



LA GRANGE, TEXAS

NÁŠ ČESKÝ ŽIVOT

"OUR CZECH LIFE"

(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)

SPRING 2017

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 1

2017 BEGAN WITH THE FIFTH ANNUAL VALENTINE'S CONCERT AND THE TOCA AWARDS. THE TCHCC TOCA AWARD RECIPIENT FOR 2017 WAS ARNOLD PECHAL.



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

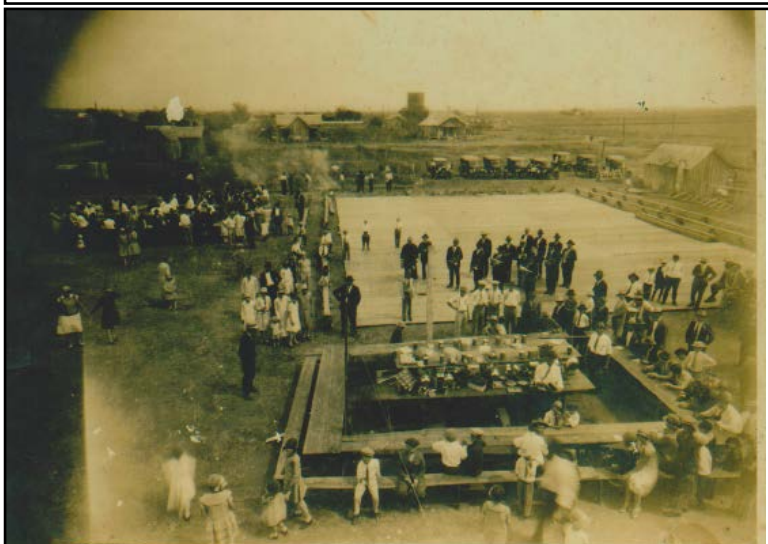
To provide the public with updated information regarding Czech-related activities and historical sites in Texas, the United States and abroad.

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, bazaars, 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 the Santa Fe Railroad. Water tank and dancing platform is in the center with a bingo stand in the center bottom right. DEADLINE AUGUST 1.



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT: Retta Slavik Chandler

Thank you for your support during the past 20 years. Much progress has been made in the development of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center. What began as a vision is now a reality. However, our work is not complete. We have plans to add to the Czech Village, to further develop the Museum in the main building and to create interesting and educational activities and programs for all age groups that will bring visitors to the Center. To further the vision of the Czech leaders in Texas and the Czech-founded organizations, who came together in 1936 to create an outstanding exhibit to showcase the story of the Czech people at the State Fair of Texas, we need your continued support. To honor their work, we must keep going. We have made significant progress to fulfill the goals of the vision that was outlined by those leaders before us. Our rich heritage with its many traditions must be preserved for future generations.



I want to thank all of the many volunteers who worked tirelessly for years with dedication and resolve to make the project a success. Some are still volunteering at every one of our functions and some come each week to take on whatever tasks need attention. They give their time, talent, and monetary support. With their input and team work, we were able to make progress. However, we welcome newcomers to join our team. So if you would like to be a part of a very rewarding, interesting and educational endeavor, call us. We have wonderful volunteers, who will train you.

I want to thank all of the Directors that have served on our Board the past 20 years as we made crucial decisions. During our annual meeting in February, we elected two Directors to the TCHCC Board. They are JG Hrcir and Brian Vanicek. We are pleased to have them serve on our board. Both are proud of their Czech heritage and are committed to preserving and promoting it in every way possible. Thank you to our manager, Mark Hermes, for the extra care for the Center and for keeping the Board Members informed at all times of concerns and needs.

Our next newsletter will contain the activities of our 20th Anniversary Celebration on MAY 19-21. The turnout was wonderful. To commemorate this occasion, we are offering **20TH ANNIVERSARY GRANITE STONES** that will be placed in the sidewalk next to the Rose Garden. Only 20 stones will be engraved for this insertion. We have 10 sold to date. Honor your loved ones with an Anniversary Stone. Call TCHCC at 888-785-4500 or e-mail at info@czechtexas.org for information.

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.

A promotional graphic for Texas Polka News. It features a large, stylized red logo that reads "3Kx2018" on a yellow background with radiating lines. To the right of the logo, there is a black box with white text that says "SUBSCRIBE TO", followed by "Texas Polka News" in a smaller font, and "EARN MONEY FOR YOUR CLUB/ORGANIZATION" in a larger, bold font. At the bottom right, there is a small black box with white text that says "TexasPolkaNews.com | 281-836-5362".

