



CZECH THE NEWS – LOS ANGELES

Vol. 01/2016

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Welcome Remarks of the New Consul General

Dear Friends at the West Coast,

This is my first time writing to you all and I would like to start by saying thank you for the warm welcome I have already received here and I look forward to meeting all of whom I have not yet had the pleasure to meet. It is a great privilege for me to be serving as the new Consul General in Los Angeles and I am eager for what the future holds.

As the New Year has begun, it is the season for new resolutions. Therefore I am pleased to announce a new endeavor of this consular office. For a New Year's resolution, I would like to focus more on supporting business and economic developments of our Czech compatriots and companies here on the West Coast. To kick off this resolution, I attended the world's biggest business show in Las Vegas this January in support of the Czech businesses and businessmen attending the event. It was a marvelous success and an impressive display of Czech innovation.

In addition to attending the business show in Las Vegas, I am looking forward to attending the annual Bio Convention in San Francisco in June. There, I will learn about the latest advances in biotechnology and how the Czech Republic has and will continue to participate in the field. Also, in order to assist in expanding the consulate's economic focus, I am pleased to announce that we are welcoming Mr. Marino Radačič as an economic attaché. Another proof of our new orientations are forthcoming high level governmental and parliamentary official visits planned for this year.

If there is a way we can support and assist you in your economic endeavors, please contact the consulate general's office to let us know. As you know, successful business is a two way traffic; it is why I am also relying on your support in this endeavor. To remain updated on our outreach in the business world, please check our future newsletters and the consulate's website.

While shifting the focus to economics, I will work to also maintain the cultural outreach programs the Consulate General's office is providing and has provided in the past as seen from this newsletter. More information and dates can be found in this newsletter or later on a case by case basis on our website.

I hope to see you all at our upcoming economic and cultural events or on other occasions.

Ambassador Pavol Šepelák
Consul General



Consul General Pavol Šepelák welcoming guests at his residence at Visegrad Group Concert of Violinist Ambroš.

New Economic Officer at the Czech Consulate

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles has a new Economic Officer. Marino Radačič joined the Consulate on 1st of March, 2016. His portfolio will include trade and investment promotion.



Before joining the Consulate, Marino served as a Desk Officer at the American Unit of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic where he was in charge of bilateral and multilateral trade issues and the negotiation process of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the European Union and the United States.

Marino has an experience in working for the Czech and European public administration (Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, The European Parliament) and for the private sector (Public Affairs Consultant at Grayling Czech Republic).

Marino has a Master's Degree in European and International Studies from the University Maastricht and the Charles University in Prague.

He is married and has two sons.

The long wait is finally over. The annual Czech That Film festival is coming back this spring. Starting in San Francisco this time, the festival will offer a highly regarded slate of new Czech movies. Now in its fifth year, this showcase of the best what the current Czech cinema has to offer will reach 18 major American cities and for the first time also the capital of Canada – Ottawa.

We are honored that the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, H. E. Bohuslav Sobotka will open this annual celluloid celebration that will include



(in clockwise) *Home Care*; *Fifty*; *Schmitke*. (© CTF)

this annual celluloid celebration that will include various selection of Czech features, including a documentary, animated movie for children and adults alike and one archival classic - *"The Invention of Destruction"* by renowned animator Karel Zeman - the most successful film in the Czech moviemaking history.

The Czech Prime Minister Sobotka will join the audience in Roxie Theater in San Francisco for the question and answer session after **the Opening Night film *"Life according to Havel"* by the Czech director Andrea Sedláčková on April 4, 2016.** This documentary paints an elegant portrait of the playwright, dissident and President, the late Václav Havel, whose life was rich in paradoxes and meant so much to his country.

This highly anticipated film series will also include the Czech entry in this year's Oscar competition *"Home Care"* directed by Stanislav Horák who will visit many of the participating cities as a special

guest of the festival and will discuss with the audiences all over the United States the making of his acclaimed title.

