

## The Puppet Theater is Coming to Town...

by Dana Petran

The phenomenon of Puppet Theater in the Czech Republic and Slovakia is connected with the European tradition of nomadic theater groups that traveled around Europe between the 16th and 18th centuries. At that time, theatergoers traveled because static theaters were not yet common and troupes of itinerant actors performed either live or with puppets. An interesting fact is that the plays were always for adults; actors performed operas and popular chivalric stories, even the puppet theater, for their adult audiences. On its arrival in Bohemia in the 18th century puppet theater, because of its reasonable entrance fees and

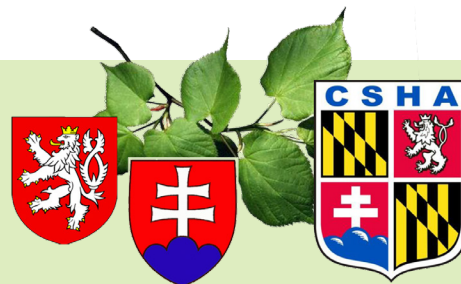
easy accessibility, gained considerable popularity especially among the lower and middle classes. This gave rise to many domestic Czech and Slovak puppet theater companies. Puppet theater became even more popular, especially in the countryside, because it was the only theatrical venue where the local language was spoken. Puppet theater for children did not appear in Bohemia and Slovakia until the middle of the 20th century when itinerant companies had to divide up the audience with the emerging film industry. The 20th century saw a very positive and rapid development of children's puppet theater.

*continues on page 4*



Libuška and Roman Bauer and their puppets

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

### CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Children's Language School resumed virtual classes the week of September 18-23, 2022. The Czech language beginner's class meets on Wednesdays at 6PM; advanced speakers meet on Fridays at 6 PM. Slovak Language children's classes continue to meet on Sundays starting on September 18, 2022: beginners meet at 10 AM, advanced speakers at 11AM. For more information, or to register a student please visit our website at [www.cshamaryland.org](http://www.cshamaryland.org)

### 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. The fall classes began September 10. To ask questions about the spring semester beginning January 14, 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

The Heritage Singers participated in the Sunday mass on September 25 at 9AM to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the St. Wenceslaus Church. We also plan to perform Christmas Carols at a Mikulášská on December 4, 2022v at 2 PM. 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, joining Heritage Singers or to register for classes, you can contact CSHA at: [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org).

The CSHA Board of Directors 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

## DECEMBER 2022

Christmas Carol singing took place on Sunday, December 4, 2 PM at St. Wenceslaus Church in Baltimore. Mikuláš and Anděl brought children traditional goodies. Nearly 100 guests enjoyed the concert and a small reception that offered traditional homemade Christmas cookies and other pastries. Thank you for all donations that have been given to the St. Wenceslaus Church and the food pantry.

## JANUARY 2023

The Virtual General Meeting will be scheduled on Sunday January 22 at 4 PM. We will be hosting a presentation by Michael Gruenbaum, the author of the book "Somewhere There is Still a Sun" ("Někde ještě svítí slunce") memoirs of surviving the Holocaust as a teenager in Czechoslovakia. The link to the meeting will be provided via email and posted on the CSHA website.

## APRIL 2023

We are planning our 2nd Annual Spring Festival on Sunday, April 23, 2023. The event will take place at the Maryland State Game & Fish Protective Association in Perry Hall, MD and will include live music and BODI Puppet Theater performance.

## OCTOBER 2023

The next CSHA Annual Festival is tentatively planned for October 22, 2023.

#### 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,

This is the final newsletter of the year. This is the time to reflect on the outgoing year and look forward to the upcoming holidays and the new year. I can proudly say that 2022 was a very successful year for our Association. After a long hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we not only brought back the traditional festival in October, but also introduced a brand new event, the Spring Festival. We are planning to bring these events back next year. Our language schools for adults and children continue with weekly classes. I wholeheartedly thank all our Czech and Slovak teachers for their great work and wish them a successful year ahead.

Our 34th Annual Festival, held on October 29th, was a success. We welcomed almost 400 visitors and around 100 vendors, performers and volunteers. Despite some problems with the global supply chain, we proudly offered our guests traditional foods, pastries, beer, etc. We were probably the only event in the Atlantic region that served Czech beer on tap (albeit not in the quantity we would have liked). There is no better feeling than to see so many smiles on people's faces when they are having a good time at our festival. I would like to thank all the volunteers who donated their time and effort to this event: they welcomed you at the entrance, helped with the organization of the sales tables, entertained kids in the Children's Corner, baked and sold pastries, served you food and coffee, sold drink tickets, prepared the hall and cleaned it afterwards. We could have never organized such a successful event without them.

