



LA GRANGE, TEXAS

NÁŠ ČESKÝ ŽIVOT

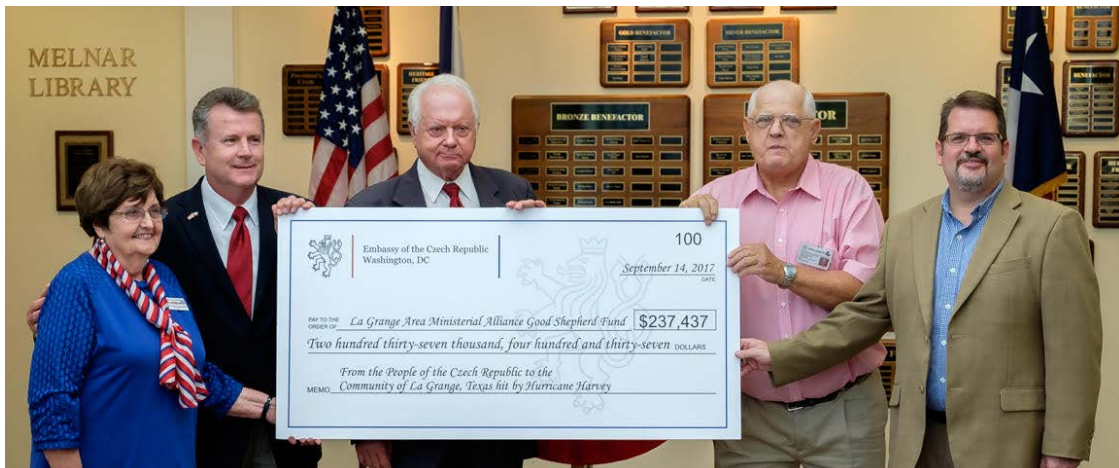
“OUR CZECH LIFE”

(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)

FALL 2017

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 3

Czech Republic donations to Flood Relief in the La Grange, Texas area.



Huge Czech Check: Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka presented a \$237,437 donation from the Czech Republic to the La Grange Area Ministerial Alliance at a ceremony in the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center (TCHCC) on Friday, Sept. 15. Pictured are (from left) Retta Chandler, TCHCC president; Brian Vanicek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Texas; Janecka; La Grange Mayor pro tem John “Honza” Cernosek; and Rev. Jonathan Smith, Ministerial Alliance. (Courtesy of Andy Behlen, Fayette County Record.) See page 3 for the article.

The Municipal Council of Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic, the sister city to La Grange, donated 100,000 Czech Crowns (\$4,670.00) to aid the flood relief. In the picture, right, members of the municipal council prepared the donation just a few days before Christmas. (Courtesy of Jiří Unruh, Frenštát pod Radhoštěm.)

The Municipal Council Members 2014-2018 are: Leo Bartoš, Jan Břuska, Jaroslav Gemrot, Robert Halamiček, Alois Jaroš, Jiří Jurek, Tom Káňa, Dagmar Klímková, Zita Kučová, Lenka Kuncová, Zdeňka Leščíštinová, Karel Míček, Pavel Mička, Čestmír Mikeska, Aleš Novotný, Jiří Novotný, Jiří Raška, Rostislav Slovák, Pavel Šmajstrla, Jiří Unruh and Vladimír Vondráček.



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.

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

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 by mail, phone, online through our website or visit us any business day.**



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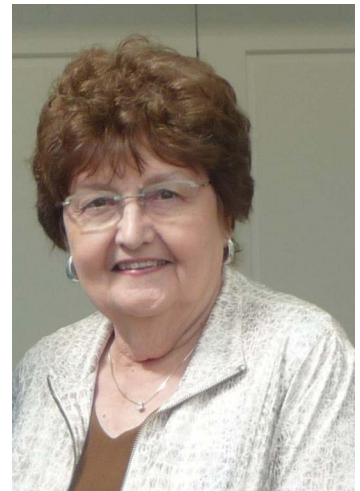
2018 Flag Sponsorships are Available for \$250.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT: Retta Slavik Chandler

Plans for the current year, 2018, are in progress. This year is significant because it marks the 100th anniversary of Czech Independence, when Czechoslovakia became an independent country on October 28, 1918 and the the end of WWI occurred on November 11, 1918 when the Armistice was signed at 11:00 am in Redonthisis, France.

We invite you to visit the TCHCC Museum when we will open the WWI Exhibit in March. In addition to the WWI Exhibit and our regular annual scheduled programs throughout the year, we will have additional programs related to the 100th anniversary historical events.

Circumstances of the past year presented the people of Texas with challenges and trying conditions. Throughout a large portion of south Texas, the hurricane and subsequent flooding left many with damaged homes, cars, and property, or no homes at all. Help came from various sources, which revealed the kindness and generosity of many people, not only in Texas, but from other states and also from the Czech Government.



Retta Slavik Chandler
Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center

Fayette County faced the overflow of the Colorado River that displaced many of those living along its banks. A large population of residents of Fayette County have ancestors that emigrated from the Czech lands of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, and Slovakia to Texas in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Aware and of their desire to preserve their Czech history and traditions, the Czech Foreign Ministry donated 5 million Czech Crowns (\$237,437.00) to be used for the residents who needed help following the flooding. Additionally, the Municipal Counsel of Frenstat pod Radhostem, sister city of La Grange, donated 100,000 Czech Crowns (\$4,670.00) to this same fund for flood relief. Thank you to the Czech Republic for your generosity. We are deeply grateful for the communication and connections with the people of our ancestors.

Thank you to all of the staff, members, sponsors, volunteers, and visitors who helped make our annual events of 2017 a great success with great attendance and participation. We look forward to the coming year and your continued support and generosity to preserve our Czech heritage, culture, and traditions.

Food & Fellowship Tuesday. Since the flood, different groups and organizations have provided a dinner for La Grange residents who were affected by Hurricane Harvey. The La Grange Catholic Daughters sponsored the dinner in TCHCC's Hanslik Hall on Tuesday, November 21, 2017.



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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Huge Czech Check Arrives from D.C.

The Fayette County Record

Andy Behlen

The Czech Republic cut a check for five million crowns, approximately \$237,437, to the La Grange Area Ministerial Alliance Good Shepherd Fund for disaster relief last Thursday.

County Judge Ed Janecka flew to Washington, D.C. on Thursday, Sept. 14, for a meeting at the Czech Embassy. Brian Vanicek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Texas, accompanied Janecka on the trip. A private individual who wished to remain anonymous financed the trip.

