

Czech Demonstrations

At the

Victoria County Czech Heritage Festival September 28, 2008

Victoria Community Center Annex, 2905 E. North Street, Victoria, TX.
(Recipes and handouts available for all demonstrations)

2:00 p.m.

Czech Links: 800 Pounds of Tradition

A 22-minute documentary about one Texas family practicing a tradition that celebrates their Czech heritage. The film's story is told through the annual sausage-making gathering of the Morkovsky family at their farm in Floresville, Texas. This event honors a father's wish that the tradition he started of making sausage from scratch and flavoring it with the spices and ingredients of the old country be continued. Not only have the Morkovsky siblings taught their own children and grandchildren about making sausage, but they welcome extended family and friends to the occasion. John Morkovsky of Victoria, one of seven members in the family, will be present to answer questions.

Presenting the film will be Lori Najvar of PolkaWorks, Inc. of Austin (originally from Hallettsville, Texas). She is a third generation Texas Czech and has earned her living as a graphic artist and photographer for numerous nonprofits. Having conducted 100's of interviews and attended countless polka dances and small Czech festivals, she has integrated her fieldwork into a Texas Czech documentary...with several more to produce. This collection of her work will feature the language, music and culinary traditions of her Czech Moravian ancestors that are still very vital in many Texas communities.

PolkaWorks, Inc. Mission Statement: PolkaWorks honors enduring cultural traditions through multimedia projects designed to educate and inspire.

2:30 p.m.

Rusicky: Czech Rosettes

A real treat! Czech rosettes made by Gene Marie Bohuslav, Hallettsville, TX; Mrs. Bohuslav has made Czech rosettes all her life and in July, 2008 she demonstrated the art and cuisine of these light, fried pastries at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, DC.

3:00 p.m.

Tatting: Make Lace Like Your Grandmother Did

Demonstrated by Marjorie Fromme of Victoria, tatting is an old style of needlework that was used to make delicate lace for wearing or decoration. It has recently regained prominence. Mrs. Fromme has been tatting for decades and has taught tatting at B&B Sewing in Victoria.

3:30 p.m.

Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup

The wonderful flavor and aroma of homemade chicken noodle soup made by Gene Marie Bohuslav, Hallettsville, TX; Mrs. Bohuslav is known for her homemade chicken noodle soup and in July, 2008 she demonstrated making it at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, DC.

4:00 p.m.

Kvšáky: Crock Fermented Pickles

Enjoyed by the Marek and Janak families, Laurie Janak Marek, Shiner, TX., has made Kvsaky for 30 years, acquiring the recipe from her husband's late grandmother, Mrs. Adolph (Hermina) Marek of Hallettsville. Laurie enjoys the ease and speed of making them and her husband enjoys the great flavor of this old Czech traditional pickle recipe.

4:30 p.m.

Designing a Small Vineyard for Home Wine Production

All the essentials will be discussed: varieties, number of vines needed, planting, care, etc. for making enough grapes to make 5 – 10 gallons of wine each year. Presented by: Fritz Westover, Viticulture Extension Associate, Gulf Coast Region III, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Houston, TX.

5:00 p.m.

Adjourn to Festival Activities which last till 8:00 p.m.