

SUMMER 2015

Celebrating 20 YEARS

the Guided Page

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

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

14th 'Taste of Czech & Slovak' preserves recipes of generations

"It Takes a Village," a popular phrase that describes culminating efforts necessary for success, also represents the continuing tradition of Guild's popular "Taste of Czech & Slovak."

The event, which opened Houby Days in Czech Village May 15, hosted some 190 paying guests and netted some \$2,600 for Guild of NCSML, which is dedicated to volunteering and fund-raising for NCSML.

For a charge of \$15 for adults and free for children 10 years and younger, "samples" arrayed in paper cups (2 oz) are selected for a "tasting extravaganza."

Taste Selections—appetizers: Slovak Meatballs and Pickled Bologna; soup: Mushroom-Potato Chowder; entrees: Czech Goulash, Cerna Kuba, Chicken Papricka, Pork & Sauerkraut, Dumplings with Pork Gravy; salads: Slovak Potato, Sauerkraut, Rhubarb; sides: Apple Sauce, Sweet Sour Cabbage, Green Beans, Rye Bread; desserts: Bublanina, Czech Cookies, Lemon Poppy Seed Cake, Koláče; beverages: Coffee, Lemonade, Water and cash bar for beer.

Restaurant Vendors/Sponsors for this year's event: Dostal Catering; HyVee Wilson Avenue; Little Bohemia; Red Frog; Ruzicka's; Smuggler's Wharf; Sykora Bakery; and Village Meat Market & Cafe.



Leading Guild's Taste of Czech and Slovak fundraiser: Carol Wohlleben; Diana Geoffrey, co-chair; Marla Nikodim; Diane Moore; Sally Stejskal, co-chair.



Pickled Bologna Brigade — Diana Geoffrey and Marla Nikodim, part of a Guild team who perfected this appetizer for Taste of Czech & Slovak. Others who prepared this Czech favorite were Diane Hayes, Diane Moore, Sally Stejskal, and Carol Wohlleben.



Armed with containers to hold their culinary delights for "Taste": Bonnie Holubar, Sue Covington, Marie Webster, Diane Moore, Dolores Blood, Marla Nikodim, Diane Hayes.



Cooks, stock your kitchens and shop for ingredients! Laverne Fisher, Dorothy Voelkers, Suzanne Charipar, Lavanda Woosley, Jeanne Vogt.

"Food has always been an important part of Czech & Slovak heritage. This signature event, in its 14th year, represents just a "taste" of some of those items often served in Czech and Slovak homes for every day dining and holidays."

*Sally Stejskal
co-chair for the
Taste of Czech & Slovak*

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Con't.

Volunteers who worked Taste of Czech & Slovak

Bev & Gene Kadlec, Sheila & Don Janda, Lavanda & Merrill Woosley, Jeanne Vogt, Sylvia Popelka, Barb Edmunds, Cindy Monroe, Allyson Wheaton, Diane & John Moore, Carolyn & Mel Holubar, Mary Van Houten, Bonnie Holubar, Lisa Stejskal, Vern Rompot, Barb & George Hill, Sue Covington, Beth Kucera, Mary Ann Kucera, Dolores Blood, Patty Thacker, Joe Kurka, Irene Hamous, Margaret Kenney, Alicia Jackson, Lisa Shelstad, Linda Koehler, Irene Konecy, Loreen Svoboda, Jan Axtell, Dorothy Voelkers, Diane Hayes, Anita Burke, Suzanne Myers, Ken Erger, Pat Martin, Marla Nikodim, Carol Wohlleben, Lee Sedlacek, Sally Stejskal, and Diana Geoffrey.

"Taste" Cooks

Cindy Monroe, Linda Koehler, Suzanne Charipar, Sue Vavroch, Sylvia Popelka, Dolores Blood, Jeanne Vogt, Lavanda Woosley, Laverne Fisher, Jason Wright, Sue Covington, Marj Nejdil and Sokol dumpling experts, Diane Hayes, Diana Geoffrey, Pat Martin, Sheila & Don Janda, Marla Nikodim, Dorothy Voelkers, Betty Clinton, Barb Edmunds, Marie Webster, Diane Moore, Sally Stejskal, Mary Van Houten, Carolyn Holubar, and Bonnie Holubar.

