

Zima 2010

Winter 2010



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

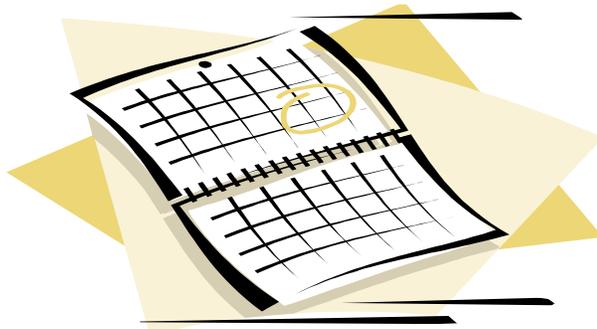
Veselé Vánoce a šťastný nový rok!



Paper stand-up betlem
1991 Vojtěch Kubašta

Vesele Vianocce a šťastlivý nový rok!

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Friday, 14 January, 2011: Open house for families and students of our new Language School for Children. Meet with the teachers, parents and students from 6:30 to 7:30 in the undercroft of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St. In Baltimore. Classes will be held on Fridays beginning at 6:30 PM on 21 January. For more information call or email Marketa Traband at 443-791-8427 marketa.traband@gmail.com or Margaret Supik at 410-662-6094, usupik@verizon.net. (see article on page 3).

Sunday, 16 January, 2011: Our first quarterly meeting of the year followed by our own “Road Show,” an opportunity to show off your Czech or Slovak treasures, new or old, and see what others have been collecting. To reserve your table space, call or email Margaret at 410-662-6094 usupik@verizon.net after Christmas. We'll begin with a brief meeting at 3 PM in the undercroft of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St in Baltimore. Of course, refreshments will follow. More information or directions can be found on our website: www.czslha.org or by calling 410-662-6094.

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. Our new location, The Gribbin Center, at 9317 BelAir Road, is proving to have been a good move. The spring semester begins on 22 January, 2011. For complete details, dates and times, check our website: www.czslha.org or call Lois Hybl at 410-428-6012.

Mondays throughout the year: Czechs and Slovaks have a great musical heritage. Help keep it alive and well in the Baltimore area: join the Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers on Monday evenings at in the Choir Room at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St. Rehearsals begin at 7 PM and conclude at 9 or earlier. All voice parts are welcome. Call or email Charles Supik at 410-662-6094, chasupik@juno.com for more information.

1 April, 2011: The last day to pay your CSHA dues for 2011. A form is included in this issue of HLAS; please take prompt action and remit your dues before April 1, 2011.

Sunday, 10 April: Our second quarterly meeting of the year will be held at 3 PM in the Undercroft of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St in Baltimore. Our tentative program will be a cooking demonstration by Bohemian Catering.

LANGUAGE SCHOOL SEMESTER ENDS WITH TRADITIONAL POTLUCK

The language school had its traditional potluck lunch on the final day of classes, December 4. As much as we enjoyed everyone's contributions, we had some leftovers. Albert and Lois took them to a Saturday evening dance where they were devoured.



The special project for Mary Lou Walker's Intermediate Czech class was discussing art of various kinds in Czech. The students talked about when the artist lived, the mediums used, the subjects of the works, whether and where the work was signed and if it was framed or unframed. All the practice in appropriate words and phrases led up to an excursion to the Baltimore Museum of Art on November 5 to discuss paintings and sculpture on site. Some students from Iva Zicha's classes joined in. Several students stayed for lunch at Gertrude's.

Natalie Karlinsky's Slovak students have supplemented their language learning with information about *drotár*, wire art, which grew out of the work of tinkers who used wire mesh to reinforce pottery. They have ordered some *drotár* jewelry and decorations. Next semester, to learn basic vocabulary, they plan to use Ms. Karlinsky's book, *Pil som vodu z rieky kura*, about tinkers. The book can be ordered online at:

<http://www.lulu.com/product/hardcover/pil-som-vodu-z-rieky-kura/14021047>. Some students also attended Helene Cincebeaux's exhibit of *kroje* at the Slovak Embassy.

We are grateful to George Mojzisek for finding our new location at the Gribbin Center on Belair Road. Please note on the registration form that students can sign up to stay for an extra hour of Czech Conversational Practice. Those spring semester classes begin on January 22. We hope you will join us for one or more of the Czech or Slovak classes.

