



Sv. Mikuláš Day preview



see page 8

fall 2008

## Editor

Emma Lehmann

## Contributors

Russ DeHoedt, Leonard Pfeiffer, Joyce Netolicky, Amy Wanek, Libby Fuller, Leah Wilson with *MOST newsletter* and Cindy Hadish with *The Gazette*.

## Want to read more?

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. Dues, ranging from \$5 to \$1,000 annually, are renewable on January 1 of each year and expire on December 31. Dues received today apply to the following year for new members.

## Check out our web site

The Czech Heritage Foundation's newly updated web site is something you have to see. So please visit [www.czechheritagefoundation.org](http://www.czechheritagefoundation.org) anytime for all things Czech.

## Send us your stories

I hope you like the new look of the newsletter! If there is anything you would like to see included in the next issue, please let me know. Write to me anytime at  
or send articles to

. We accept articles on any topic so don't hesitate to submit. And as always, remember to share your copy with a friend or relative, or better yet send in a gift membership in their name!

## Meet the editor

Hi everyone! As you may have noticed the newsletter is a little different this time around. That's because the previous editor was flooded out, so I am stepping in. My name is Emma Lehmann and I am 17 years old. I am from Cedar Rapids, Iowa and am a junior at Kennedy High School. The Czech community, namely the members of the Czech Heritage Foundation, have been very near and dear to me for many years now. I would like to thank them for allowing me this opportunity to apply what I have learned in my school newspaper class to real life, it is certainly a unique opportunity. I would also like to thank my journalism advisor for lending me the use of our school computers to put this publication together. All in all, so many people have worked hard to make *Our Czech Heritage* a reality, I hope you enjoy this issue.

## President's message

As efforts continue in the process to rebuild our community.. plus efforts to continue to reshape the image known as Czech Heritage, our organization has deemed our real goal and challenge will require this organization to roll up our sleeves and pitch in to keep alive the strong Czech pride we share with the community. This is based on the fact that recovery from our loss, and with so many others in real need, leaves us with a limited opportunity to ever say we didn't lose.

Yet in so many ways we will have gained more by facing the reality of this life changing fact, so that we can now project an image that is even more defined as Czech Heritage. As we genuinely continue our desire to honor and celebrate Old world Czech Heritage, this will become clearly evident with the replacement of images that have become tattered or lost. This year we will project a renewed image of the Svaty Mikuláš Celebration. The replacement costs are above normal projected costs, yet we will follow the



path of our previous Czech Heritage leaders with ways to fund this project.


Also as we witness the continuing reshaping of the communities landscape what we see is much like the opening lines in "The Tale of Two Cities" as our city has what appears to be the best efforts for recovery, yet in many ways it appears to be the worst. As we now painfully witness the destruction of the legacy left and built by our fore fathers to the bulldozers and bureaucracy; in no way can I feel that this legacy we are now losing will find that this void can be replaced by seeing pictures of our past displayed in a Museum. To see, to touch, and to walk within the history that this city has built is priceless. When that is lost it can never be regained to be shared with future generations; our pride that is known as the Historic Czech District of Cedar Rapids is fading. So I understand the Czech Heritage desire to roll up our sleeves and pitch in. If any way you can pitch in to save our legacies, then I thank you. Prayer is powerful too.

A special heart felt thank you to the Beethoven Club, Five Seasons Chamber, Scottish Rite Temple, and Spillville Czech Heritage for providing the performance by Radoslav Kvapil. The proceeds of this event will be applied to rebuilding our Heritage image.

by Leonard Pfeiffer

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Postcards from the Czech Republic  
American homestay ambassadors  
share their experiences

When I arrived in Prague, I was very nervous and excited to meet my family and explore my own heritage through theirs. They turned out to be great though, accepting me and treating me as one of the family. My family showed me not only Prague and how different it is from small-town Stanwood, but also how similar it is outside of the capital to the countryside in Iowa.

In one of the last weeks of our trip my host family took Libby, her host sister Marie, and me to their country cottage in Southern Bohemia. It didn't have any running water, so it was quite an experience. While there we visited some of the castles in the area. My favorite place of all the wonderful sights that I was able to see on my trip was Cervena Lhota. It is the only castle in the Czech Republic that is red and there are several legends about how it came to be that way. Most have to do with a woman either jumping or being pushed out of a window and staining the side of the then white castle with blood. It was impossible to get rid of the stain, so it was decided the next morning to paint the entire castle red. The name Cervena Lhota actually means "red village," and while the story is rather morbid, it is a perfect example of how a country keeps its legends for so long.

