



Udruženje građana češkog porijekla
Spolek občanů českého původu

česká beseda

Sarajevo

BULLETIN No. 2/2009

for the period from 1 July 2009 to 31 December 2009

Dear members!

We single out the following events that took place in the past period:

On 22 September 2009 we bid farewell to the Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Jiří Kuděla, who was then preparing to assume new office. In a cordial conversation on that occasion Mr. Kuděla thanked our association for successful cooperation in the past four-year period and expressed his wish that this cooperation be continued in the next period. On behalf of the members of Česka beseda Sarajevo, Jovanka Manžalović Šalaka and Tomislav Krzyk handed over to His Excellency an appropriate present - digitalized edition of "The Chronicle" by Ludvik Jaroš, a Czech teacher in Sarajevo, dating back to 1934. Digitalization of this valuable cultural heritage is an exceptionally important project of our association and we hope that it will find its place in the "Czech Corner", thus enabling the local community and those interested in the "Czech minority" in this territory to familiarize themselves with the available material which present the life of the Czech community in Sarajevo at the beginning of the 20th century.

The jubilean 5th Week of the Czech Film in 2009 was ceremoniously opened by the new Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Tomáš Szunyog in the UNITIC cinema on 19 November at 19:00 hrs, by showing the movie "The village teacher". In the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina the Week of the Czech Film lasted by 24 November, after which the showings took place in Mostar, in the Youth Cultural Center "Abrašević" from 30 November to 5 December and in Banja Luka, in the Youth Home from 7 to 12 December. Admission was free to the showings in Mostar and Banja Luka. There

were presented six latest achievements of modern Czech film industry, most of which were awarded major film awards both in the Czech Republic and Europe during 2008. The film "The village teacher", directed by Bohdan Slama (2008, 117 min.), was awarded two Czech "Lions" for the best screenplay and for the best woman's leading role acting (Zuzana Bydžovska), as well as the awards at the Stockholm Film Festival and Cottbus Film Festival. The movies were translated into the Bosnian and English languages. The sponsors of this year's Week of the Czech Film were Geotest, PRO.MED, Kasumex and Damir Kasum.

On 16 December 2009 a joint meeting of the following associations: "Česka beseda" Sarajevo, "Hum", "Polsa", Slovenian Cultural Association "Cankar" and Association of citizens of Italian origin took place in the premises of the SCA "Cankar". This meeting resulted in an initiative addressed to the Head of the Novo Sarajevo Municipality, Mr. Nedžad Koldžo, on giving the name "The Park of National Minorities", which is actually a continuation of the already existing cooperation of above associations and local authorities. On that occasion the representatives of these associations were given the DVD showing the planting of Serbian spruces opposite the "Bristol" hotel that took place in April this year.

Jovanka Manžalović Šalaka

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

On 21.12.2009 „Česka beseda“ Sarajevo organized a traditional Christmas party in the premises of the Monastery of St. Anthony at Bistrik, which was honoured by the presence of the Czech Republic Ambassador Mr. Tomáš Szunyog, Consul Ms. Jana Stara and Guardian Fra Petar Perica Vidić. The introductory words and good wishes for the Christmas and New Year were followed by

appropriate Czech and other songs with music accompaniment of Sonja and Ivan Milošević. A raffle was also organized during this pleasant evening.

Leona Sabolek

Christmas party at the residency of Ambassador Tomáš Szunyog

On 17.12.2009, the Czech Republic Ambassador **Tomaš Szunyog**, together with Consul **Jana Stara**, hosted the members of Česka beseda Sarajevo, members of Česka besedas from the Republika Srpska, members of the Association of the Bosnian-Czech friendship “Snješka” and Professor Dušek from Tuzla, in the premises of his residency.

In his welcoming address the Ambassador said:

“I have the privilege to welcome among us one of our most highly esteemed compatriots, Mr. Professor **Častimir Dušek** who was awarded this year the prize *Gratias agit* by the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his remarkable contribution to enhancing the reputation of the Czech Republic abroad. Let me, Mr. Dušek, thank you on my behalf for your efforts by which you have been contributing all your life not only to enhancing the Czech tradition, but by which you have also confirmed the high opinion of outstanding capabilities of the Czech musicians. At the same time, on this occasion I would hand over to you the CD containing the photographs from this year’s awarding ceremony of *Gratias agit*.”

