

CSHA Annual Picnic 2021

by Zuzana Justinova, photos by Dana Havlik, Petr Justin

After a year hiatus, the picnic took place on Sunday, September 12, 2021 and was attended by 65 guests throughout the afternoon. It was great to see many of our members in person again and we were very happy to see new faces too. Seven households joined the CSHA as new members, and we cordially welcome them to our community. Among guests was a group led by Father Dornic from St. Mary's Assumption Eastern Rite Catholic Church that was profiled in the last two issues of Hlas.

This year, we met at the club of the Maryland State Game & Fish Protective Association in White Marsh area. We were lucky to have a sunny day with temperatures in the 80s. The guests started to arrive

at noon, by which time the "set-up" team (the Justin family, Zuzana LaBuff, Dana Havlik, Russell Rezek, and Dana Petran) finished most of the preparations. To everyone's delight, Dana Havlik and Dana Petran baked an assortment of traditional pastries: koláčky (kuh-lahch-kee; Bohemian and Moravian style), gingerbread, poppyseed rolls, and Christmas cookies. The grill master, Gregg Iskra had a first batch of burgers and hot dogs ready before 1 pm and he also cooked for us his signature dish, Slovak halušky (hah-loosh-kee). The guests brought many wonderful side dishes and delicious baked goods to share, so there was plenty of food to enjoy and good beer to have.

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CHSA Annual Picnic 2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL

In the fall semester we continue our regular weekly schedule. Classes are held virtually. Beginners or fluent speakers are welcome to join us regardless of where they live.

- Czech Classes are held from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm on Friday evenings.
 - Slovak Classes are held on Sunday mornings.
- You can enroll at any time. Check CSHA's web and Facebook pages for details and schedule or email us at info@cshamaryland.org.

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

These events will be hopefully coming back soon.

ADULT LANGUAGE SCHOOL

CSHA is one of the few organizations in the USA that offers language instruction for adults. Beginning, intermediate and advanced classes are offered virtually at this time. They are held on Saturday mornings. To register or ask questions, please contact Lois Hybl at 410-243-1710 or e-mail: LHybl@verizon.net.

HERITAGE SINGERS

When it is safe to resume, rehearsals will be announced on our web and Facebook page.

HLAS - If you have any suggestions or comments or want to contribute to the Hlas by writing an article, email us at info@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 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).

OCTOBER 2021

The Annual CZECH AND SLOVAK FESTIVAL planned for October 24th, 2021 has been CANCELED due to the current COVID-19 situation. The festival committee is planning ahead and hopes to be able to host the event next year.

DECEMBER 2021

MIKULÁŠSKÁ - TBD - depending on the CDC requirements and COVID-19 situation at that time, we will post an update on our website and Facebook page. We really hope that Mikuláš, Čert and Anděl will make in person appearance this year.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - TBD - depending on the CDC requirements and COVID-19 situation at that time, we will post an update on our website and Facebook page. We stay hopeful that we can meet again and celebrate the upcoming holidays not only by caroling in St. Wenceslaus Church, but also by having a small reception afterwards to catch up with friends and CSHA members.

JANUARY 2022

GENERAL MEETING - TBD. Newly elected members of the CSHA board will start their work for the organization. It will be a virtual meeting, unless it is possible to hold an in person meeting.

CSHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

OFFICERS:

President - Petr Justin
Vice President - Dana Petran
Secretary - Lois Hybl
Treasurer - Zuzana LaBuff

BOARD MEMBERS: alphabetically

Dana Havlik
Gregg Iskra
Zuzana Justinova
Olga Mendel

Bill Schuman
Rena Vanicek Schuman
Alex Vanicky
Jane Vanicky

PAST PRESIDENT: Margaret Supik

LANGUAGE SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE:
MacLean Lunko

HLAS - Olga Mendel

President's Message

Dear friends,

There is a saying that "autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons" and I always look forward to this part of the year. After the heat of the summer, I enjoy the pleasant weather and the sight of trees changing colors. While the days are getting shorter, I try to find time to pause and appreciate nature in its fall beauty. I am very happy that our kids are back at school full time and restarted their sport leagues. The CSHA language school classes began their school year, as well. Teachers are still connecting with their students virtually, but everyone is having a good time learning and improving their Slovak and Czech vocabulary.

After a really long time, our members got together at our annual picnic event. It was great to see many of you there. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic feels like a rollercoaster and keeps surprising us. The summer looked promising; it seemed things are finally on the right path, but the pandemic has thrown us another curveball. The latest development with the spread of the delta variant across the US has prompted us to re-evaluate our plans for the fall. The CSHA Board reviewed the current pandemic trends and has decided to cancel this year's Festival. It is hard to predict how the situation will evolve in the upcoming months, but we are committed to resume our planning efforts and organize a spring event, where all of us can get together again. We are also hopeful that next year's Festival will take place in October 2022.

