

CZECHS & CHICAGO

SPECIAL UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO EDITION

A Publication of the Consulate General of The Czech Republic in Chicago

LAST JUNE, WE DEDICATED the Prague Days issue of "Czechs & Chicago" to famous Czech Chicagoans. This time, we would like to share with you how Chicago and its renowned University helped Presidents Masaryk and Beneš create and sustain modern Czech statehood. This legacy represents a remarkable foundation for a further development of ties between the Czech Republic and the University of Chicago, which we all hope for.

ON SEPTEMBER 23rd, Lubomír Zaorálek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, will honor the relationship between the University of Chicago and the people of the Czech Republic – one that is over a century old!



Three Who Made a Difference. Chicago industrialist Charles Crane, who helped start the University of Chicago Slavic Studies Department, with Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and Edvard Beneš, first two Presidents of Czechoslovakia and University of Chicago Visiting Professors



A Wartime Meeting – Edvard Beneš – Second President of Czechoslovakia meets with US President Franklin D. Roosevelt. During World War II, Beneš led the Czech government-in-exile, and also served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago.

The City & The University That Helped Create a Country!

BEFORE THERE WAS EVEN A CZECHOSLOVAKIA, the University of Chicago, began what was to become an historic trans-Atlantic partnership – inviting a prominent Czech professor to teach at their new Slavic language department – Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk.

The Start of A World-Shaping Career.

Professor Masaryk came to Chicago for the first time in 1902 as a guest of the foundation of Chicago industrialist and philanthropist Charles Crane and presented a series of thirteen lectures at the University of Chicago.

He was given an opportunity to introduce the "Czech question" at an important forum in the United States. The visit turned into a milestone in what was to become literally a world-shaping career, for Masaryk was to become more than merely an important thought-leader in the Slavic world.

A brief summary of his fascinating career counts Masaryk as a champion of democracy, a foe of anti-Semitism, a defender of women's rights, and, as President-Liberator (Prezident-Osvoboditel) the first president of the new country of Czechoslovakia.

A Glorious Return to Chicago in 1918.

On May 5, 1918, Professor Masaryk came to Chicago on his U.S. tour for Czechoslovak independence. On Michigan Avenue, he was greeted by 150,000 people! Once again, he delivered an important address at the University of Chicago.

The following was written in Chicago's Czech-American newspaper. "Professor Harry Pratt Judson, President of the University and a sincere friend of the Czechoslovaks, had invited Professor Masaryk to speak in Mandel Hall, one of the largest halls on the University campus. We must turn to him with undying gratitude for having given us the opportunity to advance our cause before an international audience, assembled at one of the highest seats of learning in America." Denní Hlasatel, May 28, 1918



Charles Crane – Invaluable Supporter & Friend.

Chicagoan Charles Crane provided key assistance to Professor Masaryk several times. This included support in Washington and even in Russia. The strong relations between his family, Masaryk family and Czechoslovakia continued also after the once distant dream of independent Czechoslovakia was realized on October 28, 1918. (See Page 2)

World War II –

The University Comes to Aid Again.

The relationship with the University of Chicago continued through the dark days of World War II. After the Munich Agreement, which began Czechoslovakia's dismemberment, Edvard Beneš resigned as the country's second President and left for exile.

He accepted the offer to serve as professor of sociology at the University of Chicago under the auspices of the Charles R. Walgreen Foundation.

But events continued to move quickly. On March 16, 1939 Nazi Germany invaded the rest of the territory of the Czech lands and Czechoslovakia ceased to exist.

On that same day, Edvard Beneš decided to act again as Czechoslovak President and founded the first provisional political center of Czechoslovak resistance called "Foreign Action". Three days later he delivered a famous radio address to the American people upon invitation of the University of Chicago to do so officially from its tribune.

Beneš' salary as a University of Chicago professor was an initial source of financing for the Foreign Action. Under the President's leadership, American Czechs and Slovaks formed Czechoslovak National Council of America in Chicago and contributed through collections \$15,000 every month.



Above, a photo of Edvard Beneš during his tenure at the University of Chicago with the University's President Robert Maynard Hutchins.



Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago

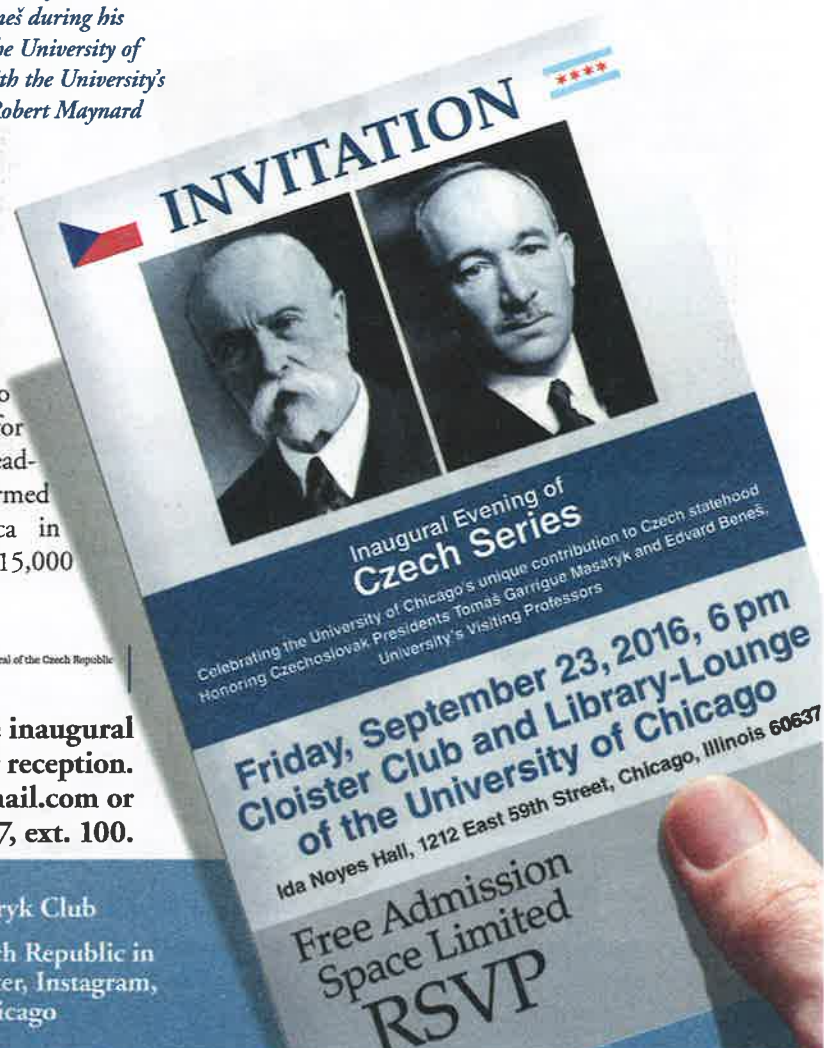
You are cordially invited to join the inaugural program and the following reception. Please RSVP @ rsvp.cgchicago@gmail.com or 312 861 1037, ext. 100.

Guests of Honor:

Mr. Daniel Diermeier, Provost of the University of Chicago
Ms. Charlotta Kotik, President Masaryk's Great-Granddaughter
Ms. Frances Crane Manson, Charles Crane's Great-Granddaughter
Music Performance by: Ivan Král, Grammy Award Winner

Re-Inauguration of The Masaryk Club

Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube www.mzv.cz/chicago





Bohemian
National
Cemetery
5255 N. Pulaski.



A Message from Lubomír Zaorálek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

IT IS A GREAT HONOR for me to launch the new Czech Series in Chicago and to re-inaugurate the Masaryk Club. • The world-renowned University of Chicago has been an incredible friend of our nation. Its support on multiple occasions during the 20th century deserves our great thanks. • I cordially invite you to the celebration that will take place at the University on September 23, 2016. • I personally appreciate the opportunity to pay tribute to our legendary presidents Masaryk and Beneš in the city that has such a special place in our history. • I look forward to meeting you in Chicago!



The Cranes of Chicago.