Overall my trip was amazing and I learned a lot from my host family. Thank you so much for this awesome opportunity!

by Amy Wanek

Spending a month in the Czech Republic will always be one of the most interesting experiences in my entire life. Not only did I have the opportunity to see a different culture, but I was able to do it from inside a local, knowledgeable family. My host sister Marie and I got along wonderfully, and were able to do many interesting things in my short time there.

I was able to help my local expand her knowledge of the city. There are many tourist type attractions that people who live in the city usually never see. But escorting me around gave my host sister the perfect excuse to take a riverboat tour of the Vltava or see a few more of Prague's many museums.

Of course, we weren't always acting like tourists. I was given the chance to take in what it would really mean to live in a city like Prague. Marie and I attended school, went to concerts and even went to a local pool.

During the entire four weeks, there are two trips that really stick out in my mind. The first was when Marie, Amy Wanek, Amy's host-sister Karin and I spent a day in the town of Terezin. The prison there was used during World War II and the town was turned into a ghetto. The tour we took of the prison and what we saw in the museum really affected all four of us. It was especially moving to me because it seemed as though it should have been less horrible than a concentration camp since it was "only" a prison, but there was just as much torture occurring there as in other, more publicized places.

The other major trip was when we spent a weekend at a summer cottage with Amy and her host-family. While there, we visited several castles and spent time in countryside towns. These were a big change from Prague and even reminded me of Iowa. That time showed me that even though we were thousands of miles from home, there are people everywhere with the same small town kindnesses as in Iowa.

I am so glad I have these experiences to share with my family. Before now our heritage has never played a big role in our lives, but I'm hoping to change that, starting with an attempt to make dumplings!

by Libby Fuller

# Radoslav Kvapil



*Photos by Russ DeHoedt*



**Radoslav Kvapil.** (clockwise from bottom left) World renowned pianist Radoslav Kvapil quickly writes before his performance. (above and continued on page 5) Kvapil plays at a concert benefitting the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in late October to a packed audience. (bottom right) Members of the Czech Heritage Foundation and past and previous royal court members dressed in kroj sit on stage before the performance. This concert was a benefit to raise money for Cedar Rapids businesses damaged during the summer flooding.

A world-renowned Czech pianist, Radoslav Kvapil was born in Brno, Moravia and was taught from the age of six by Dr. Ludvík Kundera, Leoš Janáček's closest disciple and successor. Throughout his distinguished career, Kvapil has been commended by music critics for his "sterling service for the cause of Czech piano music", and has also been praised as an "unrivalled master", "the greatest performer of piano works by Smetana, Janáček or Martinů" and a "magician at the keyboard".

Kvapil has performed in major concert halls in 50 countries in Europe, North America and Asia, including the Royal Albert Hall and The Barbican Centre in London, Carnegie Recital Hall in New York, the Théâtre des Champs Elysées in Paris, the Concert Hall of the Seoul Arts Centre in South Korea, and The Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem.

From 1963 to 1973, Kvapil was a professor at the Conservatory of Music in Prague, Czech Republic, and from 1973 to 1976 he taught at the University of South Bohemia. Since 1977 he has given master-classes and lecture recitals worldwide in such distinguished music schools as the Juillard School of Music in New York, the Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School of Music in London, Royal College of Music in Cardiff, Conservatoire National Supérieur in Paris, musical schools in Frankfurt,

Hamburg, Munster, Dresden, Dortmund, Lubeck and Freiburg. Also in the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Musikhogskolan in Stockholm, S. Rubin Academy of Music in Tel-Aviv, Columbia University in New York, Cornell University in Ithaca, Eastman School of Music in Rochester, Dickinson University in New Jersey, University of North Carolina, University of Florida, Roosevelt University in Chicago, University of Memphis, University of Bloomington, Rice University in Houston and North Texas University.

From 1967 to 1969, Kvapil recorded Antonín Dvořák's complete piano works, the first such recording in history. At the same time, he recorded the complete piano works by Leoš Janáček, and in 1975 made a recording of the complete piano works by J. H. Voříšek. A second complete recording of Janáček's piano works followed in 1989, and in 1990, the first two volumes of Bohuslav Martinů's complete piano works were released. Apart from these collections, Kvapil has recorded dozens of other records by Bedoich Smetana, Zdenik Fibich, Josef Suk, Franz Liszt, Johannes Brahms, Paul Hindemith, Franz Schubert, Frederic Chopin and others.

