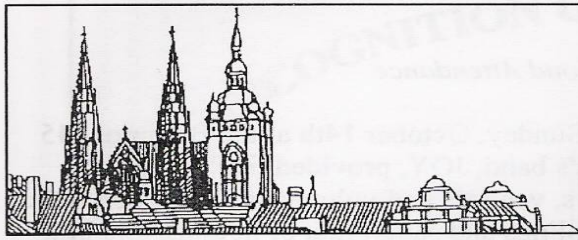


Jaro 2009

Spring 2009



# HLAS

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

*A quarterly publication of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland*

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## Morena - Killing Winter

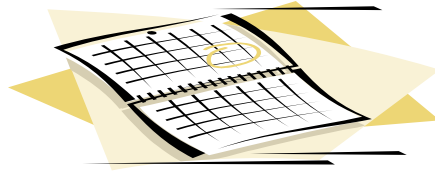
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*from Celebrate...Easter Slovak Style by Lawrence G. Kozlowski*

The *Morena*, a costumed scarecrow which represented winter, illness and death, was traditionally carried through Slovak villages by a procession of young girls. The scarecrow was fashioned from wheat and straw, dressed in a traditional costume and, after the progress through the village, was destroyed by burning or by submersion in water. The *Morena's* symbolic execution announced the end of Winter, the promise of Spring and protection from illness and death for the whole village.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:



Sunday, MARCH 29, 2009 at 3 PM: The second quarterly meeting of the year at Christ the King Church\*, 1102 Hart Road, Towson. Our program will be a screening of the very funny *Vratné lahve* starring Zdeněk Svěrák. The movie will be shown with English subtitles.

\* Please take note - this is a **new location**. For the foreseeable future we will not be able to use the Belvedere Christian Church as a meeting place. Christ the King Church is very close to Belvedere Christian and easy to get to. For directions, you can call Margaret at 410-662-6094.

Sunday, July 19: Our Annual CSHA Picnic and quarterly meeting also, tentatively, scheduled to be held at Christ the King Church.

Sunday, October 25, 2009 from noon to 6 pm: The **TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CZECH AND SLOVAK FESTIVAL**. Don't miss it!

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## CZECH NIGHT AT THE MEYERHOFF

A group of about thirty association members and friends gathered at the Meyerhoff on Friday, January 23 for the Baltimore Symphony's performance of two Czech masterpieces - Dvořák's *Slavonic Dances* and Bohuslav Martinů's *Oboe Concerto*. A third work, Haydn's *Military Symphony*, completed a very enjoyable program.

Oboist Katherine Needleman, BSO principle oboist, brought Martinů's score to life. The BSO's press release described the concerto's three movements as "nervously brilliant," but Miss Needleman's playing placed the emphasis on brilliant rather than nervous. *Slavonic Dances*, Numbers 1-8, introduced to the

public with the help of Dvořák's mentor Johannes Brahms, helped to launch Dvořák toward international renown as a composer. Under the direction of Carlos Kalmar, the BSO made it clear why this set of folk and dance inspired melodies remain favorites of concert goers around the world.

## CZECH AND SLOVAK HERITAGE SINGERS PREPARE FOR SPRING

The Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers will celebrate this Spring season with several performances. The first will be an open house celebration at the Bohemian National Cemetery in Baltimore. This is to celebrate the restoration of the cemetery which is over one hundred years old. The festival will include Czech and Slovak choral music and food.

There will be a concert of Czech and Slovak music at St. Wenceslaus Church on a yet to be determined Sunday in May. St. Wenceslaus was once designated by James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, the National Bohemian Church for the entire United States. A reception will follow and  
(continued on pg. 3)



Some of the CSHA members who attended the BSO *Slavonic Dances* concert. Photo Alex Vanicky

(continued from pg. 2)

will feature home-baked, authentic Czech and Slovak delicacies. Well worth a trip back to the old neighborhood of East Baltimore!

