Dear Friends in Southland,

What a busy spring and summer we had here in Los Angeles and elsewhere on the West Coast. We welcomed to Los Angeles the President of the Czech Republic Václav Klaus, who attended the “Global Governance vs. National Sovereignty” conference organized by the American Freedom Alliance in June. The thoughtful keynote address of president Klaus was a significant highlight as the audience cheered supportively for several minutes. The President’s remarks focused on the ever greater influence of the European Union institutions on the lives of the European citizens without their consent.

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The first annual Czech Filmfest brought new Czech movies to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Portland and Seattle as well as directors Radim Špaček and Tomáš Luňák who eagerly and patiently answered questions from the audiences. We also experienced a wonderful tribute to Josef Škvorecký. The screening of TV film “Rhythm on My Heels”, based on his script was followed by a concert of songs by the actors from the movie, performed live on stage accompanied by jazz pianist Emil Viklický. The well-received and lively show then traveled to San Francisco and Seattle where it also was a great success.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Society of Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles for supporting the new Petrof Concert Series and other cultural events here in Los Angeles. A fantastic outdoor concert of renowned Czech pianist Emil Viklický with popular American saxophonist Benny Golbin was a hit at my residence and I look forward to the continuation of this concert series in coming months. The assistant concertmaster of the LA Chamber Orchestra Tereza Stanislav will perform several pieces of famous Czech classical music (Janáček, Dvořák etc.) with other musicians on September 9, 2012. And the successful Hollywood music composer Elia Cmiral will offer a selection of his works from feature film soundtracks in early fall.

I look forward to several more heritage events that will be held in October. An annual Czech Day picnic will take place in San Diego’s Balboa Park on Sunday, October 14 and the Consulate together with Sokol of Los Angeles will organize a National Day celebration at Knollwood two weeks later. I am proud that Czech roots are growing stronger in California, especially with increasing participation of children in Czech language classes. In fact, the new semester in Los Angeles will start on August 26th and it is already in high demand. Czech language education will be newly offered in San Jose/San Francisco Bay Area and in Sacramento, and will continue as planned in Orange County, San Diego and Portland starting early September.

To find more information about the schedule of our busy fall cultural season, please check page 10 of this newsletter and our website: www.mzv.cz/losangeles. To be kept in the loop, you can also become a friend on our Facebook page.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our many upcoming events.

Michal Sedláček
Consul General
Mr. Avi Davis, director of the AFA, introduced the conference and the special guests, all who gathered to discuss the contemporary topic of “Global Governance vs. National Sovereignty.” Politicians and citizens all over the world are increasingly debating the rising influence of international organizations and unelected groups and their infringement of liberties and freedom of ordinary citizens.

President Klaus expressed in his keynote address, “Global Governance and its European Variant,” the implications for “soft totalitarianism” and lack of political legitimacy by the European Union. His fresh memories of communist influence described a reinforcement of his skepticism, while he explained: “my dominant feeling is the feeling of powerlessness.” Conference participants were rallied by his remarks, and it was clear his perspective was popular among attendees. To read the entire address in English, please visit his official website at http://www.klaus.cz/clanky/3116.

The discussions and debate raged on with a question: “Do liberal democracies have the strength and will to defend their national sovereignty?” Other significant contributors to the conference included cited author Dr. John Fonte of the Hudson Institute, Professor John Yoo of the University of California at Berkeley and former legal advisor to President Bush Jr., former member of the UN General Assembly Robert C. O’Brien, and Executive Director Larry Greenfield of the Reagan Legacy Foundation.

Prior to the event, all prominent guests of the program, including President Klaus, attended a pre-conference dinner and discussion. Topics included the rise of radical Islam in Arab countries, the status of the financial crisis in Spain, and other major current affairs. Throughout the conference, the Czech President was accompanied by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States Petr Gandalovič, Director of the Secretariat of the President Martin Slaný and the Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles Michal Sedláček.

Please visit the AFA website for additional information regarding the conference: (http://www.americanfreedomalliance.org/).
The first annual Czech Film Festival 2012 inspired a new tradition for the west coast. The festive program, which ran in Los Angeles from May 16 – 24, was part of the “New Czech Films” touring series that reached Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle and other US cities. The event this year grew to accommodate increased interest in Czech cinema and culture, with an incredible turnout of over 180 guests at the Salt Lake City premiere. Modern Czech feature films as well as established classics were screened with accompanying question and answer sessions with directors, a lively concert with musical cast, and other special events.

