



# THE CLEVELAND CULTURAL GARDENS FEDERATION

## E Newsletter

Summer 2012

July 2012

### *Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July*

Too often we view holidays as just a day off. Most of our member nationalities experienced in their lifetime the struggle for independence. That said, we all should take a moment and reflect on the meaning of independence of Our Nation – the USA.

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Sheila Crawford –  
CCGF president

### **Upcoming Events**

While plethora of events took place already, see articles below, the 2012 summer has still plenty to offer. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan on attending. It is important that we support the various garden activities and that we “spread the word” and bring new people to visit the park.

#### **JULY:**

Sunday, July 8, 1:00 p.m.

*German Garden, Mizer/Wolfram Concert*

Saturday, July 14, 4:00 p.m.

*Hungarian Garden, Liszt Concert*

Sunday, July 29, 6:00 p.m.

*Italian Garden, Opera Evening*

#### **AUGUST:**

Saturday, August 25,

*Albanian Garden, Dedication*

Sunday, August 26, noon

*CCGF "One World Day" in the Irish Garden*

### **President's Notes: The Big Picture**

The role of the Cultural Gardens and their Federation uniquely establishes the importance and possibility of World Peace. At the same time, the gardens reflect our love and pride for the City of Cleveland. Our organization, that by the diverse nature, attempts the impossible by bringing many nations to a common ground to work together for a common goal. Despite our differences: historical, political, philosophical etc. it works.

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## Existing Gardens

*African American  
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,  
Ukrainian*

*Proposed Gardens:  
Turkish S. Korean,  
Russian*



It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I view the future of the gardens. But just like any crossword puzzle, unless all the pieces are in place supporting each other, the vision is incomplete. We need to unify our efforts and work together for the good of the gardens and the future of the Federation.

Let us start with a huge effort for One World Day! If every garden brought 20 people to the event we would have over 500 in attendance. Let's work together to make that happen. Our paths truly should be Peaceful, but also dynamic, constructive and energizing.

Sheila Crawford, CCGF President

## Juneteenth Celebration

Juneteenth Celebration in the African American Cultural Garden took place on June 17, 2012. Kwanza Brewer speaking and Carl Ewing watching the libation ceremony are shown in the photo to the left.

An African proverb tells us that people who lack knowledge of their pasts are like a tree without roots. So, water is poured over a plant in the "libation ceremony" in the spirit of remembrance - to honor the past, so we may learn from it. The vessel is then lifted to honor God the creator.

The Juneteenth event celebrates the Declaration of Emancipation which did not reach remote parts of Texas until sometime in June, thus making the entire Nation free of slavery.

## Kids Day in the Slovak Garden

The Slovak Cultural Garden Team invited their children and grandchildren to the June clean-up to give them an opportunity to learn more about their Slovak heritage. The children planted flowers and worked on a Slovak language word search puzzle of items typically found in a garden. They were rewarded with a hot dog cookout in the garden afterward.





In the forefront is Paula Tilisky, Slovak Cultural Garden delegate. See the article for other participants

GARDEN WEB SITES:

**Cultural Gardens Sites**

[www.culturalgardens.org](http://www.culturalgardens.org)  
[clevelandculturalgardens.org](http://clevelandculturalgardens.org)

**Czech Garden**

[czechculturalgarden.webs.com](http://czechculturalgarden.webs.com)

**Irish Garden**

[www.irishgardenclub.org](http://www.irishgardenclub.org)

**Hungarian Garden**

[hungarianculturalgarden.org](http://hungarianculturalgarden.org)

**Slovenian Garden**

[www.cleslo.com/scga/](http://www.cleslo.com/scga/)

**Italian garden**

[https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_140250535544](https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_140250535544)



*Paul Burik and John Krenisky (L to R) unveil the bust of Father Duchnovic*

## Slovak Visitors Plant a Tree

The Slovak Cultural Garden recently hosted Bratislava Mayor Milan Ftáčnik and U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick. Their visit included a ceremonial tree planting in the Garden of a “Lipa” tree – or Linden – which is the national tree of Slovakia.

The Mayor and Ambassador were in Cleveland for 2-1/2 days of meetings planned by Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities based on the Mayor and Ambassador’s interest in business, economic and environmental development opportunities in Slovakia and to further cultural ties between the two cities.

Pictured with the Mayor and Ambassador are Andrew Rajec, President of the First Catholic Slovak Union, and Cynthia Maleski, President of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Stephen Furdek, whose bust is in the Slovak Garden, is the founding father of the FCSU and co-founder of the Ladies Association. Bratislava is the capital city of Slovakia. The visit was a homecoming for Ambassador Sedgwick who spent his boyhood years in Cleveland. His great-grandfather was Jephtha Wade who helped create Wade Park and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

## Rusins Dedicated New Bust

The Rusin Garden dedicated new bust of Father Duchnovic on June 24, 2012 at 2:00pm. The bust now stands on a pedestal facing East Blvd. John Krenisky spearheaded the effort and was honored at the ceremony and reception afterwards. Mayor Jackson and Councilman Johnson spoke about the accomplishment and the meaning of Cultural Gardens. The Most Reverend John M. Kudrick, Bishop of Parma, blessed the bust.

