

# Bexar County Czech Heritage Society

February 2021

## President's Message

Newsletter 2/2/21  
Volume 1, Issue 1

I was hoping that by the next time we would be sending out the Newsletter we could be meeting in person, but that was not meant to be. It seems unless there is a big change in the next few months we will be forced to continue meeting via Zoom.

But that is not all bad; thanks to the Judy Barr Topinka Foundation we have a means to do that. Our "virtual" Christmas Party turned out very well. We were able to visit with Czechs in the Czech Republic who shared how they celebrate Christmas. It was most interesting. Svaty Mikulas also

joined us via Zoom, and was able to send "virtual" gifts to the children who attended.

CZ Ambassador to the US, **Hynek Kmoníček**, visited with our chapter officers and board members. Our members planned to meet with him many months earlier but his visit was postponed due to Covid. The visit was rescheduled for Nov.6 when Kay and Mike Vajdos hosted a two hour informal reception and visit with him (observing Covid distancing and masking).

We learned some

interesting history about the Czech lands.

Recently he personally cooked guláš for National Guard soldiers from Nebraska and Texas who were in Washington D.C. for the Inauguration Day duty. You may have seen this story in the news.



## Calendar of Meetings for 2021

Your Officers and BOD met January 24 and have set the following Calendar for 2021.

- **Feb 21, 2021 – 1:30 pm.** Chapter Meeting by Zoom. Review the 2021 budget, and scholarship guidelines. Share suggestions for future meetings.
  - Enjoy Judge Janecka recreating early Czech settlement life in Texas.
- **No March Dance** due to COVID-19
- **May 2, 2021** - Chapter Meeting by Zoom-1:30 PM Scholarship names will be drawn.
  - Applications will be sent out once new guidelines are approved at Feb. 21 meeting.
- **Sept 12, 2021** - Chapter Meeting by Zoom-1:30 PM
- **Oct 24, 2021** - Czech-Slovak Heritage Day Festival –**Pending due to COVID-19**
- **Nov 7, 2021** – Chapter Meeting via Zoom
  - Nominations for officers and directors followed with elections.
  - Discussion and plans for our Christmas Party
- **Dec 5, 2021** - Christmas Party- 1-5 PM at St. Anthony de Padua Banquet Hall **Pending COVID-19. If we cannot meet in person this will be via Zoom.** Church hall is currently not letting anyone use their facilities.

## Other Czech News

### **Laika Cheesecake &**

**Espresso** is now open for business across from Incarnate Word at 4718 Broadway, Alamo Heights.

The Slovak owner and baker Viktor Krizma will tell you about Laika. You can enjoy cheesecake slices and little jars of cheesecake with fresh pureed fruit.



One of our members, Robert Trampota has visited Laika's and highly recommends we stop by and enjoy this delightful desert.

This is a great way to show our support for a Czech/Slovak business.

They are open 7 days a week!

### **Loss of Our member – Laddie Zezula**

Ladislav ( Ladik or Laddie) Zezula passed Jan, 22. He was a lifelong member of our chapter. He was born in Runge, TX, served in the US Air Force, was involved in atomic bomb testing, retired from IBM after 30 years. He resided in Runge as well as San Antonio seeing friends and family in both locations. He served as our Chapter President for 8 years. He traveled to the Czech Republic many times to learn about the Moravian land of his roots. He helped plan the transport of a Czech Wallachian wooden bell tower (Moravian) which was on exhibit in Washington, DC at the Smithsonian. The bell tower is now at the Czech Cultural center in LaGrange, TX. He brought back other display items for others to learn about the Czech culture. He taught Czech language classes at various times, visited middle schools with other members to share the culture he knew and loved. Laddie participated in our Czech Heritage Day Festival wearing his various Czech kroj (regional clothing). Many times he portrayed Svátý (Saint) Mikuláš at our annual Christmas party held near that saint's day (Dec 5th or 6th). He helped generations know more about the Czech language, history, and culture. Most of all, he helped them learn about the role the Czechs played in Texas history.

He was very proud of his Czech culture and very instrumental in keeping it alive for future generations. He was proud to be Czech!

## **Join us via Zoom for Feb. 21, 2021 Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81551349247?pwd=TEIORWZnYVh2SzZlWQ0J3bmZrbzk0dz09>

**Meeting ID: 815 5134 9247**

**Passcode: 396482**

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