

Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

# NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



## Beth Struzynski Crowned Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2005-06

*(Story on page 2)*

Volume 30 – Number 2 – 2005





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- |                 |                    |
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***Nase Ceske Deditvi***

Subscriptions for the newsletter are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation who pay their annual dues of \$3.00 per person receive *Nase Ceske Deditvi* free. Dues are renewable on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and expire December 31<sup>st</sup>. The newsletter, which is mailed quarterly, serves to inform its members of its activities, people, and places. Dues received in or after September apply to the following year for new members.

**From the President's Desk**

By Arlo Netolicky



Welcome to another new year. It seems like the years are coming and going faster each year.

As many of you remember that last year The Czech Heritage Foundation agreed to assist The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library to meet its goals for

improvements of becoming the premier library of the Czech & Slovak history and culture in the United States.

We asked for your support in this fundraiser for years 2004 & 2005 and you responded with your donations and pledges. We are now asking for the donations & pledges for 2005 to be fulfilled.

Thank you in advance in behalf of the Czech Heritage Foundation

**Newsletter Volunteers**

Sincere thanks to the people that have helped in assembling, and mailing the newsletter. The people putting the last newsletter together were:

- Hedy Benish, Emma Davidson, Lenora Jirouek, Peg Merta, Marj Nejd, Arlene Netolicky, Arlo Netolicky, Joyce Netolicky, Russ Novotny, Marge Pace, Judy Serbousek, Adeline Volesky, John Volesky.

Many thanks to all that helped. We welcome anyone who wishes to join us for future issues. Many hands make light work.

**I. Cover Story: Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant**



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Czech Heritage Foundation has been sponsoring the Miss Czech Slovak Iowa pageant for the last several years. The winner of this pageant goes on to represent Iowa in the Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska, this August.



## Beth Struzynski Crowned Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2005-06



Laura Marie Kula, First Runner-up, and Beth Struzynski, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2005-06

Beth Struzynski was crowned Miss Czech Slovak Iowa for 2005-06, at the Czech Heritage Foundation's 4th annual Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant. Laura Marie Kula was named first runner-up.



Beth's "Little Sister" Mackenzie Serbousek, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2005-06 Beth Struzynski, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2004-05 Amanda De Hoedt, Laura's "Little Sister" Marissa Cada, and First Runner-up Lura Marie Kula

Amanda De Hoedt, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa for 2004-05 presented the crown to Beth. More than half a dozen recent participants in the national Miss Czech Slovak USA pageant were present at the crowning. A new addition to the pageant this year was having Little Sisters assigned to each candidate.



Czech Royalty in the Audience at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

The pageant was held May 14th, 2005, at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It was held in conjunction with the Houby Days celebration that same weekend in Cedar Rapids' Czech Village. Beth will represent Iowa in the Miss Czech Slovak USA pageant August 6th & 7th in Wilbur, Nebraska as a part of Wilber's 44th Annual Czech Festival.



Beth Struzynski, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2005-06

Beth is the daughter of Bert and Ellen Struzynski of Oxford, Iowa. Beth attends school at Clear Creek Amana High School. Beth's Little Sister was Mackenzie Serbousek, daughter of Shane and Jennifer.





**Laura Marie Kula, First Runner-up**

Laura is the daughter of Dwayne and Nancy Kula of Ryan, Iowa. Laura is a graduate of West Delaware High School. Laura's Little Sister was Marissa Cada, daughter of Jerry and Ida.



**11 Cars Filled with Czech Royalty and Pageant Contestants Led the Houby Days Parade**

The pageant included private and on-stage interviews, participation in the Houby Days parade, talent competition, and kroj competition. Beth's talent was Poetry Reading, while Laura's was a video depicting her Czech heritage. Beth won the Talent competition, and the kroj competition was judged a tie between Beth and Laura.



**Amanda De Hoedt, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2004-05, served as Master of Ceremonies**



**Judges Elise Anderson, Michael Klimesh, and Colleen Mills**

Amanda De Hoedt, last year's Iowa queen, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Judges for the event were:

- Elise Anderson – St. Paul, Minnesota. (Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota 2004-05, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up Miss Czech Slovak USA 2004-05))
- Michael Klimesh, Spillville, Iowa
- Colleen Mills, Chicago, Illinois

Auditors were Arlo Netolicky and Bob Wildfield. A special thanks goes to the pageant committee of Adeline Volesky, Deb Volesky, and Joyce Netolicky.

