

Traditional Crafts Day at Vysoký Chlumec Museum *by Olga Mendel*

At the end of July, the "Skanzen of Vysoký Chlumec" opened its doors for a day of traditional crafts. The Skanzen, an open air museum featuring folk architecture from the Central Bohemian Highlands and Central Vltava Regions, was created in 1998 and preserves valuable monuments of rural architecture. It demonstrates the development of peasant homes from the mid-18th to the early-20th centuries.

Over the years, Skanzen leaders have carefully transported and installed a variety of residential, agricultural and technical buildings, and minor religious monuments from local towns and villages which were threatened by destruction in their original sites.

Inside these structures you can learn about village life and farming methods. You can also find a variety of the period furniture, including beautifully painted chests and armoires, as well as fireplaces (known as "black kitchens") that were not used only for cooking and heating, but also created the perfect space for children to sleep.

This year, children and adults could see craftsmen using traditional tools and techniques to create wooden buckets, bowls, carving flutes, and ropes, and to trim thick logs into beams. You could also taste fresh bread that came out of an historic oven (part of the black kitchen).

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Polygonal timbered farmhouse barn transferred from No. 8 in Podolí near Vojkov to the Skanzen Vysoký Chlumec in 2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL

In the fall semester we will return to our weekly schedule of classes at our new location, Woodbrook Baptist Church on Stevenson Lane. Regular language classes for children aged 3 and up will be held every Friday from 6 to 7:30 PM. There are two levels of instruction in Czech (from beginning to advanced). We are seeking students to be able to hold Slovak classes as well. Classes began on September 13th.

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

The Children's School hosts Family Fun Nights every month or two, offering all CSHA members a chance to get together and share a potluck dinner while celebrating our Czech and Slovak heritage. Visit our Facebook page or website (see addresses below) for detailed schedule information, and to register.

ADULT LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Do you like the sound of the Czech and Slovak languages? Are you interested in taking Czech or Slovak classes? CSHA is one of the few organizations in the USA that offers language instruction for adults. Beginning, intermediate and advanced classes are offered on Saturdays in the spring and fall at the Gribbin Center on Bel Air Road in Perry Hall. The fall semester began on September 7th.

HERITAGE SINGERS

If you like to sing and enjoy Czech and Slovak songs, carols and hymns, please consider joining the CSHA Heritage Singers. All voice parts are welcome. The group meets on Mondays from 7 to 9 PM in the months before our Christmas concert and Memorial Day performance.

SEPTEMBER 2019

Family Fun Night - H is for Havel - September 27th, 2019, 6 to 7:30PM at our Children's School location at Woodbrook Baptist Church, 25 Stevenson Lane, Baltimore, MD 21212 -

Please join us for a workshop & book presentation "ABCZ aneb H jako Havel" with a Czech author Denisa Šedivá.

The book received a 2018 best Czech Text Book award (from the Ministry of Education)

OCTOBER 2019

33rd ANNUAL CZECH AND SLOVAK FESTIVAL - October 27th, 2019 noon to 6PM, American Legion Hall, 125 York Rd, Baltimore, MD 21204

DECEMBER 2019

MIKULÁŠSKÁ - at Children's School location at Woodbrook Baptist Church, 25 Stevenson Lane, Baltimore, MD 21212 - *Mikuláš, Anděl, and Čert* will make an appearance. Date TBD.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - - The Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers will present a program of traditional Czech and Slovak "*koledy*" at St. Wenceslaus Church, 2111 Ashland Avenue, Baltimore. A reception will follow the program. Date TBD.

JANUARY 2019

GENERAL BOARD MEETING - Newly Elected Board and president to start their work. - Date TBD.

HLAS - If you have any suggestions or comments about the CSHA newsletter, email us at info@cshamaryland.org. You can find back issues of Hlas at www.cshamaryland.org.

CSHA ONLINE - For more information about any of these activities or to register for classes, you can contact CSHA at: info@cshamaryland.org. CSHA's Communication Committee will respond promptly to answer your questions and provide information, and we are eager to hear your ideas and suggestions. Also, please check our website www.cshamaryland.org and follow us on Facebook at [Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Baltimore](https://www.facebook.com/CzechandSlovakHeritageAssociationofBaltimore).