Professor Masaryk recalls, "One early morning in 1901 I had a visit from an American. Until he told me what he wanted I thought he was a journalist in need of information and I was going over in my mind how much to give him. Instead, he turned out to be a Chicago industrialist by the name of Charles Crane. He had earmarked funds for Slavic studies at the University of Chicago and was in Prague to invite me to lecture there. I decided to go." T.G.M.

Crane provided funding for Masaryk's political efforts and sheltered his family members. But the most critical help in the struggle for Czechoslovak independence came during the World War I.

The success of the Czechoslovak Legions in Siberia was a strong argument of Professor Masaryk for the Czechoslovak Cause. Charles Crane provided highly important help in gaining the approval from Alexander Kerensky, the Russian minister of war, for forming the Czechoslovak units from the prisoners of war who deserted the Austro-Hungarian army.

Charles Crane also helped Masaryk make the critical connection with the US government. He was an important supporter of President Woodrow Wilson. With the assistance of his son Richard, who was secretary to US Secretary of State Robert Lansing, he helped Professor Masaryk meet President Wilson. Those meetings between Masaryk and Wilson paved the way for US recognition of Czechoslovak independence, and the creation of the First Republic of Czechoslovakia.



"Our Nation shall never forget that it was you, Mr. President, who by his kind sense of freedom and justice has made possible the revolution which brought us our national independence."
T.G.M., January 2, 1919

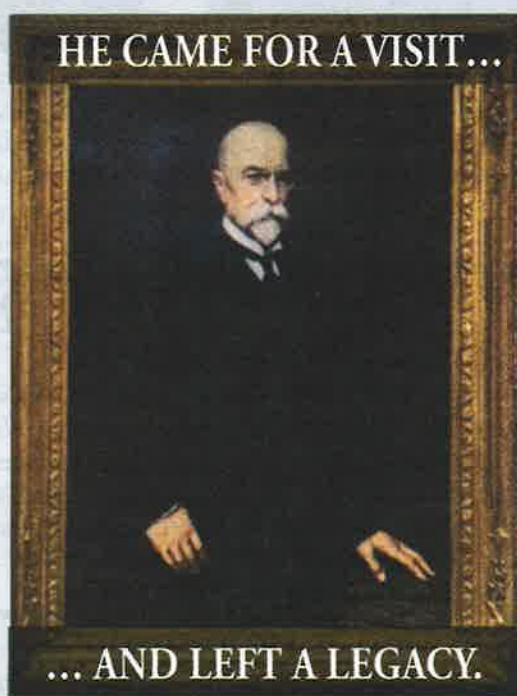


FAMILY ALBUM

Czechs & Chicago. It's a family affair

PROFESSOR TOMÁŠ G. MASARYK IS STILL IN RESIDENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY.

This portrait of T. G. Masaryk by Otto Peters was donated to the University of Chicago by Tomáš Jan Baťa, president of the Baťa Company. The shoe firm was once one of the symbols of the success of the First Czechoslovak Republic. The presentation ceremony took place on April 13, 1979 and honored Masaryk's history-making accomplishments as well as the Czech and Slovak Studies Program established in 1962.



The Masaryk Lectures.

During June and July of 1902, Professor Masaryk presented 13 lectures on 17 topics: The Slavs • The Czechs • Early Slavic Institutions • The Czech Reformation – Jan Hus, Taborists & Chalice Worshipers, Merits and Weaknesses of the Reformation • Unity of Brethren (Unitas Fratrum) • Petr Chelčický • Jan Amos Comenius • The Counter-Reformation • Our National Revival • The Meaning of Our National Revival (Dobrovský, Kollár, Palacký, Havlíček, Smetana) • Czech Literature of the 19th Century • State Political Institutions in Austria • Modern European Nationalism • Slavonic National Thought – The Russians • Slavonic National Thought – Dostoevski and Tolstoy • Slavonic National Thought – The Poles and the Southern Slavs • Away from Rome.

"It was my good fortune that I came to Chicago..."

