

CZECH THE NEWS

SALT LAKE CITY & DENVER



Consul General with Mayor of Anaheim, Mr. Tom Tait

Conference of Czech Schools in Los Angeles

In June of this year, the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles had the pleasure of hosting the annual conference of Czech Schools in North America.

The formal part of the Conference took place on Saturday, June 6th and Sunday, June 7th, and was attended by as many as 24 participants from 12 Czech schools: Dallas, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Atlanta, Washington DC, Seattle, Portland, San Diego, Orange County, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Durham NC.

After the welcoming remarks by the Consul General, Michal Sedláček, a discussion panel was led by two main guests, the Honorable Czech Deputy Minister of Education, Jaroslav Fidrmuc, followed by remarks by His Excellency Ambassador Petr Gandalovič.

Mr. Robert Řehák, Cultural Attaché with the Czech Embassy in Washington D.C., informed the attendees about financial grants provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. In the same context, Mrs. Michaela Žučková, President of the Czech School of California, offered tips on raising funds from private sources to support teaching Czech in the US. The activities of the “Czech Schools without Borders”, including summer camps and a global conference in Prague, were presented by its President, Mrs. Lucie Slavíková-Boucher, who flew in from Paris to attend the conference.

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Dear Friends in Colorado and Utah,

What a wonderful display of unity and love Los Angeles experienced this summer when Special Olympics took place in late July. I would like to congratulate Czech athletes who overcame their mental disabilities and travelled around half of the world to compete at these World Games. Regardless of their success on the field, everybody was a winner. I am glad I was able to say hello to them during their visit at the Consulate and meet their leaders, Vlastimil Harapes, famous Czech ballet dancer, and Martina Středová, national director of the Czech Special Olympic Committee.

Recently, I met several Mayors of important American cities such as Phoenix, Anchorage, and Anaheim. They all are eager to improve ties with the Czech Republic, increase bilateral economic cooperation and meet their local Czech communities. Hopefully, their renewed interest and awareness of the Czech Republic will also bring more investment and trade with our country.

In June, we welcomed the Deputy Minister of Education, Jaroslav Fidrmuc, and the Czech Ambassador to the United States, Petr Gandalovič, to Los Angeles where they attended the annual conference of all Czech schools in North America. For three days, teachers and school directors listened to various presentations on how to finance and support their schools, and exchanged many ideas how to improve their teaching methods. Klára Moldová, the supervisor of all Czech schools in America, and Lucie Slavíková-Boucher, the president of the worldwide organization Czech School without Borders, also participated in the conference.

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Czech Liquor Company R. Jelinek in California

Famous Czech liquor company R. JELINEK has opened a new representation in California, bringing its much-loved products such as the famous as well as kosher Slivovitz closer to Czechs and Americans alike on the west coast. Along with expanding its business, the company has sent managing partner and executive director Zdenek (Zack) Chromy to the United States in order to expand its production in the US markets.

R. JELINEK was established in 1894 and has been exporting to the US since 1934, the year prohibition ended. Of the forty different countries that R. JELINEK exports to, the United States is in the top five in terms of sales. Products of the company can be found in thirty states, mainly on the east coast. This new office is a part of a push to expand the company's market to include the west coast.

As a part of this expansion, R. JELINEK recently competed in the Los Angeles International Spirits Competition and won the silver medal for its Bohemia Honey Brandy and bronze medal for its Bohemia Plum Flavored Vodka.

Mr. Chromy is part of the R. JELINEK distillery since 1998 and since 2004 holds the post of Vice-Chairman.

If you would like more information about the company, please visit their website at <http://www.rjelinek.us/>

If you have any questions or would like to contact someone from the company, please contact

Zdenek (Zack) Chromy
Cell: (714) 331-9572
Email: chromy@rjelinek.cz



Zdenek Chromy (above) as a new representative for R. Jelinek Distillery in California.



Consul General with Mayor of Phoenix (right) and Honorary Consul Popovic (left)

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I also would like congratulate Lida Sandera, the president of the Czech nonprofit organization SVU – LA, on receiving the prestigious Gratias Agit Award from the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Lubomír Zaorálek in June in Prague.

I look forward to our fall cultural season. Extraordinary Czech violinist Jaroslav Svěcený will tour several West Coast cities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, San Diego and Las Vegas. Popular Czech bluegrass band Druhá Tráva will perform also two shows in Colorado. This year, the annual Mutual Inspiration festival is devoted to the Czech writer Karel Čapek. We will be honoring him and his works by several film screenings.

