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Czech the News

LOS ANGELES

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN LOS ANGELES

Newsletter

Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Karel Schwarzenberg, visits California



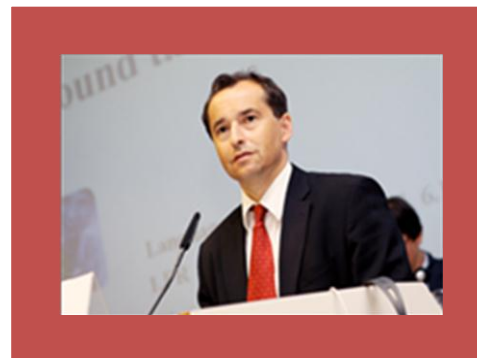
The Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Karel Schwarzenberg, together with Czech IT and film production companies, visited California recently to improve relations, facilitate trade and promote economic and cultural ties with the United States. He was personally greeted in San Francisco on May 29, 2011, by Michal Sedláček, the Consul General of the Czech Consulate in Los Angeles, as well as the Honorary Consul General in San Francisco, Richard Pivnicka...

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Dear Friends in Southland

It has been a very busy five months since my arrival here in California in late January but finally we, my wife Veronika and I, have settled in and our two young pre-school-age sons have started to enjoy the Californian lifestyle. As you will read and see, this spring the Consulate organized a visit to Los Angeles of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, H. E. Karel Schwarzenberg...

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The Minister was accompanied by a group of Czech IT businessmen as well as the film delegation from Prague during his trip to California.

Now I have the time and the opportunity to introduce to you a new initiative of the Czech Consulate General here in Los Angeles: a newsletter called Czech the News / Los Angeles. We were inspired by a similar newsletter published by the Czech Embassy in Washington, DC. I hope you will like it. It should give you an overview of what is happening at the Consulate and notify you about our future events. It will also inform you about any major news from the Czech Republic that may have any impact on you or your business.

The Consulate is in the final stages of preparation of the Dvorak Festival. The famous Czech composer Antonin Dvorak would have celebrated his 170th birthday on September 8 of this year. On this occasion we are preparing a series of events in the LA area to commemorate this great artist, starting with the kick-off event on September 8, 2011. Please, see more details on pages 8-9.

Of course, this is the first issue of our newsletter and may have some flaws, which we will try to correct along the way. Please, feel free to comment on the newsletter at our website www.mzv.cz/losangeles or on our Facebook page. To conclude, let me wish you all a great summer and I look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Michal Sedláček, Consul General

The Masaryk University's Faculty of Arts in Brno came up with some new types of Czech studies

The Department of Czech for Foreigners offers in the 2011/2012 academic year these studies:

1. Czech Language Courses for Foreigners (short-period and long-period)
2. Summer School of Slavonic (Czech) Studies (a month-long intensive Czech language course)

3. Bachelor's Degree Studies of Czech for Foreigners
4. Czech Studies
5. Didactic and Practical Course
6. Two-week Intensive Czech Course – February 2012

All applicants for courses of Czech for Foreigners have to file an application form directly with the Department of Czech for Foreigners (by fax or mail).

The application forms are available at:

<http://www.phil.muni.cz/kabcest/en/study.php>



Los Angeles

Consulate General of the
Czech Republic

Consulate General of the Czech Republic
10990 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1100
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The Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Karel Schwarzenberg, visits California



San Francisco – Reception at the residence of Honorary Consul Richard Pivnicka



Los Angeles – Reception at the residence of Consul General Michal Sedlacek

Consulate General of the
Czech Republic in Los
Angeles

(Con't from page 1)

During the first leg of the three-day journey, Minister Schwarzenberg met with entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley and around the Bay Area. Silicon Valley has long been a worldwide hub for investing in technology and advanced production. It was there that Minister Schwarzenberg discussed important economic initiatives with chief executive officers of a wide variety of progressive firms, noting future mutually beneficial cooperation. An investment seminar at Tesla Motors was followed by valuable networking at Cisco Systems, Plug and Play Technology Center, and the Hoover Institution at Stanford. Later, the delegations met with former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to acknowledge positive relations between the United States and the Czech Republic, both past and present.

