

WINTER 2014

Celebrating  
**20 YEARS**

# *the* Guilded Page

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



Marie Webster and Mary Van Houten chaired Cookie Walk, a delightful and traditional complement to Old World Christmas Market as well as a successful fund raiser!



The Holubars have made Cookie Walk a family affair for more than 12 years. From left: Ariana Sanchez, Carolyn Holubar, Elly Holubar, Mel Holubar, and Ashley Holubar.



## 16<sup>th</sup> Cookie Walk Tasty Statistics

- Some \$2,500 netted from Cookie Walk, Cafe, Cookbook and Apron Sales
- 250 pounds of Cookies and Candies
- 150 Customers
- 65 Volunteers (names listed on next page)
- Largest Sale was \$52; the smallest \$.25!

*"People have got to learn: if they don't have cookies in the cookie jar, they can't eat cookies."* — Suze Orman (whose words apply to feasting AND fundraising)



Jeanne Vogt and Betty Sheets "spotlight" Guild's president for 2015... Donna Merkle!!



## 2015 Officers elected in December

Left to right are President: Donna Merkle, Recording Secretary: Karen Zacek, Treasurer: Marla Nikodim, Corresponding Secretary: Diane Moore and Historian: Sally Stejskal.

Vice President: Ed Popelka, not shown in photo.



## Czech & Slovak Dinner features sit-down dinner with superb cuisine, service

Dinner guests enjoyed it all... a plated 5-course dinner, featuring traditional cuisine! The feast started with braunschweiger paté, followed by potato and mushroom soup, a fresh salad with shredded carrots and beets, roasted pork loin with dumplings, sauerkraut, and gravy. Apple strudel and coffee completed the dinner. Wine and beer were available at a cash bar. There was even an edible orchid garnish on each plate.

Dinner was served in WFLA Hall, with formal settings, fall centerpieces, and linens, all under the chandelier lighting and Czech & Slovak background music. Advance reservations were required, the price at \$25 per guest. **Czech & Slovak dinner netted \$2,000.** Expanded advertising resulted in 112 reservations, including people from California and Texas! Several guests had never visited the museum before.

Leah Wilson, NCSML Chief Operating Officer, welcomed guests and Iowa's Miss Czech & Slovak, Janna Waters, extended greetings.

Table service was provided by Kirkwood's Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts program. Student work was under the direction of Guild member Mary Van Houten, their instructor. Students received class credit as well as credit for community service. We hope they will return for another event, as their presence and service added greatly to the ambiance of the evening.

Guild members who planned and worked the event were incredible! Many thanks to our community, volunteers, and committee members: Diane Moore, Sue Covington, Suzanne Charipar, Mary Van Houten, Carol Wohlleben, and Bonnie Rohlena. Additional members who cooked, plated the courses, cleaned and washed dishes (well over 1,000), included Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen, Diane Hayes, Linda Koehler, Beth Kucera, Cindy Monroe, John Moore, Marj Nejd, Marla Nikodim, Cyndi O'Brien, Ed Popelka, Marv Rohlena, Marge Sedlacek, and Eldon Wohlleben. Kudos to Amy Lyness, director of rentals and group tours. Dostal's Catering provided the dumplings.



Committee members: Diane Moore, Sue Covington, Suzanne Charipar, Mary Van Houten, Carol Wohlleben, and Bonnie Rohlena.



Roasted pork loin with dumplings, sauerkraut, and gravy with an edible orchid garnish



Many hands helped prepare the dinner.

## Con't. Cookie Walk 2014 Volunteers

Chairs: Marie Webster and Mary Van Houten, Bev and Gene Kadlec, Dolores Blood, Joe Kurka, Pam Novy, Carolyn and Mel Holubar, Bonnie Holubar, Elly and Ashley Holubar, Ariana Sanchez, Marge Sedlacek, Marla Nikodim, Laverne Fisher, Loreen Svoboda, Alicia Jackson, Irene Konecny, Andrea Siebenmann, Dorothy Voelkers, Diane Moore, Carman Henderson, Barb and Don Pulkrab, Carol Wohlleben, Jan Axtell, Karen Hospodarsky, Linda Koehler, Sylvia Popelka, Betty Sheets, Connie Stewart, Jeanne Vogt, Millie Wright, Marilyn Cooper, Karen Zacek, Irene Hamous, Sue Covington, Marge Stone, Marj Nejd, Mary Ann Kucera, Sheila Janda, Trisha Bender, Suzanne Charipar, Barb Hill, Diane Hayes, Betty Clinton, Diana Geoffrey, Hermina Rigel, Ann Kloubec, Kathryn Birky, Pat Martin, Sally Stejskal, Gail Naughton, Jan Stoffer, Barb Edmunds, Fran Hanzel Johnson, Carrie Van Houten, Amy Lyness, Karen Vlasek, Cyndi O'Brien, Bonnie Rohlena, Stefanie Kohn, Shirley Alexander.



