



LA GRANGE, TEXAS

NÁŠ ČESKÝ ŽIVOT

"OUR CZECH LIFE"

(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)

WINTER 2016

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 3

The Fall and Winter at TCHCC included Heritage Fest Festivities with SPJST's Duck Pond, Lada Painting Exhibit and 7th Annual TCHCC Gala honoring musicians Johnnie I. Krajca, George Koudelka and Victor Caka.



Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture and heritage of Texans of Czech ethnicity

Náš Český Život
"Our Czech Life"

TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

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Newsletter Policy: The purpose of Náš Český Život is to disseminate news of the development and activities of the center, as well as to publish material on the history, culture, and accomplishments of Texas Czechs. Náš Český Život does not involve itself in matters of a political nature.

Newsletter Address: All articles, photographs, advertising and correspondence should be directed to Retta Chandler or Janis Hrcir, co-editors, P. O. Box 6, La Grange, Texas 78945 (979) 968-9399.

Articles: Anyone may submit articles, which will be accepted for inclusion as space permits and subject to review and editing as necessary. All articles must be typewritten. The publication is not responsible for the return of unsolicited material not submitted with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Ads: Contact the co-editors regarding advertising. Advertising Rates: We will accept limited advertising-only standard business card size (3 1/2" X 2") - \$20.00 per issue; Send camera-ready business cards to co-editors.

The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, Inc. does not endorse or guarantee the products or services that are advertised in this publication.

OUR MISSION

The MISSION of the TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. is to provide a central facility for the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture and heritage of individuals of Czech ethnicity who can trace their ancestry to the Czechs who immigrated from the present day Czech Republic or former Austria-Hungary (including Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Silesia), to honor those immigrants, and to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary and educational purposes.

The GOALS of the TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. are:

To educate the public about the past and present contributions and status of persons of Czech descent

To encourage the study and preservation of the Czech language, fine arts, music and dance

To provide for the preservation and exhibition of artifacts that are historically significant to the Czech people of Texas

To provide a library and archives for the collection and preservation of books, newspapers, periodicals, family histories, research material, photographs and all printed data of historical significance to the Czech people of Texas

To provide adequate space for gatherings, meetings and educational activities for the benefit of the Czech people of Texas

To encourage and promote a cultural exchange program between the Czech people of Texas and the citizens of the Czech Republic

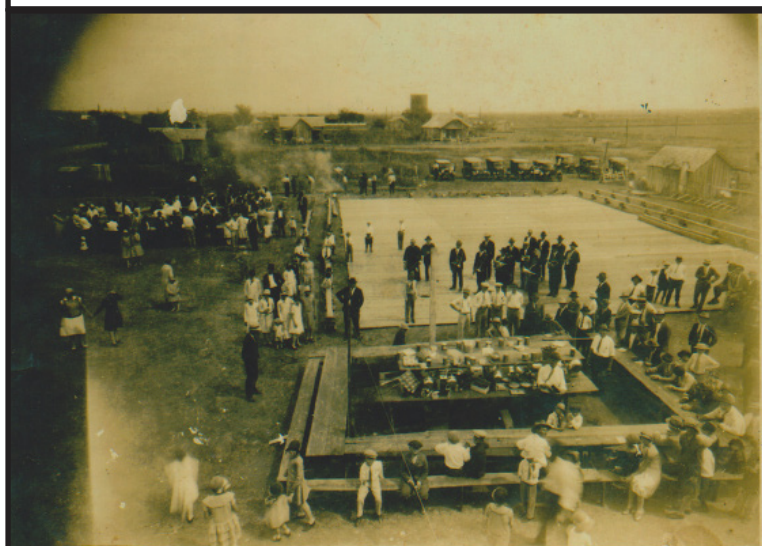
To provide the public with updated information regarding Czech-related activities and historical sites in Texas, the United States and abroad.

You are invited to continue receiving the newsletter Náš Český Život and an annual calendar by sending in your ANNUAL SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP. This journal will only be sent to members. Support your Center — **JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY.**

2018 Calendar Theme: Festivals, Picnics, Bazaars.

Pictures are now being accepted of Czech organizations or church gatherings for any year -- from the beginning of Czech settlements to the present day.

