa Thompson  
Leslie & Kenneth Racine  
Ed & Michelle Raz  
Lexia Káspár Ribeiro  
Treena & Tom Rowan  
Louis Rychlik  
& Nellie Rychlik  
Tatana Sahanek  
William Samohyl  
Annette Reznek Scranton  
Helen Stacha Reifein  
Joseph Stankovich &  
Patrizia Stankovich  
Donald & Mary Ann  
Stankovsky  
Emil & Connie Stavinoha  
Ludmilla & John Stehlik  
Marie & Al Stryk  
James Svrcek  
Cora Veselka Taylor  
Margaret Jez Toman &  
Margie Zapalac Svrcek  
Emily Thoede  
Cecile Mendel Wheeler  
Susan Zapletal Wheeler &  
Pat Wheeler  
Erik & Mary Worscheh  
Angelina Yordanoff

### Memorial/Honor Wall

Marcus Weise  
Stacy Hart  
Galveston County CHS  
Schleider, Tumis (3x)  
Galveston/Houston Czech  
Heritage Singers

### Honor Donations

**Alice Bily**  
“Congratulations on being  
selected Mayor’s Volunteer  
of the Year. So proud of  
you.”

#### **Joy Balderach**

“In honor of Ray Snokhous  
& Clarice Marik Snokhous.  
With love and appreciation.”

#### **Kathy Moore**

“Honoring Effie Rosene—  
Congratulations on your  
Mayor’s Volunteer Houston  
Award. I can’t think of any-  
one who is more deserv-  
ing.”

**Ed & Sandra Jircik Pickett**  
“Honoring Effie & Bill  
Rosene for their Volunteer  
of the Year Award”

**Frank & Mary Pokluda**  
“Honoring Effie & Bill  
Rosene. You are a per-  
son who truly deserves the  
Mayor’s Volunteer Award  
for 2010. I am so proud  
of you.”

**Lynn Chernosky Swaffar**  
“In gratitude to Effie & Bill  
Rosene”

### Memorial Donations

**Joy Koym Balderach**  
“In memory of a truly  
wonderful and caring first  
cousin, Erwin’ Dutch’  
Petrusek.”

#### **Alice Bily**

“In memory of Marta who  
I really miss. Marta was  
one of my best friends.”

#### **Helen Dowdy**

“In memory of Marta”

#### **Cecilia & Bob Forrest**

“For Marta Latsch, in  
memory of another fellow  
volunteer.”

#### **Gloria & Donald Heid**

“In memory of Marta  
Latsch”

#### **Janet Jurik**

“In Memory of Erwin  
Petrusek.”

### Bob & Elsie Luquette

“In memory of my parents  
Frank and Francis  
(Smetana) Cream in  
Crosby, Texas

### Vlasta Pour

Honoring Marta Latsch  
“who was very active in  
your organization (CCMH)  
and has always been  
pleased that the Czech  
Republic has such good  
friends in America.”

### Frank & Mary Pokluda

“In Memory of Marta. We  
(CCMH) are getting short  
of her (Marta) type people  
of her caliber members.”

### Vlasta Adam, MD

Leslie Cohan  
Lynne & Rick Rumford  
Candace Massengill, Shira  
Yoshor & Friends at Baker  
Botts, LLP  
Kenneth, Paula, &  
Mindy Stiles,  
Christine Ambrosecchia-  
Ranck:  
Tomas Klima MD  
Scott Rozzell  
Kelty Baker  
Lou Diamond Rosenfeld  
Lana Holub,  
CenterPoint Energy  
Linda H. Warren  
ShIPLEY Snell-  
Montgomery, LLP  
Sally Miller Ph. D.  
Effie & Bill Rosene  
Blaine Hollinger  
& Judy Hollinger  
Linda & Bob Bloss  
Fred Rhodes & Bebe Burns  
Emily & Meredith Morgan  
Thomas J. Forestier  
The Woman’s Hospital  
of Texas  
David Graham, MD  
Janet Butel, Ph.D.  
Margaret Davis

### Memorial Donations

**Gladys Kahanek**  
Jerrydene & Rudy Kovar  
Bob & Cecilia Forrest  
Judie Everett  
Kimberly Cotner  
Effie & Bill Rosene

### Memorial Donations

**Bennie Marek**  
Jackie Marek

### Czech Center Houston Benefactors

#### *Platinum*

Julie Halek Kloess  
Frank & Mary Pokluda

#### *Diamond Benefactor*

Jane Cyva

#### *Special Benefactor*

Karolina Adam, MD  
& John Dickerson  
Marta Latsch  
Mary Jane Rozypal

#### *In Memoriam*

Joseph Borden+  
Join date 9/20/1999  
Deceased 2/12/2010  
Esther Fojt Cunningham  
Join date 2/20/1998  
Deceased 5/ 28/2009  
Marta Latsch  
Join Date 01/20/1998  
Deceased 4/30/2010  
Erwin Alfred Petrusek+  
Deceased 6/ 25/ 2010  
Vlasta Adam, MD+  
September 1997 Join Date  
8/0 7/2010 Deceased  
Gladys Kahanek+  
Marvin F. Chernosky, MD+  
Ronald Plasek+  
Gloriana Poole+  
12/12/1998 Join Date  
09/24/2010 Deceased Date

#### *Gala 2010 Underwriters*

Marion Bell  
Charles & Pam Butler  
Joyce & James Braus  
Danelle Cornelius  
Father Paul Chovanec  
Joan Brezik Connor  
Elizabeth Cupitt  
Jane Cyva  
Cynthia Gdula  
& Charles Westervelt  
Dave & Jan Johnson  
David Miller, MD  
& Sally Miller, Ph.D.  
Mary Grace Pavlik  
Ed & Sandra Pickett  
Frank & Mary Pokluda  
Wes & Janell Pustejovsky  
Theresa Cernoch Parker  
SPJST Lodge # 142  
Effie & Bill Rosene

#### *Unable to Attend Donors/ Gala 2010*

Geoff & Patti Arms  
Elizabeth Bily  
Laura Bunt-MacRury  
Adelma Graham  
Larry & Rhonda Janak  
Joseph Kocab

## Member Update Continued (January 6, 2010 – November 1, 2010)

Edward Lukasek  
Charlotte Matula  
Sister Rosanne Plagens  
William Samohyl  
Joseph & Patrizia  
Stankovich  
Al Sulak  
Shirley Tangedahl  
Tim Opatrny

