

OUR CZECH HERITAGE  
*Náše České Dědictví*



2010-2011 Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Queen and her court. Pictured l-r: Morgan Simoneau, Abby Frerick, Queen Beth Westlake, and Sarah Schirm.

CZECH HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.  
P.O. BOX 8476, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52408

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## Editor

Karen Lehmann  
Contact me at  
or

## Subscriptions

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. Dues received today apply to the following year for new members.

## Website

The Czech Heritage Foundation's newly updated website is something you have to see. Visit [www.czech-heritagefoundation.org](http://www.czech-heritagefoundation.org) anytime for all things Czech.

## Send Us Your Stories

If there is something you would like to see included in the next issue, please let me know. Please share your copy with a friend or relative, or better yet, send in a gift membership in their name! How important is your heritage to you?

## Czech Trivia

\* The Czech's are the #1 beer drinking nation in the world, consuming the most beer per capita in the world (160 liters or 43 gallons.) They have been drinking beer since at least 900 A.D.



# President's Message



Lud Svoboda  
CHF President

Authenticity, what is it? The Czech Heritage Foundation of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, are we real? As we work, play, entertain, etc., are we authentic? Yes, as people, I do believe that we are. We are people and any time we deal with people, here or through the country we commit to ourselves. That is real. We are working toward an objective, and that is, we are putting forth in front of the public that we are of the Czech or Slovak nationality. Our Czech heritage, our Polish heritage, our Irish heritage, what does this really mean?

We live our life and at some point in that lifetime, we decide to take a rest and evaluate and line up our genes to determine where our grandma (babicka) or grandpa (deda) came from. For some of us, it is the satisfaction knowing that we are originally the descendants of a country or location of which we either studied or were told that our ancestors originated there. This comes to us via books, movies, historians and relation. Did Deda wear his pants rolled up, were they black, were they short, etc.?

When Babicka went to the garden, whether it be in the Moravian Province, the Bohemian Province or the Slovak Province no one cared. However, when it came to a wedding, funeral, or festival of sorts, people tended to dress up in the good clothes, or we call them (kroje) costumes. These clothes more or less told the crowd at the festival which region that family came from.

If (Dad) Tatinek had on yellow knickers, well then his son (synacek) wanted yellow knickers. If they were decorated, then (synacek) wanted the decorations on his also. Most rural men walked with "walking sticks." They walked almost everywhere they went and a stick or cane was helpful. They also used them for moving the undergrowth aside when looking for edibles, herding livestock, fording streams, and protection from unhappy critters.

When it came a time in synacek's life cycle, maminka said no to a specific design that gave notice to others that synacek was either too young to marry or that he was looking for a girl (devata), or was available. Most of these traditions were national however, the clothes, decorations, boots and hats were regional. Babicka would do the same with her daughters (dceray). As these traditions were scattered worldwide, people moving to other countries, other country's citizens moving to the Czech Republic, a piece of clothing was changed for unknown reasons. Decorations were brought from other countries and eliminated from what was considered the "Moravian Look" or the "Polish Look."

The only authentic kroje (costumes) today is one that was made in the Czech or Slovak countries. Copies are being made everyday. Kroje is being made everyday. Does this mean it is not authentic? No, it simply means it is designed and made by one person at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and it is authentic to that area. Make one just like it and it will be considered a copy.



# Czech Youth Out & About



Megan Lehmann, Czech Heritage Foundation Royal Court ambassador is pictured with Josef Zak, a visiting Czech violinist at Cottage Grove Place on Saturday, June 4, 2010.



Světlušky was the featured entertainment at the Classic Car Show at the Mariott in Cedar Rapids on June 14, 2010. The audience, consisting of 142 people from throughout the U.S., gave our local Czech folk music and dance ensemble a standing ovation! Pictured front row: Morgan Simoneau. Middle row l-r: Sarah Coppa, Michael Simoneau, Jack Fejfar, Cassandra Lehmann. Back row l-r: Joey Mark, Megan Lehmann, Micah Van Deusen, Hannah Van Deusen, Victor Mark, Sarah Sindelar.



Ten Czech youths participated in the Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival Parade. The float, designed by Leonard Pfeifer, won first place in the parade.



Sarah Schirm, Morgan Simoneau, and Megan Lehmann represent CHF in the Hiawatha Hog Wild Days Parade.



by Cecelia Wolter

We recently finished up this year's session of Czech School, which ran from June 14th through July 16th. It was my second year as coordinator and my sixteenth year at Czech School. The history of Czech School has always been something I wanted to learn more about, so I was lucky this past year when, for my linguistics senior project, I was able to study the history of Czech School and the Czech language in Cedar Rapids, relying on interviews with local people and a variety of publications to fill in what I found to be a fascinating story of language maintenance, shift, and loss, and the changing relationships between languages and ethnic and national identities. While I learned enough to write the longest paper of my life thus far—27 pages!—I still have many unanswered questions and hope to learn much more in the future. If you have information you'd like to share about Czech School or the Czech language and community in Cedar Rapids in the past, I'd love to hear it. This article will consist of a short history of Czech School followed by some information about this summer's session.

