

CZECHS & CHICAGO

Presented by CZ-USA

Czech Consulate General in Chicago Publication

Czechs Celebrate their Centennial Thank You, Chicago, Midwest, America!

2018 marks the most important anniversary in modern Czech history. On October 28, 1918, Czechs regained independence after 300 years. Important chapters of the remarkable story of the creation of Czechoslovakia were written one hundred years ago here in **Chicago, the City that Helped Create the Country!** The Czech and Slovak state would not have come into existence were it not for Charles Crane, Czech-Americans and other friends from Chicago and the US Midwest, the traditional center of Czech immigration to the United States since the 1850s. On the occasion of the centennial of the founding of Czechoslovakia and 25th anniversary of the creation of the Czech Republic, the highest representatives of our country will travel to Chicago to honor Americans and Czech-Americans who contributed to the birth of modern Czech statehood.

World War I Begins Fight for Independence Is On!

On July 28, 1914, the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia. The idea to fight the "Slav brothers" created much distress among Czechs back home as well as in Chicago, the second largest Czech city after Prague.

Down with the Eagle!

On the day of the declaration of war, Chicago Czechs gathered in Chicago's Pilsen Park to protest. Slovaks, Serbs and other Slavic immigrants joined them. Sokol gymnasts were called upon to build a human pyramid and take down the double-headed eagles, symbols of the Habsburg Empire. Collections at the rally laid the foundation of the Czech Red Cross.



The Grand Welcome of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, President Liberator, Chicago, May 5, 1918
Charles Crane, Godfather of Czechoslovakia (on the right)

It's Time to Act Says Professor Masaryk

"Our Czech soldiers, leaving Prague, showed their anti-Austrian stance. They were punished for what I, as an MP, was preaching. Could I have done less than the simple soldier-citizen, whom I had encouraged in anti-Austrian and pro-Slavic views?" Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk

Maffia Calls for Help

Professor Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk together with two key aids, Czech Edvard Beneš and Slovak Milan Rastislav Štefánik, formed the so-called Maffia with the objective to create a new Czech and Slovak state. TGM left for exile and began seeking support for the effort. Fortunately, he could turn to his American friends whom he got to know during his visits in the United States in 1902 and 1907. Both times he spent a substantial time in Chicago and other parts of the Midwest. He addressed various influential US forums and toured major centers of Czech immigrants. How to finance the campaign was a major concern. The immediate financial needs were covered by Charles Crane who opened a limitless account for Masaryk. TGM also called for financial help from Czech-Americans. He did so via Emanuel Voska, a Czech-American who would later establish and head an impressive spy network for the allies.

Ready & Willing

Chicago was the natural center of Czechs in the United States. The Bohemian National Alliance, the revolutionary body of the Czech-American National Council, was founded here on August 25, 1914. The message that TGM took the lead in the struggle for Czech independence was received with enthusiasm. Chicago, Cleveland (OH), Omaha, Prague, Milligan (NE), Cedar Rapids (IA), St. Louis (MO), Detroit (MI), Tabor (SD), Prague (OK), Milwaukee and Racine (WI) were among the first centers to respond to the professor's calls for support. Edvard Beneš' brother Vojta was sent from Prague to the Midwest to join the local leaders in the fundraising efforts.

\$ 1.5 Million for Masaryk!

Collections, bazaars and other events brought in the impressive USD 1.5 million by the end of 1918. "Farmer brought a horse to our auction and when too little was offered, he bought the horse himself and donated it again for the revolutionary cause. Another time, a poorly dressed man came to the office with his wife and daughter. I suspected him to beg for help, however, he gave us his savings book with USD 270 claiming it would find a much better use here. This was everything he had. There are hundreds of such examples. These are the most beautiful chapters in the story of our struggle." Vojta Beneš



Poster by Vojtěch Preissig, 1916

JOIN US @ Czech Centennial Celebrations
www.czechcentennialchicago.cz

To Arms!

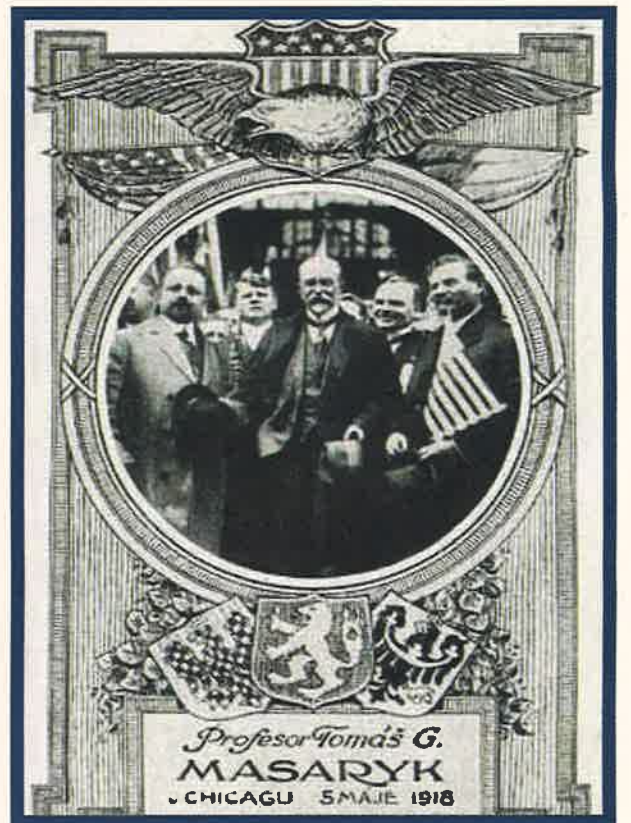
If we have an army, the Allies will have to take us seriously! This became a key consideration for the Maffia's campaign. The US entry into the war in April 1917 opened the gate for Czech-American volunteers to join the US army as well as the Czechoslovak army in France. More than 30,000 Czech-Americans left their families to fight for Czechoslovak independence.



