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# NOVÝ DOMOV



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CZECH AND SLOVAK BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER [www.novydomov.com](http://www.novydomov.com)

We have 2 wonderful documentaries in our film festival this year. It would be great if you could help me get the word out about them. If you have some suggestions on how to best reach the Czech community in the GTA, I'm all ears.

## V. Klusák & E. Hniková HotDocs April 28 - May 8

All For the Good of Nosovice ;D: Vít Klusák / Czech Republic / 82 min.  
A giant Hyundai plant lands smack in the middle of a Czech farming vil-

lage, much to the locals' dismay. Despite their resistance, big industry wins out and the fields sprout cars in this humorous, politically charged film. Tue, May 3 - 9:45 PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox 3, Thu, May 5 - 7:00 PM, The Royal Cinema. [http://www.hotdocs.ca/film/title/all\\_for\\_the\\_good\\_of\\_the\\_world\\_and\\_nosovice](http://www.hotdocs.ca/film/title/all_for_the_good_of_the_world_and_nosovice)

Matchmaking Mayor: D: Erika Hniková / Czech Republic, Slovakia / 72 min. A small Slovakian village is overrun by singles while its aged inhabitants are dying out. Impatient with the slow course of courtship, its do-it-yourself mayor makes population growth his top priority and starts forging love connections – himself. Tue, May 3 - 9:30 PM, Innis Town Hall, Wed, May 4 - 2:00 PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox 4

[http://www.hotdocs.ca/film/title/matchmaking\\_mayor](http://www.hotdocs.ca/film/title/matchmaking_mayor)

In Person: the documentary Box Office 131 Bloor St. W., Toronto Now open weekdays 11 am - 7 pm, weekend 11am-5 pm, during the festival 11 am-9 pm. Merrie Whitmore, Outreach Coordinator, Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival

## V. Klaus: CZECH GOVT CRISIS WAS MISTAKE, GROUPS IN ODS ALSO BEHIND

Prague - The Czech senior ruling Civic Democratic Party (ODS) wasted people's confidence and undermined the government coalition's capability of action during the recent government crisis, President Václav Klaus said at the celebration of the ODS's 20th birthday today.

He said the crisis was very unfortunate, harming not only the government but also the ODS.

The ODS should not merely look around in search for those to blame for the government turbulences, but it should also consider how the struggle of factions in the ODS has contributed to them, said Klaus, who co-found-

ed the ODS in 1991 and chaired it until 2002.

He said under his successor Mirek Topolánek (2002-2010) the ODS developed in a wrong direction.

That is why he put big hopes in the party's new leadership of Petr Nečas that replaced Topolánek's last year.

However, it is difficult for Nečas [to meet the expectations] and the changes in the party have been too small in the past year, Klaus said.

„A reflection means not only to seek culprits all around, but also to admit how all this [crisis] was fuelled by the struggle of various groups in the ODS, which is evident and which I could not have overlooked myself,” Klaus said.

In the past days, Klaus said the crisis of the government of the ODS, TOP 09 and the Public Affairs (VV) had been caused by the conduct of the ODS deputy group head Petr Tluchoř and his then VV counterpart Kristýna Koci, who reportedly planned a coup with the aim to oust the VV from power and gain some VV deputies' support for an ODS-TOP 09 cabinet.

Many in the ODS, including Nečas, assert that the real cause of the crisis was the unacceptable influencing of the government by the ABL security agency that was formerly owned by Vít Barta, VV informal leader and until recently transport minister.

Within the crisis, Barta resigned over a corruption scandal and Nečas proposed the dismissal of another two VV ministers. The VV, for its part threatened to sink the government unless two ODS and one TOP 09 ministers go as well.

This Monday, the coalition leaders agreed on the continuation of the three-party government with some personnel changes. Each coalition party was forced to make a concession, Nečas said on that occasion.

Klaus today said the crisis was



an extremely unfortunate event harming the government and the ODS.

