

# CZECH the NEWS

## Newsletter of the Embassy of the Czech Republic

Vol. 1, 2011

### Czech-US Economic Dialogue Launched

Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Martin Kocourek and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke officially launched the Czech-U.S. Economic Dialogue during their talks in Washington, D.C., on December 6, 2010. Both sides agreed that intensive bilateral economic cooperation will be one of the pillars of their mutual relations.

The Ministers have agreed that they will actively promote measures that will lead to increased mutual commercial exchange and investments flowing both ways. As a priority, the partners will focus on supporting innovation and investment into science and research, designating IT and energy as being key sectors as well.

Minister Kocourek and Sec-



U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke meets with Czech Minister of Trade Martin Kocourek in Washington, DC.

Photo courtesy of Martin Pizinger

retary Locke approved a plan for regularly holding economic missions from the Czech Republic to the U.S. and vice versa. These missions, which

will always concentrate on a specific sector of the economy, will be an ideal opportunity for representatives of the business communities to gain com-

mercial contacts with their international partners. Minister Kocourek informed his partner in the discussions that the Czech Republic plans for the focus of the first economic mission to be on the energy sector and expects that it will take place in the spring of 2011.

Minister Kocourek and Secretary Locke together with U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu signed the Joint Declaration Concerning Industrial and Commercial Cooperation in the Nuclear Energy Sector. The signing of this declaration confirms both countries' priority interest in the nuclear energy sector and launches intensive bilateral cooperation on the commercial basis as well as in the science-technology field. 🇨🇪

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A 1935 T57 will be featured at the Czech Embassy during the EU Open House.

Photo courtesy of the Lane Motor Museum

### TATRA to Present Antique and Modern Cars at the Czech Embassy

The Embassy of the Czech Republic welcomes the public to attend an antique and modern TATRA Auto Show held on its grounds on May 7, 2011.

The TATRA, a.s. company, based in Kopřivnice in the Czech Republic, ranks among the oldest automobile companies in the world still in existence, being founded in 1850. TATRA manufactured its first automobile (called The President) in 1897. Its first truck was made in 1898 and its first race car in 1900.

The Embassy will showcase pre-WWII and post-WWII TATRA vehicles, namely the T77 and T87, among others. The famous 1930's T77 is the first serial-produced aerodynamically

designed automobile, powered by a 75 horsepower (56 kW) rear-mounted, 3.4-liter air-cooled V8 engine. It was followed by the unique, rear-mounted 2.9 liter air-cooled engine T87, which has a fin sloping the rear of the vehicle to divide the air pressure on both sides of the car, a technique used in later aircraft. Due to this superb technology and as these vehicles are virtually unknown in the U.S. due to the reminiscence of the Cold War, the 1941 TATRA T87 was declared the winner of the 2010 Collectible Car of the Year Contest by the *New York Times*.

TATRA representatives will be on hand to introduce the T815-7NOR99, a TATRA 8x8 High Mobility Heavy Duty

Tactical Truck. This vehicle is a member of the most recent development of the new military family of TATRA trucks-heavy-duty vehicles. Due to its specific design features and 8x8 drive configuration, this truck is particularly suitable for operation in the most difficult off-road or cross-country conditions. It can serve as a tactical truck, or carry various kinds of special superstructures and load handling systems. You may also visit the website at [www.tatra.cz](http://www.tatra.cz) to learn more about TATRA's history and current models.

The exhibition will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2011. On that day, all the Embassies of

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Dear Friends,

With winter vacations and snow blizzards behind us, I would first like to reflect on how successful a year 2010 was for Czech-U.S. relations. Adjusting our focus, we mainly concentrated on expanding our already solid transatlantic collaboration in the economic and commercial sphere and were pleased to declare with our U.S. partners our mutual understanding and interest to support and further develop these ties.

In December, the Czech Republic and the United States officially launched the Economic and Commercial Dialogue during the visit of Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Martin Kocourek to Washington, D.C. In keeping with this new wave of pursuit to intensify and strengthen our countries' bilateral trade relationship, Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg will lead a trade mission of Czech companies from the information technology, energy, film, and public transportation industries to California and Texas this upcoming spring of 2011. A second mission is also tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2011, aimed at visiting the southeastern United States. We are looking forward to establishing further business development, promoting trade with new partners, and encouraging innovation.