Cedar Rapids was incorporated in 1849; a year later the first Czechs arrived. After the Civil War, the population quickly grew. In the late nineteenth century, they established a large number of organizations, as did many recent immigrants throughout the nation. They came together for mutual support and for more comfortable interaction. The first organization of the Czechs in Cedar Rapids was the Reading Society or Čtenářský Spolek, a dramatic club which supported many other programs, including a Czech School, appointing John B. Šuster as the teacher around 1870. In 1892, Dámská Matice Školská was formed with the goal of raising enough money to construct a Czech School building. Such schools were found around the nation, and were supported by the liberal, freethinking element, and held outside of public school hours, unlike the Czech Catholic parochial schools, which provided full instruction. Also in 1892, Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church opened a school where students used English in their regular classes, but would also be taught to speak,

# C is for Cz



The 2010 Czech School staff l-r: Donna Merkle, Music Teacher; Ha Wolter, Czech School Coordinator; Daria Lipusová, Div. 1 Teacher

read, and write in Czech. Czechs are often perceived as having a history of suffering under linguistic oppression, and looking to America as the place where their language could be maintained and preserved. This explicit interest would have been unusual; it was generally the case that most immigrants, the rural peasants and urban poor, were unfamiliar with organized language consciousness before their arrival in America and coming under the influence of the educated urban elite. It is not impossible, though, that a history of linguistic struggle, combined with the fact that the Bohemians

had the lowest percentage of immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, make the Czechs unique in this regard.

The new century began with the formation of the Czech School movement of Czech immigrants to the west side of the United States, which consisted of three classes meeting on Monday mornings and for five weeks. I am not certain, but it is likely that the Cedar Rapids Czech School has been connected with this movement through the Česká



# Czech School



Hailee Raue, Div. 2 Assistant; Regina Lipusová, Div. 2 Teacher; Cecelia [unclear]; Tomáš Slepíčka, Div. 3 Teacher.

age of illiteracy of the  
Austro-Hungarian Em-  
migrants unique in  
egan with the construc-  
chool building, and the  
omes and businesses  
the river. Czech School  
ases and met weekend  
weeks in the summer.  
seems likely that the  
School would have  
others around the na-  
exá Americká Matice

Školská, or Čech American School Associa-  
tion. The Czech School was also a general  
hub of Czech life, with one major event being  
a 1907 lecture by future president Masaryk,  
who encouraged Cedar Rapids Czechs to  
learn English, and work for the good of their  
community, while advising them that they  
did not need to abandon their Bohemian tra-  
ditions and interest in Bohemian history and  
institutions. The first English language class  
for Czech immigrants was taught in 1904, at  
the request of some young people, and for no  
pay, in the Czech School building.

I talked to two Czech School alumnae

from the 1920s and 30s, who informed me  
that at this time, most students attending still  
spoke Czech well from home, and learned  
grammar, spelling, and reading at Czech  
School every weekend and for six weeks  
in the summer. In the advanced class, stu-  
dents wrote stories and essays. They held  
the annual ice cream social and programs of  
songs and plays, traditions that continue to-  
day, and the summer picnic, a tradition that  
has since ended. One of my sources also at-  
tended Czech classes during the few years  
in the 1930s Czech was taught in the pub-  
lic schools. Prominent Czech citizens had  
pushed for Czech to be offered, collecting  
500 signatures for their petition. The classes  
were quickly dropped for lack of interest, in  
a reiteration of a story repeated across the  
nation, often ending with the pro-language  
elites blaming the immigrant communities  
for their lack of pride and interest, but there  
often are other factors in the failure. For ex-  
ample, my source had hoped the class would  
be easy for her, but it was difficult to learn  
Czech as a foreign language, even, or perhaps  
especially, as someone who already spoke  
Czech. Often in these cases, the language be-  
ing taught is a more prestigious and unfa-  
miliar dialect that people are not interested  
in, already having a version of the language  
that works for their purposes. Previously, a  
shift towards English only may have occur-  
ed—through World War I, English language  
competence was emphasized, but first lan-  
guage maintenance was not seen as incompat-  
ible with this. Around World War I, how-  
ever, there was strong public sentiment  
against other languages, to the extent that  
languages themselves were attacked as mor-  
ally and intellectually inferior to English,  
and arguments that bilingualism negatively  
impacted the development of children. Be-  
tween 1917 and 1922, laws were passed  
requiring immigrants to learn English and  
even banning foreign language instruction.  
The prevalence of these attacks may have  
impacted how young people viewed their  
two languages. While Czech was main-  
tained and spoken through the 1920s and  
1930s, it was already losing its hold. Czechs  
growing up at this time, regardless of gen-  
eration, fit the role of the bilingual

*Continued on page 11*





# Houby D

## Entertainment, Dancing



Marissa Cada, 2010 Czech Heritage Foundation Princess.



