

## Jaroslav Hašek - The satirical writer (and soldier) behind The Good Soldier Švejk

by MacLean Lunko

In the Winter 2021 issue of Hlas, we were treated to a biography of Josef Lada. It was Lada whose illustrations preserved early 20th century Czech village life and whose animations brought life to one of the most beloved of fictional Czech characters, Josef Švejk, the Good Soldier. But, who was the man behind The Good Soldier Švejk, and was Josef Švejk really fictional?

Jaroslav Hašek was born in Prague in 1883. At the time, Prague was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His father was a teacher who died at an early age, leaving Jaroslav, his mother,

and his two siblings destitute. His grandfather, Frantisek Hašek, took part in the failed 1848 rebellion against the Habsburg monarchy.

As a teenager Hašek took part in anti-German riots in Prague, and was forced to withdraw from gymnasium (the Czech equivalent of a US high school). He was first apprenticed to a pharmacist, but he eventually returned to his studies and graduated from business school. It was in business school that he first began publishing parodies. After graduation,

*continues on page 4*



Well known cartoon of Švejk by Josef Lada



Young Jaroslav Hašek

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

### CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Children's Language School classes will resume the week of September 11-16. Slovak classes will continue to meet on Sundays beginning on 11 September: beginners will meet at 10am, advanced speakers at 11am. Czech classes will continue to meet on Thursdays at 6pm. For more information, or to register a student please go to our website.

### 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 for the fall semester beginning September 10, see the registration form in this HLAS. To ask questions, please contact Lois Hybl at 410-243-1710 or e-mail: [LHybl@verizon.net](mailto:LHybl@verizon.net) or [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org).

### HERITAGE SINGERS

We hope to present a Mikulaska in early December. Future rehearsals and events will be announced on the CSHA website <https://cshamaryland.org> and our Facebook page.

CSHA ONLINE - For more information about any of these activities or to register for classes, you can contact CSHA at: [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto: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](http://www.cshamaryland.org) and follow us on Facebook at [Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Baltimore](https://www.facebook.com/CzechandSlovakHeritageAssociationofBaltimore).

## MAY 2022

Memorial Day - Heritage Singers joined in the memorial ceremony and celebration at the Bohemian National Cemetery and Cultural Center in Baltimore.

## OCTOBER 2022

The 34th CSHA Festival is planned on October 23rd, 2022, Noon to 6PM at the American Legion Hall, 125 York Road, Towson, MD. Please see page 8 and the Festival Poster for more information.

## DECEMBER 2022

Early December - Christmas Carol Singing at St. Wenceslaus Church, 2111 Ashland Avenue, Baltimore & Mikulášská. Details will be provided on CSHA Facebook and CSHA Maryland website.



*CSHA Board of Directors with Czech Embassy representatives  
Jan Voska and Adam Čörgö at the Spring Festival*

#### CSHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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If you have any suggestions or comments or want to contribute to the Hlas by writing an article, email us at [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org).

# President's Message

Dear friends,  
Welcome to our quarterly newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of the summer and making plans for interesting trips and events to relax and recharge.

My hope is that our readers appreciate the articles in the newsletter, look for updates on the upcoming events, or use the Recipe Corner to make new dishes or bake some traditional sweets. While we do not report on breaking news from Europe, which can be found on regular media platforms, we try to provide some good reading and photos related to our Czech and Slovak community in Maryland.

You, our members and friends, are invited to contribute your stories. We do want to hear from you, so please let us know if you want to write an article for HLAS. There is a rich history of Czechs and Slovaks in Baltimore. While your experiences may seem ordinary to you, they would be interesting to others and well worth sharing with our community.

