

## Josef Lada 1887 - 1957

*translated from Czech by Dolores Zajicek Gentes in 1980*

Josef Lada was one of Czechoslovakia's most beloved writers and illustrators of children's books. Generations of Czech and Slovak children have enjoyed his stories, rhymes, and colorful book illustrations. Even today, adults with a Czech or Slovak background recall fondly the Lada books they had when they were youngsters.

Lada was born to a humble and tragic family on December 17, 1887, in a small village near Prague called Hrušice u Senohrab. His father was a shoemaker who was ill with emphysema most of his life and who died at the age of 57 regretting that he was unable to pay his

debts. His mother was 43 when Josef was born. He remembered her lovingly but as always old, worried, and melancholy.

His siblings were no less tragic. František, Josef's older brother by seventeen years, taught himself the shoemaking trade and eventually cleared the family debts, but at the age of 59 was killed by a train.

His sister, Antonie, proudly went to Prague to serve as a maid, only to return home to die with a kidney disease. Finally, his youngest sister, Marie, lost her husband in war in Russia and was widowed with four small children.



Josef Lada's typical winter drawing

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

### CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL

In the spring semester we will continue with our virtual classes. Beginners or fluent speakers are welcome to join us regardless of where they live.

- Czech Classes are held from on Thursday or Friday evenings based on skill level
  - 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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).

## JANUARY 2022

GENERAL MEETING - January 23rd, 2022 at 4PM. Newly elected members of the CSHA board will start their work for the organization. It will be a virtual meeting, link with invitation is being send by email.

## MAY 2022

MEMORIAL DAY - Heritage Singers are hopefull to be able to perform again at the Bohemian National Cemetary in Baltimore event. Please follow our website for details.

## SEPTEMBER 2022

ANNUAL PICNIC- 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 to meet with all of you again like we were able in 2021.

## OCTOBER 2022

The Annual CZECH AND SLOVAK FESTIVAL is planned for October 23rd, 2022. The festival committee is hoping to be able to finally hold our annual event in person again.

#### 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 CSHA members,

As we return from the holiday season, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very happy and prosperous year 2022. I hope you recharged over the holidays and had a good start of the new year.

It is safe to say that 2020 and 2021 have been two of the most challenging years for all of us and for the Association as well. This year, we are hoping to resume many of your favorite in-person events. The CSHA board stays active regardless of the COVID-caused disruptions we have faced. I am happy to report that our language schools kept going through the pandemic with very good student enrollment.

At the first meeting of the year, on January 23rd, a new Board of Directors is being installed and will be serving for the next two years (2022-2023). I thank those of you who cast votes in this election cycle and wish the new Board all the best and much joy in their efforts.

On a personal note, our family has welcomed visitors from Moravia for the holidays. Our kids' grandparents stayed with us and helped make Christmas truly memorable. We were able to buy a carp and make the potato salad the way we remember from our childhood. Our *babička* (grandma) is a great cook and we have very much enjoyed her meals and baked goodies. My favorite was of course "svíčková na smetaně" and traditional "rohlíky" (rolls).

Very often in these messages I keep mentioning my personal passion, sports. I would like to do so again. I have been following the Czech and Slovak professional athletes competing in a very interesting sport - biathlon. Those who actively engage in cross

country skiing can tell you how demanding this sport is. On top of all that exertion, imagine adding a shooting range in the middle of your distance. I find watching biathlon simply riveting. I am not mentioning this to report results and medal counts as Czechs and Slovaks have not had a particularly successful season so far this year. The reason is that the biathlon events can now be viewed with original Slovak and Czech language commentary on TV in the US. I have found a YouTube channel *SkiFans*, which shows biathlon races in both languages. If you are a sports fan who remembers Karol Polak, Vit Holubec, Petr Vichnar and other great commentators, please look up these recordings and enjoy the show. Those who want to improve their Czech or Slovak language will find it interesting as well. You can hear a lot about two sisters with a great last name - Fialkova (translates as a violet).

On behalf of the CSHA, I want to express our gratitude for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Happy new year,



Petr Justin - CSHA president

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## Czech and Slovak Language School for Adults

*by Lois Hybl*

Due to slow mail service, registrations for the fall Czech and Slovak classes arrived slowly. But, by September 11, the first day of the fall semester, we did have 21 students enrolled.

