



Šibřinky 2015, photo by Cindy Hadish

SPRING 2015

Editor

Sara Jacobmeyer

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Subscriptions to *Naše České Dědictví* (*Our Czech Heritage*) are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation receive the newsletter free of charge. Annual dues are \$10.00 per person and are renewable on January 1 of each year and expire on December 31. Contributions go toward preserving our cherished Czech heritage.

Website

CzechHeritageFoundation.com

Got News?

Want to see your story or photo in this newsletter? Contact Sara Jacobmeyer by email at CHFnewsletter@gmail.com, or send your article to the Czech Heritage Foundation PO box. Your ideas, photos, and stories are always welcome.

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Recipe: *Mazanec* (Easter Bread)

Prep Time: 45 minutes (not including rising) Cook Time: 35 minutes Yield: 1 loaf



1½ cup bread flour + some extra
¼ cup brown sugar
2-3 tbsp warm milk
1 or 2 drops of vanilla extract / almond extract
1 tsp or half packet of dry instant yeast
½ tbsp butter
½ cup raisins or dried Cranberries soaked in rum or wine of choice
1 tsp lemon zest
Salt (to taste)
1 egg (lightly beaten)

Soak the raisins and dried cranberries in wine or rum for more than 24 hours.

Dissolve the yeast in 2 tablespoon of lukewarm water with little sugar and let it foam. Sift the flour, sugar, salt, lemon rind and add the yeast mixture to it. Make a well in the center and add the lightly beaten egg, milk and melted butter. Mix it. Knead the dough till it becomes very soft but not sticky. If it becomes sticky, feel free to dust some flour (cautiously) and knead it further. Stir in the wine / rum soaked raisins and cranberries and roll it further in a little more flour. Knead it lightly and shape it. Keep it in a greased bowl and cover it with a kitchen towel and keep it in a warm place to rise. It will take roughly 3-4 hours to double the volume. After it has risen, punch down the dough, knead it again lightly and give it a round shape and keep the dough on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Let it rise again for another 40 minutes. Preheat the oven to 350 F and bake it for 35 minutes. Cool the bread before slicing it.

From SaffronStreaks.com, March 2013.

Help Czech Heritage Foundation go green!

Would you like to receive your newsletter instantly by email? Send a note to CHFnewsletter@gmail.com and we'll place you on the list! This is a new, convenient way to receive and enjoy *Naše České Dědictví*. Copies of the newsletter will still be sent via post to those who prefer it.

Message from the President

By John Rocarek



John Rocarek is the owner of the historic Sykora Bakery in Cedar Rapids' Czech Village. This is his second time serving as President for the Czech Heritage Foundation.

Once before, I had the privilege of presiding over this great organization. I'm glad to be back alongside the people involved. They are hard-working and generous to a fault. All of them are interested in preserving and protecting our cherished heritage and, like you, are always looking for ways to spread the message. Here's an idea. If we are truly proud of our heritage, we must use every opportunity to share its importance with our children, grandchildren and others in our family.

We take things for granted too often. When we don't take time to remember our history, we miss out on what really matters most. Stop and think for a moment about an event in your life, or maybe a story told to you by a parent or grandparent of a special time in their life. Have you shared this story lately with your child or sibling? Get on the phone right now, tonight or tomorrow. If you wait, you may forget.

The memory might include Babi crocheting a doily in her favorite chair by the porch window. Remember porches? Remember doilies? How about Grandpa's pail of beer? That's right. They sold it in the pubs, to go, in open pails. Or maybe you share the time the entire family went down to the "Avenue" to watch the Houby Days Parade – a

more recent memory. Was that the neighbor's kid dressed like a cherry koláč?

What about Svatý Mikuláš, the angel and the devil? Did you get an old potato, or your name in the book? What about the dances held years ago at Č.S.P.S. Hall? You may have one or two stories about the live geese that were raffled off and grandpa's subsequent dealing with the future dinner entree.

My mother, Josephine Pavlicek, was born and raised on the "Flats," and father, Edward Rocarek, grew up across the river on Hamilton Street near Barber Street SW (next door to Nesetril's backyard grotto). They met at one of those dances at Č.S.P.S. (Česko-Slovenský Podporující Spolek) in the late 30's. They were introduced to each other by a mutual friend, John Tosh, who lived between them on Third Street East, a few doors down from the entrance of the "Packing House."

