The 32nd Czech and Slovak Festival was a great success. We had a very good turnout (350 adults, 80 children), wonderful traditional meals and pastries, awesome performers, and popular vendors. Most importantly, everyone could see that our visitors were satisfied and enjoyed themselves. That is why we organize the Festival to give back to the community that supports the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association year after year.

Appreciation of Festival Volunteers

As always, this year’s festival was the product of passionate effort, dedication, and hard work provided by many people.

Dear Volunteers, we could not have done this without you! You are the magical ingredients that make this big event a reality. We hope you enjoyed your time at the Festival, and that you will consider helping us again next year.

by Zuzana Justinova
Festival Committee Chair
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL
The fall semester brought changes to the schedule and location of the CSHA Children's school. Regular language classes for children aged 3 and up are held every other Friday from 6 to 7:30 PM, rather than weekly as in the past. There are 2 levels of instruction in Czech this fall (from beginning to advanced). We would like to hold Slovak classes as well, and are currently seeking students.

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 a 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 a 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 spring semester classes begin January 12th.

HERITAGE SINGERS
If you like to sing and you 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.

DECEMBER 2018

MIKULÁŠSKÁ - December 7th, 2018, 6 to 8PM at our new Children's School location at Woodbrook Baptist Church, 25 Stevenson Lane, Baltimore, MD 21212 - Mikuláš, Anděl, and Čert will make an appearance.
Each child will receive a “balíček” (goody bag) from Mikuláš. Cost: $5 per child (no cost for language school students and members of CSHA).
Registration is required. See details in the Hlas insert or check out CSHA's Facebook page or website.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - December 9th, 2018, 3PM - 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.

JANUARY 2019

GENERAL BOARD MEETING - January 20th, 2019, 2PM at Woodbrook Baptist Church, 25 Stevenson Lane, Baltimore, MD 21212. It is a nice new location with plenty of parking space.

OCTOBER 2019

33rd ANNUAL CZECH AND SLOVAK FESTIVAL - October 27th, 2018, noon to 6PM, American Legion Hall, 125 York Rd, Baltimore, MD 21204

HLAS - The CSHA newsletter comes to you with a new look. If you have any suggestions or comments, 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 our new email address: info@cshamaryland.org. CSHA's new 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.
President’s message: Thanks to All

This is admittedly a departure from the usual presidents’ messages. While heart-felt thanks are due to all those who made our recent 32nd Festival and celebration of the Day of Czechoslovak Independence a huge success, others have acknowledged those hard workers better than I can hope to do. I will simply add my thanks to what has already been said.

I can’t help thinking of those who were not at this year’s festival, the many faithful supporters of CSHA who built our organization from the ground up. As a way to honor our absent friends, I turn to the words of Slovak poet Marta Hlušíková in her Lúky tancujú koreňmi trav, published in 2011. Each of us, I’m sure, has had a Majo, or a Majka, in our lives. This is a thank you to all of them:

**Náš priateľ Majo**

Náš priateľ Majo  
Robil obyčajné veci,  
Čo voňali zázračnom.  
Potom nebo mávalo krídlom  
A on oddielil tak jednoducho,  
Ako keď na jeseň odletia vtáky  
A zrno nechajú rozhádzané  
Po polných cestách.

---

Our Friend Majo

Our friend Majo  
Did simple things  
that smelled of miracles.  
Then Heaven fluttered its wings  
And he left as simply  
As birds fly away in autumn  
Leaving the grain scattered on the field paths.

Margaret Supik - CSHA president

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Recognition from Congressman Sarbanes

When Congressman Sarbanes visited the festival in 2017, we were glad that he enjoyed a homemade “koláč” and came to see what CSHA is about. He visited the festival again this year, and this time he presented CSHA’s president with the recognition letter. As you can see, the letter recognizes not only the Centennial Celebration of Czechoslovak Independence, but also the importance of maintaining Czech and Slovak heritage, culture and language while living in the United States. We are honored and we look forward to seeing the newly reelected Congressman again in 2019.

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Donations:

Many thanks to these members, who made donations to the association from December 2017 – October 2018:

- Albert Heck
- Radmila Dishon
- Jess & Suzanne Unger
- Olga & Richard Mendel
- Dana Petran
- Ann & Frank Huber
- Kathleen & Edward Sievers Jr
- Charles Sinlock
- John & Rachel Sullivan
- James & Mildred Skarda
- Michael & Deborah Bull
- Barbara Sonberg
- Joseph & Julie Stanik
- Mary & Lauren Keehan
- Elizabeth & Kevin Selock
- Mary J. Matthew
- Milada & Vojtech Vala
- Vladislav & Nada Jandasek
- Dorothy Robel and family
- Gregory Sonberg
- Francis & Sandra Vojik
- David Yanosik
- William & Barbara Hatchl
- Charles Heller
- Arthur Lyons
- Dana Havlik
YOU SHOULD ALL FEEL GREAT ABOUT A JOB WELL DONE.