In Washington, Janecka and Vanicek accepted the donation from Czech Ambassador Hynek Kmoníček and Czech Interior Minister Milan Chovanec, who happened to be in the United States on business.

Janecka and Vanicek recounted the meeting at a ceremony on Friday, Sept. 15, at the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange.

"They realized that everyone who is being assisted by this check, probably very few, have heritage tied to the Czech community," Vanicek said. "But what is important for them is the fact that this community is so important to Texas-Czech ancestry and they wanted to do something for this community from the Czech Republic."

"Mr. Chovanec told us, 'We know our funds will be used wisely because we're giving it to Czechs and we know how frugal and hard-working you are,'" Janecka said.

Janecka thanked the La Grange Area Ministerial Alliance for managing the disaster relief fundraising effort, along with everyone in the community who donated or assisted with recovery efforts.

"On behalf of the citizens of the City of La Grange and City staff, we want to extend our deepest appreciation for this wonderful gift," said La Grange city councilman and mayor pro tem John "Honza" Cernosek. "It's needed. From the bottom of my heart, thank you."

Vanicek said the Czech Republic made the donation for five million Czech crowns. He said the amount in U.S. currency once it's deposited may differ some from the amount printed on the honorary check due to changes in the exchange rate.

La Grange First Baptist Pastor Jonathan Smith said the ministerial Alliance has raised over \$104,000 prior to the donation from the Czech Republic. In addition, he said the community of LaGrange, Indiana, raised over \$30,000 for relief efforts here, but that money has not yet arrived.

"It's amazing, the only thing we share is a name," said Smith, who traveled to LaGrange, Indiana on Sept. 8 to meet with leaders there.

The two large donations should push the balance upwards of \$360,000.

"Money has been coming in steadily every day," Smith said.

Smith said the La Grange Area Ministerial Alliance has not distributed any of the money yet. He said the local pastors are consulting with another ministerial group, the Austin Disaster Relief Network, to determine how the funds will be distributed.

Smith said the ministerial alliance hopes to

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lubomir Zaoralek, in response to the current natural disasters in the United States, has approved the provision of five million Czech crowns (\$237,437) for humanitarian assistance to displaced families in La Grange, Texas.

The financial contribution is intended for the basic needs of people displaced by the hurricane (shelter, food and drinking water, health and hygiene needs).

As a result of Hurricane Harvey, the State of Texas experienced devastating floods, leading to the loss of life and the temporary displacement of millions of people, including Czech compatriots. The hurricane and resulting floods also had a severe impact on the infrastructure and environment.

The assistance, which was prepared in close cooperation with the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Texas, Brian Vanicek, represents an expression of the Czech Republic's solidarity with the United States of America and the Czech compatriots during this disaster with far-reaching consequences. The Government of the Czech Republic is ready to continue with this support.

Surnames of Emigrants from Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic

Emigration from Moravia to America 1855-1918; Area of Novy Jicin by MuDr. Josef Šimíček

Adamčík, Bača, Bačák, Bajer, Bárta, Bartoš, Bena, Bezděk, Boháč, Boháček, Böhm. Bolf, Bordovský, Bortel, Břeska, Buzek, Čada, Černocho, Červenka, Chalupa, Chovanec, Chumchal, Chýlek Čížmař, David, Demel, Doba, Dobiaš, Dorazil, Dorňák, Drapal, Drosler, Drozd, Dubil, Dubovský, Dyška, Fiala, Fialka, Filip, Fojtík, Gajdušek, Genzer, Gerlich, Grozman, Grygar, Hadaš, Hanák, Hanke, Hluchanek, Hluštík, Holačka, Holub, Horečka, Hrachový, Hradečný, Hruška, Hubeňák, Huňka, Hurtík, Jalůvka, Jan, Janák, Janča, Janda, Janický, Janíček, Jašek, Ježíšek, Jurek, Kaděrka, Kalich, Kalus, Kalmus, Kaňa, Kašpar, Kestl, Kladoruba, Klein, Klešt, Klimíček, Kliš, Knebel, Kněžek, Kocian, Kolíbal, Koňakovský, Konečný, Konvička, Kopec, Kostelník, Kozelský, Krč, Křenek, Kresta, Kubala, Kuřatko, Lepka, Lichnovský, Lidiak, Lošák, Mácha, Machovský, Majer, Malik, Maraček, Maralík, Matera, Mazur, Mechl, Melč, Menšík, Měrka, Michna, Mikeska, Milberger, Mocek, Mořkovský, Muras, Niessner, Nors, Pargač, Parma, Pastušek, Pauček, Pavlíček, Petr, Polach, Polašek, Přadka, Příbyla, Rajnošek, Reček, Reichel, Rek, Rohan, Šablatura, Šafařík, Šašek, Seker, Ševčík, Škuca, Sládeček, Slanina, Šleiter, Slezinský, Slovák, Šmahlík, Šmajstrla, Sobotík, Srkala, Štefek, Steklík, Štěpán, Stiborek, Strnadel, Studenský, Šustala, Světlík, Svoboda, Těšínský, Trhalík, Tučný, Tůma, Tvrđý, Tyc, Vacula, Válek, Vašek, Vašut, Vavrečka, Wiesner, Vignatí, Vojtek, Wrba, Zátopek, Zrubek.



Vera and Mirek Faldyn of Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic. TCHCC Czech Republic tour guides and donors to TCHCC.

History of the town of Frenštát pod Radhoštěm

by Jiří Unruh, Frenštát pod Radhoštěm

Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, a town situated in the Northern Moravia region, can be found in the valley under the mountain Radhošť. Until the 13th century there were only forests and pastures in the area, the first settlement dates back to the 14th century. Nobody knows for sure by whom and when the town was founded, but the first reference goes back to 1382, and the first written document about the town law enforcement, to 1445. In the 14th and 15th centuries, only a rampart and a wall were present on the spot of today's town. The town center was formed by 37 houses built around a rectangular square. More houses and cottages were scattered over the surrounding forests and fields.



Further development of the town took place in the second half of the 16th century, when parts of the land were cleared that was previously uninhabited and were settled. Thus, due to forest lumbering, agricultural land was gained. Every week a fair was held in the Frenštát square, where livestock, cows, horses and everyday products were sold. Linen comprised the main product for export from the Frenštát area; on the other hand, salt from Wieliczka, a Polish town, was imported.

The town's development was incited by iron ore extraction in the vicinity and by its treatment in ironworks and in an iron ore mill, as well as by wood manufacturing in lumber mills called "hamry". A glass factory was founded in Kunčice, a small village located near Frenštát. Its glass was exported even to Vienna in its heyday.

