

Celebrating
20 YEARS

the **Guided Page**

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

Guild Volunteer of the Year 2014: George Hill

A whopping 448 hours during 2014...that is the sum of hours George Hill volunteered for NCSML in 2014!

Volunteer hours are tallied continually, as this is important data used as support for securing grants. At the year's end, Guild of NCSML executive officers also check the records to honor the year's most time-dedicated volunteer, and George emerged on top as Guild of NCSML Volunteer of the Year: 2014.

George started his volunteerism at NCSML during the time of the Mucha exhibit.

"I like to work behind the scenes," George explained. He helps Grant Smith, Director of Facilities, with "jobs as assigned": painting, patching, sealing, recycling chores, for example. He also has worked in the Babi Buresh house and the Kosek Building, other facilities in the NCSML campus, and for events like BrewNost and Old World Christmas. He runs errands, and also assists several other staff members who need a "handy man" like George.

"His help with delivering recycling to City Carton has enabled a savings of \$1000 for NCSML per year in charges," the Director of Facilities noted.

George helped with construction of "Booker," the Sis sculpture and also helped his wife, volunteer Barb Hill, with her Guild roles of cooking, baking, the pork supper, and on committees that entertain at public events.

Congratulations, George!



George Hill with one of the Wall of Tribute plaques he helped install.



Historian/Librarian Office collects, maintains Guild records

Historian/Librarian is an office of the Guild on the Executive Board established January 1, 2014, per the revised new Bylaws. Sally Stejskal was elected to this office and is a sponsor of the History Committee established for the purpose of collecting, organizing and archiving the records of the Guild in the designated area of the NCSML library. Serving on this committee with Sally are Diane Hayes, Carmen Henderson and Linda Koehler.

According to Sally, this year's objective is to take the collection of materials currently stored in various places and organize them in a manner consistent with NCSML's library standards. This will establish a model for future archiving of the records and develop a method for easy finding and retrieval. Any photos, publicity or printed articles related to the Guild and its members should be submitted to the committee.

Sally Stejskal on track to keep our history alive and well documented.

Annual Report of the Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

The Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has two main focal points: volunteering and fundraising. While we are not the only pool of volunteers for the NCSML, and certainly not a major source of revenue, our numbers are impressive in their own right.

I am pleased to report that we had a really good year in 2014. We greeted visitors; served as docents to the galleries; gave tours of the Sleger Immigrant Home; helped with school tours; and worked in the Museum Store, the Skala Bartizal Library, and the administrative offices. We answered the phone and entered data into the computer. We prepared dinners and desserts, and, of course, we baked a lot of koláče. All in all, Guild volunteers recorded 12,169.5 hours for 2014, although I am sure that the actual number of hours worked is higher. Some of us forget to record our hours, and some of us are too humble to take credit for all that we actually do. With a volunteer hour in Iowa worth \$20.93, according to the latest figures available, the value of our volunteer time for 2014 is close to \$255,000.

In addition to providing volunteer time, we also make a monetary donation to the NCSML every year. Based on our fundraisers in 2013, our contribution to the NCSML in 2014 was \$3,500. Our contribution this year based on 2014 revenue is yet to be determined, but it is expected to be on a par with last year. We also participated for the second time as a sponsor for BrewNost at the \$3,000 level. We anticipate doing so again this year.

We held four fundraisers in 2014 that brought in a combined net profit of almost \$9,000. One of those fundraisers was our signature event known as Taste of Czech & Slovak, which by tradition kicks off Houby Days in May. This was the first time we were able to hold this event on our home turf since the Flood of 2008 and it brought in over \$2,000 in net proceeds. It's good to be home!

We took a new approach to our Fall Dinner in November which worked really well and set a more elegant tone that suited this facility quite nicely. We made it a seated and served affair rather than a do-it-yourself buffet. We partnered with Kirkwood Community College to make this possible. Students from the Hospitality Arts program, dressed in their crisp uniforms, waited on tables and catered to the needs of the 125 dining patrons. In return, the students received credit for the clinical hours they need to achieve for their degree. Again, our net profit for the evening was over \$2,000.

