



# Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society

P.O. Box 3383 – Bryan, TX 77805

Website: [bvchs.webnode.com](http://bvchs.webnode.com)

## January 2018

### **BVCHS Officers**

**President:**

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**Cesky Hlas Report/Website:**

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## Šťastný Nový Rok!

## Happy New Year!

Wishing you a prosperous and healthy new year.

Look forward to seeing you in 2018.



### **BVCHS Meeting**

January 21, 2018

St. Joseph Parish Activity Center

2:00 p.m.

Come learn what your organization has been doing  
and activities planned for 2018.

Everyone get involved!

### **Our President's Thoughts**

I hope that you had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As we begin 2018, I invite you to join me in renewing our Society's commitment to preserving the Czech and Slovak culture by participating in our chapter and state meetings and other social functions. We plan to begin our Czech language class in January and will again host Spring and Fall baking classes. I know that you have busy lives and you have to take care of important things and family first, but the Chapter is strongest when everyone participates.

E.J.



## Club News:

### Czech Heritage Celebration

With October designated as Czech Heritage Month in Texas the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society (BVCHS) held its annual Czech Heritage Celebration on Sunday, October 8, 2017. The day started with two Polka Masses at St. Joseph Catholic Church featuring the Taylor Czech Chorus. Following the masses a catered meal of pork loin, roasted chicken, green beans, buttered parsley potatoes with gravy, sauerkraut, rolls, tea and BVCHS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake was served to approximately 200 attendees. At 1:30, the Praha Brothers Band provided music for everyone's listening and dancing enjoyment with Ronnie Horcica of KAGC Czech Polka Time as Master of Ceremonies for the event. A raffle drawing for 15 items donated by various BVCHS members was held during intermission. The event was a success and we hope to see everyone next year on October 7, 2018 to again celebrate our Czech heritage.



### “Baking for Czech Christmas”

On October 14, 2017 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Activity Center, participants from Tomball, Wheelock and Bryan gathered to learn about preparing Czech Christmas pastries. Stan Vitha, BVCHS Vice-President and native of the Czech Republic, was the instructor for the class. The class members learned to prepare vánočka (Christmas bread), coconut bars, and gingerbread dough. At the end of the class the participants had several items to take home to share with family and friends.



## November BVCHS Meeting

The BVCHS membership meeting was held on November 5, 2017 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Activity Center with 24 members and 3 guests present.

The meeting was called to order by President E. J. Biskup with opening prayer by Glen Chmelar and Pledge of Allegiance by the membership.

A cultural presentation – Brief History of Czechoslovakia – From Its Creation through the Velvet Revolution and past the Velvet Divorce (Timeline: Pre-1918 to 1993) was given by Stan Vitha, Program Chairman.

Secretary's minutes, treasurer's report and committee chairman reports were presented.

Upcoming events were discussed which included:

BVCHS booth at Brazos Valley Worldfest – November 18  
Christmas Party – December 1

Valentine's Day Dance – Sunday, February 11, 2018.

Members were reminded that 2018 BVCHS and State CHS dues are due by January 1, 2018.

## State Czech Heritage Society Meeting

St. Jerome Community Center in San Antonio, Texas was the setting for the Czech Heritage Society of Texas Fall State Membership meeting. BVCHS was represented by 12 members and 1 guest.

Members were welcomed by Robert Trampota, Bexar County CHS President and Daniel Moravec, State CHS Vice-President. The opening ceremonies included the Texas Czech Heritage Society Memorial Service Candle Lighting service which honors CHS members who passed during the year. BVCHS members remembered were Melvin Ondrasek and Rosette Marshall.

During the state business meeting officer elections were held. The 2018-2020 CHS state officers are:

President – Daniel Moravec – McLennan-Hill CHS  
Vice President – Jo Ann Zaeske – Brazos Valley CHS  
Secretary – Jean Rayhill – Harris Co. CHS  
Treasurer – Rita Vanek – Brazos Valley CHS  
Reporter - Jana Vaculik Riley – McLennan-Hill CHS

Following the election of officers the 2017 Texas Czech Heritage Awards were presented. The Texas Czech Heritage Living Member Award honorees were Maggie Grmela of McLennan-Hill CHS and Bill Raley of Wharton Co. CHS.

The Blaha-Hejl Memorial Award for a deceased CHS member was presented in honor of Lou Zaeske of Brazos Valley CHS and the Blaha-Hejl Memorial Award for a deceased non-CHS member was presented in honor of Johnny Krajča from Ellis County. Lou Zaeske's spouse, Jo Ann, his daughters, Jeannine and Cheryl, spouses Chris & Fred and grandchildren Lauren, Adam and Fallon were in attendance to receive the award.