Here is the list of those who volunteered for the 34th festival:

Entrance: Gregg Iskra, Petr Justin, Denis Justin, Finances: Zuzana LaBuff; CSHA books table: Rachel Sullivan, Barbara Vann; Children's Corner: Zuzana Justinova, Zoe Justin, Brittney Kessler with daughter, Zora Justinova, Sean Hancock; CSHA Bakery: Dana Petran, Bill Reckord Dana Havlik, Michael Havlik, Iva Zicha; Meal tickets: Martina Tesfaye, Negussie Tesfaye, David Mitchell; Meal serving: Margaret Supik, Dana Havlik, Thomas Frey, Alena Kankova; Hot dog station: Kate Wychgram, John Sullivan, Dan Sullivan, Joe Sullivan; Coffee Station: Debi

Bull, Michael Bull; Soda & Beer tickets: Russ Rezek, Kate K, and Fran Vojik. It truly takes a village to get this done.

People around the world face many challenges. We all notice the tensions and divisions in our society; whether it's in the US, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, or other places in the world. There are many things each of us can do to improve our civil discourse and daily lives. One of the most important duties and privileges we have is participation in elections. The Czech Republic is preparing to elect a new president. The current election cycle will be the first one I've decided to participate in since coming to the United States. My wife and I decided to register in the voter list at the Embassy. We will cast our votes in the first and second rounds of the Czech presidential elections that take place in January 2023. If you are a citizen, please consider your participation in future Czech or Slovak elections. This is a way to positively influence the direction of the countries we care so much about.

Dear friends, it's time to renew your annual membership or become a new member. CSHA membership is open to all interested in supporting our mission to keep the Czech and Slovak heritage alive. We are always looking for new members of all ages and volunteers for our events. Consider joining if you have Slovak or Czech ancestry, want to learn about the culture, language, history, and beauty of these two small countries in the heart of Europe, or just want to make new friends.

The winter is fast approaching and our family is hoping that it will bring enough snow to enjoy a few days of skiing. Some of the Mid-Atlantic resorts have already opened or will do so soon. I wish you a very happy holiday season and a wonderful year 2023.

Please be well, stay active, and I will see you on the slopes.

Se srdečným pozdravem,



Petr Justin - CSHA president

The Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs offers adult students of the Czech language an opportunity to participate in a four-week intensive course offered by Charles University's Institute for Language Study. Eligible students may be awarded a stipend to cover the cost of the course. Information about the course and how to apply can be found on the Embassy website: [www.mzv.cz](http://www.mzv.cz).



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"Puppet Theater provides unlimited space for imagination. Puppets can perform anything an artist can imagine, what his hands are capable of." (Marjorie Batchelder McPharlin – puppeteer and puppet theater theorist)



*Preparing set at each destination*

The marionette, or puppet, is suspended on a wire and the movement of the arms, legs and head is carried out by stretched threads from the parts of the body up to the rocker, which is controlled by the puppeteer. Marionettes are made of a variety of materials, the most common being fabric, wood and paper. The size of the puppet is limited only by the requirement that it not be too small or too big. Each must be large enough to be visible to the audience, but not too big for the puppeteer to move.

Many generations of children have grown up with the characters of the world-famous Spejbl and Hurvínek Theater, founded by Mr. Josef Skupa in 1920. Their stories have delighted young and old listeners and viewers for over a hundred years and belong to the deep treasury of classic



*Nativity Scene in Bauer's house, Josefov*

Czech puppetry. One of the most famous Czech puppeteers was undoubtedly Matěj Kopecký, supposedly the founder of the Czech puppet theater, who performed with his Kašpárek, once known as Pimprle. Kašpárek had the role of a kind of spokesman for the people's desires and woes, often expressed in harsh folk humor. His predecessors were: Hanswurst – a grotesquely comic type and representative of the German theater, and Kasperl – a popularly crass character from Vienna who also has some features of Harlequin from the Italian



*BODI Theater visiting Baltimore in 2017*



commedia dell'arte. Kašpárek was always more entertaining than menacing; he was not malicious, but he was a prankster.

