When the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas received its state charter as a non-profit organization on October 19, 1954, it was composed of three men who together served as its first board of directors: Henry R. Marsh, M.D., of Houston; Dr. John M. Skrivanek of College Station; and August Kacir of Temple. As stated in the charter, the purpose was to promote the Czech language and culture in Texas by supporting “any educational undertaking by providing for or making contributions as gifts or donations in cash or property to persons or institutions engaged in the promotion of learning and understanding of the Czech language and culture, the study of the origin, structure and modification of the Czech language and its grammatical relationships as given and preserved in literary embodiments, [and] the dissemination of information to the public concerning the importance of a knowledge of Czech and other Slavonic languages in our citizenry to the effective leadership of the United States of America in international affairs.”

On October 19, 2014 the CEFT celebrated 60 years of doing that which the charter prescribed. Director Diane Sulak Wilson planned the delightful event at the SPJST Headquarters in Temple, Texas. Special guests included Dr. James C. Scott, Dean of the College of Music at UNT, and his wife Elizabeth; Dr. Alan Klaas, Director of Development of the College of Music at UNT, and his wife Cheryl; Marketa Byrtusova, current CEFT Hlavinka Fellow at Texas A&M; and Deanne Skrivanek Butterfield, daughter of CEFT Founder John M. Skrivanek. She and Sidney Kacir were recognized as children of two of CEFT’s Founders. Ms. Butterfield surprised attendees with her presence and a short talk reminiscing about early days of her father’s work with CEFT:

“My name is Deanne Skrivanek Butterfield and this is my daughter, Kelly Capps. My father was Dr. John M. Skrivanek, one of the three founders of CEFT. I am so happy to be here celebrating the 60th anniversary of CEFT! How time flies! My father would be thrilled to find CEFT still working to preserve everything Czech! I can still hear him when I was a little girl at home say, “Czech is the third most spoken language in Texas after English and Spanish.” I knew when he went to Praha to work on his Ph.D. in Modern Languages in 1946 that he was serious about our Czech heritage as his dream was to have the Czech language and culture taught not only in universities and colleges but also in high schools. Mother and my twin brother, John David, and I were to join him in Czechoslovakia in 1947. We rode the train to New York City in November. It was so exciting watching the Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade - in the snow! How often does it snow in central Texas?! However, it was not exciting receiving a telegram from the Czech embassy and from Daddy telling us not to continue our journey to Czechoslovakia. The region was experiencing a severe winter and the Communist were taking over. So we returned to Texas and my second grade class.

Henry Marsh, another of the founders of CEFT, was our family doctor when Daddy taught at the University of Houston. My brother remembers Dr. Marsh and Daddy talking about creating an organization to promote the teaching of the Czech language and the preservation of the culture and heritage of the Czech people. With attorney August Kacir, the three of them made it happen in 1954! Dr. Marsh passed away a few years after the birth of CEFT. Daddy died in 1972 following a year’s sabbatical at Charles University in Prague writing Czech text books. Mr. Kacir died in 1973. Then unfortunately, CEFT languished for a number of years. J.J. Skrivanek, my father’s twin brother who had helped with the teaching of Czech at A&M, picked up the baton and CEFT was revitalized. New officers and directors were selected and CEFT was clicking again! I know all three of the founders would heartily express many, many thanks for ALL those who worked hard for the establishment of CEFT at the University of Texas, the programs at A&M and North Texas and, I am sure, encouragement for those groups who established the Czech Cultural Center in Houston, the Czech Heritage Center in LaGrange and today’s leaders of CEFT. God bless each one of you and in 40 more years....the 100th anniversary of CEFT!

History of The CEFT continued on page 3
Program Updates

University of Texas at Austin
- Chair in Czech Studies -

University of Texas to Celebrate 100 Years of Czech
The year 2015 marks the centennial of the teaching of the Czech language at UT and will be marked with a symposium on Saturday April 11, 2015 at the Glickman Conference Center in the College of Liberal Arts Building. The event is sponsored by The Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies and The Texas Chair in Czech Studies.

The committee planning this event includes Mary Neuburger, Director, Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies and Chair and Professor, Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies; and Mark Hopkins, Lecturer, Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies. The planning committee also includes James Sassin, Ray Lenart, and Mark Labaj all from the CEFT. CEFT was the source of endowment funding that established the Texas Chair of Czech Studies in 1990.