**THE FIFTH ANNUAL VALENTINE CONCERT AND DINNER WAS HELD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2017 IN THE HANSLIK HALL.
THE EVENING FEATURED A CATERED MEAL BY THE BISTRO 108 AND A CONCERT BY JOHN DUJKA.**

John is a man of many talents. A well-known entertainer and musician throughout Texas and nationally, John Dujka earned his Bachelors and Masters of Music Degrees in Music Performance at the University of Houston Moores School of Music where he studied with Albert Hirsh, Ruth Tomfohrde and Abbey Simon. A member of the Blinn College, Brenham, faculty since 1990, Mr. Dujka is an active recitalist, collaborative pianist, and also maintains a private studio. John, along with his brother Mark, has been performing as the Dujka Brothers Band since 1986. The duo is well-known for their arrangements of Czech music.

A native of East Bernard, Texas, John resides in Brenham and also produces "Saturday Morning Dance Time", a radio program for KULP 1390 in El Campo, Texas now in its 14th year.

Next year's concert will be held on February 10, 2018. Tickets go on sale on January 2, 2018.



TEXANS OF CZECH ANCESTRY (TOCA) ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTED APRIL 22, 2017

TOCA is an organization that was founded by Calvin Chervenka, Glenn Hutka and Jerry Valchar in 1986 as an umbrella organization under which various Czech organization in Texas could communicate and collaborate the goals of the Czech culture and heritage awareness in Texas. This year's recipients gathered in Hanslik Hall at TCHCC and were presented awards recognizing their volunteer efforts in their respective organizations. Member Organizations include: American SOKOL, Southern District, Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas, Czech Educational Foundation of Texas, Czech Ex-Students Association of Texas, Czech Heritage Society of Fort Bend County, Czech Heritage Society of Travis-Williamson Counties, Czech Heritage Society of Texas, Farm Mutual Insurance Company, Slavonic Benevolent Order of Texas, Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, and Texas Czech Genealogical Society. The current officers are: President Kevin Kana, Vice President Thomas Stavinocha, Secretary Vlasta Vitek, Treasurer Dan Mares and Immediate Past President Arlene Cloyd. For 2017, The TOCA/TCHCC Award was presented to Arnold Pechal (pictured on cover). A big Thank you - Dekuji - goes out to the Awards/Dinner Committee Members Kevin Kana, Arlene and Alan Cloyd, Vlasta Vitek, Eileen Rosipal, Georgia Vvyial, Johnnie and Lorenda Polasek, Mark Hermes, and Retta Chandler.



2017 TOCA RECIPIENT REV. MARK LABAJ
Czech Educational Foundation of Texas - CEFT



2017 TOCA RECIPIENT MICHAEL REZNICEK
Catholic Union of Texas - KJT



2017 TOCA RECIPIENT JOHNNIE I. KRAJCA
Farm Mutual Insurance Agency - RVOS
Mr. Krajca was not present, Julius Dubcak
accepted his award for him.



2017 TOCA RECIPIENT KATHY MAREK PODSEDNIK
Czech Heritage Society of Texas
Kathy Podsednik was not present, Phyllis Teykl
accepted her award for her.



2017 TOCA RECIPIENT CHARLENE HURTA
Texas Czech Genealogical Society - TCGS



2017 TOCA RECIPIENT LOUIS AND JANIE ZBRANEK
Czech Heritage Society of Travis-Williamson Counties



2017 TOCA RECIPIENT DAVID AND JANIE BUCEK
Slovak Benevolent Order of Texas - SPJST



2017 TOCA RECIPIENT ARLENE CLOYD
Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas - KJZT



2017 TOCA RECIPIENT REV. PAUL CHOVANEC
Texans of Czech Ancestry - TOCA



2017 TOCA RECIPIENT GLENN MCDONALD
Czech Heritage Society of Fort Bend County

TOCA Award Attendees were treated to a wine and cheese reception sponsored by SPJST , RVOS sponsored the Hanslik Hall rental and KJZT sponsored the music that was provided by Henry Machicek.



TCHCC Wishes To Thank

Left: Henry and Carolyn Holub who donated \$5,000.00 to TCHCC.

Right: RVOS Farm Mutual Insurance Company who donate \$5,000.00 to TCHCC. We greatly appreciate it.



TCHCC'S TOCA Recipient 2017: Arnold Pechal

By Retta Slavik Chandler

This is a special year for TCHCC as we celebrate its 20th anniversary. Today we will honor a person that made a significant contribution to its development. Arnold was elected treasurer of TOCA on that day in 1995 when the decision was made to spearhead a project that would help to preserve the artifacts and history of the Czechs in Texas. A project that would eventually become the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in 1997. We had no money in the treasury or promises of any at the time. The TOCA representatives did vote to support the project, however, no monetary offers were made at that first meeting. So it became our obligation to start some fund raising. We had bake sales and small raffles at picnics and festivals. Gradually, as we spent 1996 planning the project, we started building up a fund and Czech-founded organizations began to make pledges.