Below: Guardian Angel Parish Celebration circa 1926 - in the top of the picture is Santa Fe Railroad. Water tank and dancing platform is in the center with a bingo stand in the center bottom right.



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT: Retta Slavik Chandler

Best wishes to all of you for a Happy New Year. We are planning and looking forward to another year of activities and programs that promote Czech history and culture. Our goal is to preserve those artifacts that tell the story of our ancestors as they started a new life of freedom in a new country to them.

In this issue you will see pictures taken during the Czech Heritage Festival, The Muziky Muziky Production, Christmas Open House and the TCHCC 7th Annual Gala. All were very successful with good attendance. Thank you to our sponsors and volunteers.

We look forward to 2017 when we will celebrate our 20th anniversary. Mark your calendars for this three day event, May 19, 20, and 21st. A short history of our beginning years have been included in our last few issues. We hope to have a booklet available by May that will contain a history of our first 20 years.

In our journey to this day, we are indebted to many people of Czech heritage and friends of Czechs, who have contributed to the success of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center. Some are no longer with us, but we must not forget their loyalty and dedication along with all of you who support us now. We strive to create a legacy to honor our ancestors, who valued their freedom and liberty by making an effort to make their new home a better place.

Through the years, Czechs in Texas expressed their desire to preserve Czech Heritage and Culture and to share the accomplishments of the Czechs. A mural for very large exhibit that was created by the Czechs of Texas for the 1936 centennial celebration at the State Fair of Texas reads as follows: "America, you give me Liberty and Freedom, I give you my loyalty and Trust." by artist Adolf Lesovsky.

Thank you to all of you who are supporting us with yearly sustaining memberships, memorials and heritage gifts. With your donations and with our dedicated volunteer team, we have been able to share with our visitors the priceless collections contained in the TCHCC.

We were honored to have Czech Honorary Consul to Texas Brian Vanicek and his wife Joan present for the opening ceremonies of Heritage Fest and to have Hon. Consul Vanicek read greetings from Czech Ambassador to the United States, Petr Gandalovič. A copy of his letter is included in this issue. Ambassador Gandalovič came to Texas in 2011 at the beginning of his assignment to the US. During that visit, which was hosted by Hon Consul General Raymond Snokhous and Clarice Snokhous he was a special guest at our annual TCHCC Gala. During the following years, Ambassador Gandalovič and his wife Pavlina made numerous trips to the Texas. Unfortunately, Ambassadors cannot stay in one country indefinitely and so his stay in Washington, D.C. came to a close at the end of 2016. We wish him well in his new assignment and thank him for his graciousness, friendship, and support in our endeavors.

Máyové Slavnosti- MAY FEST 2017
20th Anniversary Celebration of TCHCC
Sunday, May 21, 2017

TCHCC will recognize our ancestors in the Tribute to Immigrants Ceremony honoring immigrants from any year (limited to the first 25 applicants). The ceremony will begin at 10:30 in the Museum. Call TCHCC and request an application form for your immigrant ancestors. Deadline for submission is May 5, 2017.

ALSO: A ceremony/wreath laying to acknowledge our immigrant ancestors and 2017 wall stones will be recognized. Noon meal, raffle, country store, visit to the village buildings, museums, music/dance provided by the Jodie Mikula Orchestra.

LOOK FOR YOUR FLYER AND RAFFLE TICKETS IN THE MAIL.

SUBSCRIBE TO HELP TCHCC

Texas Polka News is having a subscription drive to reach 3,000 subscribers by 2018 to celebrate the paper's 30th anniversary. The full-color monthly newspaper features a calendar listing of dances, festivals, and live music events, not only in Texas, but in the U.S. as well. Editor Gary E. McKee of Fayetteville uses his background as a Texas historical author and photo journalist to bring to life the history of bands, instruments, and dance traditions. Owner and Publisher Theresa Cernoch Parker brings her Czech/German heritage and years as a journalist/writer to promote Texas musicians, bands, and dance halls. The events at TCHCC are always well promoted in the paper.

A subscription is only \$25 a year, and during the anniversary drive TPN will donate \$5 of the subscription price to a dance club or music/heritage organization. Not only will the groups benefit from the donated subscription money, cash prizes will be awarded in June 2018 to the organizations that bring in the most subscriptions/renewals.