At the end of the 16th century 11 craftsmen and 19 master weavers, who traded in linen or tablecloth, were registered in the town. By that time 96 houses could be found in the town, and approximately 750 inhabitants lived there. About one third of them were wealthy and were allowed to decide on the administration of the town. The town was still Czech; only five residents with German surnames were mentioned in the register from 1581. Since that period certain names have been known and are still preserved in the area, for example Parma, Král, Bača, Kostelník, Kalus, Raška, Polák, Měrka, Hejný, Janda, Michna, Bartoš, Holub, Polanský, Křenek, Knězek, etc.

Two churches were built in the town. The older one, St. Martin's Church, was founded in the 14th century. However, it was made of wood and destroyed by fire in 1661 and rebuilt in 1680. The second one, The Church of St. John the Baptist, was built in 1634. Because of the wars, plague and fire, the number of inhabitants in the town decreased to 160, further 56 inhabitants lived in cottages built in the former glades. The town and its development were at a standstill until the end of the 17th century when linen cloth sale expanded to the Kingdom of Hungary. Growing interest in the settlement on the clearings and work on fields also helped the town flourish. In that period, about 100 inhabitants of the cottages built on the former clearings asked their authorities and were finally allowed to separate from Frenštát. Thus, the village called Trojanovice originated in 1748. In 1749, we could count 222 houses, and half of them had fields where buckwheat, oats, rye and wheat were mostly grown.

Weaving trade was booming as well. Weavers' goods made of white linen, tablecloth, curtaining or cloth were sold not only on the local market, but also exported to Hungary, Silesia, Vienna, Bohemia and even to Halic. The number of inhabitants grew significantly, there were more people living in the town than in Ostrava at that time. In 1781 Frenštát was officially recognized as a town, and later, in 1795, the New Town Hall was built. At the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries local manufacturing reoriented to cotton processing. Main products made of cotton were tulle, scarves, towels, etc. Linen was used to make trousers, sheets, or decorated skirts, for instance. Nevertheless, due to an implementation of machines into the textile industry and subsequent lower sales, the crisis caused an outflow of inhabitants, who were trying to find work elsewhere, for example in Ostrava, or they started to move to America, especially to Texas by 1850s.

Between 1856 and 1900 more than 1,000 inhabitants immigrated to Texas from Frenštát alone, which was the highest number of people from one town in the Czech Republic. In 1844 there were 818 houses with 5,219 inhabitants in Frenštát. The houses were mainly made of brick, having only ground floors, and 31 of them were even insured. People grew mostly potatoes, clover, oats, rye, buckwheat, and cabbage. Other crops were cultivated as well, but they were not so widespread – e.g. wheat, grass or aftermath for the cattle.

Food was mostly prepared from potatoes, buckwheat and cabbage, dairy and flour products were eaten; meat was rare. The fields in the area were not very fertile; there were not many gardens with fruit trees either. In 1900s several textile factories and spinning mills existed in the town, together with smaller companies, such as the ones producing bentwood furniture, dyeing and printing firms, workshops for wood processing and turning, a distillery, a slaughterhouse, and a brewery. Leather

was processed, earthenware fired. Local companies gave work to 5,000 people who lived in the town and its surroundings; we could count 177 craftsmen and 71 tradesmen and salesmen.

Frenštát used to house different local associations, e.g. a civic forum Občanská beseda, Shooting Club, Weaving Journey-men's Club, Civic Savings Bank, Volunteer Fire Department Club, a touristic mountain club, Pohorská jednota Radhošť, an all-age gymnastic organization Sokol, Amateur Theatre Actor Club, etc. In 1933 there were 41 clubs with 6,189 members in Frenštát. Most of them came to an end between 1948 and 1952.

Next time you will learn something about emigration from Frenštát to Texas.

2014 TCHCC Czech Republic Tour: The touring group from Texas was received by the Frenštát pod Radhoštěm City Hall Manager Tom Kaňa who presented them with flowers, gifts and such a warm speech (printed below).

L-R: Irene Szwarc, Paul Wooldridge, Susan Chandler, Brian Vanicek, Nancy Wooldridge, Sam Vanicek, Jean Davis, Tom Kana, Retta Chandler, JG & Janis Hrcir, Marian Bergmann, Jeanette Weber, Carroll Warschak, and Patsy Robinson.



Dear Fellow Countrymen,

It is my honor and great pleasure to welcome you in the name of the mayor here in Frenstat, the town that stands in the area where one and a half centuries ago started one of the greatest exodus in the recorded history of this town and country.

Poverty, hunger and hardship, which we can hardly even imagine now, drove the people of this mountainous area away, in the search of other places to live. That desire was in the second half of the 19th century met with the rumor of the land, far away and behind the ocean, that was vast and offering the place to work on the land to those who had the will to come. The first ones left their families here and their homes and traveled away for search of this new and Promised Land.

These drops became a stream, then the river, when whole families followed the path of those before them and through Hamburg and Bremen sailed in six weeks sea voyage mostly to Galveston, where their first steps in this new world were taken, in this world, called Amerika. The journey was not easy but they knew the proverb of old – if you are facing in the right direction, all you need to do is keep on walking.

Some of them left with the dream that they are leaving for the paradise on earth, some of them knew better, knew if one wants to eat his bread wherever on this earth, one has to earn it first. In this case, in hardship of the land untouched by man.

Moravci, as they called themselves, came from places where their life was already so hard that they knew how to survive and prosper, step by step.

They had together, founding the settlements with the names of the places they knew – Hostyn, Praha, Roznov, Frenstat. They built, they created and they became part of the country that offered them new life. And here, back in the land they had left, the memory of them was kept alive by those who stayed, stories were told, letters read and reread. Passing time and turns of the history sometimes made the contact difficult. But the memory was kept and we still keep it.

Please be welcomed here, in the town where the ways of our ancestors have parted, but we, their descendants keep alive the memory of those, who left across the ocean.

You are the representatives of heritage societies or simply members of the families who do care about where they come from. We are proud to say aloud that you and your ancestor, however far away you may live, created history and still create the presence of our town.

I hope that what you find here will make you proud of your roots and your origin.

Buďte nám vítání, krajané z Ameriky. Enjoy your stay.

Krouzek Ceskych Zen Donation to TCHCC

Left: Sadie Liska, Jeraldine Becan, and Estelle Smith representatives of the Circle of Czech Women presented a check in the amount of \$3,726.09 plus archival records and photos to TCHCC President Retta Chandler.



