

# HLAS

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*

**The Czech and Slovak Heritage Association**  
Sdružení Čechů a Slováků pro uchování národních odkazů  
Združenie Čechov a Slovákov pre zachovanie národných odkazov  
P. O. Box 20261, Baltimore, Maryland 21284  
[www.cshamaryland.org](http://www.cshamaryland.org)

**CSHA Membership Annual Dues for 2018**  
are \$25.00 per household

To Join the CSHA, please complete this form along with your check (payable to CSHA) and mail to:  
Czech and Slovak Heritage Association, P.O. Box 20261, Baltimore, MD 21284

!!!! Residents of New Jersey: CSHA Philadelphia Branch, 7928 B... Wentling, 7928 B...

Names (list all family members): \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to my dues, I want to help preserve the CSHA by making a **tax-deductible contribution** in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_.

**!!!! Don't forget**

- The membership is a great way to celebrate a stronger community
- Your membership dues and donations help us
- We organize annual festival with great music
- handmade crafts
- Member-appreciation picnic is held every year
- Members receive newsletter Hlas four times a year
- You can learn a new language or improve your skills
- You can take part in organizing events

Czech and Slovak Heritage Association  
- donations to which are tax deductible

**The Czech and Slovak Heritage Association - Maryland**  
**Official Election Ballot**  
Officers and Board of Directors to Serve for the Year 2018-19

To Vote: Check ☒ OR Enter Your Choice on the Blank Line

President: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write In
Vice President: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write In
Secretary: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write In
Treasurer: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write In
Vote for _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rena Schuman
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alex Vanicky
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write In
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write In
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write In

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR BALLOT by MARCH 10, 2018 to:**  
**CSHA, P.O. Box 20261**  
**Baltimore, MD 21284-0261**

Or personally cast your ballot at the General Board meeting on March 18, 2018, no later than one hour before the commencement of the meeting.

**Election procedures:**

- Only current CSHA members are eligible to vote.
- New members, mail in your **Annual Dues for 2018** along with the election ballot.
- see [www.cshamaryland.org/membership](http://www.cshamaryland.org/membership) or membership application Hlas insert.
- Use provided envelope to send only one vote per household.
- The Nominating and Election Committee will total the ballots.
- New Officers and Board of Directors will be installed on **March 18, 2018**.
- Results** will be reported in the Summer **Hlas** and on [www.cshamaryland.org](http://www.cshamaryland.org)



## WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2018

**Fridays throughout the year:** Czech and Slovak language classes for children aged 3 and up are held from 6 to 7:30 PM in the Undercroft of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 North Charles St. and Northern Parkway in Baltimore. The second semester of the 2017-18 school year will begin on 16 February. Currently we have three levels of instruction from beginning to advanced Czech. We are looking to attract more

families this spring, so we are pleased to invite you to join us for a series of **Family Fun Nights** with potluck, games, cartoons, crafts or music. Our first two events will be: **Carnival mask making craft night on March 2<sup>nd</sup>** and **Easter Traditions night on March 23<sup>rd</sup>**. All ages (kids, adults, grandparents) are welcome. Let's celebrate our heritage together!!! Follow us at Facebook or visit our website [www.cshamaryland.org](http://www.cshamaryland.org) to see the detailed schedule or to register. Write us at our newly created email address [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org) or call Margaret Supik at 410-662-6094.

**Saturdays throughout the year:** Czech and Slovak language classes for adults are offered at the Gribbin Centre on Bel Air Road in Parkville. Second semester classes will begin on 21 January. Why not come and learn Czech or Slovak? Or brush up on what you already know? We have excellent teachers and beginning, intermediate and advanced classes. For details, check our website: [www.cshamaryland.org](http://www.cshamaryland.org), email us at [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org) or call Lois Hybl at 410-428-6012.

**Mondays throughout the year:** Czechs and Slovaks have a great musical heritage. Join the Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers on Monday evenings from 7-9 PM. All voice parts are welcome. Email [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org) for more information.

**Sunday 18 March:** General board meeting at Parish Hall of Cathedral of Mary our Queen at 3PM. Nominating committee will present election results and install new officers and board members.