Nezapomenout naše České dědictví.
Do not forget our Czech heritage.

P.S. Got a story to tell about the old days? Submit it to the editor by email or post. It may even end up in the newsletter.



ST. JOSEPH'S DAY CELEBRATION

Sponsored by the Czech Heritage Foundation
Fundraiser for the Czech Heritage Youth Programs

Sunday, March 22, 2015

2:00 – 6:00 pm

Music by:
Barefoot Becky
& the Ivanhoe Dutchmen

Ponderosa Ballroom
195 1st Street South
Walford, Iowa

Door Prizes - Bake Sale
Silent Auction - Raffles
Food Available To Purchase

Admission only \$8.00

To order tickets contact:
Frank & Barb Edmunds
Or any Czech Heritage Board Member



Join the Czech Heritage Foundation for dancing, dinner, and prizes at the annual St. Joseph's Day Dance! Proceeds support our scholarship and royalty programs, and Czech royalty will be on hand! Tickets are only \$8 and can be purchased at Sykora Bakery in Czech Village, from any Czech Heritage board member, or at the door on the day of the event.

Cedar Rapids Czech School gearing up for another successful year

by Carolyn Wilson, Board of Directors for Czech School

Beginning with the new year, the Czech School Board of Directors began meeting and planning for another summer of Czech language lessons for the area's residents. Our planning involves finding teachings, a building, and other personnel to run a successful five-week session.



In keeping with tradition, on March 14 we put on a chili supper at St. Ludmila Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids. Each year we use both purchased and

donated supplies to make chili, rye bread, coffee and juice, relishes, cake and ice cream. Along with the supper there was a bake sale featuring many delicious items generously donated by members of the Czech community. This year's event was fun for all!

Regarding this year's lessons, our teachers have been contacted and are ready to go. Now we are looking for students. Children from ages 6 – 14 are eligible for registration. We will meet each weekday from June 15 through July 17. Classes run from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. each day and will include a recess. This year we will hold classes at Grant Elementary School, which is south of Wilson Middle School at 254 Outlook Drive SW in Cedar Rapids.

We've found that many adults are interested in Czech language and culture, so we are pleased to offer adult language lessons on Thursday nights starting on June 18 through July 16. There will be

both a beginners and an advanced class. We hope to again see former class members and to encourage some new ones. Adult classes will meet at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. It is a great way to prepare for a trip abroad or to just meet other adults with an interest in Czech heritage. There's a special sparkle in their eyes when they greet you with "dobrý večer," or "good evening."

Please join us and pass the word along to your friends and relatives. We would love to have more students, and anyone is welcome. For more information or to register, please contact Julie at CzechSchool@gmail.com.

Karel Čapek, an early 20th century Czech writer, said: "A thousand-year history flows through every word. We do something magnificently old and historic when we speak Czech." We at Czech School think so, too.

Deadline nears for Czech Prince, Princess and Little Sister applications

Article and photos by Cindy Hadish

Youths interested in representing their Czech Heritage are encouraged to apply for the Czech Heritage Foundation's Royal Court.

The Czech Prince and Princess dedicate time to serve as young ambassadors for the Cedar Rapids Czech community. Both participate at parades, festivals and other events, along with the Little Sister Iowa.



Ashley Pudil and Sam Uthoff at Houby Days in Czech Village.

Candidates - ages 12-18 for Prince and Princess, or 6-12 for Little Sisters - write an essay and are interviewed by a panel of judges. The application deadline for all three positions is March 31, 2015.

Crowning takes place during Houby Days in May. Winners receive a crown, sash and \$100 to go toward purchasing a kroj, an ethnic costume worn during their appearances.



Branden and Victoria Knight at the Czech Heritage Foundation's Annual Meeting in January 2015.

During the past year, Ashley Pudil served as Czech Princess; Sam Uthoff as Czech Prince and Mladší

Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant almost here

By Bonnie Rohlena, Co-Director of the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant

Are you excited to preserve our great heritage? Put May 16, 2015 on your calendar! Plan to spend the day and evening with us as we not only celebrate Houby Days in Czech Village, but host the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant. Join us at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in the morning to support our contestants in their judging events of oratory, kroj modeling and talent.