The Dallas Circle of Czech Women, (Krouzek Ceskych Zen) organization decided to disband its organization after 79 years of service to the community of the Dallas area. Throughout those years, they adjusted their programs to meet the current needs of the time. Below is short summary of their history. In 2014, the remaining members voted to donate the balance of their treasury and supporting documentation of their activities during their years of service to the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange, Texas.

History of Krouzek Ceskych Zen Circle of Czech Women

The Krouzek began when a group of Czech women met at Anna Sill's home to "trhat peří" (pluck goose feathers), to make "perinky" (pillows), "periny" (feather comforters) and quilts. Some of the ladies were subscribing to a Czech newspaper called *Hlasatel* published in Chicago. After reading about groups of Czech women who had organized Krouzek in their community, the ladies decided to organize a Krouzek in Dallas. Their purpose was to help the needy families, visit the sick, and support charitable organizations.

The Krouzek Ceskych Zen (Circle of Czech Women) was organized on March 28, 1935, at Sokol Hall, 3700 Carl Street, Dallas, Texas. The fourteen Charter Members were Sisters: Adolphine Stransky, Bessie Valcik, Marie Rezek, Marie Kraft, Mary Vancura, Mary Toberny, Agnes Hemzel, Albi Koze, Marie Filipec, Frances Rotrekl, Marie Stransky, Rose Bouska, Helen Harris, and Rosie Spanel. According to the first "minutes," no officers were elected that day.

At the second meeting in April, 1935, officers elected were: Adolphine Stransky, President; Marie Rezek, Vice-President; Bessie Valcik, Secretary and Reporter; and Frances Rotrekl, Treasurer. Meetings were held once a month on Thursday from one until four in the afternoon. Dues were ten cents a month. After the meeting, kolaches and coffee were served and members played "Bingo" for a penny a game. Sister Stransky always closed her meetings with: "Mejte se vzdycky radi" (Always love one another).

The Krouzek often held Bazaars which were well attended social events. With each member donating baked goods and hand-made crafts, money was raised to operate the Krouzek and fund their charitable projects. During World War II, many of the sisters did volunteer work. The Red Cross brought sewing machines to Sokol and the sisters sewed bandages for the Armed Sendees. In 1983, Sister Toberny and Sister Rose Kopecek were recognized by the Red Cross for their twenty-eight years of volunteer service. Volunteer work was also performed at the Veterans Hospital by various Sisters. Sister Mary Toberny donated much of her time at the Veterans Hospital and was recognized for her efforts. Every year the Krouzek donates a \$25.00 memorial to the Veterans Hospital Gift Shop in Sister Toberny's memory.

Meetings were held at the Sokol on Carl Street until the building was sold. On October 1, 1959, the Krouzek began meeting in its present home at Sokol Hall, 7448 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, Texas. All meetings were in Czech until 1981. Except for January and July, the meetings were held the first Thursday of each month, beginning promptly at 10:30 AM. Business is conducted, members sing "Happy Birthday" to the Sisters having a birthday that month, and a drawing was held for small gifts (Do Vhyry) that each Sister donates. Twenty-cent tickets were purchased for the drawing by the Sisters as a fund raiser, then a covered dish luncheon was shared with husbands and guests.

Several times a year, guest speakers were invited to the meetings. In December at the Christmas Party, instead of exchanging gifts, the Sisters donate money in an envelope and indicate the "Charity" it was to be given to. At one time, Krouzek Ceskych Zen had around one hundred members. Several of the Sisters have been members for over forty years. The Krouzek continued to be an active organization made up of long- time friends and newcomers, all of whom enjoy the common bond of their Czech heritage until 2014.

HERITAGE FEST 2017

2017 KJT State Tarock Winners: Left to Right: First Place Dan Tajchman, Second Place Larry Hoeinghaus, Third Place Allen Bartosh and Fourth Place David Kucera.



Friday Night: Music on the Deck was provided by the Dujka Brothers.

Saturday: The Red Ravens and Bohemian Dutchmen entertained in the Hospoda. The Bobby Jones Band was featured at the Muziky, Muziky in the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater. A huge Fireworks Finale was sponsored by H-E-B.

Thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers that helped make the weekend a great success!!





HERITAGE FEST 2017



Thanks to Gary McKee and Christine Shimek (Instagram) who provided many of the Heritage Fest pictures.

A special thanks to Rev. Matthew Kinney, Pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, La Grange, for his inspiring opening prayer.



HERITAGE FEST 2017







Below: There were two school tours in November: Elementary students from Ezzell School (in red shirts) and Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville (in blue shirts) enjoyed the day touring the buildings of the Center, village houses, and out buildings where they participated in presentations and demonstrations as well as being treated to lunch.





**THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS THAT HELPED
MAKE THE HERITAGE FEST A HUGE SUCCESS.**

- | | |
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Once Upon a Time...

Out of the dust of the great Texas Drought of 2011 comes a children's book brimming with life lessons for readers of all ages.

By Elaine Thomas, Special to *The Fayette County Record*, May 26, 2016

Farmers and ranchers are the first to admit that no matter how hard they work or how well they plan, Mother Nature can sideline success. Such was the case with the drought of 2011, the single worst of its kind since recordkeeping began, according to the Texas Comptroller's Office.

"Years ago, the story of a devastating event like that would have been passed down from generation to generation," Cathleen Noska of Fayetteville says. "But life is different today and that might not happen. I didn't want this story to get lost, so I sat down to record how the drought affected us."

By "us" Cathleen means she and her husband, Kenneth, as well as their Fayette County neighbors and friends.

"We felt the same stress as the farmers and ranchers whose livelihoods are tied to the industry even though we raise cattle part-time on a small scale," Cathleen recalls. "No one knew when the drought would end."

The extreme heat sucked up the water in ponds and creeks. The grass withered and died. The price of hay, if it could be found, shot up like the temperature on an August afternoon. Due to the lack of feed and water, stockmen were forced to thin their herds. Month after month, the number of cattle passing through auction sale rings spiked, driving down prices for producers.

On 11-11-11, Cathleen and Kenneth were forced to move a herd to the home place from the pasture at Roznov where the pond was going dry, leaving a bowl of mud. Instead of becoming discouraged, inspiration struck Cathleen. A keen animal observer, she imagined the potentially problematic merger of the two small herds through the eyes of the bovines.

Cathleen's heroines are two cows, Jana and Pavlina. Also featured are two bulls, Tomas and Honza, and Ivana, a cow born a pessimist. Much of her tale depicts how the farmers, Karel and Katerina, made the necessary decisions to ensure the herd's welfare.

"Cows are smart and, if you're around them enough, you soon learn each has her own personality. All animals do for that matter," Cathleen adds.