### Win A Trip Drawing

Marie Zinnante  
Cecilia & Bob Forrest  
Victoria Castleberry  
Frank Smith  
Julie Kloess  
Joan Brezik Connor  
Rev. Joseph Hybner  
Gladys Oakley  
Leonard Green  
Gene Veselka  
Frank & Mary Pokluda  
Barbara Malek  
Cliff Malek  
Carol & Herman Vacca  
Billy & Debbie Shortner  
Clarice Snokhous &  
Raymond Snokhous  
Jimmie Triska

### Auction 2010 Donors

Abraham Oriental Rugs  
Agnes Shimanek  
Al Sulak  
Alex di Genin  
Anne Michalsky  
Daniel Kostoval  
Expressions Fine  
Chocolate  
Joan Connor  
Judie Divin  
Houston Astros  
Azuma Sushi &  
Robata Bar  
Becker Vineyards  
Buca di Beppo Italian  
Restaurant  
Carmen Kamas, DDS  
Cheese Cake Factory  
Cordua Restaurant  
De Lois Wimmer, Ed.D.  
Dwayne Bohac  
Driftwood Estates Winery  
Expression Fine  
Chocolates  
Fadrique Jewelry  
Father Paul Chovanec  
Grape Creek Vineyards

Guri de Sul Brazilian  
Steakhouse  
Halada  
Houston Symphony  
Howl at the Moon Tavern  
Independent Silpada  
Designs  
Jo Ann Nedbalek Campbell  
John Holub, Jr.  
Steve Kutna &  
Kovanda's Czech Band  
Lemon Grass Café  
Lillie Kutac  
Marion Freeman  
Marks American Cuisine  
Marriott Hotel Houston  
Mercury Baroque  
Messina Hoff Winery &  
Resort  
Dion McInnis Photography  
My Fit Foods  
Niko Niko's Restaurant  
Nina & Ray Vitek  
Opera in The Heights  
The Club at Falcon Point  
The Dujka Brothers  
The Grand Zesting  
Pappas Restaurant

Pat Jefferson, Licensed  
Massage Therapist  
Paul Sofka  
Richard Quintanilla, District  
Sales Manager Glazer's  
Robert & Becky Vitek  
Rudolph Rusnak  
Leroy & Patsy Stavinoha  
Lynn Chernosky Swaffar  
Sally & David Miller  
Sara Barton  
Visible Changes Haircutters  
Yoga One Studios  
Effie & Bill Rosene

### October 28, 2010

### Czech Slovak National

### Holiday Underwriters

Father Paul Chovanec  
Lillian Dulaney  
Elizabeth & Ted Emr  
Treena & Tom Rowan  
Jackie Marek  
Michael McCarthy  
Linda & Johnny Veselka  
Carol Triska Vacca  
& Hermann Vacca  
Willie & Joyce Bohuslav

Marie Zinnante  
Marilyn & Charles  
Sikora  
Marion Freeman  
Victoria Castleberry  
Frank & Mary Pokluda  
Alfred & Marie Stryk  
Allen & Madelyn Dusek  
Charlie Pavlicek  
Helen & Lynn Blankenburg  
James & Patricia Hoepfl  
Jaro & Henrietta Nevlud  
Marietta Hetmaniak  
Nancy Anderson, MD  
Delphine & Henry Novak  
Charles Pustejovsky  
W.E. & Frances Bollom  
Cora Veselka Taylor  
Stephen Vrana  
Mary Peska  
W.K. & Rosalie Leonard  
Bill & Janie Sitka  
Al & Georgia Gavranovic  
John Glowczwski  
Mary Ann Urick  
Frances Baggett

## My Father Never Drove a Car

*This is a wonderful piece by Michael Gartner, editor of newspapers large and small and former president of NBC News. In 1997, he won the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing. It is well worth reading, and a few good chuckles are guaranteed.*

My father never drove a car. Well, that's not quite right. I should say I never saw him drive a car. He quit driving in 1927, when he was 25 years old, and the last car he drove was a 1926 Whippet. "In those days," he told me when he was in his 90s, "to drive a car you had to do things with your hands, and do things with your feet, and look every which way, and I decided you could walk through life and enjoy it or drive through life and miss it." At which point my mother, a sometimes salty Irishwoman, chimed in: "Oh, bull----!" she said. "He hit a horse." "Well," my father said, "there was that, too. "So my brother and I grew up in a household without a car. The neighbors all had cars -- the Kollingses next door had a green 1941 Dodge, the Van Laninghams across the street a gray 1936 Plymouth, the Hopsons two doors down a black 1941 Ford -- but we had none. My father, a newspaperman in Des Moines, would take the streetcar to work and, often as not, walk the 3 miles home. If he took the streetcar home, my mother and brother and I would walk the three blocks to the streetcar stop, meet him and walk home together.

My brother, David, was born in 1935, and I was born in 1938, and sometimes, at dinner, we'd ask how come all the neighbors had cars but we had none. "No one in the family drives," my mother would explain, and that was that. But, sometimes, my father would say, "But as soon as one of you boys turns 16, we'll get one." It was as if he wasn't sure which one of us would turn 16 first. But, sure enough, my brother turned 16 before I did, so in 1951 my parents bought a used 1950 Chevrolet from

a friend who ran the parts department at a Chevy dealership downtown. It was a four-door, white model, stick shift, fender skirts, loaded with everything, and, since my parents didn't drive, it more or less became my brother's car. Having a car but not being able to drive didn't bother my father, but it didn't make sense to my mother.

So in 1952, when she was 43 years old, she asked a friend to teach her to drive. She learned in a nearby cemetery, the place where I learned to drive the following year and where, a generation later, I took my two sons to practice driving. The cemetery probably was my father's idea. "Who can your mother hurt in the cemetery?" I remember him saying more than once. For the next 45 years or so, until she was 90, my mother was the driver in the family. Neither she nor my father had any sense of direction, but he loaded up on maps -- though they seldom left the city limits -- and appointed himself navigator. It seemed to work. Still, they both continued to walk a lot. My mother was a devout Catholic, and my father an equally devout agnostic, an arrangement that didn't seem to bother either of them through their 75 years of marriage. (Yes, 75 years, and they were deeply in love the entire time.) He retired when he was 70, and nearly every morning for the next 20 years or so, he would walk with her the mile to St. Augustin's Church. She would walk down and sit in the front pew, and he would wait in the back until he saw which of the parish's two priests was on duty that morning. If it was the pastor, my father then would go out and take a 2-mile walk, meeting my mother at the end of the service and walking her home. If it was the assistant pastor, he'd take just a 1-mile walk and then head back to the church. He called the priests "Father Fast" and "Father Slow." After he retired, my father almost always accompa-

nied my mother whenever she drove anywhere, even if he had no reason to go along. If she were going to the beauty parlor, he'd sit in the car and read, or go take a stroll or, if it was summer, have her keep the engine running so he could listen to the Cubs game on the radio. In the evening, then, when I'd stop by, he'd explain: "The Cubs lost again. The millionaire on second base made a bad throw to the millionaire on first base, so the multimillionaire on third base scored."