27 enthusiastic Czechs participated in the 4th annual Parade of Kroje.



Světlušky entertained the crowd with the Red Handkerchief dance.



The Czech Singers performed in the Kosek Bands.



# Days 2010

# g, Good Food and Fun!



Abby Frerick, Cassie Lehmann, Sarah Schirm, and Morgan Simoneau pose for a photo. All are past or present "Little Sisters" to Miss Czech-Slovak, Iowa.



Samantha Hubler, Amanda De Hoedt, and Beth Westlake. Samantha and Beth were the two candidates competing to become Miss Czech-Slovak, Iowa 2010-11. Amanda reigned as Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa for 2009-10.



and.



Amanda DeHoedt crowns Beth Westlake the new Miss Czech-Slovak, Iowa 2010-2011. Beth will represent Iowa at the National Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. pageant in Wilber, Nebraska Aug. 6-8.



# Houby D



The Egg & Houby Breakfast at the P-3 Building.



The Accordion Club of Cedar Rapids.



Cassie Lehman  
ick visit the man



Siblings Eric and Sarah Sindelar perform a polka. Their parents are Kevin and Karen Sindelar of Cedar Rapids.



The Lipa Dancers of the Twin Cities.



Out of town guests included the Omaha Czech Cultural Club.



Czech Plus Band.



The Houby D crowd.



# Days 2010



John, Sarah Schirm, and Abby Frerking are vendors along 16th Ave.



Museum Guild members l-r: Evelyn Dvorak, Marj Nejd and Lenora Watson.



Sokol Gymnasts performed.



Days mascot waves to the



Brianna Tichy, Miss Czech-Slovak, U.S. 2009 sang at the Iowa pageant.



Czech Heritage Foundation members Arlo Netolicky (past president) and Lud Svoboda (current president) ride on float.



# Prince & Princess Program 30 Years Strong

by Lynne Marie Nejdler-Erger  
Czech Princess 1980-81

In 1980 the Czech Heritage Foundation led by Frank and Mae Novotny and Pat Martin created the Czech Prince and Princess contest. Little did these visionaries know the impact this contest would have on my life and the lives of many others. The contest built pride within the Czech community, as well as aided and fostered the preservation of Czech culture and tradition.

At the time the contest involved a detailed genealogy recreation and an interview with a panel of judges and a short public address.

As a child I grew up in a proud Czech family. I was surrounded by and taught many Czech treasured cultural traditions. The contest was a logical opportunity for me to embark upon. I had up to this point participated in Czech Summer School, reenactments of Easter traditions at the Czech Museum & Library and was involved in the Sv. Mikuláše celebration for many years as well. My mother ran the museum gift shop and my Aunt Marj is famed for her traditional Czech egg decorating.

After being crowned in 1980 I had the opportunity to attend several festivals and parades to represent and promote Czech Village. In later years I was able to greet three presidents as they visited the museum, and participate in the Homestay Program. This allowed me to visit the Czech Republic and stay with a family that I have since visited and am still in contact with to this day.



In 1980 Jeff Donoghue and Lynne Nejdler were crowned the Czech Heritage Foundation's first Prince and Princess. The Prince & Princess program celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The late Sylvia Rohlena was the founding chairperson.

I am grateful for the opportunity I was granted.

I am sure that my grandmother, Mary Jelinek-Nejdler upon arrival at Ellis Island as a four-year-old immigrant with very few belongings, could not foresee the impact, pride and admiration her rich culture, would mean to me.

Many would also be surprised to know that the Gazette photo of the new Czech Prince and Princess which appeared on the front page would cause a young boy in Cedar Rapids to proclaim to his mother, "Mom someday I'm going to marry that Czech Princess!" I am so glad he did! Paul is now my husband of 19 years and we have two beautiful children. To say that the contest had

an impact on my life would be extremely understated! We must continue to keep the treasures of our Czech heritage alive, remembering that we carry within us the heartbeat of our ancestors before us. Preservation of our heritage and who we are as a proud Czech people honors all whom have given to us the treasures of their Czech homeland. Nazdar!

## *Attention Past Princes & Princesses*

A special commemorative issue featuring past photos of all 30 princes and princesses is being compiled. Please contact Karen Lehmann at  
to submit your photo.



## Czech School

*Continued from page 5*

second generation that passes their second language, rather than their first, on to their offspring. This process may result from the increased assimilation pressure, or perhaps Czechs were generally becoming less and less separate from the other residents of Cedar Rapids, as they advanced professionally, became Americanized in the public schools, etc.