A couple of weeks ago, I had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Jiri Kratky from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is the Special Envoy for Expatriate Affairs. Mr. Kratky traveled to the USA last month to visit Czechs (and Slovaks). He has expressed great gratitude to the CSHA for our efforts to preserve the Czech and Slovak heritage and to promote cultural traditions to our community here in the Baltimore region. He was interested to hear how we have been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and what kind of effect that had on our events and school programs. He was happy to hear that our membership remains strong and especially that our language classes continue to thrive. I thanked him, on behalf of the Association, for the continuous financial support of our efforts.

Mr. Kratky also had one request. In order to keep the strong connection between Czech and Slovak expats living in the USA and

our homelands, he suggested that we ask our community to share their stories directly with people living in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. So I would like to ask all of you to send us your article and we will make sure it gets published in the Czech and Slovak media. Mr. Kratky wanted to remind us about Radio Prague International, the official international broadcasting station of the Czech Republic. This radio station broadcasts in six languages, including English and often produces programs about expats living abroad. As Jiri Kratky mentioned, people living in Czechia and Slovakia still lack enough information about the way Czechs and Slovaks live abroad. Let's all together make sure the ties between the Czech and Slovak states and thousands of expats living abroad remain unbreakable.

And now something for sport enthusiasts. I hope you are as excited as I am about the Czech and Slovak ice hockey this year. After Slovakia won the bronze medal at the winter Olympics, the Czech team brought the same medal from the World Championship. We are so very proud!

Let me add one more news from my hometown, Kromeriz. The local soccer (football) team SK Hanacka Slavia, which plays the third-tier league in Moravia, hosted a big event on Saturday, June 18, 2022. The local stadium was being renamed in honor of Josef Silny, born in Kromeriz 120 years ago. This former Czechoslovak national team player, was one of the best strikers of his generation, and also played at the 1934 FIFA World Cup. Soccer fans enjoyed a couple of friendly games played on the hot sunny Saturday afternoon. They were also able to see former national team players, like Antonin Panenka and Karol Dobias, both members of the 1976 European Cup winning team.

Please keep the stories coming and I will see you at our Festival on October 23, 2022.

Se srdečným pozdravem,



Petr Justin - CSHA president

## Ukraine Crisis Donation

Dear CSHA members and friends,  
As you certainly have seen in the news, the vicious Russian invasion of Ukraine as well as the resulting humanitarian crisis unfortunately continues. International institutions, together with the United States and European Union, condemn the unjustified military offensive by the Russian Federation. The situation in Ukraine is tragic and does not seem to be improving. The resulting humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and surrounding countries remains challenging and local organizations are trying to help any way they can.

The CSHA Board of directors unanimously decided to provide some financial support to local non-profit organizations in

both Czechia and Slovakia. These organizations were selected from an official list provided by both governments and both provide assistance to Ukrainian refugees arriving in Czechia and Slovakia. We have chosen INTEGRA (<https://integra.sk>) in Slovakia and PEOPLE IN NEED ([www.peopleinneed.net](http://www.peopleinneed.net)) in Czech Republic. Both nonprofits will receive an equal amount directly from the CSHA funds.

We all hope that the situation improves very soon and that Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity will be preserved by its people who are so bravely fighting for it.



*continued from page 1*

Hašek went to work for Slavia Bank, but he quickly turned to journalism and literature to earn a living. It was during this time that he fell in with a group of Czech anarchists and began to live the bohemian life of a vagrant.

At age 24, Hašek became the editor of an anarchist magazine and was imprisoned in 1907 for his work. Later that same year, he fell in love with a young lady, but her parents disapproved of their relationship due to his politics and vagrant lifestyle. He attempted to reform his life by backing away from politics and taking on serious journalistic jobs. He briefly held the position of editor of the magazine *Animal World*, but he was fired for publishing articles on imaginary animals.

In 1910, Hašek married, but within a year, he was estranged from his wife after he attempted suicide and spent time in a mental hospital. After his release, he returned to writing. In 1911, he and a group of friends in a Vinohrady pub founded the satirical political party *The Party of Moderate Progress Within the Bounds of the Law*. Until the start of the First World War, Hašek continued to write and live the life of a vagrant, bouncing from pub to pub, always staying one step ahead of the tab. During this time, he met and moved in with Josef Lada.