If she were going to the grocery store, he would go along to carry the bags out -- and to make sure she loaded up on ice cream. As I said, he was always the navigator, and once, when he was 95 and she was 88 and still driving, he said to me, "Do you want to know the secret of a long life?"

"I guess so," I said, knowing it probably would be something bizarre.

"No left turns," he said. "What?" I asked. "No left turns," he repeated. "Several years ago, your mother and I read an article that said most accidents that old people are in happen when they turn left in front of oncoming traffic.

As you get older, your eyesight worsens, and you can lose your depth perception, it said. So your mother and I decided never again to make a left turn." "What?" I said again. "No left turns," he said. "Think about it. Three rights are the same as a left, and that's a lot safer. So we always make three rights." "You're kidding!" I said, and I turned to my mother for support.

"No," she said, "your father is right. We make three rights. It works." But then she added: "Except when your father loses count." I was driving at the time, and I almost drove off the road as I started laughing. "Loses count?" I asked. "Yes," my father admitted, "that sometimes happens. But it's not a problem.

(Continued on page 8)

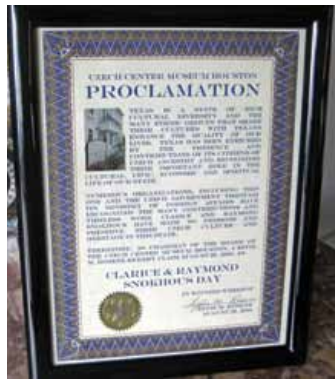
catering bids and to select the menu. Guests were greeted with complimentary Valet Parking and butler passed food service. Somehow it all comes together for guests arrival for the reception and auction in the first floor Brno Gallery. Catering staff circulated with Butler passed hors d'oeuvres and Museum staff passed wine while guests viewed the auction items. Czech TV producer Martin Frorda and director Mirek Konvalina who is producing a film about Czechs in Texas for viewing in the Czech Republic had his camera crew circulating and filming the proceeds. (They will visit other sites in Texas to see Texans in action.) After Silent Auction bidding closed, guests proceeded to Prague Hall for a sumptuous dinner with wine refreshments served throughout the evening at the table. Effie M. Rosene, Chairman welcomed the guests and introduced vocalist Ashley Vitek Ben-David, accompanied by Board Member Robert Dvorak on the Petrof baby grand, who performed anthems of the United States, *Star Spangled Banner*; Czech Republic, *Kde Domov Muj*; Slovakia, *Nad Tatrou sa Blyska*; and the Czech folk song, *Ach Synku, Synku*. Invocation by Board Member Rev. Paul Chovanec was followed by wishing everyone *Dobrou Chut*.

Effie asked the Honored Guests to come



Guests enjoying reception in Brno Gallery filled with Silent Auction Items

forward to present with a proclamation of **Clarice and Raymond Snokhous Day** for Ray, Honorary Czech Consul General for State of Texas and wife Clarice's years of public service, which read: "Texas is a state of rich cultural diversity and the many ethnic groups who share their cultures with Texans enhance the quality



l to r: Randy Royall, Ray & Nina Vitek, Effie & Bill Rosene, Clarice & Raymond Snokhous



Effie Rosene introducing the Honored Guests Clarice & Ray Snokhous along with Astronaut Andrew Feustel, wife Indira and Mirek Konvalina, American Center Director, Prague

of our lives. Texas has been enriched by the presence and contributions of its citizens of Czech ancestry and recognizes their important role in the cultural, civic, economic and spiritual life of our State. Numerous organizations, including this one and the Czech Government through its ministry of foreign affairs have recognized the many contributions and tireless work Clarice and Raymond Snokhous have done to promote and preserve their Czech culture and heritage in this state. Therefore, as Chairman of the Board of the Czech Center Museum Houston, I, Effie M. Rosene hereby claim August 28, 2010, as *Clarice & Raymond Snokhous Day!*" In witness whereof, Effie M. Rosene, August 28, 2010. (See program bio of Clarice and Ray in an accompanying article)

A champagne toast was raised to our honorees. The dinner was enhanced with listening and dancing to music by Nancy Sofka. Bidding began on live auction items after dessert by Auctioneer Randy Royall with backup by Ray and Nina Vitek. The banter between Ray and Randy was the highlight of the evening. Those of you who did not attend missed the delightful banter and opportunity to bid on fabulous items. Live Auction items including *Golf at Sweetwater Country Club* donated by Jim Tallas; *Enjoying the Good Life in Houston, Hyatt Suites, Azuma, Houston Symphony and Cordua Restaurants*; *Six beautiful Antique Chairs, c 1800*, Cliff and Barbara Malek; *New Orleans Condo stay*, Nina and Ray Vitek; *Indo Tabriz Rug*, Abrahams Oriental Rugs; *Father/Son Deer Hunting Trip All meals in a furnished South Texas Hunting Lodge*; *A weekend at Lake Conroe with Henry and Barbara Hermis*; *Penobscot Bay, Maine Vacation, a two-story historic home*, Paul and Kim Hlavinka; *Texans Autographed Football and Tickets*, Kerry Mazoch; *Czech Dinner for Twelve*, Sally and David Miller and a Czech Chef Tomas Klima, MD; *New York Stay at the Waldorf Astoria*, Sally and David Miller; *Moravian Wine Vacation six nights in a Wine Cellar Villa*, Effie and Bill Rosene; *Collection of ten Czech Republic Award Winning Archival Wines*, Effie and Bill Rosene. You might want to plan on attending next year! (Gala 2010 continued on page 6)