We held our traditional Cookie Walk in December in conjunction with NCSML's Old World Christmas Market. We sold 245 pounds of delicious treats to 150 customers and netted – that's right – over \$2,000.

We tried a new event in July called Time for Tea which seemed to be enjoyed by all those in attendance, and we participated in the 40th Anniversary celebration of the NCSML, marking our own 20th anniversary at the same time. We even took our cookbooks and aprons on the road, so to speak, traveling across the river to NewBo City Market for a few weekends of community outreach in November and December.

Thanks to the beautiful artwork by Iowa Folk Artist Marj Nejd, the Guild has a new logo. This in turn has given us the opportunity to create a professional-looking name badge for our members, something I think we all wear with great pride.

New for us in 2014 was moving our newsletter The Guided Page to an online publication. Our first issue worked well, looks great, and saves us a bundle in printing and mailing costs. We still need to print a handful of hard copies for our members who do not have access to a computer but now our printing costs are less than what we had been paying for postage prior to making this change. It's a huge difference for us and a move in the right direction.

We will continue to tweak our organization to keep it viable for the future. We look forward to another successful year and our ability to continue providing support for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

Donna Merkle, President

Education Question by Bob Stone

Who was the first ruler of the Slavic Empire? When did he rule and for how long?

Answer: The first ruler was Samo, who ruled from 623 to 658.

Guided Page Staff

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

Circulation: Betty Sheets



The Eulenspiegel (OIL-N-SPEEGEL) Puppets delight audiences with a large repertoire of international folktales and historical fiction, including Freedom Star; Gertie's Journey on the Underground Railroad, Sal Fink, Catfish Wrangler, The Amazing Adventures of Willy the Woolly, Stories and Cuentos, The Snow Queen, and many others.

Many volunteer opportunities at NCSML!

Helping and learning, fun and friendship...

Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company

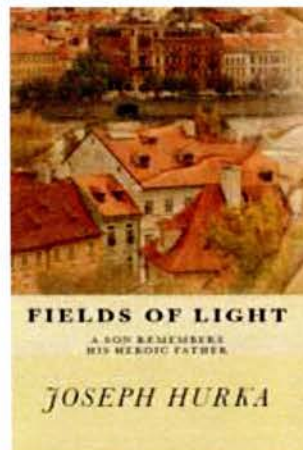
Spring Break Day Camp for Children
 March 24-26 (9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day)
 Ages: 4th grade and up
 Cost: FREE

Help with our Great Stories Author Series

Programs in March & April.

Thursday, April 09, 2015 at 7 p.m.
 "Fields of Light: A Son Remembers
 His Heroic Father"

Presentation by Joseph Hurka
 WFLA/ZCJB Heritage Hall
 Cost: Free



Houby Days events at NCSML

May 15-17

And much more!

Contact: Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen, Volunteer Coordinator
 lerhardt@ncsml.com or (319) 362-8500

14th Taste of Czech & Slovak Dinner

Friday, May 15, 2015

A celebration of Czech and Slovak cuisine!

Sponsored by the Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

This is one of our "signature events," and we hope you will volunteer...in planning, cooking, greeting, serving, or promotion.



Houby Days events at NCSML

May 15-17, 2015

Celebration of Spring and mushrooms!!



St. Joseph's Day Parade

March 21, 2015

Parade starts at 1 p.m. Route begins in the New Bohemia District, passes over the 16th Avenue bridge and ends in Czech Village. For more information on parade entry go to czechvillagecedarrapids.com

November 2014 Guild Meeting Minutes

Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings

There were 46 members and 1 guest, Pam Novy, present.

Program: Donna Merkle introduced the Czech Heritage Singers and Bernie Drahozal presented a brief history of the group, followed by a short concert.

President: Diane Hayes reminded everyone that 2015 dues are due December 1, 2014, and are now \$15.

