

Fall 2015



the Guided Page

The Museum Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Potluck Picnic

Saturday, September 12

11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Overlook Pavilion at Ellis Park



Guild Members and guests are invited to celebrate our successful fundraising and volunteer efforts during a picnic potluck, which will take the place of the September membership meeting. Pavilion is reserved until 4 p.m, if guests want to linger. **Perhaps bring a prospect for membership!!**

Bring a dish: A – H: vegetable salads, I – O: desserts, P – Z: fruit salads. Baked ham will be provided as well as all condiments, buns, salad dressings, plates and silverware and bottled water.

Bring your own beverage if you prefer and a serving utensil needed for your dish.

If you did not sign up at the August meeting, please do so now. We need a count! Make your reservations for yourselves/guests with Picnic Potluck chairperson Diane Hayes,

If a ride is needed, contact Diane Hayes or Sylvia Popelka.

Coming up! Two more important fundraisers in 2015

Fall Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015

NCSML Heritage Hall

Details pending

Cookie Walk

Our 17th annual signature event, highlight of Old World Christmas Market, **Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015** at NCSML



DUES NOTICE

2016 GUILD membership dues are \$15 and due by December 1, 2015, to:

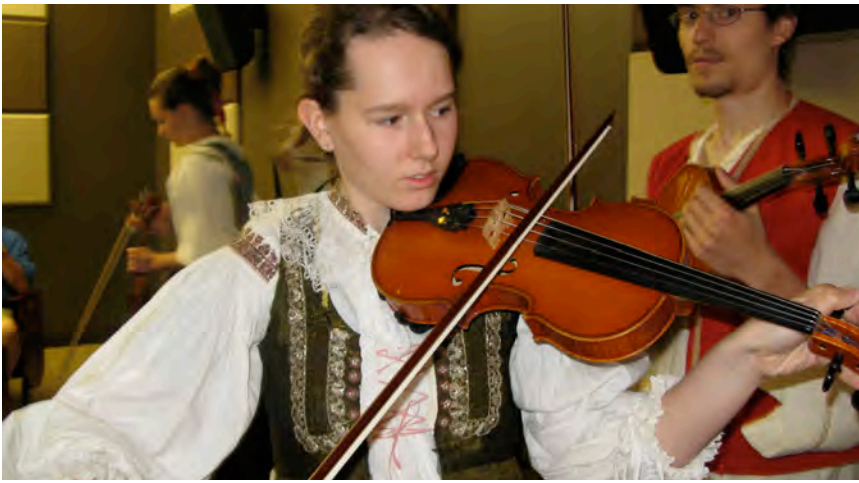
Marla Nikodim, Guild Treasurer

Remember, this is the time to also update your address/email/phone information. Please send updates to Marla.

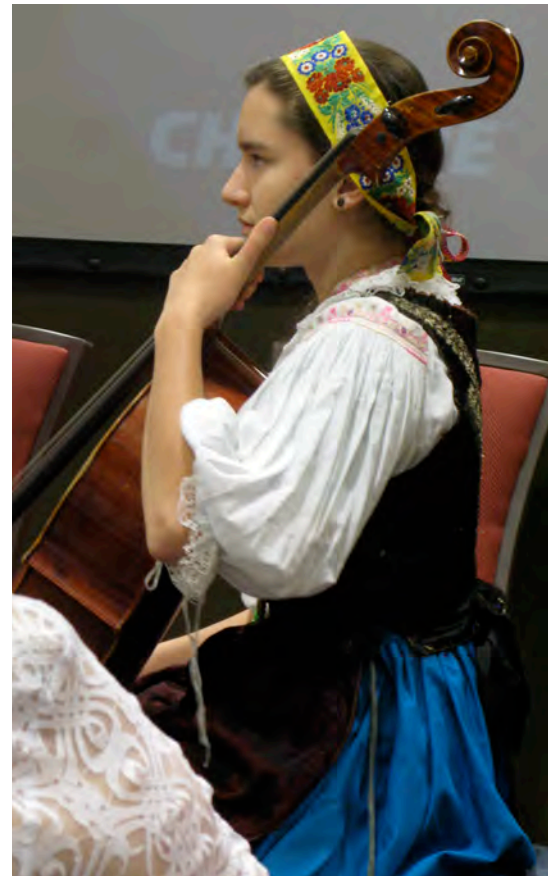
Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Museum Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is to support the activities, programs, and facilities of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library by providing unpaid volunteers and other financial and charitable support, and to serve as an educational, service, and social organization for the persons interested in the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

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Jacob Lesan (viola), Anna Lesan and Jennifer Lesan (violins), and Rebekah Lesan (cello) comprise the string quartet.