**A Musical Wedding**  
Robert & Donna Dvorak

**A Timeless Beauty – Julie Halek Kloess**  
Age 18 Age 40 Today

**Enjoying Svaty Mikulas December 6th**  
Cathy & Larry Anderson Ivan Konig





Bill Rosene and Board member Rev. Paul Chovanec, Dan Hrna, right



Board Member Kerry Mazoch, Cliff Malek, Vice Chair James Ermis



Gala Receptionists Sherry Pierce, Cathy Anderson, Lindsey Pierce



Kathleen Hrna, Clarice Snokhous Barbara Malek, background



Chuck Butler Pam Butler Barbara Hermis



Table displaying live and silent auction items in the Brno Gallery



Carol Vacca, Rev. Joseph Hybner, Hermann Vacca



Peter Fucik and wife, Nell St. Cyr

**Karel Hašler** Every Czech knows the tune. "Ta nase pisnicka ceska" or "That Czech Song of Ours" was voted one of the ten greatest hits of the 20th century in a poll conducted by Czech Radio in 2000. Its author and singer, Karel Hasler, was born 125 years ago this month in Prague. After a brief acting career at the National Theatre, Karel Hasler became a popular cabaret actor and singer. He wrote and sang songs about the beauties of Prague and also about social and political issues. Overall, he composed around 300 songs and he also appeared in a number of films in the 1920s and 1930s. In one of them he sang "Ta nase pisnicka ceska" - a song which eventually became his death sentence. After the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, Karel Hasler wrote sarcastic anti-German lyrics to it. A colleague turned him in to the Gestapo and the 62-year-old Hasler was taken to the concentration camp in Mauthausen where he died a cruel death in 1941. Karel Hasler's songs became almost national anthems. Not only is he remembered for his songs and films but Karel Hasler's name to this day survives in the popular liquorice sweets *Haslerky*. Karel Hasler, who had a hoarse voice, closed a deal with the producer of these supposedly medicinal candies and he named them after him. They are sold in most food markets, Tesco, Albert, Bila and *Lekarna* (Drug Stores).

**Ed: They really are effective!**

**Post Gala Notes:** We hear it was truly a fun party. Ray Snokhous and wife Clarice of West, Texas were acknowledged for their many years of volunteer service accompanied by dear friends from Brno, Czech Republic the Mazuchs, Jan and Magda. Czech Television had just arrived from the airport to Houston to begin a week's documentary on Texas ending with the legendary Westfest in West, Texas. Ray and Clarice hurried back shortly to attend. **Of special note** we were especially proud Dennis Hermis and Mike Kieschnick's two tables of friends from SPJST Lodge 142 and of course members from Lodge 88 including District 5 Director Larry Pflughaupt and wife Dorothy introducing new friends CCMH members Jan, Dave and Heather Johnson. Newly appointed Board Members Henry Hermis Jr. and Kerry Mazoch "debuted" at this event.

Clarice was gracious to write us a note: *Dear Effie and Bill, Thank you so much for the photos and everything else you so beautifully did. August 28th was certainly a memorable night! So many warm, wonderful people, great food and ambiance was perfect! The television crew will be arriving tomorrow so we are preparing for a busy Westfest weekend.*

**Ladies and Gentlemen it is impossible to convey the volume of gratitude to all of you who gave and those who contributed, but could not attend the event to aid the Czech Center Museum Houston survive in this economic recession! Thank You!**



## Founders Day at the Czech Center Museum Houston

Thursday, October 28, 1918 the country of Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic and Slovakia) was established as a sovereign democratic state by Tomas Masaryk and associates M. Stefanik, K. Kramar and our U.S. President Woodrow Wilson who aided them in writing their constitution according to ours. This particular evening 2010, the CCMH honored its Founder Members, those gifting \$1,000.00 plus, making



Glenn Sternes



Three generations of Pertls, Kathy Hart, Bobbie Pertl, Stacey Hart and Clarence Pertl



Attorneys; Member Stephen Saunders, Austin, with his guest Shannon Guthrie, Beford, panelists at a Houston seminar

a commitment to Lifetime Membership building the legacy of CCMH. Also honored were the Galveston Houston Czech Heritage Singers led by President Mary Peska, beautifully clad in their heritage historical costumes. Twenty-four angelic voices accompanied by accordions were a delightful treat performing songs of hundreds years ago. (see page 10) Yet another treat was the delectable, authentic Czech Cuisine prepared by our catering chef for this special event: Chicken Paprikash, Sweet and Sour Cabbage with Caraway Seed, Potato Patties with Apple Sauce, Salmon with Basil Cream, Beef-stuffed Cabbage Leaves, Sausage with piquant sauce, Rye Caraway Seed Bread, Apple Strudel with walnuts, raisins, powdered sugar, Apricot Kolaches, Czech beers, wine, and other beverages. And yes, we know the Czech country is landlocked, but they have a lake system for centuries producing fish plus Norway and Sweden are nearby! Many members came to check-out their investment. It was a really fun party and educational too! Everybody loved the food! We feel badly for those who missed it. Board Member Betti and Charles Saunders asked son Stephen, also a member, to represent their family in their absence. We greeted Founder Members, some we had not seen in six years and were delighted that they viewed the Czech Center for the first time. These included the Pekars, Kalendas and three generations of Pertls whose granddaughter Stacy Hart made a contribution for a Memorial/Honor tile.



LaVerne Nash



Lorraine Rod Green and Len Green



David Miller, MD; DeLois Wimmer, PhD



Frank and Jerrie Kalenda



Cindy O'Donald & Mother Minnie Petrussek

### Introducing Board Members



**CCMH Board Member Kerry Mazoch** is Vice President of Crude Oil Marketing for Genesis Energy, a publicly traded company in the mid-stream oil business. Joining our Board in August 2010 he brings a resume of achievements in his business affairs and also in his philanthropic endeavors. He has volunteered for numerous community organizations, principally with the Exchange Club of Houston which has as its primary mission of prevention of child abuse through the Houston Escape Family Resource Center in 1982. Kerry has been very active in raising funds

for this organization as an Exchange Club member. Kerry is of Czech heritage through both parents.



**CCMH Board Member Henry R. Hermis, Jr.** with wife Barbara are lifetime benefactor members joining the organization in August 1998. Both have been active participants in planning and executing the annual fundraising Galas, a vital component of supporting the Czech Center Museum Houston. Joining our Board of Directors in August 2010, he comes well qualified to participate in board functions by his education, business acumen and his continuing interest in his culture and heritage. He is a graduate of the University of Houston and a Past President

of the University of Houston Architectural Alumni Association. He is President of American Construction Investigations, LTD, which firm specializes in field of forensic investigations and research of building codes and technology serving on the AIA's Code Review Committee for the City of Houston.

### Texas Girls in Costume Circa 1953



**Lynn and Helen Blankenburg** attended Founders Day on October 28, 2010 and presented us with the group picture to the left showing five girls in *kroj*. Of special interest was Helen standing from the left on the back row, next to her is Mary Ann Dornak Erms and then Barbara Baca Baker. The two girls on the front row left are Bernadette Strnadell Medford and the late Betty Strnadell Prasek, the wife of Mike Prasek, owner of Prasek's Hillje Smokehouse.