Arnold watched and accounted for every penny that we received and made sure that all donations were properly recorded and were recognized. Expenses were kept at a minimum as only the bare essentials were taken out of the treasury. This was mostly for mail outs to ask for money. The TOCA Officers and volunteers from Czech-founded organizations donated their time and effort to reach out to the community. During this crucial period every penny made a difference. I can tell you that Arnold was the most dedicated treasurer that I have ever known.

Arnold Pechal, along with the other officers and directors of the Texans of Czech Ancestry became interim officers, directors and founders of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, Inc. in March of 1997. When the Kalich House was moved to LaGrange in 2000, Arnold volunteered his time to install all of the wiring into the newly-restored house that became the office, museum/library and gift shop. He drove from Temple on his days off from work to do this work. He worked closely with Ed Vasek and Carol Kitchen on this project.

A little bit of information about Arnold:

Arnold and his twin brother, Anton, were born in Seaton, Texas in East Bell County, Texas on December 17, 1943 to W.M. and Rosalie Hlavaty Pechal. They were delivered by Dr. Alsup at home in the country for a cost of \$35.00 together. They are the second youngest of seven brothers and sisters. Arnold is of the second generation born in Texas from his father and mother's side of the family. Arnold recollects the following: "we received electricity in the Seaton Community in 1949. I went to Seaton School from 1951-1958 walking four miles to and from school the first two years. I attended Rogers High School from 1959-1962." He retired from electrical construction work after 38 years in 2006.

He served in the Army National Guard from 1964-1970; the last two years were served in the 141st Airborne Infantry. He married Frances Wilde in August 1966. They were class mates all twelve years of school. Arnold and Frances have two children-Michael and Cynthia and three grandchildren: Mila, Evan and Mekena.

He is active in many organizations. He is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Temple (73 years), a member of SPJST Lodge #24 Cyclone, Texas (65 years), a member of KJT Society #114 in Temple (53 years), and a Third Degree member of the KCs Council #3444 in Temple (41 years).

He has served as First Treasurer for TOCA which was organized in 1986 in Temple, as First Treasurer for the Czech Heritage Society of Texas which was organized at the SPJST Lodge # 29 in Taylor, Texas in 1982 and served as Reporter and eight years as a State Trustee. He served as first Treasurer for the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange, Texas which was organized in 1997 and is a life time member of the Texas Czech Genealogical Society since 2001.

Arnold adds "I have made two trips to Czechoslovakia in 1981 and 1985. Doing Czech Genealogy Research was impossible. I had to have exact name and birth information on relative. Had to know and speak the Czech language. I then made four trips to the Czech Republic in 1993-1998-2001-2004 to do more Czech research Family Trees. I like helping people do their Czech genealogy research in Texas from several personal books that I own from Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic on Immigration Information."

We are very pleased to honor Arnold Pechal with this Award and to thank him for his outstanding contribution. To this day, Arnold continues to work to promote and preserve our Czech heritage. He currently volunteers in the Bill and Betty Melnar Genealogy Library during Slavnost and assists others who are searching for their roots. He has also donated valuable books and documents to the library.

ARNOLD, WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

*Left: Arnold was there from the beginning: Ennis Fund Raiser
Back: Glen Hutka, Ed Krivacka,
Arnold Pechal, Larry Laznovsky.
Front: Carolyn Heinsohn,
Retta Chandler, Woody Smith.
Right: a few of his generous
donations to the Bill Melnar
Library: Irene Szwarz, Retta
Chandler and Arnold.*



SEVERAL CZECH GROUPS VISITED TCHCC THIS SPRING

CZECH EMBASSY VISITOR: Sarka Ponroy Vamberova, First Secretary to the Cultural Attache Office, Washington, D. C. visited TCHCC in April of 2017. Czech Consul to the State of Texas Brian Vanicek escorted Mrs. Vamberova. After a visit and tour of the Center, she traveled to Moravia, Texas and the Moravia Vineyard and then toured the newly-renovated Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Praha, Texas. While there, she met Rev. Gabriel Maison, pastor of the church. Right: Sarka Ponroy Vamberova, Retta Chandler, Brian Vanicek, and Mark Hermes.



Czech and Slovak Business Owners visited the Center and presented wine from their Winery to the TCHCC Board Members and volunteers: L-R: Ivana Fabrianova, Jan Janek, Lorenda Polasek (gift shop manager), Petr Rektorys and Karol Sebo. They also visited the Moravia Vineyard and Winery and owner Luka Suschitz.