Putting Her Story on Paper

"So *Two Friends and the Lucky Elevens* is based on a true story. I wrote it for adults to read to children. Slightly older children can read it themselves," says the author.

"It's a story about friends and determination. It's about the inherent risks of farming and it's also about having faith, which I consider an important message for children," notes Cathleen.

She and Kenneth have four married children and seven grandchildren ranging from one to nine years of age.

"Really, the book embodies the spirit of the Czechs – who we are."

Cathleen can appreciate that culture because not only is she part Czech, but has been immersed in the history of the Texas Czechs for years. One of the first employees at the Texas Czech Heritage Center in La Grange, Cathleen remains an enthusiastic part time employee and fundraising volunteer. She never grows tired of learning new Czech stories.

"As I look back on the experiences of our ancestors, I read how history has repeated itself. Due to dry conditions, some years the immigrants' crops failed. They prayed for rain for their small gardens so they would have enough food and so forth. They had faith that conditions would improve and they did."

When she was a child, Cathleen remembers observing this same mindset from her parents, Curtis and Lorene Nitschke and both sets of grandparents, John and Lorene Kovar and Albert and Lillian Nitschke of Fayetteville.

1+1 Created a Winning Team

When Cathleen finished writing her story, she sought the input of an elementary school teacher and friend. Was it any good?

"Virginia Anderson, who taught my children years ago, liked the story. She gave me suggestions and urged me to keep going. Without illustrations, though, I knew I didn't have a real children's book, and I didn't know any illustrators. I also knew it had to be the "right" illustrator, someone who understood the story," she says.

In a curious twist of fate – or faith - when Cathleen visited Schulenburg Printing about producing her book, she sat down with Terry Svrcek Brooks. They had once worked together on a Texas Czech Heritage Center calendar. Terry just happened to be an accomplished illustrator who was open to getting involved in the "right" freelance projects.

"*Two Friends and the Lucky Elevens* embodied a lot of my passions and good childhood memories," says Terry, who grew up on her parents' small farm near La Grange on Highway 159.

"My parents, Edmund and Bernice Svrcek, instilled in me a love and appreciation for country life. I was the youngest of six kids. My dad often encouraged me to go inside to help my mom, but I wanted to be outside with him. I loved the animals and liked knowing it was okay to get dirty to get your work done. Looking back, doing chores helped me develop a strong work ethic and a sense of responsibility," Terry adds.



Fayetteville author Cathleen Noska teamed up with Swiss Alp illustrator Terry Brooks to commemorate the great Texas drought of 2011 in a delightful children's book. Photo by Elaine Thomas

Cathleen, the author, and Terry, the illustrator, who is a commercial art and advertising graduate of Texas State Technical College in Waco, put their heads together. Cathleen brought Terry photos of the cows. When they determined they needed an image of a truck and trailer going down the road, Cathleen's husband pitched in and set up the perfect photo. To illustrate the first rain that brought a little relief from the drought in February 2012, Terry pulled out a painting she had completed in college. The scene of a farm in a rainstorm was a perfect fit. Before long, the text and illustrations were finalized, and Cathleen's storybook was rolling off the press.

"This is a warm, gentle book," Terry notes. "Two Friends and the Lucky Elevens demonstrates Cathleen's imagination where animals are concerned and her belief that they are God's creatures to be treated with respect and dignity.

"Illustrating this story didn't feel like work," the Swiss Alp community resident says. "I was inspired thinking how kids would love it and how the story embodies so much of what I cherish: my Czech heritage, God, faith, love and respect for all living things".

NOTE: Cathleen and Terry are working on a second book.



Writers L-R: Zdeněk Svěrák and Ladislav Smoljak

**The American Czech Theatre
Presents
The Stand-In (Záskok)
By Ladislav Smoljak and Zdeněk Svěrák**

**Sanford Schmid Amphitheater
Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, La Grange
Saturday, May 19, 2018 ---7-9 PM
and
Sokol-Dallas
Sunday, May 20, 2018**

About the Play

Záskok, written by Ladislav Smoljak and Zdeněk Svěrák, premiered in the Czech Republic in March 1994. It is a comedy set in 1910 about a small troupe of actors who find themselves short of company members. To allow the show to go on, they call in the famous Czech actor Karel Infeld Prachensky to perform one of the parts. However, the show becomes disastrous when the famous actor forgets his lines, causing chaos to ensue. The beginning of the play sets up the belief that Jara Cimrman, a fictional Czech personality, wrote the play being watched.

Jara Cimrman was invented by Svěrák and Smoljak and has become an integral part of Czech pop-culture, often compared to the Monty Python in Great Britain. Cimrman was voted as the "Greatest Czech" in 2005 and has been depicted as everything from an inventor, mathematician, playwright, adventurer, to philosopher. The first English translation of *Záskok* was created by The Cimrman English Theatre, a company of English speaking actors based in Prague. With the help of Brian Stewart, the company successfully created *The Stand-In*.

"The original translation came from Brian Stewart being introduced to Cimrman through his girlfriend at the time. She provided him with a translation and he rejiggled it so that it became much more relevant to English-speaking audiences and were met with a bit of resistance at first from the establishment about putting it on. Once they saw it, they were swept away and it's been great. It has been fantastic to be part of that whole mythology of Cimrman." - Peter Hosking, Actor in the Cimrman English Theatre.

The *Stand-In* premiered in the United States in April 2017 in New York, Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. The first two performances were at the Bohemian National Hall in New York City on April 19th and 22nd, 2017.

"It is a real honour to take this beloved piece and to shepherd it onto the international stage." - Brian Caspe, Actor in the Cimrman English Theatre. With the first visit to the United States, *The Stand-In* performed at distinguished establishments such as the Bohemian National Hall in New York City, and the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C.

In May 2018, just over one year after the first English performance, The American Czech Theatre presents *The Stand-In* to U.S. stages for only the second time in history. Texas audiences have the incredible opportunity to see this innovative production.

Advance Tickets: \$12.00 At The Door: \$15.00.

Advance tickets for Saturday's Performance -- Contact: The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center by email at info@czechtexas.org

***Check, Cash, Credit Card or online @www.czechtexas.org or mail request to P.O. Box 6, La Grange, Texas 78945**

For Sunday's Performance: Contact: www.sokoldallas.org.

