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Chicago Czech Community- Its History and Recent
State

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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracovala samostatně a použila jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

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Poděkování

Na tomto místě bych ráda poděkovala vedoucí mé bakalářské práce, Ing. Radaně Šaškové, za metodické vedení práce, cenné odborné rady a připomínky.

CONTENT OF THE THESIS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.	CHICAGO (ILLINOIS).....	3
2.1.	Information and facts.....	3
2.2.	History.....	3
2.3.	Population.....	4
3.	HISTORY OF THE CZECH COMMUNITY IN CHICAGO.....	6
3.1.	First Czechs in Chicago.....	6
3.2.	Neighbourhood Praha.....	7
3.3.	Neighbourhood Pilsen.....	9
3.4.	Neighbourhood Czech California.....	11
4.	ANTONÍN ČERMÁK.....	14
4.1.	Early life.....	14
4.2.	Political life.....	15
4.3.	The first ethnic Mayor of Chicago.....	19
4.4.	Assassination.....	22
5.	T. G. MASARYK AND CHICAGO.....	23
6.	CICERO AND BERWYN.....	24
7.	CZECH COMMUNITY IN CHICAGO TODAY.....	26
7.1.	Czech restaurants and clubs.....	27
7.2.	Czech radio and television.....	29
7.3.	Celebrations and events.....	31
7.4.	Institutions	32

8.	CONCLUSION.....	35
9.	ENDNOTES.....	37
10.	ABSTRACT.....	42
11.	RESUMÉ.....	43
12.	REFERENCES.....	44
13.	APPENDICES.....	49
13.1.	Interviews.....	50
13.2.	Photos.....	54
13.3.	Prague 25th Anniversary City Council Resolution.....	61

1. INTRODUCTION

It is undisputable that the Czech community is a part of Chicago's history. Chicago was an attractive place where immigrants could find the assertion and live better lives. For those who immigrated because of a political reason during the 19th century, Chicago meant the freedom. Since 1850s, the influx of immigrants had risen and the Czech community soon became very significant. This is confirmed by the fact that until 1970s, the Chicago Czech community was considered after Prague as the most numerous and active. It is interesting that although the Bohemians left their homeland, they wanted to preserve the national identity. Through the history, the Chicago Czech community had been evolving in connection to the matters and happenings in Europe. It influenced the later development of the former Czechoslovakia, as well as later the Czech Republic indeed. In order to introduce the community to the reader, the author's main idea is to provide the depiction of the most important information related to the Chicago Czech community and to spread the awareness of the community in the general public.

The thesis is divided into three main parts. To introduce Chicago to the reader, in the first part, the author mentions the important facts about the location, history and population of Chicago. The second part is distinctive longer and it bears with the history of the Czech community in Chicago. All the important events and facts are organized chronologically. However, the parts related to Antonín Čermák and Tomáš Garigue Masaryk, two very important personalities connected with Chicago, are set apart for the better lucidity. The author personally thinks that Čermák is the most important Czech in the history of Chicago and therefore the author gives to him a significant attention. The author provides detailed-description of Čermák's early life, his political career up to his tragic death. While describing the history, there were mostly used the printed

sources, whereas for the depiction of the recent situation, the author worked especially with internet sources and also refers to the interviews she carried out. To be able to provide the reader with as much genuine depiction of the recent state of the Chicago Czech community as possible, the author travelled to Chicago for 10 days in September 2015. With the very kind help of the author's relative, Lucie Březinová, who has lived in Chicago for more than 10 years, the author explored the life of the recent Czech Americans in Chicago, carried out 3 interviews and took pictures which are provided in the appendices.

Through the text, the author will refer to the Czech immigrants (relating to the immigrants either from the former Czechoslovakia or from the Czech Republic) as *Czech Americans*. The reason is that, some of the Czech émigrés became American citizens and the expression immigrants could evoke by the reader negative attitude. To attribute the Czech Americans as an ethnic group, there will be often used terms such as *Bohemians* or *Czechs*. „Bohemian, strictly speaking, denotes those who live in or come from the area known as Čechy in Czech and Bohemia in English. The Czech lands-as a nation-state and historically as a territory of the Habsburg Empire- are comprised of the regions of Bohemia and Moravia (Morava), but the peoples of those regions have been known collectively as Bohemians in their diaspora.“ [1]

The evaluation and the closure can be found in the conclusion. The brief summary is provided in the abstract, the Czech version in the resumé.

2. CHICAGO (ILLINOIS)

2.1. Information and facts

Chicago, also called The Windy City or Chi-Town, is the largest city in the state Illinois and the third-biggest city in the United States of America. Its nickname, The Windy City, refers to the climate that is affected by the location of the city. Chicago is situated in the north-eastern Illinois at the influence of the Lake Michigan and the Chicago River. [2] The city Chicago is spread on the area of 227, 63 square miles (366,335 square km). In the 1st of July 2013, the amount of residents living in the city was estimated to 2,718,782, which makes Chicago the third most populous city of the United States (with 11,841.8 person per square meter), after New York (8,405,837) and Los Angeles (3,884,307). [3]

2.2. History

The name Chicago originates from French pronunciation of the Indian word for the wild leeks or the wild garlic that flourished by the Chicago River. As a first colonist to settle within the area of actual Chicago is considered to be Jean Baptiste Point du Sable who arrived in 1780. In the year 1795, the general Wayne's regiment defeated Indians and forced them to give up their large plentiful lands. In 1803, there was Fort Dearborn built for the army purposes. However, it was destroyed during the brutal Indian attack in 1812. In 1816, it was rebuilt again. In 1825, the Erie Canal was opened and it enabled the influx of colonists to Chicago. The city Chicago was founded in 1830 and officially incorporated in 1837. Back then, the population counted approximately 4,000 inhabitants. [4]

2.3. Population in Chicago

In this part, the author uses the term ,city of Chicago' (also named Chicago) and the metropolitan area of Chicago. The metropolitan area of Chicago is commonly called with its unofficial name Chicagoland. According to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the metropolitan area of Chicago is determined as the Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI Metropolitan Statistical Area, also called the Chicago Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA). This area embraces the inner region as well as part of southeast Wisconsin and northwest Indiana. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau in the 1st of July 2013, the CMSA counted 9,537,289 inhabitants. [5]

As stated, Chicago is the third largest and third most populous city in the United States of America. It is known as one of the most cosmopolitan city in the US, because it is home to great number of immigrants from all over the world. People living in Chicago are commonly named ,Chicagoans'. The most recent research (2010) shows that 45% of the population in Chicago is White (31.7% non-Hispanic White), 32.9% Black, 5.5 % Asian, 2.7% from two or more races and 0.5% American Indian. [6] According to the survey, released by the Illinois Coalition for immigrant and refugee rights (ICIRR), nearly every seventh resident of Illinois was born outside the US (1.74 million out of 12.9 million) It is estimated that 91.4 % of Illinois immigrants (1.59 million) live in the Chicago metropolitan area. The official source claims that in total there are 588,000 immigrants in the city of Chicago. However, it is only one-third of the whole number of immigrants in Illinois, in contrast to 49% in 1990. The reason of the decrease is the fact that more immigrants settle down directly in the suburbs and the rural area around the city of Chicago. [7]

A quotient of immigrants differs distinctively according to their origin. The most of them come from Latin America (56.2 %) and Asia (20.4%). From the European countries (in total 18.9%), the majority of immigrants comes from Poland (8.0%). There are 3.4% of African immigrants and 1.1% of immigrants from other countries living in the city of Chicago. [8]

The general statistics based on the origin of immigrants do not mention people with Czech nationality or Czech origin living in the metropolitan area of Chicago or in the city of Chicago. The reason could be that in contrast to immigrants of other origins, the amount of Czech immigrants is not that peculiar. Therefore it is actually difficult to find updated information about the recent statistics. As reported by the US 2000 Census, there is the second-biggest Czech community in Illinois counting 127,708 Czech Americans. The largest Czech community is in Texas (155,855), the third-biggest in Wisconsin (97,200) and the fourth-biggest in Minnesota (85,086). It is estimated that in the metropolitan area of Chicago live 113, 705 Czech Americans. [9] However the figures are not the most fundamental for the purpose of this thesis. The figures might appear high, however, in the part, where the author describes the nowadays situation of the Chicago Czech community, it will be mentioned, that the community declines. This opinion is based on the fact that the recent Czech Americans are spread, they do not live at one particular place and their enthusiasm for the Czech heritage is not that perceptible, comparing to the Czech community between years 1850s until 1960s. The author meant to focus peculiarly on people who consciously support the national heritage and to deal with the Czech community as an ethnic unit.

From now on, the thesis will focus on the Chicago Czech community, from the first evidence up to the recent situation.

3. HISTORY OF THE CZECH COMMUNITY IN CHICAGO

3.1. First Czechs in Chicago

It is historically disputable who was the very first Bohemian that immigrated to Chicago. First theory says that it was a Moravian physician, František Valenta, who arrived in Chicago in 1849. Other theory inclines to some working-class Bohemian, whose name is unknown. There are records supporting the assumption that the first ethnic Czech immigrant was Vojtěch Šklíba who arrived in Chicago in 1846. He was presumably working as a saddler in his own prosperous business on Michigan Avenue. [10]

The first wave of Czech émigrés moving to Chicago dates back to 1848, many of them settled down in the Midwest. Their reasons for immigration were mainly political. The betrayal and dissatisfaction during the Habsburk Empire led to that, the small group of Bohemians decided to move to the USA and start their lives from the dawn. [11] They came without families, generally, and in their adopted new homeland, they were strongly supporting civil values such as personal rights, freedom of speech as well as the national autonomy of their home of origin. It is confirmed by the fact that the one of the foundation stones of the Nation Theatre in Prague was sent to Prague from Chicago in 1869. The stone carries the motto ‚What blood unites, the sea will not sever‘ (‚Co krev pojí, moře nerozdvojí‘) which proves that the Czech Chicagoans stayed, even in despite of the distance that was dividing them, narrowly connected with their native country.

Vojtěch Náprstek, historically famous for his patriotism, was probably the most important of the immigrants who came with the first wave of immigration. He arrived to Chicagoland in 1848. He vanished his homeland, because he would be persecuted for participation in the demonstration against the Habsburg Empire in Prague in 1848. After the

monarchy proclaimed the amnesty for political exiles in 1857, he returned back to Prague and opened there the American culture museum. The museum is opened to this day and it contains large collection of artefacts, historical documents connected with the history of the United States and documents showing the Czech prints in its history. [12]

The first Czech pub was established by Jan Slavic in 1855 on Clark Street. It was located in the neighbourhood where most of the first Bohemians in Chicago settled down. In 1864, František Stejskal Jr., who in the mid-1850s when he was 13-year old immigrated to Chicago with his father, opened a first Czech bar in Chicago. Later on in 1892, along with Jan L. Novák, he found a bank in the new Czech community called Pilsen.

