



*News from the Czech Center in the  
Museum District - January - February 2016*



**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](mailto:czech@czechcenter.org) [www.czechcenter.org](http://www.czechcenter.org)

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

Save the dates of the CCMH's coming Events in 2016. Read about Cleveland's Cultural Gardens which the CCMH would like to emulate.

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

Read the genealogy of a donation from the Papanek Foundation and a Kroj Donation by Aenne Hannon.

**Save the Dates**

**CCMH Calendar of Events 2016**

**Watch for Pekar Family Nativities**

**Exhibit:** December through January

**January 9, 2016: Second Distinguished Lecture Series** featuring Bill Boyce reviewing his book *Miss Fortune's Last Mission*.

**January 13, 2016:** Board of Directors retreat.

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

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

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

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

**August 27, 2016:** Gala Center Development Committee led by Board member Grace England.

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

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

**December 6, 2016:** St. Nicholas Event  
Watch for announcements of future events.

**From the Chairman:** So it's the New Year. As management, we have formally wished all of you the best. At this time, we also wish to recapitulate the last one, 2015, which, by and large, was a great year as well, meeting our museum's mission to connect our members and visitors to history, heritage, culture, and education. We enjoyed numerous films, Czech and English, with our community. We celebrated July 30 with the Czech Ambassador's visit, with numerous invited city officials, and an address by our Texas Honorary Czech Consul Mr. Brian Vanicek. We preserved the tradition of Czech Oktoberfest with music, dance, food, and fun including costumes. We observed St. Nicholas Eve with the Bishop, Angel, and Devil, and an animated film version of the Jakub Jan Ryba Christmas Mass with Czech illustrator Josef Lada's cartoon characterization of the Christmas Bethlehem. Houston Grand Opera Company provided an in-house version of Antonin Dvorak's *Rusalka* to a full house; the first in our distinguished lecture series was inaugurated by Czech-born Frank Fristensky recalling his memories of the era of the Velvet Revolution, his family (especially an infamous wrestler, Fristensky), and living in communist occupied Czechoslovakia. Our second distinguished lecture series author Bill Boyce told the heart-warming story of his father, a crew member of a B-24 Liberator air craft who was ill and not on board, which sadly crashed that day over Czechoslovakia in 1944 in *Miss Fortune's Last Mission*. We regret we were unable to accept the invitation to Prague with my fellow American Friends of the Czech Republic Directors. On the other hand, we had our annual Christmas brunch with daughters Sherry, Cathy, and Christie, their husbands, Lindsay Pierce, Larry Anderson, and Eric Johnson, and all our grandsons, Matt and Chris Anderson, Rory and EJ Johnson, and only granddaughter, Sarah Pierce, was absent due to her work schedule. We were able to celebrate another most significant event on Dec. 31, my husband of 62+ years 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. Besides his receipt of greetings from our volunteers, museum staff, and members, he also received greetings from Colombia, Czech Republic, Sweden, and numerous U.S. cities. How great people remember. Thank you. We are blessed and take this opportunity to wish you, as were we, by the long-time supporting Czech Catholic organization Ceska Katolicka Jednota President emeritus Joe Kocab and fraternal President Robert Cermak and not to leave out our friends at SPJST. Happy Valentine's Day. Tell your loved one as I tell mine: *"I've fallen in love many times...but always with you!"* Unknown. *Effie M. Rosene*

**CCMH Honorary Board Member, Emil Edward Kovalcik, 98, peacefully departed this life January 4, 2016 after a short**



illness. He was born in Dayton, Texas October 9, 1917 to John and Frances Kovalcik. Emil served in the U.S. Army 1940-1945 in what became known as the 124th Cavalry Special Mars Task Force in India and Burma. He earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. The exploits of his unit were chronicled in the PBS documentary "The Last Horse Soldiers" and in the book *Marsmen in Burma*. He retired in 1982 from Waukesha-Pearce Industries. Emil is preceded in death by his parents, brother John, first wife Eleanor Mayer Kovalcik, and daughter Julia Rose Kovalcik. Emil is survived by his wife Evelyn Lorene Kovalcik;

daughters Frances Brown, Rebecca Werla and families; son John W. Kovalcik and family; and extended family: Dianne Hilkemeier, Don Graham and families. Emil and Evelyn are blessed with nine grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. Visitation, Memorial Service and a reception following was held at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Burial was at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery. The family expressed thanks to the Houston VA palliative care team for their loving care in his last days. From the first time his daughter brought him to us we became "his Czech Center," and he and his lovely wife Evelyn visited often and supported graciously. We thank this brave patriot for his years of service to our country. Mr. Kovalcik, again we thank and miss you.