In no particular order, the CSHA Board of Directors would like to thank:

The Festival Committee for their time spent in the planning meetings, and especially those who repeatedly visited the Hall and helped figure out the details of this new location.

Zuzana Justinova for managing the Festival this year and running the Children’s Corner.

Petr Justin for structuring the Festival planning, creating and maintaining the online documents, and putting together the video that you all enjoyed on the big screens.

Lois Hybl for being a wonderful vendor coordinator again and for buying all our paper products, silverware, table covers and such. It was lot to figure out.

Jane Vanicky for taking great care of the financial side of the Festival, making the new payment/ticket system work seamlessly, and expertly calculating the finances.

Ales Vanicky for taking care of the permits, flags, signage, and for coordinating the visit of Sokol gymnasts.

Dana Havlik for designing the new ticket system, acquiring the tickets, and printing all the materials that come with it.

Gregg Iskra for acquiring and figuring out the Squares, programming the price menus, and training people in the use of the credit card system that we offered for the first time this year.

Olga Mendel for being a gracious Master of Ceremonies, for coordinating the very successful visit of the Prague Philharmonic Children’s Choir, communicating with the Embassies, and promoting the festival on our website and Facebook.

Steve Sabol and Russel Rezek for planning and buying all the liquor, beer, and soft drinks.

Russel Rezek, Kate Kousouris, Francis Vojik, and Steve Sabol for tirelessly tending the bar and looking like they had fun doing it.

Margaret Supik, Adriana Madro, and Silke Pope for doing a wonderful and professional job serving the meals.

Dana Petran, Dana Havlik, and Katie Havlik for baking and donating their wonderful pastries again to CSHA and picking up the pastries from La Bohemia Bakery and Stolichny Deli.

Opening of the Festival with a parade of flags

Pajtasi band performing traditional music

Hot dog table

The best beer in town

“Koláče” and pastries from La Bohemia Bakery

Continues from page 1
Vilma Rychlik, Iva Zicha, Andrea Kletetschka, Viera Sabol, and Dana Petran for working the pastry table so efficiently that everything sold and Simona Merchant-Dest for helping out, so others could take a break.

Kate Wychgram and Andrea Conlan Kropfleder for planning and getting all that was needed for the hot dog station and Jane Vanicky and Kate Wychgram for making their famous sauerkrauts.

Bill Schuman, Kate Wychgram, John Sullivan, and Dan Sullivan for tirelessly cooking and serving the hot dogs, which were a hit and completely sold out.

Katie Havlik for running the busy front pay station so wonderfully and selling the raffle tickets. Her smile and traditional “kroj” attire were a great touch.

Martina Tesfaye, Negussie Tesfaye, and Zuzana LaBuff for operating the pay station by the meals smoothly and cheerfully.


Gregg Iskra and Petr Justin for selling the entrance tickets, welcoming the visitors and being helpful to everyone all day. Nice CSHA representation!

Debbie Bull and Michael Bull for doing a great job taking care of the coffee and tea station.

Dana Havlik and Katie Havlik for making the beautiful centerpieces for all tables.

Jane Vanicky for designing the Festival poster and the Booklet.

John Vanko, Olga Mendel, and Dana Havlik for photographing the event.

Dana Petran for securing and coordinating the visit of the awesome Pajtasi band and the wonderful dance teachers Roman Lewkowicz and Simona Merchant-Dest.

Dana Havlik and Olga Mendel for securing and coordinating the catering by Bistro Bohem and the order of pastries with La Bohemia Bakery. And a special thanks to both of these DC-based business for working with us and providing such tasty treats.

Bob Rychlik for lending us his piano for the Kühn Choir’s performance.

Petr Justin for drawing the layout of the hall and figuring out the most efficient placement of the tables and other particulars of the Hall.

Margaret Supik, Russell Rezek, and Petr Justin for bringing the loads of supplies from the storage locker and back.

Zoe Justin, Mia Mendel, Denis Justin, Davi Mendel, Dick Mendel, Nathan Lessem, and Albert Hybl for helping with the setup of the tables and coverings. Zoe, Mia, and Nathan also helped at the Children’s Corner.

Alex Vanicky, Dana Havlik, Olga Mendel, Elizabeth Kokes, Rena Schuman, and Petr Justin for donating prizes to the raffle.

Nicole Iskra for welcoming people at the entrance and making the raffle drawing so much fun.

To everyone helping during the cleanup.

We are looking forward to working with you all to make the 33rd Czech and Slovak Festival another big success.
My “Slet” Experience

Following are reflections about the 2018 Všesokolský slet (All Sokol Meet-Up) from Mia Mendel, age 14, who has been a member of TJ Sokol Hanspaulka (in Prague) since the age of two. For her entire life Mia has lived part-time in the Czech Republic, and part time in Baltimore, Maryland.

