

FALL / PODZIM 2018



Sdružení Čechů a Slováků pro Uchování Národních Odkazů
Združenie Čechov a Slovákov pre Zachovanie Národných Odkazov

A publication of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland

DON'T MISS THE THIRTY-SECOND CZECH AND SLOVAK FESTIVAL



**TRADITIONAL MEALS, PASTRIES, COFFEE, HOT DOGS, BEER, SOFT DRINKS
VENDORS, EXHIBITS, FELLOWSHIP, DANCING,
PERFORMANCE BY *THE CZECH PHILHARMONIC
CHILDREN'S CHOIR (KÜHN CHOIR)*
MUSIC BY *PAJTASI***

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018

**12 noon to 6 p.m.
THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL
125 YORK RD. TOWSON, MD 21204**

Admission Adults \$7.00, Children 3-16 \$1.00

ADULT LANGUAGE SCHOOL BEGINS 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR

The Adult Language School just began its fall semester on Saturday, September 8. Most students wanted to have a longer semester, so we will now have 13 days of classes and tuition of \$100 per course per semester. The picture shows students and teachers from our 9 am classes. We continue to be grateful to Iva Zicha and Andrea Kletetschka for their teaching of the Czech language and to Natalie Karlinsky who teaches Slovak.

Czech and Slovak Language School was well represented in the summer school in Dobruska, Czech Republic this summer. MacLean Lunko, Margaret Supik and former student Barbara Whitney all attended.

We heard some great news about a former student. Greta Unger began taking Czech classes when she was in high school, traveling from far western Maryland every Saturday. She liked Czech so much that she attended college at the University of Texas where she was able to major in Czech. Now she has won a Fulbright to teach in the Czech Republic. Her parents Jess and Suzanne, who took Czech 101 with Iva Zicha in 2017-2018, wrote: "By the way, our daughter Greta is in the middle of her first week of teaching English in the Gymnazium Uherské Hradiště and is having a great time. She sends her best wishes to the CSHA. All the teachers in the school are impressed with her command of Czech-- apparently she is the only teaching Fulbright in-

country who can speak and write Czech (although, they tell her, with 'that terrible Prague accent'.) She is assisting in all the classes in the English department, as well as the German department and the French table. For fun she goes hiking with a visiting Russian educator her own age and is looking forward to the Moravian vineyard harvest kicking off this weekend."

Keep our school in mind if you want to prepare for travel, keep in touch with the families of your ancestors or learn to speak in Czech or Slovak to your in-laws! Contact Lois Hybl, 410-243-1710, or lhybl@verizon.net or info@cshamaryland.org.

Lois Hybl



Photo: Lois Hybl

UPDATE FROM THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Preparations for the 32nd Czech and Slovak Festival are underway. We are working hard to make this a wonderful celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence.

What can you look forward to this year? We have a new location at the American Legion Hall - Post #22 (125 York Road, Towson, MD 21204), which is bigger than last year's hall and has a large parking lot. We will be hosting the world-famous Prague Philharmonic Children's Choir (also called the Kühn Choir). They are on their U.S. tour and kindly agreed to add a performance in Baltimore to their schedule. The amazing Pajtasi music group will provide entertainment throughout the afternoon. The dance lesson that so many of you enjoyed last year will be back and Sokol gymnasts will showcase their skills. We also have a new caterer, *Bistro Bohem*, who will prepare goulash and traditional *vepřo knedlo zelo* (roast pork with dumplings and sauerkraut). There will, of course, be beer, pastries, and souvenirs for sale. Children will have fun activities waiting for them at the Children's Corner. Come and join us on Sunday, October 28th between noon and 6 pm for good food, music, and fellowship. 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.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Festival.

Zuzana Justinova

SBOHEM, AL

Al Matousek and his polka band, Joy of Maryland, were an important part of the Czech and Slovak Festivals for many years. Sadly, Al passed away in August at the age of 87. Al, whose parents were both of Czech descent, grew up in the old Czech neighborhood around St. Wenceslaus Church and attended grammar school there. His musical career began in 1951 when he enlisted in the Navy and began playing clarinet in the Navy Band. After his discharge Al went to work at the Social Security Administration where he enjoyed a distinguished career for thirty-six years.

