



Celebrated
Moravian Folk Artist

Joza Ůprka

page 9



CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

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Nase Ceske Dedictvi

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Send Us Your Stories

This is your newsletter - send us your ideas and stories and let us know how we are doing. Our thanks again to Marj NejdI for creating a great new masthead!

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President's Message

In May of 1972, as the result of the popularity of a new book release (*Roots*), a small group of Cedar Rapids Czechs met to begin the formation of an organization to honor and celebrate the traditions of Old World Czech Heritage. On February 13, 1974, after 22 months, the ground floor for an organizational base was set to a written mission statement that was registered with the State of Iowa. The Czech Heritage Foundation was born.

In its infancy, Czech Heritage Fdn. proved to be a strong and focused budding organization. The arms and legs of this birth child were first evidenced by the development of specifically focused committees of Czech activity to achieve optimal success. A newsletter, educational kits, book publications, creation of the Prince and Princess, were the first establishing growths in the pre-teen years. This strong start established the Czech Heritage Fdn. as the prodigy of growth. In the next decade came the Czech Homestay and soon following, the Scholarship programs.



The birth of the Czech Fine Arts Foundation (1974), and the Czech Village Association (16th Ave. Chamber of Commerce) (1975) resulted in several Czech Heritage Fdn. board members holding positions as board members, with the two brother organizations. Initially, all three Czech groups met as one group each month, planning core activities for each organization's growth. Emerging into the teen years, Czech Heritage took on more responsibilities seeking further maturity as a growing organization. And make no mistake this was the big one.

Czech Heritage Fdn. spearheaded the capital campaign with Czech Fine Arts to establish the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library raising \$ 3.1 million dollars for this brother organization to Czech Heritage.

Additionally, Czech Heritage Fdn. reaches out nationally with the Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant (first held in 2002) sending a representative to the national contest in Nebraska each year; and globally by making the Homestay Program a true cultural student exchange program. After the fall of communism in the Czech Republic the Czech Heritage Fdn. was able to include providing Czech Republic youth a 30 day educational stay in the United States.

Yes, Czech Heritage Fdn. is all grown up but not growing old. In 2007, Czech Heritage Fdn. took on more challenges to refining growth. The newly launched Website www.czechheritagefoundation.org expands our opportunity to globally share our Czech heritage.

Also, the Boy Scouts of America joined hands with Czech Heritage Fdn. by establishing a youth group entitled "Venture Group 1918". This will provide Czech Heritage an opportunity to achieve another milestone. "Venture Group 1918's" long range goal is a trip to the Czech Republic, where they hope to participate in local festivals and parades as ambassadors for Czech Heritage from Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Yes, the pride experienced by the 1974 birth of the Czech Heritage Fdn. leaves one awestruck at its growth and achievements. There is much to be proud of as we continue to fulfill the Czech Heritage Foundation's mission. As your organization grows, we actively seek to have our membership grow. Feel the pride? If so, share your pride by helping Czech Heritage Fdn. achieve a successful membership drive. Let Others Know: We're the Little Organization that Could."

Leonard Pfeifer

Charles Bridge Celebrates 650 Years

This year Prague is celebrating an important anniversary — it is 650 years since the laying of the first stone on the city's Charles Bridge. Charles Bridge is the second oldest bridge in the Czech Republic and the oldest bridge over the Vltava River. It has joined Prague's Old Town and Mala Strana (Lesser Quarter) since its completion in 1402. But Charles Bridge was not the first stone structure to span the river there; it replaced the Judith Bridge, which stood in roughly the same spot and was destroyed by floods in 1342.

The foundation stone was laid with the assistance of Charles IV himself at 5:31 am on July 9 1357 (apparently so these odd numbers would have a palindromic sequence of ascending and descending digits). The structure was originally known as Stone or Prague Bridge, and received its present appellation around 1870, a change instigated by the poet Karel Havlicek Borovsky. Charles Bridge is 9.4 to 9.5 metres wide; it has a span of 515 metres and is supported by 16 arches. It has served transport, trade and cultural functions, but was also the scene of jousting contests, the Hussite Wars and revolutionary battles. Executions even took place there. Today Charles Bridge and Prague Castle are the two most visited sites in Prague.