**Dumpling Meeting:** location, date and time has to be confirmed, but don't miss this special tradition in the second half of May. Follow our Facebook page and website for more details, location and time.

**Annual Picnic:** Check our website and Facebook pages later this spring for the date and location.

**Sunday 28 October:** CSHA's ANNUAL FESTIVAL will coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the free state of Czechoslovakia. Planning is underway for a special celebration of this historic event. We encourage you to sign up for the festival planning committee and get involved.

**HLAS:** The CSHA newsletter will soon undergo a transformation. Stay tuned. The next issue of Hlas will be coming to you in a new coat, with a new header. But we won't say more, the rest will be a surprise! We are still interested in your suggestions, comments, ideas, or help. Contact us at [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org).

**NEW OFFICIAL EMAIL:** We are excited to share with you CSHA's new official email. Contact us at [info@cshamaryland.org](mailto:info@cshamaryland.org). Our new communication committee will be ready and eager to respond, provide you with information, listen to your ideas, and answer your questions. This is also the address to use to sign up for volunteer opportunities.

## GET INVOLVED

Our Czech and Slovak Heritage Association has plenty to offer to its members, their families, and friends. We are committed to bringing you entertainment activities, the annual festival, educational programs, Czech and Slovak language schools, and cultural programs, so you can stay in touch with or discover your heritage. But that can only happen with your generous help. Please return the membership application and dues, along with your vote.

Becoming a member is just one of the ways you can participate in our activities and events. We are establishing several new committees to improve and streamline our organization. Members are invited to participate on any committee and to lend their energy and expertise to our efforts. Please let us know if you would be willing to serve on any of the following:

- Communication committee - managing our website, Facebook, Hlas, email account, surveys, and other public relations matters.
- Education committee - running CSHA's Children and Adult schools. We are always looking for new Slovak and Czech language teachers.
- Financial committee - providing accounting; overseeing budgets, grants and fundraising; and maintaining CSHA's member database.
- Czech & Slovak Annual Festival committee - planning and coordinating our annual festival.
- Events committee - organizing all other Association events.

We are also seeking volunteers for specific events, programs, and language schools. Please contact us and help our Association thrive.

## MESSAGE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

*On behalf of the Nominating and Election Committee I am writing to announce elections of the Association's Officers and Board of Directors for 2018-19. **In this issue of Hlas you are receiving an election ballot. Please return your vote in the enclosed envelope no later than March 10, 2018.** We are looking to install new members of the Board on March 18, 2018 during our General Board meeting.*

*The Association's board of directors is parting with long-time members Karel Matejovsky, Andrea Conlan, and Kate Wychgram. On behalf of all members, I would like to express our gratitude to Karel, Andrea and Kate for their work on the board over the years. We look forward to their continuing involvement with CSHA. We have three new nominees to replace the departing board members: Dana Havlik, Zuzana LaBuff, and Gregg Iskra. As you can read in their bios in this issue, all three are ready to help us lead the Association forward.*

*Petr Justin - Chair, Nominating and Election Committee*

## 2018-2019 CANDIDATES (alphabetically)

### Dana Havlik

Dana grew up in Krkonoše mountains, Czech Republic, and came to the United States in 1988 with her mother and brother. She lives in Ellicott City, Maryland with her husband Gregg and children Katie, Michael and Nicole. Dana is a registered professional civil engineer, working at MDOT State Highway Administration as Chief of the Highway

Hydraulic Division. She enjoys various crafts, baking, singing, playing music, running and skiing. She has participated as a volunteer in the Association activities such as the Annual Czech and Slovak Festival and the Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers for number of years. Many of you had a chance to taste her koláče and christmas cookies / cukroví at the annual festival.

### **Lois Hybl**

Lois Hybl's maternal great grandparents immigrated to Iowa in the 1850's. Her mother-in-law came in 1920. Her hometown, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is one quarter Czech and home of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. However, she really didn't learn much about Czech and Slovak heritage until a Baltimore neighbor wanted a ride to the Czech and Slovak Festival in 1991. She found out about language school and ended up as language school coordinator, vendor chair for festivals, secretary of CSHA and member of Sokol and CSPS. She was employed first as an education research assistant and then as a curriculum specialist for a nonprofit education foundation, Success for All. She is active in the League of Women Voters and her church. She and Albert enjoy waltzes, polkas and Irish social dancing.