He said the ODS must change and become an element to stabilise the Czech scene. After his departure as the party chairman, the ODS ceased defending its ideas and became „a party of political calculations and practical business,” he said. Its heading to the centrist position was devastating as well, Klaus continued.

„I started to believe that the ODS's wavering was over and that the party leadership, headed by Nečas, meant a change, though I was aware that he would face difficulties. However, the previous shift was too big and the changes that have been managed in the past year are too small,” Klaus said.

Klaus, who will turn 70 in June, fell out with the party in 2008 and gave up his post of ODS honorary chairman in protest against what he called its wrong orientation and steps under Topolánek.

Klaus's second and final possible presidential tenure expires in early 2013. He recently said he cannot imagine himself retiring and remaining inactive. Some observers say they expect Klaus's comeback within a political party.

Source: <http://www.ceskenoviny.cz/news/zpravy/czech-govt-crisis-was-mistake-groups-in-ods-also-behind-klaus/627124>, April 21, 2011, Author: ČTK, [www.ctk.cz](http://www.ctk.cz), Photo ČTK

## Darren's unfulfilled dream

The cancelled Olympics for the hearing impaired which were to take place in Slovakia, had a big emotional impact on those who had been looking forward not only to the athletic competition, but also to discovering new places. This disappointment was also felt by Darren, as was reported in a Toronto paper sent to us in a letter by our reader Květa Štrnadová, who added:

“The report about the cancelled Slovak Olympics made me angry but the second article in Beach Metro made me sad. I can't even imagine how this young athlete who had worked so hard to prepare, must have felt...”

Beach Metro, Tue Feb. 22, 2011:

Deaflympics cancellation kills Beach snowboarder's dream  
By Phil Lamiera

It was a dream comes true for Darren Chow. He was set to get on a plane and fly outside of country for the first time. Then the bad news came.

Chow was selected as one of the three snowboarders to represent Canada at the Deaflympics, an IOC-sanctioned event at which deaf athletes compete at an elite level, to be held in Slovakia this month. This 28-year-old absolutely thrilled about it and very much looking forward to it.

Chow, a local Beach resident, shows so much promise in the sport that friends and family rallied

together to raise funds to help him get to live out his dream. A fundraiser was organized with the help of the Beaches Boston pizza on Leslie and Lakeshore which raised over \$700 to help Chow with his trip expenses.

“We realized his need for support so we helped him as much as possible,” said Katie Hagan, Community Relations Coordinator at Beaches Boston Pizza.

On the morning of the interview with BMN, Chow received a text a friend stating that the event had been cancelled due to lack of money.

“It's depressing,” said Chow through his interpreter and friend Chris. “I've been training four to five times a week for both the half-pipe and board-cross,” he said.

Chow remains optimistic and is looking forward to participating in the next Deaflympics in 2015 which are to be held in Vancouver.



So what, I thought, when last month the troubles started in Tunisia. The people no longer admire their famous president, prices are up, unemployment grows, chaos and confusion rule and so the mob tries to solve the problems the only way all such crowds do: assemble, wave fists, burn an effigy and when the break through of a police cordon is successful, burn down a ministry or plunder it... it must calm down eventually, I thought. The demonstration would disassemble, shards would be swept away and fire burnt facades would be rendered. True, the corrupt president would flee from the wrath of his people abroad, but another one will replace him and he won't be any better or worse and everything will return to normalcy, inshallah.

It is almost a folklore in some parts of the world that while we would only drive above a glass of beer, they all fight and knock down government buildings. Another week and we all would forget it. Only, I made a colossal mistake. One, two weeks passed but troubles did not diminish, as if one threw a fire torch into a dry grass, the people's fire spread to Egypt and it's all back on again. Demonstrations, protests, fights, blood, fires and another president with stolen millions takes flight and runs for exile... what's happening? And on and further the fire of discontent spreads... Algeria... Yemen, regions that are poor, I am not surprised that these people are angry... but then Libya, Iran, Bahrain, those have oil, they swim in petrodollars and now they fight, scream, slogan, wave flags, police batons thump, thrones of yesterday's darlings of people are rocking... no, that's not some folklore of those little crazy countries it is ... what, really?