In 1863, there was assembled the very first catholic Czech church in Chicago, St. Wenceslaus (Svatý Václav). It was located at De Koven and Des Plaines streets. The last mass in this church was said on the 10th of July 1955. After that it was fused with Holy Guardian Angel community. Later in 1955, the church was wiped out due to the decreasing Czech population and the expressway that was supposed to lead through that area.

In 1861, there was a first local Czech organization in Chicago found by František Novák and located on Taylor Street. František Novák named it Slovanská Lípa (Slavonic linden tree), because the linden tree expresses one of the Czech national patterns. This organization was established for the purposes of meetings and social happenings of the Chicago Czech community. [13]

3.2. Neighbourhood PRAHA

The construction of the rail that led from New York to Chicago enabled the influx of the greater number of Bohemians directed to Chicagoland. These immigrants were mostly drawn to Chicago because

of its stockyards, docks and flourishing textile industry. Many Bohemians settled down in the area called the Sand(s), in Czech 'Písek' where there was a municipal cemetery. Later they moved to the downtown Chicago, because the cemetery was converted into a park (today's Lincoln Park). They established a Down district called Praha. Since then, Praha had been the largest Czech neighbourhood in Chicagoland. [14] In 1870, the Chicago Czech community counted already around 10 000 Czech Americans. [15]

The Bohemians in Chicago were abounded with national consciousness and enthusiasm, therefore the freethinkers wanted to express their voice. As a result, in 1875, the freethinkers established the first labour daily-newspaper, The Unity, in Czech called 'Svornost'. At that time, the newspaper was widely popular within the Czech community and its first offices were based in Praha. [16]

In 1875, there was found The National union of Sokols , in Czech 'Národní jednota Sokolská', which was the first Czech sport organization in Chicago. „Its major purpose was to develop physical fitness through gymnastics, and its organization was paramilitary, but it also fostered cultural development and served as a social and national unifying force, as well as a free-thought school .“ [17] Regular daily routines kept the Czech children active and disciplined. The leader of Sokol, Karel Štulík, went to Chicago from Bohemia to support and train the Sokol members. Besides that, he worked as an editor of the Svornost and a physician of the Chicago Czech community.

The other movement formed by Bohemians at that time was a choir, called The Freedom, in Czech 'Volnost'. The name should invoke the liberty that they found in their new homeland. [18]

After the Great Chicago fire in 1871, which started not far away from Praha, killed around 300 people and ruined a great part of the

central and northern city, approximately 100,000 people found themselves homeless. [19] This tragic incident had caused that the majority of Bohemians moved out. Praha had been since then inhabited by groups of new immigrants, such as European Jews, or later by Italians and Greeks. [20] The reason why Bohemians had to move was the fact, that according to the new fire code, they would have to rebuild their houses in brick and stone. Most of them could not afford that and therefore they decided to sell their homes and relocate to the southwest of the city to the new neighbourhood called Pilsen where they could build wood-frame houses. [21]

3.3. Neighbourhood Pilsen

The neighbourhood was named after the tavern 'Hostinec u města Plzně' (which in English means 'tavern by the town Pilsen') that was located at 103 Fisk Street (contemporary Carpenter Street and Nineteenth Place). It was found by Matěj Škuděra in the mid 1870s. Pilsen was not privileged by the Czech Americans. There were other ethnic groups, such as Slovaks, Germans, East European Jews, Slovenes and Lithuanians. It was known as the first Czech community in Chicago and from the 1860s to 1900 Pilsen was also the greatest community in the United States. The number of Czechs at that period was estimated from 75,000 up to 100,000 (first- or second-generation of Czech Americans). The records indicate that Pilsen was the third-largest Czech city in the world, outnumbered only by Prague and Vienna. [22]

Considering these facts, Chicago was sometimes called as 'Czechago', because there were more Czech residents than in any other city in the United States at that time.

On the corner of the Eighteen Street and Allport Avenue, there was the first Czech hall called Thalia Hall, built in the Romanesque style in 1873. The building was a very remarkable place for the Czech community

in Pilsen. In the Thalia Hall, there were based meeting rooms and offices of various Czech organisations. [23] The Thalia Hall also served the purpose of the theatre. It soon became a home stage of the professional acting group led by František Ludvík, called Ludvík Players. Due to their extraordinary performances and popularity during their tour of the United States, they decided to stay in Chicago. They were encouraging the local theatrical movement for over 30 years. The area around the Eighteen Street soon became a focal point of Pilsen.[24]

The first Czech Roman Catholic church in Pilsen was St. Procopius church that was organized in 1876. It should be mentioned that although at that time it was uncommon, the Czech population consisted mainly of freethinkers and secularists (up to 70%), the Catholic group counted 25% and there was only a small number of Czech Protestants. After they left their homelands, it was common that due to the oppressive Austrian regime, the Czechs changed their attitudes towards religion.

In the neighbourhood Pilsen, there was among others a park formerly called after the Czech poet as Svatopluk Čech Park. In 1893, after the famous composer Antonín Dvořák paid a visit to this neighbourhood, the park was named after him and became Antonín Dvořák Park. [25]

With the rising number of immigrants, the Czech press had to conform to the different philosophies and religions of the people in the former unified community. While the illiteracy rate of all immigrants was 24%, the Bohemians were considered as a highly literate group. In comparison, the illiteracy rate was only about 2%. The Czech Americans were known as hard-workers and they were not as poor as other immigrants. No wonder that between 1870s and early 20th century, there were available and affordable 4 daily Czech newspapers at once.[26] The newspapers such as the Daily Herald, in Czech 'Denní Hlasatel' (for a business and other 'neutral circle', first published in 1891); the National, in

Czech 'Národ' (conservative newspaper, published since 1894); the Fairness, in Czech 'Spravedlnost' (for the socialistic-oriented readers, first released in 1900) [27] and The Unity ,in Czech 'Svornost' (founded by the freethinkers in 1875), could take pride in over 50,000 readers.[28] In order to retain and foster the Czech heritage, there were Czech classes held every Saturday for the Czech kids. They were taught the Czech language as well as the Czech history and culture. [29]

Among Bohemians, there were a lot of butchers, carters and peddlers of wares, carpenters, tailors and smiths. The major of the first-generation-Czech immigrants were skilled workers. They lived on the physical labour. They worked in textile industry, grain and lumber facilities and furniture factories. The conditions in which they worked, were very poor and the work itself was really demanding. The Czechs were known for their hard work, their determination, loyalty, obstinacy and reliability. However, sometimes they were not financially compensated enough and their way of living was, without any question, very modest. [30] Also women participated in supporting the modest income of their families. They often worked in laundry and textile facilities. [31] By contrast, the second-generation of Czechs preferred administrative or professional work or they tended to establish their own businesses such as butchers, bakers, shops, stores, saloons, taverns, banks or pharmacies. [32]

3.4. Neighbourhood Czech California

In the early 20th century, the main reasons of the immigration were the economic opportunities, possibilities and the availability of the land. Another reason was the so called 'chain-migration'. The Czech Americans always kept in touch with their friends and other family members who still lived in Bohemia. Through the letters they sent them, their relatives and acquaintances learned about the conditions in the United States and decided to follow them and settle down in the same areas. People who immigrated to the United States between 1908 and

1910 admitted that they aimed to reunite with their family members across the ocean. It is worth mentioning that compared to other Slavic immigrants, considerably low number of Czech Americans returned to their homeland. At that time, from around 25,000 Czech that arrived to the USA, only around 2,740 moved back to their home country. [33]

With continually increasing number of Czech émigrés (in 1910 the figure of Bohemians in Chicago was estimated to more than 100, 000), which indicates that they were considerably mobile, the Czech community enlarged into the territory known as Lawndale-Crawford. The Czech population in that area was substantially dominant. Therefore it became known as The Czech California (in Czech 'Česká Kalifornie'). Despite of the effort of fostering their cultural heritage, the Bohemians tried to adjust and contribute to the prosperity of their adopted homeland. The Czech California neighbourhood was a place where the Czechs prospered in light of the personal life as well as the career and business. The total savings of the local banks were calculated from 12 to 15 million US dollars.

The peaceful co-existence of the Czech community was disturbed by the tragic event that occurred on the morning of the 24th July in 1915. The Western Electric Hawthorne Works, large industrial facility, provided thousands job opportunities for Czech working and middle class between 1904 and 1983. In the day of doom, the company organized a picnic for the employees and their entire families to enjoy a nice day on the river. The Eastland steamboat that was hired for this occasion was unconsciously overloaded by 72 passengers and sunk to the water of the Chicago River. From the total of 2,572 passengers, 844 of them drowned down under the boat's weight. More than a third of the victims were the Czech employees or their relatives. [34]

Omitting such a horrific disaster of the Eastland steamboat, the period from 1914 to 1938 were extremely triumphal for the Czech

community in Chicago. One of the crucial moments was the election of Antonín Čermák for the 35th Mayor of Chicago in 1931, the triumphal visit of T.G. Masaryk on the 5th May in 1918 and the very first all-American Sokol gathering in the summer 1925.

4. ANTONÍN ČERMÁK

4.1. Early life

Antonín Čermák, native of Kladno, a city located around 25 kilometres in the northwest from Prague, was born on the 9th of Mai 1873. His father worked in Kladno as a coalminer. Although he was low educated, he was intelligent and he spent lot of time with his children. The mother was taking care of their six children and their modest household. The Čermák's family was poor and because of that they decided to immigrate to the United States in 1875. Antonín Čermák, commonly called by the Czech Americans as Anton or by Americans Tony, was at that time just 2 years old. After they arrived to New York, they moved to Chicago, because there were already a lot of Bohemians and besides that, they heard some accounts about the job opportunities in Chicago. They could easily head for their final destination by train, because the important railroad between New York and Chicago was already built in 1853. They first settled down in the neighbourhood Pilsen, where the father worked as a carpenter and alternatively as a bricklayer.

