

CZECH the NEWS

Newsletter of the Embassy of the Czech Republic

Prime Minister Fischer Joins World Leaders at the Nuclear Security Summit

Vol. 1, 2010

Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer along with his delegation, which included the Czech Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Martin Bartak, took part in the two-day Nuclear Security Summit organized by U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington, DC, on April 12–13, 2010.

Prime Minister Fischer joined leaders from 46 other nations as well as the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Union, with the objective of securing nuclear materials, such as plutonium or highly-enriched uranium, used in making nuclear weapons in order to safeguard them from falling into the hands of terrorists. This summit was the largest gathering of heads of state and government in Washington's history, which emphasizes the



Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer and U.S. President Barack Obama meet at the Nuclear Summit in Washington, DC.

importance of the discussed issue.

During his visit, Prime Minister Fischer also took the opportunity to have bilateral meetings with Georgian

President Mikheil Saakashvili, Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, whose country holds the six months rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union,



Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer at the Nuclear Summit

and Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg.

Czech Minister of Defense Bartak met with U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Michele Flournoy.

Prime Minister Fischer also visited New York, where he attended the "Terezin cantata" concert and participated in various events including a discussion with students and a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the 9/11 attacks.

Contents:

Message from the Ambassador..... 2

Embassy Honors Medal
Awardees..... 2

International Conference:
Bohemian and Czech Jews in
America Kicks off at Embassy..... 3

Panel Commemorates 20th Anniversary of
Vaclav Havel's Speech to the
Joint Session of Congress..... 3

Father and Son, Scientists with a
Passion for Innovation..... 4

Czech Streetcars unveiled in
DC..... 5

Podoski Remembered for her
Service..... 5

Restored Garden Rejuvenates a
Community and Remembers a
Friend..... 6

Czech Fresh Design Reveals
a Laboratory of Dreams..... 7

Avalon Theater Continues to
Bring Czech Films to DC..... 8

Czech Events in the U.S..... 7

Czech Republic Hosts New START Treaty in Prague



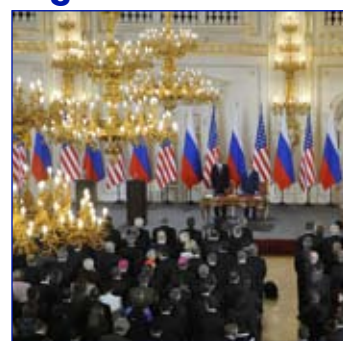
Russian President Medvedev, Czech President Klaus, and U.S. President Obama toast in Prague, Czech Republic.

The Czech Republic hosted the signing of the new treaty, replacing the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, between the United States of America and the Russian Federation. The signing ceremony took place in Prague on April 8, 2010, with U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitrij Medvedev.

As a NATO ally, the Czech Republic was proud and honored to host an event of such a historical and symbolic significance one year after President Obama's first visit to Prague, during which he introduced his vision of a world

without nuclear weapons and emphasized the need to strengthen our alliance. "We are bound by shared values, shared history, and the enduring promise of our alliance," said President Obama in Prague.

The signing ceremony was followed by an official dinner at the residence of the U.S. Ambassador in Prague, hosted by U.S. President Obama. The dinner was attended by Czech President Vaclav Klaus, Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer, and also the presidents and the prime ministers of ten other Central and East European countries.



U.S. President Obama and Russian President Medvedev



Russian President Medvedev, Czech President Klaus, and U.S. President Obama



U.S. President Barack Obama and Czech President Vaclav Klaus



Photo courtesy of Chad Wyatt

Dear Friends,

The first half of April was a busy time not only for me personally, but especially for our leaders. All eyes were set on the Czech Republic, as Prague once again found itself in the world's spotlight during the signing ceremony of the New START Treaty. President Obama and President Medvedev signed a landmark treaty in our nation's capital. The signing ceremony was followed by a meeting of President Obama with the leaders of eleven Central and Eastern European countries.