Moreover, last December, the United States and the Czech Republic signed a joint declaration concerning industrial and commercial cooperation in the nuclear energy sector, thereby agreeing to further promote commercial collaboration on nuclear energy development and encourage scientific and research cooperation. Businesses and scientists from both countries will thus spend this year exploring the possibilities of intensive, bilateral collaboration.

Also in 2011, the Embassy of the Czech Republic is planning its annual, large *Mutual Inspirations Festival* to celebrate the traditional and vivid Czech – US cultural inspiration. *The Mutual Inspirations Festival 2011 - Antonin Dvorak* will commemorate the Czech Republic's most famous, world-renowned composer beginning on September 8, 2011, marking the 170th anniversary of Antonin Dvorak's birth. We welcome you to visit the Embassy's web pages in the coming months for more information on concerts, symposiums, and other events centered in the most revered intellectual, spiritual, and cultural spheres of Washington, D.C.

Of course, our transatlantic economic, commercial, and cultural friendship thrives because the United States remains a key partner and ally for the Czech Republic. In 2011, we will continue to cooperate as member states of NATO and partners within the EU-US framework. During the next round of our Strategic Dialogue, we will discuss not only bilateral relations but also current foreign policy issues such as Middle East, Eastern Partnership, or Afghanistan.

As always, I am grateful for your ongoing support of our valued friendship and wish everyone a fruitful and successful year!

Sincerely,

Daniel Kostoval  
Chargé d' Affaires, ad interim



## GULAG Collection Reveals Conditions of Soviet Labor Camps

Chargé d'Affaires of the Czech Republic Daniel Kostoval opened the *Gulag Collection* by Ukrainian artist Nikolai Getman at the Embassy of the Czech Republic on February 24, 2011, at 7 pm.

In his opening address, Kostoval stated that through the lessons that we have learned from our past experiences, we strive to promote democracy and examine the totalitarian regimes that are evil and hostile to society. The *Gulag Collection* serves as a vivid record of those who suffered under such regimes.

The collection features a selection of 15 paintings depicting the harsh lives of political prisoners in the Soviet forced labor camps in the 1940s and 1950s. Lee Edwards of the Heritage Foundation and Chairman of the Victims of Communism Memo-

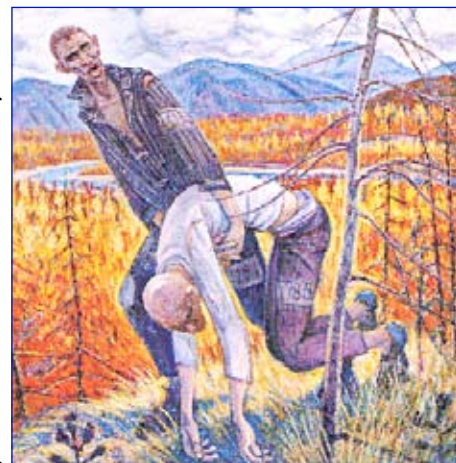
rial Foundation presented brief remarks at the opening reception.

GULAG was the acronym for the infamous Soviet bureaucratic institution Glavnoe Upravlenie ispravitel'no-trudovykh Lagerei (Main Administration of Corrective Labor Camps). This branch of the secret police oversaw the Soviet forced labor camp and internal exile system. The Gulag system was a vast network of forced labor camps that were used to repress any political opposition to the Communist state and provide labor to fuel the Soviet Union's economy. Gulag camps existed throughout the Soviet Union, but the largest camps lay in the most extreme geographical and climatic regions of the country. Millions of innocent people were incarcerated in the Gulag, serving sentences of many years of hard

labor without adequate food, clothing, shelter, tools, or clean water. The combination of endemic violence, extreme climate, hard labor, meager food rations, and unsanitary conditions led to extremely high death rates in the camps.