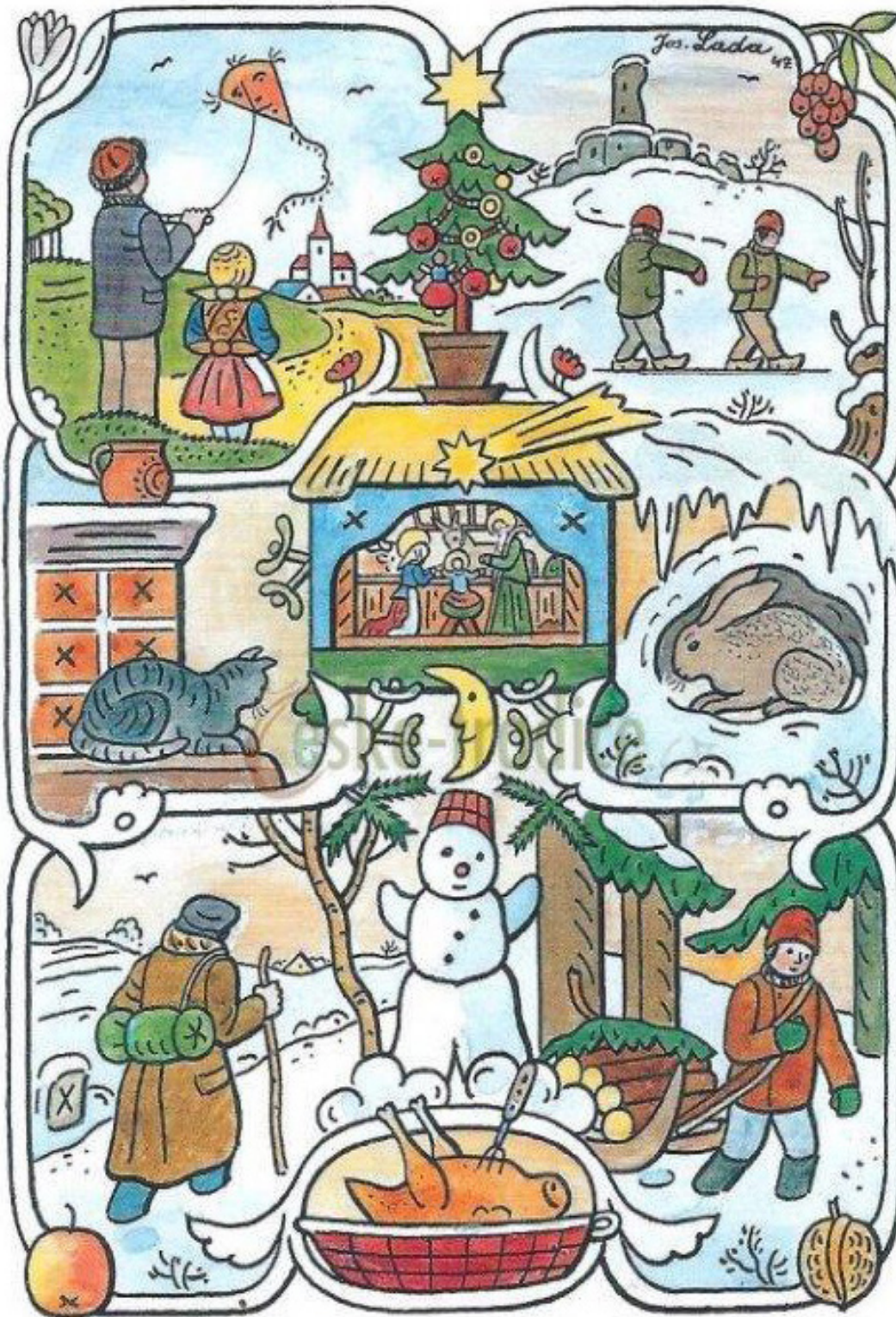
We made a last-minute change to the schedule. We have four new first year Czech students (including a mother and daughter). At the same time, several of last year's Czech 101 students wanted to continue where they left off and did not feel ready to move to Czech 201. So Andrea Kletetschka is teaching the beginners from 11:15 to 1:15. Iva Zicha is teaching the returning Czech 101 students at 9:00 a.m.

While we miss meeting in person, we continue to enjoy sharing classes with students from Nevada, DC, South Carolina, Michigan,

Pennsylvania, Maryland and even Quebec, Canada. A student who is spending a weekend in a cabin with no internet can sit in her car in the McDonald's parking lot! Iva Zicha's parents in the Czech Republic provide additional native Czech speakers for her Advanced Conversation class.

Natalia Karlinsky's newest Slovak student is a very eager Master's Degree student at American University. We especially appreciate Raymond Novak's help with Zoom for the Slovak classes.