Father Duchnovic was a nationalist, promoting Rusin culture in literature and songs. He even wrote a national anthem, even though the Rusins, also spelled Rusyns due to translation from cyrillic alphabet, never achieved an independent state. The Rusin people live in the area dominated by the Carpathian Mountains, proud of their distinct culture.





*Immigrant Mother  
bronze statue by Joseph  
Turkaly*

## **CCGF Meetings**

**July 10** – Gen. Delegates

**August 14** – Ex. Board

**Meetings are held at  
Judson Manor,  
1890 East 107 Str.  
At 6:30 pm**



## **Croatian Garden Dedicated**

Over 400 guests came to celebrate the dedication of the Croatian Cultural Garden on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. Many dignitaries joined in the celebration including Mayor Frank Jackson, Cuyahoga County executive Ed Fitzgerald, Councilman Jeff Johnson, and the Croatian Ambassador Josip Paro. The program started with the unveiling of the *Immigrant Mother* bronze statue by Joseph Turkaly, which is the focal point of phase I. It was unveiled by Mrs. Helen Sekulic, herself an immigrant mother. Afterwards was a tearful reading of an essay also entitled “The Immigrant Mother” from the Tremont missal which paid tribute to all women who came to America seeking a better life. Federation President, Sheila Crawford, welcomed the Croatian Garden to the Cultural Gardens.

Croatian Garden committee member Robert Jerin gave a brief overview of the symbolism found in the garden including the statue, the ancient Glagolic Croatian script on the granite pedestal, benches made from stone from the island of Brac, Croatia. He also explained the heart shaped plaza and its ties to folk customs in villages throughout Croatia, and the waterfall feature being reminiscent of the famous ones found in Croatia. Following the short ceremony everyone was invited to the upper level of the garden where a tent was set up under which local folk groups performed and light refreshments were served throughout the rest of a beautiful afternoon.

**Estonian Mid-Summer Celebration** Estonians have commemorated Victory Day and St. John's Day at the Garden for the past forty six years. This year there was great joy, as well as a sense of accomplishment, because the Garden restoration project has been completed. The Estonian Community had a five year restoration project of its garden and monument. The cast concrete sculpture has a fresh coat of paint. The bronze flame and plaque have been restored. A large boat shaped planter and a sandstone walkway were added. The last phase of the project was landscaping designed by our own Char Crowley: new shrubs and flowers have been planted to complete the project.



Sculptor Sandro Bonaiuto, Mayor Jackson and supporter Ken Lanci (L to R) view the newly installed statue of Dante

### **Mayor's Attention**

*Mayor Jackson has been very attentive to the Cultural Gardens. Not only is the repaving of MLK Blvd. currently in progress, this will include 130 new parking spaces and water connections to several gardens, but the Mayor has been attending all the formal activities in the park. Considering his busy schedule - that is remarkable! Thank you Mayor Jackson.*

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

**Feel free to pass it on!**

## **Italians Celebrate Dante**

A large statue of seated Dante Alighieri was dedicated in the Italian Garden on June 29<sup>th</sup> located on the upper level of the piazza.

Dante, a writer, poet and a founder of the Italian language as we know it, has a place not only in Italian but in the world literature and philosophy. The sculptor, Cleveland's own Sandro Bonaiuto, studied in Italy honing his skills among the masters. It was Sandro's objective to bring Dante's persona into the Gardens with gentle, yet inquisitive look at the visitors to the Italian Garden – he succeeded!

Joyce Mariani spearheaded the effort and gave a concise talk about the history of the Garden as well as future plans which exceed million dollars in restoration. Ken Lanci was recognized as a major supporter and spoke about his upbringing and commitment to family. Also acknowledging this achievement were Mayor Jackson, councilman Johnson, CCGF president Sheila Crawford and Hon. Consul Serena Scaiola.

Gino Colage was recognized for his over 20 years of maintaining the Italian Garden through tough times and good times. Congratulation to Gino, Joyce, Sandro and the Cleveland Italian community.

## **One World Day**

CCGF annual celebration of One World Day will be hosted by the Irish Garden, also by the Greek and the American Gardens on August 26, 2012.

The program will include depositing of soil from Albania and Croatian in the crypt with all the other nationalities represented in the Cultural Gardens, a tradition dating back to the origins of the Park. The Parade of Flags will start at 3:00pm at the Greek Garden and at 3:30pm the celebration, including performances and the naturalization of new US citizens, will commence in the newly expanded Irish Garden. This is a signature event for the Federation.

Day before, on the 25<sup>th</sup>, Albanian Garden will be dedicated, featuring the statue of Mother Theresa. Keep the dates open!