



Photo by Madonna Schirm

Světlušky members at the re-opening of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library on July 14, 2012.

Summer 2012

## Editor

Karen Lehmann

## Memberships

Subscriptions for *Our Czech Heritage* are not sold. Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation receive the newsletter free of charge. Contributions may be sent anytime. Annual dues are \$10.00 and renewable on January 1 of each year and expire on December 31.

## Website

Visit [www.czechheritagefoundation.com](http://www.czechheritagefoundation.com)

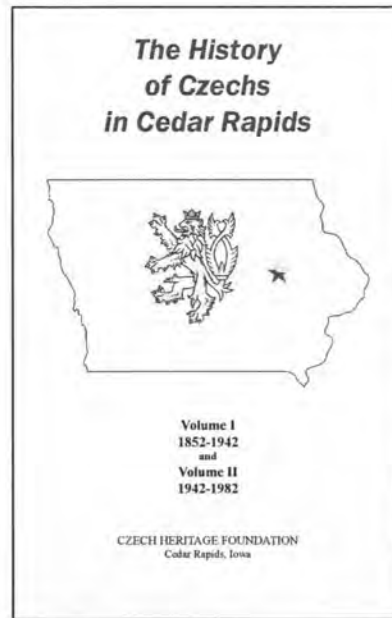
## Got news?

Contact Karen Lehmann at:

## CHF 2012 Officers

President - Frank Edmunds  
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# Hot Off the Press!



The new 2012 edition of *The History of Czechs in Cedar Rapids* is now available. This new edition combines Volume I (1852-1942) and Volume II (1942-1982) into a single printed work and features a comprehensive index. To order a copy, send your request to Donna Merkle, c/o Czech Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 8476, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52408.

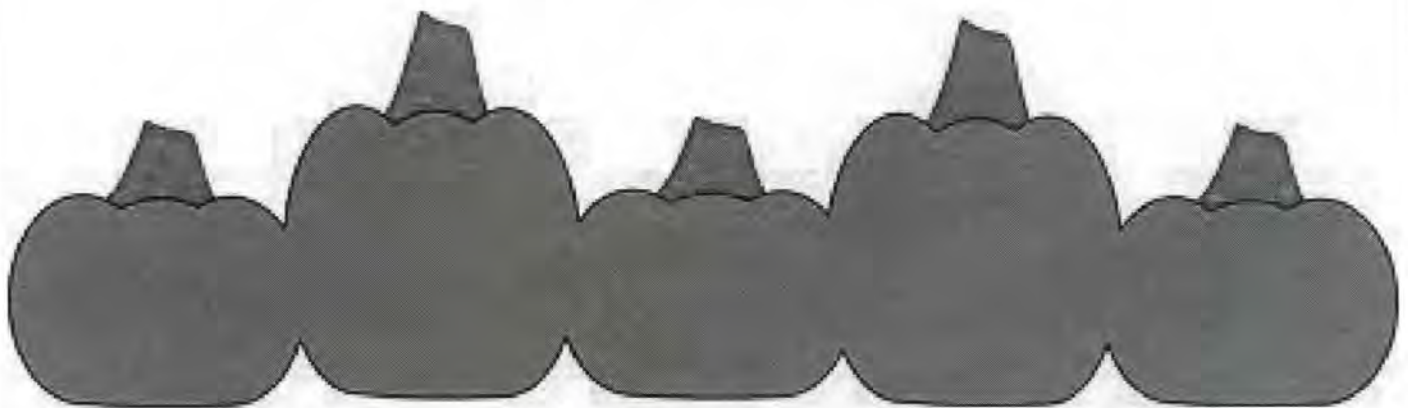
Or call her at

or e-mail her at

Each book costs \$14.00 (\$10.00 for the book, plus \$4.00 for postage/shipping). A discount is available for quantities of 10 or more. Please contact Donna for details.

## Czech Fall Festival - October 14 16th Avenue - Czech Village

Sponsored by Czech Village Merchants





# Alphonse Mucha Exhibit

Highlight of NCSML reopening



Alphonse Mucha

Alfons Maria Mucha, known in English as Alphonse Mucha, was a Czech Art Nouveau painter and decorative artist, known best for his distinct style. He produced many paintings, illustrations, advertisements, postcards, and designs.

More than 230 of his works are on view at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. *Alphonse Mucha: Inspirations of Art Nouveau*, features paintings, jewelry, sculptures and lithographs from the Mucha Foundation in Prague and London.