The decades following these were a time of language shift. In 1951, the Czech School building was sold and converted into a sausage factory after it did not meet safety inspection, and Czech School came to be held in public schools, in the summer only. Enrollment dropped, whether due to fear of communist affiliation, increased competition with other activities, or weakened ethnic identity.

At any rate, these shifts drastically changed the function of the Czech School, which was forced into the role of teaching Czech as a foreign language. Students attending Czech School in the 1960s and 1970s mostly studied the První Čítanka or first reader, which was originally intended for very young children who spoke Czech, and thus was less effective in teaching Czech as a foreign language to older students, outside of basic words, mostly nouns. Students also went to music class, and looked forward to Friday treats, the end of year picnic, and enjoyed seeing their friends. The political situation created a divide between Czechoslovakia and the United States, and this influenced perceptions of Czechs and the Czech language. One source talked about as a child thinking of the Czech lands as a very old place, and was saddened to think that all the Czech speakers would be gone along with the language itself. Ideas about Czech-ness were limited to the maintenance of traditions; people did not easily identify with communist Czechoslovakia.

The 1970s and 1980s were a time of apparent ethnic revival across the nation, and in Cedar Rapids, Czech traditions were revived and new organizations, explicitly committed to preserving Czech culture, such as the Czech Heritage Foundation and the Czech Fine Arts Foundation, were formed. This was a time of transformation—as lived and involuntary ethnicity came to an end, symbolic ethnicity arose for European immigrants, an answer to a central dilemma in American culture—through these voluntary practices, people can both individualize themselves as unique and feel they are part of a community, something many long for. The immigrant experience moved from the margins to the center of the story of America and American identity. An attachment to the idea of the ancestral language can be seen in the use of token phrases as a marker of identity.

The fall of communism and later bringing in teachers from the Czech Republic, which began in 2001, both changed Czech School in a fundamental way. The increased exchange of people in both directions has meant that the language being taught, which was somewhat frozen in time, has changed. A school that was started to educate young Czechs in reading and writing their own language came to be a school that connected children to their grandmothers, their local immigrant heritage, and the world their ancestors came from, and then changed again, coming to closely link today's student to the modern Czech nation, as well. Parents send their children to Czech School so they can learn about their heritage, but also now, to expose them to other cultures, or to prepare them for future language courses. While Czech School began in 1870, and has run continuously since, much has changed over the past 141 years.

In this year's session of Czech School, the three divisions were taught by Daria Lipusová, Regina Lipusová, and Tomáš Slepíčka, and music was

taught by Donna Merkle. Daria and Regina are sisters from Trinec, on the far eastern side of the Czech Republic, near Slovakia and Poland, Tomáš came from Brno, and Donna came here from Texas several years ago and has been teaching music at Czech School for four years. In all divisions, the children learned about Czech history and culture. Divisions 1 and 2 always seemed to be having a lot of fun and quickly absorbing their Czech vocabulary through games, for example, games of concentration where they flipped over a card and had to translate the word before they could flip another to find the match and games of Czech word bingo. Division 3 worked on several projects, including giving presentations on famous cities and sites, creating Czech Monopoly boards, and making a movie—a modern retelling of the legend of the Brno dragon. They also worked on listening comprehension, an important skill! One highlight of the year was a field trip that included informative tours of Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church, the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, and Czech Village, including Sykora Bakery. We had a great time, and learned about our local heritage.

## Heritage Tea Party

Museum Guild members of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library will host a "Family Heritage Tea Party" at Maria's Tea Room, 59 Sixteenth Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, on Saturday, Aug. 14, at 3 p.m.

School age children (ages five and up) and their parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, great grandparents, are invited to share a unique experience in the family. Families are encouraged to bring an item of significance to their family's heritage to discuss. The wearing of a kroj or any ethnic clothing, and hats of any type is encouraged. After tea, Guild members will lead youngsters and adults in a program discussion for sharing stories and information about their objects, clothing and cultural heritage.



# Czech Village/New Bohemia Murals Project

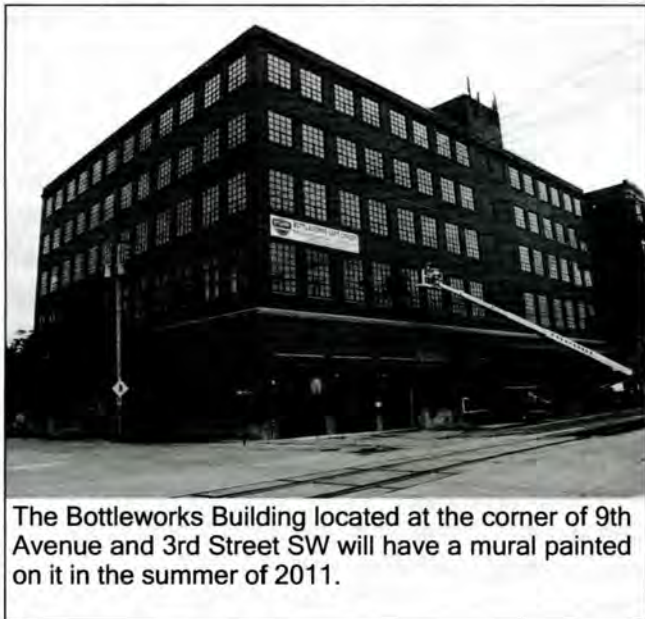
The Czech Village/New Bohemia Main Street Program is sponsoring a district murals project. These "Welcome to the District" murals will be installed on the Bartunek Building at the corner of 16th Avenue and C Street SW and the Bottleworks Building at the corner of 9th Avenue and 3rd Street SE.

