Summary: Ever wonder why certain traditions have remained in your family through the years? Do you still celebrate the Vilia supper at Christmas or make paska and hrudka (or syrek) at Easter? Each of us has a story to tell, a rich past to explore and the Slovak culture is deeply embedded in tradition and customs. This session will provide an overview of some of the most important Slovak customs and traditions. Traditions associated with holidays such as Christmas and Easter will be presented, as well as special customs honored for the major events in life: birth, marriage and death, along with suggestions for preserving customs and traditions in the 21st century.

Preserving Our Slovak Heritage in the 21st Century
- Overview of Slovak Traditions
  - Recipes
  - Religious and Social Customs
- Identifying Group and Community Celebrations
- Slovak Festivals and Other Events

Identifying Slovak Communities in the United States
- How to Locate “Cluster” Communities
- U.S. Maps
- U.S. Census Records
- Immigration Data
- Local Newspapers
- Analyzing, Interpreting and Organizing Your Data

Utilizing National Slovak Groups/Societies
- National Organizations
- Finding a Local Chapter
- Slovak (Eastern European) Conferences and Local Meetings
- Other Slovak Web Sites
- Colleges and Universities with Slavic Languages Departments

Contacting Historical Societies, Museums, & Fraternal Organizations
- Internet Research
  - FamilySearch Wiki
  - Cyndi’s List
  - Google
  - Blogs
  - Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Google+, YouTube)
- Traditional Research (society lists and publications)
- Newsletters and Other Forms of Communication
Slovak Churches: Rich Repositories of Information
- Web or Telephone Directory Searches
- Contacting the Parish Priest
- Visit the Parish Cemetery
- Attend Church Functions
- Viewing Church Records

Finding Slovak Cousins
- Networking Protocols
- Web and Directory Searches
- Newspaper/Journal/Magazine and Other Publication Advertisements
- Message Boards
- Social Media
- Classes

Village-Based Associations
- Should You Form One?
- Who’s in Charge?
- Funding issues
- Identifying a Core Group of Individuals
- Consolidating Research Projects
- Fundraising and Other Projects
- Sharing the Work
- Expanding the Circle to the Ancestral Village
- Making Contact with Relatives and Others in Slovakia
- Planning a Gathering or Reunion

Publishing and Sharing Your Information with Others
- Options for Publishing and Sharing Information
  - Traditional Print Forms (newsletters, booklets, etc.)
  - Electronic Publishing (e-books, electronic newsletters, videos)
- E-mail Lists
- Web Sites
  - Public Web Site
  - Private Facebook groups
- Revising and Updating Information
- Recruiting “New Blood”
- Keeping the Momentum Going

Ask yourself:
What Can I Do to Preserve My Slovak Heritage?
Websites for Slovak Research
Cisarik.com http://www.cisarik.com
Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences (SVU) http://www.svu2000.org
Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) http://www.cgsi
Hungary Exchange http://www.hungaryexchange.com
It's All Relative http://www.iarelative.com
Our Slovakia http://www.our-Slovakia.com
RootsWeb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees: Czechs and Slovaks http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com/lesson27.htm#Czechs
RootsWeb Message Boards http://boards.rootsweb.com
Slovak Pride Database http://slovakpride.homestead.com

Miscellaneous Websites
Balch Institute (Historical Society of Pennsylvania) http://www.hsp.org
Carpatho-Rusyn Society http://www.carpathorusynsociety.org
Cyndi’s List Czech Republic & Slovakia http://www.cyndislist.com/czech
East European Genealogical Society http://www.eegsociety.org/Home.aspx
Evidence Explained http://www.evidenceexplained.com
Family Search Letter Writing Guide
Find A Grave http://www.findagrave.com
Foundation of East European Family History Studies (FEFHS)
http://www.feefts.org
Fuzzy Gazetteer http://isodp.hof-university.de/fuzzyg/query
GenealogyLinks.net http://www.genealogylinks.net/europe/index.html
Google Earth http://earth.google.com
Google Translate http://translate.google.com
Immigrant History Research Center (Univ. of Minnesota) http://www.ihrcc.umn.edu
Jewishgen.org http://www.jewishgen.org
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library http://www.ncsml.org
Slovak Archives http://www.civil.gov.sk/archiv/snarchiv/uk.htm
Slovak Institute http://www.slovakinstitute.com
Surname Navigator site http://www.geneaservice.nl/navigator
WorldGenWeb http://www.worldgenweb.org
Professional Researchers (check credentials)
Association of Professional Genealogists in America http://www.apgen.org
Board for Certification of Genealogists http://www.bcgcertification.org
Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International http://www.cgsi.org/base/research.htm

Forums and Social Media Sites
Geneabloggers http://www.geneabloggers.com
Facebook http://www.facebook.com
GenealogyWise http://www.genealogywise.com
Google Plus http://plus.google.com
Pinterest http://www.pinterest.com
Twitter http://www.twitter.com
RootsWeb http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com
Genealogy.com http://www.genealogy.com
Delphi Forums http://forums.delphiforums.com

Articles, Books, and Courses
"Center of Attention" by Lisa A. Alzo, Family Tree Magazine, August 2005.
Tracing Eastern European Ancestors, Internet Genealogy Special issue http://www.internet-genealogy.com

Nase rodina (newsletter of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International); Order back issues: http://www.cgsi.org/publications/article-index


Legacy Family Tree Quick Guides: Slovak Genealogy http://www.legacyfamilytreestore.com/SearchResults.asp?Cat=71

Course: Discovering Your Czech & Slovak Roots at Family Tree University http://www.familytreuniversity.com