Left: STŘÍBRŇANKA BRASS BAND arrived at TCHCC on April 26, 2017 and were treated to an impromptu performance by Dr. Tom Sovik, professor of music theory, pop music specialist and organizer of the tour sponsored by the University of North Texas College of Music and funded by the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas, the Frank J. and Hermine Hurta Kostohryz Residency in Czech Music and Culture and the Dr. Jim and Rose Bezdek Endowment Fund. Dr. Sovik accompanied the group through their trip to nine cities in Texas. Right: Georgia Vyvial and Retta Chandler perform with the band.



Top left: The band toured the museum: Band members: Ivo Horky, Leader and Trumpet player, Vojtech Horky-Tenor Sax, Martin Kupka-Tuba, Pavel Tomecek-Trumpet, Jan Nemecek-Baritone, Jiri Rybak-Clarinet, Jan Holena-Clarinet, Josef Vystup-Drums, and Antonin Adamec-Accordion.

Top right: Jan Holena from Valasska Polanka and a relative of Retta Chandler. Jan teaches music.

Bottom right: The band enjoyed a lunch catered by Oakridge Smokehouse at the TPLM Msgr. Joe Hybner Center.



STŘÍBRŇANKA BRASS BAND



A nice crowd of about 200 came out to the Pavilion Hall on a Wednesday evening to enjoy the music and dance to melodious Wallachian sounds. Volunteers made a delicious stew dinner that sold out quickly.



VISITING GRANDMA

By Dian Blomquist

A couple of times a year we went to visit Grandma. She lived two hours to the east of Austin and when we left the asphalt highway at Lyons, Texas, we entered a totally different world.

Her house was visible from the highway. We turned onto a county road, which was dirt and deeply rutted, where the car got stuck when it rained. Grandma's home was a large imposing farmhouse with a front porch, a porch swing and a flower garden that was the entire front yard surrounded by a decorative wire fence.

A solid square woman, Grandma always welcomed us with a smile, in her long patterned dress with long sleeves regardless of the weather. The house had no running water and the only electricity were ceiling bulbs that hung in the middle of each room. The rooms had very high ceilings and were large.

Freezing in the winter, the living room was the only one heated by a wood stove in the middle of the room. To keep warm, everyone huddled around that stove. There was a wood burning cooking stove in the kitchen that was always heated so that room was cozy. The kitchen always had a distinctive delicious smell from the burning wood and cooking aromas.

Grandpa and Grandma's family consisted of seven children plus a stepson who filled all of the rooms in that large home when they were growing up. When I knew the house, the upstairs was sparsely furnished and vacant of occupants. There were scary dark "holes" throughout the upper story. In the past, these spaces were used for storage, but were now empty except for those demons and spirits that hid there. I did not like to stay upstairs by myself because I was too scared!

One room upstairs was the quilting room. Strips of cloth were hung at intervals around the room. The quilting frame was attached to these strips and Grandma and friends sat around the frame sewing. I still have several quilts Grandma made. Some with scraps of fabric from dresses that my mother made for me. I remember those dresses when I see the quilts.

All of the meals at Grandma's were cooked on the wood burning stove. Her children bought her an electric stove at some point, but she was afraid of it and wouldn't use it.

Each meal was served in the dining room next to the kitchen on a very large table with many chairs. The table would be full of many small dishes. Usually there were at least 7 or 8 dishes at a sitting. Lunch or dinner started out with big bowls of homemade chicken soup with the most wonderful homemade noodles that Grandma made. She rolled the noodles into perfect rounds, dried them on the front porch railing and cut them into perfect tiny slices. I was told the secret to the good chicken soup was the chicken's feet. Czech was usually spoken in the kitchen. In the early 1990s, I was in Prague, Czechoslovakia and the desk clerk at the hotel had the same dialect as I heard in Grandma's kitchen. I would just sit in the lobby just to hear him speak.

As I said, the house was very cold and the hardest thing was to get out from under the warm feather bed at night and pull the "chamber pot" from under the bed to pee. The pot was cold and I was not used to the practice plus I was freezing and it seemed to take forever "to go".

Although the summers were very hot, I have no memory of Grandma's house and the heat. With the volume of the rooms and the shade trees around the house those hot days never were oppressive.

Grandma had an immense vegetable garden plot. Now that I remember the size, I am impressed that a woman in her 70s could cultivate such a large garden. When Grandpa was alive, they made their own wine. Grapes still grew on the fences and a few bottles of wine remained—I remember it being rather sweet more like port.

I liked to feed the chickens. When I was small a chicken flew at me, forever making me afraid of them. If the hens were not in their nests, I loved to pick eggs. Of course, Grandma tried to teach me just to reach under the hen to get the eggs if they were sitting on their nests, but I just couldn't do that.

I also was taught to milk a cow. Not my favorite activity as the cows were big, the udders slippery and I didn't like the feel. You really had to pull hard making sure the milk hit the bucket. I would go with Grandma to herd the cattle into the pen. That was fun as you just walked the pasture shaking a stick calling "hooey" until they wandered into their enclosure.



