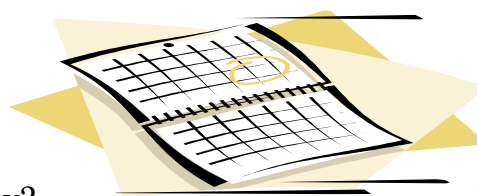


Sdružení Čechů a Slováků pro Uchování Národních Odkazů  
Združenie Čechov a Slovákov pre Zachovanie Národných Odkazov

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS:



Sunday, October 12: Don't miss our **22nd annual Czech and Slovak Festival**. The featured performers will be *Slavjane Rusyn Dance Ensemble* from Pittsburgh. Food will be provided by the restaurant/ catering service **Clementine**, located in Hamilton at 5402 Harford Road. They are a new business, but have gotten excellent reviews from *The Baltimore Sun* food critic. Their website is [www.bmoreclementine.com](http://www.bmoreclementine.com) and chef Winston is excited to be adding Czech dishes to his already impressive menu. We will begin at noon and end at 6 pm at our usual location--Baltimore 45 (Tall Cedars') Hall on Putty Hill Avenue. Dancing to the music of *Joy of Maryland*, singing, *knedlo-vepřo-zelo*, beer, brats, pastries and more. Directions and more information are on our website: [www.czslha.org](http://www.czslha.org).

Saturdays throughout the year: Why not consider learning Czech or Slovak? Or brushing up on what you already

know? We have excellent teachers and beginning, intermediate and advanced classes. For complete details, dates and times, check our website: [www.czslha.org](http://www.czslha.org) or call Lois Hybl at 410-428-6012.

Saturday, November 1: Sokol Baltimore will hold its annual *Vinobraní* dinner and dance at American Turners' Hall, 9124 Lennings Lane, Baltimore 21237. Dinner will be served from 6:30-7:30. Dancing to the music of Joy of Maryland will begin at 7:00. Tickets are \$35.00 and should be ordered from Frank Huber before October 29. For more information call Frank at 410-877-0534.

Sunday, November 9 from 1-4 PM: Open house at the *Český národní hřbitov*, Bohemian National Cemetery, 1300 Horners Ln. Baltimore. Celebrate the 128th anniversary of the incorporation of the ČSPS grand lodge. For directions

and additional information see:  
[cspslodge.wordpress.com/bohemian-national-cemetery-of-baltimore](http://cspslodge.wordpress.com/bohemian-national-cemetery-of-baltimore). (also see story on pg. 4)

Sunday, January 18, 2009: Our quarterly meeting followed by our own “Road Show,” an opportunity to show off

your Czech or Slovak treasures, new and old, and see what others have been collecting. To reserve your table space, call Margaret at 410-662-6094 after Christmas. (please note date correction and the editor’s apologies for printing the incorrect date in the previous issue of *HLAS* )

## **Help for the Czech and Slovak museum in Iowa hit by floods**

Surely everyone has seen this photo and others showing the destruction done by the June flooding to the National Czech and Slovak Museum and to the historic Czech Village in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Despite the nearly total devastation of the building’s interior, where the water level peaked at ten feet, and the loss of some of their extensive collections, Museum Director Gail Naughton remains optimistic that the damage will be repaired and that the museum will not only survive, but flourish again. The museum employees succeeded in evacuating some collections before the floods, but not all of them, Naughton said. She compared the current flooding in Cedar Rapids with the disastrous floods that hit Prague and other parts of the Czech Republic in the summer of 2002.

The modern museum, built on the bank of the Cedar River, opened in 1995. The opening was attended by Czech President Vaclav Havel, Slovak President Michal Kováč and US President Bill Clinton, accompanied by Czech-born Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Cedar Rapids, a town with some 130,000 inhabitants, has a long tradition of Czech immigrants. At the end of the 19th century, one in three inhabitants was Czech. At present about 10 percent of the town’s population is of Czech origin, but not all descendants of Czech immigrants can still speak Czech. Nevertheless, the oldest Czech school in the United States has existed in Cedar Rapids since 1870. At present, though, it is open only during the summer holidays. In addition to the Czech and Slovak museum, the school, the Czech Village with Czech shops and restaurants, there are also two churches consecrated to Czech patrons St. Vaclav and St. Ludmila.



