



LA GRANGE, TEXAS

NÁŠ ČESKÝ ŽIVOT

“OUR CZECH LIFE”

(Centrum českého kulturního dědictví v Texasu)

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SLAVNOST 2023 FEATURED FOOD, EXHIBITS, CLASSIC CAR SHOW, IMMIGRANT WALL
RECOGNITION, DONNIE WAVRA & FRIENDS ORCHESTRA



Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture, and heritage of Texans of Czech ethnicity.

Náš Český Život “Our Czech Life”

TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER

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Newsletter Address: All articles, photographs, advertising and correspondence should be directed to Retta Chandler or Janis Hrnčíř, 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.

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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.

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We are currently taking 2024 memberships
and donations online on our website.

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New Renewal Gift Address change (please include old address)

President's Letter
August 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you all for coming to the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center. We are all so pleased to see you at our events, for your visits, for renting the Hanslik Banquet Hall for your special occasions, for using the Melnar Library for research and genealogy, for shopping in the Kopecky Gift Shop, for a walk through the Czech Village or to just come by to say "Hello".



TCHCC President
Retta Slavik Chandler

Thank you to all the volunteers who make it possible to have TCHCC available to you Tue-Sat.

In this issue, events from May through August are pictured. Also, future events are featured. Keep coming. We love to share our Czech Heritage.

Thank you for your subscription to Texas Polka News. Thank you to the Editors for the informative in-depth articles about musicians who made significant contributions to enhance our love of music and dancing. Those articles give us a hint of how our ancestors enjoyed life.

We are also feeling the loss and sadness of losing some of our dearest friends, whose contributions were significant to the growth of TCHCC during its earliest time. Their concern and support for the development of a Czech Center are deeply appreciated. In this issue, you will find obituaries of the most recent who have left us. We express our deepest sympathy to their family and loved ones.

Thank you to all for your support. We hope to see you at our October 20-21 Heritage Festival when we can renew friendships and celebrate our Czech Heritage.

Sincerely,

Retta Slavik Chandler, President

Elizabeth Patalik has chosen to recognize Fr. Marcus Valenta this year and honor him with the Flag Sponsorship. Perhaps someone else may like to do the same next year for someone they respect. See the last page of the newsletter for details.

FATHER MARCUS A. VALENTA was born of a Czech father (Leo William Valenta), who died before he was one year old, and a German mother (Margaret Hermes) at Sweet Home, Texas on June 26, 1905. Being brought up by his German relatives, he did not learn the Czech language. He attended St. Louis College (later called St. Mary's College), San Antonio from 1922 to 1923 and next studied at St. John's Seminary, San Antonio from 1923 to 1926, where he expressed a desire to join the class in Czech, but he was about to continue his studies in Rome, Italy, and Latin of course. He studied at the American College in Rome in 1926 to 1930 and was ordained a priest there on December 21, 1929.

He served as assistant at St. Ann's Church, San Antonio from August 14, 1930 to 1933; next as Chaplain of the "Tree Army" (Civilian Conservation Corps, the C.C.C.) from June 15, 1933 to 1934; next as administrator of Sacred Heart Church, Rockne, Texas July 15, 1934 to 1935; next as administrator of the (Italian) St. Francis di Paula Church, San Antonio from 1935 to 1940. On October 19, 1940 he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as Chaplain.

Service carried him in the middle of 1941 to Honolulu on Oahu Island, Hawaii, and Canton Island. He lived through the horrors of December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and ministered to the casualties. He saw service at Leyte, Saipan, the Solomon Islands and Okinawa. He was present at the Japanese surrender on August 5, 1945 and served as Chaplain in the Army of Occupation in Japan. He had refused transfer and promotion, in order to stay with the assault troops across the immense combat zones of the Pacific. He served throughout World War II and holds the longest overseas combat-zone record of any Chaplain in the history of the U.S.A. He returned to the U.S.A. on January 3, 1946 and was in the Active Reserves in February 15, 1946.

He served as pastor of St. Philip's Church, El Campo, Texas with mission of St. John at Taiton from April 1, 1946 to 1955 and from then to 1980 as pastor of St. Mary's Church, Praha, Texas, where he sponsored a solemn Armistice Day observance with the cooperation of the Army.

He was a lifetime Chaplain of the Pearl Harbor Survivors' Association and annually promoted the solemn military observance of Veterans Day Service at Praha. The traditional solemn celebration of the parish Feast of the Assumption on August 15 on the actual date, Sunday or weekly attracting thousands of former parishioners and their descendants and friends from far and near.

Rev. Marcus Anthony Valenta died on September 9, 1984 in Houston and is buried in Queen of Peace Cemetery, Sweet Home, Texas. (Short Biographies of Czech and other Priests in Texas, Msgr. Alois Morkovsky, 1982.)



FLAG SPONSOR
Elizabeth Patalik
In Memory of
Lt. Col. Chaplain U.S. Army
Rev. Marcus Valenta
7-26-1905/9-9-1984

Czech out all the fun at the TCHCC Heritage Fest & Muziky, October 20-21 in La Grange!

The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange will host the 11th annual *Heritage Fest & Muziky* on October 20th and 21st. The Festival will begin on Friday afternoon in front of the Main Center and TCHCC's famous homemade Chicken & Dumplings will be served while it lasts in the Hanslik Banquet Hall beginning at 5:30 pm. *The KJT Octoberfest on the Deck* will begin at 4:30 pm with music by the *Dujka Brothers* from 6 - 9:30 pm. Mark and John Dujka have been making music together for over 35 years and have several acknowledgements to their name. Bring your lawn chairs but leave your coolers at home, please!

Saturday, the big day kicks off at 10 am with an opening ceremony at 10:30 am. The Hospoda will be filled with cold pivo and musical entertainment by the *Jodie Mikula Orchestra* of Ennis and *Al Sulak & The Country Sounds* of Orchard from 11:00 am to 6 pm. In the Fraternal Mutual Pavilion, enjoy hospitality and music, including a performance by the *Round Top Brass Band* from 11:30A-1P. The Czech Fraternal Organizations will sponsor a variety of fun activities all day in the area. No admission for the grounds and events on Friday evening and Saturday during the day.

Enjoy more music at the *Muziky, Muziky* event from 7-9:30 pm in the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater. Always a popular part of the Heritage Fest, this year's Legends Series continues with a show that is sure to leave a nostalgic glow in your heart! The big finale for 2023 will be the *Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys Tribute* Show, celebrating 90 years! When Texas Playboys front man **Jason Roberts** steps onto a stage with his fiddle and utters his first "Ah-ha" of the evening, western-swing fans know they're seeing and hearing nothing less than the living embodiment of a tradition that stretches all the way back to 1933. That was the year the charismatic fiddler Bob Wills and several other musicians in a group called the Light Crust Doughboys broke away from Fort Worth's Burris Mills and its autocratic business manager, W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel, to form their own band. As Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys, they became one of the most popular touring and recording acts in the nation, offering audiences the highly danceable musical mixture that came to be known as western swing.