## Guild President's Winter Message



Diane Hayes

What a year the Guild has had! Taste of Czech & Slovak is once again viable, a delightful "Time for Tea", Fall Dinner and Cookie Walk. We have been busy to say the least. Not to mention all the Bake sales, volunteer fairs, BrewNost, membership meetings, Kolach baking, committee meetings and your regular volunteer hours on site at the Museum. We have raised the awareness of the Guild within our

community with our activities.

You are all to be congratulated on a very successful year of the Guild. There is no way to say "Thank You" loud enough of enough times. You have all succeeded in making the Guild and integral part of the NCSML. Hopefully new opportunities will open up for us to assist the Museum staff with the day to day operations. We are ready and able that is for sure!

On a personal note, I cannot tell you what a wonderful experience being the Guild's President the last two years has been. I have been afforded one-of-kind opportunities and have learned so much. I have met such incredibly talented and capable people within our membership and formed valuable friendships. You have all supported me in our endeavors and for that I cannot thank you enough. I leave with the Guild in the capable hands of the newly- elected offices and returning officers. Please continue to support your officers and your Guild. Let's continue to grow our membership base and make a difference in the life of the NCSML.

Again thank you for affording me the honor of serving as your President. I thank each and everyone of you.

Diane Hayes



## Guild members donated to Silent Auction at BrewNost

Three plates of two dozen assorted kolace sold for \$55, \$45. and \$40. Frank and Sheryl Gardner donated a 7-night stay in Sedonia, AZ, and John and Diane Moore donated a basket of goodies from the Amana Colonies, including wine, glasses, and assort treats.

**BrewNost Volunteers:** Mary Ellen Krotz, Sheryl & Frank Gardner, Diane & John Moore, Janna Waters, Carolyn Holubar, Bill Burke, Sue Stinson, Diane Geoffrey, Betty Sheets, Frank & Barb Edmonds, Beth Kucera & Mike Bearrows, Carmen Henderson, Mary Ann Kucera, Frank & Laverne Fisher, Marilyn & Bob Zvacek, Ken & Ginger Erger, Marv & Bonnie Rohlena, Marge & Lee Sedlacek, Anita Burke, Sue Covington, Dorothy Voelkers, Loreen Svoboda, Karen Zacek, Marla Nikodim, Dolores Blood, Margaret Kenney, Joe Kurka, Jeanne Vogt, Nancy & Jim Houtz, Sarah Reisdorph, Joe Valenta, Ashley Bonnet, Tim Barnes, Katie Shaffer; Czech students: Nikola Janotova & Eva Sarsova.

## NCSLM President's Winter Message



Gail Naughton

Dear Friends,  
I just left the meeting where the new officers were unanimously elected. Congratulations! And many thanks to Donna Merkle for taking on the role of President and to the other officers. It's been a rocky nominating process but I believe it's healthy for members of the Guild to talk through issues and pledge to continue the process. Donna has my enthusiastic support and that of all the museum staff. I know the Guild will give her their full support, as well.

There couldn't have been a better weekend to show the dedication and creativity of the Guild than the Old World Christmas Market. You were everywhere, just like Christmas elves. Thank you so much for the cookies, kolaches, and all your help. Watching the families take pictures in front of the tree, eat cookies, enjoy the market, and take part in the crafts and exhibits was heartwarming. Hearing their appreciation for this festive, fun time with their families reinforces the true meaning of Christmas. It was a magical time! Thank you for helping make it happen.

Warm wishes for wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Gail Naughton





## Business from August 2014 Guild Meeting Minutes

*Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings.*

**Program:** Annual Fund Manager Elizabeth Schlegel told of plans for the 2014 BrewNost. Prague trip raffle tickets for sale and individual who sells most will receive free BrewNost ticket.

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Jerry Campbell spoke about upcoming Museum programs.

**President:** Diane Hayes extended artist Daniela Mahoney's appreciation for Guild support while she was here. Also reported results of Facebook "Time for Tea" event and wide range of recipients.

**Nominating Committee:** Cindy Monroe appointed to the Nominating Committee. Committee of three will then present a slate of officers for election at November meeting.

**Fall Dinner:** Fall dinner event was presented to the membership as next major fundraiser. Membership voted to support a plated pork dinner, and Carol Wohlleben, chair, will select the date and proceed with plans.

**Name Badges:** Name badge mockup was shown. Badges will be magnetic with blue background and white lettering at cost of \$12.50 each.

**Recording Secretary:** Minutes of July meeting approved as distributed.

**Treasurer:** Sally Stejskal reported treasury balance as of July 31, 2014, was \$10,308.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Top Ten Volunteers: Diane Moore reported that 63 volunteers contributed total of 1,092.35 hours during June. Diane Moore contributed most, with 44.5 hours. She also sent condolence cards to Bonnie Rohlena and Anita Burke.

**Historian/Librarian:** Barb and Frank Edmunds were thanked for providing tables for sorting and working on the history project. The silver tea service is stored in the library.

**Museum Board of Directors:** Carol Wohlleben reported on July meeting of the BOD, which focused primarily on financial information/directional updates.

**Guided Page:** Electronic distribution of newsletter added as circulation option was discussed.

**Time for Tea:** Chairperson Sylvia Popelka reported success of the event. Some 120 attendees ranged in age from 4 to 94! Marla Nikodim described the program on vintage aprons. Channel 9 News covered the event. Sylvia recommended this as an annual event, with different themes and hats and gloves optional.

**BrewNost:** "Dessert Bites" have been dropped for this year's

event. Co-chairs seek ideas for Guild's contribution to the Silent Auction, which will also include three kolace trays. Signup sheets for volunteers for BrewNost 2014 available today.

## Business from September 2014 Guild Meeting Minutes

*Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings.*

**Program:** Sara Jacobmeyer gave a presentation on illustrator, author, and filmmaker Peter Sis, whose work is currently on exhibition at NCSML

**President:** Diane Hayes told that Guild members Bonnie Stepanek and Charles Opatrny passed away during August, 2014. Bob Stone gave a short presentation on the life of Mr. Opatrny.

Jitro Czech Girls Choir will perform at St. Wenceslaus Church Nov. 29. Host families are needed and Guild "passed the hat" to secure money to co-sponsor.

Volunteer Monthly Listing and Publication of Complete Minutes in Guided Page. Both topics were discussed as executive board wishes for their discontinuance. Discussion ended in vote to maintain both for present.

**Committee Reports:** Diane Hayes reported that this year's Executive Board will prepare a notebook for all final committee reports, for more efficient communication.

**2015 Guild Membership Fees**—Executive board raised Membership Dues for 2015 to \$15.

**Cookie Walk**—Mary Van Houten and Marie Webster will chair the 2014 Cookie Walk. Looking for new members! Sign-up sheets at the October meeting.

**Vice President:** Ed Popelka reported that the Operation Synergy will meet on Thursday Sept. 11, 2014, to re-start talks between Museum staff and Guild members. Staff photos in Volunteer lounge suggested.

**Recording Secretary:** August minutes accepted as distributed.

**Treasurer:** Sally Stejskal reported bank balance as of August 31, 2014 was \$8,766. This included a check for \$3,000 to the NCSML for the BrewNost sponsorship.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Diane Moore read the July Top 10 Volunteer list, which will be reported in Winter Issue of Guided Page. Fifty-three volunteers contributed a total of 1,265.5 hours for July, 2014.

**Historian:** Linda Koehler asked for submissions for archives.

**Education:** Jeanne Vogt said copies of the Kalendar were available. Publication lists NCSML upcoming events.



**Social Groups:** Loreen Svoboda said Lavanda Woosley has a Prague trip in the works for 2015. A National Czech and Slovak Genealogy group will be coming to Cedar Rapids in October, 2015. A Distillery Tour of the Czech Republic is being planned by the NCSML for May, 2015.

**Nominating Committee:** Cindy Monroe, chair, Jeanne Vogt, and Betty Sheets comprise Nominating Committee.

**BrewNost:** Diane Moore and Sheryl Gardner asked for volunteers.

**Name Badges:** 57 orders for the new magnetic name badges. The order will be placed on Wednesday Sept. 10.

**Fall Dinner:** Carol Wohlleben reported that a possible date for the dinner is Nov. 6, 2014. It will be a plated dinner. Those interested in working with committee are to contact Carol.

**NewBo Market Cookbook Sales:** Guild has spots in November and December to sell the Guild cookbook at NewBo Market. Please sign up for a shift that fits your schedule.

**Memoir Group:** Sandra Hudson said Memoir Group will meet again every other Thursday through May, 2015.

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Sara Jacobmeyer asked for Immigrant Home Tour volunteers. She noted that a Volunteer Recruitment event is being planned in September.