The Miss Czech Slovak Iowa pageant and the Czech Heritage Foundation wishes to thank the following organizations who so generously contributed to help make this event a grand success:

Brosh Chapel, Classy Chassy Cruisers, Czech Heritage Foundation, Czechoslovak Society of America, Fairfax State Bank, General Mills, Mustang Club, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, National Miss Czech Slovak USA Pageant, Pepsi America, Quaker Oats, Ralston Foods, Stejskal Florist, Westdale Mall, and Western Fraternal Life Association.

The following individuals were also key to making this event so successful and also deserve special thanks.

Emma Davidson, The De Hoedt Family, John & Lois Fiala, Arlo & Joyce Netolicky, Russ Novotny (photos), Dennis & Deb Volesky, and John & Adeline Volesky

Mrs. Adeline Volesky was once again the driving force behind the Iowa pageant. She got "hooked" on the pageant five years ago when her granddaughter, Lisa, represented Iowa and won the national title. The following year, Lisa Volesky, with the help of her mother, Debra Volesky, and grandmother (Adeline) organized the first formal Iowa pageant. Since then, Adeline has been the instigator that has helped make this pageant a reality. Our deepest thanks goes out to Adeline and all the volunteers she enlists to help with the pageant.



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## Youthful Royalty Makes Colorful Impression at Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant

By Russ Novotny

We had a record attendance by young Czech Royalty at this year's Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2005-06 pageant. It was wonderful to see all of these young people together, enjoying this celebration of our heritage. Based on their animated conversations, we know that they exchanged many stories of their experiences representing their Czech communities. We like to think that this large attendance is a result of the up-beat and fun atmosphere that surrounds this pageant.

Thanks to all these fine Czech and Slovak representatives for attending our pageant and helping to make it the wonderful event that it is. Please come again (and bring more friends). We'd really like to break this record again next year. We were able to get almost all of the attending royalty in the following picture. We just wish we could show it to you in full color.



**Back Row L-R:**

Beth Struzynski, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2005-06  
Rachel Lehmann, Czech Heritage Princess 2005  
Jordan Uthoff, Czech Heritage Prince 2005  
Amanda De Hoedt, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2004-05  
Rebecca Komarek, Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota 2005-06  
Natasha Florian, Miss Czech Slovak Nebraska 2004-05  
Laura Marie Kula, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up, 2005-06

**Middle Row, L-R:**

Andrea Cada  
Lisa Volesky, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa/USA 2001-02  
Statia Kravanek, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa/USA 2003-04  
Katie Ziskovsky, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2002-03  
Stefanie Vocasek, Lincoln Czech Queen 2004-05-06

**Front Row L-R:**

Marissa Cada, Laura Marie Kula's Little Sister  
Mackenzie Serbousek, Beth Struzynski's Little Sister



## John ("PolkaJohn") & Lois Fiala

By Adeline Volesky



The Miss Czech Slovak Iowa pageant is rather new compared to the national program. John Fiala, along with his wife, Lois, organized the pageant 40 years ago. John has served as the master of ceremony and director of the pageant in Wilber, Nebraska, for the past 18 years.

John Fiala now retired, lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. Because Nebraska has a large Czech population, Wilber seemed a natural place to locate a Czech festival and host the pageant. The town of Wilber has a population of 17,000 residents and hosts the festival the first weekend of August every year.

John Fiala started the national pageant with entries from 4 states in 1987 and reached a high of 23 state entries. John and Lois spend most of the winter traveling to the warm southern states organizing Czech communities to hold pageants. This winter was spent in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Colorado. Fourteen states from Florida to California sent queen candidates last year to Wilber..

In 2001, when Iowa's entry, Lisa Volesky, won the national Miss Czech Slovak USA Queen title, John Fiala thought it was time for Iowa to sponsor an organized pageant. Cedar Rapids has a large Czech population and is the home of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. John Fiala made a presentation at a board meeting of the Czech Heritage Foundation. The board unanimously voted to sponsor the state pageant in conjunction with the Houby Days Festival every year in May. John and Lois have visited our pageant twice in four years where he served as master of ceremony.

In 2002, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa, Katie Ziskovsky, won the talent award in the national competition. In 2003, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa, Stasia Krivanek, won the Miss Czech Slovak USA Queen title. This year, Amanda De Hoedt, served as Miss Czech Slovak Iowa. She attended many functions and has represented her heritage and state with poise and pride.