Besides above mentioned three titles, the fest will also include *"The Way Out"*, a drama by Petr Václav which represented the Czech Republic at the Cannes film festival last year, the successful Czech - German coproduction *"Schmitke"*, the directorial debut of Vojtěch Kotek *"Fifty"* and the political thriller about Czech Mafioso *"GangsterKa"*. The little ones as well as the adults will enjoy *"The Little Man"*, the unconventional fairy tale that continues a long tradition of superb Czech live-action puppet features.

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles is proud to announce that the fifth annual Czech That Film festival will, after its kick-off in the Bay Area, travel to Phoenix, Little Rock, Puerto Rico, Dallas, Austin, Denver, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Portland, Columbus, New York, Washington DC, Chicago, Minneapolis, Seattle and Ottawa.

Besides dedicated team at the Czech Consulate in LA, the festival is organized by Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences in Los Angeles, the Czech Centers in Prague and in New York, the Czech Embassy in Washington DC and the Czech Consulate in Chicago.

Many thanks for valuable contribution of all sponsors and local partners as well as for assistance by the Czech Honorary Consuls in participating cities. Czech That Film would like to thank all partners involved. The festival was sponsored by Milk & Honey Films, Prague Studios, the company RUDOLF JELÍNEK that is one of the greatest producers of fruit brandy (Slivovitz, Pear Brandy, Gold Cock Whisky and plenty of other different products) in the world. Organizers of Czech That Film festival would like to express a special thanks to Juraj Vojnik from Boston Consulting Group for designing our awesome promotional materials.

For more information on Czech That Film festival including the list and details of screening, please visit our dedicated website at:

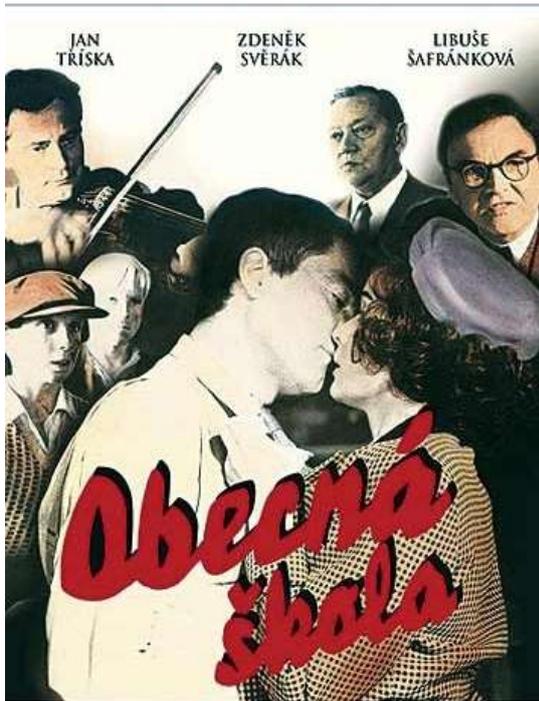
www.czechthatfilm.com

We look forward to seeing everyone at the many special events!

Czech Film Elementary School Gets Worldwide Showing for the lead actor Zdeněk Svěrák's 80th Birthday



Czech renowned actor, screenwriter and beloved Czech cultural icon Zdeněk Svěrák will celebrate this month his 80th birthday. His son and film director, Jan Svěrák, together with Zdeněk Svěrák's fans are organizing a **worldwide birthday celebration with the screening of 1991 Oscar-nominated film *The Elementary School (Obecná škola)***. The screening of the digitally restored copy of this cinematic gem will take place right on Zdeněk Svěrák's birthday, in select cinemas around the world, including England, Norway, Argentina, New Zealand, Bali or Seychelles.



The selection of this film was not random. "*Elementary School*" was the first creative collaboration between Svěrák and his son, film director Jan Svěrák. It tells a story about childhood in a postwar Prague suburb.

Zdeněk Svěrák also wrote and starred in *Kolja*, which won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 1997. His son, Jan Svěrák, also directed this film.