ALICE MASARYKOVÁ was one of President Masaryk's daughters. Her stay at the University of Chicago Social Settlement as a young graduate had a great influence on her professional career. She became a prominent figure in the field of applied sociology, and co-founder and long-term President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

In 1915 she was arrested and imprisoned in Vienna due to her father's struggle for Czechoslovak independence. Her friends in Chicago, including Julia Lathrop, Mary McDowell and Jane Addams, contributed to her release after eight months. Their campaign generated tens of thousands of messages sent to Vienna and to U.S. officials.

Her father noted in his memoirs that this campaign helped even his political efforts by making them more known in America.

Alice returned to Chicago at the end of her life and rested for several decades at Bohemian National Cemetery. Then, after the Velvet Revolution, she joined her parents in Lány, in the Czech Republic.



Photo © National Gallery in Prague 2016

Chicago & The Mucha Connection.

CHARLES CRANE WAS A MAJOR PATRON of the legendary Czech Art-Nouveau artist Alphonse Mucha during the creation of his monumental Slavic Epic. Mucha also portrayed Josephine Crane-Bradley, daughter of Charles Crane, as Slavia (Slav Goddess). An edited version of the portrait appeared on the currency of the First Czechoslovak Republic – which also featured art by Mucha.

A Czech-American Family.

THE CRANES OF CHICAGO and the First Czechoslovak Republic came together in more ways than one. Soon after Czechoslovakia's creation, two of Charles Crane's sons Richard and John, moved to Prague. In 1919, Richard Crane was appointed the first US ambassador to the new country.

His father bought the Schönborn Palace, which was turned into the American Embassy. After Richard Crane's term was over, the palace was then sold to the US government. It is still used as the seat of the US Embassy to this very day.

From 1922 to 1930, John Crane served as advisor to President Masaryk for Anglo-American area at the Prague Castle.

In 1924, Jan Masaryk, President Masaryk's son, married Charles Crane's daughter Frances. When Jan Masaryk became Czechoslovak Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Frances Crane represented Czechoslovakia as first lady of the Embassy. Her granddaughter Frances Crane Manson will represent the Crane family at the celebration on September 23!



The Masaryk-Crane family, in 1925. Left to Right: Jan Masaryk, Alice Masaryková, Josephine Crane Bradley ("Slavia"), Harold Bradley, Francis Crane Masaryk, President Masaryk

Source: The Life and Times of Charles R. Crane, 1858-1939.



The Beneš

DID YOU KNOW THAT... niece of Czech President of President Beneš during Benešová, married Zbigniew Mika is one of their three politics. Mark was US and NATO Policy. Brother tireless campaigner for h

"It will be a great honor
for me to be a part of
such a celebration."
Ivan Král

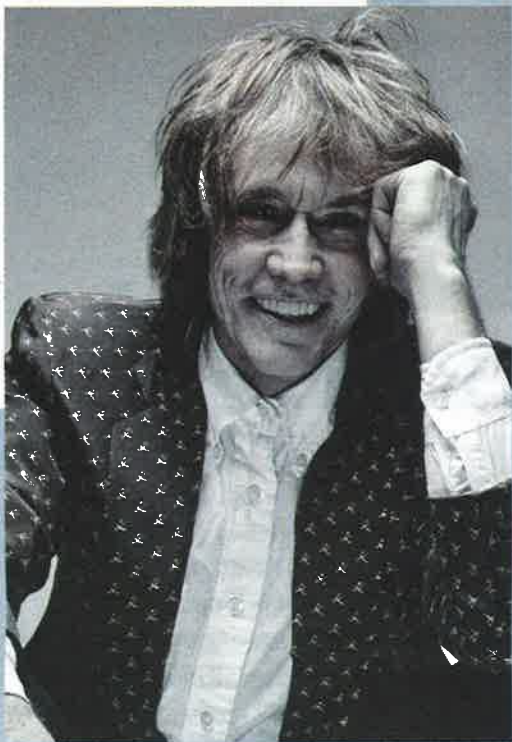


photo by © Roman Černý

Ivan Král Song Writer & Singer

HIS IS A UNIQUE MUSICAL VOICE.

