



Celebrating Connections

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International
18th Genealogical/Cultural Conference

October 11–16, 2021

Major Sponsors—Platinum Level



Consulate General of the Czech
Republic in Chicago



JOHN & HELEN
TIMO
FOUNDATION

NATIONAL
CZECH &
SLOVAK
MUSEUM &
LIBRARY



Program and Registration Materials

THANKS TO OUR CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

Gold Level



Silver Level



Bronze Level



WHAT DOES THE CONFERENCE FEE INCLUDE?

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society's 2021 Conference, Celebrating Connections, will be presented virtually to all registrants. This is being done to eliminate concerns members might have as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic currently affecting the United States and other countries.

We have planned and organized the conference to give you access to our speakers' expertise plus the opportunity to connect electronically with other participants.

As a result, the 2021 CGSI Conference fee covers three levels of participation—'Live,' On-Demand, and Combo.

'Live' Registration Package

The full four-day CGSI member or non-member standard fee entitles registrants to:

- Speakers' 15-minute question-and-answer sessions at the end of their one-hour presentations.
- Wednesday evening's Kroje (folk costume) documentary, produced in 2021 by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.
- Wednesday's keynote address by Cecilia Rokusek of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library on "Connecting Our Past to Pave the Way for the Future."
- Any three of the eight breakout sessions on Wednesday, any three of eight sessions on Friday, and any three of the seven Saturday sessions. If you aren't enjoying a session you can log in to another concurrent session.
- A Czech and Slovak Film Festival featuring a choice among *My Antonia*, *The Final Mission*, *The Oath*, and *Singin' in the Grain*. These will be offered Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings (films and days may be subject to change).
- Thursday morning's CGSI Annual Meeting.
- Thursday afternoon's Exhibitors Fair.
- Thursday afternoon's networking "Happy Hour."
- Friday's polka concert by Mollie B. and Ted Lange.
- Attendance in a research consultation with a CGSI volunteer (formerly known as Traveling Library). Session participation will be limited.
- An electronic copy (PDF format) of the Conference Syllabus with speaker presentation material.

On-Demand Registration Package

This package entitles the registrant to access and view all 50 one-hour presentations at any time and as many times as desired, for six months following the end of the conference.

The registrant is entitled to a digital copy of the conference syllabus.

This package does not include access to other programs broadcast during the week of the conference. (If you desire that, please choose the Combo registration package.)

This package also does not include the 15-minute question-and-answer sessions at the end of each live presentation.

Combo Registration

The Combo Conference fee entitles registrants to all the benefits of the other two packages.

SMALL GROUP WORKSHOPS

Five folk-art workshops taught by Daniela Mahoney are limited in attendance and require a separate registration fee. The Traditional Glass Bead Ornaments Workshops (offered twice) are limited to 10 registrants each, and her other three workshops are limited to 15 registrants each.

The two Czech baking workshops by Ann Cramer are limited to 12 registrants each, and the Halušky and Slovak Language workshops by Dennis Ragan are each limited to 15 registrants and all four require a separate fee. If demand increases, CGSI may schedule another workshop the week after the Conference.

ACCOMMODATIONS

None required. You can enjoy this conference from the convenience of your home.

REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN

Once you register, you can log into the conference vendor's platform two weeks before the start date to get log-in information, create your profile, and practice navigating the "dashboard." The better you know the platform the richer your conference experience will be, because this system allows for many networking opportunities with other registrants and exhibitors.

EXHIBITORS/VENDORS

Exhibitor attendance will be larger and broader than previous in-person conferences, and CGSI is contacting more than 100 potential exhibitors to participate. Exhibitors' products and services will be displayed on our vendor's conference platform. These items will include websites, Facebook and Twitter links, conference specials, and videos demonstrating their services or products.

They will also be able to interact with conference registrants using the virtual software of our platform vendor and possibly through Zoom. You can catch up with your favorite exhibitor in real time. At an exhibitor fair Thursday from 1–4 p.m., we will ask exhibitors to staff their virtual booths and many will be available on other days and hours during the week.

DOOR PRIZES AWARDED

Exhibitors will donate products or services, including complimentary online genealogy research subscriptions, for door prizes, and CGSI will draw winners of these items throughout the Conference, including at least two drawings at the CGSI Annual Member Meeting.

RESEARCH CONSULTATIONS

A limited number of registrants will be accepted to schedule a research consultation with a CGSI volunteer. Research consultation is our new name for what had been known as the CGSI Traveling Library. CGSI research volunteers will take registrants' information or brick wall problems and use online resources to uncover research results.

These resources include Czech and Slovak archive records online and genealogy sites such as FamilySearch, Ancestry or My Heritage. Other sources might include the 1653 Berni Rula census, and the Soupis poddaných podle viry z roku 1651 (a 1651 religious census), gazetteers, the CGSI members' surnames list, or Leo Baca Czech Passenger Lists. CGSI cannot guarantee that all brick walls will be resolved.

Volunteer researchers and registrants will meet online to review research methodologies and discuss results to aid the registrant's future research.

If we have more researchers than we can accommodate, we will use a lottery system to select those who will receive assistance. We will also do our best to locate, scan, and email entries to you from our physical library.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Karen Cermak at kcermak@cgisi.org.

TRANSLATION ASSISTANCE

If you are having difficulty reading documents in Czech, Slovak, German, or Rusyn (Cyrillic characters), please let us know and we can help you find someone to assist you. But first, you can view a list of translators on the CGSI website. If you can read the words, you can try using Google Translate or a similar translation tool. If you need German assistance, you might also consider attending Antje Petty's presentation, *An Overview of the Old German Script*.

The networking capabilities of the conference software will enable you to contact conference speakers fluent in a language, like Dennis Ragan (Slovak) or a conference sponsor/exhibitor like Anna Cookova of CzechTalk.

NETWORKING

Our virtual conference networking will be more robust and targeted than past in-person conferences.

Our vendor's conference platform will hold profile data that can be searched by other registrants through keywords such as DNA research, surnames, villages of origin, koláče, genealogy software, and family history writing.

Networking can be either one-on-one or in small groups, like those that formerly shared common surnames or ancestral villages/districts during our networking sessions.

At our Thursday Networking Happy Hour from 4:30–7 p.m., people can take part in any preplanned or spur-of-the-moment sessions covering common ancestral villages or other items of interest.

WORKSHOPS—OCTOBER 11, 12, 14



MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

10–11:30 A.M.

**Folk Art Workshop —
Traditional Glass Bead Ornaments**
Daniela Sipkova-Mahoney
(Limit—10 participants)

Participants will learn the history of glass ornaments made of hollow beads, a craft that originated in the village of Ponikla in northern Bohemia. The presentation includes a lecture about the Rautis company, which was instrumental in preserving the traditional glass bead-making technology and manufacturing processes dating back almost 150 years. Each participant will complete two ornaments gravitating from simple to more complex designs.

(To be repeated Thursday, October 14)

NOON–3:30 P.M.

**Cooking Workshop—
Koláče Baking**
Ann Vojta Cramer
(Limit—12 participants)

Learn how to make traditional, round koláče, the most famous of Czech bakery. Koláče are known to follow Czechs from cradle to grave as they are served at every one of life's important events. Participants will work step by step with Ann Vojta Cramer on Zoom to make these delicious koláče. Familiarity with Zoom and a laptop computer or tablet are required.

1–4 P.M.

**Cooking Workshop—
How to Make "Real" (i.e., Potato) Halušky**
Dennis Ragan
(Limit—15 participants)

In this virtual cooking class, you will learn how to make a variety of halušky that emigrant Slovaks—mostly from Eastern Slovakia—continued to make in North America when they arrived more than 100 years ago. Although typically referred to only as "halušky" by these Slovaks, this simple yet tasty dish is now sometimes called kapustové halušky to differentiate it from other forms of halušky such as "bryndzové" halušky. Kapustové halušky are dumplings made with grated potatoes, flour, caramelized butter and fried cabbage (kapusta) and/or onions. This type of halušky is NOT "cabbage and noodles," although many in North America think it is.

2–3:30 P.M.

