

The Texas Czech Genealogical Society Presents
**Launching To New Horizons
in 2022 and Beyond**
January 29, 2022

**Early Bird Registration
Ends Tuesday,
January 12, 2022**

**Learn of the journey
Czechs traveled from
the 1800s to present
day and beyond**

**Caldwell
Civic Center
103 Presidential
Corridor
(Highway 21)
Caldwell, Texas**

**9:00 AM
(Doors open
8:00 AM)**

**Lunch Menu
Roast Beef w/
Gravy
Smashed Potatoes
Buttered Corn
Green Beans
Rolls, Tea,
Cake**

**Gift Table
Research
Library**

Speakers and Presentations



Leo Baca



Richard Lesikar



Patrick Janis



Luba Ruzicka

See next pages for presentation overviews.
Registration form and information also follows.

Speaker Presentation Overviews



Leo Baca *Saved by an Angel*

This presentation by Leo Baca is about a fascinating part of Czech Texana that has, for the most part, remained unknown. The story is about eight northern Moravian families who survived an epidemic, a hurricane, a shipwreck and became stranded on a small Caribbean Island.

The journey began in early 1873 as the Bujnoch, Janca, Lanik, Moris, Olsovsky, Polasek, Simek, and Zarsky families received permission to emigrate from their home villages of Drnholec, Chlebovice, and Fryocovice in northern Moravia. Leaving their homes in early September 1873, they arrived in Bremen, and were confronted with a documentation issue regarding Jiri Bujnoch's early release from the military forcing them to travel to Liverpool, England. Departing on 11 September 1873 on the *Missouri*, on 1 October 1873, the *Missouri* struck Gingerbread Crown Reef which was fifteen feet below water. All passenger luggage was lost. The passengers and crew went to North Bimini where the first attempt of their rescue ended in disaster as the wrecking schooner *Two Brothers* was caught in squalls and was lost. This was observed by the shipwrecked passengers from North Bimini. On 7 October 1873, a hurricane hit the island where they struggled to reach higher ground. Ultimately, they were rescued by the British gunboat *Cherub* and were taken to Key West where they boarded the *Liberty* for New Orleans, followed by boarding a coastal steamer to Galveston. Arriving in Galveston, they boarded a train for Columbus only to learn Columbus was in the middle of a yellow fever epidemic. Traveling several additional miles, they finally made it to their destinations in Sweet Home, Mulberry, and Smother's Creek with the help of carts and mules.



Richard Lesikar *By Land by Sea, Texas the Czech Dream*

Have you often wondered how our ancestors traveled from Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia to America? How did they travel? What did it take? What hardships did they endure? Perhaps you have performed extensive research into this topic, *By Land by Sea, Texas the Czech Dream*, and have considerable knowledge on the subject. However, for those with whom it has been a question in the "back of your mind" but have not pursued the hours of research into it; Richard's hope and aim is to fill your mind with the answers of what it took to make our ancestor's dream come true.

Richard was, and continues to be, curious about our Czech ancestors' travels and their lives, especially between the 1850s and 1880s – the time frame of the initial surge when Czechs came to America. Have you given thought and wondered why so many Germans arrived in America, especially Texas, just prior to our ancestors arriving? Through this presentation, you will learn the answer.

An overview of the means of travel for all Czechs for the period of 1850s through 1880s will be presented. Delving into the lives and some stories of his great-grandparents, Jan and Rozalie (Dusek) Lesikar, who originated from Cermna (now Horni Cermna) Richard's presentation will end with how they eventually settled in Seaton, Texas.