President's message:

The theme of the president's message for this issue is **THANK YOU!**

Thanks to our hard-working Festival Committee which has devoted hours to meeting the challenges of presenting the 33rd annual Festival. The location, caterer and baked goods supplier are the same as last year, but even so they have had to contend with the usual demands of ordering supplies, deciding the menu, preparing the schedule...all of the little details that make our Festival a success. And it will be a success, thanks to the careful planning and hard work of this year's Festival Committee. So, come out and support us

starting at noon on Sunday 27 October at the American Legion Post 22 at 125 York Road in Towson.

Thanks also to all those who have sent in their dues. CSHA exists to serve the Czech and Slovak community here in the Baltimore area, and it works best when we have participation from everyone. So, please come to the Festival, sign up for adult or children's Czech or Slovak classes at our schools, and get involved in CSHA. We depend on member involvement in our activities. We need your support, your ideas, your enthusiasm.



Margaret Supik - CSHA president

Election Committee Chair Message

Dear members and friends of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association,

I am writing on behalf of CSHA's Nominating and Election Committee to announce official elections of the Association's Board of Directors that will serve for the period of 2020-2021. In this issue of Hlas, you will find an election ballot. Please return your vote in the enclosed envelope no later than November 1, 2019. We are planning to install the new members of the Board in January, 2020, during the Association's General Meeting.

There are some upcoming changes in the composition of the Board of Directors. The Association's President, Margaret Supik, is retiring from her position, but she will remain on the Board of Directors as "President Ex-officio." Jane Vanicky is stepping down as our Treasurer and will continue to serve on the Board as a regular member. Finally, John Vanko is leaving the Board of Directors. On behalf of all members, I would like to express our gratitude to Margaret and Jane for their tireless work as Officers of the Board and John for his

contributions to CSHA over the years. We are looking forward to their continuing involvement with the Association. We have two nominees to replace the departing board members: myself (Petr Justin) and Bill Schuman, who are ready to help lead the Association forward.

Please keep in mind that only current (2019) CSHA members are eligible to vote. Our Czech and Slovak Heritage Association has plenty to offer to its members, their families, and friends. We are committed to bringing you entertainment activities, the annual festival, educational programs, Czech and Slovak language schools, and cultural programs, so you can stay in touch or discover your heritage. All of that can only happen with your generous help. If you haven't already paid your Annual Dues for 2019, please return the membership application to us, along with your vote.

Sincerely,

Petr Justin - Chair, Nominating and Election Committee

Bios of new board candidates

Petr Justin

Petr was born in the Moravian region of Hana in the Czech Republic. He studied at the Technical University (VUT) in Brno where he received his master's degree. He works as a Senior Project Architect at AECOM and focuses on Airports Terminal planning. He has lived in Baltimore since 2000 with his wife Zuzana and two children (10 and 13). He has been an active member of CSHA for many years and is involved in planning and organizing various events, like the annual festival.

Bill Schuman

Bill has been an active member of the association for the last 20 years. He is interested in serving on the board to be part of an excellent team. His wife Rena (also a member of the board) was born in the Czech Republic. Bill is an owner of a Sanitation Company and he loves Czech food, including dumplings and the beer.

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Active beehives were also open to public, which happens only few times a year. You could learn about the old fashioned way to gather honey from the hives and see a variety of historical tools. But mostly you came out realizing that not changed much in the beekeeping process for centuries. And the product at the end is a huge treat.

At this year's event, Skanzen leaders unveiled a new bell tower, created by Mr. Vocílka of Sedlec Pricce. He has been a part of the Skanzen crew for many years, demonstrating that old techniques are worth preserving.

And what would a day like this be without good food, drinks and music? You could taste freshly grilled fish from the local ponds, as well as pork, and enjoy a pint of local Lobkowitz beer. The brewery is less than a mile away and open for tours. Locals around the village also opened stands with homemade lemonades and kolaches for visitors to enjoy.

A variety of folk bands played throughout the day, all selected with care by Petr Cihelka, a lifelong Vysoký Chlumec resident (and also the brother of my college friend).

So if you're going to be in the Czech Republic next summer, definitely think about heading down to Vysoký Chlumec to take in the 2020 Skanzen event.