"We encourage all our members to subscribe or renew, and list TCHCC to receive the donation.

Subscribe online at polkabeat.com/texas-polka-news or send in a check for \$25 to Texas Polka News, PO Box 800183, Houston, TX 77280. Be sure to designate TCHCC to receive the \$5 donation.



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HERITAGE FEST GREETINGS from Ambassador Gandolovic



Embassy of the Czech Republic
in Washington, DC

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Washington, DC 20008
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Petr Gandolovič
Ambassador

Ms. Retta Slavik Chandler
President and Chairman of the Board
Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center
250 West Fairgrounds Road
La Grange, Texas 78945

October 14, 2016

Dear Retta,
Dobry den dámy a pánové, chlapei a dívky!
Good morning, ladies and gentleman, boys and girls!

What a special occasion! The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center's Annual Heritage Celebration and Muziky! My compliments to you Ms. Chandler, your fellow officers, directors, staff and volunteers for making this wonderful event a reality and a Texas tradition!

It gives me great pleasure to extend my greetings and best wishes from the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C. and from my wife, Pavlina. Although we are unable to be with you in person, please know that we are beside you in spirit! We have had the opportunity to visit your fine Center in the past – most recently in 2015 – and were mightily impressed with the wonderful preservation efforts that you have made. The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center has indeed become a rallying point for Texans of Czech ancestry. Events such as this weekend's Heritage Celebration and Muziky are important in that they provide a welcome and enriching respite from our often isolated, digital and virtual lives.

It has been my great pleasure these past five years getting to know you and your fellow Texans and the outstanding work that you are doing in the Great State of Texas. I wish you every success in carrying out the mission of the TCHCC and encouraging and promoting cultural exchange and good relations between the citizens of the Czech Republic and the Great State of Texas.

Sincerely,

HERITAGE FEST 2016

TCHCC was buzzin' the weekend of October 14 and 15, 2016 with various events and activities.

Music on the Deck by the Dujka Brothers on Friday evening and the Shiner Hobo Band and Czech and Then Some Band performing on Saturday under the Hospoda Tent. There were visits to the Czech Village, KJT Taroky Tournament, Antique Farm Equipment and Car Shows and train rides. Booths featuring Arts & Crafts, Children's activities, SPJST Kolače-eating Contest. Heritage demonstrations were held at the saw mill, blacksmith booth, corn shelling/grinding, sausage making at the smoke house and more. The evening concluded at the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater with the Muziky, Muziky Legends Series featuring the retiring performance of the Donnie Wavra Band.





Left to right: peanut shelling/thrashing, hay baling and corn shelling were just a few of the many demonstrations.



Opening Prayer and Ambassador greetings began the day. Czech Consul for Texas Brian Vanicek brought well-wishes from the Czech Ambassador to the US Petr Gadolovic; TCHCC President Retta Chandler welcomed all and Msgr. John Peters opened the day with a prayer of thanksgiving for our ancestors who sought a better life in Texas.





Musical Performances were provided by the Shiner Hobo Band with band leader Rita Janak and Msgr. Joe Hybner, and The Czech and Then Some Band from Ennis, Texas.





The children had a good time outdoors while spinning and weaving were demonstrated in the museum and Kolače-eating Contest and train rides took place.





Alfred Vrazel was the emcee.

MUZYKY MUZYKY

The night air was filled with the music of the Donnie Wavra Band as they performed for the last time at the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater. Band members L-R: Seated: Duane Wavra, Gary Kunkel. Standing: Glen Ortz, Bob Walla, George Koudelka, Donald Cernosek, Donnie Wavra.



Paul Mikula, presented a check on behalf of HEB for sponsorship of the fireworks display. Below: Todd Baker of La Grange Ford-Lincoln Motor Company presented a check to Mark Hermes for their donation to the Hospoda Tent.




TCHCC wishes to thank all our donors and participants. You helped make it a memorable day in which we were able to celebrate our culture and heritage.