**Folk Art Workshop—
Easter Traditions and Egg Decorating
in the Czech Republic**
Daniela Sipkova-Mahoney
(Limit—15 participants)

Egg decorating was an integral part of celebrating spring and Christian religious holidays in the Czech lands and Slovakia. The speaker provides a comprehensive narrative while participants work on their projects, mastering two different styles of egg decorating (blue ink and straw/ribbon application).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

10 A.M.—1 P.M.

**Cooking Workshop—
Šišky-Making**
Ann Vojta Cramer
(Limit—12 participants)

Work, step by step with Ann Vojta Cramer on Zoom to make šišky, delicious deep-fried twisted pieces of dough rolled in cinnamon and sugar. Participants should be familiar with Zoom and use a laptop computer or tablet.

11 A.M.—12:30 P.M.

**Folk Art Workshop—
Wheat weaving Decorations
for Christmas**
Daniela Sipkova-Mahoney
(Limit—15 participants)

During this workshop, the instructor will discuss the highlights of Christmas meals, crafts, and other traditions while participants learn how to create old-fashioned Christmas tree decorations using wheat stalks (angels or hearts).

2–3:30 P.M.

**Folk Art Workshop—
Corn Husk Crafts**
Daniela Sipkova-Mahoney
(Limit—15 participants)

Corn husk leaves became a source of inspiration for crafters in the Czech lands and Slovakia, and many women in Moravské Slovácko (the southeast region of Moravia) still make corn husk dolls, animals, and other designs. Participants will learn the history of this craft and make two dolls from moistened corn husk leaves.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

NOON–1:30 P.M.

**Language Workshop—
How to Know Just Enough Slovak
to Get By**
Dennis Ragan
(Limit—15 participants)

You are going to Slovakia and you would really like to speak and maybe understand a little Slovak while there. Is it possible to learn just enough Slovak to get by? Well, it is probably more possible now than ever before. Especially with today's technology (translation and dictionary apps, YouTube videos, access to Slovak media, and even opportunities to communicate with Slovaks online), it is possible to learn a little Slovak. This workshop will explore what you may be able to learn: e.g., greetings, basic questions and expressing your feelings. Then we will look at how to best learn a little Slovak.

QUADRUPLE FEATURE FILM FESTIVAL (OCTOBER 13, 14, AND 16)

The CGSI is proud to present for your viewing pleasure your choice of four films at the following dates and times:

Wednesday October 13 at 5 pm
Thursday October 14 at 7 pm
Saturday October 16 at 5 pm

CGSI wishes to thank the Al Migrom Estate for permission to show *Singin' in the Grain*, CBS Home Entertainment for permission to show *My Antonia*, and Slovak director Dušan Hudec for permission to show his two films, *The Final Mission* and *The Oath*.

THE FINAL MISSION (2014—58 minutes)



Filed by Dušan Hudec and produced by Darina Smržova, *The Final Mission* documents the story of American airmen shot down over Slovakia during WWII and how villagers took 85 of them into hiding. Hudec visited the U.S. several times doing research in the National Archives and interviewing surviving airmen (in their 90s) as well as family members. He also found and interviewed surviving Slovak family members who took these downed airmen into their homes at such great risk.

When the communists were in control of Slovakia these stories could not be told.

THE OATH (2016—57 minutes)



After several days of bloody combat with the Japanese, six Marines led by Michael Strank, of Rusyn ancestry and born in Slovakia, raised the American flag on Mount Suribachi on the Island of Iwo Jima. Thanks to the expressive and historic photo by Joe Rosenthal, those soldiers became heroes who were revered across the United States. However, Strank, 25, died in combat a few days later when shrapnel from an artillery shell pierced his heart. This one-hour documentary film was shot in Slovakia, the United States and Iwo Jima and features interviews with Strank's sister and the last living members of the Marine Raiders and Marine Corps who fought with him on Bougainville and Iwo Jima.

MY ANTONIA (1995—100 minutes)

This 1995 TV film adaptation of the Willa Cather novel that won an Emmy for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Cinematography for a Miniseries or a Special. It involves the most famous depiction of Czech immigrant life in American literature and it is one of several works Cather wrote about Bohemian immigrants, whom she called "people of a superior type." The movie, directed by Joseph Sargent, and stars Jason Robards, Eva Marie Saint, and Neil Patrick Harris and was produced for the USA Network. It was filmed in part at the Stuhr Museum in Grand Island, Nebraska, just 50 miles north of where Cather grew up.



SINGIN' IN THE GRAIN (2019—109 minutes)



Singin' in the Grain is the story of a village polka band and its city cousins. Shot in a bread-basket corner of the US, "*Singin' in the Grain*" captures what it means to be Czech-American today and, by extension, defining American ethnic identity. The Eddie Shimota polka band, tracked by camera for more than 40 years by documentarist Al Milgrom, meets a new immigrant combo specializing in gypsy rock. From distant Moravia in the Czech Republic, it's a far cry to Eddie's world in Minnesota's Czech Triangle: New Prague, Montgomery, Veseli

and Lonsdale, and St. Paul's Czech and Slovak Sokol Hall. Featured are the yearly rituals of the old and the new generations and it becomes a passport for exploring America's historic immigrant odysseys.

Films and days may be subject to change.

PRESENTATIONS—OCTOBER 13–16

(OPEN TO ALL 'LIVE' OR COMBO REGISTRANTS)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

10 A.M.

Researching Czech Census Records *Greg Nelson*

The various Czech censuses are important record types for connecting your family and can provide important clues not only on individuals but also their connections. We will explore all available censuses:

- How to find each of them on various genealogy and custodial (archive) websites
- How data privacy plays a role in your search
- Reading German and Czech even when you struggle
- Researching census substitutes
- Appealing for help when you have hit a brick wall.

This talk will cover 19th and 20th century censuses, from 1857 to 1921.

Slovak Genealogy Research *Iveta Blahútová*

Did your ancestor come from the Austro-Hungarian Empire? Or Czechoslovakia? Then your ancestor may have come from what is now Slovakia. This presentation will give a brief history, the reasons for emigration, and highlight important points of research. It will introduce research techniques and helpful websites and it will present the naming system, including the Slovak alphabet and its pronunciation. The collection of the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri, will also be shown.

11:30 A.M.

National Anthems

Star Spangled Banner *Kde Domov Můj* *Nad Tatrou sa Blýska* *Ja Rusyn Byl*

Connecting our Past to Pave the Way for the Future

Keynote speech by Cecilia Rokusek, *National Czech & Slovak* *Museum & Library*

1 P.M.

Sedlák, Psekář, Fleischhacker or Inquilinus? Let Us Get Acquainted with the Professions of Our Czech Ancestors *Miroslav Koudelka*

This presentation will help you understand expressions referring to your ancestors' professional or social status, explaining the categories of persons engaged in farming from whole-plot-land owners down to subtenants.

It will also describe the most frequent kinds of crafts, as well as other occupations and social positions—both in the remainders of the feudal system and those referring to the beginnings of industrial period.

Old records in the Czech Republic were written in ancient Czech, German, Latin, and their dialects, and all those language forms will be included.

Behind the Iron Curtain *Dr. Zuzana Palovic* *and Dr. Gabriela Bereghazyova*

This presentation sheds light on the difficult and emotionally charged topic of communism as rolled out and experienced in present-day Slovakia. It will untangle the mechanisms behind introducing and maintaining totalitarianism in Czechoslovakia by systematically stripping people of their civil liberties and rights over four decades.

Besides focusing on historic description, the speakers will link the past to the universal struggle for truth, justice, and freedom. The presentation will also highlight the lessons learned of the latter half of the 20th century and how the world can learn from them today. It is based on the speakers' internationally acclaimed 600+ page book *Czechoslovakia: Behind the Iron Curtain*.

Bohemian Forest to Tall Grass Prairie: German-Bohemian Chain Migration to Southern Minnesota *Molly Schweinfurter*

This session will discuss the origin and unique culture of German-Bohemians and where they settled in Minnesota. It will also discuss pioneer migration versus chain migration, as well as the German-Bohemian dialect, tracht, and other cultural touchstones that they brought to Minnesota, including music and food traditions.