Presale tickets for the Amphitheater Show are \$20 and are available at the TCHCC Office in La Grange and online at Eventbrite.com from September 1 until Thursday, October 19. Gate admission is \$25. Finishing off the night with a real BANG will be the huge *HEB Fireworks Finale* above the Amphitheater (weather pending).

In addition to enjoying the great music, you're invited to stroll the Czech Village, an early 1900s recreated village complete with residential houses, barns, and stores. Demonstrations of early life for the immigrants will take place throughout the grounds all day, including working in the Zapalac Saw Mill, the operation of the Czech Newspaper Museum press and engine, blacksmithing, corn shelling and grinding, hay pressing, and the making of textiles, soap, noodles, sausage, honey and more. Children activities will be available by the Leo's Club (train ride), KJZT (pumpkin painting) and RVOS along with many other activities for everyone to take part in. The famous SPJST Kolace Eating Contest and the Beer RVOS Tasting Competition are a few favorites.

An antique farm equipment show sponsored by the South Texas Wheel Spinners Crank Twisters Club and an antique/classic car show by H&H Automotive, Schulenburg, will spread through the Czech Village. The Janak Barn & Texas Czech Agricultural Museum displays farm practices and implements from the late 1800s to 1940. There will also be mule drawn wagon rides around the grounds all day! Visit the country store and vendors for some good buys, including fresh, stone-ground corn meal for cooking.

The Czech Village houses two music museums. The Czech Music Museum of Texas, located in the Kalich House, features four genres of Czech music – classical, folk, polka, and liturgical. The Polka Lover's Club of Texas Museum, located in the Hoelsher House & Huebner Center, features a display of Texas polka bands, as well as memorabilia and photos of the Polka Lover's Club of America, Texas Chapter.

Inside the TCHCC Main Center, stop by the Kopecky Gift Shop to browse the brand-new stock of authentic Czech items, T-shirts, caps, crystal, periodicals, music CDs, and new Christmas decorations for 2023. The Hanslik Hall will be the site of the annual *KJT State Taroky Championship*. Swing in there and they'd be happy to teach you this fun card game. The Czech Heritage Society of Texas and US Queens will have displays and be more than happy to visit with you and tell you more about their role in Czech Heritage.

Enjoy the current featured exhibits at the center: *Neighbors Helping Neighbors for Prosperity* in the Museum and the updated Military and Glass Exhibits in the Library. Have you always wondered about your Czech roots? The spacious Melnar Library will offer help with genealogy research.

Plenty to do for the entire family! Come Czech out all the fun and variety you could imagine!
Article contributed by the TCHCC.

CZECH VISITORS



Daniela Martinakova Snozova presented a signed copy of the book on the town of Horni Becva to Retta Chandler for the library.



CHARLOTTE MARTIN'S FAMILY FROM HORNÍ BEČVA VISITED TEXAS.

Sitting l-r: Judy Janecka, Pat Korenek, Betty Salas, Alice Drapela, Leona Brzozowski. Standing l-r: Jennifer Frnka, Charlotte Martin, Lucy Buenger, Daniela Martinakova Snozova, Ilona Eliasova, Joe Janecka, Marek Elias, and Adela Stankova.



Visiting Deacons from the Olomouc Diocese: l-r Jan Pecháček, Daniel Martinek, Vojtěch Razima, Fr. Stephen Nesrsta.



SPJST LODGE #32, VICTORIA DONATION

SPJST Lodge #32 Victoria presented a generous donation of \$25,000.00 to TCHCC.
l-r: J. G. Hrncir, Walter Stoever, John Bartos, SPJST #32 Victoria President Mark Lester,
Retta Slavik Chandler, Bill Schovajsa, Barbara Hruby, Brian Vanicek.

SPJST LODGE 32, VICTORIA TEXAS CHARTERED APRIL 16, 1900
PAST PRESIDENTS

J. H. Schiller - First Interim President
Thomas Janota - 1900
Unknown 1901 - 1946
Henry Janota - 1947 - 1959
Josef Kucera - 1960
Henry Janota - 1961 - 1963
John A. Shiller - 1964
Matt Vanek - 1976 - 1977
Michael Ahlstrom - 1980 - 1984
Ella Arnold - 1984 - 1985
Franklin Elles - 1986 - 1987
John Motal - 1988 - 1989

Michael Ahlstrom - 1990 - 1991
Franklin Elles - 1992 - 1993
Wayne Spiller - 1994 - 1995
Adolph Motal - 1996 - 1998
Michael Ahlstrom - 1998 - 2000
Mary Raska - 2001 - 2002
Franklin Elles - 2003 - 2005
Doris Elsik - 2006 - 2008
Franklin Elles - 2009 - 2012
Michael Ahlstrom - 2013 - 2017
(District Director 2000 - 2012)
Mark Lester - 2018 - 2023

TEXAS CZECH HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS:

HERITAGE FEST & MUZIKY

OCT 20-21, 2023
250 W Fairgrounds Rd
La Grange, TX

FRIDAY
EVENT 4:30-10PM
MUSIC 6-9:30PM

SATURDAY
HOSPODA
OPENING CEREMONIES 10:30AM
MUSIC 11AM - 6PM

AMPHITHEATER FINALE
7-9:30PM PRESALE TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE.COM

Bob Wills & The Texas Playboys Tribute
Visit The Czech Village

ROUND TOP BRASS BAND
SATURDAY 11:30-1PM

SATURDAY NIGHT FIREWORKS FINALE
Proudly Sponsored by H-E-B

DUJKA BROTHERS
JODI MIKULA ORCHESTRA
AL SULK & THE COUNTRY SOUNDS

HOSPODA (BEER GARDEN)
« WAGON RIDES
« MUSIC
« VILLAGE TOURS
« DEMONSTRATIONS
« ANTIQUE TRACTOR & CAR SHOW
« ARTS & CRAFTS
« CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES
« IN THE FRATERNAL MUTUAL PAVILION

BOB WILLS' Texas Playboys
JASON + ROBERTS

TOHO
LA GRANGE

488-285-4000
info@czechtx.org

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE at TCHCC

November 28 - January 13
Museum Exhibit: Christmas Traditions and Czech Foods

December 2:
HANDS-ON KOLAČE BAKING DEMONSTRATION in the Hanslik Hall
Presented by Bruno Shimek
“Caldwell’s Kolače King”
10 AM - 2 PM
Limited to 20 people
Registration fee: \$20.00
Register at www.czechtx.org
Bake Sale
Gift Shop Specials

December 9:
Svačina in the Hanslik Hall
Vintage Decorations
Czech Village Decorated
Bake Sale
Gift Shop Specials
10 AM - 2 PM

SLAVNOST, MAY 21, 2023

Photos courtesy of James Pfeil



SLAVNOST, MAY 21, 2023 Continued





Ceremony Presenters: L-R: Jan Woska, Cultural Attaché Czech Foreign Ministry, TCHCC President Retta Slavik Chandler, TCHCC Board Member, SPJST President and Czech Consul for the State of Texas Brian Vanicek.