In 1915, Hašek was drafted and sent to the replacement battalion of the 91st Infantry Regiment in České Budějovice. Eventually, the regiment was sent to the eastern front in Galicia (modern day Ukraine). Soon thereafter, he was captured by the Russians and sent to a prisoner of war camp. While in the camp, he volunteered to join the Czech Legion and fought in the Battle of Zborov against the Austro-Hungarian forces. During his time with the Czech Legion in Russia, Hašek began to abandon anarchism and began to follow his socialist leanings. He joined the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Workers' Party. When the Legion began its withdrawal to Vladivostok, he disagreed with that decision and joined the Red Army. He stayed in Siberia and didn't return to independent Czechoslovakia until December of 1920.

After his return to Czechoslovakia, Hasek returned to his wife, and they moved to Lipnice nad Sázavou. He was already very ill as he began to write his masterpiece of satire, *The Fate of the Good Soldier Švejk* during the World War. Unfortunately for his readers, Jaroslav Hasek passed away before he could finish the book.

In the years that followed the author's death, Švejk would be translated into 58 languages and be adapted for both stage and screen. Jaroslav Hasek's seminal work would leave a permanent mark on Czech language and culture. Švejk lives on in the Czech language with words and expressions such as: Švejkovat - to behave as Švejk might; Švejkovina - one who is švejkling; Švejkárna - a situational and systemic absurdity. Švejk

has also entered other languages, such as English. Švejkism - to feign stupidity as a form of protest. Calling someone "a Švejk" is a way of saying that he is a lucky fool who succeeds through no special powers or intelligence.

Hasek's work inspired future generations of writers, including Joseph Heller, who said that if it were not for *The Good Soldier Švejk*, he never would have been inspired to write *Catch-22*. Another piece of classic American culture, *No Time for Sergeants* was first published as a book in 1954 by Mac Hyman. The book was adapted into a movie of the same name starring Andy Griffith. The movie eventually led to a spinoff of the *Andy Griffith Show* in 1962, *Gomer Pyle USMC* starring Jim Nabors. The 1994 Tom Hanks movie *Forrest Gump* was also inspired by Švejk.



*Hašek's Grave*

On April 30th, 2021, the Czechoslovak Society for the Arts and Sciences in New York held a "Švejkathon" online. It featured a marathon reading of the first part of *The Good Soldier Švejk*, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the publication of the book and proved that Josef Švejk (and Jaroslav Hašek) have been drafted for life into the pantheon of classic literary characters.

# George Mojzisek - Dedicated Student of the Czech Language, Long-time CSHA Member

George Mojzisek passed away on 21 April after a brief illness. George was one of the first students to register for Czech classes when our Adult School began back in 1989 and had attended Czech class faithfully until mid-April when he fell ill. It was George who arranged for the Adult Language School to meet at the Gribbin Center where classes were held until Covid forced us to meet online. He was able to do this because of his long-term service as assistant scoutmaster to his younger son Mark's scout troop which had met there for years. In his professional life he was an architect, a very proud Notre Dame graduate, whose notable designs include the Snow Hill Inn, and most importantly, the Masonic Hall at Bonnie Blink in Hunt Valley.

George's son, John, in eulogizing his father said: "We all knew George from different perspectives, but I think we can all agree, George was a character... But if you knew what a character he was, you also knew his character. You knew what a hard and disciplined worker he was... Maybe you knew George's commitment to the Czech language he grew up with through weekly class and trips abroad, or his retirement work as a Czech translator... Behind the intimidating last name, was



*George Mojzisek (in the middle) with his fellow alumni from the University of Notre Dame*

a great pride in his Czech birth and heritage which he and I were so blessed to rekindle with family on a handful of trips to the Czech Republic over the years."

