



*News from the Czech Center in the Museum
District - July 2015*



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

4920 San Jacinto Street, Houston, Texas 77004 - 713-528-2060
czech@czechcenter.org www.czechcenter.org

Open Monday - Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm

The Czech Ambassador to the United States will visit us at the Czech Center Museum Houston at the end of July. In this issue we acquaint you with the new Honorary Czech Consul for the State of Texas, Brian Vanicek.

The Endowment for Perpetuity Fund Advances! Below are those embracing the CCMH's needs for future generations to help individuals realize heritage is important in their lives and that this Museum connects People, Heritage, History and the World!

Great News for those who want to learn the Czech Language on-line. Join with Effie and Bill in the Rosene Scholarship fund with a donation. Meet our new board members.

From the Chairman, Effie M. Rosene: We need volunteers and we need you! For We Honor our Volunteers "We honor them, not just today, but every day, our Volunteers, members of the Czech Center Museum Houston Guild. They Tend the Prague International Gift Shop, give Docent Historical Tours, Meet every visitor to the CCMH from around the world, and Answer every telephone call for its execution. We **Educate** all who enter, the importance of embracing their heritage from wherever, to know who they are, as the roots to being a citizen of the world, not only as Texans or as Americans. Volunteers are unpaid, yet give financial and charitable support to help grow our institution to be enjoyed by others via education, service, the arts, culture, history and heritage. **We honor our Ancestors** in whose memory the CCMH was built, to remember they came to America through great trials and tribulations, stayed, and made a difference, as all immigrant groups have. **We honor all our Members, Friends, Board Members and past Board Members. We honor their "stepping up" in great attitude and aptitude to administer the Museum's needs. Please join us in any hours or days you can commit to this special group. Call 713-528-2060 or 713-682-4608. Thank you.**

Thanks to Friends of the Czech Center Museum Houston who have made a contribution to the CCMH Endowment Fund Appeal. We are grateful to those supporters who will help our museum remain one of Houston's treasured gems and who have recognized, in their generous and thoughtful gifts, this critical component of support to establish an Endowment to allow CCMH to continue its mission for future generations. The Endowment will relieve the constant striving for funds over, above and beyond basic admission and membership dues. This effort continues; so please consider Gifts to the Endowment Fund at this time. Your gift may be made on-line: <http://www.czechcenter.org/VerticalResponseEmails/more/endowment.html>, or make a check payable to CCMH.

The CCMH Member's loan investment program was instigated in 2010 as a way to retire the building's bank mortgage with its required monthly payment. From its members, CCMH received sufficient funds from seventeen persons which were used for this purpose. Since that auspicious beginning, eight very generous individuals have forgiven or donated \$165,000 or 26% of the funds initially received. These were Cynthia Gdula and Charles Westervelt, Marek Family Companies, Laverne Nash, Ed and Sandra Pickett, Mary and Frank Pokluda Jr., Wesley Pustejovsky, Lorraine Rod Green and Effie and Bill Rosene. The Picketts and Rosenes donated the interest on their loans to the Center. The certificates issued for the remaining eleven loans will terminate in 2015 to be replaced with new certificates, if the holder so indicates. Several have so indicated to continue at this time.

The CCMH's Board of Directors has authorized the continuation of the **Loan Program to be offered to other members and friends at this time**, with issued certificates receiving a 3% interest return on their investment with funds received in this new program to be placed in the Center's Endowment for Perpetuity Investment Fund.

Please contact **Bill Rosene** at 713-528-2060 or email to billrosene@yahoo.com if you are interested in joining with us in this program. Your investment in this matter is highly important and beneficial to the Czech Center Museum Houston.

CCMH Goal and Mission: We, at the Czech Center Museum Houston, a non-profit cultural educational arts organization in Houston, Texas have a mission of connecting our Museum to People - to Heritage - to History - to the World. As part of this mission, it serves us to remember those who by their acts demonstrated by their pride of their heritage and the subconscious imprint it made on them to reach out and give back to their mother country as well as their new home. These are the people and their memory we strive to preserve as example to our Members and Friends. Our Museum holds the Jan Amos Komensky Library and Archives, a collection of publications, memorabilia, books, etc., and we are always appreciative of new collections and additions. We take pride in conveying in our Docent Tours to national and international visitors, our dedication to promote the legacy of Czech and Slovak Americans who made a significant contribution to our society and heritage.



Jan Papanek
1896 - 1991

Our organization gratefully honors persons whose achievements have made us proud to be of Czech and Slovak descent, and we tangibly honor their memory on the Museum's Honor and Memorial Wall of Honor by placing a gold engraved tile as a remembrance and reminder of their legacy to us. We are greatly appreciative of the honor to pay tribute to Mr.