Shortly afterwards, the world turned its eyes to Washington, DC, where another crucial summit touched on the subject of nuclear security. The Washington Nuclear Security Summit brought the leaders of forty-seven countries together in a unique gathering with one clear mission—to discuss and explore the outline of the world's security from a global perspective.

We were deeply saddened by the devastating news informing us that the Polish President with his wife and delegation died in a tragic accident. The world was brought together in mourning and paid respect to the

deceased Polish leader.

I am very pleased to observe the continuity of my country's firm alliance with the United States. As Vice President Biden pointed out in his speech in Bucharest and repeated in Prague in the Fall of 2009, the United States "no longer think in terms of what we can do for Central Europe, but rather in terms of what we can do with Central Europe." Reinvigorated by President Obama's reassurances, the Czech Republic is also prepared to make our own contribution to the efforts of the Transatlantic community. It is our long-term goal to work with our close neighbors to support their path towards a better future and to engage with our NATO allies in realistic dialogue on the future of the Alliance. This will ultimately result in the security of our nation as well as in the security of the region and our allied partners.

Only a few months ago, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of Vaclav Havel's historic speech before the joint session of the United States Congress, which initiated not only our modern alliance with the United States, but also marked the rebirth of democracy, freedom, and prosperity in the Czech Republic. Although our democratic society is still relatively young, our achievements and deeds in the global perspective are strengthening the solid foundation of a functioning democratic society.

Our membership and role in the European Union, NATO as well as other organizations, is a result of a responsible and progressive integration and acceptance of responsibilities within the framework of our democratic society. While I stress the importance of continuity to work hard and strive for excellence during the transatlantic dialogue, I sincerely hope that I was able to contribute to the enhancement of this concept.

Although the life of an appointed ambassador inseparably forces me to face the hardship of leaving places my wife and I grow accustomed to, these experiences also enrich us with many fond memories, friendships, and a sense of achievement. I feel very privileged that on the verge of the end of my assignment here in the United States, I can observe the relationship between our countries as being intact and in great shape.

Warm regards,

Petr Kolar



Photo courtesy of Mary E. Fetzko

From left to right: Dagmar White, Otilia Kabes, Vera Borkovcova, Jana Kanska, Pavel Klein, Ambassador Kolar, Olga Hrubá, and Mila Rechcigl



Photo courtesy of Mary E. Fetzko

Vera Borkovcova and
Ambassador Kolar



Olga Hrubá and
Ambassador Kolar

Embassy Honors Medal Awardees

On April 26, 2010, Ambassador Kolar presented Silver Commemorative Medals of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and the Vaclav Benda Award administered by the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes.

The Silver Commemorative Medals are given to individuals who support compatriot activities and spread the good name and traditions of the Czech Republic in the United States. These medals were awarded by the Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic Premysl Sobotka in New York on February 23, 2010, and presented on April 26, 2010 in Washington, DC. DC recipients included: Vera Borkovcova, Vladimir Kabes (Otilia Kabes accepted the award in memoriam of her late husband.), Karel Kanský (Jana Kanska accepted the award on

behalf of Karel Kanský who could not attend the ceremony.), Pavel Klein, Miloslav Rechcigl, Jr., and Dagmar Hasal-White.

For the first time, the Vaclav Benda Award administered by the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes was awarded on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia on November 16, 2009.

Ms. Olga Hrubá, recipient of the award, could not attend the ceremony in the Czech Republic. Therefore, Ambassador Kolar presented the award to her at his residence on April 26. This commemorative medal is awarded to individuals who played a significant role in the fight for the restoration of freedom and democracy of the Czechoslovak Republic during the eras of non-freedom (1938–1945) and Communist totalitarian power (1948–1989).



International Conference: *Bohemian and Czech Jews in America* Kicks Off at Embassy

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, DC, and American University's Jewish Studies Program and Department of History presented the international conference *Bohemian and Czech Jews in America* on April 14, 2010.