After he discovered that there was a demand for coal miners, they moved to Braidwood, circa 100 kilometres east-west from Chicago. To support the family's income, Antonín Čermák dropped the school and started working in various factories in Chicago. Later on, he followed the steps of his father as a coal miner. Before he left Braidwood, he used to work for the mining company 'Chicago and Wilmington Coal Company'. Because he was involved in the strike of the coal-miners, he got fired and shortly after that he moved back to Pilsen. Antonín Čermák was naturally a hard-worker. When he was just 19 years old, he became an entrepreneur and established his own firm called 'A. J. Cermak, Teaming Contractor'. In 1894, he married a Czech girl, named Marie Hořejšová. Together they had 3 daughters. [35]

4.2. Political life

Soon Antonín became popular and respected personality among other entrepreneurs and locals. His first steps into politics consisted of the cooperation with his former Czech friend, Vladimír Červený. Antonín was consistently involved in social activities. In 1899, he was appointed as a bailiff. Because of this job, he was able to meet interesting people as well as to participate on the interesting events and to collect useful information.

In 1900, Antonín Čermák was offered to become a precinct captain. In this position, he was only supporting the Democratic Party by controlling and organizing the technical side of the primary and general elections and he was also responsible for the system-functioning of the social service.

His eagerness led to that, he participated on the elections to the State Assembly in Illinois. Antonín wanted to improve the living conditions of Chicagoans. The popularity, he gained for his diligence and sense of honour, guaranteed him that he became a representative of the state Illinois. The local Bohemians were very satisfied by the election. For the very first time they had 'their own spokesman' in the legislative organ. Because he was simultaneously very busy with his political issues and he was dedicated to the business, nowadays we could refer to him as to a workaholic. Antonín always expressed that he was proud to be American. However, he never forgot where he came from. [36]

When Čermák was 36 years old, he worked in Springfield in the diplomatic corps of Illinois. He knew that due to his thriving business, his whole family was financially independent. Tony Čermák was very closely adherent to Chicago. As a new challenge, he set himself an object to candidate to the city hall of Chicago. Although the 12th political ward was traditionally a domain of the Republicans, it did not represent any threat

for Čermák, because at that time (respectively in the year 1909), to be elected he needed to obtain absolute majority of votes and 30,400 out of the total 66,000 inhabitants were Czech Americans. By virtue of the support by the Czech community, he won the elections and since 1910 his name was a symbol of the fight for the interests of the 'people from the street'.

The United States of America officially entered the World War I. on the 4th of April 1917, after the president Woodrow Wilson asked the Congress to declare the war against the German Empire. Antonín Čermák fully agreed with this decision. His physical state and above all, his age 44 years, forbid him to join the army. The Mayor of Chicago, William Hale Thompson openly vituperated Wilson's decision. Thereby he earned negative responses from the press as well as from the common public. [37]

Čermák actively participated on the convention of the Czech national association in the USA ('České národní sdružení v USA'), which took place on the 13th-14th of March in 1915 in Cleveland. Here the Chicago Czech community publicly supported the foreign revolt. At the same place in 1916, the representatives of the Czech and Slovak compatriotic organizations encouraged their fellow countrymen in the fight for the establishment of the independent federative Czechoslovakian state, guaranteeing entire national autonomy of Slovakia. Anton Čermák became a well-respected leader-man of various Czech and Slovakian organizations. Among others he was elected to be a chairman of the Liberty Loan Committee in the 12th ward, which was a compatriotic bureau organizing the financial support for the foreign revolt. These achievements and merits were especially appreciated by Tomáš Garigue Masaryk who visited Chicago on the 5th May 1918. [38]

In 1921, when Antonín Čermák was 48 years old, he decided to travel to Europe to visit his place of birth. The trip lasted three months and

the main purpose was to tighten his good reputation in role of an initiative politician among Czech Americans. He travelled to Czechoslovakia one more time in the year 1924 by an invitation from the Czechoslovakian government. During his visits, a number of Czechoslovakian politicians harnessed from his valuable experience in the politics. He fully propagated the reputation of Czechs and Slovaks in the USA. During his stay in Czechoslovakia he used to send his observations to the American press so that the Czech Americans could learn about the living in the small country in the centre of Europe. [39]

In 1922, after he came back to Chicago, he stand as a candidate for chairman of the Cook's council, which was at that time the largest and the most populated district in Chicago and the whole USA. The population of Cook was estimated up to 4,000,000 inhabitants. Charles S. Peterson, the representative of the opposite Republican Party, competed against Čermák. In the political hassle played the role as well the prohibition. Čermák was openly against the forbiddance of alcohol, however thanks to his great skilled of a spokesman, he achieved to get on his side members of women's organizations which were strictly against consuming of alcohol.

Čermák won the election regarding to his genuine popularity among Czech community. However, without the additional support by Polish and Irish immigrants, he would have probably lost. His election was a great success for the Democratic Party, because Cook was until now under control of Republicans. During his functioning in such a post, Čermák was strong-willed to apply steps for the general welfare. He assured the Chicagoans that he will take the control of finances and efficiency of the district's money and investments. He promised to lower the taxes by 10% and to build up much needed buildings for the benefit of the public. He also wanted to abolish the prohibition. That, however, happened some years after, in 1933. He was considered as a very ambitious and

competent politician. Democracy and interests of the public were always on his mind. No matter, that by his political rivals he was sometimes called 'bohunk', which was an abusive name for illiterate and unskilled worker from the Middle and Eastern Europe [40]. The reason was that, that he was consistently supporting the Czech and other immigrant communities in his district. [41]

Next to Pilsen, there was another very important neighbourhood for the Czech community in Chicago. It was Cicero which is located in the southwest of Chicago. Because Cicero was further away from the Chicago's city centre, it was a possible new place for illegal alcohol trade, which later became a reason of increasing criminality in this area. Between the years 1927 and 1931, the Mayor of Chicago was William Hale Thompson, also known as 'Big Billy'. He was known for taking bribes and because of his affairs with Al Capone, he became very unpopular. [42] Čermák held the opinion that the prohibition itself is the reason of the problems. It is known that at the time when Al Capone was in charge of the mafia-gangland, Cicero and Chicago became a centre of the crime in the United States. Therefore Čermák was determined to fight against the crime and Al Capone in order to circumcise Chicago from the crime. He knew that although Al Capone owned many illegal stores with alcohol, illegal betting shops, warehouses and casinos, which earned him millions of dollars, he did not pay any taxes. Čermák decided to start the investigation against Al Capone and convict him of default and bypassing the law. In 1928, Čermák was suggested by the Democratic Party for a post of a senator of the state Illinois. At that time, his wife was suffering serious disease and Antonín's only relief was a hard work, therefore he decided to candidate, successfully. Shortly after the elections, his wife, Marie Čermáková, died after the long malign disease. This time was a very painful time for Čermák. His wife was missed not only by Čermák himself, but also by the other Czechs in Chicago. [43]

4.3. The first ethnic Mayor of Chicago

The year 1931 was the most important in Čermák's career. He stand as a candidate for a post of the Mayor of Chicago in the elections on the 5th of March 1931. His gravest rival appeared to be John S. Clark, who , among other things, tried to accuse Čermák from bribery. However, at the final election round, his biggest opponent was Bill Thompson, so called 'Big Bill'. He was supported by the Republican Party. On the other hand, Čermák was fully supported by the Democratic Party in Cook. [44] Thompson, openly anti-immigrant, tried to humiliate Čermák in every possible way. On his address he once said: "I won't take a back seat to that Bohunk, Chairmock, Chermack or whatever or whatever his name is./Tony, Tony, where is your purschart at?/ Can you picture a World's Fair mayor?/ With name like that?" [45] Čermák replied: "He doesn't like my name. It's true. I didn't come over on the Mayflower, but I came over as soon as I could." [46]

During the election, Čermák kept his main political strategy firmed and it was similar to the one he set up and achieved on the post of the chairman of the Cook's council. The election on 7th May 1931 ended by the masterful win of Antonín Čermák. He obtained total of 671,189 votes. For Thompson voted 476,922 people. Čermák won in 45 out of 50 districts (the 5 districts where the majority of people voted for Thompson were inhabited mostly by Afro-Americans). This was a great victory for Antonín as well as for the whole Czech community. The Bohemians from Chicago, United States and Czechoslovakia were enormously proud of this native from Kladno. Together with Americans and other ethnic groups, they organized parades to express their delight. From Czechoslovakia, Antonín received a great number of letters congratulating him for his triumph. He received more attention than any other previous Mayor. [47]

Antonín Čermák took office of the Mayor of Chicago on the 27th of April 1931. Soon he realized that the situation is even worse than how it appeared. Thompson left the city in debts. There were no financial resources and the only way out of that situation was to save. That was also what he mentioned in his inaugural speech. He promised that he will save as much as possible to change the scene in Chicago. During his functioning, Čermák was surrounded by capable co-workers. He did not marginalize the Bohemians and named many of them to the high-ranking positions, for instance, he named Otto Kerner and Rudolf Desort to the position of judges. To the control of the public administration he named, for instance, Czech Americans such as Kolář, Hrubý, Týč, Sokol and Toman. According to the oncoming presidential election, Franklin Roosevelt offered Čermák a meeting. Antonín travelled to New York in the beginning of the autumn 1931. However, at the crucial convention of the presidential election Čermák was not present. It is estimated that he was too busy with organizing the congress resolutions with the major objective - the abolishment of the prohibition. In 1933, the prohibition was officially cancelled. That belongs to the others of Čermák's remarkable successes.

28th of July 1932, Antonín travelled with his family to Europe and the purpose of this trip was, above all, a recreation and propagation of the city Chicago and its World's Fair. This tour led through France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Great Britain, Ireland and Czechoslovakia, where they arrived on the 4th of August 1932. Čermák met with the Czechoslovakia Prime minister, Matoušek, on the 8th August 1932 and although Matoušek admitted that Czechoslovakia had certain financial problems, Čermák tried to persuade him of the importance of the Czechoslovakian participation on this event. Čermák promised he would support his natives as much as he could. [48]

On his visit, Čermák also met T.G. Masaryk's son, Jan Masaryk, which was a delegate in Great Britain, spending his summer in Czechoslovakia. Jan was excited about the meeting because he was aware of how much his father respected Čermák and above all, Jan was fully against the prohibition, plus he lived Chicago between years 1908 and 1912. [49]

The Prime minister, Matoušek, the Mayor of Prague, Karel Baxa and other politicians prepared for Antonín majestic welcome ceremony. To the Czechoslovakian broadcast he notified that Chicago is no more a city of crime and bankruptcy and that it is, after Prague, the largest Czech city in the world. On the 10th of August 1932, Čermák paid a visit to his place of birth, Kladno. On the 11th of August, he went to Pilsen. The largest moment of honour for Čermák occurred when T. G. Masaryk called him and personally offered him to come to Slovakia, respectively Bystrička, to meet him. On the 18th of August 1932, they met in the Masaryk's residence and discussed the situation in the USA. Masaryk , among other things, ensured Čermák about the participation of Slovaks on the oncoming World's Fair in Chicago. During Čermák's European trip, he visited Czechoslovakia, Berlin, Basle, Paris, London and Dublin.