*Photo of the Czech Slovak museum at Cedar Rapids on Friday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

To our members who have already made contributions to the restoration of the museum, thank you for your generosity. You can be certain that every dollar is appreciated and will be put to good use.

At its September 14 meeting, the Board of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association authorized an association contribution of \$5000 to help with the expenses of rebuilding the museum.

## **Sweet Olympic Gold for the Czechs**



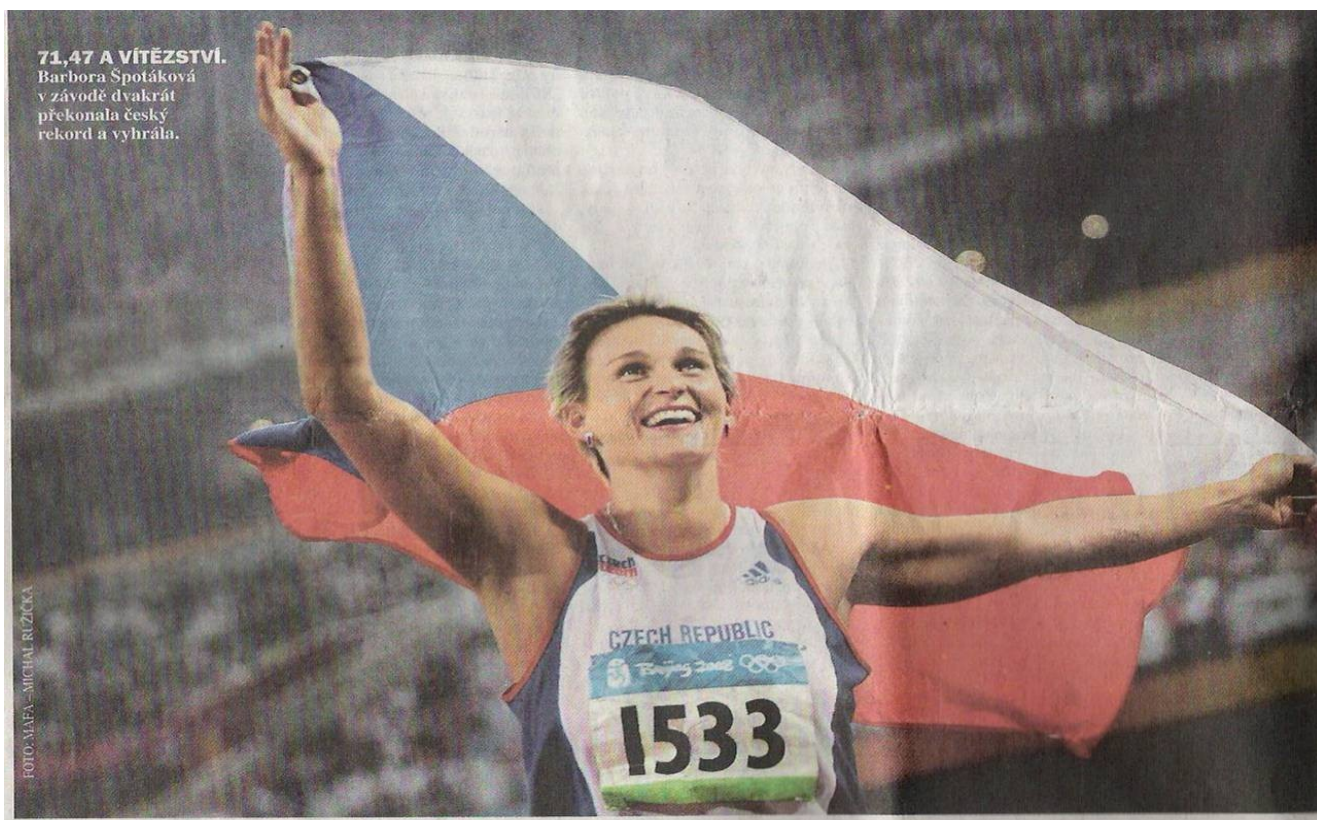


photo: Mlada Fronta DNES, 22. srpna 2008

**Barbora Špotáková**, Czech *oštěpařka* or javelin thrower, became not just the third gold medal winner for the Czechs, she won a huge symbolic victory for her country as well. Coming as it did on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russian led invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Pact armies, Špotáková's victory over Russian Mariya Abakumova was especially meaningful for the Czechs.

On 21 August, going into the last round of competition, Špotáková was in second place behind the Russian Mariya Abakumova and few expected that to change. Then Barbora Špotáková made her last throw of the 2008 games. As she watched the javelin sail to a European record breaking 71.47 meters, she fell to her knees in disbelief. In her own words, „byla jsem jako v transu. Nic si nepamatuji.“ (It was like I was in a trance. I don't remember anything.) The fact that she was only 29 cm from a new world record meant next to nothing;

## **Dalibor and the Tower that Bears His Name** **Or “Stress Taught Dalibor to Play the Violin!”**

**21 August 2008, Olympic gold and victory over the Russians...**that meant everything.

The front pages of the next day's newspapers were full of photos of a triumphant Barbora Špotáková wrapped in the Czech flag. Headlines shouted, „*Thriller. Rekord. Zlato.*“ And Barbora Špotáková joined Dana Zátopková and Jan Železný in the elite group of Czech Olympic gold medalists in the javelin throw.

For the record, Dana Zátopková won the gold in Helsinki in 1952. That year Dana and Emil Zatopek became the most famous sporting couple in the world. They made Olympic history at the Helsinki games when they won four gold medals between them. Dana also took the silver in Rome in 1960. Jan Železný won three golds: Barcelona, 1992; Atlanta, 1996; and Sydney, 2000. His winning streak began in Seoul in 1988.