## Club News (cont.):

### Brazos Valley Worldfest

BVCHS participated in the Brazos Valley Worldfest, a community-wide festival promoting and celebrating the international diversity and heritage of the Brazos Valley. It was held Saturday, November 18, 2017 at the Brazos County Expo Center in Bryan, Texas.

On Friday evening BVCHS members, Stan Vitha, Tomáš Panský, Richard and Toni Fayman, Heather Fayman-Mettlen, Frank and Marie Dulak met at the St. Joseph PAC kitchen to make 22 large kolaches, 6 vánočka (Christmas bread) and 2 round Easter loaves. With everyone doing a designated assignment the preparation of the baked goods proceeded in a timely fashion.

Early Saturday morning BVCHS members met at the Expo Center to set up the booth display. Beside kolache, vánočka and Easter loaves other food items prepared by members and sold at the booth were apple strudel, rosettes, cupcakes and cookies. Visitors to the booth were complimentary on the delicious and variety of food served.

On the cultural side of the booth display Kamila Vitha was demonstrating the Christmas tradition of walnut shell boats and candles, showing wooden toys and books from the Czech Republic as well as stamping kid's passports with the Czech Republic stamp. The display of the wooden toys was a big hit with the little kids.



A map of the Czech Republic was displayed at the booth which enabled visitors to see areas of the country and locate an area where their ancestors may have lived. Membership applications for BVCHS were also available for people inquiring about the organization.

Thank you to everyone who worked the booth, baked items to sell and supported this cultural endeavor.

### BVCHS Christmas Party

Christmas is a time of celebrating with family and friends. In doing so, the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society held their annual Christmas Party in the evening of December 1, 2017 at the St. Joseph Parish Activity Center. Forty-two members and twelve guests were in attendance. The invocation was given by Glen Chlemer which was followed by a meal of turkey, dressing, ham, green beans, sweet potatoes, gravy, rolls and tea catered by Joe & Mae Fazzino. Desserts of a Veselé Vánoce cake, vanočka and a tray of homemade sweets were furnished by the membership.

A brief society meeting was held to discuss and vote on the memberships' choice of meeting preference – weekend or weekday. The consensus of the vote was to have the meetings held on a weekend. Also during the meeting members with November and December birthdays were recognized.

A Christmas message was shared by Ronnie Horcica of the KAGC Polka Radio Show which started with the question "Are you satisfied with Christmas?" With Christmas as the time of gift giving Ronnie's message talked about the Three Wise Men's gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to the Baby Jesus and gifts people might contemplate this Christmas – love, kindness, forgiveness, time and compassion. In conclusion he noted God's gift to us was his son, Jesus.

Faith Wenck, BVCHS youth member, performed a flute solo of Christmas songs which included "Joy to the World" and "O Christmas Tree," as well as a selection from her Regional flute tryout. This was followed by everyone singing Tichá Noc, Svatá Noc (Silent Night) and Nesem Vám Noviny (We are Bringing you News) led by Lynette Urbanovsky and accompanied by Tomáš Panský on guitar.

A Czech Ornament exchange and drawings for numerous door prizes provided by members was held. Youth members, Erika Vitha and Faith Wenck handed out ornaments for the ornament exchange and assisted with the drawings for door prizes. With the generosity of door prizes everyone in attendance went home with a gift.

With the singing of "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" everyone seemed to be in the Christmas spirit at the conclusion of the party.



## Club News (cont.):

### Spring Czech Language Class

Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society will be offering Czech language classes starting January 22, 2018 at St. Joseph's Parish Activity Center. Classes will be every Monday night from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Cost will be \$35.00 for the semester.

Josef Zapletal will be the instructor.

For information regarding the class contact Jo Ann Zaeske at (979) 224-4434 or Lynette Urbanovsky at lurbanovsky@gmail.com

### Valentine's Dance

- Sunday, February 11, 2018
- St. Joseph Parish Activity Center  
Bryan, Texas
- 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
- Music by Lost Cause Band

### Spring Baking Class

#### "Kolač Baking"



- March 31, 2018
- St. Joseph PAC – Bryan, Texas
- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Cost: \$35.00
- Instructor: Stan Vitha

For further information contact Stan Vitha at (979) 587-1777 or email: bohemian2012@aol.com

### 2018 Novak-Zaeske Scholarship

BVCHS has established a \$500 Scholarship to be awarded to a qualifying graduating high school senior. Applications will be available at our January 21, 2018 membership meeting. Completed applications are due by April 15, 2018.

For questions or more information contact Cheryl Wenck, Scholarship Chairman, at the5wencks@verizon.net or call (979) 220-4048.