Keynote Speaker will be Robert Hutchings, Dean, LBJ School of Public Affairs, whose experience in foreign affairs includes familiarity with the Czech lands of central Europe. Other speakers will review eras of the teaching of the Czech language at UT over the last century and the impact of ex-students in their careers nationally and internationally.

Mark Labaj
Director, CEFT

Texas Czech Legacy Project
The Texas Czech Legacy Project (TCLP) in the Department of the Slavic and Eurasian Studies (DSES) at the University of Texas at Austin aims to offer comprehensive information about the language and culture of Texas Czechs. Their first and most ambitious undertaking is the Texas Czech Dialect Archive, the user interface and database with audio recordings collected from ethnic Czech Moravians in Texas since the 1970s through the 2000s. Some 15 recordings with transcripts are now available on their website http://laits.utexas.edu/txczechproject (under Our News, see September 2014). The project team includes: Lida Cope, Project Director; Mark Hopkins, On-Site Coordinator and Transcription; Ryan B. Miller, Web Designer; Hans C. Boas, Project Advisor; Mary Neuburger, Project Advisor; John Tomecek, Project Consultant.

Texas A&M University
- CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellowship -

Marketa Byrtusova from Palacky University in Olomouc will be returning to the Czech Republic. She has been a good teacher for the students participating in her Czech class taught in collaboration with the local chapter of the Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society. Looking ahead, Professor Jeffrey Vanderziel at Masaryk University in Brno has reported on a new Hlavinka Fellow for next fall: “We have gone through the materials of our four candidates and selected Jan Beneš as our candidate for the Hlavinka Fellowship at Texas A&M for 2015/16. Jan is an outstanding doctoral student of American literature and will make an excellent representative for Masaryk University.”

Clinton Machann
Chairman, Board of Directors, CEFT

University of North Texas
- CEFT Frank J. and Hermine Kostohryz Residency in Czech Music and Culture –

Dr. Thomas Sovík is planning for a second international festival in late 2015 – Veselé Vánoce! (A Czech Christmas at the University of North Texas); the theme of the accompanying academic conference will be “From the Hussite Wars to the Moravian Lovefeast: How the Czech Nation Lost and Regained Its Musical Identity.”

Welcome to our newest members Gladys Almaguer, Christiana Gentry, Cindy Gentry, Willie & Gladys Gavranovic, Tom & Maureen Holy, Jean Pingenot, David & Michelle Slovak, Darlene Sugarek, Libbie Vrla, and Diane Wright.

On behalf of the Officers and Directors of the CEFT, thank you to all members and contributors. The achievements of CEFT are your achievements!

Jan Vaculik, 2014 CEFT Founding Father’s Award Recipient
Pictured from left to right are Maricella Vaculik (wife), Ludmila Vaculik (mother), Jana Vaculik Riley (daughter), Woody Smith (CEFT President), Jan Vaculik (CEFT member since 1986, Director, and Czech Publicity Officer), and Clint Machann (CEFT Chairman).
History of The CEFT
Many of the Texas Czechs who became active in the CEFT had been members of Čechie, the Czech Club at UT-Austin; and Czech-Americans from across the State served on the Board of Directors during the early years. The CEFT's goal was to promote the study of Czech in Texas high schools, colleges, and universities during the 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s. Scholarships were awarded to students of the language, and several of these students went on to obtain advanced degrees in Slavic languages while others accepted civilian or military linguistic positions with the United States government. Dr. Skrivanek himself built up the Czech program at Texas A&M University.

In the 1980s, the CEFT completed one of the most important projects in the history of the Czech community in Texas. At this time, the organization was led by President Joseph J. Skrivanek (the brother of John M. Skrivanek), Vice-President Cyril (Sid) Pokladnik, and Board of Directors Chairman Roger Kolar. The CEFT officers and directors decided to organize a drive to establish a Czech Chair at the University of Texas at Austin. An endowed chair of Czech Language and Literature or of Czech Studies had long been a dream among Texas Czech leaders. The goal of the CEFT was to establish a strong institutional base with independent funding to insure, first, that basic Czech language courses would be offered from semester to semester on a regular basis, and, second, that resources would be available to build a total academic program, both on the undergraduate and the graduate levels—one that would be competitive with major Slavic language programs throughout the United States. Numerous individuals and organizations made contributions to support the effort, and in early 1989, an especially significant contribution by the Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation of Wilmington, Delaware made it possible to complete the plans for an endowed chair, which was to be named the “Texas Chair in Czech Studies,” and which would represent a commitment to Czech language, literature, and culture, in perpetuity. Directors Sidney Kacir and Al Kercho played key roles in making arrangements for this agreement. With matching funds from UT, this Chair, the only one of its kind in the United States, was eventually funded for one million dollars. The University Board of Regents ratified the agreement at its meeting of June 14, 1990. The CEFT’s total gift of $667,000 was matched by $333,000 from the University. The establishment of the Texas Chair in Czech Studies was celebrated by the University and the Texas-Czech community at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum on April 21, 1991.