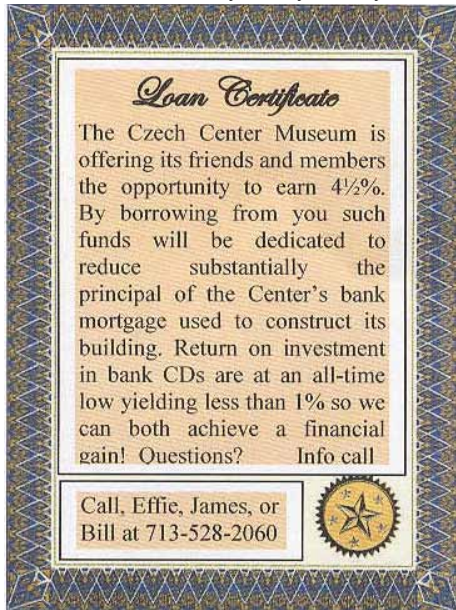


Czech Center's Ottervik Collection. Photos courtesy Petr Poliak Photography

## Members Making a Difference

### *Making a difference by a certificate loan.*

The Czech Center Museum Houston is seeking your assistance by a Certificate Loan to our organization which at the same time you may actually achieve



a tangible benefit from doing so. A major effort is being made to repay the mortgage loan on the building and property by the assistance of its members and friends and ten have already responded to make a difference.

### *Making a difference by a contribution for a Memorial Honor tile!*

Did you know that contributions for engraved gilded marble tiles have been made by 442 individuals to honor or memorialize friends or loved ones on the Czech Center's Courtyard Wall? The fourth round of engraving was completed in September and solicitation for the next round is now being made. A portion



of the wall shown is an example of the contribution for the types of tiles offered ranging in inch sizes 4x12 - \$250; 6x12 - \$500; 8x12 - \$750; 12x12 - \$1,000; Tiles on uppermost row are offered for \$5,000. Six individuals and or organizations have already opted for engraved tiles for the next round. The three 12x12 tiles shown have already been reserved. Please note contributions for the 12x12 size will result in lifetime membership for the family or individual. May we

hear from you for the next round? You can make a difference!

**Info: Bill 713-528-2060 or [czech@czechcenter.org](mailto:czech@czechcenter.org)**



### *Make a difference – have a party!*

Rent Brno Gallery or Prague Ballroom for your next party or for your business or corporate event. The Czech Center benefits from rentals.

### *Make a difference – contribute for an artifact or a building amenity!*



Janell and Wesley Pustejovsky did when they donated the stain glass windows in the Chapel and in the Presidents Room and Julie Kloess in contributing for the Baby Grand Petrof Piano in Brno Gallery, among her numerous contributions.

### *Make a difference – Shop in Prague International Gifts!*



Your purchase in the Museum's Gift Shop benefits the Czech Center so remember to purchase some of these treasures for that special meaningful gift of crystal, stemware, jewelry, porcelain, books, lace, travel accessories and one of kind items.

Shop online at [www.czechcenter.org](http://www.czechcenter.org).



## My Father (from page 4)

You just make seven rights, and you're okay again." I couldn't resist. "Do you ever go for 11?" I asked. "No," he said, "If we miss it at seven, we just come home and call it a bad day. Besides, nothing in life is so important it can't be put off another day or another week."

My mother was never in an accident, but one evening she handed me her car keys and said she had decided to quit driving. That was in 1999, when she was 90. She lived four more years, until 2003. My father died the next year, at 102. They both died in the bungalow they had moved into in 1937 and bought a few years later for \$3,000. (Sixty years later, my brother and I paid \$8,000 to have a shower put in the tiny bathroom, the house had never had one. My father would have died then and there if he knew the shower cost nearly three times what he paid for the house.) He continued to walk daily - he had me get him a treadmill when he was 101 because he was afraid he'd fall on the icy sidewalks but wanted to keep exercising - and he was of sound mind and sound body until the moment he died. One September afternoon in 2004, he and my son went with me when I had to give a talk in a neighboring town, and it was clear to all three of us that he was wearing out, though we had the usual wide-ranging conversation about politics and newspapers and things in the news.

A few weeks earlier, he had told my son, "You know, Mike, the first hundred years are a lot easier than the second hundred." At one point in our drive that Saturday, he said, "You know, I'm probably not going to live much longer." "You're probably right," I said, "Why would you say that?" He countered, somewhat irritated. "Because you're 102 years old," I said. "Yes," he said, "you're right." He stayed in bed all the next day. That night, I suggested to my son and daughter that we sit up with him through the night. He appreciated it, he said, though at one point, apparently seeing us look gloomy, he said: "I would like to make an announcement. No one in this room is dead yet!" An hour or so later, he spoke his last words: "I want you to know," he said, clearly and lucidly, "that I am in no pain. I am very comfortable. And I have had as happy a life as anyone on this earth could ever have." A short time later, he died. I miss him a lot, and I think about him a lot. I've wondered now and then how it was that my family and I were so lucky that he lived so long. I can't figure out if it was because he walked through life; or, because he quit taking left turns. Life is too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right. Forget about the ones who don't.

Believe everything happens for a reason. If you get a chance, take it and if it changes your life, let it. Nobody said life would be easy, they just promised it would most likely be worth it."

**Enjoy life now! It has an expiration date!**

**Opposite. Effie Rosene with City of Houston Mayor Annise Parker, who presented her with a Volunteer of the Year Award at a Gala hosted by the Volunteers of Houston. She was recognized for her sixteen years of service to the Czech Center Museum Houston.**

## The Passing of Friends: *The Czech Center Museum Houston is saddened at the recent loss of member friends*

*The following members are examples of living the Good Life and Making a Difference.*

**Joseph Borden** – Club 200 Member – died February 12, 2010, joined CCMH September 20, 1999. A gregarious community service oriented individual he loved life – education, military service, business, flying and family. He was extremely interested in researching family his and Mildred's Czech heritage. He developed family trees after years of genealogy research. We will never forget the beautiful large Mildred's Czech family of Dziadeks reunion event he staged here at the CCMH on our second day of opening – September 2, 2004. People came from all over the world and had a grand time in our Grand Baroque Palace and Joseph Borden could not have been happier.