Grandma in her garden, age 82

There was a smoke house where the meat cured and sausages hung. It had a dirt floor, was dark, but not foreboding. Lots of interesting things hanging on the walls, harnesses, rusted hooks, the uses of many items were mysterious and long forgotten. The smell was nice—musty, smoky.

Two happenings that I will never forget. A man came to kill Grandma's hog. I can still hear the squeals as the animal knew it was going to die. I felt so badly, but that was the way of country life. Your animals were your food. My brother and I built a fort in the wood pile. The walls came tumbling down. We were lucky our cries brought our parents, who came immediately to unearthen us.

There was a cistern where the rainwater was stored just outside the back door. This water was for drinking, cooking and bathing. A bucket with a scoop was kept on the back porch for drinking water. Daddy never let us drink this water. He always brought a jug of water from Austin for us to use for drinking. Bath water was heated on the wood burning cook stove and then taken to a large galvanized tub in the room off the back porch. The water was usually cold by the time it was full enough to sit in, so we didn't take baths there often. There was always plenty of water to make mud pies in the dirt in the back yard.

There was an outhouse. It was far from the main house, close the cattle pen and chicken coups. It was a two seater, but I never went in there with anyone else. I can remember going out there in the cold. I still have a vivid memory of sitting there looking out of the cracks in the door. There were old catalogs to use when you ran out of toilet paper, but I mainly read them while sitting on the hole.

There were two water tanks—really depressions dug into the ground to hold water for the cows. One was visible from the house and the other by the woods further behind the pasture. Grandma would stick her finger into the muddy water and let a crawfish bite her finger as bait, then she would pull it out of the water. I was sooo impressed with that way of fishing. I had a bamboo pole with a piece of fat on a string that I used. Did catch a crawfish or two.

One night, Grandma and I walked about three blocks to "town". We went to a tent to see a preacher, hear his message and buy whatever he had to sell. Chairs set up for about 50 people and was half full. This was the evening's entertainment. The "town" consisted of a dry goods store and maybe two other buildings. Lyons used to be a flourishing place when the cotton gin was operating, but since the gin closed, the town just got smaller and smaller.

There were lots of cousins and I liked them, they were fun. They had a zest for life that my Swedish cousins didn't. A smile, always. We would go to the deserted cotton gin and explore. One game was to put large nails on the railroad tracks so when the train passed by the nails would be flattened. The train no longer stopped in Lyons.

Further up the county road behind Grandma's property was a tiny church and cemetery. We went a couple of times to services. Stopped at the cemetery each time to visit Grandpa's grave. My memory of this is very dear. Whenever I see or even think of a country church, the picture of this church comes immediately to mind.

Grandpa died when I was young. I remember him reading the Czech newspapers and I was so impressed that he could eat peas with his knife! He had a lovely mustache and ever since I have been drawn to men with such a mustache.

Grandma was a strong independent woman who lived by herself in that big house after Grandpa died until her death at 83... 13 years later.

My Grandma was Annie Danchak who was born in Kenney, Texas in 1881, died 1962 and my Grandpa was Martin Danchak was born in Moravia in 1867, died 1949. They both died living in the farmhouse in Lyons, Texas.

NOTE: Dr. Josef Simicek's research revealed that her grandfather Dancak came from #16 Pržno, Vsetín District in the Czech Republic.

THE TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu

and so it continues...2000

Sanford Schmid Amphitheater was added to TCHCC in 2000. Thanks to contributions from a grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority and a matching grant by Sanford Schmid, the amphitheater was begun in 2000. It was designed by architect Barry Moore, FAIA, president of SJKB of Houston, and constructed by Bohlmann Construction, Inc., Schulenburg. It was dedicated on November 1, 2003 by Ivo Broskevic, Czech Cultural Attache of the Czech Embassy in Washington, D. C. The first to entertain were the Dvorana Dance Group from the Czech Republic. The ribbon cutting took place on April 8, 2000. With contributions from Union Pacific Railroad, the Leo Legler Estate and numerous individual donors, a concession area and restrooms were added in 2004. They were designed by Roger Kolar of Negrete and Kolar Architects of Austin and built by Minarcik Construction Company in La Grange. Thanks to Sanford Schmid and LCRA, a dancing area and improvements to the entrance and walking area were added in 2015.



TCHCC continues to offer scheduled tours to groups of 10 or more, including school groups. A recent group of 150 5th graders from Hermes Elementary in La Grange toured the grounds, enjoyed presentations about Czech heritage and customs, viewed the library, museum, and Czech village houses, saw mill, and had lunch.



DONATIONS FOR 2017

from January 1 to April 1, 2017.