John and Lois keep in touch with the past candidates and queens through the many seasonal greetings, graduations and wedding announcements they receive. There is a bond that develops with the Fialas and the state candidates as they all vie for the national title.

As long as John enjoys good health, he will be working at Wilber. But at age 78 and retired, he is grooming a former Nebraska queen to take over some of the responsibilities and make his load a little lighter.

Iowa wants to thank John and Lois for their efforts to perpetuate our Czech heritage through the younger generation. and for their devotion to the Czech culture.

## II. Czech Heritage Foundation Reports:

### Reports from our Homestay Ambassadors

EDITOR'S NOTES: Over the summer of 2004, the Czech Heritage Foundation sponsored three youth Homestay Ambassadors – Matt Kostel, Jessica Sauer, and Rachel Wobeter. This summer (2005) we sponsored four students – Amanda De Hoedt, Katie Gerlach, Shanda Novak, and Jennifer Turecek. These students spend a month in the Czech Republic, living with host families, "absorbing" the Czech culture and home life. Last issue we featured observations by 2004 Ambassadors Matt & Rachel. This issue we present Jessica's impressions. In future issues we will have reports from our 2005 Ambassadors.



Homestay Ambassadors Rachel, Matt & Jessica  
Together at the Airport

### Jessica Anna Sauer

What makes a trip memorable? Is it the places you visit, the new things you try, the people you meet, or the lessons you learned? I think it's all of it. I would now like to share with you why my trip to the Czech Republic is a trip that will last a lifetime.

When I first arrived in the Czech Republic, I couldn't believe how beautiful everything was. All the old buildings were so majestic and exquisite. I found myself staring at everything. My host family asked me what I was taking a picture of, and when I pointed to it, they laughed because it was just a hotel. Prague truly is one of the most beautiful cities in the world with the amazing



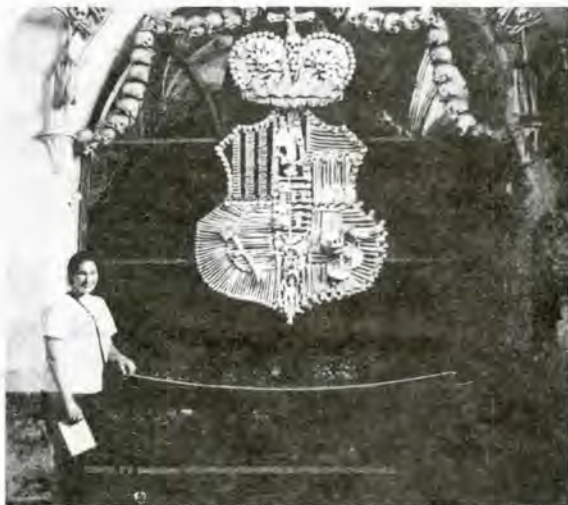


architecture in each building, and all the art and music throughout the city. I loved touring the museum in St. Wenceslas Square, listening to a street band and shopping on Charles Bridge, climbing to the top spire in the cathedral in Prague Castle, and standing in awe of the beautiful paintings in St. Nicholas Church. However, the smaller cities were my favorites to visit.



**Marketa (host sister) and Jessica in front of statue of Jan Hus on Pisek Bridge- the oldest bridge in Europe**

We visited Pisek, and walked across the oldest bridge in Western Europe. I saw the horror of World War Two up close and personal during a visit to a concentration camp and Jewish ghetto in Terezin. Karlstejn Castle was a regal Bohemian fortress that never surrendered to an enemy and it had amazing artifacts and paintings everywhere you turned. Cesky Krumlov, Orlik Castle, and Hluboka Castle looked as though they came straight out of a storybook. Dobris Chateau was only 20 minutes away from my house, and had the most beautiful gardens I have ever seen. The home of famous composer Antonin Dvorak was also just minutes away. Kutna Hora was especially interesting because it is way out of the ordinary. It's a small church that's actually an ossuary for the bones of over 40,000 victims of plague and disease from centuries ago- the thing is, the bones are the decoration for the church, and in the center is a chandelier made out of skulls, pelvic bones, and femurs.