### Membership:

Please welcome the following new members since September:

- Vicki Bienski
- Richard C. Fayman
- Heather Fayman-Mettlen
- Richard Hubacek
- Candace Jean
- Sandra Matush
- Doug Roesler
- David Shimek
- Wesley Shimek
- Georgia Simecek
- Robert Watkins

### Member News:

Bruno Shimek was a member of the Kolache Baking Show Contest committee for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kolache Festival in Caldwell, Texas. Czech language instructors Jan Beneš and Josef Zapletal were some of the judges for the show.

Jennifer Koll, daughter of Chris & Jeannine Koll, was recognized at The University of Alabama at Birmingham's Accelerated Masters in Nursing Program (AMNP) Recognition Ceremony, Class of 2017, on December 11, 2017. Jennifer has completed Phase 1 of the program and will begin working as an RN at The University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama in January 2018 to complete the last phase of the program in her quest to become a Nurse Practitioner.

### Concerns:

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the following Czech Heritage Society members:

- Richard Skopik, State CHS President, who is recuperating from an accident this fall,
- Rita Vanek, State CHS Treasurer and BVCHS member, is recovering from knee surgery.
- Tiffany Nemecek, BVCHS member, recently had surgery.
- Jo Ann Zaeske, BVCHS member, recently had minor surgery.



## Czech Vocabulary:

Months of the Year – Měsíce v Roce

Leden ..... January	Červenec ..... July
Únor ..... February	Srpen ..... August
Březen ..... March	Září ..... September
Duben ..... April	Říjen ..... October
Květen ..... May	Listopad ..... November
Červen ..... June	Prosinec ..... December

## Recipe:

### Rosettes

1 cup fresh milk	1/8 teaspoon salt
2 eggs	1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. flour
1 level Tbsp. sugar	

Mix all ingredients to make a thin batter like for pancakes. Preheat Crisco oil in a deep fryer to 275-300 degrees. Place rosette irons in deep fryer while preheating the oil. When temperature is right, take irons out and place on folded damp cloth to wipe the oil off the bottom of the rosette iron. Dip iron in batter just enough to cover sides not to exceed over top. Fry for about 3 minutes or until crisp and light brown color. Place rosette on cookie sheet lined with paper towel. Wipe iron and keep on frying.

### Rosette Icing

4 cups powdered sugar, sifted	2 egg whites
½ teaspoon vanilla	

Blend powdered sugar and egg whites until smooth. Dip rosette in icing. If too runny add more powdered sugar to thicken. When iced let dry very well. Warm oven to 150 degrees. Place rosettes on wire rack or use oven rack. Stack up to 3 stacks high but don't place them on top of the other. Leave rosettes in 150 degrees for one hour. Cut off oven and let rosettes remain in oven until they cool. When cooled, pack in airtight tin containers. Makes 35 to 45 rosettes. Note: Add food coloring to give icing a different color.

Submitted by Lorraine Roesler

Please submit any recipes or news articles which would be relevant to the local Czech Heritage Society. Contact Marie Dulak at 979-589-1903 or email her at mdulak52@gmail.com

## Upcoming Events

- |              |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 21   | BVCHS Meeting<br>St. Joseph Parish Activity Center<br>2 – 5 p.m.                                                                                                     |
| February 11  | BVCHS Valentine's Dance<br>St. Joseph Parish Activity Center<br>Music by Lost Cause Band<br>1:30 – 4:30 p.m.                                                         |
| March 18     | BVHCS Meeting<br>St. Joseph Parish Activity Center<br>2 – 5 p.m.                                                                                                     |
| March 31     | Spring Kolač Baking Class<br>9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.<br>St. Joseph Parish Activity Center                                                                              |
| April 28     | State Spring CHS Meeting and<br>Miss Czech Slovak Queen Pageant<br>Queen of Peace Catholic Church<br>Life Center<br>La Marque, Texas<br>Galveston County CHS Hosting |
| May 20       | BVCHS Meeting<br>St. Joseph Parish Activity Center<br>2 – 5 p.m.                                                                                                     |
| May 20       | Slavnost "May Fest" and Tribute to the<br>Immigrants<br>Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center<br>La Grange, Texas                                                   |
| July ?       | State Summer CHS Meeting and<br>Genealogy Conference<br>Date and Place to be Announced                                                                               |
| September 16 | BVCHS Meeting<br>St. Joseph Parish Activity Center<br>2 – 5 p.m.                                                                                                     |
| October 7    | BVCHS Czech Heritage Celebration<br>St. Joseph Parish Activity Center                                                                                                |
| October 21   | BVCHS Meeting<br>St. Joseph Parish Activity Center<br>2 – 5 p.m.                                                                                                     |
| November 11  | State Fall CHS Meeting<br>St. Martin's Hall – Tours, Texas<br>McLennan – Hill CHS Hosting                                                                            |
| December 2   | BVCHS Christmas Party<br>St. Joseph Parish Activity Center<br>1:00 – 5:00 p.m.                                                                                       |