We will sing at the annual memorial service at 11 AM at the Bohemian National Cemetery on Memorial Day, May 25. The Chorus has participated in this memorial service for the past fifteen years. The service consists of prayers for the souls of the faithful and Czech and Slovak hymns sung by the chorus.

We are always in need of more singers. If anyone is interested in quality singing of traditional Czech and Slovak songs and hymns, please consider joining us.

Charles Supik

## NEED FOR CZECH SPEAKERS

Lois Hybl received this e-mail from a lady in Oregon who is studying to become a translator. Is anyone interested? Contact information is included in the letter.

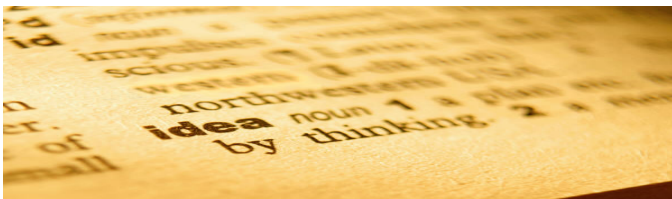
*Hello,*

*My name is Zuzana Holcova and I'm a Czech living in Oregon. The reason for my email is a request for Czech speaking volunteers. To be brief, I'm in a process of getting certified as a Czech language tester for ACTFL, a federal government agency. In order to complete my certification I need to do "mock" interviews with Czech speakers, whether it is their native or second language. It has been difficult for me to find Czech speakers in the USA, and I greatly appreciate any help I can get. If anybody would be willing to volunteer for this project, please contact me at [zuzanah2@yahoo.com](mailto:zuzanah2@yahoo.com) or (503)-409-7735.*

*Thank you very much for your help.*

*Sincerely,*

*Zuzana Holcova*



## GULDAN EXHIBIT AT CREATIVE ALLIANCE

Thanks to the efforts of Michael and Brigita Krompholz, the *Creative Alliance*, 3134 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, will welcome noted Slovak artist František Gulden and an exhibition and sale of his work. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 24.

Fero Gulden was born in Nitra and is a graduate of the Slovak technical college of civil engineering. He served briefly as head of the Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava and headed its technical section until 1991.

*Gulden illustration on an antique shop in Bratislava.*



One of his innovative techniques is called *patinated assemblage*, a process he developed. It begins with a foundation of white latex paint on board (usually recycled). Once the "assemblage" is completed,

Gulden paints it with oil paint and while the oils are still wet, he puts a match to it. The resulting "patination" allows his pictures to "live their own lives, many even experience further adventures," according to the artist.

(continued on pg. 4)



(continued from pg. 3)

Since 1974 he has had about forty exhibitions and has won numerous prizes for his paintings, sculptures, and installations. His works in paint, mosaic and sculpture have been displayed to critical acclaim all over Europe.

A wine and cheese reception from 5:30 to 7:30 will offer an opportunity to meet and talk with the artist.

From Radio Praha: **OBAMA TO MAKE "EUROPEAN SPEECH OF THE YEAR" IN PRAGUE** By [Rob Cameron](#)



Barack Obama doesn't arrive in Prague until April 4th, but an "advance team" of advisors are already here to scout out locations for what the Czech prime minister Mirek Topolánek says will be Mr. Obama's "European speech of the year." Quite what he'll say in it remains to be seen, with fresh questions raised this week over the future of the planned U.S. missile defence shield in the Czech Republic and Poland.

Early April in Prague is notoriously fickle; some years it's freezing and grey, others it's spring in full bloom, with blazing sunshine and clear blue skies. Those involved in Mr. Obama's trip must be hoping for the latter, as the U.S. president could be making his keynote speech – being tipped as his "European speech of the year" – in the open air. An advance team of advisors is already checking out possible locations, with Prague Castle, the Old Town Square and the embankment in front of the Rudolfinum concert hall all apparently in play.