SPJST Hall Moves to The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center

The SPJST Hall #19 at Velehrad in Lavaca County was moved to the grounds of TCHCC. The hall traveled through the community of Praha, Texas on November 9, 2017 and took its place among the other buildings at TCHCC. Kana Brothers, Inc. House Leveling and Moving performed the task under the watchful eyes of SPJST President Brian Vanicek, TCHCC President Retta Chandler, District Six Director Karen Kaspar, and David and Janie Bucek. Repairs are underway and SPJST will hold a dedication ceremony on May 19 from 4-6 PM. (Photos by Melanie Zavodny and Mark Hermes.)



Top Left: The Hall at its original sight in Lavaca County. Right: The Kana Brothers, Inc. House Leveling and Moving left Praha and carried the building along FM 609. Center left: The Lodge arrived on the grounds of TCHCC. Center right: The building is leveled and preparations are now underway for the dedication ceremony on May 19, 2018 from 4-6 PM.



Below Left: SPJST President Brian Vanicek, John Kana of Kana Brothers, Inc., TCHCC President Retta Chandler, David and Janie Bucek and SPJST District Six Director Karen Kaspar. Right: Janie Bucek, Karen Kaspar, Brian Vanicek, David Bucek.



Recent Visitors to TCHCC



Zdenek Beranek, from the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C. visited LaGrange recently. He was given a tour of the flood-damaged areas of the city by Shawn Raburn and Judge Ed Janecka before touring TCHCC. Pictured Left: Brian Vanicek, Czech Consul to the State of Texas, Zdenek Beranek, TCHCC President Retta Chandler, Judge Ed Janecka and Board Member J. G. Hrnrcir. Right: TCHCC Volunteers and Staff Members: Georgia Vyvial, Marilyn Kothmann, Marilyn Cernoch, Lorenda Polasek, Cathleen Noska, Mark Hermes, Georgia Funderburk, Janis Hrnrcir and Johnnie Polasek.



Above left: Violinist Jaroslav Sveceny and Vaclav Macha visited the Center and entertained us. Right: KJT President Chris Urban and “cowboy musicians Sveceny and Macha”. Below left: Jaroslav Sveceny, Judge Ed Janecka and Vaclav Macha. Right: Czech editor Karel Jadrny and film director and writer Krystyna Krause were given a tour of the Center by President Retta Chandler.



The Eighth Annual TCHCC Gala honoring Martha Fajkus Viktorin, East Bernard Czech Singers, Alice Sefcik Sulak, Marie Schultz Tupa and Theresa Cernoch Parker was held on December 2, 2017 in the Pavilion Hall.



Dear Retta Chandler,

On behalf of myself and the East Bernard Czech Singers, I would like to express our appreciation for honoring us at the TCHCC Annual Gala on December 2 of last year. What an honor to be chosen for this recognition in such a prestigious way...we are truly grateful. And so much more so for the wonderful and lasting work that is done by you and the other officers, directors and staff to promote our wonderful Czech heritage. We are truly blessed to have people such as you to dedicate their time and efforts to such a notable cause.

Please convey our thanks to all those involved and may the Lord bless all of you with his choicest blessings.

Sincerely, Martha Viktorin and the East Bernard Czech Singers.



My Uncle Alois

written by Willa Mae Cervenka. Printed in the *Náš Český Život* in the Spring of 2002.

Today I would like to share a part of my Uncle Alois Cervenka's life which I learned from my father, the late Will J. Cervenka of West, Texas.

Alois Cervenka was born in Kasava, Moravia in the Empire of Austria (present Czech Republic). In 1916 he was called to the Austrian Army, because Austria was an ally of Germany. He became a prisoner of war. Several prisoners who lived through their suffering were freed and allowed to join the Russian Army. My uncle got into the cavalry of the famous Cossacks. When Czech-Slovak legions were being organized in Russia, he joined the legion as an officer. In the legion, they called each other "Brother" regardless of rank.

After the end of the war in 1918, the Czech-Slovak legions marched toward the port of Vladivostak in the far east where they were often chased by the Bolsheviks. My uncle fell into captivity near Zborov and Bachmac. The Bolsheviks were members of the radical Russian Marxists who seized control of the government in 1917. My uncle and several others were sent to an underground prison. The Bolsheviks treated them very harshly. They were not given enough to eat - usually once a day or nothing at all. Everytime they heard the clinking of keys, they knew that one of them would be taken to an unknown place and never heard from again. Life in the underground prison was so intolerable that Alois and another prisoner decided to escape. They dug a tunnel through which they crawled to the outside and jumped into a nearby river, where they hid under the bushes that were hanging over the bank of the river. They each carried a small iron pipe that they used as a breathing device during the time they were submerged in the water while hiding under the bushes. They were very frightened upon hearing the prison guards on horses searching for them. By nightfall, the guards gave up looking for them, assuming that they had jumped into the river and drowned.

After swimming most of the night, they were very tired and hungry. They spotted a cave, went inside and took shelter for a couple of days. Desperate for food, they ate some of the bats they found flying inside the cave. Alois and his companion decided to part and each go his separate way. Staying together would be too risky. After bidding farewell, they parted. My uncle never heard whatever happened to his companion.

Alois walked a great distance looking for work. Finally he came to a place where a manager of a gold mine befriended him and gave him a job. After working there for awhile, he fell in love with the manager's daughter, Stephanie, and they were married.

After several years in Russia, my uncle, his wife and some of the legionnaires who were left behind decided to return home to Czechoslovakia by train. This journey took a very long time, since there was no coal after the war. Many stops were made so that they could chop enough wood for the locomotive to keep it going a little further. Many parts of the track were damaged, so they also had to stop and repair them.

Prior to their leaving, Stephanie's parents had provided them with sufficient food for the trip. Being a manager of a gold mine, her father had also given his daughter six small pieces of gold that she hid by sewing them in several places in her clothing. At the border inspection, the Russians found four of the gold pieces and took them. They overlooked the other two pieces because Stephanie had hidden them inside the tips of her shoes.

Finally they arrived at Kasava, Czechoslovakia. Alois' sisters did not recognize him because he was unshaven. His mother was not at home at that time; she was in Olomouc, where another daughter had a serious operation.

After a short time in Czechoslovakia, the government trained Uncle Alois to be a policeman. After working several years with the police department, he had an accident where he cut his hand and developed blood poisoning. He had several operations and was classified as disabled. He received a pension of 1200 crowns each month, so he was taken care of financially until his death. My uncle and aunt had five children - three boys and two girls. After his wife died, Uncle Alois lived with his daughter Jaromila (Geraldine) Kakachova. She was a school teacher and her husband, Jan, was the principal of the school in Rajecko near Brno.

