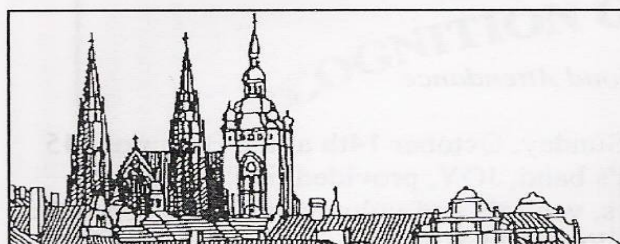


Podzim 2009

Fall 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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**Fun, dancing, food, beer, friends**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Czech/Slovak Festival**  
**Sunday, October 25, 2009**  
**Noon to 6 pm**



*photo: Margaret Supik*

# **Tall cedars' (Baltimore 45) hall**

## **Admission still only \$5**

### **Fall 2009 Czech and Slovak Students Begin Classes**



Classes in Czech and Slovak began on Saturday, September 10, for the teachers and students shown above. Our school offers classes in Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Czech and Beginning and Intermediate Slovak. Why not join the class best suited to your language abilities? We have openings in all levels plus dedicated and experienced teachers and enthusiastic students. Learning a foreign language is a great way to exercise your mind...and it's NOT as hard as you think it is!

## **Czech School Still Going Strong in Cedar Rapids**

*Česká Škola* (Czech School) in Cedar Rapids, as far as we know, is the longest continuously-operating Czech language school in this country. Since its inception many things have changed, but it remains unwavering in its mission to "preserve and promote the Czech language, culture and history."

Every year students of all ages and from many different backgrounds dedicate five weeks of their summer vacation to developing conversational Czech language skills while they are discovering Czech music and culture. For the past 10 years Czech School has hosted teachers from the Czech Republic to provide language instruction. Adult language classes, held in

cooperation with Mount Mercy College, were a new addition this year.

Excerpt from *MOST* the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library magazine

## **Too Old??? Take a Look At Dobruška's Oldest Student**



The oldest participant ever in the 20 year history of Dobruška's language school for compatriots, 90 year old pani Magda Gipsz, accompanied by her son Roni and granddaughter Gili, traveled from her home in Haifa, Israel to brush up on the language of her youth. Pani Magda was born in Czechoslovakia in 1919 and, after surviving World War II and a Nazi concentration camp, she emigrated to Israel after the war. She held on to her Czech language and passed it along to her son and to her granddaughter, both of whom speak quite good Czech. Pani Magda attended class every day and took part in all but the most strenuous outside activities. Her folding walker, equipped with bicycle bell and horn, steadied her progress from the Gipsz's first floor apartment to the dining room and to class in the Dobruška study center.

So, the next time someone asks you why you don't study Slovak or Czech, or why you don't apply for the stipend to study in Dobruška, think about pani Magda before you answer. YOU REALLY AREN'T TOO OLD!!!!

## Barbara Lee Podoski



**1914 – 2009**

Those who attended receptions at the Czech Embassy will be saddened to learn of the death of Barbara Podoski, a frequent and honored guest at the Embassy.

### Barbara Lee Podoski

Barbara Lee Podoski was born Bozena Hauserova in Brno on April 22, 1914. She studied in France and Czechoslovakia and received her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Masaryk University in 1937. She went into exile to the United States in 1941 and soon thereafter was appointed by Jan Masaryk to serve in the Czechoslovak Embassy in Washington. On June 1, 1943, the day she became an American citizen, she enlisted in the

U.S. Army and was assigned to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), predecessor of the CIA. She served with the OSS in North Africa and Italy, where she earned the Bronze Star "for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy." After the war she helped organize the first Salzburg Music Festival. She worked for twenty years as a research analyst at the Library of Congress and subsequently for the American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees and the Tolstoy Foundation. After the Velvet Revolution in 1989 and up until her death on August 16, 2009, she was of invaluable and often indispensable assistance to the Czech Embassy and its staff. In 1999 she received the *Gratias Agit* award from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, on the occasion of her 95th birthday this year, she was presented with a Presidential Medal. Funeral services for Barbara Lee Podoski will be held with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, September 22 at 1 pm.

On Friday, September 18 Ambassador and Mrs. Petr Kolar held a memorial service to celebrate the life and work of this remarkable woman.



## CSHA Singers Celebrate St. Wenceslaus Day

On Sunday, September 27, the Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers will join with the choir and congregation of St. Wenceslaus Church to celebrate the feast of the patron saint of the church and of the Czech Republic. St. Vaclav (Wenceslaus) was murdered at the instigation of his brother Boleslav on September 28, 935. Since 2000, this day is celebrated as a public holiday, Czech Statehood Day, in the Czech Republic.

The Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers will take part in the Opening Ceremony at this year's Czech and Slovak Festival. The group will also present a short program of Czech and Slovak songs.



The group is always ready to welcome new members, young or not-so-young, Czech or Slovak speakers, non-Czech or Slovak speakers...everyone with an interest in singing is welcome. Rehearsals are Monday evening at 7 pm in the choir room of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St. in Baltimore. For more information contact Charles Supik at 410-662-6094.

## **KAREL HASLER -- Balladeer of Prague**

*By Tom Hasler*

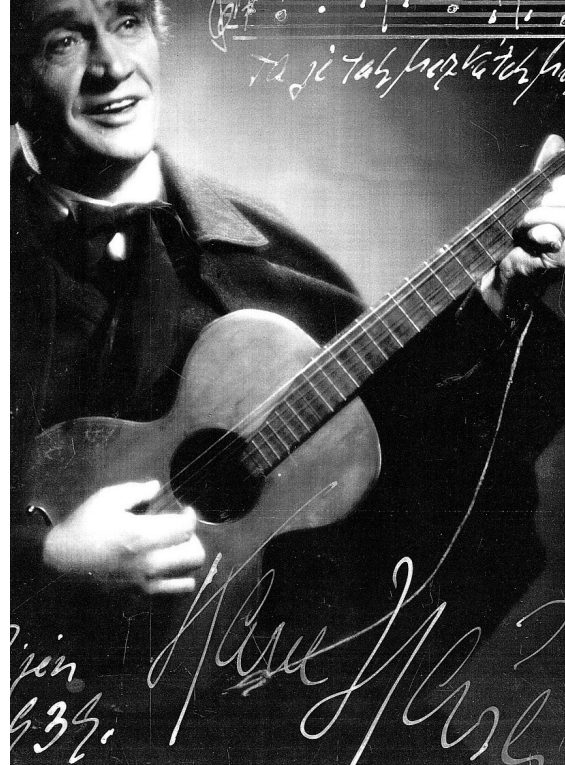
I propose making the first international film to evoke the beauty of Prague while telling for the first time the powerful love story where Karel Hasler, a well-known Czech song writer and nationalist, defied the Nazis, but fell in love with a German. My father opposed the Nazis by being active in the underground and singing songs satirizing the German occupation.

The film will be based on the memoirs of my mother, then known as Charlotte Jurda, the anti-Nazi German who described the relationship until my father was arrested by the Gestapo, and subsequently died as an ice statue at Mauthausen. He died a month after I was born, so I never met him.

My father's story is virtually unknown outside the Czech Republic, so a film about his brave defiance of oppression should provide an inspiration to people all over the world.

My mother's memoirs made me realize that this love affair also tells an important human rights story about the cultural milieu of pre-World War II Prague, where Czechs, Germans, and Jews lived and worked together in peace.

This will be a Holocaust film with a difference – the victims will be primarily non-Jews. It will focus on the love story, which should appeal to a female audience. Cabaret humor and my father's songs



evoking “Old Prague” will provide a lighter touch. There will, however, be an important Jewish sub-plot: my mother had many Jewish friends, and my father worked with the Jewish head of the Barrandov Studios, and had a Jewish store manager.

Although my father is known in the Czech Republic mostly for his songs of “Old Prague” he also wrote songs on political themes, particularly against oppression. He used songs as a political weapon. His most famous song, “Our Czech Song” presages the German invasion. It became the unofficial national anthem when the Nazis banned the national anthem, and continues to be the favorite song of Czech-Americans. Earlier he wrote songs opposing the Austrian-Hungarian Empire prior to Czech independence in 1918. He also wrote songs against the Bolsheviks, and, finally, against the Germans. His last song was written prior to his death at the Mauthausen concentration camp, and was smuggled out.

A 60-minute documentary, *The Immortal Balladeer of Prague*, was completed last year with support from the Czech government and was shown on Czech TV last December. It was also shown at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival last July. The documentary is about my

search for the father I never knew. My search is led by Arnost Lustig, a camp survivor and the author of many books about the camp experience, who sees my father as a symbol of the non-Jewish victims.

*Continued on pg. 5*

There will be a premiere in Prague October 31 on the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my father's birth. There will also be an unveiling of a statue of my father on the Castle Steps, the subject of one of his most famous songs.

An article about the story appeared in the Baltimore magazine, *The Urbanite* last January ([www.urbanitebaltimore.com](http://www.urbanitebaltimore.com)), and *The Urbanite* prepared a related video which is now available on YouTube by searching: Hasler Urbanite.