3 P.M.

Surviving the 19th Century in East Bohemia *by Diana Bigelow*

Each of us comes from a long line of survivors, a fact all the more remarkable considering that they lived in a world awash with infectious disease, unclean drinking water, and misdirected medical practices. The story of survival in one East Bohemian town as told by its vital records describes its many health challenges (and some progress) during the 19th century, including persistently high infant mortality, three global pandemics of a new and deadly cholera strain, environmental pollution, and rising rates of suicide and alcoholism.

Finding Your Ancestor's Path Back to Europe *Bob Heck*

Perhaps the most difficult part of family research is finding where in the old country your family originated. This presentation discusses resources that you may already have or have viewed and some that are new and just a click away. They will help you find your ancestral home in Europe.

These resources include family members; tombstones, certificates, and documents; family Bible and church records; newspaper articles and obituaries; photographs; letters; diaries; passenger lists; and the "To America" series.

Real life examples will demonstrate what to look for and where it may lead you. Many of these resources are overlooked yet they could hold the secret that you have been researching for years. We will look at what techniques have been used at the Family History Center to help patrons find their ancestral home.

Roma in Central Europe: Past and Present *Stepanka Korytova, Ph.D.*

This presentation will examine the history and evolution of Roma (aka Gypsy) settlements in Central Europe. The presenter will focus on their ethnic structures, their employment, and their culture in its broadest sense: their language, customs, and traditions (e.g., weddings and funerals).

She will then review their status as a minority within the multinational Austro-Hungarian Empire and look at the changes the Roma experienced within the rather ethnically homogeneous Czechoslovakia from 1918 to 1993, including the Roma experience during the Holocaust. The presenter will conclude with her own experience working with Roma.

WEDNESDAY, 5 P.M.

**Film Festival
Your Choice of Four Films**

The Oath
Final Mission
My Antonia
Singin' in the Grain

(details on page 5)

7 P.M.

**Introduction to CGSI Website
Kevin Hurbanis**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

10–11:30 A.M.

**Craft Workshop —
Traditional Glass Bead Ornaments
(repeat of Monday session)
Daniela Sipkova-Mahoney
(separate paid registration required)**

11 A.M.

**CGSI Annual Membership Meeting
Learn about new and ongoing
developments from volunteer
members. Two door prizes will be
awarded from among attendees.**

NOON–1:30 P.M.

**Language Workshop —
How to Know Just Enough Slovak
to Get By
Dennis Ragan
(separate paid registration required)**

1–4 P.M.

Exhibitor Fair

4:30–7 P.M.

Networking Happy Hour

*CGSI will help to create small group
networking meetings where attendees
can share common information.*

7 P.M.

**Film Festival
Your Choice of Four Films**

The Oath
Final Mission
My Antonia
Singin' in the Grain

(details on page 5)

WEDNESDAY, 7 P.M.

**KROJE
DOCUMENTARY**

In a special partnering arrangement, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is planning to professionally produce a Kroje (Folk Costume) documentary to be broadcast during the 2021 Conference on Wednesday October 13 at 7 p.m.

Stefanie Kohn, Museum Curator is charged with creating a 60-minute presentation using articles stored at the museum. If you have visited the Museum you have probably seen some of these kroje displayed in the Petrik Gallery. According to the NCSML website, the collection includes 87 Kroje from various areas of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The film will include graphics to provide the



Photographs courtesy of the NCSML



name of each village or region where the costume originates, its location on a map, and a narrated short description.

This will be a contrast to the traditional Parade of Kroje held at CGSI's in-person conferences, where participants model their own or a loaned kroj. With the film, everyone will get the same up-close view of each costume.

CGSI wishes to thank Cecilia Rokusek, NCSML CEO, Stefanie Kohn, and others from the museum or their contractors whose work will go into producing this documentary.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

10 A.M.

**Identifying and Locating
Czech-American and Slovak-American
Serial Publications and Archival Materials
David Muhlena**

Czech and Slovak immigrants and their descendants have left a lasting legacy of serial publications (news-papers, journals, newsletters) and archival materials (letters, photos, ephemera, etc.). However, identifying and locating these primary sources is a challenge.

This presentation will highlight relevant bibliographies and finding aids, demonstrate online discovery tools like WorldCat, and offer tips on how to identify local historical organizations that may hold Czech-American and Slovak-American serial publications and archival materials.

The presentation will conclude with the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library's plan to create an online portal that will include a comprehensive list of these current and out-of-print publications and an online guide that identifies American institutions that hold Czech or Slovak archival materials.

The Odyssey of the Czech and Slovak Legion In Siberia from 1918–1922

Joan Mohr

During World War I, a specialized army comprising Czech and Slovak prisoners of war—the Legion—became pawns in an international struggle for power. Their evacuation became the most important human-interest story of WWI, chronicled weekly by the *London Times* and *New York Herald*.

The Legion's forced detour through Siberia led to their accidental involvement in the assassination of Tsar Nicholas and the transport of the Russian treasury through eastern Siberia. Even so, this historic episode has intentionally been subsumed by all nations involved.

This presentation will shed light on this hidden yet important facet of WWI, one that became seminal to the establishment of Czechoslovakia.

Ivan Lived in Five Countries and Never Moved— A Tale of a Carpatho-Rusyn Family

Karen Varian

Our ancestors who remained in the homeland saw many changes during the 20th century, as World War I, World War II, and governmental changes affected their living conditions, education, work, religion, language, and self-identity.

Through the experiences of the fictitious Carpatho-Rusyn family of "Ivan Rusinko," who from 1914 to today experienced life in five countries and never moved, you will see how history changed the course of his family's lives and may have changed those of your ancestors.

1 P.M.

Principles of Autosomal DNA Testing Regarding Czech Ancestry

Marek Blahuš

More than 40 million people have already taken a genealogical DNA test.

Such tests usually explore autosomal DNA, the portion of our genetic information to which all our ancestral lines have contributed. Its properties make it the ideal, cost-effective first test for an American genealogist wanting to discover new relatives, possibly breaking down a brick wall in the process.

This talk will explain genetic fundamentals, tell you which databases are popular among Czech researchers and show you how to interpret your results, combining them with your paper trail.

170-Year History of Czech New York

Martin Nekola

Thousands of people dreamed of leaving poor Bohemian lands and entering the country of endless hope. The long journey carried them across the Atlantic to various harbors, above all New York City.

With the outbreak of World War I in the summer of 1914, there were about 350,000 Czechs living in the US, including more than 40,000 in the New York City area alone.

The lecture will focus on the development of Czech neighborhoods where the community showed an extraordinary desire to associate and founded a number of compatriot associations, businesses, schools, and churches, as well as publishing numerous periodicals.

Emigration from Slovakia to the USA in the Late 19th Early 20th Centuries

Michal Razus

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, thousands of people from central Europe moved in search of a better life—most of them heading to the United States. The territory of present Slovakia was no exception.

This presentation will discuss the emigration timeframe and methods, differences between male and female emigration, reasons for and effects of emigration from Slovakia, as well as the means of transportation and legal and illegal border crossings.

We will also review regions with the highest percentage of emigration (Šariš, Spiš, Zemplin, Abov, Liptov, Orava), and emigration destinations.

3 P.M.

Key Slovak Words for Genealogical Research

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

This presentation will discuss the key Slovak words needed to engage in genealogical research about Slovak ancestors. A useful handout of words and phrases in the syllabus and a handy bibliography are also included.

The session will include examples of documents as samples from online and offline sources, such as church records, census data, city directories, obituaries, and gravestones.

The lecture will cover many of the main words for life events such as birth and baptism (which can be easily mixed up), marriage, and children, as well as property, occupation, and death records. The session also includes some useful experiences gained in researching family history.

An Overview of the Old German Script

Antje Petty

Anybody who has held an old German letter in their hands knows that not only is the language different but that the writing itself looks unusual.

This session will provide an introduction to learning to decipher old German script, using schoolbooks, letters, and other resources from Max Kade Institute collections (Madison WI), which were used by German-speaking immigrants in the 19th and early 20th century.

