



## *2010 CHF Royalty*



2010 CHF Royalty were announced at the January 25, 2010 meeting. Pictured l-r: Royal Court Attendant Megan Lehmann, daughter of Steve and Karen Lehmann; Princess Marissa Cada, daughter of Jerry and Ida Cada; Prince Eric Sindelar, son of Kevin and Karen Sindelar; and Royal Court Attendant Hannah Van Deusen, daughter of Ray and Terri Van Deusen. Not pictured: Royal Court Attendant Erin Pisarik, daughter of Steve and Susan Pisarik.

*2009/  
Winter 2010*



## *Contributors*

Karen Lehmann, Leonard Pfeifer, Barb Edmunds, Pat Martin, Russ & Zelda De Hoedt, Guenter Merkle, Joyce Netolicky.

## *Want to read more?*

Subscriptions for *Our Czech Heritage* are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation receive the newsletter free of charge. Contributions may be sent anytime. Annual dues are \$10.00 and renewable on January 1 of each year and expire on December 31. Dues received today apply to the following year for new members.

## *Check out our website*

The Czech Heritage Foundation's newly updated website is something you have to see. Visit [www.czechheritagefoundation.org](http://www.czechheritagefoundation.org) anytime for all things Czech.

## *Send us your stories*

If there is anything you would like to see included in the next issue, please let me know. E-mail me at

or  
send articles to

We accept articles on any topic so don't hesitate to submit. And as always, remember to share your copy with a friend or relative, or better yet send in a gift membership in their name!

# *President's message*

The Czech Heritage activities and involvement of 2009 becomes our foundation's archival memories of achievement as our "Pride" faces the challenges of 2010. The Czech Heritage Foundation participated in 16 plus events as we re-established our commitments to honor and celebrate Old World Czech Heritage; yet our most crowning achievement is the one that was enacted and implemented by our current board of directors.

As times have gotten tough our board acted tougher. This was achieved by the re-classification of the Rose Marek endowment, to be established as an Operating Reserve Fund to offset the cash flow crunch that these tight economic times present. We hope now we currently have in reserve enough funds to weather the economic storm and ensure that there will be no need to discontinue current areas of our Foundation's involvement.



*Leonard Pfeifer*

As we address improvements of Heritage activities and tighten our financial belt to deal with current downturns of the '08 effects on our community, we may also have to come to grips by turning a blind eye to the financial needs to affiliate organizations aligned to our mission. I am hard pressed to imagine that the Czech Heritage annual generated revenues of 5 figures can support the 8 figures or 25 million dollar price tag needed to rebuild the NCSML. The Czech Heritage Foundation's losses of '08 have not been fully recovered and it doesn't seem prudent to tap into or bleed our reserves in these tight economic times. The Czech Heritage Foundation must continue a slow and steady course that will allow the preservation and survival of our organization; if only our affiliates would accept that the Czech Heritage Foundation needs enough breathing room at this time for our recovery.

This doesn't mean that we should become so tightfisted or money grubbing that our Foundation bleeds the fun out of our commitments that are currently established. It begins in 2010 with the Protivin Masopust celebration on Feb. 13, 2010. Our CHF royalty and parents along with many CHF boardmembers will be attending. Let the good times continue as we weather the tough times we face.

Thank You  
Leonard Pfeifer



# *St. Joseph's Day Dance*

*Fundraiser for the "Homestay Program" (A Czech-US Exchange Program)  
and the "Scholarship Program"*

*Sponsored by Czech Heritage Foundation*



**Sunday, March 21, 2010**  
**Elk's Lodge, 801 33rd Ave. SW**  
**2:00-6:00**



*Afternoon of Entertainment Featuring . . .*

***Barefoot Becky  
& the  
Ivanhoe Dutchmen***



**Admission \$7.00**

To order tickets contact:  
Frank & Barb Edmunds  
or any CHF Boardmember

*Light lunch may be purchased from Elk's Lodge.*



# 25 Years of Floats



"Three Frozen Kings" 1997. Pictured: Chantelle Kramer and Leonard Pfeifer.

Leonard Pfeifer has been creating spectacular floats since 1984 -- first for the Navajo Night Stalkers, a singing and dancing group made up of Pfeifer's family, and since 1989, for the Czech Heritage Foundation.

After 25 years of designing and constructing beautiful floats, Pfeifer is retiring from float making. His artistic talents will truly be missed. Pictured are just some of his masterpieces.



