

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

NAŠE ČESKÉ DĚDICTVÍ

OUR

CZECH

HERITAGE



Jordan Uthoff & Rachel Lehmann Crowned Czech Heritage Prince & Princess 2005

(Story on page 4)

Volume 30 – Number 1 – 2005

Editor: Russ Novotny

Contributors:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Olga Drahozal | Joyce Netolicky |
| Amanda DeHoedt | Shanda Novak |
| Zelda De Hoedt | Linda Novotny |
| Barb Edmunds | Jennifer Turecek |
| Katie Gerlach | Jan Stoffer Tursi |
| Matt Kostle | Jordan Uthoff |
| Rachel Lehmann | Adeline Volesky |
| Dave Mulehna | Rachel Wobeter |
| Arlo Netolicky | |

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Nase Ceske Dedictvi

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 Dedictvi* free. Dues are renewable on January 1st of each year and expire December 31st. 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.

President's Message

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

I. Special Dates:

**March 5th, 5-7:00 PM:
Czech School Chili Supper**

The Annual Czech School Chili Supper is a fund raiser to help support the summer Czech School for children. This Czech School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is the oldest continuously running Czech School in the United States. It truly is a great experience for the students.



Date: Saturday, March 5th, 2005

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Location: St. Wenceslaus School Gym (new location)
1230 5th St. SE
Cedar Rapids, IA

Cost: \$4.00/person (what a bargain)

Served: Delicious Chili, crackers, rye bread, butter, carrots & celery sticks, dessert, coffee and drink.



A large bake sale of delicious, donated goods will be part of the fundraiser. Tickets will be for sale at the door. Come and help support the Czech Summer School.

Czech School this summer will be June 13th through July 15th, at Grant Elementary School, 254 Outlook Dr. SW, Cedar Rapids (note new location).

For further information, contact Barbara & Frank Edmunds,



March 20th, 2-6:00 PM: St. Joseph's Day Dance

Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen will again provide the music for The Czech Heritage Foundation's Annual St. Joseph's Day dance this March. This event is the main means to raise money for the various youth programs sponsored by Czech Heritage. This year, proceeds will go toward the very popular youth Homestay Program.

Date: Sunday, March 20th, 2005

Time: 2:00 - 6:00 PM

Location: Cedar Rapids Elks Lodge
801 33rd Ave. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA

Cost: \$6.00/person (what a bargain)

Music: Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen



Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen from Cedar Rapids is very popular throughout the Midwest, and we are so fortunate to have them. Food will be for sale by the Elks Lodge. To help with fund raising, a large bake sale will be held. Members are very generous in bringing items for the door prizes and

the bake sale. There will be door prizes given out during the afternoon and nice raffle items that are all a part of the fund raising.

Tickets are \$6.00 each and can be obtained from any Czech Heritage member or purchased at the door. If you have any questions, please call Frank & Barb Edmunds,



COME AND ENJOY THE WONDERFUL CZECH FELLOWSHIP & FUN! EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

April 23: Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Applications Due



You can be a Queen! Here's an opportunity to reign as Miss Czech Slovak Iowa and enter the national competition for Miss Czech Slovak USA in Wilber, Nebraska. We are searching for a woman 16-26 who "possesses dignity, charm, poise,

and talent" to meet the public and "represent the Czech/Slovak ancestry for her state and nation". Iowa has many Czech communities throughout the state and families with Czech and Slovak Heritage. We are looking for you. The Iowa Pageant will be held May 14 & 15 in conjunction with the Houby Days celebration in Czech Village, in Cedar Rapids, IA.

The Iowa winner will receive a jeweled crown, sash, flowers, a \$500 scholarship, and gifts. She will make numerous appearances, and her entry fee to the national competition in Wilber, Nebraska will be paid. She will serve as the official representative of Czech and Slovak ancestry for the State of Iowa.

Contestants must:

- Be between the ages of 16 and 26 as of 9/1/05
- Be single, never married, and cannot have children
- Be of partial Czech, Moravian, Selesian, or Slovak descent
- Appear in authentic costume or Americanized costume
- Participate in the following:
 - Private interview
 - Talent (5 minutes)
 - Costume modeling
 - Introduction/Interviews
- Submit completed entry form no later than 4/23/05

Iowa contest winners who went on to compete in the national pageant were Lisa Volesky, Katie Ziskovsky, Stasia Krivanek, and Amanda De Hoedt. Iowa is very proud of their entries. They scored very well and two contestants went on to win the national title.

Potential candidates wanting further information or entry forms can write to:

Miss Czech Slovak Iowa

Additional information can be obtained by calling Adeline Volesky at _____, or Stasia Krivanek at _____
or _____

II. Cover Story:

Jordan Uthoff & Rachel Lehmann Crowned Czech Heritage Prince & Princess 2005

By Olga Drahozal

Rachel Lehmann and Jordan Uthoff were crowned the 2005 Czech Heritage Princess and Prince at the Czech Heritage Annual meeting, January 17, 2005. Elizabeth Samek, the 2004 Princess presented crowns, flowers, and sashes to the new royalty. Learn more about these two new royals in the following articles.



2004 Princess Elizabeth Samek, 2005 Prince Jordah Uthoff, and 2005 Princess Rachel Lehmann

The Czech Heritage Foundation Prince & Princess competition dates back to 1981. In January they are introduced to the Czech community at the annual meeting of the Czech Heritage Foundation and the NCSML. They introduce their parents and present an oral biography of themselves.