The Ambassador emphasized that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and he personally attach great importance to associations of compatriots and at the same time invited them to search for ways of preserving the tradition and the Czech language with the assistance of the Czech Republic and to join forces to that effect. The European Union, to which Bosnia and Herzegovina is striving, is a proof that much more can be achieved by joined efforts.

The present guests gathered around a decorated Christmas tree, listened to and sang the Czech and other songs together with the ensemble from Banja Luka and enjoyed the Czech meals and drinks. They also tasted the Czech Christmas cake *vanočka* which Professor Dušek brought from Tuzla. The “*vanočka*” is a traditional delicacy of his family – his Czech ancestors who moved to Tuzla were famous pastry-shop owners.

The Ambassador gave presents to the members of the associations. He also got presents from compatriots – from Česka beseda Sarajevo he got a digitalized edition of the chronicle of the Czech teacher Jaroš, and a painting from the guests from the RS.

Jadranka Šuster

Ceremonious celebration of the Statehood Day of the Czech Republic

The Statehood Day of the Czech Republic was ceremoniously marked on 28 October 2009 by a reception in the Sarajevo Beer Hall. Many of the members of “Česka beseda” responded to the invitation extended by the new Czech Ambassador Tomáš Sunyog. This year, Mr. Sunyog addressed those present in the English language and promised to learn the language of the host country by the next year. The addressing speech was followed by a pleasant party. “Česka beseda” expressed its respect to the Czech Embassy by an appropriate floral arrangement.

Leona Sabolek

Evening of the Czech song in Prnjavor

17 On 17 October an “**Evening of the Czech song**” was held in the Cultural centre in Prnjavor, organized by Česka beseda from Mačino Brdo. On that occasion, at the invitation of Emil Boček – President of Česka beseda Mačino Brdo, members of Česka beseda Sarajevo paid a two-day visit to Prnjavor and Mačino brdo and took an active part in this event, so important for ČESKA BESEDAS. Zvezdana and Ivan Stuchly sang a well known song “Kristinka” and “Ten mi uzel kamarad”, thus representing the Sarajevo Beseda. Their performance was warmly greeted by a long applause of more than hundred present citizens of Czech origin from Prijedor, Slavonski Brod, Kaptol-Požega, Nova Ves, Banja Luka and Mačino Brdo. The participants in this event sang also “Pisnička Česka”, the song which was accepted, at the proposal of the organizers, as the anthem of Česka besedas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We used our pleasant visit to Prnjavor to hand over to our kind host a digital edition of the “Chronicle” by the Czech teacher Ludvig Jaroš, that was made in 1934, in token of gratitude for preserving the archive of the former Česka beseda Sarajevo.

Jovanka Manžalović Šalaka

Celebration of St. Vaclav's Day

“Česka beseda” Sarajevo celebrated St. Vaclav's Day on 27 September 2009 in the Franciscan Monastery of St. Anthony at Bistrik. At the beginning, Tomislav Krzyk informed us about his study visit to Dobruška. His report was exceptionally interesting and accompanied by original slides. Two more reports on his stay in the Czech Republic will follow. The rest of the evening passed in socializing with snacks served.

Leona Sabolek

Where is and what is Dobruška?

Dobruška is a small town 130 km away from Prague in the direction of the Orlicke Mountains. What is it that makes Dobruška well known? It accommodates the Study Center of the Charles University in Prague. There the Czech language courses take place for foreigners who are preparing themselves for studies at high schools in the Czech Republic, as well as for the citizens from all over the world who are of the Czech origin. Within a course, the students are taught the Czech language, geography and history, and some topics from the Czech culture are covered as well as.

This year the 19th course was held in which 78 students took part from 37 countries, from Brasil (Adelia Maria Hillerbrand) to China (Hu Xiaoclan) as well as from Scotland (Archie Liddell) to the Republic of South Africa (Martin Charvat). The students were split into six classes. The age ranged from 13 to 92 years of age!

The course lasted from 31 July to 28 August 2009.