Leonard Pfeifer



St. Patrick's Day, 2005.



Freedom Fest, 1996.



# *Leonard Pfeifer, Man Behind the Floats*

Despite losing everything in the 2008 flood, Leonard Pfeifer has not missed entering one of his floats in a Cedar Rapids parade in the past 25 years.

His floats are entered in the St. Joseph's and Houby Days parades in Czech Village, and Freedom Festival and St. Patrick's Day parades downtown.

Pfeifer's floats originally represented the Navajo Night Stalkers, a singing and dancing group made up of Pfeifer's family. Since 1989, when he began making floats for

the Czech Heritage Foundation, his floats have all had a Czech theme. Pfeifer's floats have become a proud tradition of the Czech Heritage Foundation of which he is a member.

His floats have won numerous awards and are usually placed near the end of the parade as a kind of grand finale. Pfeifer says he likes to create floats that reflect his ethnic pride and interest in Czech traditions, legends, and folklore. Pfeifer says he gets his inspiration from the parade theme and to that theme he

adds Czech flair.

Lucky float riders have included family, friends, and CHF royalty in kroje and the Světlušky youth folk dance ensemble.

This year's float, his last due to losing his home and all the materials he accumulated over the years to decorate the floats, will be his last.

To mark his silver anniversary, this year's float featured a 13' silver-winged angel and was dedicated to the hundreds of people who participated in past floats.



Freedom Fest, 2005.



Holiday Parade, 2006.



Freedom Fest, 1988.



Olympic Torch Float, 1996



25th Anniversary Float at Holiday Parade, 2009.



# *Czech Easter - Masopust: Mardi Gras Czech Style!*

Masopust is the February festival in the Czech Republic that most resembles Mardi Gras. This is a time of eating loads of roast pork (cooked on open spits), washed down with cold beer ("pivo" and plenty of other drinks like absinthe.)

This party which literally means "good-bye to meat" is marked by the use of masks and outlandish fancy dress. It is a time of indulgence and excess prior to the 40 day fast.

This carnival tradition has been passed down most of all in Moravia, although it is also celebrated in Bohemia, with each village having its own version of the celebration.

A universal feature of masopust is the wearing of masks, thought to represent the dead who are likely to return to their homes at this topsy-turvy time. Also, when the New Year was celebrated at the vernal equinox, these rites were meant to strengthen the sun and welcome its return.

A multitude of masks - whose significance and symbolism are not well known nowadays - are present in the traditional parades. The most popular human characters are devils, chimney sweeps, cow herders and ring masters. The most popular animals are bears, goats, dogs, sheep, rams, pigs, chickens or a horse who carries a bag in his mouth and collects doughnuts into it.

While noisily singing, shouting and dancing, the costumed characters make their way from house to house, where they're treated to food and drink. The procession usually ends in the pub, where the eating, drinking and merrymaking often continue until morning.



**Masopust in the Czech Republic is celebrated with costumed characters who make their way from house to house where they are treated to food and drink.**

Many sayings and proverbs are attached to this season, such as, "The farmer who dances a lot will have a good crop of wheat" or "The flax will grow as high as the farmer's daughter can jump."



**Pastry wreaths are a Masopust tradition.**

The women of the village bake a large and beautifully decorated pastry wreath, which is placed on a table. They then form a circle around it and dance. The men try to break through this ring and get a piece of the pastry wreath. The man who ac-

complishes this must then treat the women with candies. Once reached, the rest of the wreath is cut up and sold to bidders.

As midnight nears, the young folks make preparations to bury the bass fiddle. The bass fiddle is dressed in a woman's dress and draped with ribbons as a symbol of music and cheerfulness. It is then laid on the chairs and the group, in the circle, proclaims the sorrow of parting with happy times and music. The eulogies are said and the bass fiddle is then carried in a festive parade around the hall until the stroke of midnight. At this time, all merriment ceases and all depart for their homes to start the observance of Lent.

Czech Phrase: "Kdo sa nenaji ve fasank, bude hladovet po cely rok" means "If you don't eat during Masopust you'll be hungry for the rest of the year."



# M. Melvina Svec Remembered

## Promoted Czech Culture in Cedar Rapids and U.S.

After retiring as a geography professor at State University of New York, Oswego, M. Melvina Svec spent more than 25 years promoting her beloved Czech culture in Cedar Rapids and throughout the United States. Through teaching, leading, writing, and traveling, she became a pioneer in celebrating the Czech culture in this community.