Recording Secretary: Minutes from the October meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer: In Sally Stejskal's absence, Diane Hayes reported that the treasury balance as of October 31, 2014, was \$8,460.

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Moore read Top Ten Volunteers for September 2014. Some 71 volunteers contributed 1,049 hours, and Mary Ellen Krotz led with 60 hours.

Guild Logo: Executive Board updated the Guild logo by dropping the "key" from the artwork. Donna Merkle moved that membership agree to this decision. Motion passed unanimously.

Guided Page: Pat Martin and Beth Kucera told members Minutes will be edited down for printing in the Guided Page. They also handed out a financial report for the Guided Page to show members what the actual cost saving of not mailing each issue would be.

Koláče Club: Co-chairs Marge Sedlacek and Barb Hill welcome anyone who wants to help with this committee.

Fall Dinner: Carol Wohlleben told members that the Kirkwood Culinary students will be helping with table set up, clearing and serving at the event. Deadline for ticket purchase will be November 10, 2014.

Cookie Walk/OWCM: Sara Jacobmeyer gave a report on the Old World Christmas Market and said that the schedule of events is posted on the Museum web-site. Barb Edmunds told members that they can donate decorated Christmas wreaths to the Czech Heritage wreath raffle. Mary Van Houten said flyers and a sign up for volunteers and baked goods for the Cookie Walk were available after the meeting.

Audit Committee: Linda Koehler will chair of the 2014 Audit Committee, with Mary Van Houten and Cyndi O'Brien.

Election of 2015 Officers: Gail Naughton thanked Diane Hayes for serving as the Guild President for the last two years. She talked about the purpose and importance of the Guild and said she believed the focus of the group could change to more volunteering and less fundraising. And that without a new president the Guild could not exist. A discussion by membership followed. Pat Martin moved that "A group of individuals who are interested in the Guild continuing meet to

examine how best to acquire new officers." Motion seconded and passed.

Postpone Officer Election: John Hudson moved "To make an exception to the NCSML Guild's By-Laws to postpone the election of the 2015 officers until December 13, 2014, to allow for further research to fill the needed officer positions for 2015." Motion seconded and carried. The Guild will hold a special meeting on this date to vote on 2015 officers.

December 2014 Guild Meeting Minutes

There were 34 members in attendance.

Election of Officers: Diane Hayes reported the special meeting had been called for the purpose of electing officers. The nominating committee chair person, Cindy Monroe, and committee members Betty Sheets and Jeanne Vogt presented the following slate of officers for 2015:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| President | Donna Merkle |
| Vice President | Ed Popelka |
| Recording Secretary | Karen Zacek |
| Treasurer | Marla Nikodim |
| Corresponding Secretary | Diane Moore |
| Historian | Sally Stejskal |

There being no other nominations from the floor, Irene Hamous moved, Barb Pulkrab seconded, and the slate of officers was accepted by unanimous approval.

Bank Resolution: In accordance with the By-laws and Policies and Procedures of the Guild, it was moved by Betty Sheets, seconded by Carmen Henderson and unanimously approved that the re-elected or newly elected President, Vice President and Treasurer be authorized to execute any documents required to give them access to the Guild's bank accounts.

Volunteer Coordinator: Lindsay Erhardt, volunteer coordinator for the museum gave a brief message on the Guild's mission and future direction for the next year as well as invited any member or volunteer to visit with her at any time with concerns or suggestions related to the museum.

New Member: A new member, Vernon Rompot, was introduced to the membership whereupon Diane Hayes reported the Executive Board has adopted a new policy and procedure to provide new members with a welcome packet designed to acquaint them with the Guild as well as procedures to make them feel welcome.

Koláče Club: Barb Hill and Marge Sedlacek reported success in formulating a recipe and procedure for baking kolaches in the museum's kitchen. They will be introducing interested new members into the club as the need for baking arises, but this will be done on a one or two person at a time basis due to limited space in the kitchen.

