

CZECH the NEWS

Newsletter of the Embassy of the Czech Republic

Vol. 3, 2011



Prime Minister lays wreath at Masaryk Memorial.



Senator Kerry and Prime Minister Necas

Czech Prime Minister Meets with Obama and Key Leaders

Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Petr Necas met with President Barack Obama in his Oval Office on October 27 to discuss how to strengthen and deepen the countries' bilateral relationship and examine how to increase cooperation in promoting common ideals and interests. The meeting followed on the heels of President Obama's two visits to Prague during his presidency.

Indicating that the Czech Republic remains a valued partner, the Prime Minister was invited to stay at the exclusive Blair House across the street from the White House during his visit. Former President Vaclav Havel was the last Czech official to be hosted at the Blair House ten years ago.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Necas and President Obama agreed to focus on three main areas: security cooperation; economic and commercial ties, including civil nuclear energy cooperation; and cooperation in the promotion of democracy, open government



Czech Prime Minister Petr Necas meets with U.S. President Obama at the White House.

and human rights around the world.

Toward that end, they seek to negotiate and sign a reciprocal defense procurement agreement, cooperate in the implementation of the Open Government Partnership Ini-

tiative, which could lead to the establishment of an open government and democracy center in Prague, and establish a center for civil nuclear cooperation. For more details please refer to the Czech Embassy's

Continued on page 3

Contents:

- Embassy Celebrates Czech National Day..... 2
- Foreign Minister Travels to Florida..... 2
- Czech Companies Accompany Prime Minister to Garner U.S. Business Ties..... 3
- Becherovka Launches in Washington, DC..... 4
- New Honorary Consulate Opens..... 4
- Czech Diplomat Runs NYC Marathon..... 4
- AFoCR Unveils Woodrow Wilson Statue in Prague..... 5
- Setting Up a Business in the Czech Republic..... 5
- City of Rockville Acknowledges Czech Republic..... 5
- Mutual Inspirations Festival..... 6
- Embassy Visits Bohemia Manor Middle School..... 7

President Klaus Travels to the U.S.

Czech President Vaclav Klaus visited the United States in September 2011, leading the Czech delegation at the 66th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York City.

During his visit, President Klaus first traveled to Washington, DC, where he met with some of the most senior members of the U.S. Congress, including the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives John Boehner.

Moreover, President Klaus

delivered speeches at two prestigious economic think-tanks, the Competitive Enterprise Institute and the Heritage Foundation. His remarks were followed by lively discussions on current pressing issues such as the global economic slow-down, the debt crisis in Europe, the common European currency, and freedom.

Please visit the websites of the respective institutions, the Competitive Enterprise Institute (www.cei.org) and the Heritage Foundation



Czech President Vaclav Klaus

(www.heritage.org), for video recordings.





Photo courtesy of Mary E. Fetzko

Dear Friends,

Fall was a very busy yet productive season for Czech- American relations this year.

As a statue honoring the late American president Woodrow Wilson was being re-installed at Prague's main train station, the highest level Czech government officials were

visiting the United States. First in September, President Vaclav Klaus once again notably led the Czech delegation before the United Nations' annual session in New York City and was extremely pleased with his visit. While visiting Florida, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Schwarzenberg effectively initiated new interest in investment and business opportunities in the Czech Republic. October culminated with Prime Minister Petr Necas' meeting with President Obama, which was particularly successful and highlighted the close relationship the Czech Republic and the United States share.

Meanwhile, the *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2011-Antonin Dvorak* drew thousands of people to dozens of concerts and events, including our Embassy, and I would personally like to express my appreciation to the entire Washington community for its generous support, participation, and attendance during the festival. Despite a near set back caused by the unexpected earthquake, it was quite moving to have the festival end with Dvorak's choral masterpiece, *Te Deum*, performed by a 140-voice chorus on Czech National Day inside the magnificent Basilica of the National Shrine instead of the unfortunately damaged Washington National Cathedral. I am already looking forward to next year's *Mutual Inspirations Festival*, celebrating the work of Czech director Milos Forman and Czech – American inspirations within the film industry.