This ambassador of the Czech culture was one of the co-founders of the Czech Heritage Foundation. She made it her business to know all local Czechs and through the Czech Heritage Foundation newsletter, which she established and edited, she helped this organization build a network of friends across the United States.

Melvina's main goal was to keep the literature and music of her Czech heritage not only alive, but vigorous through the books she was instrumental in getting published.

1970 (circa) - *From Fables By Mother With Pictures By Father*. This 1930's (circa) book was initially printed entirely in Czech. Melvina translated and adapted the book into English and Jean E. King provided illustrations.

1970 *Fables From Czechoslovakia*. Melvina adapted this book from "Fables By Mother With Pictures By Father."

1974 - Melvina created and published *My Czech Word Book: ABCs* especially as a tribute to Czech Village, with that name on the cover. This coloring book sold for \$1.50 and was sold in Village shops. Cover art was by Donn Young, who was director of Cedar Rapids Art Center at the time of the Festival of Czech Arts in 1970. This festival spurred a great interest locally in the Czech culture, leading to the establishment of the

Czech Village Association in 1972.

1981 - Melvina reprinted *An Album of Bohemian Songs for Piano* arranged by Upravil. All title

and words were in Czech. To this book Melvina added the Czech alphabet and her hand drawn maps of the Czech homelands in 1914, 1925, and after 1948.

1991 - Melvina also collaborated on *Little Animals* published in 1991 and *Meet the Czech Language in Nature, Family, and Our Heritage*. The 10th printing was in 1995.

Melvina became the mentor of Pat Martin who was hired as the first Czech Village Coordinator in 1977. Therefore, Melvina also was active in Czech Village Association.

"Melvina introduced me to every Czech she knew who was not a member of Czech Village Association. She gave advice, information, and helped me in all Village projects that involved the Czech community. She solicited

Czech Heritage Foundation and Czech Fine Arts Foundation member participation in Czech Village events," Pat Martin explained.

Melvina was a great storyteller. Stories included beginning her career in a one-room school in newly established South Dakota, from which she and her students could look out the windows to watch wolves roaming. A graduate of Cedar Rapids Washington High School, she was a WWI welfare worker and taught in several Cedar Rapids schools before proceeding to college teaching.

"She is memorable for being a great lady, but those who knew Melvina would not call her a cardboard figure. One story about her was that if Melvina attended a meeting and later received Minutes from that meeting



M. Melvina Svec spent more than 25 years promoting her beloved Czech culture in Cedar Rapids and throughout the U.S.



# *Sv. Mikalus Day in Czech Village Dec. 5*



Drawings were held for children's prizes. Pictured Lud and Loreen Svoboda visiting with a child.



Pictured l-r: Brittany Schorg, Chuck Nejd, Abby Frerick and Emily Nejd.



Children enjoyed decorating cookies at "Sv. Mikalus Headquarters" in the George Joens Building.

*Photos by Russ DeHoedt*



The 25th anniversary float designed and constructed by Leonard Pfeifer featured a 13' angel. Pictured l-r: CHF Royalty Marissa Cada, Amanda DeHoedt, Andrea Cada and Abby Frerick. Emma Lehmann was the angel.





Children visit with Sv. Mikalush.



The 25th Anniversary float in Cedar Rapids Holiday Parade. Pictured l-r: Amanda De Hoedt, Mary Arenas, Marissa Cada, and Andrea Cada.



Czech Pride at the Cedar Rapids Holiday Parade. Pictured l-r: Trevor Schorg, Emily Nejd, Chuck Nejd, Megan Lehmann, Brittany Schorg, Tom Nejd.



Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa, Amanda De Hoedt.



Světlušky, the Czech folk music and dance group performed at NCSML Lindale on Sv. Mikalush Day.



# Bohemian Glass Makers,

Engraved and enameled glass from the 1400s to the first quarter of the 1900's made in and around Bohemia is what this series of articles will be about. I must say that very little of Bohemian glass was signed. Blanks were made in one glass house and some were engraved or enameled in another, making the place of origin difficult to identify. Then, honest dealers that just don't take the time to research an item or unscrupulous dealers that are out to try and make a fast buck makes identification more confusing. Unfortunately, eBay is full of them, however there are some good buys to be had on eBay in all categories, but buyers beware.