Just what he'll say is hard to guess. But certainly he'll be under pressure to say something about plans to build a radar base on Czech soil as part of the missile defense shield, an agreement that was signed with the previous Bush administration. Mr. Obama seems less keen on missile defense and – unlike Mr. Bush – is certainly in no hurry to start deploying it in earnest.

There were fresh worries this week for Mr. Topolánek's centre-right government after it emerged in the Russian and American media that Mr. Obama had sent a secret letter to his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev, reportedly offering to abandon missile defense in exchange for help in stopping Iran's nuclear ambitions. The White House has not commented publicly on the claims, but if confirmed, they would be a major political embarrassment for Mr. Topolánek. He's spent a good deal of political capital on the radar base, which still lacks approval in the lower house of parliament.

For now, though, the focus of the Czech media is on Mr. Obama's itinerary. It seems he will arrive in Prague on the evening of Saturday April 4th, to be welcomed by President Václav Klaus. Sunday he'll apparently have breakfast with former President Václav Havel, before meeting leaders of the EU's 27 member countries, and making his promised speech. (continued on pg. 5)



*photo: About.com:Marriage*

(continued from pg. 4)

President Obama is due to be accompanied by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as well as his wife Michelle, something that could cause headaches for the prime minister's protocol team. Mr. Topolánek is separated from his wife and lives with his girlfriend, fellow Civic Democrat MP Lucie Talmanová. For the photo calls either he will appear alone alongside Barack and Michelle Obama, or with Ms Talmanová. The protocol team must decide which - in the absence of a married partner - is the lesser evil.

## POSSIBLE TRIP TO SEE CZECH NATIONAL THEATER BALLET IN DC

On Saturday, April 25 at 7 PM and Sunday, April 26 at 2 PM the Embassy of the Czech Republic, with CityDance Ensemble and the Washington Performing Arts Society, will present the Czech National Theater Ballet in two performances at the Harmon Center for the Arts, Sidney Harmon Hall, 610 F Street NW, in Washington DC. The dancers will perform to music from Dvořák, Janáček, Martinů and Mozart.

The brochure from the Czech Embassy described this event: "As the cultural highlight of the Czech Presidency of the European Union, this event gives center stage to 20 top ballet dancers from the Czech National Theater Ballet with stunning choreography by internationally-acclaimed choreographer Jiří Kylián and renowned artistic director Petr Zúška, performed to primarily Czech music." The dancers are here in connection with Norfolk, Virginia's annual Azalea Festival, which this year honors the Czech Republic. More information on the Azalea Festival can be found by calling 1-757-605-3073 or on the web at:

<http://www.azaleafestival.org/events.asp> .

If there is sufficient interest from our members, the Association will try to organize van transportation between Baltimore and DC for the Sunday, April 26 performance. The cost of tickets is high, \$41.50 each, but the level of artistry of these dancers is spectacular. If you have never seen live ballet, this is an opportunity you should not miss. If you have

seen the National Ballet perform, you will definitely want to see them again.



Please call Margaret Supik at 410-662-6094 before April 16, if you are interested in attending this performance.

## SUCCESSFUL "ROADSHOW"

After the General Meeting on January 25, CSHA staged its version of "Antiques Roadshow." Although everything wasn't antique and there were no appraisals, everyone seemed to welcome the chance to admire a wide variety of interesting collectables.



*photo: Lois Hybl*

Dolls, ceramics and other items from the collection of Viera and Steve Sabol.

To say we had a little of everything is not too much of an exaggeration. Members brought crystal, textiles, handwork, drawings and engravings, carvings; each table held something unique and something to capture the attention of those who took part and those who came to observe. Many expressed their hope that we can make this an annual event and attract more exhibitors and spectators to next year's "CSHA Roadshow." We'll see.