In Czech, "Král" means "King." One of the kings of popular music for these last decades has been Ivan Král, composing movie soundtracks and music for some of the world's most influential artists: U2, David Bowie, Patti Smith, Iggy Pop, John Waite, Blank Generation, and others.

His GRAMMY-winning work is heard around the world. On September 23rd he will be heard in the Cloisters at a special performance honoring the Czech Republic and the University of Chicago.

Jim Peterik Rock Star & Musical Vehicle.

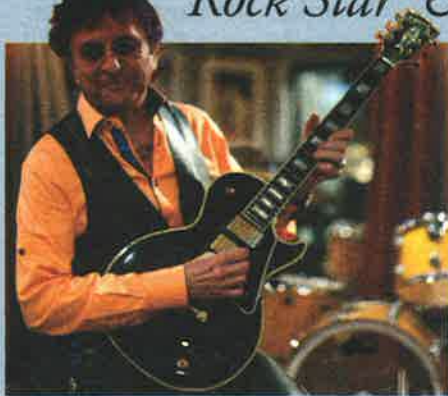


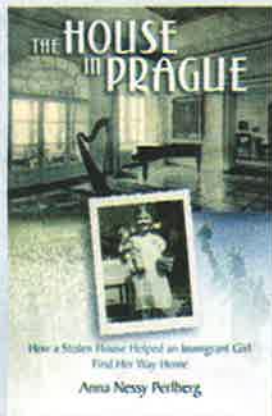
photo by David Beneš

IT ALL BEGAN IN BERWYN. Jim started a band with fellow Czech-American Morton West students. They drove to the top with hits like *Vehicle* in *The Ides of March*. Then, as part of *Survivor*, he wrote GRAMMY winner *Eye of the Tiger*. His recent project, *The Songs*, has new versions of his classics, including hits he wrote for the Beach Boys, 38 Special, and Sammy Hagar. Jim says,

"I've listened to Czech music my whole life. I'd like to think some of my best melodies in my rock songs maybe had some lineage with the Czech composers."

Anna Nessay Perlberg shares memories of the friendship between her and the Masaryk family as well as the feelings of a little girl immigrating to the United States after fleeing the Nazi threat. This Czech Chicagooan has written a fascinating and compelling memoir. Congratulations!

The House in Prague. How a Stolen House Helped an Immigrant Girl Find Her Way Home.
By Anna Nessay Perlberg.



š Connection.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI, co-host of the popular Morning Joe, is a great-grandson of Edvard Beneš! Her grandfather was a Czechoslovak diplomat and personal secretary to President Woodrow Wilson. Her mother, a well-known Czech sculptor, Emilie Brzezinski, President Jimmy Carter's National Security Advisor.

children. Her brothers Mark and Ian continue the family legacy in international service. Her brother Mark was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Europe under President Bush. Her brother Ian was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Europe under President Obama. Czechoslovak Parliamentarian Vojta Beneš deserves credit as a leader of the Czech nation during both world wars in Chicago and the whole US.

SCRATCH A CZECH!

There's an old Czech saying,
"Scratch a Czech.
Underneath you'll find a musician."



Photo by Andrew Eccles

From OPERA

Internationally acclaimed soprano **Renée Fleming**, "the people's diva," is first-ever creative consultant at Lyric Opera of Chicago. She is also a member of the Board of Directors and a Vice President. She curated creation of a world-premiere opera based on the best-seller *Bel Canto* for Lyric Opera's 2015-2016 season – to be telecast on *PBS Great Performances*.

"My great grandparents were born in Prague and emigrated to the US about a hundred years ago. I grew up with the culture, hearing the language. And then my first voice teacher suggested the Song to the Moon, and my entire career I think was launched by that aria, particularly when I began to sing it in Czech."

Adam Plachetka, the renowned Czech bass-baritone will return to the Chicago Lyric to star as Papageno in Mozart's *Magic Flute* – December 2016 to January 2017.

This is a return visit, as he played Figaro in last year's staging of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Encore, Adam! Encore!!



photo by Pavel Hejny

To OOM-PAH!