Cestmir Cervenka, son of Alois and Stephanie, also lived through hardships during his life. The Germans had ordered all citizens to turn in their guns. No one was allowed to have a gun in their home. Cestmir, knowing all homes would be searched, buried his gun in a remote part of a forest. So when the police came and searched his home, they found nothing. After several months had passed, Cestmir felt it was safe to bring the gun back home. One day there was a loud knock on the door. Guess who? The police had returned to check his home and found the gun. He was arrested and sentenced to a 20-year prison term with hard labor. The prisoners were brutally beaten. This was evident by the scars on Cestmir's back.

Fortunately, Cestmir's father, Alois Cervenka, had served in the military with the president of Czechoslovakia, Ludvik Svoboda, and they had remained friends. Uncle Alois pleaded with President Svoboda for clemency for his son. A new trial was held, and after serving ten years in prison, Cestmir received clemency from the President and was released. Due to some legal circumstances, the Czech government compensated Cestmir financially for the ten years he served in prison. With this money Cestmir built a beautiful large home, married again, had one daughter and lived happily in Bmo until he died.

My father told us how he got the picture of his brother wearing the legionnaire uniform and the letter that Alois sent to his mother from prison camp. Disabled prisoners (legionnaires) were not kept in hospitals in Russia, but were sent back home to Czechoslovakia right after the war. One of the legionnaires came to my Uncle Alois and told him that he was leaving for Czechoslovakia the next day, so my uncle wrote his mother a long letter and enclosed a photo and sent it with the legionnaire who came from Holesov near Kasava, Czechoslovakia. When Alois' mother received the letter, she was very happy because she had assumed that he was dead after not hearing from him for so many years. She immediately sent the letter and photo to my father in Texas.

My father had the small picture enlarged and framed and had it hanging on the wall in our home. It was a sad day when my father received the news that his brother Alois had died. He was buried beside his wife, Stephanie, in Rajecko near Brno. As a tribute to his brother, my father wrote this eulogy: "Rest in peace my dear brother, hero in the battle for freeing yours and my old country, Czechoslovakia. I will remember you in my thoughts until I die here so far across the sea in my very dear country of America."



Left: Alois Cervenka in his Legionnaire uniform.
 Right: Next to the St. Katherine's Church in Kasava is a memorial monument listing all of the soldiers of Kasava who died defending their country. Among the listed is Alois Cervenka. If a person was missing for a certain number of years, he was declared legally dead. Upon returning from Russia after a long absence, my Uncle Alois asked to have his name removed, but the officials decided to leave it there since he sacrificed so many years in Russia.
 Right: Alois Cervenka standing in front of The Memorial Monument at St. Katherine Church, Kasava, Czech Republic.



2018 MUSEUM EXHIBIT

World War I and the Birth of Czechoslovakia

An exhibit detailing the Czech and Slovak efforts on the battlefield and the Czech and Slovak Americans on the home front during World War I will open March 12, 2018 and close November 26, 2018. Part of the exhibit will include WWI archival items that have been donated to the Center by patrons.

Guest Speaker: Joan McGuire Mohr, author of *The Czech and Slovak Legion in Siberia, 1917-1922*, will be a part of the program in the Summer.

Anyone who has memorabilia of an ancestor who fought in WWI and would like to lend these items to the museum during the exhibit are invited to do so.

At the close of the exhibit a ceremony will be held that will recognize families of WWI soldiers. Families can submit information about their ancestor(s) who fought in WWI and will be recognized with a certificate of appreciation. Contact TCHCC for a submission form.

* To research your ancestor who fought in WWI begin at the excellent website: <http://tinyurl.com/gq3tbnr>. The website was developed by Dr. Danny Jones of Brownwood, Brown County, Texas and lists all WWI soldiers from Texas.

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 Micah Sykora from Shirley and Larry Sykora
 Randy and Dinah Noska from Gladys Noska
 Elsie Jasek from Kathie Craft
 Alvin J. Havel from Dolores Guenther Vacek
 Jennifer Moore from Frankie Kubicek
 Hattie Kalich from Harvey and Sharon Kalich
BELFRY MEMORIAL
CHS, Fort Bend Chapter
In Memory of Louise Polasek
CHS, Victoria County Chapter
In Memory of Leslie Janssen
MUSEUM
 Barbara Brauner
 Janette Hruska Couch
 Mary Jane Kocurek
CZECH VILLAGE
 Janette Hruska Couch
 Phillip and Debra Konarik
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 Dr. Thomas and Donna Z. Mueller
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in memory of Bill Cernoch
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CALENDAR ADS 2018

Joseph Bartosh/Granger Villa
James Corporron/Corporron Acres
Cistern Country Store
Czech Heritage Society of Texas
KJT
KJZT
Clarice Marik Snokhous
SPJST - Temple
Stanzel Family Fdn, Inc. Aircraft Museum
Hon. Czech Consul Brian Vanicek
Ft. Bend Czech Heritage Society
TOCA

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Daniel Cernoch Plumbing
Kolache Klobase Festival, East Bernard

MEMORIAL BRICK

Benedict and Dianna Kallus

In Honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Louis W. Sedlar

In Honor of Josephine Sedlar Dougherty

Adele Janak Strand

In Memory of Clarence J. Janak

PERPETUAL ROSE GARDEN MEMORIAL

Hurst S. Barbee

In Honor of Dora Marquart Severin

Sharyn K. Renolds

In Honor of Peterka Family Ancestors

Gary Svetlik

In Honor of Frantisek and Marie Svetlik, Horni Sklenov

20TH ANNIVERSARY PAVING STONES

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Bohlmann
Alan and Arlene Cloyd
CHS Fayette County Chapter
RVOS Farm Mutual Insurance Company
In Honor of Ted and Dorothy Kaspar Family
Ted and Dorothy Kaspar