Above: Guild member Andrea Siebenmann arranged this program for our June meeting. Andrea's Slovak friend met this musical family while shopping at Walmart in March. She overheard them speaking Slovak.

June Program

The Lesan Family entertained Guild members at the June meeting. The Lesans are members of Faith Bible Church in Cedar Rapids and are involved in church work in Slovakia.

Tracy and Brenda and their eight children have roots in Cedar Rapids and have spent the last 18 years in the Slovakian Capital of Bratislava.

Jacob (viola), Anna and Jennifer (violins), and Rebekah (cello) comprise a string quartet that performed for us.

Tracy shared family history, including color images, and their life in Slovakia. He also teaches English at University of Performing Arts in Bratislava. The family returns to Slovakia in August.



Guild President's Mid-Term Review



Donna Merkle

By the time you read this “Message from the President,” we will be well into the second half of 2015. This is a good time to pause for a moment and take stock of where we are, to reflect on what has been accomplished so far, and to identify the challenges that still lie ahead.

When I took the helm as your captain for Team Guild, my main objective was to keep us from crashing. I think we have

succeeded in regaining our balance, and we are moving forward at a steady pace. Consider what we have accomplished.

We have made three very significant advances using modern technology. First of all, for the most part, we are now recording our volunteer hours ourselves directly into the computer while on site. The hardest part about this task is remembering to do it! Secondly, thanks to the combined skills of our newsletter editors Beth Kucera and Pat Martin, we have successfully transitioned to an electronic version of The Guided Page for the majority of our membership, considerably reducing our printing and mailing costs. And thirdly, thanks to our Volunteer Coordinator Lindsay Erhardt-Hanson and her assistants Linda Koehler and Sally Stejskal, we have successfully integrated our membership database into the NCSML’s volunteer software package known as Volgistics. We can now distribute meeting minutes and reminder notices, special requests for volunteer needs, and the newsletters without taxing anyone’s personal computer. We also benefit by having access to backup help when needed and greater cyber security than we could achieve on our own.

We have already had a hugely successful fundraiser. Under the expert leadership of co-chairs Diana Geoffrey and Sally Stejskal, this year’s Taste of Czech and Slovak netted over \$2800. Even though attendance was lower than last year, most likely due to questionable weather conditions, our revenue was actually a freckle higher this year.

Our Koláče Club keeps churning out batch after batch of tasty koláče, generating around \$150 in net income so far this year. Club leaders Barb Hill and Marge Sedlacek keep the kitchen humming and the rest of us drooling over the wonderful aroma emanating from their domain.

Most recently, Guild members participated in the NCSML’s Root Beer Fest, a first-time event that will no doubt be repeated next year due to its overwhelming initial success. While it wasn’t a money-maker for us, Guild volunteers had the opportunity to meet and interact with a diverse population that had never been to the NCSML before. Our cookbooks and

aprons continue to attract attention, if not actual buyers, and a few people picked up a copy of our new membership brochure, designed by Sally Stejskal and Preston Moore, past NCSML’s Director of Marketing and Communications.

Naturally, the leaders mentioned above rely on you – Team Guild – to help. Many of you have, and I, along with your board and the co-chairs, thank you. We’d like to see more of you participate. Keep in mind this law of physics: the more hands involved in lifting a heavy object, the less weight any one hand has to bear. Translation: the more workers we have, the less any one worker has to do. And that can make a huge difference not only in the success of the work, but also in the amount of joy we get from the experience.

We need your help for more upcoming events. We have BrewNost in October, for which we are a sponsor at the \$3,000 level; “A Night at the Museum,” also in October and in conjunction with the biennial conference presented by the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI); our Fall Dinner in November; and our Cookie Walk in December.