Presidential Remarks: Newly elected President, Donna Merkle gave a brief overview of her expectations for leading the Guild in 2015, and outgoing President, Diane Hayes reported a summary of the actions taken by the Executive Board under her leadership for the years 2013 and 2014, including a reminder that all Executive Board Meetings are open to members in good standing as long as a request for attendance is given to the President in advance. Thereafter the meeting was adjourned.

January 2015 Guild Meeting Minutes

Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings.

There were 35 members present

Program: Jan Stoffer, Director of Education, presented the program "Changes to the Tour of the Sleger Immigrant Home." Using opinions from docents, public, and teachers, these changes have been made: 1) The ropes have been taken down; 2) Display items will be hands-on with some exceptions; 3) The doors will be open (to the upstairs/modified cellar/closets). Jan requests feedback on changes.

President: Donna Merkle acknowledged/thanked retiring officers: President Diane Hayes, Recording Secretary Diana Geoffrey, and Historian Linda Koehler. Donna read an impressive list of Diane's presidential accomplishments. Donna invited Guild members to attend executive board meetings. They may be recognized, but not have voting rights.

Recording Secretary: Karen Zacek presented Minutes from November and Special December meetings. Approved as distributed.

Treasurer: Marla Nikodim reported a balance December 31, 2014, of \$13,426. Marla noted many members have not yet paid their 2015 dues of \$15 which were due December 1, 2014. Audit Committee will report at February meeting.

Librarian/Historian: Sally Stejskal reported she will work at organizing stored materials.

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Moore reported Top Ten Volunteers for December 2014. A total of 69 volunteers contributed 1,194.75 hours. Marj Nejdil led with 67 hours. George Hill was named Volunteer of the Year 2014.

Membership: Betty Sheets reported Pat Martin and Cyndi O'Brien will call members late with dues.

Guided Page: Electronic transmission of Guided Page to those members who have e-mail capability has proved to be a significant savings over mailing to all members and seems to meet with approval. Members who do not have e-mail or are unable to open the attachment will continue to receive newsletters via USPS.

Fall Dinner: Carol Wohlleben thanked everyone who helped with the plated Pork Dinner held November 13, 2014, in WFLA Hall. The 2013 style was changed from casual to formal. 125 guests were served. Kirkwood Community College culinary students helped serve, under the direction of Mary Van Houten who is affiliated with the college. Students received credit for their work. The dinner netted a profit of \$2,000. Leah Wilson, NCSML COO, welcomed guests. Bonnie Rohlena introduced Iowa's Miss Czech & Slovak, Janna Waters.

Cookie Walk: Marie Webster, co-chair, acknowledged Cookie Walk success, with a net profit of some \$2,500.

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteers needed: Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen is looking for volunteers for the following: 1) Library 2) Help taking down the Christmas Tree 3) Reception desk on second floor: 1st and 3rd Mondays or Thursdays 8:30-10 a.m. Lindsay noted that the cubbies (lock boxes) are being moved to Founders Hall.

Volunteer Coordinator's Message



Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen

With every organization there comes change, and one big change for the NCSML is how we record our volunteer hours! Starting in January of this year, we upgraded our current volunteer scheduling software, Volgistics, to include VicTouch. VicTouch allows each on-site volunteer to sign in and out of their shift and hours are automatically recorded. It is important for the museum to have accurate records because many grants look at total volunteer hours and service.

Those who volunteer time off-site can continue to log these hours and contact me or fill out the form in the volunteer binder at the NCSML. Hours will then be recorded at a later date. This upgrade helps us get one step closer to becoming more efficient and comparable to peer organizations and hopefully will help us secure future grant money.

With the help of many volunteers, VicTouch has had a smooth transition and with your continued support we will work together to make sure that the NCSML volunteer corps reaches its full potential!

Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen, Volunteer Coordinator

NCSLM President's Spring Message



Gail Naughton

Dear Guild Members,

By now you are hearing about all the exciting exhibits and programs we have in store this year. Sara Jacobmeyer and the entire NCSML team are gearing up for a busy season. We've tried especially hard to add programs for families and children.