**Jessica next to some of the "decorations" and a coat of arms made out of human bones at the Kutna Hora Ossuary, near Sedlec**

Pribram, where I went to school, also has a rich history. There's a magnificent monastery, Svata Hora, on top of a mountain that provided a breathtaking view of the town. During the Fourth of July weekend, Pribram was celebrating their strong history of mining. We put on hard hats and took a train down into one of the mine shafts and got to see firsthand how they mined silver and coal. There's also an excellent shopping district and scenic bike path in the town. Even school was fun and entertaining, because all the students and teachers made a special effort to welcome and get to know the Americans.

One thing I loved about my trip was living in a small village, Haje. Everyone really welcomed me into their lives. One night when there was a celebration at the local pub, and I got to talk and dance with many locals who became good friends over the month I was there. Every time I went for a walk around the town, people waved and said hello. It didn't matter that my Czech wasn't that good, they were patient and taught me new words and phrases, and their smiles transcended all language barriers.



**Jessica with Her Host Family in front of Orlik Castle  
Pictured is Stanistav (host father), Magda (younger host sister), Jessica, and, Hana (host mother)**

I became very close with my host family. My mother, Hana, is a wonderful cook and we would bake Czech or American food and ask the other how to make it and what ingredients to use. My father, Stanistav, would come in and say hmm hmm, or Czech for yum yum. He answered my questions about Czech history and had a great sense of humor. My younger sister, Magda, and I had a great time braiding hair. She brought me up to speed with current Czech culture and I acquired a taste for the Superstar, the Czech version of American Idol. My host sister, Marketa, and I really became good friends. She did the majority of the translating and was great at teaching me Czech. We had fun going to different places and hanging out with friends at the soccer field or by the pond. I keep in touch with my host family and look forward to seeing them again.

Another thing that made my trip extremely memorable was being able to meet many of my host family's relatives. Stanistav's parents hosted 14 people in their



small house for the weekend, and I had a blast playing with Marketa's younger cousins and talking with her grandparents, aunt, and uncle. I also got to meet more of the family when we visited Hana's mother's farm. Everyone was exceptionally hospitable and delicious food and lively company were abundant.

My trip to the Czech Republic is a trip that will last a lifetime. The lessons I learned and the people I met have influenced every area of my life and enhanced my perception of the world and my heritage. I am extremely grateful that I had this incredible experience. I'd like to share my thanks to the Czech Heritage Foundation, for creating and giving me this opportunity. Without them, this trip wouldn't have been possible. I would also like to thank my host family, the Jankovsky's, for making my trip in the Czech Republic one of the best times of my life. I can hardly wait to go back.



Jessica Sauer, Matt Kostle, and Rachel Wobeter, in front the garden and fountain at Dobris Chateau

## St. Joseph's Day Dance 2005 Report

By Barb Edmunds

The Czech Heritage Foundation in Cedar Rapids was the proud host for the annual *St. Joseph's Day Dance* on Sunday, March 21st, 2005, from 2:00 - 6:00 PM. The dance was held at the Cedar Rapids Elks Lodge, 801 33rd Avenue SW.



*Barefoot Becky & The Ivanhoe Dutchmen* from Cedar Rapids entertained about 400 guests. This band is very popular through out the Midwest and we were so fortunate to have them. Food was for sale by the Elks Lodge and a bake sale was provided by the Czech Heritage Foundation. Door prizes were given out and several nice raffle items awarded during the afternoon.



This event is the main means to raise money for Czech Heritage's Homestay Program. As a part of that program, students are selected each year to spend one month in the Czech Republic. Four students were chosen this year to go to the Czech Republic. This year, the *St Joseph's Day Dance* was able to provide over \$2,800 for this worthy program.

We have many people to thank for the success of this event. Stejskal Florist Inc. paid for the printing of the tickets. Letters and tickets are sent out to the Czech Heritage Board members, former Ambassadors and previous Prince and Princess. We thank those that responded to these programs that they were so much a part of. We received a wonderful card and a \$200 donation from a former Ambassador, Lynette Stejskal. In the letter, she expressed what this program did for her, so the Homestay and the Scholarship programs will each receive \$100 from Lynette.

Again, this year we want to thank Evelyn Stejskal for all of her hard work in contacting businesses and people to support this event. She raised \$1,457.00. This is great! She spent so much time on this and had many helpers. Leo and Elaine Shima were also a big part of this event. They sold 90 tickets and both were eager workers the day of the dance. We thank them SO much for all they did.

