

Sv. Mikuláš Day



Graphic by Emma Lehmann

#### Editor

Karen Lehmann

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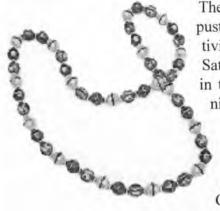
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### Masopust!



The 6th Annual Masopust celebration in Protivin, IA will be held Saturday, February 18, in the Protivin Community Center.

Masopust, which translates to "goodbye to meat", is a Czech-Style Mardi Gras (before Lent Carnival). It traditionally takes

place during the period before the start of Lent, Ash Wednesday.

This festive event is organized by the Czech Heritage Partnership, an area pubic service organization, whose mission is the preservation and promotion of heritage and culture in cooperation with others, Czech or not, of like mind. The event benefits local heritage and historic projects.

### 3rd generation Kosek marries in bandstand



On October 19, 2011 Allison Habben and Thomas Kosek were married in the Kosek Bandstand in Czech Village. Thomas Kosek is the son of Carol and Paul Kosek. In 1976 brothers Stanley and Paul built this bandstand in memory of their parents, Rose and Frank Kosek. Frank and Paul owned and operated Kosek's Dime and Dollar Store in the Czech Village from 1946 through the early 1980's that now houses the National Czech & Slovak Museum, gift shop, and offices.



Photo by Karen Lehmann

# Wreath raffle a big hit

### Christmas wreaths raise money for CHF youth programs

The Czech Heritage Foundation worked with the National Czech Museum & Library to be a part of their second annual Old Prague Christmas Market in Czech Village on December 2 – 3, 2011.

Czech Heritage Foundation sponsored a Holiday Wreath Raffle as a fund raiser for the Foundation's Youth Programs. Czech groups were notified of this project to see if they would donate a wreath to be given away on Saturday afternoon. People bought \$1.00 tickets and placed the ticket in the sack(s) of the wreath they would like to win.

To our surprise, we received 21 beautiful wreaths and swags. There were artificial ones, live evergreen, small, large ones each with a great theme. Each wreath had a different story to tell, making it hard to choose a favorite.

Czech Heritage had a booth in the large heated tent down by the new museum location with 20 other vendors. For the first year, we were very pleased with the acceptance of this project and the interest that was shown. We thank our wonderful volunteers that helped set this booth up, sold tickets, and took the booth down in the rain! Czech Heritage made \$368.00 for this Friday and all day Saturday event.

We have talked to many people including the winners of these beautiful wreaths and everyone hopes that this event takes place next December 2012. Some are even planning their wreath designs for next year!

Yes, we will work with the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library to be a big part of their Old Prague Christmas Market 2012. We will have a bigger area, more publicity, and how wonderful it will be to be near, or in, the new museum.

**BARB EDMUNDS** 

### Vitáme Vás Eliška!

#### Prague exchange student enjoys Iowa

Living 5,337 miles from family and friends can be a daunting experience; but for one foreign exchange student this is not the case.

Eliška Mazanová, 18, of Prague, CZ has been living in Jesup, IA with host parents Mark and Deborah Collett since August, 2011.

"It was a double placement. I live with my host parents and another foreign exchange student my age from Denmark."

The Colletts have two grown children, a son in Los Angeles and a daughter in Iowa.

"They make us feel at home. We call them mom and dad. I've had no homesick-

ness," said Mazanová.

Home for Mazanová is a 13th floor apartment in Prague with her parents Ilona and Jiri. Her mother is chief of accounts at a car dealership and her father is an IT specialist.

Mazanová's peers in Prague played a big role in her becoming an exchange student.



Eliška Mazanová, foreign exchange student living with Jesup, Iowa family.

"In Prague I had friends who went on exchange programs and really enjoyed it. They encouraged me to try it. I really enjoy meeting new people and making new friends," she said.

Since living with her host family, Mazanová's had many travel experiences. She's been to Minnesota, Wisconsin, California, and will travel to Florida in February, 2012.

After high school graduation in May, 2012, Mazanová will return to Prague and continue her education and travels.

