

Czech The NEWS – San Francisco



Ambassador Gandalovič with HCG Pivnička and Mayor Lee

Dear Friends in California,

I hope everybody is having a fantastic summer. The weather seems to be cooperating, at least here in Southern California. Some of you might have visited the Czech Republic and enjoyed the beauty of our motherland. Although there are many troublesome spots around the world right now, fortunately, things seem to be at peace and safe in the Czech Republic.

After hosting the Czech Senate delegation in California in June, we are looking forward to the annual meeting of all Czech American Honorary Consuls here in Los Angeles in September. The Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovič and the Czech Consul Generals from New York and Chicago will be joined by more than 20 Honorary Consuls representing Czech interests throughout the United States at a two-day meeting at the Consulate.

This fall, we will have an opportunity to celebrate works of one of the greatest Czech writers of the 20th century - Franz Kafka. In 2014, the Czech Embassy in Washington selected him as a person to whom the annual Mutual Inspiration Festival will be devoted to. The main event in LA will take place at the beautiful Villa Aurora in Malibu on September 14. Besides a small reception, there will be readings from Kafka's writings as well as multidimensional presentations about his life and legacy.

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Ambassador of the Czech Republic pays a visit to Sacramento and San Francisco

As there are several exciting events taking place in California at the beginning of September, Ambassador of the Czech Republic Petr Gandalovič will pay a visit to the West Coast, particularly Sacramento and San Francisco area, on September 5 – 8, 2014.

Ambassador Gandalovič will be one of the guests of honor attending a Gala Dinner in Auburn (north of Sacramento). The dinner is a part of a three day tribute dedicated to an internationally recognized Holocaust survivor and writer, Arnošt Lustig. Then he will be heading further west to San Francisco where he will extend his support to the Czech community in California at the Open House of the Czech School of California and the 110th Anniversary celebration of Sokol San Francisco.

Since technology and research are undoubtedly an inherent part of the San Francisco Bay Area, Ambassador Gandalovič will visit several leading companies in Silicon Valley, attend the CzechTech reception graciously hosted by Honorary Consul General Richard Pivnička, and meet some of the best and brightest Czech startups at the TechCrunch conference.

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In addition, I am pleased to announce that a special event "The Night and Hope of Arnošt Lustig: The Holocaust Survivor Story" will take place in Auburn, near Sacramento. This three day event will focus on a life story of a dear friend and one of the most recognized Czech writers – Arnošt Lustig.

We will also remember two important dates this fall. On September 14th, the Czech Catholic Mission in California will celebrate its Golden 50th Anniversary which will take place at the Polish Center in Yorba Linda, starting with the Mass at 1pm. I invite you all to attend. And in November, we will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Velvet revolution and the end of communism in our country with series of events. The kick-off of this celebration of freedom will take place at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, very likely on Monday, October 20th.

I already look forward to the fall season of the Petrof Music Series. A popular Czech soprano Martina Kociánová with her two colleagues from the National Theater in Prague will perform at Stanford University on October 3, 2014. And in November, a renowned Czech violinist Ivan Ženatý will return to the Bay area. I would like to thank Jara Dusatko and Sokol, Barbara and Pavel Šoltysovi of BayCzech and Czech School of California for organizing these concerts.

I am also excited that the Czech language school in California keeps growing each semester. I would like to thank Miša Žučková and Helena Czinková for all their efforts. The Consulate will continue to support teaching of Czech language to kids and adults as much as we can. I believe that learning the language is the first and the most important step in keeping the Czech culture in the family while living abroad.

A lot of changes are happening at the Consulate this summer, several of our officers have already departed either back to the Czech Republic (the Vice-Consul Tomáš Kára) or to their new postings such as my former assistant Sylvia (London) and the consular specialist Petra (Washington DC). Our head of administration Jiří will be moving to Israel in September. My new assistant Pavlína is already settling in and if you need anything, please, do not hesitate to contact her at: pavlina.ciorobea@mzv.cz. Please, keep checking our Facebook page and our website: www.mzv.cz/losangeles for more details and up to date information regarding all events.

Michal Sedláček, Consul General



Czech Senators delegation at the residence of Consul General

Annual Meeting of the Honorary Consuls and Consuls General of the Czech Republic

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles has the pleasure of hosting the annual meeting of the Consuls General and of Honorary Consuls in the U.S. whose main mission is to strengthen representation of the Czech Republic in America and to serve local Czech communities.

Under the leadership of the Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Washington DC, H.E. Petr Gandalovič the meeting will be a timely opportunity for all Honorary Consuls to come together and have a nice "face á face" interaction. This will be a great chance for all participants to discuss consular matters, explore potential business opportunities for Czech companies and of course, to look into further strengthening the Czech-American cultural ties.

The meeting will be held at the premises of the **Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles on September 19-20, 2014**. A high-level participation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is expected along with the presence of the Ambassador Gandalovič. Of course, the event will also have in attendance representatives of major Czech companies Mr. Homola (Corinth) and Mr. Miklas (Be3D); CzechInvest - San Francisco, and of CzechTourism – Los Angeles. As economy, culture and education will be top of the agenda, there will be representatives of the Czech schools in the U.S. who will share their thoughts on how to better promote Czech language and culture among our young ones.

The Night and Hope of Arnošt Lustig In Auburn, CA

PlacerArts, a non-profit organization in Auburn near Sacramento is pleased to present the inaugural series - *The Night and Hope of Arnošt Lustig: A Holocaust Survivor's Story*, which will focus on Holocaust survivor and Czech writer Arnošt Lustig.

The event will take place on **Thursday, September 4 – Saturday, September 6, 2014** at numerous locations in Placer County (Northern California). Multiple events will be held to engage and inspire including - an Opening Meet & Greet reception at the Doug VanHowd Studio, Film Screenings, Literary Events and a Dinner Gala at The Ridge in Auburn.

Additionally, the LNF Series educational curriculum will be available to any interested school and is being kicked-off during the week at Placer High School and EV Cain Middle School in Auburn. The three-day event culminates with an intimate conversation with esteemed international dignitaries and experts at William Jessup University in Rocklin.

All screenings are complimentary on September 6. However you may purchase a three day pass which includes attendance at Opening Reception and Dinner Gala as well. **Further information about program is at www.placerarts.org**

Arnošt Lustig, the Pulitzer Prize nominated Czech Jewish author, drew upon his harrowing experiences as a teenager in World War II to produce novels and short stories of young people who survived the Holocaust. It has been said by many that the questions Lustig explores were not just born of his experiences during the Holocaust, but are as old and universal as mankind's search for the meaning of existence. His stories evolved into award winning novels, short stories, radio plays and films. He also taught creative writing, literature and film history at The American University in Washington DC. Born in 1926, Lustig and his wife Vera had one son and one daughter. He died in Prague in 2011.

RECEPTION • READINGS • FILMS • GALA • PANEL DISCUSSION

PlacerArts Presents
**The Night and Hope of Arnošt Lustig:
A Holocaust Survivor's Story**

Inspirational & Educational Events Bringing Community, Arts and History Together

Thursday, Sept 4 – Saturday, Sept 6 | 2014
Various Placer County Locations

Night and Hope
Arnošt Lustig

let's never forget

SERIES INAUGURAL: Multiple artful events explore the life and work of the Pulitzer Prize nominated Czech Jewish author who drew upon his harrowing experiences as a teenager in WWII to produce novels, short stories and films.

PlacerArts.org | 808 Lincoln Way | Auburn, CA 95603
phone: 530.885.5670 | fax: 530.885.0348 | office@placerarts.org

PLACER ARTS COUNCIL



110th Anniversary of Sokol San Francisco



On August 22nd of 1904, a group of Czech men met for a meeting at 36 Geary Street address in San Francisco. The minutes of that gathering state in a short and clear way that Sokol San Francisco was founded and joined Sokol of the United States.

To celebrate this anniversary, Sokol San Francisco is inviting all Sokol members and friends for a big Luncheon and Festival **at Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City on Saturday, September 6, 2014 starting at 11 am.**

Sokol is still alive and well around San Francisco Bay even if gymnastics and other gym activities have been replaced with regular walks and hikes. These days, Sokol activities are anchored more in Czech and Slovak culture and community than in calisthenics and drills. It would be all but impossible to meet at least once a week for a regular exercise since Sokol members live in such a large area, from Marin County in the north to Silicon Valley in the south and from San Francisco Peninsula at the west to the cities of East Bay. We have our Walks, our popular Dinner and Dance evenings, our Lake Chabot picnic, and Sokol kids enjoy their time at Dinkey Creek Camp.

There is a lot to celebrate and we will do it in a big way. There will be live music, dancing, singing and Czech school pupils' performance. On the top of it all, Sokol will present a beautiful "Kroj Parade", a national costumes exhibition, organized by our brotherly unit, Sokol Los Angeles and mainly by Sister Yvonne Masopust. Yvonne is a serious Czech, Moravian and Slovak National Costumes collector and a perfect guide through the history and geography of these wonderful folk costumes. No wonder that our Sisters around the Bay are checking their closets and trunks and readying forgotten pieces of old "Kroje".