We had a very successful bake sale, with 19 people donating items for sale. Many of you brought items for the door prizes and the raffle, which helped add more money to this program. Thanks to all that helped set up and clean up after the dance.



The dance planning is already underway for next year. *Barefoot Becky & the Ivanhoe Dutchmen* have been booked and the Elks Lodge will have us back. Mark your 2006 calendars for Sunday, March 19th, 2006 and join us for next year's *St. Joseph's Day Dance*.

Over 34 businesses donated items, certificates, money, or bought tickets. Following is the list of the organizations that helped us out:

- Bartunek Appliance
- Brosh Funeral Homes of Cedar Rapids & Solon
- Carver's Ace Hardware



- Cedar Memorial Funeral Homes and Turner Funeral Homes & Cremation Services
- Culver's Ice Cream
- Czech Cottage
- Czech Shirt Shop
- Dairy Queen on Johnson Avenue
- Dairy Queen on Wilson Avenue
- Drug Town Wilson Avenue
- Elk's Lodge
- Hy Vee Stores
- Iowa Valley Monument Co. of Cedar Rapids & Marengo
- Jiruska Enterprises
- Joen's Brothers Interiors
- KFC
- Murdock Funeral Homes & Cremation Services
- National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
- National Flag Co.
- Papich Kuba Funeral Homes
- Pierson's Florist
- Polehna's Meat Market
- Red Frog
- Roland Wilbert Vault Co.
- Saddle & Leather Shop Inc.
- Stalker Electric
- Stejskal Flower Shop
- Sykora's Bakery
- Teahen's Funeral Homes of Cedar Rapids & Walford
- Texas Road house
- Vic Pilsner - D&V Industrial Supplies
- Wiley Touchless Car Wash
- Zindrick's Czech Restaurant

Many thanks again to all that helped out in any way to make this a special event to remember – the Czech Heritage Committee and Frank & Barb Edmunds.

## Czech Heritage Represented in Local Parades

As usual, the Czech Heritage Foundation and the many events we sponsor were well represented in local parades. These annual parades include the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the St. Joseph's Day Parade, and the Houby Day Parade.



Joyce Netolicky and Zelda De Hoedt Lead the Way



Amanda De Hoedt – Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2004-05  
Rachel Lehmann, Czech Heritage Princess 2005  
Jordan Uthoff, Czech Heritage Prince 2005

## III. National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



## Bohemian Garnets Exhibit Closes Sept. 25, 2005

By Russ Novotny & Jan Stoffer-Tursi



The *Bohemian Garnets* exhibit closes Sept. 25, 2004. If Museum attendance is any indication (and it is), the *Bohemian Garnets* exhibit is a show, not to be missed. Museum attendance is up, as word of mouth has been talking up this very special exhibit.

Thousands of dazzling garnets adorn gorgeous earrings, rings, brooches, necklaces, and bracelets as well as picture frames, goblets, chalices, medallions, and paintings depicting people wearing their beloved gemstones. The gallery sparkles. The brilliant craftsmanship, array of items, and creative settings are nothing less than spectacular.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is the exclusive U.S. venue for this unprecedented display of garnet jewelry and adorned objects – the largest selection of garnet antiquities ever loaned by the National Museum.



## *The National Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance ' Festival a Big Hit*

By Jan Stoffer-Tursi

This year, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) welcomed over 50 dancers, musicians, and demonstrators to the 4<sup>th</sup> National Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance Festival. The Festival was held just outside the NCSML on July 16-17, 2005. Some 600 people attended the two-day event and over 100 volunteers helped make the event a success. As you can see by the photos, we had a terrific weekend.



**United Moravian Societies Vandrlaci Dancers**

The United Moravian Societies Vandrlaci Dancers from Chicago performed to an enthusiastic audience on Sunday, July 17, 2005



**The Oklahoma City Czech Dancers,  
WFLA representative Phil Torticill, and  
NCSML President/CEO Gail Naughton**

The Oklahoma City Czech Dancers came quite a distance to perform for the festival.

Audience members, including Czech School students, had a chance to learn a folk dance or two with the Oklahoma City Czech Dancers on July 17, 2005.



**The Oklahoma City Czech Dancers  
Joined by Czech School Students**



**Audience Members Learning the Tatra Polka**

United Moravian Societies Dancers and the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers all performed the National Slet Dance as the finale for the Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance Festival. Afterwards, audience members learned one piece of the dance, The Tatra Polka.