The conference was opened by H.E. Petr Kolar, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, who introduced the conference's guest of honor, the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, H.E. Jan Fischer. Mr. Fischer attended President Obama's Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC, on April 12-13, and took the time to open the conference. In his remarks, he stressed not only the accomplishments of the Bohemian and Czech Jews in America, but also a vibrant renewal of the Jewish community in the Czech Republic after the 1989 revolution. Prime Minister Fischer also took pride in his active personal participation in the life of this community.

The presenters and panelists of the conference included: Mila Rechci (former President of the



American University students and professors meet with Peter Demetz at the international conference.

Society for Arts and Sciences); Petr Brod (Czech journalist and author); Wilma Iggers (Canisius College, Buffalo); Mark Talisman (President of Project Judaica); Helen Epstein (author and journalist); and Peter Demetz (Yale University).

The panels were chaired by Jenna Weissman Joselit (Smith Professor of Judaic Studies and Professor of History, The George Washington University) and Pamela Nadell (Inaugural Patrick Clendenen Professor of History and Director, Jewish Studies pro-

gram, American University).

Remarks about the English translation of Matej Minac's book *Nicholas Winton's Lottery of Life* and about popularization of the remarkable story and achievements of Sir Nicholas Winton were offered by Peter Rafaeli (Czech Honorary Consul, Philadelphia).

Closing remarks of the conference were offered by Tom Dine, President of American Friends of the Czech Republic. Over 100 guests attended the event.



Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer



Mark Talisman



Hadassah Lieberman asks a question to the panelists.



Ambassador Petr Kolar



David Ignatius and Czech Ambassador to the UN Martin Palous



Madeleine Albright and David Ignatius

Panel Commemorates 20th Anniversary of Vaclav Havel's Speech to the Joint Session of Congress

On Thursday, February 25, 2010, Ambassador Kolar opened the panel discussion, *Back to the Future: The Past, Present and Future of Czech-American and Transatlantic Relations*, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of former President Vaclav Havel's address before the Joint Session of the U.S. Congress in 1990. The discussion was moderated by David Ignatius, columnist and associate editor for *The Washington Post*. The event took place at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center.

President Havel's landmark speech outlined his vision for relations between the U.S. and Europe as well as the rest of the world in the new era after the political changes of 1989. The panel examined which parts of Havel's speech are still valid and continue to inspire today, what the current state of the Czech-American relations is, and what are the future challenges for the transatlantic partnership between the U.S. and the EU.

The Czech panelists includ-



(From left to right) Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Czech Ambassador Kolar, former Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg, and Swedish Ambassador Jonas Hafstrom

ed Senator Karel Schwarzenberg, former Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic (2006–2009) and former Chancellor of President Havel (1990–1992); Ambassador Martin Palous (current Czech Ambassador to the UN, and former Ambassador to the US, 2001–2005), who was a close advisor to President Havel and one of the leaders of The Civic Forum, the

movement which led the 1989 revolution in former Czechoslovakia.

The U.S. panelists included close friends of President Havel, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor to President Carter (1977–1981), and Dr. Madeleine Albright, former US Secretary of State (1997–2001) and Chair of Albright Stonebridge Group.

Father and Son, Scientists with a Passion for Innovation

Dr. William Ganz (In Memoriam 1919-2009) and Dr. Tomas Ganz

*Dr. William Ganz, MD, was a renowned cardiologist and inventor.
His son, Tomas Ganz, MD, is a world-renowned medical researcher.*

Dr. William (Vilem) Ganz was born in Kosice, Czechoslovakia, in 1919. He moved to Prague in 1936 to study at the Charles University School of Medicine but was forced to return to Hungarian-occupied Kosice after the Munich agreement and the break-up of Czechoslovakia. Soon after, with a group of other Jews from Kosice, he was imprisoned in a Hungarian labor camp for a time but was released on a medical excuse by a camp doctor who felt some sympathy for a bright medical student. He survived the rest of WWII in the Jewish underground in Budapest where he met his wife, Magdalena. After the war, the couple returned to Prague to start a family. Dr. William Ganz completed his medical studies there at Charles University in 1948, and worked as a research scientist-cardiologist at the Institute for Circulatory Disorders, under the guidance of Professors Brod and Weber.