In Los Angeles, the screening will take place on **Sunday, March 27th** in two back to back screenings, starting at **2 pm** and **at 4 pm**. Both screenings will take place at the **Dick Clark Productions screening room** (2900 West Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90404). Those interested in attending the screening can purchase the **15 USD tickets** through the Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences in Los Angeles at svu.losangeles@gmail.com **Please note that as the seating is limited, the RSVP is mandatory.**

So, please join us in celebrating Zdeněk Svěrák's birthday by coming to see *The Elementary School* and by singing the birthday song *Zdeněk má narozeniny* written by Zdeněk's friend, musician Jaroslav Uhlíř that will be screened as a karaoke before the film. Alternately, you can extend your wishes to Mr. Svěrák by writing your personal birthday congratulation at: www.zdeneksverak.cz



Message from Sokol Los Angeles

We welcome new Consul General Pavol Sepelak and wish him and his staff a successful term at the Czech Consulate in Los Angeles.

In 2015 we said farewell to Consul General Michal Sedlacek as he returned to the Czech Republic with his family. We are grateful to Mr. Sedlacek and his staff for all they did to support the Czech communities in California during his term here and look forward to Mr. Sepelak's continuing support in the community.

We owe thanks to Mr. Sedlacek for assisting Sokol Los Angeles in securing funds from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help support our cultural and heritage activities. **We received a total of \$946 in 2012 via SVU-LA, \$3054 in 2013, \$4414 in 2014 and \$6584 in 2015.** The majority of these funds were used to support Czech language classes (children and adults) with added funding in 2015 for co-sponsoring the Annual Czech School Conference held in Los Angeles.

The year 2016 should be an exciting year as Sokol Los Angeles begins planning for the upcoming **American Sokol Organization (ASO) slet in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, scheduled for June 22-24, 2017.** In addition to participation in the slet, we plan to tour the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML) and surrounding community. The Museum is preparing a special exhibit honoring Sokol, **"Twists and Turns: The Story of Sokol", to be displayed February thru July 2017.**

Sokol Los Angeles is also in preliminary planning stages for the Prague Slet in 2018, and we are looking forward to once again visiting that beautiful city. ASO is putting together a tour for Sokol members and friends to enjoy sightseeing activities during Slet week.

Locally, **we will hold our Annual Spring Social on May 1, 2016 at Knollwood Country Club in Granada Hills** and the Pacific District Dinkey Creek Family Camp in July.

Nazdar!

Lillian Roter, President
American Sokol Los Angeles




Sokol Los Angeles
Invites You and Your Guests To Our
Annual Spring Social
Sunday, May 1, 2016 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Lunch Served at Noon -- Banquet Style
Knollwood Country Club, 12024 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills
Sokol/CSA/WFLA Lodge 377 Members \$20.00; Non-members \$30.00
Feel Festive? Wear Kroj and receive \$15.00 discount
NO RESERVATION? Members/Non-Members \$50.00 at the DOOR!
Children 12 and Under Receive Free Special Child's Meal
Free Valet Parking Available
Music by Now and Then *** Spacious Dance Floor
Tombola-Raffle: Cash Prizes and More
Menu Choices: Beef Stroganoff, Chicken Marsala or Grilled Salmon
Includes Salad, Garlic Mashed Potatoes (except Stroganoff), Vegetable, Dessert, Tea or Coffee




No Host Bar

Reservations Are Required and Must Be Received by April 10, 2015
(Directions to Knollwood: 405 Freeway to 118 Freeway West; Balboa off ramp, turn right)
Fill out the reservation form below and return with payment to:
Lillian Roter, 4817 Neblina Dr, Carlsbad, CA 92008-3725
Make check payable to **American Sokol Los Angeles**

Number of: Members @ \$20.00 each: ___ Non-Members @ \$30.00 each: ___ Children 12 & under: ___
Name(s): _____ Phone No.: _____ E-mail: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Please indicate number of dishes ordered: Stroganoff () Chicken () Fish ()
Credit for Kroj () \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____
Child's Plates: () Special Meal Requirements _____

For more information please call 805-551-2525

Retrospective of Karel Zeman at Cinefamily



The Cinefamily with the support of the Czech Consulate in Los Angeles and the University of Southern California (USC) proudly presents a retrospective of films made by one of the greatest Czech directors of all time and a world-renowned animator, Karel Zeman (1910-1989). The Cinefamily at the Silent Movie Theatre (611 N Fairfax Avenue // Los Angeles // 90036), where the tribute screenings are held will present series of Zeman's best-known films **from April 28 through May 1, 2016**.