Gulag survivor Nikolai Getman (1917-2004) created the acclaimed paintings in his collection, an unparalleled visual record of the Soviet penal camps that held more than 14 million political prisoners—many of whom died in captivity or upon release.

Once freed in 1953 after eight years of forced labor in Siberia and Kolyma, Getman began painting the scenes in secret.



*Escape*, a painting  
by Nikolai Getman

He devoted decades of his life to putting his visions of the Gulag on canvas. When he died in August 2004 at the age of 86, he left behind images of communism's cruel inhumanity that he hoped should never be forgotten.

Photo credit: Artist Nikolai Getman. Escape, oil on canvas

## Human Rights and Democracy: Examining the Stolen Lives of Political Prisoners

Based on her own historic experience, the Czech Republic holds human rights and democracy very dear. Calling upon the international community to follow suit, the Czech Republic is a staunch advocate of respect for human rights and democracy in various places in the world where these are under threat. The numerous activities in this field, where the Czech Republic is involved, are portrayed in the Embassy's project "Democracy and Human Rights: Lessons from the Past for the Current Czech Foreign Policy." The various events put together within this project include exhibitions, conferences, documentary and feature film screenings, and lectures focusing namely on the country's totalitarian past, its current human-rights-promotion priorities and, topically, on the rights of women and children.



Lee Edwards



Steven Barnes and Adam Hradilek



Christian Ostermann and Tomas Bouska



Jana Svehlova and Hugh Agnew

The Embassy of the Czech Republic hosted the conference "Stolen Lives: Political Prisoners in Communist Regimes" on February 25, 2011, from 10 am to 3 pm, as part of its initiative on human rights and democracy.

Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Daniel Kostoval opened the conference, which explored the life stories of political prisoners in the communist Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, examined the psychological effects of political imprisonment, and informed the public about the current debate on the role of political prisoners in society and its memory.

Lee Edwards from the Heritage Foundation, and chairman of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, gave the keynote address.

The first panel focused on the *Soviet Gulag and the Czechoslovak Experience*, and was moderated by Christian Ostermann, director of the History and Public Policy Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. Professor of European History Steven Barnes began the first panel with information about the Soviet Gulag System, a network of forced labor camps. He



A mixed audience of professionals and students attended the event.

documented and provided a map outlining the camps in the Soviet Union and Europe and spoke of Kolyma, calling it "the Auschwitz of the Gulag," and one of the coldest inhabited places on the planet. Prisoners were sent there and forced to disembark across frozen rivers. Additionally, he gave accounts of how a person could be sent to the Gulag if they were late for work or "shirking the duty to work."

**"In these forced labor camps, prisoners died from the sheer wretchedness of living conditions," Barnes said.**

Furthermore, he explained how graves were marked with percentages of how much work prisoners did as an incentive for them to work harder.

Researcher Adam Hradilek from the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes of the Czech Republic presented *No One Would Believe Us-Czech Prisoners of the Gulag*. He spoke of the many Czechs imprisoned in the Gulag, including Czechoslovak Jews from the first transport of the Holocaust.

Hradilek concluded his presentation with a short collection of videos from Czech Gulag survivors that offered insight into the lives of those that suffered. For example, one of the videos featured a man who explained his horrific time spent in the labor camps. One afternoon, the



Political Counselor Jiri Ellinger concluded the conference.

man forgot to wear a covering over his face while he was being transported in the extreme conditions to a northern camp. He detailed how he got frostbite and his whole face turned black and hard.

Furthermore, Tomas Bouska, member of the Czech Oral History Association, spoke about the process of documenting the stories of political prisoners in his lecture, *Memoirs of Czechoslovak Political Prisoners: Male and Female Survivors of Jailing in 1950s*.

**"Former political prisoners were and still are the living witnesses of the past," Bouska said.**

He further stated that he wants to be called a "memorian" rather than a historian—thereby documenting and remembering the stories of political prisoners. His goal is to attract the attention of youth and the wider public by publishing life stories of former

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### Upcoming Events

**March 24, 6:30 pm**

#### **Recording Voices and Documenting Memories: NCSML's Oral History Project**

The presentation focuses on a two-year oral history project of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML) from Cedar Rapids, aiming to capture and preserve the stories of Czechs and Slovaks who fled their homeland during the Cold War.