Why is the garden of Allah on fire? Poverty? But there are much poorer countries on this troubled planet, it's for sure that Iran with Libya do not belong to an almshouse of this world. Conceit of the rulers, corruption? But then it would have to burn in other... well... let's not go there. No,

that would not get us anywhere. If we have a mystery and do not know how to crack it, the best way is to recapitulate all that we know about it. Let's put together in alphabetical order all the countries where it's all happening in the last few weeks: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Tunisia, Yemen. All the countries of Muslims and apart from Iran also Arabic. Does it mean anything? Maybe: Let's try to get a bit deeper into the events.



I try to remember what I know about those countries, something from my own experience, something from the experience of others, something I should find on the internet... and ... here are the demographic tables. In some parts the Turkish sultan did the census, for to his empire most of these parts belonged, in some parts nobody did, but in Egypt the state rulers were much more fastidious and so we know how many souls there were by the beginning of the nineteenth century: about two and half million, not much more than in time of pharaohs. Then it started: in the year 1900 12,5 million, 45 million in 1980, Egypt's people were trying hard! At the break of the century 68 millions and 81 millions this year. Put another way within two centuries Egypt's population multiplied 32,5 times. Let's not make anything of it right now and let's check the other lands of the burning garden of Allah.

Algeria: 1980 – 18,5 mil. / 1990 – 25 mil. / 2000 – 30 mil. / 2011 – 36 mil./

Iran: 1980 – 38,3 mil. / 1990 –

54,5 mil. / 2000 – 63,6 mil. / 2011 – 76,6 mil./

Yemen: 1990 – 12 mil. / 2000 – 17,9 mil. / 2011 – 25,1 mil./

Tunisia: 1980 – 6,4 mil. / 1990 – 8,5 mil. / 2000 – 9,6 mil. / 2011 – 10,6 mil./

Interestingly Turkey, where there is no clash but where there should be one, if Allah or more likely Shaitan himself will permit them to join the European Union: 1980 – 42,2 mil. / 1990 – 52,4 mil. / 2000 – 62,8 mil. / 2011 – 72,3 mil.

In the lands of Palestine where they fight all the time but where there we have no demographic figures, only that the west bank of Jordan has 2,4 mil. souls and the crazy land of Gaza 1,8 mil. What are all those souls living on there when they produce nothing but home made rockets to shoot at Israel is one of the mysteries of Orient.

Nevertheless we can assume that most of the countries from the garden of Allah need about thirty years to double in numbers, while some like Yemen can manage

it in twenty. Here, I assume, one can guess some trend even if one doesn't want to, as is the order of the day in this hypocritical era. If this will continue, the population of that narrow Nile watered noodle of land which is the only habitable Egypt, will be in year 2040 160 millions and in 2070, well, let's take a bit off and say 300 million.... one does not need to be a prophet to predict that that will not happen. It can't because an Egypt noodle can not sustain such numbers not even with the generous help of Europe.

It is quite uncertain whether at that time Europe would be able to be generous at all. Something must give and it is quite possible that this is the beginning of it. Devastating troubles, jumping like a fire from one Arab country to the next may partly be a phenomenon of a copy cat: the fight's on in Cairo let's frolic too, but it may be also much more serious than that. Steeply rising prices of life necessities, sharply growing unemployment, also how to provide jobs for materializing armies of growing young that have nothing to do.

Where to get the food? Clothes? Heating? Green noodle is fertile but not expandable: and bring it all from abroad? How much? And for how long?

Catastrophic overpopulation of parts of this also not expandable small cosmic sphere continues and humans multiply despite of the preachers of political correctness, who forbid themselves to hear: it is inappropriate to talk about catastrophes where the guilt is not possible to heap on one's own western shoulders. Mother Nature will not be dictated to but eventually will bring



human overpopulation, raised up by human folly, to natural levels. It is not unlikely that it is what's happening right now. That we are witnessing the beginning of cataclysm that last time happened in the history of the world at the end of Mesozoic era. The brontosaurus copped it then. This time... Maybe. We shall see. Let's wait a few years.

