



Udruženje građana češkog porijekla
Spolek občanů českého původu

česká beseda

Sarajevo

BULLETIN No. 2/2008

for the period from 1 July 2008 to 31 December 2008

Dear members!

In the second half of 2008 the Association proceeded with its activities. Ms. Leona Sabolek regularly informs us about them. However, it is important to add the following:

The web page of the Association is regularly updated and the statistics presented at the end of this Bulletin show an increased number of visits to our web site. More and more frequently we receive e-mail messages from the visitors to our site who want to learn more about the activities of the Association, or about their Czech origin, etc., but the most interesting thing is that those interested in becoming members of our Association also contact us.

At the beginning of July we hosted students of economics from Prague. On behalf of Česka beseda Sarajevo, Ms. Ljuba Ristić familiarized them with the work of our Association. She also organized for our guests the sightseeing tour of the old part of the town, along with obligatory "čevapčići" (grilled minced-meat fingers), "boza" (drink made from millet) and coffee. In the evening they attended an open-stage performance near Vijećnica, which took place within the cultural program of the festival "Bašćaršijske noći". It is important to note that the participants in this festival were DUO Brikcius, Anna and František Brikcius from the Czech Republic. They held their concert for cello in the Bosniak Institute too. Their participation in the festival was organized by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sarajevo Art.

The most important activity in the second half of 2008 was certainly the visit to Prague by several members of our Association. On that occasion the members of Česka beseda Sarajevo were received

by Mr. Vladimír Eisenbruk from the Department for Fellow Countrymen of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. In Čermin Palace our host was Mr. Vladimír Chaloupka, whom we know from the period of his service in the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thanking to him and to his colleague, Mr. Štěpán Gilar, we visited the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. During our stay in Prague, we also visited the Home of National Minorities which was opened in June 2007 and on that occasion we made contact with Ms. Branka Kubešová, president of the St. Sava Association. We took that opportunity to hand over to our hosts a reprint of the "Czech Folk Songs" edited by Česka beseda Sarajevo.

Apart from the above, we have also started the project of cooperation with other similar associations in Sarajevo as well as with the local authorities. The Association of the Hungarians "HUM" and the Association of the Poles "Polsa" have already confirmed their interest in this form of cooperation. This project is being realized with the expert assistance of Ana Mrdović, engineer of horticulture, with whom we had already had a successful cooperation. We hope that the realization of this project will be completed in spring 2009, but it depends in many aspects on the local authorities and their response to the cooperation.

Significant activities have also been undertaken to open a library of our Association. Therefore we inform our members that we shall organize collecting of books in the Czech language at the beginning of 2009.

We presented to the City authorities the information on all our activities in 2008 and submitted to them the Plan of our activities for 2009.

On 7 October 2008 a promotion was held at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo on the occasion of commencement of work of the FIRST CZECH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORSHIP at the Department for the Slavic languages of the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo. This opens the opportunity to various groups such as students of the Sarajevo University as well as all those who are interested in business and other contacts in the Czech Republic, to study with the instructor Karla Koutkova the Czech language and culture at a high academic level. The study subject named the Czech language and culture is conceived as an optional course within the curriculum of the faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo. On that occasion Mr. Jiří Kuděla, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo, Mr. Srebren Dizdar, addressed those present.

In September 2008, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the Museum of Sarajevo and the Museum of Jews in Prague designed a show "Children's Drawings from the Ghetto in Terezín". By the end of the year this exhibition named "Children's story" was shown in Zenica, Mostar and Cazin.

Česka beseda takes this opportunity to thank the radio station "RADIO M" for their support in our work, as well as for their invitation to participate in their program, which we intend to realize at the beginning of 2009. It will be the opportunity for our Association to present itself to the broad public.

Yours Jovanka Manžalović-Šalaka

TV Bingo Show

Members of the Association of citizens of the Czech origin Česka beseda Sarajevo and the Hungarian Association of citizens / Magyar polgár egyesülete "HUM" were the guests in the studio of the Federal Television on 12 September 2008 at the public draw of the 30th round of the TV Bingo Show of the Lottery of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Association "HUM" was represented by the president Irma Muratović, while "Beseda" was represented by its Vice-president Tomislav Krzyk. We were very lucky at the draw as the member of

our Association Tomislav Likić drew the maximum prize amounting to 10,000 KM, which was equally divided between the two Associations. A popular singer Elvir Laković Laka and his sister Mirela, accompanied by two excellent dancers, participated in the program. It was a nice experience and well spent time together at the dinner. Some members were the lucky winners of 100 KM of the Lottery of BiH, and Česka beseda presented each member with a bingo ticket.