**March 29, 7 pm**

#### **Documentary Screening: Tomorrow There Will Be...**

This film interpretation of the recognized opera performance portrays the trial with Milada Horakova, one of the most prominent Czechoslovak political prisoners executed by the Communists in 1950.

Location of the events: Embassy of the Czech Republic  
3900 Spring of Freedom St, NW, Washington, DC 20008  
R.S.V.P.: [czech\\_events@yahoo.com](mailto:czech_events@yahoo.com)



## Human Rights and Democracy: Examining the Stolen Lives of Political Prisoners

(Continued from pg. 3)

prisoners of Stalinism. He offered the website [www.politicalprisoners.eu](http://www.politicalprisoners.eu) for more information.

The afternoon panel examined the psychological effects of political prisoners with panelists Jana Svehlova, founder of the civic association Daughters of Political Prisoners; Ronald Smith, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst; and moderator Hugh Agnew, Professor of history and international relations at the George Washington University.

Jana Svehlova described her experience growing up in communist Czechoslovakia. Since she was perceived as the “enemy’s daughter,” she was not allowed to go to school to complete her education. Ronald Smith finished the panel discussion talking about the psychological effects on the political prisoners and stressed



Over 100 people attended the conference.

the importance of these prisoners being able to tell their story. The session also included the screening of a moving documentary *Dasha is Coming Back* (*Dasa se vraci*, 2010) from the series *Children of Stalinism*. In the film by director Adela Kroupova, lead character Dasa

sets out to discover her childhood and events surrounding her parents’ arrest in Czechoslovakia in the 1950’s.

Jiri Ellinger, head of the Political Section at the Czech Embassy, concluded the conference reminding the attendees of the political prisoners that still

are fighting for their freedom today, especially in countries like Belarus, Burma, and Cuba. He stated that it was not a coincidence that this event was taking place on February 25. It serves as a reminder of February 25, 1948, the communist take over of power in Czechoslovakia. 🇨🇪



Czech President Vaclav Klaus presents the keynote address at a conference honoring Gary S. Becker.

### Czech President Honors Economist Becker

The President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Klaus served as the keynote speaker at a conference organized by the Milton Friedman Institute at the University of Chicago on February 11, 2011, in honor of the 80th birthday of Professor Gary S. Becker, Nobel Prize winner in economics.

“I have always been an admirer of the Chicago school of economics and especially of the three big names: Friedman, Stigler and Becker. In the communist era, these were only names, and I had never dreamt about meeting the bearers of these names in person... After the fall of communism came Gary Becker’s role in the era of transformation towards political pluralism and market economy. He was well-known to us not only for his contributions to economic science, but also for his decisive defense of liberal (in European sense) doctrine and laissez-faire philosophy” said Klaus during his keynote address at the university.

The all-day conference was launched by the President of the University of Chicago, R. J. Zimmer. Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz also attended the event as a guest speaker. The panel discussion was led by former Dean of the Faculty of Economics Professor E.A. Snyder. The conference ended with a speech by Nobel Prize winner for economics Professor J.J. Heckman. 🇨🇪

### New Consuls General in LA and Chicago

The Embassy of the Czech Republic is pleased to announce and introduce the Consuls General of LA and Chicago:



Dana Hunatova

Dana Hunatova has been the Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago since August 2010. She has been working in diplomatic services for over 20 years. Formerly, she was the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Finland and Estonia, then to Egypt and Sudan, and most recently to Malaysia. Apart from working for the Czech foreign service, Hunatova worked for two years as the head of the Prague Office of the OSCE Secretariat. Prior to coming to Chicago, Hunatova served as the Ambassador at Large for Science and Technology at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague.