The Czech Village mural is currently in the design process, with August 22nd as the target date for installation. The mural will reference Czech Village history, focusing on the cultural heritage of the district. The project is being facilitated by the Walldogs, an organization of muralists, sign painters and graphic artists who have painted a number of community murals throughout the Midwest.

This project was made possible by generous



The Bartunek Building located at the corner of 16th Avenue and C Street SW will have a mural painted on it in August 2010.



The Bottleworks Building located at the corner of 9th Avenue and 3rd Street SW will have a mural painted on it in the summer of 2011.

grants from the Witwer Trust, ITC, district merchants and friends of Main Street.

The Czech Village mural will be painted on carbon-steel panels by 32 area volunteers over a four-day period, August 19-22. Area businesses are providing host support with equipment, materials, food, lodging and entertainment. Nancy Bennett, Walldogs Facilitator, will be directing the design,

creation and installation of the mural.

The murals will help identify the main entrances into the district at C Street and 16th Ave on the West side of the river and at 8th Ave and 3rd Street on the East side.

The New Bohemia mural is scheduled for summer of 2011.



The mural projects are being facilitated by the Walldogs, an organization of muralists, sign painters and graphic artists who have painted a number of community murals throughout the Midwest.





# Beth Westlake Crowned Miss Czech-Slovak, Iowa



Hello, I'm Beth Westlake, your newly crowned Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa! I'm very excited to meet you all at various events throughout the upcoming year. Through this experience, I'm hoping to learn more about my heritage and family traditions you all hold dear. My family is hoping I'll also learn how to make kolache.

My parents, Ken and Kate and our dog, Euclid, still live in my hometown, Mount Prospect, Illinois (a northwest suburb of Chicago). This fall, my brother David is starting his master's degree in Public Policy at Michigan State University. My youngest brother, Stephen, is starting his senior year at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

I am currently a Civil Engineering doctoral student at The University of Iowa. I'm also working as a research assistant at the Public Policy Center investigating public opinion about the gas tax and road maintenance. The day of the pageant, I graduated with my second master's degree, this one was in Urban and Regional Planning. Just before that, I earned a master's and a bachelor's in Industrial Engineering. All told, I've been living in Iowa and attending UI for 7 years so far.

I am 25% Slovak from my paternal grandmother, Bozhenka "Bettie"



Beth Westlake, Iowa's newly crowned Miss Czech-Slovak, Iowa 2010-2011, will represent Iowa in the Miss Czech-Slovak, U.S. Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska Aug. 6, 7, 8.

Westlake neé Jacobs. While Bettie was born here, her parents both immigrated to the United States as teenagers. Her father, Jan Jakob arrived in America from Višňov, Slovakia in 1906 at the age of 19. His name was changed to "John Jacobs" when he enlisted in General Pershing's cavalry unit as a bugler. Katherine Hurtak was 16 when she moved from Kostolné, Slovakia to live with her half-sister, Alzbeta, in 1910. Jan met Katherine Hurtak

from Kostolné just prior to enlisting while she worked in her brother-in-law's saloon near the Chicago stockyards. The couple married in April 1914 and produced three children: Ludmilla "Millie," Janko "Johnny," and Bozhenka.

When I'm not studying or practicing my parade wave, I keep busy on campus in my community. I am the Merit Badge Coordinator for a Boy Scout troop in Iowa City, Fundraising Chair for the UI chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Scouting and Youth Services Committee Representative for Region IX (Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota) of my co-ed service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega.

If there happens to be a free moment left, I really like to watch and attend Big Ten football games (Go Hawkeyes!) and travel across the country and around the world. I'm looking forward to a family trip to Seattle followed by a trip to volunteer at the Boy Scout National Jamboree in Washington DC. Next stop, the Miss Czech-Slovak, U.S. national pageant!



# Miss Czech-Slovak, U.S. Contestants

The Miss Czech-Slovak, U.S. Pageant is  
August 6, 7, 8 in Wilber, Nebraska.