#### BODI Puppet Theater

Kašpárek together with his protagonists from the BODI Puppet Theatre in Jaroměř, visited our young and adult audiences here in Baltimore a few years ago. We loved them, and they are coming back! Husband and wife, Libuška and Roman Bauer, have been leading the ensemble of the Boučka Puppet Theatre in Jaroměř for many years. This ensemble was founded in 1921 and is housed in the second oldest puppet theater building in the Czech Republic. The BODI Puppet Theatre works to preserve and deepen this unique art for children and brings to life classic fairy tales and cheerful Puppet Theater characters



*Nativity Scene at Night*

while preserving the tradition of classical marionette theater. Both puppeteers are well-known and popular among the Czech and Slovak communities for their acting enthusiasm, humility and warm contact with children. It makes both puppeteers very happy that their fairy tales are warmly received and liked. It helps spread Czech culture and the Czech language among children who were not even born in the Czech Republic. And for the older ones, it might remind them of their childhood.

In 2023, BODI (<http://bodi.cz/>) plans their last tour of the USA, with the support of Mrs. Monika Vintřlíková, the honorary consul in Atlanta, who decided to lend a helping hand with this tour. At the end of the tour, if all goes well and according to plan, the puppets which appeared on the US tour will stay in Atlanta, at the Center for Puppetry Arts. Some might also make their way to Cedar Rapids and the museum there. It is a great honor and joy that puppets made in the Czech Republic will be placed in these noble places. The tour is currently planned to feature appearances in Washington D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cedar Rapids, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Atlanta, but the list may expand. Of course, BODI cannot take their theater with them when they travel overseas, that would be very difficult. They replicate it on site! Roman always creates their set on the spot from cardboard, sticks, apple or banana boxes and duct tape - something absolutely amazing and inspirational,

Please accept our sincere invitation to visit the BODI Theater during the spring 2023 tour of the USA. Follow the CSHA website, Facebook, and HLAS for updates.



*Puppet Theater performance*



# 1987-2022: Thirty-five Years, Thirty-four Festivals

Sunday, 11 October, 1987 was a chilly and damp day, but the weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 100 or so members of Baltimore's Czechoslovakian community who gathered at War Memorial Plaza downtown for Baltimore's first Czech and Slovak Festival. Why so few attendees? It was probably because of competition with the Oktoberfest at 5th Regiment Armory. Billed as Baltimore's 1st Annual Czechoslovakian Reunion under the auspices of the Mayor's Office of Adventures in Fun, and organized by Virginia Baker, Richard Lidinsky, Mary Kotras, Eva Slezak, and Norma Svejda, the 1987 event launched a tradition that has grown into our yearly celebration of Czech and Slovak heritage and culture. In the first program Eva Slezak wrote about the history of the Czech and Slovak community in Baltimore and concluded by observing that: "Although the Czechoslovakian community may not be as visible as in previous decades, the ties have never been broken; and so today's reunion is in actuality a renewal of those ties." Entertainment was



*CSHA Children Language School performing at the Festival in 2011*

provided by Sokol Baltimore's gymnasts Lillian Sonberg and granddaughters Joanne and Carina who performed several songs and dances and showed off their beautiful kroj. Music from the Prague Brass Band, accordionist Buddy Casper, and Ed Levinka's collection of Czech tapes played throughout the afternoon. Other attractions included a Pit Beef Stand, a Concession Stand and a BEER GARDEN! In Virginia Baker's words, "Today is just the beginning of many great reunions to come." We don't have a program for the 1988 Festival. It was a small affair held in one of the Patterson Park pavilions and featured, as I recall, a variety of traditional pastries and some ladies wearing kroj. There was a good deal of talk about finding a larger venue and scheduling our Festival to avoid competition with other big events.

The 1989 and the 1990 Annual Festivals were held in Parkville at Tall Cedars Hall on Putty Hill Avenue. The sponsoring organization called itself The Czechoslovak Ethnic Association and asserted its purpose to be "to promote the Czech Festival, Czech language class and culture." The program featured a



*Dance lessons at the Festival*



*Pajtaši*



lengthy article about contemporary Czechoslovakia and a brief article about Baltimore's famous painted screens and the Oktavec family who popularized them. The program for 1990 featured a long article about the Catholic Church in Communist Czechoslovakia, an article about Sr. Bea, who became part of the charismatic movement in the Church, as well as "The Story of Wenceslas: Prince and Saint." Both years there was, of course, beer and pork, sauerkraut and dumplings on hand. (There was, more than likely, slivovice too.) The venue for the 1991 Annual Czechoslovak Festival shifted to Dundalk and the United Steelworkers of America Hall. The program doesn't tell us much about the affair, but the list of patrons tells us that the Czechoslovak Ethnic Association has grown to include at least 90 members, many of whom are still active in our CSHA. The traditional menu was served, but Festival goers complained that the layout of the hall required getting one's food downstairs and carrying it upstairs to sit and eat it. Many felt that this arrangement prevented the camaraderie to which we'd become accustomed. By this time the Czechoslovak Ethnic Association had been formally reorganized and incorporated as the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland - CSHA.



