



Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society

P.O. Box 3383 – Bryan, TX 77805

Website: bvchs.webnode.com

March 2019

BVCHS Officers

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Stan Vitha
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BVCHS Meeting

March 17, 2019 –

St. Joseph Parish Activity Center

2:00 p.m.

Speaker: Tereza Walsbergerová

Tereza is the CEFT William J. Hlavinka fellow at Texas A&M University College of Liberal Arts and the BVCHS sponsored Czech language class instructor. She is from Brno, Czech Republic and a student at Masaryk University in Brno. In Tereza's presentation she will tell us about herself and her experiences at A&M.

Refreshments will be served at the meeting.

Our President's Thoughts

Dobrý den.

My thoughts today are about the recent Winter State Meeting and Queen Pageant hosted by our chapter and relishing in the fact that it was one of the best that I have ever attended. That statement may smack a little of home field pride, but it's true. The event was a resounding success from every aspect with everything going remarkably well, and for this, I feel it necessary to recognize the members responsible.

First and foremost, thanks to Jo Ann Zaeske and Marie Dulak. These ladies planned and coordinated every detail of the event from start to finish. Jo Ann orchestrated all of the financial details and spent many hours handling reservations, organizing meeting registration, meal catering details, and hall setup arrangements. Marie coordinated collection of items for the silent auction and the raffle, setup of both, and then worked the silent auction throughout the day. She also handled event publicity and got the word out to numerous media outlets. These two ladies always give selflessly of their time and never ask for anything in return.

Kudos to Bruno Shimek, our kolache aficionado, who did a great job baking countless dozens of kolaches for refreshments and for sale to the attendees. He spent several hours Friday night preparing the kitchen and began baking early Saturday morning so that attendees would be greeted with the wonderful smell of fresh, just out-of-the-oven, kolaches. Beginning at 5:30 Saturday morning, he had much-appreciated help from Fred Wenck and John Moravec who proved to be quite at home in the kitchen. I received many compliments from attendees who stated that the kolaches were the best they had ever eaten.

Also, thanks to the following: Jeannine Koll and Bunny Blaha for serving as Auditors for the Queen's Pageant; Frank Dulak for assisting with heavy lifting, moving tables, taking photographs for the website and lending a hand whenever needed; (continued on next page)



Our President's Thoughts (cont.)

Cheryl Wenck for working the raffle table, selling tickets and keeping things in order; Rita Vanek, Georgia Simecek and Lorraine Roesler for helping with refreshments and working in the kitchen; Lynette Urbanovsky for getting the flowers for the stage and bouquets for the queen contestants and little sisters; and Helen Metzger for coordinating setup of seating and tables and being there to assist with any facility issues and questions.

Thanks also to the many members and others who helped with registration and lending a hand where needed, as well as, donating items and baked goods for the silent auction and raffle prizes. They are too numerous to name but their volunteer help made the event run smoothly. The donations led to a highly successful auction and raffle to benefit our scholarship fund.

And Sloppy Joe's Eatery and Catering did another fantastic job of providing a delicious meal for attendees.

Bůh žehnej!
E. J.

Membership Dues Reminder

If you have not paid your Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society (BVCHS) 2019 dues please submit your payment (\$15) by March 31, 2019 so you will not be dropped from the state membership list and also miss the BVCHS newsletter and Czech Heritage Society (CHS) Český Hlas.

Payments can be paid at the meeting or mailed to:
Jo Ann Zaeske, Treasurer
P.O. Box 3383
Bryan, TX 77805

Chapter News:

BVCHS Christmas Party

With the Christmas Season approaching BVCHS held its annual Christmas Party on December 1, 2018 at the St. Joseph Parish Activity Center (PAC). Members and guests were welcomed by President E. J. Biskup. An inspirational reading and prayer before the meal was given by Lynette Urbanovsky, BVCHS secretary. Turkey and dressing, ham, and all the trimmings was served to approximately 55 members and guests. Following the meal, everyone enjoyed listening to youth members' performances. Erika Vitha presented a piano solo and Faith Wenck performed a repertoire of musical selections on her flute.