Tomas Ganz, son of Dr. William Ganz, remembers fondly growing up with his family in the Czech Republic as a child.

"My brother Peter and I grew up in Prague, quite happily, sheltered by our parents from the troubled times. Because of our Hungarian-speaking grandmother, our family spoke both Czech and Hungarian. My fondest memories include exploring the streets and parks of Prague with my parents or grandmother, and later with friends and school-mates."

Tomas followed his father's passion for science. He attended a special cybernetics and mathematics program at the gymnasium (now Academic Gymnasium, Stepanska) in Prague, graduating in 1966, and was accepted to Charles University. However, that same year, the entire family escaped from communist Czechoslovakia and emigrated to the United States for political and family reunification reasons.

Reflecting on the experience of his escape, Tomas Ganz recalled how his father's reputation as a scientist enabled the family to be readily accepted in the U.S.

"After reaching Vienna we applied for immigration at the U.S. Embassy and were rapidly accepted, perhaps because of my father's outstanding reputation as a scientist in cardiology research. Their expectations were quickly justified as my father became a very successful medical scientist and the inventor of the Swan-Ganz catheter and other medical devices."

Settling the family in Los

Angeles, William worked at the cardiology faculty at Cedars-Sinai Hospital. It was there in 1970 that he along with Dr. Jeremy Swan, then Chief of Cardiology at the hospital, invented the revolutionary Swan-Ganz catheter, which measures heart functions. The device is used to this day in thousands of patients all over the world during heart surgery or to study the effects of heart attacks or medication. Resuming the work that he started in Prague,

method now used for heart-attack patients. His wife Magda was a key partner in this project which required rapid (often night-time) mobilization of medical teams to perform this life-saving procedure (dubbed Code White). Dr. William Ganz received the Distinguished Scientist Award from the American College of Cardiology in 1992. He died last year at the age of 90 of natural causes.



Dr. William Ganz

"My father was a towering role model for me. He was passionate about his work and very focused. Before undertaking a project he always considered how the work was going to benefit patients."

~Dr. Tomas Ganz

William then developed a procedure, called thermodilution, for directly measuring human blood flow, which was incorporated into the catheter the following year. William continued his innovative research in cardiac medicine. Starting in 1982, he worked on treatment for heart attacks via dissolving coronary artery blood clots, a standard

Tomas saw his father as a role model not only for him, but someone who cared deeply for his patients.

"My father was a towering role model for me. He was passionate about his work and very focused. Before undertaking a project he always considered how the work was going to benefit patients. He had a limited inter-



Dr. William Ganz and his son take a Sunday walk in Prague, 1951.

est in grand ideas, and a reflexive dislike of dogmas. His approach was always hands on and practical. Although I am by nature less practical and more intellectual than my father, his call to choose projects that would prolong and improve the lives of patients still rings in my ears."

Dr. Tomas Ganz received a B.S. degree in Physics from the University of California (UCLA) in 1970, then his Ph.D. in Applied Physics from the California Institute of Technology in 1976 and his M.D. from UCLA in 1978. He then underwent medical specialist training in Internal Medicine and Pulmonary and Critical Care and became an Assistant Professor in Medicine at UCLA in 1983. During post-doctoral training with Professors Hershman and Lehrer, Dr. Tomas Ganz became interested in the role of small proteins (peptides) in immunity to infections.