After years of efforts, the modern Czech paintings are presented in Los Angeles. A unique exhibit was launched under the title "CzechInLA" on September 19th in Santa Monica. The exhibit is organized by Aleš Knupp and his Alex Art Gallery in Prague in cooperation with Marissa Caichiolo from the Building Bridges Art Exchange. The Czech Consulate cohosted an opening reception.

Another exhibit opened at the Front Gallery of the Consulate. A fantastic Czech photographer Jana Ašenbrennerová, recipient of several awards at the World Press Photo exhibitions in recent years, presenta her works focusing on Czech themes. The exhibit is on display till the end of October.

This is the last time you are reading these lines from me. After four years of wonderful time here in California, I will conclude my duties here by the end of October. I will be forever grateful for the privilege to serve here in California and to meet so many wonderful people. I hope we will remain friends even after I return back to my homeland. On this occasion I would like to thank Czech Honorary Consuls Robert Erben and Jonathon Tichy for their tremendous work in supporting Czech affairs in their states. My family already departed for the Czech Republic, and it is also time for me to say good-bye. Before I leave, however, I hope to see you all at our cultural events. To get more information, please, visit our website and like our Facebook page.

Michal Sedláček, Consul General

Conference of Czech Schools in Los Angeles

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On Friday, June 5th, the participants had a chance to admire several cultural institutions in the LA area (Getty Villa in Malibu, Dolby Theatre in Hollywood) and meet with local Czech compatriots as well as dignitaries at a reception hosted by the Consul General Michal Sedláček, at his residence.

The conference was organized jointly by the Czech Consulate General and the Czech School of Los Angeles and supported by the American Sokol in Los Angeles, to whom we wish to express our thanks and gratitude for all their help and steadfast support.

The continual support of teaching Czech abroad is crucial, especially here in the US, where 90 percent of the Czech expatriate population is currently living. It is essential to maintain the cultural identity of Czech children who, while growing up in the United States, are naturally exposed primarily to the American culture.

If you are interested in enrolling your children in a Czech school; please contact your local Czech Representative: Jonathon Tichy: satlakecity@honorary.mzv.cz, & Robert Erben: robert@erbenlaw.com. You can also contact Ms. Klára Moldová as US Coordinator of Czech Schools in Chicago: moldovaklara@gmail.com



Attendees of Conference at Getty Villa (left). Deputy Minister Fidrmuc (above)



Consul General meets with several Mayors on the West Coast

In summer months, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles, Michal Sedláček, held a series of meetings with high-ranking representatives on the West Coast. The most recent one was a discussion with the Mayor of Anaheim, Tom Tait, on July 28, 2015. It was a courtesy meeting focusing on business relations. Anaheim is known for Disneyland; however, the recent success of Anaheim Ducks and participation of two Czech players (Jiří Sekáč, Tomáš Fleischmann) in Stanley Cup run was also covered.

Early in July, Consul General Sedláček briefly visited the capital of Arizona - Phoenix, which has been the sister city of Prague since 1991. During his private discussion with the Mayor of Phoenix, Mr. Greg Stanton, he expressed his keen interest in continuing and enhancing the cooperation between the two sister cities, in the cultural, economic, and trade areas. Arizona is currently experiencing economic success, and several Czech businessmen have established their operations there. The Czech Republic appointed its Honorary Consul, Slobodan Popovic there in October 2014.

In mid-July, Consul General Sedláček traveled to Alaska. This was the first official visit by representatives of the Czech Republic to Anchorage since 2008, making it particularly appreciated by the hosts and the local community. The meeting with the Mayor of Anchorage, Mr. Ethan Berkowitz, focused on the possibilities for expanding a mutually beneficial relationship between Alaska and the Czech Republic. Also, thanks to the growing number of our fellow Czechs who chose to settle down in Alaska, there is an increasing awareness at the local level about the Czech Republic. Consul General's visit concluded with a meeting of our compatriots who were holding their annual gathering of the Czech Society Alaska, called "Picnic and Potluck". The event was attended by more than 100 guests.

Consul General with Mayor of Anchorage (in the middle)

NEWS from COLORADO

Greetings from the great state of Colorado! It's been a great summer so far but, as always, difficult to predict what the weather will do next. We started the summer with what seemed like Seattle type rain when the water just kept coming down for weeks on end. Then we had the opposite weather, where it didn't rain again for what seemed like weeks. Crazy! If the summer is any predictor, we should have another fabulous ski season coming in just a few short months.