Trailers for the documentary and the movie are available on YouTube under Karel Hasler.

Contacts are underway among entertainment professionals on the West Coast to generate interest in making the movie.

## Banská Štiavnica

*By Joe Davies*

Banská Štiavnica je najstarším baníckym mestom na Slovensku. Nachádza sa na juhu stredného Slovenska. Banská Štiavnica je chránená UNESCOm. Mestské privilégia jej boli udelené v roku 1255, tieto slúžili ako vzor aj pre ďalšie banícke mestá. Mesto bolo obkolesené baňami, v ktorých sa ťažilo zlato a striebro, následkom čoho bolo mesto veľmi bohaté. V tomto meste boli vyvinuté komplexné systémy využívané v baníctve. V okolí mesta sú mnohé vodnné rezervoáry, zvané tajchy, systém kanálov a zariadenia, ktoré slúžili na odčerpávanie vody z baní. Staré bane, v ktorých sa ťažilo zlato a striebro sú tiež prístupné návštevníkom, ktorí môžu vidieť ako sa ťažilo zlato a striebro pred priemyselnou revolúciou. Až do začiatku dvadsiateho storočia banská akadémia tohto mesta priťahovala študentov z celého sveta. Počas tohto obdobia bolo

mesto najznámejším centrom banských vied v Európe. V 18. storočí bola Banská Štiavnica tretím najväčším mestom v Uhorsku.

Banská Štiavnica je malé mesto, v ktorom žije asi 10,000 ľudí.



Napriek tomu je toto mesto preplnené prekrásnou historickou architektúrou z čias gotiky, renesancie a baroka. Sú tu mnohé kostoly, a mesto má Starý zámok s romansko-gotickými časťami a Nový zámok postavený v renesančnom štyle. Jednou z najzaujímavejších budov je baroková veža Klopačka, postavená v roku 1681. Klopačka znamená v angličtine "clapper ." Klopaním na drevennú dosku v tejto veži zvolávali baníkov do práce. Mesto malo aj opevnenia, ktoré mali zabrániť tureckej expanzii. Tieto opevnenia boli veľmi účinné, keďže mesto nebolo nikdy dobité.

Banská Štiavnica sa rozkladá na svahoch malebných štiavnických vrchov. Jej historické budovy a výnimočná poloha ju zaraďujú medzi najkrajšie mestá na Slovensku. Ak budete na Slovensku, určite navštívte Banskú Štiavnicu.



*stary zamok (old castle)*

## CSHA at the BSO

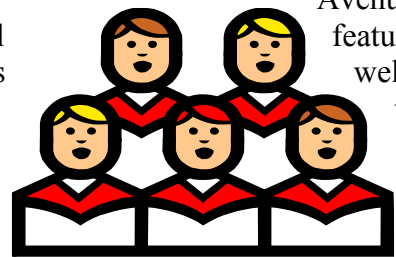
CSHA has arranged a block of tickets to the Baltimore Symphony's Friday, 22 January 2010 performance. Jiří Bělohlávek, founder and music director laureate of the Prague Philharmonia, will conduct soloist Garrick Ohlsson and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto. The orchestra completes the program with Dvořák's *Othello* Overture and Janáček's *Taras Bulba*. In cooperation with the BSO group sales office, we have reserved seats in the Grand Terrace Center section at the reduced price of \$30 (the regular price for these seats is \$50).

Don't miss this opportunity to hear two great pieces by two of the best known Czech composers conducted by a world renown Czech conductor. Reservations and payment must be made no later than December 1; call Margaret Supik at 410-662-6094.

## Heritage Singers St. Nicholas Day Concert

The Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers will present a program of Czech and Slovak *koledy* (Christmas music) at St. Wenceslaus Church, 2111 Ashland Avenue in Baltimore on Sunday December 6 at 3 pm. The program will feature many of the traditional Czech and Slovak Christmas music as solos, instrumental pieces and opportunities for the audience to sing with the chorus. Traditional pastries will be served at a reception following the concert.

More information or directions may be had by calling Charles Supik at: 410-662-6094.



Avenue in  
feature  
well as  
to

## You Are Invited...to Volunteer at the Festival

What a great way to get better acquainted with your fellow CSHA members and become more active in your organization. Opportunities abound for helping to serve beer, hot dogs, spending time in the Kiddie Korner, helping to sell pastries, and many more. You could even volunteer for the clean-up committee! That last is actually not as grueling as it sounds.



