

Czech The NEWS Seattle & Portland



Jaroslav and Julie Svěcený

Dear Friends in Portland and Seattle,

I hope everybody is having a fantastic summer. The weather seems to be cooperating, at least here in Southern California. Some of you might have visited the Czech Republic and enjoyed the beauty of our motherland. Although there are many troublesome spots around the world right now, fortunately, things seem to be at peace and safe in the Czech Republic.

After hosting the Czech Senate delegation in California in June, we are looking forward to the annual meeting of all Czech American Honorary Consuls here in Los Angeles in September. The Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovič and the Czech Consul Generals from New York and Chicago will be joined by more than 20 Honorary Consuls representing Czech interests throughout the United States at a two-day meeting at the Consulate.

I had a fantastic time when I visited Seattle in July and participated in the Czech That Film Festival. I heard that the festival had been a great success, not only in Seattle, but also in Portland where Czech actor Jiří Mádl was a star of the opening night festivities.

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Acclaimed Czech Violinist Jaroslav Svěcený in Seattle

Jaroslav Svěcený, a prominent Czech violin virtuoso, returns to the United States with his talented daughter Julie. They will perform together also **in Seattle on October 21, 2014 (details to be announced when available)**. They will offer the wide variety of music from the 18th to 21st Century (Vivaldi, Bach, Mozart, Leclair etc.). The concert will also feature the world premiere of Svěcený's composition dedicated to Los Angels.

The tour of Mr. Svěcený and his daughter Julie starts in Chicago (October 19), and after stop in Seattle, it travels to Las Vegas (October 24), Los Angeles (October 26 and October 28), San Diego (October 27) and New York (October 29).

The event is organized by the Center for Czech Education and Culture with cooperation of the Czech Consulate in Los Angeles. For more information please visit: www.ccec-seattle.org

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This fall, we will have an opportunity to celebrate works of one of the greatest Czech writers of the 20th century - Franz Kafka. In 2014, the Czech Embassy in Washington selected him as a person to whom the annual Mutual Inspiration Festival will be devoted to.

We also remember two important dates this fall. On September 14th, the Czech Catholic Mission in California celebrated its Golden 50th Anniversary which took place at the Polish Center in Yorba Linda. And in November, we will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Velvet revolution and the end of communism in our country with series of events. The kick-off of this celebration of freedom will take place at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, on Tuesday, October 21st, 2014.

I already look forward to the fall season of the Petrof Music Series. Three concerts are being organized in cooperation with the Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) and Center for Czech Education and Culture (CCEC). First, a popular Czech soprano Martina Kociánová with her two colleagues from the National Theater in Prague will perform at my residence on October 5, 2014. The second concert of this spectacular music series will happen on October 22, 2014, in Seattle when famous Czech violinist Jaroslav Svěcený will perform with his talented daughter Julia. And in November, another renowned Czech violinist Ivan Ženatý will return to Los Angeles.

I am also pleased to announce that inaugural EU film festival called EUphoria will take over the campus of University of Southern California in September (9/19-24). The Czech Republic will be represented by a successful picture "Clownwise" starring popular Czech actors such as Jiří Lábus, Oldřich Kaiser and Eva Jeníčková. The Czech film will be screened on September 20th at 5pm.

I am also excited that the Czech language school in Portland keeps growing each semester. I would like to thank Kateřina Bohadlová and Jana Háková for all their efforts. The Consulate will continue to support teaching Czech language to kids and adults as much as we can. I believe that learning the language is the first and the most important step in keeping the Czech culture in the family while living abroad.

A lot of changes are happening at the Consulate this summer, several of our officers have already departed either back to the Czech Republic (the Vice-Consul

Tomáš Kára) or to their new postings such as my former assistant Sylvia (London) and the consular specialist Petra (Washington DC). Our head of administration Jiří will be moving to Tel Aviv (Israel) in September. My new assistant Pavlína is already settling in and if you need anything, please, do not hesitate to contact her at: pavlina_ciorobea@mzv.cz.

Michal Sedláček, Consul General

Annual Meeting of the Honorary Consuls and Consuls General of the Czech Republic

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles has the pleasure of hosting the annual meeting of the Consuls General and of Honorary Consuls in the U.S. whose main mission is to strengthen representation of the Czech Republic in America and to serve local Czech communities.

Under the leadership of the Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Washington DC, H.E. Petr Gandalovič the meeting will be a timely opportunity for all Honorary Consuls to come together and have a nice "face á face" interaction. This will be a great chance for all participants to discuss consular matters, explore potential business opportunities for Czech companies and of course, to look into further strengthening the Czech-American cultural ties.