We need you to consider running for office, maybe not for 2016 but definitely for 2017 or 2018. Our by-laws limit our terms to three consecutive one-year terms in any given office. Even if each of the current officers stay on the board for three years, eventually we have to vacate the position. We ran into a very difficult situation at the end of 2014. If we plan ahead now, we may be able to avoid coming to the edge of the cliff again. Please give it some thought.

We now also need to replace our newsletter co-chairs. Sadly, both Beth and Pat are stepping down following the 2015 winter issue. Beth will be traveling with her husband who recently retired. She’s smart to do that now, while they both can! And Pat has decided to scratch the seven-year itch. She is ready to relinquish her role and find new ways to stay involved with us. Thank you, Pat, for all your years of manually cutting and pasting the newsletter together and seeing that it got printed and mailed on time. And thank you, Beth, for giving us a digital facelift. Please know, both of you, that we appreciate all the time and effort you have dedicated to crafting The Guided Page.

One final note: instead of a monthly meeting in September, we have decided to have a potluck picnic at Ellis Park. You will find details about this event elsewhere in this newsletter. Bring a friend, and let’s encourage our guests to become members of the Guild. Remember: it’s not just “the more, the merrier”; it’s also “the more, the easier.” Dues will remain \$15 for the year, and they are due on December 1. It would be nice to kick off the new year with an expanded membership. Go, Team Guild! You can do it!

Donna Merkle, President

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May 2015 Guild Meeting Business Minutes

Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings.

There were 39 members present.

Program: Sara Jacobmeyer: A Presentation of Planned NCSML Programs/Exhibits. She highlighted: Global Shoes; Houby Days; Walking Tour of Historic New Bohemia; Exploring Heritage Gardens; Ride, Walk, Play; Now We Are Going to be Americans great story series; 'Beer 101.'

National programs include Filip Pogady; Emil Viklicky; September 11 and National Lecture Series in the Fall. 'Czech That Film' at Collins Road Theatres, showcasing the best in recent Czech cinema – five award-winning films in all, with guest director Jiří Mádľ.

Volunteer Coordinator Report: volunteer needs outlined.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Recording Secretary: Karen Zacek asked for additions/corrections for April Minutes. Approved as distributed.

Treasurer: Marla Nikodim reported the following: Beginning balance, April 1, 2015, \$7,352.; Income: \$135.; Expenses: \$318.; Ending balance May 1, 2015: \$7,169.

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Moore reported the Top Ten Volunteers for the month of March 2015. A total of 75 volunteers contributed 1066 hours. George Hill led with 50.75 hours. Diane read a thank you from Gail Naughton, NCSML CEO, for the NCSML Guild gift of \$7,500 to the museum. Carol Wohlleben noted that Pat Kent, former employee of the NCSML gift shop, died on April 29. A card will be sent to the family.

NCSML Board Representative: Carol Wohlleben, reported that April was a good month for the museum compared to last year. Increase is attributed to enhanced programming to build new audiences, aggressive marketing and a focus on increasing school groups and corporate rentals.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Social: Vice President Ed Popelka noted Guild Members-Only appreciation event planned for Saturday, September 12, at 11:00 am, tentatively planned at Ellis Park. This event will take place of the September membership meeting.

Kolačé Club: Marge Sedlacek reported the Kolačé Club baked April 24 for an event at Mt Mercy University.

Guild Facebook Status: Diane Hayes reported the Guild Facebook page, which includes a volunteer link, had 502 followers. Diane asked members to take pictures of Guild/Museum related events and post them on the Guild Facebook page. The team working on this project is made up of Preston Moore, Director of Marketing and Communications, Diane Hayes and Andrea Siebenmann.

FUNDRAISERS

Taste of Czech: Diana Geoffrey reported serving and kitchen times, and times for servers to report. Servers dress code is white top, dark pants and kerchiefs. Chef hats have been ordered for the servers. Some workers are still needed for food prep and food runners. Some foods are still needed. Pans and recipes are available. Discount coupons from HyVee are available to anyone purchasing ingredients for the event. Diana asked that workers wear Czech aprons. Sally Stejskal printed table cards for food in English/Czech.

Time for Tea: After discussion it was decided to not hold The Time for Tea event this year but will investigate it further as a possible fund raiser for next year.