Hezkou cestu, Jíří, we'll miss you, especially on Saturdays.

## Fujara? What's that?

*by Bob Rychlík*



The fujara is an iconic musical instrument from Slovakia. It has a unique voice and many people say that they will never forget hearing the fujara for the first time. It is a very large, up to 6 feet long, overtone flute with three side holes and a smaller side tube for supplying air to the top of the flute. The koncovka is a smaller version of overtone flute which is very easy to play because it has no side holes and playing it involves only opening or closing its end hole with one finger. Both instruments are surprisingly easy to play; just blowing into the instrument and varying the level of the breath will produce different tones without opening any of the side holes.

Until recently the fujara was unknown outside of Slovakia, and only a few traditional musicians played the instrument, but today the popularity of the fujara is on the rise. Fujara players from all over the world are working to preserve the traditional folk melodies while finding new ways to play this ancient folk instrument.

For many years Bob Rychlík has been sharing the voices of the fujara and koncovka at countless performances and folk festivals in this country and abroad. In July he will be presenting a series of in person and online workshops featuring these remarkable instruments, how to play them and favorite Czech, Moravian and Slovak folk songs. The workshops will take place under the auspices of Common Ground on the Hill at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. For more information, or to sign up for one of the classes go to: <https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/instructors/rychlik-bob>



# Our First Spring Festival

by Dana Havlik

The CSHA spring event featuring Czech and Slovak Easter traditions took place on Sunday, April 3, 2022 from 12 noon to 5pm at the Maryland State Game & Fish Protective Association in Perry Hall. The attendance exceeded our expectations. Nearly 150 pre-registered for the event, but many more walked in and joined our celebration of spring. The guests enjoyed live music by Orchester Praževica who truly created a festive and joyful atmosphere and prompted several people to dance.



*Children enjoying traditional Easter crafts*



*Orchester Prazevica performing at the Spring Festival*

CSHA provided delicious sandwiches, cheese and meat platters, hotdogs, cupcakes, cookies, homemade pastries and traditional Slovak pagach baked by Gregg Iskra. The biggest hit was the homemade beef stew (gulas) prepared by the culinary team of Dana Petran and Bill Reckord. A variety of beers including Czech Pilsner and wines selected by Russ



*Delicious refreshments and traditional Easter pastries served at the Spring Festival*





CSHA President Petr Justin and Vice President Dana Petran welcome all guests at the Spring Festival

Rezek, our official bartender, was served along with soft drinks and coffee.

Over fifty children enjoyed the traditional crafts and Easter activities including egg coloring using various decorating techniques, an egg hunt, face painting, dancing and a variety of games. Many adults joined the small workshop to learn how to make a pomlázka from fresh willow branches.

The CSHA Board of Directors would like to thank all our guests for coming and enjoying our first Spring Festival, especially our guest from the Embassy of the Czech Republic - Cultural Attaché Jan Woska and his assistant Adam Čörgö.

We also want to welcome all those new members who signed up and joined CSHA. Finally, we want to extend a big thank you to all the dedicated volunteers including those from Czech and Slovak Language School, who helped with the preparations, decorations, children's activities and the cleanup. They made this event possible. We are hoping for similar participation and support for our Fall Festival that is returning in October after a two-year pause. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

## Czech and Slovak Recipe Corner:

by Dana Havlik

### Strawberry Dumplings (Jahodové knedlíky)

Fruit dumplings are one of the most favorite Czech and Slovak summer dishes. There are many varieties of recipes. Depending on the type of fruit to be used the dough may be made with cottage cheese or potato, for example. Strawberry dumplings are typically made from a yeast dough.

