

Fall 2006 Spring 2007

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Our Embassy to the World

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2006-2007

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Birmingham International Center Program & Events Fall 2006-Spring 2007

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL CENTER August 2006 - July 2007 Season

Birmingham International Center's 2006-2007 Spotlight season was an overwhelming success, bringing cultural understanding of the Czech Republic to more than 200,000 Alabamians through our educational, cultural, arts and entertainment programs. We reached another 100,000 school children across our state with in-school Czech performances, resource boxes, and mini-festivals, and helped broaden understanding of the Czech Republic to more than 100 teachers through a professional development conference and Symposium on Czech History and Culture.

We had the privilege of welcoming special guests to our state, including President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Klaus, and the British Speaker of the House of Commons Michael Martin. We also hosted a stellar Ambassador's Dinner honoring the Ambassador to the United States from the Czech Republic, Petr Kolar and the former Ambassador to the Czech Republic from the United States, Bill Cabaniss. With partnering organizations, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and Birmingham-Southern College we presented "Common Themes in the Struggles for Social Change," our 6th Transformative Justice Conference, and welcomed Ambassador John Shattuck, Ambassador Martin Palous, Dr. Dorothy Cotton and Bishop Calvin Woods, Sr.

*The Czech Republic is a treasury of European arts of both the classical past and the dynamic present. We were proud to host performances by world-renowned artists, including jazz pianist Emil Viklicky and violinist Pavel Sporcl. The Birmingham Museum of Art exhibited the Hascoe Collection of 20th Century Czech Art and the sculpture of Cestmir Suska, and we showcased drawings of Helga Weissova Hoskova, a survivor of the Terezin Concentration Camp of World War II. We also offered for public viewing the amazing photography exhibit (circa 1945), *And Along Came Freedom, Americans in Pilsen* at the Southern Museum of Flight.*

Birmingham International Center also presented the International Women's Day program on Human Trafficking and Women in Politics. As part of the program, Meda Mladek and Soon Bok Sellers, were honored as "Women of Consequence."

This report highlights the great work Birmingham International Center has done to achieve its mission of promoting mutual understanding between cultures through international education programs, country spotlights and services to Alabama and international communities. Here, you will see a listing of the great accomplishments we achieved, thanks in large part to the generous support of our sponsors, Spotlight committee members and Board of Directors. Thank you for helping us continue our important work.

Dan Sansone
Immediate Past Board President

Iris Gross
Executive Director

The success of the spotlight on the Czech Republic programs has given our transformation from Birmingham International Festival to Birmingham International Center form and substance. The name change reflects our extensive programs and projects while still staying true to our mission to promote mutual understanding between cultures.

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL CENTER – INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

- British Speaker of the House of Commons Michael Martin
- Right Honorable Michael Martin, MP Speaker of the House of Commons United Kingdom
- Delegation of Bulgarian & Ukrainian Dignitaries sponsored by the International Visitor Leadership Program of the U.S. Department of State

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL CENTER FACILITY RENTAL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

- Mashonda Taylor
- Darrius Peace
- Jasmine Barrow-Chillax
- April Muhammand-Muhammand University of Islam

SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMS – THE CZECH REPUBLIC In-Community Partnerships

- Wachovia Masterworks: *Serenades and Divisions*, performance by the Alabama Symphony Orchestra
- Dvorak, Symphony No. 5, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Christopher Confessore
- **Performance**, Largo Desolato, a play by Vaclav Havel, Czech playwright and First President of the Czech Republic, and presented at the UAB Theatre Department at the Alys Stephens Performing Arts Theatre.
- **Film Festival**, Little Otik, a Czech film presented by Foreign Language Advisory Committee, UAB and the Birmingham Cultural Alliance International Film Festival.
- Women's Committee of 100 for Birmingham, Inc. – Fashion Show and Luncheon

