



Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society

P.O. Box 3383 – Bryan, TX 77805

Website: bvchs.webnode.com

January 2020

BVCHS Officers

President:

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Vice-President:

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Secretary:

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(979) 694-1941
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Treasurer:

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info@accuprintgp.com

Reporter:

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(979) 589-1903
mdulak52@gmail.com

Appointed Positions

Bylaws/Nominations:

John Moravec
johndmoravec@gmail.com

Newsletter/Cesky Hlas:

Marie Dulak
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Concernments:

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Meetings/Genealogy

Frank Dulak
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Scholarship: Cheryl Wenck
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Website:

Stan Vitha
bohemia2012@aol.com

BVCHS Meeting

January 19, 2020

St. Joseph Parish Activity Center

2:00 p.m.

Presentation: "The Painted Churches of Texas: Echoes of the Homeland"

Learn about upcoming events, help promote our Czech heritage, visit with chapter members and enjoy refreshments following the meeting.

Our President's Thoughts

I hope everyone had a wonderful and happy Christmas and New Year's Day filled with opportunities to spend time with family and friends and celebrate the reason for the season. Here it is, ready or not, the start of a new decade. I wish for everyone a wonderful and prosperous 2020, filled with joy and love of family and friends and all things good. May any difficulties which arise be allayed by your faith and trust in God.

I encourage everyone to renew their membership to keep in touch with things happening in our chapter, as well as in the state organization, via the Cesky Hlas and the chapter and state web sites, and to invite anyone that you know who might be interested in our organization to come "Czech us out." Additionally, please think about joining the Czech language class which the chapter sponsors on Monday nights in the spring and fall semesters each year. The present instructor, Tomáš Pansky, makes the class meetings fun and informative and keeps class members engaged in the materials that he provides. The class lasts for 90 minutes and is geared toward beginners in conversational Czech.

The meeting schedule for 2020 has been set, with meetings planned for January, April, September, and November. The quarterly schedule should suffice to meet the business needs of the chapter and not become burdensome on members. It also frees up late spring and summer for time with family or attendance at any of the various Czech festivals scheduled around the state during that time. The meeting dates are on the chapter web site along with those for the Fall Czech Celebration in October and Christmas Party in December.

Kéž vám Bůh žehná a udržuje vás v bezpečí.

E. J. Biskup



Chapter News:

Membership Dues

Just a reminder - BVCHS membership renewal for 2020 is due.

Cost: \$15.00 - Adults

\$ 3.00 – Youth (Age 18 and under)

Send payment to:

Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society

c/o Jo Ann Zaeske, Treasurer

P.O. Box 3383

Bryan, Texas 77805

September 2019 Meeting

Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society (BVCHS) met on September 15, 2019 at the St. Joseph Church Parish Activity Center (PAC) for its membership meeting. There were 24 members and 1 guest in attendance. The meeting was called to order by President E. J. Biskup followed by the opening prayer "Our Czech Heritage" ("Naše české dědictví") led by BVCHS member Tomáš Pansky and membership reciting along with him and then the Pledge of Allegiance. A Czech cultural presentation was given by BVCHS member Tomáš Pansky from a recent trip to the Czech Republic. The slide show included churches, cities, homes, scenic countryside views, kraj and cuisine – dumplings, kolache, pastries and beer-of the southern Bohemian region. St. Vitus Cathedral, Old Town Square and the Astronomical Clock in Prague were presented for the membership to admire. Following the presentation Secretary, Treasurer and committee chair reports were given. Plans were discussed for BVCHS' annual Czech Heritage Month Celebration to be held on October 13, 2019, as well as the upcoming Czech Language Class, Worldfest booth and Christmas baking class. After adjournment of the meeting, a 50/50 drawing was held and membership enjoyed refreshments and fellowship.

Fall Czech Language Class

The Fall Czech Language Class sponsored by BVCHS was held September 16 to December 9, 2019 at the St. Joseph Church PAC classroom. The class opened to anyone interested in learning the Czech language addressed basic Czech and Czech culture. BVCHS member Tomáš Pansky, who is from Štěpánovice in the Southern Bohemian Region of the Czech Republic and now a resident of Bryan, instructed the class. Class attendance averaged from 12 to 15 students. To conclude the class, a Christmas Party was held on December 20, 2019 at the office of BVCHS member Bruno Shimek in Bryan. Everyone enjoyed visiting and sampling the variety of delicious food items brought by students and guests..