IMMIGRANT WALL RECOGNITIONS

JOSEPH FILIPP & SON FRANZ AND WIFE BARBARA KLOZIK - PRCHALOV, PŘÍBOR & MNIŠÍ, PŘÍBOR MORAVIA 1875

Frank Filipp was born in Prchalov, Příbor, Moravia in 1841. He grew to manhood and served in the Austrian Army for almost 11 years. In 1843 he married Barbara Klozik who was born in Mniší. He worked in a cement mill, was a carpenter and a builder but after ten years his father, Joseph, and he decided it was time to set out for a better life in Texas. In 1875 they boarded an overcrowded ship that ran into stormy weather and, after 44 days, arrived in Galveston and first settled in Fayette County.

Recipients: Carolyn Filipp Beseda and family.

JAN & VILEMINA PRIBYL, FRENŠTÁT TO TX 1873. FERDINAND & ANNA PRIBYL, FRENŠTÁT TO TX 1885.

The Pribyl Story is unique because it has been fully documented and their story appeared in the Summer 2022 edition of the *Nas Cesky Zivot*.

In 1883, Jan Pribyl, his wife Wilhelmina Bohm and their four children came to Texas from Frenštát. They left their homeland because of hard times, he could no longer profit from his trade as a weaver and sought a better future for his family in America. After years of corresponding by letters, his brother Ferdinand and wife Anna and their son Anton left Frenštát in 1885 and joined his brother and family.

Recipients: The Fred and Elizabeth Stockbauer Family. Bette Stockbauer, Don Stockbauer, Diane & Don Bliss, Nancy Boyd, Charles & Julie Dentler.

SLAVNOST IMMIGRANT RECOGNITION

CEREMONY - MAY 21, 2023

The Immigrant Recognition Ceremony was held in Hanslik Hall highlighting immigrants in two ceremonies. The Immigrant Wall added two new plaques. Below: the family of Joseph, Barbara and Franz Filipp from Mnisi and Jan and Vilemina Pribyl and Ferdinand and Anna Pribyl from Frenstat.

Immigrant Certificates were presented to family members from the Materanka, Pekar, Polasek, and Moucka Families (following page).

The program was facilitated by Emcee Mark Hermes, TCHCC President Retta Slavik Chandler, Vice President William Schovajsa, Presentation of Colors by the Schulenburg American Legion Post #14, and the singing of the U.S. and Czech National Anthems.

A special guest was Jan Woska, Cultural Attaché from the Czech Foreign Ministry, Washington, D. C. as well as CHS Royalty. (Photos courtesy of Andy Behlen)



2023 Miss Texas Czech Slovak Queen Destiny Hollingsworth, and Family Members of Joseph and Barbara Klozik Filipp.



2023 Miss Texas Czech Slovak Queen Destiny Hollingsworth and Family Members of Jan & Vilemina Pribyl and Ferdinand & Anna Pribyl.



Czech Immigrant Certificates were presented to members of the Mateřanka, Pekar, Polasek, and Moučka Families. They are pictured with the Immigrant Welcoming Committee Members Top l-r: Miss Czech-Slovak US 2021 Lauren Gerik, Jan Woska, Cultural Attaché from the Czech Foreign Ministry, TCHCC Vice President Bill Schovajsa, far left Miss Gabbie Salazar, McLennan-Hill CHS Junior Queen 2023, TCHCC Board Member Brian Vanicek, SPJST President and Czech Consul for the State of Texas. Bottom l-r: Natalie Hollingsworth, Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Little Sister 2022-23, Miss Mabry Sustala, McLennan-Hill CHS Little Princess, (Seated: TCHCC President Retta Slavik Chandler, Carolyn Filipp Beseda), Mister Lincoln Holocek, McLennan-Hill CHS Little Prince, Destiny Hollingsworth, Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen 2022-23 at the time of the photo, but presently National Czech-Slovak Queen 2023.



Joseph, Barbara and Franz Filipp Family

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to preserve and promote the unique Czech culture and heritage. October is Czech Heritage Month and we hope you celebrate and spread the word.

Czech Immigrant Certificates were presented to members of the Mateřanka, Pekar, Polasek, and Moučka Families.

1. Josef and Magdalena Formi Mateřanka and children František, Anna, and Jan arrived in New York on the Elbe on August 7, 1894. Their son **John Frank Mateřanka** arrived in Galveston on November 20, 1904 from Velké Karlovice on the Breslau. They settled in Colorado County, Texas.

Recipients: Loretta Hajek Riske, Anthony Mučka, Barbara Mučka, Cynthia Mučka

2. Pavel and Marie Surovec Pekar and children Anna and John arrived in New York on the Aller on August 15, 1892 from Moravia and settled in Shiner, Lavaca Co.

Recipients: Anthony Mučka, Barbara Mučka, Cynthia Mučka

3. John Joseph and Theresa Jalufka Polášek with daughter Barbara arrived in New Orleans on the Kolin on October 11, 1871 from Mniší and settled in Lavaca Co. Theresa was born on September 15, 1849 in Mniší #124 to parents Ondrej Jalufka & Marianna Konvička. John Joseph Polášek was born in Mniší #45 to parents Jiri Polasek & Marianna Jalufka.

Recipients: Anthony Mučka, Barbara Mučka, Cynthia Mučka

4. Anton and Františka Dušek Moučka and children Henry and Julie arrived on October 4, 1890 in Galveston on the Aller from Žákovice and settled in Lavaca County.

Recipients: Sheila Mučka Gebert, Anthony Mučka, Barbara Mučka, Cynthia Mučka



Jan & Vilemina Pribyl and Ferdinand & Anna Pribyl Family



Congratulations to the Czech Heritage Society of Texas Royalty Court 2023

The 21st Annual Czech Heritage Society Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant 2023 and the 1st Annual CHS Texas Youth Royalty Pageant 2023 hosted by the Lavaca County Chapter were held at the KC Hall in Hallettsville on July 22. Winners of the Queen Pageant were Queen Katie (Kathryn) Kostelnik (Lavaca Co. CHS) and Runner-up Emerson Uptmor (McLennan-Hill Counties CHS).