The Prince and Princess are expected to participate in all Czech activities which are supported by the Czech Heritage Foundation. In March they participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade and St. Joseph's Day parade. In May they are at the flag raising ceremony during Houby Days and the Memorial Day Service at the Czech National Cemetery. June finds them riding on a float in the Freedom Fest Parade, and in July they lead the opening ceremonies of the Annual Czech School Program at Grant School. In October they attend the NCSML annual banquet. They ride on a Czech Heritage Float in the November Downtown Merchants' Holiday Parade, and participating in the Svaty Mikulas activities at the Museum and in Czech Village.

The program is a great opportunity to honor youth

interested in preserving their Czech Heritage. These posts have served as great learning experiences and stepping stones for the youth. We generally continue to see these same youth as they participate in our Homestay Program, NCSML activities, and often become recipients of our Czech Heritage post-secondary scholarships.

Meet Rachel Lehmann, 2005 Czech Heritage Princess

By Rachel Lehmann

Dobry den! Dovolte, abych se predstavil: ja jsem Rachel. Je mi ctrnact. Bydlim v Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (Good day! Let me introduce myself: My name is Rachel. I am 14 years old. I am from Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

My Czech heritage is very important to me. I try to embrace my heritage by incorporating it into every aspect of my life: my role models, my beliefs, and my moral values.

The first time I attended the National Bohemian, Moravian and Slovak Folk Dance Festival, I fell in love with everything Czech. Since then I have attended many other celebrations of the Czech culture, such as Kolacky Days in Montgomery, Minnesota. Montgomery is the Kolacky Capital of North America. It is my mom's hometown and where my ancestors settled over 100 years ago when they immigrated to the United States.

The town of Montgomery, Minnesota, is a tiny one, but it is still very important to me. In June, 1891, my Great-Great-Grandfather, Andrew Kolars immigrated to the United States from Klikov, Czechoslovakia. He chose to settle in what is now Montgomery, Minnesota because he knew a lot of people there from Klikov. He found employment there and a year later sent for his wife, Theresa, and infant daughter.

Because of my background in Bohemia I have designed my kroj similar to the ones my ancestors would have worn. The kroj has a white blouse with large sleeves, a black vest with the Montgomery emblem. The design of the emblem that represents Montgomery and Klikov is complex and beautiful and means a lot to the people that wear it. The red bird embroidered on the back of the vest is a bird found in Klikov. Also the flowers and ivy on the hem of the skirt are like the ones that were all over



Klikov. Incidentally, the names of the sports teams in Montgomery are the Redbirds.

Even though I had been looking forward to running for almost a year, when I first told my mom that I wanted to run for the title of Czech Princess her immediate reaction was, "Why?!?" After thinking it out I responded, "Because, I love Czech School so much and I don't want it to end." Of course Czech School did end and this past year I graduated. This is one of the reasons I decided to run for Czech Princess. After only three years in Czech School I had already fallen in love with everything Czech.

The past three years I have spent the summer in Czech School and I can only say that it was one of the greatest experiences of my life. The only regret is that I didn't find it sooner. My greatest fear about Czech School is that it may end due to falling attendance. Without the Czech School so many students wouldn't get the chance to experience their culture. As Czech Princess I would make it my main goal to keep the school alive by helping to increase attendance.

Although my reasons for wanting this title are selfish in that my main reason for wanting the crown is based on how I love my ethnic roots, my intentions are good. As Czech princess I would strive to show my peers how great it is to celebrate your heritage.

Dekuji! Mejte se hezky aNa shladanou! (Thank you! (for reading my essay!) Have a nice day and goodbye!)

Meet Jordan Uthoff, 2005 Czech Heritage Prince

By Jordan Uthoff

My name is Jordan Uthoff and my Czech heritage is an important part of my life. I am in 9th grade and I go to Cedar Rapids Prairie High School. I live on a farm out in the country. My father is Vince Uthoff and my mother's maiden name was Ann Hemingway. I have 2 sisters and one brother. My great, great grandfather, Anton Svoboda-(which means freedom) arrived in the USA as a child-in about 1880. He would be my father's great grandfather. My great grandfather named John Pavek immigrated to the USA in 1907 through Ellis Island. My grandmother, Marie Pavek, was the 1st generation of her family to be born in America. John



Pavek was her father.

I am in cross country, and track, which are both big sports in the Czech heritage. I am a member of the Shueyville United Methodist church, which once a year has a sale with many baked goods. One of which is kolaches. My favorite kind is apricot. I like to help make kolaches and sweetened bread when I get the time. I think it is fun. I am also in 4-H in which I show poultry, sheep, and beef projects. I like the feeling of knowing that you worked hard all year long on something, and then your hard work pays off in the end. The Czech people are known for their strong work ethic and making a better life for their families.

I look forward to an opportunity of learning more about the many aspects of the Czech heritage in the future, whether or not I am fortunate enough to become a Czech Prince!!

III. Czech Heritage Foundation Reports:

2005 Board Elected

The new Board of Directors for the Czech Heritage Foundation was elected at the Annual meeting, held January 17, 2005 at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. The following Board members and officers were elected:

President: Arlo Netolicky (Audit)

Vice President: Russell Novotny (Audit-Newsletter)

Secretary: Joyce Netolicky (Scholarship-Queen)

Treasurer: Dennis Hrabak

Financial Secretary: Judy Serbousek (Homestay)

Corresponding Secretary: Adeline Volesky (Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Queen)

Board Members:

- Emma Davidson (Social)
- Olga M. Drahozal (Prince & Princess)
- Denver Dvorsky (Nomination)
- Barb Edmunds (Programs)
- Frank Edmunds (Scholarship)
- Fern Fackler (Scholarship)
- David Faltis
- Jeanne Fee (Homestay)
- John Kostle
- Carmen Langel (Museum & Library)
- Gail Naughton (Museum & Library)
- Leonard Pfeifer (Public Relation)
- John Rocarek (Audit)
- Evelyn Stejskel
- Blair Thornbloom (Scholarship)
- Lee Thornbloom (Scholarship)