.....now there is Špotáková: 2008 in Beijing.

The late Gothic tower, called Daliborka, is the work of Benedikt Ried, one of the leading architects of late 15<sup>th</sup> Century Prague. The tower, intended as a prison for fractious nobility, was built in 1496. It is now only five stories high, although it was originally taller; a fire destroyed several of the upper floors. The most famous occupant of the tower, and the source of the name by which it is known today, is the knight Dalibor of Kozojedy who was imprisoned there in 1498.



In the days when lords and serfs made up the population of the Bohemian countryside, one of the cruelest lords was Adam of Ploskovice. He lived quite well in his fortress, but subjected his serfs to all sorts of misery and suffering. Many ran away, but those who were caught were sent back in chains to their master who punished them severely. One day the serfs on the estate of Adam of Ploskovice had had enough. After arming themselves with

flails and axes they attacked Adam's stronghold, overcame the guards and searched the fortress for their cruel master. They found him cowering in one of the cellars and dragged him out to the courtyard to face his serfs whom he had so cruelly mistreated.

The serfs, however, behaved far better than their master. They gave him an opportunity to save his life by signing his fields and forests over to his serfs. Since it was unheard of for serfs to own property and against the law for them not to have an overlord, they went to Dalibor of Kozojedy who agreed to become their master. Dalibor had been known as a kind and just master and so proved himself to be. For a short time peace and tranquility reigned on the former Ploskovice estates.

By contrast, Adam of Ploskovice bided his time until he could move against Dalibor. He managed to steal the contract handing over his property and contrived to sue Dalibor for the return of his lands and serfs. Adam had lords from neighboring estates and wealthy friends from nearby Litoměřice on his side. All of them feared that their serfs might turn against them, so they wanted Dalibor treated as harshly as possible. He was imprisoned in the new



tower at Prague Castle, in the dungeon which could only be entered or exited by means of a pulley through a hole in the ceiling. The court was in no hurry to act in the matter of Dalibor who languished in the tower prison for many long months.