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tablespoon active dry yeast
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/2 cup warm milk
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose unbleached flour or Wondra
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Toppings: cottage cheese, butter, and powdered sugar



#### DIRECTIONS:

In a large bowl, mix flour and salt. Make a well in the middle and add sugar, yeast, and lukewarm milk. Cover with a kitchen towel and let rise for 10 minutes. Add one egg and mix everything together by hand or with an electric mixer to make a moldable non-sticky, slightly stiff dough. Cover with a towel and let rise in a warm place for 30-60 minutes.

Cut the dough into 12-16 pieces, roll into small balls, flatten into circles like small pancakes and wrap each strawberry in the dough. Let the dumplings rise another 10 minutes while bringing lightly salted water to a boil in a large cooking pot.

Place 4-6 dumplings in the pot, boil for 3-4 minutes on each side. Place finished dumplings in a bowl and poke a few holes in each with a fork to release the steam. Add a square of butter to the bowl and mix gently, so the dumplings don't stick together. Strawberry dumplings are typically served with melted butter, sugar, and cottage cheese.

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The VOICE of The Czech & Slovak  
Heritage Association  
P.O. Box 20261  
Baltimore, MD 21284-0261  
[www.cshamaryland.org](http://www.cshamaryland.org)  
[info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org)

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## CSHA Fall Festival Announcement

**D**ear friends of Czechia and Slovakia,  
Please mark your calendars. The 34th Czech and Slovak Festival will open its doors at noon on Sunday, October 23rd, 2022. We will be offering traditional meals, pastries, Czech and Slovak beer and plenty more. There will

be traditional sweets and goodies for purchase from vendors. You will be able to enjoy music by the Slovak folk band Pajtasi, dancing, and fellowship. The event will take place at the American Legion Hall in Towson, MD, which has plenty of free parking available for visitors.



The CSHA Board has just started the preparations for the Festival and is always looking for volunteers, who want to help with planning and/or at the actual event. Please let us know via email if you're interested, or fill out the form included in this HLAS.

And lastly, our Association always appreciates your financial support. Whether you would like to advertise in the Festival booklet distributed to all visitors, or just support us by contributing a small amount as a sponsor of our main event, your help is always welcomed and appreciated.

Please come to our festival and bring your family and friends with you. We cannot wait to see you there.



# The Czech and Slovak Heritage Association

Sdružení Čechů a Slováků pro uchování národních odkazů  
Združenie Čechov a Slovákov pre zachovanie národných odkazov

PRESENTS

## THE THIRTY-FOURTH CZECH AND SLOVAK FESTIVAL



TRADITIONAL MEALS, PASTRIES, COFFEE, HOT DOGS, BEER,  
SOFT DRINKS, VENDORS, EXHIBITS, FELLOWSHIP, DANCING  
**MUSIC BY PAJTASI**

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022

**12 noon to 6 p.m.**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL  
125 YORK ROAD, TOWSON, MD 21204**

**Admission Adults \$10.00, Children 3-16 \$1.00**

For more information visit our website [www.cshamaryland.org](http://www.cshamaryland.org) or email us at [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org)

*Czech and Slovak Heritage Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.*

# Please help us to have successful CZECH AND SLOVAK FESTIVAL on Sunday, October 23, 2022

**You can:**

☞ **volunteer to help at the festival.**

☞ **advertise in the special festival booklet distributed to all visitors:**

- advertise your business
- remember loved ones
- honor family
- salute friends
- take a sponsor ad

Use the form below to let us know how you want to help:

*photo: John Vanko*

☐ **I want to volunteer to help at the 2022 Annual festival:**

Please email us at [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org) so that we can contact you prior to the festival.

**I want to place an ad, message or memorial in the festival booklet:**

☐ Full page ..... \$100      ☐ 1/2 page ..... \$60      ☐ 1/4 page ..... \$35

Please attach a copy of your ad, message, memorial and fill in information below.

**I want to make a contribution and be listed as a sponsor in the festival booklet:**

☐ Gold sponsor ... \$30      ☐ Silver sponsor ... \$20      ☐ Bronze sponsor...\$10

Please print your name and fill in information below. Listed price is per each family name.