Something in my thinking is not right. For example, on the other side of the world is Honduras, beautiful country but by now a somewhat plundered land which I was lucky to come to know. Its population has risen within thirty years from 3,6 millions to 8,1 mil., quite comparable with the lands of Allah, yet there is no frenzy of street violence, threats to its president and no breaking of gates to ministry. Is there something different? And if there is, what? Probably it is in that Honduras is not an Islamic land. People are poor, but they know it's them who is responsible for their fate, and that they can, no matter how little, make a difference. Muslim can't, indeed may not. Everything that is happening, is happening due to the will of the only and omnipotent God, the adjudicator. Anyone who would try to invent some progress or betterments is sinning against His revealed will and shall end in hell, where the clothes of fire will await him and a steel cat of nine tails.

On the other hand Islam is a very comfortable, responsibility free faith. Life progresses according to God's will, to success, to victory. If not, if it muddles in some unexpected confusion, ex-

ortionate prices, unemployment, Muslim does not ask himself where did I go wrong but raging with just anger looks for the one who caused it. It may be Satan himself, but president with his ministers and other high ranking officers can serve the purpose too, after all he suspects them for some time now. And so he quaintly rages without thinking that he pushed out tourists, declining of the very few activities from which he makes a living.

Anyway, tourists were provided for him by Allah, who will provide them again. So, let's first... and the fight, destruction, fire, rivers of blood, goes on. We shall see. Perhaps the fire in the garden of Allah will fade and there will be for a few years repose.

Or the fire will spring up here and there, looking for those who are guilty for the present misery and after presidents it may be Jews, Crusaders and after them the whole lot of the infidel dogs. Only one thing will never be doubted, may not be doubted; that the faithful Muslim got himself into the trouble through his thoughtlessness, his count on the heavenly Protector, his rabbit like procreation, and that for him - it will not take long - the narrow green noodle of the fertile Nile valley will not be enough and not even the planet from pole to pole. We all have something to watch out for! Hannover, Feb 20, 2011.

The article sent to ND in March 2011 Standa Moc, it was published by Neviditelný pes in Czech language.

Photo Věra Kohoutová





Eliška Hašková Coolidge has worked for five American Presidents, taught etiquette to Czech politicians, diplomats and businessmen and is now trying to introduce it in elementary school. Her resolution for this year is to live in the present and maintain her optimistic approach to life.

*The time when the rules of etiquette were created was very different from today. Isn't etiquette a bit anachronistic nowadays?*

Just recently I came across a quote by Thomas Jefferson who wrote that our young American democracy may have the best Constitution and the best laws, but where manners fail so too does the Constitution and the laws. That was the early 19th century but it very much reminds us of today. America was growing richer; people were getting used to comfort and forgetting the moral and ethical principles that ensure that such endures. Etiquette is not just a set of rules for behavior in society. It is deeply rooted principles of mutual respect and trust. And these are things that have not outlived their usefulness. On the contrary, they need to be revived.

*In what ways can revive them?*

Human character is formed by the tenth years of a child's life. From then on we bear an image of ourselves which shapes our destiny. It is therefore most important to work with children. To instill in them the courage to tell the truth even if it hurt. To explain to them.

That they bear full responsibility for their words and deeds. Recently I sat down with twenty children between the ages of four and twelve at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. For three hours we discussed subjects. Like honesty, fairness, wisdom and character. We spoke about how to apologize for mistake, to have the courage to tell the truth and say. Excuse me, please, thank you. These words which are so lacking today may be the key to better mutual understanding tomorrow. In my work for five US presidents, I witnessed many visits to the White House by leaders of the opposition. After spending all day criticizing the President's policy in the congress, the opposition leader came for a meeting in the evening, agreed on a compromise, shook the President's hand and the next day the decision was carried through. Now, instead of agreements and compromises, we witness personal insults and mutually destructive conflicts.