Jiri Brotan, patriot of Czechoslovakia, an exceptional human being, by displaying the Jan & Betka Papanek Foundation's memorial tile in a prominent place next to another patron of the Czech Center Museum, Maestro Kamil Kubik, where visitors from around the world come to enjoy the tranquility of the area when visiting with us. It is our utmost desire to remember them for generations to come. They will be greatly missed not only by the Czech and Slovak communities but also by people from all over the world and never forgotten. We say *S panem Bohem*, go with God, as they continue their work in a New Medium.



Miloslava Brotan
visited CCMH
May 22, 2015



The Ambassador is coming to Texas at the end of July. H.E. Petr Gandalovič is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C., a position he has held since July 2011. Previously, he was a Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic from 2006 until 2011. He was appointed Minister of Agriculture from 2007-2009 and Minister of Regional Development in 2006. In 2002, he was elected Mayor of the City of Ústí nad Labem. During this period, he served on the Agriculture and Foreign Committees. From 1997 to 2002, Petr Gandalovič was appointed first Consul General of the Czech Republic in New York. Prior to this posting, he acted as Director General of the Economic and Information Section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Meet the new Honorary Consul for Texas: Brian Vanicek of Temple, Texas serves as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for the State of Texas. As Honorary Consul, Mr. Vanicek's duties include: Trade development; Tourism promotion; Cultural exchange facilitation; Notarization of documents for use in the Czech Republic; Assistance for Czech citizens visiting Texas; and Compatriot affairs. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Vanicek received the Czernin Palace Bronze Memorial Medal in 2010 for significant contributions in preserving and promoting relations between the Czech Republic and the United States of America. Since 2004, Mr. Vanicek has served as President of SPJST. Founded by Texas pioneers of Czech descent in 1897, SPJST is a fraternal benefit society. The SPJST offers its members financial security through life insurance and related financial products and a wholesome family environment, imparting the cherished traditions of the Czech history, culture, heritage and family. Mr. Vanicek and his wife, Joan, have been married for 27 years. The Vaniceks have one daughter, Stephanie, 22, who lives and works in Houston and one son, Samuel, 20, a senior at the University of Texas at Austin, who is currently fulfilling degree credits as a student at Charles University in Prague.

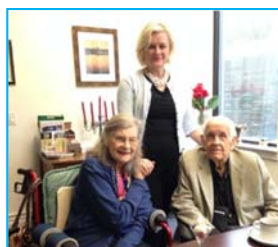
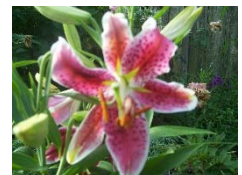


Reverend Joseph Vrana The invitation read, "You are invited to attend the celebration of the 50-year Jubilee celebration of priesthood in Nada, Texas of Reverend Joseph Vrana." While regrettably we were unable to attend this joyous and significant occasion, we hereby tell you about Fr. Joe Vrana and his achievements. He is the nephew of our longtime esteemed member, "Aunt Jane" Cyva of Houston, Texas. The two are lifelong hunting, fishing buddies tilling and living the family farm together all their lives. Jane is well known and highly acclaimed for her work in educational speaking and working with the Dale Carnegie Institute. Father Joe was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John Morkovsky and served as parochial vicar at numerous assignments and counts one especially at Holy Cross in Bay City where he served as a juvenile probation officer and special deputy Sheriff and was known as the "Pistol Packing Padre." Sheriff Joe keeps them in line at St. Mary's in Nada, Texas! Congratulations on your achievements, Father Joe!



Czech Language Class and Czech Language Instructor Extraordinaire Bill Soucek's Czech language class that he taught at SPJST Lodge 88 for many years never fails to have a large turnout. He was successful in his instruction to make it fun and enjoyable with his antidotes and jokes and illustrations. He was also successful in involving the class in the learning process. His style was developed after being a teacher for many years at Kinkaid School. He is pictured in the center with wife Alice. *Can you name all of the attendees shown, and if so win a prize! Let us know.*

Come Fly with Me! Member and Friday Volunteer Allen Livanec, the proud father, writes; "My daughter Daphne just completed a three week flight training course in Bozeman, Montana to be IFT certified (Instrument Flight Training)." He said that he flew to Bozeman with her and noted he had never been to Montana. He also wanted to show his Star Gazer Lilies that he is growing and said he misses visiting and drinking *vino* (wine) with Effie and Bill. *Ed: Allen, our steadfast Friday volunteer for many years, is taking a sabbatical during which he is sorely missed. We hope he returns soon to join again in our Friday night Happy Hours! Star Gazer Lilies are Effie Rosene's favorite flower, and she suggested to Allen he start raising them.*



Pictured above from left: Pavla Velickinova, Effie and Bill Rosene, Eva Campo; Middle picture: Ms. Velickinova with Effie and Bill Rosene; Right picture: Stephanie Vanicek, Allen Livanec, Virginia Stoner.