On working days the daily activity consisted of lectures lasting from 8:05 to 12:15 every day, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays also from 15:00 to 17:00 hrs. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, in the afternoon hours we toured around the city learning about its features of interest. On Saturdays and Sundays all day trips were organized to Orlicke hory (the Orlicke Mountains) as well as to the towns of Rychnov nad Knežnou, Podbrezi, Červení Kostelec, Nachod and a visit to the defense line towards Germany from 1938.

What is the history of Dobruška like?

In 1991 the first Czech language courses were established in this picturesque Czech town for the refugees from Černobil who wanted to stay in the Czech Republic after the well known catastrophe. In 1994 the number of courses

was increased for the interested course takers of the Czech origin from abroad, so as early as in 1996 first students from Argentina, Chile and Canada arrived, totally 30 scholars. By 2008 more than 700 course takers from 60 countries from all continents attended the courses. Every year approximately 120 candidates apply and their selection is made according to the defined criteria by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Department for “krajani”, i.e. the Czechs living abroad.

The beginning of the town of Dobruška dates back to the Middle Ages. The first written document is from 1320 by which the citizens of Dobruška are allowed to brew beer. It can be seen from the document that the town was surrounded by a wall and that it had a coat of arms of the urban character. Otherwise, few documents about the town have been preserved because the town was destroyed by fire on several occasions. However, Dobruška flourished from the end of the 15th to the beginning of the 17th century.

But, the Thirty Years' War between the Protestants and Catholics stopped the flourishing of the town. After the fire in 1565, a town in the Renaissance style developed in which the Town Administration building dominated. It is nowadays the Town Museum. In spring 1628 a re-catholicization of the population began, but a secret evangelization persisted in Dobruška throughout the period of Counter-Reformation. Dobruška was one of the centers of culture in the area below the Orlicke Mountains. As of 1918 the manufacturing and cultural activity developed which was halted by the German occupation in 1939.

Today Dobruška has approximately 7000 inhabitants.

The Study Center in Dobruška is a microcosm in which its course takers live for a month as a harmonious family, during which period nobody demonstrates his superiority nor imposes his ideology or shows intolerance towards people of different race or different views.

Professor Alena Obstova wrote to me in her letter dated 23 November 2009: “ I remember very often our course of this year, mostly when passing by the school. The parking lot and the yard became silent, your laughter is not heard anywhere, nobody is hurrying anywhere, nobody is learning on a bench in the park... it is silent and quiet everywhere, as if there were never here so many students from various countries.” Here is another interesting detail related to this professor. Namely, since the time of departure to a trip and the time of return from a trip were always precisely fixed, professor Obstova would always, in case of someone being late, point her arm towards Dobruška and say: “If someone is late, DOBRUŠKA IS THERE!”

Tomislav Krzyk

IN MEMORIAM

Jaroslav Stehlik, passed away in Prague on 7 December 2009.

**Plan of activities for the period
from 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2010**

1. Bulletin No. 1/2010;
2. Working get-together;
3. Documentary movie on “Small puppet theatre” – film shooting;
4. Gathering of archival material for the monograph “The Czechs in Sarajevo”;
5. Opening of the “Czech Corner” – library of the Association;
6. Joint trip of the members of the Association.

Important note: Any assistance in realization of the above mentioned activities by all interested members of the Association is most welcome.

**This issue of the BULLTIN is accompanied by:
Picture postcards of Prague**

Sarajevo, 1 January 2010

Management Board of Česka beseda Sarajevo

Summary statistics of visits to the WEB site www.ceskabesedasa.ba

July – December 2009

Summary by months

Month	Daily Avg				Monthly totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Dec 2009	337	264	49	9	295	136108	296	1541	8186	10464
Nov 2009	288	230	35	9	350	94741	296	1077	6928	8655
Oct 2009	315	255	30	9	344	75121	299	940	7933	9791
Sep 2009	205	178	15	8	247	54908	254	466	5357	6166
Aug 2009	139	113	15	6	158	44509	209	468	3511	4319
Jul 2009	155	129	24	10	201	81026	317	745	4007	4805
Totals					486413		1671	5237	35922	44200

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