7 P.M.

Friday Entertainment

Mollie B and Ted Lange



Mollie B, a multi-instrumentalist and award-winning vocalist, hosts the Mollie B Polka Party TV show. Mollie started her career performing with the Jim Busta Band when she was a child. She now performs nationwide—in live performances, TV, and the movie screen, most often, but not exclusively, with the band SqueezeBox. Mollie has performed on over 35 recordings, with fans in more than 30 states and 11 countries and continues to inspire young musicians with her love for music.

Ted Lange, a two-time Grammy nominee, International Polka Association Hall of Fame member, and the 2019 IPA Best International Male Vocalist, co-leads and co-manages SqueezeBox with Mollie B. While on stage, he is featured on accordion, midi bass, button box and vocals. Besides performing with SqueezeBox, he has become synonymous with quality polka music as an award winning-musician, DJ, promoter, engineer, song writer, arranger and producer. With his wife, Mollie B, Ted co-produces the Mollie B Polka Party on RFD-TV, which broadcasts into over 60-million households.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16**10 A.M.****50 Years Traveling the Backroads of Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, and Ruthenia****Helene Cincebeaux**

This presentation celebrates 50 years of discovery and immersion—from glass blowers, black kitchens, castles, and ghosts in Bohemia, where Prague was once the center of Europe, to beekeepers, folk and ceramic artists, and wine cellars in Moravia, where Christianity bloomed, and the Great Moravian Empire ruled.

It includes Gothic castles, icon-filled wooden churches, shepherds in Slovakia, and Rusyn culture to those trying to preserve ancient churches. Learn about Venus carvers 25 millennia ago, ancient Boii tribes, Celts, Slavs, invading Mongols, Turks and Swedes, to Anabaptists sheltering in Moravia, Evangelical Lutherans in Slovakia, Jan Hus, Žižka, Komenský, Cyril and Methodius, and Jánošík!

Bohemian National Cemetery in Chicago—A Living Legacy
Carol Smetana

Founded in 1877 by Czech freethinkers, Chicago's Bohemian National Cemetery today covers 125 acres, with more than 120,000 burials. Its extensive variety of funerary art, its historic architecture and landscape design, and its ethnic heritage have earned the cemetery an entry on the National Register of Historic Places.

The cemetery's history and cultural artifacts tell the story of the Czech immigrant and the Czech-American experience, as well as the history of the Czech lands and Czechoslovakia herself.

We will also look at some of the rich genealogical material waiting to be discovered by family historians at this and most other cemeteries.

1 P.M.**The Estate System and Estate Registries**
Blanka Lednická

The estate system, which was in place from the late Middle Ages till the middle of the 19th century, is often tough to understand for people outside Europe.

Why was it in place? How did it work? What duties were connected to serfdom? Were people allowed to marry freely? Could they move from place to place? This presentation will explore numerous aspects of the estate system: history, duration, rules, serfdom, corvee, etc.

This presentation will explain what the estate collections are, where those collections are stored, and what one can find in these collections.

Slovak Strong: Tales of Everyday Life during War, Illnesses, and Political/Social Change
Lisa Alzo and Renata Calfa

The history of the Slovak people is a story of resilience through change. As family historians, we need to look beyond just the names, dates, and places to understand our ancestors and the decisions they made.

Through tales of everyday life, learn how war, illnesses, and political and social change affected Slovaks and how to dig deeper into your own family history for clues to identify family patterns, ancestral trauma, and inspirational stories.

Before the Boat—Exploring the Practicalities of Tickets, Train Travel, Ports and Steamships at the Turn of the 20th Century
Joe Gayetsky

This talk will examine ticket agents, train routes, emigrant halls, and shipping lines as parts of the structures and systems that made it feasible for so many Slovak immigrants to leave their remote villages for America.

After planning visits to my ancestral villages throughout Slovakia I began to think of their journey in an entirely different way. I required a smartphone, translator, GPS and rental car so how did they undertake theirs? Their journey seems to be only a boat ride, but how did they get to the boat?

3 P.M.**Using Traditional and Digital Sources to Write the History of Pennsylvania's Carpatho-Rusyn Immigrants**
Rich Custer

From the late 1870s till the mid-1920s, fully half of Carpatho-Rusyn immigrants to the United States settled in Pennsylvania, and almost all their first community institutions—churches, fraternal/cultural organizations, newspapers—were established in that state.

The presenter has studied Pennsylvania's rich Carpatho-Rusyn history for more than two decades and will discuss the journey of documenting this history through traditional sources, including church anniversary booklets, fraternal organization almanacs, and immigrant newspapers, as well as the striking impact of other sources recently available online.

He will also relate instances of "cyber serendipity" made possible through social media that have yielded rare or formerly unknown special artifacts that help further highlight this history.

Practical Applications of DNA in Genealogy
Kevin Kittilson

This presentation discusses the practical considerations and methods for using various types of DNA to break through a genealogical brick wall. It uses as an example the presenter's own experience discovering, verifying and solving the documentary misattribution of his grandfather's paternity.

This problem's solution required using both YDNA and autosomal DNA in combination; neither alone would have provided a definite solution.

The presentation focuses on how to reason through what is needed based on the specifics of your genealogical problem: what tests to use, who to test, and how to interpret and use the information gained.

5 P.M.**Film Festival**
Your Choice of Four Films

The Oath
Final Mission
My Antonia
Singin' in the Grain

(details on page 5)

CGSI ON-DEMAND AND COMBO PRESENTATIONS

(AVAILABLE TO ON-DEMAND AND COMBO REGISTRANTS FOR SIX MONTHS AFTER THE CONFERENCE)

Fighting for the Right to Speak Czech *Anna Cookova, czechtalk.com*

Solidarity. Truth. Peace. Learn about the passion and drive your ancestors had for preserving their right to speak the Czech language, a language “given to them by God that no man can take from them,” a language many Germans called a “servants’ language.” Czechs considered themselves “slaves” to Germanism for nearly 300 years, from the Battle of White Mountain to their independence in 1918. This lecture will focus on several theologians, historians, musicians and politicians who went to great lengths, devoting much of their lives to the Slavic cause and to the identity of their countrymen primarily found in the language they spoke. After all, “Národy nehynou dokud jazyk žije.” (Nations do not perish so long as the language lives.)

Czech Cadastral Maps Online—How to Use Them in Your Research *Blanka Lednická*

The last ten years have seen a large increase in publication of different resources on the Internet. The Czech National Archives in Prague and Moravian Land Archives in Brno have published cadastral maps from the first half of 19th century, two of which provide great possibilities for family history research. This lecture focuses on origins and systems of both 19th century and current cadastral maps, including a description of those maps and an explanation of their different features. Participants will also learn how to read these maps and how to use them in research, how to find property (fields, meadows, forests) belonging to the farmhouses, and how to compare old and current maps.

Old Czech Maps Online *Blanka Lednická*

Many old Czech maps and other geodetic resources are available for genealogists. The oldest maps cover Bohemia and Moravia detailed enough to locate villages and towns and were made by cartographer Johann Christoph Müller in 1716 and 1719. In addition, military maps were created from 1764–68, 1836–52, and 1876–80 and cover all of the Czech lands. A number of other maps can also be used by researchers, and this lecture will present many of these maps and information about using them.

Šel Vojáček po Silnici—What You Can Find in the Military Records *Blanka Lednická*

This presentation will provide information on the various military history resources available online. It will explain the basics of the Austrian (and early Czechoslovak) army system and show different databases and types of records.

It will answer questions, such as: What were the ranks? What did the uniforms look like? How long was the military service; was it mandatory; how long were people in the reserves? Were they allowed to marry? Where can you find the Czech military records? What can be found in these sources, and how do you search them?

House Research in Europe *Bob Heck*

Knowing the history of a house can tell you a lot about the people who lived in it.

Were they farmers, merchants, teachers? Why did they leave Europe? When did they leave Europe? Were they wealthy or poor? Did they own land? Why was their land shaped the way that it was? How big or small was the family? How long did the family live in the same house? How would you like to stand in front of the house that your ancestors owned in 1780?