The visionary Zeman, often called "*the Czech Méliès*," is best known for directing fantasy films combining live-action with animated drawings and lithographs. A retrospective of his work will include short films such as *Inspiration*, followed by the internationally recognized feature film masterpieces *Baron Munchausen*, *Journey to the Beginning of Time*, and Zeman's most popular feature, which is also the most successful Czech film of all time, *Invention for Destruction AKA The Fabulous World of Jules Verne*. Visually jaw-dropping, poetic and bubbling with imagination, *Invention*, based upon several of Verne's works is (as are all of the films in the series), an incredible experience and should not be missed! The series is co-presented by Czech That Film festival.

Thursday, April 28 at 7:30 PM	Inspiration + Baron Munchausen
Friday, April 29, 10 pm	Inspiration + Baron Munchausen
Saturday, April 30, 2 pm	Journey to the Beginning of Time
Saturday, April 30, 4:30 pm	Film Adventurer Karel Zeman
Sunday, May 1, 2 pm	Invention for Destruction: The Fabulous World of Jules Verne
Sunday, May 1, 4:30 pm	The Stolen Airship

For tickets and more information please see: <http://www.cinefamily.org/>



Karel Zeman was a world pioneer of the animated fantasy world. (© NFA)

Annual Carnival at Balboa Park

It's time for the Annual Carnival! **On Saturday, March 19th at 3:00 PM at Hall of Nation, in Balboa Park.** I hope to see many of you there. We have prepared a fun competition game, we will learn dances, play a fairy tale, we'll gobble hot sausages, plus we'll have ice-cold beers & soft drinks. Children will put their imagination at work in art projects and then they will also participate into a fun raffle!!! The music will be just right for dancing, with fun songs for kids and also "zamuzicirujem". Now just come!

So I hope to see you there for a nice, fun day and if you do not have plans for this Sunday, visit our house where will serve Anka Hradská and Jane Fišerová. Come for a good bun, a tasty cake and definitely for good music!

As a final note: start polishing your dance shoes, as Dancing Queens and Poe Street Band are busy preparing a dance party on the day before the May First, the day of love and a celebration of spring!

With best regards,

Marketa Hančová

www.aroundtownwithmarketa.com

Czech Easter Celebration in Los Angeles

Hosted by Czech School of Los Angeles (CSLA)

Sponsored by American Sokol

When: Sunday March 27th, 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Where: Palms-Rancho Park
2920 Overland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90064
Cost: family \$10 (2 parents and their children)
individual \$5 (1 adult and one child)
CSLA families FREE
Included: refreshments
all games and entertainment

Program: 2:00 - 3:00 - Refreshments, egg painting, photos
3:00 - 4:00 - Games and competitions
4:00 - 4:30 - "Pomlázka"
4:30 - 5:00 - Raffle and free play

RSVP by March 23rd:

www.tinyurl.com/velikonoce2014

For more information, please contact
Vladka at vladkanderson@yahoo.com
Or Miron at milincev@hotmail.com



**CARNIVAL
KARNEVAL**



March 19, 2016 3 PM
HALL OF NATION, BALBOA PARK, 2191 W. PAN AMERICAN DR. SD
POE STREET BAND & COMPANY

CONTESTS * DANCES
FACE PAINTING
FUN GAMES
ARTS & CRAFTS
FOOD + RAFFLE



Info: 619 788 7428 www.aroundtownwithmarketa.com

SOKOL San Francisco

Sokol San Francisco was busy in the second half of last year. Our regular September picnic at Lake Chabot brought together Sokol members and friends of all ages. Young families with children were especially welcome and bilingual chatting and singing made the afternoon friendly and relaxing.

