



Winter 2016

## Editor

Shanel Wermerskirchen

## Memberships

Subscriptions to *Naše České Dědictví* (*Our Czech Heritage*) are not sold.

Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation receive the newsletter free of charge. Annual dues are \$10.00 per person and are renewable on January 1 of each year and expire on December 31. Contributions go toward preserving our cherished Czech heritage.

## Website

[CzechHeritageFoundation.com](http://CzechHeritageFoundation.com)

## Got News?

Want to see your story or photo in this newsletter? Contact Shanel Wermerskirchen by email at [CzechHeritageNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:CzechHeritageNewsletter@gmail.com), or send your article to the Czech Heritage Foundation PO box. Your ideas, photos, and stories are always welcome.

## CHF 2015 Officers

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**Vice President** – Marj Nejdil

**Secretary** – Donna Gruntorad

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**Secretary** – Curtis Stochl

## Recipe: Hearty Czech Cabbage Soup

*Yield: 8 servings*



This meaty soup is vegetable-rich and offers so much flavor. Paprika, parsley, and a bay leaf add an aromatic taste to this lovely soup recipe, and if you want some comfort food to warm you up, this soup does the job nicely.

### Ingredients:

3 lbs. beef soup bones  
2 lbs. rib meat  
3 chopped carrots  
1 tsp. paprika  
1 bay leaf  
9 cups beef stock  
2 cans tomatoes  
1 cup chopped parsley  
2 tbs. sugar  
1 cup chopped squash  
1 cup chopped cabbage

### Instructions:

Begin by placing your beef stock, bones, and rib meat in pot, and allow them to boil for 20 minutes.

Next, take your carrots, paprika, bay leaf, tomatoes, parsley, cabbage, and squash and boil them for an additional 30 minutes.

Then, add in your sugar and cook for another 10 minutes. Salt and pepper the dish to your taste.

Place in a large bowl and serve hot. You can serve it with fresh baked bread or dinner rolls.

By Christine Szalay-Kudra, [www.AmazingSoupRecipes.com](http://www.AmazingSoupRecipes.com)



# Annual CHF Wreath Raffle a Great Success

Article by Barb Edmunds



The Old World Christmas Market was held December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML). The Czech Heritage Foundation was one of many vendors at the market. This was the 6<sup>th</sup> year that the Czech Heritage Foundation Wreath Raffle was held to benefit youth programs.

Thirty-six wreaths and swags were donated to the cause. Each wreath had its own beautiful personality and story to tell. People had a difficult time deciding which wreaths they wanted to win, and they often bought more than one ticket to increase their chances of winning.

We had many past winners come back again this year, and many of the vendors showed their support. This was a great family outing. Parents encouraged children to choose their favorite wreaths to bid on.

Many thanks to the NCSML for providing a wonderful location and donating four beautiful live wreaths for this fundraiser. We thank all of the wonderful helpers we had. Bonnie and Marv Rohlena, Lee Thornbloom, and the Royal Court were present for much of the Old World Christmas Market. A special thank you to Ashley Pudil, our Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa for 2015-2016. She was present all of Saturday and Sunday and did a great job announcing the winners on Sunday.

The top eight wreaths and swags raised \$692.00. The total amount raised for 2015 was \$1,142.00. We thank everyone who helped to make this event possible.

This year's top 10 wreaths:

1. Bonnie Rohlena (182 tickets)
2. Emily Weber and Curtis Stochl
3. Czech School Board
4. Sokol Cedar Rapids
5. Donna Gruntorad
6. Leah Wilson
7. Shanel Wermerskirchen
8. Damska Matice Women's Group
9. WFLA Lodge #13
10. Vision Homes

We truly appreciate all our wreath donors, including: Friends of Czech Heritage, Gail Naughton, WFLA Lodge #400 Swisher, NCSML, NCSML Guild, CSA Lodge Junior American Czechs #388, CSA Lodge Prokop Velky #137, Frank and Barbara Edmunds, Czech Heritage Foundation, Svetluský Youth, Betsy McCalley, Federation of Czech Groups, Czech National Cemetery, Bryce Buresh, Ashley Pudil, Debra Edmunds Stallings in Memory of Mary Edmunds, HomeGrownIowa.com.