To fill his time Dalibor, for the first time, began to play a violin which he had bribed a guard to bring to him. Over the course of many months he learned to play beautifully. His music brought him a measure of the freedom his prison had taken from him. The music of his violin was so beautiful that the people gathered every evening to listen to the lovely melodies which poured from the grated window of Dalibor's cell. In time the nobles grew uneasy with Dalibor's fame and decided that he had to be silenced. They met and hastily condemned him to death by beheading. Dalibor's music was silenced, but his fame among the people grew and spread all over Prague and all over Bohemia. He became the subject of legends and Bedřich Smetana's opera *Dalibor*.

## Some Factoids about *Pivo*:

The secret to Czech beer brewing perfection is said to be hops, which apparently grow better under the agricultural conditions of Bohemia than they do anywhere else on earth. Historical documentation points to the cultivation of hops in Bohemia as early as 859 AD. The first evidence of their export dates to 903. King Wenceslaus (probably not the one in the Christmas carol) ordered the death penalty for any miscreant caught exporting plant cuttings from which new plants could be grown. The first mention of brewing in the Czech lands is found in the charted establishing the Vyšhrad church. In this document King Vratislav II, the first crowned Czech king, promised that his estates would tithe, not coin, but their *hops* to the church!

Expansion of the beer industry ground to a halt in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when feudal lords insisted that their serfs buy beer only from the manor brewery. Further devastation was dealt to the industry by the Thirty Years War. At one point beer was used as the payoff to the Swedish Army for not plundering Kutna Hora, the site of the Royal Mint.



DRAFT PILSNER URQUELL WILL BE SERVED AT THE FESTIVAL! KRUSOVICE, LAGER AND ČERNÉ, AS WELL AS ZLATÝ BAŽANT WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE.

## The President's Corner

*Milé Přátele,*

Once again it is almost time for another Festival. I hope to see all of you there and I hope that you will enjoy the event. We have a new caterer, Clementine, and we are working closely with them to plan a menu which will be both authentic Czech/Slovak and delicious. I feel sure that Chef Winston will deliver on this! Their restaurant on Harford Road in Hamilton has gotten some very good reviews. Aleš Vanický has arranged for the Slavjane-Rusyn Dance Ensemble from Pittsburgh to appear once again, and we will have a representative of the Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant with us at the Festival as well. We are planning to have the children's activities again, and, of course, dancing to the music of Joy of Maryland. We hope to see you all there.

## Grand Lodge

*Na shledano na Festivalu,* Margaret



**Open House ČSPS**

On Sunday, November 9 the Bohemian National Cemetery will hold an open house to celebrate the 128<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the Grand Lodge ČSPS. From 1:00 to 4:00 the

grounds, the carriage house and the caretaker's cottage will be open for tours, refreshments and a bake sale. Visitors will be able to see some of the artifacts, documents and photographs which Jeanne Taborsky and her dedicated workers have rescued from neglect.

The *Česko Slovanska Podporující Společnost*, Czech/Slovak support society, was incorporated on November 8, 1880. Its purpose was to aid recently arrived immigrants from Bohemia, help them adjust to life in Baltimore, and to provide an alternative to burial in a Catholic cemetery.

For more information or for directions contact the office at 410-366-6016 or on the web at: [www.bohemiannc.com](http://www.bohemiannc.com).

## Planned Restoration of Prague's Wilson Memorial

After successfully establishing the Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk Memorial Park on Massachusetts Avenue near DuPont Circle in Washington, DC, American Friends of the Czech Republic has turned its attention to the restoration of the Woodrow Wilson Monument in Prague. From its dedication on July 4, 1928 until its destruction by the Nazis in 1941, the Wilson Memorial stood opposite the main train station in Prague. Its main feature was a bronze statue of Wilson by Moravian born sculptor Albin Polášek. A plaque on the granite base quoted Wilson, in English and in Czech: „the world must be made safe for democracy.“

On July 4, 1946 Jan Masaryk, son of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, dedicated a plaque promising the re-erection, by Czech-Americans, of the Wilson statue on the site. The plaque was destroyed by the communists two years later. A large addition to the train station was made in the 1970's and that may make it impossible to restore the statue to its original site. AFoCR is working with the City of Prague on finding a suitable location near Wilson Station for the restored Wilson Memorial.



photo: AFoCR [www.afocr.org](http://www.afocr.org).