Our next newsletter will announce who our 2015 contestants will be, along with a complete schedule for the pageant events. You can be sure the contestants are excited to share their passion about their ancestral backgrounds.

The festivities of the day will culminate in a relaxing evening starting with a social, followed by toasting

Princ (translated to "younger prince") was Branden Knight. Branden's sister, Victoria Knight, has been serving as Little Sister Iowa.

For applications and more information, see the Czech Heritage Foundation's website at www.CzechHeritageFoundation.com



Czech Heritage Foundation royalty participate in many parades throughout the year, such as the St. Joseph's Day Parade in Czech Village and the Cedar Rapids St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Questions and applications can be emailed to: royalty@czechheritagefoundation.com.

friends "Na zdraví!" Then it will be time to say "dobru chut," or *bon appetite*, and enjoy a wonderful Czech meal with people from Czech and Slovak organizations sharing their heritage.

Our evening ends with the crowning of the 2015-2016 Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa, who will promote our customs and traditions throughout her reign.

Tickets for the evening banquet, held at The Avacentre – Cedar Rapids, will go on sale for the first time on March 22, 2015 at the St. Joseph's Day Dance in Walford. Contact Bonnie Rohlena or Donna Gruntorad with questions or to purchase tickets.

Sokol spirit in Cedar Rapids

By Jeanne Vogt

Sokol Cedar Rapids suffered a devastating blow on June 13, 2008 while getting ready for a landmark centennial celebration. The Flood of 2008 rendered the original Sokol building in downtown Cedar Rapids totally unusable. As the loss was great, the Sokol spirit of the members helped them pull together to rebuild the gymnastics program in a new facility.



With the completion of a new kitchen, new office, and new locker room, Sokol is springing forward. An open house is being planned for June 13, 2015 – the seven year anniversary of the destructive flood. Everyone is welcome to stop by and see what progress has been made!

In addition to this wonderful progress, Sokol Cedar Rapids will be hosting the Western District Slet (gymnastics competition) on April 18, 2015. In 2017, our Sokol unit will host the National Slet in Cedar Rapids. Previous national Slets have been in Fort Worth, Texas and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for example. We are looking forward to showcasing our unit and our city.

American Sokol is celebrating 150 years of family fitness, fun, and education in 2015. Core physical fitness classes have been in operation since 1865 in the United States.

“Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country. I appreciate the part the American Sokol Movement has played in establishing physical fitness and good sportsmanship as major objectives of recreation, education and our way of life. In years to come, I hope American Sokol’s example will inspire millions more to join in this pursuit of excellence.”

–President John F. Kennedy

For news and more information about programs and events, visit www.SokolCR.com or call 319-362-1632. Sokol CR is located at 5200 18th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404. All inquiries are welcome. *Nazdar!*



Film director Jiří Máděl speaks with a young actor in his debut feature 'To See the Sea.' Courtesy of CzechThatFilm.com.

Czech That Film is back!

By Michal Sedláček, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles

Back for its fourth year, the Czech That Film festival will return to the United States in March, 2015. Selection of influential and emerging voices in Czech cinema will be newly presented in Cleveland (OH) and Little Rock (AR). Other destinations of the festival are still under discussion, [but currently

include Cedar Rapids, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, Salt Lake City, and Washington, D.C.].

In Los Angeles, the festival will kick off on March 27, 2015 at the campus of the School of Cinematic Arts of the University of Southern California (USC). [The] festival's program is tailored from the best of current Czech cinema and will include as a special treat a Czech drama called *Fair Play*, directed by Andrea Sedláčková. Her latest feature was selected as the Czech entry for the Best Foreign Language Oscar at the 87th Academy Awards. Festival's complete program and time schedule will be announced soon.

Czech That Film was founded by Consul General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles Mr. Michal Sedláček and General Director of the Czech Centers Vilma Anýžová to celebrate Czech films in the United States.