In October, a group of seventeen Sokol members traveled to San Diego to meet with the Czech and Slovak community and to enjoy a full weekend of the Czech and Slovak Lawn Program. We were very pleased that Sokol children from the Czech School also contributed to the program. The unique International Village in Balboa Park and the well prepared program were wonderful and we made personal contacts with the large San Diego Czech and Slovak family.



Sokol San Francisco children performing at San Diego Lawn Program (© SokolSanFrancisco)

As some other West Coast cities, we, too, had a pleasure to welcome Jaroslav Sveceny and Vaclav Macha, two world class soloists from Czech Republic. Both musicians were a pleasure to listen to, but also to speak to. We managed to take them for a short tour through San Francisco and both of them enjoyed that day enormously.

Last year was also a year of celebrating of 150 year anniversary of American Sokol. Sokol San Francisco is very proud to be part of the American Sokol, an organization serving Czechs and Slovaks in America for such a long time. Our five member delegation participated and represented us at the celebration in Chicago.

As we reviewed Sokol's activities at the Annual Meeting in December, we are proud to announce that twelve new members have joined Sokol in 2015, most of them young people. They also came to the end of the year Dinner and Dance - our version of the popular Czech "Silvester".

We have also "walked". Sokol's popular "Walks for Health" program took us mushroom hunting (which unfortunately did not bring back many mushrooms...), to a walk in San Francisco's Presidio and to a lesser known San Pedro Valley Park. Living in San Francisco Bay Area offers many opportunities and many beautiful places. We plan to visit some of them this year too. Our next walk will take us to the Rose Garden in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco to remember first President of Czechoslovakia, Tomas G. Masaryk. Our friends from CSA Fraternal Life and the Czech School of California will participate at that spring event. The Masaryk's bust, created by Josef Maratka, was first exhibited at the Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island in 1939. Before the exhibition closed, Czechoslovakia ceased to exist, being occupied by the Nazis. Sokol San Francisco took the bust under its protection and in 1962, the bust was installed in the Rose Garden as a gift of Sokol San Francisco.

March is a very busy month for all of us. On March 4th, Czech musicians Miroslav and Zuzana Ambros performed at the Lucie Stern Community Center in Palo Alto in a concert organized by Sokol and the Czech and Slovak Club. A big Sokol Spring Dinner and Dance followed soon after, on March 5th. And after two more Walks for Health, we will be getting ready for the spring picnic, a Sokol and Czech School event, with a special program and surprises for children. As you know, it was a big success last spring and we can definitely hope for the same at the end of June 2016.

Zelmira Zivny
Chairman of the Board



Picnic after a mushroom hunting

2016 Petrof Concert Series Kicked off with a Violin-Piano Duo

Petrof Concert Series continues in 2016 with the performance of the acclaimed Czech violin virtuoso Miroslav Amroš and the celebrated Czech pianist Zuzana Ambrošová. This delightful concert was held on the occasion of the Czech presidency of Visegrad Group. In order to celebrate the efforts of the countries of the Central European region to work together and coordinate in a number of fields of common interest in a union known as the Visegrad Four, Mr. and Mrs. Amroš showcased several masterpieces by composers representing the “V4” countries (The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia).

A classical music performance featuring the works of Antonín Dvořák, Bohuslav Martinů, Erich Wolfgang Korngold (Czech Republic), Joseph Joachim (Hungary), Frédéric Chopin (Poland) and Sylvia Bodorová (Slovakia), beautifully interpreted by this violin-piano duo, took place at the residence of the Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles, Mr. Pavol Šepelák on Sunday, March 6 at 4 PM. As a special treat, the duo also presented a piece by the Italian composer Antonio Bazzini „*La Ronde des Lutins, Scherzo fantastique, Op.25*“, which is one of the most technically challenging compositions ever written.

As a group and a musical family, Mr. Amroš and his mother, Zuzana Amrošová, have become well known in the Czech Republic, and have performed overseas as well. The extraordinary performance was very well received by the audience, who responded with a long standing ovation.