The Second KJT Taroky Tournament was held in the Hanslik Hall with over 40 participants. The winners were from left to right

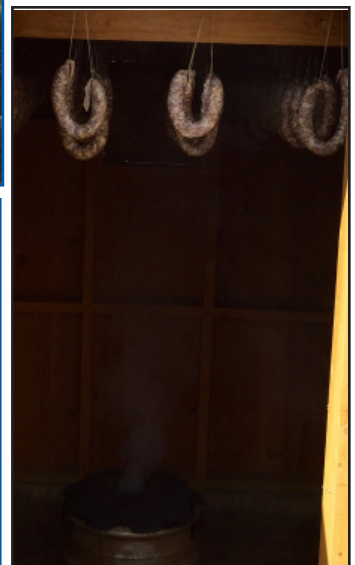
- 1st - John Vrana (626 points) from Granger
- 2nd - Kenneth Lev (608 points) from Schulenburg
- 3rd - Dial Cornwell (563 points) from Corpus Christi
- 4th - Pam Franks (552 points) from Sanger

Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, Inc.

SLADEK SMOKE & WASH HOUSE
 IN MEMORY OF
ERWIN A. & FRANCES SLADEK, SR.
 DONATED BY THEIR CHILDREN
 ERWIN A. & BONNIE SLADEK, JR.
 DR. TIM & TAMI SLADEK
 BRIAN & SHIRLEY SLADEK VARNER
 KEITH & PATRICIA SLADEK KORENEK



Above: Walt Walicek assembles the smoke and wash house building.

Below: Greg Kubenka along with daughter Kenna and Michael Seager demonstrated and smoked the sausage.



Premier U.S. exhibit of iconic Czech artist Josef Lada in three museums in Texas

Three Texas Czech cultural museums have partnered to bring a Lada exhibit from Prague to the United States for the first time. The exhibit of 96 pieces was divided between the Czech Heritage Museum in Temple, the Czech Center Museum in Houston and the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange. The exhibits **opened in October and will remain through February**. Each museum hosted an opening event featuring a lecture and discussion by folk artist and Czech importer Daniela Mahoney of Portland, Oregon.

Lada's work is well known in the Czech Republic and has shown in galleries and museums for decades in Europe. In his village of Hrusice, one can visit his home, now a museum of his works and that of his daughter, Alena.

Joseph Lada, 1887 -1957, was a prolific painter, illustrator and cartoonist who was editor of the Sunday supplement for the Cesky Slovo. He painted numerous series of illustrations and cartoons including "How Newspapers are Made," "Pub Brawls," "Mikes the Talking Cat" and many landscapes and village scenes from his home and childhood. He also designed sets and costumes for the National Theatre.

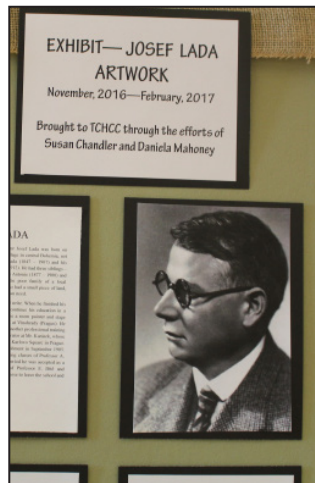
"He is so popular because everybody understands his visual style. It is clear to everyone – children like it, parents like it, everybody likes it," said Jan Trestik, who organized a major retrospective exhibit at Prague's Obecni Dum in 2007. "But, we shouldn't confuse Lada with his simple style. When you are in everyday contact with the pictures, then you realize, 'wow, there is probably more to it than that.' So, now I see his work with different eyes." Apparently, Trestik is not alone in this opinion. At auction, a Josef Lada piece currently averages \$60,000. Most of are small gouache on paper paintings or zincographs.

In 1947, he was named National Artist of Czechoslovakia. His, "Triptych with Bohemian Landscapes" was painted in 1935 for the Czech Embassy in Paris.

The asteroid 17625JosefLada was named for him, but perhaps the most relevant proof of Lada's importance is a Google Doodle honoring him on December 17, 2011, his 124th birthday and one featuring his Svejek illustrations in 2013.

It's hard to imagine the quiet pastoral paintings and humorous WWI cartoons of Josef Lada stirring up any trouble. His famous Christmas postcards of snowy Czech village scenes are filled with children sledding, snowman-building projects, multi-generational families in cozy kitchens and bundled up townsfolk trudging to the hilltop chapel on a starry night.

But in the 1970s, these benign images were censored. The government refused to allow the Lada family to publish one of his most popular works without specific changes. (Continued on next page.)



