

CZECH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF TEXAS

State Membership Meeting

Chapter Report

Chapter Name: **Brazos Valley**

Date Prepared: **February 24, 2017**

Please record below your Chapter's past accomplishments, events, and activities since the last State Membership Meeting (i.e., from Spring meeting to Summer meeting; Summer meeting to Fall meeting; and Fall meeting to Spring meeting):

BVCHS Christmas Bread Baking Class

The 2016 Christmas Bread Baking Class occurred on October 1 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Activity Center. The class was led by Stan Vitha and provided a fabulous opportunity to learn how to make Vanocka (braided Christmas Bread).



BVCHS Fall Czech Celebration

On October 9 the BVCHS hosted the Fall Czech Celebration. Polka Masses were celebrated at the 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM masses at St. Joseph Catholic Church. The Taylor Czech Chorus sang during the masses. Following the masses the festivities moved to the St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Activity Center for a dinner and dance. The Praha Brothers performed for the dance. The event also included a Silent Auction benefitting the CEFT William Hlavinika Fellowship Scholarship at Texas A&M University. This year marked the 30th anniversary of the Fellowship. The CEFT Fellowship helps to bring advanced graduate students from the Czech Republic to Texas A&M University to work towards an M.A. or PH.D. Degree in the

Department of English. In return these students teach the Czech language classes offered by the BVCHS.

Brazos Valley Worldfest

On November 5 the BVCHS participated in the Brazos Valley Worldfest – an annual festival designed to promote and celebrate the international diversity and heritage of the Brazos Valley. The Brazos Valley Worldfest celebrates international awareness by offering cultural displays, demonstrations, international cuisine, performances, children's crafts, educational competitions and many other activities. The event took place at the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater in College Station. Among the more than 30 countries represented, the Czech Republic booth was again sponsored by the BVCHS. Stan Vitha was instrumental in organizing the Chapter's efforts at the event and many BVCHS members volunteered their time to assist with the festivities.

Christmas Party

The annual BVCHS Christmas Party took place on December 2 at the St. Joseph Parish Catholic Church Parish Activity Center. A catered dinner featuring turkey, dressing, ham and all the trimming were served. A Christmas message was shared by Ronnie Horcica of the KAGC Polka Radio Show. The event included multiple special musical performances including Czech and American Christmas Carols as well as the traditional Czech Ornament Exchange.

Spring Czech Language Classes

The Spring Czech Language classes began on January 16 and run each Monday evening during the Spring Semester from 7:00-8:30 PM. All levels of students are accepted, beginning Czech language students are welcome. The location of the classes is the St. Joseph Parish Activity Center. The classes are once again lead by Jan Benes, the Czech Education Foundation of Texas selected student from the Czech Republic.

January 2017 BVCHS Chapter Meeting

On January 19 a BVCHS Chapter Meeting was held at Abuelo's Mexican Restaurant in College Station. The main agenda items included the induction of officers, reports on the Fall 2016 BVCHS events and an overview of the upcoming Spring 2017 events including the BVCHS hosting of the Dechovka tour on April 25 at the Brazos Center in Bryan.

Upcoming Events

- BVCHS Mardi Gras Dance will take place on February 26
- The next BVCHS Chapter Meeting is scheduled for March 16
- The annual Kolache Baking Class will be held on March 25
- BVCHS will host the Dechovka tour on April 25

For more information and to stay up to date on Chapter events, please visit the chapter web-site at bvchs.webnode.com.