Michal Sedlacek

Michal Sedlacek has been the Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles since January 2011. He has extensive experience in working on Czech-U.S. relations having previously served as the head of the Political Section at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, DC, during the 1990s. In the last few years, the focus of Sedlacek’s career was on EU affairs as he worked as the Deputy

Minister for the European Union and Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and then as the First Deputy Minister in the Section for the EU Affairs in the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. Sedlacek has a good understanding of innerworkings of the U.S. film business having graduated with an MFA degree from the Film School of Columbia University. Sedlacek is married and has two sons. 🇨🇪



Photo courtesy of Radek Skoda

## Czech Professor Designs Experimental Nuclear Reactor Module

**R**adek Skoda received his master's degree in experimental particle physics from the University of Bergen in Norway and his Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from the Czech Technical University. In his career, he initially focused on financial risk management for Dublin and London based investment banks, followed by work in the Department of Nuclear Reactor of the Czech Technical University in Prague. Currently, he is spending his sabbatical year at Texas A&M University. He has also developed lectures related to the use of nuclear power and economics. Dr. Skoda shares his journey of coming to the United States to do research and serve as a professor in the Department of Nuclear Engineering at Texas A&M University.

### Tell us the story of how you, a college professor from Prague, managed to secure a visiting professorship at Texas A&M University?

For some time, my wife and I had been planning to spend a sabbatical year in an English speaking country before our children started school. We had two main goals in mind: to immerse the little girls into a foreign language environment, and to see how nuclear engineering is taught abroad.

Last year, I had just finished a textbook about experimental nuclear reactor methods in Prague and while representing the Czech Technical University Prague with the World Nuclear University, I came to work closely with contacts from a number of U.S. nuclear institutions. Texas A&M University (TAMU) restarted their second nuclear reactor in May, 2010 – it was an easy and obvious fit. I remember very well the conversation about me coming to Texas with the director of the Nuclear Power Institute, Dr. Lee Peddicord. It took exactly three minutes. We shook hands in real Texas-style and after a few months, here we are!

### What do you consider to be the main difference between working at the Czech Technical University and Texas A&M University?

European universities tend to focus more on education

whereas U.S. universities put more emphasis on research, and it is true in this comparison as well. Also the Department of Nuclear Engineering at TAMU is the largest program in the U.S. with a current enrollment of over 400 students, all known as the Aggie Nukes. As such, the program is much larger than the Czech one. Apart from that, neutrons and nuclear reactions behave the same way regardless of where you are.

### Are there any Czech students at Texas A&M? Would you recommend that Czech students spend part or all of their university studies in the U.S.?

There are Czech students at TAMU but unfortunately none in nuclear engineering. I would strongly recommend spending at least one semester here in Texas for all European nuclear engineering students as the TAMU nuclear program is currently ranked second nationally in undergraduate and third in graduate studies among public universities.

### What is the main research project that you work on while in Texas? If it's not a secret...

I spent all last autumn, or as you tend to call it here "fall," semester designing and testing new experimental nuclear reactor modules using the AGN-201M nuclear reactor with graduate and undergraduate students. We managed to complete and fully document 10 such modules and they are being used by other professors, probably while you read these lines. I still like teaching, as I believe it is the main purpose of any university, and I have three hours of classes a week now. Together with my



AGN-201M nuclear reactor

Photo courtesy of Radek Skoda

U.S. colleagues, we are involved in bidding for new research projects, and I still supervise three Ph.D. students from Prague.

### What's your evaluation of the prospects of a closer Czech-U.S. civilian nuclear cooperation based on the recently signed Joint Declaration Concerning Industrial and Commercial Cooperation in the Nuclear Energy Sector? Do you see any opportunities for researchers or businesses from both countries?

There are many areas where the two countries can benefit from each other. Just two very concrete examples without being too vague include: coding a new software for best supercomputers that can evaluate currently used nuclear fuel and all important parameters during its life; or designing a new, safer, more economical nuclear reactor with new types of fuel and coolant – in this case graphite pebbles cooled by molten salt.

### Do you, in your role as a visiting professor, have any opportunities to work on bilateral Czech-U.S. research projects?

New projects are being agreed upon in these weeks,

and I am very involved in the preparation indeed.