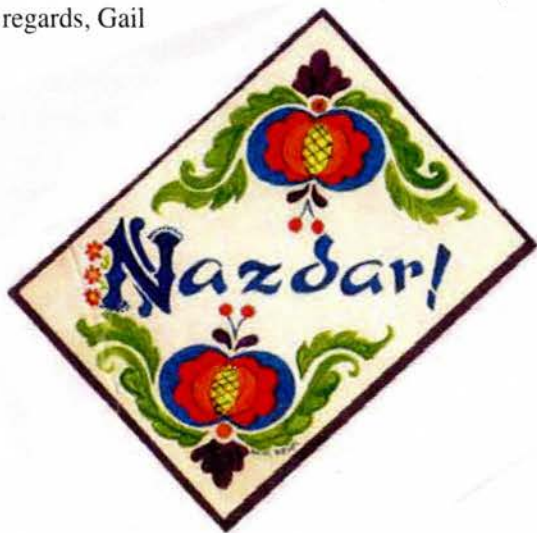
The overwhelming response in 2014 to our 40th Anniversary Day and Old World Christmas

Market shows us there is hunger for family activities. The board and staff are working on a new strategic plan for 2015-2020 and this focus on families is receiving attention. It was the desire to save the traditions and heritage for the younger generations that sparked the founding of the museum 40 years ago. It's even more important today to use the stories of the dramatic Czech and Slovak history and rich culture to open children's eyes and broaden their scope of understanding of a global world

Thanks for all you do to assist with these programs. We couldn't do it without you!

Happy Spring! It's just around the corner.

Best regards, Gail



Beautiful Easter eggs created by Guild member Marj NejdI.

Learn the magic of egg decorating with Marj

Master Folk Artist Marj NejdI will again teach us how to decorate beautiful Easter eggs, using the traditional batik/wax resist method.

When: Friday, March 20, 6 to 9 p.m. (3 hours)
Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m. (3 hours)
Saturday, March 21, 1 p.m. (3 hours)

Where: Alliant Energy Classroom at NCSML

Cost is \$30, per student, for NCSML members \$35, per student, for general public. Please contact Sara Jacobmeyer, director of programs, at 319-362-8500 or email: s.jacobmeyer@NCSML.org

Class sizes are limited. Ages 8-11 years must be accompanied by an adult. Preregistration is required. Please enroll by March 19, and classes fill quickly. Tickets may be purchased online.



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.

Annual Financial Report

DISBURSEMENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Guided Page Printing | \$648 |
| Kitchen Expense | 947 |
| Advertising/Office Expense | 1,256 |
| Donations, Member Benefits & Misc | 402 |
| Brew Nost Sponsor | 3,000 |
| NCSML Contribution | 3,500 |
| Fund Raisers | 1,699 |
| Badge Design and Purchase | 725 |
| Total Disbursements | \$12,177 |

Ending Cash Balance as of December 31, 2014 \$13,426

FUND RAISING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CASH

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Taste of Czech & Slovak | \$2,697 |
| Bake Sale | 544 |
| Time for Tea | 770 |
| Fall Harvest Dinner | 2,403 |
| Cookie Walk & Café Sales | 2,459 |

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED 2014 \$8,873

Top 10 Volunteers for December 2014

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| 1. Marj Nejd | 67 | 6. Sally Stejskal | 43 |
| 2. Barb Hill | 63.5 | 7. Millie Wright | 38 |
| 3. George Hill | 59 | 8. Dolores Blood | 37.5 |
| 4. Diane Moore | 58 | 9. George Joens | 34.5 |
| 5. Carolyn Holubar | 48.5 | 10. Marie Webster | 33 |

Total 69 Volunteers = 1204.5 hours

Top 10 Volunteers for January 2015

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| 1. Mary Ellen Krotz | 60 | 6. Suzanne Charipar | 33 |
| 2. George Hill | 53 | 7. Donna Merkle | 33 |
| 3. Barb Hill | 51.5 | 8. Bonnie Holubar | 31 |
| 4. Carolyn Holubar | 41.5 | 9. Carmen Henderson | 29 |
| 5. Dolores Blood | 34.5 | 10. Diane Hayes | 28.5 |

Total 71 Volunteers = 1,049 hours

Cookie Walk Reprise

Not only did the Guild's Cookie Walk net some \$2500 for NCSML, it also was an opportunity for more fun and friendship among Guild members.