Honorary Board Members

- Lovell Dvorak (deceased)
- Charles Krejci
- Bob Kuba (deceased)
- Frank Novotny (deceased)
- Mae Novotny (deceased)
- Sylvia Rohlena (deceased)
- Melvina Svec (deceased)
- Charles Vyskocil

Amanda De Hoedt Participates in Miss Czech Slovak USA Pageant

By Amanda De Hoedt

EDITOR'S NOTES: Amanda De Hoedt was named Miss Czech Slovak Iowa for 2004-05 this past summer. The Czech Heritage Foundation then sponsored her participation in the National Pageant held in Wilbur Nebraska. Stasia Krivanek, who was sponsored as the Miss Czech Slovak Iowa for 2003-04 has been serving as Miss Czech Slovak USA for 2003-04, so this was a very special year for Cedar Rapids at the National Pageant.

This summer I was honored and excited to represent Iowa and the Czech Heritage Foundation in the Miss Czech/Slovak USA Pageant held annually in Wilbur, Nebraska. My family and I had been preparing for the event all summer, and it was a relief to finally be there.



Rita Valenta ("Little Sister" assigned to Amanda) and Amanda De Hoedt

The USA and Iowa pageants are very similar. Both consist of four judged categories: a private interview, public interview, kroj modeling, and talent competition. Although I did not receive an award in any of these categories, I took away so much from this pageant and

understand that awards aren't so important because of that.



Amanda is Second from Left in Back Row. Front Row (left to right): 1st Runner up, Elise Anderson of Minnesota Miss Czech Slovak USA 2004-2005, Erin Tycz of South Dakota 2nd Runner up, Anna Drozda of Nebraska

I was lucky to meet thirteen amazing girls from across the country, all of whom had fun personalities and strong moral beliefs. I gained confidence in myself and in my abilities; I feel that I'm a better conversationalist and speaker.



Contestants in Back, "Little Sisters" and MC in Front, and Stasia Krivanek, Miss Czech Slovak USA 2003-2004 in the Center

Most importantly, I've come away from this experience with a great amount knowledge and pride in my Czech heritage. I now see the teaching of my heritage as an obligation, something that must be done so that everyone understands and is proud of themselves and where they come from. Receiving a crown instilled this pride in me, and I've realized that I no longer need a crown to be happy with who I am.

I'm excited to pass my crown to another girl this spring so that she can have the same opportunities and learning

experiences that I've had this past year. It truly is a life-changing experience. One day I would love to represent Iowa again, but for now I hope that I can continue learning and teaching, and I hope that this pageant will touch many others' lives in the years to come.



Amanda De Hoedt, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2004-05, and Stasia Kravinek, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa and Miss Czech Slovak USA for 2003-04

Reports from our 2004 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. These students spend a month in the Czech Republic, living with host families, "absorbing" the Czech culture and home life. Here are some of their experiences and reflections on their adventures in the Czech Republic.



Homestay Ambassadors Rachel, Jessica & Matt Together at the Airport

Matt Kostle



I would consider myself a pretty experienced traveler. I have been to about a third of the states, Canada, the Bahamas, and all around Iowa of course. I would also say that I have had a few once in a lifetime opportunities as well; such as going to world youth day with 200,000 other youth and close to a million people to see the pope in Toronto.

I've also gone to the national catholic youth conference in Texas in 2003 with thousands of other youth. I have even performed on a cruise ship in the Bahamas with my school choir and 200 of my friends. But all of that seemed so small as to what I have experienced this summer. This summer I spent a month in the Czech Republic in a cultural exchange that was life changing. I had the opportunity to stay with a family there and that was a great experience. We got along great, they all spoke English but it still made communication hard because they didn't know much vocabulary.

In that month my family was very generous and we did so much together. I was able to see so many things it was incredible. I went to Prague, a Nazi concentration camp, Czech school, a cottage house, a national nature park called Czech paradise, a children's camp, a sports camp, the Sumava Mountains, several castles, several quarries in which we camped, and much more local stuff like markets, shopping districts, and bike rides.

It wasn't what I saw that made the trip worth it the most though. It was the way I was able to interact and communicate with the Czech people. I was totally immersed into another culture and I was able to get along and bring back lifelong friendships from it. I would have to say that if anyone ever has the chance to experience another culture in the way I did I would tell them to not think twice about going. It was a life changing experience unlike anything else I have ever done, enough said.

Rachel Wobeter



Ahoj! That's Czech for hello. This is just one of the many words and phrases I learned during my trip to the Czech Republic this summer. My name is Rachel Wobeter and I will be a senior this year at South Tama High school. I was one of the lucky three students chosen by the Czech Heritage

Foundation to go to the Czech Republic this summer.

While I was in the Czech Republic I stayed in Pribram, a town about one hour southwest of Prague. I really enjoyed staying here because I could get a feeling of what it was like to live in a small town but still be close enough to Prague to visit often. One of the things I liked to do to get to know my town better was run. I ran about everyday and each day I took a different route to see new things each time. I ran by the town square, churches, playgrounds, markets, and saw the daily life and culture of the Czech people. It was amazing to see how many people were walking in the Czech Republic. Everywhere I went people were walking. The towns are setup so you can walk almost anywhere you need to go, and if it's too far to walk you can take a bus. The transportation is really great as well. I rode a bus, train, or the subway to travel rather than a car most of the time.



