



THE CLEVELAND CULTURAL GARDENS FEDERATION E Newsletter

Fall 2013

November 2013

Happy Holidays

See page #5

In this issue:

- ❖ Holiday Dinner
- ❖ Sounds of Music
- ❖ President's notes
- ❖ Kiosk
- ❖ Hungarian 75th
- ❖ OWD
- ❖ Croatian expanding
- ❖ Slovak new statue
- ❖ December holidays

Coming Up: Holiday Dinner

It will not be too long and holidays will be upon us. CCGF Executive Secretary Mary Hamlin is again organizing the Federation's Holiday Dinner. This year it will be held at **Sterle's Country House**, 1401 E55, Cleveland, on our usual meeting day Tuesday, December 10, 2013. Your invitations will be arriving soon. Please do not delay in responding! It is challenging for Mary to organize this event, your prompt reply will make her efforts a little easier. Thank you Mary for your ongoing dedication to this event!

2013 - Summer of Music

Brass bands were heard in the German Garden on Sunday, July 14th. Thanks to Hans Kopf who organizes the *Mizer/Wolfram Concert*, multiple brass bands performed under the watchful eyes of larger than life statues of Schiller and Goethe. It is important to give people a reason to visit the park and this concert certainly does that.

Once again **Opera Per Tutti** performed in the Italian Garden on Sunday, July 21st, in front of a crowd of over 1,500 people!

Most attendees brought their own lawn chairs or blankets for a late afternoon picnic. Wine and wood oven pizza were available. Director Andrea Anelli and her troupe performed aria after aria.

This event has become a tradition. It is presented by the Italian Cultural Garden Foundation's "*Viva! Cultura Italiana*" cultural series. Thank you Joyce Mariani and all involved with the production.



Andrea Anelli leads the Opera Per Tutti in performance

See
clevelandculturalgardens.org
for more news.



Existing Gardens

*African American
Albanian
American Legion
American, Armenian
Azerbaijani
British, Chinese
Croatian, Czech
Estonian, Finnish
German, Greek, Hebrew
Hungarian, India, Irish
Italian, Latvian,
Lithuanian, Polish
Romanian, Rusin,
Serbian, Slovak
Slovenian Syrian,
Turkish, Ukrainian*

Proposed Gardens:

*Korean, Lebanese
Russian
Vietnamese*

GARDEN WEB SITES:

Cultural Gardens Sites

www.culturalgardens.org
clevelandculturalgardens.org

Czech Garden

czechculturalgarden.webs.com

Irish Garden

www.irishgardenclub.org

Hungarian Garden

hungarianculturalgarden.org

Slovenian Garden

www.cleslo.com/scga/

Serbian Garden

serbianculturalgarden.org

Italian garden

[https://www.facebook.com/
home.php?sk=group_1402
50535544](https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_140250535544)

President's Notes:

Our Gardens are Growing

This year's One World Day was a good indication of the growth of our gardens. The plan was to expand the day's activities into a festival that would bring a large audience to see many different attractions and enjoy the gardens. We were successful with the help of James Levine and his team who produced an event with appeal to all ages and interests. From the previous attendance of about 500 to this year's 8 to 10,000, we accomplished our goal.

Looking forward to the 100th anniversary of the Gardens in 2016 makes this initial step important. Hopefully, by the time we are ready to celebrate that special event, the tradition of thousands of people coming to enjoy the gardens will be well established. Our federation is working on plans to add activities during the summer months and coordinating events with University Circle Inc. The anniversary itself will be a major event for the City of Cleveland and the Mayor's office will be very involved in the plans.

With this in mind, it is great to see so many gardens working on projects to improve their gardens. Currently, the Hungarian, Slovak, and Croatian gardens are working on large projects and many others are at work developing plans for improvements. Many new gardens are fundraising and developing designs that might be completed for the anniversary celebration. We hope our birthday celebration in 2016 will reveal the Cultural Gardens to be better than ever but still hold its reputation as not only unique but classic.





President Sheila Crawford and the kiosk designer Paul Burik cut the ribbon during dedication ceremony

Information Kiosk Dedicated - Aug. 18

A milestone for the CCGF, the second improvement in the park implemented by the Federation. (The installation of flag poles several years ago was the first effort - thank you Andy Chakalis for that work) The information kiosk with a hard paved plaza was constructed on MLK Blvd. by Eastside Landscaping. Thank you goes to the German community who allowed the construction on a site that is part of the German Garden.

The kiosk has information about the Gardens, the History and the Federation, including the past Presidents. Map directs people to the individual gardens and the panels are illuminated by solar powered lighting. During the dedication Hawken student Sarah Parker sang the national anthem and "America the Beautiful" to a crowd of about 30 garden delegates, as the newly installed U.S. and the City of Cleveland flags fluttered over the plaza.



Hungarian Dancers are one of the groups performing during the 75 year event. Carolyn Balog is recognized for her work (below)

Hungarians Celebrate 75 Years

Hungarian pride was in full bloom at the 75th anniversary celebration of the Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden on July 20, 2013. The highlight of the afternoon was the ribbon cutting and official unveiling of the Legacy Wall dedicated to the creators of Hungarian arts and culture. The wall is inscribed with the names of Hungarian artists, musicians, composers, poets and authors. Enhancing the educational benefits of the wall is a QR system which can be accessed by all visitors on their smart phones.