If you missed us this time, keep in mind that spring semester classes usually begin the third Saturday in January and fall classes begin the Saturday after Labor Day.



## České Vánoce

Lada's seasons collage

Josef grew up in his father's family home. He described it as a place where six people slept in the same room where food was cooked during the day, and where during the winter it was so damp that moisture collected on the walls so severely that it ruined the furniture, pictures on the walls, and the clothes in the armoires.

Josef was not a very good student in school because all he wanted to do was draw. He was severely punished for doing that because in those days discipline was most harsh and drawing was thought to be a frivolous activity. Only one teacher, Father P. Růžička, who also liked to draw, befriended Josef. However, when Father Růžička was transferred, Josef was left without anyone to support his interest in art. Josef Lada was never formally trained or schooled in art.

He was often ridiculed in school because he had to wear hand-me-downs that were too large for him. Consequently, alone most of the time, he had two toys that he dearly loved - a tin locomotive and a clay bird that would whistle. Above all, however, he loved to draw, and the pencil and paper were his constant companions. He was often seen outside sitting on a stump or stone drawing, while the chilly evening encompassed him.

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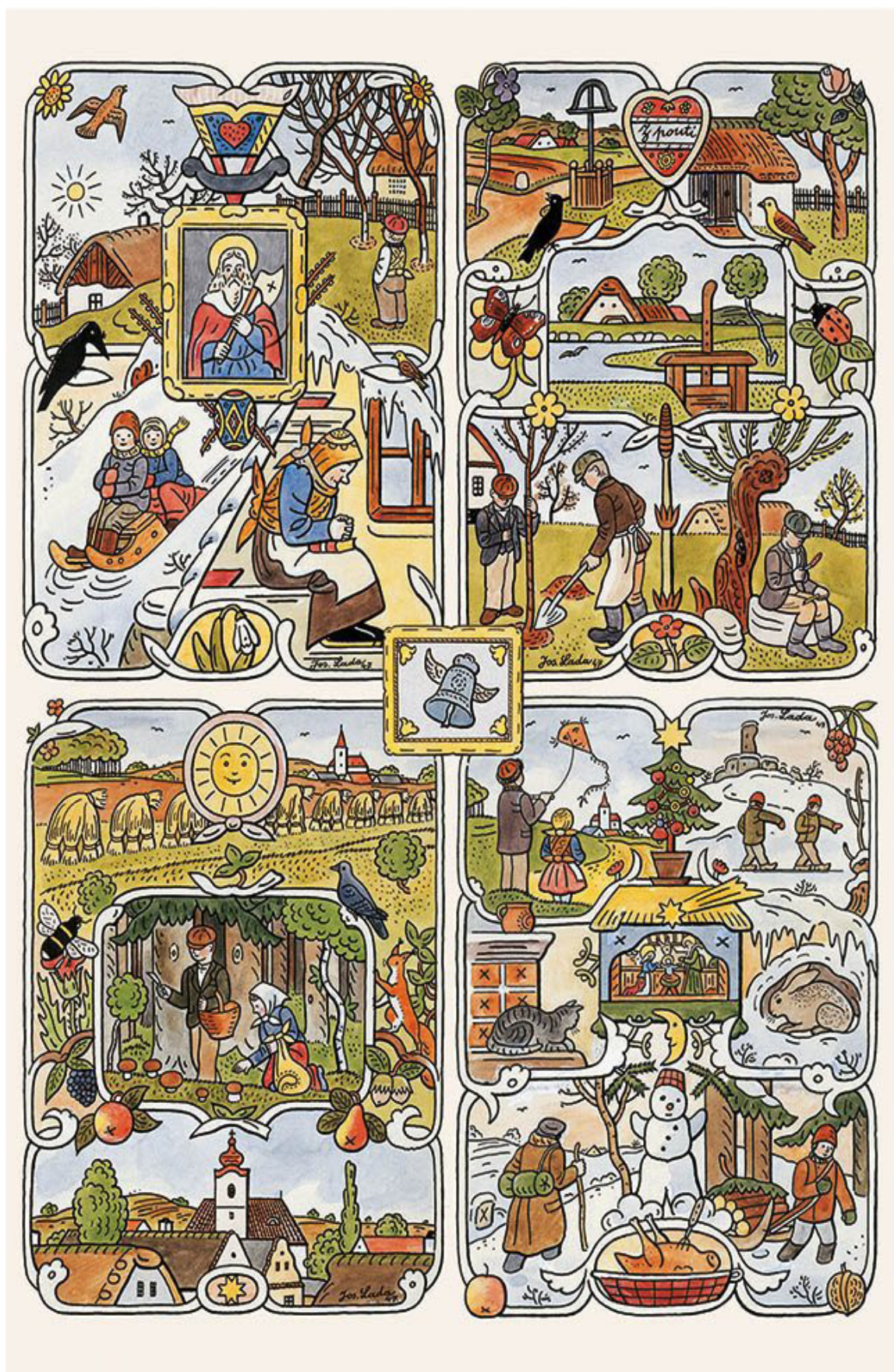
Little is known about the fact that at one point in his life he was blinded in the right eye. He referred to his disability only to mention that he could not serve in the army because of his eye "defect".

