

# CO JE NOVÉHO?

News from the Czech & Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City

Spring 2004

Vol. 2, No. 1

## Annual Club Meeting - April 3 Come join the fun!

The Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City is holding its annual meeting on Saturday, April 3rd. We'll have a potluck dinner and program that promises to be fun for all. The evening activities will also include celebrating Velikonoce (Easter), and the election of club officers.

### Club Meeting

Saturday, April 3, 6:00 -8:15

6:00 social, 6:30 meal, 7:30 program, 8:15 cleanup  
 Prairie Village Community Center  
 7700 Mission Rd.  
 Prairie Village, KS 66208

### Potluck

A-I = salad/vegetable

J-R = dessert

S-Z = meat/main dish

Beverages provided by David Kurovski.

Table service provided by the club.

### Program

Theme – Velikonoce (Easter)

Demonstration of European egg-painting by Frieda Kossyk.

Painted eggs will be available to purchase.

Special musical performance.

## Election of Officers - Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City

If you will not be in attendance at the April 3 club meeting, please complete this ballot and mail it to Gene Simon, 12818 Cambridge, Grandview, MO 64030. Ballot must be mailed by March 31, 2004.

### Slate of officers

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President – Terry Smitka   | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1st VP (Membership) – Steve Smitka   | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd VP (Social/Programs)– Linda Vlasak   | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd VPs – Jirina LaVine and Mike Kalny,<br>Commissioners to Ethnic Enrichment Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary – Joyce Cox  | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corresponding Secretary – Sheryl Janda   | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer – Marcel Janda   | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historian – Gene Simon   | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in _____ |

Your signature/date \_\_\_\_\_

## Kansas City Arts Incubator Hosts Czechlovakian Photo Exhibit: "August 68"

A wine and cheese reception was held on March 4 at the Arts Incubator in Kansas City to introduce "August '68," a photojournalistic exhibit of the Warsaw Pact Armies invasion of Czechoslovakia. The exhibit was organized and secured by Ross Marine, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic for the states of Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri. Approximately 150 people attended the reception including special guests Miroslav Wlachovsky, Political Counselor, Embassy of the Slovak Republic and Jay Niemczyk, former Ambassador to Czechoslovakia from the United States and chairman emeritus of Kansas City-based People to People.



The Honorable Kay Barnes, Mayor of Kansas City, and Jackson County Executive Kathryn Shields issued proclamations in recognition of the photo exhibit and the 35th anniversary of the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the "Warsaw Pact Armies." Mayor Barnes declared Friday, March 5th as "Slovak Republic Day" in Kansas City and Jackson County, Missouri. Additional resolutions were presented by Midwest area political leaders.

The Arts Incubator, located at 115 W. 18th Street, is one of several galleries in the area comprising Kansas City's arts district. "First Fridays" have become a popular event for art lovers, visiting galleries in the arts district the first Friday of each month. Nearly 1,500 people attended the "August 68" exhibit on March 5th, also the first Friday of the exhibit.

The exhibit began its US tour on Oct 2003, traveling to Pittsburgh, PA, Cleveland, OH, and Cedar Rapids, IA. After its stop in Kansas City (through March 31), the exhibit's next stop is Denver, CO (May 2004).

The Czech-Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City was a significant financial contributor, helping secure the exhibit's stop in Kansas City. The club expresses their thanks to Ross Marine for hosting a successful reception. It was a hit!!!

## Republics Join EU

The Czech and Slovak Republics, along with Estonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Slovenia, will join the EU May 1, 2004.

### The Czech Republic

Over the past decade, the Czech society has undergone dramatic changes. After the political changeover in November 1989, the Czech Republic quickly became a pluralist democracy, the centrally planned economy was turned into a functioning free-market economy. Almost 75 years after its founding, former Czechoslovakia split up peacefully in 1992 and gave birth to an independent Czech Republic.

After 1989, the EU has become Czech Republic's largest trading partner with more than 65% share of its foreign trade. EU member states are now the largest investors in the country. Czechs have always shared the European civilization and cultural values, and are part of European history. Accession to the EC (later EU) has been perceived by a majority of the Czech population as a historic necessity and full integration into the EU is supported by all parliamentary parties in the Czech Republic.

### The Slovak Republic

In addition to joining the EU, the Slovak Republic will become a NATO member on May 1. Memberships in both NATO and the EU signify the priority Slovak foreign policy-makers have placed on being a substantial part of the European and world democracy.