Award-winning drama “Walking Too Fast” (2010) kicked off the festival with an opening reception and Q&A with director Radim Špaček. The film vivifies 1980s Czechoslovakia and the debilitating oppression of communism. Full of stunning cinematography and an all too realistic portrayal of the time, the film won Best Picture from the Czech Film Academy and four other competitive Czech Lion awards. The audience presented Špaček with a host of questions after the screening, from lighting techniques to the reality and fate of the abusive, often delusional secret police. Špaček toured with the series to each destination.

As a special treat in Los Angeles, director Tomáš Luňák presented the screening of his film “Alois Nebel” (2011). The rotoscoped animation tells the story of a burdened Czech man that wants nothing more than normalcy. Entered as the Czech Best Foreign Language Film at the 2012 Academy Awards, it is Luňák’s creative portrayal of vengeance that truly captures the audience. The Q&A further explained the rationale many aspects of the film.

In memoriam of the recent passing of the former president of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel, his political satire “Leaving” (2011) was also screened. It is Havel’s directorial debut, and based on his tragic-comedic play of the same name.

Other screenings and events throughout the festival included Sundance entry “Four Suns” (2012), dramatic feature “Long Live the Family” (2011), bittersweet comedy “Identity Card” (2010), situational documentary “Matchmaking Mayor” (2010), surreal film “Valerie and Her Week of Wonders” (1970). New Wave classic “Daisies” (1968) and its late night pajama party, drama “Fruit of Paradise” (1970), and a collection of shorts by Jan Švankmajer drew the highest turnout. The program culminated with a reception, screening with Q&A, and concert of “Rhythm on My Heels” (2009) at the Italian Cultural Institute (see separate article).

The 2012 Czech Filmfest has been a great opportunity to showcase new and classic Czech films throughout the United States. Czech and American audiences alike enjoyed a taste of cinematic culture, and because of its success we look forward to organizing another festival next year. Please stay posted for updates and be sure to join us for the unique experience!

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles would again like to thank the Honorary Consuls Richard Pivnicka in San Francisco, Jonathon Tichy in Utah, Marie Amicci in Oregon, and Wayne Jehlik in Seattle, the Czech Center in NYC, the Czech Film Center in Prague, NW Center in Portland and Cinefamily for their cooperation in organizing the Filmfest and all the participating partners and sponsors, especially: Milk & Honey Films, Prague Studios, Czech Tourism, ELMA, SVU, the Becherovka Company, and the BayCzech organization, as well as curator Irena Kovárová and the Roxie Theater and Italian Cultural Institute venues.
The Petrof Concert Series will begin to wind down in the fall with a performance by Czech-Canadian violinist Tereza Stanislav, assistant concertmaster of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra since 2003. Stanislav was called “a remarkably fine violinist. Her tuning was spot-on and there was sense of ease in her performance that was completely captivating” by the prestigious Calgary Herald recently. Stanislav, accompanied by two other musicians, will perform on September 9, 2012 at the residence of Consul General. Prepared pieces for the event include a rendition of Janáček’s Sonata for viola and piano and Dvořák’s Dumky Trio, among others.

At the Juilliard School in New York Stanislav studied under the founding member and first violinist of the Juilliard String Quartet, Robert Mann. Her musical talent led her to success with many orchestral, solo, chamber, and recording projects. Throughout the years Stanislav has served as concertmaster for other programs including operas and festivals, and is a distinct collaborator with NPR. As an active performer she has appeared in various prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Tully Hall at Juilliard - among many other halls and festivals - as well as at the 2002 G-8 summit. She has toured extensively within the United States as a founding member of the Ensō String Quartet and with the professional Miró Quartet, in addition to worldwide performances. Currently, she is active in the Los Angeles film scoring industry.

Czech film composer Elia Cmiral will also participate in the festival in the early fall. Living in Los Angeles, Cmiral works closely with the Hollywood film and television industry in features such as Ronin, Apartment Zero, Atlas Shrugged: Part 1, and many more. Selections from his scores will be performed live at the residence of the Consul General as a Concert Suite in collaboration with four other studio musicians. Please be sure to check our website (www.mzv.cz/losangeles) for further updates about the program.