"I plan to go to university and study finance and law. I hope to eventually study abroad in Scot-

land," she said.

In her free time, Mazanová likes to play sand volleyball and attend concerts, both classical and rock. She also enjoys visiting art museums, reading classical literature, and going to the theatre.

Photo by Karen Lehmann



CHF royalty stand next to a photo of Leonard Pfeifer prior to the start of the Cedar Rapids Holiday Parade on Dec. 3, 2011. This float, which Pfiefer worked on prior to his death on Nov. 29, 2011 was entitled "Stairway to Heaven."

### Holiday Parade Bittersweet

#### CHF float builder dies days before parade

Leonard Pfeifer's final wish was that his float be finished in time for the Holiday Parade on Dec. 3, 2011. His wish came true thanks to his son, Tim Pfeifer, and friend, Pat Swift.

"That's what he wanted," said his son. The two often helped Pfeifer construct his creations.

Pfeifer, who designed floats for the Czech Heritage Foundation for 23 years passed away November 29, 2011 at the age of 63.

Despite cancer treatments, Pfeifer continued to work on his creations. He transformed Kuncl Mall, 59 16th Ave. SW, into an exquisite winter scene for Sv. Mikuláš Day complete with glittering snowflakes and a Czech cottage with lace-lined windows. He also designed, built, and almost finished his last float entitled "Stairway to Heaven" before his death.

A self-taught artist, Pfeifer usually produced five spectacular floats a year; all on a very small budget.

Forever thrifty, Pfeifer always had his eye out for discarded boards or awnings that could be used in his designs. He could truly turn trash into treasure.

Leonard's artistic talent and friendly personality will be greatly missed.

#### IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sadness that we commemorate the passing of our Vice President, Leonard Pfeifer, on November 29, 2011.

Leonard Pfeifer, 63, of Cedar Rapids, lost his courageous battle with cancer Tuesday evening.

Nov. 29, 2011, at Mercy Medical Center.

Leonard is survived by his children, Alexander Thomas and wife Priscilla, Gallup, N.M., Timothy Pfeifer, Cedar Rapids, Leonard Pfeifer II and wife Kathy, Laredo, Texas, and Chantelle Kramer and husband Mark and Theresa Pfeifer, both of Cedar Rapids;

15 grandchildren; brothers, Edward Voelpel and wife Joyce, Muscatine, Lee Pfeifer and wife Rosalinda, Menifee, Calif., and Fred Pfeifer, San Diego, Calif.; and sister, Paulina Pfeifer, Cedar Rapids.

He was preceded in death by his former wife, Rose Mae Pfeifer, on July 18, 2011; his parents, Lumir and Margaret (Rook) Pfeifer; and a sister, Paulina Voelpel Ytsen.

Leonard was born Sept. 6, 1948, in Cedar Rapids and lived here most of his life. He met Rose Mae Thomas in Santa Ana, Calif., in 1969 and they were married Sept. 17, 1970, in Hiawatha, Iowa. Their marriage



eventually ended in divorce. Leonard had worked at Wilson's Meat Packing Plant and Iowa Manufacturing. For 35 years until his retirement in June 2010, Leonard was employed as a maintenance engineer at St. Matthew's Catholic Church and

School. He was a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War. Leonard was a member and past president of the Czech Heritage Foundation.

His greatest love was building floats which he had done for 33 years, first with the "Navajo Nightstalkers" and since 1989, for the Czech Heritage Foundation. Leonard also enjoyed helping decorate for St. Matthew's school events, including plays, Mardi Gras fundraisers and dances.

Since August 2010, Leonard had been receiving treatments at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Phoenix.

He was very proud of his Czech heritage, always had a positive attitude and was a very generous person, always willing to help people in any way that he could.

Military honors were conducted by American Legion Post 727.

A memorial fund has been established in Leonard's name.