Other Events

- The Crystal Crown Award, presented to IBM Czech Republic at a reception hosted by Dr Carol Garrison at Woodward House
- The Transformative Justice Conference: *Common Themes in the Struggle for Change*
- International Women's Day program on Human Trafficking and Women in Politics which honored Meda Mladek of the Czech Republic and Soon Bok Sellers of Birmingham, as "Women of Consequence"
- Community Trip to the Czech Republic

Distinguished Guests

- **President of the Czech Republic**, Vaclav Klaus
- **Mayor of Pilsen**, Pavel Rodl
- **Ambassador's Dinner** honoring the Ambassador to the United States from the Czech Republic, Petr Kolar and the former Ambassador to the Czech Republic from the United States, Bill Cabaniss. Entertainment by two world-renowned Czech performers, jazz pianist Emil Viklicky and violinist Pavel Sporcl
- Honorary Consul Generals George Novak (Atlanta) and Peter Rafkaeli (Philadelphia)

Professional Development

- **Teacher Workshop**
- **Symposium on Czech History and Culture**

Art

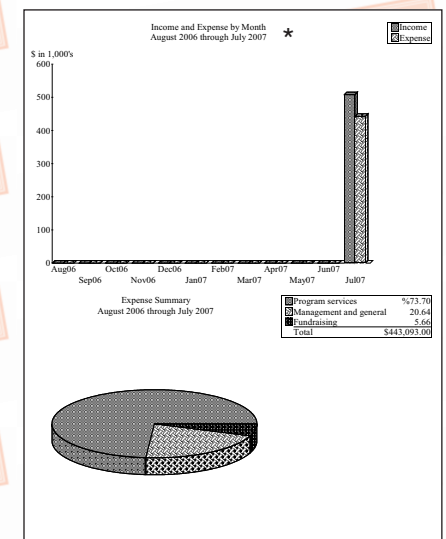
- **Unique Techniques** – art teachers workshop featuring Marjorie Nejd, who decorates eggs in the Czech tradition using natural dyes she makes; and Radmila Zuman, an American artist of Czech ancestry who makes beautiful bobbin lace using patterns she has designed
- **Photography Exhibit**, *And Along Came Freedom, Americans in Pilsen*, 1945, photography exhibit at the

Southern Museum of Flight

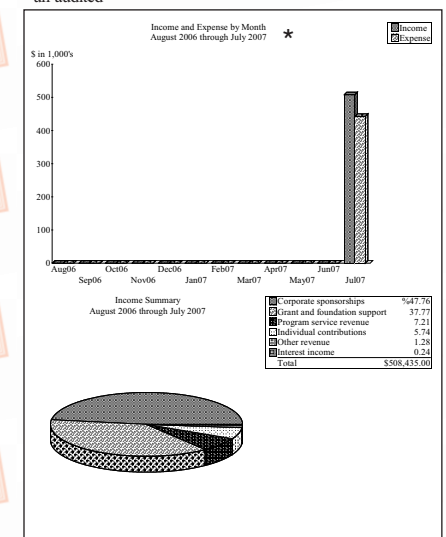
- **Reception & Exhibit** "A Child Artist in Terezin: Witness to the Holocaust" By Helga Weissova-Hoskova, a survivor of the Terezin Concentration Camp of World War II
- **Birmingham Museum of Art exhibits** - The Hascoe Collection of 20th Century Czech Art and the sculpture of Cestmir Suska
- **Student Art Exhibit** at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, focusing on the culture of the Czech Republic
- **Reception and Exhibit**, featuring Josef Sazama's collection of textile art and wall tapestries

In-School Performances

- Louise Wessinger, "My Grandmother's Trunk"
- The Eulenspiegel Puppets,
- Czech Fairy Tales with Strings
- World-renowned jazz pianist Emil Viklicky,
- Jazz pianist Emil Viklicky and violinist Pavel Sporcl
- A Puppet Theater, Theater Alfa, from Pilsen, presented at ONB Magic City Art Connection.
- Mini-Festivals, Seven schools in Alabama held mini-festivals, sponsored by Birmingham International Center, focusing on the Czech culture. More than 2,200 students and 200 teachers and parents experienced the mini festivals at schools throughout Alabama.



* un-audited



* un-audited