## **Join the NCSML for *BrewNost!***

*An International Beer Tasting  
Celebration by the Cedar River  
October 7, 2005*





*The Bridge of Lions and the Clock Tower are bathed in lights.*

*The mellow and hot jazz sounds fill the soft night air.*

*The Cedar River sparkles with reflections.*

*Premium beers from around the world flow for tasting.*

*Food pairings worthy of a gourmet's palate are sampled.*

*The evening weather is perfect – just as we plan.*

*And we have a grand time as we laugh and mingle...sip and dine.*

**BrewNost** is an annual fund raising event that the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library featuring over two dozen beers from seven European countries, South America, as well as the United States. The event also includes Moravian wine, hot jazz music, fine international foods, a silent auction, and a raffle drawing for a trip to Prague.

#### **BrewNost Highlights**

- Select tastes from over two dozen beers from six European countries (England, Ireland, Scotland, Belgium, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Germany), South America, and the United States. Beer provided by the experts at John's Grocery of Iowa City.
- Sample wines from Moravia. Wine provided by George Joens of Vinné Sklepy.
- A wide range of international foods complementing the beer and wine samples
- Hot jazz music in the museum's garden and festive international music in the museum's Grand Hall
- Raffle drawing for a magical trip for two to Prague (tickets \$10 each)
- Silent auction of unique international gifts and packages

#### **BrewNost Details**

- Friday, October 7, 2005, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. in the NCSML's Grand Hall, terrace, and garden
- Tickets must be purchased in advance. \$50 per person. Call the NCSML to purchase tickets 319-362-8500.
- Each guest receives: Tickets for 12 beer and wine samples
- Free food samples (catering by Winifred's)
- A commemorative *BrewNost* glass
- An opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for a trip for two to Prague
- An opportunity to bid on unique international gifts and packages
- A GREAT TIME!

If you are not an NCSML member and would like to receive an invitation or purchase tickets to *BrewNost*, call 319-362-8500 or email [carmen@NCSML.org](mailto:carmen@NCSML.org).

## **IV. Feature Articles:**

### **Keeping the Tradition Alive 135 Years – Ceska Skola 2005**

By Barb Edmunds, Director

As we pack away the school supplies and class handouts for another year, we recall the rewarding 5 weeks we had with students so eager to learn the Czech Language and traditions. This year marks the 135th year that this Czech School has been in existence continually here in Cedar Rapids. This sets a record for the oldest ethnic school of its kind to continue. We are so proud of this and with all indications, the students and parents will not let this good thing demise.

This five-week program started June 13th and ended with the annual program and ice cream social on Friday, July 15th. The classes were from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. School enrollment jumped to 78 students, up from 54 last year. This year, we added a fourth class just for the older first-time students and this worked out very well.



**Barb Edmunds, Bessie Dugena, Petra Ledererova, Fred Anthony, Radk Horakova, & Jana Vejberova**

We were blessed to have three staff members from the Czech Republic teaching 3 of our 4 classes. All three had attended Mt. Mercy Collage in Cedar Rapids as exchange students. We are so fortunate to have these young people teach our students about the Czech Republic of today, still learning about past history and traditions. They were joining one of our veteran teachers of 21 years.



**Division 1 – Bessie Dugena & Fred Anthony**



The students in Division One, ages 5 - 7 were taught by Bessie Dugena. She had the largest class ever in her 21 years of teaching, with 28 students.



Division 2 (new) – Jana Vjberova (back right)



Division 2 (returning) – Petra Ledererova (back left)

The new students in Division Two had Jana Vejberova, and the returning students had Petra Ledererova. This was her third year teaching at Ceska Skola.



Division 3 - Radka Horakova (middle left)

The Division Three, ages 11 - 13+, was the largest number of students in that age bracket in years, with 24 students. Radka Horakova was a good role model for them and taught them very well. They learned some neat Czech songs that we enjoyed at the final program.

Olga Drahozal, former teacher and director, was able to come a few days and help with the music classes. We also have to thank the Czech School Board, who is very supportive in keeping us going.