# Royal Court Applications

Article and Photos by Cindy Hadish

Applications are being accepted for the Czech Heritage Foundation Royal Court, with a deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Czech Prince and Princess candidates must be ages 12 through 18. Judging is based on an essay and interview, and the winners receive a crown and sash along with a stipend to offset the cost of their Czech folk costumes, called kroje. Applicants for Czech Little Sister and Little Brother must be between the ages of 6 and 12.

Crowning of the new Czech Royal Court will take place in May during the annual Houby Days Festival, held in Czech Village in Cedar Rapids, with the group presiding over a number of events throughout the year, such as parades and ceremonies.

The current Royal Court participated in holiday events during December. Members attended the Svatý Mikuláš celebration and tree-lighting ceremony in Czech Village, as well as the Old World Christmas Market at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. The Royal Court assisted in selling tickets for the Czech Heritage Foundation's Wreath Raffle during the market. The event is one of the group's annual fundraisers, which supports youth programs.

Upcoming events for the current Royal Court include parades and the St. Joseph's Day Dance in March.

Find full details about the program and applications at [www.czechheritagefoundation.com](http://www.czechheritagefoundation.com)

Questions may be emailed to: [royalty@czechheritagefoundation.com](mailto:royalty@czechheritagefoundation.com)

## Queen Pageant Prepares for Milestone Year

Article by Bonnie Rohlena, co-director of Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant

Founded in 2001, the Iowa Miss Czech-Slovak Pageant celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Lisa Volesky, daughter of Dennis and Debbie Volesky of Swisher, Iowa was the first official queen candidate for Iowa. She competed with thirteen other contestants in Wilber, Nebraska and was crowned Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2001-2002. In 2002, Miss Katie Ziskovsky was crowned Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa and competed in Wilber to win the talent competition. Iowa brought home another national title when Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa, Stasia Krivanek, was crowned Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2003-2004. Many Iowa contestants have brought home the national Heritage Involvement Award.

Preparations are underway to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa pageant, and all of the past 14 queens will be invited to the event, to be held May 21 during Houby Days in Czech Village. Additional activities are being included in the pageant to honor the past queens in attendance. When finalized, the program of events taking place to mark this milestone and pageant will be available at [www.CzechHeritageFoundation.com](http://www.CzechHeritageFoundation.com) and [www.facebook.com/MissCzechSlovakIowaPageant](http://www.facebook.com/MissCzechSlovakIowaPageant)

This is an exciting year for the program. We hope to connect with all of the young women who have represented the state of Iowa in the national pageant for the past 15 years.

Young women ages 18-25 of Czech-Slovak descent are eligible to compete for the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa title. The deadline to apply is March 1. Candidates are judged on interviews, a talent competition and modeling of their Czech folk costumes, known as kroje. The winner receives a crown, sash, \$1,000 prize and other gifts, and will spend the year representing Iowa at events and preparing for the national competition in Wilber, Neb.

“The memories and experiences I've had as Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa have helped me to grow as a person with a greater sense of pride for my heritage,” said current Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa,

Ashley Pudil, the daughter of Denise and Kevin Pudil of Cedar Rapids. “It truly is a remarkable experience.” A sophomore at Loras College in Dubuque, Pudil will compete at the national pageant in August.

Find full details about the programs and applications at:

[www.CzechHeritageFoundation.com](http://www.CzechHeritageFoundation.com). Questions about the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa pageant can be sent to Bonnie Rohlena at \_\_\_\_\_ or Donna Gruntorad at \_\_\_\_\_

# Iowa's State Queen Celebrates Masopust

Article and photo by Ashley Pudil, Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2015-2016



Dobrý den, friends! Here's an update on my adventures as Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa!