Historians tell us that the techniques and tools the primitive Bohemian glass makers used are the same that modern glass blowers use today. They also tell us that the Church at one time considered glass making black magic and another time the monasteries were responsible for preserving glass recipes. By the 1200s Venetian glass making was flourishing and by the 1300s the Venetian glasshouses were moved to the island of Murano which served two purposes.

First glasshouses had a history of catching fire and destroying buildings around them. Moving them to the island helped diminish the fire hazard. The second was that the Ve-

netian nobility had a monopoly on the very expensive glass and it found a good market in surrounding countries. They wanted to keep that market so they eliminated the competition by not letting their glassmakers leave the island of Murano by placing guards around the island and a penalty of death to them and their families if they tried to escape. But there were benefits too. Marriages between nobles and the daughters of glass makers were declared socially acceptable.

Some did manage to leave the Island of Murano and by the 1400s had gone to the forest of northern Bohemia to set up glass huts. They needed wood, clay, and good quality silica (sand). The forests of northern Bohemia were a primitive glass maker's dream. The forest was full of beech trees that were valued for the way the wood burned for melting the sand. Good quality clay was easy to dig for making the pots used to melt the excellent sand found in the forest. The first glass huts were usually a father and son operation and each had their own jobs. The father would have brought his glass making tools with him; they were a blow pipe, pontil rod, and glass shears.

Primitive glass making was not all glory but a solitary, lonely, and hard life. Wood had to be sawed and brought to the glass hut. The bowl shaped pots that were used to melt the sand had to be made and was an



Pokal with engraving of  
Two Deer in Forest last quarter  
1800s.



# Masters of their Craft

art in itself. The glass makers usually had to tamp and shape the pot with his feet. Then it had to be cured. If the pot wasn't made right it would crack and the melted glass would spill out into the fire. The fire had to be kept going all the time because if the pot cooled and then reheated it would crack.

The glass maker's son was his apprentice and one of his jobs was to sleep by the fire and keep the appropriate amount of heat on the pot all night. The sand used was not cleaned properly so the vessels made were cloudy and green in color and was called Forest Glass.



**Spooner with engraving of Saint Hubert, Deer, and his Dog in a Forest, second quarter 1800s.**



**Arabian Mare and Colt last quarter 1800s.**

Usually the sand batch was not brought up to the proper temperature so the glass vessels had bubbles throughout it. Glass vessels were paid as rent and had to be made for the nobility that owned the land.

It didn't take long for little settlements to spring up in the forest along a stream with a sawmill and a

glass house that had three to four glass makers. It wasn't until after the Thirty Year War that clear Czech Crystal was produced. But green glass was better than drinking out of your boot or a wooden vessel. Out of this humble beginning the Czech Republic, as it is now called, has a rich history of glass making and is the leader of exporting glass.

The Rhineland started making Earthenware steins in competition to the Bohemian glass drinking vessels in the late 1400s, but they were not durable and were quite porous, making them hard to clean.

I mentioned at the beginning of this article about the pontil rod as one of the tools that a glass blower used. It is a solid rod four to five feet long that a small glob of hot glass is attached to. Then the glob is attached to the bottom of the vessel that was just blown so that it can be taken off the blow pipe and then decorated.



**Amber Römer.**

In the next issue of Naše České Dědictví my article will be about glass engraving. If you had an ancestor that worked in the glass industry in Bohemia and know what he did and where he worked please let us know by emailing:

Anonymous by Request



# Kosek Building Exhibit To Open Spring 2010

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) is opening its new exhibition in the spring of 2010, entitled "Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood". It tells the story of the Czechs who settled in Cedar Rapids, and the flood of 2008, now classified as the 4th largest natural disaster in the history of the United States. The NCSML purchased the renowned Kosek Building on 16th Avenue in Czech Village to house this exhibit.

By installing the exhibit in the heart of historic 16th Avenue, the NCSML will incorporate Czech Village and New Bohemia as authentic 20th century ethnic commercial districts common to many Czech and Slovak neighborhoods across the country, but hard to find intact today. Walking tours, interpretive signage along the street, school tours, motor-coach tours, festivals and other interactive experiences are planned over the next few years to help make the visitor experience fully engaging.

Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood will begin by telling the immigration and settlement

story. It will answer the questions, "Why the Midwest? Why Cedar Rapids?" as a destination for immigrants, especially Czechs and Slovaks. Personal stories will punctuate artifacts and photographs depicting a bygone era. As visitors progress through the exhibition, they will view images and listen to personal accounts of the flood damage, clean-up and recovery. An interactive scale model of the cityscape of Cedar Rapids will vividly compare the 2008 flood to the previous floods of 1929 and 1993. News stories, video and eye-witness accounts carry the visitor through the experience of the flood, moment by devastating moment, culminating with a walk-in model of a flooded house. Visitors will complete their journey in a restoration and memory area where they may view recovery progress and share their memories.

A specific opening date is still to be determined, although the NCSML is currently planning an opening extravaganza to celebrate this monumental achievement. You won't want to miss it!

*Jason Wright*

## *Bubanina (Cherry Squares)*

*From Barb Edmunds*

Always a favorite. Can be frozen and keeps well. Because of the size of the batch, great for large gatherings. Use large 11x17 inch or (9x13 & 8x8 inch) pans.

1 C. butter	3 C. flour
1¾ C. sugar	1½ t. baking powder
4 eggs (one at a time)	½ t. salt
1 t. vanilla	2 cans cherry pie filling

Cream butter and sugar. Beat well. Add eggs (one at a time.) Add vanilla and gradually add flour, baking powder and salt. Beat well. Spread batter in large 11x17 greased pan or a 9x13 and an 8x8 pan, fairly thin (½ inch) so that the pan bottom cannot be seen through the batter. Reserve remaining for topping over cherries (approximately 1-1½ cups.) Spread 2 (21 oz.) cans cherry pie filling over dough, to within a half inch from the edge of the pan. Place remaining dough by spoonfuls over cherry filling, allowing some cherries to show through. Bake at 350° for about 45 minutes. Watch and remove when nicely browned. When cool, sprinkle with powdered sugar.

## *Correction*

In the Fall 2009 newsletter the recipe for Raised Yeast Bread Dumplings from Marj Nejdil contained an error.

Step 6 should read: In the 8 qt. kettle that is boiling, turn burner temperature to 3½ and leave for cooking. Drop loaf into water and cover. DO NOT OPEN LID. Cook for 7 minutes, turn, and cook an additional 7 minutes.



# Shimek Forest named after prominent local Czech

One of Iowa's best kept secrets may be Shimek State Forest nestled along the Des Moines River in the far southeast tip of the state. The forest is named after the late Dr. Bohumil Shimek, an Iowa naturalist and former University of Iowa professor.



**In 1950 Iowa honored the late Dr. Bohumil Shimek by naming the largest contiguous stand of state-owned forest, 9,000 acres, after him.**

Shimek was born on a farm near Shueyville, Iowa to Czech parents, Maria Theresa and Francis Joseph Shimek, who came to the United States to escape religious and political persecution under the Austrian empire. In 1866, the family moved to Iowa City to have access to medical care for his mother, who was suffering from tuberculosis. However, she died soon thereafter. Shimek's father worked as a cobbler. In 1878, Francis Shimek became paralyzed

and later died in 1880.

Bohumil Shimek first attended college in 1878 at the University of Iowa as a student of engineering. He graduated from the university in 1883 with a degree in civil engineering, and subsequently worked as a railroad and county surveyor. He later taught zoology at the University of Nebraska from 1888 to 1890, and later returned to the University of Iowa as an instructor in botany. In 1895, he became Assistant Professor in botany and curator of the herbarium, and he continued in the latter position until his death. In 1902 he was awarded a Master's degree in science. He served as head of the botany department at the University of Iowa from 1914 to 1919.

Shimek traveled extensively in North America studying nature, and also spent time traveling in Czechoslovakia and Nicaragua. He especially traveled extensively throughout the American midwest and throughout every region of Iowa. Records show that between 1925 and 1928 Shimek had col-



**Shimek Forest is nestled along the Des Moines River in southeast Iowa.**



**Public hunting, fishing, primitive camping, horseback riding trails, scenic hiking trails, picnicking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and mushroom hunting, are all available at Shimek State Forest.**

lected more than 10,000 specimens in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Illinois. It has been estimated that, over his lifetime, Shimek contributed 200,000 specimens of vascular plants and 5,000 specimens of bryophytes to the collection.