This presentation will show you how, through “Haus” history books; church records of births, marriages, and deaths; church censuses; civil tax records and tax maps; census records; cadastral maps; wills and Probate Records; letters; and photographs.

You will learn how to enhance your research by using country codes in Google and how the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1770 started house numbering that is still used today.

Holidays in the Czech Republic and Slovakia *Daniela Sipkova Mahoney*

This lecture provides insight into seasonal traditions, customs, crafts, and foods throughout the year: winter and early spring traditions and customs (Masopust masks and food, Sundays before Easter); Easter Celebration (egg decorating and customs); late spring holidays (the Night of the Witches, Maypoles); summer traditions (ride of the kings); fall observations and customs (harvest festivals, All Saints Day); and Christmas (St. Nicholas day; Christmas cookies and pastries, meals, and customs; nativities or creches; Christmas tree; straw, dough and gingerbread ornaments; and the Festival of the Three Kings or Epiphany).

Getting to Know Your Ancestral Hometown from Parish Records *by Diana Bigelow*

Discovering your Czech roots would be incomplete without an understanding of your ancestral hometown and its past ways of life. Local histories are few, but one freely accessible resource can be relied on: parish vital records. These records document several centuries of major life events (birth, marriage, death) for every resident and thus, in the aggregate, offer a rich history of a community and a context to our ancestors’ lives. This talk will examine what vital records can tell us about the unique economies of diverse communities and how economic changes affected vulnerable populations, especially single women and the poor.

Identifying and Interpreting Meaningful Artifacts *Evelyn Funda*

This session focuses on how family historians can tease out the story behind ordinary family objects such as photos, letters, lists, financial records, clothing, and ephemera (that is, written or printed materials that were not meant to be retained or preserved).

Participants will examine examples of artifacts to discover how physical items can begin to “speak” to each other and reveal the secrets of family history. They will be guided through a series of brainstorming activities to identify their own meaningful family artifacts and to begin to interpret what those objects can reveal about their family history.

Accessing and Acquiring the Records of Czechia and Slovakia— FamilySearch Efforts 2009-2021 *Greg Nelson*

This presentation summarizes FamilySearch's efforts in the last 12 years to preserve records and provide access for family connections in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

This class will review specifics of both microfilm and digital record capture, record capture in surrounding countries, indexing efforts by FamilySearch and partners, how to find the right images in FamilySearch, and what do you when you hit a brick wall in FamilySearch.

We will also discuss not-yet-released features such as handwriting recognition, family reconstitution, instant indexing, and other tools that will make your discovery much easier.

The Cycle of Life in Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Villages *Helene Cincebeaux*

Our ancestors' lives revolved around the seasons with rituals and celebrations that brightened their work-a-day lives with traditional verses, music, food, and song from New Year's and Fašank, to spinning bees, courting parties, weddings, death customs, harvest festivals, All Soul's, Advent, and Christmas.

The church was the heart of village life with weddings, christenings, and funerals. However, many customs came from pagan traditions in the mists of the past.

This presentation includes images from Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, and Ruthenia taken over the past 50 years, including burning witches, Morena, Easter egg decorating along with water dousing, throwing shoes at the door, and more.

East European Research *Iveta Blahútová*

This presentation addresses East European genealogy reflected in the three groups of Slavs, the main cause of their emigration, when it happened, and four focus points, before exploring foreign records.

What were the reasons behind the name change? And how do you overcome a language barrier in the records? It will introduce the collection of books and periodicals available at the Midwest Genealogy Center (MGC) in Independence, Missouri.

By the end, you will have a basic knowledge of how to continue your research in any of the East European countries.

Shipping Lines—Their History, Growth and Influence on Immigration *Joe Gayetsky*

The shipping industry played a more active role in the immigrant experience than simply providing a means of travel, and this talk will cover the history of the shipping industry and the remarkable growth it experienced in the late 1800s.

The presentation covers the structure of the industry, the collaboration among companies, and the formation of cartels, as well as the lobbying efforts undertaken by the shipping industry against anti-immigrant legislation being debated in America.

How to Use Czech Land Records *Kate Challis*

Czech land records can bridge gaps in matriky records to help us understand our Czech ancestors' lives. This presentation will describe land records, show how they are organized, and tell where to find them today. By the end of this presentation, participants will be better able to locate and read Czech land records.

Researching European Archives from Your Easy Chair *Lisa Alzo*

With more information coming online and greater access to records, there has never been a better time to research your Central Eastern European ancestors.

Learn how to locate and access online archival records from Eastern Europe from the comfort of your home for free through sites such as FamilySearch, archival websites, and miscellaneous databases published by individuals, genealogical societies, and other organizations.

Jumping over Hurdles in Eastern European Research *Lisa Alzo*

Eastern European genealogy research is a marathon, not a sprint.

Sorting surnames, trying to identify ancestral hometowns, and deciphering old country records to connect families are just a few of the obstacles often encountered along the way.

This session will demonstrate how to overcome the hurdles of perplexing names, confusing geography, languages, and records access.

Creating a Family History Legacy Project: Your Blueprint for Success *Lisa Alzo*

You have done the research, verified the details, and uncovered the secrets. Now what?

In this session, you will learn how to find your creative muse to turn your genealogy research into a book fast, then publish it and share with others in three simple steps.

Even if you are busy, intimidated by writing, or do not know where to start, this simple and easy-to-follow blueprint will help you go from blank page to published family history in no time.

Principles of Y-DNA Testing with Regard to Czech Ancestry *Marek Blahuš*

The Y chromosome is a part of DNA passed only from father to son. Y-DNA testing is an underestimated genealogical technique, ignored by the mainstream, yet very useful for tracing surnames along the direct paternal line much farther back in history and with more certainty than with the common autosomal test.

The presentation explains genetic haplogroups, STR, and SNP testing, and (1) shows how relationship can be estimated from genetic distance, (2) presents a unique Czech Y-DNA database, and (3) suggests a strategy for validating even a distant shared-surname connection by a Y-DNA test.

The Moravian Field Register *Marek Blahuš*

Would you like to do a "phone book lookup" for your 17th century Moravian ancestors? Well, obviously, they had no phones then, but looking up your ancestral surname in the Moravian field register (1669–1679) feels almost like that.

This presentation explains the history, organization, recorded information, and accessibility of this unique resource for Moravian genealogy, which was fully indexed in 2015, with 189,102 personal records ordered alphabetically and published in two volumes and having the size and the feel of an actual phone book.

Building Czechoslovakia 1919–'22 *Mark Dillon*

This talk will examine the post-World War I economy in Czech lands and Slovakia and its effect on households and businesses, including a review of how America and Great Britain helped and the impact of aid.

The presentation will touch on (1) food—famine relief, diets and the role of the American Relief Administration; (2) health care—fighting outbreaks of disease and care for recovering veterans and orphans, as well as the birth of the Czechoslovak Red Cross; and (3) finance—providing a snapshot of living conditions at the time, including high inflation, declining currency, barter trade, and corruption.

From South Bohemia to the Capitol: The Life of Czech-American Congressman Adolph J. Sabath *Martin Nekola*

Adolph J. Sabath (1866-1952) was born into a Jewish family in South Bohemia. At 15, he left for America and settled in Pilsen, the Czech quarter of Chicago. Later he joined a real estate business, opened a law firm, and became well known in the Czech community. In November 1906 he was elected to the US Congress for the first time. He focused his agenda on the problems of immigration, unemployment, working conditions, and youth education. Sabath died shortly after his incredible 23rd re-election. He served under eight US presidents and carefully watched the turmoil in his Czech homeland from afar.

Circle of Life in Slovakia *Michal Razus*

This presentation will review traditions and rituals from cradle to grave in 19th century Slovakia. Baptism traditions include choice of godparents, preparing the skirt for the child, and superstitions about avoiding miscarriages (do not look on a dead person).

Wedding customs include proposal and parents' blessing at bride's parents' house; breaking plates; symbolic welcoming with salt, bread, and water; midnight ceremony—removing the veil; and Redovy dance.

