

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



Litomyšl – one of the UNESCO heritage sites in the Czech Republic

Photo by Olga Mendel

WHAT'S COMING UP?



Sunday, 31 July, 2016: CSHA's annual picnic. This year the picnic will be held at the Red Eye Yacht Club, 2222 Poplar Road in Middle River. Join us there from 2-6 PM. For more complete information, and directions, see page 4.

Sunday, 16 October, 2016: Our 30th Annual Czech and Slovak Festival. To celebrate 30 years we will be having some surprises, new events along with old favorite things such as authentic Czech and Slovak food and drink. *Pajtasi*, renown Czech/Slovak folk musicians will be playing for us. Join us from noon to 6 pm at Tall Cedars Hall (Baltimore 45 Hall) on Putty Hill Ave. in Parkville.

Fridays throughout the year: Czech and Slovak languages classes for children aged 3 and up. Classes are held from 6 to 7:30 PM in the Undercroft of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Charles Street and Northern Parkway in Baltimore. The 2017 school year will begin on 16 September. New students and returning students are welcome at any time. Check our NEW website: www.cshamaryland.org or call or email Margaret Supik, 410-662-9094, usupik@verizon.net, for more information or to register your children.

Saturdays throughout the year: Why not consider learning Czech or Slovak? Or brushing up on what you already know? It really isn't as hard as you think! We have excellent teachers and beginning, intermediate and advanced classes. It isn't too early to think about signing up for a class in the Fall. For complete details, check our NEW website: www.cshamaryland.org, or call Lois Hybl at 410-428-6012.

Mondays throughout the year: Czechs and Slovaks have a great musical heritage and *singing is an excellent way to improve your Czech or Slovak pronunciation and vocabulary* Room at the Cathedral Rehearsals begin at 7 PM and conclude at 9 or earlier. Our next singing engagement will be at this year's Festival. All voice parts are welcome. Check our NEW website: www.cshamaryland.org or call or email Margaret Supik at 410-662-6094, usupik@verizon.net for more information.

HLAS: We would love to have your feedback about HLAS. Let us know your comments, ideas, or what you would be interested in reading about in the next issue. Please contact Margaret Supik at usupik@verizon.net or Olga Mendel at omendel@gmail.com