*up - tools for show and sale
down - newly unveiled bell tower*



Old fashioned way of carving table and chair legs or bowls and plates



Matěj and Kryštof, grandsons of the carpenter Mr. Vocílka following in their Grandfather's footsteps

Steel Strings - Iron Curtains - New CD of great Czech Music

by Roman Kostovski

Plamen Press, an independent publishing company based in the Greater Washington DC area, partnered with Baltimore's Sun King Records to create a ten-song album titled Steel Strings & Iron Curtains, featuring songs by Czech songwriters Karel Kryl and Jaromir Nohavica. All of the songs were translated by Roman Kostovski, Plamen Press' Acquisitions' Editor, and are sung in English.

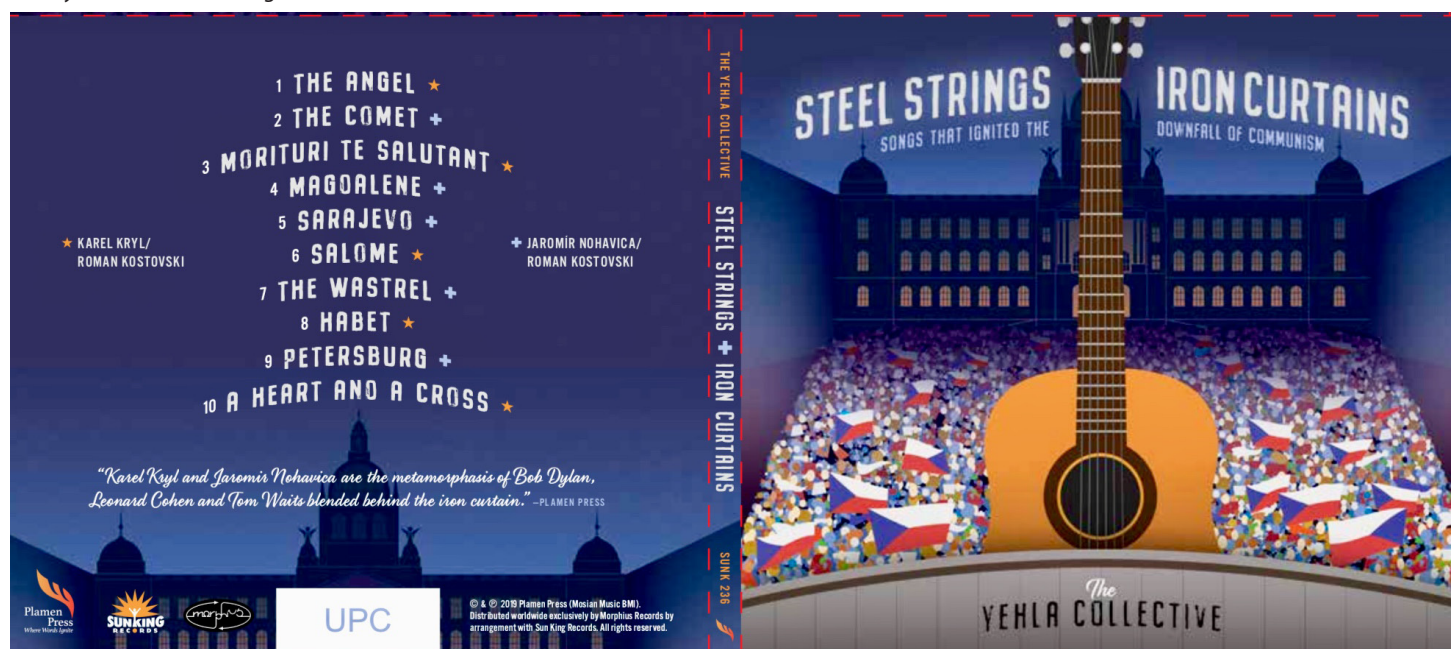


Bob Rychlik at the recording studio

Supported by a grant from the DC Chapter of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, Plamen Press teamed up with Sun King record producer Ian Jones (known for his production of Reggae Icon Claudius Linton's Album Sign Time). The album features a truly international group of musicians from the Baltimore/DC area, including Tomas Drgon (Slovakia), Christine Kharazian (Armenia), CSHA's own Bob (Bohuslav) Rychlik (Czech Republic), Anna Connolly (USA), David Keplinger (USA), Ian Jones (USA).