"Daddy Among His Boys" TGM with Czech-American volunteers

New Masters of Siberia

In May 1917, TGM left London for Russia to establish Czechoslovak legions there. Czech soldiers in the Austro-Hungarian army were encouraged to desert. Tens of thousands of them now waited in Russian prison camps for the opportunity to fight alongside the allies. While on a special US diplomatic mission in Russia, Charles Crane helped Masaryk to secure the approval for forming the Czechoslovak units. Approximately 70,000 Czech and Slovak soldiers soon gained control of Siberia and became a world-wide sensation. Called "The New Masters of Siberia" by the US press, they became a critical argument toward the Czechoslovak cause. The Czech and Slovak Americans provided critical help to sustain the troops both on the French front and in Siberia. A half million \$ from the US collections went to the legions. Moreover, 2309 large boxes with material aid were sent to the soldiers, worth more than 300 thousand dollars. These were tirelessly packed by Czechoslovak-American women.



Historic Postcard – Professor T. G. Masaryk in Chicago, May 5, 1918

Czecho de Mayo! Triumphant Welcome to Masaryk in Chicago

From Russia, TGM continued to America to gain its recognition of independent Czechoslovakia. On his tour raising support of the American public for the cause, he arrived in Chicago on May 5, 1918. This day got to be called the "Greatest Day in the History of Czech America." As reported by Chicago Tribune, 200,000 people came to greet the Czechoslovak leader, 40,000 marched with him in the parade from the railway station to the Blackstone Hotel where he addressed the crowd. Harry Pratt Judson, President of the University of Chicago came to give a personal welcome. *"I believe that your work, Prof. Masaryk, will be crowned with the success it deserves."*

Final Step in Washington



Historic postcard honoring Presidents Masaryk and Wilson as "Liberators of the Czechoslovak Nation"

"I aimed at getting to know the most influential decision-makers in the US administration, Congress and society. Mr. Crane extended exceptional help to me, because he knew almost all people that I was interested in, particularly, he was close to President Wilson." TGM

Charles Crane provided major financial support to Wilson's presidential campaigns and was his valued advisor. Moreover, his son Richard served as secretary to the US Secretary of State Robert Lansing. Crane introduced Masaryk to President Wilson as *"the outstanding Slavic leader of the world and one of the half dozen leading statesmen."*

During meetings with President Wilson, Secretary Lansing and other members of the US administration, Masaryk was ultimately able to gain the US recognition of Czechoslovak independence, make the decisive step towards the creation of the First Czechoslovak Republic on October 28, 1918.

On November 20, 1918 TGM left the US to assume the office of the first Czechoslovak President. Before leaving, he stated to the press, *"Our nation will always be grateful to America for her ward and sincere sympathy with our cause. Our new republic will forever consider the great American commonwealth her elder sister."*

From America with Love

Czech and Slovak Americans continued to help their homeland after Czechoslovakia was born. In November 1918, the "National Tax" collection brought in USD 330,000 during a single day. Over the spring of 1919, "Ships of Love" carried clothing, food and other aid in the value of USD 6 – 7 million to the new country.

Chicago distribution center for aid to Czechoslovakia



Together with our Slovak Brothers & Sisters



Milan Rastislav Štefánik at the meeting of the Bohemian National Alliance and the Slovak League in Washington in 1917

Though living in two separate States today, Czechs and Slovaks continue to share a unique bond and special friendship. On a joint session of Czech and Slovak governments, 2018 was declared the Year of Czech-Slovak and Slovak-Czech Mutuality. Prime Ministers Andrej Babiš and Robert Fico emphasized the exceptionally close mutual relations between both states, which evolve from the rich tradition of living in a common state, sacrifices made to create and renew the brotherly togetherness of Czech and Slovak nations, as well as our extraordinarily successful cooperation during the last 25 years.

Our communities in the US have remained just as close as the nations in Europe. Many historic, joint "Czechoslovak" organizations continue to strive. We look forward to welcoming our Slovak friends at the celebrations. The Slovak Honorary Consul in Chicago, Rosemary Macko Wisnosky, will be a special guest of the celebrations.

Cleveland and Pittsburgh were the traditional centers of Slovak immigration to the US. Key agreements between Czech and Slovak Americans, which paved the way to the creation of the common state, were signed in these cities in 1915 and 1918. The Czechoslovak National Council of America, the main joint body of both communities had its seat in Chicago where it was founded in February 1918. One of the leading Slovak-American representatives from Chicago, Štefan Osuský, later became the Czechoslovak Ambassador to France.

