

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

## Kostel Sv. Václava - The Church of St. Wenceslaus

Since 1872 the church of St. Wenceslaus has been part of the fabric of the large Czech community in Baltimore.

St. Wenceslas was founded in 1872 in a neighborhood of East Baltimore that was then known as Little Bohemia. The parish was created primarily to serve the Bohemian (Czech) community in Baltimore. A significant number of the first parishioners came from southern Bohemia. Slovaks also participated. Divine services were originally held in English and Czech. The current church was built in 1914 and at that time the church had 7,000 Czech Catholic members.

In 1920, the church was the fourth largest in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The church was named after Wenceslas I (907 – 935). Also called Václav the Good, he was a Czech prince from 921 until his death. According to legend, he was murdered by his younger brother Boleslav the Cruel. Wenceslaus was considered a martyr and saint immediately after his death, when a cult of Wenceslaus grew up in Bohemia and in England. Although Wenceslaus was a duke, not a king during his lifetime, Holy Roman Emperor Otto I

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*“Mikuláš” and “Anděl” ready to distribute their gifts to the children*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

### CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Children's Language School began the Fall Semester online the week of September 16, 2024. The Czech beginner's class meets on Mondays at 5 PM. Advanced speakers meet on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM. Slovak Language children's classes continue to meet on Sundays. Beginners meet at 9 AM, advanced speakers at 10 AM. Our Fall 2024 semester ended the week of December 4, 2024, and Spring 2025 semester began in the week of January 13, 2025. For more information, or to register a student, please visit our website at <https://cshamaryland.org/>

### ADULT LANGUAGE SCHOOL

CSHA is one of the few organizations in the USA that offers Czech and Slovak language instruction for adults. Online classes are offered on Saturday mornings. Beginning Czech, Intermediate Czech and Intermediate Slovak classes meet at 9:00 AM. Beginning Slovak meets at 11 AM. Czech 102 and Czech Conversation meet at 11:15 AM. Spring semester classes began on January 11, 2025 and will end on April 5. The fall semester is tentatively planned to begin on September 6, 2025. For more information contact Lois Hybl at 410-428-6012 or e-mail: [LHybl@verizon.net](mailto:LHybl@verizon.net) or [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org).

### HERITAGE SINGERS:

We welcome singers of all voice parts. Contact Margaret Supik (443-739-2025) for more information or if you want to join. Future events will be announced on the CSHA website <https://cshamaryland.org> and on our Facebook page. Our next singing opportunity will be Memorial Day at the Bohemian National Cemetery.

CSHA ONLINE - For more information about any of these activities, joining Heritage Singers or to register for classes, you can contact CSHA at: [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org).

The CSHA Board of Directors will respond to answer your questions and provide information, and we are eager to hear your ideas and suggestions. Also, please check our website [www.cshamaryland.org](http://www.cshamaryland.org) and follow us on Facebook at Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Baltimore.

## JANUARY 2025

The CSHA General Meeting was held virtually on Sunday, January 26, 2025. We encourage all our members to follow our website for details about meetings, upcoming events and how to get involved with CSHA activities. The future is full of possibilities for the Czech and Slovak communities in Baltimore. We need your help to bring them to life.

## FEBRUARY 2025

The CSHA Event Committee virtual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 7 PM. We encourage our members to join the committee, and to get involved in planning future events. Please follow our website for more details about the meeting.

## APRIL 2025

The 4th CSHA Spring Festival will take place on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at the Maryland State Game & Fish Protective Association at Perry Hall. It will feature live music by Orchestra Praževica and include children's activities and sports and games.

## OCTOBER 2025

The 37th Annual CSHA Festival will take place at the Legacy Hall in Sykesville, Maryland on Sunday, October 26, 2025, 12-6 PM.

## DECEMBER 2025

The traditional Christmas Carol singing is tentatively scheduled on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 2 PM. Mikuláš and Anděl will bring children traditional goodies and small reception will follow the celebration. Location TBD.

### CSHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

#### OFFICERS:

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### BOARD MEMBERS: alphabetically

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### HLAS - Dana Havlik - editor

Olga Mendel - graphic design

If you have any suggestions or comments or want to contribute to the Hlas by writing an article, email us at [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org).

# President's Message

Dear friends,

In this final newsletter of the year, I am proud to say that 2024 has been a great year for our association. The traditional October festival and the spring festival were a great success. Our language schools for adults and children continue with weekly classes.