Plamen Press is an independent publishing house that focuses on promoting literature from Central Eastern and Southeastern Europe, translated into English, says Roman Kostovski. "We approached Steel Strings & Iron Curtains project not only from a musical perspective, but also a literary one. Both Karel Kryl and Jaromir Nohavica are known for their powerful lyrics that can stand alone without music as poetry. We wanted to show English speakers, that Central Europe has their own renditions of Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Tom Waits," Kostovski says. "However, we also made our recordings unique combining those strong lyrics with elements of Gypsy Jazz and accompaniment of traditional Slovakian and Moravian instruments such as the fujara and the koncovka, remarkably played by Bob Rychlik."

Steel String & Iron Curtains will include songs such as Karel Kryl's The Angel or Nohavica's The Comet. Plamen Press anticipates an album release by November of this year, just in time for the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution.



CSHA Picnics of 2019

Olga Mendel

In addition to a successful July CSHA Adult Picnic at the Red Eye Yacht Club, featuring good food and great company, we were able to introduce a Back to School Picnic in September this year.

Due to continued rain last year, we had to cancel CSHA first annual Back to School Picnic. But when the date came on September 15th this year, the sun was shining and attendance was huge: a crowd of more than 50 of children and adults.

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Members and friends of CSHA at Patapsco State Park picnic location



Update from the Festival Committee

Zuzana Justinova

Preparations for the 33rd Czech and Slovak Festival are underway. After last year's wonderful celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence, we are working hard again to bring you a Festival you will enjoy.

What can you look forward to this year? The Festival will take place at the American Legion Hall - Post #22 (125 York Road, Towson, MD 21204) - a location you became familiar with last year. The amazing Pajtaši music group will provide entertainment throughout the afternoon and the popular Dance Lesson will be back. The entertainment will showcase Sokol gymnasts and dancers. Bistro Bohem will return as our caterer and prepare guláš (beef goulash), traditional vepřo knedlo zelo (roast pork with dumplings and sauerkraut), and halušky (grated potato dumplings). We will also serve hot dogs and bratwursts that will include vegetarian options. There will, of course, be beer, wine, pastries, Christmas cookies, and souvenirs for sale. Children will have fun activities waiting for them at the Children's Corner.

Come and join us on Sunday, October 27th between noon and

6 pm for good food, music, and fellowship. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Festival.

The Festival is a large event that requires the efforts of many people, so we are always looking for volunteers. Please contact us at info@cshamaryland.org if you would like to help.



Czech and Slovak Recipe Corner:

by Olga Mendel

Soft Gingerbread Cake

This is a very simple recipe that our family enjoys often, tasty to have as part of breakfast or with your coffee. If you don't have gingerbread spice mix, you can substitute by combining ground cinnamon, allspice, coriander and cloves (star anise - optional).

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups all purpose flour
1 cup of sugar (or 2/3 cup of sugar and 4 tbsp of honey)
1 cup of milk
1/2 cup of vegetable oil

1 egg
1 1/2 tsp of baking powder
pinch of salt
1 1/2 tsp gingerbread spice mix - or make your own by mixing cinnamon, allspice, coriander and cloves
2 tbsp of cocoa

DIRECTIONS:

In a bowl combine egg, oil and sugar or sugar/honey combination. Mix well. In a separate bowl prepare flour, baking powder, gingerbread spice mix and cocoa. Add to the egg mix and combine with milk. Mix well.

Pour the batter into a well buttered and flowered baking dish. Bake on 350F for 25 minutes.

You can decorate with chocolate and coconut, or just use powdered sugar.

It's a simple, not too sweet dessert that will make your kitchen smell great.



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In addition to hot dogs, burgers and many potluck dishes everyone brought, the day was also filled with music. George Petran, Vláďa Jandásek and Bob Rychlik brought their instruments and everyone who wanted

could join in singing. We hope you enjoyed the gallery of pictures and it brought smile to your face. If you didn't get a chance to join us this year, please put it on your calendar to come next fall.