Pavla Velickinova The Czech Center Museum Houston was privileged to have Ms. Velickinova (shown standing in the center picture above), the Head of Public Diplomacy at the Czech Embassy in Washington, DC, view and meet the Volunteers during a visit arranged by Czech Consul Brian Vanicek. Such visits give the visitor an idea of the scope and definition of our facility in which we acquaint our Members and Friends with its mission of preservation of culture and heritage.

2015 Calendar of Events The Story of Lidice: Special Guest Sarah Wilhelm gave a presentation and talk June 29, 2015 on the World War II topic of Reinhard Heidrich and the story of the town of Lidice, Czech Republic. The lecture was presented along with a new exhibit at the museum: *The Story of Lidice*, which will be on view until the end of August. Sarah Wilhelm is a 2015 graduate of Austin College in Sherman, Texas where she majored in theater and history.

June 10, 2015 marked the 73rd year since the Czech village of Lidice was razed to the ground by Nazis in 1942. The sculptures pictured here commemorate the more than 80 children who died in the events during and soon after that day.



Lidice Sculpture Garden

August 5, 2015 Conversational Czech Lessons - Free introduction class Wednesday, August 5, at 6:00pm. 12 Classes on Wednesdays at 6:00pm - \$10 per class – prepay \$100 (save \$20).

October 25, 2015 Czech Oktoberfest, National Czech Slovak Day Democracy (October 28, 1918) First Republic. RSVP to: 713-528-2060 or billrosene@yahoo.com.

November 17, 2015 Remembering the Velvet Revolution End of Communism in Czechoslovakia in 1989 leading eventually to second Republic 1992.. RSVP to: 713-528-2060 or czech@czechcenter.org for more info.

December 6, 2015 Saint Nicholas Eve Celebration with the Bishop, Angel, and Devil, A Holiday Dinner for friends, families, and children. RSVP to: 713-528-2060 or czech@czechcenter.org for more info.

Czech Economic News The **Vaclav Havel Airport Prague** will increase the number of direct flights by 19 this summer. Passengers will be able to fly to 138 destinations in 45 countries without having to change planes. The number of air carriers flying from the Vaclav Havel Airport is **expected to increase by 6 to a total of 60**. New flight connections include Czech Airlines' (CSA) lines to Liverpool (Britain), Cork (Ireland), Billund (Denmark) and Vaxjo (Sweden); Ryanair's lines to Bremen (Germany); and Jet2.com's line to Belfast (Northern Ireland).

Seventy percent of Czechs reject the euro adoption, and they are most skeptical among the EU countries that vowed to join the euro but have not yet done so, according to results of the latest Euro barometer survey.

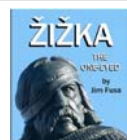
Support for the euro is different in the seven of the EU's 28 members that participated in the survey. Sixty six percent of Swedes and 53 percent of Polish citizens were opposed to the euro introduction, while 68 percent of people in Romania, 60 percent of Hungarians, 55 percent of Bulgarians and 53 percent of Croatian citizens said they are in favor of joining the euro area.

Great News for those who want to learn the Czech Language! There now is a chance to study the Czech language in a college setting! **Becky Garlick**, Director of the Schulenburg Campus of Blinn College, informed us of a wonderful new class that will be offered at Blinn College: The course **CZEC 1411** will be offered via distance learning in the fall. Participants from all over Texas and the nation who are interested in learning the CZEC language can participate in a live class on their own computers. We believe that this is an important effort to preserve Czech heritage. This is wonderful news! We have been trying to reach universities saying this is the way to go in the new age! They offer on-site classes at UT and A&M but reach too few. We have often asked why these two universities do not offer extension classes offering our facility for use or on-line means but to no avail. It seems our wait has been answered. Ms. Garlick believes that most of our students will transfer on to UT. We will also encourage them to pursue international business. As part of the international business degree, students are required to take a foreign language, and we believe that Czech would be a great option for them.