In 2002, the French Ministry of Culture awarded Radoslav Kvapil the title of "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres."

by Joyce Netolicky



## Czech pianist plays in CR benefit concert



## NCSML at Lindale opens



Lindale Mall, with its easy to find location, ample parking and regional popularity has become the temporary home for numerous Cedar Rapids businesses and organizations that were displaced by the floods of 2008. We feel very fortunate to have found a space that will serve our current needs and we anticipate plenty of foot traffic as the shopping season revs up!

Formerly a photo studio, the interim location is dubbed NCSML at Lindale. Roughly 3,200 square feet, it provides enough room for an exhibition gallery, event space and museum store. Additionally, NCSML at Lindale will accommodate several staff offices, storage and shipping space.

Preparations for the opening on October 24 are keeping the NCSML staff busy. Curator Stefanie Kohn is assembling artifacts, collection mounts and

cases in preparation for our next exhibit, *Pack Your Bags: Journey to America*. Museum Store Manager Shirley Rosencrans has been replenishing the inventory of ornaments, books and other treasures popular with shoppers looking for that extra special gift.

Come celebrate the opening on October 24th. Special activities are planned beginning at 5:00 p.m. and will continue on October 25th. Details are forthcoming.

NCSML at Lindale Mall is located at 4444 1st Avenue NE, in the corridor next to Younkers and behind Holley's Store for Men. Regular hours for NCSML at Lindale are Monday through Saturday 10 – 8 and Sunday 12 – 5.

Courtesy of *MOST* newsletter



## Petr Kolar vis

The most difficult ph Naughton had to make after the Jur Petr Kolar, the Czech Republic's an United States.

"We cried together on th Naughton, president of the Nati Slovak Museum & Library, which other artifacts from the Czech Repu

Kolar came to Cedar Rapi offer support, including financial Czech Republic.

Boarded windows an sidewalks in front of the museum reminders of the June flood that building with 10 feet of water and d Village.

"I have mixed feelings," K arriving at the cleaned, but gutted, 16th Ave. SW. "I'm sorry and sad flood and damage, but I'm proud reconstructing not only the (museum the whole community here."

Kolar was joined at a dinn Rapids Country Club by Gov. Ch Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, Rep. D-Iowa, and other state and local It was the first time Culver and Kol

"I hope we can continue t terrific friendship," Culver said, addi like to visit the Czech Republic. He for his country's contribution to floo Checks totaling \$583,780 from the c will go to four entities:

- Czech museum: \$405,3
- Sokol Cedar Rapids: \$89,
- St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church
- Cedar Rapids Public Library:
- Christine Schuety, president of the lib



**New and old.** (bottom) The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library was filled to the ceiling after June's flooding, making its Czech Village location uninhabitable. (above) The gift shop and museum has reopened at Lindale Mall, it can be found between Younkers and Holley's Shop for Men.



Photo courtesy of The Gazette

**Stunned.**  
As the recent visitor to the Czech Village, Czech ambassador Petr Kolar donated money on behalf of his country.

# In Czech news...

## visits CR, donates funds

phone call Gail June floods was ambassador to the

the phone," said national Czech & ch held books and public.

apids last night to al help, from the

and mud-caked im remain visible at inundated the devastated Czech

P Kolar said, upon ed, museum at 30 ad because of the ud of the people eum) building, but

inner at the Cedar Chet Culver, Sen. Dave Loeb sack, officials.

olar had met. e to maintain this iding that he would He thanked Kolar flood recovery. e Czech Republic

5,380. 89,000. rch: \$44,700. ry: \$44,700. library foundation,

said she was touched that the library was selected to represent recovery help to Cedar Rapids residents. The other groups have Czech ties.

Sokol, a social and gymnastics organization started in 1872 by Czech immigrants, will use the gift to help buy new equipment. Floodwaters raged through the 100-year-old Sokol building downtown at 417 Third St. SE.

St. Wenceslaus, 1224 Fifth St. SE, a national Czech parish across the river from the museum, has reopened since the floods, after thousands of hours of volunteer help. Money will be used to help restore the church's community building, said Bob Kazimour, chairman of the parish council.

Schuety said the library gift will be used as a catalyst for efforts to help fund a permanent library, either at its downtown site, at 500 First St. SE, or elsewhere.

Naughton said the museum, which opened in 1995, is committed to staying in Czech Village.

