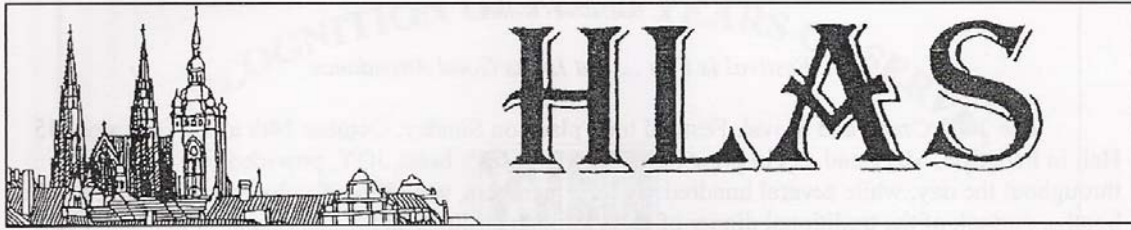


**Jaro 2008**

**Spring 2008**



Sdružení Čechů a Slováků pro Uchování Národních Odkazů  
Združenie Čechov a Slovákov pre Zachovanie Národných Odkazov

*A publication of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland*

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## **WHAT'S COMING UP?**

Take a look...mark your calendar

Sunday, APRIL 20: join us at 2 pm at Belvedere Christian Church for our 2nd quarterly meeting followed by the Slovak movie Jánošík. The meeting will be brief, the pastries outstanding, and we'll end with a good movie.

Monday, MAY 26: Memorial Day at 11 am at the Bohemian National Cemetery. Pause to remember those who have gone before us, see old friends and the restoration work that's been done on the house and grounds.

Sunday, June 8: 3 pm CSHA Singers at St. Wenceslaus Church Good music and refreshments.

Sunday, July 20: Our annual picnic at 2 pm at Belvedere Christian Church. Good food, good company, good beer.

Sunday, October 12: Our 22nd annual Czech and Slovak Festival with a new catering service. We begin at noon and end at 6 pm at our usual location-Baltimore 45 (Tall Cedars') Hall on Putty Hill Avenue. Dancing, singing, *knedlo-vepřo-zelo*, beer, brats, pastries and more. Music by Joy of Maryland.

Sunday, January 20, 2009. Our quarterly meeting followed by our own "Roadshow," an opportunity to show off your Czech or Slovak

treasures, new or old, and see what others have been collecting.



## ***THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER***

Just as I was thinking that writing something for the President's Corner just might prove to be one of the most difficult things about of this new job of mine, I received a copy of Georgina Havlik's article "*Nas jazyk*," and it made me think that it probably would be good to let you know one of the things I hope to accomplish in the next two years.

One of my goals for **HLAS** is to include at least one article in Czech and one in Slovak in each issue. We want to give you well-written content in Czech, Slovak and English.

Georgina makes an eloquent case for this in her article, so I will only reassure you that translations or glossaries will also be provided. I think it will be an excellent aid to preserving and teaching the languages of our predecessors and I urge you not to skip directly to the translation, but to read both. You may be pleasantly surprised to find that you recognize more words than you thought. Along these same lines, I want to urge members to submit your own articles or ideas for

things you would like to read about in HLAS.

While we are on the subject of HLAS...we are in need of someone with computer and organizational skills to take over the task of putting HLAS together for publishing. We have a great editorial board, lots of ideas, but we're a little light on technical skills. (As evidenced by this issue of HLAS!!) Think about it. It could be fun.

I also want to thank you for entrusting your organization to me for the next couple of years. Mike will be a hard act to follow, but I promise to give it my best effort.

S pozdravim,

Margaret

### ***Juraj Jánošík*** by Anna Losovsky

Juraj Janosik is a beloved Slovak hero. All Slovaks speak of him with great pride. Many of his exploits have been told and retold throughout the years and in neighboring countries.

In 1688, Janosik was born in the village of Terchova, in what is now north-west Slovakia. As a very young man he joined the revolution under Rakoczy II. When the uprising failed, he was recruited into the Habsburg Army.

After his time in the Army, he returned to Terchova. He began to see many injustices against the peasants. Although they had the right to emigrate, they were subject to heavy taxation and other restrictions which left them impoverished. In 1711, Janosik joined a band of forest robbers. He quickly rose

through the ranks to become their chieftan. Most of their victims were wealthy merchants and nobles. Janosik implemented a chivalrous code among his men. None of their victims was to be harmed and they shared their loot with the poor.

Janosik's time as chieftan was short-lived; he was captured in 1713. On March 17, 1713 he was sentenced to death. After his sentence was pronounced his response was, "Now that you have roasted me, you might as well devour me." He was put to death in the way leaders of bands of robbers were executed, by being pierced with a hook through the side and left to hang. His body is said to have been laid to rest in the crypt of the church in Liptovsky St. Mikulas.

Many books, movies, and TV shows have been made about this Slovak hero. His legend will continue.



Janosik with his lady friend  
*Janosik s frajerkou*

## *Juraj Jánošík*

Juraj Jánošík je obľúbený slovenský zbojník ľuďmi často spomínaný s veľkou hrdosťou. Mnohé z jeho skutkov sa v príbehu vekov opakovane rozprávali nielen na Slovensku ale aj v Poľsku, Maďarsku a na Morave.

Narodil sa v Terchovej na severozápadnom Slovensku v januári 1688. Ako päťnásťročný sa zúčastnil kuruckej protirakúskej vzbury pod velením Františka II. Rakoczyho. Po prehratej bitke

pod hradom Trenčín (1708) vstúpil do rakúskej armády. Ako vezeňský dozorca v Bytči pomohol Tomášovi Uhorčíkovi k úteku. Spolu s ním v roku 1711 zorganizovali skupinu zbojníkov (forest robbers) pod Jánošíkovým vedením. Ich obeťami boli bohatí kupci a šľachta. Svoje obeť ale nezabíjali a niekedy im aj pomáhali.

Jánošík videl veľa bezpravia proti sedliakom. Poddanstvo, vysoké dane a iné obmedzenia ich ochudobnili. Nemali slobodu sa voľne pohybovať. Preto sa Jánošík s nimi delil o svoju korisť.

Jánošíka chytili v roku 1712 ale ho prepustili. Znovu bol chytený na jar 1713 a 17. marca bol odsúdený na smrť. Po vynesení rozsudku prehlásil: "Keď ste si ma upiekli tak si ma aj zjeste!" Popravili ho tak ako popravovali zbojníkov v tom čase: do ľavého boku mu zabodli hák a nechali ho takto visieť. Vrávi sa, že je pochovaný v kostole v Liptovskom sv. Mikuláši.

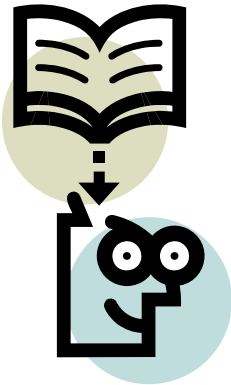
O živote a skutkoch Juraja Jánošíka bolo napísaných veľa kníh, natočených niekoľko filmov a TV programov. Jeho legenda naďalej pretrváva.

## **Membership, membership, membership...**

Have you sent in your membership dues for this year?

If you have, thank you, we're glad to welcome you and we invite you to get involved in one or more of our activities. If not, please let us hear from you soon. To continue the important work of our association, we need everyone's participation.

## **LANGUAGE SCHOOL NEWS** by Lois Hybl



Again this semester, we are finding our enrollment down a bit. We have 38 students. Some of our older members who had attended for years have dropped out because of their illness or illness in their families. Several students drive long distances—from Frederick, Washington, DC or its suburbs, Arlington, VA and even the Eastern Shore.

Among younger students, we find that many are attending because they have a Czech or Slovak spouse/boyfriend or girlfriend or recently traveled to the Czech Republic or Slovakia and want to

continue developing their language skills. We welcome this evidence of our shrinking world. We hope that our school and organization can help our students communicate with their in-laws and provide a “home” in America for their Czech or Slovak partners. One student plans to attend graduate school in the Czech Republic. However, younger people are even more prone to having work hours or family demands that make Saturday attendance difficult.

We do need to rethink our advertising. Recently, I am hearing that most students got information directly or indirectly through friends from websites such as [www.czslha.org](http://www.czslha.org) or the Czech Embassy website. Sending flyers to libraries is expensive and doesn't seem as productive as in the past. Newspapers are less willing to print free notices based on mailed press releases.

Some suggestions I have received include paid advertising in the Patuxent newspapers (various *Times* papers) and the *Aegis* instruction section, sending notices to foreign language departments, using Craigslist.com, and notifying churches that serve many Czech and Slovak people. Is it feasible to put something on YouTube? How do we reach more potential Slovak as well as Czech language students? Please relay your suggestions to Lois Hybl, 410-243-1710, [lhybl@bcpl.net](mailto:lhybl@bcpl.net).

We have fun while learning. As a student myself, I don't know about all of the activities in other classes. I do know that many students are writing about their first childhood memories. Mary Lou Walker's transition class has been giving talks about things they like to do. Manning Otradovec amazed us with a huge rubber cockroach (a *šváb*--“not

Karel Šváb”), which he had given to his grandson who likes weird things. George Mojzisek walked into Iva Zicha’s Czech Conversation Class with his ski equipment, ready to talk about skiing. Some of Natalie Karlinsky’s Slovak students are watching the movie *Pacho* for practice in listening to the language. Congratulations to Dolores Gentes’s Czech 101 student, Leonardo Garrido, whose wife recently gave birth to their son, Filip. We are grateful to another Czech 101 student, Barbara Gill, who recruited members of her LDS church in Frederick and other language students to help with cleanup of the Bohemian National Cemetery on March 22. We hope that Bohumil Zajicek will soon gain enough strength following two hospitalizations to rejoin us. To join in the fun, mark your calendar for September 6 when the next semester begins.

### ***Náš jazyk*** by Jiřina Havlíková aka Georgina Havlik

**První den:** dočetla jsem knížku od H. Brenner/Wonschick. *Děvčata z pokoje 28*, napsanou v němčině a přeloženou do češtiny. Vydání v angličtině se zpozdilo, protože autorka není spokojená s překladem. Ja nejsem spokojená s překladem do češtiny, ale mně se na to nikdo neptal.

Kniha pojednává o životě v Terezíně, kde bylo v době druhé světové války židovské gheto. Obsahuje mnoho citátů z deníků dětí, popisuje též uvedení dětské opery *Brundibár*. Jak se mluvilo v Terezíně, kam byli deportováni Židé z Čech? Zavolala jsem Marjánku, jednu z mála, které to přežily. „No to je zajímavé, že se na to ptáš,“ pravila.

„Stará generace mluvila německy a nová generace česky.“ Děvčata v pokoji 28 mluvily česky, *Brundibar* je česká dětská opera a byla v Terezíně hraná česky.

Tudíž německý originál obsahuje překlady z češtiny, a české vydání obsahuje ty překlady do němčiny, zprta přeložené do češtiny. Není divu, že mi ta čeština někde nesedí.

V době německé okupace za druhé světové války německý nacionalismus vyvolal český nacionalismus a každý Čech mluvil česky i když uměl německy. Přispívalo to k soudržnosti národa. Ve shora uvedené knize není o dvoj-jazyčnosti zmínka.

**Druhý den:** den potom, co jsem mluvila s Marjánkou (česky), jsme tu měli partu na poražení stromu. Ptala jsem se (anglicky), jestli chtějí kávu a jen vedoucí mi rozuměl a zjistil (španělsky) kdo si jí přeje. Odpoledne mi říkal, že je to dobrá parta a že si jí drží už několik let. Tudíž po několik let se nikdo z party nenamáhal se naučit anglicky.

**Třetí den:** naše sdružení Čechů a Slováků pro Uchování Národních Odkazů mělo výroční schůzi. Mluvilo se výhradně anglicky, až po schůzi u stolu s kavou mnoho lidí hovořilo česky a slovensky. Čili každý český a slovenský emigrant se naučil mluvit anglicky a protože další generace používají angličtinu, je naší dorozumívací řečí angličtina. To je ten *melding pot*.

**Závěr:** znát více řečí je cílem každého vzdělaného člověka. Někdy se úsilí mine cílem, když je ta řečí okupantů,

jako pro mou generaci byla němčina a ruština. Učili jsme se ty jazyky ve škole bez velkého nadšení. Angličtina je pro mně, emigranta, jazyk který mně osvobodil od kominismu. Čeština je moje mateřština.

Myslím si, že když chceme uchovat národní odkazy, tak bychom se měli snažit udržovat svou řeč, alespon' mezi sebou. Nemůžeme to ignorovat jako ve shora uvedené knize, nebo vyloučit angličtinu jako to dělají někteří Hispánici, ale nesmíme svou řeč zcela opustit jako tomu bylo na naší výroční schůzi. Začínám s tímto českým-anglicko článkem abych k tomu přivedla vaší pozornost. Je třeba vnést více češtiny a slovenštiny do našich schůzí a novin. Toto je první pokus.

## ***Our Language***

*translation by Georgina Havlik and Delores Gentes*

**Day One:** I just finished reading a book titled *The Girls from Room 28*, by H. Brenner/Wonschick, which was translated into Czech from German. The English translation is delayed because the author is not satisfied with it. Well, I am not satisfied with the Czech translation either, but nobody has asked my opinion.

The book is about Terezin, a Jewish ghetto, internment camp, in Bohemia during the Second World War. The book contains many quotes from childrens' diaries in which they describe performances of the childrens' opera *Brundibar*. After reading the book I was puzzled as to what language had been spoken in Terezin where Jews from Bohemia had been transported and confined. Was it German, or was it Czech?

So I called Marjanka, one of the few survivors. „It's interesting that you should ask,“ she said. „The old generation spoke German, and the new generation spoke Czech.“ She added that the girls in room 28 spoke Czech and that the childrens' opera *Brundibar* was performed in Czech.

Thus, the original edition of the book contains German translations from Czech. The Czech edition, of course, contains Czech translations from the German which had been translated from Czech to German and then back into Czech. It's no wonder that to me the Czech seemed awkward.

During the German occupation during WWII, German nationalism provoked Czech nationalism: every Czech, even though he could speak German well, spoke Czech. That contributed to a national coherence. The book, however, makes no mention of this bi-lingual discrepancy.

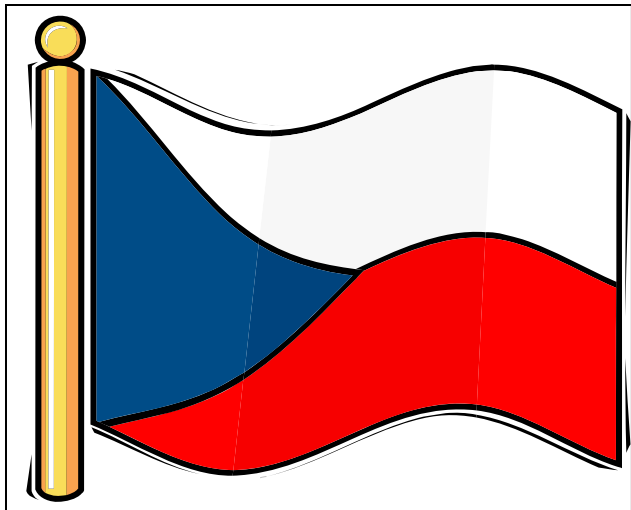
**Day two:** A day after I spoke (in Czech) to Marjanka, we had a tree removal crew at work at our house. I asked them (in English) if they would like some coffee; only the supervisor understood me and he asked (in Spanish) if anyone wanted some. Later in the afternoon he told me that he keeps the same good crew for several years. Thus they depend on him and feel no need to learn English.

**Day three:** our Czech and Slovak Heritage Association had an annual meeting. It was conducted in English, but after the meeting, over the coffee, many people spoke Czech and Slovak. Although every immigrant understood English as well as Czech or Slovak, the second generation was limited to

English, and that is why the meeting had to have been conducted in English. This is the Melding Pot.

**Conclusion:** to speak more than one language is a goal of every educated person. Sometimes it is a lesser goal, as when the language is the language of an oppressor, as were German and Russian for my generation. English is for me, an emigrant, the language of freedom from communism and totalitarianism. But, Czech is my mother tongue.

I believe that our native language is an important part of our heritage, and it must be kept alive. We cannot, as the book did, ignore it; but we cannot, as the tree-workers did, cling to it forever; but we must not abandon it as our meeting suggested we might. It is necessary to bring more Czech and Slovak into our gatherings and our newsletter. With this English-Czech article, I begin to capture your attention. It is a first attempt.



## *What did we eat? Memories of WW II* By Michael Krompholz

Well, some of the stuff would make my grandkids run for the fridge looking for something else. Except that it was a rare family with a fridge in the house, and there wouldn't have been much in it.

But let me start with the maybe surprising statement that there was no hunger in the Protectorate during that time. The Nazi bureaucracy was quite efficient in distributing what little there was and a thriving black market augmented the basics.

All food was rationed and appropriate ration cards were issued to each person. Those were not uniform though. German nationals got more than Czechs, Jews less; children's rations were also allotted differently. Whenever a purchase was made, the store cashier cut the appropriate number of coupons off the card. These he later glued on forms and sent them to the authorities. After the authorities checked the coupons against the store deliveries, they were cancelled and sent to be destroyed as waste paper. Discrepancies were severely punished.

So what did we eat? For breakfast there was no coffee, but something called *Melta*. Since we children did not drink that I do not know exactly what it was, probably roasted grain and chicory. There was no tea either, but a dark liquid called *Tealin*. You put a teaspoon of that stuff into hot water and it looked and smelled like real tea. And tasted similar to it. There was a lot of herbal tea. In season we went to pick linden blossoms, rose hips, chamomile, and other herbs to be dried and used to make tea. We had no hot chocolate either. Milk rations

were low; cocoa or chocolate was unavailable. Egg rations only sufficed for cooking, so getting a boiled or scrambled egg, was a rarity. To preserve eggs for the winter, rations were somewhat increased in the fall. The eggs were then placed into 5-liter glass containers and sealed with sodium silicate. You would not like the taste of an omelet from such an egg. These were used strictly for cooking.

Since there was no refrigeration, my mother, like other women, got up early in the morning and trotted to the corner dairy store with a little can for the milk for the day. Milk was sold out of big milk cans and measured with ladles into the customers' hand held cans. It was something like today's 1% milk, with most of the fat already removed. The sales woman would add some water to it prior to opening the store thus "extending" both the supply and her profits. Some of the undiluted stuff she kept for herself, some as a favor for her friends, and some of it she exchanged with other sales personnel for meat, sugar, etc. This practice existed for many years after the war even during the Communist era.

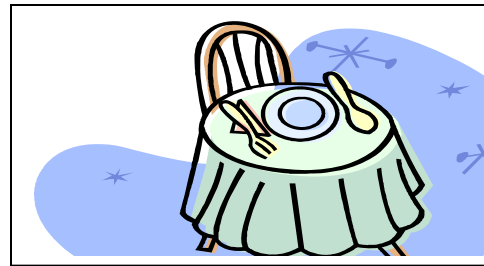
Back at home my mother boiled the milk to pasteurize it. After it cooled, she carefully collected the thin skin on the top and placed it into a beer glass. Having collected skins for a few days she used a little metal disc with holes to churn a nut size little chunk of butter.

Butter was scarce. Buttered bread meant that the butter was spread so thin that it just about filled the holes in the bread. I recall my older brother, George, asking Mom if she thought there would ever be

a time when he could spread as much butter as he liked on his bread.

With three boys Mom had to be careful how to handle bread as well. When brought from the store, it sat in the pantry for a couple of days to "air dry" and become more dense and tough so that we wouldn't consume it in one sitting.

School lunch was a simple affair. No cafeterias, no vending machines. A brown bag was it. In it was usually just a marmalade sandwich. The store-bought marmalade was another marvel of German *Erzats* (substitute), made from ordinary red beets. We called it "Hitlerspeck" or Hitler's bacon. A similar product was artificial honey. During the season we went to the countryside where Dad bought fruit as it became available and Mom then preserved it. Similarly, we picked berries in the woods to be preserved as well.



As for meat, it was on the table once or twice a week in small portions. Some of the cuts cannot be found on the meat counter anymore. Kidneys, veal brains, lungs, hearts, etc. Actually heart and kidneys were still plentiful in the US when we came in 1968. The first question one of my new co-workers asked me was whether my wife knew how to cook *paishl* (lungs). He had not had it since his mother passed away.



My Dad had a business in southern Bohemia where he commuted for a few days every week.

When he came back to Prague there was always something in his suitcase for us: a chicken, a fish, some butter, a goose, I even remember horsemeat at one time. Sometimes he bought these things or sometimes he exchanged our outgrown clothes for food. Since in our family we were able to save some sugar, he sometimes bartered using sugar as currency. There were many families in Prague who still had relatives in the country who were able to supply them from time to time. And then there was also a true black market. This was dangerous, though, for the punishment for dealing on the black market was prison, or frequently, death.

Women had to be creative with cooking to make the most of what was available. Veggie burgers were common half a century before they made it to the US. What I didn't like in particular were mashed potatoes extended with barley. Would you like to have a scrambled egg with veal brains?

To prevent calcium deficiency—we ground an eggshell very finely and added it to our food. On the positive side, I suppose, there was no problem with obesity. We learned to eat everything that was served and I do not recall that there was any problem with leftovers. If you didn't like what was on the table, there was nothing else. Sweets, deserts? Yes, we had them sometimes. Certainly there was something at birthdays and on rare occasions in between. Candy and pastry could also be bought with coupons, if some were left after purchasing the basics. There was

usually a little extra candy for Christmas.

I'd like to mention one more item: Tobacco. Cigarettes were rationed and in short supply. The Germans also used cigarettes as bonuses for factory labor if production quotas were exceeded. Many men, including my Dad, resorted to growing their own tobacco. I can only imagine the quality of the tobacco grown in unfavorable climatic conditions and processed in dubious fashion after harvesting. Finally, after drying, it was cut into strips on a contraption similar to a paper shredder and rolled into cigarettes. I wonder how much it contributed to cancer rates among men.

I suppose there is much more to be said about the food supply in WW II. I hope you got just an idea of **What did we eat?**

### ***Baltimore's Česko-Narodní Hřbitov*** by Margaret Supik

The Bohemian National Cemetery, located on Horner's Lane in Baltimore, was founded on September 17, 1884 by the Grand Lodge of the Č.S.P.S. The twelve acre plot quickly became an important part of the life of the east Baltimore Czech community. My late father-in-law, Edward Supik, recalled walking from his home on Madison Street, opposite Johns Hopkins Hospital, out to the cemetery for picnics and ball games.

The first burial there was that of Františka Rohová in January of 1885. Maryland's Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Sgt. William Jecelin, was

buried there in 1951. There are some unique gravestones there too. Apparently, nowhere else in Baltimore will you see gravestones with busts of the deceased atop them.

