

THE GUILDED PAGE

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Museum Guild Members:

Happy summer to each of you! We moved our oldest son Brian to Tucson Arizona in late June for a year's residency there so have been watching the weather in that part of the country. Most days have been recording in the 100 degree range. I'm not sure which is worse---the high humidity that we have or the high temperatures but low humidity that he is enduring. The weather of summer is not always my favorite but I sure do enjoy the flowers, fruits, and vegetables that are so abundant.

In spite of some hot summer weather, the Museum has been busy. The recently held dance festival was wonderful and a nice crowd enjoyed the music and dancing. Thank you to all the guild members who helped with the brunch for the dancers or any other part of the dance festival.

The "ASK ME" is still on for the museum. When you are inviting people to join the Museum, as appropriate tell them about the Guild and all the many things we do to support the Museum and invite them to join the Guild as well as the Museum.

Please remember that the August meeting is still on the second Monday, the 11th at 6:30, and then in September we switch back to the first Saturday of the month for our meetings. We have been enjoying some great programs for those of you who haven't made it to our recent meetings.

Beula Dvorak, President

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National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
and
Museum Guild
Entry in Houby Days Parade, May 17, 2003
~ Received Third Place ~



Leo Modracek driving 1940 Model B John Deere.

Riding in Wagon (listed alphabetically): Irma Modracek, Gail Naughton, Joyce Netolicky, Emily Nejd, Tom Nejd, Marj Nejd, Andrea Seibenmann, Allen Simanek (playing concertina), Dorothy Simanek, and Adeline Volesky.



Museum Guild Program

May 3, 2003

"African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center"

Presented by Joseph McGill, Jr.

Zula Oujiri introduced Joseph McGill, Jr., director of the African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center for the past four years. He has been raising funds and collecting artifacts for the museum, which opens in September.

At the time he was contacted for the position, Joe was at Penn School on St. Helena Island in South Carolina, where slaves were originally educated. He was director of history and culture, and before accepting the position, he did research on Iowa. He discovered there was a black slave named York who was with the Lewis and Clark expedition and when he became a freeman, he also became the first black man in Iowa. Iowa, with the Missouri and Mississippi rivers bordering it, became active in the underground railroad activities. John Brown also trained his men in Iowa.

In the 1860's, 1600 African Americans lived in Iowa and many joined the Union Army. A black lady by the name of Edna Griffith became the Rosa Parks of Iowa when she was determined that she be served ice cream in a drug store. Mr. McGill informed us the museum would have rental space, a library and changing

exhibits. He pointed out that a group from the Mt. Zion church had the original idea for the museum.

We were sorry to hear Joe would soon be returning to South Carolina to accept another assignment. He will be returning for the September 19 grand opening, however, and he certainly deserves accolades for all his hard work. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

— Betty Truesdell

Thank You to Charles Opatrny

The students (Museum Guild members) in the Czech Language Class taught by Charles Opatrny thank Charles for donating his time and talent to teach us. Our classes were held at 11:30 on Fridays at NC&SM&L. The series of classes was held from May 2 through July 25.

We all learned many of the basics and are proud of our new found talent.

Dekuji.

— Marilyn R. Tucker

2003 MUSEUM GUILD OFFICERS

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| President | Beula Dvorak |
| Vice President | Andrea Siebenmann |
| Treasurer | Virginia Wilts |
| Rec. Secretary | Shirley Alexander |
| Corres. Secretary | Alicia Jackson |
| Museum Guild Rep. | Leo Modracek |
| Ex-Officio | Gary Dvorak |

2003 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Education | Bob Stone |
| Fund Raising | Irma Kelly |
| Garden | Mel Holubar |
| | Carolyn Holubar |
| History & Property | Marge Stone |
| Membership | Milly Ortner |
| Program | Zula Oujiri |
| Publications | Marilyn Tucker |
| Public Relations | Gary Dvorak |
| Social | Irma Kelly |
| Volunteer Coordinator | Patty Hikiji |

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Pat Kent

Ann Kloubec

Gail Naughton

Laurie Robinson

TOP TEN GUILD VOLUNTEERS

April 2003

Number of Guild members recording hours in April — 43
Number of Guild Hours recorded — 401.25

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Dolores Usher | 35.50 |
| Marilyn Tucker | 28.50 |
| Lydia Elias | 24.00 |
| Marj Nejd | 22.00 |
| Shirley Alexander | 21.00 |
| Lillian Kopecky | 17.50 |
| Laverne Fisher | 14.00 |
| Ed Hemphill | 14.00 |
| Joan Hemphill | 14.00 |
| Alicia Jackson | 13.00 |
| Irma Modracek | 12.50 |
| Milly Ortner | 12.50 |
| Emma Davidson | 11.00 |

May 2003

Number of Guild members recording hours in May — 55
Number of Guild Hours recorded — 612.25

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Dolores Usher | 35.50 |
| Lillian Kopecky | 24.00 |
| Irma Modracek | 23.00 |
| Zula Oujiri | 22.75 |
| Charles Opatrny | 22.50 |
| Lydia Elias | 20.00 |
| Milly Ortner | 20.00 |
| Bob Stone | 20.00 |
| Marj Nejd | 19.00 |
| Laverne Fisher | 18.50 |
| Shirley Alexander | 18.00 |
| Leo Modracek | 18.00 |
| Ed Hemphill | 17.50 |
| Joan Hemphill | 17.50 |

Museum Guild Program

June 9, 2003

"Wizard of Oz" and Other Movie Memorabilia

Guild member Betty Truesdell was introduced as our speaker. Betty has been a movie buff since her childhood and a collector of movie memorabilia since she was a young adult.