If you want to help out call or email Margaret Supik at 410-662-6094, [usupik@verizon.net](mailto:usupik@verizon.net) or Lois Hybl at 410-243-1710, [lhybl@verizon.net](mailto:lhybl@verizon.net).

We look forward to seeing all of you at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Czech and Slovak Festival.

The Czech and Slovak Heritage Association  
Sdružení Čechů a Slováků pro Uchování Národních Odkazů  
Združenie Čechov a Slovákov pre Zachovanie Národných Odkazov

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## THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CZECH AND SLOVAK FESTIVAL



**PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER, HOT DOGS, BEER,  
SOFT DRINKS, PASTRIES, COFFEE,  
VENDORS, EXHIBITS, FELLOWSHIP**

DANCING, MUSIC BY *JOY*

# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009

12 noon to 6 p.m.

**Baltimore 45 Association Hall**

**2501 Putty Hill Avenue**

(corner of Old Harford Road and Putty Hill Avenue)

**Admission \$5.00**



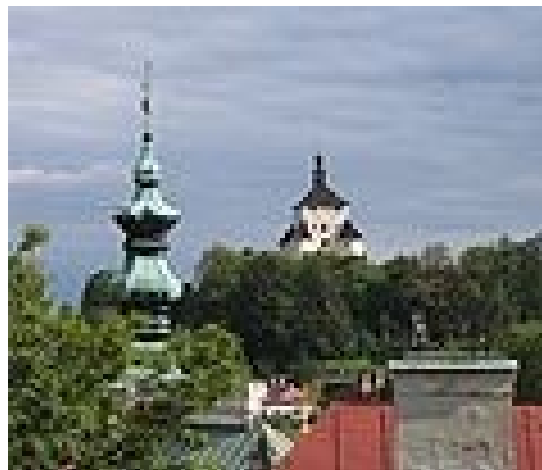
For more information visit our website [www.czslha.org](http://www.czslha.org) or call 410-662-6094, 410-243-1710

*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.*

## Banská Štiavnica

*By Joe Davies*

Banská Štiavnica is the oldest mining town in Slovakia. It is located in south central Slovakia and is protected by UNESCO. The town was chartered in 1255, and its town charter was a model for other mining towns. The town was surrounded by gold and silver mines and therefore it was very wealthy. Complex systems for mining were invented in the town. Around the town one can visit water reservoirs, canal systems, and machinery, all of which were used for pumping water from mines. The old gold and silver mines can also still be visited, and they show how gold and silver were mined in the pre-industrial age. Until the beginning of the twentieth century the town's mining academy attracted students from all over the world. During this time the town was the best-known center of mining science in Europe. During the eighteenth century Banská Štiavnica was the third largest city in Hungary.



*nový zámok (new castle)*

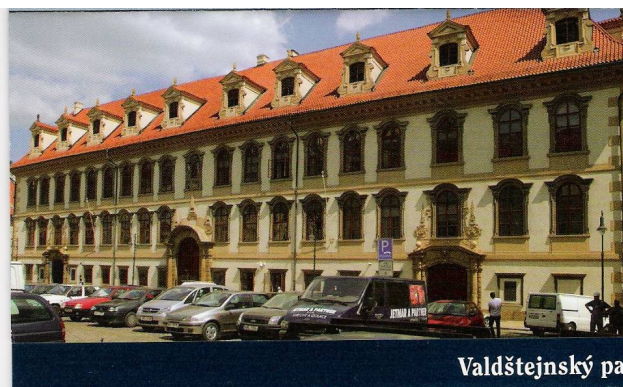
Now Banská Štiavnica is a small town of about 10,000 people. Nevertheless, it is filled with beautiful historical architecture from the Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque eras. There are many churches, and the town has an old castle with Romanesque and Gothic sections and a new castle built in the Renaissance style. One of the most interesting buildings there is the baroque Klopáčka Tower built in 1681. *Klopáčka* means clapper in English. Wooden boards were beaten against one another in the tower to summon miners to work. The town has many fortifications built as protection against Turkish expansion. These



fortifications were very effective since the town was never conquered.

Banska Stiavnica is built on the picturesque Štiavnické Vrchy Mountain. Its historic buildings and superb location make it one of the most beautiful towns in Slovakia. If you go to Slovakia, you must be sure to visit it.