Beth Westlake, IA



Simone Hrouda, OR



Jennifer Pechous, SD



Aubrey Ptacek, KS



Morgan McMichen, MO



Ivana Kakalejckikova, MI



Rachel Hurley, TX



Jacey Jedlicka, OK



Stepanie Krubsack, WI



Stefanie Vocasek, NE



Lea Sohrabi, IL



Katrina Tomecek, MA



Debbi Jindra, MN

## Wilber Czech Festival

Wilber has a population of about 1,600 but during the festival 30,000 to 50,000 attend with two parades being the main attraction. Here contestants compete to win the title of Miss Czech-Slovak US and for several prizes.



## Pickles

(Recipe of Frank Novotny)

5 quarts sliced cucumbers cut thin. Put these into 2 - 5 qt. ice cream buckets, it will make it easier to stir them.

*Mix together:*

- 3 thinly sliced onions
- 2 green peppers sliced bite-sized
- 3 c. sugar
- 3 c. vinegar
- 1 T. salt
- 1 t. mustard seed
- 1 t. celery seed
- 1 t. tumeric
- 1/2 t. alum



Pour over cucumbers and mix well. Cover for 9 days, stirring well once a day. At the end of 9 days the pickles can be put into jars and sealed tight or leave in one container covered in refrigerator.

A good idea is to put them in pickle jars that have had pickles in them from the store. Keep them in the refrigerator, they last for months.

## Sokol Gymnastics News

Sokol has gymnastics class openings for interested people of all ages. Call 362-1632 for more information.

A BBQ Rib Dinner will be held Oct. 16. This fundraiser will help continuing efforts towards the construction of a kitchen and hall in the facility.

Sokol recently had a food drive with all food donated to First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids.

## UI offers Czech class

The University of Iowa will offer an introductory Czech language class in Fall 2010. This introductory course is designed to develop the basic language skills. Emphasis is placed on conversation and dialogues. Current events and the latest Czech movies showing contemporary Czech culture are presented. Exchange program with the Charles University, Prague after 1st or 2nd year of Czech available. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursdays, 1:05-2:20, 637 Phillips Hall. For more information contact: [jitka-sonkova@uiowa.edu](mailto:jitka-sonkova@uiowa.edu).

## Czech Plus Band Schedule

The Czech Plus Band will soon wrap up their summer series. Following dates include: Aug. 6 & 20 at 7:00 pm in the Kosek Bandstand on 16th in Czech Village. Sunday, Aug. 22 they will perform from 2-4 pm in the Kosek Bandstand.

## Marj NejdI teaches class in New York

by Marj NejdI

In 2009, I was approached by Sokol New York to teach the art of Czech batik egg decorating. Sokol New York received a grant from the Bohemian Benevolent and Literary Association to host me for this project. After negotiating the schedules, the time was set for 2010.

We drove, as flying with all the tubs of supplies would be difficult and expensive.

Classes would be held in the beautiful Sokol Hall in Manhattan. The day before we toured the grand National Bohemian Hall and met Honorable Consulate General of the Czech Republic Eliška Zigova.

The next day Ms. Zigova visited our classes. She was pleasantly surprised and pleased that the art is perpetuated in our area of the country. She was impressed with my display of eggs and implied we'd see each other again sometime.

Classes were filled (over capacity in numbers) and very successful - plus a lot of laughs and easy comradeship. I was pleased with the outcome. We had great hosts and I was reacquainted with Sister Norma Zabka from Sokol days past.

We didn't have much time for sightseeing, but did get to the Rockefeller Center and to the top of the tower. What a magnificent view!

Our time in New York was "short but great." We arrived home in time to bake my lamb cakes for Easter.

## CHF Picnic Aug. 10

The Czech Heritage Foundation invites all members to their next meeting which will be a picnic at Jones Park on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 6:00 pm, Lagoon Pavilion at Jones Park. Bring a dish to pass. Hope to see you there!



## Czech Days in Protivin, IA

The 32nd Annual Czech Days in Protivin, Iowa will be held Aug. 20-22, 2010. Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen will perform Saturday, Aug 21, 1-5 pm. Come and enjoy authentic Czech food, live music, dance, food and beer tents, games, crafts, sports, and good old-fashioned fun. For more information go to [www.protovin.org](http://www.protovin.org).



# 2010 Scholarship Winners

by Lee Thornbloom

The Czech Heritage Foundation Scholarship Committee consisting of Barb and Frank Edmunds, David Faltis, Joyce and Arlo Netolicky and Lee and Blair Thornbloom met the first part of July to select students to receive scholarships in 2010. A profile of the four students selected to each receive a \$750 scholarship follows.



Amanda DeHoedt  
University of Iowa

This is the second scholarship Amanda will receive from Czech Heritage - once as an undergraduate and this year as a graduate student. She will be starting her first year as an engineering graduate student at the University of Iowa, with her thesis topic in the field of biomedical engineering, specifically bioinformatics.