Godfather, Ambassador, Secretary, Wife & Goddess THE CRANES & Czechoslovakia



Jan Masaryk
and Frances Crane, 1925

The Masaryk Family called Charles Crane the "Godfather of Czechoslovakia." The nickname captures the importance of the Chicago industrialist and philanthropist for the creation of Czechoslovakia. In memoriam, he received the Order of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk from President Miloš Zeman on October 28, 2017. All four children

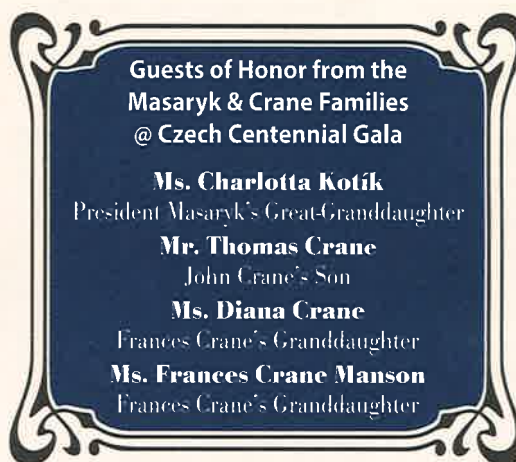
of Charles Crane had a special link to Czechoslovakia as well. Richard Crane, the first US Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, received, for his support of the independent Czechoslovakia, the Order of White Lion from President Masaryk in 1926. John Crane served as personal secretary to President Masaryk for most of the 1920s and remained a friend of the Masaryk family and Czechoslovakia till the end of his life. Frances Crane, married to President Masaryk's son Jan, represented Czechoslovakia as the first lady of the Czechoslovak Embassy in London in the 1920s. Josephine Crane's depiction as the Slav goddess, Slavia, by Alphonse Mucha can be found on the Czechoslovak 100 crown bill as well as at the St. Vitus Cathedral at the Prague Castle. It shall always serve as a reminder of the incredible bond between the Crane family and the Czech nation!



Richard Crane and TGM at the Prague Castle, 1921



Depiction of Josephine Crane
on the Czechoslovak Banknote



Czech & Slovak America Comes to Aid Again!

The response of Czech and Slovak Americans to the Nazi occupation of Czech lands was immediate.

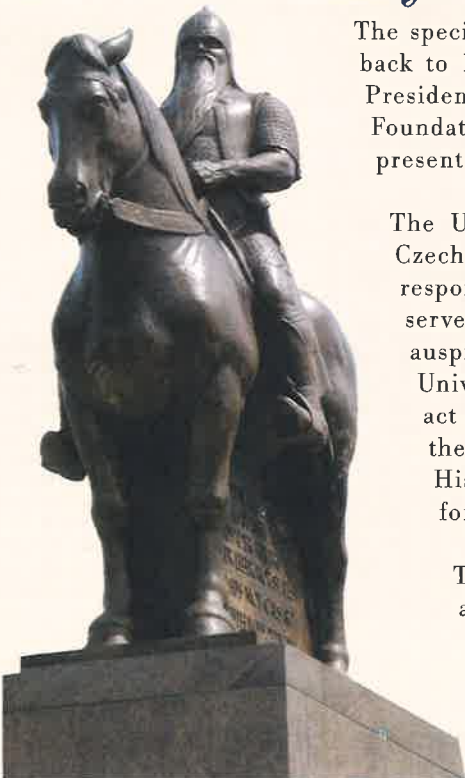
"Leaders of American Czechs and Slovaks called upon me to head the resistance movement. On April 18-20, 1939, the main Czech and Slovak organizations gathered in Chicago, united in the Czechoslovak National Council of America and offered us immediately their help." Edvard Beneš

Throughout the war, Czech and Slovak Americans contributed 10 – 15 thousand dollars every month. Over the first two years, they collected USD 350,000.



*"Czechoslovak Republic Exists!
This Is Its New Emblem!"
Poster by Vojtěch Preissig, 1939*

The University of Chicago & (Not Only) Czechoslovak Presidents



The special relationship between the University of Chicago and the Czech nation dates back to 1902. Professor Masaryk lectured at the University upon the invitation of its President William Harper and Charles Crane. The lecture series was part of a new Slavic studies program financed by the Crane Foundation. TGM returned to the University in May 1918. In both instances, he was able to use it as an important forum to present the "Czech / Czechoslovak Question."

The University extended its helping hand also to the 2nd Czechoslovak President Edvard Beneš after he left for exile in response to the Munich agreement in 1938. He was invited to serve as a Professor in its Department of Sociology under the auspices of the Charles R. Walgreen Foundation. During the University of Chicago Roundtable broadcast, he declared to act again as Czechoslovak President after Germany annexed the whole territory of the Czech lands on March 15, 1939. His salary from the University helped finance his campaign for the recreation of Czechoslovakia.

The University continued to support Czechs and Slovaks also after the country fell under the Soviet control in 1948. Just as during the World War II, Czechoslovak professors and students received its help. For decades, the University's Masaryk Club contributed to keeping the democratic traditions of the First Czechoslovak Republic alive. The Club was renewed in 2016 to once again bring Czech projects to the University and promote the President Masaryk's values of humanism and democracy.