Lois Hybl

ŠKOLKA A ŠKOLA To Begin in January

Thanks to Marketa Traband's dedication and determination CSHA will be offering Czech and Slovak language classes for children from 6:30 to 7:30 on Friday, January 21. An open house and welcome for parents and students will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 on Friday, January 14. The open house and classes will be held in the undercroft of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St.

Two levels of Slovak language will be offered. The first level, *školka*, is designed for younger children, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten age. Katerina Miločiková will teach this group, which could include non-speakers as well as speakers of Slovak. The older children, up to ages ten or eleven, and who can read Slovak, will be taught grammar and literature on a level corresponding to grades 2 and 3 in Slovakia. Martina Tesfaye will teach this older group.

Czech language classes will be offered too. Zlatka Tracy will teach the younger, *školka*, group, while Marketa Traband will teach the



older children. The children will be using the same materials as their counterparts in the Czech Republic.

The Czech government has a grant program to provide books for Czech language instruction in foreign countries, and CSHA has applied for a generous selection of materials. We have also begun the process of having our school included in the program known as *česká škola bez hranic*, Czech school without borders founded in Paris by Dr. Lucie Slaviková-Boucher to maintain ties with Czech culture and education for children living abroad.

TRADICE BETLÉMŮ

- 1. polovina 3. století – V katakombách sv. Priscilly se objevuje freska s prvním známým zobrazením Kristova narození.
- v polovině 4. století n. l. – Papež Liberius vyhledává dnem Kristova narození pětadvacátý prosinec, byť jsou historické prameny na konkrétní údaje o této události velmi skoupé.
- 24. prosince 1223 – František z Assisi staví v italské Umbrii jesle se senem, nechává přivést osla a vola, předvádí hru o narození Krista a o půlnoci slouží mši. Tato tradice se zde udržuje dodnes.
- 1560 – První betlém v českých zemích je vystaven v kostele sv. Klimenta na Starém Městě pražském.
- 16. až 18. století – Tradice stavění betlémů, kterou k nám přinesli jezuité a františkáni, se ujímá v kostelech a kláštřech.
- 1782 – Josef II. zakazuje vystavovat betlémy ve svatostáncích, což paradoxně znamená rozkvět betlémářství, které se přesouvá do lidového prostředí.
- 18. až 19. století – Nejznámější betlémy vznikají na Broumovsku, v oblasti Krkonoš, Orlických hor a na Příbramsku. Betlémy ze dřeva, papíru, hlíny, chleba, vosku či cukru se dědí z generace na generaci.

- konec 19. století – Betlémy se začínají prodávat a jejich výroba se pro mnohé stává zdrojem obživy.

- konec 20. století – Začínají se pořádat výstavy historických i současných betlémů.

- 1967 – Na Světové výstavě v Montrealu se magnetem československé expozice stává mechanický Proboštův betlém.

- 1992 – Na Ovocném trhu v Praze je postaven první pouliční betlém, doplněný živými zvířaty.

- 1998 – Krýzovy jesličky jsou zapsány do Guinnessovy knihy rekordů jako největší mechanický betlém na světě.

THE TRADITION OF MANGER SCENES

- In the first half of the 3rd century the first known depiction of the birth of Christ appeared in the catacomb of St. Priscilla.
- In the middle of the 4th century Pope Liberius proclaimed 25 December as the day of Christ's birth, even though historical sources about the event are scarce.
- 24 December 1223 – Francis of Assisi, in the Umbria region of Italy, built a manger of straw, allowed the presence of an ass and ox, presented a drama about the birth of Christ and at midnight celebrated Mass. This tradition endures to this day.
- 1560 – the first manger scene (betlem) in the Czech lands is built in the Church of St. Clement in Prague's Old Town.
- 16th to 18th centuries – the tradition of building betlems, which the Jesuits and Franciscans brought to us, takes hold in churches and monasteries.
- 1782 – Joseph II forbade the display of manger scenes in holy places. Paradoxically this meant the flowering of betlem making among the common people.
- 18 -19 century – the most famous bethlems spring up in Broumov, in the areas of Krkonoš, the Orličky Mountains, and Příbram. Bethlems made from wood, paper, clay, bread, wax or sugar are passed from generation to generation.