Our family spent some time in the Czech Republic at the beginning of August. We were happy to see our parents, grandparents, and friends. We visited a few places during our trip and I must say that the challenges associated with the pandemic are the same in Europe as they are in the US. The vaccination

efforts are ongoing; wearing a mask is recommended or required in many places. There seem to be more outdoor spaces open for dining and getting together than here, but I am happy to see that this trend has spread in the US and is hopefully here to stay.

You may have seen the sad news about the passing of our former Vice President, Stephen Sabol Jr., on our website or Facebook. Štefan will be truly missed by all of us. We have very much enjoyed his friendship and always relied on his dedication to our community.

The Association's Officers and Board of Directors get elected every two years. In the attached Election Ballot you will find a slate of candidates who run to serve for the next term, 2022-23. Among the nominees, you can find many familiar faces and also some new ones. Please participate in the process and vote on the composition of the next Board, which has always been committed to keep the traditions and history of the Czechs and Slovaks alive. Please cast your vote and show your support for your CSHA.

Se srdečným pozdravem,



Petr Justin - CSHA president

2021 Festival Cancellation

by Petr Justin

Dear friends,

After last year's Festival cancellation, we looked forward to bringing you your favorite event again.

We had started our planning effort and preparations in June. We were hopeful that we could safely provide in-person activities for our community in the fall. The Annual Picnic on September 12 was a success, but also an eye opener. Majority of the 65 guests congregated outside and we realized that having a safe large indoor event in October might not be possible.

We have reviewed current COVID-19 infection rates, community transmission in our area, and projections and they are not good. We

have also considered official CDC guidelines for large events and potential health impact on festival attendees and volunteers. After a thorough discussion, the CSHA Board decided to cancel this year's Festival. It was a difficult decision, but we must put the health of our members and all festival visitors first.

We remain committed to resume our in-person activities and events as soon as it is safe to do so. We would like to plan an outdoor event for spring and we hope the CSHA Festival tradition will resume in October 2022.

S pozdravem,

Petr Justin - CSHA President

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Gregg Iskra enjoying picnic cuisine

The club has a nice outdoor seating area with a playground where most of the guests congregated during the event. Our young guests had fun playing volleyball, soccer, and cornhole, coloring Czech- and Slovak-themed pages, and competing in an impromptu talent show. There was music and singing too, as several guests brought their musical instruments. It seems that everyone had a good time catching up with old friends and making new ones, sharing stories and experiences from the pandemic, and simply enjoying a beautiful afternoon. As the event was winding down, Jan Woska, the Cultural Attaché from the Czech Embassy, joined us for a beer and a chat.



Weather treated us well, it was a lovely sunny day



Youngsters of all ages had fun too



Enjoying friends and Czech and Slovak music



Chatting before food is served

At 6 pm, it was time to pack, clean, and reflect on a fun and relaxed afternoon.

We thank everyone who came to the picnic and we hope you enjoyed the time spent with your CSHA friends. Big thanks also go to our volunteers who worked hard to make this event happen. We could not do this without them.

We look forward to seeing you at our next in-person event that we would like to plan for the spring of 2022!



From left: Petr Justin, Jan Woska, Russ Rezek

In Memory of Stephen John Sabol, Jr. (1938-2021) *by Vladislav Jandásek*

Stephen John Sabol, Jr. (83), a former vice president of CSHA Maryland, died in Westminster, MD where he had lived with his wife Viera for over 40 years. He is survived by his wife Viera Sabol, his son Stephen J. Sabol III, his daughter Suzanna R. Erdley and husband Andy; and five grandchildren Michael and Sam Sabol; Emma, Seth and Ethan Erdley.



Stephen served several years in the Army and spent his career as a manufacturing engineer. He was a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, and enjoyed being a handyman, woodworking, classical music, traveling and his Slovak heritage. He and his wife were devoted members of Grace Lutheran Church in Westminster, MD. He served on the congregation's Council, and on the Property, Worship, Music Committees and was deeply involved in Church mission trips. Steve was also an enthusiastic supporter of CSHA's Czech and Slovak Festival. For many years he was the man behind the beverage counter. Not only did he serve the drinks, he ordered the drinks, he picked them up, and took care of all the details of serving several hundred thirsty festivalgoers.

Stephen was born in New York, the son of Stephan and Susan Sabol who had come to the USA from Hanušovce, Slovakia. Growing up he

longed to visit the birthplace of his parents and in January, 1972 he was able to fulfill his dream. One of Viera's cousins invited him to a concert in Košice where Viera lived and worked and introduced them. They fell in love. Despite Viera's reluctance to leave Slovakia, Stephen gave her a ring and they were married. Married or not, Stephen could not stay in communist Czechoslovakia and they began the process of Viera's emigration to the US. With the help of another of Viera's cousins, a lawyer in Bratislava, they managed to have it done in a record six weeks. The authorities were concerned that Stephen, unemployed at the time, wanted to take their citizen out of the country! The police interrogated Viera as they thought Stephen might be a spy. They started their lives together in NYC, but eventually moved to the Baltimore area. Stephen loved to visit Slovakia and after the fall of the communist regime he traveled there many times, stayed for months, and in his own words, "felt at home over there."