She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa where she majored in biomedical engineering and minored in mathematics and Spanish. She has been on the Dean's List nearly every semester and her capstone senior design project was

chosen as one of the best projects in the College of Engineering.

Amanda loves to travel and has been fortunate to spend time in countries around the world including Egypt, the Czech Republic, the Philippines and Romania.

Over the years, Amanda has competed in the Czech Heritage Foundation's Princess Contest, volunteered at the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library and took several folk art classes. She later competed in the Miss Czech-Slovak, Iowa pageant and won. She has served as a tour guide for the museum's Andy Warhol art exhibit, helped organize outreach events, such as Cultural Diversity Day at Kennedy High School and the University of Iowa. She has worked as a teaching assistant at our local Czech School, was a student ambassador to the Czech Republic through the Homestay Program. Her family has also hosted a number of Czech exchange students and she has attended countless parades, festivals, speeches, fundraisers and other events in the Midwest.

Recently Amanda proposed, created, and now maintains a website for the Czech Heritage Foundation. She has also designed a number of graphics and publications for the organization.

Amanda was honored and thrilled to receive the Miss Czech-Slovak, Iowa title for the second time at the Houby Day Festival in May 2009.

As an undergraduate, Amanda spent a year studying the Czech language at the university level and hopes to continue these studies. She was honored to receive a Ken

Magid Scholarship for the summer of 2007. She was also awarded a Council of Higher Education Merit Scholarship. This nationwide program awards two merit scholarships to students of Czech descent based on their academic performance and involvement in their community, especially involvement related to their Czech heritage. Congratulations Amanda for your many outstanding achievements!



James E. Skretta  
University of Iowa

James Skretta hails from Fort Atkinson, Iowa and will be entering the University of Iowa as a graduate student.

As a 2005 graduate of Turkey Valley High School and 2009 graduate of Central College, James is currently pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Saxophone Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Iowa. His interest in playing the saxo-

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## Scholarships

*Continued from page 16*

phone began at age 11 and he has been highly successful on all levels of performance. His interest and ability have led him to undertake a variety of saxophone endeavors and he has achieved several awards to boast.

When finished with his M.A. degree James plans to continue his saxophone studies, enrolling in a Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) program, with aspirations to become a university saxophone professor. James is currently accumulating experience to help him achieve this goal as he is on the faculty at the Marion Music Academy (Marion, Iowa) teaches woodwinds at Prairie High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and provides saxophone instruction to young saxophonists at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp (Twin Lake, MI) where he also spends his summers as a Director.

Throughout James' high school and post-secondary years he has enjoyed being involved in activities that support his Czech heritage. When residing in Northeast Iowa he played saxophone, clarinet and trumpet, regularly with the Fort Atkinson Community Band. While the ensemble performs a variety of music styles, the group is particularly interested in supporting traditional music by Czech composers - especially waltzes, mazurkas, polkas and marches. In addition to weekly summer concerts on the Fort Atkinson and Spillville Bandstands, the ensemble gives two concerts at the annual Czech Days festival in Prottin, Iowa.

While studying abroad in Vienna during the fall of 2007, James

traveled to the Czech Republic to visit Hrobska Zahradka, the village where his great-grandfather, Jan Baloun was born and he has in his possession extensive family genealogy. James' experiences have left him with an indelible impression and he can surely say that because of his journey and involvement with Czech music he has a better appreciation for both the culture in which he was raised and the kind people of the Czech Republic.



Lindsey Zmolek  
Iowa State University

Despite having both parents with medical problems and added responsibilities in her life, Lindsey continues to strive for good grades and was her high school class valedictorian. She is pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Spanish at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. She has also been in the Iowa State University Honors Program.

Since grade school Lindsey's teachers have told her parents that she would be excellent college material because of her results in the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, high ex-

pectations, and excellent academics. Teachers have also nominated her for numerous awards including Student of the Month in various grades.

High school faculty selected her as a Leader of Tomorrow for publication in the Marshalltown Times-Republican newspaper. The American Association of University Women Tama-Toledo Branch acknowledged her as High School Young Woman of the Year. Iowa State University accepted her into the Honors Program.

Lindsey's earliest ancestors coming to America were Joseph Zmolek, born November 20, 1839. Keeping with the Czech traditions she has learned how to make kolaches - very popular in Tama County where her family resides. This was passed down to her with the help of her grandmother Evelyn Zmolek who taught her the special recipe.

Lindsey has many hobbies and many interests in life and is a hard working young lady. She has the motivation and determination to improve our country and world. With the current problems in our country and environment, new technologies need to be developed that are more eco-friendly and efficient. New minds are needed to keep up the infrastructure of our country. With a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering she could be one of those new minds to help our country in need.

