



Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society

P.O. Box 3383 – Bryan, TX 77805

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Summer 2022

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Congratulations BVCHS on 25 years!

President's Thoughts

Hope everyone has received some of the rain we've had the past couple of weeks, enjoying the cooler temperatures and preparing for the arrival of Fall.

It was so good to see so many BVCHS members and guests attend the chapter's 25th Anniversary Celebration. First and foremost, thanks to the Anniversary Planning Committee who did an outstanding job planning the event. This group coordinated everything from meal catering details, decorating the tables with special place settings and centerpieces to commemorate the event, ordering the cake, displaying of historical events BVCHS has been involved with the past 25 years and presenting a program detailing the history of the chapter which started with 10 charter members and now has 107 members. A big thank you to members who sold and bought raffle tickets for the Novak-Zaeske Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser which was a big success. Besides BVCHS members winning several prizes there were winners from the community and outside the Bryan-College Station area.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at upcoming BVCHS events.

Bůh žehnej všem a Americe
(God bless everyone and America)

Marie



Chapter News:

February 2022 Meeting

BVCHS held its February 19, 2022 membership meeting at the St. Joseph PAC. President Marie Dulak called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. There were 28 members in attendance. The opening prayer "Our Czech Heritage"/Naše české dědictví was led by Frank Dulak followed by members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting continued with officers and committee chair reports. Rich Fayman, Vice President, reported on the work of the Bylaws Committee and distributed copies of the proposed updated Bylaws to all. Jo Ann Zaeske, also a member of the Bylaws Committee, mentioned that the changes were minimal. Marie Dulak reported for Stan Vitha that the Spring Baking Class is set for April 23rd and that Worldfest would be returning this year, tentatively set for November 12, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m. followed by a 50/50 drawing and drawing for door prizes. Members then enjoyed refreshments as they watched the video presentation, *Dance Hall Days*.

April 2022 Meeting and Scholarship Presentation

BVCHS held its April 3, 2022 membership meeting and scholarship presentation at C&J BBQ in Bryan. President Marie Dulak called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. There were 30 members and 5 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. Marie welcomed all guests and new BVCHS members Vladimir and Tara Jirinec.

Vice President Rich Fayman introduced the guest speaker, Lauren Gerik, Miss Czech-Slovak US Queen 2021-2022. Lauren gave a short presentation on the National Pageant in Nebraska and some of her activities serving as US Queen. The meeting continued with officers and committee chair reports. It was reported that the updated Bylaws had been sent out to the membership to review. The new Bylaws that were sent/presented were unanimously approved. Following, Cheryl Wenck, Scholarship Chair, presented the 2022 Novak-Zaeske Memorial Scholarship to Faith Wenck, a BVCHS youth member and graduating senior from A&M Consolidated. Faith is the daughter of Cheryl and Fred Wenck and the granddaughter of Jo Ann Zaeske and the late Lou Zaeske. Faith read her essay and made comments about her Czech activities and memories, high school activities and her future plans. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. followed by a drawing for door prizes and the sale of raffle tickets for the 25th Anniversary Celebration scholarship fundraiser.



Jo Ann Zaeske, Cheryl Wenck, Faith Wenck, Lauren Gerik, and Marie Dulak

Spring Kolache Baking Class

The Baking Class led by Stan Vitha was held April 23, 2022 and began at 9 a.m. with 12 participants. In addition to large and small kolaches, the group made sheet cakes with fruit and crumble topping. The group also ground poppy seeds and made poppy seed filling as well as a yogurt cheese filling ("tvaroh" in Czech, not quite the same as cream cheese). A surprise loaf of sourdough bread was baked and enjoyed by everybody for lunch with ham, cheese and egg spread.



The Class concluded around 4 p.m. Everybody was able to take home a lot of baked goods!

BVCHS Chapter's 25 Anniversary Celebration – June 11, 2022



The BVCHS Chapter celebrated its 25th Anniversary on June 11, 2022 at the St. Joseph PAC. The members enjoyed a catered meal of roast beef, potatoes, green beans and salad following the invocation led by Fred Wenck. As members enjoyed the meal, BVCHS member, Arthur Zarosky, provided background accordion music. Founding charter members, Lorence & Zora Bravenec were recognized as well as the late Melvin Ondrasek by his wife Laverne Ondrasek. BVCHS member Bunny Blaha, daughter of CHS founder, Albert J. Blaha, attended the celebration. Rich Fayman, Vice President, gave a BVCHS Chapter history presentation. Zora Bravenec spoke on early events of the chapter. Jo Ann Zaeske, Treasurer, reported that membership has grown to 107 members. The celebration culminated with a raffle drawing benefitting the BVCHS Novak-Zaeske Memorial Scholarship.

Spring and Fall Czech Language Class

Czech Language Class for the Spring Semester ended May 9, 2022. Czech Language Class for the Fall Semester will be at the St. Joseph PAC on Mondays, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and is set to begin September 19, 2022 to go through December 5, 2022. A big thanks to Stan Vitha who will be instructing the class again. 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.



Instructor Stan Vitha with Spring Semester
Czech Language Class Participants

Membership

Please welcome the following new members for 2022:

Gladys Beasley
Toni Fayman
Shelly Palmos
Brenda Clarke
Mary Jasek

BVCHS has a membership total of 107 (95 Adults and 12 Youth) as of June 2022.

Member News:

Rich and Toni Fayman's daughter and son-in-law, Heather and Bill Mettlen celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary in March. Also, their son and daughter-in-law, Rich, Jr. and Kelly Fayman celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on August 1st.

Member News (cont.):

John and Mary Ann Gantt celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 8th.

Congratulations to Lynette Urbanovsky and Kevin Shimek on their April 24, 2022 marriage!

Graduations

Riley Ann Sandhop graduated from A&M Consolidated High School, Summa Cum Laude. She was also a member of the National Honor Society. Riley has been accepted to the University of Texas CAP Program (Coordinated Admissions Program). Riley will attend the University of Texas at San Antonio her freshman year, then transfer to the University of Texas at Austin her sophomore year majoring in political science. Riley is the daughter of David and Kelly Sandhop.

Faith Wenck graduated from A&M Consolidated High School, Magna Cum Laude. While in high school she earned 24 college credit hours and earned the distinction of an AP Scholar with Honors. Faith also served as drum major for two years of the A&M Consolidated Band, her senior year serving as head drum major. Faith will be attending Texas A&M University this Fall majoring in Agribusiness with a minor in Psychology. Faith is the daughter of Cheryl and Fred Wenck and the granddaughter of Jo Ann Zaeske and the late Lou Zaeske.

Emerson Fayman, grandson of Rich and Toni Fayman, graduated from Minooka High School in Minooka, Illinois. He was very active in track and cross country. Emerson set Illinois state records and received a scholarship to attend Indiana State University. He was accepted into Indiana State University's Professional Aviation Program.

Concernments and Condolences

Sincere sympathy to the following:

Zora Bravenec and family on the passing of her brother Fedor Manka of Oregon on February 15, 2022.

Liz Zemanek and family on the passing of her sister Patricia Byrd on February 4, 2022 and her brother, Frank J. Zemanek, Jr. on March 5, 2022.

Kay Biskup and family on the passing of her sister Rita Griffith.

BVCHS Member Martha Schwartz family for her passing on March 26, 2022.

2022-2023 Upcoming Events

September 19- December 5	BVCHS Czech Language Class St. Joseph PAC, Bryan, Texas
October 14-15	Heritage Fest & Muziky TCHCC, LaGrange, Texas
October 22 12:00-4:00p.m	BVCHS Czech Heritage Celebration, St. Joseph PAC, Bryan, Texas
November 5	BVCHS Membership Meeting St. Joseph PAC, Bryan, Texas
November 11	Worldfest Baking St. Joseph PAC Kitchen, Bryan, Texas
November 12	Brazos Valley Worldfest Downtown Bryan, Texas
November 12	CHS State Fall Membership Meeting Hosted by Fort Bend County Chapter, K of C Hall, Rosenberg, Texas
November 19	BVCHS Fall Kolache Baking Class St. Joseph PAC Kitchen, Bryan, Texas
December 3 12:00 p.m.	BVCHS Christmas Party St. Joseph PAC, Bryan, Texas
January 14	BVCHS Membership Meeting St. Joseph PAC, Bryan, Texas
March 4	BVCHS Spring Kolache Baking Class St. Joseph PAC Kitchen, Bryan, Texas
April 16	BVCHS Membership Meeting and Scholarship Presentation C&J BBQ, Bryan, Texas
April 23	CHS State Spring Meeting and Genealogy Conference Hosted by Wharton County Chapter New Taiton, Texas

Please submit any announcements or news articles for the BVCHS Newsletter to Jeannine Koll, email jrzcoll@gmail.com, (214)924-8230.