The Petrof Series has hosted several spectacular events in 2012, showcasing various Czech musicians within Los Angeles. Czech singer and songwriter Jana Fabianova opened the program in April 1, 2012. Her profound success as an artist is evidenced by her performances at national theatres and international festivals. On April 22, Czech saxophonist Borek Smekal and pianist Fabio Tedde also performed at the residence of the Consul General. Most recently, renowned Czech jazz pianist and composer Emil Viklicky held a concert with American saxophonist and friend Benny Golbin on May 25. Viklicky’s award-winning talent combines modern jazz with traditional folk music to create a unique and expressive sound. His ensemble leadership and worldwide travel experience show why he is considered one of the best jazz musicians today.

The Consulate would like to thank all participating artists in the 2012 Petrof Series as well as SVU for their continuing financial support. The cultural event is a unique occasion to promote talented musicians with Czech heritage, and without their support the program would not be possible.
The financial climate in the Czech Republic is streamlining opportunities for investors interested in a developed and expanding economic environment. In May, 2012, the Act on Investment Incentives was amended to improve conditions and facilitate further international investment. Supported areas include the manufacturing industry, technology centers, business support services (such as software development and high-tech repair), and the introduction of strategic investment benefits. Grants are also available for job creation, training, and retraining.

MANUFACTURING
The manufacturing sector is a large part of the Czech economy, including major complex industries in machinery and equipment (over 50% of exports), automobiles, and metallurgy. Basic conditions for incentives in this sector are CZK 100 million – about USD 5 million – in the counties with the highest unemployment (Region I), and CZK 50 million (Region II) as detailed in the attached map. Strategic investments, as capital-intensive ventures that fulfill requirements of a CZK 500 million minimum investment and at least 500 jobs created, are eligible for grants of up to 5-7% of costs.

TECHNOLOGY CENTERS
Research and development in the Czech Republic is a growing field, with an increase in long-term revenue opportunities. Conditions for benefits towards applied research, development and innovation, and production processes are a minimum investment of CZK 10 million and 40 new jobs created. Eligible costs include the choice of either acquisition or wage expenses. Strategic investments are considered as at least CZK 200 million and 120 jobs created, and also are eligible for grants of up to 5-7% of costs.

BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES CENTERS
Support services cover a range of business functions, including management, high-tech repair, software development, and operation and administration such as accounting, finance, human resources, marketing, and information systems. Conditions are the creation of 40 new jobs for software-development centers or 100 new jobs for the other business support service centers. Eligible costs include acquisition as well as wage-related expenses.

In all three sectors of investment, corporate tax relief for up to 10 years is available, up from 5 years. There is also the opportunity to transfer land for development at a discount.

And down from 60%, only half of all investments must be in new machinery. The ceiling for state aid is 30% in the south west of the Czech Republic, and 40% in the rest of the country. Prague is excluded from any investment incentives. Foreign entities must have a registered domestic office in the Czech Republic. All incentive and grant provisions are guaranteed with final approval by the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Elections to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

The president of the Czech Republic announced elections to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic to be held on Oct 12-13, 2012. The national law on Senate elections does not allow the cast of votes abroad, however the Consulate General will gladly issue the electoral passes to Czech citizens living abroad and willing to travel and vote in the Czech Republic. Applications for electoral passes must be received by the Consulate by September 12, 2012.

For more detailed information please visit website www.senat.cz.
A thrilling “Rhythm on My Heels” (2009) extravaganza took place on May 24 in Los Angeles, May 29 in San Francisco, and May 31 in Seattle. The multi-event program touched audiences with a touring spectacle complete with the director, cast, and composer of the film’s soundtrack. The occasion included a screening, Question & Answer session, and concert as the final act of the 2012 Czech Film Festival, concluding the Filmfest in LA with a bang.