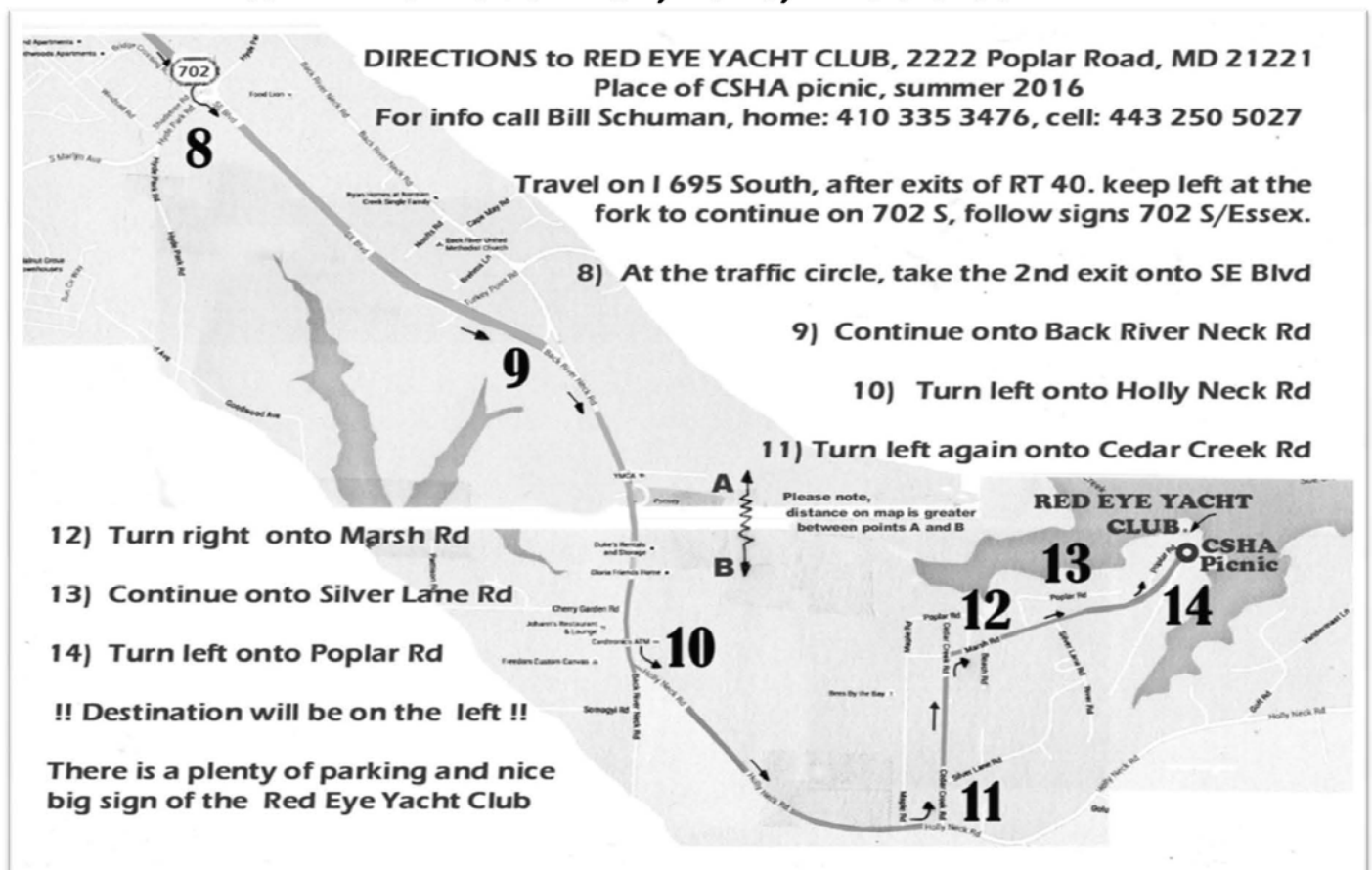
NEW PICNIC LOCATION



Join us at the Red Eye for our annual members' picnic on Sunday, July 31 from 2-5. Thanks to the good efforts of Rena and Bill Schuman we have been able to schedule the Red Eye Yacht Club as the location for our picnic. The water front location offers beautiful waterfront vistas as well as a comfortable, air-conditioned club house which sits on a beautifully landscaped waterfront parcel of land in Middle River fronting on Sue Creek.

CSHA will provide burgers and hot dogs, beer, wine and soft drinks and we count on pot luck dishes to round out the menu. A full bar will be available, on a cash basis for non-members. Last year's sing-along, accompanied by fujara and string bass, was a huge success. This is an event for all — children as well as adults. There will be something for everyone.

CSHA PICNIC JULY 31, 2016; 2:00-5:00 PM

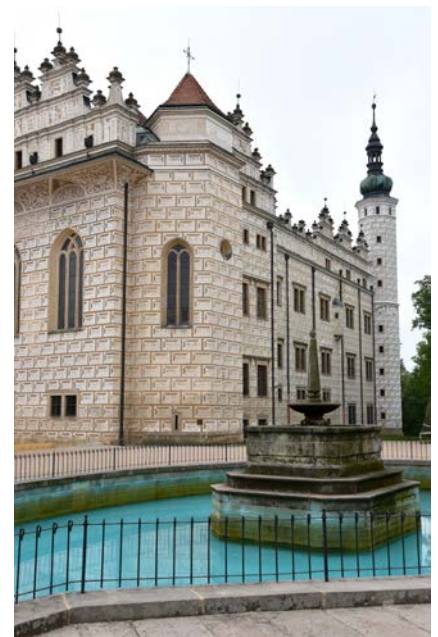


LITOMYŠL – ONE OF 12 CZECH UNESCO SITES

text and photo by Olga Mendel

Wonderful *sgraffito* decorations, magnificent gables, elegant arcades, romantic gardens and a mysterious underground are just some of the reasons to visit the chateau in Litomyšl. This representative seat of the Pernštejn family is one of the most beautiful examples of the Renaissance style in Bohemia and it is a treat for all of those who appreciate the beauty of top quality architecture.

Litomyšl was added to the list of Unesco world heritage sites in 1999. One of the most valuable interiors of the castle is the theater from the late 18th century, which was preserved with its original props and decorations. It was here in 1824 that world renown composer Bedřich Smetana was born to the family of the brewmaster of the castle's brewery. Famous Czech sculptor, Olbram Zoubek (creator of the Monument dedicated to victims of communism in Prague's Ujezd) participated in the restoration of the renaissance *sgraffitos* on the castle facade. For years he maintained a close relationship with the town of Litomyšl and many of his sculptures are to be seen in the gardens of the Castle and the Monastery. A huge exhibit is hidden in the dark mysterious cellars of the Castle. In the same space you can also find „The Heart for Václav Havel,“ a massive heart shaped sculpture created from the candles that people all over the country lit in Havel's honor after his death in December of 2011. It was created by Lukáš Gavlovský and Roman Švejda.



The first written mention of the town comes from the end of the first millenium. Because the town is located on an important business route, a Premonstrate monastery was founded there in the 12th century. Litomyšl was designated as a town in 1259 by King Přemysl Otakar II. Along with prestige of being a town, Litomyšl now had the right to establish a brewery. On the elongated square, which is one of the largest in the Czech Republic, stands a town hall of Gothic origin and a series of Renaissance and Baroque houses, many with arcades and vaulted ground floor rooms. One of the most important of these is the House at the Knights (*U Rytířů*) with its remarkable facade.