**Marta Pour Latsch** - Club 200 Member, CCMH Honorary Board Member Marta Latsch died April 30, 2010 in a Houston Hospice. At the Czech Center Museum Houston 13th Annual Benefit Gala on August 18th, 2007 Marta Pour Latsch,



was the Gala Honoree of the evening. She was recognized for her volunteering, her continued support of the CCMH and other good causes, for being the significant human being that she was. Marta was a class act; if she was unable

to attend an event she would send the price of admission or a donation. She contributed towards production expenses of hosting *The Bartered Bride* "National Czech Opera." Marta underwrote the oil painting of that great folk opera Czech maestro, Bedrich Smetana. When Hurricane Ike struck the Center she said "because I cannot come to volunteer cleanup I am sending some funds for cleaning supplies." As an Honorary Board Member she always thanked us for keeping her apprised of business and all happening events at the CCMH.

**Bennie Marek:** Our organization, the Czech Center Museum Houston, one of Houston's eighteen fine museums, was "born" February 26, 1995. Our friends Bennie and Jackie Marek asked Bill and I to attend a Czech Heritage Society Meeting with them that evening in the VFW Hall, Hillje, Texas. We were amazed to see 250 "bonafide" Czechs in that room! On the way back home to Houston, Bill the Swede/German, Czech by marriage, states "we really ought to build a beautiful edifice to commemorate all these thousands (we found out) Czech Slovak who came and stayed and like other immigrants made a difference in our state of Texas and the USA." We knew there were probably 150 great Czech organizations doing a great job, but this was to be yet another facet of history which we learned from our travels there. On March 6, 1996 we incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) non profit educational cultural arts organization. We grew from that grass roots movement with the Mareks and others to where we are in Houston's Museum District! Reading

the Mareks CCMH File is like reading the history of this organization since 1995. Until he could not, Bennie wrote beautiful personal notes starting with "Dearest" and ending with "Love" and numerous "thank yous" in between. Bennie died Friday, June 11, 2010. There was not a sweeter, kinder, always smiling, more sensitive human being than this one. Amazingly his wife Jackie is the same. Just think of all those good genes passed down to their daughters and grand children! It's hard to say goodbye to another dear friend.

**Ron Plasek** passed July 29, 2010. Ron was my neighbor for a number of years. We watched his family grow up. Endowed with several Rice University degrees he devoted his career to developing well logging tools. Ron was a recent member of CCMH.

**Gladys Froehlich Kahanek** - Club 200 Member August 15, 2010) was a Founder, Club 200 and Honorary Board Member with husband Leslie (deceased) since CCMH inception, February 1995. Gladys served as the organization's Prague International Gifts Shop Volunteer Manager until our move to the Museum District in 2004. A wonderful friend, organizer, joyful, productive person we shared many interesting experiences including when we ordered twelve beautiful crystal votives, not realizing we would receive twelve dozen! We still have several of these!! Gladys was so cool. She would have been a great General!

**Marvin E. Chernosky, M.D.** – Club 200 Member died August 15, 2010. He joined CCMH in August 2000 as a Founder, Club 200 member with Jean and family, his first letter thanking the CCMH for its cultural heritage education mission.

*Ed: One of the many large early Czech immigrant families, the Texas Chernosky Dynasty, I was told they were called royalty. Dr. Chernosky's extensive life experiences (a pioneer in Dermatology Medicine) are chronicled in the Houston Chronicle.*

**Vlasta Adam, MD** - Club 200 Member died August 7, 2010 and the CCMH is saddened to lose another good friend. A supporting member since 1997 she was very family oriented and it was a pleasure to have her attend events with her family. In the forefront of the specialty of geriatric medicine, an elegant lady with beautiful sparkling eyes, a sweet smile she never lost that youthful look even with increasing years. She leaves a wonderful legacy. Born and raised in the mountainous Moravia in Novy Hrozenkov, went to Prague in 1939 to study medicine at Charles University. Hitler intervened, occupied Prague just as the academic year started and closed the university. She became a registered nurse and spent the war years in hospital work. After the war she went back to her study of medicine while working as a nurse to support herself. She met her husband in medical school and they married in 1951. Both refused to join the communist party and were punished as a result. They immigrated to the United States in 1968. She retired in 1998. Her friends honored her with many contributions to the Czech Center Museum Houston.

**Glorianna Poole** Deceased September 24, 2010. A beautiful sweet, always smiling gracious lady. She volunteered from 1998 in our gift shop and office at Northwest Mall while we were gathering funds to develop the Czech Center Museum in the Museum District until our new facility opened in 2004 when illness overtook her and she had to retire from volunteer duties.

**Grace Anders Skrivanek.** Founder, Benefactor and Honorary Board Member of Caldwell, the greater Cooks Point Community, died Saturday, November 13, 2010. Born March 23, 1916 in San Antonio she grew up in Texas and Alabama, graduated from high school in Houston and from Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos. She began her career as an elementary teacher in East Bernard, and continued in Rosenberg, College Station and Bryan, where she retired after 32 years. She met her husband, Joseph John Skrivanek, Jr. when he was a high school band director. Their over fifty year marriage ended with his death in 1991. Having a great love for music she played the piano and occasionally helped out various churches and organizations. She was active in community affairs and many organizations. Many have referred to her as "Amazing Grace." This is not a title she liked as it embarrassed her and even caused her to not want the song to be a part of any service. But, the phrase truly fit her. Her passion for life, the continued search for learning, reading and travel, of making lives better of being so mentally active at her age and so much more. Her life was truly an amazing story, a part of the American Dream. Her family thanks all who were a part of her life!

*Ed: We will miss all of these marvelous supporters. Without their support we would not be where we are today. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers. And please note that others must step into their like philanthropic roles.*

### Czech Embassy Texas Trade Mission



The CCMH welcomed the Embassy of the Czech Republic's Chargé d'Affaires, Daniel Kostoval (rt.) and Economic & Trade Counselor Josef Dvoracek at a Board Dinner on December 16, 2010. The embassy representatives were on a mission to Texas to develop trade ties with the Czech Republic. Meeting with the business community they ended their day viewing the Czech Center and answering questions from the audience. Sponsoring their visit was Clarice and Czech Consul General Raymond Snokhous.

He also had to endure the long-standing animosity by the Roman Curia, who could not reconcile itself with “the first non-Catholic king of western Europe.” Pope Pius II rejected The Four Articles of Prague even though they had been accepted by the Council of Basel. The next Pope, excommunicated George for his religious beliefs. George, nevertheless, became a remarkably effective and imaginative ruler. He was one of the most successful of Czech kings and grew to be loved by Hussites and Catholics alike. Outside his borders he earned the respect of his peers as much for his deft handling of the religious duality as for the economic boom that accompanied his reign. The Curia’s adversarial attitude had no effect on King George’s status among neighboring rulers who came to value his advice and even invited him to act as a mediator in their most personal disputes including dynastic and succession matters. He was no longer isolated for being the only monarch who separated church affairs from secular; now other leaders were agreeing openly that each of the two disciplines should remain in “their respective domain, not stand in each other’s way, nor damage each other.”