## *S Bohem Vincku*

In memory of Vincent Croghan

\*6/26/34 + 2.1.09

This morning the dreaded call came. I have lost a good friend. My wife and I, we both have lost a good friend. The Czech and Slovak community in Baltimore has lost a good friend. After an extended illness my buddy Vincko, as I called him, died.

Vincent's relationship to Czechoslovakia goes way back. Never mind that he was as Irish as they come. As a child and young man he grew up next to Little Bohemia and knew that neighborhood very well.

*Did you know that he was an accomplished model builder? Participant in many championship races?* Then in 1971, while competing in the airplane model World Championships in California, he was asked by the organizers to volunteer as the Manager of the Czechoslovakian team since they had none. Vince agreed and became the manager of a team of one racer! That was the beginning. Vince befriended the guy and soon started to visit Czechoslovakia. Befriended a couple more people there, got interested in the country and being a linguist, a former teacher of English, he got interested in the Czech language. Skip some years. CSHA starts to teach Czech and Vince enrolls to improve on his skills.

Some years after that, we joined the CSHA and offered guided trips to Czechoslovakia. Vince and his wife Kate were one of our earliest customers. They traveled with us at least a half a dozen times. Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, they all were of interest to them. We even went, just as a foursome, on a river cruise from Vienna to Amsterdam.

Though Vince and Kate did know some of Bohemia, Slovakia was new to them. Once they traveled there, they fell in love with that country as well. Vince was elated that the World Championships in 2005 were held in Liptovský

Mikuláš (Slovakia). He returned home from there with a silver and bronze medal. The '07 championships took place in Rumania, yet the Croghans purposely adjusted their itinerary to travel through Slovakia.

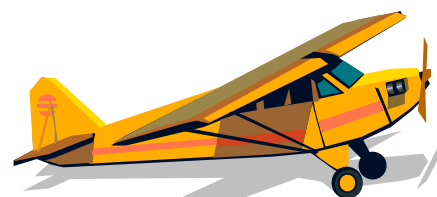
This is how we became friends, true friends. Eventually Vince started to come over for Czech conversation, gave us gardening advice, helped with odd jobs. When I needed him, he was always ready. Folks from "over there" came. The Frýdek-Místek school, the cymbal musicians, others, he was ready. To offer overnight accommodations, to help with driving, give a hand where needed.

So now I will miss his phone calls checking my schedule to see when we can get together to have a cup of coffee (Oh, did he love his coffee!) and then go downstairs to our "study room" to do our Czech.

I also enjoyed calling him. He cautiously prescreened his calls. When the message was over I usually said something like: „*Vincku, vylez. Neschovávej se. Kde jsi?*“ And he answered: „*Jsem tady*“. Well, "*tady*" is all of the sudden further away. But I hope, *Vincku*, that you have your notepad and pencil with you! You know, this actually is not "*S Bohem*" but rather "*Na shledanou*". So when I come to see you, you better be ready for another Czech lesson.

Until then, we all will just miss you very much. The last time when we visited with you in the hospital, you asked "Pray for me". We promised. We did and still do. Now I am asking all who knew you to join us. For me, I will always remember you as you were sitting here the last time at our kitchen table. It was just about two weeks ago.

*Michael Krompholz*



## **Treasurer's Report**

As of December 8, 2008, the assets of the Czech/Slovak Heritage Association of MD Inc., were as follows:

Cash – Checking & Savings Accounts:	\$ 50,460.
Equipment	1,368.
Inventory – Language School Books, etc.	1,700.
Inventory – Refreshment Supplies	<u>300.</u>

**Total Assets:                    \$ 53,828.**

There were no outstanding liabilities.

If anyone has any questions concerning the finances of the association,  
Please contact me at 410-933-0382.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C Pazourek, Treasurer

## **Special Acknowledgement**

The Association would like to express its gratitude to the following members,  
as well as some non-members. who made a donation to the CSHA during 2008.