My friendship with the Sabols goes back over 40 years. We were speaking Czech while attending a Slavic festival in the Inner Harbor, Baltimore with my wife and my two little daughters. Another family with a little son and a daughter heard us talk, started to laugh and spoke to us in Slovak. We quickly struck up a lifelong friendship as we understood one another on important issues. The most important ones involved our children and bringing them up so that they would understand our heritage. It is gratifying for us to see that our children's friendship continues to this day.

Viera and the Sabol family are touched and very grateful to all who made donations to the National Down Syndrome Society in honor of their grandson Michael. Their son Steve will participate in the New York Marathon on November 7th, 2021 in his father's honor and for the National Down Syndrome Society.



You would find Stephen at the CSHA beer and liqu liquor counter at the festival each



Stephen "Štefan" Sabol dancing with his wife Viera

Bios of New Nominees for the CSHA Board of Directors

MacLean “Mac” Lunko

While mechanical engineering is his vocation, Mac’s true passion is history. He was born and raised in Johnstown, PA, one of the largest settlements of Slovak emigrants in the US. Mac is a travelling supervisor for the Department of Defense in Mechanicsburg, PA. A deep interest in the history of manufacturing in Czechoslovakia, led him to the Adult Language School in 2016. Despite a 62 mile drive each way, Mac attended class every Saturday until COVID forced classes online. Mac continues his studies in Czech, and has also attended the 2018 and 2019 Summer Language School of Compatriots in Dobruška and Poděbrady, Czech Republic.

John Sullivan

John Sullivan is a Baltimore native who had a career in the Marine Corps and the Air National Guard. When he retired, he became a farmer in Street, MD where he has been raising sheep, goats, chickens and bees. He also has a degree in accounting and had a tax business. One hobby was participating in Civil War reenactments.

John’s mother was Czech with the family name of Vesely. However, he has been studying Slovak in language school because his brother married a Slovak girl. When we were having in-person classes, we could count on John to bring donuts and help carry in our language school equipment. He and his brothers love working the hot dog stand at our festivals.

Rachel Sullivan

Rachel Sullivan met John on a blind date. She was born in North Carolina but graduated from Patterson High School in Baltimore. She earned an AA degree and a certificate in Human Services at Catonsville Community College. Professionally, she worked at Johns Hopkins Hospital and managed a doctor’s office at Franklin Square Hospital. Some of the hobbies that keep her busy are basket weaving, genealogy, taking classes at the senior center, volunteering at Perry Point Veteran’s Home and participating in a women’s group. Rachel also helps with the animals on the farm. She has been helping with our book sales at festivals.

Margaret Supik

A former teacher, Margaret Supik is a graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and holds a master’s degree from Virginia’s College of William and Mary and a master’s equivalent from Johns Hopkins University. She taught English and Drama at

the high school and college level for many years.

Margaret began an active role in the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland in 1989 when her husband Charles Supik was elected president of the organization. She served on the committee which wrote the association by-laws and a few years later, with Charles, founded the singing group which became the Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers.

A long-time student of Czech at the association’s Adult Language School, she co-founded the Children’s Language School which offers Czech and Slovak language instruction for children aged 3 and up. She has taught Czech for beginners since the school began. For many years she has traveled each summer to the Czech Republic to study in the Charles University Czech for Foreigners summer program.

Russell (“Radek”) Rezek:

My name is Russell Rezek. I first joined the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association in 2007 when I signed up for my first Czech Language class. I continued taking classes for several years until my son was born. Since classes went online due to the pandemic for the last year, I have been able to return to the language school and continue my Czech studies. Throughout the years, I remained a member of the CSHA and helped out with the annual festival. I worked beer and soda set up, break down, and in recent years have been doing the ordering.

My immediate family is from Baltimore, but my great grandfather was born in 1889 in Horažďovice, which is now the Czech Republic. He arrived in New York in 1903, moved down to Baltimore, became a tailor, and married my great grandmother. Her maiden name was Jirsa. She was born in Maryland and her parents were also from Bohemia. They moved from Greenmount Ave to the east Baltimore neighborhood of Berea, which was part of the “Little Bohemia” area which was the home to St. Wenceslas church, Sokol Baltimore, and many other Czechs that had immigrated to America. They settled down and had a family. My grandfather grew up in the same neighborhood and lived there with my grandmother until the mid-fifties when they moved out to Rosedale. He worked at the Glen L. Martin Company for many years and then retired from Black & Decker.