Charles R. Walgreen & Edvard Beneš
University of Chicago archives

On a Personal Note ...



I have had the great honor to represent the Czech Republic at the US Midwest for over 7 years. To serve as Consul General on the occasion of the centennial is yet another special privilege. During my tenure, I was able to discover many stories of remarkable Czech-American friendship that should be told. That is why I decided to write one more issue of "Czechs & Chicago" and would like to offer you a book in the near future. I wish to thank all Czech-Americans, for what they have done for my country and for me personally over the recent years. In many cases, their ancestors came more than 150 years ago. I have never stopped being amazed by how much the Czech heritage has remained in their hearts. We can always rely on them, as well as on many other friends here, in enhancing Czech-US relations, in making sure that our special bond does not remain just a historic curiosity. I am extremely grateful to our sponsors, partners and countless supporters who offered us help in preparing truly special centennial programs. We have all agreed: Where better to celebrate than in Chicago?! I hope that you will enjoy our events!

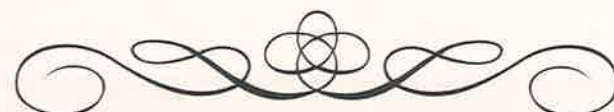
Bořek Lizec
Consul General in Chicago



*Historical postcard of the Bohemian National Cemetery,
the largest Czech cemetery in the world, founded in 1877.
World Wars Memorial honors Czech Chicagoans who fought
in both conflicts for Czechoslovak independence.*



"Borek Lizec" - Follow me for updates on the celebrations & more



Highlights Tours

100 Years of the Czech Republic Story

1 Prague – A City of Cafés and Modern Architecture

Prague is a city of hundred faces. One of them had formed in the 1920s and 1930s, in the first years of the Republic. The remarkable architect Jože Plečnik transformed Prague Castle in the style of modern Classicism into the seat of the democratic president, and the city enjoyed the increasing popularity of the cafés in which the Prague bohemians and avant-garde met – whether it was Slavia, Louvre, or the Cubist Grand Café Orient.

2 Pilsen – A City of Revolution in Housing

The Czechoslovak Republic became the ideal environment for architectural experimentation – it was here that unique Cubist, Expressionist, and Functionalist buildings were created at that time. The work of Adolf Loos in Pilsen brought along a new perspective on housing. His still-preserved beautiful housing interiors are a stellar example of this.

3 Žatec – A City of Hops and Beer

The young Republic continued to do what was done in the Czech lands before WWI. The pride of the country were the best hops in the world, and the beer made from the hops, which was highly valued throughout Europe and abroad. That Žatec was the centrepiece of Czech hops production is evidenced by the Hop Museum as well as the Hop and Beer Temple.

4 Mladá Boleslav – A City of Cars

Czech brands started conquering the world. In Mladá Boleslav, Škoda commenced the production of cars, which are still among the best-sold on the global market. A unique and modernly-designed Škoda Auto Museum is a fascinating journey to the history of the brand, Czech family silver.

5 Hradec Králové – The Salon of the Republic

Nowhere else in the Czech Republic has such a sophisticated and consistent urban plan been successfully promoted. Due to the efforts of renowned architects Jan Kotěra and Josef Gočár, it was turned into a showcase of modern architecture. Walking routes around the city are a stunning journey to buildings so visionary that they even meet present-day needs.

6 Brno – The Capital of Functionalism

The efforts to reshape Brno were also gripped by urbanism. The spirit of Functionalism liked Brno so much that public buildings, churches, villas, cafés, and even the trade fair exhibition centre began to emerge in its image. Villa Tugendhat by architect Mies van der Rohe, protected by UNESCO, is the icing on the cake, which consists of nearly 400 Functionalist structures linked by a unique sightseeing route.

7 Baťův kanál – From a Brilliant Vision of Transportation to a Tourist Magnet

At the top of the rankings of modern and enlightened entrepreneurs was the Baťa family. The canal for the transport of coal was a unique and, furthermore, a realised vision. The well-preserved technical monument has now been transformed into an idyllic tourist cruise through beautiful scenery.

8 Luhačovice – A City that Treats and Fascinates

Luhačovice is a place with an unprecedented atmosphere. The original buildings of the architect Dušan Jurkovič, created in the spirit of folk Art Nouveau, are unparalleled in the world. To this day, here, in the arms of nature, 16 curative springs treat diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems, as well as musculoskeletal and circulatory system disorders.

Highlights tour 1

Architects and Entrepreneurs of the New Age designed for: Pleasure Seekers or Millennials (Cool)
Distance **795 km**
Estimated Driving Time **11 h 30 min**
The number of days: **5**

Highlights tour 2

Through the land of spas, beer, rock cities and industrial sites designed for: Pleasure Seekers
Distance **1364 km**
Estimated Driving Time **18 h 30 min**
The number of days: **7**

1 Prague – A City of Original Architectural Ideas

Architecture resonated through the young Republic, it was one of the manifestations of a new order of things, the confidence of a nation awakened. Prague is its treasury. It is fascinating both at the private and public levels – whether we walk through Müller's Villa, the works of the architect Adolf Loos, the Trade Fair Palace, which was admired by Le Corbusier himself, or climb the town hill of Vítkov towards the National Monument, built as a tribute to the Czechoslovak legions.