But Al Matousek is best known for his musical career after the Navy. It began when he was an accordion soloist performing at various East Baltimore clubs. His obituary tells us that for “15 years, Al was the featured performer every Friday and Saturday night at the Graceland Inn in Dundalk. He also played with various groups over the years:

Al Matousek's *Polka American Dance Band*, the Bay City Brass, the *Polkaholics*, *Joy*, and most recently *Joy IV*. His love for his craft enabled him to play until the age of 85. Al's music greatly influenced the evolution of the Baltimore polka scene, and through his children and nephew, his legacy impacted the national industry as well.”



Those of us who got to know Al through his yearly appearances at the Festival will remember his cheerful greetings to all, and especially his lively dance music.

S Panem Bohem, Al. We'll miss you.

CZECH KOLACHE (České koláče - šátečkové)

Ingredients:

- 30g (1 tablespoon) active dry yeast
- 90g (1/2 cup) sugar
- 500ml (2 cups) warm milk
- 500g (3 1/2 cups) all-purpose flour
- 2 large egg yolks
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 100g (1/2 cup) butter, softened
- 1/2 teaspoon ground lemon peel
- Vanilla sugar
- 2 cups of prune, poppy seed, sweet cottage cheese or apple filling



Mix flour, sugar, salt and lemon peel in a mixing bowl. In a separate smaller bowl mix yeast with half of the lukewarm milk and a spoon of sugar. Cover with a towel and let rise for 10 minutes. Melt butter and mix with egg yolks and the second half of the milk. Add this and the yeast to the flour and mix everything together into a dough that is soft and flexible. Let it rise in a bowl covered with a towel in a warm place for about 30-45 minutes.

Roll out the dough to a flat sheet about 1/8 of an inch thick and cut into squares of 2 inches by 2 inches. Place a teaspoon of your filling of choice in the middle and pinch the opposite corners of the square together, like a scarf. Put kolaches on a greased baking sheet and allow to set for 10 minutes. Make sugar clumps by mixing together sugar (both regular and vanilla), flour and butter in a 1:1:1 ratio until the consistency is grainy. Paint the kolaches with egg white and sprinkle with sugar clumps. Bake for 20-30 minutes at 325 F. When baked and cooled off, sprinkle with powdered sugar mixed with vanilla sugar.

Dana Havlik

NIKDY NEZAPOMENEME WE WILL NEVER FORGET

My last day in Prague this year happened to be Tuesday 21 August and I found myself making my way along *Václavské náměstí* from Myslbek's iconic statue of *Sv. Václav* down toward *Můstek*. Something was different. There was a different atmosphere about the place. It seemed that the usual crush of shopping tourists had been replaced by Czechs, who were not shopping, but listening to music of the 60's, looking at picture filled kiosks and remembering the events in the pictures.

A huge outdoor stage dominated the square in front of the statue, and as I looked toward the opposite end of the square, I could see some very large monitors placed at intervals all the way to the end. Another smaller stage stood at the *Můstek* end of the *náměstí*. I heard music everywhere, not today's music, but music from the 60's, mostly from 1968 it turned out. All day long loudspeakers filled the square with 60's music interspersed with reminiscences of the events that unfolded on another 21 August, fifty years ago — the day the Warsaw Pact troops, led by the Russians, invaded Prague and all of Czechoslovakia.

One of the singers, Vladislav Máka, sang with such heart, such fervor, that I was moved to ask a gentleman standing next to me, "Do you think pán Máka was here, on the *náměstí*, on that day?" The reply was quick, „Yes, it's very likely that he was here.“ That same very kind gentleman gave me a pin with the words *Nikdy Nezapomeneme* superimposed over the Czech flag. I thanked him and assured him that I will never forget, not this day, nor the events of fifty years ago which we were recalling. The crowd ebbed and flowed throughout the afternoon, but overall it grew steadily larger.