"Although I practiced clinical medicine part-time for many years, my passion was in medical research and discovery. Our team discovered human defensins, an important group of peptides that act as natural antibiotics protecting us from infections. Defensins and other peptides with similar function are now known to exist in plants and in most animal species from the simplest marine creatures to humans. We studied

Continued on page 5

Father and Son, Scientists with a Passion for Innovation (Continued from pg. 4)

the chemistry, regulation and function of various defensins in human white blood cells, intestinal cells, the kidney and the skin. In the 1990s, we serendipitously discovered a new peptide hormone, hepcidin, that regulates iron metabolism. I became interested in iron regulation and diseases in which there is not enough iron to make red cell hemoglobin (anemias) and/or there is excessive iron leading to tissue and organ damage (hemochromatosis and hemosiderosis). With several significant contributions from my laboratory, we now understand the fundamental causes of these disorders."



"I feel fortunate that my work involves solving the ancient medical puzzles of the workings of inflammation, iron and anemia."
~Dr. Tomas Ganz

During these research studies, Tomas and his team also developed novel diagnostic methods for iron-related dis-

eases. They are now exploring new treatments for iron overload disorders caused by hepcidin deficiency, as well as for anemia of inflammation and other diseases mediated by excessive hepcidin. In addition to continuing his research at UCLA, as a Professor of Medicine and Pathology, he teaches graduate students in cellular and molecular pathology and lectures to first year medical students about inflammation.

"I feel fortunate that my work involves solving the ancient medical puzzles of the workings of inflammation, iron and anemia. I try to convey to my students the thrill of discovery and its potential impact on people's lives. These are global problems that

preoccupied medical scientists since the beginnings of medicine. The emerging solutions will hopefully benefit people all over the world."

Despite the immense opportunities that the U.S. has offered him, Tomas, like his late father, remains fond of his native lands in the Czech Republic.

"Since 1989, my father and I have been able to return to Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic for several personal and work-related visits. My father was honored by the Czech Medical Society of J.E. Purkyne, a recognition of which he was particularly proud. The Latin diploma was prominently displayed in his home office. I renewed my love affair with Prague whose old quarters, streets and buildings I know by heart. I was particularly happy to reunite with my gymnasium classmates in a



Continuous Cardiac Output Swan-Ganz Catheter

pub not far from our school. Unbeknownst to us, this formerly Jesuit institution was the first gymnasium in Bohemia, and over the centuries counted many prominent Czech scholars, artists and politicians among its graduates. I am glad to report that my Czech citizenship was recently restored. My Czech is a bit accented and lacking in technical terms but still serviceable."

During the International BioIron Society Meeting in Prague in 2005, Dr. Tomas Ganz received the Marcel Simon Award in recognition for his laboratory's discovery of hepcidin.

Czech Streetcars Unveiled in DC

Deputy Chief of Mission Daniel Kostoval joined DC Mayor Adrian Fenty, District Department of Transportation Director Gabe Klein, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (Oregon 3rd District), and other DC officials to kick off a four-day DC Streetcar Showcase at the city center (H and 9th Streets) of Washington.

The showcase, which opened on May 5, 2010, celebrates the return of streetcars to the city after more than fifty years, allowing the public to view and tour one of the three Czech manufactured streetcars for the first time since their purchase and arrival in the United States in December 2009. DC plans to build a 37 mile, 8 line streetcar system, with the first streetcar line in Anacostia expected to start revenue-service by the fall of 2012 and tracks being laid on H Street and Benning Road for a second line. The modern DC streetcar network will protect environmental quality and enhance the current transit system in the city.

The Czech Embassy fully appreciates Mayor Fenty's efforts in embracing the DC streetcar project and pushing towards



(Left to right) Czech Deputy Chief of Mission Daniel Kostoval, Assistant GM of WMATA David Kubicek, DC Councilman Graham, DC Councilman Evans, and Mayor Adrian Fenty.

its realization after many years of planning. The Czech Embassy is ready to work with the DC government to further facilitate cooperation with Czech entities to service the streetcar network.