As this article was written still in August, final preparations were being made for the annual Czech and Slovak camping extravaganza taking place in Jefferson up in the mountains. As always, our resident tour guide and entertainment provider, Jiri Vlcek, put together another wonderful event. Just like last year, it was wonderful event with nearly 100 people in attendance – with live band, Pilsner Urquell on tap and the scenic beauty of the mountains. And let's not forget about the food. This year, it was provided by Radek's Food Truck which you may have seen driving around Denver. Smazak, rizek, salat, plnene bramboraky and more!

Not nearly as exciting, but the Colorado Honorary Consul office has moved. It is no longer located in Boulder (although Robert Erben still lives there) and is now in downtown Denver. Specifically, **1400 16th Street, Fourth Floor, Denver, Colorado 80202**. It is conveniently located on the 16th Street Mall at the intersection of Market Street. **The phone number is 303-800-1501. Please call and make an appointment to make sure your visit can go as smoothly and efficiently as possible.**

As always, please support your local Czech and Slovak businesses. They all rely on your patronage to keep their doors open. Whether it be electrical or plumbing supplies or other services, it's always nice to see a friendly face that you can discuss the homeland with. We all know the beer and food cannot be beat and there are a plethora of gastro-loving establishments that can be frequented. Praha Restaurant and Bar in Longmont is simply delicious. Café Prague in Morrison cannot be beat. L'Atelier in Boulder, although not necessarily Czech cuisine, never disappoints nor does its owner, Radek Cerny who is always entertaining. There's Golden Europe in Arvada that cooks just like mom used to. If you're in the mountains, specifically Breckenridge, Czech It Out is a fantastic choice. For beer with fellow Czechs and Slovaks, where better than Bohemian Biergarten in Boulder and Sobo 151 in Denver. Both are excellent choices. And don't forget Radek's food truck for Czech food on the go!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding anything to do with the Czech Republic, our office is here in Denver to serve you. Unfortunately, we cannot provide passports as many of you request but we can help facilitate many common issues that may arise. Of course, we can provide Notary services for documents needing to be notarized for the Czech Republic.

Enjoy what remains of the summer and don't forget to Czech out the fall leaves in the mountains. After all, isn't the beauty of Colorado the reason that we live here?!

Robert Erben

Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Colorado



*Czech and
Slovak
campings*

NEWS from UTAH

Well, the secret is out. Utah's economy continues to boom at a rate far ahead of the national average. Job growth has been so strong (nearly triple national average) that Utah has passed the level considered "full employment" with more high-paying job opportunities than qualified workers to fill them. In fact, this month, Fortune magazine released its list of "The Best U.S. Cities for Career Opportunities" and Utah took an unprecedented three of the top five spots! (<http://fortune.com/tag/career-opportunities/>) Three of the top five in the nation? How does that even happen?!

Well, it happens because Utah has one of the most advanced, high-tech industries in the country with over 300 high-tech and IT companies relocating to Utah or starting up just this year alone. It happens because over 66 percent of Utah workers are projected to hold advanced degrees or specialized technical training certificates by the year 2020. It happens because Utah has the highest export rate of any state in the country. And it happens because, as Forbes magazine has once again declared, Utah is simply the best state in America for international business (<http://www.forbes.com/best-states-for-business/list/>).

Another factor that makes Utah so attractive is that it boasts the most multi-lingual workforce in America, with over 130 foreign languages spoken in daily commerce, and the largest public school language-immersion program in the country with over 30,000 students in 120 public elementary schools currently receiving full academic instruction in one of five world languages. A Chinese government official visiting one of these Utah schools recently said "I closed my eyes and listened to these children speaking Mandarin so perfectly, so fluently, that one could scarcely tell the difference between a third grade class in Salt Lake City and a third grade class in Beijing." This week the Huffington Post called Utah "by far the most progressive state when it comes to bilingual basic education" and deemed Utah's program "a great success." (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/metro/why-you-should-consider-b_b_8198744.html)

An increasing number of Czech and Slovak nationals are taking note of what is happening in Utah and settling in the state. Hoping to build on Utah's prestigious international posture, diverse linguistic heritage, and to equip the next generation to compete and thrive in a global marketplace, but also to maintain and grow traditional cultural and national ties, preparations are currently underway to establish the Czech and Slovak School of Utah. The effort is spearheaded by Jitka Kindlova, a pedagogue from the Czech city of Cheb with an academic and professional background at Univerzita J. E. Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem, and Lenka Cibulova, a professional interpreter and linguist from Slovakia. Jonathon Tichy, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Salt Lake City, who serves as special legal counsel to several Czech schools throughout the United States, is serving as an advisor in this effort. Currently, plans are to commence Czech instruction in early 2016 with the addition of instruction in Slovak to follow shortly thereafter.