Vysočinka is perhaps the premiere example of the small Czech brass band. They play traditional music with roots in the Czech Highlands.

It is marvelous music and great fun! They will be coming to Chicagoland to help us celebrate Moravian Days on September 24th and 25th.

Join us and enjoy a truly unique musical experience!



Founded in 1939 | Celebrating Moravian, Czech & Slovak Culture

Moravian Day Festival

77th Anniversary 2016

September 24

Welcoming dance
Live Music & DJ
Doors open 7PM
Spectacular Raffle Prizes
Donation \$20

September 25

Holy Mass 10AM | Program 2PM
Dance performances by all groups
Songs performed by UMS Singers
Bazaar, Authentic Food, Pastries & Wine from Moravia | Donation \$20

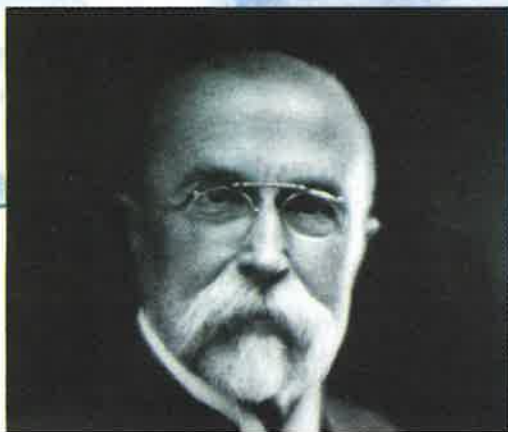
Join the Celebration!
at 14911 E. 127th in Lemont, IL
For more Moravian Day information, go to
www.unitedmoravian societies.org

United Moravian Societies



This stamp became a popular symbol of the future of Czechoslovakia growing from ideals of President Masaryk's enlightened humanism. The girl in the picture, Ms. Eva Haňková Neugebauerová now lives in Michigan. Her life story can be seen in the documentary film "In Masaryk's Hands." She will be a special guest on September 23rd!

On Midway Plaisance, a mounted knight stands watch.
This representation of the legendary Knights of Mt. Blaník is a symbol of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk's ideals of freedom, democracy, humanity and his relationship with the University of Chicago. The statue by Albin Polášek was erected in 1955. This talented Czech-American headed the Art Institute of Chicago's sculpture department for nearly thirty years. He also created the President Woodrow Wilson monument in Prague.



THE MASARYK CLUB WAS FIRST FORMED in 1947 at the University of Chicago as a forum for dialogue and cooperation. Though Czechoslovakia fell under Soviet domination in 1948, the democratic traditions of the first Czechoslovak Republic continued to live on.

The Masaryk Club was originally meant to promote better cultural understanding between the two countries and bring various aspects of Czechoslovak cultural life to the University community. Soon, their actions and influence went beyond this mission.



The Masaryk Club Shall Ride Again!

The Club's agenda expanded to include:

- Calling upon the US Congress for the release of Czechoslovak refugee students into the United States.
- Attempting to unite the Czechoslovaks in exile
- Organizing lectures and various cultural events, including the Masaryk Centennial celebration.

The University of Chicago also played a key role in the Club's endeavors. Just as during the second World War, many refugee scholars were placed in positions in its departments, and, with its assistance, also in other Universities throughout the United States. Help was also extended to students – from 1948 through 1957, thirty Czechoslovak refugee students arrived on campus – almost all receiving financial support from the University.

In 1957, The Masaryk Club's members issued the following statement: We *"frankly feel that there has been no other institution of higher learning in the United States which has helped the Czechoslovakian refugee students so generously."*

The Masaryk Club will be re-inaugurated during The Czech Series' opening evening.

The Executive Board's founding members will be introduced. The Masaryk Club shall once again contribute to developing ties between the University and the Czech Republic, and serve as a forum for the values of humanism, freedom, democracy and international cooperation, championed by President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk.