Podoski Remembered for her Service



From left to right: Col. Jan Sykora, CWO Radim Koschull, Marina Lee Brag, Brigadier General Ptemysl Skacha, Katherine Palicova Cartwright, and Lt.Col. Vit Cernovsky

Members of the Czech Defense Attache office had the opportunity to remember the life and deeds of Barbara Lee Podoski. Deputy Prime Minister and Czech Minister of Defense Martin Bartak awarded her in memoriam the Honorary Remembrance Medal, which is awarded to soldiers, members of security corps and other citizens of the Czech Republic and foreign nationals, who have made outstanding contributions to development of the Czech Republic or who have long-term merits in this field. The decoration was handed over by a new Defense, Military, and Air Attache Brigadier General Ptemysl Skacha to the daughter of Barbara Podoski, Marina Lee Brag on Monday, February 22, 2010. This meeting was held at the house of a close friend of both Barbara Podoski and her daughter, Mrs. Katherine Palicova Cartwright. The members of the Defense Attache's office would like to express their thanks to her for her hospitality.



Barbara Podoski, Marina Lee Brag, and Vera Borkovcova

Restored Garden Rejuvenates a Community and Remembers a Friend

The town of Valtice located in the wine country of Southern Moravia will now offer another reason for a visit, besides its splendid baroque chateau. Six years ago, Tiree Chmelar had the idea to restore the Valtice Chateau's historic herb garden to showcase native culinary, aromatic, medicinal, and decorative herbs and to celebrate the 17th century herbalists based in Valtice.

The Tiree Chmelar Herb Garden opens May 29, 2010 in Valtice.



Lubomir and Tiree Chmelar

The Chmelars

Tiree and her Czech-born American husband, Lubomir Chmelar, knew Valtice very well. They started the Czech Greenways-Zelene Stezky Program there after the Velvet Revolution in 1989. The Greenways makeshift office was one room in the Valtice Chateau's gatehouse.

The Chmelars realized that the new market driven economy could be of great danger to local cultural and environmental heritage, and they wanted to help.



Biking on the Prague-Vienna GW

The Greenways

Greenways are routes, trails or natural corridors used in harmony with their ecological function. They foster the preservation of natural and cultural heritage, provide options for safe transportation, recreation and tourism, and encourage a healthier lifestyle. Greenways bring local people and businesses together with regional and state governments to work towards improvement of their communities.

Inspired by the Hudson River Valley Greenway, and with the support of funders



Valtice Chateau

such as the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, and the American Express Philanthropic Fund, the Chmelars developed the first Greenways program in Central Europe and established the Prague-Vienna Greenways route. They tirelessly traveled to villages along the trail to meet with local communities and grassroots organizations to promote the idea of Greenways as a vehicle for environmental and cultural preservation through sustainable tourism.

Later, under the umbrella of the Czech organization Nadace Partnerství (Environmental Partnership) in Brno, the Greenways concept was successfully adopted and developed in other countries in Central Europe, namely Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Ukraine. The town of Valtice and the garden lie on the confluence of five Greenway trails.

Valtice

Spending six months a year in the area, Tiree Chmelar observed that the town of Valtice, with its splendid Baroque chateau and park, was living in the shadow of the other, more popular Lednice Chateau. The chateaux are connected by a magnificent 19th century man-made landscape, the largest in Europe, featuring follies, arches, sculptures, a minaret, lakes, forests, the largest collection of North American trees outside of North America (dating to the late 18th century) and biking and hiking trails. Both chateaux are part of the Lednice-Valtice Estates, which belonged to the Lichtenstein Family from the 14th century to 1945. The entire area has been designated an UNESCO heritage landscape.



Tiree Chmelar Herb Gardens

The Idea

Tiree Chmelar envisioned that restoration of the historic herb garden at the Valtice Chateau would bring more visitors. She saw the Greenways idea of cultural and environmental preservation with sustainable tourism as a way to help the town of Valtice.

