

CZECH AND SLOVAK CLUB

NEWSLETTER

March 2011

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CZECH & SLOVAK
CLUB OF KANSAS CITY

Annual Club Meeting
Sunday, April 3, 2011

Please mark the date for our club's annual meeting on April 3, 2011. It will once again be potluck and we ask that members and guests bring food based on the guidelines mentioned below. The club will provide the setups and drinks. The program this year will be focused on Easter traditions in the Czech and Slovak Republics. Member Hana Buric will explain the significance of eggs, water, switches, and other traditions that are typical of the Easter season. The business part of our meeting will include the current financial status of the club, upcoming programs, and the election of officers as listed on last page. Please mail your ballot to the address on the newsletter or bring it to the meeting.

Club Meeting

Sunday, April 3, 2011 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Agenda

- 2:00 Social time**
- 2:30 Meal**
- 3:15 Meeting**
- 3:30 Demonstration of Czech/Slovak customs**
- 4:00 Cleanup**

Location

Waldo Library
201 E. 75th St.
Kansas City, MO 64114
816-701-3486

Potluck

- A - K = dessert/appetizer**
- J - R = meat/main dish**
- S - Z = salad/vegetable**

The club will provide soft drinks, plates and other utensils.

Upcoming Events and Programs

Genealogy Program

Saturday, May 21

National Archives, Union Station

Guest speaker Helen Epstein, the daughter of Czech-Jewish parents, will speak to the Czech and Slovak Club of GKC on genealogy Saturday, May 21 at 2:00 p.m. The program will take place at the National Archives facility inside Union Station and is free of charge.



Helen Epstein was born in Prague in 1947, raised in the Czech exile community of New York City, and grew up to be a journalist working for national publications such as the New York Times and Washington Post. She has published six books including the classic study of the families of Holocaust survivors, "Children of the Holocaust," and the much translated "Where She Came From: A Daughter's Search for her Mother's History," a family and social history that covers four generations of Czechs in the old Austro-Hungarian empire and the first Czechoslovak republic.

Helen researched her book in the United States and in Czechoslovakia, using archival sources, document depositories, and site visits. A frequent lecturer at universities, libraries and historical societies, she will be able to offer specific advice about documenting your own family history. We hope you will make every effort to attend this presentation.

The program will start with Helen's presentation at 2 p.m., a question-and-answer session and a reception and book signing, in which you will have an opportunity to meet Helen and ask questions. The program will also give you an opportunity to explore the genealogical information stored at the National Archives, including census information, military records, and other microfilm information that could aid you in your family research. The program is free.

Diplomatic Ball

Saturday, April 2, 2011

The Kansas City Ethnic Enrichment Commission is hosting the 2011 Diplomatic Ball on April 2 at the downtown Marriott Hotel. The theme this year is "All That Jazz." Cost is \$60 per person which includes dinner, entertainment and dancing. The deadline for reservations is March 18. Contact Jirina Lavine at jirinal@yahoo.com to make reservations.

This is a wonderful evening of good food, a visual feast of persons dressed in formal wear or their native dress and lively entertainment.

Ethnic Festival

The 2011 Ethnic Festival will be held the third weekend in August in Kansas City's Swope Park. General admission is \$3.00 for adults, children under 12 are free. Parking is free. There will be some 50 booths representing various countries around the world. Ethnic foods will be for sale, as well as craft items. Every half hour a different country provides entertainment.

Festival Hours:

Friday (August 20), 6 to 10 p.m.

Saturday (August 21), Noon to 10 p.m.

Sunday (August 22), noon to 6 p.m.

The Czech and Slovak Club sponsors and staffs a mini-booth, which has information about our two countries and some items to sell. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. There are two-hour volunteer slots: Friday 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturday Noon to 10 p.m. and Sunday noon to 6 p.m. We need a total of 20 volunteers. Contact Bob Bee if you are interested (beehiveoma@aol.com or 816-298-7468). The festival also needs volunteers to staff the admission gate and beer garden. The club is paid \$7 per hour for the time you volunteer for those two activities. This festival is one of the largest and oldest ethnic festivals in the U.S. Pictures from last year's festival can be seen at www.eeckc.org. Go to *Events* and then *Gallery*.