Lastly, now that the leaves have turned brown and the temperatures are dropping, I wish you all a very relaxing and safe holiday season and much success in the New Year.

With warm regards,

Petr Gandalovič



Embassy Celebrates Czech National Day



(Left to Right) Ambassador Gandalovic, Pavlina Gandalovicova, Tia Diaz-Balart, and U.S. Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart

Photo courtesy of Mary E. Fetzko

Over three hundred people attended a large reception at the Embassy of the Czech Republic to celebrate Czech National Day on October 26. The national holiday marks the creation of the independent democratic country of Czechoslovakia on October 28 in 1918 at the end of World War I. Although Czechoslovakia split into two countries at the end of 1992, Czechs still hold this date very dear to their hearts and continue to uphold the democratic values which the founding fathers envisioned for the Czech nation.

Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovic and his guest, US Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, spoke to the crowd about



Ambassador Gandalovic presents his remarks during the National Day celebrations.

Photo courtesy of Mary E. Fetzko



Brig. General Skacha and his wife greet guests at the National Day Reception.

Photo courtesy of Mary E. Fetzko

the Czech-US demonstrated commitment to democracy and the two countries' fond friendship and mutual support.

Continued on page 8

Foreign Minister Travels to Florida

In September, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Karel Schwarzenberg visited the United States for the second time this year. He traveled to Miami, Florida, and then participated at the 66th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York City.

In Miami, Minister Schwarzenberg supported the economic ties between the Czech Republic and the state of Florida at a forum at the Beacon Council, a prestigious organization working to facilitate economic development in the Miami region. Minister Schwarzenberg also met

with some of the most distinguished political figures of the Miami area, such as Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the House of Representatives, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and his brother, former Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart.

The Minister also met with representatives of the Cuban-American exile organizations to discuss the issues of freedom and human rights. He then delivered a speech regarding the "Arab Spring" at the Florida International University highlighting the transformation experience of

Continued on page 8

Czech Companies Accompany Prime Minister to Garner U.S. Business Ties

During his visit on October 26-28 to Washington, DC, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Petr Necas was accompanied by Czech companies that had a unique opportunity to introduce themselves to U.S. partners.

The companies visited the National Institute of Science, Washington Board of Trade, and the Honeywell technology center. There was also a meeting with Mayor of the City of Washington, Vincent Gray.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic organized a Business Breakfast Seminar on Friday, October 28, at the University Club, where the main speakers were Czech Prime Minister Petr Necas, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman, Ambassador of the Czech Republic Petr Gandalovic, and Czech Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Milan Hovorka.

In his speech, Prime Minister Petr Necas stressed that the U.S. is constantly among the top 3 trading partners of the Czech Republic outside the European Union and has



Prime Minister Necas speaks at a Business Breakfast Seminar at the University Club in Washington, DC.

been designated as a priority country within the Czech pro-export policy. He also expressed a full commitment of both the Czech and the U.S. governments to look for ways to strengthen and deepen the economic cooperation and mentioned an official "Economic and Commercial Dialogue between the Czech Republic and the U.S.A." that was launched in 2010. He also informed that the Czech government and its American partners agreed on the need for continuous improvement of market mechanisms, investment environment, and

flow of merchandise and capital and have identified the areas of common interest, especially in fields with good long-term potential such as innovation, science and technology, or research and applications.

After the questions and answers part, the companies had an opportunity to network with the U.S. partners from American firms (e.g. Westinghouse, Southern Nuclear, Honeywell, Lockheed Martin, Sikorsky, Mayo Clinic) and representatives of the U.S. Administration (e.g. U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Commerce, City of Washington).



Prime Minister Necas and U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman

The trade mission included companies from the field of civil nuclear energy, transport systems, medical technologies, armament industry, and ICT industry.

Czech Prime Minister Meets with Obama and Key Leaders

(Continued from pg. 1)

website for the joint statement by President Obama and Prime Minister Necas.

