



The Guided Page

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



Cookie Walk co-chairs: Marie Webster and Mary Van Houten are so appreciated for their organization on this signature event for Guild!

Enduring event that is NCSML gift to the community... Cookie Walk Reaps \$2,428 Profit for NCSML Guild Treasury

Guild of NCSML patrons are “crazy about cookies,” and our 17th annual Cookie Walk proved this point again Saturday, Dec. 5, during the Old World Christmas Market at NCSML.

Some \$1,857 was earned by the group. Added to that \$571 from our cafe, which featured home made koláče .

More than 4,000 guests enjoyed the holiday two-day event at the Museum, which included specialty imports, handmade gifts, and free family activities and admission to the galleries. What a gift to our community is this holiday event!



Sally Stejskal, Barb Hill, and Marge Sedlacek the koláče bakers and cafe volunteers on Dec. 5-6. Cafe netted \$571 in profit, while delighting koláče lovers who enjoyed the 367 kolace sold!

Guild provided some 270 baked items, 17.5 pounds of candy, and 13 mini-cakes, for the Cookie Walk, all lovingly and artistically prepared and presented.

There were 36 volunteer bakers and cooks, and 31 volunteers helped set up and stage the event. Names of all volunteers and donors will be published in the Spring Issue of Guided Page. **Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!**

The event began at 9:30 a.m., and our Walk goodies were sold by noon. Koláče Club provided treats for the Cafe again on Sunday.



Satisfied customers Haylee and Hayden, munching cookies at Cookie Walk.



Member Marj Nejd, backed by the traditional Christmas trio of Anjel, Sv. Mikuláš and Čert (Angel, St. Nicholas, and Devil).



THE GUILDED PAGE

THE GUILD WRITERS

By Sandra Hudson, who co-chairs Guild Writers with husband John Hudson

Members of The Guild Writers share reminiscences. Our sessions are a bit like a family reunion, except we do not wait for a birthday, anniversary, or holiday to get together. We meet fortnightly, except between Thanksgiving and the New Year, and over the summer when gardens and travel keep us from our writing.

We write about what strikes our fancy at the moment. None of us tends to write chronologically. We do not always write about ourselves. We might write about an event that interests us, or tell the story of an ancestor who failed to put pen to paper.

Racheal Davis has written about her ancestor William Dawes. Historical records show he was actually the first rider to be sent to Lexington and Concord to announce the British were coming. However, 85 years later, when Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was writing his poem about that Midnight Ride, he discovered a personal account written by Paul Revere. Had William Dawes put his pen to paper, we might have memorized, "Listen my children. It will give you pause; This Midnight Ride of William Dawes."

Some stories fill us with indignation, as when Anita Burke writes about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers taking her family's century farm to create Coralville Lake. Or when Anneliese Tisdale writes about what it was like to come of age in Hitler's Germany, and later the difficulties she faced as a German war bride in Iowa.

Jeanne Vogt and Marj NejdI both know how to tickle our funny bone. Their stories are frequently about day-to-day situations; a grandchild's baseball game, a school play, or a weekend family trip. They can have us holding our sides with laughter with most anything they write, even stressful things like failing to get a car license plate renewed on time, or finding a hearse parked in your driveway.



The Guild Writers. From left: Carol Wohlleben, Sally Stejskal, Jeanne Vogt, Marj NejdI, (Suzanne Charipar and Anita Burke, seated), Racheal Davis, Anneliese Tisdale, John Hudson, Sandra Hudson. Photo by Carolyn Holubar.

When Sally Stejskal wrote about her two years as a Federal Juror, most of us sat wide-eyed. She took us to a world most of us never knew existed.

Sometimes a story will fill us with sorrow, as when Carol Wohlleben wrote about the devastation of having her home burn to the ground and losing everything, even her family pets.

Everyday happenings of an earlier era are a common topic. John Hudson writes about summers on his grandparents' Missouri farm. Sandra Hudson writes, from a child's perspective, about her Czech neighborhood in southwest Cedar Rapids before, during, and after WWII.

One person's story can trigger another person's memory. It was a big surprise when Suzanne Charipar passed around a photograph of her childhood home and Marj NejdI exclaimed, "I lived in that house." Research proved that was absolutely correct. What an extraordinary life connection that gave both women.

We invite you to write a paragraph, write a page, write a whole story, and then join us as a guest for a session or two. You may find we're good company. One thing is certain; you will be giving future generations of your family an exceptional gift. They will treasure your words, just as you would treasure those of your great-great grandfather if he had put a pen to paper. The NCSML Volunteer Coordinator can connect you with our group.