**For electronic payment options:** Please email us at [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org) for more info.

☐ Check enclosed ..... amt.      ☐ member      ☐ non-member

Name: ..... (please print)

Address: .....

City ..... State: ..... Zip code: .....

email: ..... phone: .....

**Mail completed form (and check) to:  
CSHA, PO Box 20261, Baltimore, MD 21284-0261**

**Copy and payment are due no later than September 15, 2022**

For more information visit [www.cshamaryland.org](http://www.cshamaryland.org) or email us at [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org)  
The Czech and Slovak Heritage Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



# CZECH AND SLOVAK ADULT LANGUAGE SCHOOL

sponsored by

## THE CZECH AND SLOVAK HERITAGE ASSOCIATION (CSHA)

P.O. Box 20261, Baltimore, MD 21284-0261 ([www.cshamaryland.org](http://www.cshamaryland.org))

**Where can you find low-cost classes in the Czech and Slovak languages and learn about the history, culture, and current events related to this heritage here and abroad? Read on!**

Fall semester **online** classes begin **September 10, 2022**. Please indicate your interest by August 31 and register with payment by September 7 so we know whether we have enough students and can send you the link needed to sign into classes.

**Class dates: Sept. 10, 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, Dec. 3, 10**

The following courses include grammar, conversation, reading, and writing:

Czech 101 (Introductory First Year Students) 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Czech 201 (Intermediate) 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Czech 101 (Returning) 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Slovak 101 (Beginning) 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Slovak 201 (Intermediate) 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

The following courses emphasizes conversation with some translation and writing:

Advanced Czech Conversation 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**Tuition: \$100 per course.** When you register, we will provide information about how to order textbooks online.

Because the Language School is subsidized by CSHA, we encourage you to join at \$25 per year (due in January) using the separate membership form in newsletters or on the website. For more information about teachers, and classes, call 410-243-1710 or e-mail [lhybl@verizon.net](mailto:lhybl@verizon.net). For weather cancellations, call 410-243-1710 for a recorded message.

The language school is open to anyone of any age interested in learning about Czech and Slovak languages, history, and culture. We do not discriminate based on race, color, national or ethnic origin. Class schedule is subject to change based on enrollment and teacher availability.

**Send this form to: Lois Hybl, Language School, CSHA, P.O. Box 20261, Baltimore, MD 21284-0261 with a check made out to CSHA.**

**Or pay online at <http://cshamaryland.org/payschool> with a slight surcharge making the cost \$103.30, and send an email with the other registration information to [lhybl@verizon.net](mailto:lhybl@verizon.net).**

For questions, call 410-243-1710; e-mail: [LHybl@verizon.net](mailto:LHybl@verizon.net), or see the website registration form at [www.cshamaryland.org](http://www.cshamaryland.org). Please circle any part of your address, phone, or e-mail that you do **NOT** want included in our Language School Directory.

Last		First		Middle	
Address Apt. #		City		State ZIP+4	
Home Phone		Cell Phone		E-mail Address	

**Check class(es) for Fall 2022:**

Czech 101 (First Year) \_\_\_\_\_

Czech 101 (returning) \_\_\_\_\_

Czech 201 (Intermediate) \_\_\_\_\_

Advanced Czech Conversation. \_\_\_\_\_

Slovak 101 (Beginning) \_\_\_\_\_

Slovak 201 (Intermediate) \_\_\_\_\_

**Insert cost for each item:**

Tuition (\$100 per 2-hour course) \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to CSHA.**

(If you wish to pay CSHA dues for 2022, enclose a separate check for \$25 with "membership" on the memo line.)

Dues can also be paid online at <http://cshamaryland.org/index.php?id=membership>

To check your membership status, email [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org)

Keep my name on the language school mailing list. \_\_\_\_\_

Take me off the mailing list. \_\_\_\_\_  
I learned about these classes from \_\_\_\_\_