A band of volunteers, headed by Jeanne Taborsky, has been hard at work restoring the cottage, carriage house and crypt on the property. The crypt, built of Maryland brick and marble, is undergoing restoration in accordance with Maryland State Historical Society guidelines. The space behind its iron doors was used during the winter months for temporary storage of coffins when the ground was frozen too hard for graves to be dug.

The revitalized Č.S.P.S. is planning a rededication on Memorial Day, May 26, at 11 AM. Ms Czech-Slovak will be on hand along with the Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers, representatives from the Czech Embassy and members of Sokol, CSHA and Č.S.P.S.

For more information, you can visit their website at: [www.bohemiannc.com](http://www.bohemiannc.com).

### ***Wanted...singers of all kinds***

How often have you heard someone say, “every Czech’s a musician”? Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia have an incredible musical heritage and we have a group that is dedicated to preserving it.

The Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers rehearse on Monday evenings at 7 in the choir room at the Cathedral Mary Our Queen on North Charles Street. The only requirements for membership are liking to sing and willingness to learn new music. It isn’t necessary to know



Czech or Slovak, the group has plenty of native speakers who are happy to help with the language. In fact, singing is a great way to learn a bit of Czech or Slovak.

Greg Satorie, who is the organist at St. Wenceslaus Church, is the director of the group and Charles Supik (410-662-6094) is the founder and managing director.

Why not consider joining the group? You’ll be glad you did.

### ***Illustrious, but not well known - Jan Dismas Zelenka***

Zelenka, son of a schoolmaster and organist, was born in Loudovice, a small town southeast of Prague in 1679. He was very probably educated in Prague at the Jesuit Clementinum and later, in 1710 became a double-bass player in the court orchestra at Dresden.

In Dresden he and Johann Sebastian Bach shared the title of Court Composer of Church Music and Bach is known to have regarded him and his music very highly. Zelenka’s orchestral and instrumental works are highly virtuosic and quite demanding. Among his loveliest works are the six Trio Sonatas.

## Treasurer's report for the Spring (Jaro) '08 edition of HLAS

As attested to in previous articles of HLAS, the year 2007 witnessed a host of events and programs that lent themselves to promoting and celebrating our Czech & Slovak heritage. From a financial perspective however, our cash position remained at about the same balance with which we entered the year - \$ 51,094, beginning 2007 vs \$ 50,265, at the end of 2007.

Our primary fund raiser, the annual October Festival, had a \$ 3,000. reduction in net profit from the previous year; paid attendance dropped from 510 in 2006 to 360 in 2007. The Language School program witnessed a \$ 1,600. reduction in net income – fewer students. Despite the set-backs in these two major programs, our financial status is still very healthy. As noted above, the Association's cash balance is in excess of \$ 50,000., and there are no outstanding liabilities.

As of December 31, 2007:	Cash (Checking & Savings)	\$ 50,265.
	Inventory (Language School Materials)	2,653.
	Equipment	<u>1,368.</u>
	Total Assets	<u>\$ 54,286.</u>
For the year 2007:	Receipts	\$ 37,688 (A)
	Expenditures	<u>38,384.</u>
	Excess Expenditures	<u>\$ 696.</u>

(A) Includes Interest on Savings of \$ 2,510.

Respectfully submitted,

R C Pazourek, Treasurer

## **HLAS**

The VOICE of The Czech & Slovak  
Heritage Association  
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[www.czslha.org](http://www.czslha.org)

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## **JARO 2008**

## **SPRING 2008**

### **CSHA OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS 2008**

President	Margaret Supik
Vice President	Steve Sabol
Secretary	Lois Hybl
Treasurer	Richard Pazourek

#### **Chairpersons**

Membership	Charles Supik
Education	Lois Hybl
<b>HLAS</b> Editor	<i>position open, please apply...soon</i>