After he arrived back to the United States, during the preparations for the presidential election, which were under way, Čermák was fully supporting Theodor Roosevelt. In the election on the 8th of November 1932, Roosevelt gained the majority of votes and the Democratic Party since 1916 finally became the main party in the majority of the states in the US. [50]

4.4. Assassination

On the 15th of February 1933, in the presence of the crowds, Čermák was sitting in the motorcade along with the president Roosevelt, while driving in the street in Miami outside the national convention of the Democratic Party. During this ride, Čermák was assassinated by Giuseppe Zangara, poor Italian-American. After the later investigation, it was found out that Zangara suffered physical illness and the reason of the attack was that according to the poor condition he grew up in and lived in, he eagerly hated any presidents and governors. [51]

The real target of this anarchist was supposedly Roosevelt but Zangara missed his target and shot Čermák instead. Before the Mayor was brought to the hospital, he turned himself to Roosevelt and allegedly said: "I'm glad it was me instead of you." [52] Although Čermák was determined to survive, he died after subsequent injuries in the hospital on the 6th of March 1933. Four days later, there was a funeral on the Bohemian National Cemetery where crowds of about 30,000 people came to honour Antonín Čermák. For Čermák's murder, Zangara was sentenced to die on the same day when Čermák was buried. [53]

Nonetheless, there are still some mysteries around the assassination. Indirect evidences suggest, that Al Capone was involved in the assassination. Other theory says that there was another killer behind Zangara who consciously meant to kill Čermák and who therefore took the advantage of the chaotic situation, while Zangara tried to shoot Roosevelt. [54]

In 1933, there was released a biographical movie based on the life-story of Antonín Čermák. The movie is called 'The man who dared' and it was directed by Hamilton MacFadden. [55]

5. T. G. MASARYK AND CHICAGO

In 1902, Masaryk was offered to give lectures about the Slavic history at the University of Chicago. The invitation was sent by the philanthropic industrialist, Charles R. Crane, who set up there the foundation for the Slavic lectures. Crane also turned to be a friend with Woodrow Wilson. [56]

Masaryk was well-known and respected among the founders of Slavic studies in America. Due to his work at the new Czech university in Prague, the journal *Athenaeum* which he established, several books which he wrote about the Czech history, politics and the problems related to these topics, the French Slavist, Louis Leger, recommended Crane to invite Masaryk to give lectures at the local prestigious university. Another American Slavist, Leo Wiener, visited Masaryk in Bohemia in person and really honoured him for his charisma, intelligence and his sense for patriotism. The sympathies to Professor Masaryk he described in detail in the article for the *Nation* journal, published on the 15th of August 1901.

The subject of Masaryk's lectures at the University of Chicago was uncertain for several decades. When the Czech-American author, Draga B. Shillinglaw, examined the preserved notes, it became obvious that Masaryk primarily lectured about the Czech history. Besides that, Masaryk systematically dealt for the first time with the Czech question in America. The lectures were called 'The Philosophy of the History of a Small Nation'.

When Masaryk travelled to America for the second time, he stayed there three months and made a political tour and visited all influential Czech immigrant centres, respectively Chicago, New York, St. Louis, Cleveland, Baltimore, Cedar Rapids and others. Masaryk was an excellent spokesman and he quickly won observation and respect for his speeches on various topics such as the Czech heritage, religion and

socialism. He meant to spread the awareness of the fundamental Czech philosophy and hopes of the Czech folk. Masaryk visited America overall fourth times. Each time he drew inspiration from the American political life and tried to emphasize that Czech Americans played a significant and important role of the Czech nation. [57]

On the 28th of May 1918, during the meeting with Czechs and Slovaks in Chicago, Masaryk presented a very inspirational unprepared speech in which he introduced his forward-looking visions and actions. Chicago was the most important stop of his triumphal tour of the United States. The Czech community was the most active here and he was thankful to his friend Charles R. Crane that enabled him to lecture at the University in Chicago. Masaryk came to the USA in May as a revolutionary and the head of the liberation movement. He left in November 1918. At that time, he was already elected as the first President of the new state Czechoslovakia. [58]

6. CICERO AND BERWYN

Cicero was established by former New Yorker, Augustus Porter, who named it after an eponymous neighbourhood in New York. The primary total population 60,000 inhabitant composed of 80% Bohemians or their descendants. The rest consisted of Irish, Italians or Jews émigrés. "Immigration outward from the neighbourhoods of Chicago into the towns of Cicero and Berwyn was a natural outgrowth of the Czechs' westward movement- and upward mobility-in the years before World War II." [59] Cicero was established in the 19th century and the influx of Bohemians helped that it quickly became a commercial place with a flourishing industrial manufactories and small businesses. [60] In the beginning of the 20's, the population consisted of the 80% of the Czechs immigrants or their ancestors from the total of about 60,000 inhabitants. At that time, Cicero and Berwyn were the centres of the Czech community in Chicago. [61]

In the 1920, there was the Sokol Slávský, grand meeting place with various civic facilities, opened as a new grand meeting place. At that time, it was the biggest Sokol lodge and the most significant Czech social building. One year later, the international Sokol convention was held in Chicago. In 1921, in effort to encourage the Czech heritage, the Masaryk School was opened in Cicero and it functions until today. [62] As a dedication to Antonín Čermák after his death, the 22nd Road was named Cermak Road. [63]

Among other business and institutions opened by Bohemians in these neighbourhoods was for instance Klas restaurant.¹ It was found in 1922 by Bohemian Jew Adolph Klas and it is now the oldest operating Czechoslovakian restaurant in Chicago. It remains a meeting point for the Bohemians living in America The other example of the Czech institution that remained and is still opened is the Vesecký's Bakery², which was established in the early 1930s. "As a tribute to its exceptional food and authentic Czech hospitality, Savuer magazine's issue from October 2007, counts Vesecký's as one of Chicago's finest eating establishments." [64]

In the 1960s, the Czech population in the neighbourhoods Pilsen and Czech California started to decrease and in the late 1970s, they were all almost gone. [65]. As stated before, by the 1970's, Berwyn and Cicero were known to be the centres of the Czech community. Since then, the immigrants from Latin America and Asia began to expel the Bohemians so they started to settle down in the suburb areas and towns such as Oakbrook, Riverside or Stickney. Especially the growth of the Hispanic community was profound. In the mid 1990's, the portion of these immigrants in the total population was 39%. [66] In 2010, it was already more than 59%. The population in Berwyn and Cicero is until today predominantly Latino. [67]

¹ See appendix 13.2.4.

² See appendix 13.2.7.

7. CZECH COMMUNITY IN CHICAGO TODAY

As stated in the introduction, the author of this thesis visited Chicago for 10 days in September 2015. According to what the author found out about the community, it was rather surprising, how the recent state of the Chicago Czech community differs from its history. The prints of the former influential community are hard to find. However, they are still reminded by the Czech signs or by places such as Bohemian National Cemetery, Havlíček Borovský's memorial, the shopping centre 'Cermak Plaza', the main street 'Cermak Road' and by some of the last Czech institutions and restaurants. However, those are hard to recognize without any guidance by a local. On the first look, it is obvious that the Latino community has forced out the Czech community since long time ago.

The most recent result of the U.S. Census survey shows that in the year 2000, there were 113,705 Czech Americans living in the metropolitan area of Chicago. [68] However, according to the unofficial source, Chicago Czech-American Community Centre (which is a non-profit organisation and a platform, with its centre in Berwyn, offering help and support in various areas for the Czechs living in Chicago and its metropolitan area), there are even over 200,000 Czech Americans living in the metropolitan area of Chicago. [69] For the purpose of this thesis, these estimations are sufficient. It is difficult and apparently impossible to come at the exact figures, because of the great number of young émigrés from the Czechoslovakia who illegally immigrated to Chicago after the Velvet revolution in 1989. The unofficial source estimates that around 10-20,000 Czech immigrants live today in Chicago illegally.[70]

Lucie Březinová informed that after the terrorist attack in September 2001, the requirements for gaining the U.S. permanent residence have become more difficult. Therefore just a very small portion of the immigrants gain the so-called 'green Card'. Therefore it is very

common that recently, the majority of them moves back to their homelands. Those who decide to stay mostly have to start from the scratch. Every year some of the Czechs win the 'green card' in the Green card lottery which is a legal way to gain the U.S. permanent residence. However, there is also an illegal way that is common within the Czech immigrants. In order to obtain the U.S. permanent residence, an immigrant pays a certain amount of money to an American citizen to contract marriage with him/her. That is called a marriage fraud. Such an act is considered as criminal and both sides can be penalized.³

It is apparent that the Czech community in Chicago is no longer that significant as it was few decades ago. Many people settled down further west or moved back to their homes of origin. According to Lucie Březinová, some of the families move back to Bohemia, because they miss the support and help of their relatives. Those who stay prefer to live in the suburbs, because neighbourhoods such as Cicero and Berwyn are becoming unsafe due to the increasing Latino community. Nowadays no particular neighbourhood can be said to be populated entirely by Czech Americans. It is difficult to even find any public space that would be considered as definitively Czech. Czechs now living in Chicago (and the whole United States) are known for trying to assimilate to the American culture, however, they still have certain connection to their homeland and in a certain manner, they keep their ethnic identity. [71]

7.1. Czech restaurants and clubs

Czech food was generally known as substantial element of the Chicago Czech community and it is assuredly a part of the Czech heritage. Although there are no longer that many restaurants or taverns owned by Bohemians as there were formerly, restaurant such as Klas or rather newly opened restaurant, bar and café, called Café Prague are working continually. [72] In 2005, the owner Milada Chlubnová, who lives

³ See appendix 13.1.1.

in Chicago for almost 16 years, opened a store with Czech goods in Montclare. She used to sell goods such as CDs, books, as well as candies. Soon it became an internet café and later on she turned it into a restaurant where the traditional Czech food is served. The personnel consist of Czech and Polish employees. The contemporary chef is originally from Poland. [73] From the interview with Lucie Březinová, former waitress in Café Prague, we found out that in order to improve the reputation of the restaurant, the owner in the Café Prague invited in 2011 the popular culinary Czech series 'Ano, šéfe!' to be filmed there. Her object was to improve and spread the good reputation of this restaurant and to spread the awareness of the Chicago Czech community in the general public.