## Business from October 2014

### Guild Meeting Minutes

*Complete Minutes are available at all membership meetings.*

**Announcements:** Jerry Campbell thanked Elizabeth Schlegel, Guild co-chairs, and all who helped with BrewNost 2014. Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen is new volunteer coordinator, and staff is preparing staff directory.

**Program:** Diane Hayes introduced Nikola Janotova and Eva Sarsova, Czech Republic Exchange students at Mt. Mercy University. They told of histories of their home towns in Czech Republic.

**President:** Diane Hayes thanked George Hill and Grant Smith for kitchen cupboards locks and John Moore for beautiful kitchen cutting boards. Guild will sell cookbooks at New Bo Market on three 3 upcoming dates.

**Recording Secretary:** Diana Geoffrey asked for additions/corrections to the September Meeting Minutes. Minutes were approved as distributed.

**Treasurer:** Sally Stejskal reported three memorial donations made to the NCSML in September for deceased members. Bank balance as of September 30, 2014, was \$8,929. The goodwill donation collected to support Czech Girls' Choir totaled \$267. Membership fees for 2015 are due and are \$15.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Diane Moore read the August Top Ten Volunteer list. 52 volunteers contributed a total of 773.5 hours, with Bonnie Holubar logging most with 52.5 hours. Sympathy cards sent to George Joens and families of Emil Koval and Ed Hemphill.

**Museum Board of Directors Representative:** Carol Wohlleben noted NCSML Board is working on a strategic plan for 2011-2015.

**Guided Page:** Beth Kucera is working on emailing next edition. Those with problems with email attachments should let Pat Martin or herself know so they can continue to mail Guided Page to them through post office.

**Membership:** Betty Sheets asked for any changes in contact information.

**Education:** Jeanne Vogt noted the Museum Kalendar is available, listing current programs and activities.

**Nominating Committee:** Cindy Monroe presented the committee's slate of officers for 2015. They are as follows: Vice President-Ed Popelka, Treasurer-Marla Nikodim, Corresponding Secretary-Diane Moore and Historian-Sally Stejskal. President and Recording Secretary positions still open. President will examine by-laws and work on a plan to fill positions. Elections to be held at the November Meeting.

**Name Badges:** Still has a few badges to distribute.

**BrewNost:** Diane Moore thanked volunteers and gave a preliminary event report.

**Fall Dinner:** Carol Wohlleben introduced the committee as follows: Suzanne Charipar, Bonnie Rohlena, Sue Covington, Diane Moore, Mary Van Houten, and herself. Plated pork dinner will be November 13, 2014, and cost is \$25. Hopefully Kirkwood Culinary students will help. Sign-ups for helpers available today.

**Cookie Walk:** Cookie Walk will be December 6, 2014. Sign-up sheets available after today's meeting.

## 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.



### Meet Lindsay, Volunteer Coordinator



Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen

Shifting from Assistant Museum Store manager, to Volunteer Coordinator & National Programs Assistant, I am thrilled to be working with many of you on a more regular basis. In the past year and a half, I have been inspired by your dedication to the NCSML.

It is proven time & time again by the generous hours many of you spend volunteering your time. The NCSML is who it is today

because of you, so I thank you.

Together, I hope to expand and diversify our volunteer core to continue this rich legacy of volunteering at the NCSML. My door is always open, please come by to chat or bring any questions/ideas that you have with you! My regular schedule is M-F and my extension is x203.

Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen, Volunteer Coordinator

### 'The Librarian' book sculpture honors Sis' illustration

"The Librarian" book sculpture that adorns the Rozek Grand Hall at NCSML is inspired by a character from illustrator Peter Sis' book *THE THREE GOLDEN KEYS*. The original "Librarian" Sis adapted for his book was an oil on canvas entitled "The Librarian," by Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Thought to be a portrait of Wolfgang Lazius, humanist and historian, the original was painted in 1562.

This representation has become a feature in the visual history of the library profession. The painting was taken to Sweden following looting of Prague Castle during the 1648 Battle of Prague.

Fast forward to today at NCSML and the book sculpture featured with a current exhibit there. In Sis' 1994 book *THE THREE GOLDEN KEYS*, he recaptures the wonder of his own childhood in Prague. While the reader is at "the library," there is a shift in the walls and The Librarian magically emerge from the wall of books.

In the story, The Librarian unrolls a scroll and a golden key is attached to it. In order to learn the rest of the story, you may purchase the book and other Sis favorites at the Museum Gift Shop!