Rachel with the Roofs of Prague in the Background

The main thing that was different to me in the Czech Republic was the history. The houses, buildings, churches, and basically everything is old and beautiful. I loved walking up and down the streets of Prague just looking up in amazement at the architecture of the old buildings. Because Prague is older than America it had a special feeling that I had never felt. It was intriguing, exciting and inspiring.

I also enjoyed learning about the Czech history and took many tours of churches and castles. The castles were one of my favorite sites to visit. Each one was unique and had a different history. The other thing that comes to mind when I think of the castles is the booties. For most of the castles we had to wear booties or slippers that went over our shoes so we didn't track in dirt. We always had a good laugh when we saw each other wearing them because we looked like elves.

I'd like to thank everyone that made this trip possible and urge you to keep it going. This trip was invaluable to me and has taught me about my heritage, the world, and myself. Hope you enjoyed hearing a bit about my trip and I encourage everyone to visit the Czech Republic if you ever have the chance.

2005 Homestay Ambassadors Selected

EDITOR'S NOTES: The Czech Heritage Foundation has selected four students to participate in the 2005 Homestay Ambassadors Program – Amanda De Hoedt, Katie Gerlach, Shanda Novak, and Jennifer Turecek. They will be spending a month in the Czech Republic, living with host families this summer. These students are from Cedar Rapids, Tama/Toledo, Oxford, and Iowa City, Iowa. We are pleased to see this program expanding and touching so many deserving young people.

Amanda De Hoedt

My name is Amanda De Hoedt. I'm 16 and a Junior at Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids. My immediate family consists of my mother, Zelda, father, Russell, sister, Elizabeth, and dog, Sheba. I play soccer, run cross-country, and plan on being a high jumper this spring. I'm involved in numerous clubs and organizations both within the school and the Czech community. These include



Cultural Diversity Club, Model United Nations, Breakfast Club, and Octagon Club. I like web-design and I'm currently working on creating a website for the Czech Heritage Foundation. I enjoy volunteering, reading, and cooking. I've worked at my aunt's Dairy Queen (Johnson Avenue) for almost two years, and I haven't gotten tired of ice cream yet, which of one of my favorite foods right after soup and potatoes. I love to travel and I'm excited to go to Egypt and the Czech Republic this summer.

Katie Gerlach

Katie Gerlach is the 17 year old daughter of Steve and Becky Gerlach, Toledo, and Jane Currier, Tama. She has 2 brothers Jesse, 20, and Ian, 31. She is a very outgoing and involved high school junior. Katie attends South Tama County (STC) School. She is involved in the Autonomous Learner Model where classes focus on self directed learning, Individual Speech, cheerleading, 4-H, and the Iowa Junior Holstein Association. Some of her hobbies include scrap booking, showing cattle, sewing and photography. She works at the Big T and enjoys being a Certified Nurse's Assistant (CNA) student.

Shanda Novak

My name is Shanda Novak. I am a 16-year-old junior who attends Clear Creek Amana High School in Tiffin. I live on a small family farm just outside of Oxford, Iowa with my parents, Norman and Lisa Novak, my brother,

Alexander, and my sister, Shelby, who are both younger than me.



I am a member of the National Honor Society and many other school related activities including Students Acting For the Environment – where we recycle paper throughout the school and do other activities that preserve the environment, Student Assistance Team – which is a group of

students who assist elderly people, and Win With Wellness – which is a group of students who try and make our school a better and enjoyable place to be. I have been an active member of 4-H for 8 years, showing cattle and swine at the Johnson County Fair. I am also a member of the Johnson County 4-H Youth Council – which is a group of 4-Hers who get together to make 4-H more enjoyable for everyone. I am the president of the Green Castle Barnstormers 4-H club.

I enjoy playing basketball, running, reading and listening to music. But most of all I love to be with my family and friends in my free time.

Jennifer Turecek

My name is Jennifer Rae Turecek. I am a senior at Iowa City-City High. I am an avid musician, involved in band, concert orchestra, choir, select women's ensemble and lead vocal in a rock band called Bad Karma. Other school activities and clubs include student senate for the past two years, the Silver Cord Program; which requires 100 hours of volunteer work per year of high school, and JEL- Just



Eliminate Lies; an organization against teen smoking and tobacco use. My volunteer opportunities have included: The University of Iowa Wildlife Camps- counselor in training, St. Mary's Catholic Church Choir and Alter & Rosary Group, the Ronald Mc Donald House and assisting at a nursing home's beauty shop. My jobs have been babysitting and acting as Santa's Helper at Sycamore Mall for the past 4 years.

My family is very special to me. We are sometimes running in different directions, but we are always sharing our daily activities with each other through talking and doing things for each other. My parents are Joe and

Gerri. I have one brother Michael who is 5 years older than me. My father was born and raised in Iowa City and he had 5 siblings, who were all raised by his father (his mother died of cancer when he was 7 years old.) My mother grew up on a farm about 15 miles SW of Iowa City and has 8 siblings. My grandma Emilie Young is a special part of my life. She is my inspiration of doing good things for other people, and making her proud.

The Catholic Church is also very important in my life. My family and I are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Iowa City. I have been a member of the St. Mary's Choir for the past 4 years. I have been active with St. Mary's Youth group as well as helping the youth coordinator with special events such as confirmation classes and the children's choir.

My other interests and hobbies include: listening to music, going to movies and classic cars (including an automotive class at City High) and hanging out with my friends.

I am very excited to be chosen for the Czech Republic trip. I am looking forward to learning more about my heritage and meeting new people.

