

# NÁŠ ČESKÝ ŽIVOT

“OUR CZECH LIFE”

(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)

SUMMER 2019

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 2

## TCHCC SLAVNOST - MAYFEST



**Immigrant Wall Plaque Dedication:** Jakub and Mary Mazoch Sykora and children Filip, Marianna and Adolf were honored by their descendants with a memorial plaque on the Immigrant's Wall.

L-R: 2019 CHS Miss Texas Czech Slovak Queen Lydia Pustejovsky, Little Czech Sister Allison Pustejovsky, Brian Vanicek, Honorary Consul and TCHCC Board Member, Genevieve Sykora Rich, Frank Urbanic, Jr., 2018-19 SPJST Dutchess Jenna Fair, Queen Kelly House, King Nash Campbell, Simon Sykora.



Left: 2019 Miss Texas Czech Slovak Lydia Pustejovsky, Czech Little Sister Allison Pustejovsky, SPJST King Nash Campbell, SPJST Queen Kelly House, SPJST Dutchess Jenna Fair, 2019 Miss CHS Lavaca County Queen Brett Hermes and Czech Little Sister Lara Hermes. Right: One of the many annual festival events - the Maypole Dance.

Náš Český Život  
"Our Czech Life"

TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

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Newsletter Policy: The purpose of Náš Český Život is to disseminate news of the development and activities of the center, as well as to publish material on the history, culture, and accomplishments of Texas Czechs. Náš Český Život does not involve itself in matters of a political nature.

Newsletter Address: All articles, photographs, advertising and correspondence should be directed to Retta Chandler or Janis Hrcir, co-editors, P. O. Box 6, La Grange, Texas 78945 (979) 968-9399.

Articles: Anyone may submit articles, which will be accepted for inclusion as space permits and subject to review and editing as necessary. All articles must be typewritten. The publication is not responsible for the return of unsolicited material not submitted with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Ads: Contact the co-editors regarding advertising. Advertising Rates: We will accept limited advertising-only standard business card size (3 1/2" X 2") - \$20.00 per issue; Send camera-ready business cards to co-editors.

**The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, Inc. does not endorse or guarantee the products or services that are advertised in this publication.**

OUR MISSION

The mission of the TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. is to provide a central facility for the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture and heritage of individuals of Czech ethnicity who can trace their ancestry to the Czechs who immigrated from the present day Czech Republic or former Austria-Hungary (including Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Silesia), to honor those immigrants, and to operate exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary and educational purposes.

The goals of the TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC. are:

To educate the public about the past and present contributions and status of persons of Czech descent

To encourage the study and preservation of the Czech language, fine arts, music and dance

To provide for the preservation and exhibition of artifacts that are historically significant to the Czech people of Texas

To provide a library and archives for the collection and preservation of books, newspapers, periodicals, family histories, research material, photographs and all printed data of historical significance to the Czech people of Texas

To provide adequate space for gatherings, meetings and educational activities for the benefit of the Czech people of Texas

To encourage and promote a cultural exchange program between the Czech people of Texas and the citizens of the Czech Republic

To provide the public with updated information regarding Czech-related activities and historical sites in Texas, the United States and abroad.

You are invited to continue receiving the newsletter Náš Český Život and an annual calendar by sending in your ANNUAL SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP. This journal will only be sent to members. Support your Center — JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY.

FOLLOW US ON

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We are currently taking 2020 memberships  
and donations online.



FLAG SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

**President's Letter**

September 2019

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at our Heritage Festival and Muziky, Muziky on Friday evening, October 18 and Saturday, October 19 for a full day of activities. You will want to stay for the evening performance at the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater of a folklore ensemble band from the Czech Republic and the fireworks display finale. Thank you to our sponsors for their contributions and to the many volunteers that work at this special event. See flyer in this issue for details of the event.

A huge thank you to all for supporting the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center. We are delighted to be able to offer day tours for school students. The tour is designed to present the history of the settlers to Texas with emphasis on the Czechs. A visit to the Museum & Library and a tour of the Czech Village restored buildings gives students a view of the early days. Tours for all with a meal are available throughout the year for scheduled groups of ten or more. Book your tour in advance by calling 979-968-9399 and ask for Mark Hermes.

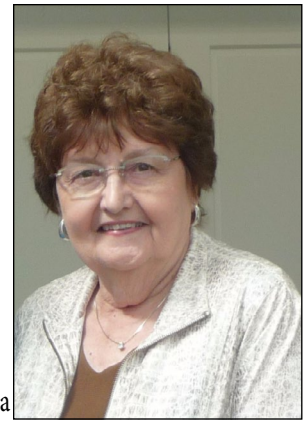
We are planning programs for the coming year that preserve our Czech heritage and want them to be of interest to all of you. The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center belongs to all of you. If you have suggestions for programs that would be appropriate or if you have a skill or expertise in an area that could be presented at TCHCC, contact us and we will consider it for a presentation.

We are very proud of our Genealogy Library and continue to add more information and books about our Czech ancestors. If you are struggling to find your Czech ancestors, do not hesitate to contact us.

On the same note, Bill Melnar has again issued another financial challenge to all. He will match \$50,000.00 raised, but this time there is no deadline. So please consider a donation, no matter how large or small to this challenge. We operate solely on contributions and appreciate being considered by you when you are planning yearly contributions to non-profits.

Thank you to our volunteers that come each week and to all who come when called. For special events and tours, we need extra volunteers. If you would like to be called to help with tours, please contact us.

Thank you again for your support.



