

Czech The NEWS San Diego & Phoenix



Jaroslav and Julia Svěcený

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.

I am pleased to announce that the inauguration of the new Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Arizona and New Mexico will take place on October 22, 2014 in Phoenix. Among many distinguished guests, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States Petr Gandalovič, will also attend.

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Acclaimed Czech Violinist Jaroslav Svěcený in San Diego

Jaroslav Svěcený, a prominent Czech violin virtuoso, returns to the United States with his talented daughter Julia. They will perform together also **in San Diego on October 27, 2014, at 7:00 pm at the Village Church** (6255 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067). They will offer the wide variety of music from the 18th to 21st Century (Vivaldi, Bach, Mozart, Leclair etc.). The concert will also feature the world premiere of Svěcený's composition dedicated to Los Angels.

The tour of Mr. Svěcený and his daughter Julia starts in Chicago (October 19) and then travels to Seattle (October 22), Las Vegas (October 24) and Los Angeles (October 26 and October 28).

The event is organized by the Czech School San Diego with cooperation of the Czech Consulate in Los Angeles and the Czech and Slovak House. For more information please contact Ms. Nikola Kaminsky at: ceskaskola@yahoo.com

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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.

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, on Tuesday, October 21st, 2014.

I already look forward to the fall season of the Petrof Music Series. Three concerts are being organized in cooperation with the Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU). First, a popular Czech soprano Martina Kociánová with her two colleagues from the National Theater in Prague will perform at my residence on October 5, 2014. The second concert of this spectacular music series will happen on October 27, 2014, in San Diego when famous Czech violinist Jaroslav Svěcený will perform with his talented daughter Julia. And in November, another renowned Czech violinist Ivan Ženatý will return to Los Angeles.

I am also pleased to announce that inaugural EU film festival called EUphoria will take over the campus of University of Southern California in September (9/19-24). The Czech Republic will be represented by a successful picture "Clownwise" starring popular Czech actors such as Jiří Lábus, Oldřich Kaiser and Eva Jeničková. The Czech film will be screened on September 20th at 5pm.

I am also excited that the Czech language school in San Diego keeps growing each semester. I would like to thank Nikola Kaminsky and Taťána Pavlovič for all their efforts. The Consulate will continue to support teaching 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 Tel Aviv (Israel) in September. You will meet our new staff at our events in coming months after they arrive to Los Angeles. 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.

Michal Sedláček, 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. The event will also have in attendance representatives of Czech companies (Daniel Miklas, Be3D); CzechInvest - San Francisco (Roman Horáček), and of CzechTourism - Los Angeles (Vojtěch Kačerovský). 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.

NEWS from Arizona

Petr Nikolaev (center) with Slobodan Popovic (left)



FilmBar Phoenix guests enjoyed a showing of Czech film 'The Don Juans.'

The Bouncing Czechs Tucson's Polka Band

Although fall is very much in a full swing throughout much of the United States, here in Phoenix the changes in weather are very subtle at best. Daytime temperatures still reach up to 100 degrees Fahrenheit, but nighttime temperatures are gradually dropping down to very pleasant 70 degrees. And the citrus fruit is getting bulkier with a tinge of yellow.

During the summer, the Phoenix Sister Cities sent twenty three high school students to our sister cities as part of the Youth Ambassador Exchange Program. As Prague is one of our sister cities, two boys were sent to Prague for a three week cultural experience. Consequently, two boys from Prague came to Phoenix for three weeks to experience our culture. This non-profit program is designed to foster positive international relations between the US and other countries by introducing high school students to global awareness, and from what I heard from these four students the exchange accomplished that, and established new friendships.

In October, a new Czech mission will open its doors in Arizona, the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic. The Czech Ambassador to the United States, Petr Gandalovič, will come to officially open the consulate in Phoenix on October 22, 2014. I feel honored by his visit and by having the privilege to commence my service to the Czech community in Arizona and New Mexico.

I look forward to meeting everyone in the Czech community in the near future either at the consulate, or at community events.