The meeting will be held at the premises **of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles on September 19-20, 2014**. A high-level participation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is expected along with the presence of the Ambassador Gandalovič. The event will also have in attendance representatives of Czech companies (Daniel Miklas, Be3D); CzechInvest - San Francisco (Roman Horáček), and of CzechTourism - Los Angeles (Vojtěch Kačerovský). As economy, culture and education will be top of the agenda, there will be representatives of the Czech schools in the U.S. who will share their thoughts on how to better promote Czech language and culture among our young ones.

NEWS from Washington State

It's hard to believe that summer is already fading into the beginnings of fall, and that we have already seen so many wonderful events and activities in Seattle so far this year. Our summer calendar filled out nicely, and I expect the same will be true for the upcoming fall and winter.

July, of course, saw the *Czech That Film* series return to Seattle, presented in cooperation with SIFF and the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles. The Seattle screenings were held July 11-13, and brought yet another outstanding selection of films to the Seattle audience. For the Seattle *Czech That Film*, we were fortunate to be joined by Michal Sedláček, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles, for an opening night pre-screening reception and introduction. Following the opening night screening of *Don Juans*, Consul General Sedláček joined several local Czechs for an after-screening gathering that was a true delight. *Czech That Film* was followed up by a weeklong theatrical release of *Burning Bush*, which screened at the SIFF Cinema Uptown.

The summer also saw the Center for Czech Education and Culture (CCEC) establish the Jaroslava Soldánová Award for Excellence in Czech Studies. The Award reflects the CCEC's commitment to attracting and recognizing talented and ambitious students to the pursuit of Czech studies at the University of Washington, while ensuring that the remarkable efforts and dedication that Jaroslava Soldánová displayed over the past 16 years will always remain a part of Czech language instruction at the University.



Guests enjoyed a showing of Czech film 'The Don Juans.'

Coming up, September 18 sees the Seattle Symphony kick off a three week Dvořák celebration with Dvořák's stirring and melancholy tribute to his homeland, *Symphony No. 7*. The celebration continues into October with several performances of many of Dvořák's masterworks before concluding the series on October 5.

After that, we look forward to welcoming Jaroslav Svěcený and Julie Svěcená to Seattle for their first appearance in the Pacific Northwest on October 21. It is a delight to be able to count Seattle among the stops on their US tour, and the renowned duo will surely delight audiences at each stop along the way.

I am sure fall and winter will continue to present more events and activities of note, and I look forward to reporting on those in the future. In the meantime, I again extend my deepest thanks to all that attended and supported our events and activities last year, and I look forward to seeing everyone at an upcoming event!

Wayne Jehlík
Washington State Honorary Consul

Consul General Sedláček (in the middle) with Honorary Consul General Jehlík (on the left) with international film fans after the screening of Czech *That Film* festival in Seattle



Lord Mayor of Kladno Visited Bellevue and Seattle

The City of Bellevue and the Bellevue Sister City Association hosted the Lord Mayor of Kladno, Czech Republic (Sister City to Bellevue, WA), Dan Jiránek and his wife Ivana Jiránkova, from July 21 through July 28. A reception was held at Bellevue City Hall the afternoon of Tuesday, July 22, at which time the mayor and his wife were welcomed by Bellevue City Councilmembers Jennifer Robertson, Conrad Lee, and Lynne Robinson, which was then followed by a dinner with Bellevue Mayor Claudia Balducci.

The Mayor's scheduled activities included an urban planning tour of new development and rezoned areas, an overview of the light-rail extension planned through Bellevue, a parks and facilities tour, and discussions with the budget office and the Public Records Manager.



Bellevue City Councilmembers Jennifer Robertson and Lynne Robinson, Lord Mayor of Kladno Dan Jiránek and his wife Ivana Jiránkova, Bellevue Sister Cities Association President Gregg Schrader, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Seattle Wayne Jehlik

The Mayor also had lunch with the Microsoft Government Affairs Director, Irene Plenefisch, Bellevue Downtown Association Land Use Committee Co-chair, Mark D'Amato of D'Amato Conversano Engineers, and Larry Martin, Partner at the Davis Wright Tremaine law firm.

On Thursday, July 24, Emil King, City of Bellevue Strategic Planning Manager, and Gregg Schrader, Bellevue Sister City Association President, joined Mayor Jiránek and his wife Ivana for a meeting at the Amazon offices in Seattle. There were interesting discussions about the facility currently located in Kladno that serves the German market for processing returned items, the plans to add another facility at the same site that will be approximately five times larger, Amazon's interest in recruiting employees in that area, Czech technical schools that train potential employees, the possibility of launching a Czech language Amazon site, the perception of the company in the Czech Republic, and proactive public relations communication with Czech communities where facilities are located.