Another Czech restaurant that is still opened is called 'Czech Plaza' and it is situated in Berwyn neighbourhood on the Cermak Road. It was found in 1964 and the prior customers were the ones with 'Czech blood', as the actual owner, Betty, stated. She married the son of the former owners and therefore she is the next-generation owner. She remembers that earlier there was a great number of Czech stores with Czech goods, such as 'Vltava' and other restaurants, such as 'Old Prague', 'Pilsner', 'Bar u Čtyř Stehen' or 'Little Europe'. They are no longer opened. However, there are some other former Czech restaurants that are trying to continue in the tradition, like 'Golden Duck', 'River Side' or 'Crystal Bohemian Restaurant'. Betty claimed that once there have been many customers, nowadays there are within the customers just old locals. The young people are not very interested in the Czech cuisine. Betty is not very optimistic about the situation and she is concerned that the business will no longer be efficient. The reason is that, there is no one that would be interested in taking over that business and investing in its renovation.⁴

⁴ See appendix 13.1.2.

During the visit of Czech Plaza, the author carried out an interview with an American couple. Silvia (68) and John (72) Cornoran, both retired, in order to find out, what is interesting about this restaurant for Americans. Mr. and Mrs. Cornoran eat in this restaurant approximately once or twice a month. They were recommended to come to Czech Plaza by their friends. Mr. and Mrs. Cornoran appreciate the friendly staff, nice atmosphere as well as large servings for adequate prices. They both said in the interview that they regret not trying any other local restaurant earlier and that they are both concerned with the growing Latino community in the neighbourhood. They said that the 'good times', when the neighbourhood was populated by Czech Americans are already far gone.⁵

The Euro Club, on the Irving Park Road, which was re-named and now is dedicated to Latin nights, was formerly known as a popular discotheque where the young part of the Czech community used to enjoy the authentic nightclub experience. For these purposes serves now the club named 'Bistro by the Pier' where there are being played songs by Czech artists every Friday and Saturday and where the majority of the clients is originally either from Czech or Slovakia.

7.2. Czech radio and television

The Czech-American radio and television broadcasts play an important role in the everyday-lives of the descendants of the first Czech Americans. The WCEV 1450 AMV Radio, with its central office in Cicero, has been broadcasting since 1970. The letters in the name stand for 'We are Chicagoan's ethnic voice'. It daily offers various programs in English, Czech, Slovak, Polish, Arabic, Irish or Spanish assigned to the ethnic communities in the metropolitan area of Chicago. For the Czechoslovak audience, there is a weekly slot every Sunday from 9-10 in the morning broadcasted by the Czech Radio in Chicago. [74] According to Vladimír

⁵ See appendix 13.1.3.

Jirák, broadcaster who works for the Czech Radio in Chicago for almost 23 years, the program consists above all of the Czech music. However, it consists also of the current news related to the Czech community, interviews with interesting personalities and some programs are provided by 'Český rozhlas 7- Radio Praha'. In 1990, when he started his career, there were slots intended to Czechs four times a week, but for the lack of sponsors, the evening-broadcasts were disestablished. He claims that not all Czech descendants can speak English, however, also those who cannot speak perfectly Czech are interested in their ancestor's culture. The broadcast can be heard on the internet website of the WCEV 1450 AMV Radio. [75]

Other mediator for the dispersed Czech community is a non-profit telecast by the Czech American TV in Chicago. The Czech American TV was found by John Honner. As they claim the platform was established in order to support the Czech cultural heritage by providing educational programs shared through the television and the internet. "Czech-American TV with over 10 years of regular broadcasting, is the first and only program of its kind in the United States targeting not only Czech-American community, but also anyone interested in the history, traditions, fashion, cuisine, music, natural and architectural beauties, trade and products of the Central European Region. "[76] All the programs are broadcasted only in English.[77] Every Sunday, there is a show provided by the Czech-American TV in Chicago on Channel 41.[78]

In 2012, there was the first Czech Film Festival organized in the United States in order to spread the awareness of the Czech cinematography. In 2015, the name of the festival was changed to 'Czech that Film' and was presented by Staropramen. The festival is a tour through eleven American cities with significant Czech communities, including Chicago. [79]

In 2005, Czech native Lenka Dolanová started filming a documentary movie called 'It's fun to be Bohemian'. The movie was released in 2007 and deals especially with the history and the recent state of the neighbourhood Pilsen. [80]

7.3. Celebrations and events

To show that the achievements and the role of the Czech community in Chicago are profound, there are many events still held every year to honour the Czech heritage.

In 1990, there was officially concluded the partnership between Prague and Chicago. In June 2015, the city Chicago as the remembrance of this 25th anniversary organizes the Prague Days in Chicago 2015, 'Dny Prahy v Chicagu 2015'. [81] Bořek Lizec, the General Consul of the Czech Republic in Chicago, said that this event should improve the cooperation and positive relationship between the two sister-cities Prague and Chicago.⁶ It should also promote Prague as an attractive touristic destination and the Czech Republic as a dynamic European democracy with strong connection to Chicago and the USA. The Mayor of Prague, Pavel Bém, should participate on this anniversary. Bém is expected to join the gala evening called 'Gala Golden Prague' and to meet with the former Mayor of Chicago, Richard Daley, on the Čermák's commemoration the next day. [82]

Not only the Czech Republic celebrated in November 2014 the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, fall of the communist regime in November 1989, but also in Chicago people celebrated this jubilee. The major celebration took place on the 20th of November 2014 and on this occasion, the official delegation from the Czech Republic visited Chicago. On this event was present also Anton Cermak Kerner, the grandson of Mayor Antonín Čermák.[83] "To me, the anniversary Velvet Revolution is

⁶ See the appendix 13.3.

also the anniversary of the reunion of Chicago Czechs and Czechs in our homeland.” Bořek Lizec, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago.” [84]

Another celebration that is organized every year is called the Houby Festival. It was named after a Czech word for mushrooms and it should symbolize the Czech harvest. The parade with variety of events goes along the Cermak Road. Last year more than 25,000 people visited this event. This year, the Festival will celebrate its 47th anniversary. [85]

Czech celebrities are aware of the Czech communities in the United States and therefore they organize tours through the US. On the 28th of September 2015, Petr Janda with his band performed songs from 50 years of Olympic and his solo CDs in the restaurant Klas. The information about this event was found during the author’s visit of Czech Plaza restaurant.⁷

In 2014, the Sokol Spirit organized the Czech Film Series. Every 1st Friday of the month people could come to see an iconic Czech movie, such as ‘S tebou mě baví svět’, ‘Želary’, ‘Tři oříšky pro popelku’ or operas such as ‘Rusalka’ or ‘Prodaná nevěsta’ with English subtitles. The movie was followed by a discussion led by Pavlina Drobka, the Czech language head teacher.⁸

7.4. Institutions

One of the most influential organizations launched by Czechs in Chicago is undoubtedly the Sokol. The Sokol (now with the core quarter in Brookfield) is thanks to its leaders like Jean Hruby still active. Its lodges such as Sokol Tabor (in Berwyn), Sokol USA Gymnastics Chicago (near the North Center) offer regular classes. Its members participate every

⁷ See appendix 13.2.6.

⁸ See appendix 13.2.10.

year in annual Sokol Day and National gathering (called in Czech 'Sokolský slet') [86]

United Moravian Societies is a non-profit institution which preserves Moravian, Czech and Slovak culture. By effort of this institution there is the Moravian Day festival held every year. The very first Moravian Day Festival was organized in 1939 in Pilsen neighbourhood. In 2014, the festival celebrated its 75th anniversary⁹. The usual parts of this festival are the traditional folklore dancing, singing exhibitions and tasting of the traditional food, pastry and wines from Moravia. Among other things there are held Czech Language and Cultural Class for beginner organized by the United Moravian Societies every Sunday afternoon. The classes are taught by Anna Cooková who was awarded a grant by the Czech Government for lecturers that teach the Czech Language in expatriate associations. Every Wednesday there are accessible folklore dance classes for children and adults in the UMS. [87]

In 2004, the CSA Fraternal Life or formerly the Czechoslovak Society of America, celebrated 150 years from its inception. [88] This organization was established on the principles of cooperation, fraternity and support of equal opportunities. The purpose was to financially help those in need within the Czechoslovak community. Today the CSA Fraternal Life has 64 lodges in 21 states, including Chicago and offers mainly insurance and similar products. [89]

The Roman-Catholic organization Czech Mission (in Czech 'Česká Misie') supports religious and cultural heritage of Czechs and Slovaks that live in Chicago and its surroundings. Under the auspices of this organization, there are held various events, such as picnics, excursions, Czech weddings, Czech baptisms and other social-cultural events. Every Saturday, in the church in Brookfield, there is a Czech children class

⁹ See appendix 13.2.5.

offered for those who want to learn about catholic, Czech homeland study and Czech language.[90]

Other very important institution related to the Chicago Czech community is the Bohemian National Cemetery. The cemetery was opened in 1877. The majority of persons buried here are ancestors of the first Czechs who immigrated to Chicago, including Antonín Čermák. In the area of the cemetery, there can be seen many sculptures and the cemetery also serves as the city's largest collection of funerary art. [91] A separate thus connected to the Bohemian National Cemetery is a non-profit organization named Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery. Its members meet regularly in order to preserve and enhance the artistry and the spiritual role of the cemetery. For instance on the 4th of October they organized 'Tours of the Tombstones'.¹⁰ They also issue newsletter called Heritage Happenings. [92]

The general overview of the institution across the United States provides on the internet website of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago. [93]

¹⁰ See appendix 13.3.11

8. CONCLUSION

The key objective of this thesis was to provide a detailed depiction of the Chicago Czech community, its history and the recent state. To introduce the topic, the author provided basic information about the city Chicago, its history, location and population.

The author divided the thesis into two main parts. In the first part, which deals with the history of the community, the author provided a vast summary of the history since the 1850s. The author deals with the reasons of the immigration as well as the occupation of the first Bohemians, who decided to leave their homelands in order to find a better place for living. The author also described the beginnings of the various organizations established by Bohemians, such as Sokol. A large focus was given to the most ethnically conscious and active neighbourhood, Praha, Pilsen and Czech California. The author mentioned the tragic incidents such as the Great Fire in 1871 and the sinking of the Eastland steamboat in 1915.