Emphasizing the importance of future nuclear projects, the Prime Minister was accompanied by a trade mission during his visit comprised of several companies specializing in nuclear energy as well as manufacturing.

During his time in Washington, DC, Prime Minister Necas also delivered remarks at the EU Washington Forum and met with Sen. John Kerry, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and with members of the House Armed Services Committee led by Chairman Buck McKeon.



Prime Minister Necas delivers his remarks at the EU Washington Forum.

Becherovka Launches in Washington, DC

The Czech Embassy was delighted to welcome and hold a special evening to launch Becherovka®, a traditional bitter herbal Czech liqueur, imported by Pernod Ricard USA®, a premium spirits and wine company, with a specialized few in the Washington community on November 14.

The golden amber Becherovka has a distinctly complex and incomparable flavor, blended with more than twenty herbs and spices with aromatic oils, alcohol, and the mineral-rich water from Czech spa town Karlovy Vary. Being first created in 1807, it is the number one exported spirit from the Czech Republic and its recipe remains top secret and closely guarded by the Becher family to this day.

The 76 proof spirit is now experiencing rapid popular-

ity in the U.S., including DC with almost 70 bars and restaurants serving the legendary Becherovka, including the Lincoln, Bar Pilar, Bier Baron Tavern & Restaurant, Jack Rose Dining Saloon, Pearl Dive Oyster Place, and the Passenger. These bars and restaurants specialize in handcrafting each and every cocktail with the finest liqueurs and fresh ingredients.

Among the drinks introduced at the event was a delicious apple flavored specialty, consisting of Becherovka as the main ingredient (2oz), lime juice (1/2oz), apple cider (2oz), ginger beer (top off) and an apple slice.

Becherovka is available for purchase at several DC locations, such as Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits and Magruder's. The spirit



Czech Embassy officials Barbara Karpetova, Josef Dvoracek, Lenka Slavinska, and Andrea Pohl met with Becherovka representatives during the launch of the premium spirit in Washington, DC.

will also be offered in other major U.S. cities. For more information, please visit www.becherovka.com.

The Czech Embassy will continue to partner with Pernod Ricard USA to make Becherovka a household name. Becherovka was already featured at the Embassy's



Christmas Market this month and will be at other upcoming events, such as the heavily visited EU Open House on May 12, 2012.



Ambassador Gandalovic meets with Governor Brian Schweitzer and Honorary Consul Lee Freeman.

New Honorary Consulate Opens

Montana is the fourth largest U.S. state behind Alaska, Texas and California. It is best known for its natural beauties that include the Glacier National Park, portions of Yellowstone National Park, and 77 different ranges of the Rocky Mountains. More and more tourists have come to the state to explore what the "Big Sky Country" has to offer.

Keeping up with this general trend, the number of

Czechs arriving in the state either as tourists or for business has also increased. With this new abundance of Czechs into the region, a new Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic has opened in the city of Livingston, Montana.

Lee Freeman, a retired attorney and a long-time friend of the Czech Republic, was appointed to his post of the Honorary Consul by Ambassador Petr Gandalovic on August

10th during a ceremony in Livingston. He became the 17th honorary consul of the Czech Republic in the United States. The main tasks of the new Honorary Consulate include generating support for economic and commercial relations, promote cultural exchange and tourism, play a unifying and supportive role in compatriot relations, and provide services in consular matters.

Continued on page 8



Czech Diplomat Josef Dvoracek completes the ING New York City Marathon.

Czech Diplomat Runs NYC Marathon

The Czech Embassy congratulates and proudly announces that Josef Dvoracek, Head of the Economic Section at the Embassy, finished the ING New York City Marathon 2011 in the time of 3:57:50.

The race took place on a windless Sunday on November 6. Josef is very happy with his performance and, especially, the perfect atmosphere in the streets of the Big Apple.