Pat Parma loaned TCHCC Lada prints of the four seasons as well as two ceramic figures of Good Soldier Svejk and a copy of the book.

Josef Lada Exhibit continued... “It was a 12-month calendar,” said Martin Lada, grandson of Josef Lada. “Back in the 70s, it was necessary to substitute all religious or ideological motives – which are in every picture: saints, three kings, Black February – with some neutral motif such as a bowl of fruit, hay, flowers, Easter egg or mushrooms. Otherwise, it could not be published!” So they complied, switching out a nativity scene for birds, dear old St. Nick bringing gifts to children for a snowy cabin and St. Wenceslas for a bowl of fruit. In fact, every page of Lada’s popular calendar was censored.

The popularity of his work today is a fitting parable about overcoming obstacles. Lada’s life wasn’t always idyllic like his pictures. He was blinded in one eye as a toddler when he fell on his father’s cobbler’s tool. Although his artistic talent was recognized early, his family could only afford to encourage him to train as a house painter. He left his village for Prague while a teenager to seek art training, but eventually became self-taught. His young daughter was killed during a WWII air raid in Prague. Then the communists curbed his career, labeling his work bourgeois and accusing him of promoting the middle class. He died in 1957, and missed seeing his country become an independent and free republic .

After the civilized 1989 Velvet Revolution, communist oppression was ousted and the Lada family restored Lada’s central theme of faith, family and community. The family published his calendars and Christmas cards with the original images. They also began producing handmade soaps, bath salts, puzzles, toys and Lada’s original cut-out nativity scenes and chocolate Advent calendars.

These products have been sold in the U.S., mostly in museum stores and the Svejks books have been available in English here for many years. But, an exhibit of his work has never before crossed the Atlantic.

After the fall of communism, a new reason for picking on Lada was concocted. “In Lada’s paintings, there is no sex, no violence, no death. The artist was criticized for presenting a ‘dangerous ideal.’” “I think that creating a parallel world as a form of escapism is not just something that Lada does. All sorts of artists were doing this in the 1930s, and throughout both of the World Wars. The artist had the choice of using his art to engage his surroundings or to escape them. Lada was one of those introverts and sought inspirations from within,” said Pecinkova. “In his pictures, it is eternal spring. There is harmony. Children are playing. It’s a world of positive values.”

The Legacy of Svatava Pirkova Jakobson

Svatava Pirková Jakobson (Vienna, Austria, 1908 - Taylor, Texas, 2000) collected an extraordinary amount of speech and music recordings from ethnic Czechs and Slovaks in the U.S. living primarily in the metropolitan Northeast and in Texas. In 1935, Svatava married Roman Jakobson, a famous Russian linguist. She was the force behind the couple’s escape from the Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and eventual arrival in the United States in 1941.

She taught at Columbia and Harvard Universities (1942-1967), and, following a divorce from Roman Jakobson, accepted a teaching position at the University of Texas at Austin where she taught Czech and cultivated her students’ interest in all things Czech until her retirement in 1978. When she came to Texas, she was already a well-known musicologist and folklorist. She continued with her travels around Czech Texas, conducting more interviews and collecting information and artifacts representing the ethnocultural heritage of Texas Czechs for many years after her retirement.

While at UT Austin, Jakobson was the Czech program’s strongest advocate. She worked tirelessly on behalf of her students many of whom became her friends and supporters. She loved to teach and she loved to entertain, being particularly known for her Christmas parties at her house in Austin.

There are still many people in the Texas Czech community who remember Svatava Jakobson’s unique personality and extraordinary ability to connect with others. And examining her life story reveals much about her research undertakings and aspirations.

Most of her recordings with Texas Czechs have now been digitized and the Texas Czech Legacy Project as well as the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin are working to organize her collection and make it available to the public. In fact, the collection is so vast and varied that the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange has graciously offered to store some of it. Most recently, we have located the photographs of Texas Czech costumes (kroje) prepared under Svatava Jakobson’s guidance for the 1984 Ethnic Folk Festival in San Antonio. SPJST in Temple, Texas has devoted an entire room to her legacy with an exhibit of her furnishings and photographs.