Arriving in Los Angeles after the midpoint of the Minister's business trip, the Consul General hosted an official welcoming reception for the Minister at his residence in West LA.

The warm and inviting atmosphere was extended to over 200 guests, including foreign dignitaries, members of the Hollywood film community, and local officials.

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Attendees included US Ambassador to the Czech Republic Norman Eisen and his counterpart, the newly appointed Czech Ambassador to the US Petr Gandalovič, as well as many consul generals of foreign consulates. The event displayed the potential for fluid interaction of international citizens, even across a wide spectrum of differing principles and ideals.

On June 1, Minister Schwarzenberg was interviewed by the Los Angeles Times and met with the Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa. The two leaders discussed stimulating economic ties and increasing mutual trade. They also promised to work in promoting other economic growth that would benefit both parties, especially in the area of extension of the LA metro rail system.

Minister Schwarzenberg then visited the area's major film studios and spoke at the film business breakfast where Czech film incentives were discussed and explained to established studio film executives and independent producers. A few of the recent blockbusters filmed in the Czech Republic include Mission: Impossible (1996), The Bourne Identity (2002), and Casino Royale (2006). To continue to encourage quality film production in the Czech Republic, the Minister met with Sony Picture Studios CEO, Mr. Michael Lynton. The invaluable ties created will undoubtedly usher in a new era of successful cooperation and keep Prague as a prime location of American film productions in Europe.

Office of the Mayor – Minister Schwarzenberg meeting with Mayor Villaraigosa



After countless promising meetings, the Minister and his delegation visited the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley. Minister Schwarzenberg also exchanged inspiring ideas with the former governor of California, Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Both events gave a lasting impression of the state of California: its history coupled with current affairs. Overall, the Minister deemed the trip a resounding success, with high hopes for the perseverance and maturity of Czech-American relations.

Filip Svitek

PEAK SEASON FOR STUDENT VISAS

As the beginning of the new academic year 2011/2012 approaches, the Consulate General is experiencing a high influt of student visa applications. Due to significant changes in the Czech residence law, a large portion of the received applications is incomplete, resulting in the slowing-down of the procedure. That is why we would like to clarify the requirements for a student visa. One of the major problems is insufficient documentation of financial background.

The minimum amount of funds is specified by Czech law. For any stay exceeding 30 days, it is 15 times 2 020 CZK (the minimum living expense) plus 2 times 2 020 for every month of stay. Thus the formula: $(15 \times 2\,020, - \text{CZK}) + (2 \times 2\,020 \times \text{the number of months of stay})$.

For example, a four-month stay would be $(15 \times 2\,020) + (2 \times 2\,020 \times 4) = (30\,300) + (16\,160) = 46\,460 \text{ CZK}$.

So the total necessary financial backing for a four-month stay would be about CZK 46 460, or USD 3 000. Please note that the minimum living expense determined by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and may change every year.

The copy of the credit or debit card should be notarized. If the applicant applies personally and has the card on himself/herself, the Consulate will compare it to the copy and make note of it.

In addition,

A bank statement with a minimum balance of USD 3.000 is required! If the account is not in the name of the applicant, he/she must provide proof that his/her card is linked to that account.

According to Czech law there is no different procedure for debit or credit cards: the important thing is that the applicant has a card and has access to financial means. Usually, if a card can't be used in certain countries, it is specifically embossed on the card. Therefore we cannot accept this type of card. In general, the student may have an account or a card from any recognized banking institution in the world but must prove that he/she will be able to access his finances in the Czech Republic. So if his/her bank is not a major bank with branches in the EU or his/her card is not a Visa or MasterCard, we may ask for a proof of accessibility.