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

**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. The CCMH's Board of Directors has authorized the continuation of the Loan Program 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. *If you are interested in joining with us in this program, please call. Your investment in this matter is highly important and beneficial to you and the Czech Center Museum Houston.*

**Distinguished Lecture Series:** Our second event in our Distinguished Lecture Series featured author Bill Boyce and the captivating story of discovering his father's time in Europe during World War II. In a book *Miss Fortune's Last Mission* he reveals a Story of Sacrifice and Survival (*Bright Sky Press*). Bill Boyce always wanted to know why his father, William D. Boyce, refused to discuss his tour of duty on a B-24 Liberator bomber during WWII. The experience had affected every aspect of his father's life, but an unspoken agreement kept the topic classified. Bill failed to ask, and his father failed to tell. Twenty-five years after his father's death, Bill found Ray Noury, the one man who might tell him what his father would not. Noury had flown with Boyce during the fall and winter of 1943 and saved his life. Their conversation led Bill to John Torrison, who had spent a decade tracking down facts about the crew and his uncle's role as the tail gunner. Together, they searched stacks of old photographs, military records and family letters across America and in the Czech Republic, where the B-24 nicknamed Miss Fortune crashed on February 22, 1944. Both intimate and historical, *Miss Fortune's Last Mission* shows the impact the brave men who fought and died still have in the lives of the survivors who honor their sacrifices. Details of the air war over Europe and the lives of the crew provide an important window on the human side of war. The author's search to understand the reverberations of the crash reveals the lasting effect of loss and healing power of sharing our discovery. Thanks to Marie Mann and Vendula Angerova for providing and making the authentic Czech finger sandwiches which were delicious and memorable to some who have experienced them in the Czech and Slovak Republics.



From Left: Author Bill Boyce, Vendula Angerova, Marie Mann

**Cleveland Cultural Garden** with sculptures of Czechoslovak icons was dedicated in 1935. The Czech Cultural Garden tells the story of migrants from the central European region of Bohemia and Moravia through a sculptured frieze depicting the history of the migration of Czechs to the United States. Landscape architects B. Ashburton Tripp and Maurice Cornell designed the Garden, which has a circular lawn centered on the frieze of Czech history. The frieze is flanked by an Eagle Pylon and a Lion Pylon. Atop the frieze and facing the lawn are busts of Bedrich Smetana, a composer (1824-1884); Dr. Miroslav Tyrs, an educator and organizer of Sokol gymnastic societies (1832-1884); Jan E. Purkyne, an anatomist and physiologist (1787-1869); and Bozena Nemcova, a writer (1820-1862). The garden also contains busts celebrating Frantisek Palacky, a historian and politician (1798-1876); Antonin Dvorak, a composer (1841-1904); the Reverend Jendrich Simon Baar, a priest and novelist (1869-1929); Karl Havlicek, a journalist (1821-1856); and Thomas Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia (1850-1937). Most of these statues, as well as the frieze, were made by Frank L. Jirouch, a Cleveland-born sculptor of Czech descent. On April 1, 1939, the President of Czechoslovakia planted two linden trees from Bohemia in the garden. In 1949, the Czech delegation added the Tyrs, Nemcova, and Purkyne busts, and in June 1962, Masaryk's statue was added. At the dedication ceremony, United States Senator Frank Lausche lauded the choice of Masaryk, giving the dedication political resonance in the broader context of the raging Cold War. Lausche stated, that "the love of liberty lives strong in the hearts of the Czechoslovakian people in America. ... Our government will not make any pact for the degradation of Czechoslovak liberty." Czech immigrants first settled in the flats, later moving to neighborhoods at the edge of the city, such as "Little Bohemia" in the Broadway area from East 37th Street to Union Avenue, as well as the Broadway-Fleet and Clark-Fulton neighborhoods.



*Ed: This project was raised at a Board Retreat on Effie Rosene's suggestion; CCMH architect board member Chris Hlavinka volunteered to spearhead research on similar projects for CCMH.*