Bake Sale Bakers

Jeanne Vogt, Janis Maas, Jan Axtell, Loreen Svoboda, Beth Kucera, Laverne Fisher, Diane Moore, Arlene Dayhoff, Lu Barron, Betty Sheets, and Mary Van Houten.

Member Monetary Donations

Arlene Dayoff, Judy Antone, Lu Barron, and Betty Sheets.



"The Taste of Czech & Slovak is a community event. The Guild members come together to contribute their time and cooking talents. Czech Village merchants are excited to provide menu items. And guests look forward to coming back year after year.

One guest came up to thank us for a wonderful event and said 'It was like a room full of Babi's got together and cooked for us.' This one comment made all the work worth it!"

*Diana Geoffrey
co-chair for the Taste of Czech & Slovak*



Sally Stejskal's daughter-in-law, Lisa Stejskal, served Sally's homemade beet wine. The recipe came from our cookbook.



Cindy Monroe "listening" for the buzz of a guest's lost cell phone in the garbage can! She later went through 2 bags of trash to try and find the phone, which was ultimately found by the guest outside the Museum.

Education Question by Bob Stone

What is the name of the legendary mountain from which St. Václav and his Knights will come to aid the Czechs when their need is greatest?

Answer: Blanik, a mountain emblazoned with legends.

Guild President’s Summer Message



Donna Merkle

The Wow Factor!

Sometimes you just have to dazzle to make a point. That’s what the NCSML Guild did this year when we donated \$7,500 to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library as our annual contribution. Not only did this come as a huge surprise to Gail and her staff, it also, through the sheer luck of timing, arrived at a point when NCSML operating funds were running low. Since

our gift was unrestricted, we filled a crucial need at a critical time.

The fact that we had the funds in our treasury to make a donation of this magnitude speaks well of the hard work and dedication that our Guild members devote to our fundraisers – Taste of Czech and Slovak in May, Time for Tea in July, Fall Pork Dinner in November, and Cookie Walk in December. The significance of these events cannot be denied.

But that’s not all. In spite of making this hugely significant donation to the NCSML in March, we still had \$7,350 in our treasury at the start of April. This lets us continue being a sponsor for BrewNost at the \$3,000 level. And we have the funds available to set aside for reprinting our cookbooks and aprons when the time comes. We are now also able to explore additional sponsorship possibilities, thus increasing our level of financial support for the NCSML.

Congratulations, Guild members, for a job well done! You are proving that Team Guild is absolutely awesome. Wow!

Donna Merkle, President

NCSML President’s Winter Message



Gail Naughton

Dear Guild friends,

I’m up to my ears in cocktail meatballs this week. As the only daughter in a family of eight, I learned to cook early on and I still do when we all get together. Taste of Czech & Slovak is one of my favorite events of the year and I love cooking for it.

Being in the Czech Republic the last two weeks has hreinforced how good

Czech food is! Sue and Gary Vavroch, Mary Ann Kucera and daughter Beth, Grant (facilities director) and Tammy Smith, and my husband Denny raved about the traditional dinner of pork hock, duck, chicken and sausage that was served on the first evening of the Beer Tour.

And I heard a lot about the kolace served that night, which they said rivaled our own Koláče Club’s best efforts. Wow, that’s saying a lot.

Food is one of the strongest expressions of ethnic culture that lasts long after other ties have faded. That’s what makes “Taste” such an important Guild program and a big success year after year.

Thanks for all your efforts to keep this tradition alive.

My best to all,

Gail

Gail Naughton, NCSML President

Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company’s—Immigrant Stew at the Chat ‘n’ Chew



Shanel Wermerskirchen, Visitor Services Coordinator, with Barb and George Hill.