“I have always loved how I can come back after spending 8 months in Maryland and feel like no time has passed,” she says. “Until now I didn’t imagine that the feeling of family could extend beyond our local Sokol group. But wow was I wrong. On the first day of mass rehearsals I was overwhelmed with the atmosphere of friendship and community. Everyone greeted me with a friendly ‘Nazdar!’ or ‘Ahoj!’, rather than a formal ‘Dobrý den.’ Many of us got annoyed sometimes that we had to stand outside in the burning hot sun for hours. But at least we were annoyed together, finding a common enemy – in this case the weather.”

On July 5, 2018 I sat in the Prague subway wearing a pink and purple leotard holding a silver hula hoop. Next to me sat a little girl in a red costume with a white skirt holding a bright yellow bow. Across from me was a man in a dark shorts and a red shirt. We all looked different. We were of different ages, genders, from different parts of the country – or in some cases, the world. Yet we were heading in the same direction, and with a common purpose. We had all spent the past year in our respective Sokols practicing our routines, and for the past week we had all joined together – 17,000 of us – on the turf of the Eden arena in Prague, beneath a scorching sun, putting the final touches on our performances. We were all part of the XVI Všesokolský Slet, and it was happening tonight!

The first ever slet opened on July 18, 1882, when 692 members of various Sokols (including Miroslav Tyrš, Sokol’s founder), performed in front of 2,500 people on Střelecký ostrov in Prague. The second Slet was staged in 1891, and subsequent slets occurred in 1895, 1901, 1907, 1912, 1926, 1932, 1938 and 1948. I later found out that my grandmother performed in the 1948 event, so by participating in this year’s Všesokolský Slet I was honoring a family tradition.

After 1948, Sokols were throttled by Czechoslovakia’s communist overlords, who replaced the Slet with a propagandistic event called Spartakiadas. But when the Velvet Revolution arrived in 1989, the Sokols revived and the Slet was reinstated. The first post-communist Slet came in 1994, with 23,000 participants, 1,800 of them coming from outside the Czech Republic.

The Všesokolský Slet has been happening every six years since, but this year’s Slet was much more important than usual because it celebrated not only the Sokol movement, but also the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovak independence. There was even a routine, entitled “Spolu” (or “Together”), celebrating Czech and Slovak friendship. Czech and Slovak Sokol members of all ages displayed their unity with the use of red white and blue along with the Czech and Slovak flags.

In the days leading up to the Slet, I attended seven preliminary rehearsals and two dress rehearsals. On several nights I didn’t come home until after midnight. And then I would have to leave again at 8:30 the next morning to start again. At the rehearsals I stood in the sun for hour after hour listening to the choreographer give us pointers and running through the same routines over and over, until we finally got them right. Between rehearsal sessions I sat around talking and eating from the fast food outlets that ring the Eden Arena. I’m not complaining though. I got to spend time with the great friends I have met over the course of my 12 years as a Sokol member – just about my entire life.

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In November, Czechs celebrated the birthday of Charlotte Garrigue Masaryk, who served as the first First Lady of Czechoslovakia and remains among the most celebrated Czech Americans (or American Czechs) of all time.

Charlotte was born in New York on November 20th, 1850, and she met her future husband in 1877 while visiting a friend in Leipzig, Germany. The couple married a year later in the USA, moved to Vienna, and in 1881 relocated to Prague, where Tomáš was hired as a professor in the Czech part of Charles University of Prague.

Well-educated, intelligent and charismatic, Charlotte was an avid proponent of equal rights for women, a passion shared by her husband. The couple demonstrated their equality by taking each other’s names. He was known forever after as Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, just as she became Charlotte Garrigue Masaryk.

We salute this exceptional lady who is still an enduring beacon of friendship between America and the Czech and Slovak people.

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**Masaryk’s Christmas Cookies - (Masarykovo cukrovi)**

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 100g (1/2 cup) sugar
- 300g (2 cups) all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon cocoa powder
- 170g (1 ¼ cup) whole hazel nuts
- 1 egg yolk
- 200g (almost 2 sticks) unsalted butter
- Powder sugar mixed with vanilla sugar

**DIRECTIONS:**
Soak whole hazel nuts in water overnight, then remove and allow them to dry. Mix flour, sugar, softened butter and egg yolk and add hazel nuts (whole or chopped). Roll the dough into one-inch thick logs and store them in a cool place overnight. Cut the logs into 1/8 inch thick circles, place them on a greased baking sheet and bake for 15-20 minutes at 320F. Remove from oven and allow to cool, then dip in powdered sugar mixed with vanilla sugar.

by Dana Havlik
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After the Slet performance, as I sat on a night tram heading home, I felt a wave of satisfaction. I had spent a week surrounded by thousands of people who, like me, have dedicated themselves to Miroslav Tyrš’s wise words of, “a healthy mind in a healthy body”. Most all of the participants had been strangers to me, but by the end of the week they all felt like my brothers and sisters.

I was exhausted by a year of practice and a long week of late nights, early mornings, long rehearsals, and sweltering heat. But I was moved by the powerful sense of community that had enveloped the Slet, and I was proud to have taken part in this wonderful tradition.

“Siluety” routine for girls and young women