The great attention was given to the most important person connected with the Czech community Chicago, Antonín Čermák. He has helped not only to enhance the Czech community, but also the whole Chicago. Thanks to his determination and hard work he became the first ethnic Mayor of Chicago. His early life, political career and his death are described in the separate chapter.

In the next chapter the author described the time when T. G. Masaryk was lecturing at the University of Chicago. The period, when Masaryk visited Chicago as a revolutionary and left as the first President of Czechoslovakia, is indisputably very interesting and important to be mentioned. Therefore the author gave T. G. Masaryk significant attention in this thesis. It helped the reader to understand the importance of the community in the process of establishing Czechoslovakia.

In the second main part of the thesis, the author provided the description of the recent situation of the Chicago Czech community according to the interviews that were carried out. The recent state of the community was rather different than the expectation of the author.

In the appendices, the reader can find interesting material that will support the author's arguments. In order to provide an authentic depiction, the author enclosed photos, which were taken during the author's visit in Chicago in September 2015.

The thesis could be useful for many people who are interested in the history of immigration in the USA. According to the author's opinion, especially the readers, whose study is related to the international relations or intercultural relations will find this thesis very interesting. This thesis could be helpful also for students of American Studies.

9. ENDNOTES

- [1] STERNSTEIN, M. M. Czechs of Chicagoland. Page 9
- [2] BROŽ, I. Čermák versus Al Capone. Page 8
- [3] State and country QuickFacts: Chicago(city), Illinois. [online]
- [4] BROŽ, I., op. cit., Page 8-9
- [5] World Population Review: Chicago Population 2014 [online]
- [6] State and country QuickFacts, op. cit. [online]
- [7] Illinois Corporation for immigrant and Refugee Rights [online]
- [8] Ibid.
- [9] Ameridia: Czech American Demographics. [online]
- [10] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit, page 11
- [11] BARKAN, E., Immigrants in American history. Page 120
- [12] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. page 11
- [13] Ibid. Pages 11 – 16
- [14] Ibid. Page 11 -24
- [15] CUTLER, I., Chicago, metropolis of the mid-continent. Page 96
- [16] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit, Pages 11 – 24
- [17] CUTLER, I., op. cit. page 962
- [18] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit, Page 11 - 24
- [19] BROŽ, I., op. cit. page 9

- [20] CUTLER, I., op. cit. pages 96 – 97
- [21] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. page 23
- [22] Ibid.
- [23] CUTLER, I., op. cit. pages (96 – 97)
- [24] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. page 54
- [25] Ibid., pages 32 – 37
- [26] CUTLER, I., op. cit. pages 97 – 98
- [27] BROŽ, I., op. cit. page 32
- [28] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. pages 42-46
- [29] CUTLER, I., op. cit. pages 97 – 98
- [30] Ibid.
- [31] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. page 46
- [32] CUTLER, I., op. cit. pages 97-98
- [33] BARKAN, E., op. cit. page 125
- [34] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. pages 65 – 75
- [35] BROŽ, I., op. cit. pages 11 – 16
- [36] Ibid.
- [37] Ibid. pages 46 – 50
- [38] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. page 76
- [39] BROŽ, I., op. cit. pages 67-68

[40] Ibid., page 85

[41] Ibid., pages 76-87

[42] MCCLELLAND, E., The Most Corrupt Public Official In Illinois History
[online]

[43] BROŽ, I., op. cit. pages 134-135

[44] Ibid., pages 163-168

[45] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. page 86

[46] MCCLELLAND, E., op.cit.[online] page 1

[47] BROŽ, I., op. cit. pages 187-196

[48] Ibid. page 236

[49] Ibid. pages 251-263

[50] Ibid.

[51] Ibid.

[52] BENZKOFER, 'Tell Chicago I'll pull through', page 2 [online]

[53] Ibid.

[54] BROŽ, I., op. cit. pages 251-263

[55] Movie Review: Anton Cermak's Life. [online]

[56] KOVTUN, J., Masaryk & America, Page 8

[57] Ibid. pages 2-9

[58] Ibid.

[59] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. page 95

[60] Ibid.

[61] BROŽ, I., op. cit. page 86

[62] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. pages 96-125

[63] BROŽ, I., op. cit. page 86

[64] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. page 112

[65] KOVTUN, J., op. cit. page 86

[66] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. page 119

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[68] Ameridia, op. cit. [online]

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[70] PÍCHA, A., KOPP. M., Dny Prahy v Chicagu. [online]

[71] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit. page 119

[72] Ibid.

[73] URBIŠOVÁ, J., Město starosty Čermáka. [online]

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[77] STERNSTEIN, M., op. cit 119

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- [83] Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago [online]
- [84] Ibid. page 1
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10. ABSTRACT

The thesis deals with the topic Chicago Czech community, its history and the recent state. It gives a vast summary of the Czech community in Chicago, starting from the beginnings of the Czech immigration in the early 1850s. The thesis is divided into two main parts. The first part deals with the history while the second gives an overview of the recent state. A large part of the thesis is devoted to the first ethnic Mayor of Chicago, Antonín Čermák, who was Czech American and who is undoubtedly the most important personality in the history of the Chicago Czech community. Another very important personality which is connected to the Czech community in Chicago is T.G.Masaryk, to whom is also devoted a significant part of this thesis. In the second part, there is described the nowadays situation of the Czech community in Chicago, according to the interviews made by the author of thesis. The main objective of the thesis is to show that the Czech community was strongly connected with the process of creating an independent new state Czechoslovakia, as well as the later forming two separate states, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Another purpose was to provide the depiction of the contemporary decadent community.

11. RESUMÉ

Tato práce se zabývá tématem České komunity v Chicagu, její historií a současným stavem. Práce přináší rozsáhlý přehled o České komunitě v Chicagu, počínaje začátky emigrace od 50. let 19. století. Práce je rozdělena na dvě hlavní části. První část pojednává o historii, zatímco druhá část o současném stavu české komunity v Chicagu. Důležitá část je věnována prvnímu etnickému primátorovi města Chicaga, jímž byl Čechoameričan Antonín Čermák a kdo je také nepochybně nejvýznamnější osobností historie České komunity v Chicagu. Další důležitou osobností, která je spojena s Českou Chicagskou komunitou, je T. G. Masaryk, jemuž je také věnována podstatná část této práce. V druhé části této práce je popsána současná situace komunity, podle rozhovorů, které autor této práce provedl. Hlavním cílem této práce je ukázat, že Česká komunita v Chicagu byla nedílnou součástí procesu vznikání samostatného Československa, stejně tak součástí formování pozdějších dvou samostatných států, České Republiky a Slovenska. Dalším záměrem autora bylo poskytnout čtenáři obraz dnes již upadající české komunity.

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13. APPENDICES

13.1. Interviews

13.1.1 Lucie Březinová

13.1.2. Bety

13.1.3. Ms. and Mr. Cornoran

13.2. Photos

13.2.1. Cermak Plaza

13.2.2. Cermak Road

13.2.3. Czech Plaza

13.2.4. Klas

13.2.5. Moravian Days

13.2.6. Petr Janda's US solo tour

13.2.7. Vesecky's Bakery

13.2.8. Czech Mission

13.2.9. Café Prague

13.2.10. Czech Film Series

13.2.11. Tours of the Tombstones

13.3. Prague 25th anniversary City Council resolution

13.1. INTERVIEWS

13.1.1. Interview on the 14th of September, Chicago (IL), with:

Name: Lucie Březinová

Age: 36

Origin: Czech Republic

Occupation: on maternity leave; former waitress in Czech Plaza, Café Prague and a nanny

The author: “How long do you live in Chicago and why did you immigrate?”

Lucie B.: “I left the Czech Republic when I was .22 years old. It was in 2001. I followed my boyfriend, because he he wanted to earn money and then come back. I wanted actually just to improve my English. I didn’t plan to stay there. So I’ve been here already for .14 years. My friend later came back to the Czech Republic and I stayed here. It was not easy, of course. But I had at that time already many friends, other Czechs and Slovaks. I spent more time with the Czechs than with Americans, because I felt more comfortable in their company. Many times I thought about coming back to the Czech Republic. However, I felt like I have my life here already. “

The author: “What did you do for living during your first years in Chicago and was it hard to find a job if you could not speak very good English?”

Lucie B.:” It wasn’t that hard, how it could seem. As I said, I knew lot of Czech people, some of them owned stores, restaurants, bars, so I worked as a waitress in the beginning. I worked in Czech restaurants, such as Café Prague, Little Europe and Crystal. Therefore it wasn’t a big problem, that I couldn’t speak very good English. Later on, some of my friends offered me to take care of their kids while they are in work, so I started working as a nanny. They told me that it was hard, when they had kids and had to work, and they didn’t have their parents to take care of their kids. Some of my friends who have kids came back to the Czech Republic, because there they have parents to help them. “

The author: “Did you apply for the citizenship in the USA?”

Lucie B.: “Well, I have had just the visa for tourists, when I arrived. After it expired I knew that if I would come back to the Czech Republic, I would not be able to come back. So I decided to stay and since then I tried to

apply, however after the terrorist attacks in 2001 it is more difficult to get the citizenship. I know some people, who won the Green Card in the so called Green Card Lottery, I wasn't however lucky yet. It is also common that girls try to find an American man and they offer him money to marry them. We call this 'fake weddings'. But it is of course illegal and very risky to do, you have to prove that you live together. I would be scare to do this. So although I still don't have the Green Card, I hope that the government will change the policy and I will gain the citizenship in the future.

The author: "How would you compare the situation of the Chicago Czech community earlier and now?"

Lucie B.: "When I moved here in the 2001, as I said there were many Czech restaurants, pubs, stores. Most of them were in Cicero and Berwyn. You could hear Czech language in every corner. And there were almost no Latinos. Now the Czechs move to the suburbs, because it is safer and more convenient. Instead of the Czech stores, there are now Mexican fast-foods. And at night it is not very safe here. Unfortunately those two former Czech neighbourhoods are today definitely Latino. I live near the downtown, however, I am thinking about moving to the suburbs.

The author: "Are you a member of any Czech institution or organization?"

Lucie B.: "I am not. I only know there are Czech school and Sokol. I still watch Czech TV, however only on the internet. There is a Czech TV which you can pay and watch Czech programs. However thanks to the internet, everything is a lot easier now. I keep in touch with my family, we communicate through Skype. Everybody was so excited when they saw me in the Czech television, because there were the Czech series 'Ano, šéfe!' filmed in the Café Prague. The owner wanted to spread the awareness of the restaurant and the Czech community. Instead of being a member of those organisations, we are active with my friends. We go to the Czech bar 'Bistro by The Pier'. They play Czech songs, and we like that. Also the staff is still Czech, Slovak or Polish. So you don't have to speak English at all, if you want to order (laughter).