Winners for the Youth Royalty were: Little Prince Lincoln Holecek - (McLennan-Hill Counties CHS); Little Princess Mabry Sustala - (McLennan-Hill Counties CHS); Runner-up Little Princess Pearl Gibson - (Wharton Co. CHS); Junior Queen Grace Moravec (Brazos Valley Co CHS); Runner-up Junior Queens: Marley Gibson (Wharton Co. CHS), Amberly Payne (Ellis Co. CHS); Gabbie Salazar (McLennan-Hill Counties CHS). (Photo courtesy of Gene Cerny.)

*Congratulations to Destiny Hollingsworth,
2022 CHS Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen, who
was crowned Miss Czech-Slovak US in Wilber,
Nebraska on August 6, 2023.*

*Destiny, from the Bexar County Czech
Heritage Society, will now go on to
represent the United States.*

*First Runner-Up is Drew Hejna, South Dakota
Second Runner-Up is Lauren Luchetti, Illinois*





Mother and daughter Larisa Ludeke Poveda and Natalie Poveda are pictured in the family kroje from Podluzan region which was published in the 2020 TCHCC Calendar.



*Natalie Poveda as Miss Texas' Teen 2023.
(Photo courtesy of BluDoor Studios.)*

MISS TEXAS' TEEN 2023

Natalie Poveda of Grapevine, Texas became Miss Texas' Teen 2023 on July 1, 2023 in Richardson, Texas. Natalie is the daughter of Antony and Larisa Ludeke Poveda and the granddaughter of Joreen Kocurek Ludeke.

Natalie is a 2023 graduate of Grapevine High School and plans to pursue a business degree at Texas A&M University. Poveda was sponsored by the Miss Grapevine/Colleyville Scholarship Organization and represented Colleyville during this year's competition. Natalie received the Preliminary Evening Gown Award, the Preliminary Rookie Talent Award and tied for the Preliminary Overall Talent Award, Overall Evening Gown, Overall Health & Fitness, Overall Rookie Private Interview, Overall Rookie Evening Gown, Overall Rookie Talent, overall Rookie Health and Fitness and the Best of Texas Bronze Medal. Along with the crown, she accepted a total of \$10,250 in scholarships.

Natalie Poveda will go on to represent the State of Texas in the Miss America's Teen competition. Miss America' Teen participants promote positive achievement through service opportunities, leadership development, and scholarship assistance. During her reign Natalie Poveda will serve as the statewide ambassador for Texas Cares For Children, and the community service initiative Learning to Lead with Love: Promoting Service and Volunteerism in local communities. (More information can be found at www.missamerica.org/teen.)

Unity of the Brethren

(Credit: *How It All Began* by Daniel J. Marek)

Unity of the Brethren was first organized in Bohemia in 1457 by the followers of Jan Hus, born 1369 in Husinec. In 1402, he was elected rector of the university in Prague and became the preacher of Bethlehem Chapel. Hus had four pillars to his concept of patriotism. The first was, "Love your neighbor as yourself." His measure of an individual was not based on race or status, but rather upon one's character. The second pillar was his willingness to stand up for what was right, honest and just. The third was seeing every nation as a portion of the whole of humanity, having the right to possess its own land with freedom to conduct its own affairs. The fourth pillar was a compassionate interest in all people, particularly those who are oppressed.

Following Hus's execution for heresy in Contance in 1415, Brethren teaching spread and became the predominate faith in Bohemia and Moravia. Suppression of the Protestant Brethren began during the general European Reformation that was fueled by the teachings of Luther, Calvin, and Knox. When Ferdinand I came to the Austrian throne in 1527, he sought to restore the Roman Catholic Church as the established faith in the Czech lands, causing the first exodus of Brethren.

At the conclusion of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), one tragic consequence was the complete, legal extinction of the original Unity of the Brethren. After 1620, the Brethren were forced to become either Roman Catholic or go into exile. This ended in 1781, through the Edict of Toleration. This edict dictated that they could become either Lutheran or Reformed (Presbyterian), but they still could not be Brethren. In spite of their suffering, the Brethren never lost hope that one day they would be able to worship as they pleased. It has been reported that 70,000 secret Brethren – the Hidden Seed – soon began to establish congregations throughout the Czech lands.

In the mid-1800s, immigration began from the Czech Lands to America. Among these immigrants was Rev. Ernest Bergman, who arrived in 1849 and was the first Brethren pastor to minister to the steadily increasing numbers of Czech speaking immigrants. In 1886, Rev. Adolf Chlumsky came to Texas and became the father of the Unity of the Brethren Church in Texas and Vice President of the first Synodical Committee. Being one of the pioneer pastors, it was his vision, dedication and special organizational abilities that were largely responsible for laying the foundational stones for the ultimate rebirth of the Ancient Unity of the Brethren on Texas soil.

The following are four early pastors of the Brethren Church in Texas, whose dedication and tenacity are striking examples of the sacrifices made and hardships endured by the early Czech pioneers. These pastors, all cousins, have familial roots in Hodslavice, Moravia and were influenced greatly by Rev. Ernest Bergman.

Rev. Joseph Barton



If there ever was a pastor who suffered much in the course of his ministry, certainly the Rev. Joseph Barton was one. He experienced almost complete blindness in the early years of his ministry and he lost two sons in combat during World War II. Yet he never seemed to feel any bitterness toward God or have any doubts about the validity of his faith.

Rev. Barton was born in Hodslavice, Moravia on September 16, 1886. At the age of fifteen, he confirmed his Christian faith, together with twenty-four other teenagers, six of whom became ministers. Among these was his cousin, Joseph Hegar. After hearing about the renewal of the Ancient Unity of the Brethren on Texas soil in 1903, he immediately became interested in becoming one of its ministers.

At the age of eighteen, Joseph left his homeland and came to America, temporarily settling at West, Texas. Upon the recommendation of his uncle, Jan Hegar, he was formally accepted as a ministerial student of the Unity, along with Joseph Hegar. Soon thereafter, the two headed north to pursue their studies at Elmhurst College in Illinois and later at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis.

Following his ordination, Rev. Barton became the pastor of four congregations. These were Granger, Taylor, Buckholts and Dime Box. In Granger, he married Miss Albina Mikulencak, who not only became his wife, but also a very important helpmate during his ministry. He helped establish congregations in Robstown, Temple, Houston, Danbury, Midfield, Smithville and at the University of Texas in Austin. In 1935, he became the pastor of the Nelsonville Brethren Church. Rev. Barton assisted in the publication of Bratske Listy ("The Brethren Journal"), served as a member of the Synodical Committee beginning in 1910 and as Vice President of the National Union of Czechoslovak Protestants in America during its convention in Chicago. Rev. Barton died August 28, 1945.

Rev. Joseph Hegar



The Rev. Joseph Hegar was many things to a variety of people, but most definitely he was a friend of the youth. Perhaps his greatest contribution to the Brethren Church in Texas was serving as principal and teacher of the Hus School. It was through the joint efforts with his cousin and brother-in-law, the Rev. Joseph Barton, that this eight-week Christian leadership training course for young people was originally established. It was first held in Granger in 1914 and moved to Temple in 1924. It continues today as part of the Brethren's camp program located at the Hus School Encampment near Caldwell.