The project got an unexpected boost when, in early January, 2008, the original plaster model of the full-size head and shoulders of the statue was discovered in a warehouse of the National Gallery in Prague. This assures that the new statue will be a faithful representation of the original. The dedication of the Wilson Monument is scheduled to coincide with the completion of renovations to Wilson Station.

The estimated cost of restoring Prague's Wilson Memorial is estimated at \$500,000 or more which AFoCR hopes to raise from donations.

## Ema Destinnová-obličej na 2000 Kč bankovce

Ema Destinová (narodila se 26. 2. 1878 v Praze, zemřela 28. 1. 1930 v Českých Budějovicích) mohla být houslovou virtuóskou či skladatelkou, ale tihla k divadlu. Věnovala se jazykům a literatuře, od čtrnácti let psala verše a dramata. Matka Jindřiška, rozená Šrutová, byla operní pěvkyně, otec Emanuel Kittl byl



mecenášem českých básníků a malířů. Dceři Emilii umožnil lekce herectví u Otýlie Sklenářové - Malé a zpěvu u nejlepších učitelů v její rodné Praze-Thomase Loeweho a Marie von Dregerové, která kdysi v Itálii zpívala pro Giuseppe Verdiho pod pseudonymem Destinn. Temperament nadané dívky způsobil, že ji opera pražského Národního divadla odmítla. Na scénu vstoupila až po trojím nezdaru, když její mimořádně barevný hlas ocenila Dvorní opera v Berlíně. Zde pak poprvé 19. července 1898 v roli Santuzy v *Sedláku kavalíru* užila se souhlasem své učitelky pseudonymu Destinn.

Všestranný talent, dokonalá příprava a železná píle umožnily dvacetileté Emě Destinnové vystupovat v jakkoli náročných úlohách i bez zkoušek. Brzy si vybírala role, do kterých se mohla bezvýhradně převtělit. Náležela k těm, kdo fascinovali publikum vlastním prožitkem, sugestivním herectvím a dokonalou krásou zpěvu. V rámci desetiletého berlínského angažmá vytvořila třiačtyřicet postav ve více než sedmistech představeních. Své umělecké jméno brzy slibně představila v Praze, Mohuči, Paříži, Frankfurtu, Londýně, Poznani či Budapešti. Ozdobena novinářským epitetem „božská Ema“ vstoupila 2. května 1904 v úloze Donny Anny do královské opery Covent Garden v Londýně. V červnu 1911 zde vystoupila, jako Aida, v galavečeru ke korunovaci krále Jiřího V. V Metropolitní opeře v New Yorku otevírala spolu s Carusem a Toscaninim sezony 1908 a 1911. Zpívala po celých Spojených státech i v Kanadě. Na scéně se nikdy nešetřila. Kritikové shodně konstatovali, že dokázala své partnery strhnout k jindy nevídaným výkonům. Ovace, ohlas kritiky i její honoráře dosáhly hvězdné úrovně. Přesto ji neopouštěla pokora: odmítala zpívat v posvátné kolébce opery- v Itálii.