9 Zlín – A City as One Man's Dream

Tomáš Baťa. The most famous Czech entrepreneur, who gave his name to the footwear brand, which, to this day, enjoys success across the globe. The whole city of Zlín still has the character linked to Baťa's genius. Baťa's skyscraper by architect Vladimír Karfík is still spellbinding. A complete overview of the company's and the city's history is provided in the museum "Building No. 14 of the Baťa Complex", situated in one of the Baťa-built buildings.

10 Rožnov pod Radhoštěm – A Kingdom of Folk Architecture

But the young Republic not only consisted of cities progressive in architecture and business. In villages, people lived in accordance with ancient traditions, in houses built in the spirit of ancestral wisdom. A unique Wallachian Open Air Museum, the oldest and largest open-air museum in Central Europe, was founded in the 1920s for the express purpose of preserving the treasure of "common sense".

2 České Budějovice – A City of Proud Brewing Tradition

The history of beer brewing in České Budějovice began as early as the 13th century. Today, the Budweiser Budvar trademark is known throughout the world. The best opportunity to get acquainted with the history as well as the present of the production of the famous beer is through a very interesting one-hour tour of the Budvar brewery.



Ted Polashek with a CCACC's supporter Jim Peterik & his Grammy Award

Permanent Home for Our Partnership

The Chicagoland Czech-American Community Center (CCACC) serves as a home away from home for Czech-Americans and other friends of the Czech Republic. Under the leadership of its founding President Ted Polashek, it provides space where all have the opportunity to learn, discuss and share ideas. The center promotes Czech-American cooperation in business, culture, education and other areas. You are invited to join the organization and /or make a donation to support its mission, including the great objective to give the Czech-American partnership a permanent home in Illinois.

www.chicagocacc.org

3 Pilsen – The Capital City of Beer

There is no other such city whose name is so powerfully bound with beer as that of Pilsen. The Pilsner Urquell brand is undoubtedly one of the most famous in the world. In the Brewery Museum in Pilsen, you will experience the story of beer from antiquity to present.

4 Mariánské Lázně – A Cold Spring Spa

A charming city of parks, cafés, sweet shops, and stylish pubs is rich in a hundred cold mineral springs that effectively treat diseases of the musculoskeletal, excretory, and respiratory systems.

5 Karlovy Vary – The Most Famous Czech Spa

The city, built in the valley of the Teplá River, is world-famous for its unique architecture and, above all, its 15 hot mineral springs, which have beneficial effects on diseases of the digestive system in particular.



6 Jáchymov – The Oldest Radon Spa in the World

The first radon spa in the world was opened in Jáchymov, at the foot of the Krušné Mountains, as early as in 1906. The local radon treatment is very gentle, does not burden the body, and it is effective in the treatment of diseases of the musculoskeletal system.

7 Bohemian Switzerland National Park – A Realm of Rocks, Ravines, and Rock Gates

Sandstone rock towns are one of the biggest tourist magnets of the Czech Republic. Tyssa Walls are the first of them. They open up the breath-taking landscape of the Elbe Canyon, Prácheň Gate – one of the wonders of the world – wild gorges, and fantastic rocks and gullies.

8 Ještěd – A Unique Cable Car to the Wonder of Modern Architecture

Ještěd Mountain is the landmark of North Bohemia, visible from afar. It can be reached by the only cable car in the Czech Republic, a lady of nearly 80 years in age. The summit is crowned by an original television transmitter, hotel, and restaurant in one.

9 Bohemian Paradise – A Legendary Rock Maze

The second one of the popular sandstone rock towns of the Czech Republic is a large Bohemian Paradise rock labyrinth near the town of Jičín. The world of rock needles and towers is breath-taking in every season.

10 Lázně Bělohrad – The Place Where Mud Heals

A peaceful foothill spa rich in wholesome peat, which effectively helps treat diseases of the musculoskeletal system and skin diseases.

11 Adršpach-Teplice Rocks – The Largest and Wildest Rock Town of Central Europe

The third representative of the sandstone rock towns are the rocks near Adršpach and Teplice nad Metují, in the Broumov Promontory. The rock town loved by film-makers is filled with narrow cracks and massive walls forming a backdrop to a rock lake.

12 Ostrava – A City of Wondrous Industrial Monuments

Coal mines and blast furnaces are the backdrops and the centrepieces of exciting experiences in the industrial Lanšký Park and the Lower Vítkovice area. Intense and authentic experiences associated with the work of miners, but also popular educational centres, are unique in many ways.

13 Třebíč – A Small Town as a Large Treasury of History

The South Moravian town of Třebíč hides many unique Christian as well as Jewish monuments. Astonishingly, the St. Procopius Basilica, protected by UNESCO, witnessed the period of the mid-thirteenth century, when it was built. The basilica itself, as well as its crypt, are structures rarely seen in Europe. In addition, UNESCO also protects a unique Jewish quarter and a cemetery in the town.



www.czechtourism.com

Texts & graphic design by CzechTourism

Our 12th Season @ Midwest

The Czechoslovak Consulate General in Chicago was closed down after the communist turnover in 1948. Our current office opened in 2006 with the mission to strengthen relations with 11 states of the Midwest and offer consular services (passports, visas, citizenship, etc.).