> Reprinted from The Gazette Published Dec. 3, 2011

### Czech School Chili Supper March 10

There is just something special about Czech School chili! It is made the old fashioned way from scratch and is meticulously seasoned, gently simmered, and carefully stirred by a babi!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 10, when the Czech School Board will be hosting their annual Chili Supper and Bake Sale. It will be held in the St. Ludmila Church Social Hall (lower level of church building), serving from 4:30 – 7 pm. Come join us for a delicious and nutritious bowl or two!

The Czech School Board has already met to begin planning for Czech School 2012 and Adult Czech language classes. We are pleased to be able to continue the long standing tradition of offering a Czech language, culture, and heritage learning opportunity in Cedar Rapids. We greatly appreciate everyone's assistance, participation and support!





Photo by Karen Lehmann

### Get ready to polka!

Barefoot Becky to perform at St. Joseph's Day Dance

Preparations are being made for the 2012 St. Joseph's Day Dance sponsored by the Czech Heritage Foundation on Sunday, March 18.

Mark your calendars because the date comes very quickly. It will be held at the Cedar Rapids Elks Club Lodge located at 801, 33rd Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids from 2:00-6:00 pm. Our band will be the very popular Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen, which everyone has enjoyed in the past.

The profits from this dance will help support the Youth

Programs that Czech Heritage sponsors. We will need help from Czech Heritage members and others that can assist. Please call Frank & Barb

- Bake sale
- Door Prizes
- •Great Raffle Items \$1.00 tickets
  - Silent Auction
    - Great Band
  - •Fun & Fellowship
  - ·Food by Elks Club

Edmunds able to help.

if you are avail-

Tickets are available at the door or from any Czech Heritage Foundation member.

The St. Joseph's Day Dance on March 18 has something for everyone. We need your help to make this a successful day. Come and bring a friend.

BARB EDMUNDS



You needn't travel to the Czech Republic to see world famous Bohemianstyle marionettes. Eulenspiegel (pronounced oil-n-speegel) Puppets located in West Branch, IA has been making and performing with Bohemian-style marionettes and puppets for 34 years.

Original founder, Monica Leo, became interested in puppets, particularly Bohemian-style marionette construction, through trial and error.

The daughter of German refugees, Leo received degrees in art and English from the University of Iowa and the Art Academy in Germany.

"When I was coming up, there weren't schools to learn the art of puppetry. I used my sculpting skills to make the puppets and my acting and voice training to master performance skills. It was lot of trial and error," said Leo.

In addition to paddle style marionettes, of which you don't see much of outside of Bohemia, Leo makes multistring, hand, rod, and shadow puppets.

"I personally like working with and making Bohemian-style marionettes the best because there's something so charming about them. I like working the marionette from the top of the stage and the paddle gives the marionette really good head movement. It produces a really nice caricature of human movement."

Leo has connections with other puppeteers in the Czech Republic and has studied and performed there several times.

Leo loves the ironic history behind puppetry in the Czech Republic because during the communist years many Czech puppet plays subtly criticized the communist government.

"Communist officials didn't pay any attention to the adults and children lined up around the block to see puppet shows. They thought they were just harmless kid shows. They didn't realize they were being made fun of!" Today, because of the large tourist industry, puppetry in Prague is still popular. In fact, attending a puppet show at the National Marionette Theatre or Drak Puppet Theatre in Prague are must-see tourist attractions. If you're on a tighter budget, you can find some fine marionette shops in downtown Prague.

Leo's puppet business keeps her busy. Eulenspiegel has performed for several years at Houby Days for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. She's has also performed, and taught workshops and educational sessions throughout Iowa, the United States and Europe. Eulenspiegel is Iowa's only professional puppet company.

To learn more, or to book a show, visit www.puppetspuppets.com, call 319-627-2487 or email to owlglass@avalon.net.

## Blowin' up Czech Village!

"It will be a highlight of tours that are done in conjunction with the museum."

Jim Jacobmeyer

A warm glowing light will soon burn brightly in Czech Village. Where is this place? It's the Glass Art Studio and Education Center GASEC being constructed in the old Salvation Army building on 16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids.

John Berge, Jr. is owner of the building; Jim Jacobmeyer is project facilitator; Conifer Smith and John Krizan are program directors/instructors. They hope the glow from the glass-blowers' flames will attract tourists and students.