Czech Students Visit Iowa as Part of Homestay Exchange



Czech Exchange Students Visit September Czech Heritage Meeting
L to R - Magdalina Sadravetzova, Markita Janskovska, & Dana Honzikova

Markéta Jankovská

Town: I live in a village named Háje close to town named Příbram (60km south from Prague, the capital)

School: I attend Secondary Grammar School (in Czech „Gymnázium Příbram“) and this school is in Příbram. I am a senior this year, I will graduate in May 2005.

Parents: My father's name is Stanislav Jankovský and

my mother's name is Hana Jankovská.

Siblings: I have one younger sister, her name is Magda, she is 15.

Host family: Russ, Zeldá, Amanda and Elizabeth DeHoedt from Cedar Rapids.

U.S. School: I attended Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids together with Amanda and Elizabeth, I was surprised a lot because American school system is very different from Czech school system. It was great experience and I have learnt a lot about the way how you educate your students. It was rewarding for me.

Interesting Czech Republic experiences: It is difficult for me to answer this, but I would like to recommend you to visit the Czech Republic and spend some time here. I think that spending some time abroad can give you a lot and you can find something valuable in yourself. After my stay in the U.S. I am proud of being Czech more than before.

Interesting U.S. experiences: I had plenty of interesting experiences during my stay, because there were too many strange things in common life, which were different from the Czech ways and it is very difficult for me to pick only one. But I would like to tell you about my first and strongest impression from Iowa. When we went out of air-conditioned airport building in Cedar Rapids, I felt like having my head in a box of hot sweet popcorn. The Iowan air smelled sweet, it was so heavy and motionless. I saw corn fields around the airport and this was my first feeling of Iowa.

Host Family Experiences: My host family was very hospitable and I am glad to meet them. I spent really great time in the U.S. and I am appreciative for everything they did for me. They took me to many places not only in Iowa and they were very patient with me and my English. They taught me the traditions and rules in the U.S. and explained me everything when I was confused. My stay in the U.S. with De Hoedt family was very enjoyable and it was definitely the best trip I have taken. I would like to visit the U.S. again.

Conclusion: I would like to add my e-mail address: . Everybody who would like to ask me about the Czech Republic, please feel free and write me and ask about whatever. I will be delighted to answer your questions.

US Host Family Comments

By Zeldá De Hoedt

Our family, Russ, Zeldá, Amanda and Elizabeth De Hoedt feel very lucky to get to participate in this wonderful opportunity and experience. On August 25th the Czech Republic Students arrived in the Cedar Rapids Airport. Marketa Jankovská was one of the students selected to visit America and stay in our home, which is located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The other two students

are Dana Honziková and Magdalena Sadravetzová. The Wobeter family hosted these two students at their home in Toledo, Iowa.

We were anxious but also extremely excited to host a Czech Republic student. This was our first experience and we wanted to make this enjoyable for Marketa and we wanted to show her as many close-by destinations as we could in the short amount of time that she was here. We wanted her experience to be memorable and also have many wonderful yet diverse opportunities and experiences.

As soon as she arrived here and we found out that she loved nature. In fact, her request before she came to America was to be able to horseback ride. So, the first Saturday we visited Russ' parents where Marketa was able to experience her first parade. Since Amanda is the Czech Queen of Iowa for this year and Russ' parents own a team of horses we were able to participate in a parade representing the Czech Heritage and Marketa was able to participate in her first parade. It was a nice candy parade in a small town nearby Russ' parents farm. She was able to drive the horses around the town after the parade. Afterwards we returned to the farm Marketa and Amanda went on an all day horseback ride.

The next day we decided to go to Dubuque for a boat tour on the Mississippi, we visited the new aquarium, and the butterfly gardens. My sister, Una, and her husband, Dave, stopped by to find out all about the Czech culture from Marketa; it was a fun visit. The next weekend we toured the Madison Bridges, Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, and Living History Farms in Des Moines. She attended a couple classes at UNI with the student she hosted in the Czech Republic (Jessica Sauser) and attended an UNI football game. James Cada was able to get our family and Marketa tickets to a dinner theater play "Annie" in Minneapolis that he performed in. This was truly a highlight in my agenda. I love plays, especially musicals! We also went to Mall of America, Camp Snoopy, and attended the Renaissance festival. We also stopped downtown to ride the elevators in the skyscrapers. Marketa wanted to experience the feeling of going up 50+ stories in less than a minute. It was fun! We also visited 16th Avenue, the Amanas, Iowa City, and Kolona.

My parents "Arlo and Joyce Netolicky" had their 45th Anniversary during Marketa's visit, and we celebrated with a big family dinner at the Brown Bottle one evening. I was glad that my family got to meet Marketa. Jerry and Ida Cada (my brother-in-law and sister) own the Johnson Avenue Dairy Queen, so we visited this hot spot quite a-bit, in which Marketa ordered her favorite "a Banana Shake". Dana, Magda, Pete and Berleen also joined us at the Dairy Queen after a cross-country meet one evening where the Czech Girls tried on Jordan and Andrew Netolicky's football uniforms. These three girls were very comical trying on a football uniform in the middle of a Dairy Queen (good thing the owners weren't there to throw us out)!

Marketa attended Kennedy High School during her stay and was able to attend a German class, which she enjoyed participating in a lot. I appreciate her in attending school, since it was difficult to get her registered as a six-week foreign exchange student. Her English was very good and we were able to communicate with her quite well.

This experience was a wonderful learning experience for both Marketa and our family. It was sad after she left us, but we know that we have gained a new Czech family member that we can keep in contact with and broaden our cultural awareness. This was a wonderful experience and I would recommend it for others in our organization to host students next year!