**The Genealogy of a Donation:** Genealogy work on a person's heritage takes hours, days and sometimes years of research and happenings which is not unlike a contribution recently received from the Jan and Betka Papanek Foundation which has closed out its business as an active foundation sending its remaining assets to the Czech Center Museum Houston. It would not have happened had not the ensuing events occurred. It began with a call to the Chairman prior to the CCMH opening its building in 2004 from a highly regarded Czech artist, Kamil Kubik, who expressed a desire to exhibit his work at the Czech Center Museum Houston. Mr. Kubik had a massive stroke which had made him bedridden. A returned call to his administrator, Viera Pecha, resulted in her curating a highly successful exhibit of his paintings and borrowed ones from President George H. W. Bush from his office in Houston and the Bush Museum at Texas A&M at the time of the Museum's opening. Viera also happened to be the executive director of the Papanek Foundation. Years passed and the long-time President of the Papanek Foundation, Jiri Brotan, died. Mr. Brotan was mentored by Jan Papanek and considered his son after some twenty years' association. A memorial service was conducted at the Bohemian Hall in New York, and Chairman Rosene was invited to address the audience in New York of her remembrances along with other dignitaries such as the Czech Ambassador Petr Gandolovic and historian Dr. Slavo Michalek. Viera was no longer involved with Papanek Foundation as it had grown dormant. Knowing this, it was suggested Chairman Rosene contact Anne Lesak Scott, a niece of the Papaneks, who had authority to close out the affairs of the organization. Chairman Rosene in correspondence and telephone assured Ms. Scott that ample recognition of the Papaneks would be forthcoming in perhaps the naming of a room or an engraved marble tile on the Museum's Memory and Honor Courtyard Wall. Along with funds, tangible items, books and memorabilia were also sent to be a part of the history of the Foundation. The Papanek Foundation was very active in helping 150,000 persons relocate following the communist takeover of Czechoslovakia. Mr. Papanek tried mightily to bring to the attention of the United Nations Soviet complicity in this damaging takeover of democracy. The Czech Center Museum Houston is proud to be the inheritor of and receiver of the funds remaining from the foundation of many good works through the years and like a person recognizing the good inheritance of their forebears is proud to be the inheritor of funding and its ties to the Jan and Betka Foundation who has helped humanity through a rough period. Our thanks to Viera Pecha, Jiri Brotan and Jan and Betka Papanek. A reference library and engraved tile will be established as a legacy to the Papaneks and their foundation.

**Kroj Donation by Aenne Hannon:** Aenne (pronounced "Ann") Schögl-Hannon was born in Prague before World War II, but her family was removed from Czechoslovakia to Hamburg, Germany as refugees when the Soviets moved into the country afterward. The family dispersed, and she went to a refugee camp with her mother, and her grandmother went elsewhere in Germany. Aenne immigrated to Houston in the 1950s and attended Rice University. Her grandmother, Teresia Uhl who sewed the kroj that was donated, was born around 1890 and raised in the rural town, Funkenstein and when she was a young woman left the country to come to Prague to be a "fancy maid." Aenne remembered her grandmother was a lively, sometimes contentious woman, who thought highly enough of herself to love the thought of being in a museum someday. Her *kroj* (folklore costume) was found in an old suitcase that Aenne was cleaning out in 2016. Teresia died in about 1959 in Regensburg,



Germany. The *kroj* donated was sewn sometime in the 1950s and includes the waist coat, bonnet, and sash that tied around the waist. Aenne also donated a photo of her grandmother wearing the *kroj*.



*l to r from top row: Effie Rosene, Grace England; Andrea Peterson in background, Boardmember Sally Miller, Adema Graham; UN 70 years Lecture; Dr. Slavo Michalek; Cathy Rosene Anderson, Sherry Rosene Pierce; Boardmember Charlie Waligura, Carolyn Beseda, Jean Rayhill; Brno Gallery; UN Exhibit (now on third floor); Boardmembers Kerry Mazoch and Chris Hlavinka; Event Participants.*

**The Role of Czechoslovakia in the founding of the United Nations:** Dr. Slavomir Michalek discussed the role Czechoslovakia played in the founding of the United Nations in 1945 in a presentation at the Czech Center Museum to mark an important milestone in the history of the world's struggle for democracy, freedom, security and human rights. Today, the international organization of peace, celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, continues to play a crucial role in international relations. He discussed his recently published research on the participation of Czechoslovakia in the process of founding the United Nations and the approach of the Security Council of the UN to the Czechoslovak questions in 1948 and again in 1968 under the title "San Francisco 1945." The compilation is a unique historical record based on study and comparison of the documents of the League of Nations and the United Nations. In observation of the UN's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, he has prepared a unique exhibition that has been inaugurated in October 2015 in Bratislava, Slovakia by the Secretary General of UN, Ban Ki-moon, and attended by over 150 governmental officials and diplomats. The Secretary General proudly declared this exhibition to be "the only exhibition of its kind in the world, an excellent historical record and a great contribution to the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations." The exhibition has officially opened at the United Nations in New York City. We are delighted to have had the honor and privilege to have welcomed Dr. Slavomir Michalek, Director of the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, to the Czech Museum Houston on January 21, 2016 introducing him to our community and bringing his valuable research material to our members and friends and to the community we serve. The exhibition embellished by his personal presentation covering many details regarding the United Nations and Czechoslovakia, not previously published, is a significant contribution to our programs promoting the Czech and Slovak heritage. At the same time, it offers a great opportunity to our members, students, scholars, diplomats and the community we serve to join us. He is a renowned historian, expert on Czechoslovak/American relations from World War II to the 1980s, and author and co-author of more than 20 monographs. His broad scholarly range is well documented in writings focused on American foreign policy towards Czechoslovakia or Czechoslovak-American economic and political relationships, as well as on personalities of the Czechoslovak foreign policy from the ranks of Slovaks. The exhibition will remain January 21-February 27, 2016 during normal museum hours, Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 4920 San Jacinto, Houston, Texas 77004.