**TCHCC President  
Retta Slavik Chandler**

*Retta Chandler, President*

**SLAVNOST & TRIBUTE TO THE CZECH IMMIGRANTS TO TEXAS**

***The Annual Immigrant Recognition Ceremony*** kicked off Slavnost 2019 on the patio of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center. TCHCC Board Member and Honorary Consul Brian Vanicek opened the program (left). SPJST District Six Director Karen Kaspar led the invocation (center), and TCHCC President Retta Chandler welcomed those in attendance and presented the Immigrant Recognition Ceremony (right). *Immigrant Ceremony Photos Courtesy of Melanie Zavodny.*



## 2019 Immigrant Recognition Ceremony

The annual recognition ceremony was held on the front lawn of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center on May 19, 2019. Photos on this page include the 2019 CHS State Queen Lydia Pustejovsky and her Little Sister Allison Pustejovsky (left), and Retta Chandler and Cathleen Noska (right).



Sandra Vackar Boyd Family  
Descendants of Jakub and Marye Kasparova Vackar



Franklin Elles Family  
Descendants of Tomas and Johanna Gajdos Hanulik and family and Stepan and Veronika Bilek Elles and family



John Kahane III Family  
Descendants of John and Aloise Tomanek Kahane and Joe and Emilie Herzig Kalousek, son Milton



Teresa Morgan-Simmons and Trella Ann Scourfield  
Descendants of Frank and sister Rosalie Provazek



Alvin C. Steffek Family  
Descendants of Mrs. Anna Michna Stefek and Rudolf and Agnes Kozelsky Stefek



James Edward Schovajsa Family  
Descendants of Joseph Schovajsa

## 2019 IMMIGRANT RECOGNITION CEREMONY

### **Descendant SANDRA VACKAR BOYD**

*Jakub and Marye Kasparova Vackar* arrived on November 15, 1870 from Budkov, Prachatice, Bohemia on the S. S. *Frankfort* in New Orleans, Louisiana and settled near Praha in Fayette County. He was an officer in SPJST and a charter member of Lodge 19 Velehrad. He was an entrepreneur owning businesses in Shiner, Yoakum and property in Bee County. Jacob and Mary are both buried in the Shiner SPJST Cemetery.

### **Descendant FRANKLIN D. ELLES**

*Tomas and Johanna Gajdos Hanulik and children Rosalia, Johanna, and Marie* arrived on May 1, 1905 from Kasava, Zlin on the S. S. *Wittekind* in Galveston and settled in Bell County. Their daughter Rosalia married Josef Elles in Bell County in 1908.

*Stepan and Veronika Bilek Elles with children Josef, Stephan, Stephania, and Veronika* arrived in 1896 to Ellis Island on the S. S. *Havel* from Hostalkova, Vsetin. Their son Josef married Rosalie Hanulik and they settled in Bell County. After 22 years they moved to Rosenberg and then LaSalle where he farmed cotton and corn and built a machine and welding shop.

### **Descendant JOHN KAHANEK III**

*John and Aloisie Tomanek KahaneK* arrived on March 10, 1910 from Vlčovice, Novy Jicin on the S. S. *Chemnitz* and settled in Lavaca County. They joined KahaneK relatives who had immigrated in 1860. They moved to Fort Bend County and later moved to the Heights in Houston.

*Joe and Emilie Herzig Kalousek and their son Milton* arrived on April 29, 1914 in Galveston on the S. S. *Wittekind* from Chocen, Bohemia and settled in Ammansville, Fayette County. Joseph was a master machinist in Prague but became a sharecropper in Texas. They moved to Houston in 1917 where he worked for the Southern Pacific RR as a master machinist. He was active in SPJST – was President of Lodge 88 from 1933 to 1937 and SOKOL Houston.

### **Descendants TERESA A. MORGAN-SIMMONS AND TRELLA ANN SCOURFIELD**

*Frank Joseph and sister Rosalie Provazek* arrived in 1914 on the *Wittekind* from Velke Karlovice and settled in Eagle Lake, Colorado County.

### **Descendant JAMES EDWARD SCHOVAJSA**

*Joseph Schovajsa* was born in 1888 and was sent to America as a child. He arrived on June 27, 1901 from Rakova, Zlin on the S. S. *Norderney* to Galveston. He settled in Shiner, Texas, and married Frances Trcalek where he farmed and was a school custodian. He is buried in the Shiner Brethren Cemetery.

### **Descendant ALVIN C. STEFFEK**

*Great Grandmother: Mrs. Anna Michna Stefek* arrived on December 1, 1871 on the S. S. *New York* from Frenstat, Moravia into *New Orleans and settled in Fayette County.*

*Grandparents: Rudolf and Agnes Kozelsky Stefek* arrived on November 15, 1870 through New Orleans on the S. S. *Frankfort* and settled in Lavaca County.

**Descendants: GENEVIEVE SYKORA RICH, MARY ANN SYKORA POLK, SONYA SYKORA WRIGHT, GEORGE H. SYKORA, FRANK A. URBANIC, JR.**

*Jakub and Mary Mazoch Sykora with their children Filip, Marianna and Adolf* arrived on October 12, 1881 on the S. S. *Knoprintz Fredrich Wilhelm* to Colorado County from house #59 Palkovice, Frydek-Mistek.

### **THOSE UNABLE TO ATTENDING:**

**Descendants: MILDRED VALA HOLDEN & FRANCES E. VALA**

*John and Elizabeth Novak Vala and son Emil* arrived in 1906 on the S. S. *Breslau* and settled in Williamson County.

**Descendant: MARZEE INGE BENTLEY**

*Josef and Annie Krenek* arrived in the 1890s from Moravia and settled in Fayette County.