I am honored to invite you to the Czech That Film festival, a colorful display of my homeland's modern achievements in film. Although directors like Miloš Forman, Ivan Passer, and Jiří Menzel became household names in the United States a long time ago, unbeknownst to most, however, are the young Czech artistic leaders in existence today. This year's films are exceptional. While their flavoring remains uniquely Czech, these movies will speak to everyone, young and old, American or Czech.

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in LA and the Czech Centers in Prague in collaboration with many local partners in 20 different cities across the United States and Canada proudly present an international roster of established and emerging directors, including award-winning

presenters.

The festival is committed to exhibiting films that not only expose participants to Czech culture, but also enlighten audiences, bring people together, and present inspired entertainment for all. Partnering with the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and other cultural organizations in the United States, we especially strive to bring cultural awareness to students and a younger audience.

Besides Los Angeles, the tour will reach 18 major American cities. At each location, screenings will be complemented by special events, such as opening and closing receptions and Q&A sessions with well-established Czech directors. The program will include these special sessions with Andrea Sedláčková, well-known director of *Fair Play*, Jiří Mádľ, popular Czech actor and director of *To See the Sea*, and Eva Jeníčková, leading actress from *Clownwise*. The program as a whole will feature a diverse assortment of the newest and greatest Czech films, a must-see for any enthusiast of international cinema.

On behalf of the Czech Consulate of Los Angeles, I encourage you to explore Czech cinema and partake in a festival dedicated to spreading cultural appreciation.

Czech That Film in Cedar Rapids is in partnership with the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and will take place from June 26 – 17 at Collins Road Theatres. Special guest Jiří Mádľ will be present to screen his film, followed by a special reception at Campbell Steele Gallery in Marion.

Details at NCSML.org.



New board members bring enthusiasm, experience

The Czech Heritage Foundation voted some new faces onto the board of directors for 2015. Meet them over the next few editions of *Naše České Dědictví!*



Rachel Wobeter is a Visitor Services Coordinator at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, where she has worked since November 2014. Rachel is

also currently completing a certificate in Museum Studies at the University of Iowa. After graduating from Luther College in 2009 with a B.A. in Anthropology and a minor in Environmental Studies, Rachel worked for a non-profit promoting healthy eating and physical activity in Decorah, Iowa. After this position, Rachel went for a two month back-packing trip and visited Ireland, France, Holland, Italy, and Spain. Returning to the U.S. Rachel picked back up with her passion for local food and worked at the University of Northern Iowa as the Local Food Program Manager.

Rachel is 75% Czech and was fortunate to be selected as the 2001 Czech Princess in Cedar Rapids and also participated in the Czech Heritage Foundation's High School Exchange program in 2004. Rachel's family celebrates many Czech

traditions, and she is quite proud of her kolach baking skills.

Rachel enjoys being outdoors and is an avid runner. Her favorite hobbies are gardening, cooking, and traveling every chance she can get.



Donna Gruntorad resides in DeWitt. She moved from Nebraska to Iowa in 2010. Donna retired from CNH America, LLC after working

there for 36 years, and now works at Farm Bureau Financial Services. Donna was very involved with the Nebraska Czechs, Inc. for several years. She was President of the Nebraska Czechs, Inc. in 2004, Treasurer from 2005-2009, President of the Nebraska Czechs of South Central for nine years and was involved with the Miss Nebraska Czech-Slovak queen pageant.

Donna enjoys traveling to Czech festivals throughout the Midwest, where she gets to meet the many people who make being Czech-Slovak unique, and where the food is the best. Donna looks forward to her duties as Secretary of the Czech Heritage Foundation board, and working with wonderful people who continue to cherish, support, and celebrate their heritage.

Past queens continue success long after reigns end

Past Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa queens continue their success long after their reigns have ended. We were able to catch up with a few of them to find out what they've been up to since relinquishing the crown. Find more stories in the next newsletter!



Lisa Volesky was Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2001-2002. She ran as Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa in Wilber, NE in 2000 and then again in 2001. She

was the first Iowan to become Miss Czech-Slovak USA and together with her Babi (Adeline Volesky) and the support of her family, Czech Village, the NCSML, and the Czech Heritage Foundation, she helped to start the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa pageant in 2002.