He was a member of the Iowa State Geological Board. He was also chairman of the geological section of the International Scientific Congress held in Europe in 1911 as a tribute to his important contributions. The Geological Society of America awarded him a research

*Shimek*

*Continued on page 15*



# Czech dancer teaches dance workshop

Světlušky, the Czech youth ensemble in Cedar Rapids, experienced a terrific dance workshop on December 27, 2009. The teacher was Alice Janotova, who was visiting from the Czech Republic. Her first name is not pronounced like Alice in Wonderland. Think Czech pronunciation, which is AH-lee-tse.

Alice became interested in Czech folk music and dance at a young age, when her mother sang folk songs to her and when she attended an arts school to learn to play the violin. She went on to the university to get a masters degree in dance teaching, specializing in folk dance. She is now a dancer in one of the best folk ensembles in southern Bohemia, Prácheňský soubor písní a tanců from the town of Strakonice. She also plays the violin in Švandova dudácká muzika, which is called a

bagpipe band but consists of clarinets, violins, viola, bass, and one or two bagpipes. She teaches dances to children at a private school in Prague and at a school of basic arts in Strakonice.

In 2007, Alice spent several months in the United States. She taught Czech folk dances in Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The Iowa teaching was here in Cedar Rapids, teaching some fun dances to Světlušky in December. Alice returned to Cedar Rapids in January 2008, helping bagpiper Michael Cwach promote the bagpipe film Call of Duty. You can see part of this performance by going to Google and typing in Czech bagpipes at National Czech & Slovak

*Dance workshop  
Continued on page 17*



Alice Janotova, pictured in skirt, conducted a 3 hour dance workshop for Světlušky dance members on Dec. 27, 2009.

## CHF, Světlušky at UI Cultural Diversity Festival Feb. 21

Světlušky, the Cedar Rapids youth Czech folk music and dance ensemble will be performing at the 20th annual "Celebrating Cultural Diversity Festival" at the UI Field House from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21.

CHF will have a booth at the event and will be selling Czech bakery items along with hot dogs and Polish sausage with sauerkraut.

### Details for the day of the event

**Admission:** Free and open to public.

**Location:** The Festival is held inside the University's Fieldhouse.

**Parking:** Free parking is available in the lot west of Kinnick Stadium. Paid parking is available in Lots 6, 14, and Hospital Ramp IV at \$.85 per hour.

**Live Music:** Světlušky Czech folk music, African drumming, Latin jazz, Turkish folk music, and gospel are some of the entertainment.

**Dance:** Světlušky Czech youth dancers, Mexican folk dance, Middle-eastern belly dancing, classical India dances, hip-hop, and Step. Dance instruction in salsa and swing will also be featured.

**Arts & Crafts:** Vendors offer handmade goods for sale such as embroidered handbags, festive paper flowers, and hand-knit sweaters.

**Food:** Czech kolaches, Native American fry bread, Hunan Chi-

*Festival  
Continued on page 17*



# Education Kits Update



Pictured above is a small sampling of the many items donated by Naše České Dědictví readers to the CHF Education Kits.

The Czech Heritage Foundation would like to thank all those who rose to the challenge and donated items to be displayed in our Czech Education Kits. Your response was overwhelming and greatly appreciated!

The original Education Kits were lost in the flood and we had to start all over from scratch! Two wooden carrying cases, to house and transport all items, are in the process of being made by Russ Novotny.

We are still taking donations. Please contact Joyce Netolicky at \_\_\_\_\_ if you have items to donate.

## Volunteers Needed

Would you like to be more involved in Czech Heritage Foundation? Non-boardmember volunteers are needed to help CHF plan and administrate many Czech functions throughout the year.

Look over the list of upcoming events you'd like to volunteer for and contact the CHF Committee Chair for further details. Being Czech is fun!

**\* Cultural Diversity Festival at UI, Sunday, Feb. 21.** Help needed in many areas. Contact: Zelda De Hoedt at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

**\* St. Joseph's Day Dance** Help needed prior to event selling tickets, soliciting door prizes. Contact Barb Edmunds at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Houby Days** Many volunteer opportunities prior to event and day of event. Contact Joyce Netolicky at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

## Shimek Forest

*Continued from page 13*

grant in 1936.

Shimek worked for the independence of Czechoslovakia. He worked with his personal friend, historian Thomas G. Masaryk, who was exiled to the United States. After Czechoslovakian independence, Shimek was invited to the Charles University of Prague to teach botany as an exchange professor in 1914. Here he was awarded an honorary Ph.D. in recognition of his scientific contributions. He was also awarded a special Czech medal of honor in 1927.