### **HELP! WHERE DO I BEGIN IN RESEARCHING MY ANCESTORS?**

- 1. Begin with your parents and trace your lineage backwards to find the names and birth/death dates of your earliest relatives.**
- 2. All records are by counties, so find out what county your ancestors lived in. A visit to the county seat or county library will result in early tax records, marriage records, wills, etc.**
- 3. The census contains great information. All censuses are online at [www.libraryoftexas.org](http://www.libraryoftexas.org) through their Tex-Share Database. Become a patron of your local library and obtain your TexShare Login ID. Once on the site, choose Heritage Quest, select the year and browse the collection by state and counties, then precinct numbers or town names.**
- 4. If you do not know or cannot find your ancestors' village of origin, our library resources can help you.**

**Free Website: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) - this will help you find where your ancestors are buried.**

**If you run into a brick wall - contact us by phone or email.**



- ☆ Hospoda <sup>(BEER GARDEN)</sup>
- ☆ Train Rides
- ☆ Music
- ☆ Village Tours
- ☆ Demonstrations
- ☆ Antique Tractor & Car Show
- ☆ Arts & Crafts

# Heritage Festival & Muziky

## October 18th and 19th

250 West Fairgrounds Road, La Grange, Texas

### Friday, Oct. 18th

~ Octoberfest on the Deck ~  
4:00 PM to 10:00 PM



*Czech Style*  
Chicken & Dumplings  
Served!!

Music 6:00 - 9:30 PM  
with The Dujka Brothers  
FREE Admissions



Visit The Czech Village



1-888-785-4500  
czechtexas.org  
info@czechtexas.org



### Saturday, Oct. 19th

Opening Ceremony - 10:00 AM

KJT State Taroky Tournament • Museums & Czech Gift Shop  
Antique Farm Equipment & Car Shows  
Arts & Crafts • Children's Activities • SPJST Kolače Eating Contest



~ Heritage Demonstrations ~

Saw Mill • Blacksmithing • Corn Shelling & Grinding • Textiles  
Noodle Making • Hay Press • Wine Making • Sausage Making  
Soap Making and MORE!!



~ LaGrange Ford Hospoda ~  
"Beer Garden"

Shiner Beer Stage  
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
FREE Admissions

Praha Brothers Band  
from Temple, TX  
and Round Top Brass Band



~ Amphitheater ~  
\$10 Admissions

Muziky, Muziky

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM  
featuring

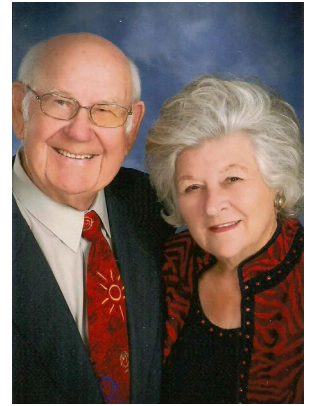
Mužátske Sbory Charvačané a Valtičané  
A folklore ensemble from the Czech Republic



= Saturday Night Fireworks Finale =  
October 18th & 19th 2019

Proudly  
Sponsored by  
H-E-B

**The Richard G. Cernosek Family**  
**Richard, Molly, Chris, Lisa, Carmen, and Bailey.**



Too often, those who dedicate their lives to helping others, never ask for recognition or praise. This can be said of Richard and Molly Cernosek. Their contributions to their community in numerous ways and for many years is well worth noting.

At a young age Richard worked to help his parents through financial hardships. He also served his country in the military from 1946-47. He married Molly Machala in 1952 and together they were partners dedicated to hard work and helping others. They were instrumental in developing Frisch Auf which has become a wonderful asset to the community. Through the years, their commitment to working to better the community was always present.

Richard and Molly's ancestors came to Texas from the Czech Lands in the 1870s. These were difficult years for the Czech emigrants. Their survival depended on working hard to provide food and lodging for the family. Richard's ancestors came from Frenstat in Moravia and Molly's ancestors came from Hovezi, Moravia. These two villages are not far apart and the ancestral homes of many of our Texas Czechs.

In 1997, when plans were in progress for a statewide Czech Center in La Grange, Richard and Molly were some of the first to offer their support. They made monetary and in-kind contributions. Richard provided gravel for the base of our restored buildings, Molly volunteered at all events, worked in the office with mail-outs, contributed baked goods and gifts for Silent Auction and whatever was needed. Working behind the scene, their support of The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center had an impressive impact on its progress since our beginning on land with no buildings and now with an impressive complex of a Main building (library, museum, gift shop, and banquet hall) and restored houses.

Richard volunteered his time serving as a Board of Director from 2002 until 2019. His commitment to the mission of preserving Czech heritage and building a Czech Center in La Grange was expressed by his total involvement as soon as he became a Board Member. He was always present at meetings and concerned for the growth of the Center. He wanted to do his part as a Board Member. His favorite questions were, "What needs to be done and how much will it cost?" And then he would say, "I will talk to Molly and we will contribute our part". In almost all instances, they wanted no recognition.

They are both proud of their Czech heritage and we are all grateful to them for their generosity to preserve our rich Czech heritage and culture. Thank you Molly and Richard for your outstanding contributions to honor and to never forget the sacrifices our Czech ancestors made to provide a better life for all of us.



***The Richard G. Cernosek Family***

***Left: Carmen, Molly, Chris, Richard and Lisa Cernosek at the dedication of the "Nase Novy Domov Museum" in 2014 . Right: Bailey Cernosek, Carmen Cernosek, Molly Cernosek, Chris Cernosek, Richard Cernosek, and Lisa Cernosek at the dedication of the Maintenance Building in 2017.***

# SLAVNOST 2019



Top: The Texas Dutchmen performed for all on the TCHCC deck on May 19, 2019 for Slavnost.

Center left: TCHCC Volunteer Betty Danner helped sell raffle tickets, Sandra Matthijetz, Mary VaSek, and Agnes Darilek, help Mrs. Richard (Velma) Pavlasek with her purchase in the gift shop.