- The end of the 19th century- betlems began to be sold and production provided a living for many.
- The end of the 20th century – exhibits of historic and contemporary betlems begin.
- 1967- Probst's mechanized bethlem is the magnet of the Czechoslovak exhibit at the World's Fair in Montreal.
- 1992 - The first street bethlem, with live animals, is built on the Fruit Market Sq. in Prague.
- 1998 - The Kryzovy manger is recorded in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest mechanized betlem in the world.

The Plzen Connection

Plzen (Pilsen) is the Czech town that every American should visit.

Every 5 years Plzen conducts the Liberation Celebration of the City of Plzen. May 6, 2010 marked the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the city by Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army. The citizens of Plzen, even after 65 years, love America and line the streets to say thank you.

Lt. Virgil P. Kirkham, the last recorded American USAAF pilot killed in Europe during WWII, was shot down near the village of Trhanova, not far from Plzen. It was Lt. Kirkham's 82nd mission and one that he volunteered to go on. At the time this 20 year old pilot's P-47 Thunderbolt plane was shot down, a young 14 year old Czech girl, Zdenka Sladkova, was so moved by his sacrifice she made a vow to care for the crash site and his memory. For 65 years, Zdenka, now 79 years old, has taken on the responsibility of caring for Virgil's crash site and memorial near her home. On May 4th she was recognized by the Mayor of her home town of Trhanova, for her sacrifice and extraordinary effort to honor this American hero.



Crash site of Lt. Kirkham cared for by Zdenka Sladkova

The Brian LaViolette Foundation will establish The Scholarship of Honor in tribute to General George S. Patton and American soldiers, past and present. Each year, a different military hero will be honored in tribute to General Patton's memory and the 3rd Army's mission to liberate Europe. This award will be presented to a graduating senior from one of the five high schools in Plzen who will be entering the military or some form of community service such as fireman, policeman, teaching or nursing.

The first award will be presented in May 2011 in honor of Lt. Virgil Kirkham, that young P-47 pilot killed 65 years ago in the final days of WWII. Presenting Virgil's award will be someone who knows the true meaning of service and sacrifice...Marion Kirkham, Virgil's brother, who himself served during WWII in the United States Army - Air Corps.

Thanks to Ed Horak who supplied the photo and information for this article.

Restoration of the Statue of St. Wenceslas Continues

(článek byl otištěn v čísle 10 - 2004 Český-dialogue.)

In the place called "under the tail" Prague citizens and tourists have been meeting and curiously looking at what is going on under the semitransparent canvas. There specialists have been examining the real situation of the patron of Bohemia. The press has already reported that during the first inspections of the innards of

Wenceslas's horse, forgotten tools of earlier restorers were found.

Not necessarily everybody knows that until the 1870's a different St. Wenceslas on horseback, this one from the workshop of the sculptor J.J. Bendl, adorned the Horse Market. Because of that statue, the area was renamed Wenceslas Square on the suggestion of Karel Havlicek Borovsky. This older, more modest version of J.J. Bendl's is preserved to this day. The original is in the Lapidarium of the National Museum, and a copy stands in the Vysehrad park. The current statue, Myslbek's, first became internationally famous as a sketch in exhibitions in Vienna and in Munich. In the original sketch, however, Wenceslas looks up to the banner. The final sketch resulted from a later competition which called for the national patron to look forward or to look down at his people. And so he has been looking down for more than ninety years.



The present monument of St. Wenceslas was created by the famous Czech sculptor Josef Vaclav Myslbek in cooperation with the architect Alois Dryak; the ornaments are the work of sculptor Celda Kloucek. The statues of St. Wenceslas on horseback and the three Czech saints, St. Prokop, St. Agnes and St. Ludmila were done in 1912-1913. The last figure, St. Vojtech, was completed in 1924. Myslbek worked on the models of the individual figures for many years, allegedly as early as 1888. While he worked on the whole composition of the monument; the statue of the

prince on horseback became the central point of the newly conceived public space, with the important National Museum in the background.

No statue, though, can resist the corroding teeth of time. Therefore the gallery of the city of Prague, which is in charge of the professional preservation of the most significant Prague statues, made a basic decision. After about three decades, a total renewal, including the sculptural decoration and the architectural aspects of this monumental work, is taking place. The work is scheduled to take two years. In the first phase, now underway, a total documentation is being carried out including an examination of the interior with the help of a micro camera and an evaluation of the monument's physical equilibrium. Based on the analysis of the corrosion of materials used in the statue, the process of the actual restoration will proceed under the supervision of experts from the National Institute of Memorials. Two experienced restorers, Rene Sefr and Andrej Sumbera, will direct the project.