Czech Heritage Scholarships Awarded

By Joyce Netolicky

The Czech Heritage Foundation has a scholarship fund, and each year awards scholarships to students pursuing post-secondary studies. Scholarship Committee members for 2004 were Frank & Barb Edmunds, Blair & Leola "Lee" Thornbloom, Arlo & Joyce Netolicky, and Fern Fackler. Student's applications were judged against a point scoring system. Congratulations to the following five students who were awarded 2004 Scholarships:

Jennifer Catherine Jirak from Waucoma, Iowa. She will be attending Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. She plans to major in Biology Sciences, possibly going in to field research. She is currently a Biology Major. Her parents Jerome & Gayle Jirik and her Czech background is Wencil Jirik. She is able to trace her Czech Ancestry back to the Czech Republic in 1823.

Jennifer Praska from Cresco, Iowa. She will be attending the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa. She will attend the College of Pharmacy and will major in Pharmacy. Her parents are Melvin & Carol Praska and her Czech background is a Great Great grandfather Frank Praska who came from Czech Republic in 1870. Her Great grandfather is James Praska and Grandfather is Roger Praska.

Bridget Sanek from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She will be attending Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. She is a pre-medicine student and majoring in Biology with minor in Chemistry and Psychology. After completing under graduation she plans to go to medical school, hopefully the University of Iowa. Her parents are Richard & Elaine Sanek and her Czech background is the names of her ancestries that are of Czech descent are: Drahocal, Hruska, Pazlovsky, Kucera, Cada, Sanek, Sedlacek, Ludvicek, Jansa, Koutnik. As you see she comes from a long line of Czech descendants.

Luke William Horak from Springville, Iowa. Luke attended Kirkwood in C R and will be attending Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. His major will be

Mechanical Engineering. He has not yet chosen a specific field with-in this major. He was an intern at Rockwell in their Manufacturing Division this summer. His parents are Ronald & Karie Horak, and his Great Great Grandfather immigrated to America. His parents passed away on the ship when coming to America and the Horak family adopted his Great Great Grandfather. His Great Great Great Grandfather married into the Sloser family. This family was one of the earliest Czech families to settle in Solon.

Matthew Sanek from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He will be attending Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. He plans to major in Business. His parents are Richard & Elaine Sanek and his Czech background is the names of his ancestries that are of Czech descent are: Drahocal, Hruska, Pazlovsky, Kucera, Cada, Sanek, Sedlacek, Ludvicek, Jansa, Koutnik. As you see he comes from a long line of Czech descendants.

IV. National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



Bohemian Garnets: Exquisite Artistry from the National Museum in Prague. Special Exhibit Opens March 4

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is proud to present the exclusive American showing of the stunning exhibition *Bohemian Garnets: Exquisite Artistry from the National Museum in Prague*. 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. This is the first exhibition of garnets to travel abroad from the National Museum of the Czech Republic, whose collection is renowned as the largest and most comprehensive in the world.

The once-in-a-lifetime exhibition features thousands of garnets set in 370 pieces of jewelry, personal accessories, religious objects, souvenirs, and sentimental objects, accompanied by period paintings, drawings, prints, statues and period clothing. 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.



Garnets mined in Bohemia are of the variety called pyrope (from the Greek words *pyr* for "fire" and *ops* for "eye"). Of a rare high quality found in Central Bohemia in the north of the Czech Republic, the Bohemian garnet's color ranges from fiery-red to ruby-red, and its deep coloring is not lost even in the smallest, two-millimeter grains. This semi-precious gem is well known as the January birthstone.

The most valuable and rare object in the exhibition is on loan from the Archbishop of Prague. A sensational discovery from the vaults of St. Nicholas Church in Prague, it is a Baroque monstrance made around 1722 that is encrusted with 386 garnets, 19 diamonds, and 135 rock crystals.

Thanks to restoration funded by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, the monstrance, which is used in special Roman Catholic ceremonies, will be on display to the public for the first time since the National Slavonic Exhibition in Prague in 1895. At nearly one meter tall, the curator from the National Museum, Dr. Dana Stehlíková (Stehlíková), believes it is quite likely the largest existing object decorated with Bohemian garnets. National Museum goldsmith Vladimír Cizkovský completed the restoration work in Prague. Both Vladimír Cizkovský and Dana Stehlíková will

travel with the collection and be present to help install the exhibit at the NCSML.

In addition, the NCSML is planning a related exhibition of heirloom garnets owned by members and friends of the museum, as well as educational programming for the duration of the exhibition.

The exhibition opens to the public on March 4, 2005 and closes on September 25, 2005. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m. After May 1st, the exhibit will also be open on Mondays, 9:30 – 4:00. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is the leading United States institution collecting, exhibiting, preserving, and interpreting Czech and Slovak history and culture. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is located at 30 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, IA. For more information, call (319) 362-8500 or visit the museum web site, www.NCSML.org.

2005 History and Culture Conference

The Czech and Slovak 20th Century in Retrospect: Czechoslovakia Behind the Iron Curtain, 1948 – 1970

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is hosting their fourth Czech and Slovak History and Culture Conference, March 11 – 12, 2005. The conference, titled "Czechoslovakia Behind the Iron Curtain, 1948 – 1970," will focus on the early years of a communist Czechoslovak state.



The political landscape has changed. After surviving the Nazi occupation, Soviet influences lead to a communist Czechoslovak state. Thousands flee the country, but many stay behind. In the years that follow, privatization becomes a thing of the past, freedoms are curtailed, and the vibrant Czechoslovak people are repressed. Years pass, communism has a human face. Then, an invasion, Prague Spring ends, Normalization begins. This is *Czechoslovakia Behind the Iron Curtain, 1948 – 1970*.