Bottom left: Zach Novak welcomed all with his music. Bottom right: Bill and Mary Jane Kahane helped with the raffle sales.







*Top Left: Dr. Lida Cope, Arnold Pechal and Allen Martinets solve genealogical problems. Bottom Left: Joyce Hermes, Robert Svrcek and Marjorie Treumar sold lunch tickets. Vera Wehring made sure that refreshments were available. The day was a big success thanks to all our volunteers.*

**TCHCC VISITORS**

Rev. Stephen Nestrta visited the Center on August 8, 2019 with this year's Czech transitional deacons. Their stay in Texas provides them with a learning experience to improve their English, learn about the Czech people in Texas, learn how the US Church is organized and functions, and gain a better understanding of the USA. L-R: Rev. Stephen Nestrta, Jakub Lasak, Vojtech Radoch, Retta Chandler, Cathleen Noska, Milan Mastera, and Miroslav Strunc.



## The Printing Press: An 18-Year Endeavor

It all began in 2001 when John Albert Kuba became the owner of a Kluge Press and related print shop equipment. He wrote to TCHCC with an offer to donate it. We hesitated in accepting because we did not have a place for it. We only had the Kalich house which served as the office, library, museum, and gift shop. In 2003 he offered again stating the warehouse where it was stored was for sale.

TCHCC Board Member Larry Laznovsky contacted Adolph Novy about the dilemma. Mr. Novy said he would look at it and could possibly move it for us. He flew to Cedar Rapids and agreed to transport it to his shop, Adolph's Litho Services, Hutchins, Texas in exchange for the typeset. While in the care of Mr. Novy, it was cleaned, restored, and kept until we had a place for it. During this time, Jason Zhanell spent many hours cleaning and replacing missing parts of the press.

In 2017, Molly Cernosek called and wanted to know if we were still thinking about a print museum. She said her family would like to make a donation to build a building for the press. We agreed, drew up plans, and received a bid from Minarcik Construction Company. The Sanford Schmid Trust and Armin and Regina Keilers (*Fayette County Record*) made additional donations so that we could move forward.

The construction began in 2018 and in February, while construction was in progress, Mr. Novy donated his truck and personnel to transport the equipment plus a paper cutter and four typeset cabinets and type. Herb Baumgartner donated a stone. Mr. Novy brought it all to La Grange.

Then, TCHCC Volunteers Joe Lamer, Walt Walicek, Waymond Davis, Roger Sorum, J. G. Hrcncir, and other volunteers got to work cleaning the equipment and preparing the area.

The Kluge Press was moved on May 8, 2018 to the new building and preparations continued. The grand opening took place on March 16, 2019. The event was covered in the previous newsletter.

The new Newspaper Museum is now open for visitors along with all of the other buildings on the grounds of TCHCC.



**John Kuba and Adolf Novy at the Grand Opening of the Czech Newspaper Museum on March 16, 2019.**



The print shop belonged to John Kuba's father and grandfather. Kuba's grandfather, Barta Letovsky, was the founder of the first weekly Czech Language Newspaper in the US, *Slovan Amerikanskho* on November 5, 1869. He was joined in the printing business by his children and later with his grandchildren. His one son, Jan M. Barta Letovsky, and grandson, John Barta Letovsky, continued the business until the depression when they closed the doors due to clients' inability to pay for their advertisements and subscriptions. His daughter, Josephine M. Barta Letovsky married Edward R. Kuba, Sr. on May 29, 1934 and they started the Kuba Funeral Homes in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. John Albert was born on April 14, 1940 and was a part owner in the business until 1997.



**Below: Left: Jan Barta Letovsky marker in Oakland Cemetery, Iowa City, Iowa. Right: Memorial erected on his former home in Letovice, South Moravia on the 100th anniversary of his birth.**



**The third through fifth grade students from Sacred Heart School, La Grange toured TCHCC on May 10, 2019. The students were treated to lunch, activities and tours of the Center and the village buildings.**



**TCHCC offers schools tours - talk to your children's and grandchildren's teachers and ask them to contact us and schedule a tour.**



## SUMMER FUN

Youth and Family Day, sponsored by CHS of Texas and TCHCC, was held on June 22, 2019. Presentations and hands-on activities were the highlight.



## Fayette Beseda Dancers by Helen Mikus

This article is written in remembrance of the ten Fayette Beseda Dancers who participated in the 1985/1986 Sesquicentennial Pageant, *Fate of Fayette* and for the two men dancers that passed away in 2019. Jim Rohde, Sr., husband of Rose Marie (Baca) Rohde, passed away on March 26, 2019. Frankie Joe Cernosek, husband of Nettie (Weaver), passed away on April 5, 2019. Their dedication to this performance of dancing the Beseda, the four men singing “A ja sam” and their interest in the Czech culture will always be remembered. This exceptional performance in *Fate of Fayette* was just the beginning of renewed interest for the future growth of these Czech Folk Dancers performing in many other places.



***Edward Joe Sula, Alvin Minarcik, Jr., Jim Rohde, Sr., and Frankie Joe Cernosek - wearing Moravian-style costumes and sporting fake mustaches for the pageant.***

Fayette County Texans have a history of enjoying dancing to Czech Polkas and Waltzes, which are often based on centuries-old folk songs of Bohemia and Moravian, of what is now the Czech Republic.

By the time Helen Trnovsky Mikus arrived from San Francisco with her Texas husband, John Konstant Mikus, she learned the Beseda Dance at Sokol (Czech word for falcon), a cultural and gymnastic organization in San Francisco. Helen enjoyed the beautiful intricacies of the Beseda and so started the long journey to bring the Beseda and other Czech folk dancing to Fayette County. In 1966, she started her first dance group of eight children, with the help of Lorene Kovar who taught them to polka and waltz, together taught them the Beseda.