By the time I returned after dinner *Václavské náměstí* was a sea of people; I turned to my friend Milena and asked her how many people she thought were there. She thought for a second and replied that it felt like a million people all converged on this one place in the heart of Prague. The stage and the monitors along the square were barely visible in the throngs of people. The program, amplified so that all could hear, alternated between musical performances and reminiscences from notable Czechs, among them Zdeněk Svěrák, who had witnessed and reported on the shots fired, the fallen, the tanks rumbling in the square, the horror of that cruel invasion. After each reminiscence, there was a musical interlude, a piece popular in 1968 sung by Aneta Langerová, Lucie Bílá, Vojta Dyk, Honza Křížek or someone of similar fame.

Despite the size of the crowd the atmosphere was friendly, respectful, maybe even at times somewhat serious. Certain of the speakers elicited shouts of approval; applause for the performers was thunderous. But there was no disorder, even those fighting their way along the edges of the *náměstí* were as polite as they could be as they pushed their way ahead.

The finale was nothing less than spectacular. It began with Marta Kubišová singing her iconic *Modlitba pro Martu*. While the crowd greeted her with thunderous cheering and applause, when she began to sing, they fell quiet and seemed to drink in every word. Then came the robots, introduced by what sounded like thunder. They were about ten feet tall, bright red, and marched on their spindly legs into the crowd. Behind them the windows of the *Národní Muzeum* glowed red and blue, an image of the Czech flag rippled along the front of the building, and huge jets of flame shot up from the roof.

The commemoration ended with everyone singing the Czech and Slovak national anthems before the crowd drifted away. The faces in the crowd, and the tears glistening in their eyes, hinted at the emotions that must have been swelling up in their hearts.

No, kind gentleman, *Nikdy nezapomeneme*, we will not forget, I will not forget, and neither, I think, will any of the throng gathered there on *Václavské náměstí* on that evening of 21 August, 2018 ... or on that day fifty years earlier.

Margaret Supik



1968

2018



THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO STATEHOOD

Czech and Slovak communities have seen numerous anniversaries in 2018. January 1 marked the 25th Anniversary of founding of an independent Slovak Republic. On October 18, we will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and on October 28th, the birthday of Czechoslovakia.

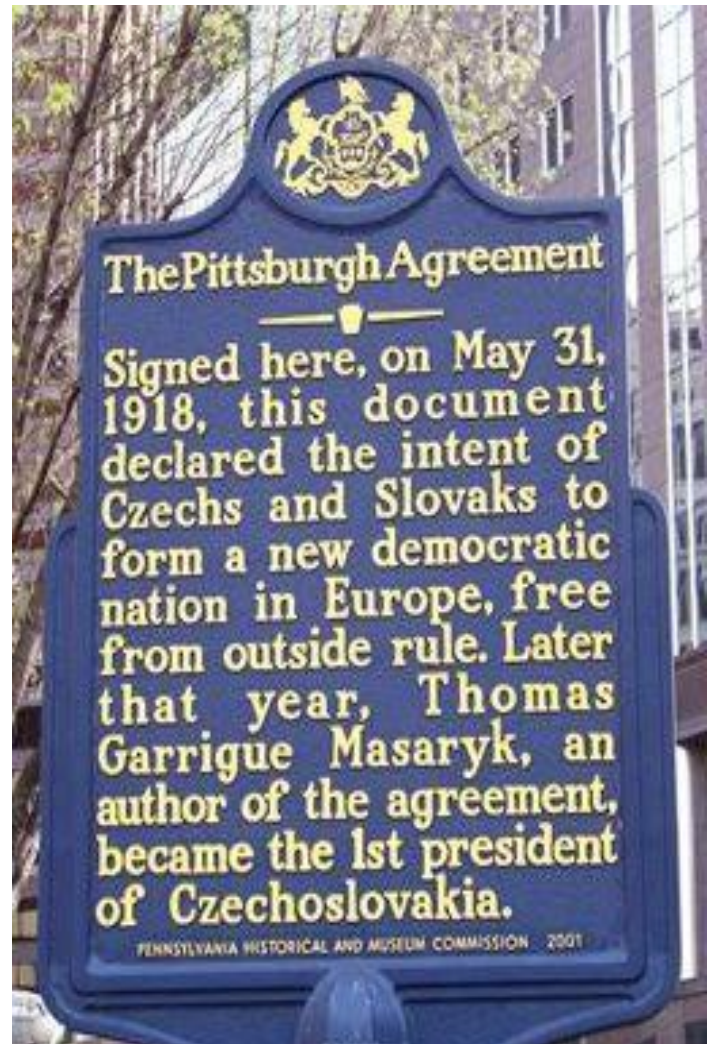
On a more somber note, we also marked the 50th Anniversary of the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion on August 21st and the 80th Anniversary of the Munich Agreement on September 30th. However, there was another important anniversary in the history of Czechoslovakia that was celebrated this year, in a city more than 4000 miles away from Prague and about 4500 miles from Bratislava.