On top of a Closing Night reception in Los Angeles, director Andrea Sedláčková participated in a brief Q&A after each screening, and featured actors Berenika Kohoutová, Jan Maxián, Margareta Hrůza, and Marika Šoposká performed dynamic parts of the soundtrack live, accompanied by renowned Czech jazz musician Emil Viklický on piano, saxophonist Benny Golbin, drummer Richard Weller, and bassist Dustin Morgan. The group continued a few days later to a large crowd of over 80 people at Stanford University in northern California. Finally, at the Town Hall in Seattle, the program successfully concluded its long journey across America.

In the film, the characters symbolically use music to resist harassment by the secret police, but realize rebellion is not as easy as it seems and the consequences are life-altering. The film is based on “The Tenor Saxophonist’s Story” by the late Czech author Josef Škvorecký, who is renowned for his activities as a publisher and novelist. His legacy as an author and founder of 68 Publishers, the banned-book publishing house in Canada named after the 1968 Prague Spring, has continually promoted the travails of Czech artists resisting repression, just as he personally did so many years ago.

The film, concert, and reception were greatly popular and the cultural program was very well received in all parts of its tour. The Consulate General would like to thank the Italian Cultural Institute, Stanford University, and the Town Hall in Seattle for helping host the events, as well as the President of American Sokol Jara Dusatko, Honorary Consuls in San Francisco Richard Pivnicka and in Seattle Wayne Jehlik, with essential support from the Center for Czech Education and Culture.
Czech Schools and Cultural Events for Children Continue to Grow

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles celebrates a very successful semester for Czech language classes in California. Beyond the three schools based in Southern California, three additional schools are slated to open soon in the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento, and Portland. The Czech School of California, in San Francisco, held trial lessons in anticipation of their opening in the fall. Iva Crookston, the founder of the school, is optimistically preparing the upcoming classes. These new incredible opportunities are for anyone interested in developing the skill to speak, read, and write in the Czech language.

Meanwhile, Children’s Day events took place on Saturday, June 2, concluding the final day of the Czech School in Los Angeles. The holiday is established in many countries, including the Czech Republic, on June 1 and activities are organized to honor children.

At the Consulate in Los Angeles numerous Czech fairy tales were screened, as well as a picnic in the park that provided a play date luncheon full of fun and games. In cooperation with American Sokol – Los Angeles, the start date of the next Czech School in LA semester will be on August 26, 2012.

A similar celebration for Children’s Day took place in Orange County, recognizing the local students of Czech School West Coast (CSWC) and their commitment to Czech language education. Other recent events included an open house for new students at the end of June for an opportunity to meet teachers, ask questions, and spread ideas. CSWC also held their First Czech Language Day Camp in Costa Mesa with a great chance for children to get together and connect, sharing experience between families. The next semester for students will begin around mid-September.

To test interest, three classes for children were administered at a trial session for the Czech School in Bay area this past May, including the Broucci/Firefly class (3–6 years old), Mysaci/Mouse class (grades 1-3, 4-5), and a class for Czech as a Foreign Language (ages 6 and older). Activities ranged from practice lessons, Czech games, and a meet and greet for children, parents, and teachers. The trials were a great success, registering 23 children in the Broucci class, 18 Mysaci, and 16 Foreign Language students (8 children and 8 adults).

Czech schools projected to open in Sacramento on September 1 and Portland on September 8 will also soon be enrolling students in progressive classes of young toddlers to older adolescents.

Both new schools will offer classes on weekends; the school in Sacramento is also offering a competitive position for a certified language instructor.

Two Czech Schools in San Diego will continue to offer similar programs, with art and music opportunities as well. Please continue to show interest by contacting representatives from your respective Czech school, as shown.

High turnout and growing enrollment shows very positive appreciation for the Czech language and culture on the West Coast and keeps young Czech citizens connected to their homeland.

Czech School in Los Angeles (American Sokol Los Angeles)
10990 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA
Contact person: Lillian Roter
Phone: (310) 207-8110
E-mail: gemilj@apol.com, losangeles@embassy.mzv.cz

Czech School West Coast (CSWC) – Orange County
2987 Mesa Verde Drive East, Costa Mesa
Contact persons: CFO Marketa Klimova; CEO Petra Petry
Phone: (949) 413-0678
E-mail: ceskaskola.ca@gmail.com
Web site: http://www.cswc.us/

Czech School Sacramento
Contact person: Martina Kollerova
Phone: (916) 985-2157
E-mail: maky@dr.com