Not since 1999 has an exhibit of this size and caliber appeared in the United States and it is the first of its type to appear in the Midwest region.

The Mucha exhibit runs through the end of December, 2012.



Other featured gallery exhibits include:

*Weird & Wonderful:*

*Award Winning Art for Children's Books*

*It All Comes Out in the Wash*

*Rising Above*



Alphonse Mucha  
1860 - 1939



# Memorial Day

Many attend Czech National Cemetery Observance



The annual Memorial Day Observance at the Czech National Cemetery was Monday, May 28 at 11:30 am. Over 100 people attended the program.

Top left - Marissa Cada and Tori Knight display a memorial wreath at the grave site of Antonia Strakova, the first Czech buried at the Czech National Cemetery. Antonia was also a Sokol member.

Top right - Kelsey Pokorny, Czech Heritage Princess, read the speech entitled, "What Price Freedom."

Bottom - Hannah and Micah VanDeusen play two violin pieces.

Photos by Karen Lehmann



# CHF Scholarships

Board awards three students

## HAILEE RAUE

University of Iowa



Hailee Raue

Hailee is very dedicated to her Czech heritage and was very fortunate to have experienced the unique kraslice class offered by Cedar Rapids Czech artist Marj Nejd. She has assisted the ladies of St. Wenceslaus Church in baking traditional kolaches and volunteered during their annual Czech Goulash Day event.

After the flood, Hailee helped to paint an Alphonse Mucha-inspired mural in Czech Village. She has also volunteered at the Czech School Chili Supper for the past five years. In 2010 and 2011 Hailee was a classroom helper to Czech School and this year served as the coordinator and played a supporting role in coordinating the adult Czech language classes. She assisted in planning the Czech School Board's entry for the NCSML's grand opening parade. This fall Hailee will begin formal study of the Czech language at the University of Iowa and is registered for a course with Professor Jitka Sonkova.

Hailee is starting her sophomore year at the University of Iowa and majoring in health and human physiology. Health sciences are a very important, relevant topic for our world and she enjoys interacting with people who have physical and mental challenges. Her intention is to attend graduate school to study physical therapy or occupational therapy. She is enthusiastic about taking the next step of committing to the effort required in order to gain the technical knowledge required to allow her to have a significant impact on the lives of others.

## AUSTIN FRERICK

Grinnell College



Austin Frerick

This past May Austin became the first in his family to obtain a college degree. It took a great deal of resourcefulness to overcome the financial barriers in pursuing an undergraduate degree. In addition to rigorous coursework, Austin held multiple jobs during the academic year and successfully balanced a

difficult academic load with numerous extracurricular activities including his position as the All-Campus Events Coordinator and President of the College of Young Democrats of Iowa.

Austin applied to CHF as an upcoming graduate student and this August will begin a two year program at the La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for a masters degree in public affairs.

Austin has an impressive grade point average and is mature in his ability to focus and direct his own learning. He is respectful of other people and their views and has great organizational skills and personal diligence.

To support his Czech heritage in the past, Austin has served as the Czech Heritage Prince (2006-2007) He participated in the CHF exchange program where he spent the summer of 2007 in Prague and then hosted a student from Pribram that fall. In the summer of 2006 he interned with the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library. He is also a prior recipient of this scholarship, awarded in the summer of 2009.

Scholarships

Continued on Page 10



# Houby Day Ha



Top left, page 6 -  
Czech and Slovak dance  
14-member group consists  
8-16 is led by Donna M

Bottom left, page 6 -  
year's Miss Czech-Slovak  
performed her talent at  
Iowa 2012-13 pageant.

Bottom right, page 6 -  
polka together near K

Top right, page 7 -  
Iowa 2012-2013, Holly  
with Little Sisters Delyn  
Knight.

Bottom left, page 7 -  
were for sale on The Av

Bottom right, page 7 -  
cal group performed in

Phot





# ppenings 2012

Světlušky perform a dance called Radček. The dance consists of children aged 4-12.

Samantha Hubler, last Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2011-2012, is pictured at the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa coronation.

Larry and Arlene Spina are at the Kosek Bandstand.

New Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa, Victoria Stepanek, is pictured with her parents, Lynn Pokorny and Victoria Pokorny.

Hundreds of kolache are sold at the Kosek Bandstand.

The Czech Singers perform at the Kosek Bandstand.