Northland Ethnic Festival

Saturday, April 16, 2011

The Northland Ethnic Festival will be held on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Park Hill South High School (I-635 and MO 9) in the cafeteria. It is sponsored by the Kansas City Ethnic Enrichment Commission. The club will have a booth and will be able to sell food. If you could make some Czech or Slovak food (pastries), we would be able to share in a tangible way some of our heritage with visitors. Bob Bee is willing to pick them up from you.

Bob would also like some help in staffing the booth. He would appreciate help from members for an hour or two between noon and 4 p.m.. If you have your native kroj that you could wear, that would be an added bonus, but it is not necessary in order to volunteer. Please contact him at beehiveoma@aol.com or 816-298-7468.

Mucha Art Nouveau Exhibit

Through April 2, 2011

Ward & Ward Brookside Gallery

Kansas City, MO 64113

A display of Mucha original works is on display at the gallery of Ward & Ward through April 2. The gallery is located in Brookside at 63rd & Oak, Kansas City, MO 64113. Contact the gallery at 816-333-6459 for more information.

EU Film Festival

March 4-31, 2011, Chicago, Illinois

The EU Film Festival organized by Gene Siskel Center in Chicago, Illinois from March 4-31, 2011 includes three Czech films. Information can be found at this website: www.mzv.cz/chicago.

Czech Republic Presentation + Entertainment

Jiri Libal, the Czech military officer studying at Fort Leavenworth, KS will make a "Know Your World" presentation at the People to People International's Americas Region Meeting on Saturday, May 14 at the Hotel Phillips in Kansas City

Saturday, May, 14, 2011

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hotel Phillips-Crystal Room

106 W 12th Street

Kansas City, MO 64105

(816) 221-7000

The officer's daughters will perform some Czech dances. And the very talented accordion musician, Don Lipovac, will perform.

Don is a graduate of the Kansas City Conservatory of Music with degrees in theory and education. He has performed at Carnegie Hall and represented America as U.S. accordion champion at the 1958 World Fair in Brussels, Belgium. He has also been the director of the St. John Tamburitzans for more than 35 years.

He received the Polka Hall of Fame Award at Iron World in Chisholm, Minnesota, in 1992 and a National Cleveland-Style Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing him for preserving and promoting Slovenian Cultural Heritage in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2006.

2011 SVU CONFERENCE

Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences

June 3-5, 2011

Central Theme: Young Czech and Slovak Professionals in America

Bohemian National Hall

321 East 73rd Street

New York, New York

Sugar Creek Slavic Festival: 25 and Counting

Friday June 10, 5:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Saturday June 10, 2:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

This June, join Sugar Creek and its citizens as they pay tribute to their Slavic heritage in the only way they know how - with scores of heel-kicking dancers, ivory-toned riffs from squee-zebox masters, and of course, pound upon pound of juicy Kielbasa.

It's the 26th anniversary of the Slavic Festival. And it promises to be the wildest celebration of Slavic culture this side of the Mississippi. Featured performers include grammy nominee Alex Meixner and the band Keilbasa King.

Road trip to the National Czech/Slovak Festival

Saturday, August 6, 2011

The club is organizing a road trip to the Czech/Slovak Festival in Wilber, Nebraska, Aug. 6. Please contact Terry Smitka if you're interested in joining friends on August 6, 2011 to celebrate Czech and Slovak heritage and enjoy good food and drink.

CGSI's 13th Genealogical/Cultural Conference

Featuring "History of Czechs and Slovaks in St. Louis"

October 26-29, 2011 (Wednesday - Saturday)

CGSI's 13th Genealogical/Cultural Conference

Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel

St. Louis, Missouri

Czech Language School

In 2011, the implementation of the Compatriotic Educational Program Abroad will continue. The program includes semester study abroad programs, a 4-week Czech language course, a 2-week Czech language methodology course for teachers from Czech compatriotic communities, sending of Czech language teachers to Czech compatriotic communities abroad, and sending of Czech language teachers to foreign educational institutions.

Please contact Jana Racova at jana_racova@mzv.cz if you have any questions. You can also find more information on the following websites: www.mzv.cz/washington, and www.dzs.cz.