The Czech and Slovak History and Culture Conference examines this tumultuous period in world history. Featured are a keynote address by **Dr. Jaroslava Moserová**, former senator in the Czech Parliament, and

a film and discussion by Emmy award-winning director and screenwriter **Zuzana Justman**, plus leading scholars who tell the compelling story of life in a newly communist Czechoslovakia.

PRE-CONFERENCE FILM SERIES

Most films are in Czech with English subtitles. Unless otherwise stated, each film is shown at 2 p.m. in WFLA Heritage Hall at the NCSML, followed by discussion. All are free and open to the public.

- **Sunday, Feb. 13:** *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* (1988). Philip Kaufman. Set against the backdrop of the invasion of Prague in 1968, this is a film about how individual lives are influenced by personal choices and very public events.
- **Saturday, Feb. 19:** *The Competition* (1963) Miloš Forman. This film features two short films: *Do We Need All Those Brass Bands?* and *The Audition*. In the first film, participants in a band competition try, but fail, to overcome tradition. In the second film, amateur singers audition for a role in a Prague cabaret.
- **Sunday, Feb. 20:** *Murder Czech Style* (1966) Jirí Weiss. This black comedy is a neglected masterpiece of Czech New Wave film.
- **Sunday, Feb. 27:** *All My Good Countrymen* (1968) Vojtech Jasný. One of the least-known films from this miraculous era of Czech filmmaking. Completed barely before the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, it was immediately banned and never shown. The film tells enchanting and funny stories about a group of characters in a small Moravian village immediately following the socialization of Czechoslovakia in 1948.
- **Sunday, Mar. 6:** *The Joke* (1968) Jaromil Jires. Based on Milan Kundera's novel of the same name, this film is a stunning visual of life in Czechoslovakia during the Stalinist 1950s.

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Thursday, Mar. 10: children at Theresienstadt: Hoskova, *Voices of the Children* (1996) Zuzana Justman. Profiles three people imprisoned as Helga Kinsky, and Michael Kraus. Blends survivor interviews with excerpts from their diaries and drawings from the wartime years. Produced and directed by Zuzana Justman, another Theresienstadt survivor. Won an Emmy Award in 1998 for outstanding historical programming.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (tentative)

Friday, March 11, 2005

- **Communist Europe 1948 – 1970** by Dr. Kenneth Basom, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Northern Iowa
- **Renegade Czech intelligence groups inside Czechoslovakia in the 1950s** by Dr. Igor Lukes, Associate Professor of History, Boston University and Harvard University
- **Prague Spring – Nine Months of DUBCEK** by Dr. Jitka Sonkova, Lecturer in the Russian program, University of Iowa

- **The Songs and Piano Music of Petr Eben** by Dr. Sheila M. Allen, Associate Professor of Music, Texas Christian University, School of Music and Dr. David Yeomans Professor Emeritus of Music, Texas Woman's University
- **Journalists in Slovakia, 1948 – 1970: A Force for Change** by Dr. Owen V. Johnson, School of Journalism/Department of History, Indiana University
- **Czechoslovak Judiciary 1948 - 1970** by Mr. Otto Ulc, Member of the Czechoslovak judiciary system, Professor Emeritus, SUNY Binghamton
- **Naturalization, Planning, Reform: The Czechoslovak Economy, 1948 - 1970** by Dr. Catherine Albrecht, Chair, History Department, University of Baltimore
- **The Triumph of Art Over Adversity: The Music of Petr Eben** by Dr. Sheila M. Allen, Associate Professor of Music, Texas Christian University, School of Music
- *A Trial in Prague* (2000) with filmmaker Zuzana Justman

Saturday, March 12, 2005

- **The Key Sources of Czechoslovak Foreign Policy After W.W. II, Its Position Between the Superpowers** by Dr. Slavomir Michalek, Faculty of the Historical Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences
- **Émigré Experiences Panel** (tentative)
- **Czechoslovak Cinema** by Oleg Timofeyev, University of Iowa
- *Saving Grace*, a film by Rev. Kenneth Gumbert, O.P. Associate Professor of Film Studies, Providence College
- **Drum-rolls Funerary: The Demise of the Czechoslovak Avant-garde** by Dr. Diana Davies, Director of International Studies, University of Iowa
- *Saving Grace*, a discussion with Rev. Kenneth Gumbert, O.P. Associate Professor of Film Studies, Providence College
- **Communist-era Youth Brigades in Czechoslovakia** by Dr. Ellen Paul, Assistant Professor of History, Fort Lewis College
- **The Alteration of Thinking and Behavior under Communism and How it Still Lingers** by Dr. Jaroslava Moserova, Physician and Former Senator in the Czech Parliament

Sunday, March 13, 2005

Life Long Learning Series Films: Prague '68, Summer of Tanks (1968 historic film footage) and *Oratorio for Prague* Jan Nemeč. WFLA Heritage Hall at the NCSML. Free and open to the public.

Sponsored by a major grant from Humanities Iowa
An official program of the University of Iowa Year of Arts and Humanities

Additional sponsor support from: The Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREES) and International Programs, University of Iowa

For more information, call (319) 362-8500 or visit the museum web site, www.NCSML.org.

V. Feature Article:

Library Cataloguing Update

By Russ Novotny & Dave Mulehna

The Czech Heritage Foundation is currently in a multi-year project to help fund cataloguing of the NCSML's library collection. Our organization feels a keen commitment to that collection. In fact, it was a similar fund drive several years ago that provided the kick-off funding to establish the permanent position of Museum Librarian. You might say the Library is one of our pet projects.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library preserves and protects more than 18,000 books, periodicals, and archival materials about Czech and Slovak culture. However, it is not enough to house a large collection of materials. Scholars, students, historians, genealogists, and the general public must have easy access to them. That's where this massive cataloguing process comes in.

