



News from the Czech Center in the Museum District - May 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 www.czechcenter.org

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



Ensure our Gala 2016 Success on August 27, 2016 - Remember this is our annual fundraiser, and save the dates of the CCMH's other upcoming Events in 2016.

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

Members Friends - please note SPJST Lodge 232's first Houston-Midtown meeting since formation.

Save the Dates

CCMH Calendar of Events 2016

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

Board Meetings 2016: May 16, July 5, October 4, January 10, 2017

May 19, 2016: SPJST Lodge 232 Midtown meeting. All members and interested members are invited.

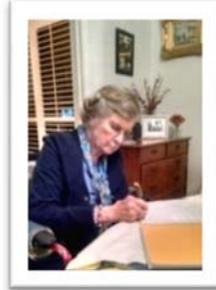
August 27, 2016: CCMH's Twenty-Second Gala Please mark your calendar for this very important event to include Raffle for a trip to the Czech Republic, Silent Auction, Bazaar.

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 in 1989.

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

From the Chairman: Cana Hauerland: Educator, Writer of Crosby and Houston, Texas joined CCMH as of April 29, 2016, four days a week, MTTF from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Development area of Events, Membership, Volunteerism, Grant Writing, Communications, and Marketing as well as other needs of the CCMH. Cana's education includes B.A. and M.A. degrees from University of Houston-Clear Lake with focuses in Social Humanities, Literature, Communications, and



Art History. Her work experience includes teaching at Houston and surrounding area grade schools in addition to Lone Star College and social media, marketing, events, and public relations in the Woodlands Town Center and Market Street areas. Through numerous interviews, we have been impressed with Cana's passion for her Czech ancestry, her beautiful four-year-old daughter Blaise, her sister Marianna of M.K. Price & Co., her brother Mark of H.E. Butt, and her parents Paulette, retired R.N., B.S.N., and the late Edward Hauerland, International Welding Inspector, who are both originally from the Sealy and Frydek, Texas areas. One of our board members personally knows the Hauerland family. Also impressive is her written and declared dedication to the CCMH, which she first visited with her family in 2008 and numerous visits since with some volunteering. Please welcome Cana as we have, for we believe she will become a staunch and inspiring advocate as you are and we are.

Current Staff: Cana is an addition to our staff consisting of Clay Zapalac and Jasmina Kocurek. They can be reached during office hours at 713-528-2060 or via email for Clay whose principal duty is Operations at events@czechcenter.org, for Jasmina with administrative duties at museum@czechcenter.org, and Cana who will work in Development at development@czechcenter.org.

CCMH Gifted With a 1770 Era Oil Painting: New member Vlasta Kadlec gifted our organization with a large oil painting with the following provenance is as described by her. The painting survived the Holocaust Arts Raids under first the Russian Regime then the Nazi Occupation. It was hidden, covered with blankets in the basement of Vlasta's family home in Prague, then Czechoslovakia, in a suburb for 60 plus years. The painting was shipped to America during her immigration to the United States. The Austrian artist of the painting, Franz Haller, painted numerous paintings in 1772. One of this master's paintings is a *Portrait of a Young Girl*, where it is documented and currently hanging in the Slovenian Municipal Museum of Slovenia. Another of Haller's many religious paintings includes a massive Fresco of the Holy Trinity in a Catholic church's ceiling cupola in the Tyrol of Austria. Vlasta's parents were Barbora and Frantisek Podany who had received the donated painting from a Baron and Baroness, a royal family with a small ancient castle. This particular painting of Haller's is a scene of a palace drawing room, depicting a scene from the famous Shakespeare play, *Merchant of Venice*. The painting will spend the remainder of its days in the Czech Center foyer entry. Her gift will truly make a difference toward the continuing success of our museum. Her gift means a lot to the CCMH for without supporters like her, the Czech Center Museum Houston would not be able to continue educating visitors, spreading Czech culture, and staying strong for future generations which are a vital part of our organization's mission.