Stephen Sabol	Kelly Wychgram	Gregory & Pat Sonberg
Barbara & Alex Sonberg	Marketa Vankova	John Sullivan
Vaclav Vitek	Anne E Moore	Ed Pouska
Mary & Albert Ondrish	Thomas Swartz	Charles Sinlock
Matt Russ	Paul Yanosik	Dianne & Joseph Pavlik
Richard Mihok	David Svehla	Phil Cvach
Paul Matzko	Helen & Frank Pelz	Ann Lowney
Joseph Pavlik Sr	Harry Danner	Lois & Richard Zelina
Lois Hybl	Carole Fogle	Ronald Hood
Jane Bourne	Millie Vrzalek	

*Richard Pazourek*



## PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS

The board of directors voted at their meeting on 8 March to submit the following proposed amendment to the membership for approval at the general meeting to be held on 19 April. Members of the board felt that the amendment not only reflects the existence of our Philadelphia branch, but allows for future branches should that interest arise. The proposed amendment appears below as it was unanimously approved by the board. It has been made available to the officers of the Philadelphia Branch and they concur with the CSHA board in recommending that our bylaws be amended to add Section 12. to Article III of our bylaws.

### To be added to **Article III. Officers and Board of Directors:**

*Section 12. The board of directors may authorize the establishment of subsidiary branches of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland for the purpose of extending the association's mission over a wider geographic area.*

*a. Members of a subsidiary branch are also members of the parent organization and as such may participate in all activities of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland.*

*b. Subsidiary branches will collect dues at the rate established by the board of directors of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland and will remit to the association treasurer a portion of the dues collected.*

*c. The portion of dues retained by the subsidiary branch will be determined by the board of directors and the organizing parties of the subsidiary branch.*

*d. Subsidiary branches may elect such officers as are needed to plan and conduct the branch's activities.*

*e. The board of directors of the parent organization, The Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland, will be kept informed of the activities of any subsidiary branch.*

*f. Branch activities will be conducted in compliance with the **Bylaws of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland.***

## ŠIBŘINKY



photo: Frank Huber

On February 16, 2009, Sokol Baltimore held Šibřinky at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church following the unit meeting. A dinner of delicious pork, sauerkraut, and dumplings was prepared by Clementine Caterers. The group enjoyed superb wine and Czech beer. The desserts of huge apple pies, carrot cake, and an almond ring were fantastic.

Costumed participants paraded and prizes were given. Some of the costumes were very attractive and creative. The fun loving crowd had game contests of egg handling and passing, cucumber races and transfers, rutabaga soccer and bowling, balloon tossing and rutabaga juggling.

The entertainment organizer felt the crowd's participation in the games provided them with a complete physical exercise program. Dancing and singing filled the rest of the evening and everyone truly enjoyed themselves. You could not have asked for a happier group of people.

Anči Huber



## PIVO Z BYTČE NAJLEPŠÍ

BYTČA. Tmavá desiatka pivovaru Popper z Bytče získala v Táboře významné ocenenie Česká pivní pečeť za najlepšie pivo v tejto kategórii. Do odborných degustácií bolo prihlásených 67 pivovarov, z toho 5 zo Slovenska, dva z Poľska a po jednom z Talianka a Belgicka. Ostatné boli z Českej republiky. Pre malý bytčiansky pivovar je to veľký úspech. V Bytči sa pivo vyrába klasickou technológiou, so zachovaním klasických receptúr, pri ktorých si sládek kvalitu piva osobne stráži. (sme)

Reprinted with permission from *Americké listy, Čtvrtek, 26. února 2009.*



## BEER FROM BYTČA IS THE BEST

BYTČA. The dark, ten degrees beer from the brewery Popper in Bytča won an award for the best beer in that category. The professional tasters in the Czech city of Tabor made their selection from 67 breweries. Five were from Slovakia, two from Poland, one from Italy and one from Belgium. The others were Czech. For the small Bytča brewery this is a huge success. They produce their beer using classic methods and recipes which are personally protected by the brewmaster.