\$\$\$\$\$\$ IMPORTANT: Remember to pay your \$15 dues if you haven't done so already! \$\$\$\$\$\$

Guild President's Message



Donna Merkle

Last year at this time, I stepped forward to be your president because without one the Guild would have to dissolve. I didn't want to see that happen. I am so happy and grateful that the Guild still exists today, but it really has nothing to do with me.

It's because I had an incredibly skilled group of officers to assist and guide me, knowledgeable people who allowed me to drop the ball from

time to time without criticizing me. And it's because you – Team Guild – rallied and pulled together to do what you could, in your own special way, to keep this organization viable.

Thank you for your support – and that goes beyond the words you have conveyed to me. It includes volunteering your time or talent or both to assist the Guild as well as the NCSML. It includes your donations of cash or goods or services for door prizes at our meetings and to enhance our various fundraisers. It includes serving on a committee or two or three, and all that that entails. And it includes attending our monthly meetings, providing input and points of consideration for the betterment of the organization, and joining in on the conversation.

At the urging of my board, I agreed to serve another term. They tell me the second year is easier. I sure hope they're right! But I also agreed to serve a second year because we have the opportunity to do more and, well, this is starting to be fun!

Donna Merkle, Guild President NCSML

Shown to the right is Janis Maas with the Czech Christmas tree in the Grand Hall. Each ornament on the tree has a significance to the Czech culture and history. The tree's ornaments are largely those belonging to Dell Mills. Dell helped erect the tree and decorate it, along with Ken Erger, George and Barb Hill, Janis Maas, Marla Nilkodim, Marge Sedlacek, Grant Smith, and Steve Volesky.



NCSML President's Winter Message



Gail Naughton

Dear Fellow Guild Members,

I want to take this opportunity to talk about our new Strategic Plan 2015-2020. Since we adopted the new mission and vision in 2014, the staff and board have been working on a plan to achieve them. There are several challenges that we face for the future, not the least of which is to remain relevant. We all know that as our children and grandchildren grow up, marry,

move to other cities, often the connection to their heritage is lost. Our mission says it: we need to inspire people from every background to connect to Czech and Slovak history and culture.

Another challenge is to meet the demands of a changing society. Today there are dangers to democracy on the doorstep of the Czech and Slovak Republics that have implications for all of us. At the same time, the focus on American public education has moved away from history, social sciences and civics. How will we develop strong leaders and informed citizens that we so desperately need?

One way we can play an important role is to increase our emphasis on human rights, especially human rights education. This isn't new to us. It's actually one of our strengths. Part of what the NCSML has been doing all along has addressed human rights through exhibits and programs, like the Samizdat exhibit and the Holocaust speakers and Great Author Series. Now we want to add an increased focus on providing children and young adults with meaningful ways to learn about human rights. We are already creating K-12 lesson plans with the Mana project and are formulating a variety of age-appropriate activities, programs and events. Human rights education is a life-long effort that must begin when you are young.

We may have always been doing it, but it's a bold step to declare that we have a strategic priority to focus on human rights. I'm convinced that it's an important and necessary step for our future and we are ready.

Of course, we also have significant goals to celebrate culture, serve the community and engage families, all parts of the active life of the museum and library, but which deserve to be raised up even more front and center.

Thank you in advance for your continued contributions to achieving our mission and vision, which you do so beautifully every day.

Warm regards,
Gail Naughton, CEO NCSML

THE GUILDED PAGE

August 2015 Guild Meeting Business Minutes

Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings.

There were 31 members present.

PROGRAM: President Donna Merkle welcomed Stefanie Kohn, NCSML Curator, as our speaker with her presentation on the subject “What’s Going on in 2016 Exhibits and Programs.”

Grant: NCSML received a grant from HRDP (Iowa’s—Historical Resource Development Program) that will accomplish the following:

- Fully arrange and describe the library’s Cedar Rapids related collection of photos, books, organizational records, periodicals.
- Input the descriptions of these items into the museum’s collections database.
- Create an online subject guide of materials relating to the Czech immigrant community in Cedar Rapids.

Exhibits:

- Scan the photos, periodicals and select items to create an online collection of materials relating to the community of Czech immigrants and their descendants in Cedar Rapids.
- January – April; Anderson Gallery: Borek Bayer art
- April – July; Smith Gallery: Bohemian Boudoir: Czech Vanity Glass
- April – September; Petrik Gallery: Works by Warhol
- November – 2017; Petrik Gallery: Lowry Poster Collection; Travel Posters – Nicho Lowry of Antiques ‘Roadshow’ fame
- Pop-up workshops for Pop-Ups from Prague
Screen printing activities for kids – Warhol

A ‘Happening’ to open the Warhol exhibit (crazy 60’s party with Factory décor, Absolut cocktails, DJ who can mix in some Velvet Underground, gallery tours/games, etc. Work in progress.