### How do you like living in Texas? Has there been anything particular that surprised you about living in the U.S.?

My wife can write you many pages about that. The Aggie culture and habits of TAMU are just amazing. E.g. for those of you who have never been to College Station: Texas A&M's official mascot is Reveille VIII, the first lady of Aggiland, now a purebred American collie. She is considered a Cadet General, the highest ranking member in the Corps of Cadets, and must be addressed by cadets as "Miss Reveille, ma'am." If she is sleeping on a cadet's bed, that cadet must sleep on the floor. If she is in class and barks while the professor is teaching, the class is to be immediately dismissed. As the finishing line I can add - it never happens during my classes though.

Professor Skoda recently gave a lecture at the University of California, Berkeley on Economics and Nuclear Power Plants. To listen to his lecture, please visit [www.nuc.berkeley.edu/1-24-2011](http://www.nuc.berkeley.edu/1-24-2011).



Texas A&amp;M's official mascot: Reveille VIII

Photo courtesy of Trent Palmer via Radek Skoda

## “Czech” Out the EU Open House!

The Embassy of the Czech Republic will open its doors to the public on Saturday, May 7, from 10 am to 4 pm for the annual EU Open House. The theme for this year is “Czech it Out!” The public will travel back to the 1920’s and enjoy music and fashion of the era, check out modern and antique Czech cars by TATRA, watch police dogs in action, and learn about the Czech Republic. There will be many events at the Czech Embassy to explore, with nine highlighted stops including:

### CZECH IT OUT AT #1 Masaryk Statue and the First Czechoslovak Republic



The 1920’s saw the building of a new nation in the heart of Europe. Czechoslovakia had declared its independence in 1918 and, with the strong backing of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, Tomas

Garriague Masaryk became its first freely elected president. In this inter World War period, the Republic prospered economically and socially. In fact, it became one of the 10 most industrialized countries in the world. Enjoy a talk on President Masaryk and his vision to build our independent nation.

### CZECH IT OUT AT #2! TATRA Auto Show



The Embassy will showcase pre-WWII and post-WWII TATRA vehicles.

The Czech company TATRA, a.s., being founded in 1850, ranks among the oldest truck and car companies in the world still in existence.

With the ingenuity of engineer Hans Ledwinka, TATRA manufactured revolutionary vehicles of the time. In 1931, Tatra introduced the T-57 model, an economical car for the masses. In 1934, the famous T77 was the first serial-produced aerodynamically designed automobile. It was followed by the unique, rear-mounted air-cooled engine T87 with a dorsal fin.

Today, TATRA’s core product range consists of trucks for combined off-road and on-road transportation and heavy duty off-road trucks.

### CZECH IT OUT AT #3 Robots, Kids Corner

The word robot was introduced to the world in 1920 by Czech writer Karel Capek

in his play *Rossum’s Universal Robots*. The word robot comes from the Czech word *robota*, meaning “work.” The play begins in a factory that makes artificial people called robots, though they are closer to the modern ideas of androids. In the kids corner at the Embassy, children will have the chance to draw his/her version of a robot.



### CZECH IT OUT AT #4 Music of the 1920’s

In the 1920’s, the era of jazz, one rising famous African-American musician was Duke Ellington, whose teacher in fact studied under the Czech world renowned composer Antonin Dvorak. Dvorak believed that African and Native American melodies are the foundation of an American musical style. With his progressive thinking of the time, he left a legacy through his students while teaching at the National Conservatory in New York at the turn of the 20th century.

Come enjoy Music entertainment provided by pianist Joan DeVeve Dixon. Dr. Dixon is Composer-in-Residence for the Czech Heritage Partnership in Spillville, Iowa and the International Dvorak Society in Prague.

### CZECH IT OUT AT #5 Fashion in the 1920’s

In 1893, Czech-American Marie Tucek filed an application with the U.S. Patent Office for a “breast supporter,” thereby shedding the corset which had been around since the 16th Century and inventing the modern day bra. As women began to liberate themselves from constricting fashions and wearing more comfortable clothing, the modern day bra became more and more popular in the jazz era of the golden 1920’s.