A larger group of fourteen was started in 1969, but due to Helen’s involvement in her own children’s activities, and no one to take her place, the group disbanded.

A blessing in disguise came along in with the production of *Fate of Fayette*, needing a group from Fayette County to dance the Czechoslovakian National Beseda. Backstage, Inc., a Fine Arts Council for South Central Texas was formed in 1970, producing many plays.



***Below: Top: Helen Mikus and Lorene Kovar. Bottom: L-R: George Gully, Janet Novosad, Chester Kulhanek, Eileen Mikus, Marie Williams, David Mikus, Patricia Chovanec and Lawrence Hrachovy taken in January 1967 at St. John Recreation Hall in Fayetteville, Texas.***

*Fayette Beseda Dancers, Continued.*

In 1974, they started research for the Fayette County's Sesquicentennial Texas Pageant called *Fate of Fayette*. I. E. Clark was chosen to produce *Fate of Fayette*, because of his expertise since he began his own publishing company in 1956. He produced *Fate of Fayette* by portraying a collage of comedy, tragedy, singing and dancing. Other Backstage, Inc. members were Bettye and David Allen. Bettye was executive producer of this pageant with her background involving acting in plays in New York, Houston and Schulenburg. David's background of light and scenery in Houston and Schulenburg made him the ideal stage manager.

Beseda means a gathering and the Beseda Dance is composed of folk dances from the provinces of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Slovakia, Carpathia and Ruthenia. Local Czechs were chosen, namely, Jim and Rose (Baca) Rohde, Sr., Edward Joe and Frances Sula, and Alvin and Brenda Minarcik, but seemed almost impossible to find the fourth couple.

Like American Square Dancing needing four couples, the Beseda does too and there is no way to improvise. Thankfully, Frankie Joe and Nettie (Weaver) Cernosek volunteered and saved the group's performance that could have been cancelled and the pageant would go on with no Czech representing Beseda dancing in *Fate of Fayette*. The Czech Beseda Dance was taught to the group by Helen Mikus. She and Courtney Cernosek were observers in the pageant and substitute Beseda Dancers for Act II, Scene II for *Fate of Fayette - Sesquicentennial Texas*. Additional observers were Jennifer, Melissa and Kimberly Minarcik.

The Beseda Dancers, in the *Fate of Fayette*, performed two times in La Grange, with the first one on January 31, 1985 and two more performances in Schulenburg.

Following their performance in *Fate of Fayette*, the group was invited, along with other Beseda Dancers from Texas, to perform at the Cotton Bowl Stadium for the 1986 Texas State Fair. It was a special year as the fair was not only celebrating the Texas Sesquicentennial, but also the Fair's own 100th anniversary. Eventually the dancers also started a Czech singing group and so the group was then called Fayette Czech Singers and Dancers. Other events that the new group was invited to include the Victoria County Czech Heritage Festival, the Caldwell Kolache Festival, La Grange Monument Hill State Park Christmas, the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, the Fort Bend County Czech Fest, SPJST Anniversaries, KJT 100th Anniversary, and five state Czech Heritage Society meetings that the Fayette Chapter hosted.

Other places that enjoyed their performances were bus tours, area rest homes, family reunions, elementary schools and the annual Fayetteville Licksillet Day.

The Fayette Czech Singers sang at the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center for the visit of Bishop Dominik Duka from Hradec Kralove and also at the 150 year-old Halamicek Family Cemetery dedication at Roznov, Texas.



**Left: Substitute Dancers: Helen Mikus, in her Hana kroj, and Courtney Cernosek (daughter of Frankie Joe and Nettie Cernosek) in a Kyov kroj made by Jirina Pospechova (Helen's aunt).**

**Right: Helen (Trnovsky) Mikus, Frances (Korenek) Sula, Nettie (Weaver) Cernosek, Brenda (Guthmann) Minarcik and Rose Marie (Baca) Rohde.**



*Fayette Beseda Dancers, Continued.*

The most memorable occasion for the singers and dancers was at the International Folk Festival in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Moravia, Czech Republic, leading the parade for 4th of July in 1993, continuing the festival celebration with singing and dancing for everyone's enjoyment. What topped off their performance was dancing a Texas Country Line Dance, wearing fringed bandana scarves and cowboy hats, to which the Czech audience went wild.

Many of our ancestors coming from Czechoslovakia, traveled a long way and endured many hardships to come to America. A community of Czechs with a beautiful culture, brought them together here and gave all of us a sense of appreciation and love for what they represent. A treasured saying "What the Heart Unites, the Ocean cannot Divide!" "*Co srdce spojí, moře nerozdvojí!*" could never be truer.



*Left: Dancing the Beseda: L-R: Jim and Rose Marie (Baca) Rohde, Frances (Korenek) and Edward Joe Sula, Frankie Joe and Nettie (Weaver) Cernosek, Brenda (Guthmann) and Alvin Minarcik.*

*Right: The Czech Folk Dancers: Children on the front row, left to right: Jennifer Minarcik, Courtney Cernosek, Melissa Minarcik, and Kimberly Minarcik. Adults: Helen Mikus, Jim and Rose Marie (Baca) Rohde, Alvin and Brenda (Guthmann) Minarcik, Nettie (Weaver) and Frankie Joe Cernosek, Frances (Korenek) and Edward Joe Sula.*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

### ON THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VELVET REVOLUTION

**The Velvet Revolution** was the non-violent transfer of power of Czechoslovakia that occurred from November 17 to December 29, 1989. Students and dissidents (including Vaclav Havel) demonstrated against the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

On November 17 riot police tried to push the demonstrators back that numbered around 200,000. Three days later, the crowd had grown to 500,000. The leaders of the Communist Party resigned on November 24. Other Warsaw Pact countries (including Poland) followed suit and on December 10, 1989 the Communist Party removed the barriers between West Germany and Austria.