Jeanne Vogt entertains a guest at NCSML.

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Business from February 2015 Guild Meeting Minutes

Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings.

There were 44 members present.

Program: Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen, Volunteer Coordinator, explained Volgistics, an electronic computer program that records volunteer hours and maintains membership records. Important for record keeping.

Volunteer Coordinator: Lindsay reviewed 2015 exhibits upcoming, including "Global Shoes," on loan from Brooklyn Children's Museum. Complete exhibit listing in Kalendář, Feb-March 2015.

OFFICERS

President: Donna Merkle acknowledged outgoing officers with gifts: Diane Hayes, President; Diana Geoffrey, Recording Secretary; Linda Koehler, Historian.

Recording Secretary: Karen Zacek asked for additions/corrections to Jan. Minutes, which were mailed prior to meeting. Minutes approved.

Treasurer: Marla Nikodim reporting ending balance Jan. 31, 2015: \$14,331. 2015 Budget copies are available upon request.

Corresponding Secretary: For Diane Moore, Donna reported Top Ten Volunteers for November, 2014.

Total of 55 volunteers contributed 788.10 hours. George Hill acknowledged his award as Volunteer of the Year 2014. (George logged 444 hours that year.)

NCSML Rep: Carol Wohlleben announced five new members have joined NCSML Board of Directors and that now it is international in nature.

Cookie Walk Co-chair Mary Van Houten thanked the 65 volunteers. Total Income was \$2,503.45.

Membership: Treasurer Marla and Betty Sheets are working on membership updates.

Audit: Linda Koehler reported for committee that treasurer records are in good order. Acceptance of Audit Committee findings was approved by membership.

FUND RAISER

Fund Raisers: President Merkle reviewed prospective fundraisers for 2015 and mentioned challenges. Chairpersons are requested.

SPECIAL INTEREST

Czech Translator Request: Suzanne Charipar expressed concerns about translators of Czech/Slovak/English languages. Solutions mentioned.

Business from March 2015 Guild Meeting Minutes

Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings.

There were 31 members present.

Volunteer Coordinator Report: Sara Jacobmeyer spoke of upcoming programs needing volunteers. She also mentioned Americorps will be working with book storage/moving/shelving, March 11-April 7.

OFFICERS

Recording Secretary: Karen Zacek asked for additions/corrections for Feb. Minutes. Minutes approved as distributed.

Treasurer: President Donna Merkle reported ending balance Feb. 28, 2015: \$14,906.10. The Board recommends and Donna asked for Guild to approve donation of \$7,500 by Guild to NCSML. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Moore reported Top Ten Volunteers for Jan., 2015. 58 Volunteers contributed 701 hours.

New Members: Anneliese Tisdale, L. Racheal Davis, Lou Thompson, Emily Weber, Curtis Stochl.

Membership: Betty Sheets sent March Guild Meeting reminder and Feb. Membership Meeting Minutes to all on email communication. She noted a total of 140 members at this time.

FUND RAISERS

Koláče Club: Marge Sedlacek reported on recent orders. Members have been invited to join St. Joseph Day Parade, as marching koláče!!

Taste of Czech & Slovak: Diana Geoffrey and Sally Stejskal are co-chairs!

Time for Tea is slated for Sunday, July 19. Let President Donna Merkle know if you wish to chair this event.

Business from April 2015 Guild Meeting Minutes

Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings.

There were 50 members present.

Program: Preston Moore, director of marketing & communications, illustrated the new NCSML Website and all it incorporates. Direct your questions to Preston, please.

Volunteer Coordinator: Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen said Amy Lyness, director of facility rentals and groups tours, has resigned. Cole Swanson is the new Annual Fund Manager, beginning April 6. Lindsay mentioned volunteer opportunities opening day of Global Shoes exhibit, May 9.

OFFICERS

Recording Secretary: Karen Zacek represented March meeting Minutes. Minutes approved.

Treasurer: Marla Nikodim, Treasurer, reported ending balance April 10, 2015, was \$7,352.16.