So perhaps, in the not too distant future, a visiting Czech official will visit a class in Utah and comment how the Utah students sound much like their academic peers in Plzen – setting the stage for a new era of Czech-Utah economic and cultural cooperation.

Jonathon Tichy
Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Utah



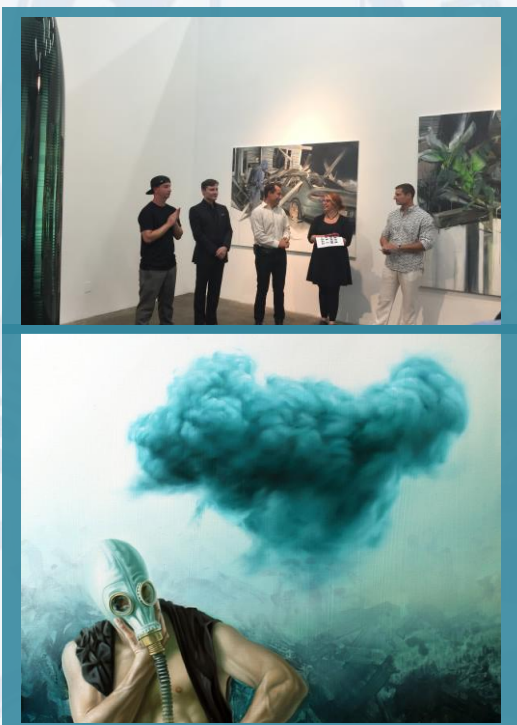
*Discussing
the future
of a Czech
language
school in
Utah*

CZECHS in LA – Magical Art Exhibition

Earlier this year, in mid-September, the Czech Consulate invited you to “Czech-in LA,” a first and rare opportunity to dive into the magical and enchanting ambience of Prague in Los Angeles through the work of a group of emerging and established contemporary artists from the Czech Republic.

Building Bridges Art Exchange and Alex Art Gallery Prague with the support of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles presented Europe’s finest world of glass, sculptures and paintings with the opening reception **on Saturday, September 19th, 2015, from 6 to 9pm at Bergamot Station Arts Center** (2525 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica) and **will continue to be on display until the end of October.**

This special exhibition gathered works of such a renowned contemporary Czech artists as Tomas Spevak, Jan Uldrych, Marek Slavik, Martin Sarovec, Bohumil Eliás Sr., Radek Andrle, Igor Kitzberger, Bohumil Elias Jr., Filip Nizky, Jakub Spanhel, Jiri Suhajek, Jirka Houska, Josef Achrer and Zdenek Gotz.



World Press Photo Winner Jana Ašenbrennerová Exhibits at the Czech Consulate’s Front Gallery



Specializing in social documentary and praised by many experts and critics, a Czech photojournalist, Jana Ašenbrennerová, opened an exhibition of her work **on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 6 PM at the Front Gallery of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles** (10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024).

In 2003, after studying directing at the Film Academy of Miroslav Ondříček in Písek, she relocated to the United States to continue her education at San Francisco State University. In collaboration with nonprofit organizations, Jana documents humanitarian efforts in Africa and Asia, and most recently in Democratic Republic of Congo. She dedicates most of her time to her own independent projects and freelances for Reuters. She is an award winning photographer, winner of 2014 World Press Photo and a series of Czech Press Photos (2010, 2012, 2013).

Jana Ašenbrennerová attended the opening of the exhibition, which was followed by a screening of successful Czech comedy “*To See the Sea*” directed by popular Czech actor and first time director, Jiří Mádln.

Jana Ašenbrennerová’s exhibit will continue to be on display at the Czech Consulate Office in Los Angeles until the end of October. Please visit during the office’s visiting hours Monday through Friday 9:30am-12:30pm.

In Memory of Arnošt Lustig

The Czech Consulate would like to cordially invite you to join us in commemorating Arnošt Lustig, a renowned Czech author and Holocaust survivor.