King Vladislav II had Prague's first stone bridge built in the years 1160 to 1172. His wife had urged him to build the bridge and it was given her name, Judith. It was around 514 metres long, seven metres wide at its broadest and had 27 low arches. In 1253 administration of the bridge was taken over by the Knights of the Cross. Two thirds of the structure was destroyed by a flood in February 1342, necessitating the building of a replacement — Charles Bridge.

The bridge features three bends and is slightly convex against the current. While the bridge stands on a stone substratum, its pillars were built on oak piles loaded with millstones. A probe at the end of the 19th century found that the millstones are held together by iron clamps on which hot lead was poured. The edges of the pillars are visibly more pointed on the side facing the current and their resistance has been increased with the addition of wooden ice-breakers. The road in the centre of the bridge is raised and rain water runs off above the ridges of the arches by means of stone drains. Rough grained sand was used while large blocks were held together by unusually firm mortar. Legend has it that eggs were added to the mortar mix.

The first builder was Master Otto. Around 1360 Peter Parler, Charles IV's favorite builder and architect, became involved and worked on the bridge until his death in 1397. Just ten years after work began, in 1367, one of the pillars of the as-yet-uncompleted structure was destroyed by flooding. Several times before it was finished, Charles Bridge was threatened by floods (1359, 1367, 1370, etc.) which caused great damage. In 1432 during floods which also affected much of the Old Town the bridge was ruptured at three points and five of its pillars badly damaged.

More harm befell Charles Bridge in 1784 when pieces of broken rafts and ice blocked the arches and the water carried away pillars on which military guards were standing. A similar situation occurred in 1890, when wooden poles from smashed rafts crashed into the pillars. One by one the fifth, sixth and seventh (counting from the Mala Strana side) arches gave way. A new method of construction was used during subsequent repairs, when the pillars were laid on iron cofferdams. This method was gradually used to reinforce the remaining pillars. The most recent general repair was carried out in the years 1965 to 1978. Damaged sandstone slabs were removed, while an asphalt surface from the 1920s was replaced by split blocks of granite. Since around 2001 plans have been in place to overhaul the upper part of the bridge and its arches.

There are 30, predominantly Baroque, statues and groups of statues on Charles Bridge. Most of them were created at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries. Today the statues are gradually being replaced by copies for reasons of preservation.

The Charles Bridge Museum was opened in June 2007. It is located at Krizovnické náměstí, at the foot of the bridge itself. The Knights of the Cross, who have a long history of association with Charles Bridge, provided a former monastery hospital as a venue for the museum. In conjunction with the 650th anniversary, it features a permanent exhibition which presents the historical and cultural context of the foundation, development and present of this unique structure. The National Museum, Technical Museum, Museum of Prague, Prague Castle Administration and Knights of the Cross all played a role in the establishment of the museum.

Story courtesy of Radio Praha's website at www.radio.cz

Four Weeks in the “Old Country”

Czech Heritage Foundation is offering partial scholarships to qualified students participating in the organization's international Homestay Program. Selected students will live with a host family for four weeks in or near Prague next summer. More than seventy-five high school students have received scholarships since the educational program began in 1983. Students experience first-hand the culture and daily life of their host family and local Czech community.

Upon their return, our student “Ambassadors” share their experiences with local church clubs, trade groups, senior centers, civic and fraternal organizations.

Here are the reports from our three fine Ambassadors who spent a memorable month in the “old country” this past summer.

This summer, I was given the opportunity of a lifetime to spend a month living with a family in the Czech Republic. During this experience I saw beautiful sights, tasted wonderful food, and met great people. I am so grateful to the Czech Heritage Foundation for allowing me to represent the foundation during my adventure.



