

Texas Czech Legacy Project, Department of English, Bate #2207, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina 27858; email copel@ecu.edu; or phone 252-328-6411.

Submitted by,  
Retta Slavik Chandler  
Lodge 25, Ennis  
TCHCC President  
—SPJST—

## TCHCC celebrates 20th anniversary this weekend

The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center (TCHCC) in La Grange will be celebrating its 20th anniversary on Friday, May 19 to Sunday, May 21 at the TCHCC Complex located adjacent to the Fayette County Fairgrounds on US Highway 77 just north of La Grange.

The weekend events begin on Friday, May 19 at 4 p.m. with the opening of an exhibit of Svatava Jakobson's photographs of Texas Czech *croje* from 1984. Immediately following the opening, we

will kick off this year's *Májové Slavnosti* at TCHCC with a roundtable on the life and career of this fascinating teacher, fieldworker, and scholar at the University of Texas at Austin (1968-1978). Dr. Lida Cope will discuss what she's learned about Jakobson from examining her personal archive of recordings, notes, and manuscripts. Another archive, that of the Czechoslovak Secret Police, offers evidence of politically motivated pursuits of both Svatava and her husband, Roman Jakobson, in the 1950s and 1960s. Various presenters are to follow throughout the evening.

On Saturday evening, May 20, the fun continues with a memorable performance at the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater. TCHCC will present 'A Musical Tribute to Twenty Years.' Celebrating the last 20 years in a musical journey remembering bands that have retired, musicians that have passed, and events that have taken place at TCHCC. Czech and Then Some Band from Ennis will do the honors with guest musicians and dance performances during the show. Czech and Then Some is also celebrating its 20th anniversary as a band and will be showcasing some of their

musical history. It's another great night under the stars!

The annual 'Slavnost' May Fest and Tribute to the Immigrants to Texas will be held on Sunday, May 21. The day will begin with music in the Koliba Foyer at 9 a.m. along with *svačina*. The Tribute to the Immigrants to Texas ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Museum Exhibit Hall. The ceremony recognizes the families whose Czech ancestors immigrated to Texas.

A delicious fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings will be served in the Hanslik Hall beginning at 11 a.m. Plenty of Czech-style desserts will also be available along with refreshing beverages of all kinds. Hamburgers will be available beginning at 3 p.m. Music on the deck of the TCHCC from 12:30 to 5 p.m. will be by the legendary Jodie Mikula Orchestra of Ennis, Texas, now celebrating its 50th anniversary of playing good Czech music. A dance floor has been added for all our dancing patrons. There will also be a classic car show, the Czech village and museums

will be open for touring, a hay ride, giveaway drawing, May pole dance, door prizes, country store, pastry shop, homemade ice cream, and much more. Item donations for the country store and pastry shop are welcome. Help with genealogy research will be available in the Melnar Library and the TCHCC Kopecky Gift Shop has a new stock of items great for gifts for any occasion for everyone.

For more information, contact TCHCC at 1-888-785-4500, email info@czechtexas.org, or visit the website www.czechtexas.org. The TCHCC address is 250 West Fairgrounds Road, PO Box 6, La Grange, Texas 78945.

Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center (TCHCC) is a nonprofit organization and accepts donations in any form. All donations are welcomed and will be acknowledged.

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## Texas Polka News Swings into Spring

*Texas Polka News* swings into spring in the May issue with a feature on Western Swing fiddler Paul Schlesinger. Paul was recently awarded the 2016 Song of the Year by the Will Rogers Academy of Western Artists for his rendition of *You Were Meant to Ruin My Dreams*. Find out who was inducted into the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame, and who was inducted into the first Polka Hall of Fame in Hallettsville. Also in this issue, the state of Texas Dance Halls from a Colorado writer's perspective, a tribute to musician Norbert Janak, the debut of new column, "Musings from the Road" with first contributor Alex Meixner, and information on the special events the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange has planned to celebrate its 20th anniversary. Of course, TPN has your calen-

dar of events for May, including Janak's Church Picnics.