A large observation window will grandly face out on to 16th Avenue, the heart of Czech Village. The business will offer glass blowing classes for all ages and levels. It will provide demonstrations and sell studio glassware in the store.

"We believe the concept fit the culture of The Village. There's a long Czech glass tradition. It will be a highlight of tours that are done in conjunction with the museum," said Jacobmeyer. "We'll be able to accommodate about 100 people at a time during glass blowing demonstra-



John Krizan, Conifer Smith, and Jim Jacobmeyer are turning the old Salvation Army building located on 16th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, into a Glass Art Studio and Education Center. (Not pictured, John Berge, Jr.)

tions," added Smith noting the 6,000 sq. ft. building will also feature four furnaces in the full service glass studio.

With an MSA in art and over 32 years experience, Smith offers a wealth of knowledge having studied under nationally respected glassblowing experts. She studied art at Penland College in North Carolina, a world renowned technical arts school. She continued her education at Iowa State University, focusing on glassblowing through the engineering department. She has opened three glass studios, two on the Kirkwood campus where she is a professor, and one in Seattle, WA. Smith and her student/associate, John Krizan, will teach most of the classes.

"There's no other place to learn the art of glass, outside of Kirkwood and studios in St. Louis, Chicago and Minneapolis. We want to be the glass center for the Midwest," said Smith.

Longtime residents may remember when the building was Kadlec Studebaker Sales and Service from 1917-1980. Keeping the history of the building was important in the renovation noted Jacobmeyer.

"Three generations of the Kadlec family worked in that building. Kadlec family members provided us with photos from the 20's and 50's. We'll try to renovate the exterior as close to the original as possible," said Jacobmeyer.

A July 2012 opening date is the goal. Business hours and class information are pending. For more information please contact Jim Jacobmeyer at: new.

### Děkuji!

### CHF thanks construction workers with kolache



Over 80 workers from Rinderknecht General Contractors enjoyed kolache and beverages supplied by the Czech Heritage Foundation.

Just a year ago, January 2011, contractors at the National Czech & Slo-

vak Museum & Library site began bringing in special soil to prepare ground for the historic move of the largest museum ever to be moved.

Now, in January 2012, the museum rests on its new foundation and workers are hastily getting the exterior and interior ready for the grand opening in July 2012.

The Czech Heritage Foundation truly appreciates all the employees have been through, time wise, weather wise and wanted to show our appreciation for the great job each and everyone has done.

On December 23, 2012, before the

workers went home for Christmas, Czech Heritage Foundation surprised

"It was rewarding to talk to the many that felt this was a special project, not just another building to work on."

> Barb Edmunds CHF Boardmember

them with kolache, coffee and punch. It was our way of thanking the workers for all they have done.

It was rewarding to talk to the many that felt this was a special project, not just another building to work on. They realize it is many peoples' heritage that will go into the building. Several of the workers had Czech heritage and were anxious to learn

more of their family's past.

A number of construction workers had not had kolache before and really enjoyed this treat. There were a few kolaches left so some of the workers took several home to their families.

Czech Heritage was pleased to show our appreciation to

these great workers on this very special project. When each of you see the finished museum you too will see what we mean.

BARB & FRANK EDMUNDS



### Jitro Czech Girls Choir

World renowned Jitro Choir to perform at St. Wenceslaus March 4

Twenty-five beautiful voices of young girls who have captured the hearts of audiences all over the world will perform in Cedar Rapids one night only. Jitro, the world-renowned choir will give a free performance on Sunday, March 4, 7:00 pm at St. Wenceslaus Church in Cedar Rapids.

Jitro is touring the Midwest from February 28 to March 8 bringing goodwill and great music to audiences.

"We hosted them in February of 2005 and they were wonderful!" said Dave Martin, St. Wenceslaus Parish Manager. There will also be a chance for a cultural exchange with the girls staying in local homes for one night after their performance.

"We hope to find host families for all the girls," said Martin. "They perform in West Des Moines on Monday night, but we hope they can be here until at least noon on Monday and tour NCSML," he added.