### Guild of NCSML logo recreated

The former Guild logo included both traditional folk art and a "key to success" design that was a silhouette of NCSML as it looked before the Flood of 2008. Our museum edifice is different today, and therefore not recognizable as the building in the previous logo. Thus, membership voted on and approved the Guild logo. Marj Nejdí was asked to recreate/freshen up the folk art motif, representing heritage, to comprise the new look. Here is our logo!



From left: George Hill, Dave Muhlena, and Grant Smith

When the Peter Sis exhibition at NCSML was finalized, Guild of NCSML members collaborated to produce our own version. Grant Smith, director of facilities, created the metal framework and platform onto which books were attached. This platform is on castors, which allows the sculpture to be moved. It will be permanent even after the Sis exhibition moves on, according to Dave Muhlena, director of Skala Bartizal Library.

Next, Dave selected books, many of which were duplicates or, although decorative, were not suitable for the museum library collection. For instance, the two dramatic "legs" are not Czech or Slovak literature. Guild member George Hill provided valuable assistance in construction of the book sculpture.



**Top 10 Volunteers for August 2014**

1. Bonnie Holubar	52.5	6. Sally Stejskal	28.5
2. Shirley Alexander	35	7. George Hill	28
3. Barb Hill	33.5	8. Carmen Henderson	27
4. Mary Ellen Krotz	33	9. Diane Moore	27
5. Carolyn Holubar	29.5	10. Donna Merkle	26.5

**Total 52 Volunteers = 773.5 hours**

**Top 10 Volunteers for September 2014**

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**

**Top 10 Volunteers for October 2014**

1. Diane Moore	52	6. Dolores Blood	35
2. Carolyn Holubar	50	7. Barb Hill	34.5
3. Diane Hayes	41	8. Sally Stejskal	34.5
4. George Hill	38	9. Suzanne Charipar	33
5. Bonnie Holubar	38	10. Mary Ellen Krotz	30

**Total 55 Volunteers = 941.5 hours**

**Top 10 Volunteers for November 2014**

1. Diane Moore	45.5	6. Shirley Alexander	31.5
2. Barb Hill	43.5	7. Marge Sedlacek	31
3. Linda Koehler	35.75	8. Sally Stejskal	31
4. Carmen Henderson	34	9. Suzanne Charipar	25
5. George Hill	33	10. Sue Covington	25

**Total 55 Volunteers = 788.10 hours**

**Education Question** by Bob Stone

Who was the prominent Czech historian of the 19th century who advocated a federalist government within the Austrian Empire?

Answer: František Palacký.

**November Guild Program**

Czech Heritage Singers entertained members with various songs, and a special "Silent Night". The group was founded in 1986 to perpetuate Czech music, folk and classical.

*Not pictured are Bernie Drahozal, narrator and Donna Merkle, the group's pianist.*

Front, from left: Jeanne Vogt, Helen Quass, Barb Pulkrab, Millie Ortnier.  
Back, from left: Fran Whitters, Marj Nejd, Annie Kloubec, Larin Long, Mike Papich.

**August Speaker**

Annual Fund Manager Elizabeth Schlegel spoke about the upcoming 2014 BrewNost. Prague trip raffle tickets, beer and food plus the silent auction were the topics.

**September Program**

Sara Jacobmeyer gave a presentation on illustrator, author, and filmmaker Peter Sis, whose work is currently on exhibition at NCSML.

**October Program with Students**

Nikola Janotova and Eva Sarsova, Czech Republic exchange students at Mt. Mercy University spoke of their home towns and histories in Czech Republic.





# *the* Guilded 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, Jan. 10, 9 a.m. at NCSML**

Program: "The scope and changes of NCSML  
computer capabilities" by Preston Moore,  
Director of Marketing & Communications

## 2015 Membership Meeting

January 10	February 7
March 7	April 11
May 2	June 6
July 11	August 1
September 12	October 3
November 7	

## Jitro Czech Girls Choir

St. Wenceslaus Church hosted a performance by the Jitro Czech Girls Choir on Nov. 29. Host families participated and Guild donated \$270 to become a co-sponsor of the performance.

JITRO, meaning "Daybreak" in Czech, is more than just a concert choir from Hradec Kralove, a town in the Czech Republic. It is an organization of 500 children in seven preparatory ensembles, of which only the best 25 or 30 qualify to tour. For 35 years they have been admired all over the world for their tonal brilliance, superb intonation, distinctive rich blend of sound and energetic vitality.



Jitro Czech Girls Choir, one of the world's best children's choirs, performed to a "full house" at St. Wenceslaus Church Nov 29. Photo by Cindy Hadish.