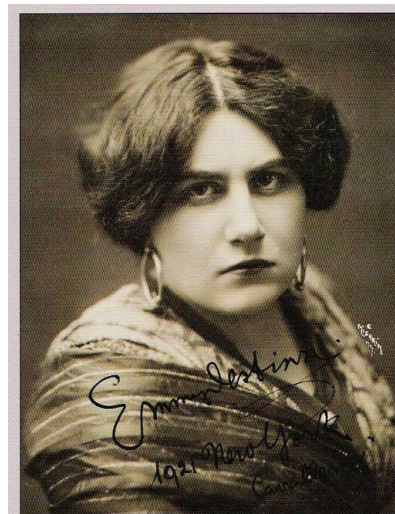


foto: archiv Jana Králíka [www.zamekstraz.cz](http://www.zamekstraz.cz)

Ačkoli od narození Emy Destinnové nás v roce 2008 dělí již 130 let, povědomí o ní je velmi živé. Její jméno se stalo vzorem světové kvality a obětavé lásky k rodné zemi. Připomínají ji knižní monografie a rozsáhlé životopisné stati i beletrie, celovečerní film, televizní a rozhlasové medailonky. Komplettní reedice gramofonového odkazu vyšla na dvanácti CD, portrét pěvkyně nesou poštovní známka i bankova České republiky. Jméno Emy Destinnové mají ve štítě školy, mistrovské pěvecké kursy, hudební festival v Českých Budějovicích i zámek ve Stráži nad Nežárkou... Ve světě ji připomínají edice recitálů na CD, vydané v USA, Itálii, Německu a Anglii, nadace založená v Londýně, kavárna v New Yorku, a dokonce i asteroid, obíhající Slunce mezi drahmi Marsu a Jupitera.

*Adaptovano ze Vítá Vás srdce Evropy, Revue České republiky, ročník 15, číslo 1/2008, st. 36-38.*

## Ema Destinnová – the Face on the 2000 Crown Banknote

Ema Destinnová (born in Prague on February 26, 1878, and died on January 28, 1930 in České Budějovice) might have become a violin virtuosa or a composer, but she gravitated to the theatre. She applied herself to languages and to literature and at age fourteen was writing both poetry and drama. Her mother, Jindřiška, born Šrutová, was an opera singer, her father Emanuel Kittl was a patron of Czech poets and painters. He provided his daughter Emilia with

lessons from the actress Otylie Sklenářová – Malá and with singing lessons from the best teachers of their time in Prague – Thomas Loew and Marie von Dregerová, who while in Italy used the pseudonym Destinn and sang for Giuseppe Verdi. The gifted Ema's temperament resulted in her being turned down by the National Theatre in Prague. After three failures, she gained the support of the Court Opera in Berlin because of the extraordinary color of her voice. It was there, on July 19, 1898, singing the role of Santuzza in *Cavaliere Rusticana*, that she first used, with her teacher's agreement, the pseudonym Destinn.



Versatile talent, impeccable preparation and steely determination enabled twenty-year-old Ema Destinnová to perform demanding roles without rehearsal and without regard to their difficulty. Early on she chose roles which she could transform unreservedly. She made them her own, fascinating the public with her own experience, her suggestive acting and flawless singing. During her ten year contract in Berlin she sang forty-three roles in more than seven-hundred performances. Her artistic reputation soon promised appearances in Prague, Mainz, Paris, Frankfurt, London, Poznan or Budapest. Described by newsmen with the title „divine Ema,” she appeared in London at the Royal Opera Covent Garden in the role of Dona Anna in May 1904. In June 1911, she appeared there in the role of Aida, for the gala celebration of the coronation of King George V. With Caruso and Toscanini, she opened the 1908 and 1911 seasons at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. She sang all over the United States and Canada. On stage she never held back. Critics agreed that in performance she overshadowed her partners. Ovations, critical acclaim and her fees

## Did you know...

reached the height of the stars. In spite of all this she did not abandon her humble refusal to sing in the hallowed cradle of opera – in Italy.



*Destinnová as Libuše in 1913 with Přemysl Oráčem*

Despite the fact that she was born 130 years ago, interest in Ema Destinnová remains lively. Worldwide her name is synonymous with excellence and unselfish love of her native country. She is commemorated in books, monographs, various biographies and fiction, feature films as well as television and radio profiles. A twelve CD reissue of her complete recorded works has been released and her portrait appears on a Czech Republic postage stamp and banknote. The name of Ema Destinnová has its place in schools, in opera master classes, the music festival in Český Budějovice and at her chateau Stráž nad Nežárkou. In the world she is memorialized in a CD of her recitals, which has been distributed in the USA, Italy, Germany and England. Her name is shared by a foundation in London, a cafe in New York and even an asteroid circling the sun between far off Mars and Jupiter.