Kate, Laura and host sister Magda

The Jankovskys and the Kratochvils were absolutely wonderful! They took me on tours of many sites, including museums, castles, and concentration camps. My most memorable trip was to Terezín, a military fortress built in the late 18th century. During WWI, Terezín was used as a POW camp, and throughout WWII it was a camp to house Jews. Sight-seeing in Prague with Austin Frerick was incredible, especially Charles Bridge. I also visited several castles, with my favorite, Hluboká, in the southern part of the country.

Of course while I was in the Czech Republic I had to try kolaches! I found the most popular flavors were poppy seed and a type of dark berry. Soup preceded every meal. Not aware of this custom, I ate about three bowls at the first meal. Overall, the food was excellent. Even the rabbit!

I bumped into so many different people on my trip. Playing soccer with kids around my age was a great time. We also made friends with a family from Australia who helped Laura Sauer and me translate a Czech tour guide. Staying with the Janoska's grandparents in Tritim, a few hours south of our home, was loads of fun. Laura and I even met a Czech woman who once worked at the Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids. What a small world! – *Katherine “Kate” Strittmatter*

I first would like to thank all of you who played a role in making this experience possible. It truly was an experience of a lifetime, I learned so much more from this trip than what a book could have taught me.

I stayed with the Vyska family in Praha Seven. They were a great host family that made every effort to make my experience enjoyable, educational, and memorable. They were a family of four that lived in a small, cozy flat near the Sparta Soccer Stadium, Toyota Arena, and lived very close to Praha Castle and Old Town.

Throughout my trip my family kept me very busy trying to view and do everything possible. I attended Martin's high school for the first few days and that was an experience in itself. Many other days were spent viewing Old Town, National Museum, Communism Museum, Museum of Art, Praha Castle, and countless other attractions. Although all of these attractions were fun, I had a great deal of fun just observing and comparing their way of life to that of my own. A lot of fun and knowledge was gained just by walking down a street near our house. It was full of local business from the corner grocery store, local bakery, meat market, teahouse, pizza place, and countless other stores because of the simple differences from our own.

My family also took me to the northern Czech mountain range, Karkonosze, to spend a weekend in a cabin

hiking, attending a local woodcarving festival and doing other outdoor activities. We spent many hours hiking where we also picked houby and blueberries to eat later in kolaches and in soup.

We also spent a day visiting Terezin, a former Jewish ghetto and political prison during WWII. This was very moving, disturbing, sad, informative, and many other emotions rolled into one.

I was also fortunate to spend a weekend in Pribram with Laura and Kate with their host Madga and Tomas.



All that I have mentioned is just the tip of the iceberg of what I was able to gain and experience from having lived in the Czech Republic for a month.

This has helped me to gain a better understanding of the Czech culture that is part of my heritage and the memories from this trip will last a lifetime. – *Austin Frerick*

This summer, I was given the opportunity to visit the Czech Republic through the Czech Heritage Foundation, and was even able to experience Czech life with a host family. I came away with a lot of fun memories and experiences, all of which are unforgettable.

I was placed with a great host family — The Jankovskys — were very welcoming, and really went out of their way to make me feel at home. They were very kind to us, and took us to many of the beautiful sites that the Czech Republic has to offer. Some of my personal favorites were the Hluboka Castle, Olik Castle, St. Nicholas Cathedral, and St. Vitas Cathedral.

We were also able to see the Terezin concentration camp from WWII and Vojna Concentration Camp used primarily during the Communist era. Seeing both of these camps made history seem a little more real. It's one thing to learn about a war in school—it's another to actually see the site where people fought, were tortured, and forced to live. The enormity of it all just sort of hits you. I found Vojna Camp especially interesting, because until then I hadn't ever really heard much about communist labor camps, and what they put people through.