Since that time, the Chair has brought a series of distinguished educators to UT to teach undergraduate and graduate classes in Czech Studies. The endowment has also funded numerous visiting lecturers, as well as symposia and other programs in Texas. In addition, the Chair has strengthened the University’s programs for study in the Czech Republic.

After implementing the Texas Chair in Czech Studies at UT-Austin, the CEFT was soon to embark on another major project in the spirit of its founders. In the fall of 1999, after years of planning and fund-raising, with Marvin J. Marek as President and Clinton Machann as Chairman, a CEFT Czech Fellowship was formally established at Texas A&M University, based on an endowment of $250,000. Once again, many generous individuals and organizations contributed to the fund-raising effort, capped by a $100,000 donation from the heirs of William J. Hlavinka. Like the Texas Chair in Czech Studies at UT-Austin, the CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellowship at Texas A&M is unique. It is designed to bring advanced graduate students from two Moravian universities (Masaryk University in Brno, Palacký University in Olomouc) to Texas A&M, establish Czech language classes in the Bryan-College Station area for members of the general public, provide Czech-to-English translation services for the Texas Czech community, provide assistance to Czech-American historical and cultural groups in Texas, and encourage cultural and educational ties between the State of Texas and the Czech Republic. The beginning of the new program was celebrated in coordination with a concert of Czech classical music by pianist Richard Urbs at the Presidential Conference Center at Texas A&M University on October 28, 1999.

In recognition of its success in establishing the two educational programs at major universities in the U.S. and in promoting Czech culture abroad, the CEFT received the prestigious Jan Masaryk Grattias Award from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2000. The was created in 1997 to demonstrate the Czech Republic’s appreciation of individuals or groups who promote the nation in the sphere of science, education, the arts, or public life.

In the following years, CEFT officers and directors began to discuss the possibility of yet another major program at a Texas university, and during these discussions, Director Jim Bezdek called attention to the work of Thomas Sovik, a Professor of Music at the University of North Texas, with a particular interest in Czech composers and musical traditions, who for about ten years had coordinated a cultural exchange program between the UNT College of Music in Denton and the J. Maxas Institute of Music and the Performing Arts in Brno, Czech Republic. The UNT College of Music is one of the nation’s largest and most respected comprehensive schools of music with the country’s top ranked jazz program, and many Grammy-winning alumni.

Its programs have the highest national rankings of any music program in Texas. Approximately 1,600 students enroll annually in bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral programs taught by globally acclaimed faculty. The college, with its acoustically magnificent Winspear Hall in the Murchison Performing Arts Center, is a hub of North Texas cultural life.

Preliminary talks between CEFT Directors and James C. Scott (Dean of the College of Music at UNT), Elida Tamez (Director of Development at the College), and Professor Sovik, revealed a strong interest at UNT for expanding programs related to Czech music. On October 25, 2003, after several months of negotiations, CEFT and UNT representatives met on the university campus in Denton and signed a Memorandum of Agreement that would establish the CEFT Residency in Czech Music and Culture at UNT. The program would be designed to 1) bring distinguished Czech musicians, composers, artists, and educators to UNT for teaching, performing, conducting research in Czech music and culture, and for purposes of outreach throughout the State of Texas, particularly to Texas-Czech centers of population; 2) stage colloquia and festivals of Czech music and culture; and 3) mount the production of Czech operas, emphasizing usage of the Czech language. Members of the CEFT Advisory Committee working closely with officials from UNT included Jim Bezdek (Chairman), Al Kercho (Secretary), Anton Pustejovsky, Margaret Klecka, Clarice Marik Snokhous, and Sidney Kacir.