The author: "Thank you very much."

Lucie B.: "Not a problem."

13.1.2. Interview on the 17th of September, Chicago (IL), Berwyn; in Czech Plaza, with:

Name: Bety (from personal reason of the interviewed the last name is not specified)

Age: 37

Origin: Czech Republic

Occupation: the contemporary owner of the Czech Plaza; she married the son of the former owners, Czech Plaza was established in 1964

The author: “How would you describe the recent situation of the Chicago Czech community comparing with its earlier state?”

Bety: “When I came to Chicago, there were lots and lots Czech around here. I remember, there were many Czech stores, restaurants and pubs here. People were waiting in the queues in the stores. Also our restaurant had many customers, with ‘Czech blood’. During the weekends, the boys (*workers* ^{*author's commentary*}) came here to have few beers during the breaks. Not anymore, unfortunately. They either moved out or died. Now as customers, we have just a few pilgrims.

The author: “What were the names of the other restaurants or business that used to be here?”

Bety: “What I can remember from top of my head. In this neighbourhood there used to be restaurants like Old Prague, opened since 1992, then Pilsner and Bar u Čtyř Stehen. In Berwyn there are today just us and Klas. In other neighbourhood there were and those are probably still opened, Little Europe, Moldau, Golden Duck or River Side opened. However either the owner changed and so they don't do traditional food, or they just changed names. Oh, and also Kristal, which is still opened and still Czech. It has better location though.

The author: “Is there anything that could be done to preserve the traditional Czech restaurants, such as yours?”

Bety: “We don't really know, how long we will be able to keep our business. There is nobody, who would be willing to take over or to invest the money to renovation. We are doing our best to keep it. Hopefully we will be able to do so for some more years.”

The author: “Thank you very much.” Bety: “You are welcome.”

13.1.3. Interview on the 17th of September, Chicago (IL), Berwyn; in Czech Plaza, with:

Name: Mr. and Ms. Corcoran

Age: John Corcoran (72), Silvia Corcoran (68)

Occupation: both retired

Origin: USA, Irish ancestors

The author: "How often do you go to Czech Plaza?"

Silvia: "I would say like once or twice a month."

The author: "How did you find out about this restaurant?"

Silvia: "Our friends told us that they have the best roasted duck here. They recommended it to us. So we came here to try it. And we were nicely surprised. It was really good, not only the duck. We regret not trying any other Czech restaurant earlier. Now, when there is no other restaurant in this neighbourhood, it's late."

John: "Oh yes, those good times, when this was full of Czechs are unfortunately far gone."

The author: "What do you like most about this restaurant?"

John: "Oh yes, we love it. I know that the Czech cuisine is a part of Czech heritage. No wonder. I like the 'Rolled cabbage ribs' (*žebírka s hlávkovým zelím* author's translation) the most. And like a dessert, we like the strudel (*štrůdl* author's commentary)."

Silvia: "I love the Prague-styled cutlet (*kotleta po pražsku* author's translation)."

The author: "What would you briefly say about this restaurant?"

Silvia: "We really like it here. It's clean and the food is delicious. Prices are fine. And the portions are oh my...so big. Sometimes, if we can't finish it, we even take the food home. "

John: "Yes, that's true. And the people here are always very friendly and grateful."

The author: "Thank you for your time." Silva and John: "You are very welcome."

13.2. PHOTOS (Taken by the author of this thesis)

13.2.1.



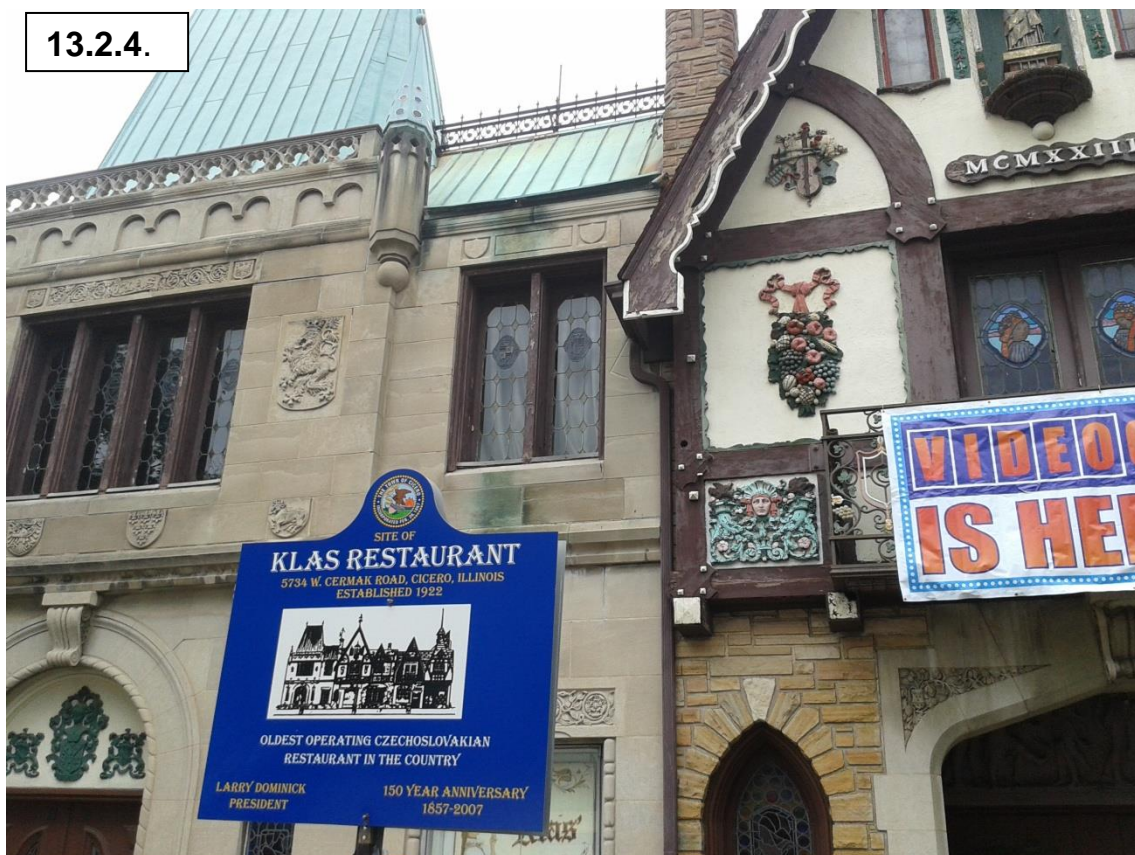
13.2.2



13.2.3.



13.2.4.



13.2.5. Založeno 1939 | Oslava Moravské, České & Slovenské Kultury

Slavnosti Moravských Dnů

Výročí 75té 2014

Září 20
Společenský tanec
Lanžhotčanka & DJ
Začátek 19:00
Bohatá tombola
Příspěvek \$20

Září 21
Mše Svátá 10:00 | Program 14:00
Taneční a pěvecká představení
všech věkových skupin
Bazar, autentická jídla, pečivo &
vína z Moravy | Příspěvek \$20

Sponzorovat Moravský Den
& Vstupenky
navštivte:
www.unitedmoraviansociettes.org

Lithuanian World Center
14911 East 127th Street, Lemont, Illinois

Hraje Lanžhotčanka z Moravy

Ústředna Moravských Spolků



13.2.6. Legend of CZ-SK Rock Music

PETR LANDA

US Solo Tour

- 9/20 NY
- 9/21 Boston
- 9/26 Washington
- 9/27 Atlanta
- 9/28 Chicago
- 10/3 Dallas
- 10/5 Denver
- 10/10 San Diego
- 10/11 LA
- 10/12 SF

performing songs from
50 years of Olympic & solo CDs

Sunday 9/28
Klas Restaurant

5734 W. Cermak Rd, 708-652-0795
6pm doors, 7 start, pre \$25, door \$30
TicketWeb.com & outlets

www.onlineTV.com
www.collectTV.com

[Facebook.com/BohemianProductions](https://www.facebook.com/BohemianProductions)

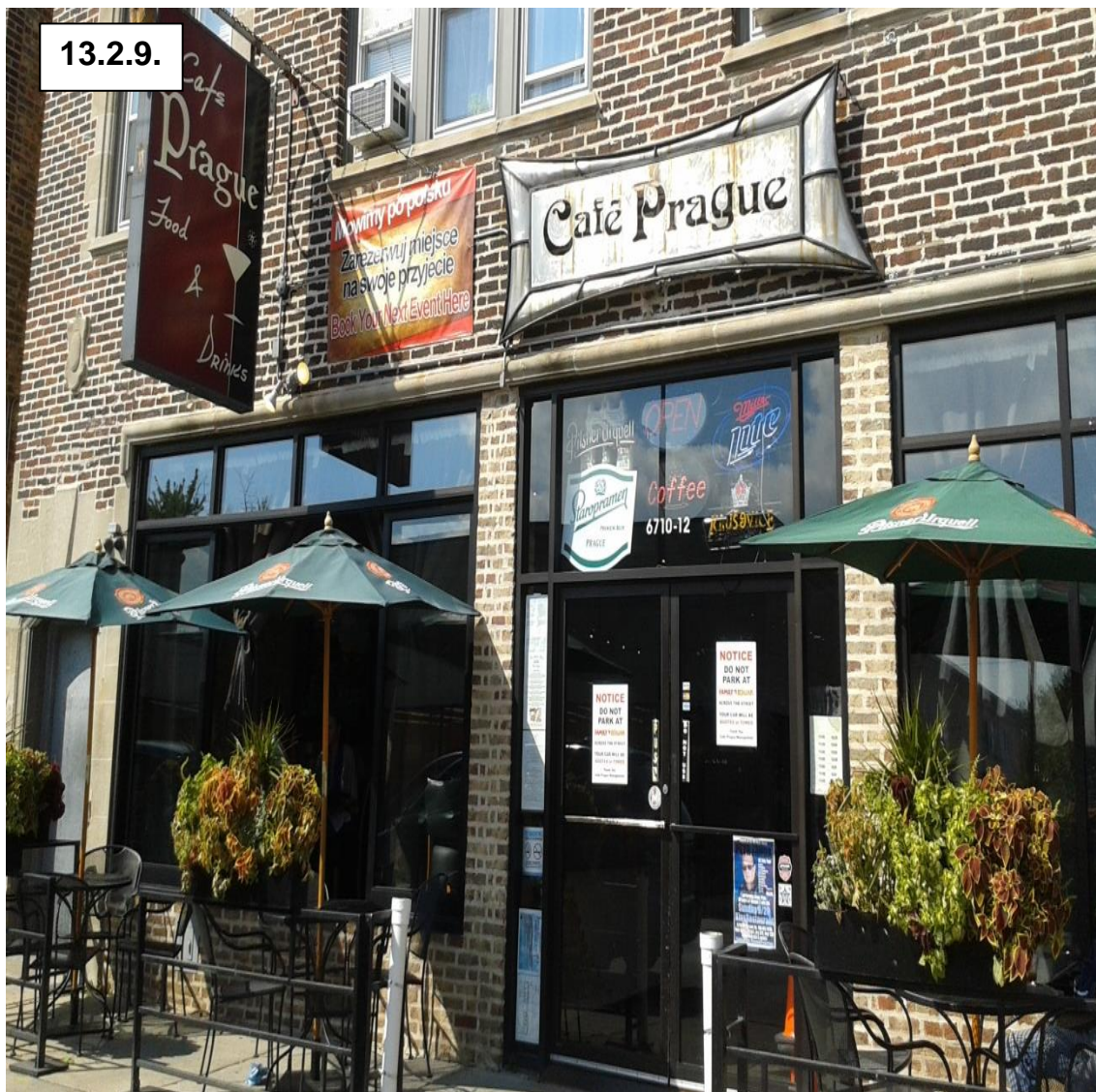





13.2.8.