It really does take a village to do this, so a special thanks go to our volunteers and school teachers. The donation of their time and effort makes a significant impact on our organization. We are grateful for their enthusiasm and dedication.

As usual at the start of a new year, it's time to renew your annual membership or become a new member. CSHA membership is open to all who are interested in supporting our mission to keep Czech and Slovak heritage alive. We are always looking for new members of all ages and volunteers for our events. Consider joining us if you have Slovak or Czech ancestry, want to

get to know the culture, language, history and beauty of these two small countries in the heart of Europe, or just want to make new friends.

Personally, our family decided to spend this year's holidays in the Czech Republic. It is the first time ever that our children can enjoy Christmas in our homeland. Above all, I have to say that the Christmas markets in the Czech Republic are really the best.

Dear friends, on behalf of CSHA, I want to thank you for your continued support, I look forward to seeing you at our next events and wish you and your loved ones a happy and successful year 2025.

Warmly and se srdečným pozdravem,



Petr Justin - CSHA president

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## Czech and Slovak Events in Our Community

### Šibřinky – Fašiangy – Masquerade Ball

February 2, 2025 6:30 -11:15 PM

Organized by American Sokol Washington at the Czech Embassy , 3900 Spring of Freedom Street NW, Washington, D.C. This annual traditional event promises live music, dancing, delicious traditional food, and Pilsner on tap. Ticket are available on line at <https://sokolwashingtondc.square.site>

### Kantiléna Youth Choir

February 11, 2025 6-8 PM

Czech Embassy , 3900 Spring of Freedom Street NW, Washington

The program includes classical compositions of Dvořák and Smetana, Czech and Moravian folk songs, John Lennon's Imagine and Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody\

[https://mzv.gov.cz/washington/en/culture\\_events/culture/kantilena\\_youth\\_choir\\_2.html](https://mzv.gov.cz/washington/en/culture_events/culture/kantilena_youth_choir_2.html)

### 46th Annual Baca Cup

February 15, 2025 11:30 AM

Annual Ski Race at Blue Knob Ski Resort , Claysburg , PA and evening celebration and potluck dinner at Baca Salas in Cessna PA, at 7:30 PM hosted by the Parma-Fletcher family, sponsored by American Sokol Washington. Follow news at <https://www.sokolwashington.org> for additional details and to register for the race: <https://www.bacacup.com/registration.htm>

### Masquerade Ball for Little and Tall On Ice

March 16, 2025

Annual event by American Sokol Washington at Cabin John Ice Rink 10610 Westlake Dr, Rockville, MD. Follow news at <https://www.sokolwashington.org> for additional details.

*continued from page 1*

posthumously conferred on Wenceslaus the regal dignity and title, which is why he is referred to as king in legend and song. The hymn *Svatý Václav* (Saint Wenceslaus or Saint Wenceslas Chorale) is one of the oldest known Czech songs. Traceable to the 12th century AD, it is still among the most popular religious songs in the Bohemian lands. Wenceslaus's feast day is celebrated on September 28. Since 2000, it has been a public holiday in the Czech Republic, celebrated as Czech Statehood Day.

Many of the joyous and the sad life events of our families were observed at The Church of St. Wenceslaus in Baltimore. In 1914 the present church was dedicated and its bells chimed the hours of every day for decades. But change is inexorable.

The years following WWII saw an exodus to the suburbs and a change in the congregation at St. Wenceslaus. Most recently that congregation has shrunk to a point where the



*Statue of St. Wenceslaus*



*Altar at St. Wenceslaus Church*



*Heritage Singers performing Christmas Carols*

Archdiocese of Baltimore is combining three congregations into one and selling off the property of the churches deemed no longer viable. Sadly St. Wenceslaus is one of those properties. Mass was celebrated for the last time at St. Wenceslaus on Sunday, November 24 at 9 AM.

There was one last opportunity to celebrate our Czech and Slovak heritage at St. Wenceslaus, though. On Sunday, December 8, St. Nicholas arrived, after a program of traditional Czech and Slovak Christmas music, with treats for the children.

The audience included members of the St. Wenceslaus parish and representatives from both American Sokol in Washington and Slavic American Sokol. Following Sv. Mikulas's visit with the children guests enjoyed a reception prepared by CSHA and Church volunteers in the Rectory.