This year’s Májové Slavnosti at the TCHCC will also mark the Center’s 20th anniversary. As part of the celebrations, on May 19, the Center will host a roundtable on the legacy of Svatava Jakobson with an exhibit of these recently recovered photographs of Texas Czech folk costumes (on display in the TCHCC Bill Melnar Library). The roundtable and exhibit are scheduled 4-6 PM, followed by Český Večer hour with wine and cheese from 6 to 7 PM. Woody Smith, Roger Kolar and Thadious Polasek will be some of the presenters. A presentation and discussion of the Texas Czech Legacy Project’s place in the community efforts to promote and maintain its cultural heritage (7-8 PM) will conclude the evening.

Please plan to join us! **Contact information:** Lida Cope, Director of Texas Czech Legacy Project, Department of English, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858: copel@ecu.edu; <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/txczechproject/home> phone: 252-328-6411. OR Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, La Grange, TX: info@czechTEXAS.org; <http://www.czechTEXAS.org> Phone: 888-785-4500.



TCHCC VOLUNTEERS HAVE WORKED SEAMLESSLY BEHIND THE SCENES FOR THESE TWENTY YEARS IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING RUNS SMOOTHLY AT ALL OUR EVENTS. We could not do it without them. If you would like to join us and volunteer on a monthly or weekly basis, we would be happy to place you in a job that emphasizes your talents.



Volunteers (Left) Robert Svrcek (Center) Mrs. Joyce Hermes and (Right) Wilson and Virginia Huffer and Cathleen Noska and granddaughter Sadie Noska were on hand for the Heritage Fest.
 Center Left: Stephen and Johnnie Polasek. Center: Doc Darilek. Center Right: Waymond Davis, Walt Walicek and J. G. Hrcir help keep maintaining the grounds.
 Below Left: Ted and Sarah Vitek. Right: Kitchen Crew L-R: Sandra Mattijetz, Georgia Vyvial, Lorenda Polasek, Georgia Funderburk, Georgia Kovar and Joyce Hermes



TCHCC Seventh Annual Gala

Honored Victor Caka, George Koudelka, and Johnnie I. Krajca, D.J.

Music legends: (left to right) Victor Caka, Johnnie I. Krajca and George Koudelka were recognized for their many years of spreading the musical traditions of the Czechs at the Seventh Annual TCHCC Gala held in the Fair Pavilion on December 3, 2016. Everyone enjoyed a catered dinner served by Bistro 108 and the Czechaholics provided the music.



George Koudelka of Flatonia, Texas has spent his life collecting and sharing the music of the Czechs. He traveled and played with many bands and has been a high school music director at Flatonia ISD from 1969-2005 and has provided musical instructions at Moulton ISD for years. He is known as the Fayette county musician/teacher/collector/historian extraordinaire. He began playing the drums at the age of 11 and has not stopped since then. He plays piano, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, flute & xylophone. He has "sat in" and performed in over 120 bands.

Johnnie I. Krajca grew up in Ennis, Texas and played the clarinet and drums in St. John Catholic School. In May of 1954 he began a 30-minute radio show for KBEC radio. He wanted to be connected with the listeners and signed on the air live and in the studio - a feat he has continued for over 48 years. He has had a long standing involvement with the National Polka Fest and began the King and Queen Polka Dance Contest in 1987. Johnnie ended his live broadcasts on December 30, 2012. The show is currently pre-recorded by Danny Zaplatal.



Victor Caka bought his first accordion at the age of 12 from a store in his hometown, Shiner, Texas. By the time he was 20 years of age he was playing, buying, selling, trading and repairing accordions. His love of the accordion led him to form his band Polkatimers. He played with many bands including The Litt'l Fisherman and played with Vernon Drozd and well as many others. Currently, he plays with the Shiner Hobo Band.



Left: Welcoming Committee Members Cathleen Noska, Clarice Snokhous, Barbara Hruby and Marilyn Kothmann.
Right: Dennis and Donna Vanek and Joan and Czech Consul for the State of Texas Brian Vanicek.



Stepping Back In Time: TCHCC Music Museum items were on display in the “An Evening of Music” display. Photographs of retired Texas Czech Bands were on display. Photographs were donated to TCHCC by the Dallas Czech Club.



THE TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu
and so it continues...2000-2001

Pictures 1-2: The Kalich House received a much-needed face lift in October of 2016 by the firm of Kurt Hutton Painting of La Grange.