The bank statement may be in English including any confirmations by the bank. If at any point the Ministry of Interior requires a translated proof to be added into the case file, they will request it through us.

Tomas Kara, Vice Consul



Calendar of Events

JUNE 2011

Kawasaki's Rose (LA Film Festival)

Friday, June 24, 2011, 7.20 pm, Regal Cinemas L.A. Live

Saturday, June 25, 2011, 12.30 pm, Regal Cinemas L.A. Live

JULY 2011

July 28- LA Philharmonic The New World Symphony

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sep.8 - Symposium at the residence of Consul General (170th anniversary of the birth of the composer A.Dvorak)

September 14 and 21- the Consulate General will screen twice on its premises the film about Dvorak's life called Deo Gratius

In the end of September- the Salastina orchestra will perform a few Dvorak's compositions

Consulate General of the Czech Republic

10990 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1100

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Los Angeles Film Festival



Kawasaki's Rose

International Showcase
(Czech Republic, 2010, 100 mins)
In Czech with English subtitles

Directed By: Jan Hrebek

The Oscar-nominated director of *Divided We Fall*, Jan Hrebek, is at the peak of his form in this nuanced and morally complex look at a renowned psychiatrist about to be honored for his brave role as a dissident during Czechoslovakia's Communist regime. But, as his boorish son-in-law suspects, the good doctor is not all he seems. The revelation that he collaborated with the regime sends shock waves through his family, unearthing tangled personal histories. Hrebek's beautifully-acted movie deals with profound issues of betrayal, memory and forgiveness, but nothing is black and white or heavy handed. Its vision of humanity is too rich, and subtle, for that.

Screenings:

Friday, June 24, 2011,
7.20 pm, Regal Cinemas
L.A. Live

Saturday, June 25, 2011,
12.30 pm, Regal
Cinemas L.A. Live

LA Live Downtown

Tickets: tickets and
passes on sale at

LAFILMFEST.COM or
call 866.FILMFEST

Los Angeles and the Czech Republic: Working Together

The Consul General, Mr. Michal Sedláček, met today, Monday, May 23, 2011, with the incumbent mayor of Los Angeles, Mr. Antonio Villaraigosa. Meeting in the mayor's office in downtown LA was productive and deemed a solid success.

The two leaders agreed to improve further economic ties between Los Angeles and the Czech Republic, strengthening the bond for future prosperity. Also on the agenda was discussion about situation of the local Czech community in Los Angeles County. According to the US Census, there are about 1.7 million self-identified Czech or Czechoslovak people in the United States, with almost 80,000 living in California.

To complete the visit, Mr. Villaraigosa awarded Mr. Sedláček an official Certificate of Welcome, cementing the friendship between the city of Los Angeles and the Czech Republic.



Awarded four teams of Czech students a total of five prizes at Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2011

The 2011 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), a competition hosted by the Society for Science and the Public, awarded four teams of Czech students a total of five prizes on May 8-13, in Los Angeles. The annual event is meant to foster youth interest in diverse scientific fields, from electrical engineering to experimental mechanics.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following Czechs for their outstanding contributions to the advancements of science:

Filip Naiser, 18, from the Gymnazium Aloise Jiraska in Litomysl for his “Eye-Controlled Cursor.”

Tomas Svoboda, 20, from the High School of Electrotechnical Studies in Brno for his “Design of Portable X-Ray and Computed Tomography Scanner.”

Marek Kovar and Tomas Petak, both 19, from the Gymnazium Karla Sladkovskeho in Prague for their “Study of Steels Suitable for Reactor Pressure Vessels,” which won their team two awards.

Erika Gedeonova, 19, from the Sportovni Gymnazium Kladno in Kladno for her “New Way in Diagnostics of Bronchial Asthma.”

Congratulations to the teams for their profound successes, including combined prize money of over \$4,000!