Who wouldn't want to purchase cookies and candies from this crew! From left: Jan Axtell, Marla Nikodim, Dolores Blood, Sylvia Popelka, Mary Van Houten, and Carrie (Van Houten) Stewart.



Gail Naughton, Marie Wilson, and Carol Wohleben. Cookie Walk bakers and supporters of NCSML!

Guild President's Spring Message



Donna Merkle

As most of you already know, I am from Houston, home of the Johnson Space Center and Mission Control for all of NASA's flight programs. I'm a huge fan of space exploration, and I believe that every NASA space program has been highly successful, in spite of some terrible tragedies that occurred along the way.

While the astronauts get all the media attention, they are not the only people involved in any given flight. There is a whole team of people – Team NASA – working with them. It's hard to see this when everything is going smoothly. But when Mission Control hears those awful dreadful words "Houston, we have a problem", NASA doesn't abandon the program in mid-flight. Team NASA rallies and doubles its efforts to find the root cause of the problem and determine the best solution for going forward.

I volunteered to be your president because, quite frankly, "Guild, we have a problem". We have experienced a malfunction that has put our mission in jeopardy. Now is not the time to quit. Now is the time for Team Guild to rally and double its efforts to identify the issues causing discontent in our organization. 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 am happy to be your captain to lead this effort, but I cannot – and will not - do this alone. I am relying on each and every one of you to provide input and to take an active role in helping to get our Guild back on an even keel. The only way we will be successful is if all of us are working towards the same goal. With your help, I think we can do it.

Thank you for your support.
Donna Merkle

the **Guided Page**

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

1400 Inspiration Circle at the Heart of Czech Village
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Next Membership Meeting

Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m. at NCSML

Program: Sara Jacobmeyer on

“Current and Upcoming Gallery Exhibits”

2015 Membership Meeting

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| April 11 | May 2 |
| June 6 | July 11 |
| August 1 | September 12 |
| October 3 | November 7 |

Membership Facilitates Communication

Membership, a Standing Committee, is chaired by Betty Sheets. This Committee Chair reports to the Treasurer and maintains the list of active members, the email list, and creates labels for those who do not have computers and have **The Guided Page** mailed quarterly. Committee members Pat Martin and Cyndi O'Brien assisted in calling those members who do not have emails to remind them of dues.

Membership dues effective January 2015 is \$15.

The Membership Committee also welcomes new members to meetings and other Guild activities.

The Corresponding Secretary, Diane Moore, will provide a welcome packet to new members. First, she sends a welcome card and a list of the officers with their email addresses and phone numbers to the new members as soon as possible following their joining. The Corresponding Secretary then presents them with a full packet of items at their first meeting (to save postage costs). The full packet includes a copy of the Bylaws, Policies & Procedures, and current membership list. It also includes a picture of our new badge and ordering information.

The Treasurer, Marla Nikodim, is in charge of ordering new badges. The cost is \$12.50 and the badge can be ordered any time. Ordering information (as mentioned above) is included in the welcome packet.

A reminder of upcoming meetings, events or special announcements is emailed by the Membership Chair.

Please notify any of the team listed below if you have any address or phone number changes. It is important to keep the Membership list current. A copy of the Membership list can be emailed or are available at meetings.

Betty Sheets, Membership Chair, Pat Martin, Cyndi O'Brien, Diane Moore, Marla Nikodim.



Betty Sheets