*Translation: Margaret Supik and Karel Matejovský*

## MESTO ŠAĽA JE EKONOMICKY ZDRAVÉ, CHCE INVESTOVAŤ

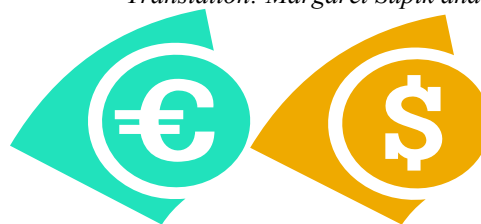
NITRA. Mesto Šaľa je ekonomicky zdravé a tento rok plánuje väčšie investície. "Odbremenili sme mesto o 1 659 696 eur, čo boli úvery a staré faktúry," povedal zástupca primátora Jozef Mečiar. Mestu sa podarilo našetriť pomerne veľký investičný balík, ktorý chcú v priebehu roka preinvestovať. V pláne sú opravy miestnych komunikácií či rekonštrukcie škôl za 2 323 574 eur. Minulý rok bolo na tento účel vyčlenených 663 878 eur. Samospráva počíta aj s možnými dopadmi hospodárskej krízy a bude hľadať spôsoby, ako ju ustáť bez väčších problémov, dodal Mečiar. (sita)

Reprinted with permission from *Americké listy, Čtvrtek, 26. února 2009.*

## THE TOWN OF ŠAĽA IS ECONOMICALLY HEALTHY AND WANTS TO INVEST

NITRA. The town of Šaľa is economically healthy and this year plans substantial investments. The vice-mayor, Jozef Mečiar, explained, "we saved the town about 1,659, 696 euros, from credits and old invoices." The town succeeded in saving up a relatively large investment package which it wants to invest in the course of the year. The money could be used for improvements to the town's communications or for reconstruction of the school which could cost 2,323,574 euros. Last year this purpose got only 663,878 euros. Local government is able to react to and stabilize local crisis situations without creating worse problems continued Mečiar.