*Translation: Margaret Supik*

that odd little aluminum coin, the 50h (Czech halír), is no longer in use? It has followed the 10h and 20h coins into obscurity.



Prices of goods are now rounded up or down to the nearest whole *koruna*. As of 31 August, 2008 the smallest denomination of Czech coinage is now the 1 kc coin and the largest is the two-toned 50 kc piece. The beautiful and colorful Czech banknotes remain unchanged and will continue to be used until 2014 when the switch to the Euro is expected to occur.

## CSHA SUMMER PICNIC

by Lois Hybl and Alex Vanicky

Given the heat on July 20, we were pleasantly surprised to have at least 60-70 people at the picnic at one time or another. The very sturdy tent provided by the Belvedere Christian Church and a slight breeze made the temperature more bearable than expected.

We give special thanks to Mr. Richard Jett from the church for organizing the whole hard work of setting up the tent. He was actually the knowledgeable leader of this "mission impossible"—building the “hangar,” as Alex Vanicky called it. On Saturday prior to the picnic, help for building the tent was provided by Jiri Petran, Sr., Jerry Hradsky, Alex Vanicky, and Lois Hybl. Lois Hybl brought food and condiments, plus tableware and covers and tools for barbequing. George Vransky and Alex Vanicky purchased the beer. Ed Horak provided soft drinks left over from previous events.

Sunday by noon we had big help from Albert Hybl, Robert and Anna Losovsky, Dolores Gentes, Jerry Hradsky, Jiri Petran Sr., Steve and Viera Sabol and Vladimir Zikan to prepare the grills, set up the tables and chairs, put food on the tables etc. To take the tent down, the job was accomplished by all people, who joined our annual CSHA picnic. We can't name them all, but it was very affectionate and beautiful, how everybody helped clean up the place.

We thank Vladimir Zikan for playing the accordion for a very enjoyable sing-a-long. Vice-President Steve Sabol conducted a brief business meeting. He reminded people of the need for festival volunteers and Richard

Pazourek reminded people about making donations for regular ads or patron ads in the program book. Dolores Gentes invited people to attend the Czech and Slovak Language School. Tom Hasler announced that a preliminary copy of the documentary about his father's life is at: <http://theimmortalballadier.org/moviehd.html>.

Karel Hašler was a famous Czech actor, singer and songwriter who fell victim to the Nazis after their invasion of Czechoslovakia. Mike Krompholz announced that the pianist Martin Vojtíšek, whom we supported in making a CD of less well-known Czech music, plans a concert in the U.S. in the fall.

## The Pearl of Slovakia

By Joe Davies

The Spiš region is known as the pearl of Slovakia. While this area is known for its great natural beauty, it also contains many important historical monuments. The name for the region originates from the famous castle located there.



Spiš

Castle

[www.spisskyhrad.sk/shradm.jpg](http://www.spisskyhrad.sk/shradm.jpg)

UNESCO-protected site, Spiš castle, originated in the twelfth century. It is one of the largest and most impressive castles in Europe. It used to be the seat of the Csáky family, but they moved away from the castle when fortified castles became obsolete. From Spiš castle it is possible to view all of the surrounding region up to the Tatra Mountains. The town of Spišská Kapitula is situated opposite the castle. It is a small town with an impressive Romanesque cathedral.

A number of movies requiring medieval scenery have been filmed in this area due to the presence of these authentic medieval monuments. The village of Žhera is located below Spiš castle; it contains a church with well-preserved Medieval frescoes.