Funeral rituals include stopping the clock in the room; covering the mirror with a black scarf; opening the window to let the soul fly (hopefully) to heaven; burning the hay from the bed of the deceased; and dressing him in fancy clothes.

Rusyns: Nation from the Carpathians Mountains *Michal Razus*

For centuries Rusyns have been an important segment of eastern Slovakia; in some areas—especially present northeast counties—they make up the majority of population.

This presentation will take a closer look at their background, history, culture, folklore, and religion.

We will discuss traditional architecture as still visible in skanzens (open air village museums) and UNESCO wooden churches, and we will also review famous Rusyns, from Strank to Warhol to Maria Gulovich.

Slovak Land Records and Maps *Michal Razus*

What are the urbar and the oldest land books and records? Why were they introduced?

This presentation will examine Maria Theresa's Urbar from 1767 and how it affected relationships within the empire between nobility and serfs, its impact on the country and its progress, and the modification of the serf's duties. The presentation will also examine who pays more, comparing past and present taxes and reviewing tax types and their optimization (money, work, hunt, wood).

Other topics include land books and their content, where to search for land records, the division of land within a village, types and orientation of maps, and how to match land records to a map.

How They Lived—A Year in the Lives of Our Czech Ancestors *Miroslav Koudelka*

This presentation will guide you through a year in the lives of our Czech ancestors, presenting both everyday life in particular periods and the ways they celebrated feasts and festivals.

What were typical kinds of work in particular periods? What did they eat and drink? When and how did they celebrate? How did religious rules influence their lives? Specific attention will be paid to folk traditions and how popular wisdom and proverbs reflected life experiences on individual days.

All of these factors are reflected in your family's genealogy and give you an idea what to expect when researching your family history.

How to Research Czech Birth/Marriage/Death Registers on the Internet—A Practical Lesson *Miroslav Koudelka*

Working with vital registers in person or online presents advantages and disadvantages.

This presentation discusses how to determine the village, parish, and archive; the differences in research strategies for each regional archive (Třeboň (South Bohemia), Brno (South Moravia), Prague (Central Bohemia), Pilsen (SW Bohemia), Opava (North and Central Moravia and Silesia), Litoměřice (NW Bohemia), Zámrsk (NE Bohemia), Prague (City of Prague); handwriting and Gothic script (Kurrent); languages (ancient Czech, Latin, German, and dialects); and occasional mistakes.

Participants will also learn techniques to make the search easier, plus a practical lesson in researching a concrete family.

From the Bohemian Heartland to Southern Minnesota: The Czechs Who Settled Bechyn, Minnesota *Molly Schweinfurter*

This session will discuss Czech families who settled in Bechyn, Minnesota, their origins in the area of Bechyně, Bohemia, and their sometimes indirect routes to Renville County.

It will also discuss how the small farming community revolved around their church and the festival that, in recent decades, has brought the Czech culture and heritage to the forefront for their descendants.

Who Are These Mysterious Wallachians / Vlachs in Our Ancestry? *Ron Matviyak*

This session traces the Vlachs/Wallachians from their beginnings through centuries of migration along the Carpathian Mountains to settlements far into Poland, noting the fabled ethnogenesis of the Carpatho-Rusyns.

Our journey will end to the west at the famous Moravian Wallachian settlements that vexed the Habsburgs and led to the "Czech" settlements in Texas.

Perhaps starting with displacement in the Ottoman days, these northern movements were concurrent with migration along the Balkan Mountains as far as Albania. Both migrations brought Wallachian Law—a successful model for establishing mountain economies, where the rules of earlier agricultural-based societies were inadequate.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Lisa A. Alzo, MFA, grew up in Duquesne, Pennsylvania and has written 11 books and hundreds of magazine articles. Lisa has served on the CGSI Board of Directors and is a regular contributor to *Náše rodina*. She is an online educator and writing coach for Research, Write, Connect (researchwriteconnect.com) and developed the Eastern European Research Certificate Program for the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. For more information, visit lisaalzo.com.



Gabriela Bereghazyova, PhD, is an expert in corruption and the Slovak mentality, as well as a published author. Educated in Slovakia and the United Kingdom, she can present the complexity of Central Eastern Europe in a novel way. With a background in Slovak culture and mindsets, Dr. Bereghazyova actively seeks to assist the maturation process of societies in transition. She is coauthor of the book *Czechoslovakia: Behind the Iron Curtain*.



Diana Bigelow, a retired research biochemist, brings a penchant for data analysis to her family history studies, an approach that has yielded fascinating insights into the nature of the way of life of her Czech ancestors before they emigrated. A key component to her work has been parish vital records, a rich source of both statistical and anecdotal data, which have provided an intimate picture of local life, largely unavailable in history books.



Marek Blahuš is a Czech (Moravian) IT scientist, computational linguist, genealogist, polyglot and Wikipedian. His interest in genealogy was sparked when he was 13 by distant Chicago-Czech relatives. He learned English while helping members of a Czech-American mailing list and has a working knowledge of approximately 10 languages. Since 2017 he has been a prominent promoter of genetic genealogy in the Czech Republic.



Iveta Blahútová is a genealogy research analyst at the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri. She moderates the German Genealogy Group, creates the German e-newsletter *The Schrift*, and regularly presents various ethnic genealogy classes. A native of Slovakia, Iveta graduated from Comenius University in Bratislava and she already had a career as a lawyer. An invitation to work as a foreign expert brought her to the US.



Renata Calfa was born in Slovakia into a family with Zemplin and Rusyn heritage. Her love for both was always evident. Sing an old folk tune, and she would join you at the speed of light. Because she grew up in communist Czechoslovakia, Renata greatly appreciates changes that the Velvet Revolution brought, including an opportunity to study theology, learn foreign languages, and connect with her US cousin, Lisa Alzo. She lives in London with her husband and daughter.



Kate Vasicek Challis is a fifth-generation Texas Czech now living in Ankeny, Iowa. Kate earned a BA from Brigham Young University in French teaching with a minor in teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) K-12. She speaks French, Arabic, and Czech. She is working on her masters degree in TESOL and applied linguistics at Iowa State University. Since 2013 Kate has written the blog *Czech Out Your Ancestors* and is also coauthoring several books about Czech genealogy. She has held the marketing position on the CGSI Executive Committee since 2018.



Helene Baine Cincebeaux is founder/director of the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International (1985); editor of *Slovakia* magazine; cofounder of the Moravian Heritage Society, and editor of *Morava Krasna*. She moderates the Slovak Pride Facebook group and runs the website slovakpride.org with 30,000 surnames and villages. From 1969-2019 Helene visited 3000 Czech and Slovak villages, led 76 tours of the Czech Republic and Slovakia (2,065 travelers), and mounted 30 major Slovak folk dress exhibits in 20 states. Books she has authored include *Treasures of Slovakia*, *Slovakia! Traditions Old & New*, *Slovak Pride*, and *A Treasury of Slovak Folk Dress*, which was awarded two medals from Slovakia.



Anna Cooková is owner and founder of CzechTalk, LLC, specializing in group and private Czech language and culture lessons online and in the translation of old letters and journals from Czech to English. Anna has presented talks on her Czech research at international and national conferences, with work primarily involving Karel Jonáš and Charles J. Vopička. She and her husband enjoy raising their daughter to be bilingual in Czech and English and to love all things Czech.



Conference Speakers

Ann Vojta Cramer, a member of Sokol Milwaukee, supervises the group's baking sessions. The volunteer bakers meet to bake for the Milwaukee Holiday Folk Fair and the annual Sokol Milwaukee Czech Dinner. Ann feels it is important for her family to value their Czech heritage, and has taken them to the Czech Republic twice. She has an extensive collection of Czech Moravian costumes and is always looking for more.



Richard D. Custer, one of the founders of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society (C-RS), edited its newsletter, *The New Rusyn Times*, from 1994-2016. He has presented papers



on Rusyn-American history at conventions of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) and conferences including the 2009 and 2017 CGSI conferences and the 2020 virtual seminar. His articles have appeared in CGSI's *Naše rodina*, the National Czech & Slovak Museum's journal *Slovo*, and the journal *Slovakia*. He holds a BS degree from Penn State University and MBA and MA degrees from the University of Pittsburgh.