We look forward to your visit!

Bořek Lizec & Kateřina Lizcová Kulhánková, Consul General & His Wife, Jan Kubišta, Deputy Consul General & Consul, Tomáš Trnka, Consul, Jana Šáchová, Pavlína Vlčková, František Adámek, Štěpánka Hasilová, Martina East, Lucie Amos & Martina Muresan

www.mzv.cz/chicago

Supporting Institutions

Sokol Tabor <https://www.facebook.com/sokoltabor/>

Sokol Stickney <http://sokolstickney.org/>

Divadlo Bohemia <http://www.divadlobohemiachicago.com/>

Bohemian National Cemetery <http://www.friendsofbnc.org/>

Reunion after the Velvet Revolution Sister Cities Chicago & Prague

In 1948, the communist turnover led Czechoslovakia into the Soviet sphere of influence. The strong ties between Czechs and Americans were cut off for four decades. The door to our reunion was only opened by the “Velvet Revolution” in November 1989, which brought about the fall of the communist regime. Prague and Chicago became Sister Cities in 1990. Since then the Prague Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International has cooperated on numerous projects aimed at enhancing our partnership, including Prague Days 2007 and 2015 festivals. For the last 15 years the committee has been chaired by Edward Dellin. Thank you!

www.chicagosistercities.com

Welcoming You to the Czech Republic

CzechTourism is a governmental agency, which promotes the Czech Republic as a tourist destination. Its US office, headed by Director Michaela Claudino, is located in New York.

www.czechtourism.com

Moravian Beauty

Moravia is, together with Bohemia and Silesia, one of the three historical Czech lands. It is known for its rich culture, folklore traditions and beautiful costumes as well as internationally recognized wines. United Moravian Societies have been introducing this culture to Illinois since 1939. That year, the first Moravian Day took place in Pilsen Park. Many thanks to President Roman Bobčík and all UMS members for continuing the legacy in Chicagoland.

unitedmoraviansocieties.org



Weapons for Courageous Defenders

Česká zbrojovka & Its Support of Czech Statehood

"This autumn, 100 years will pass since Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918. Though the state does not exist anymore, many of the ideas on which it was based remain alive. The First Czechoslovak Republic ranked among the ten most advanced economies in the world thanks to its strong industrial base. We continue to build on that tradition. CZ's strong automotive, aero and firearms divisions make us the largest Czech exporter to the US. CZ is the only direct successor of the famous tradition of the Czechoslovak arms industry, the largest Czech company specializing in the development and manufacture of handguns and also one of the world's largest producers in this field. The Czechoslovak arms base was built under the motto: A weapon in the hands of courageous defenders is the best guarantee of the nation's freedom! We still serve as partners of Czech and other nation's armed forces and police. We constantly bring out new products for the civilian market, support various shooting sports and also actively promote civilian defense projects. In essence, we are still, in many ways, committed to the principles, on which Czechoslovakia was founded 100 years ago. We are very proud to support the Czech Centennial Celebrations in Chicago!"

Lubomír Kovařík,
President & Chairman of the Board of Česká zbrojovka a.s.

"2018 marks major anniversaries for CZ-USA as well. 20 years ago, Česká zbrojovka found its home overseas in Kansas, just as many Czechs did since the 19th century. Today, tens of thousands Kansans still claim Czech ancestry and we have been proud to support their activities. This year we also celebrate the 50th anniversary of Dan Wesson that we are proud to have in our family. Our craftsmen there created a special pistol to commemorate the occasion. Our employees and customers deserve major thanks for helping shape CZ-USA into the company we are today."

Alice Poluchová, CZ-USA President



www.czub.cz
cz-usa.com



President Edvard Beneš during his visit of Zbrojovka Brno, now part of Česká zbrojovka. The financial claims abroad of Zbrojovka Brno significantly helped President Beneš and the Czechoslovak government in exile to finance the campaign for regaining Czechoslovak independence during World War II.

Friendship Made of Steel Magellan Corporation

Magellan Corporation is a leading, independent, global distributor of high quality specialty steels as well as other metallurgical products. Established in 1985, the Chicago-based company offers the market a wealth of supply chain knowledge and technical expertise. As a socially responsible corporation, Magellan provides reliable product management for its suppliers and customers while benefiting the community as a socially responsible corporation citizen.