One year into the First World War, things were not going as planned for the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Many ethnic minorities in the empire saw the war as an opportunity to gain independence. While the US remained neutral, in October 1915, the Slovak League of America and the Czech National Association held a joint meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. The two groups drafted and signed “The Cleveland Agreement.” In it, the immigrant groups agreed to support the formation of an independent Czechoslovak State.

Two and a half years later, the US was now at war on the Allied side, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire was on the brink of collapse. The last German offensive on the western front was stopped in April 1918 and the allied victory was no longer in doubt. The ethnic groups who wanted to declare independence needed to be ready to act as soon as the war ended if they wanted to be recognized by the victors.

Between 1870 and 1914, around half million Slovaks had immigrated to the U.S. Finding work in steel mills and coal mines, the majority settled in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. Since there were so many Slovak immigrants living in Pittsburgh, and with its central location between the Czech ethnic centers of Chicago, Cleveland, Baltimore and New York, it was the perfect location to have a big meeting on Memorial Day in 1918. On Thursday, May 30, 1918, about 20,000 Czechs and Slovaks rallied in downtown Pittsburgh to welcome Professor Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and the representatives of several Czech and Slovak fraternal groups who were meeting to establish the foundations of an independent Czechoslovak state. Twenty-eight leaders from several fraternal organizations met with TGM in the Moose Hall on Liberty Avenue. This group became known as the Czechoslovak National Council in America. The next day, a document was approved that would create a joint state for the Slovaks and Czechs, and

stipulated aspects of its future composition. What came to be known as the Pittsburgh Agreement was agreed upon in a unanimous vote on May 31, 1918.



Five months later, between October 13 and 16, the Czechoslovak National Council drafted and signed the “Washington Declaration” also known as “Declaration on Independence of the Czechoslovak Nation by Its Provisional Government.”

TGM presented it to President Woodrow Wilson on October 17. It was then published by the Czechoslovak Provisional Government in Paris, France on October 18, 1918. Ten days later, on October 28, Czechoslovak independence was finally declared in Prague.

From Cleveland to Pittsburgh to Washington, DC and Paris, Czechoslovakia had a long and winding road outside of its own borders before achieving statehood.

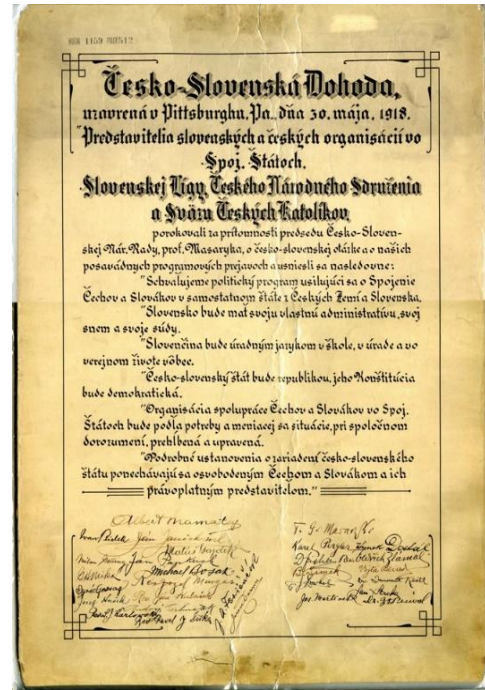
MacLean Lunko

THE AGREEMENT

The agreement, *Česko-Slovenská Dohoda*, (pictured at right) and dated 30 May, 1918, was drafted in Pittsburgh. In translation it reads:

We proceeded with this agreement anticipating questions which the present chairman of the Czecho-Slovak National Council, professor Masaryk, might raise, and we propose the following:

1. We approve (sanction) the political program, which endeavors to bring about a Union of the Czechs and Slovaks in an independent state comprising the Czech Lands, (the lands of the Bohemian Crown) and Slovakia.
2. Slovakia will have its own administration, its Diet and its courts.
3. The Slovak language will be the official language in schools and in public life in general (in Slovakia).
4. The Czecho-Slovak state will be a republic, its Constitution will be democratic.
5. The organization of the collaboration of the Czechs and the Slovaks in the United States will be amplified and adjusted according to the needs and according to the changing situation, by mutual agreement.



6. Detailed rules concerning the organization of the Czecho-Slovak State are left to the liberated Czechs and Slovaks and their legal representatives (to establish).

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR AND A NEW HOME FOR THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL



CSHA's Children's Language School is moving to a new location: Woodbrook Baptist Church, 25 Stevenson Lane, Baltimore 21212. The day and time, Friday at 6-7:30, will remain the same and we expect to begin classes on Friday, October 5. Our plan is to offer weekly as well as every-other week classes in Czech and Slovak for beginners and

more advanced speakers. To help cover additional costs we will have to ask for tuition of \$155 per semester for weekly classes and \$75 per semester for the every-other week classes. To register your children for the language school or if you have questions, please go to our website www.cshamaryland.org and click on the school tab, or call Margaret Supik at 410-662-6094.

FUN NIGHT POT LUCK DINNER

We've scheduled the first of our Family Night gatherings for Friday, September 28. It will be a covered-dish dinner and will take place from 6-8 pm at the new home of our Children's Language School, Woodbrook Baptist Church, 25 Stevenson Lane. Everyone is invited. There will be games for the kids, lots of good food and good company for the adults. Bring a dish to share and bring the family; CSHA will provide non-alcoholic beverages and table ware. To RSVP please go to info@cshamaryland.org.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The President's Message for this issue is all about THANKS.

Thanks to our hard-working Festival Committee which has devoted hours to meeting the challenges of presenting the 32nd annual Festival in a new location, with a new caterer, and new suppliers for pastries, new volunteers. They have also contended with the usual demands of ordering supplies, preparing the schedule...all the little details that make our Festival a success. And it will be a success, thanks to the Festival Committee. So, come out and support us starting at noon on Sunday 28 October. The new location is the American Legion Post 22 at 125 York Road in Towson.

Thanks are in order, too, for the contributors to this issue of HLAS. This issue is very much a collaborative effort, and the willingness of so many to help with articles and layout for our newsletter made putting it together a real pleasure. CSHA exists to serve the Czech and Slovak community here in the Baltimore area and it works best when we have participation from our members. If you have an idea for an article, if you'd like to write something for HLAS, don't hesitate...let us know, send us your thoughts, ideas, photos to info@cshamaryland.org. CSHA depends on member involvement in our activities. We need your support, your ideas, your enthusiasm.

Thank you everyone.

See you on the 28th of October, Margaret

Fall 2018

Podzim 2018

Postmaster: Dated material, please do not delay.

The VOICE of The Czech & Slovak
Heritage Association
Post Office Box 20261
Baltimore, MD 21284-0261

U.S. POSTAGE **PAID**
NON-PROFIT ORG.
Permit 5543
Baltimore MD

www.cshamaryland.org

CSHA Officers:	
President	Margaret Supik
Vice-president	Dana Petran
Secretary	Lois Hybl
Treasurer	Jane Vanicky

HLAS editor: Margaret Supik