Myslbek worked on the individual figures for a long time and devoted the same care to the prince's horse. The stallion Ardo, which became the model of the proud horse, was brought to his studio from the Karlin barracks, and now, after many years, thanks to his name a sponsor was found for the work of restoration, the East Trading Company ltd., which markets products branded *Ardo*.

*Ph.Dr. Petra Hoftichova
Translated by Vilma Iggers*

Ph.Dr. Petra Hoftichova is the director of the restoration of public monuments of the Gallery of the capital city of Prague. This article was adapted from the original found at www.cesky-dialog.net

Treasurer's Festival Report

"Festival Report"

Paid admissions to the annual Czech/Slovak Festival were slightly under the five hundred mark.

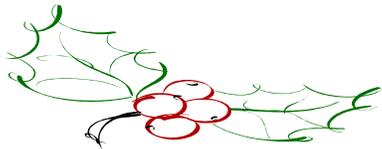
The receipts for the one-day event amounted to \$ 10,900. This included

pre-festival funds received for program booklet advertising, patron subscriptions. and vendor fees.

Expenditures amounted to \$ 12,000.+, for a loss of approximately \$ 1,100. The loss developed because the officers felt that it was important for the Association to underwrite the appearance of the Slavjane Folk Ensemble from Pittsburgh as well as Carrie Brown and her offerings from the Dudacka instrument. They were certainly essential to the success of our 24th annual festival.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Pazourek, Treasurer



Record number of guests at the annual St. Nicholas party in Philadelphia

The biggest number of guests in our recent history attended this year's "Mikulášská" celebration in Philadelphia. Families with small children and many grown-ups came to meet friends, to taste from the enormous selection of mostly home-made dishes, to listen to Christmas songs sung with joy by all, and, above all, to meet Mikuláš, aka St. Nick. The event was sponsored by the local Philadelphia CSHA who provided chocolates and sweets for kids, soft drinks, and coffee and tea.



Diana Oborna, 8 grade, the charming yet "not so frightful" devil on the picture, had this to report: "On Saturday, December 4th, 2010, the CSHA organized the annual St. Nick's party. The celebration took place at Trinity Episcopal Church in Ambler where more than 100 people attended. This year, there were very many kids who came with their parents to enjoy the abundance of food, sweets, and best of all, presents! "Luckily, I had the opportunity to help good ole' St. Nick hand out the gifts and goodies to all the well deserving children. My friend and I dressed up as the Angel and Devil, two of St. Nick's close friends. We stood behind him as we gave the kids their presents and candy after they sang or performed a song. Although after a while we were tired of standing for so long, it was all in all a fun experience. Who knows, maybe next year we'll do it again."jk

A Fond Look Back on Viola's Visit



The September 2010 tour of the Czech school choir Viola we wrote about in the previous issue of HLAS has left many fond memories in the hearts of Philadelphia residents who came to see and hear the little musicians perform. The Viola singers charmed the audience at the public concert at the Trinity Episcopal Church, the pupils grades K to 5 of a small Catholic school as well as students of a local high school earning ovations at each occasion. On their first trip to the United States, the children, age 8 to 15, and their accompanying parents were fascinated by the friendliness and hospitality of people all around them, as we, the organizers around local Philadelphia CSHA, could hear more than once.

Special thanks go to the local CSHA members and supporters Marie Pachelova, Jan McLemore and Josef P. for devoting long hours to cooking for the kids and making their stay in Philadelphia a relaxing and entertaining experience. Special thank you from Viola goes to Barbora Oborna who showed the children around Philadelphia “with helpfulness, poise and elegance”.

We want to share reminiscences of Jana FIALOVÁ, the trip’s main organizer, elementary school teacher of the English language, and president of ŽIFA, the Žamberk International Friendship Association under which patronage the tour took place.

Jana writes: “I have been fascinated by the American sense of community life. The variety of clubs and church communities you have are unbelievable. The way you care for and respect one another is something that I miss within our community. Your faith has helped you to foster

your strong feelings of humanity and mutual helpfulness.