<p>Česká Misie v Chicagu Vás srdečně zve na</p> <h2>VÝROČNÍ PIKNIK</h2> <p>v neděli 7. září 2014 v lesní rezervaci „NATIONAL GROVE“ Zahrada č.4</p> <p>27. ulice a Des Plaines Ave. - North Riverside od 11.00 dopoledne do setmění</p> <p>v 11.00 dopoledne přímo na pikniku ČESKÁ MŠE SVATÁ S ČESKÝMI ZPĚVY</p> <p><i>K poslechu, zpěvu a tanci hraje po celé odpoledne:</i></p> <p>Joe Polach</p> <p>St. Louis Czech Express a dále vystupuje skupina „BORŮVKY“ a hosté v 1.30 odpoledne vystoupí taneční skupiny dětí z UMS</p> <p><i>Pro děti bude bohatý program:</i></p> <p>Nafukovací hrad na skákání a další hry</p> <p><i>Bude připraveno výborné občerstvení: tradiční hrstkovky, langosy, domácí sýrské, teplé klobásky a párky, pivo v vlastním drahém, dobře chlazené napoje.</i></p> <p>Točená Píseň za 3,- Nebude chybět bohatá tombola.</p> <p><small>Těšíme se na Vaši návštěvu. V případě většího množství objednávek se prosím obraťte na Klub Česká misie 9415 Rochester Ave., Brookfield, IL 60513 informace: 708 - 255 5117</small></p>	<p>Czech Mission most cordially invites to</p> <h2>THE ANNUAL PICNIC</h2> <p>on Sunday, September 7, 2014 in the "National Grove" No. 4</p> <p>27th Str. and Des Plaines Ave. - North Riverside from 11:00 am until dark</p> <p>11:00 am - CZECH MASS WITH THE CZECH HYMNS <i>Great entertainment with traditional melodies all afternoon:</i></p> <p>Joe Polach</p> <p>St. Louis Czech Express "Borůvky" band & Guests</p> <p>1:30pm performance from children from UMS <i>Games for children:</i></p> <p>Inflatable Bouncy Castle & many other games <i>Excellent home style refreshments, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - traditional potato pancakes - popular Slovak pancakes "Langosy" - domestic style smoked meat - Moravian style sausages - home baked pastries and coffee - well chilled drinks - Pilsen beer only 3,- <p><i>Drawing for prizes for those in attendance.</i></p> <p><small>We look forward to your visit The Czech Mission of greater Chicago In case of inclement weather the Picnic will be held in the Hall at Czech Mission 9415 Rochester Ave., Brookfield, IL 60513 Information: 708 - 255 5117</small></p>
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13.2.9.



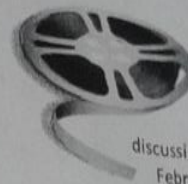
13.2.10.



Sokol Spirit's 1st Friday of the Month 2014

CZECH FILM SERIES CONTINUES... (English subtitles) (3909 S. Prairie Avenue, Brookfield-upstairs Czech Language Classroom) Donation \$4/person 7-9:30pm with discussions lead by Pavlina Dropka, Czech language head teacher and on operas with Marvin Lanzel in the 2nd floor Czech Classroom. Pop/Water or first pilsner beer free! Post 1/14

January 3rd RUSALKA OPERA, Dvořák's three-act opera is based on two fairy tales and tells the story of a water-nymph. In Slavic mythology, a rusalka (plural: rusalki or rusalky) is a female ghost, water nymph, succubus, or mermaid-like demon that dwelt in a waterway. (155 minutes; 2002; PG-Adult Please note that the Lyric Opera of Chicago will be performing this from late thru March, 2014.



February 7th S tebou mě baví svět / I ENJOY (LIKE) THE WORLD WITH YOU The film was selected as the best Czech comedy ever made. A comedy about a family holiday in picturesque Beskydy cottage in the mountains, where three male friends take care of six small children (roughly two to eight years of age). (82 minutes; 1982; PG13-Children nude in bathing scene)

March 7th ZELARY (Town name) During WWII (starts with Spring, 1943), nurse Eliska is part of a secret resistance movement with her lover, surgeon Richard. When he is discovered, she is forced to leave the hospital in order to hide from the Nazis as well. A sympathetic colleague sends her off with a patient whose life she saved, to the remote Moravian mountain village of Zelary, (shot in the Beskinds Mountain Range in Slovakia), where time has stopped, as he has agreed to hide her as his wife. (150 minutes; 2003; R) Czech Lion Awards 2004 and 2005 Bangkok International Film Festival - Golden Kinnaree Award; Nominated for 76th Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film

April 4th Horem Padem/UP and DOWN In the dead of the night, near the Czech-Slovak border, two smugglers discover their truckload of illegal Indian immigrants have left a baby behind. In a small Prague apartment, Frantisek or "Franta" and Miluska or "Mila" dream of having a child. Comedy/Drama (108 minutes; 2004; R for swearing and racist language, and off-color situations, sexual content and brief violence; 18 minute review with Petr Forman who states that the film is about the "Czech State of Being".....Milos Forman's son)

May 2nd Musíme si pomáhat / DIVIDED WE FALL In a war-torn village (1941-43), one couple makes the ultimate sacrifice to save another. (122 Minutes; 2000; PG-13)

June 6th Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka; Oslusne hlasim;/THE GOOD SOLDIER SCHWEIK The exploits of Schweik, a good-natured buffoon in the Czech Army during WWI (1914-1918), whose mishaps bring disaster to rigid military situations. Though determined to do his duty, the messes he creates expose the weaknesses of the military as an institution and bring into sharp relief the absurdity of war. ...similar to Catch 22 and Slaughterhouse 5 (2 films 99 minutes/90 minutes; 1957; PG rating for language)

September 5th Obecná škola / ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Czech comedy Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film in 1991. The music played is from Dvorak, Smetana...great Czech composers! The film is set shortly after the World War II (1945 and 1946) in one of the suburbs of Prague (it was shot in Michle). The main character attends a boys' elementary school where he belongs to a class with a complete lack of discipline (100 minutes; 1991; PG-13)

October 3rd Babí léto / AUTUMN SPRING Bittersweet Comedy Czech Traditions (95 minutes; 2001; PG-13)

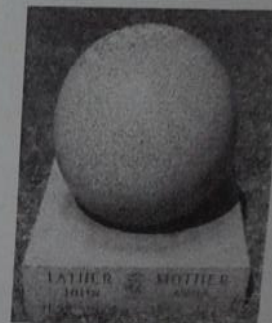
November 2nd Prodaná nevěsta / THE BARTERED BRIDE OPERA, Smetana's three-act comic opr.

Dec. 5th Tři oříšky pro Popelku / THREE NUTS FOR CINDERELLA Slavic Christmas Fairytale (92 min; 1973; G)

Sponsor: Foreign Language Committee of Sokol Spirit ? czechclass@ or language@sokolspirit.org

13.2.11.

Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery Tours of the Tombstones



When: Saturday, October 4, 2014
10:00 am and 1:00 pm

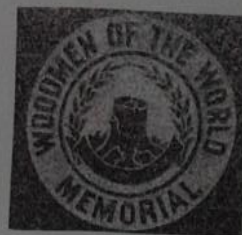
led by professional tour guide
Albert Walavich

Where: Bohemian National Cemetery
5255 N. Pulaski Road
Chicago, Illinois 60630

two-hour walking tours begin
at the gatehouse

Cost: \$10 for Friends members
\$15 for non-members

refreshments after the tours
reservations not necessary



For information: www.friendsofbnc.org 847-362-9036

The cemetery is located at the corner of Foster and Pulaski.

13.3. PRAGUE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

A resolution

adopted by *The City Council*
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*



Presented by MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL on JANUARY 21, 2015

Whereas Sister Cities International is a nonpartisan national membership organization for cities around the world that unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers to promote world peace through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Sister Cities International seeks to promote global peace and prosperity by providing private citizens from communities around the world, and the leaders of the cities in which they live, with an opportunity to meet face-to-face to celebrate their respective cultures, to appreciate their differences, and to develop mutual understanding, friendships and long-term partnerships to reduce international conflict and secure global prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Since 1960, when Chicago signed its first Sister Cities agreement, Chicago Sister Cities International has established official relationships with 28 Sister Cities in almost every region of the world. Today, Chicago Sister Cities International is the most active Sister Cities Organization in the world; and

WHEREAS, The people-to-people and community relationships formed through the Sister Cities network have produced mutually beneficial city-to-city ties resulting in increased international trade, economic development, tourism, cultural exchanges, and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of Chicago's Sister Cities relationship with the City of Prague in the Czech Republic; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago is proud of the Sister City partnership it has formed with the City of Prague, and of its long history of friendship and cooperation with the people of the Czech Republic; and

WHEREAS, Former Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak was of Czech heritage, and has a school named after him in the City of Prague. Mayor Cermak's desk at Chicago's City Hall is still used today by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and serves as a daily reminder of the important role played in the history of our great City by persons of Czech descent; and