A cultural presentation on Czech Christmas traditions was given by Stan Vitha, BVCHS Vice-President. He spoke on the traditional Christmas Eve meal which consists of carp and potato salad.

Other traditions presented were The Floating of Walnut Shells and Cutting of the Apple for foretelling the future. The Throwing of the Shoe foretells the future of marriage in the coming year.

A Czech Christmas Ornament exchange was held, as well as door prize drawings for Christmas items donated by members. Czech and American Christmas carols, which included

Tichá Noc, Svatá Noc; Nesem Vám Noviny, Narodil se Kristus Pán, and Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree were led by Tomas Panský and Lynette Urbanovsky with everyone joining the sing-a-long.

President E. J. Bishop in closing words wished everyone a Merry Christmas.



January BVCHS Meeting

On January 13th BVCHS held its first meeting of 2019. Twenty-one members were in attendance.

President E.J. Biskup called the meeting to order, led the the Pledge of Allegiance and Glen Chmelar led us in prayer. Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were presented and approved by the members. Committee chair reports were given.

Following the committee reports the 2019-2020 BVCHS officers were installed by Nomination Committee Chair, John Moravec. The new officers are President: E.J. Biskup; Vice-President: Frank Dulak; Secretary: Cheryl Wenck; Treasurer: Jo Ann Zaeske and Reporter: Marie Dulak.



2019-2020 Officers

E.J. Biskup, Frank Dulak, Cheryl Wenck, Jo Ann Zaeske and Marie Dulak

Chapter News (cont.):

A monetary donation has been made by members John and Sandy Matush towards the establishment of another scholarship to be given by the BVCHS chapter. The Matush Czech Heritage Scholarship will be awarded to a deserving college student that is a member of BVCHS or related to a member.



John & Sandy Matush, E.J. Biskup, Jo Ann Zaeske and Cheryl Wenck.

Information on the upcoming State Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant and CHS state meeting hosted by BVCHS was presented and discussed. E.J. Biskup announced BVCHS will be represented by Zoe Peterek of College Station as the Chapter Queen contestant. Grace Moravec will be her Little Czech Sister. Zoe, Grace and their parents will be invited to a casual meeting and dinner with the members to get acquainted. A silent auction and raffle will be held to benefit the chapter scholarship fund. Members were given a list of possible main food items to be served at the function. The members present voted to have King Ranch Chicken served. Officers and members volunteered to acquire speakers and participants for the Opening Ceremony. Members in attendance volunteered to help work the refreshment table, donate items for the Silent Auction and Raffle and serve as tally judges for the Queen Pageant. Marie Dulak will send a reminder to the members for donations and helping with the event.

January and February birthdays were recognized.

Following the adjournment of the meeting a 50/50 drawing was held and refreshments were enjoyed by the members.

Czech Language Class

The Czech Language Class sponsored by BVCHS in conjunction with the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas (CEFT) started on January 21, 2019. The instructor is Tereza Walsbergerová of Brno, Czech Republic and is the CEFT William J. Hlavinka fellow at Texas A&M University College of Liberal Arts. The class has 18 students registered.

2019 Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant and CHS State Meeting

After all the planning, BVCHS was prepared to host the 2019 Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant and CHS State Meeting on February 16, 2019. Preparation began on Friday with hall decorations; stage, raffle, silent auction, vendor, queen pageant displays and table setup; and queen contestants' pageant rehearsal.

Also on Friday evening, Bruno Shimek, BVCHS member, started his preparation for the kolaches to be served Saturday morning. With the kolache fillings prepared, Bruno, John Moravec and Fred Wenck, began mixing the dough early Saturday morning to have kolaches warm and ready for the attendees. As registration time neared, Lorraine Roesler volunteered in the preparation. Thanks to these members for giving their time for the well enjoyed pastries.