June 2015 Guild Meeting Business Minutes

Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings.

There were 40 members present.

Program: Andrea Siebenmann introduced the Lesan family: Tracy and Brenda and their eight children who have roots in Cedar Rapids and Slovakia and have spent the last eighteen years in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava. Jacob (viola), Anna and Jennifer (both violin) and Rebekah (cello), make up a string quartet, performed for us. Tracy then shared a bit of their family history. The family will be returning to Slovakia in August 2015.

Volunteer Coordinator: Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen reported Jan Stoffer is seeking items for Immigrant House. A list of items sought has been compiled. The list was circulated and will be posted in the Volunteer Lounge. Direct questions to Jan Stoffer.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President: Donna Merkle asked the membership to be thinking about what to do after her presidency. Her intent is to avoid the problem encountered when we did not have a candidate for the office of president.

Recording Secretary: Karen Zacek, Recording Secretary, asked for additions or corrections to the May meeting Minutes. Approved as distributed.

Treasurer: Marla Nikodim, Treasurer, reported the following: Beginning balance, May 1, 2015: \$7,169.; Income: \$3,644.; Expenses: Expenses: \$681.; Ending balance June 1, 2015: \$10,132.

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Moore reported the Top Ten Volunteers for the month of April 2015. A total of 68 volunteers contributed 872.25 hours. Diane Moore led with 44.5 hours. Cards were sent as follows: Sympathy: Robert Kent in the loss of Pat Kent (managed gift shop), Elaine and

Rick Samek in the loss of Rick's mom and Sue Covington in the loss of her sister-in-law; Thank you: Lindsay, Erhardt-Hansen, Carrie Kriz and Mark and Jan Stoffer for the lovely Volunteer Appreciation Event; Get Well: Barb Edmunds (fell at home) and Thinking of You: Karen Zacek.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Social: The President reminded the membership of Potluck Picnic to be held at Ellis Park, Saturday, September 12 at 11a.m. Members are welcome to bring a guest.

Coffee Cart: Beth Kucera reported on the coffee cart project, it was determined not viable unless a full time person does it.

Membership: Pat Martin (Guided Page) said maintenance of the membership list is an issue. President Merkle said the membership should be handled solely by the treasurer, who collects the dues and maintains the membership information which is shared with the Volunteer Coordinator who enters it in Volgistics. A meeting to devise a method of coordinating their efforts consistently will be held.

Education: Jeanne Vogt suggested referring to the comprehensive Kalendář of events. Carrie Kriz, who performs with the Deep Dish Divas, will launch their CD release June 7, 2015 at the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Today, June 6, Robert Tomanek will present his book: *Moravia: Gem of the Czech Republic*.

FUND RAISERS

Taste of Czech: Sally Stejskal, representing the committee, thanked Guild members for success of the event. She said the biggest complaint was there were no spoons! We served 190 paid admissions plus volunteers. Income from Taste of Czech was more than \$2400. Income from the Bake Sale was \$325. A line item will be added to the Guild budget, not to exceed \$500, to be used for needed kitchen supplies.

It was suggested that Guild members who don't provide food or volunteer time to the event be given the opportunity to give a cash donation.

July 2015 Guild Meeting Business Minutes

Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings.

There were 37 members present.

Program: Janna Waters, outgoing Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Queen 2014-2015, summed up her experience of the past year saying "It's been a really fantastic learning experience." Janna participated in some 40 events during her reign. This fall she will attend graduate school at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and will continue to get her doctorate. She would like to teach history.

Volunteer Coordinator: Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen promoted the Family Root Beer Festival on Saturday, July 25, 9:30- 4 p.m. Admission is free. A list of volunteers needed to make the event a success has been compiled and made available to the membership.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President: President Merkle asked for additions or corrections to Minutes. They were approved as distributed. She also mentioned that the Guild will have a table at the Root Beer Festival. We will sell cookbooks and aprons and anything else the Guild wants to sell. Donna will be at the table all day and would welcome some company.

Treasurer: Marla Nikodim, Treasurer, reported the following: Beginning balance, June 1, 2015: \$10,132.; Income: \$492.; Expenses: \$446.; Ending balance June 30, 2015: \$10,178.