“We are extremely grateful for the chance we have been given. Thank you for your time, hospitality and willingness to help us make our dream come true. We have sincerely learnt a lot from you! “We hope to be able to pay you back when you visit us in Žamberk one day.”

Text and photos

Mirek Oborny

Babka Mary Romanova

Pred veľa rokmi začal som hľadať korene mojej rodiny. Najťažšou úlohou v tomto projekte bolo hľadanie informácií o mojej babičke z matkinej strany Mary Romanovej, ktorá zomrela v roku 1913 a dala život mojej maminke. Keď som začal hľadať korene, vedel som len to, že moja babička bola Slovenka, poznal som jej meno a dátum jej smrti. Babka z maminkinej strany bola Slovenka, moja maminka vedela len jej meno a dátum jej smrti.

Moja matka mi nemohla povedať nič viac o svojej maminke, pretože jej rodičia jej nič o jej rodnej maminke nepovedali. Moja maminka mi ani nemohla poskytnúť žiadne písomné doklady alebo fotografiu jej rodnej maminky. Hľadal som informáciu o Mary Romanovej v súdnych záznamoch, v kostolných záznamoch, v záznamoch o príchode do Ellis Islandu, v Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest.com, Mormon records, the New Jersey archives, online chat izbe, a nenašiel som nikde nič. No moja sestra objavila posmrtný list pre starú babku Mary v Richmond Virginii archive, v ktorom boli odhalené iba vek a smrť babičky. Bol tam taktiež údaj, že sa narodila v Európe. Žiadne iné informácie neboli uvedené. V 2008 našiel som rodný list v Mormon Family History Library pre Mary Romanovu narodenú v Trnave, Maďarsku, v roku 1873. V zozname boli tri informácie, ktoré ma presvedčili, že to bol rodný list mojej babky. Po prvé jej dátum narodenia sa zhodoval s dátumom narodenia môjho dedka. Po druhé priezvisko jej matky bolo Terpáková a Terpákovci sú moja rodina. Po tretie, jej dedina bola vzdialená deväť míľ od dediny môjho dedka, v Pazdicse, v Maďarsku.

Po objavení rodného listu som viacej informácií o Mary Romanova v USA nenašiel. V auguste 2009 som šiel na Slovensko a navštívil som Trnavu pri Laborci (predtým to bola Tarna). Navštívil som rodinu, ktorí majú priezvisko Roman. Objednal som

genealóga a navštívil som archív v Prešove a predsa len som nenašiel viacej informácií, ktoré by potvrdili, že Mary Romanová z Tarny bola moja babka. V auguste 2010 som ešte raz cestoval na Slovensko. Tentokrát som objednal genealóga, ktorý sa volal Štefan Čonka. Mali sme sa stretnúť v Michalovciach a začať hľadať v Prešove. Dva dni pred príchodom do Michaloviec som dostal správu od Štefana, že sa nemôže so mnou stretnúť, pretože jeho auto Škoda bolo zaplavené v Českej republike a že pošle svojho syna Robka Čonka, aby pracoval so mnou. Robo sa so mnou skontaktoval a povedal, že začneme hľadať informácie v Prešove. No môj plán mi neumožňoval cestovať do Prešova. Robo potom navrhol, že budeme hľadať v malom archíve v Michalovciach. Čoskoro sme do archívu išli, bol piatok a zistili sme, že archív je v piatok zatvorený.

Robo potom hovoril s riaditeľkou archívu a vysvetlil jej, že som prišiel až z USA hľadať informáciu a ona potom dovolila, aby sme archív použili.

Map of Slovakia



Riaditeľka usporadúvala všetky informácie z Tarny vo výskumnej izbe. Po dvoch hodinách vyhládavania informácií, Robo našiel sobášny list mojich starých rodičov. Táto informácia potvrdila, že Mary Romanova z Tarny je moja stará mama. Tiež sa potvrdilo veľa informácií o jej rodičoch a o starom otcovi a jeho rodičoch. Ukázalo sa, že moji starí rodičia boli zosobášení v júni 1900.

A tak zažili niekoľko šťastných rokov spoločne pred starkinou smrťou v roku 1913. Teraz keď už mám sobášny list, budem pokračovať v hľadaní starej maminky Mary v záznamoch po príchode do USA a v hľadaní jej fotografií.