### **Gregg Iskra**

Gregg is an active member of CSHA along with his wife, Dana, and three children, Katie, Michael and Nicole. He is a civil engineer by profession, but also has a law degree and is active in several professional engineering organizations. Gregg is a fourth generation Slovak-American with Czech heritage also, his great-grandparents originally settled in the coal mining areas of northeast Pennsylvania. He and his family enjoy the various activities that the CSHA promotes each year, including the picnic in the summer and the festival in the fall. Gregg is hoping to help identify and organize more activities throughout the year to attract more people to the organization. He is also hoping to better understand how the CSHA is organized and to help it in any way he can to grow and to continue to promote our common Czech and Slovak heritage.

### **Zuzana Justinova**

Zuzana Justinova was born in the Moravian region of Wallachia (Valašsko) in the Czech Republic. She studied at Masaryk University in Brno where she received her medical and postgraduate degrees. She works as a Staff Scientist at National Institutes of Health where she conducts research on neuropharmacology of abused drugs. She has lived in Baltimore since 2000 with her husband Petr and

two children (8 and 12). She has been an active member of CSHA for many years and a board member since 2016. She is involved in organizing children's activities like St. Nicholas celebration and she chairs the Children's Corner at the Festival.

### **Zuzana LaBuff**

Zuzana Dudekova LaBuff was born in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia, where she also received her master's degree in Economics and Tourism from Matej Bel University. She emigrated to the USA in 2003 and since 2011 has been living in Towson, with her husband and four children, ages 3-14. After moving to MD she became active with the Czech and Slovak children's school and taught Slovak language for a couple of years there. She appreciates CSHA's role in giving Czechs and Slovaks opportunities to socialize with each other and pass their cultural heritage on to their children. If elected to the board, she will advocate for more family-oriented activities that appeal to youth and she also hopes to promote more involvement among local Slovaks.

### **Olga Mendel**

A Prague-born graduate of the Czech Technical University Architecture program, Olga moved to the USA 20 years ago and worked several years as an architect on high end residential, private school and university, and museum projects. After the birth of her two children (who are almost as enthusiastic about Czech culture as she is), Olga started working in graphic design and photography. She has been active with CSHA for 7 years, and has served on the board for 4 years. She is the person behind CSHA's Facebook page and website, and she has organized several cultural events for CSHA in recent years. She designs and co-edits Hlas, and contributes many photographs and articles. She is also a Czech teacher at Children's school and a Heritage Singer. She and her husband are raising two fully bilingual children (10 and 13), and spend several months every year in Prague. Olga relishes her Czech heritage, and she will always be #CzechByHeart: in fact, that's the name of the Etsy store where Olga presents a line of hand-made calendars and cards celebrating the beauty of Prague and the Czech Republic.

### **Dana Petran**

Dana Soucek Petran lives in Jarrettsville, Harford County. Originally a radio-frequency (RF) technician, she obtained her MA from Charles University and spent 16 years teaching electronics. She is now working at Mid-Atlantic RF Systems, Inc. as a RF engineer. Dana has a daughter, a son and four grandchildren. She and her late husband Jiří, were active members of Ski club in Vrchlabí, ski instructors, volunteer judges at ski races and instructors in summer camps for many years. She is currently teaching Czech language at CSHA Children School and no festival would be complete without her baked goods. She also sings with the Heritage Singers.

### **Stephen J. Sabol Jr.**

Stephen was born in New York City, in the low west side of Manhattan in a Slovak, Slavic conclave. His parents were born in Slovakia as was his wife Viera. Stephen is a retired Senior Manufacturing Engineer, Certified by The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME). He and his wife have two married children, Stephen and Suzanna and five grandchildren. He has worked for various companies such as Black & Decker, Harley Davidson, consultant to the FAA, Mack Truck, and have worked on the A10A (Warthog) ground support aircraft and many other companies. Stephen has served as a Vice President of Czech and Slovak Heritage Association for many years.