Laura and host sister Magda

Many of my favorite memories are from the times we spent with our host family. We visited their grandparents several times. It was really fun and even though we didn't speak the same language, we were still able to bond with them. One thing I found out — grandmothers in the Czech Republic and grandmothers in the U.S. are very similar: they aren't happy unless you're eating. On the fourth of July, Kate and I cooked an American meal for our host family, complete with hamburgers, potato chips, and, of course, sparklers. This was a great bonding experience, and we all had a wonderful evening (even when our American — flag giant cookie turned out, well, lop-sided). I even celebrated my birthday with them! It was a ton of fun, and, once again, they made me feel at home. This was a truly unforgettable experience, and I'm very grateful for the time I spend in the Czech Republic. Na shledanou! – *Laura Sauer*

REMINISCENCES Of The Cemetery

(Parts two and three)



Memorial Day

Between the monument section and the Park Addition there was an area with trees known as “the Hollow” and this is where the Memorial Day celebration was held. There was a small stage area covered with grass where bands performed. The bands (Ben Jansa’s and Kubovec) would march from the Sokol Hall at 417 3rd Street S.E. along with members of Sokol led by their instructor Mr. Frank Machovsky. Then children from the Czech School located at 925 2nd Street S.E. would join the parade as it passed their building. Elsie (Volak) Drahovzal remembers that she used to walk in those parades with new white shoes and had some bad blisters by the time she arrived at the cemetery. The celebration was not on Memorial Day (or Decoration Day as it was known then), it was always on the Sunday before. At the cemetery there was a big metal tank filled with ice where bottles of soda pop was kept cold.



Joseph Stejskal Jr. — Sexton from 1950 to 1985

Prior to the building of the cemetery office in 1952, there was an old, smaller barn in the Park Addition as there had been a farm on those grounds at one time. This small barn was where the maintenance tools, push mowers, etc. were stored. Also, before there was a cemetery office, funeral directors needed to call our home to set up an appointment to bring families out to their home to select and purchase grave spaces. I would need to go to the cemetery and tell Joe that he needed to be home when the funeral director and family were to be there.

Joseph Jr. always walked to and from work unless a cemetery worker picked him up in his car. While Joe was sexton, the Cemetery Board purchased a pick-up truck for use by the cemetery. The truck was always kept in the cemetery office garage and was never left outdoors overnight.

Just shortly before Joe’s retirement as sexton in 1985, a telephone was installed in the cemetery office.

The sexton worked right alongside the cemetery workers whether cutting down trees, repairing water pipes and chain link fencing, painting buildings or sodding graves. One January, a great amount of snow fell and there were 17 burials. The cemetery personnel were kept extremely busy between clearing snow to dig graves and keeping the roads plowed.

I don’t recall what year they began using gas-powered mowers and trimmers at the cemetery, but remember that they were certainly a “God-send.”

The cemetery workers used to go to the quarry to get rock for fill when they poured foundations for monuments. In those days, the concrete suppliers would deliver however much concrete was needed, whether a little or a lot. Both Stejskal sextons, father and son, were very particular and dedicated to having a beautiful cemetery. They never allowed any vault trucks or cement trucks to drive on the grass to the graves. Everything had to be wheeled on carts.

(continued on bottom of next page)

Chronology of Achievements

This is not an in-depth picture of committee activities, yet these achievements might explain why there is a gleam in the eye of our Czech Heritage Foundation's symbolic Two Tailed Lion.

The "Little Organization That Could" has accomplished a great deal as we reflect back on these early years, we find that there is of much to be proud. Encourage others now to join the "Pride of the Two Tailed Lion". Members are never asked to contribute more than they are able. Annual membership begin at \$5. Help us recruit new members today

The organization's work is provided by tax deductible donations from members who share that magical bond that was established by the Czech Heritage Foundation's first leaders. We all share the common love of honoring and celebrating our old world Czech heritage. Thank You again for your support.