*Why is that?*

In the US as Thomas Jefferson warned we became too successful, too materialistic and trust and manners gave way to moral shortcuts and arrogance. In the Czech Republic, two totalitarian regimes wiped out trust in our society and, above all, trust in authority. And it will be more difficult than ever, because trust

has eroded throughout the world and we lack authority figures that are an example of accountability for young people. Trust cannot be revived by fear or by the force of law. Trust must be built by example, beginning with positive examples of those in power, whether they are in government, business, schools or families.

*Who is authority? Who is your role model?*

My Grandfather, František Hašek. He was a Czech banker and one of the principal shareholders in the Melantrich Publishing Company. In 1939 the Nazis asked him to sell his shares of Melantrich to Dresdner Bank.



**We still have a lot to learn**  
By Jiří Holubec

He refused because he knew that Melantrich with its popular evening newspaper would become an arm of Nazi propaganda. He was approached five times and finally executed without trial by a firing squad. A man who lives and dies for moral principles, is a role model worthy of imitation.

*Is it possible to find such role models even today?*

Of course it is. It is only a pity that many admirable people in Czech Republic today prefer to live in anonymity rather than to becoming true leaders of our society.

Your company Coolidge consulting Services offers consultancy services in business protocol, social and ethics. What have you set as the company's principals goal? To spread awareness of the fact that throughout our lives we have to keep working on ourselves. If we delude ourselves that we are infallible and know-it-all, or that money can us anything, then we'll find it hard to achieve anything. Jack Stack, the former CEO of Česká spořitelna is one of nine children, from a poor family. All that he achieved in his

Life had to learn for himself. And he was capable of it only because of his inherent respect for others and his ability to admit to himself he did not know everything. Me colleague at the White House in the Nixon years, John Huntsman became the founder of the largest chemical company in the US, Huntsman Chemical. In childhood, he had no shoes. He book "Winners Never Cheat" should be required reading for every businessman and woman.

It is not about a lack of knowledge, but about the humility to realize that we have more to learn.

Arrogance should be replaced by character. A contrast to this is one Czech politician with whom I recently sat at a small diplomatic dinner. When he finished eating he just took out a toothpick and with his elbow at the table started to clean his teeth. Of course I did not rebuke him but after dinner I hinted I could organize etiquette training for members of Parliament. His response was: "That's great idea, Eliška, and I know exactly which of my colleagues could use it!"

*So what kind Europeans are we?*

In my opinion we are neither West nor East. We are Europeans. And we must try to be amongst the best.

*In the US you headed the Office of Presidential Letters and Messages which handles relations with the public. Did you not want to work for the president in the Czech Republic as well?*

I am not person who pushes herself somewhere without being asked. And I am also aware that while I consider myself Czech, and feel I do have something to contribute here, I am – after a fifty year absence – somewhat of a guest in the CR. I consider my work here very important, and I am very pleased to share my knowledge and experience when asked. I still have the impression that we underestimate the value of good manners in both government and business life.

*Do you observe the results of your work?*

I see dozens of young diplomats I have schooled who are now active all over the world, in the US, in Brussels, and I am happy to see how successful they are. I recently met one of my former students and she confided in me that when she is unsure about something she always thinks, "What would Mrs. Coolidge say about this?". (She laughs) I get similar feedback from business managers and executives who have attended my courses.

*Does that make you happy?*

Very happy. I want us to be aware that we have a solid on which to build. While we are a small country, we have behind us a proud history, a rich cultural legacy and many amazing achievements. While working at the White House I encountered countless Czech who had reached the peak in their respective fields. Unfortunately, in our euphoria at our restored freedom we have allowed twenty years to elapse, forgetting that with freedom comes accountability.

I remember that Margaret Thatcher gave the shortest speech in the Spanish Hall of the Prague Castle on the tenth anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. She said: "Do you think you have freedom? Without personal account-

## PLANING TRAVEL TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Republic is a member of the Schengen Agreement. For EU and EFTA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland) citizens, an officially approved ID card (or a passport) is sufficient for entry. In no case will they need a visa for a stay of any length. Other non-EFTA and non-Swiss nationals will generally need a passport for entry to a Schengen country.