Embassy staff will showcase 1920’s inspired clothing,



Rockville Police demonstrate different training techniques for their German Shepherds.

designed by Green & Blue, located at 1350 Connecticut Avenue, NW, in Washington, D.C. ([www.greenandbluestyle.com](http://www.greenandbluestyle.com)).

### CZECH IT OUT AT #6 Music by Antonin Dvorak

Being inspired by the sounds of America during his stay in the late 1800s, Czech composer Antonin Dvorak wrote his most famous *Symphony No. 9* in E minor, “From the New World.” This famous piece has in turn inspired others, being even listened to by US astronaut Neil Armstrong during man’s first landing on the moon.

To celebrate this transatlantic mutual inspiration in music and more, the Czech Embassy will commemorate the 170th anniversary of the birth of the composer this fall through the *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2011 - Antonin Dvorak*.

### CZECH IT OUT AT #7 Beer, Goulash & Dumplings

The prohibition period of the 1920’s-30’s attributed to the rise of mafia oriented crime in the United States. One great Czech born American, Antonin Cermak, as the Mayor of Chicago, promised to stand up to gangster Al Capone and clean up the city. Unfortunately, Mayor Cermak was soon after fatally shot while

shaking hands with President-elect Franklin Roosevelt in 1933. On the way to the hospital, the wounded Mayor humbly told Roosevelt, “I’m glad it was me instead of you.”

Since the prohibition period ended in 1933 as well, enjoy a cold, satisfying draft of Pilsner Urquell, brewed since 1842 in the Czech Republic.

Also, guests can enjoy goulash and dumplings for the minimal price of \$5 while supplies last.

### CZECH IT OUT AT #8 Maps & Lecture at the Ambassador’s Residence

Another famous Czech born American, Augustine Herman, settled in Maryland and drew the first, remarkably accurate map of the Chesapeake Bay. See the map that he presented to Lord Baltimore in 1670 at the Ambassador’s residence and listen to a lecture about the maps and the Czech Republic.

### CZECH IT OUT AT #9 Czech Police Dogs

In a display of true local US-Czech crime fighting partnership, the Rockville City Police Department’s K-9 Unit, consisting of German Shepherds originally from the Czech Republic, will demonstrate crime combating techniques. Moreover, Cpl. Kyle Dickerson and his dog “Rocko” and Cpl. Heath Marshall and his dog “Boomer,” will be awarded for their courageous service to the community.



Photo courtesy of www.czech.cz

Photo courtesy of Mary E. Fezko

Photo courtesy of Ivo Slezacek

Photo courtesy of Mary E. Fezko

## Washington Capitals Hockey Star Visits the Czech Embassy

**M**ichal Neuvirth, 22, is a Czech ice hockey goaltender currently playing in the National Hockey League (NHL) for the Washington Capitals.

Neuvirth started his career in his native town of Usti nad Labem. At the age of 15, he moved to Sparta Prague. He was also a member of the Czech junior national team. After being selected by the Washington Capitals in the 2006 NHL Entry Draft, Neuvirth decided to move to Canada and played in the junior league in Ontario. He turned professional in 2008, and began working his way up the ladder in the Washington Capitals organization before finally making his NHL debut in February 2009. He was instrumental in the Hershey Bears, the American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate of the Washington Capitals, winning back to back Calder Cup trophies in 2009 and 2010. During the present 2010-2011 season, Neuvirth is leading the Capitals team in wins as they are well on their way to another Stanley Cup playoffs appearance.

Neuvirth recently visited the Czech Embassy in Washington, DC, on the invitation of Mrs. Nada Kostovalova, wife of the Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. During his visit, Neuvirth talked about what it is like to



Embassy staff and friends met with Michal Neuvirth during his visit to the Embassy of the Czech Republic.

play in the NHL and learned to wish him the best of luck in his career with the Capitals and hope to see him at the Embassy events that are being planned in Washington, DC. We would like

Photo courtesy of Mary E. Fezko

Photo courtesy of Mary E. Fezko

## Avalon Theater Continues to Bring Czech Films to DC

**T**he Avalon Theater, in its fifth 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 once a month and gives the community an opportunity to view Czech films that are popular hits in Europe.