*Slobodan Popovic
Arizona/New Mexico Honorary Consul*

The Bouncing Czechs Band was formed 18 years ago by members of the Tucson Czech-Slovak Club. The initial members were George Masa, Frank Prokop, John Prokop, Bill Kohut and Joe Malik. The band initially played for club functions, however as it became more popular, the band performed at other events in the city of Tucson.

The music of the Bouncing Czechs ranges from the traditional band music popular in the Czech Republic and Slovakia - polkas and waltzes, as well as music of other central European countries, to the popular American music of the pre-Be Bop era. The band has available an extensive library of Czech and Slovak and other Polka music, as well as the popular music of this country. They have become very popular for Tucson area Oktoberfests, and even dress in Lederhosen and Dirndl costumes.

The Bouncing Czechs' full performance schedule and further information about the band can be found at their website: <http://bouncingczechs.homestead.com/>



Czech Senators in San Diego



Consul General with Senators



Czech School of San Diego

Four Czech Senators visited California in the late June 2014 and enjoyed their interesting program. On June 22, 2014 the delegation held an open panel discussion at the Residence of the Consul General in Los Angeles which was accompanied by a small reception. More than 50 guests attended the lively discussion which focused on all topics interesting for the Czech community such as the Czech citizenship issue or how to improve cooperation between the compatriots and their motherland. The Senate delegation also met with the officials of the City of Los Angeles, visited the Getty Villa, took part in a special tour at the Warner Brothers film studio in Burbank and attended many other activities.

After their stay in Los Angeles, the senators traveled to San Diego where the Czech Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Petr Gandalovič joined them and participated in all their activities. On June 24, 2014 the group attended the Biotechnology International Convention (BIO), where they expressed their support to participating Czech companies.

After learning about unique partnership opportunities with best-of-breed Czech Bio companies, the delegation visited the Czech and Slovak House in Balboa Park where they held discussion with the leadership of the house as well as with several interested local Czech compatriots. The senators also met with the students and parents from the Czech School of San Diego in Rancho Santa Fe to lead an interesting and fruitful discussion about struggles of keeping Czech language together with cultural heritage and origin such as, while growing up abroad. Their stay in California ensued into the further travel to Dallas.



Czech and Slovak House



Bishop Esterka

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 School San Diego

The Czech School San Diego is about to start its sixth semester as an official non-profit organization providing Czech language instruction primarily for children in San Diego County, and for the first time it will open a first-grade-only class for the children who graduated from the Czech preschool program.

The school started about five years ago as an unofficial group of parents who felt the need for preserving the Czech language and culture for their young children who mostly come from families where only one parent speaks Czech. At the beginning, the group was meeting for play dates in local parks and later in a local library for a Czech story hour where parents took turns reading Czech books and preparing short but fun lessons for their toddlers. As the children grew older and the size of the class grew bigger, a need for more classes and a more structured and age-appropriate instruction emerged. A new concept for the school was developed in cooperation with Czech School without Borders and thus the Czech School San Diego was born.

Nowadays, Czech School San Diego has classes in two locations, Rancho Santa Fe in North County and El Cajon in East County. It offers Czech language instruction for preschool as well as elementary school children and also Czech as a foreign language classes for adults. All classes are taught by qualified teachers whose areas of expertise range from foreign language and bilingual education to elementary school education, music and drama but above all, they share the love for their work and passion for preserving the Czech language for future generations.

The goal of the program is to promote multilingualism and multiculturalism and address the specific needs of the Czech children living in the United States by teaching them the language, culture, history and geography of the country of their ancestors. The idea is not to replace but supplement the general education children receive in American schools with the missing subjects – Czech language and literature, culture and civics, Czech history and geography; however, the biggest part of the instruction focuses on language and communication skills and building the vocabulary. Czech School San Diego continues to work with the Czech School without Borders organization as well as other schools around the world on special projects, teacher training, curriculum development, etc. For example, this year two of the teachers will attend the annual Czech Schools without Borders conference and also the Methodology Training for Teachers.

Thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, the school receives grants that enable it to operate, purchase books and supplies and thanks to the generosity of various donors the school can also grow a library of Czech books, which are available for the students and general public.

In addition to regular classes, the school also offers special activities and social events to strengthen the students' ties to the Czech community and also to provide more opportunities for the children to use the language outside of the classroom. Every year, for example, there is a St. Nicholas/Christmas Party with St. Nicholas, an angel and a devil in attendance. Besides receiving gifts and learning about this Czech tradition, the children have an opportunity to show their parents and friends a little bit of what they learned. Also, in May of this year, the school organized a weekend field trip for the preschoolers and their moms which was a great opportunity for the children to use the language in a 'Czech only' setting and interact with their peers in a fun environment in the middle of a forest in a cabin in the mountain town of Julian where they played games, sang songs, read books, did craft and mainly used Czech to communicate. This immersion program was very motivating for the children and definitely will be organized again.

Although the children are on their summer break now, the teachers are busy preparing for the new school year, which will start in September. Preschool and K-8 classes will be held in El Cajon as well as Rancho Santa Fe and adult classes will be held in Rancho Santa Fe.

Mgr. Nikola Kaminsky, M.A.

For more information, please visit:

www.czechschoolsandiego.com



The Inaugural of the EUphoria Film Festival Has Arrived

A fantastic celebration of European cinema will take place in Los Angeles this fall. The inaugural EUphoria Film Festival will offer a great opportunity for enthusiasts of international cinema to celebrate and discover contemporary films from across the European Union, featuring award-winning films and domestic box office hits from 13 participating countries of the EU. Euphoria is dedicated to promote European film culture and the European Union in the United States by expanding awareness of the rich cultural heritage and language diversity in European cinema.

The EUphoria will feature dramatic and documentary films from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Poland.

The Czech Republic will be represented by the unrivalled comedy/drama „Clownwise” („Klauni“, 2013, 120 minutes) starring legendary comedians Oldřich Kaiser and Jiří Lábus, accompanied by local Czech actress Eva Jeníčková. This new Czech film is a collaboration of a promising director and producer Viktor Tauš and a veteran Czech screenwriter Petr Jarchovský, the author of Academy Award nominated movies, „Divided We Fall“ and „Želary“.

„Clownwise“ was nominated for 8 Czech Academy Awards, including the Best Film of the Year, and received 4 nominations for Czech Critics' Choice Awards including the Best Film of the Year.

„Clownwise” will be screened on Saturday, September 20, 2014, at 5:00 pm at Eileen Norris Cinema Theatre/Frank Sinatra Hall (3507 Trousdale Parkway, Los Angeles, CA 90007). A popular Czech actress Eva Jeníčková and director Viktor Tauš will be available for Q&A session after the screening.

The EUphoria film festival is taking place at the University of Southern California (USC) from September 19th -24th, 2014, and is produced jointly by 13 EU Consulates in Los Angeles and San Francisco, European Languages and Movies in America (ELMA), and the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

The festival is offered free of charge to film lovers across Southern California, and will kick-off with an opening night reception featuring cuisines and drinks from across the EU. For more information and complete schedule please visit the official website of the festival at: <http://euphoriafilmfest.com/>



Czech & Slovak Fine Artists Exhibition

In the name of Czech and Slovak art in the United States, the Gallery Lyceum will exhibit and extraordinary art selection called „Czech&Slovak Fine Artists Living in San Diego“. Its opening reception takes place on Saturday, September 20, 2014, at 5:45 pm at the gallery (79 Horton Plaza, Downtown San Diego) and the exhibit runs until October 12, 2014.

The exhibition is composed of 72 works from thirteen Czech and three Slovak contemporary artists. The opening evening will be accompanied by Czech and Slovak music performed by Poe Street Band and certainly, a taste of traditional appetizers will not be missing.