One of the most beautiful cities in Slovakia, Levoča, is located in Spiš. The highest Gothic altar in the world is found in Levoča's St. James church. It was carved by Master Pavol of Levoča. Master Pavol was a pupil of Viet Stoss, who carved the famous wooden altar in St. Mary's Church in Krakow. While Viet Stoss's altar is the largest wooden Gothic altar in the world, Master Pavol's is the highest. Master Pavol's home still stands in Levoča and his masterpieces are located in various churches in Slovakia. Levoča is a very well-preserved medieval and renaissance town. Its beautiful town hall is world famous. A pillory cage in which women used to be placed for punishment is still located next to the town hall.

The Spiš region of Slovakia is definitely worth a visit.

## Perla Slovenska

Spiš je známy ako perla Slovenska. Aj keď sa táto oblasť vyznačuje mnohými prírodnými krásami, má tiež významné historické pamiatky. Meno Spiša sa odvodzuje od slávneho hradu, ktorý sa tam nachádza. Spišský hrad je na Zozname svetových prírodných a kultúrnych Tatry. Mestečko Spišská Kapitula sa nachádza oproti hradu. Je to malé mesto s impozantnou romanskou katedrálou.

V tejto oblasti bolo nafilmovaných niekoľko filmov, ktoré si vyžadovali stredoveké scenérie, keďže tu sú autentické stredoveké pamiatky. Obec Žehra s kostolom, v ktorom sú zachované pamiatok UNESCO a jeho počiatky siahajú do 12. storočia. Je jedným z najväčších a najimpozantnejších hradov v Európe. Bol sídlom rodiny Csáky, ktorá sa z hradu vystažovala, keď sa hrady stali zastaranými. Zo Spišského hradu je dobre vidieť okolie až postredoveké fresky, sa nachádza pod Spišským hradom.

Na Spiši je jedno z najkrajších miest Slovenska, Levoča. V Levoči, v kostole sv. Jakuba sa nachádza najvyšší gotický oltár na svete. Je to dielo rezbára Majstra Pavla z Levoče. Majster Pavol z Levoče bol žiakom Wita Stwosza, ktorý vyhotovil slávny drevený oltár v Marianskom kostole v Krakove. Zatiaľ čo oltár Wita Stwosza je najväčším dreveným gotickým oltárom na svete, oltár Majstra Pavla je najvyšším. Dom Majstra Pavla ešte stojí v Levoči. Diela Majstra Pavla sa nachádzajú v rôznych kostoloch na Slovensku. Levoča je zachované stredoveké a renesančné mesto. Má krásnu svetožnú radnicu. Pred ňou ešte stojí klieť hanby, do ktorej zatvárali ženy zatrest. Spiš je oblasť Slovenska, ktorú sa určite oplatí navštíviť.

## Weak Dollar? Not Everyone Was Complaining...

...in fact the management of one sporting goods store on a main shopping street, Pařížská, in



Prague 1, seems to have been quite pleased with the situation. When the trading price of the dollar fell to record lows this summer, American-made goods became more affordable for Czech shoppers.

The weak dollar, just under 14 čkc at one point in June, was a favorite topic for English conversation in and around Prague. All of a sudden the city, which had been talked about by Americans as one of the best bargains in Europe, was just as expensive most other big European cities.



# Charles Bridge Restoration



After more than six centuries spanning the Vltava and linking Malá Strana and Staré Město, the historic Charles Bridge is undergoing an extensive and much needed restoration. Last year marked the 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone by Charles IV. Almost immediately after the July 9, 2007 celebration, engineers, working from the Malá Strana side, began to cordon off sections of the bridge and begin the ten year project.



Whole sections of the bridge have been virtually dismantled and will be rebuilt. The project, which includes restoration work on the underwater structures as well, is expected to take ten years to complete.

**HLAS**

The VOICE of The Czech & Slovak



Reusable sections are marked and stored until they can be returned to their original places.



Stones which were too badly deteriorated have been replaced by new ones. While the contrast between old and new is rather jarring now, the new stones will gradually weather and blend in with the old ones.



Some statues are still visible, others have been removed for restoration and repair.

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