The Czechs formed a Parliamentary Democracy and elected Alexander Dubček as speaker and Vaclav Havel (pictured right) as President of Czechoslovakia on December 29, 1989. The first democratic elections were held in June of 1990 and on January 1, 1993 Czechoslovakia split into two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

*"Truth and love must prevail over lies and hatred." Vaclav Havel, Wenceslas Square, December 10, 1989.*



**The Junior Dixieland Jazz Band  
Zus Fryderyka Chopina,  
Marianske Lazne  
Entertained on July 25, 2019.**

TCHCC was visited by musical school students that ranged from the age of 12 to 19. The students from Marianske Lazne traveled to Louisiana and Texas to perform at various venues. The performers were: Daniel Kovec, Vojta Starenko, Ondrej Petrus, Josef Miklusak, Jakub Douda, Daniel Brill, Jan Vlasak, William Vlcek and Josef Miklusok.



## **Czech Republic Hidden Secrets Tour 2020**

**14 Days in the Czech Republic - July 13 to July 26, 2020**

**ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE INCLUDES:** Airfare, bus transfers, entry fees of excursions on the tour, and 24/7 tour guides. 12 overnight hotel accommodations, 12 breakfasts and dinners or evening meals, 11 lunches, free selection of a drink with each meal, all entrance fees for excursions in the itinerary.

**COST: \$3,990.00 all-inclusive double occupancy**

**OR \$4,380.00 all-inclusive single occupancy**

**FOR DETAILS - CONTACT: Patsy Robertson at [probert420@aol.com](mailto:probert420@aol.com)**

**First payment due October 1, 2019**

***Highlights: New experience when revealing hidden secrets and mysterious places, homeland, history, genealogy, excursions, beer, wine, good food, relax, a lot of fun.***

**Places You Will Go:** Prague; Lukova by Manetin to visit St. George's Church; Becov nad Teplou's medieval castle, the city of Kadan; Krusovice Brewery; Zatec (city of the hops) Museum; Kuks' Hospital, Pharmaceutical museum, and spa; Vamberk (center of lace-making); Roznov's Unipar Candle Manufacturer, World of Stones, Wallachian Museum, Pustevny; Velke Losiny's paper mill; Frenstat's Museum, and a meeting with Mr. Strnadel; Lichnov's Czech Emigration to Texas Museum and Dr. Josef Simicek; Koprivnice's Tatra Car Museum; Stramberk; Karolinka's Crystal Glass Factory, Velke Karlovice; Pilgrimage Church of the Virgin Mary in Krtiny; and much more.



## DONATIONS

April 1 - July 31, 2019

### **GOLD BENEFACTOR**

Bill & Betty Melnar

### **PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE**

Dr. Larry & Mary Ann Hatfield

### **PIONEER**

SPJST Foundation, Inc.

### **MONTHLY RECURRING DONATION**

Barbara Stratton Hruby

### **FRIEND**

Oscar Darilek

Bruce & Cynthia Rollman

### **GRANTS**

City of LaGrange

Texas Women's League

### **GENERAL OPERATING FUND**

Jerry & Jill Sijansky

### **FLAG SPONSORSHIP**

Bill Schovajsa

### **MELNAR LIBRARY**

William and Mildred Bohlmann

Exxon Mobil

### **MAYFEST 2019**

Bistro 108

Sylvia S. Clair

Farmers Lumber Company, Inc.

H & H Automotive Supply

Anna Mae Hajovsky

Marjorie Kultgen

Johnnie Joe & Lorenda Polasek

Polkabeat.com

Schneider, Frazee and Matocha, P. C.

South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters

William Slavik

SPJST Lodge #30

SPJST - Temple

SPJST District No. 6

Lad Trojacek

Raymond E. & Judy Uherek

Bill & Kathy Miller Voshalike

### **IMMIGRANT'S WALL**

*1914 - Joe Kalousek, Emilie Herzig Kalousek, son Milton - Prague Bohemia*

Sonia and John Kahanek, III

*1910 - John Kahanek, Aloisie Tomanek Kahanek, Lillie, Julia - Vlcovice Moravia*

Sonia and John Kahanek, III

### **MUSEUM ENTRY PAVING STONE**

*In Memory of Raymond R. Darilek*

Lillie Temberg

### **PAVING BRICKS**

*In Memory of Gregory Holub*

Marjorie Kultgen

*In Honor of Joseph & Petronilla Vackar*

Magdalen Vackar Marbry

*In Honor of Lonnie & Josephine Vackar*

Magdalen Vackar Marbry

*In Memory of Stephen Wayne Matus - September 14, 1978-December 18, 1992*

Wes and Julie Herzik Matus

*In Memory of Julie's parents: Emil & Frances Korenek Herzik*

Wes and Julie Herzik Matus

*In Memory of Julie's grandparents: Anton & Julia Dybala Korenek and Joseph & Lucy Toman Herzik*

Wes and Julie Herzik Matus

*In Memory of Wes' Grandparents: John & Bessie Grossman Matus and Louis & Sophie Krenek Kubala*