Betty Truesdell

Betty was raised in Cedar Rapids and as she was growing up she remembers going to wonderful movies at the Paramount, Iowa and Rialto theaters. As a teen-ager she was a member of a dance troupe, *Marla McKay's Modernettes*, which performed locally at fairs, in Chicago and also in Florida. She gave up her singing and dancing when she enrolled in University of Iowa majoring in Theater Arts.

When Betty married and moved to California, she and her husband lived in Burbank across the street from Warner Brothers studios. Betty recalls seeing some of the big name movie stars, Jerry Lewis, Mickey Rooney, Jack Lemmon, Diana Lynn, Fred McMurray and others in restaurants and other public places. While in California her collection grew as she added new found treasures.

When Betty's husband passed away in 1983 Betty moved back to Cedar Rapids. She started presenting her program "Wizard of Oz" and giving her audiences many facts about movie stars that were unknown to most people.

Betty's program consisted of sharing little known information about movie stars and some of her favorite movies. After completely mesmerizing us with her knowledge of a broad range of personalities and facts, our attention was turned to a beautiful display which held many of Betty's memorabilia. We saw her first set of the small statues of the main characters in "Wizard of Oz", there was also Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, Shirley Temple treasures, and many other well known stars represented by books, posters, dolls and figurines.

Betty said that her all time favorite movie was "Gone with the Wind", however her largest collection is 134 "Wizard of Oz" items. One of my favorite things in Betty's collection was a collector plate of Frank Sinatra and by touching the button on the back you heard Frankie sing "My Way." What a treat for all of us. Thank you Betty for a lighthearted, informative program.

— Marilyn R. Tucker

A NOTE TO PATTY

All of the Guild Members join in wishing Patricia A. Hikiji "Patty", our Volunteer Coordinator a **Cheery Get Well Wish**. We all miss you and will be so happy when you are able to return to work.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

The Museum will be open on Monday until the end of October. There continues to be a need to fill the extra two volunteer shifts.

Patricia A. Hikiji, Volunteer Coordinator
319-362-8500

THE GUILDED PAGE

Marilyn Shima Tucker
Editor



Museum Guild

MEETING NOTICE

Monday

August 11, 2003 **6:30 PM**

UPCOMING GUILD MEETINGS

Monday, AUGUST 11, 2003

6:30 p.m. at the

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

"Seminole Valley"

Presented by Ann Cejka

Hosts: Irma Modracek, Irma Rozek and Dolores Usher

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 6, 2003

9:30 a.m. at the

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

"IMAX and Science Station"

Hosts: Rose Kopecky, Zula Oujiri, and Virginia Wilts

Saturday, OCTOBER 4, 2003

BUS TRIP

8:30 a.m. Depart Westdale Mall

"Kalona Historical Tour"

(See Insert ~ 2 for details)

Presented by Lavanda Woosley

Hosts: Dorothy Conner, _____ and _____

Museum Guild Program ~ July 14, 2003

"Cedar Rapids — Linn County Museum"

Mark Hunter, from The History Center, showed slides of Cedar Rapids between 1860 and 1960 and presented little known facts to give us an early view of our city. The railroad, of course, helped the growth and tracks were built on 4th Street, where they still stand unchanged today. The beautiful depot was built in 1897 and existed until the early 1950's.

Washington High School which was condemned in 1935 housed over 1000 students at one time. The First Presbyterian Church on 5th Street was built in 1867 and is the oldest church in our city. Green Square was named after George Green and a monument to him stands in the Square. He also had a mansion which was taken over by Mt. Mercy. Coe College was built in 1851 and Quaker Oats in 1873. Trolley cars were an important transportation until 1937.

Of particular interest was a slide of the old city hall, which also housed the jail and police station. It was sold for \$50 in 1911 and became Killian's Department Store. The stately Greene's Opera House where the Cherry sisters entertained, which of course was questionable, closed when movies came out. Our beautiful Iowa and Paramount theatres are 75 years old this year. John May, a hermit-type resident owned May's Island until it was purchased by Smulekoff's and it was called Smulekoff's Island until it was sold to the city and the original name of May's was used.

Mark is so knowledgeable about the history of Cedar Rapids and the old slides were fascinating. He also encouraged residents to donate old photographs to the History Center.

— Betty Truesdell