### **Rena Vanicek Schuman**

Rena's mother, Milada Vanicek with several public officials started the Czech Slovak Heritage Association and the Adult language school about 30 yrs ago and Rena herself has been involved in the association ever since. She was born in Jesenice u Sedlčan, Czech Republic, and she attended school in Prague for her first 17 years. She is a Certified Public Accountant, handling the Association's Tax returns and other. Her hope for the association is to generate fun and attract more younger members.

### **Margaret Supik**

A former teacher, Margaret taught English and Drama for many years. Her Czech connection came to her by marriage rather than by birth. She was drawn in little by little. On her first visit to Prague, the most beautiful city she has ever seen, her husband, Charles, said many times, "It makes you proud to be Czech." Margaret had to agree then and still does; she is very proud to be Czech.

### **Alex A. Vanicky**

Alex emigrated to US in 1969 with his wife Jane. He worked as a car mechanic to 1975. After that he had various jobs as a graphic designer and mechanical designer with local publishers, agencies and high-tech engineering firms. In the late eighties he got involved with the CSHA of Maryland and has remained active until the present time. He served as the vice president and is an essential part of making the annual festival a success. He participates in Heritage Singers group. Alex's graphic work often uses Prague, his hometown, as inspiration.

### **Jane Vanicky**

Jane is from Prague, Czechoslovakia and came to the USA in 1969. She is a long time member of the CSHA. For the last 20 years she volunteered her time to CSHA and actively worked on many events such as festivals, picnics, cultural events. Since 2014 she is the Association Treasurer.

### **John Vanko**

John Vanko is a third-generation Baltimorean of combined Slovak, Czech, and German ancestry. Employed full-time by Stanley Black & Decker in Towson as an Engineer, he is a dedicated genealogist who has visited ancestral villages and contributed articles and photographs to HLAS, CSPA Newsletter, and other publications. An amateur photographer, mineral collector, big game hunter, and graduate of the Colorado School of Mines, he employs mathematical techniques to deduce genealogy connections from DNA evidence. His love of Czech culture and heritage comes from his Czech Grandmother. He considers his participation a way to honor her and the rest of his Czech and Slovak family.

# MIKULÁŠSKÁ AND WINTER CONCERT

text and photos by Olga Mendel

Children of different ages gathered together on the first night of December to await the arrival of *Svatý Mikuláš*, *Anděl* and *Čert*. Traditionally this is the night that children are on their best behavior knowing that *Mikuláš* knows everything about them (and if he forgets, it is written in his big book). Some children were eager to share a poem or a Czech or Slovak song, some were shy, but all of them walked away with a generous package full of chocolate, fruits and nuts. The families continued the night talking and enjoyed goodies from the potluck table full of homemade cakes, or cheese, chocolates and fresh bread.

A similar feast awaited everyone who came to listen to Christmas carols sung by the Heritage Singers at St. Wenceslaus church in East Baltimore.

Děti od malých po velké přišly do české a slovenské školy v pátek 1. prosince a s napětím očekávaly, až se ve dveřích objeví Mikuláš s jeho doprovodem, nepostradatelným andělem a zlobivým čertem. Tradičně jsou v této době děti nejhodnější. Moc dobře vědí, že Mikuláš všechno ví, a pokud náhodou něco z jejich chování zapomene, přečte si to v jeho svaté knize. A tak i letos krásně oblečené děti Mikuláši zazpívaly, přednesly básničku a nebo se stydlivě přiblížily a neřekly vůbec nic. Tak jako tak odcházely s pytlíčkem plným čokolády, ořechů a ovoce, a pak si ještě dlouhou dobu hrály, zatímco rodiče ochutnávali dobroty, které přinesli.

Podobně se prohýbaly stoly i na recepci po skončení tradičního vánočního koncertu v podání Heritage Singers v kostele Sv. Václava v East Baltimore.