Agreeing with Czech

hockey player Jaromir Jagr's saying that NY has the best fans in the world, Josef's favorite banner of encouragement along the 26.2 mile long route was,

"If you think it's easy to make it to the finish line now, you have 10 miles to go..."

Taking in strength from the advice, Josef was ecstatic to reach the finish line in his

beloved Central Park on West 67th Street before sipping on a refreshing beer to recover.




AFoCR Unveils Woodrow Wilson Statue in Prague

A statue of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson has been restored to its original place in Prague after 70 years, thanks to the painstaking effort and initiation of the American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR), a non-profit organization.

The Czech people were grateful to President Wilson for supporting Czechoslovakia's independence after World War I and honored him with a statue at Prague's main train station. After thirteen years of towering outside the station, the Nazis destroyed the 11.5 foot tall monument on December 12, 1941, a day after Germany declared war on the United States. After the second World War came to an end, Jan Masaryk, the son of the first Czechoslovak President T. G. Masaryk, dedicated a

commemoration plaque to the statue, prophesying that it "will be re-erected by Americans of Czech descent in the United States of America."

On October 5, 2011, the replica of the statue was unveiled in a ceremony before current Czech President Vaclav Klaus, former Czech president Vaclav Havel, and former U.S. secretary of state and Czech born Madeleine K. Albright, among other Czech and American dignitaries.

Also in attendance, Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovic said in an interview with *The Washington Post*, "This is a landmark of Czech-American relations. It's an opportunity to commemorate the importance of the United States of America in the creation of an independent Czechoslovakia." 



AFoCR unveils the Woodrow Wilson Statue that has been restored to Prague after 70 years.


Photo courtesy of Christine Bedret

Setting Up a Business in the Czech Republic



www.czechinfo.com

Are you thinking about setting up a business in the Czech Republic or simply about visiting the country in the heart of Europe?

US-Television has produced a 30-minute program focused mainly on investment possibilities in the Czech Republic and presenting the country as an attractive tourist destination. The show recently aired on Fox 5 New York and features, among others, Minister of Health Leos Heger, Deputy Minister of Finance Tomas Zidek, and Czech Railways CEO Petr Zaluda. To watch to video, go to: <http://www.us-television.tv/programs/the-czech-republic-in-focus/>. 

City of Rockville Acknowledges Czech Republic

Ambassador Gandalovic was honored to accept a "Certificate of Appreciation presented to the Embassy of the Czech Republic in recognition of the friendly partnership with the City of Rockville and, in particular, the Rockville Police K-9 Unit" from Mayor Phyllis Marcuccio and the Council of the City of Rockville of Maryland.

On September 12, 2011, the City bestowed the certificate due to the "special relationship (which) promotes excellent international relations and provides citizens of both regions with a greater understanding and appreciation of cultures that are different from their own." Rockville City Police Department's K-9 Units consist of Corporal Heath Marshall and his Czech bred German Shepherd named Boomer and Corporal Kyle Dickerson and his Czech bred German Shepherd named Rocco. For the last three years, the K-9 Units




Corporal Heath Marshall talks to Ambassador Gandalovic about his Czech bred German Shepherd Boomer, who continues to help fight crime.

Photo courtesy of Andrea Pohl

have joined the Czech Embassy each spring in the celebration of EU Open House Day, during which the units demonstrate their skills and crime combating techniques to the public.

The Ambassador stated that he was proud that the German Shepherds purchased in the Czech Republic have provided such important assistance to the city's policemen. Corporal Marshall emphasized the significance of Czech canines to the Rockville Police

Department and the United States, stating:

"Most people do not realize the importance of the Czech Republic in regards to providing strong, intelligent working dogs to insure the safety of American communities...about 50% of the dogs in operation in the U.S. come from or have direct lines to the Czech Republic." 

Mutual Inspirations Festival Roundup

The *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2011-Antonin Dvorak* was an ambitious undertaking for the Embassy of the Czech Republic spearheaded by the vision of Czech Cultural Counselor Barbara Karpetova and her staff. After more than 30 concerts featuring over 500 artists throughout some of the most prestigious venues in the Washington area community, the festival has proven to be a rousing success story with over 10,000 people in attendance.



