



Sdružení Čechů a Slováků pro Uchování Národních Odkazů  
Združenie Čechov a Slovákov pre Zachovanie Národných Odkazov

*A publication of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland*

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**JINDŘICHŮV HRADEC** Castle and its reflection in *Malý Vajgar* pond

# UPCOMING EVENTS:



**Sunday, 27 October, 2013:** Noon to 6 pm, Baltimore 45 Hall, 2501 Putty Hill Avenue, Baltimore 21234. The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Czech and Slovak Festival. Music by JOY of Maryland; the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble; food by Bohemian Caterers. Song, dance, great food, great friends, the BEST beer... you just have to be there! More information is on our website: [www.czslha.org](http://www.czslha.org).

**Friday evenings throughout the year:** Czech language classes for children ages 3 and up. Call or email Margaret Supik at 410-662-6094, [usupik@verizon.net](mailto:usupik@verizon.net) or Markéta Traband, [marketa.traband@gmail.com](mailto:marketa.traband@gmail.com). Classes are held in the Undercroft of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen at 6:30 pm on Friday. The Fall semester has already begun, but new students are welcome at any time.

**Saturdays throughout the year:** Why not consider learning Czech or Slovak? Or brushing up on what you already know? It's not as hard as you think! We have excellent teachers and beginning, intermediate and advanced classes. The Fall Semester began on Saturday, 7 September, 2013, but it's not too early to sign up for the Spring 2014 semester. For complete details, check our website: [www.czslha.org](http://www.czslha.org) or call Lois Hybl at 410-428-6012.

**Mondays throughout the year:** Czechs and Slovaks have a great musical heritage. Help keep it alive and well in the Baltimore area by joining the Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers on Monday evenings in the Choir Room at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St. Rehearsals begin at 7 PM and conclude at 9 or earlier. All voice parts are welcome. *Singing is an excellent way to improve your Czech or Slovak pronunciation and vocabulary.* Call or email Charles Supik at 410-662-6094, [chasupik2@gmail.com](mailto:chasupik2@gmail.com) for more information.

**Sunday, 8 December:** Join the Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers and the children from the Children's Language School at St. Wenceslaus Church at 3 pm for the annual *Mikulášská* celebration. Highlights of the day are the appearance of *Svätý Mikuláš* and the singing of traditional Advent and Christmas carols.

**Sunday, 26 January 2014:** 3-5 pm. CSHA's annual winter meeting will be held in the Parish Center at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. Program suggestions for this event are welcome.

**Sunday, 4 May 2014:** 3-5 pm. CSHA's most popular and best attended meeting of the year. Yes, the Dumpling Meeting! Bohemian Caterers will be on hand to surprise and tempt you with their authentic (and truly delicious) Czech specialties.

## WHAT'S TO BE FOUND AT THE 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL?

Whether your focus is on the food or the entertainment, the 27<sup>th</sup> Czech and Slovak Festival promises not to disappoint. If you want to dance, Al Matousek and his popular dance band, JOY of Maryland, will provide plenty of polkas. If watching expertly performed folk dances is what you are looking for, PAS, Pittsburgh Area Slovaks, will perform two half-hour shows featuring new music and dances. It's worth mentioning that many PAS members go on to become part of the world famous Duquesne University Tamburitzans. The Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers and the children of the Czech and Slovak Language School for Children will also perform.

If it's food you're looking for, we have that covered too. Bohemian Caterers will be serving your choice of the traditional *vepřo-knedlo-zelo* (pork and sauerkraut) or, new this year, *svíčková*. Dinners are still only \$10 and served with three kinds of dumplings. They will also have a selection of *Moravské koláče* for sale. Hot dogs and brats, with or without *zeli*, will be for sale, as well as a wide selection of Eastern European pastries, some home made. A popular vendor in the past, Stara & Mlada, Elizabeth Andreyčak from Brooklyn, NY, will be on hand selling *babka*, *rugelach* and an assortment of home-made preserves. Two importers of Czech and Slovak grocery items, Slovak-Czech Varieties and Slovak Import Company, will be there along with the Painted Screen Society of Baltimore, the Grand Lodge ČSPS, Mark Jesko's Slovak crafts and Egg decorating, and several new vendors.

## CORRECTION

In the last issue of HLAS we reported that the government of the Czech Republic has once again awarded CSHA a grant to encourage our efforts in promoting and preserving our cultural heritage. Unfortunately, the amount of that grant was incorrectly reported. The correct amount was 55,000 CZK, or about \$3000. CSHA is very grateful to the staff at the Embassy of the Czech Republic for their help with the application process and to the Czech government for their generous support of our cultural activities. We at HLAS very much regret this error.

See for yourself: join us on Sunday, 27 October noon to 6 pm at Baltimore 45 Hall, 2501 Putty Hill Avenue, Baltimore 21234.