He found an ally in King of France, Louis XI with whom he maintained diplomatic contacts that led to a Franco-Czech alliance. On May 6, 1464, in a special message to the King, George proposed the formation of his League of Christian Princes with voluntary membership.

**King George’s proposed League of European Nations was, nonetheless, even farther ahead of its time than the Czech Reformation had been.**

Yet just as the Reformation had planted the seed of independent thought in the mind of European Everyman, so had George’s plan for a peace-loving union of European nations represented the first concrete step on the long road to realization of a dream which would take many centuries to accomplish. The Hussite king’s religious impartiality and determination to keep church affairs apart from secular, created an environment of religious tolerance not found elsewhere. His kingdom was the first country with religious tolerance guaranteed by law, which preceded by more than hundred years the next European tolerance law. *Excerpted from the book Moravian Garden*



Beveled Glass Windows donors Frank & Mary Pokluda in Prague International Gift Shop



The Ottervik Collection . A portion of the 1289 piece 1918-1938 Czech art glass ceramic in Pilsner Hall



The Julie Halek Kloess Collection in Prague Hall



In the background showing one of four stained glass windows donated by Janell and Wesley Pustejovsky



Houston artist John Pavlicek with his loaned Palatine, left, and Psalm Series XI on the grand stairway landing



Robert Dvorak at the Baby Grand Petrof gift of John E. Vacek in Brno Gallery

**The Rosene Legacy Fund**

The Rosene Legacy Fund is administered by the Czech Center Museum Houston with direction of its use by Effie and Bill Rosene to benefit the organization. They will make personal contributions to the fund along with others who may wish to join with them. The Fund’s resources will be used to acquire museum holdings or to underwrite special projects.

The fund has not been widely advertised though a few individuals being aware have made contributions as **Sara Ann Barton**, who writes on the occasion of Effie’s birthday: *Happy Birthday and warmest wishes for a healthy, enjoyable year. I am enclosing a contribution to the Rosene Legacy Fund in honor of your birthday. The Rosene Legacy Fund is such a meaningful way to remember special persons on special occasions. It makes so much more sense to contribute to a worthwhile cause (Czech Center Museum Houston) than purchasing unneeded gifts for our loved ones. Wishing you a blessed year. Sara Ann Barton*

**Founders Day event October 28, 2010**



Mary Peska, President of the Czech Heritage Singers of Houston (fourth from the left) sent us her picture writes: “Dear Effie, when I had these pictures developed, I was so impressed at the beautiful atmosphere of the Prague Hall. The table settings were outstanding so I decided to mail them to you. I also am including a picture of Al Stryk directing our choir. We enjoyed the evening and thanks for inviting us.”

*Ed: Donations from the group were sufficient to contribute to an engraved marble tile for the Czech Heritage Singers on the courtyard wall.*

**We would love to stay in touch with you, notify you of events here at the Center and news of importance to you affecting our organization. If you are a user of email messaging please send your email address to [events@czechcenter.org](mailto:events@czechcenter.org)**

**Board of Directors**

- Effie M. Rosene, *Chairman*
- James E. Ermis, *Vice Chair*
- Rev. Paul Chovanec
- Robert J. Dvorak
- Chris Hlavinka
- Harry E. Mach
- Sally Miller
- Wesley Pustejovsky
- Betti Friedel Saunders
- Henry Hermis, Jr.
- Kerry Mazoch

**Officers**

- Effie M. Rosene, *CEO*
- W. G. Bill Rosene, *VP, Admin/ Secretary*
- James E. Ermis, *President/ Treasurer*

**Honorary Czech Consuls Generals**

- Raymond J. Snokhous, *(TX)*
- Kenneth H. Zezulka *(LA)*

**Honorary Board**

- Julie Halek Kloess
- Jane Cyva
- Marion Bell
- Marion Freeman
- Cecilia & Bob Forrest
- Tomas Klima, MD
- Marcella Klima, MD
- The Mareks – Marek Family of Companies
- Frank & Mary Pokluda
- John R. Vacek

**“Friendship is like wine the older it is the better it is!”** *Czech Proverb*  
*(Refrigerator Magnet available in gift shop)*

Art from the Kamil Kubik and Jiri Grbavcic Collections, *Courtesy Petr Poliak Photography*



Kamil Kubik (l to r) Vltava River Prague; Brno Market Day, Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in background; Prague Municipal House



Kamil Kubik (l to r): Michael's Tower Bratislava; Prague Market. Jiri Grbavcic: Father Cech & Family; King Wenceslas; Sts. Cyril & Methodius

Czechoslovakian Collectors Association (CCA)

Growing up in the 40s and 50s, my family and I knew all the Bohemian traditions and culture. My grandfather had come from Bohemia in 1880. He instilled in my dad and then in my mother the values and ethics of living in a Slavic land. Hard work and perseverance were mainstays in life. At home we learned these: hard work, family loyalties, Bohemian pride excellent cooking and lots of music made the first three worthwhile. There were no material items for us to know. I have my grandfather's trunk and the contents of that trunk included a cross and a pipe. When Dean and I visited Expo 67 in Montreal, we learned about a whole new subject, an important part of our heritage. We discovered the Egermann glass, the red acid-etched glass, on which the typical illustration is the deer. Over the years, we found pieces of the Egermann. Then, as we visited antique malls, we discovered the ceramics, more glass and pottery. If marked with Czechoslovakia, or some form of the country's name, I usually bought the item. Some years ago I learned about the CCA and began subscribing to its newsletter, a beautiful magazine. This year the convention was held in Indianapolis, and I attended it. I had a ball! Through major collectors and presentations, I learned the history of another part of our heritage – the huge industry of glassmaking, porcelain and pottery. Jiri Harcuba of Prague, a world-known engraver, was a speaker and then exhibited some of his works and the process at the Indianapolis Art Center. The origins of CCA ([czechcollectors.org](http://czechcollectors.org)) are from 1995 when the Czechoslovakian Collector's Guild International (CCGI) was founded. The club was reorganized in 2001 and renamed the Czech Collector's Association (CCA). This new name, however, only partially captures our interests as the organization also encompasses a wide range of Austrian, Bohemian and Czechoslovakian Decorative

Arts, what many members refer to as the ABCs of collecting.

Their mission is to foster the collection and appreciation of the art glass, ceramics, and other decorative arts of Austria, Bohemia, and Czechoslovakia from the years 1850 to 1940. CCA's mission is accomplished through: research, education, the publication of a Newsletter twice a year, the sponsorship of an annual Convention, and a comprehensive Web site which features articles and columns devoted to deepening our understanding of the history and production of these beautiful objects of art.