The Cathedral Choral Society performs at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to close the festival on October, 28.

Reflecting on the many accomplishments of the festival, *Czech the News* interviewed festival participants to gain some insight into highlights that touched festival participants. Below are a selection of responses to the following questions:

After being a part of the festival, what does “mutual inspirations” mean to you?:



Murry Sidlin

“The festival brought into focus the concept of cultural interrelations, momentary and long-term inspirations,” said Murry Sidlin, Conductor of The Catholic University of America Orchestra.

He further said, “The beauty of the festival was in its diversity of lectures, panels, orchestral, choral, jazz, pop culture as seen by both sides slightly separated by geography and cultural development. The conception of the many weeks of events was nothing short of brilliant. As a performer on the September 17 event, I felt a part of a whole, and not isolated into a semi-intrusion. I joined a much larger human mosaic to illuminate; it was joyous to prepare, and to take a work often thought of as American (New World) in its developments and elements, and allow its firm Czech roots and cellular

composition to emerge as the basis for expression. Each session was important and enjoyable.”

Alison Combes, executive director of the Cathedral Choral Society that performed to close the festival and mark Czech National Day added, “I think ‘Mutual Inspirations’ was the perfect title for the festival. It was fascinating to see the effect of different cultures on each other as evidenced in the person of Dvorak.”

What did you enjoy about the festival?



Charley Gerard

“I enjoyed the opportunity to study Dvorak the man and the composer. It was the first time that I found out about the National Conservatory, Jeannette Thurber, and many of the other characters in Dvorak’s American circle,” said Charley Gerard, composer of an original jazz piece entitled *Dvorak Jazz Dances* which premiered at the Czech Embassy on September 21.

Music program director at the National Gallery of Art, Stephen Ackert, responded, “I was delighted not only to present information about how Dvorak and America inspired each other, but also how his music and Czech art both reflected the aesthetics of his time.” Dr. Ackert presented the lecture



Over 400 people gathered at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to celebrate Mass with Archbishop of Prague Dominik Duka on Sept. 25, 2011.

Art in America at the time of Dvorak’s American Sojourn on September 18, to a full house at the National Gallery of Art.

Jody Gatwood, associate professor of violin and head of instrumental music at The Catholic University of America said, “In the minutes before walking out to perform with the Rome Trio in the National Gallery, I was mesmerized by a great Rubens painting. The brilliance of the artwork and the Gallery’s deep connection to and respect for tradition provided the perfect setting for the music of Dvorak and Suk. Surely this is the most inspirational venue for music, even more inspiring than Carnegie Hall where we recently performed.”

What do you think the festival brought to Washington, DC?



Carl Banner

“With its abundance of cultural offerings, the *Mutual Inspirations Festival* brought to Washington a deeper appreciation of Dvorak’s impact on

Continued on page 7



Tre Mezzi honored victims of Sept. 11th in a special concert at the Czech Embassy.



Washington Musica Viva performed the premiere of *Dvorak Jazz Dances* on Sept. 21 at the Czech Embassy.



Eva Velicka, Director of the Dvorak Museum in Prague, gave a lecture on Dvorak at the Czech Embassy as part of a special Music Garden Party on October 2.

Festival Roundup

(Continued from pg. 6)

American culture, and a better awareness of the important dialogue between Czech and American culture that continues to enrich them both.”

Dr. Banner continued with a note of thanks to Cultural Counselor Barbara Karpetova saying, “I particularly appreciate Barbara Karpetova’s bold vision in supporting a new jazz work based on Dvorak’s *Slavonic Dances*. Her confidence in the continuing conversation between the works of the Czech composer and the language of American jazz was brilliantly vindicated by the success of *Dvorak Jazz Dances*, demonstrating that these have much in common and continue to speak truth to one another.”

