



Udruženje građana češkog porijekla
Spolek občanů českého původu

česká beseda

Sarajevo

INFORMATOR No. 2/2011
from 1 July to 31 December 2011

Dear Members!

Václav Havel

5 October 1936 Prague – 18 December 2011 Hrádeček



*spisovatel a dramatik,
jeden z prvních mluvčích Charty 77,
vůdčí osobnost politických změn v listopadu 1989,
poslední prezident Československa
a první prezident České republiky...*

Annex to INFORMATOR No. 1/2012 will be dedicated to VACLAV HAVEL.

On 28 September 2011 on the St. Vaclav's Day, Česka Beseda Sarajevo marked the 15th anniversary of its Renewal Assembly.

More information in ANNEX.

The cooperation with Česka Beseda from Mačino Brdo has been established recently. Specifically, we responded to their invitation and visited them during the Second Festival of Ethnic Minorities of Prnjavor Municipality *Mala Evropa /Little Europe/*, held on 2 July 2011 in the famous resort BORIK. The festival began with a parade of participants wearing national costumes through the center of Prnjavor and continued

with cultural and artistic program in Borik and the presentation of *national cuisines* and live music. Ljiljana Nevrt and Jovanka Manžalović Šalaka took part in the event on behalf of Česka Beseda Sarajevo.

Members of Česka Beseda responded to invitations to the events organized by minority associations *HUM*, *SKD Cankar*, *POLSA* and Association of Italian Nationals, all from Sarajevo.

Irma Muratović – from HUM provided the text.

The Hungarian national holiday- the revolution against Soviet domination in October 1956 was the motive for

showing of the film titled *'Freedom and Love'*, which we organized in October for students in the Nedžarići Campus. The film addresses the subject and in this manner we informed our students about those historical events. At the same time from 14 to 16 October 2011 we took an opportunity to show our guests, the representatives of the Association of Hungarians from Carpathian region, how our little national community worked.

Our friends Hungarians from Czechia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia and Vojvodina, together with our association, make an international organization titled "Civil Academy" which, among other things, organizes a meeting in one of the countries where their members live and work once a year. We were the hosts this year and the plan is to go to Brno-Czechia next year." Out Vice-president for Culture, Leona Sabolek attended the event.

SKD CANKAR – Martinovanje (St. Martin's Day) (taken from the site)

On 12 November 2011 we organized a traditional *Martinovanje* party in the Grand Hotel. We were preparing for a long time for the event because we wanted to invite as many our members and their guest as possible. At 17:00 hours the audience started coming to the hall, and musicians were preparing their instruments, and the hotel staff stepped up bringing refreshments to tables. A musical group performed first and this was followed by welcome speeches by the Vice president of our association, a representative of the Embassy and interesting description of *Martinovanje* party by a sommelier Barbara. After dinner the musicians started playing music and a cheerful atmosphere, dancing and singing lasted until midnight. The participants in the events made a mixed bunch of people: almost all Slovenian Army contingent from Butmir, members of Association for Development of Voluntary Work from Novo Mesto, members of Slovenian associations from Breza, Banja Luka, Kakanj and Vitez, representatives of Slovenian Embassy to BiH, members of our association and their friends, and tourists from Primorska who made a trip to Sarajevobly chance. It was perhaps a good wine that made the get-together so joyful and pleasant. After all, *Martinovanje* takes place only once a year.

Dušica and Želimir Trkulja and Jovanka Manzalović Šalaka took part in this lovely gathering on behalf of Česke Beseda Sarajevo.

POLSA – Association of Polish Citizens Sarajevo

On 13 November 2011, a gala concert marked the Independence Day of the Republic of Poland organized by POLSA in the concert hall of the Franciscan Student Center in Grbavica. Many guests and members of Association, attended the concert including the Polish and American Ambassadors to BiH, Jerzy Chmielewski and Patrick Moon. A string quartet MUSICA VIVA took part in the program together with a solo performer

at the piano playing Chopin. Jovanka Manzalović Šalaka was a guest on behalf of Česka Beseda Sarajevo.

Association of Citizens of Italian Origin Sarajevo

On 7 December 2011 we responded to the invitation of the Association of Citizens of Italian Origin and attended their annual Assembly. We concluded that we shared the same problems, such as lack of office premises and funding. The Assembly was also attended by Daniele Onori, Head of the Department of Culture of the Italian Embassy to BiH, and as guests Tihomir Knežiček and Željko Mot from the Tuzla Association. In a pleasant company over drinks they exchanged best wishes for coming Christmas and New Year holidays.

Jovanka Manzalović Šalaka

Celebration of Czech Republic National Day – 28 October

Embassy of the Czech Republic celebrated the National Day on 24 October 2011 together with the Embassies of Slovakia and Poland. At the formal reception in Sarajevo Pivnica, also among the guests were members of Česka Beseda who responded to the invitation of the Ambassador Tomáš Szunyog. The Consul Jana Stará also enjoyed their pleasant company.

Leona Sabolek

National Day of BiH – 25 November

Česká Beseda Sarajevo was invited to the formal reception marking the BiH National Day this year too, which was organized under auspices of the President of the Presidency, Željko Komšić, and a Member of the Presidency, Bakir Izetbegović, in the Presidency building. In the absence of the President Jovanka Manzalović Šalaka, the Vice-president Leona Sabolek congratulated on the celebration of 24 November to the members of the State Presidency wishing them to celebrate the next national day in better ambiance with the government which could offer all people in Bosnia and Herzegovina better prospects.