CZEC 1411: Students will learn fundamental Czech language skills that include listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing as well as basic vocabulary, grammatical structures, and Czech culture. The course begins on August 31st and ends on December 11th. Preregistration is required. The class will be offered via distance learning on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:30-8:45am To participate, you will need the following: • a computer with internet access • speakers and a microphone (or a headset is preferred). Simply log into the class on your computer to participate in a live class! Dual Credit students and students of all ages are encouraged to enroll.

For questions or information, call 979-743-5222.

Book Signing and Author Talk with Dr. Jim Fuxa, author of *Žižka the One-Eyed*, a Historical Novel of Revolution in Medieval Bohemia **July 25, 2015 at 4:00pm** at the Czech Center Museum Houston. The quick temper of Jan Žižka, a one-eyed warrior, thrust him into leadership of a revolution that would challenge the very foundations of medieval society. Talk will be followed by Q&A session and book signing. The book will be available for purchase from the Czech Center Museum Houston gift shop. www.jimfuxa.com



Contributions to the Rosene Scholarship Fund Effie and Bill Rosene loaned \$25,000 to CCMH along with sixteen other marvelous members to retire the building's mortgage. We have "forgiven" \$10,000 of that amount as have six of the original donors. It is our intention to have our forgiven amount form the basis of a self-directed Rosene Scholarship Fund. During the last fifteen years, CCMH has awarded three \$1,000 scholarships annually to university scholars which were funded by a donation from benefactor, Thelma Burnet Maresh. The conditions of that scholarship did not specify any particular course of study. Sadly, only in a few cases have we seen a return to this organization from our recipients by way of membership, volunteering or attendance at our events. The Rosene scholarship will stipulate the scholar will pursue two semesters of Czech language instruction while enrolled in a four-year degree program such as The University of Texas or Texas A&M. Following the successful completion of the year's program, as a reward the scholar will be given a stipend to attend a summer language course in the Czech Republic. Member Dr. Glenn Sternes has donated \$5,000 toward the award of educational scholarships, and we hope to include his donation in this fund. The impetus of this scholarship is three-fold. We have seen an overwhelming lack of interest in scholars in learning the meaning what their heritage has made in their lives. We are concerned that the spoken Czech language is not relevant here, especially to the younger generation to a great degree here in Texas, beyond the Czech food words and music. These two facts have led to a diminished interest in joining Czech organizations. With this scholarship, it is presumed the scholar completing the two steps above that he or she would be further interested to display their talents by inclusion in a Czech organization. The amount of scholarship would be \$2,000 for two semesters of study with a following \$1,000 stipend to partially underwrite a trip and study in the Czech Republic, where there are numerous Czech language courses offered. May we have your support? If so, please email us at billrosene@yahoo.com. Thank you, *Effie and Bill Rosene*



Meet Our New Board Members

Charlie Waligura is a long-time Founder member of this organization and is serving presently on the Board of the Harris County Czech Heritage Society. He is currently a Project Manager at Pasadena Refining and was formerly a principal Process Engineer at Bechtel Corp. A University of Houston Engineering graduate in Petroleum Engineering as a PE, PMP Oil, Gas & Petrochemical Project Manager, VP Operations small Process Engineering Company as a Principal Process Engineer

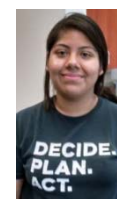


Barbara Mikulik is another long-time Founder member of the Czech Center Museum Houston and is presently serving on the Board of the Harris County Czech Heritage Society. She is a retired Houston Public School Teacher and has homes in Houston and San Angelo where she is a full-time farmer working on the family farm there.



Frank Pokluda III is the son of the late Frank Pokluda, Jr. and is dedicated to continuing the philanthropic efforts of his father by becoming a Board Member. He served the public as a long time Waller County Commissioner, also as a board member of a local water district, and is a business owner in Waller County.