There are no border controls between countries that have signed and implemented the treaty - the European Union (except Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the United Kingdom), Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. Likewise, a visa granted for any Schengen member is valid in all other countries that have signed and implemented the treaty. But be careful: Not all EU members have signed the Schengen treaty, and not all Schengen members are part of the European Union. Airports in Europe are thus divided into "Schengen" and "non-Schengen" sections, which effectively act like "domestic" and "international" sections elsewhere. If you are flying from outside Europe into one Schengen country and continuing to another, you will clear Immigration and Customs at the first country and then continue to your destination with no further checks. Travel between a Schengen member and a non-Schengen country will result in the normal border checks. Note that regardless of whether you travelling within the Schengen area or not, some airlines will still insist on seeing your ID card or passport.

Keep in mind that the counter begins once you enter any country in the Schengen Area and is not reset by leaving a specific Schengen country for another Schengen country, or vice-versa. However, this does not necessarily apply for New Zealand citizens if they only visit particular Schengen countries. As of January 2011 only the nationals of the following non-EU/EFTA countries do not need a visa for entry into the Schengen Area: Albania\*, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Macedonia\*, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro\*, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Serbia\*\*/\*\*, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan\*\*\* (Republic of China), United States, Uruguay, Vatican City, Venezuela, additionally persons holding British National (Overseas), Hong Kong SAR or Macau SAR passports. These visa-free visitors may not stay more than 90 days in a 180 day period and, in general, may not work.

Note that while British subjects with the right of abode in the United Kingdom and British Overseas Territories citizens connected to Gibraltar are considered "United Kingdom nationals for European Union purposes" and therefore eligible for unlimited access to the Schengen Area British Overseas Territories citizens without the right of abode in the United Kingdom and British subjects without the right of abode in the United Kingdom as well as British Overseas citizens and British protected persons in general do require visas.

However, all British Overseas Territories citizens except those solely connected to the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas are eligible for British citizenship and thereafter unlimited access to the Schengen Area. Further note that (\*) nationals of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia need a biometric passport to enjoy visa-free travel (\*\*) Serbian nationals with passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate (Serbs residing in Kosovo) still do need a visa and (\*\*\*) Taiwan nationals need their ID number to be stipulated in their passport to enjoy visa-free travel. [http://wikitravel.org/en/Czech\\_Republic](http://wikitravel.org/en/Czech_Republic) (Will be continue)



ability and the rule of law, you will never have freedom."

*What rules should we keep in mind to avoid making mistakes?*

We should be able to see ourselves through the eyes of others. We should be honest, sincere, open and polite. And, we should live up to our word.

*What are your plans for 2011?*

To push ahead with my unfinished work. Besides the courses I conduct in social skills and busi-

ness and diplomatic protocol, I am also working in small group at the ministry of Education to make ethnics a required subject in Czech elementary schools. I also follow the developments in Šumava National Park where I inherited a property from my grandparents. It is place close to my heart for which there is no substitute anywhere in the world.

Source: Review 2011, (shorten), photo Petra Píkelová [www.idnes.cz](http://www.idnes.cz)

## Prague's church of Saints Cyril and Methodius: place of worship and memorial to victims of Nazi terror

By Jan Richter

A short walk from the Vltava in Prague's New Town is the church that witnessed some of the most dramatic moments during the Nazi occupation of the country. The crypt beneath the church was the last hiding place for seven Czechoslovak commandos, including Jan Kubiš and Jozef Gabčík who assassinated the Reinhardt Heydrich in 1942. The site now houses an exhibition dedicated to their heroic actions. But the church also remains a place of worship for the small Czech Orthodox community. It took the 800 SS or so troops more than eight hours to storm the crypt below the St Cyril and Methodius in Prague on June, 18, 1942, as depicted in the Czech film "Assassination" more than 20 years later. Bullets holes can still be seen in the wall around the air vent leading from their hideout to the street.