The first weekend in February was a much-anticipated weekend for me. After hearing about Janna Waters' trip a year prior, I marked my calendar for Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> and packed my kroj for a trip to Cresco, Iowa for their Masopust (aka- Czech Mardi Gras). I've heard from many that this event is one to remember, and let me tell you, Cresco did *not* disappoint. Masopust was the most fun event I've attended as queen thus far, hands down. It was great! I can't express how entertaining the day was by merely writing, but I'm going to try.

My mom and I arrived when the Jim Busta band was in full swing and everyone was happily mingling and having good conversation. I was able to meet with Eileen, the Masopust chair this year, as well as Steve, Linus, and many other members of the Czech Heritage Partnership. Eileen was kind enough to introduce me to some of her friends and relatives. Everyone I met was so nice and friendly- one of my favorite parts of Masopust! I felt so welcome among the community. Many people congratulated me on my title and asked me about my reign thus far and what events I completed. They also encouraged me to keep coming back to festivals in the northern part of Iowa, which was such a nice gesture! Czech hospitality is something I will never forget, especially in Cresco.

After mingling for a little, I was able to speak for a bit in front of the crowd. I talked a little about my reign and all the opportunities available to state queens. I mentioned a few of my upcoming events, including St. Joseph's Day and my trip to Minnesota. The best part of my speech, however, was when I asked the crowd, "Jak se máš?" (How are you? in Czech) and everybody yelled back "Dobře!" and started clapping. It made me laugh and brought me so much joy to see so many people enthusiastic about spending their day celebrating Masopust. Steve also gave a wonderful presentation, this one about the Tyn coat of arms. He gave everyone a booklet about the history and the different parts of the Czech Republic and traditions that have been preserved in Cresco.

The rest of the day was filled with meeting more people, taking photos, a live auction, and more dancing. To my surprise, I met five people who are fellow Loras College Duhawks! I met people who had relatives graduate as early as 1950 and others who graduated just a few years ago. I also met a sweet little girl named Gina, who wants to be a princess, she told me. She's eight years old and was so fun to talk to, even if it was just for a little while. The live auction was entertaining; many items were auctioned off, from Czech glass to kolaches to quilts and more. All proceeds from the auction benefited the CHP and their goals to continue to preserve, document, and spread Czech heritage across northern Iowa. The night was rounded out with a traditional Czech dinner with pork, dumplings, potatoes, rolicky, and kolaches. My goodness, it was delicious! I drew the number of a table out of a hat and got to spend dinner eating and visiting with them. Shortly after dinner, we packed our things and made the journey back home: me to Dubuque for classes and my mom home to Cedar Rapids. If Cresco wasn't so far, I'd go back every weekend to do it all over again. It was a lovely and fun way to spend the last few days before the Lenten season began, and I hope I have many more experiences like this in the last few months of my reign!



# St. Joseph's Day Dance 2016

Article by Emily Weber

The St. Joseph's Day Dance is Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-6:00pm at the Ponderosa Ballroom in Walford, IA. The dance will feature music from Barefoot Becky & the Ivanhoe Dutchmen, door prizes, a silent auction, a bake sale and more!

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door. The St. Joseph's Day Dance is a fundraiser to support Czech Heritage youth programs.



Photo by Cindy Hadish

## Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ It's time to dust off your favorite red clothing for St. Joseph's Day!
- ✓ Czech Village Association St. Joseph's Day Parade, March 19<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ See [CzechVillageCedarRapids.com](http://CzechVillageCedarRapids.com) for parade details

# Warm up at Czech School Chili Supper

Article by Julie Wiedner and Cindy Hadish

Slow simmered, gently stirred and meticulously seasoned by Babi(s)! All are invited to join the Czech School community for a delicious, nutritious bowl (or more) of our special, made-from-scratch Czech School Chili on Saturday evening, March 12, from 4:30 - 6:30 in the St. Ludmila Church Social Hall.