The Process

An avid gardener herself, Tiree Chmelar nurtured this idea for quite a while. Back in New York, she organized a brainstorming session with her friends, including Susan Moody, director of the Cloisters garden in Fort Tryon Park. Next, she approached Professor Premysl Krejcirik at the Mendel University's Horticultural School and director of the Hickory Foundation Scholarship Program for students of landscape architecture, which has been facilitated by Friends of Czech Greenways since 2003. Supported by the faculty, a graduate student design competition produced three winning designs. They were presented at another brainstorming meeting in 2005 in New York, but sadly without Tiree. She had been killed in a car accident earlier that year. All participants in the project became

even more determined to bring her vision to reality.

The Present

After overcoming understandable bureaucratic and budgetary challenges, and thanks to the dedication of Professor Krejcirik and his team, including his wife Kamila and Mirka Svorova and Jakub Finger (the winning student designers), the herb garden in Valtice will open this coming May and will bear the name of Tiree Chmelar.

This project is a unique example of successful cooperation between governmental institutions and NGOs. Its main partners include: the Czech Ministry of Culture, the Mendel University's Horticultural School, the Nadace Partnerství and the Friends of Czech Greenways.

The Bigger Picture

The garden is not just any herb garden. It will fulfill three main functions that Tiree Chmelar envisioned: First, it will attract new and repeat visitors to the Valtice Chateau site, which will help to revitalize the local economy. Second, it will serve the Mendel University's Horticultural School as an educational and hands-on site, and will be used

Continued on page 8

Czech Fresh Design Reveals a Laboratory of Dreams

The Embassy of the Czech Republic will feature original design and audiovisual works by students from one of the top Czech design schools, Tomas Bata University in Zlin, Czech Republic, in the exhibition *Czech Fresh Design*, which is on view at the Czech Embassy until June 30.

Over 200 people attended the opening of the exhibition on April 20, with head curator Richard Vodicka and professors from the university.

The exhibition includes works from the following departments: Graphic Design, Visual Communications, Photography, Audiovisual Media, Animation, Product Design, Architectural Design, Glass Design, 3D Design, Fashion Design, Shoe Design, and Marketing Communications.

The overall exhibition consisting of large-scale panels and numerous works was designed by curator Richard Vodicka, graphic designer Vaclav Skacel, and 3D designer Vladimir Kovarik in cooperation with Visual Communications students David Supka



Ice Cream
by Anna Millianovic



PC Mouse Package
by Ales Lukasik



Multifunctional Mobility Aid
"Active" by Jan Skola

and Michal Urbanek.

Viewers of the exhibition witness the innovative view of design in various fields of human activity ranging from newly designed typefaces to futuristic visions of vehicles. The display of the exhibition panels is accompanied by shoe models, smaller 3D objects, and an audiovisual projection of student short films and animations.

The talented up-and-coming designers, photographers, and filmmakers have presented their work worldwide and have received many awards. Their work was recently shown in Paris, New



The exhibition *Czech Fresh Design* opened at the Embassy of the Czech Republic on April 20, 2010.

York, Vancouver, Vienna, Moscow, and Hong Kong to name just a few.

The community has the opportunity to take a look into this laboratory of dreams. cre-

ated by award-winning students. Please visit audiovisual.fmk.utb.cz or animation.fmk.utb.cz to view the animations and audiovisual work of the students.

Avalon Theater Continues to Bring Czech Films to DC

The Avalon Theater, in its fourth year of collaboration with the Embassy of the Czech Republic on the *Lions of Czech Film Series*, remains committed to bringing award-winning Czech films to the Washington, DC community. The series runs on the second Wednesday of every month and gives the community an opportunity to view Czech films that are popular hits in Europe.