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Moore reported Top Ten Volunteers for February. 61 Volunteers contributed 615 hours. Donna Merkle led with 38 hours.

Historian: Sally Stejskal reported purchase of albums at discount and requests helpers for scrapbooking.

NCSML Board: Carol Wohlleben, Board representative, reported Board has refocused direction and become international in nature. By-Laws changed to title as Board of Trustees rather than Board of Directors.

FUND RAISER

Taste of Czech & Slovak, Friday, May 15, 2015. Diana Geoffrey and Sally Stejskal are co-chair. Suzanne Charipar is helping with training co-chairs. Beth Kucera created poster to promote and advertise. There will be a bake sale in conjunction with tasting dinner. President Donna Merkle noted profit from last year's Taste was more than \$2,000. Thanks to all who are volunteering with food and other support.

Houby Days: Jeanne Vogt requested calendar of events for Houby Days weekend be made available to all. She noted the Czech Heritage Foundation dinner at the Avacentre to be held that Saturday night, celebrating crowning of the new Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

Guild Memoir Writers, in its second year, with John and Sandra Hudson chairing. Meetings are held in NCSML Board room every other week, 2-4 p.m. All are welcome.

Sponsorship Opportunities: Request for Guild to be one of sponsor of Old World Christmas Market with a \$2,000 gift. Also discussed, a Coffee Cart for museum guests. Motion to sponsor Coffee Cart made and passed. Details to be investigated.

Volunteer Badges: See Marla Nikodim, as badges still available at \$12.50 each.

Guild Members boost culture, NCSML in many areas of volunteerism

If your favorite Guild member was not observed volunteering at Taste of Czech & Slovak, he/she was likely very busy Houby Days weekend with other organizations or events that support NCSML.

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Miss Czech & Slovak Iowa Pageant had events throughout Houby Days weekend.

Bonnie Rohlena co-chairs the Miss Czech & Slovak Iowa Pageant.

Czech Heritage sponsors the Miss Czech & Slovak Iowa Pageant, a year-round endeavor. Barb and Frank Edmunds, Guild members, assisted with the Pageant's Czech Dinner/Banquet Saturday night.

Pat Martin hosted queens at her home that weekend and Marj Nejd and Jeanne Vogt provided gifts for queens and judges.

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Světlušky (The Fireflies) youth music ensemble, performed Houby Days on Sunday. Donna Merkle is director.

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Federation of Czech Groups had a booth on The Avenue during Houby Days. Guild members include Barb and Frank Edmunds, Donna Merkle, Marj Nejd, Milly Ortner, Marge Pace, and Jeanne Vogt.

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Czech Heritage Singers: Annie Kloubec, Donna Merkle, Milly Ortner, Marj Nejd, Barb Pulkrab Jeanne Vogt sang with the ensemble during festival.

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Guided Page Staff

Co-Editors: Pat Martin, Managing Editor
Beth Kucera, Graphic Design/Photographer

Staff Photographers: Carolyn Holubar, Sara Jacobson,
Linda Koehler, Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen

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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Volunteer Coordinator Notes



Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen

May 11th was our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. This event was to honor all of the NCSML active volunteers for their hours of dedication and service!

This year, I wanted to take a more programmatic approach. So, I partnered with History Center Historian, Mark Stoffer Hunter to offer a historic bus tour of Cedar Rapids. From the smiles on many of your faces and your kind words, I think it was a hit! We rounded out the evening with tales from the Czech Republic by Gail Naughton, door prizes from friends in the neighborhood and lovely food from Dostal Catering.

Each and every day, the NCSML would not be able to serve the community and fulfil our mission without all of you. So thank you, and who knows what kind of fun we will have for next year's Appreciation Event!

Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Appreciation Event



Marching Koláče Highlight Czech Village St. Joseph Day Festivities

Marching Koláče highlighted this year's St. Joseph Day Parade March 21 in Czech Village. Koláče marchers were the entry of NCSML in the event.