A recommendation for Lindsey commented that her success in the classroom coupled with her many extracurricular activities illustrate her ability to communicate, organize, solve problems, enjoy diversity and take on responsibility.

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## Scholarships

*Continued from page 17*



Emily Bey  
Iowa State University

Growing up Emily always loved hearing her father talk about their Czech heritage and she often went to Czech Village with her family to enjoy the culture, shops and great food. She has memories of many Czech meals at Zindricks and she especially loves kolaches from Sykora Bakery. Over the years Emily made many trips to the National Czech and Slovak Museum. It was always on the top of her list of places to take out-of-town visitors.

During the flooding of 2008 she was devastated to see Czech Village and the beautiful museum almost completely under water. It broke her heart knowing that so many tangible pieces of her heritage could be lost just like that. After the water subsided, she and her mom went over right away to help with the clean up efforts. They helped restore the awful damage done to all the textiles by carefully cleaning off the mud and laying the items out to dry. (Studying cultural textiles is part of the Ap-

parel Merchandizing program she is enrolled in at Iowa State University, so she was particularly interested in the project.)

While attending Washington High School, Emily was involved with sports, including swimming, track and golf in which she was team captain. She served at Miss Iowa Teen USA 2008. During her reign she helped raise awareness of girl bullying through a program she created for middle school girls called "Beyond Bullying." She also volunteered and promoted great organizations like Variety - The Children's Charity, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Best Buddies, Families Helping Families and many more.

Emily is now attending Iowa State University where she is studying one of her favorite things - fashion. She has always loved fashion and looking at the clothing exhibits at the Czech and Slovak Museum is always fascinating and the highlight of her visits there.

In the past two years at ISU Emily has been very busy with her sorority Gamma Phi Beta, where she is the current Assistant House Manager. She has also been involved with the Red Cross Blood Drive held at ISU, Polar Plunge Benefit for Special Olympics, Final Stretch SK, Crescent Classic Cakes and Candy Sculpting, all benefiting for Campfire USA.

In the spring of 2012 Emily will graduate from Iowa State University with a degree in Apparel Merchandising. With this degree she is very fortunate to have many options for career paths. Her dream career would be to do event planning for the fashion industry, such as planning fashion industry runway shows, special events, and fundraisers.

A letter of recommendation for Emily states that she is of Czech descent, she does well academically, and she distinguishes herself as an outstanding volunteer, especially with organizations that serve children. She is truly an example of someone who cares about her community, takes leadership roles, and has a focused agenda.

## 2011 CHF Prince & Princess Applications

We are currently accepting applications for 2011 Czech Heritage Foundation Prince, Princess and Royal Court members. Applicants must be of Czech descent and between the ages of 14-16 by Nov. 1, 2010. Please contact Karen Lehmann at [redacted] for an application and rules. Entries must be postmarked by Nov. 1, 2010.

## Czech Trivia

\* The Prague Castle is the largest castle area in the world. It's three courtyards and a number of magnificent buildings cover over 7 hectares (18 acres.)





# Czech Heritage Foundation Volunteer Opportunities Volunteer Registration & Survey Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

First Middle Initial Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street City, State & Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phones:

Day (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Are you over 18 years old \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No Are you retired? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Employer & Title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Volunteer Experience:

If you have any previous volunteer experience, please list below.

Organization Address Telephone # Position/duties Year(s) Committee Chair

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Volunteer Work Preferred: (mark all that apply)

- Fundraising & Donations
- Provide Donations or Supplies
- Advertising (Brochures, Posters, & Media Coverage)
- Educational Programs & Kits (share educational kits throughout the community)
- Cooking & Baking for festivals & local events
- Working in the kitchen for festival & events
- Assist with booths at festivals & events
- Food Vendors
- Cashiers
- Float Decorations (Set-up/Take-down-up at festivals & events)
- Chairs, tables, decorations, sweeping, etc (Set-up/Take-down-up at festivals & events)
- Photography
- Newsletter Articles & Web-site Articles
- Homestay program
- Assist in academic areas, provide a training session/classroom event, which is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Speak at an event, which is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Demonstrate my talent at an event, which is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form to  
Zelda De Hoedt,



Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.  
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52408

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## PROPOSED ROUNDHOUSE BUILDING



The original Riverside Roundhouse was used for farmers markets in Czech Village from 1962 until 2007. After the flood of 2008 a group of volunteer union members dismantled it and The Czech Village Association hopes to rebuild the roundhouse by 2012 at 17th Avenue and B Street SW, where flood-damaged homes are slated for demolition. Pictured is the proposed Roundhouse by Ament Inc. of Cedar Rapids which will be elevated 12 to 16 feet above ground level to make it flood-proof. Projected costs are more than \$2 million. The Czech Village Association is selling t-shirts and \$10 prints of the roundhouse design as fundraisers. The items can be found in most Czech Village businesses. All proceeds go to roundhouse reconstruction.