While every effort was made to provide accurate information above, inadvertent errors and omissions may have occurred. – *Leonard Pfeifer*

- 1974** Birth of Czech Heritage and newsletter Nase Ceske Deditvi first published
- 1977** Educational Kits - Traveling Czech cultural cases
- 1978** Picnic-Annual August event open to all foundation members
- 1980** CHF assists with Czech Immigrant Home purchase and relocation
- 1981** First Ethnic Fest celebrating our ethnic diversity
- 1981** Flag poles erected in Czech Village - American and Czechoslovak flags
- 1982** First Parade Float built for the St. Joseph Day Parade in March
- 1982** Czech Prince and Princess- First crowning ceremony
- 1984** First Homestay Ambassadors to Czechoslovakia
- 1984** First St Joseph Dance - Annual fundraising event for Home Stay Program
- 1984** Endowment Fund opens - Interest only used to fund Czech Activities
- 1985** Scholarship Fund opened to provide Collage Student Scholarships
- 1989** Feasibility Study/Capital Campaign begins - \$ 3.1 million raised for new museum - Czech Fine Arts Project
- 1994** Homestay receives first Czech Republic exchange student for one summer month
- 2002** Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant- National Exposure
- 2007** Launch website to expand exposure of Czech Heritage Fdn. worldwide
- 2007** Venture Group 1918 - Boys Scouts link projects of Czech Origin.

REMINISCENCES OF The Cemetery (cont. from page 5)

I did the bookkeeping for the cemetery and kept track of all of the workers' hours. I would then turn the hours in to the Cemetery Treasurer and then would pick up the payroll checks and deliver them to the cemetery employees.

There were no employee benefits for many years, and we paid our own health insurance premiums. Joseph Jr. received 1 week of vacation annually. Approximately 5 years before he retired, in 1985, the Cemetery Board began paying the sexton's health insurance premiums and increased the vacation time to two weeks each year.

I recall Joe quit and walked out on the Cemetery Board

members more than once over the years and the Board always sent funeral director Joseph Janeba to talk to him and ask him to reconsider leaving. – *Evelyn Stejskal*

Editors note: The Stejskals were very dedicated to the Czech National Cemetery for many years. Considering all of the hard work and care Joe Sr. and Jr. gave "up on the hill" and the years that Evelyn assisted Joe in his position as sexton, one would have to say that the Czech National Cemetery was very fortunate to have the Stejskal Family as sextons for 65 years.

A Life Filled with our Czech Heritage

On December 10, 1910, my paternal grandparents, Frantisek and Marie (Stourac) Ruzicka came to the United States from Krepov, Moravia. They settled on the southeast side of Cedar Rapids in an area known as "The Flats." Many immigrants of Czech descent also lived in the area and many worked at the Sinclair Packinghouse, later known as Wilson & Company.

My grandparents had three sons, Joseph, and the twins Methody (later known as Matthew) and Cyril. Cyril died shortly after birth. My father, Matthew, married Mary Sejnoha and together they had six children. I was born on July 10, 1936 at Mercy Hospital in Cedar Rapids. For the first year of my life we lived with my paternal grandparents on "The Flats." It was then that I learned to speak Czech. My grandparents did not speak English. After they passed on, we no longer had the opportunity to speak Czech and much of what I had learned, I have forgotten.

I never knew my maternal grandparents, Alois and Vincentia Sejnoha. They passed away before I was born. They immigrated to the United States from Czechoslovakia sometime in the early 1900's.

When I was one year old we moved to "Stumptown," a small community on the southwest side of Cedar Rapids. My parents bought the old Pierce School House and remodeled it into a home.



Pat Ruzicka Beer at 2 1/2 in front of Ruzicka Home, Former Pierce School

Five more children were born, four brothers and one sister: Robert, Ronald (deceased), Matthew (Mike), Mary Lou, and Dennis. My father worked at the Packinghouse and part time at Stusak Meat Market on 16th Avenue (now

Czech Village). My mother was a homemaker. They have both passed on.

Stumptown was a wonderful place to grow up. It was a small close-knit community. We had many friends. Some of our activities included swimming in the sand pumps, hiking, fishing, riding our bikes, and playing ball.

We enjoyed picking vegetables and strawberries for our neighbors, Edward and Antonia Dufek. They took their produce to City Market and what a treat it was to go along with them because we rode in a big wagon pulled by a white horse.

It was a very simple lifestyle and we didn't know the meaning of the word "BORED." We always had fun and I have such good memories. Our neighbors were just like family. One neighbor, Helen Franc, daughter of the Dufek's, kept us supplied with fresh produce in the summer.

