

4920 San JACINTO, Houston, Texas 77004 — 713-528-2060

Czech@czechcenter.org www.czechcenter.org www.receptionshouston.com

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**

Greetings from the Czech Center Museum Houston!

Museum Educators Day - We participated in the annual Museum Educators Day with a table presentation and several lectures at the Houston Health and Medical Science Museum January 23, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Some 1300 teachers visited among twelve of the eighteen fine Houston Museums. It is awesome to meet that many teachers whose expertise has much to do with the leadership from our next generation.

St. Valentine's Day

We greet you St. Valentine's Day wishes of Love and Good Health. Should you wish to send or give a special gift to someone who you admire, come by Prague International Gifts. We have beautiful affordable special treasures, heirloom boxes, hearts, jewelry, porcelain, crystal, pottery, lace and so much more and currently at a 20% off "we're not quite out of the Recession" sale!

Just who was St. Valentine? St. Valentine is the patron of Love, Young People, and Happy Marriages. He was a Roman Temple Priest, martyred for his Christian faith in 269 at Rome and buried on the Flaminian Way. He is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, and young people. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked **February 14th** as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom. Saint Valentine's first representation appeared in *The Nuremberg Chronicle*, a great illustrated book printed in 1493. [Additional evidence that Valentine was a real person: archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to Saint Valentine.] Alongside a woodcut portrait of him, text states that Valentinus was a Roman priest martyred during the reign of Claudius the Goth [Claudius II]. Since he was caught marrying Christian couples and aiding any Christians who were being persecuted under Emperor Claudius in Rome [when helping was considered a crime], Valentinus was arrested and imprisoned. Claudius took a liking to this prisoner – until Valentinus made a strategic error: he tried to convert the Emperor – whereupon this priest was condemned to death. He was beaten with clubs and stoned; when that didn't do it, he was beheaded.

Saints are not supposed to rest in peace; they're expected to keep busy: to perform miracles, to intercede. Being in jail or dead is no excuse for non-performance of the supernatural. One legend says, while awaiting his execution, Valentinus restored the sight of his jailer's blind daughter. Another legend says, on the eve of his death, he penned a farewell note to the jailer's daughter, signing it, "From your Valentine."

He is represented in pictures with birds and roses and hearts. It is good to know the history of this popular loving tradition! **Bless his heart and yours, all of you are our special Valentines!** – Excerpt from Google, etc.

Parts Replacement

January 28 Bill Rosene, a gentleman many of you know at CCMH, obtained a Right Knee Replacement. He came through the surgery like a champ. Of course the pain began shortly thereafter when they had him up and walking the next day and in fact you have "to pass the test" by walking the hall and back before you are discharged the third day! Then physical therapy steps in, but he has been keeping up with work via the computer daily remotely and already walking without the walker with some good moves! It surely far surpasses walking bone on bone as he had for so, too long. We really appreciate those notes and telephone calls which brighten his days.

The Grand Collection

February was to have been our Grand Unveiling of CCMH's incredible Ottervik Collection of Czech art glass, pottery, crystal, some 1289 pieces made between the two world wars 1918 – 1938 until Hitler blew up the production facilities in Moravia's Znojmo region and elsewhere. The holdup is due to the city's inspection interrupting our third floor AC installation for need of a new set of plans because it's considered a new project although it was built five years ago as the third floor of our building at which time we didn't have the funds to build out!!! But stay tuned. That Unveiling is coming!

The Bartered Bride Opera Tours Texas

Bedřich Smetana's *Prodaná nevěsta* (*The Bartered Bride*) will tour Texas in March. Dates and locations are: Temple – March 24; College Station – March 25; Houston – March 27 at the Czech Center Museum Houston; Austin – March 28. This opera is Smetana's most cherished work for the stage, so popular that it is often considered the "Czech National Opera." It is a delightful love story set to romantic, folk-like melodies. Through the singing, dancing, and a traveling puppet circus, you will be transported back in time to the Czech countryside, willingly and effortlessly. It's an experience that is well-suited for the whole family.

The opera is sung in Czech with English supertitles and produced in collaboration with the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas and the Frank J. and Hermine Hurta Kostohryz Residency in Czech Music and Culture Fund. This will be a full production with sets, costumes, lights and The University of North Texas Denton Symphony Orchestra.

A pre-performance lecture for opera ticket holders will be given by UNT Opera Director Professor Paula Horner. Excerpt from the *Věstník SPJST Herald*

The CCMH is definitely honored to provide the venue of Prague Hall for Dr. Tom Sovik's UNTD production. The event takes place following the Museum's Annual Members Friends Reception in Brno Gallery. RSVP to 713-528-2060 to Colleen or email at: events@czechcenter.org. RSVP is required. This is a real coup to collaborate with the University's Classical and Folk Music Department and C.E.F.T. We are grateful to provide this premium event for CCMH, the City of Houston, and other Texas locations. We look forward to providing great seating and standing room only as well!

Prague Hall Venue for Vignettes of Opera Medley series

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday March 24, 25, and 26, 2010, Prague Hall is venue for Opera Vista Workshops – a juried competition from 8:00 to 9:30 pm. For info call 713-522-0799 or viswa@operavista.org

Art and Artists of the World

Sunday, April 11, 2010 1:00 – 3:00 pm Brno Gallery Professor Sandria Hu University of Houston Clear Lake presents exhibitions of Print Works of: Xenia Hoffmeisterova – Czech Republic; Carlos Torralba – Mexico; Aleksandar Mladenovic – Serbia; and an exhibition of Architecture works of Aleksandra Kekovic – Serbia. Reception to meet the artists and refreshments follows.

CCMH Honors Co-Editors of Beautiful Moravia

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 6:30 – 8:30 pm Brno Gallery Reception. CCMH Honors Texan Tom Hrcirik and New Yorker Helene Baine Cincebeaux world travel guides and especially the Czech and Slovak countries for their sixteen years publishing the beautiful magazine *Krasna Morava*. Our special guests include Josef Ivasko, international vocalist from Slovakia. RSVP required please.

“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

Celebrating Our Heritage in the Third Millennium! Let us hear from you!

Questions or comments?

E-mail us at Czech@czechcenter.org