

CZECH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF TEXAS
State Membership Meeting
Chapter Report

Chapter Name: Brazos Valley

Report Given By: Andrew Juranek, Reporter

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Please record below your Chapter's past accomplishments, events, and activities since the last State Membership Meeting (i.e., from Spring meeting to Summer meeting; Summer meeting to Fall meeting; and Fall meeting to Spring meeting):

Czech Language Classes – Fall 2015

The Czech Language classes for the Fall of 2015 began on September 21. They were held on Mondays at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Activity Center. All levels of students were welcomed into the class including beginners. Classes were taught by Jan Benes, the Czech Education Foundation of Texas selected instructor from the Czech Republic. The focus of the class was conversational Czech, grammar, reading and some writing. The lessons were fortified through several different activities including small group work and games related to vocabulary. From time to time Jan also shared some Czech history with the class. The following picture features a few of the students during one of the fall 2015 classes.



Czech Cuisine Class – Fall 2015

On October 3 students learned how to make Svickova, a traditional Czech meal consisting of roasted beef in cream sauce, served with raised yeast dumpling. It is a dish on the menu in almost every restaurant in the Czech Republic. The cost of the class was \$40 and included a detailed program, recipes, and at the end of the class each student was able to take home a delicious meal of Svickova serving approximately 5 people.

BVCHS Czech Celebration - Polka Mass, Dinner and Dance

On October 11 the BVCHS sponsored a Czech Celebration. Two polka masses were celebrated at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bryan, Texas at 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM. The Taylor Czech Chorus sang at the masses. A dinner was served following the masses with the dance beginning at 1:30 PM. The dinner and dance took place at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Activity Center. The Praha Brothers performed for the dance.

November 2015 BVCHS Chapter Meeting

On November 17 a BVCHS Chapter Meeting occurred at The Cracker Barrel Old Country Store in Bryan, Texas. The main agenda items involved discussion on the upcoming events to take place to close out 2015.

Brazos Valley WorldFest

On November 21 the annual Brazos Valley Worldfest took place. The BVCHS again sponsored a Czech booth for the event.

Ceske mse Vanocni (The Czech Christmas Mass)



The BVCHS was proud to host the Ceske mse Vanocni on December 3 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in College Station, Texas. Four soloists, a small choir, a small string group and an organist from the University of North Texas brought an evening of music to the Brazos Valley that is performed at the Czech Christmas Mass in the Czech Republic.

Dr. Clint Machann gave the opening remarks. Dr. Tom Sovik, an ordained Military Chaplin, also provided an opening message. The mass concert was wonderfully received by the over 130 audience members in attendance. After the event, the BVCHS sponsored a dinner for the performers at Outback Steakhouse. During the dinner, Jo Ann Zaeske, BVCHS Treasurer, received a birthday serenade from the group. The performers commented on how grateful they were of the attentive audience. The picture above features the University of North Texas singers and musicians with BVCHS Officers Jo Ann Zaeske and Lynette Urbanovsky. The picture below was taken during the performance.



Christmas Party

The BVCHS Christmas Party took place on December 11 at C&J Barbeque in Bryan, Texas. The menu consisted of turkey, ham, dressing with all of the trimmings. The party included a brief program, door prizes and the traditional Czech ornament exchange.

January 2016 BVCHS Chapter Meeting

On January 21, the January Chapter meeting took place at the IHOP Restaurant in Bryan, Texas. Topics included the upcoming BVCHS events to take place this spring.

Czech Language Classes – Spring 2016

The Czech Language classes for Spring 2016 began on January 25. They are again held on Mondays this year at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Activity Center in Bryan. The cost of the class is \$35. Jan Benes will continue to serve as the instructor. Jan, the CEFT Hlavinka Scholarship awardee at Texas A&M University, mentioned that his first four months in College Station have been a blessing. He further stated that the Fall Czech Language classes have been fun and his students have been very welcoming. More of the same is expected this spring and the classes will continue each Monday during the Spring Semester.

Upcoming Events

- Valentine's Day Dance will occur on February 14, 2016
- Kolache Baking Class will occur on March 12, 2016
- The next Chapter Meeting is scheduled to take place on March 31, 2016
- Fall Czech Celebration will take place on October 9, 2016.

For more information and to stay up to date on Chapter events, please visit the chapter web-site at bvchs.webnode.com.