### From Subway with Love (Roman pro zeny)



April 21, 8 pm

**Synopsis:** This romantic comedy, based on the successful book of Michal Viewegh, presents the story of two women. Twenty-year-old Laura works as an editor at a woman’s magazine. Her widowed mother Jana serves as a translator and interpreter. Both of them are looking for Mr. Right. Jana once lived through an intense relationship with a ‘typical’ Czech man; therefore, she tries to avoid another experience with a Czech man. She searches for her dream foreigner while warding off the advances of her good-natured neighbor Zemla. Her daughter Laura is disappointed after two failed relationships and falls in love with forty-year-old Oliver. Little does she know that Oliver was once the true love of her mother. (DIR: Filip Renc, 2005, 95 min., in Czech with English subtitles)

The film won the Czech Lion Box Office Award (2006), and was nominated for Czech Lions for Best Supporting Actress and Best Film Poster (2006).

### Twosome (Dvojka)



May 11, 8 pm

**Synopsis:** A five-year relationship between Michal and Veronika comes to a crossroad. While Michal thinks about children and family life, Veronika hesitates between settling down and enjoying her freedom. Michal surprises Veronika with a holiday in Scandinavia. The trip turns out different than Michal had anticipated, and Veronika cannot conceal her disappointment. The experiences during their journey become a mirror reflecting their life as a couple. Then, they meet Simon, a young Czech traveler. He offers the couple to stay in his friend’s cottage. However, Simon’s ways are not always clean and legal, and there is more than one mystery in the stories he tells about himself. (DIR: Jaroslav Fuit, 2009, 88 min., in Czech with English subtitles)

The film was officially selected for the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (2010), among other festivals and was produced by HBO.

### Identity Card (Obcanský průkaz)



June 8, 8 pm

**Synopsis:** The film maps the lives of four boys from the age of 15, when they receive their state identity cards, to 18, when they try everything possible to get out of military service. Petr, Ales, Cinderella, and Mita are growing up in the 1970s, a time when leaving your identity card at home could get you into trouble and the prospect of compulsory military service was loathed and dreaded. In totalitarian Czechoslovakia, they try to retain their perspective and sense of humor and avoid making too many compromises with the regime. *Identity Card* is about that special time in life between childhood and adulthood, a time of revolt against conformism, parental ambitions and society, and about the quest for self-respect, which is just as true today as in the 1970s. (DIR: Ondrej Trojan, 2010, 137 min., in Czech with English subtitles)

The film has been nominated for Czech Lions (2011) in Best Cinematography, Best Screenplay, Best Actress, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Editing, Best Art Direction, among others.

The Avalon Theatre is located at 5612 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Tickets may be purchased at the box office or online at [www.theavalon.org](http://www.theavalon.org).



### Czech Events in NY

**April 3, 3 pm  
(New York, NY)**

*Welcome Spring Musicale*

The afternoon will feature music by Antonin Dvorak, including the *Sonatina in G Major*, songs by his African-American student Harry T. Burleigh, as well as traditional Czech songs.

**April 16, 7:30 pm | Pre-concert lecture at 7 pm  
(New York, NY)**

*Dvorak and his American Students*

The Aaron Copland School of Music Orchestra under the direction of Maurice Peress presents a program of music by Antonin Dvorak and his American students.

Bohemian National Hall  
321 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10075

For each event, pay at the door \$20 general admission,  
\$10 students, seniors and Czech Center Club members.

No reservations required.

[www.dvoraknyc.org/News\\_\\_Events.html](http://www.dvoraknyc.org/News__Events.html)

### AUTO Show

*(Continued from pg. 1)*

the European Union (EU) in Washington, D.C. will open their doors for the annual EU Open House Day, during which some 96,000 total visits were recorded last year.

This year, the Embassy of the Czech Republic will focus on the TATRA exhibition, as well as feature Czech beverages, music, and fashion of the 1920's.

*For more information, please contact us at [eco\\_washington@embassy.mzv.cz](mailto:eco_washington@embassy.mzv.cz).*



Photo courtesy of John Lang