## CLUB NOTES

In recent months, our club marked the following events:

- George Rae Bauer, a member of the club, passed away February 27, 2004. George was born December 1, 1932 and grew up in Kansas City, KS and St. Joseph, MO. He graduated from St. John Memorial High School and served in the US Army from 1957 – 1965. George's life of education and travel included a teaching assignment in then Czechoslovakia. From 1991-1992, he taught English to Czech teachers in Prague. George retired in 1993. He had no immediate surviving family in the area. George will be missed by the club.
- Congratulations to Marcel and Sheryl Janda on the birth of their first child, Ellen. Ellen was born December 3, 2003.
- Congratulations to Jirina LaVine on the celebration of her 80th birthday on March 10.

Send your club notes to Sharon Valasek at 437 E. 74th St. KC, MO 64131 or email at svalasek@kc.rr.com.

### Kuchyne (Kitchen)

#### **"Easter Lamb" Sponge Cake (Velikonni Beranek)**

##### *Ingredients*

2 eggs	1/2 teaspoon vanilla
5 egg yolks	1-2 insides of a peach stone (bitter almonds)
1 cup sugar	5 egg whites
Juice from 1/2 lemon	2 3/4 cups flour
Rind from 1/2 lemon	Butter or cooking spray for pan

##### *Icing*

- 1 egg white
- 6 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Mix together 1 cup sugar, 5 egg yolks, 2 whole eggs, juice and rind from 1/2 lemon, and vanilla. Mix about 1/2 hour. Grate in 1 or 2 bitter almonds (optional). Beat egg whites until stiff and mix into egg mixture alternately with sifted flour. Grease well, both halves of a lamb mold (or spray with cooking spray). Pour dough into the "face" half of the mold until it is 7/8 full. Place on a cookie sheet and cover with the other half of the mold.

Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 40-50 minutes. Check at 40 minutes by lifting up the back of the lamb mold. The dough should be lightly brown and spring back when touched. Let mold cool 10 minutes. Place plate over mold and invert. Let lamb cool on its back for 5 minutes. Then set it up on the plate. Add the final touches when it is completely cooled.

Icing: Cream together 1 egg white, 6 heaping tablespoons powdered sugar and 1 tablespoon lemon juice. Mix until thick and smooth. To decorate: Sprinkle with powdered sugar or frost with icing. Add raisins for eyes and nose and tie on a pretty ribbon.

Recipe from the Czech National Cook Book, Marie L. Jandacek

### Czech Heritage Foundation

In mid-February, the Czech Heritage Foundation of Cedar Rapids, IA granted its annual award to three of the area's students. One of the student's awarded, Jessica Sauer, is the niece of club member David Kurovski.

The award includes a trip to Prague beginning June 15, living with a host family, and studying the country's culture and history. The study will last one month. Upon her return, Jessica will be making guest appearances speaking about her study and experiences in the Czech Republic.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **St. Louis Czech Festival – April 17**

The festival features a Czech dinner, dancing and music by the St. Louis Czech Express. American Czech Educational Center, 4690 Lansdowne, St. Louis, MO. For more information, call 816.752.8168.

### **Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln Festival – May 2**

Moose Lodge, 56th and Cornhusker, Lincoln, NE  
Contact Dorothy Stepan at 402.477.1041 for more information.

### **The Bohemian Gallery – opens May 7**

Club members Ron Vobornik and Mary Lou Nash will open The Bohemian Gallery on May 7 in the heart of Kansas City's arts district at 220 W. 19th Terr., Kansas City, MO 64108, Check the web site [www.the-bohemiangallery.com](http://www.the-bohemiangallery.com) or call Ron Vobornik for more information at 816.221.1214. The club wishes them all the best!

### **Sugar Creek Slavic Festival – June 11 and 12**

The annual Slavic festival will be held June 11 and 12 in Sugar Creek, MO. The Czech and Slovak Club will have a booth at the festival. The club is asking for volunteers to support the event by helping at the booth. Each shift is just 2 hours, June 11: 6-8 or 8-10 and June 12: 3-5, 5-7, 7-9 and 9-11. To volunteer or for more information about the festival, contact Terry Smitka at 816.480.4227 or visit the web site at [www.slavicfest.com](http://www.slavicfest.com).

### **Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) North American Conference 2004 – June 26-July 4, Olomouc, CR**

All Roads Lead to Olomouc! For more information, visit the SVU website at [www.svu2000.org/headlines/olomouc.htm](http://www.svu2000.org/headlines/olomouc.htm) or call Cathy Oslzly at 402-472-3121.

### **Nebraska Czech Festival – August 5-7, Wilber, NE**

43rd annual Nebraska Czech Festival featuring parades, Czech heritage demonstrations, the Miss Czech-Slovak USA Pageant and polka music and dancing. For more information, call 1.888.4.WILBER or visit the web site at [www.ci.wilber.ne.us/festival\\_events.htm](http://www.ci.wilber.ne.us/festival_events.htm).