Wrought iron handrails, uniting the upper garden and lower garden, have been installed by the two grand staircases. Ernie Mihaly, long time supporter of the Hungarian Garden, contributed the funds. The stairs have all been reworked and edged with boxwood hedges. Lower gardens have been replanted and benches installed. Following the Anniversary program a reception was held at the lovely home of Richard Fleischman and Helen Moss, patrons of the Hungarian Garden. (CB)



One World Day–Worldfest, August 25

The 66th One World Day celebration took place on a sunny Sunday afternoon. New, larger format this year featured two main stages with entertainment all day long. Numerous other smaller venues were scattered throughout the Gardens featuring musical and theatrical performers. Artwork and crafts were displayed and food and beverages were available for purchase. The traditional and colorful Parade of Flags started the event and was enhanced with a marching band and artistic floats. As in the past, the naturalization of approximately 20 new U.S. citizens was a highlight. New busts were dedicated in the Polish and Serbian Gardens.

This new format, called **Worldfest**, attracted estimated 8,000 to 10,000 people! That is not a “typo”, attendance ten times higher than we had in the recent past. The Federation partnered with James Levin, an event planner with sizable list of accomplishments in this area, who spearheaded the planning. It was the position of the Federation that we need to reach out to full time leadership in order to bring the One World Day to a new, higher level. This was achieved!

There were surprises; an unexpected closing of MLK by the police department was a welcome development. It was originally requested and denied. However, it disrupted the scheduled bus tours and inhibited deliveries of equipment to the performance sites. None the less, it was a good sign of how successful the event turned out.

Thanks goes not only to James Levin and his team, but also to the CCGF committee who worked through many details. And to all the organizations, who staffed their garden to serve as a guide, provide refreshments and facilitate performances. CCGF president Sheila Crawford personally installed a bow on each and every garden sign in the park! And we must not overlook the assistance by the City of Cleveland; from individual workers to Mayor Jackson. As with all the past events in the Gardens, Mayor Jackson was there and supportive of our efforts and proud of his multi cultural City.



Excavation starts the work on the second phase.

Croatian Garden Expands

Phase II of the Croatian garden, designed by McKnight and Associates, is under construction. It aims to further the infrastructure with a winding stairway up the hill and a larger waterfall. The upper level will include a replica of the Viseslav baptismal fountain in Croatia. It symbolizes the Croatians acceptance of Christianity. The upper level also will have a large plaza for performances and gatherings. Funds were raised over the past year with a generous matching challenge from the Lozick Foundation, the main benefactor of the Croatian garden. (TT)

Slovak Gardens Features a New Statue

The large statue of Milan Rastislav Štefánik was located at Jeptha Wade, near the Art Museum, since 1924 when the Slovak League of America sponsored the monument's creation and dedication. Because of the ongoing road construction there, the statue was relocated to the Slovak Garden this year and a rededication was held on Saturday, Oct. 26. Many Slovak organizations placed a wreath at the monument and the foundation of Czechoslovakia on October 18, 1918 was acknowledged.



Milan Rastislav Štefánik, 1880-1919, was born in Košariská, Slovakia. He was an astronomer, art connoisseur, general, politician, diplomat and one of the co-founders of the country of Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic and Slovakia). Štefánik researched the sun's corona and its effects on the earth's atmosphere and Halley's Comet (1904-1914). He founded Czecho-Slovak Foreign Legion (1914), Authored Czecho-Slovak National Manifest (1916), Co-Founded Czecho-Slovak National Council (as the de facto government of Czechoslovakia) (1916) and was a co-signer of the Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence, in Washington D.C. and in Paris, France (1918).



Many Federation members participated in the Cleveland Museum of Art "International Day". Photos above and below.



First decorated Christmas Tree was observed in Latvia in 1510.

This e-newsletter was produced by Paul Burik for the CCGF.

Feel free to pass it on!

December Celebrations

Throughout history the month of December has presented numerous occasions to celebrate. From late November to December (this year it is 11/27) **Hanukah** is celebrated by our Jewish friends. This eight day event celebrates the rededication of the temple following a successful revolt.

December 6 is **St. Nicholas Day**, celebrated throughout Europe. Impersonator of St. Nicholas visits homes and brings fruit to good children and coal to those behaving badly.

December 17 was a big day in ancient Rome when the Romans honored Saturn – god of agriculture on a day of **Saturnalia**. Togas were cast aside in favor of more colorful garb and class distinctions were ignored.

December 21 – **Pancha Ganapati**, a five day Hindu festival celebrating Lord Ganesha focuses on mending past mistakes and offers new beginning. Children are presented with gifts each day, which they open on the fifth day.

Koleda, also on 12/21, is a 10 day Slavic pagan festival starting on winter solstice. Fire is lit and families gather and worship their personal gods.

Also inspired by winter solstice, 12/21, is **Yalda** – Persian custom of celebrating Mithra, the Sun God. To this day the Persian families gather and feast – each food has mythical powers: for example garlic cures joint pains.

December 24, **Modrniht** – the night of Mothers, was a pagan Anglo-Saxon event connected to Yuletide festival of the Germanic people.

December 25, **Christmas** commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ by Christians of all denominations. In this worldwide holiday, the celebrations take different forms. In Sicily 12 types of fish are served, in Bulgaria 12 meatless dishes. In Norway a gnome brings the presents, in Spain the Three Wise Men.

December 26; **Kwanzaa** is celebrated in the African-American culture. The seven day celebration focuses each day on a specific virtue, among them are unity, purpose, creativity, faith and responsibility.