Alex and Jane Vanicky at their table  
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## Czech and Slovak Recipe Corner:

by Dana Havlik

### Chocolate Cake Roll (Roláda s pařížským krémem)

#### INGREDIENTS:

6 tablespoon sugar  
6 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
6 large eggs

1/2 teaspoon ground lemon peel  
1 packet vanilla sugar or a few drops of vanilla extract  
Fruit jelly (preferably strawberry, red currant or sour cherry)

8 oz heavy whipping cream  
1 cup chocolate chips  
About 1/2 cup of chocolate chips for icing the roll

#### DIRECTIONS:

To prepare the chocolate cream: melt 1 cup of chocolate chips in a small pot with 8 oz of heavy whipping cream, bring to the boiling point and set aside to cool. Chill overnight or at least for a few hours before whipping.

To make the sponge cake: in a large mixing bowl mix 6 tablespoons of sugar, the vanilla, and 6 eggs. Beat with an electric mixer at high speed for 6 minutes or until the batter is stiff. Slowly add and mix in 6 tablespoons of flour and the ground lemon peel. Pour the batter onto a greased baking sheet and bake at 350 F for 15-20 minutes. Remove from the oven and flip the sheet pan and sponge cake onto a wet kitchen towel. Remove the pan and roll the cake into a roll with the towel inside. Once cooled, unroll the cake, remove the towel, spread the surface with the jelly and the whipped chocolate cream, and roll up again. Ice the roll by melting the additional chocolate chips and pouring them over it. Decorate as you desire with cream, icing, nuts, sprinkles, or shredded coconut.



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The VOICE of The Czech & Slovak  
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1992 saw the beginning of a long run, which continued until 2017, at Tall Cedars Hall. For most of those years dance music was provided by Joy of Maryland and their leader Al Matousek. In 2005 we had the pleasure of an appearance by Jaroslav Cech, a cembalo ensemble, from Uherske Hradište. Their extraordinary performance thrilled all who attended that Festival. In 2016 the folk group Pajtaši began their long-standing tradition with us and followed us, in 2017, to the VFW

Hall in Parkville, after a scheduling glitch made Tall Cedars unavailable. Despite the smaller space, that Festival was a success and we managed to welcome almost 300 guests to our 30th Annual Festival. 2018 and 2019 saw us in our present venue, the American Legion on York Road in Towson. As we all know, our 2020 and 2021 Festival plans were derailed by Covid, but we are delighted we were able to, once again, welcome guests to our 35th year of presenting the Annual Czech and Slovak Festival.



*Selection of baked goods by Dana Petran and Dana Havlik*





# The Czech and Slovak Heritage Association

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

[www.cshamaryland.org](http://www.cshamaryland.org)



## CSHA Membership Annual Dues for calendar year 2023: \$25.00 per household

[To join the Czech & Slovak Heritage Association](#) or [renew your current membership](#):

- Make secure payment at our website:

CSHA website  
[cshamaryland.org/membership/Pay Dues](http://cshamaryland.org/membership/Pay Dues)

or

- Complete and mail this form along with your check (payable to CSHA) to:

CSHA  
P.O. Box 20261, Baltimore, MD 21284-0261

Residents of PA, NJ or DE mail dues to CSHA Philadelphia Branch, Barbara Wentling, 7928 Burholme Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111.

Membership payment for 2023 is due by January 31st, 2023.

Names (list all family members): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to my dues, I want to help preserve the Czech and Slovak heritage by making a [tax-deductible contribution](#) in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership in CSHA is a great way to celebrate and stay in touch with your heritage.**

- Your membership dues and donations help us to offer better programs and build a stronger community.
- We organize an annual festival with great music, Czech and Slovak food, beer, and handmade crafts.
- Our member-appreciation picnic is held every year.
- Members receive the newsletter HLAS four times a year.
- You can learn a new language or improve your skills, attend cultural programs or help organize events.

*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.*