Our mother was a wonderful cook and could make anything taste fabulous. She cooked many Czech dishes – pork, dumplings, kraut, fruit dumplings and kolaches. One very big favorite was her bublanina made with fresh cherries from Helen's orchard. What fond memories I have of the "down home" wonderfully cooked meals.

Sundays were family days. We went to church, either the 6 or 8 a.m. Mass. Afterwards we would always listen to the Czech music on the radio. Our mother always made dinner at noon and after that we would check the Gazette (newspaper) to see what the ice cream flavor was at May's Drug. Dad would drive us to May's and what a treat it was to have ice cream when we got home. At 3 o'clock we would pull the shades in the living room and everyone would sit around to watch All Star Circus on television. I'm not sure of the title. The screen was very snowy, but we could manage to see the picture.

We had animals, either cows, pigs, or chickens and one year Dad bought a bunch of turkeys. My brothers had to tend to the livestock. I didn't have to do it.

We walked everywhere as children, usually to 16th Avenue or downtown. The stores on the Avenue were where we did our main shopping for groceries, meat, bakery and small items at Kosek's Five and Dime. It was always such a treat to stop at Ted's or Rink's Drug Stores for a fountain Coke and sit at the counter. Occasionally we would walk to 3rd Street SE to the Old Mill Ice Cream Store and Jakoubek's bakery. Sometimes on Saturday afternoons we went to a movie at the Strand Theater, also on 3rd Street.

When we walked downtown it was a must to go into Kresge's Five and Dime. While there, we would ask the Piano Lady to play a request for us. She could play any piece of music we would ask for. That was such fun.

Summertime was either enjoyed at Sokol Camp, traveling with a school friend and her family to a resort in Waupaca, Wisconsin, or even just enjoying the serenity of Stumptown.



Pat (tallest), Marie Franc, Joe "Butch" Franc, Bob Ruzicka, Ronnie Ruzicka, Mike Ruzicka, Mary Lou Ruzicka Smejkal, Denny Ruzicka with "Kool Aid Stand" in Stumptown

We walked to school everyday across the Packinghouse Rock Island Bridge. It didn't matter if it was raining, snowing or sleeting. Very rarely did we get a ride to school. We were taught by the Sisters of Mercy and it was then that I became interested in music and took piano lessons.

My teacher was Sister Sylvester. Because of her I am still involved in music at my church. My parents struggled to raise us six kids, but Dad always made sure I had the dollar for my piano lesson each week. I have been an organist for 58 years at St Wenceslaus Church.

In 1999, I was honored by Pope John Paul II with a Papal Blessing for 50 years of music ministry. It is a privilege to play the wonderful pipe organ at St. Wenceslaus that still is an integral part of our church. It is a real joy and something I cherish.

I attended Czech School for many years and also Sokol Gymnastics. It was at Czech School that I had the opportunity to experience what a wonderful musician Olga Drahozal was, and I always looked up to her and yearned to be able to play the piano like she did, and still does. She played for the students. I was chosen a few years later to play for the students which was a great thrill. At that time Mrs. Netolicky was the teacher.

At Sokol, our instructor was Mr. Vavra. I remember him as being very strict and "I can't" was not a part of his vocabulary. We had to say "I can if I try." I have the opportunity to see friends from Sokol on occasion. Long time friends are Marj (Kopecek) Nejd, Dorris (Zacek) Dyal, Dorothy (Polehna) Ditch and Barb (Dalecky) Pulkrab. We try to meet a few times each year.

In all, my childhood was great and simple and wonderful.

I graduated from St. Wenceslaus School in 1954 and went to work at Collins Radio in the 3rd Street building downtown. Prior to graduation, I had several jobs, Alcove Cafe, Mercy Hospital Diet Kitchen, Scrumshus Ice Cream Store and Neisner's Five and Dime. I have been a book-keeper for 51 years and today work part-time with my daughter.

It was at Scrumshus that I met my husband to be, Jerry Beer. On May 7, 1955, we were married at St. Wenceslaus by Msgr. Anthony Chihak. Jerry has worked at Collins radio (now Rockwell International) since 1951.