*Sharing cookies and good times after the concert and "Mikuláš" visit*



*St. Wenceslaus Church in East Baltimore during "Jonas," the blizzard of January 2016*

# The 36th Czech and Slovak Heritage Association Festival

by Dana Havlik

The 36th Czech and Slovak Festival took place at the Sykesville Legacy Hall on October 27, 2024. Totally 660 people attended the event, including 80 performers and production staff, 30 volunteers and 30 vendor personnel. We welcomed a special guest from the Slovak Embassy- Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Matúš Huťka with family, who presented a greeting from the Slovak ambassador Radovan Javorčík.

The program was packed with performances and our guests enjoyed delicious traditional Czech and Slovak meals: beef stew, pork roast with cabbage and dumplings, and halušky. Our hot dog stand was very popular, and as every year, sold out all the expertly grilled hot dogs and bratwursts. The bar was well stocked with a variety of Czech and Slovak liquor and beer. Our returning, as well as our new vendors, offered a variety of products such as honey, sweets, pastries, cookies, handmade gifts, jewelry, traditional arts, crafts, calendars, embroidered clothing and more.

As for the past several years, Pajtaši created a wonderfully festive atmosphere with their Czech and Slovak folk music. The dance lesson by Roman and Simona has become a popular tradition at our festival, and it is always joined by a big group of guests of all ages. In addition, the program featured performances by our sister organizations; young gymnasts from the Baltimore Sokol. American Sokol Washington children performed an exercise routine from Slety and Slavic American Sokol presented a children's singing group. For the first time we welcomed Limboračik - the children's folklore group from Slovak and Czech schools in New York, Astoria to our festival. Their dancing and singing performance were amazing.

In addition to the program, many of the children enjoyed activities in the art room: coloring, painting and creating little craft projects, including glass painting. Children and some of



*"Pajtaši" - their music is always enjoyed by all*



*The National Anthems singing at the beginning of the Festival*



*CSHA President, Petr Justin, welcoming the visitors*



*Volunteers serving dinners at the CSHA Festival*

the parents also enjoyed a puppet show performance by Dáša Merková and Iva Zicha. Our raffle offered a variety of prizes including a number of gift baskets donated by CSHA Board Members and volunteers.

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to our volunteers, sponsors and supporters – we could not have made the event so successful without their help. To the CSHA Leadership for planning and working tirelessly on preparations over several months, we extend our sincere thank you.

We hope that all of you attending the festival enjoyed your time there, and we will see everybody at the next one on October 26, 2025, at the Sykesville Legacy Hall.



Children from Sokol Washington performing

## Czech and Slovak Recipe Corner:

by Dana Havlik

### Beef Goulash (Hovězí guláš)

Beef Goulash, a thick beef stew, that has many variations. is a popular dish in many European countries. This recipe is a traditional Czech goulash, although every region, maybe even every family, has its own customized versions.

Goulash is one of the most common items on the menu of Czech restaurants and pubs and one of the popular dishes served at the CSHA festival. Typically, it is served with potatoes or dumplings and goes well with beer.

#### INGREDIENTS:

3-4 lb. beef cutlet	1 clove of garlic
1-2 large onion	crushed caraway seed
2-3 tablespoons lard or oil	black pepper
2-3 tablespoons tomato paste	marjoram
2 large bell peppers	salt
ground paprika	

#### DIRECTIONS:

The meat can be any type of stew beef, chuck, or round as these are good for slow-cooked dishes. Cut the beef into 1-inch pieces, and season with salt and pepper. Heat vegetable oil or lard in a large pot over medium-high heat. Brown the meat for 3-5 minutes. Add chopped onions and paprika and simmer for 2-3 minutes, then add peppers, tomato paste, garlic, marjoram, caraway seed and salt. Add water, bring to a boil, then lower the heat and simmer covered for 1 ½ hours (45 minutes in pressure cooker). Then uncover and continue to simmer for another 30 minutes until the beef is fork tender, and the liquid has thickened. Adjust the seasoning if necessary.



IN THIS ISSUE:

Kostel Sv. Václava - The Church of St. Wenceslaus pp.1,4-5  
Calendar of Events p.2  
President's message p.3  
Other Events in the area p.3  
The 36th Czech and Slovak Heritage Association Festival pp.6,7-8  
Recipe Corner p.7



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*"Limboracik" group from New York performing at CSHA Festival for the first time*