We had two junior helpers (former graduates) that helped in all classes; Cecelia Wolter and Alexandra Odell. In Division One, Fred Anthony, Bessie's brother, was by her side every day. We would like to thank The Czech Heritage Foundation for the monetary donation to help us buy a filing cabinet to store our supplies. A big thank you goes to Mike Papich for allowing us to keep this cabinet in the Kuba Annex.

Czech School is in competition with so many summer programs for our youth, through camps, sports, churches etc., that perfect attendance is a thing of the past. We are blessed to have the students attend as much as they can.

To make the 5 weeks enjoyable and different, we schedule something out of the ordinary each week. After studying about their heritage and the meaning of names, the three older Divisions had a trip to the Czech National Cemetery. They had to find answers to questions about Czech words and history, then did paper rubbings on some stones. Pizza and punch followed, which was a big hit. One of the weeks, part of a morning was spent with each student making a beautiful Czech bead bracelet and learning about glass Czech beads from Carmen Langel of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.



The students also met a Czech German Shepherd Police K-9 dog, named "MOD" who is on the police force in Hiawatha, Iowa. This dog has been in the United States since March

and is a very valuable part of the Police force, according to his handler, Officer Sara Melsa (also a Czech).

Everyone enjoyed meeting the dog, especially the Czech teachers. The Division One students sang a song about a pes (dog in Czech) and Mod got all excited. He knew they were singing about him, so he hasn't lost his Czech vocabulary yet. The students brought gifts of tennis balls and Frisbees for Mod. He also got a bag of baby carrots, which is his favorite food. His other favorites are strawberries and green apples.



The students sang at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library on July 9th for the UpBeat! Concert Series and also at the Museum for the National Bohemian, Moravian & Slovak Folk Dance Festival on July 17th.



Each Friday, different Czech Lodges bring treats, and the last Friday was a watermelon feed by Sokol Cedar Rapids. We thank all that have helped, both with the treats, money and school supplies to keep us going. Other businesses have helped us with money and supplies that are always needed for projects.

With the increased interest in our Ceska Skola, and parents wanting to have their children learn more about their heritage and traditions, we are on the lookout for additional help for the coming year. All indications point to another record setting year for 2006.

Dekuji Vam

**PROUD OF OUR PAST WITH  
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE!**

## Collecting Books for the Czech RePublic

By Barb Edmunds

The Federation of Czech Groups started an educational book drive for the Czech Republic in 1998 as a project to coincide with the Sesquicentennial of Cedar Rapids. The goal of the drive is to send used books written in English to schools and libraries in the Czech Republic. The first shipments were sent 6 years ago, and ongoing fund raising efforts have allowed us to continue this project. The Federation of Czech Groups was founded in 1936 to promote Czech culture in the area.



Several shipments of hundreds of pounds of books have gone out each year to schools and libraries throughout the Czech Republic. English is taught in the schools, but English books are hard to come by and very expensive in the Czech Republic. The books sent are needed as a source of supplementary reading and story books for entertainment. One known school in the Czech Republic had two English books for all students to share.

Along with individual donors, the Cedar Rapids School System has been very generous to donate books for us to send to more schools in the Czech Republic. This has been a great donation, since there are many copies of each book and all in excellent shape.

We have several schools waiting to receive such books and will start boxing our existing supply shortly. The postage rate is \$1.00 a pound to send these books and because of the heavy weight of books, money is used up very fast. We thank the Lodges, Sokol, and those that have been generous in the past, especially the yearly donation from Lodge Prokop Velky - CSA.

We would like to hear from those of our Czech friends who can see the value in keeping such a project going. Money donations can be sent to: Federation of Czech Groups c/o

Thank you in advance - Frank & Barbara Edmunds,

## Library Cataloging Update

By Russ Novotny & Dave Mulehna

The Czech Heritage Foundation is currently in a multi-year project to help fund cataloging of the NCSML's library collection. Following is a summary of some of the major milestones of this project:

- **2002, May:** online catalog software and hardware purchased (with grant funds)
- **2002-2003:** 2,400 books cataloged by an outside contractor (with grant funds)
- **2003, June:** online catalog goes live on the internet
- **2003, Aug.:** part-time cataloger (Samantha Schmehl) hired with Czech Heritage Foundation support
- **2004, Sept.:** Samantha accepts position at University of Montana
- **2004, Dec.:** part-time cataloger (Rebecca Bartlett) hired with Czech Heritage Foundation support
- **2005, July:** online catalog holds 5,400 book and periodical titles, 3,000 of which were cataloged in-house with Czech Heritage Foundation support

