

The

Czech Educational Foundation of Texas

Newsletter of the CEFT

www.ceft.us

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From the President

All of us at the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas (CEFT) wish you and your family a very happy holiday season. Your continued support of CEFT is sincerely appreciated and is important in helping ensure the success of this organization and the programs that it has established. We look forward to seeing all of you throughout the upcoming year. In particular, we invite and encourage all of you to attend the CEFT Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, January 25, at the Caldwell Civic Center in Caldwell, Texas. The meeting will start at 10:30am.

The Annual Meeting of CEFT affords everyone the opportunity to learn more about developments and activities during the past year at the three CEFT endowments: the Texas Chair of Czech Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, the CEFT William J. Hlavinka Czech Fellowship at Texas A&M University in College Station, and the CEFT Frank J. and Hermine Kostohryz Residency in Czech Music at the University of North Texas in Denton. The meeting also offers everyone the opportunity to share their thoughts and suggestions about CEFT and its future endeavors.

We, the Board of Directors, continue our fundraising efforts for these three endowments and we encourage all of you to continue to support the endowment(s) of your choice. Feel free to contact one of the Program Advisors for each of the three programs for more information about how to make a contribution - advisors' names are listed in this newsletter. Also included in this newsletter is a membership/memorial contribution/donation form. Please continue to support CEFT by renewing your annual membership and encouraging others to join.

Members of CEFT should have received by now a ballot for election of Directors who are up for reelection to the Board this year. You may return the ballot by mail to the address indicated on the ballot or you may bring the ballot to the Annual Meeting. We also encourage all of you to consider serving as a Director at some time in the future; if you are interested in being a Director, please let us know.

Finally, we are extremely excited about UNT's continued efforts to promote the awareness of Czech music with its outreach efforts throughout the state. This year UNT has arranged a tour by the Czech dechovka, Moravská Jedenáctka. Performances in January are scheduled in West, Ennis, Austin, Denton, Caldwell, La Grange, Houston, and Dallas. Do plan on attending one or more of these events.

Veselé Vánoce a šťastný nový rok

Woody Smith, President CEFT

Honoring Director Kercho

After many years of tireless service, Al Kercho has resigned as an active director of CEFT. Over the years, Director Kercho has secured major contributions to CEFT fundraising events which have contributed immeasurably to the success of the organization and its endowments. Beginning his service to CEFT in July 1991, he served as Secretary from 1992 through 1996. Director Kercho represented CEFT at the TOCA Appreciation Dinner in 2011 and was awarded the Founding Fathers Award in 2013. Al and his wife Alene are Lifetime Members of CEFT and remain dedicated to CEFT and its mission.



Director Al Kercho (left) was the 2013 recipient of the CEFT Founding Fathers Award. Also pictured are President Woody Smith and Director Clarice Marik Snokhous.

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Welcome to our newest members Samantha and Charles Kacir, grandchildren of Director Sidney Kacir, who join ranks in carrying on the traditions of the Kacir Family. August Kacir of Temple, with Dr. Henry R. Maresch of Houston and Dr. John M. Skrivaneck of College Station, founded CEFT on October 19, 1954.

Program Updates

University of Texas at Austin - Chair in Czech Studies -

Search for Fellow Continues

The search continues for the next fellow of the Texas Chair in Czech Studies at the University. Previous fellow Dr. Veronika Tuckerova is now preceptor in Slavic Languages and Literature at Harvard.

University of Texas Prepares to Celebrate 100 Years of Czech Planning continues for the 100th anniversary of the teaching of Czech language at the University of Texas. The event is expected to take place in April of 2015. Organizers are hopeful that a large number of former students and teachers will attend. Do you know someone who took Czech at UT? Let them know about the event. Contact James Sassin at sassinjames@yahoo.com for more information.

University of North Texas - CEFT Frank J. and Hermine Kostohryz Residency in Czech Music and Culture -

Czech dechovka Moravská Jedenáctka touring in January (see pg 3).

Dr. Neal Smatresk named 16th president of UNT. Smatresk will succeed V. Lane Rawlins who announced in March that he planned to retire at the end of 2013. Smatresk will begin his presidency February 3, 2014, and Rawlins will continue in the role until that time.

Texas A&M University - CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellowship -

Previous Hlavinka Fellow Checks in with Professor Clint Machann

After her CEFT fellowship at A&M, Hana Waisserova taught in the Faculty of Education at Masaryk University in Brno, finished her Ph.D., did a couple of conferences and published a few articles, then landed a job with Anglo-American University in Prague. In Brno she taught English and American literature, and in Prague taught Czech, Gender and Czech studies (Totalitarian memory and experience).

Dr. Waisserova has a family now, two little daughters, Amalka is 4 and Ruzenka is 2. This year she is teaching at University of Nebraska-Lincoln under Mila Saskova-Pierce. Hana is "extremely thankful for being given the opportunity to study, and teach in Texas, since it really enabled me to pursue academic career. I would be hardly able to finish my PhD if not being in TAMU. I am also thankful to Prof. Bhattacharya, she was very supportive to me, but everyone was so good to me. All my teachers, supervisors and staff were truly great. I value my experience very much, and I have great memories. The only thing I am sorry about was that I did not record the great narratives of "the last Czechs", who would be very old and had amazing stories to share. This time I brought a dictaphone to Nebraska, and I hope to get some footage and perhaps contribute to an archive." Hana sends her best regards to all the Czech Heritage folks.

2013 CEFT Officers and Program Advisors

Officers

Chairman Clint Machann
c-machann@tamu.edu - 979-845-4898

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Membership VP Diane Sulak Wilson
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Program Advisors

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- clarices@sbcglobal.net - 254-826-3004



Director Ben Trcalek (middle) was recognized as the 2013 TOCA recipient for CEFT. Ben is pictured with Clint Machann and TOCA President Arlene Cloyd at the appreciation dinner in La Grange. Director Trcalek joined CEFT in 1987 and served as Treasurer for many years. A graduate of Caldwell High School and TCU, former coach/teacher at Westchester HS in Spring Branch ISD, he is now a rancher and businessman and is an active member of the TCU Letterman Association, TCU Frog Club, Texas A&M 12th Man Foundation, Burleson County Fair Association, the Caldwell High School FFA Scholarship Program, and Lodge Secretary of the SPJST New Tabor Lodge 17.

The Czech Educational Foundation of Texas,
in partnership with the University of North Texas College of Music,
brings one of the most popular dechovka of Moravia
for a tour across Texas.

Moravská Jedenáctka



The brass band is a common feature in the life of the Czechs. Beginning with the marching army bands, the style soon spread beyond the military to become the "music of the people" and, by the beginning of the last century, nearly every town and village had its own "dechovka."

For more information, please contact either one of the local representatives listed below or
Tom Sovik thomas.sovik@unt.edu 817-287-9644.

Friday, 10 January

West - Knights of Columbus Hall, 2547 Jerry Mashek Drive
Dinner-Dance
Doors open 4:00 p.m.; Dinner 6:00; Dance 7:00
Admission \$5 dance; \$8 dinner
Contact: Dan Pokluda 254-749-8520

Saturday, 11 January

Ennis - KJT Auditorium, 1216 South Paris Street
Dinner-Dance
Doors open at 6:15 p.m.; Dance 7:00
Admission \$8
Contact: Joe Landsfeld 972-875-5443

Sunday, 12 January

Austin - Gethsemene Lutheran Church, 200 W Anderson Lane
Dinner and Concert
Doors open at 1:00 p.m.; Concert 2:00
Admission \$10
Contact: Roger Rabago 512-345-8193
(or) Tuy Maizner 512-345-9630

Monday, 13 January

Denton - Voertman Concert Hall, College of Music, 415 S Avenue C
Sit-Down Concert
Doors open at 7:30 p.m.; Concert 8:00
Free Admission
Contact: Tom Sovik 817-287-9644 or thomassovik@yahoo.com

Tuesday, 14 January

Caldwell - Caldwell Civic Center, 103 Presidential Corridor W
Dinner and Concert
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; Concert 6:30
Admission \$10
Contact: Charlene Hurta 979-849-0348 or 979-848-6517

Thursday, 16 January

La Grange - TCHCC Fair Pavilion, 250 W Fairgrounds Road
Dinner-Dance
Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; Dance 6:00
Admission \$5 (children-highschool students free); Dinner cost separate
Contact: Mark Hermes 1-888-785-4500 or info@czechtexas.org
(or) Rea Chandler reachan@sbcglobal.net

Friday, 17 January

Houston - Czech Center Museum, 4920 San Jacinto Street
Dinner and Dance with Complimentary Valet Parking
Concert and Dance at 6:30 p.m.; Dinner 7:30; Music continues to 9:30
Admission \$35
RSVP by Jan. 10: Effie Rosene events@czechcenter.org or 713-528-2060

Sunday, 19 January

Dallas - Sokol Dallas, 7448 Greenville Avenue
Dinner-Dance
Dinner 12:30 p.m.; Dance 2:00
Free Admission; \$8 dinner (\$4 for children)
Contact: eventinfo@sokoldallas.org

Return Address
Cindy Belknap c/o CEFT
2520 Willing Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76110

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CEFT 2014 Annual Members Meeting

The annual general membership meeting of the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas will be held on **Saturday, January 25, 2014** at the Caldwell Civic Center
103 Texas Presidential Corridor West,
Caldwell, Texas 77836

The meeting will begin at 10:30 AM
Refreshments will be provided before the meeting

The election of open director positions for 2014 will occur during the meeting.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of CEFT will take place in the same location immediately following the Members Meeting.

Did you know the Texas Czech dialect will most certainly die in the next fifteen years? The goal of the Texas Czech Legacy Project (TCLP) is to create a central place documenting the language, culture, and history of ethnic Czech Moravians in Texas. The first stage of the Project involves creating the Texas Czech Dialect Archive (TCDA), a repository of audio-recordings gathered from ethnic Czech Moravians in Texas since the 1970s through the 2000s. The inspiration for TCLP came from the successful Texas German Dialect Project led by Professor Hans Boas of the University of Texas at Austin, which, in turn, motivated John Tomecek, a student of Hans Boas and graduate of UT, to begin documenting the language of Texas Czechs in the early 2000s and call for establishing an archive that would preserve this unique immigrant dialect. Tomecek shared his vision at past CEFT meetings. Ultimately, the Texas Czech Legacy Project will offer a web-accessible database of audio and textual materials in and about Texas Czech.

To contact the Texas Czech Legacy Project team, send an email to texasczechproject@gmail.com. To contact the Texas Czech Legacy Project Director, Lida Cope, send an email to cope1@ecu.edu or write to the following address: Lida Cope, Department of English, East Carolina University, Bate Building #2118, Greenville, NC 27858. Visit the TCLP website to learn more: <http://blogs.utexas.edu/txczech/>