Pictures 3-4: The Kalich House has a long history with TCHCC beginning on June 10, 2000 when it was moved to the site by John Kana Movers. It was moved in two sections. The first section moved was the three-room part. The center room had log floor joist and square nails.

The house came with a square five legged table, two other tables, a hump back trunk, a washing machine and tubs, a wood burning heater, two homemade closets, a sausage stuffer and a variety of small items.

The second section contained the stairs and dog trot with one extra room. The dog trot section had exterior siding on the walls, indicating that this area was open at one time.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4

The Slovak Construction Company of Ennis were contracted to restore the house which had been the home of the Kalich Family. Some of the volunteer helpers who helped with the restoration were: George and Shirley Hlavinka, Pat Parma, Ed Krivacka, Marvin Marek, Frank Miculka, Jerome and Aurelia Cerny, Vickie Matocha, Georgia Funderberk, Glenn and Paula Vecera and their sons Conner and Carson, Pam and Lee Ohl and their son Peyton, Cathleen Noska and Ed Vacek.

Picture 5: CHS President Frank Mikula, George Hlavinka, Marvin Marek, Robert Slovak and Ed Krivacka planned the day's events.

Picture 6: The Slovak Construction crew got to work.

Pictures 7-8: The Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony took place on October 21, 2001.

Picture 9-10: The house was used as the office/gift shop/genealogy library and museum until October of 2009 when the office was moved into the new Center.

Picture 11: The house was converted into the Texas Czech Music Museum in February of 2012.

Just for the record book: The first official "visitors" on June 22, 2000 were Sara McDaniel, Woody Smith, Marvin and Judy Marek, Peyton Ohl, Pat Parma and Bill Schovajsa.



Picture 5



Picture 6

GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY October 21, 2001



Picture 7



Picture 8



Picture 9



Picture 10

MOVING IN.

Below: Marvin Marek, Woody Smith and Bill Schovajsa unload the Kalich Family hump back trunk into the restored house, now the third office for TCHCC. The first office was in the La Grange Jail/ Chamber of Commerce. The second office was in the BEFCO office with Sandra Matthijetz as the manager.



Top: Manager Woody Smith and Carolyn Meiners Heinsohn and (right) Secretary Cathleen Noska get to work in the third office - the newly-restored Kalich house.



TCHCC continues to offer tours to groups of 10 or more, including school groups.
Recent visitors are pictured below. One visitor, Bob Loveless, donated a collection of Czech postage stamps.
He is pictured with Georgia Funderburk and Mark Hermes.



Third Graders from Sacred Heart Catholic School, Hallettsville, Texas visited, participated in a Czech history program, enjoyed a soup and sandwich lunch, toured the museums and village houses and watched demonstrations. They were accompanied by Principal Kevin Haas and teacher Shanna Grahmann Clark and parents.

Below: Pam Kutac (center) and friends Kim Joost and Lisa Hayes visit the village houses including the Country Store.



Czech Consul General for the State of Texas Raymond and wife Clarice Snokhous donation numerous items to TCHCC. Among the donations was a Nativity that was hand-carved in Bethlehem. It was displayed throughout the Christmas Season.



Donations for 2016

Benefactor	Clarice Snokhous
Bob and Carolyn Heinsohn	Waymond & Jean Davis
Founder	Dik W. & Joy F. Bily
Catholic Czech Club of Dallas	Alfred & Bernice Vrazel
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SPJST #6 Cottonwood	

Individual Memberships 2016

Elizabeth Hubenak McCrea

Ulana Ludeke Ratley

Annual Memberships 2017**August to December 2016****Gift Memberships**

Beno A. & Jane Hellinger from Titus & Diane

Ashour

Elsie Jasek from Kathie Craft

Dennis Kalich from Sandy Larson

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Jennifer Moore from Frankie Kubicek

Lorene Kovar Nitschke from Noska Family

Randy & Dinah Noska from Gladys Noska

Mary Ann Pavliska from Bob Morgenroth

Andrew Pfertner from Patrick Pfertner

Edward Polasek from Johnnie & Lorenda Polasek

Stephen Polasek from Johnnie & Lorenda Polasek

Dominic & Jolene Pospisil from Diane Wright

Ann Zahn from Joe and Shirley Michka

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Chandler's 60th Wedding Anniversary*