Rev. Hegar was born in Hodslavice, Moravia on August 5, 1887. On his fourteenth birthday, his father gave him a special gift of two gold coins with the suggestion that he spend them wisely. He purchased a book entitled *The Life and Martyrdom of John Hus*, together with some pamphlets on the experiences of the ancient Brethren. After completion of Slavhurst College and seminary studies, he and Rev. Barton were ordained together at the West Brethren Church on July 6, 1910.

Rev. Hegar's first two congregations were West and Ennis. He then added, Mt. Calm, Tioga, Crockett, Dime Box, Buckholts and Cooks Point. The rigors of so much travel resulted in a relapse of typhoid fever. Because of Rev. Hegar's fragile health and insufficient income, he left the ministry and enrolled at the University of Texas for a teaching certificate. He taught from 1918 to 1924, when the Temple congregation called him as pastor and the Hus School moved to Temple. Rev. Hegar died on May 2, 1948.

Rev. Frank H. Horak



Rev. Frank H. Horak, born March 26, 1892 on a farm near West, Texas, was the first native son of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas to be ordained as a pastor in the West Brethren Church on July 6, 1918. It was Rev. Henry Juren, President of the first Synodical Committee, who led the ordination, assisted by Rev. Joseph Barton.

Rev. Horak received his college education at Elmhurst College in Illinois, graduating in 1915. He then went to Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis where he completed his studies in 1918. He was called to serve the congregations of Cooks Point, Dime Box and Snook, and later expanded to serve congregations in Alief, Rosenberg and Caldwell. Through the years he also served the congregations in Buckholts, Rosebud, Blessing, Danbury, Crosby and Houston.

Perhaps one of the most significant contributions to the long-term well-being of the Brethren Church was his diligence in leading the effort to purchase the Wedemeyer Academy in Temple. It was this building which served for many years as the home of the Hus School. Rev. Horak married Katherine Wirtel on September 17, 1919. He retired from the Brethren Church on February 14, 1936 due to failing health, but continued his ministry in the Evangelical and Reformed Church (now United Church of Christ) in La Grange and Robinson. He died April 19, 1953.

Rev. Henry Ernest Beseda, Sr.



The Rev. Henry E. Beseda, Sr. was born January 7, 1888, on a farm near West, Texas. His mother brought him to be baptized by the Rev. Henry Juren of the Czech Moravian Brethren Church of West, Texas. She told the minister she was dedicating her son to the Lord's work. Henry received his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Pittsburgh. While at the University of Pittsburgh, he responded to his call to be a minister and proceeded to study at Western Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh from 1908 to 1910. For his senior year, he transferred to the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Austin, Texas. He was ordained on June 18, 1911 in the Penelope Presbyterian Church by the Waco Presbytery. In August, 1911, he married the former Miss Julia Chernosky, a well-educated young lady. Rev. Beseda's first pastorage was the little Czech Presbyterian Church at Six-Mile, near Port Lavaca, Texas. During 1922, Rev. Beseda served as Interim Pastor at Sinton, Texas. From 1923 to 1926, he was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Robstown. Then, in 1926, the Besedas moved to Alice, Texas, where their ninth child was born. Rev. Beseda loved this rugged frontier country with its staunch townspeople, farmers and ranchers. In particular, he enjoyed his visits to the nearby great King Ranch.

In 1928 he accepted a call to the Hunter Memorial Presbyterian Church at Holdenville, Oklahoma. Here he contracted malaria and other health complications, and his doctors advised him to return to Texas to be near his relatives. He became the Pastor at the English and Czech Presbyterian Church at West, Texas. In 1937, Rev. Beseda was invited to join the ranks of the Czech Moravian Brethren Church in Texas. The Brethren Church maintained a close relationship with the Presbyterians and many of its pastors received their training at the Austin Seminary. The family moved to Caldwell, where he served as full or part time Pastor of Brethren Churches at Caldwell, Cooks Point, Dime Box, Wesley, Snook, Industry, Fayetteville, Alief, Smithville, Buckholts, Crosby, Houston, Rosenberg, New Tabor, and Pasadena.

In 1957, upon his partial retirement Rev. Beseda wrote, "In journeyings oft, in labors abundant - 45 years! It seems but a moment in the pages of history. Yet it is long enough to plant a seed that shall produce fruit for centuries to come; long enough to kindle a light that shall shine far into regions of darkness and brighten a path for generations yet unborn."

In late 1958, Rev. Beseda suffered a heart attack followed by a major stroke that left him paralyzed. He passed away on May 8, 1959, and was buried where the pulpit once stood at the little chapel at the Brethren Church Cemetery at Cooks Point, Texas.

SOURCES

Marek, Daniel J. *How It All Began: A History of the Unity of the Brethren*. Unity of the Brethren, Brethren Book Store, Caldwell, Texas. Copyright 2004.

Skrivanek, J.E. and the Christian Sisters Union Study Committee. (1970). *Unity of Brethren in Texas (1855-1966)*. Taylor, TX: Unity of the Brethren.

TCHCC

The Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center (TCHCC) in La Grange, Texas, has plans drawn to build a typical Texas Brethren Church to honor these four pastors and all those who supported them. Architects John Cameron of Monument, Colorado, grandson of Rev. Frank H. Horak, and James Recek, native of La Grange, have coordinated to create drawings for the TCHCC Brethren Church. Drawings may be viewed on the website of TCHCC at www.czechtexas.org.

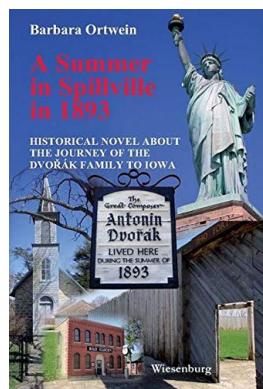
Contributions to the building fund are tax deductible and payable to TCHCC, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Early estimates set the building costs at \$459,155.00. Over \$61,000.00 has been donated to date and pledges have been received to match the next \$75,000.00, so double your gift by being part of this early campaign.

Wm. H. Schovajsa

Vice President - TCHCC and
Grandson of Rev. Frank H. Horak



Brethren Church Perspective



A Summer in Spillville in 1893
A Historical novel by Barbara Ortwein
Presented by author Barbara Ortwein
OCTOBER 6, 2023
2 PM HANSLIK HALL
with book signing

Czech composer Antonin Dvořák spent a year in New York at the National Conservatory of Music of America and then ventured out to rural Iowa in 1893. He encountered a countryside to his Bohemian homeland and met Bohemian immigrants who enriched his journey. Author Barbara Ortwein wrote this story through the eyes of Antonin's young daughter and retells the experiences of Dvořák and his family in the small rural town of Spillville, Iowa.