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Czech Heritage Society of Texas

FOUNDER

In Memory of Balusek-Stojanik Families

Balusek-Stojanik Family Reunion

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Michael and Jeannie Hanus

Daniel and Kathleen Hrna

JG and Janis Hrncir

Wilson and Virginia Huffer

Steve and Margie Janda

Buford and Sharon Jurica

Ted and Dorothy Kaspar

Thomas F. Kaspar

Kenneth and Jennifer Klanika

Betty Jo and Lacey Lowry

Dennis and Janice Marek

Greg Matocha

Sam and Theresa Morris

Johan and Johanna Naiser Family

John and Betty Orsag

Rudy and Bea Patek

Tommy and Patricia Prasifka

Bill and Edna Mae Psencik

John and Joan Prihoda

Lillian and Michael Ripper

David and Veronica Ryza

Erwin and Bonnie Sladek

David and Michelle Slovak

Kenneth and Julie Stock

Drs. Del and Rogene Tesar

Tom and Phyllis Teykl

Emil and Elaine Thomas

Rita J. Vanek Family

Ron and Ann Vyvial

Craig and Karen Wright

Jamie and James Zapalac

Business Membership

Granger Villa, Inc.

Gift Membership

Alvin J. Havel from Dolores Vacek

Cody Janicek from Dad Leo R. Janicek, Jr.

Tommy and Patricia Prasifka from Tim and

Dorothy Prasifka

Micah Sykora from Larry and Shirley Sykora

ZAPALAČ SAW MILL

In Memory of Morris F. Zapalač

Richard G and Molly Cernosek

Charles and Retta Chandler

Harold and Brenda Fietsam

Elizabeth Ann Kallus

Jim D. and Marilyn Kothmann

Mary Burkhalter Mueller

Kenneth and Cathleen Noska

D. and Dolores Perry

Laurence and Geraldine Roth

Sanford and Mannie Schmid

South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters

Club

Lisa Stoddard

CZECH VILLAGE

Thomas F. Kaspar

Susan Wolter

Belfry Memorials

In Memory of Viola Vojtek Klinkovsky

CHS of Fort Bend County

In Memory of Edward Jurica

CHS of Victoria County

MEMORIAL BRICK

In Honor of John D. and Madeline Kovar Family

John D. and Madeline Kovar

In Honor of Mike and Ana Smerigan Fedorko

Dennis Moniger

ENTRY PAVING STONE MEMORIAL

In Memory of Ray Henry Kalich

Kori Kalich & Karla Kalich Christensen

In Honor of Kori Lynn Kalich and children Louise,

Leah and Ray Henry

Kori Kalich & Karla Kalich Christensen

PERPETUAL ROSE GARDEN MEMORIAL

In Memory of Morris Zapalac

Lillian Zapalac

CZECH MUSIC MUSEUM OF TEXAS

In Memory of Harry L. Macik

Mark and Ashley Hermes

Czechaholics Band

Wesley and Julie Herzik Matus

Charles and Retta Chandler

James and Debora Macik

In Memory of Alma Waligura

Hattie Drozd

In Memory of Bernice Sumbera Heinrich

Bob and Carolyn Heinsohn

In Memory of Dolores Zapalac Schumann

Ted And Dorothy Kaspar

In Memory of Leon Peter

Hattie Drozd

Museum Donation

CHS, Gonzales Chapter

Daniel and Norma Mares

MUSEUM LIBRARY ARTIFACTS DONATED

Anne Maky - 3 Czech books

Frank Kubicek - Kubicek and Branecky Family History

Molly Cernosek - Hostyn, CR Picture

Ted Vitek - Czech Republic travel information

Vlasta Vitek - 8 books, picture of Jimmy Hlap and Melody Masters

Betty Patalik - 3 Czech dolls

Dennis Kalich - Waldo Kalich WWII letter

Willie Rainosek - Hlkastel Kalendar 1947

Antone F. Kucera - Antonin Kucera Family History

Sharon Claiborn-Czech Ceramic Bowl, photos

Sheri Bell, Charles and Helen Tomasek - 1930s hand made quilt in memory of Wilma Tomacek

Helen Vodicka - Czech books

Mary Jane Alexander - 5 Czech books, three Czech songbooks

Louis Matula Family - Rev. Anthony Matula's personal items, chalice, photographs

Marilyn Kothmann - 3 straw dolls, bookcase, 1950 washing machine with ringer

Irene Szwarc - book on Poland folk costumes

Marcela Vaculik - book

John and Jana Vaculik Riley - doll dressed with hand made Czech fabrics and ribbons

Barbara Tieken - Czech plate

Rita Kozel - 2 feather perina, wooden box, plates, dominos, butter churner

Janie Bucek - Kopecky & Strbacka Family birth records

Carolyn Heinsohn - Items placed in Country Store: large oil lamp, medium oil lamp, wall oil lamp with reflector, small antique crockery butter churn, small wooden shelf painted gray, vintage wooden match box holder, vintage smoking pipe, vintage red camping lantern, small wooden vintage egg crate, vintage Old Spice deodorant jar, vintage shaving brush, antique large biscuit cutter, blue porcelain percolator coffee pot, ceramic glass candleholders, antique ice chisel.