Slovak Language School

The traditional Summer School of the Slovak Language and Culture will be held on July 4-22, 2011 in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. The language program is designed for individuals interested in learning or improving his/her Slovak language skills as well getting a better overview of Slovakia – its history, present situation, traditions and dominants. For information see web site http://www.uninova.sk/cjop/src/summer_school.php or you can contact Mrs. Jarmilia Kotlarikova at (T) ++421 26353 3147, (F) ++ 421 26353 3149. Email clap@uninova.sk and www.uninova.sk/clap

College Scholarship Opportunity

The Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City now offers a \$500 scholarship to children, stepchildren, or grandchildren of active members. The main requirement is that the student must be a graduating high school senior or a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited college or university. The complete eligibility requirements are listed on our website (<http://csclubkc.wordpress.com>).

The goal of the club is to encourage an interest in the Czech and Slovak culture, so those students that participate in club events will be given a higher priority. The application for this scholarship is available on our website and the deadline for application is July 1.

The Council of Higher Education also offers scholarships to students of Czech, Slovak or Ruthenian heritage. Last year they awarded scholarships totaling \$100,000. In addition to their heritage requirement, other considerations are academic achievement and financial need. This scholarship can be accessed from our website or on the link www.cheonline.org. The deadline for this scholarship is April 1.

Czech/Slovak Merchandise Available

Club merchandise (hats, shirts, magnets) can be purchased through PayPal. Information is available on our website at <http://csclubkc.wordpress.com/>



Czech & Slovak hats \$20.00

Czech & Slovak shirts \$25.00

Magnets \$5.00

20th Anniversary of the Visegrad Group

Musical Celebration at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, DC

Ross P. Marine, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic in Kansas City, attended a concert of classical music performed by the Charleston Virtuosi quartet of Charleston, S.C. on Thursday, February 17, 2011. The Charleston Virtuosi are Slovak-born musicians. The program selections were composed by Antonin Dvorak, Bela Bartok, Stanislaw Moniuszko, and Ilja Zeljenka.



More than 100 attended the concert from the Washington, DC region, Czech and Slovak Organizations, respective embassies and a variety of diplomats. Following the concert food, wines and spirits from the V4 countries were served.



The concert was hosted by the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the U.S. and Mrs. Peter Burian on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Visegrad Group (V4) and is comprised of the Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Republic of Hungary, and the Republic of Poland.



Ross had the opportunity to meet with the new Slovak Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Katarina Kovacova, replacing Andrej Droba who returned to the Slovak Foreign Ministry in Bratislava.



At the official summit on July 20, 2010 the V4 adopted four goals – Continuity, Cohesion, Solidarity, Awareness. For more details visit the website www.mzv.sk/en/foreign_policy/slovak_v4_presidency_program.



National Czech & Slovak Museum Breaks Ground on New Building

Plans to Move and Elevate the Flooded Building Underway

The Board of Directors of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is pursuing a plan to move and then elevate its flood-damaged museum building. The museum building will become part of a new and expanded facility. The 15-year-old structure is an architectural icon in Cedar Rapids and the museum's red roof rising above the 2008 floodwaters depicted the Cedar Rapids disaster around the world.

"This museum represents and tells the story of hundreds of thousands of immigrants and their history. It is a symbol of the courage and vision of Czechs and Slovaks around the world and it will be the symbol of rebirth for Cedar Rapids," President/CEO Gail Naughton, said. "We are eager to move forward with our plan."

The new 50,000-square-foot Museum & Library will feature:

- A permanent exhibition doubled in size, covering the dramatic immigration story of Czech- and Slovak-Americans.
- A 5,500-square-foot library and archives that will encompass genealogy services, oral histories, and research.
- Multi-purpose public and educational programming space that hold 400 for programs and 250 at tables.
- Three galleries for permanent and temporary exhibitions.
- A 55-seat theatre for films, lectures, and programs.
- Outdoor amphitheater for heritage, musical, and theatrical programs.
- Collections, original artwork and artifacts on display throughout the building.
- Protection from future flooding; the museum will be elevated three feet above the 2008 flood level.
- A terrace with view of the river and downtown skyline.
- Underground parking for 65 vehicles.
- LEED certified energy efficient design.