Charles Sinlock, translation Natalia Karlinsky

Grandmother Mary Roman

Many years ago I started researching my family's history. The most challenging aspect of this project was the search for information about my maternal grandmother Mary Roman who died in 1913 giving birth to my mother. When I started my research I knew only that my maternal grandmother was a Slovak, her name, and her date of death.

My mother was unable to tell me anything else about her mother because her parents did not tell her anything about her birth mother, or give her any written records, or even a photograph of her birth mother.

I have searched for information about Mary Roman in Court records, church records, Ellis Island arrival records, Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest.com, Mormon records, the New Jersey archives, online chat rooms, and found nothing in these places. However my sisters did find a death certificate for Grandmother Mary in the Richmond VA archive but it contained only her age at death. It states she was born in Europe. No other information is on the certificate.

In 2008 I found a birth record at the Mormon Family History Library for a Mary Roman born in Tarna Hungary in 1873. There were three pieces of information on this record that lead me to believe this was the birth record for my Grandmother. First her date of birth was within one year of my Grandfather's date of birth. Second her mother's family name Terpak is one known to my family. Third her village was about 9 miles from my Grandfather's village of Pazdics Hungary.

After discovering the birth record I did not find additional information about Mary Roman in the US. In August 2009 I traveled to Slovakia and visited Trnava pri Laborci (formerly Tarna). I met with families with the surname Roman. I hired a genealogist and visited the archive in Presov and still found no information to confirm that Mary Roman from Tarna was my grandmother.

In August 2010 I again traveled to Slovakia. This visit I hired a genealogist named Stefan Conka. We were to meet in Michalovce and start our research in Presov. Two days before I arrived in Michalovce I received a message from Stefan that he would not be able to meet me because his car had been damaged in a flood in the Czech Republic and that he was sending his son Rodko Conka to work with me.

Rodko contacted me and recommended starting our search in Presov but my schedule did not permit me to travel to Presov. Rodko then suggested we search in a small archive in Michalove and I agreed. When we arrived at the archive on a Friday we discovered it was closed. Rodko then spoke to the archive manager and explained that I had come from the US to search for information and she allowed us to use the archive. She also arranged for all records available for Tarna to be brought to the research room. After two hours of searching the records, Rodko found the original marriage license for my grandparents. This record confirms that Mary Roman from Tarna is my grandmother. It also provided a wealth of information about her parents and my grandfather and his parents. The record shows my grandparents were married in June 1900 so I am happy they had some years together before her death in 1913.

Now that I have found the marriage record, I will continue to search for Grandmother Mary's arrival record in the United States and a photograph of her.

Charles Sinlock

Historic Register Status for Cemetery



Congratulations are due to Jeanne Taborsky and her hard-working colleagues of the Grand Lodge ČSPS. Their persistence and hard work paid off with the arrival of a letter from the Maryland Historical Trust

saying that "...on Nov. 11, 2010, Bohemian National Cemetery was entered into the National Register of Historic Places, a division of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the

Interior." Inclusion on the National Register not only indicates historical importance, but protects the historical integrity of the site. Jeanne and all of her collaborators worked extremely hard to achieve this important designation and help preserve a significant piece of the history of Baltimore's Czech and Slovak community.

Mayor's Recognition

Anna Yankova-White of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods presented the certificate below at the 24th Annual Festival recognizing that our Festival "showcases the diversity of ...contributions through art, music, dance and cuisine."



CITY OF BALTIMORE

Certificate of Recognition

On behalf of the citizens of Baltimore, I am pleased to present this certificate to

Czech and Slovak Heritage Association

in recognition of your 24th Annual Czech and Slovak Festival. The Czech and Slovak community maintains an important role in our city and contributes to our social, spiritual, and economic welfare. Today's event showcases the diversity of those contributions through art, music, dance, and cuisine. Wherefore, I have issued and signed this certificate in celebration of our city's Czech and Slovak culture and heritage.



Presented this 24th day of October, two thousand ten.

Stephen J. Dine
MAYOR

Ms. White, a native of the Ukraine, serves as the liason between local government and ethnic communities in the Baltimore area. Her job is to reach out to the Baltimore area's various ethnic communities and learn more about their activities. She has promised to attend one of our meetings and to publicize our activities.