Jitro, meaning "daybreak" in Czech, and based in Hradec Kralove, a town in the Czech Republic, is an organization of 500 girls in seven preparatory ensembles, of which only the best 25-50 qualify to tour.

For 35 years they have been admired all over the world for their tone, intonation, and rich blend of sound and energetic vitality. Jitro, one of the best children's choirs in the world, makes over 100 appearances annually and have performed in prestigious concert halls all over the world. The choir has also recorded 18 cd's.

If you have heard Jitro in the past, you will want to hear them again, and if not, you have a great treat in store.

The free concert is sponsored by First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Cadets of St George Branch 145 FC-SLA, Western Fraternal Life Association, HyVee, Czech Cottage, Sykora Bakery, Merle Norman, St Monica's Circle and St Bridget's Circle, and KWKB TV.

KAREN LEHMANN

### New princess crowned

#### Kelsey Pokorny to reign in 2012

Hi, my name is Kelsey Pokorny. My parents are Mike and Ronda Pokorny. I am 15 years old and a freshman at North Tama High School. I live in Elberon which is in Tama County.

In school I am active in FCCLA, a student led organization, TAG-Talented and Gifted, chorus and show choir. I have also been on the "A" honor roll since fourth grade, I played basketball my seventh grade year, lastly I have been awarded the Presidential Award for the last three years.

Outside of school I dance with the CR Spirits and have been with them for nine years. I also used to be a synchronized ice skater. My family and I are also very active in many charity walks throughout the summer.

In the summer we like to go to the races in Vinton. In the winter we like to go to the Cedar Rapids Roughrider games and go all over the state of Iowa with them.

My Czech heritage means a lot to me. It is nice because I always can bring different food, or say different things that others who do not have a Czech heritage can do. It is also nice being able to talk and no one knows what you are saying, and then you get to explain what you just said. To me, being a Czech means that I come from a country which is very rich with heritage and is very calm and honorable.

In school I did a project about my Czech heritage. In this project I brought kolache, said a few Czech words, told my classmates who my Czech relatives were, and shared when my relatives came over to America. I also brought in some decorated eggs from the Czech Republic. Another thing I bring to my school is kolache for anytime we have treats, or if it is my birthday.

At home I make kolache, rolicky, kuchen, and tea rings with my grandma and sister. At holidays we make and eat some Czech foods. We also have a plate that is painted with the words "Vitáme Vás", which means welcome friends, when you walk into our house.

My future plans with my Czech heritage are to learn to speak some, or a lot, of Czech. I will also like to teach my kids about their Czech heritage and let them learn to cook all of the things my grandma has taught me.

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to be your princess. I really look forward to participating in all of the events and parades throughout the year. I also hope to be able to participate in local Tama County events as the Czech Heritage Princess. Thank you to Joyce Netolicky and Zelda DeHoedt for the many hours put into my kroj. It is lovely. Also thanks again for this excellent opportunity.



Photo by Karen Lehmann

# Spreading good cheer

### Nejdl family carries on Czech tradition

The Nejdl family - Chuck Nejdl, Brittany Schorg, and Emily Nejdl have enjoyed carrying on the Sv. Mikuláš tradition for the Czech Heritage Foundation for the past four years.

The trio of Sv. Mikuláš (dressed as a bishop), an angel and a devil wander through the Czech Village on the first Saturday in December each year officially kicking off the Christmas season. They quiz children about whether they've behaved themselves over the last twelve months.

"It's a lot like playing Santa Claus," said Chuck Nejdl who plays Sv. Mikuláš. "I have fun with it."

Brittany Schorg who plays the devil puts childrens' fears to ease with her bright smile. "I usually tell them

'I'm the nicest devil you'll ever meet!' "Schorg a public relations major enjoys playing the devil. "I participate in theatre productions so acting is a passion of mine," she said.

The angel, Emily Nejdl, likes portraying the angel because she gets to spend the whole day with her family.