Czech Heritage Month Celebration

On October 13, 2019, Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society held its annual Czech Heritage Month Celebration. The day began with two Polka Masses at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bryan with singing and music provided by the Taylor Czech Chorus. Mass scriptures were read in Czech by BVCHS member Tomáš Pansky. At 1:00 p.m. a meal consisting of roasted pork loin, grilled chicken breast, parsley potatoes, sauerkraut, green beans, gravy, rolls, peach cobbler and tea was served to over 200 people at the St. Joseph Parish Activity Center. Following the meal everyone enjoyed dancing and listening to music provided by The Moravians of Ennis, Texas.



The Chicken Dance was especially enjoyed by young and old alike. The 2020 Czech Heritage Celebration will be held on October 11, 2020.

November 2019 Meeting

BVCHS held a membership meeting on November 3, 2019 at the St. Joseph PAC. Prior to the meeting a meal of baked chicken provided by BVCHS with side dishes and desserts provided by members was enjoyed by 24 members and 7 guests. We were honored to have Lydia Pustejovsky, 2019 Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen and 2019 CHS Little Sister Allison Pustejovsky in attendance. Lydia spoke to the chapter about her activities serving as the State Queen and her participation in the 33rd Annual Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant held in Wilber, Nebraska in August. A display board and album of Lydia's activities were available for members to view.



Chapter News (cont.):

Following Lydia's presentation, President E.J. Biskup called the meeting to order with the members reciting "Our Czech Heritage" in both Czech and English followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Officers and committee chair reports were given. Membership Chair, Jo Ann Zaeske reported our chapter currently has 114 members. Upcoming events discussed were Brazos Valley Worldfest with a request of members to help bake items or to work the booth the day of the event; Christmas party to be held December 7th at the St. Joseph PAC; and the Christmas Baking Class on December 14th. Following adjournment of the meeting a 50/50 drawing was held.

2019 Brazos Valley Worldfest

BVCHS participated on November 9, 2019 in the Brazos Valley Worldfest – a community-wide festival to promote and celebrate the international diversity and heritage of the Brazos Valley and Texas A&M University. It was held at the Brazos County Expo Center in Bryan, Texas. The evening before the festival Stan Vitha, John, Samuel & Grace Moravec, Georgia Simecek, Bruno Shimek, Tomáš Pansky, Mary Enger, Frank & Marie Dulak met at the St. Joseph PAC kitchen to prepare kolache, vánočka (Christmas bread) and apple strudels to be served at the booth along with cookies and rosettes prepared by BVCHS members.



On Saturday, besides the food to be offered, a cultural display with information about the chapter and the Czech Republic was available for visitors to view. Thanks to the volunteers – Stan Vitha, John and Samuel Moravec, Carrie Martin, Lorraine Roesler, Richard and Toni Fayman, Bill Merka, Michael Jaska, Tomáš Pansky and Mary Enger – who worked the booth by selling food items, talking with visitors about our organization and upcoming events and selling Czech noisemakers. At the close of Worldfest the BVCHS booth had sold out of every item there was to offer.

BVCHS Christmas Party

The BVCHS Christmas party was held on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at the St. Joseph PAC with 25 members and 4 guests in attendance. Prior to the meal BVCHS member Fred Wenck gave a short Christmas message following with the meal blessing. The main entrée was ham provided by BVCHS with members bringing delicious side dishes and desserts for everyone to enjoy. Youth member, Erika Vitha, entertained everyone by playing Christmas songs and a variety of musical favorites on the piano. The traditional Czech ornament exchange was enjoyed by everyone participating. Tomáš Pansky and Lynette Urbanovsky led everyone in singing Czech and American Christmas carols. Door prize drawings concluded the celebration.



Christmas Baking Class

In preparation for the Christmas holidays a Czech Christmas Baking Class sponsored by BVCHS was held on December 14, 2019 at the St. Joseph PAC kitchen. Instructor, BVCHS member Stan Vitha, taught the 10 participants how to make vánočka (braided Czech Christmas bread), perničky (gingerbread cookies) and coconut bars that are staples in many Czech households during the Christmas season. Everyone enjoyed learning how to braid the 9 rolls for the vánočka, using different cookie cutters for the Christmas gingerbread cookies and having baked goods to take home to share with their family.