St. Nicholas Concert at St. Wenceslaus

An appreciative audience gathered on Sunday, December 5, at St. Wenceslaus Church to enjoy an hour of traditional *koledy*, Czech and Slovak carols and solos. Tenor, Bob Gioia and bass, Karel Mateovsky sang the *Kyrie* from Jan Jacob Ryba's *Česká mše vánoční* followed by the chorus and bass Charles Supik singing a section of the *Gloria*.

Ryba's Czech Christmas Mass is a favorite of Czech audiences and is performed there frequently during the Christmas season. One could say that Ryba's *Česká mše vánoční* is to Czech audiences what Handel's *Messiah* is to American audiences.



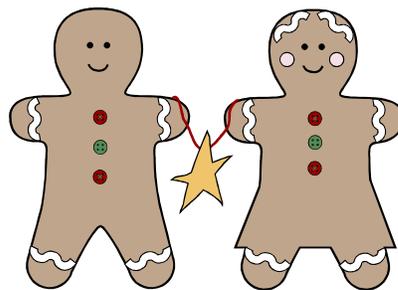
photo: Bill Traband

This year the chorus was joined in singing *Slyšte, slyšte, pastuškové* by Julia and Emily Traband, daughters of Markéta and Bill Traband, and our first two students in our newly opened language school for children.

After the singing, which included several audience sing-along carols, Fr. Peter Lyons, pastor of St. Wenceslaus, welcomed everyone to refreshments in the front rooms of the rectory. No one went home hungry thanks to Dana Petran and her daughter, Dana Havlik who provided freshly-baked rye bread, *klebičky*, and blueberry cake.

Tentative Plan for *Šibřinky*

Sokol Baltimore is planning a *Šibřinky*. The projected date is Sunday, February 13, 2011, at Clementine on Harford Road. For details check their web site: www.sokolbaltimore.org.



Perník na Figurky

- 2 ½ cups flour
- 1 ¼ cups sugar
- 8 teaspoons gingerbread spice
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons honey, heated to lukewarm
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon rum
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 1 egg, lightly beaten

Sift dry ingredients onto a pastry board. Add remaining ingredients, except the single egg. Work into a firm dough and allow to stand in a cool place overnight.

Lightly flour the pastry board and roll out the dough to ¼ inch thickness. Cut out gingerbread men or other shapes as desired. Place on a baking sheet lined with waxed paper, brush with remaining egg and bake in a preheated 325 oven for 20 to 30 minutes. Decorate with icing.

Gingerbread spice:

Mix 2 teaspoons each of:

Cinnamon, ground ginger, allspice, nutmeg and ground cloves. This yields 10 teaspoons; the leftover spice mix can be added to coffee, pancake mix, oatmeal... whatever wants a little spice.

Or, ready mixed Gingerbread spice is pretty readily available.

Icing:

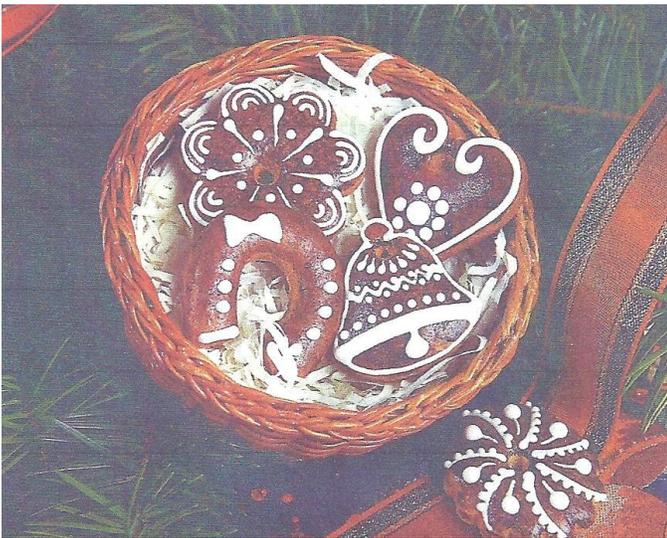
Traditional *vodová polevka*:

- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 2-3 tablespoons boiling water

Sift sugar into a bowl and add water. Stir until white and thick. Add 2 tablespoons strained lemon juice or rum, if desired.

These recipes are adapted for use in American kitchens, using our measurements and oven temperature. A search of one Czech cookbook yielded no fewer than five recipes for *perníčky*. Mostly they differed in the spices called for. All of them advocated decorations such as those pictured below.

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