Mark G. Dillon of Minnetonka, Minnesota, is first vice president of CGSI and a fourth generation Slovak-American with family in Kutý, Slovakia and Poland. Mark grew up in New Jersey and heads quarterly programming efforts at CGSI. He has been a communications leader for global investment managers and has an MSJ degree from Northwestern University. Mark writes for the *Polish American Journal* newspaper and chairs the Eye of the Eagle scholarship program for the American Council for Polish Culture.



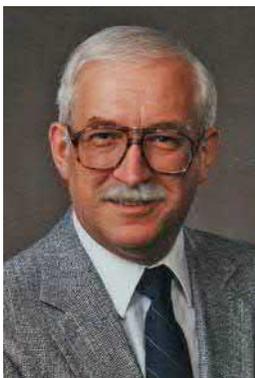
Evelyn Funda is author of the memoir *Weeds: A Farm Daughter's Lament*, which traces her family's immigration from Bohemia and Moravia to southwestern Idaho. Drawing on her experience of sorting through possessions in her parents' home after their deaths, Evelyn has previously taught numerous workshops on "reading" family artifacts as something full of potential historical and personal meaning. A professor emerita of American literature, she has also published widely on agrarian culture and author Willa Cather's interest in Czech culture.



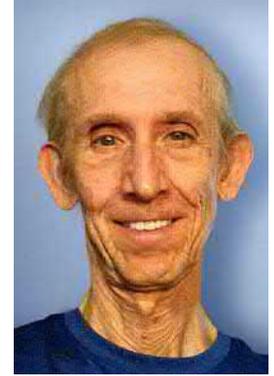
Joe Gayetsky, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a degree in history, has researched extensively into the practicalities of emigrant experience, centered mainly on building an understanding of the practical aspect of their experiences. With Slovak, Rusyn, and Hungarian great-grandparents, he has compared and contrasted the many different routes taken by his ancestors in leaving their villages and venturing to America.



Bob Heck began his genealogy research more than 50 years ago after asking his grandmother to tell him about the old country. Bob is a founding member and director of the Milwaukee Personal Ancestral File Users Group (MPAFUG), which has grown to 500 members in 22 states and three foreign countries in the past 25 years. Bob volunteers at the Family History Center in Hales Corners, Wisconsin and has written more than 15 books on his own family history and is the editor of the newsletter *Our Family*. He has lectured throughout southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois on genealogy research.



Kevin Kittilson has been actively doing genealogy for almost 50 years and was an early adopter of DNA for genealogy. Kevin currently serves as CGSI's library chair. He earned a BA in anthropology and linguistics and has done graduate studies in library science. He also holds a JD from the University of Minnesota Law School and currently works as an attorney for the Minnesota Workers Compensation Court of Appeals.



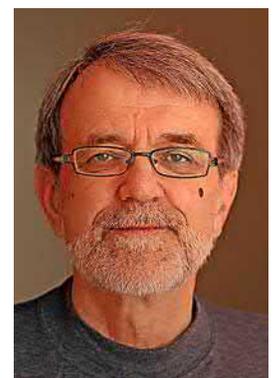
Michael Kopanic is an adjunct professor of history at the University of Maryland Global Campus and holds degrees from Youngstown State, Notre Dame, and the University of



Pittsburgh. He administers two Facebook sites—Learning the Slovak Language and Culture and Slovak History—and contributes to the *Jednota* newspaper, *Naše rodina*, and other publications. A former CGSI board member, he has been working closely with *Global Slovakia* and serves on the editorial

board of the journal *Kulturné dejiny*.

Miroslav Koudelka studied Czech, history and English, holds a degree in Czechoslovak History. A professional genealogist since 1993, he has conducted hundreds of Czech ancestry research projects for individuals from the US and other countries. Mirek has served as a tour guide and interpreter on clients' ancestral trips to the Czech Lands and Central Europe, and he is a frequent speaker at genealogical conferences and an author/translator of publications in the US, Czech Republic, and Slovakia. For CGSI, he translated the *History of Czechs in America* by Jan Habenicht.



Blanka Lednická was born in Prague and lives in the Vysočina region. Her ancestors and her husband's ancestors come from throughout the Czech Republic. She has researched her family history for more than 20 years and holds a degree in history from Masaryk University in Brno. She has worked as a professional researcher for 10 years and has written the Czech research book *Sestavte si rodokmen (Create your family tree)* and writes the blog, *Czech Genealogy for Beginners*.



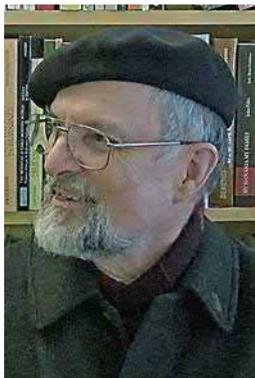
Stepanka Korytova Magstadt, PhD, a Czech native, has earned degrees in England, the United States, and the Czech Republic. Among her primary scholarly interests are migration, social justice, and human trafficking. She is the author of *To Reap a Bountiful Harvest: Migration of Czechs Beyond the Mississippi River, 1850-1900*, the first scholarly work on Czech presence in the US.



Daniela Šípková Mahoney was born in Prague, where she studied international business and foreign languages. She came to the US in 1982 but she cherishes her Czech heritage and has developed educational programs emphasizing preservation of cultural crafts. Every year Daniela travels to US and Czech communities to offer classes and lectures on egg art, paper crafts, glass bead projects and fiber arts inspired by Czech customs and traditions. Daniela holds a masters degree in geriatric social work from Portland State University.



Ron Matviyak follows a lifelong fascination with East Central Europe, happily seeking little-known history of the region and peoples. Frequent travels to the Carpathian region since 1970, ten years working in Europe, and close family ties in the Rusyn, Czech and Slovak communities, give Ron first-hand familiarity with the region, its complexities, and rich cultures. He has comoderated SlovakRoots on Yahoo for 10 years, has presented five national lectures, and centers his research on how our ancestors lived over the centuries.



Joan McGuire Mohr, PhD, is a US historian and writer in military history, historical fiction, and biography. An expert in US Immigration/Czech and Slovak History, she has unearthed information on the Czech and Slovak Legion's trek through Siberia, which led to her book, *The Czech and Slovak Legion in Siberia, 1917-1922*. Dr. Mohr has served as a contributing historian at the Czech and Slovak Museum and Library and



lectured for the Library of Congress.

David Muhlena has served as library director at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library since 1997, responsible for library collection development and reference and research assistance for matters pertaining to Czech and Slovak history and culture in Europe and America. He is deeply familiar with historic and contemporary Czech-American and Slovak-American organizations and immigrant communities throughout the United States. David holds a BA in modern European history and a masters in library and information science from the University of Iowa.



Dr. Martin Nekola, PhD, has done research on the history of US Czech communities and is a member of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, Czechoslovak Studies Association, and CGSI. He has written more than 300 articles and has published 15 books, and is coordinator of the Czechoslovak Talks Project (czechoslovaktalks.com/en). He holds a doctorate in political science from the Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic.



Greg Nelson is the content strategy specialist for East Europe, Central Asia, India, and various US states at FamilySearch. His moonshot goal is to reconstitute all of the families in his ancestral homelands of England, Scotland, Denmark, and Sweden. He holds a BA in Russian, an MA in slavic linguistics and literature, and a BS in computer science. He resides in Stansbury Park, Utah.



Zuzana Palovic, PhD, was born during the final years of the Soviet European domination, and her family fled the communist regime as political refugees, finally becoming naturalized citizens in Canada. Dr. Palovic studied at institutions in the US, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, completing her Ph.D. in Eastern European migration at the University of Surrey. Dr Palovic's work delves deeply into the Central and Eastern European context, examining the critical cultural, emotional, mental and spiritual structures for a full and holistic analysis of her subject. She is coauthor of *Czechoslovakia: Behind the Iron Curtain*.



Conference Speakers

Antje Petty is the associate director of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She connects the institute with communities across the state and beyond through presentations, workshops, and other outreach events. Antje has extensive experience researching the family histories of German-speaking immigrants including those who came from regions that are part of the Czech Republic and Slovakia.