Right: Koláče Club's Marge Sedlacek greets bystanders. Left: Marching Koláče included Marge, Sallie Blood, Teri Butz, Cynthia Emerich, Barb and George Hill, Linda and Bruce Koehler, Preston Moore, Kathy Shelton, Sue Vavroch, Emily Weber and Curt Stochl.

Top 10 Volunteers for February 2015

1. Donna Merkle	38	6. Elaine Samek	26
2. Sally Stejskal	36	7. Shirley Alexander	22
3. George Hill	34	8. Pat Martin	21
4. Diane Moore	30	9. Barb Hill	20
5. Suzanne Charipar	30	10. Marj NejdI	18

Total 61 Volunteers = 615 hours

Top 10 Volunteers for March 2015

1. George Hill	51	6. Mel Holubar	43
2. Sally Stejskal	50	7. Carol Wohlleben	35
3. Diane Moore	50	8. Jackie Allen	33
4. Barb Hill	44	9. Carolyn Holubar	32
5. Donna Merkle	43	10. Joseph Lesko	31

Total 75 Volunteers = 1,066 hours

Top 10 Volunteers for April 2015

1. Diane Moore	44.5	6. Bonnie Holubar	34.25
2. Sally Stejskal	43.25	7. Carolyn Holubar	31.50
3. Barb Hill	40.25	8. Mary Ellen Krotz	29.50
4. Marge Sedlacek	35.25	9. George Hill	25.75
5. Carol Wohlleben	35.25	10. Dolores Blood	25.50

Total 68 Volunteers = 872.25 hours



Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen



Preston Moore

February Speaker is all about Volgistics

Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen, Volunteer Coordinator, explained Volgistics, an electronic computer program that records volunteer hours and maintains membership records. Important for record keeping.

April Program on NCSML new web site

Preston Moore, NCSML's director of marketing and communications, illustrated the new NCSML website and its capabilities. Members are encouraged to engage with the site and share in disseminating the publicity and promotion it provides..

Marj and the magic of egg decorating

Master Folk Artist Marj NejdI taught classes on how to decorate beautiful Easter eggs, using the traditional batik and wax resist method on March 20-21.



Sara Jacobmeyer

Above: Marj NejdI illustrates the egg dyeing technique while her students look on.
Below: Various helpers were on hand to aid the children in their new skills.



May Program includes Global Shoes exhibit

Sara Jacobmeyer, director of programs, told of current and planned programming for NCSML. She started with the Global Shoes exhibit, an interactive exhibit especially for children, which opened May 9.

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

Saturday, June 6, 2015 9 a.m.

2015 Membership Meeting

July 11 August 1
September 12 October 3
November 7

Bohemian Beer Tour April 24 - May 4, 2015

The Bohemian Beer Tour organized by National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library was a big success. Hosted by Gail and Dennis Naughton, 19 travelers from across the U.S. joined the excursion.

In Prague, we strolled the bridges and cobblestone streets of Old Town and explored many of the sites and cultural activities this charming city offered. There were day trips planned to nearby breweries and visits to local pubs and craft brewers. The tour journeyed to Western Bohemia to visit Zatec, its brewery and the Hop Museum and “Temple of Hops and Beer,” plus the Herold Breznice Brewery in the Breznice Castle, and the Chodovar Family Brewery, the oldest brewery in Western Bohemia, where people even try soaking in a beer bath! We visited the charming medieval village and castle of Loket, where beer is brewed in the vaulted cellars of a 14th century malt house. The tour ended with three days in Pilsen, the “Capital City of Beer” for its famous Liberation Festival, celebrating the 70th anniversary of General Patton’s liberation of Pilsen in May 1945. We toured and savored unfiltered beer at one of the world’s most famous breweries, Pilsner Urquell.



Tammy Smith, Donna Merkle and Mary Ann Kucera at Loket, Czech Republic before they headed to another brewery!



Beth and Mary Ann Kucera met American Ambassador Andrew Shapiro at the Czech Embassy in Prague.