Festival Mutual Inspirations 2011- Antonin Dvorak

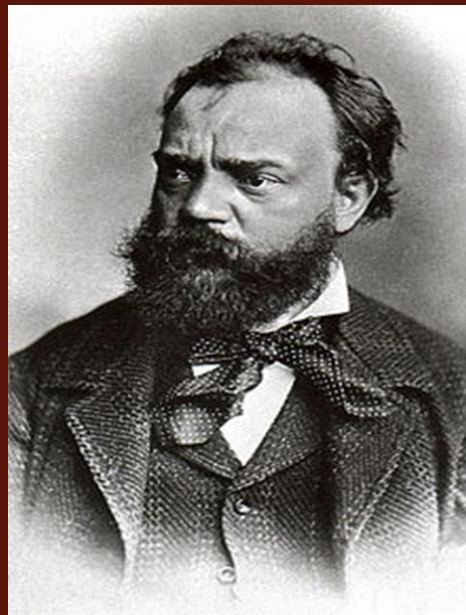
Embassy and the Consulates General of the Czech Republic in the United States are introducing an annual cultural event, the Festival of Czech - US Mutual Inspirations, based on the hundreds of years of Czech-American historical and cultural, mutually stimulating ties. This festival, through the celebration of the work of many famous personalities and the creations of individuals they in turn influenced, aims to depict this long tradition of transatlantic, bilateral inspiration and interpretation. The theme of this year's festival will be Antonin Dvorak and his works, written both in the United States and in the Czech Republic. The Dvorak Festival will consist of many events around the United States. First Lady Michelle Obama's office has expressed interest in the Festival in Washington, DC.

The Festival of Mutual Inspirations 2011 - Antonin Dvorak will begin on September 8, 2011, commemorating the 170th anniversary of the birth of the composer, and will continue throughout the fall months of 2011.

On this date (September 8, 2011), the Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles Michal Sedlacek will host the Symposium at his residence in honor of Antonin Dvorak. A local chamber orchestra will present a few pieces of Dvorak's music. Two esteemed Dvorak scholars Nick Strimple (USC) and Robert Winter (UCLA), will give a short lecture on Dvorak's life and work. In addition, a few scenes and dialogues from the upcoming US independent film Spillville will be performed. Spillville is the tiny farming town in Iowa that saved Dvorak while he was suffering a creative crisis in 1893.

During **September of 2011,** the Consulate General will screen twice on its premises the film about Dvorak's life called Deo Gratias. In the end of September, the Salastina orchestra will perform a few Dvorak's compositions.

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Antonin Dvorak

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LA Dvorak's fans can attend variety of concerts during the festivals, for example **LA Philharmonic** will offer two concerts which include Dvorak music on its fall calendar – The New World Symphony (July 28, 2011) and Symphony N.7 (November 4-6, 2011). The Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra will perform Dvorak's Nocturne in B major on October 15 and 16, 2011.

The Consulate General plans to celebrate Czech National Day this year with a Dvorak concert organized in close cooperation with the UCLA School of Arts at the end of October, 2011.

The official conclusion of the Dvorak festival will take place at the Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills on November 13, 2011 where a concert of some Dvorak's best music will be presented by composer and conductor **Nick Strimple** of USC.

The Festival is founded on the idea of giving rise to an “**all American community project**”, taking place at cultural, religious or educational community centers through variety of forms, such as music, art, dance, film, and literature. The Festival is open to artists, scientists and scholars, be it children, amateurs, or professionals.

To make it truly an all-American event, we rely heavily on outside support and collaboration. All events will be promoted by Czech and American media and via the Czech Embassy and Consulate General websites as part of an all- American festival.

We are sure that with your support we will be able to make the **Festival of Mutual Inspirations 2011 - Antonin Dvorak** a great success. We remain dedicated to promoting strong Czech-US relations and share with the American public as much from our great culture as possible.

For the further information about Mutual Inspirations Festival please visit websites www.mutualinspirations.org

Viktorie Miksatkova