*Translation: Margaret Supik and Karel Matejovský*



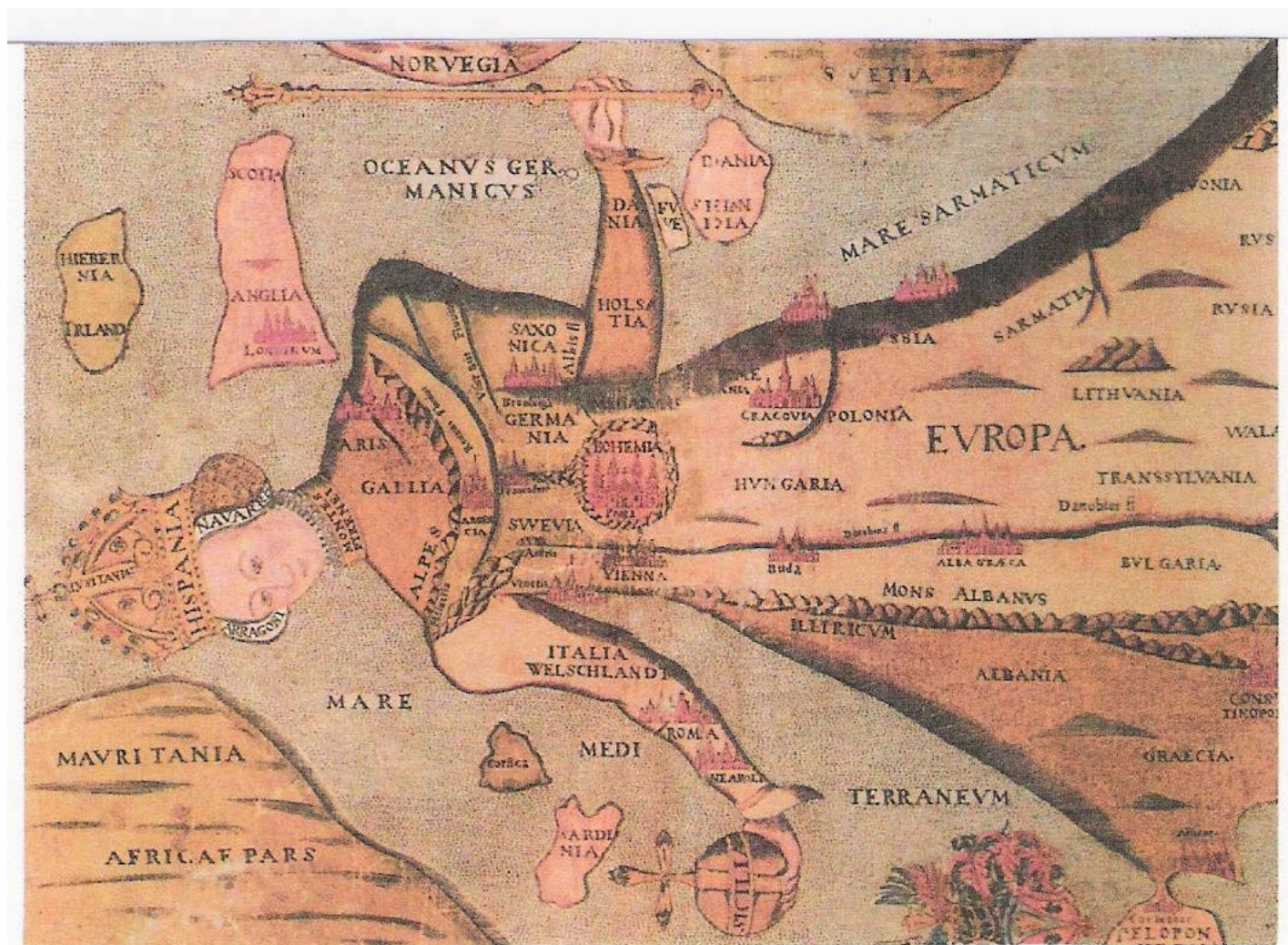
*Think this could ever happen here?*

## SRDCE EVROPY

Renesanční mapa z období vlády Rudolfa II. znázorňuje evropský kontinent jako alegorickou bytost, ženu-panovnici. Naše země jsou na ní umístěny jako klenot na hrudi Evropy v oblasti duchovního srdce či solárního plexu.

Čechy, Morava a Slezsko jsou zde znázorňeny jako území obklopené věncem hraničních hor. V něm se nachází silueta Pražského hradu, doplněná názvy "Bohemia" a "Praga." Staré pojmenování města Prahy, které je nepřetržitě hlavním městem českého knížectví a království po dobu více než tisíc let, lze s trochou představivosti překládat i jako pra-gaia neboli pra-zem. Bohemia, původně *Boiohaemnia* či *Baiahaimon*, znamená "země či vlast Bójů." Jméno území kterému dnes říkáme Čechy, je tedy připomínkou mocného keltského kmene Bójů, s jehož jménem patrně souvisí i název sousedního Bavorska (*Bayern*). Nakonec i současné teorie o původu keltského etnika hovoří o tom, že naše země byla součástí jádra keltské pravlasti.

A tak pokud čteme výrazy "Praga" a "Bohemia" jako "Prastará země – vlast Bójů," pak tím připomínáme nejen Kelty, ale i existenci mnohem starších a pro nás bezejmenných etnik a kultur, které z našeho území ovlivňovaly vývoj evropského kontinentu.



from: *Krásy a tajemství České republiky*



## THE HEART OF EUROPE

The Renaissance map, which dates back to the reign of Rudolph II, shows the continent of Europe as an allegorical figure, a woman monarch, an empress. Our lands (the Czech kingdom) are situated on her breast like a gem on the chest of Europe, set in the region of the spiritual heart, or solar plexus.

Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia are represented as territories surrounded by a wreath of bordering mountains. Within the wreath we can make out the silhouette of Prague Castle marked "Bohemia" and "Praga." The latter word may have come from *Pragaia* meaning ancient land. It is the old name for the city of Prague which was continuously, for over a thousand years, the capital of the Principality of Bohemia and the Kingdom of Bohemia. Bohemia, originally written *Biohaema* or *Baiahaimon*, means land of the *Boii*. The land we now call Bohemia was part of the territory of the powerful Celtic tribe, the *Boii*, whose name evidently also developed into the name of our neighboring country Bavaria (*Bayern*). According to modern archaeological thought, Bohemia was the core of the territory of the remarkable ethnic group known as the Celts.

So, when we read the words *Praga* and *Bohemia* to mean *ancient land* and *land of the Boii*, we can be reminded of not only the Celts, but also of the existence of much older unnamed ethnic groups and cultures which influenced the development of the continent of Europe.

## FAREWELL TO CHARLES UZEL

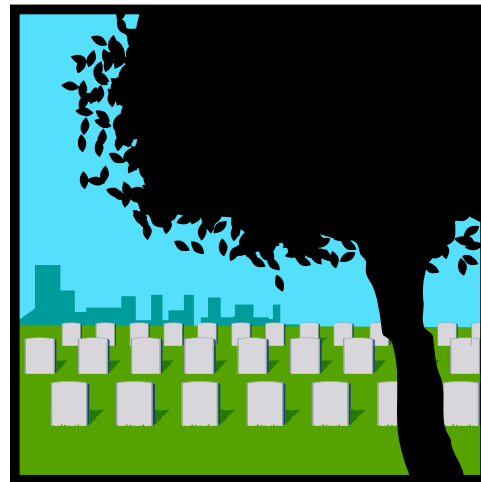
Charles Uzel, a member of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association, since its founding, passed away on February 1. Charles, who was 91 at the time of his death, was one of a small group got together in a basement room at St. Wenceslaus to learn or improve their Czech with Milada Vanicek. That little group evolved over several years into our Czech and Slovak Heritage Association with its more than 300 members. Until their move to Stewartstown, PA, Charles and Helen were regulars at Association functions.

Charles Uzel is survived by his wife Helen and children: Carole Doetsch, Jane Hall, Donna Tallent, Joseph Mach, Jr. and Celeste Schmidt. The family suggested that memorial contributions could be made to St. Wenceslaus Church.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the Uzel family.



## GRAND LODGE ČSPS IMPORTANT DATES



Saturday, April 18 – Spring Clean up

Saturday, May 2 – Spring Clean up

Sunday, May 3 - May Day Festival

Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day  
Observation

Sunday, November 8 – Anniversary  
Celebration



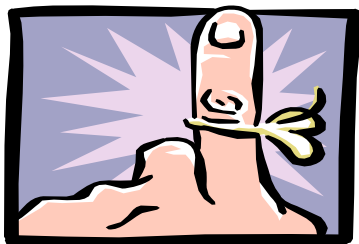
# HLAS

The VOICE of The Czech & Slovak  
Heritage Association  
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Baltimore, MD 21284-0261

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

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*Don't let this be your last issue of HLAS; if you haven't already done so, send your annual dues to: CSHA, PO Box 20261, Baltimore, MD 21284-0261. You'll find a membership form inside this issue.*



**Jaro 2009**

**Spring 2009**

## CSHA OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS 2009

President	Margaret Supik
Vice President	Steve Sabol
Secretary	Lois Hybl
Treasurer	Richard Pazourek

### Chairpersons:

Membership	Charles Supik
Education	Lois Hybl
HLAS Editor	<i>position <u>still</u> open, please apply...soon</i>