The company has done business in the Czech Republic (formerly Czechoslovakia) since 1987. It has a representative office in Kladno, the home town of Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak. The company has been involved as a sponsor of various Czech activities. In 2011 Magellan helped restore the Woodrow Wilson Monument in Prague. (The original was created by Albín Polášek and destroyed by Nazis during the occupation.) The company hosted the Czech delegation during the NATO summit in Chicago, the Czech junior hockey team's Chicago visit, and many Czech

governmental officials during visits to Chicago throughout the years. Magellan also sponsored the celebration of the 45th anniversary of Apollo 13 mission led by a legend of space exploration, Capt. James Lovell of Czech ancestry. Many thanks to Magellan and its President Bob Arthur for the continuous support!

www.e-magellan.com

Connecting Prague & Chicago LOT Polish Airlines



"LOT offers nonstop service from Chicago to Warsaw and Krakow on the World's most advanced aircraft, Boeing 787 Dreamliner with convenient connections to Prague. Many Czechs take advantage of these connections and fly with us also to other destinations all over the world. LOT has been connecting Prague and Warsaw for 72 years. We are proud to be the Official Airline of the Czech Centennial Celebrations in Chicago!" Rafal Milczarski, CEO & President of the Management Board at LOT Polish Airlines

It seems impossible to list everything that Czechs and Poles have in common. We share similar cultures, history and even our languages are close. Not at least, just as Chicago once was the second largest Czech city, it held the same ranking among Polish cities. Many thanks to LOT, recipient of numerous awards, including Best European Airline from Global Traveler, for its support not only of the centennial celebrations, but also other major Czech projects in Chicago over the years, including Prague Days 2015 and Czech Beer Festival 2017!

www.lot.com

Back to the Union League Club

Exactly 18 days before Czechoslovakia was created, TGM returned to Chicago upon invitation of the Union League Club. He addressed more than 500 guests as the key note speaker at Club's quarterly meeting. Chicago Tribune addressed Professor Masaryk already as President of the Czechoslovak republic. The paper reported that "Chicago leaders of thought, industry and finance as well as diplomatic and military representation gathered to give a welcome to the responsible executive of a great state that was fighting side by side with America, France and England." We could not find a more fitting venue to host the Czech Centennial Gala than the Club's beautiful historic premises.



Texts © Bořek Lizec

Graphic Design © Karel Scherzer

"Highlights Tours" Article © CzechTourism

Celebrations Committee Chair – Kateřina Lizcová Kulhánková

Public Relations – Marian Hajda, David Beneš, Tobin Williamson, Greg Gorski

CENTENNIAL HALL OF FAME

OF THE CZECH MIDWEST

Those who made a difference

Key President's Men



Vojta Beneš

Leader of ČS Liberation Movement during WWI & II
Later ČS MP & Senator
(Brother of Edvard Beneš)



Ludvík Fischer

Bohemian National Alliance's President during WWI
Later General & Medical Service
Director of the ČS Army
(Chicago)



Karel Pergler

Leader of ČS Liberation Movement
TGM's Personal Secretary in the US
Later ČS Ambassador to Japan
(Chicago, Iowa)



August Geringer

Leader of ČS Liberation Movement
Founder & Publisher of Svornost, the 1st Czech Daily in the US in 1876 & Many Other Czech Periodicals
(Chicago)



J. E. S. Vojan

Leader of ČS Liberation Movement
Czech American Press Agency's Director
Bohemian National Alliance's Secretary during WWI
(Chicago)



J. F. Štěpina

Leader of ČS Liberation Movement
ČS Aid Committee's President
(Chicago)



Jaroslav Smetánka

Leader of ČS Liberation Movement
Later 1st ČS Consul in Chicago
(Chicago)



Jan A. Červenka

Leader of ČS Liberation Movement
ČS National Council of America's President, City of Chicago Treasurer, Pilsen Brewery's President
(Chicago)



Rev. Oldřich Zlámal

Leader of ČS Liberation Movement
(Cleveland)



Louis Brandeis

Supporter of ČS Liberation Movement
ČS Declaration of Independence's Co-Author, US Supreme Court Justice
(Kentucky)



Adolph Sabath

Supporter of ČS Liberation Movement
U.S. Congressman, Dean of the House
(Chicago)

Veni, vidi, vici!

Czech "American dreams"



Antonín Čermák

Mayor of Chicago
Supporter of ČS Liberation
Czech Charitable Association's Founder & President (Chicago)



Otto Kerner, Jr.

IL Governor
& US Court of Appeals Judge
(Chicago)



Otto Kerner, Sr.

IL Attorney General
& US Court of Appeals Judge
(Chicago)



Judy Baar Topinka

IL Treasurer & Comptroller
First Republican Woman to Run for IL Governor
(Chicago)



Roman Hruška

US Congressman
& Senator (1953-76)
(Nebraska)



R. T. Rybak

Mayor of Minneapolis
(Minnesota)



Karel Jonáš

Wisconsin Lt. Governor,
US Consul in Prague
Czech-English Dictionary Author
(Wisconsin)



Karel J. Vopička

US Ambassador to Romania,
Serbia & Bulgaria
Atlas Brewery Founder
Supporter of ČS Liberation (Chicago)



Ray Kroc

Founder of McDonalds Empire
(Chicago)



František Korbel

Founder of Korbel
California Champagne
& CZ-US Press Agency
in Chicago



James Lovell

Astronaut
Hero of Apollo 13
(Chicago, Cleveland)



Eugene Cernan

Astronaut
"Last Man on the Moon"
(Chicago)



George Halas

Chicago Bears Founder,
Coach & President
(Chicago)



Evan Lysacek

Figure Skater
Olympic & World Champion
(Chicago)



Rafael Kubelík

5th Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Music Director



Renée Fleming

Opera Singer
& Chicago Lyric Opera
Creative Consultant



Jim Peterik

Rock Star, Grammy Award Winner
Founding Member
of the Ides of March & Survivor
(Chicago)