Then as now, the building belonged to the Czech Orthodox church. Some 200 believers, who make up this small congregation, come here for services several times a week. In an office adjacent to the church, I met Dean Jaroslav Šuvarský.

"We are now in the Czech Orthodox cath-

edra, whose depictions still adorn the ceiling. The church itself was built as part of a home for elderly priests – but not long afterwards came Emperor Joseph II who was not exactly keen on religious institutions. Jaroslav Šuvarský explains.

"We had this famous emperor, Joseph II, and he closed many churches, including this one. That happened in 1783. It was then used by the army, and later by Prague's Technical University which still uses parts of the whole complex."

The orthodox cathedral is not the first place of worship on that site, either. A small church was first built there in the 12th century, only to be replaced three hundred years later by a monastery which in turn was destroyed by the Hussites, a group of religious radicals who sought to redeem the Catholic Church with fire and

after it was established.

"We came here after WWI when Czechoslovakia was founded. At that time, there was a very strong reform movement within the Roman Catholic Church. This movement spawned two churches – the Czechoslovak Hussite Church, and the Czech Orthodox Church."

In 1995, an exhibition was opened in the crypt dedicated to the seven men who died there. Last year, it went through a major facelift, and last week, a memorial to the victims of the Nazi terror was unveiled in the small courtyard in front of the church. The two stone tablets display the names of 294 people who helped the Czechoslovak soldiers with their mission. Among them were nine members of the Czech Orthodox Church.

"During the Nazi occupation, a strong, non-communist resistance group was associated with our church. Two members of our community, priest Vladimír Petřek and brother Jan Sonnevend, were very active in the resistance movement."

During less than 50 years when the building served its original purpose, priests who passed away were laid to rest in the crypt beneath the floor. The vaulted room is quite large; it runs under most of the nave, and had three access points – stairs in front of the altar; a small opening at the other end, and an air vent that leads into the street, just above eye level. Along the longer sides of the crypt are narrow spaces for the coffins. That's where the soldiers spent the last 20 days of their lives.

We will probably never know who came up with the idea to hide the seven most wanted persons in the German Reich in the crypt. Jaroslav Šuvarský says it emerged in a conversation between the head of the community's council of elders, Jan Sonnevend, and one of the priests, Vladimír Petřek.

The commandos arrived in the church three days after Heydrich's assassination. But the Gestapo soon traced them, and at 4:15 AM on June 18, 1942, the church was surrounded by SS and the police.

"On that day, when the Gestapo came here at 4:15, three of the soldiers were on the gallery. They opened fire at the German troops which lead to heavy fighting in the church. When they re-



Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Prague

alized they could no longer keep fighting, they swallowed poison and killed themselves."

The remaining four paratroopers were hiding in the crypt. It took the Nazis another couple of hours to force an entry into the underground refuge – only to find that these soldiers committed suicide, too.

"The fighting went on until noon. The Nazis couldn't reach the crypt but they soon discovered this large stone covering the staircase. They dynamited it, the stone fell inside, and that was the end for the remaining soldiers."

While in the crypt, the paratroopers could hear loudspeakers in the street announcing lists of people executed in retaliation for the assassination. On June 10, they also heard the news of the destruction of Lidice, a village near Kladno that was razed to the ground.

"It was very difficult for them; they heard all the names from the loudspeakers, and then they heard of Lidice. Kubiš and Gabčík were in considering leaving the crypt and walking to the nearby Charles Square with sings that would say, 'We killed Heydrich' before committing suicide. But the priest, Vladimír Vepřek told them suicide was not an option." Some 200 people nowadays attend services at the Czech

orthodox cathedral of Sts Cyril and Methodius, although Dean Šuvarský says that big holidays like Christmas and Easter sometimes draw around 1,000 believers, not all Czech.

"According to the latest statistics from ten years ago, there are some 25,000 Czech Orthodox believers. But you know, after the fall of communism, the borders are open, and so many foreigners came to live in Prague, students, workers, and so on – not only from Ukraine and Russia, but also from Greece, Bulgaria, and Serbia.