Patricia “Patty” Sulak Kolar

November 19, 1943/May 18, 2023

Patricia Kolar passed away on May 18, 2023 after a decades long battle with Parkinson’s disease. She was 79 years old. Patty was born November 19, 1943 to Josephine Maresh and Albin Sulak in West, Texas.



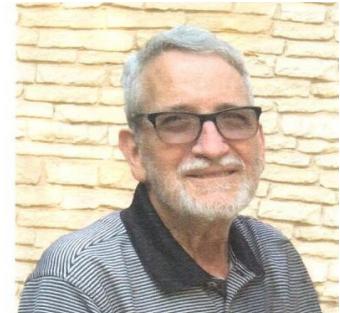
Patty earned a Bachelor’s in English and completed graduate coursework at the University of Texas and worked as a school teacher for many years. She started her career at O’Henry Junior High, and then taught at Waco University High School while Roger served in the Air Force in Vietnam. When Roger returned and they moved back to Austin, Patty became the Journalism teacher at Johnston High School and then Lanier High School where she sponsored the school yearbook and newspaper. She later worked in research and editing for a textbook publisher. Patty was an avid reader and student of the written word who had a vast knowledge of literature, poetry, and theater.

While Parkinson’s made life progressively more difficult for Patty as the years went on, she lived a full life and never let her disease define her. Patty first started experiencing symptoms of Parkinson’s just weeks before she and Roger traveled to Honduras to finalize the adoption of two of their children. The following year, with four children and a fifth on the way, the diagnosis was confirmed. Patty continued doing the things she loved: raising her family, staying involved in the Czech community, working, and traveling.

Roger Kolar

February 20, 1944/May 21, 2023

Roger Kolar, 79, passed away on May 21, 2023 from cancer. He was born on February 20, 1944 to Hattie (Matus) and Henry Kolar and raised in West, Texas. It was in his first grade classroom in West where he met Patricia (Patty) Kolar, his wife of nearly 56 years. Roger loved and cared for Patty throughout her long battle with Parkinson’s disease. Tragically, and romantically, their diseases progressed side by side in the last year and Patty passed away three days prior to Roger’s death.



Roger attended SMU earning a degree in Interior Design. Upon graduation, Roger joined the Air Force as an Officer through ROTC. He served in Rapid City, South Dakota, Alexandria, Louisiana, and in Vietnam at the Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon. While in Saigon, Roger was wounded and earned a Purple Heart. He also received a Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service while in Vietnam. After leaving the Air Force in 1970, Roger and Patty moved to Austin, where Roger earned a Bachelor of Architecture and then a Master of Architecture from the University of Texas. Roger was managing partner at several architecture partnerships until his retirement in 2013 from Negrete and Kolar Architects. As a proud Czech, a highlight of his career, was designing the Main Center building for the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange, Texas.

Roger and Patty were longtime members of the University Catholic Center where they taught first grade Sunday school for many years. They were also members of St. Austin’s Catholic Parish, and Emmaus Catholic Church in Lakeway and were both passionate about supporting organizations devoted to bettering the world and caring for those in need.

Roger loved to cook and enjoyed hosting annual Christmas feasts for family and friends. Travel was a large source of pleasure for Roger and Patty, and they made many trips to Europe, Mexico, and Asia over the years. He was a talented artist; his artwork now fills his children’s homes.

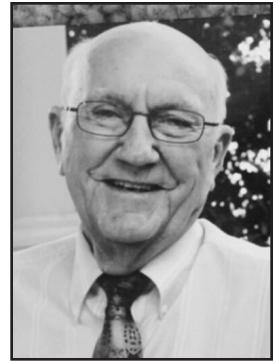
He was immensely proud of his five children Susan (Bill) Bohn, Stephen (Margaret) Kolar, Emily (Sara) Kolar, Anthony Kolar, and John (Jaclyn) Kolar. He was an engaged and involved parent, serving as coach, PTA president, and fan for all of his kids at their sports events, shows, and programs. For the last 15 years he took great joy in being Granddad to his seven grandchildren, Brice, Brooks, Izzy, Alex, Miles, Miklas, and Olina. In addition to his children and grandchildren Roger is survived by his siblings Geraldine (Ervin) Laubert, and David (Rebecca) Kolar and their families.

Roger and Patty Kolar are buried in St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery, West, Texas.

Ed Krivacka

August 29, 1935/May 26, 2023

Eddie A. (Ed) Krivacka died in La Grange, Texas, on May 26, 2023, at the age of 87. The third son of William (Bill) and Annie Vaclavik Krivacka, he was born on a tenant farm near Latium, southwest of Brenham, Texas, on August 29, 1935. Ed's family moved to the Rek Hill community near Fayetteville when he was a small child and he started first grade at the parochial school in town. After graduating from Fayetteville High School in 1952, he went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in agriculture and a teacher's certificate from Texas A & I University in Kingsville, Texas. Following his graduation in 1956, Ed joined the U.S. Army to fulfill his deferred two-year draft obligation. During the Cold War, he served at an Army Nike site that was part of the U.S. nuclear attack strategic defense system near Detroit, Michigan. While home on leave, Ed met Edna Mae Jasek at a Fayetteville dance. They were married on May 24, 1959, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellinger.



Ed taught in Hallettsville and later in Eagle Lake. After earning his Master of Education degree with all-level administrator certification from the University of Houston while teaching, he applied and was hired as superintendent of Eagle Lake Independent School District. Ed, one of the youngest superintendents in Texas at the time, capably led the district's schools and communities through the desegregation era.

During Ed's tenure as superintendent, Rock Island and Sheridan ISDs were annexed to Eagle Lake ISD and a new independent school district, Rice Consolidated, was created. A large, modern high school, Rice Consolidated, opened in 1971 in the middle of the new district at Altair.

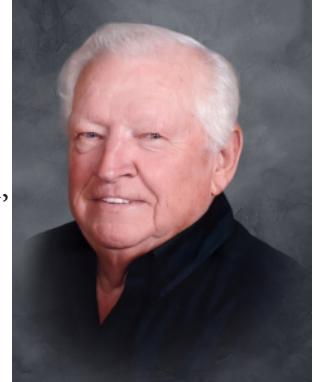
When Ed retired as superintendent, he and Edna Mae moved back to Fayette County, settling in La Grange. He operated a snack food business and managed an apartment complex for some years. Ed also served on La Grange City Council for seven years. He also found time to serve as a TCHCC Board Member.

Ed is survived by Edna Mae, his wife of 64 years; granddaughter, Samantha Younger and her husband, Kyle Younger, and their son Colter; and grandson, Ethan Krivacka; as well as nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Ed's pal, his dog, Tucker, also survives. Ed was predeceased by his son, Mark, mother and father, and brothers: Jerome and Charles. His service were held on Friday, June 9th, 2023 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fayetteville, Texas. A private interment will follow.