In 1911 Josef Lada's work came to the attention of the public and the literary and art worlds. His "*Moje Abeceda*" (My Alphabet) was published and subsequently became a classic first book for children. Numerous other works followed, including postcards, calendars, Christmas cards, etc.

Josef Lada died on December 14, 1957. His only daughter, Alena, became an artist and carried on his legacy.

In his primitive, folk art style, Josef Lada's figures are caricatures adorned in bright colors caressed by some gentle facet of nature. These figures and scenes are dynamic because they reflect the humor and the pathos of the common people, the people of the villages. With great depth of feeling his drawings capture the strong, indestructible spirit of the Czechoslovak people, and universally, his paintings portray the true meaning of life – truth and beauty evolve from an honest and simple existence.

*Translated from a publication Josef Lada by Václav Formánek, 1980*



*One of Lada's picture collages, he made many for various seasons*



# Christmas Caroling and Cookie Fundraiser

by Dana Havlik

After skipping the pandemic year of 2020, the Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers directed by Greg Satori returned on Sunday December 12th, 2021, to perform Czech and Slovak Christmas Carols at St. Wenceslaus Church in East Baltimore. The Christmas concert started with "Kyrie" and "Gloria" from Jan Jakub Ryba's classical Czech Christmas Mass followed by folk carols while inviting the audience to sing along from the provided sheet music.

St. Mikulas made appearance during the event and gave all children goody bags with chocolates.

The entire event has been recorded and can be viewed on the Association's official YouTube channel accessible through CSHA website's main page <http://cshamaryland.org/> or directly on YouTube <https://youtu.be/lojRzRVPsGE>



*Heritage Singers getting ready to perform*



*Heritage Singers performing Christmas Carols*



*St. Mikuláš listening to the children and their poems or*



*St. Mikuláš appeared*



*Heritage singers and their audience*

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St. Mikuláš at St. Wenceslaus Church

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## Czech and Slovak Recipe Corner:

by Dana Petran

### Kremrole (Trubičky)

This is one of our family recipes that has been passed from generation to generation. I learned it from my mother in-law who got it from her mother that mastered it based on the recipe of Magdalena Dobromila Rettigová, 19th century Czech writer known for her famous cookery book. It was made for special occasions such as weddings, New Year parties and other celebrations.

#### INGREDIENTS:

Butter dough

140g flour

250g butter

Wrapping dough

150g flour

2 egg yolks

2 tablespoons vinegar

Pinch of salt

1 tablespoon sugar

1 tablespoon melted butter

3-4 tablespoons of milk

Filling

4 egg white

220g sugar

Whisk in a double boiler (bain-marie) for about 10 minutes till stiff.

#### DIRECTIONS:

Make the butter dough by mixing the flour and the butter, form it into a brick and set aside. Prepare the wrapping dough by mixing all ingredients and roll it out. Place the butter dough in the middle, wrap it as an envelope and roll it out again. The dough must be folded and rolled three times, then packed in a wet napkin, and left overnight in the refrigerator.

The next day, roll out the dough to 2 mm thick sheet and cut into rectangles (about 8x10 cm). Wind each piece on the metal tube and tie with a cotton lace. Place the tubes on the baking sheet and bake in the well preheated oven at 375F for about 10-12 minutes. After cooling off, remove the metal tubes and fill the *kremroles* with the egg white filling. One batch should make about 25 pieces.





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The VOICE of The Czech & Slovak  
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*Visitors getting ready for the concert*



*Cookie distribution by Gregg and Nicole Iskra*

The Czech and Slovak Heritage Association would like to thank to all who supported the Christmas Cookies fundraiser and purchased the traditional home-made cookies.

Nearly 50lb of cookies were distributed at the church after the concert. The Association raised over \$1000 and 100% of these contributions will be used to support future events and activities.

**Thank you and Happy New Year 2022!!!**