Spring Czech Language Class

- Monday, January 20, 2020
- St. Joseph Parish Activity Center Classroom
Bryan, Texas
- 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Cost: \$35.00
- Instructor: Tomáš Pansky

Spring Kolache Baking Class

- March 7, 2020
- St. Joseph Parish Activity Center
Bryan,
- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Cost: \$35.00
- Instructor: Stan Vitha

Limit of 12 participants (age 12 and older).
For further information contact Stan Vitha at
bohemia2012@aol.com or (979) 587-1777 or register
at <https://whoozin.com/KHF-QFW-M4HR-M7WC>
Registration deadline is Friday, March 6, 2020.

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 March 20, 2020, 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 members:

Brenda Clarke
Joseph Merka
Roy Novosad
Kelly Sandhop

Member News:

Lynette Urbanovsky, BVCHS member, won the Texas State of Texas Bake Show Non-Professional State Grand Champion for her kolaches at the 35th Annual Kolache Festival in Caldwell, Texas on September 14, 2019. She was presented Rosettes for her prune, poppyseed and sausage kolaches and a 2nd Place ribbon for her apricot kolaches. Great job, Lynette!

Richard and Toni Fayman are proud great-grandparents of Ashe Susan Fawcett who was born October 3, 2019 in Virginia. Ashe is the daughter of Katherine and Kyle Fawcett.

On October 16, 2019, BVCHS member Ronnie Horcica gave a Czech presentation, "The Czechs in Texas," for the Exploring History Lunch Lecture sponsored by the College Station's Historic Preservation Committee and Parks and Recreation Department. Grace Moravec, BVCHS youth member and BVCHS Czech-Slovak Little Sister, also attended and modeled her kroj.



At the Czech Heritage Society State Fall Membership meeting in Taylor, Texas on November 9, 2019 BVCHS President Edward (E.J.) Biskup was elected as Vice-President for 2020-2022. Congratulations, E.J.!

Condolences and Concernments:

Sincere sympathy to BVCHS members, Charles and Regina Operstny in the loss of their daughter, Sandra Operstny, who passed away on October 22, 2019 in Waco, Texas.

Speedy recovery wishes for:

Kay Biskup, John Matush, Lorraine Roesler, Paul Watthuber and Helen Metzner

Vocabluary – Days of the Week and Words

English	Czech	Phonetic
Monday	pondělí	pohn-dyeh-lee
Tuesday	úterý	oo-the-ree
Wednesday	středa	strzheh-dah
Thursday	čtvrtek	chtvr-tehk
Friday	pátek	paa-tehk
Saturday	sobota	soh-boh-tah
Sunday	neděle	neh-dyeh-leh
Breakfast	snídaně	snee-dah-nyeh
Lunch	oběd	oh-byehd
Snack	svačina	svah-chih-nah
Supper	večeře	veh-cheh-rzheh
Bread	chleba	kleh-bah
Water	voda	voh-dah

2020 Upcoming Events

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| January 19 | BVCHS Membership Meeting
2:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish Activity Center - Bryan, Texas |
| January 20 | Czech Language Class Starts
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish Activity Center Classroom
Bryan, Texas |
| February 22 | CHS Winter State Meeting and Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant
Taiton Community Center – El Campo, Texas
Hosted by: Wharton County CHS |
| March 7 | Spring Baking Class – “Kolache Baking”
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish Activity Center Kitchen
Bryan, Texas |
| April 19 | BVCHS Membership Meeting and Scholarship Presentation
C&J Bar-B-Que – Large Pow Wow Room
Bryan, Texas |
| May 3 | St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Festival
St. Anthony Pavilion and Grounds
Tabor Road - Bryan, Texas |
| May 17 | St. Anthony Catholic Church Bazaar
St. Anthony Pavilion and Grounds
Tabor Road – Bryan, Texas |
| May 17 | Slavnost “May Fest” & Tribute to the Czech Immigrants to Texas
Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center
LaGrange, Texas |
| July 25 | CHS Summer State Meeting and Genealogy Conference
Hosted by Fayette County CHS
Location to be announced |
| September 20 | BVCHS Membership Meeting
1:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish Activity Center - Bryan, Texas |
| October 11 | BVCHS Czech Heritage Celebration
Polka Masses – St. Joseph Catholic Church, Bryan, Texas
Dinner and Dance – St. Joseph Parish Activity Center |
| November 8 | BVCHS Membership Meeting
2:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish Activity Center - Bryan, Texas |
| December 5 | BVCHS Christmas Party
1:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish Activity Center – Bryan, Texas |