Rudy Patek

December 13, 1938/June 7, 2023

Rudy Patek joined his Lord and heavenly family on June 7, 2023 at age 84. He was born in Shiner, Texas on December 13, 1938 to Charles Patek Sr. & Elizabeth Agnes Veit Patek. Rudy married Beatrice Machalec Patek on June 14, 1959. Bea was the love of his life! He was a dedicated husband and father and enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Rudy is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Victor, Charles Jr., August Patek and sister Helen Patek Matula. He is survived by his lovely wife Bea Patek, and sons Chris Patek (Carrie Kopech) and Doug Patek & wife Kim Fuchs Patek; daughters Loretta Patek and Karen Patek (Amy Adams). His grandchildren: Brian and Garrett Gorka, Amanda Gorka Goodspeed and her husband Guy; Tyler Patek, Lindsay Patek Hackemack and her husband Ryan; Blake, Adam, & Kyle Patek; great grandchildren: Guy, Grey, & Graham Goodspeed; Austen, Bradie & Georgia Gorka; Kinsley & Leighton Hackemack. He is also survived by his siblings, his sister Betty Patek Kocian of Shiner, Texas and his brother Dennis Patek of Livingston, Texas, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rudy attended St. Ludmila's Academy Catholic School in Shiner and was very involved in his faith community. He graduated in 1957 and moved to Houston where he worked for Mosher Steel Company for two years. He then started his career with Baker Oil Tools (Baker Hughes) as a factory warehouseman from 1959-69. From 1973 - 2000, he worked as a Supervisor/Manager of Inventory and retired from Baker in 2000.

Rudy was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Parish of Praha, Texas; Knights of Columbus Council #3244 of Moulton, Texas and a member of KJT of Shiner, Texas.

Rudy loved his Czech heritage and spent much of his time at the Joe Patek Orchestra dances, where his father and uncles played in the band. He has been a charter member of the Polka Lovers Klub of America since 1989. Rudy and Bea were King & Queen of the P.O.L.K. of A. Chapter 1 and 36th Annual National Polka Festival in Ennis, Texas in 2002. He was also a member of the Czech Heritage Singers and Dancers of Houston. He loved dancing, singing, and listening to Czech/polka music. He also enjoyed playing 42 dominoes and wahoo, boating, fishing, and camping with his family. His annual family camping trips to Inks Lake were a great joy for 50 consecutive years. He was a member of the TCHCC Board of Directors.

Rudy loved and cherished his extended family and friends. He will be greatly missed. HEEEYYYYY! !

Rosary and Mass of Christain Burial was held Monday, June 12. 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church of Praha, Entombment followed at Shiner Catholic Mausoleum.

Melba Lou Johnson Bohuslav

February 4, 1937/June 23, 2023

Melba Lou (Johnson) Bohuslav, 86, passed away Friday, June 23, 2023. Melba, was born near Carthage, TX, on February 4, 1937, the daughter of Bernice (Nail) and Edgar Johnson. She met the love of her life and married Benjamin Bohuslav on February 11, 1984, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Houston.

Lou was a member of Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Hostyn, TX. She was an excellent cook, seamstress, homemaker and gardener, loyal friend, a good neighbor and generous benefactor. Melba was a talented painter and among her many works of art for friends and family, she painted the 13th hole at Augusta for her husband, a gift that he cherishes. She was a devoted wife and mother and had a special place in her heart for her grandchildren.

Lou is survived by husband, Benjamin Bohuslav; daughter, Sarah Michelle Smith of Houston, TX; sons Lane West Smith of Scottsdale, AZ; and Hollis David Smith and wife, Debbie of Colville, WA; stepchildren: Steven Bohuslav and wife, Connie of Austin, TX, and Sarah Heidaker and husband, Paul of Fulshear, TX; grandchildren Carly Brown and husband, Tony of Houston, TX; Hannah Ford of Houston, TX; Emma Blumentritt and husband, Eric of Houston, TX; Aaron Davis and wife, Catrina of Colville, WA, Gabriella Smith of Colville, WA and Stanley Smith of Colville, WA; step-grandchildren: Curtis Bohuslav and wife, Sarah of Austin, TX; Blake Bohuslav and wife, Nicole of Austin TX, Cole Heidaker and wife Lindsay, of Katy, TX and Cade Heidaker of Katy, TX; great-grandchildren: Benjamin Brown , Liam Brown, Andrew Karels, Margaret and Catherine Blumentritt, Ellise Davis, Zachary Davis, Kyra Davis, Shyce Davis, Cade Davis, Johnny Smith; step-great grandchildren: Kinley Bohuslav, Taylor Bohuslav, Brooke Bohuslav; and brother, Joe Dan Johnson of Beaumont, TX and nephews Kevin Johnson of Houston, TX and Jeffrey Johnson of Beaumont, TX. The Family would like to thank Hospice Brazos Valley - La Grange for their compassionate care, dedication and support to the family they gave throughout this difficult time. Visitation and funeral was held on July 5, 2023 at Koenig-Belvill Funeral Home & Cremations, 208 W. Pearl, La Grange, Texas. A graveside service will be held at a later date at the Forest Park, Lawndale Cemetery, 6900 Lawndale St. Houston, Texas.



ODPOČÍVEY V POKOJI

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FOUNDER

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GRANT

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2024 CALENDAR ADS

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Czech Heritage Tours

Czech Heritage Society of Texas

Hostyn Parish

KJZT

Moravia Country Store

National Polka Festival of Ennis

RVOS

Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce

Stanzel Model Aircraft Museum

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Plum

Weikel's Store & Bakery

25TH ANNIVERSARY PAVING STONE

In Honor of Frank J. Michalek, III &

Margaret Kaderka Michal

Kellie D. Michalek

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Family from Sedliste, Moravia

In Memory of Anton Sumbera Family from

Velke Kuncice, Silesia

In Memory of Ludvik Sumbera Family from

Velke Kuncice, Silesia

In Memory of Jenovefa Sumbera Kruppa

Family from Velke Kuncice, Silesia

In Memory of Jan Sumbera Family from

Velke Kuncice, Silesia

Sumbera, Mozisek, Kruppa Reunion Fund

In Memory of Jerry & Alice Zezula

Tim & Yvonne Zezula

BRICK MEMORIAL STONE

In Memory of Allan Drozd Family 2023

Randy & Catherine Drozd Bruett

BELFRY MEMORIAL

In Memory of Barbara Jean Sacheli

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In Honor of Nick & Shirley Macik's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Joyce Hermes

In Honor of Johnnie & Lorenda Polasek's 60th Wedding Anniversary

Retta Slavik Chandler

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In Memory of Susan Chandler

Clarice Marik Snokhous

In Memory of Marilyn Hart

Carol Jurajda Kitchen

In Memory of Marvin Jasek, Jr.