At 9:00 a.m. Opening Ceremonies were held which included presentation of the flags and Pledge of Allegiance by St. Joseph Catholic Church Boy Scout Troop #383, US and Czech Anthems led by BVCHS member, Jennifer Koll, 2013 Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen; Invocation delivered by Msgr. John McCaffrey of St. Joseph Catholic Church and Welcome to Bryan given by Andrew Nelson, Mayor of Bryan.

Following Opening Ceremonies the 2019 Queen Pageant began. Brazos Valley CHS was represented by Zoe Peterek of College Station and her Little Czech Sister, Grace Moravec of Bryan. Lydia Pustejovsky of Abbott represented the McLennan-Hill Chapter with her Little Czech Sister Allison Pustejovsky. The pageant included introduction of the queen contestants, personal and on-stage interviews, kroj modeling and talent presentation. Master of Ceremonies was Tom Teykl of Travis-Williamson CHS.



Chapter News (cont.):

During a break former Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queens and Little Sisters were introduced by Kathy Podsednik, Queen Pageant Director. All these young ladies appeared in beautiful kroje. The West Junior Historians, a Czech Dance Group from West High School, entertained the attendees with several Czech dances during another break. They even got participation from the audience when performing the Chicken Dance.

Lunch of King Ranch Chicken, green beans, salad, rolls, peach cobbler and tea was served to 150+ persons. Thanks to Joe and Mae Fazzino of Sloppy Joe's for preparing the meal.

After lunch, a Parade of Kroje worn by ladies in attendance was performed. Some of the participants gave an explanation of the type of kroj they were wearing.

Before the announcement of the 2019 Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen approached, Danielle Blattman, 2018 CHS Miss Texas Czech -Slovak Queen with Czech Little Sister Emma Elkins gave her Farewell speech. Then the time for the Queen announcement arrived. Lydia Pustejovsky, Miss McLennan-Hill CHS representative was selected as the 2019 CHS Miss Texas Czech Slovak Queen. In August, Lydia and her Little Czech Sister will represent Texas in the Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska. We wish her much success.

Following the crowning, the raffle of two beverage baskets and an Easter yard decoration was held, as well as the closing of the silent auction. Thanks to everyone who donated and purchased items or tickets to benefit the BVCHS Scholarship fund.

The State CHS Business Meeting was then conducted.

Spring Baking Class

“Apple Strudel, Poppyseed Rolls and Buns”

- April 6, 2019
- St. Joseph Catholic Church PAC
- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Cost: \$35.00

Class is limited to 12 participants (Age 12 and older). For further information contact Stanislav Vitha at (979) 587-1777 or bohemian2012@aol.com or register at <https://whoozin.com/PG7-T4T-DR76>.

Scholarships

Novak-Zaeske Memorial Scholarship

BVCHS is offering the Novak-Zaeske Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500 to a graduating high school senior who excels in academics, leadership, extracurricular activities and involvement in school and community. The applicant must be a member or related to a member of BVCHS.

The Matush Czech Heritage Scholarship

The BVCHS is excited to offer another scholarship! The Matush Czech Heritage Scholarship is generously funded by members John and Sandy Matush. This additional \$500 scholarship is for eligible students currently enrolled in a 4-year college, 2-year college or trade school.

Applications are due by April 1, 2019. For an application or further information about the scholarships please contact Cheryl Wenck, Scholarship Committee Chair, at the5wencks@verizon.net.

Membership:

Please welcome the following new and returning members as of January 1, 2019:

Barbara Engbrock	James (Jim) Kalinec
Joshua Koll (Youth)	Dana Kopetsky
Carrie Martin	Nicole Marucci
Sharon Mena (Returning)	William (Bill) Merka
James Miculka	Amy Moravec (Returning)
Christy Peterek	William Peterek
Zoe Peterek	Jill Presnal
Mary Lou Price	Martha Schwartz
Emily Shimek	Amanda Valasek
Andrew Valasek (Youth)	Lillian Valasek (Youth)
Mark Valasek	Pearl Valasek (Youth)
Rose Valasek (Youth)	
Dorothy & Paul Watthuber (Returning)	

Condolences

Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Jeremy Peter Vanecek who passed away on February 6, 2019.