Not only is the cataloguing information being captured, but it is being entered into an automated system that is available through the NCSML web site. Appropriately enough, this on-line catalogue is being called "*Komensky*". Researchers should understand that *Komensky* contains only a part of the cataloged library collection (currently approximately 4,000 items). The online catalog is a work in progress, and it will be updated as the NCSML continues to document their holdings.

All items have catalogued in accordance with accepted cataloguing standards. The library is a member of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a cataloguing cooperative, and their holdings also appear in OCLC's WorldCat. As items are catalogued, the catalogue information becomes available over the Internet, through the Library's web site. Thus, scholars all over the world can search the NCSML collection for works of particular interest to them.

With the help of the funding being provided by the Czech Heritage Foundation, the NCSML is now in the second year of this most recent cataloguing project. Cataloguers have been hired to provide part-time cataloguing assistance over a two year period.

Fund Drive Continues

This is a multi year fund drive, and many people have already made donations which included similar commitments for the next two years. It is not too late to add your donation. We urge those of you who made multi-year commitments to honor those commitments by directing your donations to:

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

In our previous issue, we thanked those who made donation commitments by mid July of 2004. We now wish to add our thanks to those of you who have made new donation commitments since then.

Library Cataloguing Fund Drive Acknowledgements for New Contributions Since mid-July, 2004

We wish to thank the following individuals, who, since mid July, had provided donations for the Library Cataloguing Project: Joseph & Mary F. Barron, Dorothy Kralova Cummings, Dorothy Hain, Don & Irene Hamous, A. Kloubec, Robert & Mildred Lenc, Charles Opatrny, Bob & Janahn Skalicky, Veneda Stehno, Robert Tayek, Sally & Dean Teresinski, Blair & Leola Thornbloom, Mrs. Agnes Vavra, Marie Vileta, John & Adeline Volesky, Connie Caslavka Wubbena

In Memory and Dedication Donations – We also wish to thank the following individuals who made their donations in memory of or dedicated to a loved one: John K. Hyvnar for Vaclav Hyvnar, James Repka Family for John & Anna Repka, William D. Severa for W. F. Severa

A. Czech Heritage Contributors

The following members graciously included additional donations with their membership application fees

August 2004 through December 2004: Leroy Anderle, Pauline Baca, Helen L. Barta, Richard D. & Tammy Beranek, Joseph & Evelyn Bevill, Mary Bozaneck, Linda M. Brink, Esther Cunningham, Joseph & Libby Dalecky, Martha Divishek, Emma Gallagher, Donna Gruntorad, Mrs. Edward Hanzlik, Alma J. Helmer, Mrs Jackie Hess, Douglas A. Hladek, C. Lloyd Holeccek, Carol Hook, Freda M. Hunstad, Edna M. Kint, Mildred Koenigsmark, Betty Konecny, Leo Koss, John A. Kuba, Emily V. Lins, Esther Lippert, Doris S. Looney, Marcella Lorence, Beatrice Losenicky, Karen Millard, Jean Miller, Betty J. Nemeck, Patricia Novak, Mr. & Mrs. Emil Novak, Lucille E. Novotny, Charles J. Opatrny, Alvin Pavlis, Allan & Jane Peremsky, Raphael F. Pisarik, Ernest Pokorny, Joanne Popelka, Frank Port, Rose A. Pospisil, Joanne Rayborn, Ramona Caslavka Schmidt, Cecelian N. Scott, John & Margery Secl, Olga Sedenka, William D. Severa, Steve & Pamela J. Shipp, Robert J. Skalicky, Lauren Smerchek, Linda E. Starek, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stolba, Mary Ann Tegen, Mildred Urban, Agnes Vavra, Mrs. Marcella Vondra, Lenora Watson, Liba Watson

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

C. 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 web 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/links.htm> - Provided by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library)

http://www.slavophilia.com/pages/Country_Focus/ - Slavic and Eastern European Links. Includes Czech Republic and Slovak Republic

Cedar Rapids Gazette Features

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/special/village/index.htm> - Czech Village (Gazette articles, clickable map, village-related web sites, recipes, photo tour)

<http://www.gazetteonline.com/special/czech/index.htm> - Dedication of National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library - Special reports and related articles (1995)

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)

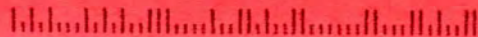
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D. Calendar of Events

-
- Feb. 8 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM
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- Mar. 4 **Bohemian Garnets: Exquisite Artistry from the National Museum in Prague Exhibit Opens** - NCSML
5 **Czech School Chili Supper** – St. Wenceslaus School Gym, 5-7:00 PM (see story on page 3)
8 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM
11-12 **Czech and Slovak History and Culture Conference** – NCSML
19 **St. Joseph’s Day Parade** – Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, 2:00 PM
20 **St. Joseph’s Day Dance** – Cedar Rapids Elks Lodge, 2-6:00 PM (see story on page 3)
-
- April 12 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM
16 **The Museum Store presents *Cooking in Babi’s Kitchen*** - NCSML
23 **Miss Czech Slovak Applications Due** (see story on page 3)
-
- May 10 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM
13 **Taste of Czech and Slovak** – NCSML, 5-7:00 PM
14-15 **Houby Days** – NCSML & Czech Village, Cedar Rapids
-
- June 14 **Czech Heritage Foundation Meeting** – NCSML, 7:00 PM
25 **Walking Tour of Historic Czech Village, East Side** – Starts from NCSML, 6:00 PM