In Honor of Vaclav and Hattie Jasek Stryk

Tom and Phyllis Teykl

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Lillie Mae Slavik Burnside

Kenneth and Cathleen Noska

Lester and Carol Kitchen

Ed A. Krivacka

In Memory of Randolph Richard Green

Charles and Retta Chandler

J. G. and Janis Hrcncir

In Memory of Joseph C. Hild

Elizabeth Anne Kallus

Jim D. and Marilyn Kothmann

In Memory of Damian John Janacek

Wesley and Julie Herzik Matus

In Memory of Johnnie I. Krajca

Charles and Retta Chandler

In Memory of John Eugene Marik

Honorary Czech Consul Kenneth H. Zezulka

Charles and Retta Chandler

In Memory of Norman Matthijetz

Charles and Retta Chandler

Georgia Funderburk

In Memory of Frank J. Mikula

James and Debra Macik

In Memory of Eleanora Reiss

Ed and Margaret Matocha

In Memory of Thomas Louis Slavik

J. G. and Janis Hrcncir

Kenneth and Cathleen Noska

Mark E. Vasek

Honorary Czech Consul Brian Vanicek

In Memory of Leonard Supak

Jim D. and Marilyn Kothmann

In Memory of Isabel Havelka Fiebrich Frymire

Georgia Funderburk

In Memory of Rose Anthony Butschek

Irene and Gene Cerny

CHS Lavaca County

In Memory of Willie C. Migl

CHS Lavaca County

In Memory of Betty Conley

Jim D. and Marilyn Kothmann

To Honor Leslie and Georgia Kovar's 65th

Wedding Anniversary

Lester and Carol Kitchen

Kenneth and Cathleen Noska

Happy 90th Birthday Richard Cernosek

Elizabeth Kallus

Jim D. and Marilyn Kothmann

2018 TCHCC Gala

Alice Adam
Roger and Patty Kolar
Mary E. Vasek
Paul L. Burnside
Anna Marie Moncrief
Cynthia Strmiska
Ron Frnka
Doris M. Mills
Elizabeth Kallus
Marion Lauterstein
Doris Hild
Mark Hermes
Barbara Stratton Hruby
Theresa Cernoch Parker
Clarice Marik Snokhous
RVOS - Farm Mutual Ins. Co.
Richard G. & Molly Cernosek
Bob & Carolyn Heinsohn
J. G. & Janis Hrcncir
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Joseph Bartosh
Roger & Karen Hett
Ferdinand & Anna Slavik
Edwin C. Marik
Marjorie Kultgen
Dennis & Dianne Viktorin
Gloria S. Cave
Edna Migl
Betty Danner
Jim & Marilyn Kothmann
Bill & Debby Schovajsa
Kenneth & Cathleen Noska
Charles & Retta Chandler
John Dujka
Terry Harbers Crow
Lyndell Harbers
Julius & Jeannie Dubcak
Daniel & Carol Moravec
Polkabeat, Inc.
Theresa Cernoch Parker
James & Agnes Darilek
Charles & Pat Kriska
Lorene Kovar Nitschke
Hon. Czech Consul Brian
and Joan Vanicek

MUSEUM/LIBRARY ARTIFACTS DONATED

Billie Beth Baker - 3 large pine cones, records

Charles Chandler - cobbler's chairs, stool and measuring stick

Czech Heritage Society of Texas, Harris County Chapter - books, magazines, newspapers, artifacts

Lillian Dulaney - Pancner Importer Ad of 1975

Fayette County - 175 Year History of Fayette County

Ellen Stifka Hawes - ceramics made in Czechoslovakia - in memory of her father Richard Stifka

Robert Janak - 19 volumes of parish birth, marriage and death records (copies of original online matriky) of Rychaltice, Hukvaldy, Jozlovice, Lhotka, Myslik, Hajov and Sklenov.

Julia Kovar Kalisek - two books in memory of Eugene Fred Kalisek

Krouzek Ceskych Zen Circle of Czech Women, Dallas - all of the society's files, photos and artifacts

Marian B. Malec - 2 complete kroje & fabrics

Ray and Sandra Matthijetz - book *Slavic Protestants in Exile*

Irene Fedorka Moninger - bible, wedding dress and citizenship papers of Mike Fedorka

Gloria Mican - 3 polka VCR tapes of Kovanda Band

National Polka Festival - 50th Anniversary Banner

Libor and Nancy Nouzovsky - Czech videos and books

Theresa Zetka Paine - Bobby Jones Souvenir T-Shirt

Bea and Rudy Patek - two pairs of woolen Valach socks

Pat and Marlene Pylate - 6 record albums

Peter Rektorys - 3 Czech history books

Joe and Connie Stevens - quilt frame

Pauline Motal Sturm - 1945 Case Hay Baler in memory of husband Herman Sturm.

Jan Svehlek - 2 books: Motorhead and Via Mala

Mary Ann Tokoly - 2 books - Praha and Beskydy

Alice Vida - Manequin, Bohemian Kroj, E. Slovak blouse, skirt, vest

TCHCC Memorials can be made in memory of your deceased loved ones or to honor a special family event or a 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 for \$1000. 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
 ____ Other: _____

- \$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**

- \$500 ____ Corporate
- \$200 ____ Non-Profit Organization
- \$ 75 ____ Family
- \$ 50 ____ Individual

ANNUAL SUSTAINED MEMBERSHIP (yearly)

Benefits: Preserving YOUR Heritage, Annual Calendar and *Nas Cesky Zivot* newsletters

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

FOR _____
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 Message: _____

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FOLLOW US ON OUR NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE
on Twitter @TexasCzechHCC
and Instagram @czech.texas.lagrange
 You can now pay your membership and donate online.
 We are currently taking 2018 memberships.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2018

- February 10 Valentine Dinner & Concert 4 PM Social, 6 PM Dinner, 7 PM Piano Concert by John Dujka
- February 23-24 Best Little Quilt Show in Texas, Annual Quilt Show at the Fairgrounds, lunch sold at TCHCC
- March 12 World War I and the Birth of Czechoslovakia Exhibit Opens. An exhibit detailing the Czech efforts on the battlefield and the Czech Americans on the home front during WWI.
Exhibit closes November 26, 2018
- March 24 TOCA Banquet, Hanslik Hall
- April 28-29 MS 150 Bikeathon Fairgrounds: TCHCC CLOSED
- May 19 Czech Village: Dedication of SPJST Lodge #19 Velehrad and Reception, 4-6 PM
- May 19 The Stand-In (Záskok) a play by Ladislav Smoljak and Zdeněk Svěrák
A comedy set in 1910 in a small Czech theater company.
Sanford Schmid Amphitheater: 7-9 PM
- May 20 Sokol, Dallas: The Stand-In (Záskok) a play by Ladislav Smoljak and Zdeněk Svěrák
A comedy set in 1910 in a small Czech theater company.
- May 20 Slavnost "MayFest" and Tribute to the Immigrants
Ceremony at 10:30 AM. Meal served beginning at 11:30 AM.
Music by the Travelers
- July 16-29 Annual Czech Republic, Bohemian and Moravian Tour 2018 (2018 Tour is Full)
- October 19-20 Heritage Fest & Muziky: Music by Jerry Haisler and the Melody 5 and Enzian Baum, Antique Farm Equipment and Car Show, Saw Mill, Kolace Eating Contest, Demonstrations and Booths, KJT State Tarock Tournament, Muziky Performance, Firework Finale and Much More