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For Your Information: Effie and Bill Rosene will travel to the Czech Republic on May 9, 2016 and return on June 10, 2016 continuing a tradition that they started in 1981 for then brief visits with distant relatives in Prague, brief only because of the oppressive atmosphere of the communist regime then in power. Following the fall of that regime, our visits would last longer by traveling semiannually and staying a month in our small home on top of a wine cellar in the village of Hlohovec. We have sorely missed those visits since Effie's stroke affected her mobility and so after two years we will return for the month. We have missed our dear, dear friends Annie and Jarek

Slichta and their extended family who we value as near to family as one can get. We have missed the wine they make and the Czech food that they prepare for us and our neighbors there in the village that we have known for the past twenty-six years. We will have to reinstate our cell phone and will let you know, but we will be reachable via email at wrosene@att.net. We will reconnect with you at various events on our return.

Life Tribute - Josephine Repal 1920-2016:



Daughter Georgana Repal

Josephine, affectionately known as "Jo" and born in Thurber, Texas on March 11, 1920, went to be with her heavenly Father on April 20, 2016. She was preceded in death by her husband George A. Repal, parents Joseph and Mary Kostiha, brothers Joe, Frank, Walter and Steve. Jo is survived by daughters Mary Catherine Polk and Georgana Repal, grandson George Thomas Polk, three sisters Mary Kristynik, Rose Rusteioresky, and Angie Yordanaff, and many nieces, nephews, neighbors, and friends. In 1939, at the age of 19, Jo became a member of Christ the King Catholic Church. Her two daughters Mary Catherine and Georgana were baptized. Both made their First Communion and were confirmed. Both attended school here from 1st through 8th grades. Jo was homeroom mother too many times to count and officer of Mother Club. She was Chairman of the Country Store for five consecutive years at

Christ the King Annual Bazaars. She loved this church and the community that thrived within it. Jo was a longstanding member of Christ the King Altar and Rosary Society, an Auxiliary member of Legion of Mary, K.J.Z.T. Society, and also a member of Catholic Daughters of America Court Christ the King #1750. Jo assisted her husband George when he went into business forming Metrol Corporation. After retiring as secretary at Wilson Elementary School, she worked for Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau.

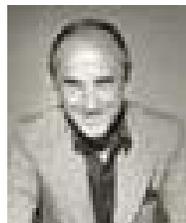
Ed: This lady's exemplary life was celebrated by family and friends at the CCMH she loved with a lovely dinner and piano concert spearheaded by daughter Georgana following the church service.

From the Editor: Words are Powerful!

People: the early internet, before computers, *"The best thing about knowing a person like you is everything,"* a beautiful Carlton card and inside *"Thank you again for that magical afternoon. I was deeply touched by your enormous knowledge of people and the universe around us. Yours, Vlasta!"* She is our newest dear Czech friend; and another Hallmark Card, *"A Mother plants love in your heart and it grows forever."* And inside, *"Thank you for all that you do and all that you are, Happy Mother's Day. Can't think of anything to add to that except much love!"* Our favorite youngest daughter. We have to say that each of our three are our favorite. And in Person, a brief visit from friends David and Loretta Barta with guest from Slovakia, Jaroslav Rod: *"We were just talking, you took on 'A hell of a job to push a few people to build this museum and look at it now!'"*

Communication in all forms - is it not marvelous? Do you agree? And so we greet You, *"Have a wonderful Spring and Summer while connecting and communicating."*

Life Tribute - Johnny "John" Eugene Zemanek, FAIA, 1929-2016:



Architect, planner and professor, 94, died Monday, April 18. The youngest of twelve children of Bohemian political refugees Jan (John) and Frantiska (Frances) Machacek Zemánek of Moravia, John was born in Guy, Texas near the Brazos River. He attended Big Creek, Guy, and Damon rural schools, before attending Texas A&M University and graduating with a degree in architecture where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets. In 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps Reserves and entered active duty in January 1943. A second lieutenant, he served as a bombardier on B-24 Liberators, flying allied