Ric Ocasek

Rock Star, Member
of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
Founder & Frontman of Cars
(Cleveland)



Ivan Král

Rock Star
Grammy Award Winner,
(Michigan)



Albín Polášek

Sculptor
Former Head of the Art Institute's
Sculpture Department
(Chicago)



Kim Novak

Double Golden Globe
Winning Actress
(Chicago)



Ashton Kutcher

Actor
(Iowa)



Mika Brzezinski

Co-Host of Morning Joe, MSNBC
(Great-Grandniece of Edvard Beneš)



Jeff Zeleny

CNN Senior Correspondent
(Nebraska)

CZECH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS



Friday, September 28, 6 pm

MAIN EVENT – CZECH CENTENNIAL GALA

@ Union League Club of Chicago (65 Jackson Blvd, Chicago)
Donation: \$175

Concert

"Czech Rock Lions"
Jim Peterik & Petr Janda
Czech-American & Czech Music Legends Sharing a Stage

Art Exhibition

"Carving Destiny"
Alphonse Mucha, Albín Polášek & Vojtěch Preissig
Great Artists & Czech Patriots with Strong Chicago Connections

Dancing to the Music of The Swings

Dinner by a Top Czech Chef

Special Guests, Historic Presentation & More

Saturday, September 29, 10 – noon

Special Viewing – "Carving Destiny" Art Exhibition

@ Union League Club of Chicago (65 Jackson Blvd, Chicago)
Free Admission (Reservation Required)

Saturday, September 29, 2 - 4 pm

Special Guided Tour - Bohemian National Cemetery

(5255 N Pulaski Rd, Chicago)
Free Admission (Reservation Required)

Saturday, September 29, 6 pm

Czech Centennial Night

@ Sokol Tabor Hall (1602 Clarence Ave, Berwyn)
Petr Janda, The Swings, Euroband, Divadlo Bohemia & More
Donation: \$19.18

Saturday - Sunday, September 29 - 30

79th Moravian Day

@ Lithuanian World Center (14911 E 127th, Lemont)
Saturday – Welcoming Dance 7 pm
Sunday - Holy Mass 10 am, Main Program 2 pm
Jiří Helán & Band, Dancers & Singers of United Moravian Societies & Guests
Donation: \$20 (each day)

Saturday, November 3, 6:30 pm

Czech Swing in the Chicago Clouds

Jan Smigmator & Guests in Concert

@ Mid-America Club - 80th floor (200 E Randolph Dr, Chicago)
Cocktail Reception
Free Admission (Reservation Required)

Sunday, November 4, 3 pm

Czech Centennial Concert

The Czech Philharmonic in Chicago

@ Chicago Symphony Center (220 S Michigan Ave, Chicago)
Antonín Dvořák: New World Symphony in B minor, Op.104 & Cello Concerto
Special Reception
Czech Philharmonic will also perform @ Great Hall – Wharton Center, East Lansing, MI
(Oct. 30), Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor, MI (Nov. 1) & Other US Venues

Main Platinum Sponsor



Golden Sponsor



Official Airline



Organizer



Consulate General of the Czech Republic
in Chicago

Partners



CzechTourism



Man with the Eye of the Tiger

Jim Peterik

CZ-US Singer, Songwriter & Musician
Founding Member of The Ides of March & Pride of Lions
Founder & Former Member of Survivor
Grammy Award Winner; Eye of the Tiger, Burning Heart, Vehicle, Hold on Loosely
jimpeterik.com



Rocking like a Dynamite

Petr Janda

CZ Singer, Songwriter & Guitarist
Leader of Olympic, #1 Czech Rockband
55 Years at the Top of CZ Music Rankings
More than 20 Original Albums
Dynamit, Jasná zpráva, Jako zamlada, Želva
www.bestia.cz/olympic



Rolling Out the Barrels

Jiří Helán

Former Lead Singer of Moravanka,
#1 CZ Polka Band
Founder & Former Lead Singer of Moravěnka
Škoda lásky (Roll Out the Barrels), Teče voda teče,
Nedaleko od Trenčína, Na těch panských lukách
jirihelan.cz



Sounds of the First Czechoslovak Republic

The Swings

Petr Hanzlík, Petr Jindra,
Pavel Švestka & Jiří Hruška
CZ Vocal Quartet & Orchestra
CZ & US Swing Music of 1930s & 40s
7 albums, including 4 albums with
Ondřej Havelka & Melody Makers
Jen pro ten dnešní den, Slunečnice,
Mr. Sandman, Chattanooga Choo Choo
www.theswings.cz



Ambassadors of the Czech Classical Music

Czech Philharmonic

Acclaimed Czech Symphony Orchestra
Based in Prague
Founded in 1896
Former Conductors include Antonín Dvořák,
Gustav Mahler & Raphael Kubelik
www.ceskafilharmonie.cz



Time to Swing

Jan Smigmator

"Czech Sinatra"
Co-Host of the "Klub Evergreen" Radio Show
Albums: Swing is Back & Time to Swing
www.smigmator.com

More Information, Donations & Tickets
www.czechcentennialchicago.cz



"Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago"



"Borek Lizec"