The CEFT’s goal was to raise $400,000 in order to fully fund this new endowment and the organization celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2004 by intensifying its promotional and fund-raising efforts. In April of 2004, in collaboration with Professor Sovik and the UNT College of Music, it sponsored the Texas tour of the Brno-based dance troupe Mimi Fortunae (with choreography by Hana Latalová) as part of its anniversary celebration. In the following months, plans were being made for a public ceremony at the State Capitol marking the 50th anniversary on the afternoon of October 20, 2004, followed by a gala dinner at the Westwood Country Club in Austin. Participants included Texas Secretary of State Geoffrey Connor and Czech Ambassador Martin Palous and Czech Honorary Consul General Raymond Smolar.

In late 2004, Dr. Francis Kostohryz, of Memphis, Tennessee, made a substantial contribution toward the Residency at UNT in
memory of his father and mother. Additional donors, including - once again - the Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation, as well as the many other organizations and individuals listed in this booklet, made it possible to complete funding for the endowment in 2006. Once again, Sidney Kacir and Al Kercho played important roles in the funding process. A series of concerts organized by the UNT College of Music helped to publicize the project and demonstrate the kinds of performance that will be supported in the coming years by the new endowment: the CEFT Frank J. and Hermine Hurta Kostohryz Residency in Czech Music and Culture. The new Residency was celebrated on January 27, 2007 on the UNT campus. Czech Ambassador Petr Kolář was among the guests attending the celebration.

To date the Kostohryz Residency at UNT has supported such programs as the UNT Opera Czech language production of Smetana's opera Prodaná nevěsta (The Bartered Bride); the Leos Janáček International Music Festival and Academic Conference; and tours of folkloric music in Texas Czech communities. The 2013 Janáček Festival was organized in partnership with the Janáček Academy of Music and the Performing Arts in Brno, Czech Republic, and included performances on both continents as well as a scholarly conference at UNT.

The program at UNT continues to flourish with the establishment of the CEFT Dr. Jim J. and Rose A. Bezděk Endowment Celebrating Czech Music and Culture with a leading gift by retired UNT Professor and CEFT Director Dr. Jim Bezděk and his wife Rose; and in 2014 the Residency received an additional $1 million from Dr. Francis Kostohryz. Both gifts will continue to be used to fund artist fees, travel, and other expenses to maintain UNT's collaboration with Czech musicians and educators, and allow for more concerts and programming of Czech music.

“We are grateful for the $1 million additional donation and for our longtime history with the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas, which helped build the residency at UNT,” said UNT President Neal Smatresk. “This gift ensures our students and the community will continue to benefit from the vibrant music and cultural experiences that UNT makes possible through this collaboration.”

“The residency allows our students, faculty and guest artists to share historically significant classical and folkloric Czech music,” said Dean of the College of Music James Scott. “With the addition of this gift to the endowment, new possibilities will open up for our collaborations.”

“Strengthening this endowment benefits UNT students, the community and the history of Czech music, which my parents dearly loved,” said Kostohryz, who recalled listening to Czech music on the radio while growing up in Central Texas. “I am happy to know that this music will continue to thrive through UNT and the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas.”

The CEFT will continue to be a steward of the Czech language and culture through its established endowments, and will continue to be a good steward of contributions including the recent sizeable donation from the Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation. All contributions made to the CEFT may be designated for a specific endowment and are disbursed accordingly; contributions not earmarked for a particular endowment are disbursed to the various endowments at the discretion of the CEFT Board of Directors.

Clinton Machann
Chairman, Board of Directors, CEFT

Director Roger Kolar (3rd from the left) recognized as 2014 TOCA Recipient for CEFT

Mr. Kolar became a director of CEFT in 1987 and served as Chairman for many years. He is pictured above with Claraise Snokhous, Clint Machann, and Arlene Cloyd, president of TOCA, at the appreciation dinner in La Grange. Roger, Diane, and Clint first met in 1977 for the summer school at Charles University in Prague.

Many Thanks!