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Elaine Thomas - Cz book "Life of Christ"
Billye Baker - window panes, wood plainer
Libor & Nancy Nouzovsky - videocassettes
Doris Sykora Koliba - picture of Trojanovice
Arnold Pechal - Jubilee Year of Tolerance book, Mat-
ricky records of Cermna
Clarice Snokhous - numerous Czech-related items of
Raymond and Clarice Snokhous including Nativity
hand-carved in Bethlehem, commemorative plaques,
ceramics, crystal, Mazaryk Award and citations related
to his position as Czech Consul General for the State of
Texas.

TCHCC Memorials can be made to your deceased loved ones or to honor a family member that is still active in promoting Czech culture and tradition.

IMMIGRANTS' WALL

A stone wall with engravings on plaques that include the name(s) of the immigrant(s), village of origin and date that he/she/they arrived in the United States. Plaques are available for \$2500. Contact us for details.

ENTRY PAVING STONES

A 12" x 12" pink granite stone will be engraved with your choice of wording up to 40 letters. These stones are in the entryway of the Czech Center. Contact us for details

ROSE GARDEN MEMORIAL

For \$250 a brick will be placed along the Rose Garden path that lines the entry sidewalk to the Czech Center. The brick will be inscribed with your choice of wording. Contact us for details.

MEMORIAL BRICK PAVERS

A brick paver will be engraved with your choice of wording for \$100. The bricks will be placed in the sidewalk leading from the flagpoles to the steps that enter the Czech Center. Contact us for details.

BELL & BELFRY

For donations of \$50 or more, inscriptions are painted on the memorial sign. For donations under \$50, a record of the donation is made on a parchment list.

AMPHITHEATER SUPPORTERS

A designated amphitheater seat will be reserved with your name plate. Participant can reserve this seat whenever there is an event at the Amphitheater by calling ahead. Seats range: \$1,000, \$750 and \$500.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE CENTER.

Donation amounts are recognized by levels:

____ Permanent Endowment Fund
 ____ Maintenance and Operations

- \$200,000 ____ Five Star
- 100,000 ____ Platinum Benefactor
- 50,000 ____ Gold Benefactor
- 25,000 ____ Silver Benefactor
- 10,000 ____ Bronze Benefactor
- 5,000 ____ Benefactor
- 2,500 ____ President's Circle
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- 1,500 ____ Heritage Friend
- 1,000 ____ Founder
- 750 ____ Steward
- 500 ____ Patron
- 250 ____ Donor
- 150 ____ Special Friend
- 100 ____ Friend

**Membership from
January 1—December 31**

- \$500 ____ Corporate
 - \$200 ____ Non-Profit Organization
 - \$ 75 ____ Family
 - \$ 50 ____ Individual
 - \$ ____ Other ANNUAL SUSTAINED MEMBERSHIP (yearly)
- Benefits: Annual Calendar and Nas Cesky Zivot newsletters

MEMORIALS can be made to honor someone living, on their birthday or anniversary etc., or to the memory of a deceased friend or family member.

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2017

- February 11 TCHCC Valentine's Dinner & Concert, Hanslik Hall. Social 4-6 PM Dinner 7 PM Concert by Professor John Dujka
- April 22 TOCA Banquet
- April 26 Stribrnanka - a Brass Band from the Czech Republic - Public Dance in the Pavilion Hall
Czech style stew sold at 6 PM Dance begins at 7 PM
- May 19 Legacy of Svatava Jakobson & The Texas-Czech Legacy Project presented by Lida Cope 4-8 PM
Panel Discussion and Kroje Photograph Exhibition
- May 21 Slavnost - Mayfest. Tribute to Immigrants Ceremony, Noon meal, raffle, country store, visit to the village buildings, museums, music/dance by Jodie Mikula Orchestra
- July 15 CHS of Texas Genealogy Conference and State Meeting
- October 20-21 Heritage Fest & Muziky
 October 20 Music on the Deck by Dujka Brothers 6-9:30 PM
 October 21 Entertainment by Red Ravens, Bohemian Dutchmen, Antique Farm Equipment and Car Show, museums, demonstrations, tours, children activities and more.



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