It is a lively town, host of the annual Music Festival *Smetana's Litomyšl* and a place definitely worth visiting.



The Heart for Václav Havel



Come visit and rest



.....on these fun benches



NEW CALENDAR COMING SOON

If you like the photographs that accompany this article about Litomyšl, you will want to see Olga Mendel's 2017 Calendar which will be available for sale at the upcoming Festival. Last year's photographs provided breathtaking views of Prague and environs, some of them very familiar, some not so well known, but each one a work of art. This new publication will feature UNESCO World Heritage sites, such as Litomyšl and 11 others or another calendar of Prague. It will make you proud to be Czech.

Margaret Supik

GRANT FROM THE CZECH GOVERNMENT

CSHA has again been awarded a generous financial gift from the government of the Czech Republic. The sum of 120,000 CZK (about \$5000) is to underwrite some of the expense associated with our childrens' language school and to bring the musical group *Pajtasi* to Baltimore to perform at our Festival.

In his letter announcing the grant Dr. Robert Rehak, Cultural Attache to the Czech Embassy, says: „Please see the granting of the ... gift as an expression of our deepest gratitude for your work on deepening of knowledge of the Czech language and Czech tradition and culture. On behalf of the Czech Republic , I would like to thank you for your activities and I hope that the Financial Gift will encourage you to continue in your activities in the coming year. The fruits of your work we can see already today, but in fullness they will be visable on Czech American relations only in the future.“

CZECH AND SLOVAK CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL

First of all, we teachers want to commend and thank the parents of our children for week after week bringing the students to Czech School and waiting for the lessons to conclude. We know that it is a huge commitment and we applaud your dedication to your children's learning Czech. We are planning to continue in the 2016-17 school year and ask for your help in growing the number of students. If you know a Czech or Slovak family who would like their children to have an opportunity to use, to improve, or to learn their heritage language, please tell them about us and urge them to participate. Classes will begin again on 16 September.

Speaking of heritage languages, the Maryland State Legislature passed a bill this session authorizing recognition of competency in a heritage language on high school diplomas. Details have yet to be worked out, but this is a step in the direction of respecting language diversity in Maryland. Maybe this recognition will help spark interest in learning other languages; we can only hope.

Our last day of classes for this year was Friday, 10 June. The students had fun choosing their animal characters and coloring their masks to act out the story *Lesní Král* (King of the Forest). If all the animals had their way, their king would look like the picture on the right. It proved a good closing activity as all the students, beginners and fluent speakers could take part.

After that everyone enjoyed a buffet of snacks: two kinds of strudel, fresh bread and cheese, fruit, cookies and drinks. No one went home hungry!

We are very grateful to the Czech government for their generous support of our activities. We are also very impressed with the level of support given by the Czech government for maintaining worldwide knowledge of the Czech language, traditions and culture.



Lesní Král by Nicole Čiháková, colored by children at Czech and Slovak Children's School

30TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL SUNDAY, 16 OCTOBER



Program from 1987, first Czechoslovakian Festival

This year will mark 30 years of Czech and Slovak Festivals in Baltimore. The first Annual Czechoslovakian Reunion was the brainchild of the late Virginia S. Baker who worked in City Hall in the Mayor's Office of Adventures in Fun. In the program for that first festival Ms. Baker explained, „ The idea to have a reunion of the Czechoslovakian community came to me one day while I was planning recreation programs for Baltimore. I talked to Richard Lidinsky about the idea and he thought it would be wonderful to have the Czech community get together. Today is just the beginning of many great reunions to come.“

And Ms. Baker was right; that first gathering at the War Memorial Plaza in front of City Hall was the beginning of a thirty year tradition that has only grown stronger with time. While the venues have changed, the the format and vendors have expanded, and the Prague Brass Band has yielded the stage to *Pajtasi*, the Festival is still a celebration of Czech and Slovak culture, its music, its food, its beer. The Sokol gymnasts will still appear, favorite folk songs will be sung and everyone will have a great time.

This year's Festival will be a little earlier in October than it has been in the past; be sure to mark your calendars for this year's Festival: Sunday, 16 October, noon to 6pm.

DUES

Thanks to all of you who have already sent in your 2016 dues. Please check your records and if you are among those we haven't heard from yet, you can use the dues form insert in this HLAS to continue your support of CSHA. We depend on your financial support and your participation to fund our programs.

NEW WEBSITE

Our new website is starting to shape up. Please make note that you can find us at www.cshamaryland.org. We are looking forward keeping you informed on upcoming events, past happenings, provide contacts and information on Czech and Slovak stuff and respond to your questions.

The VOICE of The Czech & Slovak
Heritage Association
Post Office Box 20261
Baltimore, MD 21284-0261
www.czslha.org

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Summer 2016

Léto 2016

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Vice President	Steve Sabol
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