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Moore reported Top Ten Volunteers for the month of May, 2015. A total of 73 volunteers, contributed 970.5 hours. Diane Moore led with 56.25 hours. Cards were sent in June as follows: Thinking of you: Ellsworth Voelkers; Thank you: Tracy and Brenda Lesan family – program and music for our June meeting; Get well: George Hill; Birthday: Bob Hejkal – 90th birthday.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Social: Donna thanked Dolores Blood and Joe Kurka for today's treat. Hosts for August will be Dorothy and Ellsworth Voelkers.

Membership: A recent re-write of the Policies and Procedures was read by President Merkle.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

September Potluck: Diane Hayes reminded the membership of the Potluck Picnic planned for Saturday, September 12, 11-2:30 p.m. in place of the regular September meeting. The event will be held at the Overlook Pavilion at Ellis Park. Sylvia Popelka is helping Diane with the planning. Bring a dish to share. (A – H: vegetable salad; I – O: dessert; P – Z: fruit salad). Baked ham will be provided as well as all condiments, buns, salad dressings, plates and silverware along with bottled water. Please bring your own beverage if other than water. Please bring the serving utensil needed for your dish. You can bring a guest (perhaps a prospective member). A sign up sheet will be available at the August meeting so the committee knows how many to plan for. RSVP needed by Monday, September 7. Need your name and number of guests. Contact Diane Hayes: (319) 393-1997 for reservations. If a ride is needed, please let Diane Hayes or Sylvia Popelka know.

THE GUILDED PAGE

Volunteer Coordinator Notes



With August upon us, we can't forget that we have two large events just around the corner; BrewNost and Old World Christmas Market. Some of you might be thinking, "Wait a minute, summer just got here!" But, as we all know, time flies and before you know it another year has passed.

So, to gear up for these events, I want to remind all of you how much your help matters. No matter how small a contribution, it all adds up to a wonderful visitor experience. I will be posting volunteer needs in the next couple months for each of these events. So stay tuned! As always, please contact me with any questions!

My best,
Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen, Volunteer Coordinator



Summer visitors to NCSML included many parents and grandparents accompanying children. All seem to be drawn to "The Librarian" replica of the artwork in Czech artist Peter Sis' "The Three Golden Keys" that is displayed in Grand Hall. Gramma, Ashley, and Emily were three such "Librarian" enthusiasts! A Sis book would make a great "book talk" in class the coming year.

Root Beer Fest...WHADDADAY!

Some 4,000 smiling families and guests of all ages enjoyed the free Root Beer Fest, held at NCSML July 26. Doors opened at 9:30 a.m. and happy faces poured in non-stop until closing at 4 p.m..

Celebrating a beer all enjoy, root beer- themed games and activities included jugglers, a family polka party, live music, and even a Root Beer Chugging competition (outside).

Volunteers were so important with all aspects of the event, as always! According to Volunteer Coordinator Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen, staff was in full force, and there were an additional 24 volunteers, 13 of whom were Guild members.

"The success of this event is tied closely to the volunteers who showed up today ready to serve the mission of this museum, so thank you! With success, comes the need for more volunteers, so I hope to see more of you in the future!" Lindsay said.



Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa, 2015-2016, Ashley Pudil greeted guests at the main entrance to NCSML. Of course, many took advantage of a "photo op" with Queen Ashley, including Jonathan, Katie, and Elizabeth.

Top 10 Volunteers for May 2015

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Diane Moore | 56.25 | 6. Suzanne Charipar | 35.75 |
| 2. Marla Nikodim | 55 | 7. Barb Hill | 35.5 |
| 3. Sally Stejskal | 51 | 8. Carolyn Holubar | 34.24 |
| 4. Carol Wohlleben | 50 | 9. Sue Covington | 34.25 |
| 5. Mary Ellen Krotz | 41.25 | 10. Marj NejdI | 31.5 |

Total 73 Volunteers = 970.5 hours

Top 10 Volunteers for June 2015

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| 1. Sally Stejskal | 43 | 6. Anita Burke | 24.25 |
| 2. Diane Moore | 31.25 | 7. Barb Hill | 21.25 |
| 3. Carolyn Holubar | 30.5 | 8. Marj NejdI | 19 |
| 4. Susan Charipar | 27.25 | 9. Mary Ellen Krotz | 19 |
| 5. George Hill | 25.25 | 10. Carmen Henderson | 18.25 |