missions from Foggia in southern Italy. On the last day of the European war, his plane was shot down and made an emergency landing at an unmarked airfield behind enemy lines. All crew members were recovered. After the war, he went on to The University of Texas in Austin for Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degrees, then moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to earn a Master of City Planning degree from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, led by Walter Gropius. John returned to Houston to practice with Kenneth Franzheim, then relocated to Tokyo to work for Czech American modernist architect Antonin Raymond; there he planned 17 airbases in the Far East. He practiced also for the U. S. Department of State in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), planning village housing and institutes. Returning to Houston, he worked with many of Houston's eminent firms, including Wilson, Morris, and Crain, where he contributed to the development of the Harris County Domed Stadium, now known as the Astrodome. Invited to teach at the University of Houston College of Architecture first as a visitor, then full-time in 1964, he earned tenure in 1969. He maintained a solo practice, and his independent architecture reflected the profound influence of his Texas rural heritage and landscape as well as his respect for and deep knowledge of the diverse Asian cultures that engaged him so fully throughout his life. His work has been published in local, national and international journals and television media and has won design awards at the local, state, and national level. In 1978 he earned the national AIA Honor Award for his Three H Services Center, a social services complex for the Bordersville community, which had been established by former slaves. He is remembered especially for a series of three Montrose houses, each designed as his personal residence, dating from 1969, 2000 and 2011. He would later refer to these as Gaia 1, 2, and 3. While each is an unassuming essay on modest materials carefully combined for great spatial effect, a comparison reveals the evolution of his thinking from ephemeral delicacy toward distinct rootedness. Over his 48 years of teaching at the

University of Houston he never failed to challenge students to think critically and to engage them in an "architecture that begins with our social structure." His latest creative efforts include his memoir *Being••Becoming* (2016) published just before his death and a design consultation for Morningstar Coffee, opening in Houston next month. John was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers and six sisters. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Mary Sue Zemanek, as well as numerous nieces and nephews and extended family and by a multitude of friends.

Ed: We know John through his niece, CCMH patron Adelma Chernosky Graham who coordinates Houston Grand Opera Guild presentations at CCMH

An Open Letter Concerning Proposed Name Change: I am commenting on the proposed thought of changing the name Czech Republic, which seems to have been disparaged and a problem of identification of the proud nation known as the Czech Republic. As in "confusion" noted in the larger discourse in New York Times and in other media I must say has not reached or even surfaced in Houston, Texas or even given thought here and probably in other Czech heritage havens in the United States. Houston is a very diverse international city with 104 distinct heritages and languages. At the Czech Center Museum Houston since our opening in September 2004 in the Museum District having been chartered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational, cultural arts organization designated so by the State of Texas March 6, 1996, we hold as our mission to enhance civil society to ensure world citizenship regardless of heritage through teaching history, heritage, culture and hospitality programming offered to our community at large. We have visitors from every state and every country as we celebrate our ancestors of Czech and Slovak immigrants who came, stayed, and made a difference as did all immigrants in building our State of Texas in every field. At no time have we ever had any confusion about Czech or Czechoslovakia, and indeed what we do every day is to stand for the Czech person's **identity and homeland**, not Czechia but Czechoslovakia. There appears something wrong about changing the name of the founders of the Czech nation, Tomas Masaryk, the Czech Moravian founder in 1918. If one has read world history you readily know this even from many editions from National Geographic. You surely have read about our great American General George Patton, who liberated Czechoslovakia as far as the City of Pilsen. Here again history says Czechoslovakia not "Czechia" that sounds rather eastern Europe like another country whereas the nation of Czechoslovakia is the "heart" of central Europe. Read earlier history, the early chronicles of Saint Wenceslas, patron of the Czech lands from whom they derived their pride of country, of people, patriotism and moral values. Think of the history of the first Czech, Grandfather Czech, who emigrated from the steppes to Rip Hill in Prague where the first seat of government was established. Additionally, would anyone even think of changing his name, Vaclav Havel - I don't believe so! Historians the world over know him. In Texas, there are estimated a million persons of Czech heritage and they are proud of it, and they certainly know where it is and know who they are as "Czech." We speak to that identify that nation not by any other name. And what could be wrong with "Czechland" as it serves so many others well, i.e. Poland, Scotland, Switzerland, Holland, Finland, Greenland, Iceland and Ireland. It would certainly cement clarity and avoid considerable cost in name changing. I have a thought: "Rebranding" is a current fad and a marketing trend, and a bad choice at this time. Perhaps the hype just may be to continue promoting this lovely land with bright people who after many years have a chance at happiness and return of their identity. Viewing a great exhibit called "The History of The Brave Little Czech Nation" from the Czech Embassy could be a great way as a "deconfuser" (I made up the word) of all those who may be confused. Thank you for your time. I am a Czech immigrant farmer's daughter, a Texas American proud to be known as a **Czech**. Incidentally, all the Slovaks we know have no "confusion" about Czechoslovakia. It was the original name of their country. They consider themselves *brati*, brothers. We do too! To call them anything other than that I believe is derogatory! *Effie Sojak Rosene*

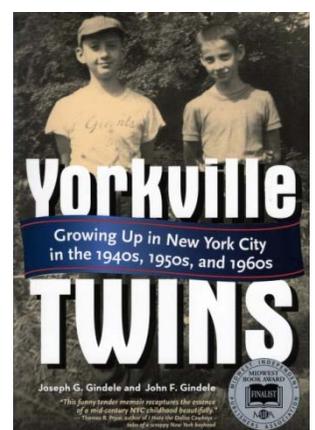
From the Editor - Love Gifts!