Celebration of St. Václav's Day

This year the Day of St. Václav was marked by Česka beseda in a somewhat different way than in previous years. On that day a one-day trip was organized to Kraljeva Sutjeska and Bobovac. In spite of rainy and cold weather, it was a memorable and very instructive visit to significant places of Bosnian-Herzegovinian history, concluded by a pleasant dinner in Vareš.

Christmas party

On 19 December 2008 the traditional Christmas party was held for the members of Česka beseda Sarajevo in the Franciscan Monastery of St. Anthony at Bistrič. The party was opened by a speech delivered by the President of the Association, Jovanka Manžalović-Šalaka. Then the Vice-president, Tomislav Krzyk, "guided" the present members through Prague by giving competent and interesting explanations of the slides made by Josip Mikolašek during their recent visit to this beautiful, ancient city. Ms. Consul Jana Stará thanked Česka beseda for its support to her cultural program and invited all members of the Association to attend the cultural events organized by the Czech Embassy in Sarajevo, marking the presiding of the Czech Republic over the European Union. She wished all the best to the members on the occasion of the Christmas holidays and New Year. Then a pleasant party followed, with raffle and appropriate music. We shared these warm, friendly moments with always dear guests, members of the Association of Hungarians "HUM" from Sarajevo.

Statehood Day

Marking the Statehood Day, the Embassy of the Czech Republic and the Embassy of the Slovak Republic gave a ceremonious reception in the National Museum of BiH in Sarajevo. Besides numerous eminent guests from political, cultural

and public life, the members of Česka beseda Sarajevo also attended the celebration.

Square of Karlo Paržik

As of 19 November 2008 the square in front of St. Josip's church at Marindvor bears the name of great Czech architect, Karlo Paržik. Thanking to the joint efforts of the Embassy of the Czech Republic, the Government of the Sarajevo Canton, Municipality "Centar" and the City of Sarajevo, due tribute to the man who built Sarajevo for almost 60 years has been paid. The plaque with his name was unveiled by his granddaughter Silvija Paržik and the mayoress of Sarajevo Semiha Borovac. Sarajevo is identifiable in the world by Paržik's buildings and now this Czech by birth and Sarajevan by choice has his square in the central part of the city he loved so much.

Fourth week of the Czech film

This year's, fourth in succession, week of the Czech film was dedicated to the opus of great director Jiří Menzel. It was opened on 20 November 2008 in the UNITIC cinema by showing a short movie "Our Mr. Foerster died" and the movie "Closely Watched Trains" which was awarded the Academy Award in 1968 for Best Foreign Language Film.

On that occasion the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to BiH, Mr. Jiří Kuděla, read a short passage from the Memoirs of this director, speaking about the ceremony of the Academy Award, seen by the eyes of the author. The whole text will be published in the Almanac for 2008. The following movies could be seen by 26 November: "Capricious Summer", "Larks on a String", "Seclusion Near a Forest", "Cutting It Short", "My Sweet Little Village", "One Moment" and "I Served the King of England". These movies made the Czech director famous all over the world.

IN MEMORIAM

Ninoslav Matijević, passed away on 23 July 2008

Jsef Otto – Joška, passed away on 11 August 2008 in Hungary – Abaliget

Sofija Bađura, passed away on 23 November 2008

Council of national minorities of BiH

The Council proceeded with its work according to the agreed schedule. Two sessions were held on which the financing of the Council for 2008/2009 and the Program of work for 2009 were discussed. It was concluded that the Council should be provided technical assistance for its work, which is the responsibility of the Joint Commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. The representative of the Montenegrin national minority attended the fourth session as a guest. The confirmation of membership of this minority in the Council is in procedure. The preparatory activities for the Round table on the minorities in BiH which should take place in February 2009 were agreed upon. The members of the Council are obliged to prepare a short account of the status of the ethnic minority they come from.

The members of the Council attended the Workshop on human rights organized by the OSCE. One of the topics of the Workshop was elaboration of the methodology of cooperation between the Council and the associations of national minorities in BiH.

In September 2008 the Law on protection of rights of members of ethnic minorities in the Federation of BiH was adopted. Pursuant to the Law the Federation Ministry of Justice invited through a Public invitation the representatives of the associations of national minorities to an inaugural conference of the Council of national minorities of the Federation of BiH, which took place on 15 December 2008 in the Hall of Justice of the Federation of BiH in Sarajevo.

Česka beseda Sarajevo delegated the Vice-president of the Association, Mr. Tomislav Krzyk, to represent it at this inaugural conference.

Member of the Council Jovanka Manžalović-Šalaka