Determined to make the most of the Bohemian Boudoir title and do something tactfully risqué.

Essential oil/perfume workshop for Boudoir.

Specialized gallery tours for each exhibit.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen addressed updates and needs.

- 4,000 patrons attended the Root Beer Fest on July 25. It was a free event for families that included free Root Beer and a variety of activities, including outside games.
- The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

conference will be here October 22-24, 2015. Volunteers needed as well as supply of NCSML/Guild brochures.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Treasurer: Marla Nikodim, Treasurer, noted balance, July 1, 2015: \$10,178.; Income: \$422.; Expenses: \$62.; Ending balance: \$10,538.

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Moore reported the Top Ten Volunteers for the month of June 2015. A total of 57 volunteers contributed 649 hours during the month of June 2015. Sally Stejskal led with 43 hours.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee: President Merkle introduced the chairman of the 2016 Nominating Committee: Jeanne Vogt. Serving with her are Betty Sheets and Suzanne Charipar. Slate of officers will be announced at the October meeting and the election will be held at the November meeting.

BrewNost: Frank and Cheryl Gardner and John and Diane Moore will be co-hosting Guild’s BrewNost Committee.

October 2015 Guild Meeting Business Minutes

Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings

There were 43 members present.

PROGRAM: John and Sandra Hudson presented the program on a subject that is very dear to them: The Guild Writers (memoir writers). Complete story in this issue of Guided Page. The group meets for 1 ½ hours every other Thursday. They currently have fourteen members and have room for two more. Members write their own,

Volunteer Coordinator: Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen is looking for pint- size canning jars to use in displays in the Immigrant House. She would accept a couple larger size jars as well.

Volunteers needed:

- The Museum Store is in need of volunteers to help in getting ready for the holiday season. There are miscellaneous jobs available.
- It would be ideal to have docents who can share life experiences in the Czech – Slovak region.
- Needed are volunteers to serve as Grand Hall hosts who sit near the elevator and greet people as they come off the elevator and give them direction if needed.
- Lindsay is working with Carol Wohlleben to formalize a plan to recruit more volunteers which could include public speaking engagements.

Minutes of August meeting prepared by Rec. Secretary Karen Zacek, approved as distributed.

There was no September membership meeting. Instead, a members' picnic was held at Ellis Park.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President: President Donna Merkel elaborated on the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International planning a four-day event in Cedar Rapids, Wednesday - Saturday, October 21-24, with bus tours by Jan Stoffer and Mark Stoffer Hunter on Wednesday and Thursday.

Treasurer: Marla Nikodim, Treasurer, reported the following: Beginning balance August 1, 2015: \$10,538.; Income: \$125.; Expenses: \$157.; Ending balance August 31, 2015: \$10,506. Beginning balance September 1, 2015: \$10,506.; Income: \$877.; Expenses: \$3,318.; Ending Balance September 30, 2015: \$8,065.

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Moore reported the Top Ten Volunteers for the month of August 2015. A total of 52 volunteers contributed 545 ³/₄ hours during the month of August 2015. Sally Stejskal led with 55 ¹/₂ hours.

Historian: Sally Stejskal reported a good portion of materials have been gleaned from storage and are in the library ready to be checked out. Sally and committee created a lot of shredding for which Grant Smith, Director of Facilities, is looking for a commercial shredder.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Social: Marge Sedlacek reported that they need two or three volunteers to help bake kolaches for Brew Nost. They will also be baking for Old World Christmas Market.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

September Potluck: Diane Hayes reported there was a nice turn out of 45 people. Ed and Sylvia Popelka paid the pavilion cost of \$45. Diane Hayes paid the fee of \$50 for her friend, Larry Holst, who played the concertina. Andrea Siebenmann brought two Slovak guests, one of whom won the 50/50 raffle of over \$60. She used the money for a much needed dictionary.

Brew Nost: Diane Moore encouraged members to sign up to help; be there on October 16; wear name tags and an apron if appropriate. Business casual dress. Call the Gardeners or

Moore with questions.

Fall Dinner NOW "Mid-Winter": Carol Wohlleben reported that the Fall Dinner has become a Mid-Winter Dinner, scheduled for February 5, 2016 at 6:00 with a 'sweet theme'. Pork, dumplings (purchased from Sokol) and kraut is the main menu. There will be tall tables set up where guests can enjoy appetizers and beverages before dinner included in the price of \$30 per person. Kirkwood culinary students may help with the serving and preparation for which they receive credit. Each guest will receive a beautifully wrapped kolach as a take-home gift. The planning committee is: Carol, Marla Nikodim, Sally Stejskal, Diane Moore and Mary Van Houten. Sally has begun marketing.