Wes and Julie Herzik Matus

### **MEMORIALS & HONORS**

*In Honor of Kenneth and Cathleen Noska 40th*

*Wedding Anniversary*

Charles and Retta Chandler

JG and Janis Hrcncir

Johnnie and Lorenda Polasek

Georgia Vyvial

*In Honor of Georgia Vyvial on her 80th Birthday*

Verlene Kuntschik

Jim and Marilyn Kothmann

Kenneth and Cathleen Noska

Mary Vasek

*In Honor of Richard & Margaret Hoffmann's 50th Wedding Anniversary*

Johnnie and Lorenda Polasek

Georgia Vyvial

*In Honor of James and Agnes Darilek's 50th Wedding Anniversary*

Charles and Retta Chandler

Richard and Margaret Hoffmann

J. G. and Janis Hrcncir

Kenneth and Cathleen Noska

Georgia Vyvial

*In Memory of Robert Pressly Bryarly, Jr.*

Gene and Irene Cerny

*In Memory of Frankie J. Cernosek*

Richard G. and Molly Cernosek

*In Memory of Michael James Friske*

Alvin and Marilyn Cernoch

Charles and Retta Chandler

Kathie Craft

Betty and Taffy Danner

J.G. and Janis Hrcncir

Carol Kitchen

Kenneth and Cathleen Noska

Mary E. Vasek

Vera Wehring

*In Memory of Raymond R. Darilek*

Lillie Tenberg

*In Memory of Richard B. Janda for Kalich House/Music Museum*

Theodore Hoffmann

Loretta Valenta

*In Memory of Greg Holub*

Charles and Retta Chandler

*In Memory of Dorothy Martinek*

Bob and Carolyn Heinsohn

*In Memory of Julius Podhrasky*

Charles and Retta Chandler

*In Memory of Frances Slovak*

Elizabeth C. Patalik

*In Memory of Hattie Stryk*

Charles and Retta Chandler

J. G. and Janis Hrcncir

*In Memory of Albina Vrazel*

Charles and Retta Chandler

### **2019 CALENDAR ADS**

American SOKOL Organization -

Southern District

James Corpporon

CHS - Ft. Bend County

Czech Heritage Society of Texas

Daniel Cernoch Plumbing

Catholic Life Insurance Branch #95,

El Campo

Cistern Country Store

Henrietta Filip/Moravia Store

Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn

St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Plum

KJT

KJZT - Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas

National Polka Festival of Ennis

Bill & Betty Melnar

Pavlas Tavern

RVOS Insurance Company

Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce

Clarice Marik Snokhous for NACC

SPJST

Stanzel Family Foundation, Inc. & Aircraft

Museum

Hon. Czech Consul Brian & Joan Vanicek

## MEMBERSHIP

### Individual Membership 2019

Dayna DeLaVergne  
Nancy Holubec  
Alvin A. Janecek  
Mary Ellen Hrnecir Madalinski  
Linda Maxwell  
Terri Pacher  
Lillie Tenberg

### Family Membership 2019

Sidney & Emily Cernoch  
Buford & Sharon Jurica  
Polkabeat.com  
James & Sonya Schovajsa  
James & Marsha Steffek  
Walter & Sandra Stoeber  
Bill & Kathy Miller Voshalike  
Jason & Stacey Zhanel

### Individual Membership 2020

Marie J. Colby  
Marilyn DeMarco  
Ron Frnka  
Joreen Kocurek Ludeke  
Gladys Oakley  
Ulana Ludeke Ratley  
Merlene Slavik

### Family Membership 2020

Ted and Ann Bratton

### Gift Membership 2020

Nell Dohnalik, Dorothy Downing, Delores Waller  
by Lillie Tenberg

## LIBRARY MUSEUM DONATIONS

Alice Adam - Novy Hrozenkov kroj with hose and shoes  
Ellen E Babas - Bed Canopy  
Richard and Molly Cernosek - International Harvester Farm-All Super M with belt pulley and wide front  
Cathleen Chovanetz - 5 Czech prayer books, 3 Czech novels  
Lucille Ripple Gooch Estate - cotton chopping hoe  
Carolyn Heinsohn - 12 books for the library, items for the Country Store, 5 shrubs for the Salas House  
Frances Jackson - Five family photos in antique frames  
Carol Janecka - prayer books, piano rolls, KJT Book  
Ann Jurecka - Ideal Duplicator/Heyer Duplicator Co, West Jackson Brod/Chicago. Wooden picture frame, angel picture  
Albert and Rita Kozel - Kolek Family History, pictures of great grandchildren of Jan Kozel as Little Czech Singers, Czech prayer book, Nase Dejiny  
Stanley G. Kubicek - First Grade Czech Reader  
Janice McMahon and Dennis Kalich - Village of Poloursi chronicles  
Joe & Lucy Lamer - various religious cards include ordinations, deaths, and jubilees  
Sharon D. Munguis - Personal journal of Justine Hackevar  
Rev. Stephen Nestrta - map of Moravia, Slovakia. "Velehrad 1996" ceramic saucer  
Elizabeth Opiela - 1916 ledger book  
Johnnie Polasek - 12" canning pot and jar holder  
Margie Matula - 22 Czech Slet magazines  
Elizabeth Patalik - 2 Czech marionettes (Praha Jo and Praha Lady) gifts from Peter and Jana Lala, History of the Patalik Band Book

Marlene Pazderny - St. John Ammannsville, book  
Lynn Pieper - tin can opener/sealer  
Lydia Pitra - Czech and Slovak Books  
Eileen Rosipal - antique phone, typewriter, 3 garden dusters, clock  
Martha Reagan - Antique Czech Doll (estate of Joe Florian Jurek), Wedding dress, veil, tie, and cake topper, Wedding picture and Czech First Communion certificate  
Lynn Sobel - 1963 painting of St. John of the Cross Church, Frenstat, CZ  
Ron Staha - family religious Czech books  
Frank Urbanic - 1895 Czech Catholic Missal property of Mary Brandl Sikora  
Louise Segeta Wied and Lydia Segeta Bordovsky - Hammer Dulcimer from John Segeta brought to US in 1886 when he emigrated  
Barbara Winburn - Wooden box corn sheller labeled Sandwich Mfg. Company  
Dorothy Strnadel Benish Family History



Left: Sisters Louise Segeta Wied and Lydia Segeta Bordovsky (not pictured) donated this Hammer Dulcimer that belong to their father, John Segeta, who brought it to America in 1886.