Mr. Lustig was born in 1926 in Prague and lived through many of tumultuous events in Europe, including World War II and the Prague Spring. Because of his political views after the 1968 Soviet Invasion, he was forced into political exile with his family. First to Israel, and then to the former Yugoslavia and finally they settled here in the United States. Besides writing his acclaimed novels such as *“Lovely Green Eyes”*, *“Collette”* and *“Unloved”*, Mr. Lustig also taught literature at American University in Washington DC.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Lustig was a Lifetime Achievement Award Laureate of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, recipient of the Franz Kafka prize, B’nai B’rith Award, and the American Jewish National Awards. He was regarded by the Literary Review of London as “the best living Czech author whose works call for the Nobel and all other literary prizes”.



Arnošt Lustig with his daughter Eva

To commemorate Arnošt Lustig’s many works, the Czech Consulate in Los Angeles will present a unique series of film and literary programs in November. The first event will be a screening of *“Diamonds of the Night”*, directed by Jan Němec. The movie tells a story of two young men escaping from a train to a concentration camp, and their journey through unknown terrain. After the film showing, there will be a short reading and discussion with Eva Lustigova, Arnošt Lustig’s daughter. The event will likely take place on **Monday, November 2nd at UCLA**, but the time and date is still subject to change.

The second program will be an opening for Sondra Hersh’s special collection *“Virtues”*, followed by a screening of Eva Lustigova’s documentary, *“Slza”*. This documentary premiered at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival in 2012, and interviews her father, Arnošt Lustig, along with several other Czech figures. The exhibition and screening will be hosted, **November 3 at 6:30pm** at the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles.

On November 5th, there will be a screening of *“Dita Saxova”*, a movie directed by Antonín Moskalyk and based on Arnošt Lustig’s novel. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with the authors’ daughters, Eva Lustigova, and Pavlina Moskalykova. The evening hosted by WME in Beverly Hills includes small reception. Time is still to be determined.

The tribute to Arnošt Lustig in Los Angeles, will conclude with the highlight. The Museum of Tolerance will present *“Prayer for Katerina Horovitzova”*, as a part of their annual commemoration of the infamous Kristellnacht. The film based on one of the author’s finest novels is a psychological thriller about a group of wealthy Jews, waiting to be exchanged for important Nazi POW. The discussion will follow and will include a panel moderated by Liebe Geft, Director of the Museum of Tolerance, Eva Lustigova, daughter of the Arnošt Lustig, and Ivan Passer, Czech director and close friend of belated Arnošt Lustig. This event will take place on **November 9 at 6pm** and will be preceded by an opening of an exhibition memorializing Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass) of 1938.

October 2015	November 2015
<p>October 13, 2015 at 7:30pm – Concert of Pavel Haas Quartet at Libby Gardner Concert Hall</p> <p>(University of Utah, northeast corner of University St. (1340 East) and President's Circle (between 1st & 2nd South))</p> <p>More information at www.cmsofslc.org</p>	<p>November 1, 2015 – Concert of <i>Druhá Tráva</i> at Avogrado's Number</p> <p>(605 S Mason St Fort Collins, CO 80524)</p> <p>More information at www.avogradros.com</p>
<p>Until October 18 - Czech Art in Santa Monica</p> <p>Bergamot Station Arts Center 2525 Michigan Avenue, Unit F2 Santa Monica, CA 90404</p>	<p>November 2, 2015 – Film screening <i>Diamonds of the Night</i> at UCLA</p> <p>More information will be provided on the website</p>
<p>Entire month of October - Exhibition of Jana Ašenbrennerová</p> <p>(10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024)</p>	<p>November 3, 2015 at 6:30pm– exhibition of “Virtues” and screening of <i>Slza</i> at the Czech Consulate</p> <p>(10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024)</p> <p>RSVP at rsvp.czechconsulate@gmail.com</p>
<p>October 28, 2015 – National Day Reception at the residence of Czech Consul General</p> <p>(Los Angeles)</p> <p>by invitation only</p>	<p>November 5, 2015 at 6pm– Film screening of <i>Dita Saxova</i> in Beverly Hills</p> <p>More information will be provided on website</p>
<p>October 29, 2015 at 9pm – Concert of <i>Druhá Tráva</i> at Arvada Tavern</p> <p>(5707 Old Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada, CO 80002)</p> <p>More information at www.arvadatavern.com</p>	<p>November 9, 2015 at 6pm– Film Screening of <i>Prayer for Katerina Horovitzova</i>, discussion panel at the Museum of Tolerance</p> <p>(9786 Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90035)</p> <p>More information will be provided on website</p>

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