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee, consisting of Jeanne Vogt, chairman, Betty Sheets and Suzanne Charipar placed in nomination the following members for the 2016 term. President: Donna Merkle; Vice President: Vern Rompot; Recording Secretary: Jeanne Vogt; Treasurer: Marla Nikodim; Corresponding Secretary: Diane Moore; Historian: Sally Stejskal. Carol Wohlleben will continue as NCSML Board Representative. Election of officers will take place at the November meeting.

OTHER

Resident Archivist: Dave Muhlena, Library Director, informed the Guild that the library now has a resident archivist who is from the Czech Republic. She has worked at the National Archives in the Czech Republic and has just completed her Masters Thesis. Dave is looking to find a host family for her.

Czech Heritage Foundation Fund Raiser: Barb Edmunds promoted the Christmas Wreath Raffle, December 5-6, during Old World Christmas Market.

Cookie Walk: Mary Van Houten reported for the Cookie Walk, held in conjunction with the Old World Christmas Market December 5. Sign up sheets are on the table in the Grand Hall ready for members to sign up for cookies, candies and various options to help with the sale. Current price is \$8/lb but will be reviewed.

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.



THE GUILDED PAGE

Volunteer Coordinator Notes



Lindsay Erhardt Hansen

Wow, where has the year gone? As 2015 winds-down, I want to thank all of you who have supported the NCSML throughout the year. Thank you for volunteering thousands of hours, baking kolaches, being a kolach, sharing stories, touring school children, building boxes, answering phones, greeting visitors, baking cookies and well, I could go on and on....!

No matter how small the contribution; it is because of this that we can achieve our mission and strive for greatness in the future. It is the action of each of you that propels us. As we transition into 2016 with new aspirations and endeavors, I ask for your help once more. I challenge you all to make 2016 bigger, better and even more impacting...let's make a difference together!

Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen, Volunteer Coordinator NCSML

Ernie Buresh adds 'author' to lifelong accomplishments

Ernie Buresh, husband of long-time Guild member Joanne, autographed copies of his book, *The Advantage of Being Born Poor*, at several venues late summer. National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library's book event had long lines of autograph-seekers!

Ernie and Joanne Buresh are both enthusiastic NCSML and Czech Village supporters.



From left: Joanne and Ernie Buresh, Sara Jane Wick, museum store director, and Fern Fackler.



Joyce Langlas

Meet Joyce Langlas, New Guided Page Editor!

Please allow me to introduce myself. I have lived in Iowa all my life. I am a 5th generation Czech American, with my immigrant ancestors coming to America in the 1830s and the 1850s. My husband and I have traveled to the Czech Republic numerous times over the past 20 years, in search of my heritage. I have roots in a little village near Tabor, in Bohemia, and the village of Pribor, in Moravia.

Prior to the flood of 2008, I volunteered at the Museum Gift Shop for 10 years, under the supervision of Pat Kent. I became interested in my Czech heritage through my Grandmother's sister, Melvina Svec, who, as many of you know, was instrumental in the development of both the Czech Heritage Foundation, and the Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, in their infancy. I had the honor of accompanying Melvina to the dedication of the new Museum, which was attended by the Presidents of United States, Czech Republic, and Slovakia.

I am an active member of The Czech Heritage Singers and Damska. After working more than 25 years for the Federal Department of Labor, as an Employment Counselor, I am enjoying retirement. My husband, Perry and I recently enjoyed a European riverboat cruise in celebration of our 10th wedding anniversary. Still in the process of recovering from four years of health issues, I welcome this opportunity to share my skills and knowledge of Czech Culture and Customs, through this publication. I welcome your suggestions, comments and of course, please feel free to submit any articles of general interest and photographs. I thank you for the opportunity to give a fresh perspective to this publication. I realize the learning curve will be steep and challenging at times. In the words of our esteemed Guild President, Donna Merkle "Now is the time to focus our attention on a new direction that will allow us to better support the NCSML as it pursues its own mission."

I thank you for your support !