Czech & Slovak Club Donations

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In memory In honor of _____

Please use my donation for: Scholarship Festival General Programming

Amount: _____

Make check or money order out to the Czech & Slovak Club and mail it to Terry Smitka, 1205 Wellington Way, Liberty, MO 64068. The Czech & Slovak Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



Visit our website at: <http://csclubkc.wordpress>

Treasurer's Report

FY 2010

Balance 12/31/09	\$9,382.08
Balance 12/31/10	\$8,540.35
Membership units 12/31/09.....	111
Paid membership units 12/31/10	62

St. Mikulas 2010

Our club held its traditional St. Mikulas event on Sunday, December 5, 2010, at the Sylvester Powell Community Center in Mission, Kansas. This year's event was one of our best attended ever with approximately 85 members and guests present. In addition to a wide variety of food, we celebrated the holiday with a talented musical group organized by member Mark Pinter. Mark used his contacts in Kansas City, Kansas, along with several of his fellow Sugar Creek Tamburitza members, to play music of Slavic origin as well as traditional Czech and Slovak holiday songs. The group particularly enjoyed singing Christmas songs in the Czech and Slovak language, as the 2nd and 3rd generation Americans tried to keep up with the native speakers. And it wouldn't have been a celebration without the arrival of St. Mikulas. As the children were gathered, the trio of St. Mikulas, the angel, and the devil came into the room. The children were each asked by St. Mikulas (Bob Bee) if they behaved themselves last year. To a person, they said that they had. Our devil (Lukas Parrish) once again disagreed, but was overruled by our angel (Karoli-



na Rooney). After a short conversation with St. Mikulas and a performance by a few of the children, all were rewarded with a gift from St. Mikulas. All-in-all it was a fun time and a great day for celebrating this traditional Czech and Slovak holiday. Thanks to all for the enjoyable afternoon.

Consuls and Club Members Attend Czech and Slovak History and Culture Conference

Slovak honorary consul Ross Marine and his wife Barbara, Czech honorary consul Sharon Valasek and club member Linda Vlasak attended a very informative conference March 11-12 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The conference "Czech and Slovak History and Culture Conference: The 20th Century in Retrospect," was the sixth, and final in the series of conferences organized and presented by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) since 1999. The past four conferences have progressed through the critical times in the 20th century, leading up to this last installment, 1989-2011: Transition to Democracy.

More than 80 participants attended lecture-style sessions and panel discussions. Featured speakers were: Peter Burian, Ambassador to the United State from Slovakia; Martin Butora, former Ambassador to the U.S. from Slovakia, now serving at the Institute for Foreign Affairs, Bratislava; Zora Butorova, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Public Affairs in Slovakia; Jiri Ellinger, Head of the Political Section, Embassy of the Czech Republic and Adrian Basora, former U.S. Ambassador to Prague and Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institutes and Director of the Project on Democratic Transitions.



Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City

Officer Candidates for 2011

President Terry Smitka
1st Vice President (Membership)..... Iveta Blahut
2nd Vice President (Social/Programs) Hana Buric
3rd Vice President (EEC Commissioner)..... Robert Bee
3rd Vice President (EEC Commissioner)..... Mike Kalny
Recording Secretary Sharon Short
Corresponding Secretary Susan Zvacek
Treasurer Jana Rooney
Historian Gene Simon

Check box for entire above slate, or enter write-ins for specific office exceptions:

Your signature and date

Please bring your ballots to the annual meeting or mail them to club Treasurer Jana Rooney, 6425 Valley Road, Kansas City, MO 64113. Contact Terry Smitka at 816-480-4227 if you have any questions. Ballots must be mailed by March 22, 2011.

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Please Pay Your Club Dues

Pay your 2011 dues at the annual meeting. Just \$25 per family or \$20 per single helps support the mission of our Czech and Slovak Club.

Board Emeritus..... Joyce Cox
Board Emeritus..... Linda Vlasak
Board Emeritus..... Jirina LaVine

News from the Czech & Slovak Club
c/o Terry Smitka
1205 Wellington Way
Liberty, MO 64068
Address service requested