"Our community is open; we are multinational, I can speak several eastern languages, so we serve them as well as Czechs."

The solemn Baroque façade of the church says little about the dramatic moments it witnessed nearly seven decades ago. A few minutes away from the Dancing House on the bank of the Vltava, the church and the memorial in it is certainly worth a visit.

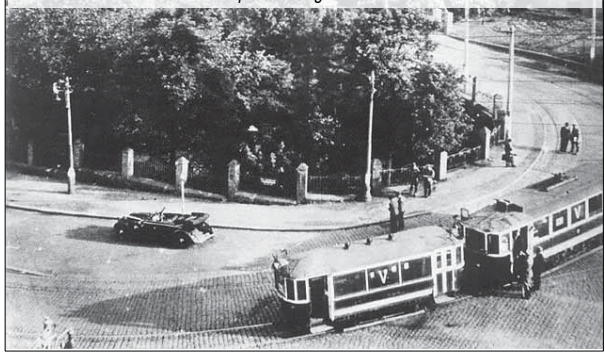
Source: CzechRadio7, RadioPrague URL: <http://www.radio.cz/en/section/spotlight/pragues-church-of-saints-cyril-and-methodius-place-of-worship-and-memorial-to-victims-of-nazi-terror>, Feb 2, 2011

Photo: <http://www.praguecityline.cz/pamatky/kostel-sv-cyrila-a-metodeje>



Kubiš a Gabčík

The place where Obergruppenführer-SS Reinhardt Heydrich was mortally wounded; the empty car was still there. Gabčík and Kubiš waited at the tram stop on the curve near Bulovka Hospital in Prague 8-Libeň.



dral of Saint Kyrillos and Methodios; it's the main church of the Czech Orthodox Church. But it's not only a church – we have here a memorial to the heroes of the Heydrich terror.

"In 1942, our priest and bishop Gorazd offered a hiding place to seven Czechoslovak paratroopers who were sent from the UK; two of them assassinated Reinhardt Heydrich, the acting protector of the Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren."

When the church in Resslova street was first built in the 1730s, it had a different name. It was dedicated to a recently canonized Catholic saint, Charles Borro-

sword.

When the Baroque church was built there by a leading Czech architect of the time, Kilian Ignatz Dientzenhofer, the street ended right there. It was only extended in the 19th century, when it reached the river. As part of the new layout, the street sank by several metres lower.

The original door, now several metres above the pavement, could no longer be used, and a new entrance to the church, along with a small courtyard, had to be added.

The Czech Orthodox community began using the disused Catholic church in 1935, some 12 years

### You have made a difference

The Diplomatic Spouses' Association of Prague has been conducting a Christmas Bazaar for many years. The Bazaar, which raises money for charitable organizations, is a nationally recognized annual event which enjoys the wide support of many Embassies and patronage of Mrs. Klausová, wife of the President of the Czech Republic.

The Bazaar raises funds through the sales of tickets for entry and participation in the raffle, silent auction, and for the first time this year Aukro internet auction of donated prizes, as well as the sale of a great variety of goods from the many participating countries. This year our Team Canada contribution to the 2010 Christmas Bazaar is just over CZK 200,000. The total amount raised by the Diplomatic Spouses' Association for charity is more than CZK 4,000,000. The team Canada enthusiastic group of volunteers has sold tickets, solicited support and organized tables selling Canadian items at the Bazaar since it began. An essential contribution to our charity funding comes from our donors and sponsors who donate goods, services or cash. Our successful Canadian community participation is only possible through your commitment and generous sponsorship to the Canadian Christmas Bazaar effort. Please accept my warmest thanks for your personal support to Team Canada and this worthy event. Every donation made a difference.

Your donation allowed us to raise funds a very worthy cause during difficult economic times when help for those fortunate is so important. You have made a difference.

Yours sincerely

Valerie Raymond, Ambassador of Canada