This year's supper is held in honor of Marjorie Pace, a 1936 graduate of Czech School and a longtime delegate of the Czech School Board, who can often be found preparing chili for the event. The school has continuously operated in Cedar Rapids since 1870 and teaches children Czech language, songs and traditions during its summer session each year, with teachers who are from the Czech Republic. Adult classes have also been added in recent years.

Plans are well underway for Czech School 2016 and Adult Czech Language classes. The Czech School Board will release final details as soon as possible. Watch for updates on the Czech School Cedar Rapids Facebook page, for printed posters in Czech Village and NewBo, email: [czechschool@gmail.com](mailto:czechschool@gmail.com), or call Julie at

We're also looking forward to seeing everyone on March 19<sup>th</sup>, at the St. Joseph's Day Parade. Watch for us proudly wearing our red and enthusiastically waving from the parade!

Please join us for the  
*Czech School - Česká Škola*  
**ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER**

**March 12, 2016**  
Saturday Evening  
4:30 - 6:30 pm

**St. Ludmila  
Church Social Hall**  
*(lower level of  
the church building)*  
211 21st Ave. SW  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Serving:  
**Chili  
Rye Bread  
Cake  
Beverage**

There will also be a  
**BAKE SALE!**

**\$5 donation**

The supper this year is held in honor of  
**MARGE MACHACEK PACE**  
Chili Chef, 1936 Czech School Graduate  
and Longtime Czech School Board Delegate

# Traditional Czech Easter Symbols

Article by Shanel  
Wermerskirchen



Folks around Czech Village seem to have a dreamy look in their eyes as of late, and I think I know why. They're dreaming of lamb cakes of course! With Lent drawing to a close, now is a great time to recall some traditional aspects of a Czech Easter.

## Meet the New Editor

I'd like to introduce myself to all my fellow Czech Heritage Foundation members. I will be taking over the position of editor from Sara Jacobmeyer. I am so excited for the opportunity to learn more about Czech heritage and all of my new friends! I first heard about the CHF at the NCSML where I am the Family Programs Manager & Visitor Services Associate. After meeting some amazing CHF members and the royal court, I knew I had to join in on the fun!

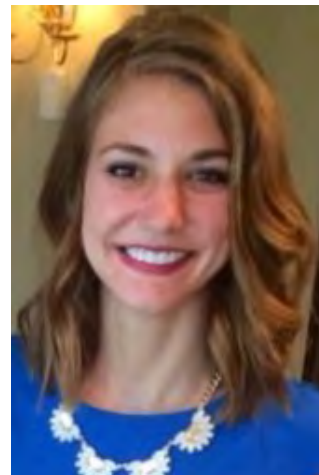
In 2010, I moved to Cedar Rapids from Waterloo to attend Coe College where I received a degree in

**Pussywillow:** These twigs are thought to bring youthfulness and health to any girl who is lightly whipped with one. The *pomlázka* is the braided whip made from pussywillow twigs that is used on Easter Monday. The tradition began in pagan times and was meant to chase away bad luck, evil spirits, and illness. Boys would chase girls with the whip and lightly tap them for eggs. Girls would then hand over a painted egg and tie a ribbon on the whip. The tradition still lives today, but men and boys can expect money and plum brandy instead of painted eggs.

**Dousing:** Dousing a girl with water on Easter Monday can also assure good health and fortune and chase away illness.

**Rattle:** On Green Thursday, Good Friday, and White Saturday before Easter, boys find themselves a rattle and make noise all throughout the neighborhood. The meaning of the rattle is to scare away Judas.

Political Science and Sociology. Currently, I am attending the University of Iowa to obtain a certificate in Museum Studies. In my free time, I love to visit local trails to spot birds, cook, and curl up with a good book and my cat, Kiwi.





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