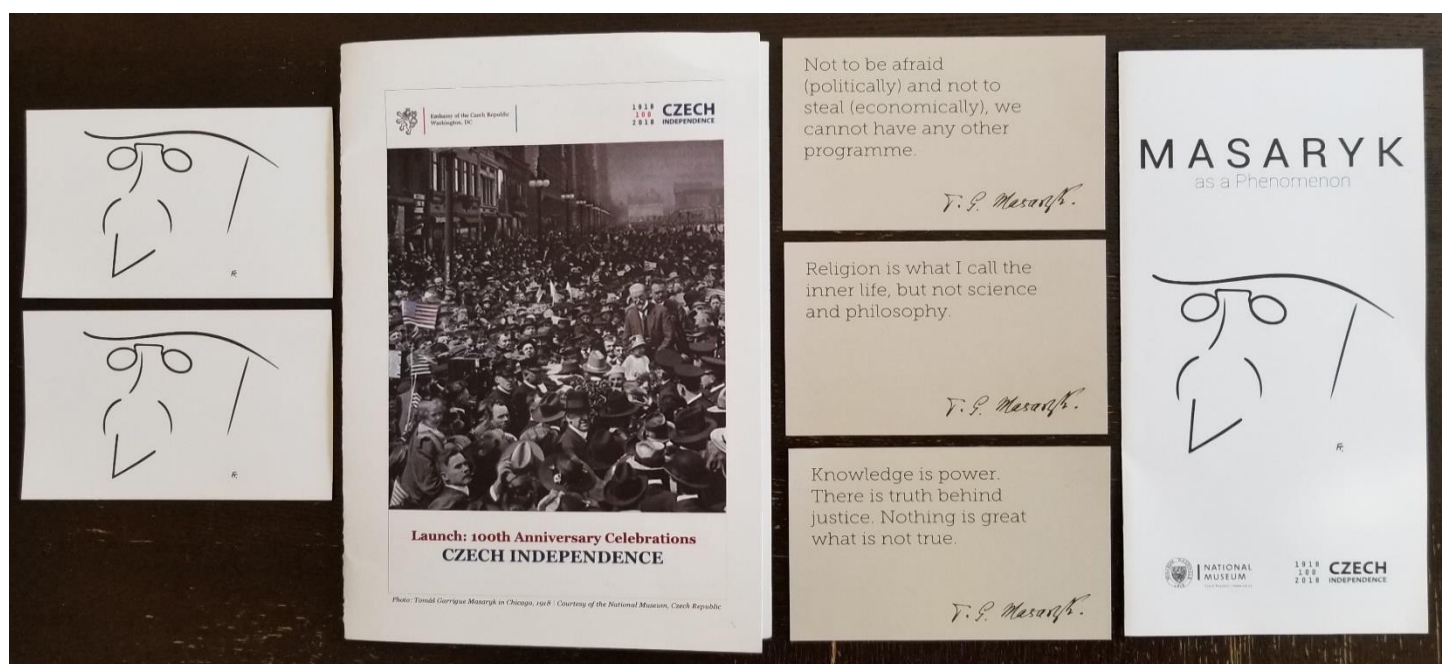
# CULTURAL EVENTS COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF CZECH AND SLOVAK INDEPENDENCE

*text and photos by Olga Mendel*

A new website pointing out cultural events celebrating the 100 years anniversary is now online hosted by the Czech Republic. You can find interesting stories at [www.czechindependence.org](http://www.czechindependence.org). We will highlight some of these events for you in every 2018 Hlas issue.

In early February, the Czech Embassy in Washington, DC opened a new exhibit about Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia. The exhibit was created by the National Museum in Prague, and the Museum's director Michal Lukeš unveiled the exhibit alongside the Czech Ambassador Hynek Kmoníček.

If you are planning a trip to DC, stop by and listen to an audiotope of Masaryk giving a rare speech in English. Even today, Masaryk remains a hero to many Czechs, and the exhibit trumpets many of values that were dear to him.



The VOICE of The Czech & Slovak  
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**Jaro 2018**

**Spring 2018**

CSHA OFFICERS for 2017 (officers for 2018-19 will be announced in Summer 2018 HLAS issue)

President	Margaret Supik
Vice President	Steve Sabol
Secretary	Lois Hybl
Treasurer	Jana Vanicky

**HLAS Editors:** Olga Mendel, Margaret Supik, Dick Mendel