When asked how the children react to the angel she says, "They (the children) really like the devil! That's their first choice. Their second choice is Sv. Mikuláš, and if they're really afraid they'll come to me."

KAREN LEHMANN

### "Czech" it out

#### Miss Czech Slovak IA Pageant looks for candidates



2011 Czech Heritage Foundation royalty ambassadors (I-r): Marrissa Cada, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa; Emily Nejdl, Little Sister; Sydney Rieckhoff, Little Sister and Cassandra Lehmann, Litte Sister.

Houby Days on May 18, 2012 marks the next anniversary of the Miss Czech Slovak Iowa Pageant. We invite applicants to become involved in our royalty program!

We are seeking applicants to compete for the title of Miss Czech Slovak Iowa and Little Sisters.

Young women ages 16-26 can compete for the title of Miss Czech Slovak Iowa during the annual Houby Days festival in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The competition includes a public and private interview, a talent competition, and a kroj modeling competition with each contestant. The winner of this pageant goes on to represent the state of Iowa in the Miss Czech Slovak U.S. Pageant held in Wilber, NE.

Girls aged 6-14 are encouraged to apply to be a Little Sister. Little Sisters accompany Miss Czech Slovak Iowa contestants during the annual Houby Days Festival in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Little Sisters are crowned Little Sister Iowa and participate in parades, dances, and festivals throughout the year along with the queens.

For more information contact Zelda DeHoedt at ... com or go to www.czechheritage-foundation.org.

# Sokol Gymnastics brings back Czech tradition

The usual t-shirts, shorts, and sweatpants will not be seen at Sokol Gymnastics on the evening of Friday, February 17. Instead, costumes and masks will be worn as Sokol Cedar Rapids reinstates the Czech tradition of a Šibřinky, a Sokol masquerade dance. Šibřinky stands for practical joking and clowning around.

The public is invited to join in the spirit of an old Czech tradition by wearing costumes and masks. Šibřinky is Fri-

day, February 17 from 6-10 pm in the Sokol Gym, 5200 18th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids.

#### History of Šibřinky

The origin of Šibřinky dates back to 1865 when So-kol Prague decided to hold a Sokol costume ball. Members felt an appropriate name had to be found for the ball.

While searching the Jungmann dictionary for ideas, the verb sibriti was found which meant practical joking and clowning around. From there it was just a short step for designating the Sokol costume ball Šibřinky.

Invitations were sent out which caused excitement by their unusual form: icon lup o cenok YKNIŘBIŠ 5681 aronú 52 end alokos ohékszarp ěnčivcolět v ěnidoh 7 o ketáčaz (in English: thgindim ta gnidne YKNIŘBIŠ 5681 yraurbef 52 lokos eugarp fo llah eht ni kcolc'o 7 ta gnitrats). Some

were angry and others were laughing that they did not immediately recognize that they must read the invitation from right to left. Some even suggested that it was in Turkish or Hungarian.

In the evening of February 25, 1865, the entire Sokol Hall neighborhood was full of spectators. In front of the Sokol Hall were guards with torches. As the carriages carrying the masked guests pulled up to the entrance, they were greeted

by an imposing bear.

The inside was fully decorated and the entire main hall became a mass of whirling masked dancers.

The event was a great success, and the tradition of Sibřinky is being continued to this day. It is also enthusiastically continued by the American Sokol Units, many of which still hold this

dance annually, even though the origin and meaning of the name is not known to most of its members.

(Information on the above was extracted by Bo Bata from the biography "Miroslav Tyrš prohry a vítězství" by Zora Dvořáková)

KAREN LEHMANN Graphic by Emma Lehmann

"We're trying to re-introduce Šibřinky. I strongly feel it's important to keep these traditions alive in our community."

> Brad Hess Sokol Cedar Rapids President

### Sokol gymnastics competition April 28-29



Sokol Cedar Rapids will host the 2012 District Slet Gymnastics Competition on April 28 and 29. The two day event will begin at 9:00 am Saturday and feature 100 gymnasts from five Sokol organizations in Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa. On Sunday a calesthenic program will be featured. The event is open to the public

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