The National Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is bringing an interesting exhibition of Czech and Slovak emigration to the United States. Among our guests will also be the Czech Republic Ambassador to the United States, Petr Gandalovič, and the recently elected President of American Sokol, Jean Hruby. And, of course, we expect San Francisco Sokol's friend, Consul General Michal Sedláček, to attend.

All guests are welcome and all effort is being made to prepare a day everybody can enjoy.

Zelmira Zivny



Participation at XV. Slet in Prague, 2012, and a trip to Czech and Slovak National Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 2013, were the most successful Sokol San Francisco actions within last couple of years.

Czech Tech/ CzechInvest June meeting with Chairman Microsoft Europe



On June 10, Jan Muehlfeit, Chairman Europe of Microsoft, from Prague (above, center with red pocket square) visited Czech-Tech, the people network between Silicon Valley and the Czech Republic, which was founded by Richard and Barbara Pivnicka in 2000.

Several of the Czech technology startups in Silicon Valley, e.g., Hubert Palan's Product Board, Jan Tkac of Presentigo, gave presentations to the Czech Tech group and received suggestions and observations from Jan Muehlfeit, Roman Horáček of CzechInvest, and Richard and Barbara Pivnicka who mentor startups and are angel investors. Other guest participants of Czech Tech included: Ben Holbrook, Founder/CEO of Level One, which he successfully sold, David Wilkins, Chairman of VizN Energy, a revolutionary battery company, and Philip Ross, Co-Founder/CTO of MycoWorks, a revolutionary product packaging and materials startup, which organically grows mushroom roots to fit the finished product, and Hicham Jorio, a prominent investment advisor.

During Jan Muehlfeit's meetings in Silicon Valley, arranged by Czech Tech, Jan, who has expertise and interest in education, was enthusiastic to hear the extraordinary results from the Kahn Academy, the free video educational platform giving free educational courses on line to 10 million students worldwide, and offered to advance their agenda.

Members of Czech Tech were delighted to meet the Chairman of Europe for Microsoft one on one, who was an encouraging mentor for the day, to one and all.

Richard Pivnicka

Co- Founder/Chairman, Czech Tech & Hon. Czech Consul General, San Francisco/Silicon Valley

Czech Companies participate at TechCrunch Disrupt SF 2014

This year, it may be a breakthrough year for Czech IT companies as twelve of them are participating at TechCrunch Disrupt San Francisco 2014. This conference is a unique opportunity for every participant not only to launch its young, unseen startup on technology's biggest stage but also to receive a wealth of press and potential investors and business partners' exposure.

The event takes place **on September 8 - 10, 2014, Pier 48, San Francisco**. The Czech Republic is represented by the Czech Association for IT Services and following firms: Datera, Oscar-care, Invea, Presentico, CzechGeeks, BE3D, U Like It, BlindShell, Corinth, Inteli and TrustPort. The Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovič as well as the Head of Investment Division at CzechInvest in Prague Petr Pospíšill will also participate at the conference.

Exciting Start to the Czech School's Third Year

CZECH SCHOOL
of California



As the start of the Czech School of California's official third school year approaches, the School is delighted to welcome its new and returning students to its first day of classes on Saturday, September 6th, at the School's Palo Alto campus. That day will double as the School's annual Open House, a wonderful opportunity for registered and prospective students to meet the School's administrators and teachers, to learn about the School's curricula, to visit classrooms and to get more information about all of the events the School has planned for the 2014-2015 school year.

We are delighted that on the day of our Open House, several of our classrooms will be visited by special guests, including His Excellency, Petr Gandalovič, the Czech Ambassador to the United States visiting from Washington D.C., Michal Sedláček, the Consul General of the Czech Republic visiting from Los Angeles, as well as our local Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic, Richard Pivnicka, and the Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, Barbara Pivnicka.

And with respect to some of the cultural activities we are planning, later this fall, the School is pleased to be able to bring to the Bay Area a delightful concert featuring renowned singer Martina Kocianová, violinist Oldřich Vlček and pianist Sára Bukovská, performing Czech and international classical music at a concert at the Stanford Campbell Recital Hall on October 3rd.

And finally, please "save the date" for the School's second annual Czech Banquet and Gala, taking place on November 8th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City. The Gala will serve as the School's largest annual benefit event, and promises to be a spectacular evening of fine dining, world-class entertainment, with a special appearance by some of our very talented students, an exciting silent auction and much more! It will be an event you won't want to miss!