Currently, she is a high school science teacher at Northside College Preparatory High School in Chicago Public Schools. She has been teaching for eleven years and completed her Master's Degree in Biology in December 2012. She was married in August 2012 and her son, Max, was born in May 2014. She enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, cooking, knitting, and sewing. She looks forward to passing on Czech traditions to Max.



Katie Ziskovsky Dawson was the first Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa (2002-2003). A huge thanks from Katie to Lisa Volesky, who was the reigning National Queen that year and helped to get the Iowa program started. Highlights of her reign included visiting the Czech community in Protivin, the Czech-Slovak Dance Festival, and Houby Days. She also represented Iowa in the Miss Czech-Slovak USA Queen pageant and won the talent portion of the competition.

Since then, Katie graduated from Simpson College and received her Masters of Divinity from Vanderbilt University Divinity School. She married Brandon Dawson in 2007 and they moved back to Iowa where she served as the pastor of First United Methodist Church in Marengo. In 2012-2013, she led a statewide campaign to raise over \$2 million to fight malaria with the UMC. She is currently the lead pastor at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Des Moines, Iowa. Katie has written two books, "Three Gifts, One Christ," and "The Lord is Our Salvation." She blogs at salvagedfaith.com, disc golfs, and hopes to someday perfect her Babi's kolach recipe.

Upcoming Events

St. Joseph's Day Dance

*Sunday, March 22, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Ponderosa Ballroom in Walford, Iowa*

Live music by Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen, bake sale, silent auction, raffles, food and more! All proceeds benefit Czech Heritage Foundation youth programs. Tickets: \$8

Spring Concert: The Luther College Piano Quartet

*Sunday, March 29 at 2:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church (305 2nd Ave West, Cresco, Iowa)
Presented by the Czech Heritage Partnership*

Hear Mozart, Schumann, and Dvořák on violin, viola, cello, and piano. Cost: free will offering. All proceeds to the musicians. Visit CzechHeritagePartnership.org for details.

Easter Day Celebration

Sunday, April 5 at the Czech Mission following Easter mass and lasting until evening (9415 Rochester Ave. Brookfield, IL 60513).

Food and drinks will be available, cymbal music will be featured, and wine tasting will occur through the day. Cost: with donation. Call Mons. Dusan Hladik for details: _____ or _____

Fields of Light: A Son Remembers His Heroic Father

Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids

After the fall of Communism, Joseph Hurka traveled to Prague, where his father had fought in the Underground against the Czech-Stalinist government. As the son walks in his father's steps, he uncovers a hidden past: he learns of his father's brutal imprisonment, his fortunate release, and his fierce resistance work. Part of the Great Stories Author Series. Cost: free to attend.

Music @ the Museum: Filip Pogády

Saturday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids

Filip Pogády is one of the most promising violinists of his generation and praised for the beauty of his tone and his "lightning-like virtuosity." He has earned a reputation for performing a wide range of music across the genres, from the classical violin repertoire to Rock and Electronic. He will be accompanied by skilled Russian pianist Anna Vasilyeva-Schagun. Cost: \$10 NCSML members, \$15 general public.

Taste of Czech & Slovak

Friday, May 15 at the NCSML in Cedar Rapids

The NCSML Museum Guild's Taste of Czech and Slovak once again kicks off the annual Houby Days weekend in Czech Village. Attendees will be able to sample more than a dozen entrees, salads, soups, and desserts! Save the date – times and ticket prices will be announced soon. Visit NCSML.org.

Houby Days 2015

Friday, May 15 – Sunday, May 17 in Czech Village, Cedar Rapids

Spend the weekend in Czech Village! Find activities for the whole family, tasty food, a carnival, contests, mushrooms, and much more! Visit CzechVillageCedarRapids.com for a full schedule.

St. Ludmila Kolach Festival – Save the Date!

June 12 – 14 at St. Ludmila Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids (211 21st Ave SW)

The Kolach Festival is a celebration of all things delicious. Fruit filled pastries are the highlight of the three day festival along with games, carnival rides, music and food. Held the second weekend in June each year, it's sure to please everybody. Learn more at StLudmila.org.

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(If you've already paid your dues for 2015, thank you!)

Mail form and check to: Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.

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