### Fund Drive Continues

This is a multi year fund drive, and many people have already made donations which included similar commitments for a total of three years. It is not too late to add your donation, and we urge those of you who made multi-year commitments to fulfill those commitments by directing your annual donations to:

Czech Heritage Library Fund Drive  
c/o Dennis Hrabak, Treasurer

### Fund Drive Acknowledgements

We wish to thank the following individuals, who have recently provided donations for the Library Cataloging Project:

- Mary F. Barron
- James S. Gruntorad
- Blanche M. Masek



## Membership Application

Please check the proper item: Renewal \_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Gift \_\_\_

Name(s) Ms., Mr., Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable and mail to :

**Czech Heritage Foundation., P.O. Box 761, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406**

Membership dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Why not consider a gift membership for someone special? Your dues and generous donations help to fund several worthwhile endeavors such as Czech Prince and Princess sponsorship, financial support for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, adult Czech language classes, the Homestay Program, along with publishing the quarterly Naše České Dědictví, and other numerous publications. The list of Czech Heritage projects goes on and on.

**It is time to renew your membership, unless you are a new member. Memberships expire December 31 and are renewable January 1. Use this handy Membership Renewal Application form. Don't forget. Renew now so you won't miss a single information packed issue of Naše České Dědictví.**

**Please renew today! A Bargain at \$3.00 per year**

### Czech Out These Web Sites

Travel to the Czech and Slovak Republics from the comfort of your own home. Read a Czech newspaper (in Czech if you want). Research your Czech/Slovak roots. The World Wide Web (www) contains more sites and information related to our heritage than any of us will ever have time to fully explore. Try some of these sites out.

#### Lists of Links to Other Czech & Slovak related Web Sites

- <http://www.ncsml.org/collections&research/links.htm> - Provided and maintained by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library)
- [http://www.slavophilia.com/pages/Country\\_Focus/](http://www.slavophilia.com/pages/Country_Focus/) - Slavic and Eastern European Links. Includes Czech Republic and Slovak Republic

#### Official Governmental Sites

- <http://www.czech.cz/> - Czech Republic
- <http://www.slovakembassy-us.org/> - Slovak Embassy in USA

#### Other Sites of Interest

- <http://www.ncsml.org/> - National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library.
- <http://www.afocr.org/> - American Friends of the Czech Republic
- <http://www.svu2000.org> - Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)

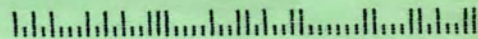


**CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.**

P.O. Box 761  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Non-Profit Organiz.  
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## Calendar of Events

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- Aug. 5 **Czech Plus Concert** featuring Clarinet – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, 7:00 PM  
6 **NCSML UpBeat! Concert: Polka Dots** – NCSML Garden Stage, 2:00 PM  
9 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM  
12 **All Accordion Fun Band** - Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, 7:00 PM  
13 **NCSML UpBeat! Concert: Czech Heritage Singers** – NCSML Grand Hall, 2:00 PM  
19 **Czech Plus Concert** featuring Trombones – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, 7:00 PM
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- Sept. 2 **Czech Plus Concert: Czech Heritage & Novotny family** – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, 7:00 PM  
4 **Combined Czech Plus & Czech Heritage Band Concert** – Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, 7:00 PM  
9 **All Accordion Fun Band** - Kosek Bandstand, Czech Village, 7:00 PM  
13 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM  
10 **NCSML UpBeat! Concert: Old Post Office Brass Quintet** – NCSML Garden Stage, 2:00 PM  
18 **St. Wenceslaus Goulash Festival** – St. Wenceslaus Church, Cedar Rapids, IA  
24 **NCSML UpBeat! Concert: New Horizons Band from Iowa City** – NCSML Garden Stage, 2:00 PM  
25 **Bohemian Garnets Exhibit Closes** - NCSML
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- Oct. 7 **Brew/Nost** – NCSML, 6:00 PM  
11 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM
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- Nov. 3 **NCSML Fall Dinner and Exhibit Opening**  
4 **NCSML Exhibit “Tragedy of Slovak Jews” opens**  
8 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM
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- Dec. 3 **Sv. Mikuláš Day** – Czech Village and NCSML events  
10 **Museum Guild 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Cookie Walk** - NCSML  
13 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM