



Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society

P.O. Box 3383 – Bryan, TX 77805

Website: bvchs.webnode.com

January 2022

BVCHS Officers

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Appointed Positions

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Cheryl Wenck
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Website:

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**Wishing you Health and Happiness in the
New Year!**

Look forward to seeing you at the February meeting.

Saturday, February 19, 2022, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Parish Activity Center (PAC)

Video Presentation: *Dance Hall Days*

Our President's Thoughts

Hope all of you had a Blessed & Merry Christmas and were able to spend the holidays with family and friends this year. Wishing everyone a Happy & Healthy 2022 and staying safe from this new variant of the virus.

It was so good to see so many of our members, as well as guests, attend the BVCHS Christmas party and begin the holiday season celebration. To all the fabulous cooks who brought the delicious sides and desserts to compliment the main course, thanks so much. It seems no one went home hungry. The inspirational Christmas message by Rev. John Gantt instilled in all the Reason for the Season. Singing of Christmas carols brings back memories of younger days when people would go caroling to neighbors' homes to welcome the arrival of Baby Jesus (Ježíšek). Thanks to everyone for contributing door prizes, helping set up and clean up after the event.

The coming year will be a busy one for BVCHS. The chapter will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary in June. In April we will have our chapter scholarship presentations. Also, a raffle fundraiser is planned to subsidize our high school scholarship fund and we need our members to sell tickets to family, friends and neighbors to help the endeavor.

Hope to see you at our next chapter meeting on February 19, 2022 1:00 p.m. at the St. Joseph PAC.

Bůh s vámi!
Marie



Chapter News:

November 2021 Meeting

BVCHS held its membership meeting November 7, 2021 at C&J Barbeque in Bryan, Texas. President Marie Dulak called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. There were 17 members and 2 guests in attendance. The opening prayer "Our Czech Heritage"/Naše české dědictví was led by Stan Vitha followed by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Kamila Vitha gave an interesting presentation on eating and dining in the Czech Republic.

The meeting continued with officers and committee chair reports. Cheryl Wenck, Secretary and Scholarship chair, reported that applications for the Novak – Zaeske Memorial Scholarship and the Matush Czech Heritage Scholarship will be available in January. Jo Ann Zaeske, Treasurer, reminded members that dues for 2022 are now due, \$15 for adults and \$3 for youth. Rich Fayman, Vice President, reported that BVCHS will need to start having membership meetings on Saturdays as St. Joseph now uses the Parish Activity Center (PAC) for parish activities on Sundays. We also had drawings for door prizes. The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m. followed by a 50/50 drawing and socializing of members.

December 2021 Christmas Party

BVCHS celebrated Christmas on December 11, 2021 at the St. Joseph PAC with 35 members and 10 guests enjoying a traditional meal of turkey and ham with sides and desserts provided by members. Rev. John Gantt gave the blessing before our meal and later delivered an inspiring Christmas message.

Faith Wenck, a BVCHS youth member and senior at A&M Consolidated, performed a beautiful Christmas medley on her flute consisting of Silent Night, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, and The First Noel.

An exchange of Christmas ornaments and drawing of many door prizes was a treat for all. The celebration concluded with all singing to Tomas Pansky's guitar accompaniment of Czech and English Christmas carols, followed by great fellowship afterward.



Erica and Stan Vitha and Tomas Pansky singing Czech Christmas carols at the Christmas party

Membership

A reminder if you have not already paid your 2022 dues (Adults \$15, Youth, \$3), please mail your check to:

Jo Ann Zaeske
BVCHS Treasurer
P.O. Box 3383
Bryan, Texas 77805

Scholarships

Applications for the Novak-Zaeske Memorial Scholarship and the Matush Czech Heritage Scholarship have been emailed to all members. The Novak-Zaeske Scholarship is intended for graduating high school seniors and the Matush Czech Heritage Scholarship is intended for college students currently enrolled in a 4 year university/college, 2 year college, or trade school. Both applications are due March 20, 2022. If you have questions, call BVCHS Scholarship Chair Cheryl Wenck at (979)220-4048 or email at the5wencks@verizon.net.