### **25th Anniversary Ethnic Enrichment Festival – August 20-22, Swope Park, Kansas City, MO**

Sponsored Kansas City's Ethnic Enrichment Commission  
Contact Jirina LaVine for more information at 816.753.2540.

### **St. Wenceslas Dinner – September 25**

Hosted by the Czech and Slovak Club of Kansas City. Location TBD.

### **St. Mikulas Celebration – December 4**

Hosted by the Czech and Slovak Club of Kansas City. Share Czech and Slovak traditions and heritage with your children. Location TBD.

### Ethnic Enrichment Outreach

Jirina LaVine and Mike Kalny, our club commissioners for the Republics continue to represent us well in the international community. Recent and upcoming activities include:

- Jirina participated in an event for international students on Feb. 22 at UMKC.
- Northland Ethnic Festival – April 17, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Park Hill High School, 7701 NW Barry Rd., Kansas City, MO. No admission. For more information, email Platte County 4-H/University Extension at [hunts@missouri.edu](mailto:hunts@missouri.edu).
- Penn Valley College International Display – April 21.

### Call for Miss Czech-Slovak Contestants

The 18th annual Miss Czech-Slovak USA Pageant has been scheduled for August 6 and 7 during the 43rd Annual National Czech Festival Days in Wilber, NE.

Pageant Chairman John Fiala is seeking contestants from Kansas and Missouri. In addition to cash and savings bonds, special awards are given by sponsors from the Czech Republic. They include glassware, garnet jewelry, tiaras and necklaces. For an application or additional pageant information, contact John Fiala at 402.488.0750 or Karina Molacek at 402.502.9822. Entries must be received no later than July 5, 2004.

### Shhhh...it's a surprise - April 3rd!

The Czech-Slovak Club is pleased to help Jirina LaVine celebrate her 80th birthday. We want to keep it a secret though. At the club's annual meeting on April 3, come and help with Jirina's birthday surprise at the Prairie Village Community Center, 6:00 - 8:15 p.m.



**Photos from "August 68" Exhibit**



Mike Kalny, Charles Wheeler and Jirina LaVine



Jay Niemczyk and Ross Marine



Marcel and Sheryl with baby Ellen



Kate Meiners, Gary Lofstrom, Sharon Valasek, Jirina LaVine and Larry Malone



Accordian music by Lydia



Wine provided by the Wrabec family

**St. Mikulas Celebration**



The Czech-Slovak Club's annual St. Mikulas Party was held December 6, 2003 at St. Cyrils Church in Sugar Creek, MO. About 75 attended the event which included mass followed by a pot luck dinner.

The program celebrated the Slavic tradition of St. Mikulas traveling from village to village asking the children if they have been good during the year, and rewarding them with presents. An angel was there to protect the children from the devil who looked for children who have been bad.



The club was pleased to join the Sugar Creek community for this event and for the opportunity to make new Slavic friends in Sugar Creek. Our thanks to Terry Smitka and his family and friends for helping organize, setup and cleanup. We look forward to participating together with the Sugar Creek community in more events in the near future.

**Czech and Slovak Republics and the NHL**

Did you know? There are 141 players in the National Hockey League (NHL) from Czechoslovakia.

**Czech Days at the University of Nebraska**

Lincoln Czechs and Slovaks in Nebraska celebrated their heritage at Czech Days Feb. 12-25 at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL). Czech Ambassador to the United States, Martin Palous, opened the event at the UNL Student Union. He spoke about the Czech and Slovak Republics pending inauguration into the EU. Palous said, "It is the return to Europe, and we wanted to do anything possible to come back from where we were" (referring to the Communist regime of the former Czechoslovakia that was overturned in 1989). "The Europe we are returning to is different than it used to be. We want to be there despite that."



Ambassador Palous and Mila Saskova-Pierce address the banquet group

Czech Days included a Czech Language Foundation (CLF) Banquet on Feb. 13 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. The fundraiser supported CLF, a nonprofit organization for UNL students who take Czech language classes. CLF promotes the study of Czech language and culture. It was founded in 1993 in response to the University's plans to discontinue Czech classes, which date to 1907.



The Ostry family performs traditional Czech-Slovak songs

Over 125 people attended the banquet including Lincoln's mayor, Colleen Seng. Ambassador Palous delivered the keynote address, focusing on Czech Ethnic Organizations in North America. Palous also remarked, "Nebraska is one of the last states for me to visit - perhaps it should have been one of the first."

Palous was accompanied to Omaha on Feb. 14 by Layne Pierce and Mila Saskova-Pierce. They met with local educational leaders at the University of Nebraska - Omaha and a group from the Czech and Slovak community at the Bohemian Café. Layne is the president of the CLF. Mila is a professor of Czech language at UNL. Mila and Layne previously lived in Lawrence, KS where Mila was a professor at KU. They were also instrumental in starting the Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City.