## ST. WENCESLAUS AND PAINTED SCREENS

On Sunday 29 September, the annual Mass celebrating the St. Wenceslaus feast day, ended with a different twist. Led by the Gospel Choir and the Czech and Slovak Heritage singers, the congregation processed outside to the corner of Ashland and Collington Avenues to unveil a plaque on the corner house, once the store operated by William Oktavec and the birthplace of Baltimore's painted screen tradition. Several descendants of William Oktavec attended the Mass and participated in the day's festivities.

In the summer of 1913 his produce, on display outside the store, was wilting in the hot sun so Mr. Oktavec painted his window screen with pictures of his produce and then moved his vegetables to the cooler inside of the store. His neighbor, a Mrs. Schott, was fascinated with the notion that while one could see the outside through a painted screen, no one outside could see in. She gave Mr. Octavec a picture of a red-roofed mill and asked him to paint that image on her window screen. He did and the East Baltimore tradition of painted screens was born.

Sunday's event was organized by Elaine Eff and the Painted Screen Society of Baltimore. Members demonstrated their painting techniques; windows along Collington Ave. displayed painted screens, old and new.

## JINDŘICHŮV HRADEC - SOUTHERN BOHEMIA

*Text and photos by Olga Mendel*

The early history of *Jindřichův Hradec* is connected to the existence of a Slavic fortified settlement. The oldest preserved written report on *Hradec* is from 1220, when *Jindřichův Hradec* manor was owned by the founder of the lords of Hradec, *Jindřich I*. He built a Gothic castle at the place of the former settlement, and in the middle of 13<sup>th</sup> century a town was created from the former crafts and trade settlement around the castle. The crest of the lords of Hradec, a golden rose on blue background, has remained in the town's crest until this day.

The castle was gradually rebuilt into a Renaissance chateau in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. According to the census which followed the Thirty Year's War, *Jindřichův Hradec* was the second largest city in the Kingdom of Bohemia. It was the first city in the area to get electricity for lighting and in 1888 the water mill was converted to electricity. The city castle and palace is the third largest in the country after those in Prague and Český Krumlov. It covers three hectares and contains 320 rooms. More than 10,000 works of art and a similar number of books may be found there.



*St. Maria Church dominates the town*



*Renaissance Langer house on the square*



*City Hall, located on the town's main square*



*Center of town viewed from the Church tower*



*Small Vajgar pond and the silhouette of the town*

The town lies above *Malý* and *Velký Vajgar*, two ponds built in the swampy part of Southern Bohemia by *Jakub Krčín z Jelčan* and *Sedlčan*. He is credited with having created hundreds of ponds as an intricate system to keep wet lands contained, create beautiful countryside and start the fish farming business. The town sits on the 15<sup>th</sup> line of longitude which runs through the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. Because of its tower, the church is the dominant feature of the town and surrounding countryside. In 1996, the center of *Jindřichův Hradec* was declared a UNESCO Town Reservation due to its historic, architectural and cultural value.

The town reminds its citizens and visitors of its history every year. If you visit *Jindřichův Hradec* especially during the summer, you will see concerts, historic festivals, a traditional fair and more.

While visiting this town, you should not skip one of the most popular attractions of the region – a journey on the narrow gauge railway train, pulled by a one hundred-year old historic steam engine into the picturesque parts of Czech Canada, a beautiful natural park. The railway has contributed to the atmosphere of this region for over a century providing fun for tourists and a reliable commute for locals.



*Renaissance Rondel, a unique concert and dance hall*



*Gilded ceiling with a center piece*



*Renaissance and Gothic parts of the castle*



*Renaissance arcades connect the palaces together*



*Historic Narrow-gauge railway steam train*

## CZECH AND SLOVAK LANGUAGE SCHOOLS BACK IN SESSION

We're back! The fall semester of the Czech and Slovak Language School for adults began September 7. Our enrollment is somewhat down, a little below 30. This year we have only two brand new students.



Some of our students had exciting news. Michele DeHaven and Jeffrey Tomecek were married in Prague and toured many other parts of the Czech Republic on their honeymoon. Our long-time student of Czech, Harry Klugel, had participated in the first March on Washington for Jobs and Justice in 1963 as a first-year teacher. When he went again August 24 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the March, he was interviewed and the video is on the website his daughter made:

<http://dottieunger.wix.com/50yearsater>. It is also on the National Education Association (NEA) website: <http://lilysblackboard.org/2013/09/labor-day-back-school-dr-king/#more-2060>.



Our Slovak language teacher, Natalie Karlinsky, with editing help from Margaret Supik, has updated her books on *drotar* (*I Drank Water from the*

*Chicken River* and *Yarek or a Wire Boy*) and written a dictionary of antonyms, called *Language Charger*, for her students' use.