**Michael Zargarov - Donation of a Beautiful Painting of Prague:** While living in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1990-1991 where he taught English as a Second Language and worked for the First Free newspaper, *Lidove Noviny*, he was gifted for his 29<sup>th</sup> birthday a 1920's oil painting of Prague Castle and the River by the nephew of the artist as a gift after he helped the nephew move and clear out his deceased uncle's home. The painter died in 1991, and I helped clean out his house in Jindrichuv-Hradec, where the painter lived and worked, which was full of his beautiful paintings. I admired this one in particular, and his family gave it to me. He said, "Now I want you to have it for the Prague Hall" and he brought it to us at the time of the Bill Boyce, Distinguished Lecture Series and took a moment to brief the audience on his presentation. He gave the painting in honor of his mother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (May 13, 1926). His mother is Dr. Mabelle E. Adams-Mayne, PhD., a biochemist who retired as director of the Texas Children's Hospital Laboratory. The painting of Prague was done sometime between 1930 and 1940 and sometime after the Nazi occupation; during WWII a German officer in order to show the Gestapo headquarters punctured it with his bayonet. The puncture remains visible on the front, and there is a patch on the back of the frame. So much time has elapsed the painter's name on the canvas has proven unreadable and Michael does not remember the family name.

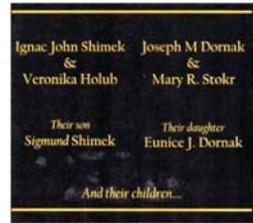
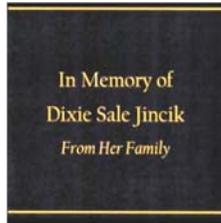
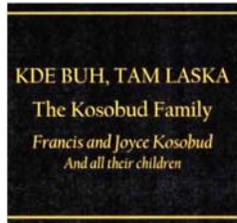
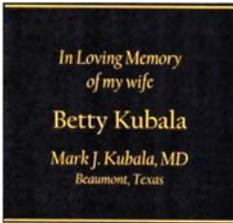


**Please consider joining** the tile holders below who are waiting to have their tiles inscribed in the next Memorial/Honorary Tile installation. It is a way to celebrate and remember your heritage while you help grow the Museum. Honor a friend or loved one. Inscribe your name or your honoree's name on a tile as a lasting and meaningful memento of thoughtfulness. It is for someone you love. It is for someone who made a difference. It is for you! Celebrate Honoring Someone important in your life or your association with the



Czech Center Museum Houston. Inscribe Your Name or your Honoree's Name on a gold engraved black marble tile as a lasting and meaningful memento of thoughtfulness and support of the mission of this unique new site.

Tile contribution by size: 12x12 \$5,000 - gold frame surround; 12x12 \$1,000; 8x12 \$750; 6x12 \$500; 4x12 \$250



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

- **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 Ignac John Pavlicek, his art showing regularly at Gremillion Gallery remembering the early Immigrants.
- **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 that came to America from *Velky Ujezd*, Czech lands then Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1903 - the Frank Joseph Tomek family to Cameron, TX.

**My Donation**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My contribution to the Endowment for Perpetuity in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my donation to inscribe an Honor/Memorial Tile  4x12 \$250  6x12 \$500  6x12 \$750  12x12 \$1,000  
Please note: Tile donations will be applied also as membership upgrades and \$1,000 will enroll you as a lifetime member.

Credit Card VISA, MC, Discover: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Return to: CCMH, 4920 San Jacinto Street, Houston, Texas 77004 or 713-528-2060 or [czech@czechcenter.org](mailto:czech@czechcenter.org)

**Thank you for your thoughtfulness!**

**NEW!** Read a virtual *Docent Historical Tour* of the Czech Center Museum Houston by clicking the following link: <http://www.czechcenter.org/VerticalResponseEmails/pdfs/Docent-Tour-Czechvar.pdf>.

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



Mural of Prague Bridge  
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.*

**Sayings for your consideration:** *"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."* Vaclav 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.**

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