Upcoming Events

March 17	BVCHS Membership Meeting St. Joseph PAC Bryan, Texas
April 6	BVCHS Spring Baking Class “Pastry Baking” St. Joseph PAC Kitchen 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
May 5	St. Joseph Catholic Church 39 th Annual Parish Festival St. Anthony Pavilion & Grounds Tabor Road - Bryan, Texas
May 19	BVCHS Membership Meeting St. Joseph PAC Bryan, Texas
May 19	St. Anthony Catholic Church Bazaar St. Anthony Pavilion and Grounds Tabor Road – Bryan, Texas
July 27	CHS State Meeting and Genealogy Conference Hosted by Fort Bend Co. CHS
September 15	BVCHS Membership Meeting St. Joseph PAC Bryan, Texas
October 13	BVCHS Czech Heritage Celebration St. Joseph Catholic Church and Parish Activity Center Bryan, Texas

Recipe:

Bruno Shimek's Kolache Dough Recipe

Number of Kolaches	Gram conversions for Dough mixes					
	72	60	48	36	24	12
Stage 1						
6 cups milk (4%)	6 c	5 c	4 c	3c	2 c	1 c
8 cups white flour (I used White Wings)	1200g	1000g	800g	600g	400g	200g
1 cup white rice flour (I used Bob's Mill)	180g	150g	120g	90g	60g	30g
½ cup potato flour (I used Bob's Mill)	76g	63g	50g	38g	25g	13g
1 cup sugar	214g	178g	142g	107g	71g	35g
1/3 cup dry yeast (I prefer Red Star)	52g	43g	34g	26g	17g	9g
1/4 tsp ground ginger	Reduce accordingly down to a dash on lower end					
Butter	About 3/4 pound will be used for largest batch.					

Combine and mix all three flours, sugar, yeast and ginger. If you don't have rice and or potato flours increase white flour accordingly. Heat milk to lukewarm stage on the stove. Transfer to mixing bowl and gradually mix in dry ingredients using dough hook on your mixer. It can be done the old fashioned way entirely by hand. Mix thoroughly. Brush with melted butter, cover with cloth and let rise to the top of the bowl, about 20 minutes.

Stage 2 add

Number of Kolaches	72	60	48	36	24	12
6 egg yolks	6y	5y	4y	3y	2y	1y
1 cup oil	1c	5/6c	2/3c	1/2c	1/3c	1/6c
4 & 1/3 cups flour	750g	625g	500g	375g	250g	125g
2/3 cup sugar	156g	130g	104g	78g	52g	26g
1 teaspoon salt	14g	11g	9g	7g	5g	2g

(I used 3/4 cup safflower oil mixed with 1/4 cup roasted walnut oil and 1 & 1/2 tablespoons black truffle oil in competition baking) Normally I use refined coconut oil or canola almost exclusively as the dough has a smoother and softer texture. I believe that refined coconut gives the best result. Olive oil or regular vegetable may also be used, though dough will not be as soft.

Blend in egg yolks and oil mixing thoroughly. Combine stage 2 dry ingredients. Add second dry mixture and mix thoroughly until all is blended in using the dough hook or by hand. Transfer to a larger greased mixing bowl, knead with a large wooden spoon until dough is smooth, pat with butter and cover with the cloth and let rise again till dough has doubled in size, approximately 20 minutes until it starts coming out of the bowl. Spoon out dough in approximately 1 & 3/4 ounce portions. Roll into balls and place on greased pan. (12 to 20 per pan depending on size of cookie sheet and spacing desired.) Butter and let rise until about double. Indent and fill with fillings. Let rise and then bake about approximately 10 minutes. I bake at 340 degrees in a convection oven. About 375 degrees in a regular oven. Butter the baked kolaches, remove from the pan and cool. (The cup recipe makes 6 dozen as well as the first gram measurements) If you have the normal 4 quart mixer, it is probably best to use the 48 kolache recipe. Enjoy your kolaches.