Kolar drew parallels between the devastation in Cedar Rapids and flooding in the Czech Republic six years ago, saying, to nods of agreement from the Iowans, that "nobody expected all the water."

The 2002 European floods inundated Prague and other cities, causing billions of dollars in damage to historical and cultural sites and homes.

"Tragic moments can be turned into something positive," Kolar said, noting that many parts of the Czech Republic were restored in better condition after the floods.

Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolane k was scheduled to make the trip to Cedar Rapids but canceled due to political considerations at home.

Courtesy of Cindy Hadish, *The Gazette*



Photo by Russ DeHoedt

**Speech.** Pianist Radoslav Kvapil speaks to the audience at October's benefit concert.

# Sv. Mikuláš Day

Every year, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library celebrates Den Svatého Mikuláše (Saint Nicholas Day). Last year, it was nearly cancelled due to a tremendous ice storm; but, we prevailed. This year, the flood and the loss of a location threatened to call off the festivities, however, our interim location at provides a solution to this challenge. Saint Nicholas, the Angel, and the Devil are coming to Lindale Mall on December 6, 2008.

The location may be different, but the day will be just as joyous. Another flood displaced non-profit organization, Theatre Cedar Rapids, has generously offered to host two of our most anticipated performances at their interim location, TCR Lindale. The Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company performance of "Education of a Donkey" begins at 10:00 a.m. and is followed by Světlušky: Cedar Rapids Youth Folk Ensemble Performance. Sv. Mikuláš, Anděl, a Čert (St. Nicholas, the Angel, and the Devil) will be on hand to greet you at the door. TCR Lindale

is located in the former Let's Dance/Lindale Plaza Theatre space, located at 4444 1st Avenue NE, across the parking lot from the NCSML at Lindale. Both performances are free and open to the public. Reservations are not required. All children must be accompanied by an adult. The events are sponsored by the Iowa Arts Council and US Bank.

After these performances, join Sv. Mikuláš, Anděl, a Čert (St. Nicholas, the Angel, and the Devil) as they venture across the parking lot to continue

the festivities at NCSML at Lindale. There, Master Folk Artist Marj Nejdrl personalizes ornaments from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. You may choose to have her include a name and year for \$2.00, or a name, year, and additional text for \$4.00.

The Coloring Contest is back for a third year. Youngsters may pick up a coloring sheet from the NCSML or any US Bank branch and enter to win a \$25.00 savings bond. Color St. Nicholas, the Angel, and the Devil, and turn in your masterpiece to the NCSML at Lindale or a US Bank branch. Artwork will be displayed at the NCSML at Lindale from Dec. 6 – Dec. 13. Ages for the drawing are under 5 years-old, 5 – 8-years-old, and 9 – 12-years-old. The drawing for the savings bonds will take place during the Cookie Walk on Dec. 13 at 11:00 a.m.

Leonard Reyman Accordion Trio performs your favorite holiday songs, accordion style. Sing-along and join the fun from noon – 1:00 p.m. Santa's Saxs Concert is from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. and the Czech Heritage Singers take the stage at 3:00. For over 30 years, the Czech Heritage Singers have delighted us with their renditions of traditional Czech and Slovak Christmas carols. All activities at the NCSML at Lindale are open to the public and free, with donations appreciated.

In addition to the musical entertainment, visitors have the opportunity to create their own Czech and Slovak holiday decorations from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. This is a free activity, with donations appreciated.

The Museum Guild Cookie Walk takes place Saturday, December 13 at the NCSML at Lindale. Sales begin at 10:00 and continue until all the goodies are gone. Cookies are sold by the pound. For more information, call (319) 362-8500.

courtesy of MOST  
newsletter





# Origins of Sv. Mikuláš Day

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, descending from Heaven on a golden rope, accompanied with a winged angelic assistant, Svaty Mikulas begins his annual tour to visit with children of small villages and cities through out the world. Svaty Mikus's first order of business is to capture and bind in chains the Devil to join him on his journey. . As Svaty Mikulas begins his visit with any Child who seeks his audience, he hears accounts of their conduct through out the year. All good boys and girls have their name entered into the Dobry Holk ,Holka Vonosey Kaneha (Good Boys and Girls Christmas book) carried by Mikulas's angelic assistant. All good children are also rewarded at that time with a treat of sweets; (Gold foiled wrapped chocolate coins, frosted cookies, or the traditional candy cane.) But beware the child who is reported as behaving bad. They too must and will receive a reward but that of an inferior desire to the reward that a good child receives. A lump of Coal or a Potato is considered a worthy enough gift and that gift is presented from a black laced blue basket by that Devilish assistant who was chained by Svaty Mikulas. The shame of reports of acting badly will result in public acknowledgement so always be a good child.