Dennis Ragan has been teaching online CGSI-sponsored Slovak language classes for three



years. He taught Slovak courses in classrooms for 17 years plus a popular culinary class, "How to Make Real (Potato) Halusky," for 12 years. Dennis, whose father was born in Eastern Slovakia, stays close to relatives and friends in Slovakia and has visited there often. Born and

raised in the Pittsburgh area, he is a retired marketing manager.

Michal Razus is a professional genealogist, researcher, and tour guide with a great passion for Slovakia. Since 2009, he has represented CGSI for Slovakia and has been a regular speaker at CGSI conferences since 2011. Michal was a local researcher for the PBS series "Finding Your Roots." He regularly contributes to the CGSI quarterly, *Naše odina*. He has consulted with Professor Elaine Rusinko from the University of Maryland on Andy Warhol research and he works for the Slovak Police as an expert in property cases.



Dr. Cecilia Rokusek serves as president and CEO of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Her passion and love for the Czech and Slovak cultures is evident in all she does. She is fluent in Czech and Slovak and for the past 12 years she has served as Slovak honorary consul for Florida. During her career she has held top academic and administrative positions at several colleges and universities and has established



academic affiliations with several countries, including institutions in the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Molly Schweinfurter took an elective history course in college that sparked her interest in local and family history, which has led to her passion in history that she has pursued for more than 25 years. An independent historian and genealogist, Molly has traced family lines back to the 1600s and 1700s in the Czech Republic and she has written three books on her family history. She has taken the knowledge acquired through years of research and created genealogy and family history related programming.



Carol Jean Smetana edits *Heritage Happenings*, the newsletter of Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery (friendsofbnc.org) and was the designer/primary author of *A Dear and Precious Heritage: Bohemian National Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois*. Currently the vice-chair of CGSI's Board of Directors, Carol started exploring her 100 percent Bohemian heritage after working as an assistant director on the television miniseries "Roots: The Next Generations." While serving as a foreign service officer at the US Embassy in Prague, she visited ancestral villages and connected with distant relatives.



Karen Varian is president of the Rusin Association of Minnesota, a Carpatho-Rusyn Society Trustee, and member of the Carpatho-Rusyn Consortium of North America. Karen has held leadership roles in the Friends of the Immigration History Research Center and Archives and the Carpatho-Rusyn Consortium of North America. As North American representative, she has attended World Congresses of Rusyns in Budapest, Hungary; Prešov, Slovakia; Uzhhorod, Ukraine, and Stará Ľubovňa, Slovakia.



2021 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Registration

Take advantage of the discounted Early Bird registration fee if you register by July 1, 2021. We strongly encourage everyone to pay online following the link below.

Upgrade Your Package

Do you want more CGSI Live? Contact marketing@playbacknow.com and upgrade your current registration package to the CGSI Combo Package.

Cancellation Policy

If your schedule changes and you cannot attend CGSI LIVE!, consider the On-Demand Package for six months of CGSI On-Demand content (50 presentations). If you must cancel your registration, all cancellations must be received by September 1, 2021. For all cancellations, contact marketing@playbacknow.com.

Questions

Contact CGSI Conference Chair Paul Makousky at conferencechair@cgsi.org.

Each participant must use a separate form

Packages

CGSI Live!	Member	Non-Member
Earlybird Postmarked by July 1	<input type="checkbox"/> \$149	<input type="checkbox"/> \$199
Regular Postmarked after July 1	<input type="checkbox"/> \$199	<input type="checkbox"/> \$249
CGSI On Demand (only)	Member	Non-Member
Earlybird Postmarked by July 1	<input type="checkbox"/> \$179	<input type="checkbox"/> \$229
Regular Postmarked after July 1	<input type="checkbox"/> \$209	<input type="checkbox"/> \$259
Combo Plan (premium)	Member	Non-Member
Earlybird Postmarked by July 1	<input type="checkbox"/> \$219	<input type="checkbox"/> \$269
Regular Postmarked after July 1	<input type="checkbox"/> \$259	<input type="checkbox"/> \$309

Online electronic payment and form at playbacknow.regfox.com/cgsi2021.

If you choose not to register and pay online using the link above, please complete the information on the right.

First Name _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____ Country _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

You will receive an electronic confirmation with any updates within about 15 days after your registration is received. It is safer to pay by credit card online than to send your information by mail. Copy this page for your records.

Registration Fees\$ _____

Membership Fees\$ _____

Total Payment\$ _____

Method of Payment

Check Credit Card VISA Mastercard Discover

Card

Expiration Date

/

Security Code

Buyer's name (printed) on card _____

Buyer's signature

Mail a copy of this entire page with your payment to:
CGSI 2021 Conference
PO Box 1262
Minnetonka, MN 55345-1262

For electronic registration, go to playbacknow.regfox.com/cgsi2021.

Membership Form (for new members only)

Join the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International now to take advantage of the lower member conference rates.

- One-year Individual membership \$35 \$ _____
- One-year Household membership \$40 \$ _____
- One-year Sponsor membership \$55 \$ _____



All times shown are Central Daylight Time (CDT)

SMALL-GROUP WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

The CGSI's Small Group Workshops are limited in attendance and the fees for these sessions must be paid separately from the conference registration fee.

Attendees of these workshops must first register for one of the three Conference Packages, CGSI Live!, On-Demand, or Combo. You are encouraged to register early and by electronic means due to the limited attendance of the workshops.

Each of the nine workshops we are offering will be posted on the CGSI website as Store products for purchase.

The link to the Store Products page is at CGSI.org. Title, Date, Time, and Registration Fee

- Workshop 1—Traditional Glass Bead Ornaments,**
Monday, Oct. 11, 10–11:30 a.m. \$20
- Workshop 2—Koláče Baking,** Monday, Oct. 11,
Noon–3:30 p.m. \$10
- Workshop 3—How to Make “Real” (i.e. Potato)**
Halušky, Monday, Oct. 11, 1–4 p.m. \$10
- Workshop 4—Easter Traditions and Egg Deco-**
rating in the Czech Republic, Monday Oct. 11,
2–3:30 p.m. \$20
- Workshop 5—Šišky-Making,** Tuesday,
Oct. 12, 10–1 p.m. \$10
- Workshop 6—Wheat Weaving Decorations for Christ-**
mas, Tuesday, Oct. 12, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. \$20
- Workshop 7—Corn Husk Crafts,** Tuesday Oct. 12,
2-3:30 p.m. \$20
- Workshop 8—Traditional Glass Bead Ornaments**
(repeat of Workshop 1), Thursday, Oct. 14,
10–11:30 a.m. \$20
- Workshop 9—How to Know Just Enough Slovak to**
Get By, Thursday Oct. 14, Noon–1:30 p.m. \$10

Total \$_____

Please check the start and end times of the workshops you register for to ensure that times do not overlap.

All event times shown are US Central Daylight Time (CDT).

Supplies for the folk art workshops will be mailed to each confirmed registrant.

An ingredient list will be emailed to those in the baking and cooking classes.

If you choose not to register and pay online using the link above, please complete the information on the right.

First Name M.I. Last Name

Email Address

Phone Number Country

Street Address

City State ZIP

You will receive an electronic confirmation with any updates within about 15 days after your registration is received. It is safer to pay by credit card online than to send your information by mail. Copy this page for your records.

Workshop Registration Fees \$_____

Total Payment \$_____

Method of Payment

Check Credit Card VISA Mastercard Discover

Card #

Expiration Date

Security Code

/

Buyer's name (printed) on card

Buyer's signature

Mail a copy of this entire page with your payment to:
CGSI 2021 Conference
PO Box 1262
Minnetonka, MN 55345-1262

For electronic registration, go to cgsi.org. We strongly encourage the electronic method to increase your chances of getting into a workshop and to make processing easier for CGSI.

If you cannot attend any of the workshops you paid for, please contact CGSI Conference Chair Paul Makousky at conferencechair@cgsi.org in advance so we can reassign your spot.

If you do not attend the workshops for which you registered, you will not receive a refund.