Bexar County Czech Heritage Society's Robert Trampota presented a check to TCHCC Board Member Barbara Stratton Hruby.



Elizabeth Patalik (left) and Albert and Rita Kozel (right) share Czech family stories with Lida Cope, director of the Texas Czech Legacy Project.



**TCHCC Memorials can be made to your deceased loved ones or to honor a family member that is still active in promoting Czech culture and tradition.**

**IMMIGRANTS' WALL**

A stone wall with engravings on plaques that include the name(s) of the immigrant(s), village of origin and date that he/she/they arrived in the United States. Plaques are available for \$2500. Contact us for details.

**ENTRY PAVING STONES**

A 12"x12" pink granite stone will be engraved with your choice of wording up to 40 letters for \$1000. These stones are in the entryway of the Czech Center. Contact us for details.

**ROSE GARDEN MEMORIAL**

For \$250 a brick will be placed along the Rose Garden path that lines the entry sidewalk to the Czech Center. The brick will be inscribed with your choice of wording. Contact us for details.

**MEMORIAL BRICK PAVERS**

A brick paver will be engraved with your choice of wording for \$100. The bricks will be placed in the sidewalk leading from the flagpoles to the steps that enter the Czech Center. Contact us for details.

**BELL & BELFRY**

For donations of \$50 or more, inscriptions are painted on the memorial sign. For donations under \$50, a record of the donation is made on a parchment list.

**AMPHITHEATER SUPPORTERS**

A designated amphitheater seat will be reserved with your name plate. Participant can reserve this seat whenever there is an event at the Amphitheater by calling ahead. Seats range: \$1,000, \$750 and \$500.

**FLAG SPONSORS**

Sponsorship can be made in Memory of or in Honor of an individual or group. \$250.00/newsletter.

**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE CENTER.**

**Donation amounts are recognized by levels:**

- Permanent Endowment Fund
- Maintenance and Operations
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership from**

**January 1—December 31**

- \$2000  Lifetime Membership **NEW!**
- \$500  Corporate
- \$200  Non-Profit Organization
- \$ 75  Family
- \$ 50  Individual

**ANNUAL SUSTAINED MEMBERSHIP (yearly)**  
Benefits: Preserving YOUR Heritage, Annual Calendar and *Nas Cesky Zivot* newsletters

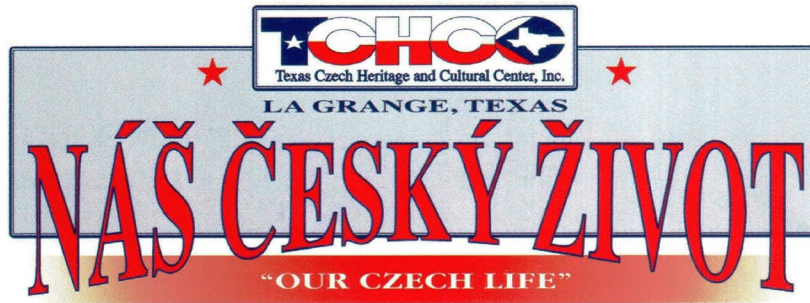
- 200,000  Five Star
- 100,000  Platinum Benefactor
- 50,000  Gold Benefactor
- 25,000  Silver Benefactor
- 10,000  Bronze Benefactor
- 5,000  Benefactor
- 2,500  President's Circle
- 2,000  Pioneer
- 1,500  Heritage Friend
- 1,000  Founder
- 750  Steward
- 500  Patron
- 250  Donor
- 150  Special Friend
- 100  Friend

**MEMORIALS can be made to honor someone living, on their birthday or anniversary etc., or the memory of a deceased friend or family member.**

FOR \_\_\_\_\_  
Send Acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donor: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Message: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**

TCHCC, P.O. Box 6, LaGrange, TX 78945-0006



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### UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

- October 18**      **Heritage Fest & Muziky**  
4-9:30 PM RVOS Octoberfest on the Deck with music by the Dujka Brothers  
Chicken & Dumplings served at 5:30 PM
- October 19**      **Heritage Fest & Muziky - 10 AM Opening Ceremony**  
11 AM - 6 PM Music by Praha Brothers Band & Round Top Brass Band  
Saw Mill, Tarock, Kolace Eating Contest, Car Show, Antique Farm Show,  
Demonstrations, Food and More  
Muziky Muziky - Amphitheater, 7-9:30 PM: Mužátske Sborny  
Charvačané a Valtičané (folklore ensemble from Czech Republic)  
9:30 PM H-E-B Fireworks Finale
- Nov 22 - Dec 31**      **"All Things Czech" Czech-Made Crafts Museum Exhibit**  
Featuring patron-donated Christmas items
- December 7**      **TCHCC Annual Gala. Pavilion Hall 6 - 9:30 PM Advance Tickets**  
Honorees: City Polka Boys, Tony Janak Orchestra  
& Judge Edward Janecka  
Exquisite Buffet, Open Bar, Silent Auction, Music by Czechaholics
- 2020**
- February 15**      **Valentine's Dinner and Concert**  
A formal event featuring culinary arts, Texas wines and  
grand piano performance by Professor John Dujka  
4- 6 PM Social. 6 PM Dinner. 7 PM Grand Piano Concert  
Advanced Tickets only - Tickets go on sale January 2, 2020.