We have three children. Our daughter Jeanne is married to James Kewley. She owns Impact Sales, Inc. and James is a pharmaceutical representative and they live in Marion. Our son, Steven, is a neurosurgeon and lives in Cheyenne, Wyoming with wife Shannon and their three sons, Crossland (9), Simon (7), and Elliott (3). Our youngest son, Bradley, is a family practice physician. He and his wife Janette live in Cedar Rapids with their 18 month old daughter, Meredith Ann.

After my family, my music ministry and my church are probably the most important part of my life. Our family is so special to us and we enjoy our time with them. I also enjoy spending time with extended family and church members.



My Czech heritage is very important to me. St. Wenceslaus is still a Czech parish where we incorporate Czech hymns into our Choir and mass Liturgy. We make it a practice to sing a Czech hymn at each mass when the choir sings.

Even though I can no longer speak Czech, I do remember this: "dekuju" for asking me to contribute to your publication Nase Ceske Dedictvi and allowing me to share fond memories of a life filled with our Czech heritage. - Patricia Ruzicka Beer

Who We Are and What We Do

Czech Heritage Foundation is organizing a membership drive. We are looking to our current members to assist us in using this publication to recruit new members. Our objective with this issue of *Nase Ceske Deditvi* is to provide to our current members a “snap shot” review of each committee’s objectives and achievements of our past 33 years.

We want to share our cherished Czech heritage for the next generation to come, and need your help. Please contact your friends, family and neighbors and ask them if they are members of Czech Heritage Foundation. If they ask — What’s Czech Heritage Foundation about? Let them know about all the fine work your organization has done to preserve and honor our cherished heritage.

Czech Heritage Foundation is not in the tourism or travel business, or in the retail industry. We sell publications and related educational items as a means to educate.

Here’s some more important information -

Czech Heritage Foundation is —

1. a non-profit, non-governmental organization, established in 1974
2. an incubator of several teams that focus attention on a specific area of Czech activity. Members can be as involved as they want to be, lending their area of expertise to fulfill our common goal
3. publisher of a quarterly newsletter, with articles that reflect our Czech heritage, history and activities
4. creating a website www.czechheritagefoundation.org, where soon we will supply information and applications to participate in specific Czech activities
5. proud to work and participate with affiliate organizations, groups, or individuals in the pursuit of preserving and honoring our Czech heritage
6. a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that accepts your tax deductible contributions needed to support activities

— Leonard Pfeifer



Joza Uprka 1861-1940

Born and raised in Moravia, Joza Uprka studied painting at the Prague and Munich Academies (1881-84) before traveling around Europe and living for some time in Paris. While there, he was introduced to Eduard Karel, who taught him printmaking.

From 1900, Uprka's etchings were regularly shown alongside his paintings at major exhibitions. In 1904, he settled permanently in his native Moravia.

Joza Uprka was fascinated by local folklore and customs, and the subjects of his art turned more and more towards a study of the peasants, their work and their customs. One of his most famous etchings, for example, portrays a principal figure in “the King's Ride”, an important Moravian festival where each participant wears traditional, elaborately embroidered costumes.

Joza Uprka is rightly recognized as one of the founders of Czech printmaking, along with Max Svabinsky. His etched work was exhibited and collected widely in Prague, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Cologne, New York and St. Louis.

Your Donations Help

As you consider your options for a 2007-08 charitable tax deductible donation, remember .
“The little organization that could”. — Czech Heritage Foundation.

A written confirmation of your donation will be sent.

Thank You

Czech Heritage Foundation Membership

It's almost 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 Nase Ceske Dedictvi.

I want to honor my Czech Heritage and pay tribute to the following outstanding authors and educators of the past.

Please check the author(s) you wish to honor with your tax deductible contribution.

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- ~~\$1000.00~~ Jan Amos Komensky Level
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Please contact me regarding:

- including the foundation in my/our will.
- the tax advantages of donating stock.
- gifts to honor or in memory of friends and family members.

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