Notes of appreciation are due to many who made the 60th Anniversary of CEFT a memorable success. Diane Wilson who headed up the event wishes to acknowledge the contributions of these friends and members of CEFT. Many thanks to: ◆Brian Vanicek and SPJST for use of their headquarters in Temple. Special thanks to Brian for helping with planning, physically setting up, and printing the music program for the sing-a-long. ◆Don Mares of the SPJST Museum for bringing the antique puppets for all to see, providing the backdrop for the musicians, assisting in set up. ◆Amy Jurica-Hinnant who deserves a hats off for managing the RSVPs, name tags, reception table, door prize tickets, and responsible management of the proceeds. ◆Jean (Blaha) & Waymond Davis who deserve a big hand for taking charge of the Silent Auction and for making it the success it was. ◆John & Jana (Vaculik) Riley for collecting verses of favorite Czech songs that were compiled in the sing-a-long booklet. Jana, dressed in her kroje, led the sing-a-long on this day, her first anniversary of marriage to John. ◆Pavla Adamik Van Biber, husband James, and staff for making this day a memorable culinary event. Pavla catered CEFT's 50th Anniversary too. ◆new member Nancy Braus for her expert assistance in planning and set up for the event, and who, along with Diane, contributed the fresh flowers. ◆Shirley Mozicek, also a new member to CEFT, who deserves a "well done" for designing and making the fresh flower arrangements for the room and tables. Shirley and Nancy, both of Hallettsville, tirelessly cut and arranged all the arrangements the evening before the event. The fresh flower arrangements in vases provided by Diane Wilson were then given as door prizes to lucky ticket holders. ◆Woody Smith and Sidney Kacir for their advice and guidance. ◆Rev. Dr. Mark Labaj for providing warm and meaningful words in his Invocation for the occasion. ◆Willard Dyer of Round Rock and Ralph Milek of Holland for entertaining guests throughout the day with their accordion talents. They provided music for the popular sing-a-long and the Czech National Anthem. ◆Dr. Hudson Lanier of Austin who performed classical guitar music during the event. He accompanied Christiana Gentry as she sang the National Anthem, and he also performed a beautiful solo on the acoustic guitar. ◆sponsors Aaron Wernet, Donna Sexton, Priscilla Allred, and four members of the West High School Junior Historians who graced the event dressed in their lovely costumes, danced to the accordion music provided by Willard and Ralph, mingled with guests, and assisted with the luncheon line.

On behalf of all members of CEFT, heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Diane Sulak Wilson for her tireless efforts in planning and organizing CEFT’s 60th Anniversary Event!
The Czech Educational Foundation of Texas Newsletter

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Promoting the study of Czech language and culture in Texas institutions of higher learning through a variety of funded programs since 1954.

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The 2014 CEFT Board of Directors

The May 3, 2014 CEFT Board meeting was held at the Wharton County Historical Museum in Wharton, Texas. Secretary Paul Hlavinka and wife Kimberly graciously hosted a luncheon for the Directors of the CEFT at their home in Wharton after the meeting.

Left to right: Paul Hlavinka, Margaret Klecka, Tony Pustejovsky, Cindy Pustejovsky Belknap, Joe Liles, Diane Sulak Wilson, Mark Labaj, Sidney Kacir, Marvin Marek, Jan Vaculik, Woody Smith, Clint Machann, Clarice Snokhous, James Sassin, Ben Trcalek, Jr.

Not pictured: Jim Bezdek, David Chroust, Jean Blaha Davis, Amy Jurica Hinnant, Frank Horak, Daniel Hrna, Joan Johnson, Roger Kolar, Ray Lenart, Brian Vanicek.

The Czech Educational Foundation of Texas
2015 CEFT Membership/Memorial Contribution Form

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<th>__ $25 Individual (year)</th>
<th>__ $35 Individual with Spouse (year)</th>
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Name: ________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
City: ________________________ ST: __________ Zip: __________
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Other Memorial/Donation: $________
Please make my gift in (___) Memory (___) Honor of: ________________________
Send Acknowledgment to:
Address: ________________________ ST: __________ Zip: __________

City: ________________________
Phone: ________________________ Email: ____________________________

Total Amount Enclosed: $________

We do not sell or share our membership list. CEFT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit exempt organization.

The Czech Educational Foundation of Texas
2015 CEFT Membership/Memorial Contribution Form

Please return this form with your dues/donations to:
CEFT
c/o Anton Pustejovsky
P.O. Box 4136
Sargent, TX 77404

Total Amount Enclosed: $________

We do not sell or share our membership list. CEFT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit exempt organization.
CEFT 2015 Annual Members Meeting

The annual general membership meeting of the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2015 on the University of Texas Campus in the Julius Glickman Center located on the first floor of the College of Liberal Arts Building near 23rd Street and San Jacinto Circle Austin, Texas

The meeting will begin at 10:30 AM. Refreshments will be provided before the meeting.

The meeting will include the election of open director positions for 2015, the presentation of this year’s Founding Father’s Award, and a piano recital by renowned pianist Richard Urbis who performed at the celebration of the establishment of the CEFT William J. Hlavinka Fellowship at Texas A&M in 1999.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of CEFT will take place in the same location immediately following the Members Meeting.