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



New volunteer Leslie Valesquez attends the Academy of International Studies

- **CCMH Foyer.** Art Nouveau Beveled glass doors and windows; The 1850 palace low-boy chest with Hanak Biblical Times Ceramics Art Collection by Czech Karel Hanak highly awarded academic artist for bringing past history to the future; a gemstone globe on the antique lawyer's desk; the Pekar family gold table holds ceramics and awards.
- **Wenceslas Chapel.** Czech Crystal Chandeliers, Stained Glass Windows, Antique Castles/Chateau furniture and paintings; King Wenceslas on his horse is as on Wenceslas Square in Prague.
- **Brno Gallery.** Porcelain and numerous collections, paintings, and antique furniture with King Rudolf II to greet you!
- **The Presidents' Room** includes the Ermis ceramics collection; Rev. Paul Chovanec Moser collection; Eggermann, Bohemian crystal; Brychta figures and Hoffman boudoir pieces and the Presidents' portraits.
- **Prague International Museum Gift Shop.** A collection of heirlooms, antiques and only twenty items left of 100 year-old collection, jewelry, and art.
- **Grand Staircase Landing and Pilsen Hall** features magnificent artworks of Houston's own John Pavlicek, his art showing regularly at Gremillion Gallery.
- **Prague Hall Ballroom** filled with permanent exhibits of Czech Masters Alfons Mucha, father of the **Art Nouveau** Movement and Czech born American international artist to presidents, royalty and art patrons of all ages Kamil Kubik **Impressionist** of landscape and cityscape paintings plus more Crystal Chandeliers and Petrof baby grand piano.
- **Pilsen Hall** features Roy Cullen's Prague International Ballet in Houston debut, Photo gallery; Folk Art *Galerie* with 1750s era village wedding and models with festival dress and permanent exhibit of the Ottervik Collection of 1289 pieces of Czechoslovakian Art Glass/Ceramics 1918 – 1938. Note the two Special Effects Photography by Czech/Slovak born New York artist Jaroslav Pecha on the west wall.
- **Comenius Library.** A permanent exhibit of early Czech immigrant rancher/farmer/photos who came to America from *Velky Ujezd*, Czech lands then Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1903 – the Frank Joseph Tomek family to Cameron, Texas.



Haley E. Srubar will staff the position as an Event Coordinator. She is a graduate of Texas A&M with a BA in Anthropology.



Audrey P. Gulsby will staff the position as Admin Assistant. She is a graduate of the University of Houston with a BS in Sociology.

Good Reads Available at our Prague International Gift Shop:

Texas Czech Bands by CCMH Members Jimmy Brosch with Theresa Cernoch Parker.

Rustic Baroque - A novel by Jiri Hajicek - Set in South Bohemia about a decade after the Velvet Revolution.

Border Crossings - A Memoir that Reads Like a Thriller! by Charles Novacek.

Prague, My Long Journey Home - by Charles Ota Heller. A memoir of Survival, Denial and Redemption, providing a window into one Czech American's experiences!

The Czech Pioneers of the Southwest by Dr. Henry R. Maresh - a must read for research of your genealogy.

Living Longer Than Hate - W. J. Bill Morgan's life - a Story of Survival and Success by C.S. Ragsdale.

Fields of Light, A Son Remembers His Heroic Father by CCMH Member Joseph Hurka.

Žižka The One-Eyed - A grizzled warrior, he rose from service as a mere bodyguard at the court of King Wenceslas to lead armies of peasant men and women. By Jim Fuxa, CCMH member.

For information on these books and to order, call 713-528-2060 or go to:

<http://www.czechcenter.org/giftshop/giftshop.asp>

You are welcome to view this organization's **IRS Form 990** available on the Guidestar website. Note this organization's name on filing was the Czech Cultural and Community Center, which now does business as the Czech Center Museum Houston. <http://www.guidestar.org/FinDocuments/2011/760/496/2011-760496649-08e34299-9.pdf>
Interested Members may also view financial records by appointment.

Czech Language Online Daily It would be impossible not to learn from these simple distinct lessons. Try it now!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bY9cp7r2CZc>



2014 – A Houston Cultural Destination Point: Czech Center Museum Houston and the Charles Bridge of Prague at 4920 San Jacinto and Wichita in the Museum District!

"When we build let us think that we build forever. Let not it be such for present delight or for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will think of us for. And Let us think, as we lay stone upon stone, that a time is to come when these stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them, 'See this our father did for us'."
John Ruskin



An Irish Toast: *There are good ships, and there are wood ships, The ships that sail the sea, But the best ships are Friendships – And may they always be.*

Time goes by so fast; people go in and out of your life. You must never miss the opportunity to tell these people how much they mean to you." Anonymous

"Those that say that individuals are not capable of changing anything are only looking for excuses." Václav Havel

"To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root." Chinese and Czech Proverb

Questions or comments or to be removed, please email first and last name to
Effie M. Rosene, Chair/CEO on behalf of Board of Directors, Volunteers and Members and Friends.

This organization is supported in part by a grant from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance and by the contributions of our Friends, Members and Volunteers

View the latest issue of CCMH Newsjournal: www.czechcenter.org/news/pdfs/Czech_News.pdf
View our Blog: www.czechcentermuseumhouston.wordpress.com
View special items for purchase: <http://www.czechcenter.org/giftshop/giftshop.asp>