In 1932, Shimek retired after

teaching for over 46 years. He died in Iowa City, Iowa, on January 30, 1937 of heart complications caused by influenza. He was 75 years old at the time of his death. His services to Iowa and education were memorialized by the Iowa legislature in a unanimous resolution of tribute, passed after his death, on February 1, 1937.

In a series of papers written in 1890, 1896, and 1898 Shimek concluded that wind (rather than water) was responsible for the deposition of loess in eastern and western Iowa. He based this after extensive study of fossils, habitats, and animal/plant life in the area. This discovery proved to be a major contribution to

the study of the environment in the region.

Upon his death Shimek's shell collection contained nearly two and a half million specimens, about half of which are loess fossils. This collection was sold to the Smithsonian Institution, according to his wish.

On December 23, 1991, Shimek's house at 529 Brown Street in Iowa City was declared a National Historic Site. An elementary school in Johnson County, Iowa is also named after him.

For more information contact Shimek State Forest, Farmington, Iowa, 52626, Toll Free: 800-868-7822.



# Calling All Contestants!

Vitáme Vás! 2010 has arrived and the Czech Heritage Foundation is in search for the next Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa to represent our wonderful state - Iowa!

Each year at the Houby Days Festival in Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, Iowa the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant is held. This is a wonderful opportunity for eligible young ladies who would welcome the opportunity to participate in an experience to represent their Czech, Moravian, Silesian, Slovak ancestry and ethnic background.

Iowa is one of the nine states that have a state pageant and crown

a state queen, our state queen advances to Nationals to represent Iowa during the weekend pageant. Other states are welcome to participate at the national pageant through an at-large program.

Where does Miss Czech-Slovak United States (Nationals) take place? Wilber, Nebraska! This location is the Czech capital of Nebraska since 1963 and USA since 1987 with a community of 1,700. Wilber's population increases to over 50,000 each year when this Czech community celebrates the Wilber Czech Festival. This celebration occurs each year during

the first full weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) in August.

If you are interested in being a contestant or if you know a young lady that is between 18-26, that would be interested in being a contestant I encourage you to share this information.

Little Sisters (ages 6-14) are encouraged to participate in the pageant and several community events throughout the year.

Contact Zelda De Hoedt or visit our website ([www.czechheritagefoundation.org](http://www.czechheritagefoundation.org)) for complete rules and regulations.



## Could This Be You?

*The Cedar Rapids Czech Heritage Foundation  
announces its search for*

*Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2010-2011*



- Candidates must 18 to 26 years of age with a Czech, Slovak, Moravian, or Silesian heritage.
- Candidates must be a resident of Iowa.
- Contestants will compete at the annual Houby Days Czech Festival in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in four categories: private interview, talent, costume modeling, and public interview.



2009-2010  
Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa  
Amanda De Hoedt

Winner will receive jeweled crown, sash, flowers, scholarship, gifts, and sponsorship to the Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant in Wilber, Nebraska.

National winners may receive trophies, scholarships, savings bonds, flowers, gifts, a trip to the Czech Republic, and paid tuition to Florida Gulf Coast University.

For more information and to apply visit:  
[www.czechheritagefoundation.org](http://www.czechheritagefoundation.org)



## Melvina Svec

*Continued from page 7*

she would "mark" those Minutes and send them back to the writer with corrections and annotations in red ink. She was always the teacher and to Melvina there was much that needed correcting!" Martin recalled fondly.

"You had to meet certain standards to hang with Melvina!"

*by Pat Martin*

## Festival

*Continued from page 14*

nese, Thai, Vietnamese, Greek, Indian, Chinese bubble tea, and American food are all available.

**Kid's World:** Crafts, face painting, music, and storytelling have been part of the festival. The storytelling schedule for this year is as follows:

1:00-1:45

2:00-2:45

3:00-3:45

\*Children who want to participate must be present at the beginning of the session.

**Sports Demonstrations:** Brazilian fighting dance - capoeira, Chinese martial art of Ta'i Chi, Korean Tae Kwon Do, and Japanese Kojokan Samurai sword fighting have been highlighted.

Annual attendance is between 3,000 and 5,000 people making it the second-largest non-athletic event sponsored by the UI.