A poster for an art exhibition. At the top, it says "Poe Street Band & company" in a stylized red font, followed by "presents exhibition" in a smaller white font. The main title "CZECH & SLOVAK FINE ARTISTS LIVING IN SAN DIEGO" is in large, bold, white capital letters. Below the title, there are three columns of names: Hans Chobolits, Eva Coleman, Lenka Di Nozzi, Jarmila Dluhos, Andre Dluhos; Vladimir Dostalek, Anna Hradsky, Lea Liba Jansen, David Kloz, Lenka Majkova; and George Mrázek, Tatjana Pavlovic, Anita Reichelova, Silvia Silharova, Petr Svoboda. At the bottom, it says "September 2 - October 12, 2014" and "Gallery Lyceum, 79 Horton Plaza - Downtown San Diego". Below that, it says "Celebration of artists on 9/20 at 5:45 PM" and "Come to enjoy the evening with the artist, live Czech & Slovak music, and taste of traditional appetizers."

Legendary Petr Janda in San Diego

A legendary Czech rock singer, songwriter and guitarist Petr Janda will hold a special concert during his US tour **on Friday, October 10, 2014, at 8:00 pm at the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church** (1638 Polk Ave, San Diego).

Petr Janda is a longtime frontman of Olympic band, which was established in 1963 and keeps performing. He composed many well-known and popular hits which became Czech classics. Olympic remains one of the greatest legends in the history of Czech rock music. Janda and Olympic recorded many vinyl record and CDs, and were almost daily broadcast on radio and television. Despite the communist regime, they had the opportunity to perform abroad.

The event is brought to you by the BohemianProductions. **For more information please visit [Facebook.com/BohemianProductions](https://www.facebook.com/BohemianProductions)**

Legend of C-S Rock Music
PETR JANDA
US Solo Tour
8/20 NY
8/21 Boston
8/26 Washington
8/27 Atlanta
8/28 Chicago
10/3 Dallas
10/5 Denver
10/10 San Diego
10/11 LA
10/12 SF
performing songs from
50 years of Olympic & solo CDs
Friday 10/10
SJEsanDiego.org
St. John the Evangelist, 1638 Polk Ave
7pm doors, 8 start, pre \$25, door \$30
TicketWeb.com & Anka
Facebook.com/BohemianProductions

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 17, 2014, time TBD - Bouncing Czechs band

(Ritz Carlton Dove Mountain, 15000 N Secret Springs Dr, Marana, AZ)

October 5, 2014 at 4:00 pm – Concert of Martina Kociánová as part of *Petrof Series* at the Residence of the Consul General in Los Angeles

upon invitation only

September 20, 2014 at 5:45 pm – Exhibition of the "Czechs and Slovaks Fine Artists Living in San Diego" at Gallery Lyceum

(79 Horton Plaza, Downtown San Diego)

free to public

October 10, 2014 at 8:00 pm – Petr Janda Concert

(St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 1638 Polk Ave, San Diego)

Tickets are for purchase at: www.ticketweb.com

September 20, 2014 at 5:00 pm – Screening of the “Clownwise” as part of the Euphoria Film Festival at Eileen Norris Cinema Theatre

(Eileen Norris Cinema Theatre/Frank Sinatra Hall, 3507 Trousdale Parkway, Los Angeles, CA 90007)

Tickets must be reserved on-line at <http://euphoriafilmfest.com>

October 19, 2014 at 2:00 pm – Lawn Program on the occasion of the Celebration of the Czech National Day

(Balboa Park, 1549 El Prado, San Diego)

free to public

September 30, 2014 at 7:00 pm - Screening of the film “Kafka” as part of *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2014 – Franz Kafka* at the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles

(10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, LA)

RSVP at losangeles@embassy.mzv.cz

October 22, 2014 – Inauguration of the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Arizona with Ambassador Gandalovič as one of the speakers

further details TBC
upon invitation only

October 27, 2014 at 7:00 pm – Concert of Jaroslav and Julia Svěcený as part of *Petrof Series* at Rancho Santa Fe Village Church

(6255 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067)

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