Czech School of California (CSC) – San Jose
Oshman Family JCC
3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto, CA 94303
Contact person: Iva Crookston
Phone: (650) 687-4114
E-mail: crookstonivva@gmail.com
Web site: www.czechschoolofcalifornia.com

Czech School San Diego
P.O. Box 7233
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92037
Contact person: Nikola Kaminsky
Phone: (619) 985-0425
E-mail: ceskaskola@yahoo.com

Czech School in San Diego
Contact person: Marketa Hanova
E-mail: mhanova@platt.edu

Czech School of Portland (CSP)
3424 NE 35th Avenue, Portland, OR 97212
Contact persons: President: Ludmila O’Donnell, Vice-president: Kateřina Bohdalová
Phone: (503) 297-2979
E-mail: katerina.bohdalova@gmail.com
New Honorary Consulate in Colorado

This summer the Czech Republic inaugurated its first Honorary Consulate in Boulder, Colorado. Czech Ambassador to the United States Petr Gandalovič instated the Honorary Consul, Robert Erben, who will administrate his new post as a valuable resource and intermediary for Czech compatriots. His role will facilitate business ties, cultural relations, consular affairs, and much more between the Czech Republic and the state of Colorado. As a Czech representative in the area, Mr. Erben will also be able to assist travelers and tourists with information regarding visa/passport matters, notarization services, and direct emergency communication to the nearest Czech Consulate in Los Angeles.

He joins 18 other commissioned Honorary Consulates in the US, plus the three Consulates General and the Embassy in DC.

At the opening ceremony on July 16, 2012 Ambassador Gandalovič expressed his gratitude for the expanded support of Czech interests and confirmed the importance of bilateral commitment between Czech and US governments; The US House Representative Jared Polis and Colorado State Senator Rollie Heath also attended the ceremony as well as more than 150 guests.

Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles Michal Sedláček also spoke at the event, pointing out to the close ties between the Czech Republic and Colorado.

The following day July 17, 2012, the Ambassador, Consul General, and Honorary Consul met with Governor of Colorado John Hickenlooper and Mayor of Denver Michael Hancock, as well as representatives of Patton Boggs LLP, the Molson Coors Brewing Company, and the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation. The Consul General also spoke with representatives of the Denver Film Society and discussed the possibility of cooperation with the 2013 Czech Film Festival in Colorado. Effective communication and were emphasized at the meetings as key to a successful partnership.

The new Honorary Consul Mr. Robert Erben was born in Czechoslovakia and arrived in the United States in 1968 as a young boy after the Soviet invasion. Erben received his postgraduate education at the University of New Hampshire School of Law, specializing in Intellectual Property Law. After practicing for 10 years in Florida, he founded his law firm Erben LLC in Colorado. One of his greatest challenges will be establishing a stronger economic connection with the Czech Republic, while at the same time supporting compatriot relations and servicing consular matters. His active role with the Czech community in Colorado will no doubt help him efficiently achieve those goals.

Contact information:
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Tel: 303 800 1501
Fax: 888 612 7088
E-mail: christina@erbenlaw.com
## Upcoming Cultural Events in Los Angeles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 2012</th>
<th>October 2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sep.5, 7:00 pm – Screening of the film “Men in rut” (“Muži v říji”) at the Consulate General in LA</td>
<td>Oct.7 at 6:00 pm – Piano Extravaganza, Fox Theater For tickets and more information please visit website at lasierra.edu/music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep.9, 4:00 pm – Concert with Tereza Stanislav at the Residence of Consul General</td>
<td>Oct.10, 6:00 pm – Concert with Jana Vebrová – Czech singer/ songwriter/ accordionist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep.23, 4:00 pm – Concert with a Czech film composer Elia Cmiral at the Residence of Consul General</td>
<td>Oct.14, 2:00 pm – The annual Czech Day in San Diego</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep.26, 7:00 pm – Screening of the “Saint Václav”, Czech classic film from 1929, directed by Jan Stanislav Kolár at the Consulate General in LA</td>
<td>Oct.24 (TBA) – Screening of the film “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” (“Přelet nad kukaččím hnízdem”)</td>
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<td>Oct.28 – Heritage Day with Sokol, Knollwood, Granada Hills (upon invitation only)</td>
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