# St. Joseph's Day Dance Sunday, March 21

The Czech Heritage Foundation in Cedar Rapids will be the proud host for the annual St. Joseph Day Dance on Sunday, March 21 from 2:00-6:00 pm. This will be held at the Cedar Rapids Elks Lodge, 801 33rd Ave. SW. The admission price is only \$7.00 and tickets are available from any Czech Heritage Board member or at the door. This ticket will give you a chance to win nice gifts that will take place three times during the afternoon. Tickets for the nice door prizes will be on sale throughout the afternoon, \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The drawing for these gifts will be at 6:00 pm. The Czech Heritage's 2010 Prince and Princess, will be in attendance at the dance.

Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen from Cedar Rapids will entertain us again this year. Everyone enjoyed this great band in the past three years. We were so fortunate to have them again this year. Food will be for sale by the Elks Lodge and a large bake sale is always a part of the fundraising by the Czech Heritage.

This is the main means to raise money for the Czech Heritage's Homestay and the Scholarship Programs. Students are selected each year to spend one month in the Czech Republic.

Donations of raffle and door prize items are welcome, as well as baked items for the bake sale. Please help us make this a memorable day.

We invite all to come and enjoy the fun and fellowship during this St. Joseph holiday.

Barb & Frank Edmunds Committee Chair

## Dance Workshop

*Continued from page 14*

Museum.

The 3-hour dance workshop on December 27, 2009, concentrated on a dance program that is appropriate for Masopust, the festivities before Lent. It was fun because it included several characters, includ-

ing a clown. Due to the ensemble's still fragile finances, Donna and Guenter Merkle sponsored the entire cost of this workshop, including the teacher's stipend and travel from Milwaukee.

*by Guenter Merkle*





# 2010

## Czech Coming Events

- 
- |  |   |                                     |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| • <b>Cultural Diversity Fair</b><br>Music, food, entertainment<br>CHF will have a booth &<br>Světlušky the Czech youth<br>music and dance ensemble<br>will perform | U of I<br>Field House<br>Iowa City, IA              | Sunday, February 21, Noon-5:00 pm   |
| • <b>CHF Chili Supper</b><br>Czech School Fundraiser   | St. Ludmilla's<br>Cedar Rapids, IA                  | Saturday, March 13, 4:30-7:00 pm    |
| • <b>St. Joseph's Day Parade</b>   | Czech Village                                       | Saturday, March 20                  |
| • <b>CHF's St. Joseph's Day Dance</b><br>Annual fundraiser for Homestay<br>& Scholarship Programs  | Elk's Lodge<br>801 33rd Ave. SW<br>Cedar Rapids, IA | Sunday, March 21, 2:00-6:00 pm      |
| • <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>   | Sokol Park  | Saturday, April 3                   |
| • <b>Houby Days</b><br>Parade, pageant, and more!  | Czech Village                                       | May 14-16                           |
| • <b>Czech School</b><br>for children ages 6-14  | Wilson School<br>Cedar Rapids, IA                   | June 15-July 16                     |
| • <b>Antique Fair</b>  | Czech Village                                       | Saturday, June 19, 7 am to 9 pm     |
| • <b>Czech Chalk &amp; Art Fair</b>  | Czech Village                                       | Saturday, July 17, 7 am to 9 pm     |
| • <b>49th Annual Czech Days</b>  | Wilber, NE  | August 6-8                          |
| • <b>Czech Village Garage Sale &amp; Market</b>  | Czech Village                                       | Saturday, August 21, 7 am to 9 pm   |
| • <b>2nd Annual Czech Festival</b>   | Czech Village                                       | Saturday, September 18, 7am to 9 pm |
| • <b>Halloween Parade &amp; Trick or Treat</b>   | Czech Village                                       | Saturday, October 30                |
| • <b>Sv. Mikuláš Day</b>   | Czech Village                                       | Saturday, Dec. 4                    |

*If you know of any Czech events please contact the editor and I will include them in future newsletters*





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Scholarship Programs, the Homestay Program along with providing for the publishing of Naše  
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*See You At*  
**St. Joseph's Day Dance**

Sunday, March 21, 2010

2:00-6:00

Elk's Lodge, 801 33rd Ave. SW

"Barefoot Becky  
& the Ivanhoe Dutchmen"



*Sponsored by Czech Heritage Foundation, NCSML and 16th Ave. Merchants*

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