Total 57 Volunteers = 649 hours

Top 10 Volunteers for July 2015

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| 1. Donna Merkle | 47.5 | 6. Shirley Alexander | 26.75 |
| 2. Sally Stejskal | 38.25 | 7. Marge Sedlacek | 26.25 |
| 3. Diane Moore | 35.5 | 8. Pat Martin | 26 |
| 4. Carolyn Holubar | 31.5 | 9. Marj NejdI | 24 |
| 5. Mary Ellen Krotz | 30.5 | 10. Pam Novy | 24 |

Total 53 Volunteers = 690.25 hours



Stefanie Kohn

August Program

Stefanie Kohn, NCSML Curator, presented highlights of upcoming 2016 exhibits. January-April will display “Samizdat,” featuring “subversive” “underground” materials that were produced during the era of Communism. “Pop-Ups from Prague,” a beautiful collection by “paper engineers” will continue through March. “Works by Warhol,” will be a “blockbuster” exhibit from

May through September, according to Stefanie.

She also noted that a recently-acquired grant will allow improvements to access Cedar Rapids Czech Heritage documents and materials already housed in the Museum’s Skala Bartizal Library. Hopefully a temporary archivist will be hired to work with photos, books, organizational records, newsletters and such, which will be selected from the massive collection and scanned for easier access.



Sara Jacobmeyer

May Program

“A Presentation of Planned NCSML Programs/Exhibits” by Sara Jacobmeyer. Highlights of program: Global Shoes; Houby Days; Walking Tour of Historic New Bohemia; Exploring Heritage Gardens; Ride, Walk, Play; Now We Are Going to be Americans great story series; ‘Beer 101’ and many national programs including ‘Czech That Film’ at Collins Road Theatres.



Janna Waters, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Queen 2014-2015

July Program

Speaker Janna Waters, the outgoing Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Queen 2014-2015 summed up her experience of the past year saying “It’s been a really fantastic learning experience.” Janna participated in 40 some events during her reign in the past year. Her future plans are to attend graduate school at University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She would like to teach history and may write a history of Czech Queens. Janna was crowned at the St Joseph’s Day Dance in March 2014.

Education Question by Pat Martin

More than 600 years after construction, what bridge still adorns Prague as the city’s most popular tourist attraction? It is as familiar as Sv.Mikuláš to Czechs and tourists world-wide!

Answer: The Charles Bridge, which portrays 37 saints on 30 pieces of statuary from 16 centuries and numerous geographical locations. It was commissioned by Charles IV(1346-1378), who was a Bohemian King and also elected Holy Roman Emperor. His reign elevated Prague to “the Golden City” status.

the Guilded Page

The Museum Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

1400 Inspiration Place at the Heart of Czech Village
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Next Membership Meeting

Potluck Picnic
Saturday, September 12
11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Overlook Pavilion at Ellis Park

2015 Membership Meeting

October 3 November 7

Circle date for BrewNost 2015!

NCSML's gala annual fundraiser will be Friday, October 16

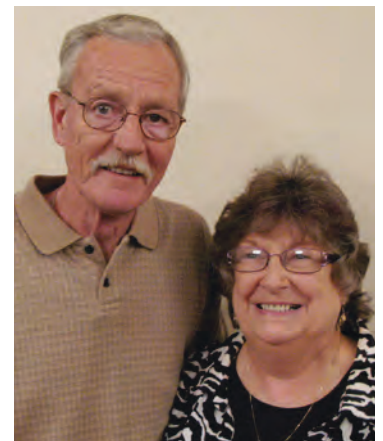
Cole Swanson, Annual Fund Manager, will be at September picnic to give us details.

Guild is sponsor at \$3000 level. Co-chair couples are Sheryl and Frank Gardner, and Diane and John Moore.

We are excited to be involved again, at this, the 12th such event!



Last year at the BrewNost, guild member Beth Kucera had fun pouring Becherovka, the original Czech liqueur.



BrewNost Guild co-chairs Sheryl and Frank Gardner, and Diane and John Moore.