Learning about the ABC of arts, you must know about the history of eras. Because Bohemia was always "managed" by other countries and groups, the arts took a while to develop. Bohemia's productions were possible because of the heavy forests, which provided wood for heating. Primary materials were beech wood ashes and water. Before Hitler, there were over 2000 glass houses in Bohemia. During his time, hundreds of factories and arts houses were smashed, along with the houses' molds.

Anything marked Czechoslovakia we know was produced between 1918 and 1992. Any Austrian pieces MAY have been done in Bohemia, established around the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The Austro-Hungarian Empire ruled from 1620 – 1918. A book, *Bohemian Decorated Porcelain*, by Dr. James D. Henderson, who was a speaker at one our Wisconsin Czechs meetings, says in his introduction, "Nowhere else has a country's government and geographic names been so influenced by its neighbors. Wars, invasions and occupations over the years have resulted in frequent changes of town and street names, languages spoken and ownership of land and property. Between 1800 and 1945 the area of western Bohemia, or the Sudetenland as it was later

called, was under German influence and control. The porcelain factories were for the most part owned by German Jews. Throughout these difficult times the Czech people have maintained their culture and pride.

**Sally Teresinski**

*Ed: Don't forget to view the CCMH's 1289 piece Ottavik collection for a stunning display of art glass and pottery in one location*



An authentic Czech style Christmas Tree from Clarice and Ray Snokhous, Czech Consul General for Texas was sold at auction

On December 8th the Houston Consular Corp Guild representing 104 countries in Houston presented an unique annual evening event that brings to life the cultural holiday traditions of countries worldwide. Entertainment included choral performances, cultural dance performances, a silent auction of decorated holiday trees from around the world and a visit by Santa Claus. Global cuisine treats and other seasonal items were available for sale in the International Holiday Bazaar held in the Rotunda of Houston's City Hall. Effie Rosene represented the Czech Republic with cultural items from Prague International Gifts.

# THE NEWS OF THE CZECH CENTER

Czech Cultural Center Houston, Texas (KULTURNI CENTRUM CESKE)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Houston, Texas  
Permit No. 10259

## The News of The Czech Center

Czech Center Museum Houston

*In the Museum District*

4920 San Jacinto Street

Houston, Texas 77004

Tel: 713-528-2060

Prague International Gifts: 713-528-2060

Email: [czech@czechcenter.org](mailto:czech@czechcenter.org)

Webpage: <http://www.czechcenter.org>

[www.houstonreceptions.org](http://www.houstonreceptions.org)

[www.receptions-houston.com](http://www.receptions-houston.com)

Blog: [www.czechcentermuseumhouston.wordpress.com](http://www.czechcentermuseumhouston.wordpress.com)

*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 the CCMH's belief that education and charity are cornerstones to enhancing a Civil Society in these challenging times.*

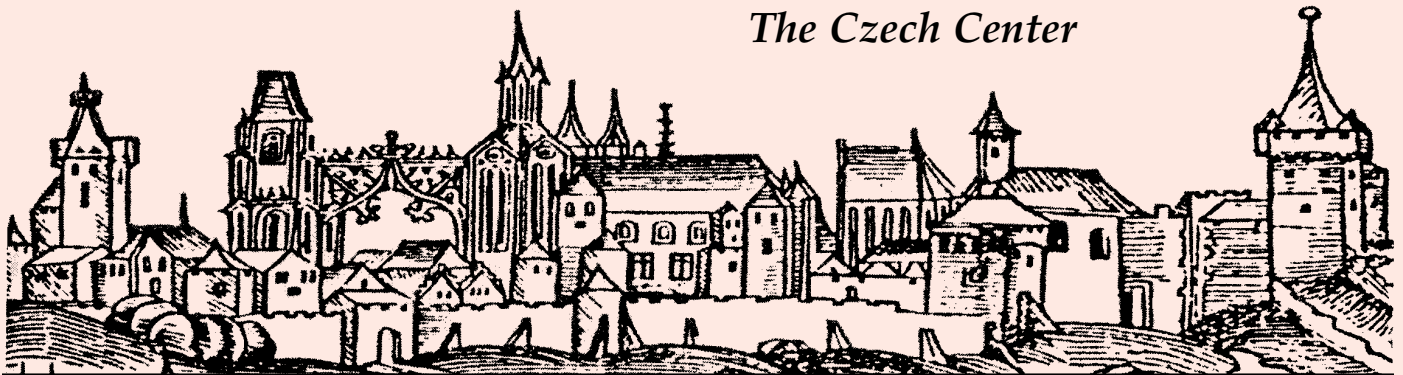


Vaclav Havel

**Velvet Revolution – November 17, 1989** an authorized student demonstration turned into a mass demonstration in favor of freedom, independence and democracy. The demonstrators called for the end of the Communist regime and the resignation of Communist Party General Secretary Milous Jakes. The protests developed into a mass movement that came to be known as the “Velvet Revolution.” **November 19th** - The Civic Forum (*Obcanske Forum*) led by Vaclav Havel in the Czech part of Czechoslovakia and Public Against Violence in Slovakia were founded. Both sought dialogue with the Communist powers with a view to achieving freedom and democracy. By the end of December demonstrations were being held throughout Czechoslovakia. **November 24th** - mass protest on Wenceslas Square writer and civil rights activist Vaclav Havel and reform politician from the 1968 Prague Spring Alexander Dubcek gave speeches, joining the demonstrators in demanding the resignation of the entire Communist Party leadership. Milous Jakes, General Secretary and the entire Politburo resigned. Jubilant crowds followed the fall of the Berlin Wall in **November December**. A two-hour general strike on

**November 27th** was followed by negotiations between the Civic Forum and the government in Prague. On **November 29th** the Communist Party abandoned the leading role accorded to it by the constitution. **December 1st**, tens of thousands of demonstrators in Bratislava demand democratic reforms. Work started on dismantling the barbed wire border with Austria on **December 5th**. Six days later it was the turn of the West German border. First non-Communist government Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec resigned on **December 7th** in the face of public pressure. On **December 10th** President Gustav Husak convened the first government with a non-Communist majority since 1948. The Prime Minister of the new “government of national understanding” was Marian Galfa. Civil rights activist Jiff Dienstbier became Foreign Minister, and Vaclav Klaus was Minister of Finance. President Husak resigned after this government was sworn in.

## The Czech Center



*“When we build let us think that we build forever. Let it not be such for present delight nor 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*