Leona Sabolek

Christmas Party

On 14 December 2011 a traditional Christmas party of Česka Beseda Sarajevo took place at the St. Anthony's Franciscan Monastery in Bistrik. The party was opened by the President Jovanka Manzalović Šalaka, dressed in a national costume from the place of Šlapanic, ten kilometers from Brno. In 1993 the Czech national costume was originally made by Zdeňka Drlíková who gave it as a gift to Česka Beseda with assistance of the Brno Ethnographic Institute. Ivan Milošević made the party even more pleasant by playing the most recent songs on his *tamburica* and violin. Same as before, the

raffle was the major part of the event. The following guests enjoyed the pleasant atmosphere with a snack and appropriate music with the Česka Beseda members: Sanja Bogdanović from the *Cankar* Slovenian Cultural Society, Bruno Palestra from the Association of Italian Citizens, Vasilija Ibrahimagić from the Association of Macedonian Citizens, as well as the members of the Association of the Bosnian and Czech Friendship *Snješka*.

Leona Sabolek

Presentation of the Book *Dark Pits of the Alley*

On 31 October 2011 the book of poems *Dark Pits of the Alley* by a Czech poet Jan Skácel, translated by Hasan Zahirović was presented in the Little Gallery of the St. Anthony's Franciscan Monastery in Bistrik. The first poetry book by a Czech author translated into Bosnian was presented by the Embassy of Czech Republic in cooperation with a publisher *Dobra Knjiga* and *Česka Beseda* in Sarajevo. The presentation was attended by Ambassador Tomáš Szunyog, Director of *Dobra Knjiga* Izedin Šikalo, Editor Mirzet Hamzić, poet Hadžem Hajdarević, Czech language editor Milan Orálek, theater actors Dženita Imamović, Robert Krajinović, Dino Salihagić and translator Hasan Zahirović. The audience enjoyed an inspired translation and beautiful original verses of the great Czech poet Jan Skácel. Jadranka Šuster

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS'A RECEPTION AT THE RESIDENCE – 19 DEC 2011.

On 19 December 2011 – Ambassador of the Czech Republic to BiH Tomáš Szunyog organized a Christmas and New Year's reception for BiH citizens of Czech origin and members of the Association of Czech-Bosnian Friendship. The former President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Havel was paid respect with a minute of silence, and the Ambassador spoke about a significant role Havel played in Czekia and various types of assistance the Czech Republic offered to its compatriots across the world. Then the guests put on a musical performance. Representatives of Česka Beseda from Republika Srpska played and sang Czech and Bosnian songs, and young Ivan Milošević from the Sarajevo Beseda played two Christmas songs and Dvorak's *Humoresque* on his violin and tamburica. On this occasion the President of Česka Beseda, Sarajevo Jovanka Manžalović Šalaka wore a handmade Moravian national costume from the Brno area, a gift from Czech ethnologists. Ambassador and presidents of associations exchanged gifts. A Tuzlan Čestmir Dušek, professor and musician, a laureate of the 2009 *Gratias agit* Czech award for spreading the good word about Czech Republic, brought to the reception *babovka* a traditional Czech cake which he had prepared and baked himself following the recipe of his parents, famous Tuzlan pastry-cooks. Jadranka Šuster

Address by His Excellency Tomáš Szunyog to his compatriots:

Honorable and dear presidents of Czech associations, honorable and dear compatriots, allow me to kindly ask you to pay respect with a minute of silence to our former President Václav Havel, who passed away yesterday at the age of 75. Václav Havel was a man who gave back dignity to the Czech people, a man who gave a great contribution to the liberation of our country in 1989. Thank you.

Having arrived to Bosnia and Herzegovina, I wished our Christmas get-togethers became traditional. I am glad that you have responded to my invitation this year, and that we may well remember our Czech Christmas tradition and speak about what the last year brought to us and what to expect in the next in peaceful and festive atmosphere. I am pleased that this year too, thanking to the choir of the Banja Luka Česka Beseda and a young member of the Sarajevo our meeting will be accompanied with Czech and Bosnia and Herzegovina songs.

I am pleased to announce that, in spite of negative consequences of the economic crises, the Czech Republic shall maintain its program of support to the Czech cultural heritage abroad at the same level. Last year the Czech Government decided to allocate around 2 million EUR yearly from 2011 to 2015 to various programs for its compatriots. The total of EUR 660.000 is committed to the cultural projects you know very well, and the projects of renovation of buildings used by our compatriots, as well as around EUR 1.500.000 to several programs of support to the Czech language, including, for example, the Czech language course in Dobruška, scholarships for semester studies of compatriots at Czech faculties, Czech language course for teachers, Czech language instructorships, provision of educational and methodological material, etc. According to the latest information 2 million Czechs live abroad. Some of them are organized in 212 associations of compatriots who are active worldwide supporting the Czech cultural heritage and preserving Czech tradition and customs, participating in the mentioned programs.

At the invitation of Česka Beseda in Banja Luka I recently attended the Christmas and New Year's party there and I can proudly say that the performances of participating Česka Besedas filled me with admiration and on that occasion I assured myself that our support program is justified and that it makes sense.

As an expression of my gratitude for your work in the last year, I wish to give a small Christmas gift to presidents of Associations. In conclusion I wish all members of compatriot associations that the next year be full of peace, health, successful work and happy moments. Thank you for your attention, Merry Christmas and Happy New year!

Tomáš Szunyog