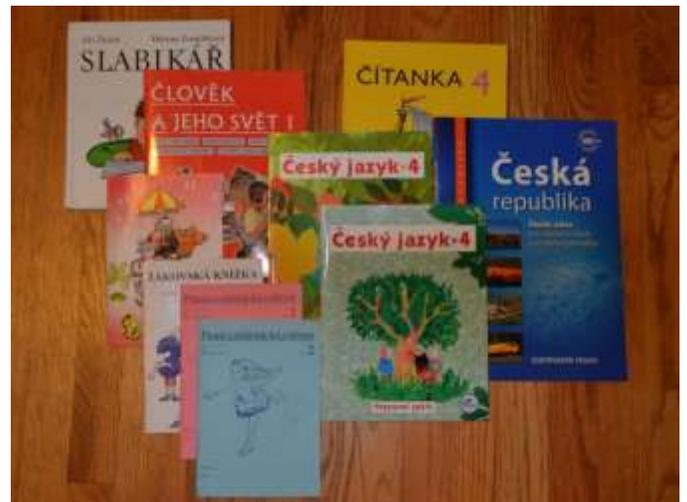
We also are glad to have our Czech language teachers back: Andrea Kletetschka, George Mojzisek, Margaret Supik, Mary Lou Walker, and Iva Zicha.

During the coffee break the first day (see pictures), we got to know each other while enjoying delicious cake provided by John Sullivan. John also reported that his brother, Michael Sullivan, once built balance beams for Sokol Baltimore. Eva Zicha's husband Jan brought his violin and began teaching the students some Czech folk songs. The students are hoping that he will return often. We welcome others to join us, learn language, and meet some interesting people.



Lois Hybl

The Children's Language School started that same weekend and exciting text books and work books awaited the children learning Czech and Slovak.



## PAN HENRY RUDOLF

A first time guest at the CSHA picnic, 90 year old *pan* Henry Rudolf, from Timonium, is seen in background of the photo with Lisa Matejovsky and Kate Wychgram. Karel Matejovsky met him several years ago while walking past Mr. Rudolf's home. When Karel greeted him, Mr. Rudolf noticed that Karel has a foreign accent, so he asked, "Where are you from?" "Born in the Czech republic," answered Karel. *Pan Henry* replied, "So dobrý den! on na to!"



Henry Rudolf grew up in East Baltimore around St. Wenceslaus church. To this day he remembers all the street names around there and remembers some old Czech songs from his youth. He also then played an accordion. While we were singing at the picnic, I asked him if he could name a song, he would like us to sing for him. *Když u studánky seděla*, he said. And so it was, and he looked veeerrryyy happy :). He is counting on coming to our Christmas concert at St. Wenceslaus this year. In fact, I invited him last year and he was ready to go, but the same day some family matters did not allow him to attend. He was very much looking forward to it. So anyway, now he is hooked!



*Všem početným zúčastněným patří díky za podporu naší vydařené akce, a zpěvákům v čele s Láďou Zikanem u harmoniky nejvyšší respekt! :) BRAVO.*

*Karel Matejovsky*

## VIRGINIA CZECH AND SLOVAK FESTIVAL

The first Virginia Czech and Slovak Festival will be held on Saturday, 19 October, 11AM to 4PM, at the Prince George County Regional Heritage Center on Courthouse Square in the county seat of Prince George. This free outdoor event will feature musical performances, polka dancing, baking demos, a farm-life exhibit and activities for children. Musical performances will include a Slovak *fujara* player, Bob Rychlik from Maryland. The area's historically Czech and Slovak churches will be selling food prepared using traditional recipes. Baked goods, including *kolače*, and Czech and Slovak beers will be available for purchase. Come learn about the rich and unique culture of Virginia's long established Czech and Slovak community. During the late 19th Century, more than 700 Czech and Slovak families emigrated to Virginia, most of them settling in Prince George, Dinwiddie and Chesterfield Counties on farm land that had been abandoned after the Civil War.

The festival is being sponsored by the Virginia Czech/Slovak Heritage Society and was made possible in part by a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Contact the festival sponsors by email at: [vaczechslovak@gmail.com](mailto:vaczechslovak@gmail.com).

## SLOVAK FESTIVAL AT PITT

The annual Pitt Slovak Festival is always highly anticipated. This year it will take place on Sunday, 3 November, noon to 5PM, in the university's famous Cathedral of Learning on the Oakland Campus of the University of Pittsburgh.

A National Register site, the Cathedral of Learning is home to twenty-nine Nationality Rooms which both reflect the ethnic diversity of the Pittsburgh area and function as classrooms. For more information, contact Chris Metil at 412-624-5906 or by email at [Slavic@pitt.edu](mailto:Slavic@pitt.edu).

The VOICE of The Czech & Slovak  
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**Fall 2013**

**Podzim 2013**

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