On Friday, July 25 through Sunday, July 27, the mayor and his wife toured the Bellevue Arts Fair, downtown Seattle, the Space Needle and the Chihuly Glass Museum at the Seattle Center, and hiked to the High Rock Lookout south of Mount Rainier. A farewell reception was held at the Seastar Restaurant in Bellevue on Friday evening, July 25, which was attended by Wayne Jehlik, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Seattle, and Bellevue Councilmember Jennifer Robertson, with her husband Scott Robertson.

NEWS from Oregon

Even though many members of our Czech community in Oregon leave in June, July, and August for a vacation in the Czech Republic, we still had an eventful summer in Oregon. I was happy to welcome a group of Czech athletes who came to compete in the Junior World Track and Field Championship in Eugene. After relaxing at the Oregon State University in Corvallis, they competed with numerous athletes from all over the world and came home with winning trophies. Jiří Sýkora won the first place in decathlon, while Jan Doležal took the 11th place. The second place in high jump was won by Michaela Hrubá. We are very proud of them.

Our annual *Czech that Film* festival was also a great success. The opening night was particularly memorable. The first feature movie, *Lousy Bastards*, was filmed on the Czech army base in Afghanistan under the auspices of Defense Minister Alexander Vondra. Mr. Vondra was the Ambassador to the U.S.A. at the time we brought the first Czech street cars to the United States here in Portland. Our community remembers him well, since he came to Portland to the grand parade, celebrating the opening day of the Škoda-Inekon street cars in 2004. The reception at the movie offered fine Czech cuisine by our sponsors and by master-chefs Kropáčeks, Mrs. Bečvarová, and Mrs. Sklenářová. However, the greatest treat was the presence of the movie star, Jiří Mádľ, who came to share his experiences while making the movie. He liked Portland so much that it was difficult for him to leave. He promised he will visit us again.

The Czech School participated in the Visegrad Group PDX International Children's Day. The program of Czech, Polish, and Hungarian children included a puppet show, dancing and acting. Our choir, *Skřivánci*, performed a variety of Czech songs. Throughout the summer, the Czech School offered activities such as a movie in the park, *Kooky*, and a visit to the Puppet Museum, which had three puppet shows with Czech themes in English.

The choir *Skřivánci* is busy preparing to celebrate St. Wenceslaus (Sv. Vaclav) feast day on September 28. at St. Wenceslaus Church in Scappoose. They will sing the ancient song Svatý Václave during Mass.

The Czech Society of Oregon plans to commemorate October 28th. We are proud of the patriots, particularly those members of CSO who fought under General Patton to free Czechoslovakia in World War Two.

Portland's *All Classical Radio* station aired a short tribute to the famous Czech conductor and composer, Rafael Kubelík, who visited Portland in 1936. We are happy to see our rich Czech culture being shared throughout the Northwest. We are looking forward to the Vaclav Havel Place, which will be coming to Louis and Clark University of Performing Arts, and further the awareness of Czech culture in Oregon.

Marie Amicci
Oregon Honorary Consul

*Honorary
Consul
Amicci
with Czech
Actor Jiří
Mádľ*



*Czech athletes from the World Track and Field
Championship in Oregon*

Czech School of Portland

On Saturday, September 6th, the Czech School of Portland reopened its doors and the third school year officially begun at the Peninsula Children's Learning Center in North Portland. We are proud to announce that our 501(c)(3) status has been finally approved. All donations to the CSP are tax deductible!

Our 2-hour educational program in Czech language will continue fulfilling the mission to maintain Czech cultural heritage while strengthening multicultural understanding. This year CSP will offer the following curricula tailored to the needs of the community: Parent-Children Playgroup for the youngest students (ages 1-2), Kindergarten (ages 4-5), 1st Grade (ages 6-7), Czech Conversation (ages 8 and up), Adult Class (Intermediate and—maybe—Beginners) as well as the after-school playgroup for children of all ages called School By Play focusing on music, dance, theatre, and art activities in the Czech language.

The end of the last school year was packed with several big events: On May 10th we organized our 2nd Annual Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction at the Portland Brewing Co. The earned funds will be used for the upcoming school year's activities. On the last day of that month, 20 children committed to the CSP educational program during the official enrollment. On June 1st, CSP, as part of the Visegrad Group PDX, organized a well-attended and successful First International Children's Day with a rich program for and by children. Participants from across Portland's many communities, in addition to consuls representing each country of the Visegrad Group, enjoyed a variety of ethnic food. A few days later, a modest number of representatives of the Visegrad Group PDX participated in the Portland Rose Festival Junior Parade. Also, at the Czech That Film Festival in Portland, CSP co-presented a screening of Jan Svěrák's *Kooky*, made possible by grants from MCCC and Oregon Cultural Trust. A second screening was offered in partnership with Portland Parks on August 30th just before the beginning of school.

For more information, please visit our website at www.czechschoolportland.org and follow us on Facebook. If you're interested in T-shirts with our logo and/or bumper stickers, please, contact us at info@czechschoolportland.org



The Inaugural of the EUphoria Film Festival Has Arrived

A fantastic celebration of European cinema will take place in Los Angeles this fall. The inaugural EUphoria Film Festival will offer a great opportunity for enthusiasts of international cinema to celebrate and discover contemporary films from across the European Union, featuring award-winning films and domestic box office hits from 13 participating countries of the EU. Euphoria is dedicated to promote European film culture and the European Union in the United States by expanding awareness of the rich cultural heritage and language diversity in European cinema.

The EUphoria will feature dramatic and documentary films from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Poland.

The Czech Republic will be represented by the unrivalled comedy/drama „*Clownwise*” („Klauni“, 2013, 120 minutes) starring legendary comedians Oldřich Kaiser and Jiří Lábus, accompanied by local Czech actress Eva Jeníčková. This new Czech film is a collaboration of a promising director and producer Viktor Tauš and a veteran Czech screenwriter Petr Jarchovský, the author of Academy Award nominated movies, „*Divided We Fall*“ and „*Želary*“.

„*Clownwise*“ was nominated for 8 Czech Academy Awards, including the Best Film of the Year, and received 4 nominations for Czech Critics' Choice Awards including the Best Film of the Year.

„*Clownwise*” will be screened on Saturday, September 20, 2014, at 5:00 pm at Eileen Norris Cinema Theatre/Frank Sinatra Hall (3507 Trousdale Parkway, Los Angeles, CA 90007). A popular Czech actress Eva Jeníčková and director Viktor Tauš will be available for Q&A session after the screening.

The EUphoria film festival is taking place at the University of Southern California (USC) from September 19th -24th, 2014, and is produced jointly by 13 EU Consulates in Los Angeles and San Francisco, European Languages and Movies in America (ELMA), and the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

The festival is offered free of charge to film lovers across Southern California, and will kick-off with an opening night reception featuring cuisines and drinks from across the EU. For more information and complete schedule please visit the official website of the festival at: <http://euphoriamoviefest.com/>

Mutual Inspirations Festival 2014 – FRANZ KAFKA



The annual Mutual Inspirations Festival will consist of multiple events around the United States focusing on the mutual inspirations between Czech and American cultures. The 2014 edition will honor the legendary Czech – German writer Franz Kafka, commemorating the 90th anniversary of his passing.

In Los Angeles, the annual initiative was officially launched **on Sunday, September 14 at 4 pm at Villa Aurora in Malibu**. The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles together with Villa Aurora presented a special event dedicated to Franz Kafka, regarded by many as one of the most influential writers of the 20th century. Celebrated poet Gerhard Falkner and distinguished professor of literature at the UCLA Kathleen Komar discussed Kafka's life and work. The program included film clips, performance and reading from Kafka's books.

Festival will continue **on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 7 pm** at the Consulate General of the Czech Republic with a **screening of Steven Soderbergh's feature film "Kafka"**. The leading role in this biopic played acclaimed actor Jeremy Irons. At the same evening the exhibition titled „Journeys of Franz Kafka“ will be launched. Czech photographer Jan Jindra in his photography project follows in the footsteps of the literary great. The Czech Consulate will host the exhibit in its Front Gallery (10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90024) till middle of November, 2014.

On October 14 at 7 pm, the screening room of the Czech Consulate will showcase Czech feature film "Amerika" based on Kafka's unfinished book "The Men, Who Disappeared." Popular Czech actor Martin Dejdar is starring in the leading role of the 1994 film, directed by Vladimír Michálek.

September 2014

October 2014

September 18-20, 2014 at Seattle Symphony - Delta Air Masterworks: Tchaikovsky & Dvořák

October 2 & 4, 2014 at Seattle Symphony – Delta Air Masterworks: Dvořák and the New World

September 25, 27 & 28, 2014 at Seattle Symphony - Delta Air Masterworks: Rachmaninov & Dvořák

October 4, 2014 – Scavenger Hunt of the Czech School of Portland

Further information at: <http://czechschoolportland.org/>

October 21, 2014, time TBD – Concert of Jaroslav and Julia Svěcený as part of Petrof Series in Seattle

(details to be announced when available)

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