Patrick J. Janis

From Moravia to the Moon, by Way of Texas

The distance from the Earth to the Moon is an average of 283,900 miles. The distance from Lučice (near Běloutín) in the Olomouc Region of Moravia to LaGrange, Texas is 5,642 miles. Czech Texans are known for their diligence, work ethic, leadership, thriftiness, hardiness, patriotism and strong sense of duty to God, family and country. They are innovative, curious, determined and creative. There's a Moravian farming family from Lučice who immigrated to Texas following the familiar route through Bremen, New Orleans, Galveston and eventually to Weimar and LaGrange. In many ways, this family typified our immigrant ancestors, but in a few ways, they set themselves apart, accomplishing what no human had ever accomplished and not only taking part in, but significantly shaping the history of Texas, the United States and the World. From the fertile farm lands in the Moravian District of Přerov in 1846, to Galveston in 1871, to British Hong Kong in 1933, to the Yangtze River in 1937 China, to the nail in the coffin of communism in 1968, we will take a journey with this family as we explore some of their accomplishments and what those accomplishments mean for us today. You'll hear about messages literally written in blood, heroism in the first shots of World War II, the largest slingshot ever imagined, the farthest reach of any human hand in history, the longest distance Bible reading ever, the most famous photograph ever taken and some of the proudest moments in the memory of the oldest living Americans. This amazing story that has been lost by at least two generations will be brought back to the forefront once again – and it stars a genuine Czech Texan family!



Luba Ruzicka

From Socialism to American Freedom

Luba Ruzicka's story is about many things. It is a first-person account of a Slovak-American who left her home in Bratislava for New York City in 1968. She grew up under Communism in the shadow of World War II. Driven by a fierce desire for a life unfettered by the restrictions, punishments, terrors, and deprivations of the Czechoslovakian Communist regime, Luba, her husband, Fano, and their infant son, Vlado, leave behind their family and friends and the world they have known to seek a new life. With little command of English, and no understanding of America, Luba was to find herself alone much of the time as Fano, an interning doctor, worked long hours.

Luba's story is about the same restless yearning for freedom that has driven immigrants to America for two hundred plus years; a new look at the social and psychological forces that led to the women's movement, a love story about a forty-five-year marriage and a triumphant tale of success gained through ambition, initiative and courage.

Luba's story is much more than the classic immigrant's story. It will speak to every wife and mother who wanted a life of her own, every business person who struggled to realize a dream, and to every person who ever believed in him or herself.

It is about the attempt to keep a transplanted culture alive in a foreign land, about the never-ending yearning for home, about the education of a lifetime, and about the travels – geographical, psychological, and emotional of an extraordinary woman. It is about the travels of the heart.



Will you be the attendee to receive an unexpected surprise?

During one of the presentations, an unsuspecting attendee will receive a surprise family history genealogical bonus gift.

Will that attendee be you?



The Texas Czech Genealogical Society
presents:
Launching To New Horizons
January 29, 2022
Registration Form

The Caldwell Civic Center doors will open at 8:00 AM for our *Launching To New Horizons* event. We are excited and thrilled to be able to once again be able to welcome you in person. Morning refreshments will be available upon arrival and the event will begin at 9:00 AM. Please see the event flyer for FULL information.

Register in advance by filling out the form below:

Early Bird Registration - Postmarked on or before, Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

TCGS Members - \$45.00 Non-Members - \$50.00

Number of TCGS Members _____ @ \$45.00 = Total _____

Number of Non-Members _____ @ \$50.00 = Total _____

Registration - Postmarked January 13, 2022 - January 19, 2022

TCGS Members - \$50.00 Non-Members - \$55.00

Number of TCGS Members _____ @ \$50.00 = Total _____

Number of Non-Members _____ @ \$55.00 = Total _____

Registration at door - \$60.00 (ALL - Members and Non-Members)

Name: _____ Current TCGS Member: Yes ___ No ___

Name: _____ Current TCGS Member: Yes ___ No ___

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

NOTE: Your registration fee does include everything listed on the event flyer, including both the morning refreshments and lunch. We encourage those attending to have been fully vaccinated. Facial masks are optional. If we deem it necessary to cancel the event because of the spread of the virus, all registration fees received WILL BE refunded.

To register by credit card go to: <https://txczgs.square.site/>

If paying by check, make check payable to TCGS, fill out the registration form and mail to:

Susan Crutchfield, 507 West St., Sealy, Texas 77474

For further information, Susan can be reached by email at scrutch3@att.net



The Texas Czech Genealogical Society is a 501[C][3] non-profit society.