For information about our school, to enroll in our classes, or about any of our events, please visit our website:

www.czechschoolofcalifornia.com

Michaela Zuckova

President at Czech School of California



Czech
BANQUET & GALA

50th Anniversary of Czech Catholic Diaspora

This year the Czech Catholic Mission in California is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The Golden Anniversary celebration of the California Czech Mission will take place at Pope St. John Paul II Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda 92886 **on Sunday, September 14, 2014, starting at 1:00 pm with Mass.**

Admittance is by reservation only, therefore R.S.V.P. should be mailed along with check of \$10.00 to Bishop Peter Esterka 344 Koch Avenue, Placentia, CA 92870 **by August 31.** Fee covers the cost of lunch entree (children 12 and under are free).



Czech Opera Singer Martina Kociánová in Silicon Valley

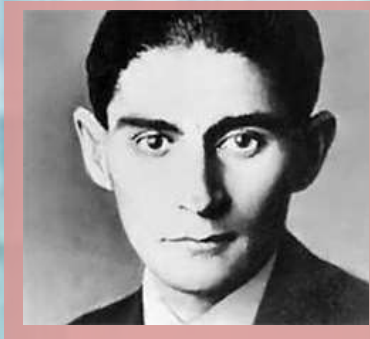
A Czech concert mezzo-soprano singer Martina Kociánová will hold a special concert during her US tour at Stanford University. Talented Kociánová will perform together with violin virtuoso and conductor Oldřich Vlček and a pianist Sára Bukovská **on Friday, October 3 at 7 pm at Stanford University at the Campbell Recital Hall** (541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford, CA 94305).

“Flowers of Czech Music in Prague”(Květy české hudby z Prahy) as is the upcoming concert called, will consist of well-known arias for soprano solo. Attendees of the concert will have a unique opportunity to listen to well-known compositions of great Czech composers such as Antonín Dvořák, Bedřich Smetana, Leoš Janáček and Bohuslav Martinů. During the second part of the concert, the artists will commemorate Czech music tradition by performing numerous Czech and Moravian folk songs.

The event is brought to you by the Czech School of California, BayCzech, and American Sokol in San Francisco. For more information please contact Fundraising and Events Director of Czech School of California Ms. Helena Cinková at: cinkova@czechschoolofcalifornia.com



Mutual Inspirations Festival 2014 – FRANZ KAFKA



The annual Mutual Inspirations Festival will consist of multiple events around the United States focusing on the mutual inspirations between Czech and American cultures. The 2014 edition will honor the legendary Czech – German writer Franz Kafka, commemorating the 90th anniversary of his passing.

In Los Angeles, the annual initiative will officially launch **on Sunday, September 14 at 4 pm at Villa Aurora in Malibu**. The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles together with Villa Aurora will present a special event dedicated to Franz Kafka, regarded by many as one of the most influential writers of the 20th century. Celebrated poet Gerhard Falkner will discuss Kafka's life and work. The program will include film clips, performance and reading from Kafka's books.

Festival will continue **on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 7 pm** at the Consulate General of the Czech Republic with a **screening of Steven Soderbergh's feature film “Kafka”**. The leading role in this biopic played acclaimed actor Jeremy Irons. At the same evening the exhibition titled „Journeys of Franz Kafka“ will be launched. Czech photographer Jan Jindra in his photography project follows in the footsteps of the literary great. The Czech Consulate will host the exhibit in its Front Gallery (10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024) till middle of November, 2014.

On October 14 at 7 pm, the screening room of the Czech Consulate will showcase **Czech feature film “Amerika”** based on Kafka's unfinished book “The Men, Who Disappeared.” Popular Czech actor Martin Dejdar is starring in the leading role of the 1994 film, directed by Vladimír Michálek.

September 2014	October 2014
September 4 – 6, 2014 - The Night and Hope of Arnošt Lustig (various locations of Placer County - Northern California)	October 1, 2014 – Walk for Health with Sokol SF (Butano Redwood State Park, Pescadero)
September 6, 2014 at 09:00 am - Open House of Czech School (JCC Palo Alto, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto)	October 3, 2014 at 7:00 pm – Concert of Martina Kociánová as part of <i>Petrof Serices</i> at the Campbell Recital Hall (541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford, CA 94305)
September 6, 2014 at 11:00 am - 110th Anniversary of Sokol SF (Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City)	October 20, 2014 – Reagan Library, panel discussion on the occasion of the 25 th Anniversary of Velvet Revolution with Ambassador Gandalovič as one of the speakers further details TBC upon invitation only
September 8 – 10, 2014 – TechCrunch Disrupt with Czech companies (Pier 48, San Francisco)	

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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