New in our Gift Shop: A great, fun read! The best seller New York authors Joe and John Gindele, Yorkville twins' memoirs of brothers growing up in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s in New York City with Czech and German parents. Guaranteed to make you laugh, cry and think about American pride, immigrants leaving countries and how they experience the new one. An incredible literary piece about humanity worthy of gifting to anyone else you know even if they are usually avid readers. It is Genealogy 101+ at a great \$14.95!!!



Gift Shop Love Gifts If by chance you missed getting any or needing any. It is never too late to share love. We offer options from \$6.00 to \$15.00: magnets, books, ornaments, earrings even for your youngest shoppers. We offer a new permanent exhibit of Bobble Heads in our awesome museum for the young at heart.

Ed: Effie Rosene



Czech Proverb Regarding Friends: *"Develop friendships and you don't need to build fences!"*

Come to the Open House at the Czech Embassy on Saturday, May 14, 2016, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., as part of the *Shortcut to Europe: EU Embassies's Open House*. Admission is free!



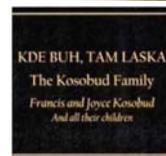
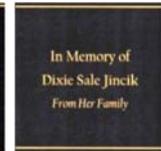
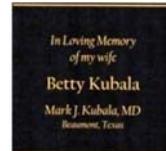
The Czech Republic is a land of great athletes and fervent fans. Win prizes and gear up with us for the summer Olympics 2016 by playing some of the most popular Czech sports: soccer, volleyball or badminton. Watch Czech rising stars demonstrate their gymnastics skills or our canine friends clear hurdles as per track and field. Learn about the fall Mutual Inspirations Festival 2016 - Martina Navratilova, celebrating the best tennis player of all time, among men or women. Cool down with a variety of delicious beer, hearty food, and music and dance. Open

Embassy website to read a complete bio of Martina Navratilova at:

<http://www.mutualinspirations.org/martina-navratilova/>

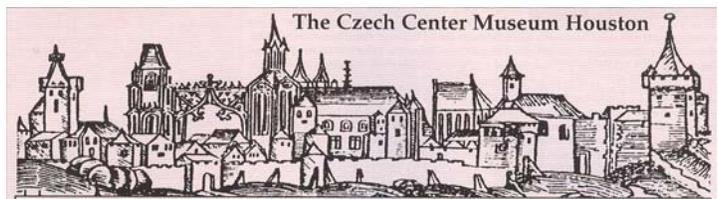
You are welcome to view this organization's **IRS Form 990** available on the Guide Star website. Note this organization's name on filing was the Czech Cultural and Community Center, which now does business as the Czech Center Museum Houston. <http://www.guidestar.org/FinDocuments/2011/760/496/2011-760496649-08e34299-9.pdf>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

Please consider joining the tile holders shown who are waiting to have their tiles inscribed in the next Memorial/Honorary Tile installation. It is a way to celebrate and remember your heritage while you help grow the Museum. Honor a friend or loved one. Inscribe your name or your honoree's name on a tile as a lasting and meaningful memento of thoughtfulness. It is for someone you love. It is for someone who made a difference. It is for you! Celebrate Honoring Someone important in your life or your association with the Czech Center Museum Houston. Inscribe Your Name or your Honoree's Name on a gold engraved black marble tile as a lasting and meaningful memento of thoughtfulness and support of the mission of this unique new site. **Tile contribution by size:** 12x12 \$5,000 - gold frame surround; 12x12 \$1,000; 8x12 \$750; 6x12 \$500; 4x12 \$250



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

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



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

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

View the latest issue of CCMH Newsjournal: www.czechcenter.org/news/pdfs/Czech_News.pdf

View our blog: www.czechcentermuseumhouston.wordpress.com

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