Barn: antique iron boot scraper

Museum School Display: antique school bell
Museum Organization Display: rotating rubber stamp holder with 3 rubber stamps

Marlene and Charles Pazderny

Kitchen: two quart thermal vacuum pump pot.

Main Building: 70" round burgundy raw silk tablecloth, crystal sugar bowl with bird handle on lid, 10 Czech-made ceramic items: moose creamer, green bird creamer, brown bird creamer, green & white basket with a bird, green bird creamer, brown bird creamer, small lusterware vase with double black handles, bird wall pocket, Revolutionary War Soldier Toby creamer, Revolutionary War Female Toby creamer, vintage porcelain wall mount clothes hook.
Museum: Small antique straw sewing basket

with cards of buttons, loose buttons and small doily sample. Museum School Display: Antique bi-fold wood framed chalkboard opens from 5X7" to 10x7", antique art deco glass frame with metal corners 10x12" with 7x9" opening.

Salas House: vintage demitasse cup with floral design made in Karlsbad, CZ, antique framed punched paper and crewel picture with celluloid figure of Christ with saying, "Dej Buhstesti domu tomu" 12x16", black wooden frame with crossed corners, 1 large beeswax Santa.

Country Store: 5x7" antique wooden frame with crossed corners and wooden leaf design decor, Goofus glass items: 8" fruit bowl with cherry design, 9" vase with dark bronze paint and grape design, 7" clear glass vase with debossed cabbage rose design, 5" bowl with red carnations design, small dish with iris design, 4" clear and frosted green glass bud vase; antique silver brush with engraved "B"; small antique clothes brush with ivory celluloid handle, antique wood-grain hard cardboard sewing box with cards of snaps, hooks & eyes and seam binding; antique celluloid toy animals: two lions and one donkey, small antique dark wood shelf, antique 7 1/2" green crockery bowl, vintage square multicolored straw trivet, antique art deco glass frame with metal corners 8x10" with 4x6" opening, antique 9 1/2" ceramic bowl-creamer with green border & rose design, antique dessert bowl with gold rim and apple design, antique 7" dessert plates with gold rim & floral design, made in Karlsbad, CZ, small white platter, 10x7 1/2" owned by John and Minnie Sumbera, ironstone dinner plates owned by Alex and Amelia Fehner, last residents of Hoelscher Haus. antique wooden pencil box with sliding top and multiple compartments 9"x2 1/2", rose design on top, "Edwin Staha, Schulenburg" carved on bottom, small antique cardboard box for Easter chick (missing) and Easter grass, 5 small antique bottles, vintage Little Traveler electric iron with folding handle.

Czech Music Museum of Texas: 7" & 8" crystal taper candlesticks, Columbia 78 rpm record with Czech songs: "Svestkova Alej" and "Holka Nejnama", Vintage brown leatherette binder with printed and handwritten musical notes, musical booklets for saxophone.

CZECH REPUBLIC BOHEMIAN AND MORAVIAN GRAND TOUR 2018

Be in the Czech Republic in 2018 - help them celebrate 100 years since the beginning of CZECHOSLOVAKIA

14 Days in the Czech Republic

Monday, July 16 to Sunday, July 29, 2018

ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE INCLUDES: Airfare, bus transfers, entry fees of excursions on the tour, and 24/7 tour guides. 12 overnight hotel accommodations, 12 breakfasts and dinners or evening meals, 11 lunches - free selection of a drink with each meal.

Cost: \$3,890.00 all-inclusive double occupancy

\$4,280.00 all-inclusive single occupancy

Highlights: Experience the homeland, history, trace your roots, visit a castle, museums and factories.

Enjoy the best food, beer and wine and the fellowship of members in your group.

**ONLY SIX REMAINING
SPACES AVAILABLE**

The tour begins and ends in Prague where you will be able to tour the majestic and fairy tale city of antiquity. Walk the cobble-stone streets of **Old Town Square (Wenceslaus Square)**, observe the **Astrological Clock** as it performs on the hour and shop along your way to the **Charles Bridge** including a **sightseeing cruise on the Vltava River**.

Excursion to **Dubí**, northern Bohemia where we will visit the **Cesky Porcelain Factory**, the producer of the "onion pattern" porcelain made in the Czech Republic and famous worldwide.