*Texas Polka News* will mark its 30th anniversary in 2018. To celebrate, the paper has launched a drive to reach

3,000 subscribers, giving back to its supporters. For every new subscription or renewal from now through May 2018, TPN will donate \$5 of the subscription price to SPJST Youth Programs. Not only will SPJST youth benefit from the donated subscription money, \$3,000 in prizes will be awarded to the club or organization that brings in the most new and renewed subscriptions.

See the ad in this issue on page 28 with information on how to subscribe. As a bonus to *Vestnik* readers, receive a Polka On! magnet when you send in your subscription or renewal to the *Texas Polka News*.

—SPJST—



## Czech Cultural Calendar

### Each Wednesday

Taylor Czech Speaking Class meets every Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at S.P.J.S.T. Assisted Living, 505 East Lake Drive in Taylor, Texas. This is an informal class setting for learning to speak, write, and read Czech. For information, contact Instructor Lydia Kurtin 512-859-2543. Submitted by Alice Bracewell, Lodge 48, Beyersville.

### Second Sundays

Czech Language Class—at Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, 250 West Fairgrounds Road on US Highway 77, La Grange, 1 to 4 p.m. Fee is \$10 per person per class. Call or email to verify classes. Pre-registration preferred. For information, call 888-785-4500; 979-968-9399; or email info@czechtexas.org.

### First/Third Tuesdays

Tarok Lessons with Tarok Champion Jimmie Coufal—at Czech Heritage Museum, 119 West French Avenue, Temple, 7 p.m.: All skill levels; beginners always welcome! Free and open to everyone. For information, call 254-899-2935; or email czechheritagemuseum@gmail.com.

### May 19

TCHCC 20th Anniversary Special Event in Hanslik Hall—Legacy of Svatava Jakobson and the Texas-Czech Legacy Project presented by Professor Lida Cope, 4 to 8 p.m.; and *Český večer* - Wine and Cheese/light meal, 6 to 7 p.m. Free and open to all interested in preserving Texas Czech culture. Also on display in TCHCC Bill Melnar Library, recovered photographs from a *croje* exhibit "Texas Czech Folk Costumes" prepared by Svatava Jakobson for the 1984 Ethnic Folk Festival in San Antonio.

### May 20

TCHCC 20th Anniversary Special Event: Musical Tribute to 20 Years—at Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, 250 West Fairgrounds Road, La Grange: held at Sanford

Schmid Amphitheater featuring Czech and Then Some, dance performances, special guests, 7 to 9 p.m. Also Immigrant Wall Stones Recognition.

### May 21

TCHCC *Slavnost* - May Fest—at Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, 250 West Fairgrounds Road, La Grange: Tribute to Immigrants Ceremony honoring immigrants from the Czech lands of any year, at 10:30 a.m. Limited to first 25 applicants. Catered meal served in Hanslik Hall at 11 a.m. Enjoy music by The Jodie Mikula Orchestra, 12:30 to 5 p.m. A dance floor has been added for all to enjoy. Other activities - Czech village and museum tours, pastry shop, classic car show, door prizes, gift shop, give-away drawing, and country store. Food and drinks will be available all day. For information, call 888-785-4500; email info@czechtexas.org; or visit www.czechtexas.org. See ad on pg 29.

### May 21

Marvin Grohmann Memorial Tarok Tournament—at the KJT Hall in Ammannsville. Contact Wilbert Cernosek 713-462-9948.

### June 10

27th Annual Kolache-Klobase Festival—at Riverside Hall, East Bernard, Texas, 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Event includes Czech music/entertainment; Czech band concert inside the hall; flag tribute/grand march; plate lunch, dine-in or drive-thru; plenty of *kolače* for sale; food throughout the day; arts/crafts; ethnic gifts, souvenirs; kid games and activities. For information about game or arts and crafts booths, call 979-531-9747 or email srujka@gmail.com. For general information and band schedules, call 979-335-7907. Visit festival website www.kkfest.com.

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