

News from the Czech Center in the Museum District

December 10, 2009

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OPEN MONDAY–SATURDAY 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

From the Heart of Europe to the Heart of Houston,

The Czech Center Museum Houston

Holiday Greetings from the Czech Center Museum Houston

Can shopping be a great experience? It certainly can in Prague International Gift Shop here in the CCMH. There is no hassle to parking or in selecting from unique heirloom quality items for everyone in the family: beautiful jewelry, porcelain, pottery, crystal, and antiques plus 20% off items over \$10.00 to boot! Please come visit and enjoy a Baroque Palace Museum in the Museum District.

A Grand Musical Event

Monday, December 14, 2009 the CCMH is honored to welcome from Prague international piano artist Jitka Frankova, an alumni of Rice University Shepherd School of Music and other music conservatories. Jitka appears on KUHF Radio at noon that day. Her concert is 6:30-8:30 p.m. on a Grand Steinway in Brno Gallery, with reception following. Please RSVP for prepaid reservations at 713-528-2060, valerie@czechcenter.org or online in our calendar section at www.czechcenter.org. This may well be the greatest concert of all time!

Tis the Season for Snow

Houston had its incredibly snow storm and freeze last Friday, December 4th. With driving conditions so hazardous we reluctantly had to cancel (a first) our 15th annual delightful St. Nicholas Eve Celebration. While it was the right thing to do, I still miss St. Nicholas' visit. We did incidentally experience a significant happening at 5:30 a.m. the next morning, discovering two flooded bathrooms and a bedroom closet due to a broken water pipe under the tub! After several hours of bailing out water, two good plumbers and a few hundred dollars later we were good and always grateful it wasn't worse! It has been in the past with hurricanes.

Holiday Celebrations

So many events occur during this season as we celebrate the Holy Day of Christmas. Stand by for further news of a celebration of the Wonderment and Astronomy of the Star on the Epiphany, January 6, 2010, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in "Galaxy Hall." We will have star gazing, star education, star quality food and beverage and be star struck with a teaser preview of the Ottervik Czech art glass collection and even introduce hopefully many of our star members, supporters and friends!

What is the Epiphany? Board Member Father Paul Chovanec offers a quote about the Epiphany:

"The name Epiphany indicates a Feast, Eastern in origin, dating from time when Greek was the prevalent language of the civilized world. The feast appears to be ancient and probably from the second century, if not the first. The feast date, January 6, is significant because long before Christianity, there was a pagan festival on that day celebrating the birth of light. In all likelihood, the feast of Epiphany was instituted as a corrective of the pagan notion. Epiphany celebrates the birth of the True Light Who shines in the darkness of human history. In the West, the Epiphany was observed in Gaul during the fourth century. Later in the West it came to be a commemoration of the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles who were represented by the Magi, the Wise men sometimes depicted as kings, from the East. Epiphany is celebrated to this day in both the Eastern and Western Church." --William J. O'Shea, S.S., D.D., The Newman Press

The Ottervik Collection

We hope to unveil this incredible Czech Art Glass, Pottery, Porcelain Collection of 1,269 pieces in late February probably the 27th. Barbara Ottervik took a liking to one piece of this collectible 1918-1938 era (between the two World Wars) memorabilia. Husband Eric liked it enough to find and gift her with 1,200 plus more pieces. That beautiful couple in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania recently gifted it to the CCMH! Yes, Virginia, there are still wonderful, giving people in our world even though the Recession is still hanging around!

The Bartered Bride

Bedrich Smetana's Czech comedy opera opens in Prague Hall in collaboration with University of North Texas Denton and Dr. Tomas Sovik with Czech Republic advisors at our Annual Members and Friends Dinner March 28, 2010. Is that not exciting!?

[A Multitude of Things to Do Including an Opera!](#)

We at the CCMH believe the sky is the limit. There are so many exciting things to do in our community outreach. For one, the plans for an opera of the Good King Wenceslas who lived a total of some 22 years; the Patron of the Czech Lands and subject of legend and lore, his life filled with pathos, tragedy and goodness. Composer Board Member Robert Dvorak is hard at work composing the music and librettist John Kaiser the text. Standing by are Gottfried Schiller and Anne Heath-Welch, international opera singers and voice faculty at Kingwood Lone Star College Opera Workshop, along with Dr. Todd Miller, orchestra and chorale conductor, while Bill Rosene is researching every minute he can the tenth century (900s) for period costumes, instruments and history in collaboration with Houston Arts Alliance. You will be the first to know when this comes to fruition.

CCMH Gala 2010

This Gala event will take place August 28. It is not too early to start planning!

Best Wishes and Regards

Probably no one has the time to read this. Those of you, who will, please spread the word with our holiday greetings. We need your help to let people know what we do here at CCMH to help make a difference while we represent all of you to the Global Community.

We wish you God's Blessings, Good Health, Joy with Good Friends and especially Family and Love.

Warmest regards, Effie M. Rosene, Chairman/CEO, for the Board, Guild, and Staff

“Time goes by so fast, people go in and out of your life. You must never miss the opportunity to tell these people how much they mean to you.” *Anonymous.*

The Year 2009 Soon Ends

Please remember to remember the CCMH continues its Capital Campaign for the third floor build-out and related needs. The CCMH is grateful for your help in the midst of this Recession time.

The Czech Center Museum Wall of Honor.

It is for someone you love. It is for someone who made a difference. It is for you! Celebrate Honoring Someone important in your life or your association with the Czech

Center Museum Houston. Inscribe Your Name or your Honoree's Name on a gold engraved black marble tile as a lasting and meaningful memento of thoughtfulness and support of the mission of this unique new site. At the Czech Center Museum Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Board Member Lorraine Strnadel Rod Green, *Emeritus* reminds me to remind all of you that as last year, you can claim your IRS allowance for charity giving from your IRA to gift CCMH with contribution for specific needs or even pre-pay for Members Dinner or Gala Tables!

The Czech Center Museum Houston would welcome donations of any amount to underwrite operating costs and the capital campaign for the third floor. Please note that all non-profits are being impacted by the recessionary economy as is ours. Visit our website www.czechcenter.org to pay on line.

However, payment by check is greatly appreciated, as it does not incur any processing fees for CCMH. Thank you.

Celebrating Our Heritage in the Third Millennium!

**Let us hear from you! Questions or comments?
E-mail us at Czech@czechcenter.org**