Joyce Langlas, NCSML Guild Editor

Top 10 Volunteers for August 2015

1. Sally Stejskal	55.5	6. Carolyn Holubar	23
2. Diane Moore	34.75	7. Linda Koehler	22.75
3. Bonnie Holubar	29	8. Carmen Henderson	18
4. Shirley Alexander	27.5	9. Mary Ellen Krotz	17.25
5. Donna Merkle	23.25	10. Mel Holubar	16.25

Total 52 Volunteers = 545.75 hours

Top 10 Volunteers for September 2015

1. Diane Moore	35.25	6. Carolyn Holubar	24.25
2. Mary Ellen Krotz	33.75	7. Shirley Alexander	21.75
3. Sally Stejskal	30.5	8. Bonnie Holubar	21.5
4. Donna Merkle	29.25	9. Carmen Henderson	21.5
5. Marj NejdI	24.5	10. John Elliot	20.25

Total 43 Volunteers = 538.75 hours

Top 10 Volunteers for October 2015

1. Diane Moore	64.25	6. Pam Novy	29
2. Marj NejdI	61	7. Shirley Alexander	22.5
3. Sally Stejskal	48	8. Carolyn Holubar	22
4. Anita Burke	35	9. Mel Holubar	21.75
5. Mary Ellen Krotz	30.5	10. John Moore	21

Total 62 Volunteers = 829.25 hours

Newsletter Boasts New Editor, Joyce Langlas

Beginning with Spring Issue, March of 2016, Joyce Langlas will be editor of the Guild newsletter. Welcome, Joyce! She introduces herself formally in this issue.

This Winter Issue is the last under the leadership of co-editors Beth Kucera and Pat Martin.

Beth revitalized the look of the newsletter, with new design and full color. So much more exciting than the former look. Beth also took photos and wrote copy. Beth and Pat Martin made an effective team, with Pat writing articles and managing the contents of each issue with Beth.

Pat was an editor the past seven years, throughout the Guild of NCSML presidencies of herself, Carol Wohlleben, Diane Hayes, and one year for Donna Merkle. Her leadership harkens back to the era of paste-up pages and black and white photos, and Pat was delighted to have Beth on board as graphic designer. Pat will be a “reporter” on Joyce’s staff and plans to stay involved to some extent, but she is happy to see new leadership, which translates into new perspectives and ideas.

Beth is leaving her position as graphic designer and on-the-fly photographer but will continue to be involved as she can with the Guild’s activities. She and her husband, Mike plan to do some extensive traveling and spend time with their grandson.

Travel Highlights from Slovakia

Slovakia travel highlights were presented for the Guild’s November program by Andrea Kováčová Siebenmann, who was born, raised, and educated in Slovakia. This Guild member and former president, entertained members with a narrative enhanced by color images of the cities of Bratislava, Nitra, and Zilina, and the High Tatra Mountains, as well as charming villages.

Trips in 2014 and 2015 were featured, and she also touched on Events, such as a Gardenia Expo, Craft Fair, Hody (Carnival), and Wine Harvest. Andrea noted how this small and picturesque country is modifying itself in order to keep up with modern traffic demands.



Andrea Kováčová Siebenmann

Culinary delights are always interesting, and Andrea’s presentation included images of popular food trends, as she described cheese strings, a variety of canned pastes, fruit dumplings, baked goods, and delectable main dishes.

Guild of NCSML volunteers boost BrewNost success

Mary Ellen Krotz helped with check -in of guests

Mary Van Houten, Marie Webster and Dorothy Voelkers bussed tables.

Kathy Shelton poured Becherovka.

John and Diane Moore and Frank and Sheryl Gardener, co-chairs for Guild efforts, worked the Guild Info/Check in table and sold raffle tickets.

Marv and Bonnie Rohlena manned the non-alcoholic beverage table.

Marge and Lee Sedlacek and Anita and Bill Burke greeted patrons.

Delores Blood and Joe Kurka monitored the Silent Auction table.

Guild members always boost NCSML events. Thanks to all!



the Guided 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, January 9, 2016

Guild Meeting Dates for 2016

Please record these dates on your calendar now.
We want members to be present at meetings!

January 9	July 9
February 6	August 13
March 5	September 10 (an event, not meeting)
April 2	October 1
May 7	November 5

Guild of NCSML 2016 Officers

Thanks for your leadership and commitment to NCSML Guild!



Above from left to right: Diane Moore, corresponding secretary; Jeanne Vogt, recording secretary; Donna Merkle, president; Vern Rompot, vice president; Marla Nikodim, treasurer; and Sally Stejskal, historian.



At left: Carol Wohlleben, Guild representative to NCSML Board.

THE NCSML GUILD PRESENTS

Sweetheart DINNER

A new adventure in dining at the museum with traditional & specialty dishes provided by the Guild

february 5, 2016

cocktail hour 5 pm | dinner 6 pm

5 course menu

Advance reservations required.

Order tickets at NCSML.org