I grew up in the Overlea/Rosedale area, graduated from the University of MD College Park in 2002, and have been living in the Hamilton neighborhood of northeast Baltimore since 2011. Professionally, I am the Director of IT at Learn Behavioral (located in Mount Washington), a company dedicated to offering Autism and Educational services to children, K-12. I have one son named

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Sasha, who participated in the Children's language school this past year. By joining the board, I hope to continue the great work that the board has done for so many years before, so that we can continue the traditions, language, and history of Czech and Slovak culture here in America. I also hope to be able to use my IT skills to help build our website and our technology platforms.

Ann Margaret Zelenka

was born and raised in various parts of Baltimore. She was homeschooled by her mother and outside of that attended local and surrounding area Catholic schools. On her father's side she has Polish and Czech heritage. On her mother's side she has German heritage. Ann has studied abroad to Poland and traveled to Poland a second time. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in Jurisprudence and a master of science degree in Negotiations and Conflict Management from the University of Baltimore.

She also holds a Master of Arts in Law from Regent University as well as is working on a PhD in Leadership Studies at the University of the Cumberlands, attending online. Ann has been

extensively involved in the community both with volunteering to help moms in need, activities at church, as well as in her involvement with Polish heritage, being a past board member of PHA of MD for several years and still a member, as well as being a scholarship winner of several awards related to her studies sponsored by Polish organizations.

She also has been recently assisting the Kosciusko Foundation with the volunteer program of teaching English in Poland, although having to do so online because of the pandemic.

Ann works full time for the US Federal government and enjoys spending time with her family and friends in her free time.

In the hopes of connecting more with her Czech heritage, she joined CSHA in 2018 and attended a semester of the Czech language courses along with the Slovak literature course as well.

She hopes to be involved more heavily and is honored to be running for board membership for such a fine organization.

Czech and Slovak Recipe Corner:

by Dana Havlik

Moravian Kolache (Moravské koláče)

Mouthwatering treats, one is never enough...

INGREDIENTS:

1 tablespoon active dry yeast
1/2 cup sugar
2 cups warm milk
3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
2 large egg yolks
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup softened butter
1/2 teaspoon grinded lemon peel
Vanilla sugar
1 1/2 cups sweet cottage cheese,
Prune, poppy seed, or apple filling

DIRECTIONS:

- Mix yeast with half of the lukewarm milk and a spoon of sugar. Cover with a towel and let rise for 10 minutes. Combine flour, sugar, salt and lemon peel in a mixing bowl. Add melted butter and yeast. Mix everything into soft and flexible dough, and let it rise in a bowl covered with a towel for 30-45 minutes.
- Roll out the dough to 1/8 inch thick sheet and cut into 2 x 2 inches squares. Place a teaspoon of cottage cheese filling in the middle of each square, wrap and roll into balls. Let the balls rise 10 minutes then flatten them and place apple, prunes or poppy seeds filling on the top.
- Place kolaches on a greased baking sheet, paint with an egg white and bake for 20-30 minutes at 325F. Sprinkle with powdered sugar mixed with vanilla sugar before serving.
- The cheese filling can be prepared by mixing plain Greek yogurt and sour cream (1:1 ratio). Place in the mix in the cheese cloth and hang to drain overnight. Mix the cheese with sugar, lemon peel, egg yolk, vanilla (sugar or extract). To make it thicker and more aromatic, add vanilla pudding powder.



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Election Committee Message

Dear members 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 2022-2023. We are planning to install the new members of the Board in January 2022, during the Association's General Meeting.

There will be changes in the composition of the Board of Directors. Stephen Sabol, long-term board member and former Vice President, passed away in September 2021. He will be greatly missed. After serving for many years, Jane Vanicky, Olga Mendel, Alex Vanicky, Zuzana Justinova, and Gregg Iskra are leaving the Board of Directors. On behalf of the CSHA, I would like to express our gratitude for their tireless work on the Board and for their contributions to the CSHA over the years. We look forward to their continuing involvement with the Association.

We have several nominees for the open positions on the Board: Russel Rezek, MacLean Lunko, Ann Zelenka, Rachel Sullivan, and John Sullivan. Our former President, Margaret Supik, is also on the ballot to become a Board member. We thank the nominees for volunteering to lead our Association forward.

In this issue of Hlas, you will find an election ballot. Please mark your votes and return the ballot in the enclosed envelope no later than November 15, 2021. Please keep in mind that only current CSHA members are eligible to vote. If you haven't paid your 2021 (or 2022) Annual Dues, you can do so on our website and add the membership form or a note of payment with your vote.

Our Czech and Slovak Heritage Association has much to offer to its members and their families. 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 involvement and generous help.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this year's Elections.

Sincerely,

Petr Justin,

Chair, Nominating and Election Committee