Spring Semester Czech Language Class

Czech Language Class for the Spring Semester is set for Mondays, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., starting February 7, 2022 to go through May 9, 2022 and will be at the St. Joseph PAC. The class instructor will be Stan Vitha, and the cost will be \$35. To register or if you have questions, call Jo Ann Zaeske at (979)224-4434 or email Marie Dulak at mdulak52@gmail.com.

Spring Kolache Baking Class

The Spring Kolache Baking Class is back this year! It is scheduled for April 23, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be held at the St. Joseph PAC. Watch your email for details on how to sign up.



BVCHS Chapter's 25th Anniversary Celebration - Mark your calendars!

The BVCHS Chapter is planning on having a celebration meal on Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m with our club catering the meal at no charge. We will be recognizing some of our founding members and will have memorabilia on display to commemorate our 25 years as a chapter.

Member News:

At the CHS State Fall Meeting held at the Taiton Community Center on November 13, 2021, E.J. Biskup was elected President and Rita Vanek re-elected Treasurer of the State CHS and will serve a two-year term. E.J. has served as our own BVCHS Chapter President for 8 years! Congratulations E.J. and Rita!

Congratulations to BVCHS youth member Faith Wenck, Head Drum Major of the A&M Consolidated Tiger Band. In October and November, Faith led the band from Region to Area and then on to the State 5A Marching Band Competition in San Antonio. This was the first time in school history that the A&M Consolidated Band made the State Marching Competition. Faith is the daughter of Cheryl and Fred Wenck, and the granddaughter of Jo Ann Zaeske and the late Lou Zaeske. Great job Faith!

Congratulations to BVCHS Members Zora and Lorence Bravenec on the birth of their new grandchild! Benjamin Edward Bravenec was born on September 24, 2021 and is the son of proud parents, Eddie and Katy Bravenec of San Antonio.

BVCHS member Sharon Clements '86 helped 92 year old Dr. Joe H Knowles '50 receive his Texas A&M University diploma 71 years after he was initially set to graduate. Dr. Knowles went directly into medical school after 3 years of collegiate study, never having received his degree from Texas A&M University. Knowing how much Knowles loved Texas A&M, Clements reached out to the Texas A&M Foundation and was able to track down Knowles records. In August, 2021, Dr. Knowles walked the stage in Reed Arena and received his diploma! What a kind act of service by Sharon for her friend and fellow Aggie.

Graduations

In August 2021, BVCHS member Jennifer Koll '15 completed her studies to earn a Masters of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She then completed the certification requirements to become a licensed Nurse Practitioner in Texas. Jennifer is the daughter of Jeannine and Chris Koll and the granddaughter of Jo Ann Zaeske and the late Lou Zaeske. Congratulations Jennifer!

2022 Upcoming Events

February 19	BVCHS Membership Meeting St. Joseph PAC, Bryan, Texas
April 3	BVCHS Membership Meeting & Scholarship Presentation C&J BBQ, Bryan, Texas
April 23	BVCHS Spring Kolache Baking Class St. Joseph PAC, Bryan, Texas
April 23	CHS State Spring Meeting and 2022 Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant Hosted by McLennan-Hill CHS Chapter
June 11	BVCHS 25 th Anniversary Celebration St. Joseph PAC, Bryan, Texas
July 23	CHS State Summer Meeting and Genealogy Conference Hosted by Fayette County CHS Chapter TCHCC in LaGrange, Texas
September 17	BVCHS Membership Meeting St. Joseph PAC, Bryan, Texas
October TBD	BVCHS October Czech Heritage Celebration Dinner and Dance St. Joseph PAC, Bryan, Texas
November 5	BVCHS Membership Meeting St. Joseph PAC, Bryan, Texas
December 3	BVCHS Christmas Party St. Joseph PAC, Bryan, Texas

Note: Except for our April 3rd meeting, all BVCHS membership meetings for 2022 are scheduled to be on Saturdays at 1:00pm. The 2022 Christmas party is scheduled for 12:00pm.

Please submit any announcements or news articles for the BVCHS Newsletter to Jeannine Koll, email jeannine.koll@mygrande.net, 214-924-8230.