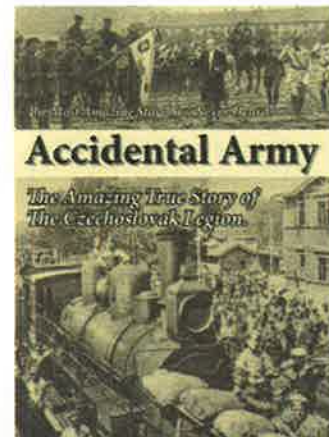


Thanks to all from Bořek Lizec, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago.

Without the support of Charles Crane and other Chicagoans, including Czech-Americans, the Czech Republic might not exist today. President Robert Zimmer, Provost Daniel Diermeier, Vice President Michael Kulma, Former Vice President Ian Solomon, Associate Professor Robert Bird, and other friends at the University of Chicago shared our conviction that these stories should not be forgotten. With great appreciation of their support, I look forward to working with them and the Masaryk Club on the next Czech Series presentation and other projects. • In every enterprise, we depend on many – so let us take a moment to thank those whose efforts helped make this happen. • editor in chief: Bruce Bendinger and graphic designer: Gregory S. Paus • our sponsors, partners and supporters • graphic designer of the invitations: Karel Scherzer • production designer of the opening film available on YouTube: Marian Hajda • for research assistance: Malynne Sternstein, Thomas Crane, June Farris, Helena Vágnerová, Anna Pravdová, Irena Čajková, Thomas Gaulkin • Edward Dellin, Theodore Polashek, Mary Mares Awe • my colleagues at the Consulate General • and many more.

The Amazing True Story of The Czechoslovak Legion.

Produced in Chicago by The Czech Legion Project.
Available in English and Czech.



*"A noble undertaking:
A history lost, returned to its people
—and the world"*
Ken Burns



The University of Chicago's Czech & Slovak Archives

THE ARCHIVES OF CZECHS AND SLOVAKS ABROAD (ACASA) consists of several thousand books, periodicals, almanacs, and personal papers of Czechs and Slovaks.

It was founded by Dr. Zdeněk Hruban, professor of pathology at the University of Chicago and Dr. Václav Laška, Slavic Librarian at the University of Chicago Library who served as its curator. Dr. Laška's successor June Pachuta Farris still curates this unique collection.

A Czechlist :

Major upcoming Czech-American Events in Chicagoland

Moravian Days

September 24-25 • Lithuanian World Center, Lemont

Houby Day Fest

October 2 • Cermak Rd., Cicero-Berwyn

Oktoberfest

October 15 • Czech Mission, Brookfield

Czech Holiday Faire

October 23 • Hilsdale Community House

Ryba Christmas Mass

December 10, 3 & 7 pm • The Chicago Temple

Czech Beer Festival

Early 2017 • Berwyn

Happy Birthday! Sokol Tabor @ 150!

Sokols contributed greatly to the existence of Czechoslovakia. The organization was born in Prague in 1862. Only four years later, Sokol arrived to Chicagoland. Sokoltabor.org



— BOHEMIAN HOUSE —

"One of the Ten Sexiest Restaurants in Chicago."

Here's what *Michelin Guide* has to say about Chicago's new Bohemian House – BoHo for short; *"This wickedly stylish 'house' is exactly what River North needed to shake it up - a truly unique restaurant serving up delicious Czech, Austrian, and Hungarian cuisines. The stunning beer hall-meets-art nouveau interior (think reclaimed wood beams, stunning tiles arching over a semi-open kitchen, sky-blue tufted leather couches and Persian rugs) is worth a visit alone. No detail is overlooked. Delightfully, the food is amazingly tasty and just as pretty to look at. Don't miss the open-faced schnitzel sandwich, highlighting juicy pork over apple and kohlrabi slaw, aged Gouda, a fried egg, and drizzle of coarse mustard. Also a must do? The warm..."*

BoHo is located at 11 W. Illinois Street Chicago, 60654
Reservations @ 312-955-0439 or OpenTable.
Dinner: Sun-Wed 5 to 10 / Th- Sat 5 to 11
Lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30 to 2 Brunch: Sat & Sun 10 to 2

Supporters:

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CSA Fraternal Life,
Divadlo Bohemia,
Dobrovský Club,
and other Czech-American organizations and friends from Chicagoland and beyond.



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