The U.S. tour of Mr. Amroš and his mother Zuzana started in Phoenix (February 28), and after a stop in Seattle (March 2), it traveled to San Francisco (March 4), Los Angeles (March 6) and finally, Las Vegas (March 9).

The series was co-organized by the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles and the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles.



Talented young violin virtuoso Miroslav Amroš with his mum who also accompanies him on piano.



Visegrad Group with artists (from left): Consul General of Poland, Consul General of the Czech Republic, Deputy Consul General of Hungary

Opening of the new Honorary Consulate in Las Vegas

Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the US, Petr Gandalovič introduced Olga Martin into the Office of the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Nevada at a ceremony held in Las Vegas on March 9, 2016.

The key guests at the opening ceremony were Petr Gandalovič, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the USA, and Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles Mr. Pavol Šepelák. The important part of this ceremony was also outstanding violin-duo performance of talented young Czech violinist Miroslav Ambroš and his mother and pianist at the same person Mrs. Zuzana Ambrošová.

This is the first time that Czech presence in Nevada has increased in the form of a Honorary Consulate.

Honorary Consulate in Las Vegas has been officially opened for public on March 9, 2016 and its duties include:

- Trade development
- Tourism promotion
- Cultural exchange facilitation
- Notarization of signatures for use in the Czech Republic
- Emergency assistance to Czech citizens
- Compatriot affairs

Contact details of the Honorary Consulate:

Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
3920 E. Patrick Ln
Las Vegas NV 89120

Tel: +1 702-490-0285

E-mail: lasvegas@honorary.mzv.cz



(top) Consul General Sepelak with Ambassador Gandalovic and Honorary Consul Martin at her new office in Las Vegas.

(bottom): Ambassador Gandalovic introduces Mrs. Olga Martin as the new Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Nevada



Our dear Friends and Visitors,

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles wishes to remind, that since January 1, 2016, there has been **new opening hours for the public** as follows:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (noon)
CLOSED on Friday!

Also, please note, that the Consulate is closed on major American Holidays and all Czech National Holidays. For more, please check our <http://www.mzv.cz/losangeles>.

Thank you for your understanding.

ATTENTION!

**New Opening
Hours of the
Consulate and
Holidays in 2016**



DO NOT MISS!



The school offers classes for school aged children who need to learn Czech grammar, writing, reading and spoken language at the 1st – 3rd grade level of Czech educational system and 4th to 5th grade level. Czech as a Foreign Language for children – 6 years and up, intended for children with no previous knowledge of Czech language (© CzechSchoolofCalifornia)



Spring News from the Czech School of California

Dear friends and supporters of the Czech School of California,

We are in full swing with our spring quarter which is packed with various cultural events for our kids and our community. We will start with our popular traditional Easter celebration and continue with a rather unique event – the 80th birthday celebration of the famous Czech actor and screenwriter Zdenek Sverak. **On March 27th we will screen the movie “Obecná škola”** for our families and friends. As part of this worldwide celebration, our kids will also perform a karaoke version of the song “Zdeněk má narozeniny”, which we will record and send directly to him and his family.

As we are a non-profit organization, we kindly invite you to support us through **Silicon Valley Gives Day, which will take place on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.** Please visit our new online page and read the stories of our students, families and friends.

And last but certainly not least, **we are thrilled to invite you to our 2016 benefit concert**, to be performed by the famous Czech rock band **CHINASKI**. This will take place **on Saturday, November 5th** at the JCC in Palo Alto. So save the date, book a babysitter and be ready to dance the night away!

For more information about all of our programs, events, and how to get involved, please visit our website www.czechschoolofcalifornia.com. We look forward to seeing you in the classroom or at one of our events soon.

Michaela Pavlik
Chairman of the Board
Czech School of California



CALENDAR of EVENTS

MARCH						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	<u>19</u>	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	<u>27</u>	28
29	30	31				
APRIL						
1	2	3	<u>4</u>	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	<u>28</u>
<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>					
MAY						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

If you have got any comments or suggestions, do not hesitate to reach to us at losangeles@embassy.mzv.cz

*With best regards,
CZECH CONSULATE LOS ANGELES*