## Den Svatého Mikuláše

(Saint Nicholas Day)

Saturday Dec. 6, 2008



### Coloring Contest!

Pick up a coloring sheet today from NCSML at Lindale or any US Bank branch and enter to win a \$25.00 savings bond!

Where? TCR Lindale is located in the former Let's Dance/Lindale Plaza Theatre space, located at 4444 1st Avenue NE, across from Lindale Mall

NCSML at Lindale is located on the Younkers end of Lindale Mall, next to Holley's Shop for Men.

There's more! Visit [www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org) for a complete schedule!

**10:00 a.m. Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company**  
Performance at TCR Lindale. FREE!

**Noon Sv. Mikuláš, Anđel, a Cert**  
(St. Nicholas, the Angel and the Devil) at NCSML at Lindale. FREE!

**1:00 – 4:00 Make-and-Take Czech and Slovak Holiday Decorations**  
At NCSML at Lindale. FREE, donations appreciated.

**1:30 – 2:30 Santa's Saxs Concert**  
At NCSML at Lindale. FREE!



National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

## Dec. 6 St. Nicholas appearance times

- 10:00 - 10:15 : Heavenly decent in Czech Village
- 10:15 - 11:00 : Visit Czech Village opened businesses
- 11:00 - 12:00 : Children visits and photo opportunity
- 12:30 - 2:00 : Visit NCSML at Lindale Mall
- 2:30 - 4:00 : Visit downtown Fire and Ice Festival
- 6:00 - 7:00 : Ignite the Spirit of Our City Parade

\*Svaty Mikuláš, the angel and the devil will be offering gold-wrapped chocolate coins and other candy treats to good boys and girls.

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## Cookie walk

During the festivities, don't forget that kolaches and holiday cookies will be sold at 76 - 16th Ave. SW and the relocated NCSML gift shop; NCSML at Lindale (between Younkers and Holley's Shop for Men at Lindale Mall in Cedar Rapids).

\*\*Please remember though that all outdoor appearances will be contingent upon cooperative weather conditions.

## Cookie Walk!

Saturday, December 13

Homemade holiday cookies for sale by the NCSML Museum Guild.  
9:30 a.m. until they are gone!



SCRUMPTIOUS!

**NCSML at Lindale**  
(between Younkers and Holley's Shop for Men at Lindale Mall in Cedar Rapids)

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



**NCSML**  
AT LINDALE

# Museum Store Christmas Open House

November 21 - 30



Buy 3 ornaments from the wall display  
and get 1 free from the Christmas tree!

Located between Younkers and Holley's Shop for Men  
at Lindale Mall in Cedar Rapids

## Czech Heritage Foundation Membership Application

Membership period is January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> and is renewable on January 1.

This organization is dedicated to the preservation of our Czech Heritage.

Renew now so you won't miss a single 'information packed' issue of Nase Ceske Dedictvi.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

New member:  Returning member:

Membership dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*10.00*

Membership is ~~\$800~~ **per year** and is tax deductible.

Donations are tax deductible and will be used to continue our Czech Heritage Programs.  
Please note that any amount given beyond the annual membership fee will be considered a donation unless specifically noted.

Please contact me regarding:

Including the foundation in my/our will.

The tax advantages of donating stock.

Gifts to honor or in memory of friends and family members.

*8476*

*52408*

Mail form and check to: **Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.**, P.O. Box ~~761~~ *8476*, Cedar Rapids, IA ~~52406~~ *52408*

Please note that membership must be renewed each year. Any amount given beyond the annual membership fee will be considered a donation.

### Czech Heritage Foundation Gift Membership

Why not consider a gift membership for someone special? Your dues and generous donations help to fund several worthwhile endeavors such as Czech Prince and Princess, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa, Scholarship Program, Homestay Program, along with publishing the quarterly Nase Ceske Dedictvi, and other numerous publications. The list of Czech Heritage projects goes on and on.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP GIVEN FOR \_\_\_\_\_

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Czech Heritage Foundation Inc.

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[www.CzechHeritageFoundation.org](http://www.CzechHeritageFoundation.org)

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**Playing for a cause.** At the October benefit concert, featuring world-renowned pianist Radoslav Jvaouk, contributions were made to the flood-ravaged National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library.