Take a boat or road trip through to **Hřensko**, the lowest place in the Czech Republic, situated in a valley along the Kamenice River.

Visit the historical royal city of **Litomerice**. Visit **Tepla Monastery** in western Bohemia.

Travel to **Chodová Planá**, a restaurant and small Chodovar brewery museum. Visit the **Plzen Memorial**, a "thank you, America" to the US troops.

Tour the **Glassworks Svoboda** in **Karlovy Vary** and the Danzinger family blueprint manufacturer.

Take a mouth-watering tour of the **Dalešice Confectioners**.

Walk the streets of the unique historical city center of **Telč**, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and visit its wine cellar.

Walk the grounds in **Slavkov u Brna**, known as Austerlitz, where the Battle of the Three Emperors took place in 1805. Tour the museum and memorial that honors the victims of Napoleon's victorious battle between Napoleon, Austria's Holy Roman Emperor Francis II and Russian Tsar Alexander I. Settle in and relax in the heart of Moravia: **Rožnov**. Taste the frgál kolače of the Cyril Bakery in **Hrachovec**. Visit the **Unipar Candle Manufacturer**, the **World of Stones** selling semiprecious stones, the **Wallachian Open Air Museum**, the **Frenštát museum**, **Mr. Drahomir Strnadel** and **Dr. Josef Šimíček** (Lichnov Museum of the Czech Immigrants to Texas) where genealogy research can be pursued. *If wanting an extensive genealogy tour please plan to visit TCHCC's Melnar Genealogy Library where you can prepare for your visit to the Rožnov area.

Visit **Hodslavie** - historic village and birthplace of Frantisek Palacky, historian politician, and influential in the Czech National Revival.

Also on the list: excursions to **Vizovice** to tour the Jelinek Distillery, well known for its slivovice and other spirits and side trips to the Chateau Lešná, the Baťa Institute in **Zlín**, the Gingerbread Museum in **Pardubice** and tour the National Stud **Kladruby** (oldest major stud farm in the world).

AND MUCH MORE..

Contact TCHCC for a more detailed schedule of the trip. Tickets and Details: probert420@aol.com Patsy Robertson



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 & 20TH ANNIVERSARY 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
- 2,000 ___ Pioneer
- 1,500 ___ Heritage Friend
- 1,000 ___ Founder
- 750 ___ Steward
- 500 ___ Patron
- 250 ___ Donor
- 150 ___ Special Friend
- 100 ___ Friend

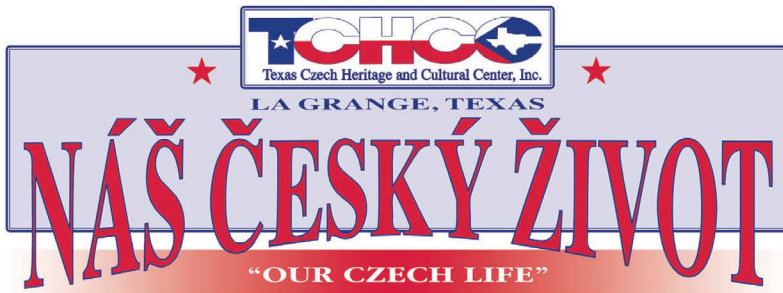
**Membership from
January 1—December 31**

- \$250 ___ Corporate
 - \$100 ___ 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 the memory of a deceased friend or family member.

FOR _____
Send Acknowledgement to: _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Donor: Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip: _____ Phone _____
Message: _____

MAIL TO:
TCHCC, P.O. Box 6, LaGrange, TX 78945-0006



250 W. FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
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 You can now pay your membership online.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2017

- July 15 CHS of Texas Genealogy Conference & State Meeting
- October 20 HERITAGE FEST: Music on the Deck by Dujka Brothers 6-9:30 PM
 (Friday) *Chicken & Dumplings 5:30 pm
- October 21 Entertainment by Red Ravens, Bohemian Dutchmen,
 (Saturday) Antique Farm Equipment and Car Show, museums, demonstrations, tours, children activities and more.
 Muziky, Muziky - Amphitheater 7-9:30 PM Legend Series, Part V: Legacy of Bobby Jones & the Bobby Jones Czech Band, Fireworks Show Finale
- December 2 10 AM - 3 PM TCHCC Christmas Open House, Gift Shop, village homes displaying vintage Christmas decoration, museums, Chicken Noodle Soup and Sandwich Lunch
 TCHCC Annual Gala - 6-9:30 PM Pavilion
 Honoring: East Bernard Czech Singers, Martha Viktorin, Alice Sulak, and the Texas Polka News- Marie Tupa & Theresa Cernoch Parker



SPJST/VESTNIK VISITORS: Frank Horak, David Nauert, Melanie Zavodny, and Frank Klinkovsky.



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