Photos by Russ DeHoedt & Karen Lehmann





# Oh Glory Day!

NCSML grand re-opening July 14, 2012



The NCSML building features a 55-seat auditorium; three galleries including a 7200 sq. ft. permanent exhibition hall; a classroom; a 5500 sq. ft. library; a reception hall for seating up to 400; a river view terrace; catering kitchen and an expanded store. Offices are located on the second level of the new addition. With geothermal heating and cooling along with solar panels, the facility will be LEED certified.



The museum's signature chandelier survived the flood of 2008, and is proudly displayed in the front lobby of the NCSML. The Czech-made chandelier, was donated by siblings Leora and Edwin Zahorik.

The expanded and relocated National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library opened to the public on Saturday, July 14, 2012. A two-day festival featured music, dancing, food, entertainment and fun.

Entertainment included parade of states pageant, opening ceremony and ribbon cutting, John and Sarah Mucha welcomed visitors to Mucha exhibition, Mucha film and "Monumental Move" films inside theatre, Babi's Bakery, Kavá & Koláče on terrace, hog roast & food tent, beer tent & garden, lecture series, Vit Horeis, Czech-American Marionette Theater, staropramen tasting and presentation, gypsy jazz by Caravan of Thieves, gypsy swinging, serenading, fire-breathing and down-right fun musicians, and a light show.

More than \$25 million was raised during the capital campaign of 2010 for flood recovery of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. I-JOBS provided \$10 million and a Vision Iowa grant of \$2.9 million was also received by the Museum and Library.

Source: [ncsml.org](http://ncsml.org)

Photos by Russ DeHoedt &  
Karen Lehmann





The expanded museum store.



The reception hall seats 400.



# Czech School 2012

Students enjoy field trips in C.R.



The Czech School class of 2012 took a field trip to Sykora Bakery in Czech Village in July.



Exploring the Czech National Cemetery in Cedar Rapids. Students took rubbings of the historic Czech names off the gravestones.

Photos by Michelle Simoneau

## Scholarships

Continued from Page 5

### LEAH PODZIMEK

Wartburg College

Leah has the distinction of being on the Dean's List at Wartburg College for the years 2008, 2009 and 2012. She has chosen to receive a CHF Scholarship last year



Leah Podzimek

as an undergraduate and was chosen again this year as a graduate student, heading to Goldsmiths College in London England. This school will give her great opportunities both academically and professionally and Leah believes going to school there for a year will help her achieve her main goal: a successful performing and administrative career.

As a voice performance major at Wartburg she was



Aug. 24

is CHF night with the  
Czech Plus Band at the  
Kosek Bandstand on 16th Avenue!



given the opportunity to learn Czech songs and performed some of these at her junior recital in the fall of 2010. Since then she has explored other Czech music and developed an interest in the music of such composers as Dvořák, Janáček, Mahler, Lukas and Svoboda. These composers have been her guide in the field of Czech music.

One of Leah's professors noted "she is a skilled, talented and motivated musician who discovered her passion for performance during her second year of study at Wartburg College. Since that moment she has grown as a singer, as a performer and as an interpreter of vocal repertoire. Her vocal potential is clearly described by her teachers and represents but one aspect of her impressive musicianship. Leah also impresses through her passionate pursuit of vocal excellence, her work ethic and her confidence in the face of new repertoire challenges."



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## Masopust

CHF royalty travel to Protivin, Iowa for event



Pictured l-r: Marissa Cada and Kelsey Pokorny attended Masopust in Protivin, Iowa on February 18, 2012. They volunteered by handing out raffle items, told a little bit about themselves and the Czech Heritage Foundation, enjoyed Czech dancers, and had a fantastic authentic Czech meal.

Marissa is the daughter of Jerry and Ida Cada of Swisher, IA and Kelsey is the daughter of Mike and Ronda Pokorny of Elberon, IA.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Czech Heritage Foundation  
of Cedar Rapids  
invites you to our  
**Annual Picnic**  
(potluck and short meeting)

6:00 PM, Tuesday, August 14, 2012  
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library  
Naxera Terrace

If bad weather, will move indoors.

CHF will provide meat, drinks, cups, paper plates,  
plastic ware and napkins.

This is open to all, so bring your family and friends!  
Just bring a dish of food to share with everyone.  
Bring your own table service if you prefer.



RSVP by Aug. 9: [chfwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:chfwebmaster@gmail.com)  
Joyce Netolicky