May 12, 8 pm



A Little Piece of Heaven
(*Kousek nebe*)

Set within the walls of a Communist prison in the 1950s, a tale unfolds of a young couple's fragile love. An angry young man, Lubos, always felt defiance toward everything around him. This trait lands him in court. The verdict is clear and the punishment long and hard. In prison, Lubos is unable to tame his love of jazz or the flame of rebellion. He meets Dana in prison. Their fellow prisoners hatch a small rebellion to help them fulfill their love. (DIR: Petr Nikolaev, 2005, 85 min., in Czech with English subtitles)

The Avalon Theatre is located at 5612 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20015. Tickets may be purchased at the box office or online at www.theavalon.org.

June 9, 8 pm



The Grapes2
(*2Bobule*)

The Grapes 2 is the story of two young men. One is trying to integrate himself into winemaking after inheriting his grandfather's vineyard and wine cellar. The other has taken refuge at his friend's place after getting himself into trouble. Nothing goes as planned. They both have love problems. In a typical Moravian village, they attempt to keep the vineyard running and experience adventures which could cost them their good wine, women, and even life itself. (DIR: Vlad Lanne, 2008, 90 min., in Czech with English subtitles)

July 14, 8 pm



Protector
(*Protektor*)

Radio reporter Emil Vrbata and actress Hana are married in 1938. The German occupation turns their lives upside down. Attractive Hana is confronted with her Jewish heritage and falls to the bottom of society's ladder. Meanwhile, Emil is promoted at the radio station, becoming the voice of Reich propaganda. He seizes on this chance to protect Hana and take control of her life. Their marriage twists into a state of indifference, and fate has laid a trap for Emil. (DIR: Marek Najbrt, 2009, 100 min., in Czech with English subtitles)

Czech Festivals in the U.S.

June 5, 2010
(Hastings, NE)

Hastings Czech Festival
www.nebraskaczechs.org

June 17-19, 2010
(Tabor, SD)

62nd Annual Czech Days
www.taborczechdays.com

June 18-19, 2010
(Clarkson, NE)

Clarkson Czech Festival
www.ci.clarkson.ne.us

June 18-20, 2010
(Phillips, WI)

Czech-Slovak Festival
czech-slovak.tripod.com

August 6-8, 2010
(Wilber, NE)

Wilber Czech Festival
www.ci.wilber.ne.us

August 8, 2010
(Bechyn, MN)

Czech Heritage Festival
www.czechfest.com

For additional events, visit
www.czechevents.net



Restored Garden Rejuvenates a Community and Remembers a Friend *(Continued from pg. 6)*

as a research site by Genobanka Institute of the Czech Academy of Science that preserves historic seeds. Third, it will serve as a site for community-based projects and educational programs promoting public interest in historic herb gardens.

What visitors will see?

The Theme Gardens form a continuous line of six square flowerbeds. Each has an informational panel explaining the different applications and use of herbs.

A Parterre showcases the decorative potential of herbs. The flowerbeds line the garden's main axis, which leads to the most rewarding view from the garden of the chateau's monumental Baroque portal.

The Rooms is a system of green vine-covered screens that creates six private spaces where the visitors can rest or meditate. These small rooms display meadows that are also organized by theme.

The ornamental Cherry Orchard provides shade and serves

as a gathering place for larger social events or wine tastings. The life of a tree and its seasonal changes are the central aesthetic feature of this space.

Stone Watering Walls will especially attract parents with children who will be able to draw water into their watering cans and water selected flower beds.

Endowment

Even after its opening and the 4 million CZK spent so far, the garden will remain a work-in-progress for awhile and will

require additional funds to establish a fully functional gift shop and to create stable management and maintenance. Therefore, Friends of Czech Greenways is in the process of creating the Tiree Chmelar Herb Garden Endowment to provide financial stability for its operations.

The success of the Tiree Chmelar Herb Garden is important not only for sustainable development of the town, but also vital for its role as a living model.

If you wish to help build the Tiree Chmelar Herb Garden endowment, please contact: Zuzana Halsey, Administrator, Friends of Czech Greenways: info@PragueViennaGreenways.org | www.PragueViennaGreenways.org