Betty Danner

Kathie Otahal Craft

In Memory of Roger & Patricia Kolar

Retta Slavik Chandler

J. G. & Janis Hrncir

In Memory of Georgia Gavranovic

Mary Bick

Retta Slavik Chandler

Mary Gardenier

Neda Henery

Jean Miles

The Lost Cause Band

In Memory of Ed Krivacka
 Retta Slavik Chandler
 Paul Mikula & Linda Morrison
 Johnnie & Lorenda Polasek
 Emil & Elaine Thomas
 Linda Morrison
 Bill & Kathy Voshalike
In Memory of Paul Lamza
 Albert & Lorene Chilek
In Memory of Carolina McCanless
 Albert & Lorene Chilek
In Memory of Harry Mach
 Clarice Marik Snokhaus
In Memory of Joe Niver
 Thomas & Donna Stavinotha
In Memory of Rudy Patek
 Hilbert & Kathy Bludau
 Irene & Gene Cerny
 Retta Slavik Chandler
 Czechaholics Band
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 William Darilek, Jr.
 Lee Ann Darilek
 Rick & Jo Ann Dunlavy
 Cecilia M. Forrest
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 Paul & Helen Flessner
 A. J. & Margaret Hanslik
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 SPJST Lodge 8
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 Carol Jurajda Kitchen
In Memory of Glenda Stavinotha
 Elizabeth Kallus
 Jimmy & Marilyn Kothmann

**"Even if I would be the very last
 descendent of only a gypsy tribe,
 I would still consider it my sacred
 duty to do my utmost that at least
 some honorable memory would
 remain of me in the history of the
 human race."**

**FRANK POLACKY, Czech Historian
 1798-1876**

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY DONATIONS

Janie Bucek - SPJST Cemetery books: Moulton, Moravia, Shiner, Velehrad binder
Mark Burton - Czech related books,
Jane Campbell - 18 pieces of Czech Ceramic figures
Sandra Campos & John Cangelosi II - Pictures of Beckovsky, Ondrej and funeral of Fannie Ondrej
A. E. Dreyfuss - Complete Kyjov kroj, book on kroj, Oil painting of Cecelia Striborik Dreyfuss in kroj
Judy Dusek - 24 copies of various years of Cesky Zena
John & Bridget Ellison - 2 religious framed pictures, crocheted tablecloth, quilt, ceramic bowl
Fayette Heritage Museum: 3 black and white prints from 1920s
Paul Fedornak - Book "Partizan"
Carolyn Heinsohn - 7 Czech related books, Teddy Bear cookie jar, salt and pepper shakers
David Hintz - items from First Presbyterian Church of Sealy
Hattie Hlavinka Estate - Czech related books, 2 dolls, pictures, CD
Regina Keilers - Underwood typewriter
Carol Kitchen - Czech Song Book, Christmas ornament, crystal ring box
Howard Konetzke, Jr. - one-man saw
Angelina Kretzschmar - Family Histories - Jan and Barbara Kallus Bartos, Jan Mensik, John Dusek
Anna Krpec - Souvenir guide to Texas Centennial Expo, 1936
Margie Kultgen - Czech Genealogy Books
Daniel & Carolyn Malik - Joe Patek Orchestra memorabilia
Charles Mazac - Mazac Family History
Jonathan Ratcliff - Mikeska Family History, Magazines and books
Bill Schovajsa - Book
Daniela Snozova - Horni Becva book
Miranda Tanfer - Book on art of Josef Uprka
Roger Tesar - periodicals In Memory of his father James A. Tesar
Phyllis Teykl - 25th Anniversary of KC's Moulton (1945-1974)
Pavla Von Bibber - Gift shop and auction items
Dorothy Watthuber - Czech related books, magazines, family memorabilia
Roy Weyand - Friendship quilt made in the 1940s by Grandmother Sophie Rashke
Donald Zacek - assorted Czech books and magazines
Elaine and Theresa Zavodny - Accordion and violin owned by Josef Zavodny

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.

25TH ANNIVERSARY 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 a special section of the Czech Center. Contact us for details.

ROSE GARDEN MEMORIAL

For \$250 an 8" x 8" 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

An 8" x 4" 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, \$500/3 newsletters.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE CENTER.

Donation amounts are recognized by levels:

Permanent Endowment Fund
 Maintenance and Operations
 Other: _____

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

Membership from

January 1—December 31

\$2000 Lifetime Membership
\$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

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 _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone _____

Message: _____

MAIL TO:

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



250 W. FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
P. O. BOX 6
LA GRANGE, TEXAS 78945-0006

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
LA GRANGE TX
PERMIT NO. 94

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2023 UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 6 A Summer in Spillville in 1893 - Presented by author: Barbara Ortwein 2 PM Hanslik Hall

Oct 20-21 TCHCC HERITAGE FEST.
Friday: Music on the Deck 4:30-10:00 PM. Chicken & Dumplings served at 5:30 PM
Saturday: Entertainment- Jodie Mikula Orchestra, Al Sulak & Country Sounds, Round Top Brass Band, Car Show, Antique Farm Show, Demonstrations, Children's Activities, Food, Drinks, & More. Amphitheater 7-9:30 PM: The Legend Series Featuring Bob Wills 55th Anniversary Tour Show (Advanced Tickets at www.eventbrite.com). Fireworks Finale 9:30 PM

Nov 28-Jan 13 Christmas Display "Czech Foods & Traditions"

Dec 2 Kořáček Making Class presented by Bruno Shimek, Caldwell's Kořáček Baking King

Dec 9 CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE - 10 AM - 3 PM
Sváťáček in the Hanslik Hall, Vintage Decorations, Czech Village Decorated, Gift Shop Specials

2024

Jan 15-30 "From the Silver Czech Thaler to the U.S. Dollar" Exhibit on the occasion of the 500 years' Anniversary of the Silver Thaler in Bohemia (1520-2020). Presenter Dr. Petr Vorel, University of Pardubice

Jan 21 TOCA Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Jan 24-27 4th Annual Texas Blacksmithing Conference & Texas Antique Gas Engine Reunion
Sponsored by Texas Trio Blacksmiths and the South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters Club
Demonstrations, Music, Live Auction, & More

Feb 10 Valentine's Dinner & Concert 4 PM Social, 6 PM Dinner, 7 PM Concert
Performance by Pianist Professor John Dujka. Appetizers featuring local Texas wines. Advanced Tickets Only!

March 16 TOCA Annual Banquet and Awards. Contact the Czech organizations of Texas for tickets

May 19 Slavnost "May Fest" & Tribute to the Czech Immigrants to Texas