The media also took notice of the festival with special programs running on Classical WETA showcasing conductor Murry Sidlin, J. Reilly Lewis, and Dvorak scholar and professor Michael Beckerman. Local and international media highlighted the festival in a number of reviews, including



(From left to right): Jana Racova, Josef Lustig, Tereza Toberna, Jiri Jelinek, Eva Velicka, Jan Svamberg, Barbara Karpetova, Jiri Panzner, Dana Markova, Milos Orson Stedron, and Iveta Byckova gather at the Kennedy Center on October 27, following the performance of *Tony D*.



Actors (left to right) Jiri Panzner, Dana Markova, and Jiri Jelinek perform the premiere of the musical *Tony D* at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage on October 27 as part of the festival.

a special feature by *The Washington Post*. Czech Television also broadcasted stories of key events, including the Mass celebrated with Archbishop of Prague, Dominik Duka at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Over a dozen prestigious venues such as the Kennedy Center, The Phillips Collection, the National Gallery of Art, among others, collaborated with the Embassy of the Czech Republic to bring this festival to an audience of thousands.

The Embassy plans to continue the festival next season with a new theme: the cinematic realm. The festival will highlight Czech director Milos Forman.

Stay posted at
www.mutualinspirations.org
 for upcoming events!

Embassy Visits Bohemia Manor Middle School

The Embassy of the Czech Republic has initiated and created a special relationship with the faculty and around five hundred students of Bohemia Manor Middle School in Cecil County, Maryland.

The school’s name has a unique bond to the Czech Republic as the present region of “Bohemia” lies within the country’s borders. The school’s history is tied to 1662, when Augustine Herman, a prominent merchant and cartographer from Bohemia settled in the new world and, while under the employment of Lord Baltimore, produced the very first, incredibly accurate map of Virginia and Maryland. In exchange, Herman was granted thousands of acres for his plantation,

named Bohemia Manor, which is still a stunning manor house located just down the road from today’s Bohemia Manor Middle and High Schools.

As Principal Ann Little notes, the partnership between the Czech Embassy and the middle school “will increase students’ knowledge of local history and how it connects to the broader concept of a global society. I hope that the students will gain appreciation for the culture and arts of the Czech people and make connections to their own lives.”

During the first visit to the school to discuss possible joint projects, the Embassy staff was surprised to be affectionately greeted with “kolache,” Czech traditional pastries. For their

first international cultural experience, 170 children and accompanying adults traveled for three hours to Washington on October 27 to attend a performance of the acclaimed New World Symphony performed by the DC Youth Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, a part of the Mutual Inspirations Festival 2011- Antonin Dvorak. The group very much enjoyed the music and, as Principal Little put it, “The students were simply amazed at what they witnessed.”

The Czech Embassy looks forward to working



Cultural Counselor Barbara Karpetova and PR Officer Andrea Pohl met with students at Bohemia Manor.

with the students during future events and projects.

Foreign Minister Travels to Florida

(Continued from pg. 2)

former Czechoslovakia and its potential implications for the current situation in the Middle East region.

After travelling to Texas and California in May of this year, Minister Schwarzenberg

thus visited another important US state, which has observed rapid economic and population growth in recent years and represents a potentially attractive partner for the Czech Republic.



New Honorary Consul Opens

(Continued from pg. 4)

The opening of this new office means that it will not be necessary for both the Czechs and the Americans from Montana to travel to distant locations such as Salt Lake City or Los Angeles to reach an official office of the Czech Republic.

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Embassy Celebrates Czech National Day

(Continued from pg. 2)

Along with the distinguished speakers' insights, the audience was also treated to stunning performances of the Czech national anthem "Kde Domov Muj" (Where is my homeland?) sung by Czech soprano Alexandra Berti and US national anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner" presented by DC mezzo soprano Sylvia Twine. World famous Czech beer Pilsner Urquell kept the guests refreshed throughout the evening.



Photo courtesy of Mary E. Fezko

National Anthem soloists
Silvia Twine and Alexandra Berti



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