## Legenda Valdštejnského Paláce



Legenda je poměrně mladá, protože pochází z období, kdy začala ve Valdštejnské ulici jezdit tramvaj – počátkem 20. století. Jednalo se o trať č.7: Centrála (v Holešovicích) – Jatky – Malostranské náměstí a zpět. V této celé trase byla uvedena do provozu 24. června 1901. Valdštejnskou ulicí jezdila tramvaj jednosměrně od Malostranského náměstí a měla stanici před vjezdem na 2. nádvoří Valdštejnského paláce. Elektrická tramvaj byla tehdy novinkou, protože její první vozy vyjely v Praze roku 1897. Proto na ně – podobně jako dříve na parní vlaky –hleděli zpočátku mnozí lidé s nedůvěrou. Snad i to byl základ zrodu pověsti, že v noci 25. února (datum smrti Albrechta z Valdštejna) jezdí v noci pohřební tramvaj bez řidiče i průvodčího, zastavuje jen u Valdštejnského paláce a kdo do ní nastoupí, již se nikdy neobjeví, protože lístky se sice kupovat nemusí, ale jízdné je vlastní život. To je prý trest lidem od Albrechta z Valdštejna,

kterého za života rušil dupot koňských kopyt a nyní hřmot železných kol tramvaje.

Pohřební tramvaje opravdu v Praze existovaly, ale až o něco později – v období 1. světové války.

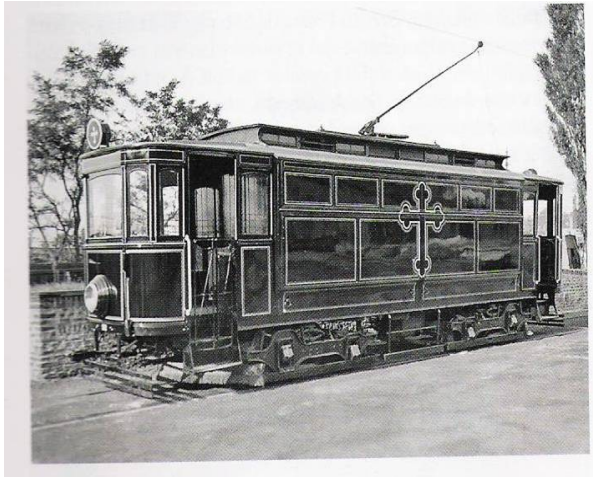
from *Senát* 3/2009

## A Legend of the Valdštejn Palace

This legend is relatively young, because it comes to us from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century – the period when the tram began to run along Valdštejn Street. It went along line number 7: Centrála (in Holešovice) – Jatky – Malostranské náměstí and back again. This route was introduced to traffic on June 24, 1901. On Valdštejn Street the tram traveled one way from Malostranska Square and made a stop at the second courtyard of the Valdštejn Palace. The electric tram was then something new because the first tram in Prague had only begun running in 1897. Because of that – just as earlier with the steam train - many people looked upon (the tram) with suspicion. Perhaps this was the basis for our legend.

It was on the night of February 25 (the date of the death of Albrecht of Valdštejn) that a funeral tram without a driver or conductor stopped only at the palace and whoever got on did not emerge again because he could not buy a ticket and had to ride for the rest of his life.

This is supposedly Albrecht of Valdštejn's punishment of the person(s) who intruded on his life with the stomping of horses' hooves and now with the racket of the iron rails of the tram.



Funeral trams actually existed in Prague, but only later – during the period of the First World War.

*Translation: Margaret Supik*

## Vlašská Chapel May Be Restored

The Italian ambassador to the Czech Republic commissioned a study to examine the possibilities and costs of renovating the architectural jewel known to Czechs as *Vlašská kaple* and to Italians as *La Cappella della Congregazioni degli Italiani a Praga*.

Located near the Charles Bridge the chapel, now owned by the Italian government, was constructed in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century according to plans by a now forgotten Italian architect. Architectural scholars consider the building important because it one of Prague's last examples of Renaissance style and one of the earliest of the Baroque style. The estimated cost of the project is about 1.7 million EUR.

## HLAS

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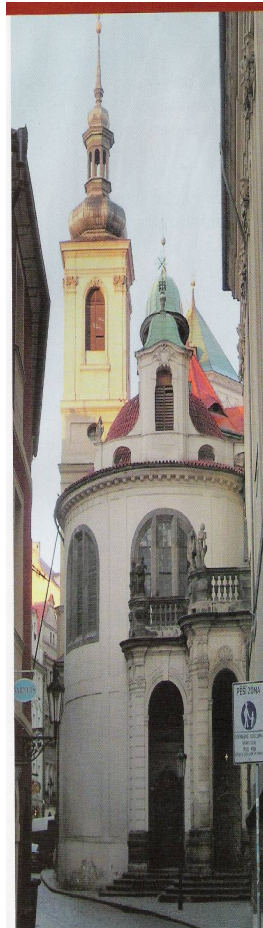
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Heritage Association

Baltimore, Maryland

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