The Museum Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



Terry Osmanski at the Taste of Czech and Slovak



Milly Ortner welcomes WFLA visitors from Milwaukee, WI

'Smashing Success' Describes Guild's 'Taste of Czech & Slovak'

The 10th annual "Taste of Czech & Slovak" celebration of cultural cuisine delighted 370 "tasters" and garnered \$3,377 for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, which recently re-opened at 87 Sixteenth Ave. S.W after the Flood of 2008.

Held at the spacious St. Ludmila Church Social Hall, this NCSML Guild - sponsored event featured 33 Old World favorites, including jitrnice, gulaš, černá kuba, zelniky, and koláče.

NEW to this annual "Taste of Czech & Slovak" was food sponsorship by several Czech Village and New Bohemia merchants and organizations: Al's Blue Toad, Dostal Catering, Maria's Tea Room, Parlor City Pub & Eatery, St. Ludmila Parish Altar & Rosary Society, Sykora Bakery, and The Red Frog.

"With NCSML again a presence in Historic Czech Village, this collaboration on the 'Taste of Czech & Slovak' is a natural outcome, and demonstrates the strong link between the commercial and cultural aspects of the Czech-Slovak people," commented Lu Volsch, event organizer and fund-raising chair for Guild of NCSML.

This food feast, which kicks-off Houby Days festivities on Friday night, also featured music and socializing, as well as attendance by the Czech Heritage Foundation Royalty.

Patrons purchased 10 food samples for \$6 or 20 samples for \$10.

Many thanks to the committee of Shirley Alexander, Gary Dvorak, Karen Hospodarsky, Cyndi O'Brien, Andrea Siebenmann, Ed Volsch, Lu Volsch, Marie Webster, Lavanda Woosley and Jan Stoffer.

Summer Guild Meetings:



President's Message

Keep doin' what you're doin' Pat Martin, NCSML Guild President



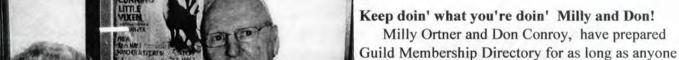
Recently Guild member Marj Nejdl returned from teaching Czech Batik Egg decorating classes at the beautiful Sokol Hall in Manhattan--New York City! Marj received a grant from Bohemian Benevolent & Literary Association to fund this cultural workshop, and it was highly successful. Her classes were filled to capacity.

When she arrived home, Marj was featured in the March 31 Cedar Rapids Gazette, with a page devoted to her "MAGIC ART," complete with color photos of Mari and her decorated eggshells. After its publication, she received dozens of copies of the article, as well as many cards of congratulations. One person who called her said simply, "Keep doin' what you're doin." And, to Marj, that says it all.

I second that directive to Mari and add the same sentiment to all Guild members. Keep doin' what you're doin'!

Marj Nejdl has been practicing the art of egg decorating --kraslice-- since childhood and has been teaching this art to others since the late 1970s. A Master Folk Artist, Marj earned this title from the Iowa Arts Council in 1982. We are so proud Marj is a member of NCSML Guild, and she supports the Museum and her Czech Heritage in this community in dozens of ways throughout the year.





(including Milly and Don!) can remember. This is a HUGE and complicated task, involving tracking our members' names, addresses, email information, and phone numbers. The roster is so important to our work and friendship. It provides quick access to one another and makes mailing of Guilded Page and other communication manageable.

Milly and Don work on the roster from Jan 1, when dues are to be in, until it is published in March or April. Vera Conroy, another member, first "volunteered" her husband for this task, and he has never received remuneration for paper or technology services.



Guild's Spring Programs Feature Gardening, Woodcarving, County Trails

April's membership meeting program featured Deb Walser with "What's New in Container Gardening?" She delighted the audience with a power point presentation of "thrillers, fillers, and spillers."

Deb brought plants to show container arrangement techniques. She also had "prize" plants for a few of the 54 members present.

In May, Larry Sylvester, left, and Larry Lebeda, right, displayed examples of their woodcarvings. The two carvers told how they got interested in carving and shared information about carving techniques.

Because woodcarving is historically a Czech and Slovak art, members were interested in a "new" style for an "old art.





UPCOMING GUILD PROGRAMS

Saturday, July 10, Jim Jacobmeyer will give an update on New Bohemia

Saturday, August 7, Andrea Siebenmann, head of the International Studies Program at Kirkwood Community College, will share information about her program.

NCSML Guild Members Updated at March Program



Douglas Smith

Opportunities for Growth

Guild members were pleased to hear from Doug Smith, telling us details about the new and innovative plans for the NCSML Museum Store. His hard work has created a store that is new and exciting. Doug's efforts have resulted in the acquisition of product lines including Ker Art Crystal, handmade greeting cards from Prague, figurine chocolate candy and Slovakian mugs. The back wall will, of course, be filled with our signature Czech glass ornaments.



Guild is Dedicated Corps

As the second installment of the March Guild program, Andrea Jilovec shared with us how the gifts of time, skill and ideas from Guild members have contributed to the great success and recovery of the NCSML. She described volunteers as the "real spine" of a museum. The NCSML at the Kosek Building will have a wide range of ways that Guild volunteers can contribute. Andrea will send information detailing the possibilities. She asked for our assistance in her new role.

NCSML MUSEUM GUILD -		J KLFOKI		- 2010	Mid-	year Gi	ula Fi	nancial	леро	-	-	-	
Receipts and Disbursement	ts				1.2000 1			1	-	-			Annual
2010	las	Enh	Mar	Ans	Mari	Lor	i.d	Aus	C	0-4	Mari	-	Total
2010	Jan.	Feb.	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	To Date
Beginning Balance	7,947.41	8,008.82	8,337.67	8,734.70									7,947.4
Receipts													
Dues	260.00	340.00	130.00	50.00						1			780.0
Cookbooks		50.00	75.00										125.0
Cookbooks (shipping)			1000										
Cookbooks-NCSML		223.60		447.20		1.3							670.8
Donations	5.00	15.00	10.00										30.00
Aprons			10.00										10.0
Taste of Czech/Slovak													
Taste C/S Donations			200.00	80.00									280.0
Cookie Walk													
Cookie Walk Donations													
Reception-Patty & Pat			263.00	100.00									363.0
Interest	1.69	1.25	1.48										4.4
Total Receipts	266.69	629.85	689.48	677.20									2,263.2
Disbursements						/ 4							
Newsletter (printing)	84.80		92.45	10.70									187.9
Newsletter (postage)		176.00											176.0
Printing	70.48												70.4
Cookbooks (shipping)													
Houby Days/Banner				140.00		1							140.0
Taste of C/S Expenses													
Cookie Walk Supplies								1					
Programs				25.00									25.0
Reception			100.00	230.95									330.9
NCSML													
NCSML-Endowment													
Rentals	50.00	75.00	100.00			P 31							225.0
Rental Deposit		50.00											50.0
Total Disbursements	205.28	301.00	292.45	406.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,205.3
Ending Balance	8,008.82	8,337.67	8,734.70	9,005.25									9,005.2
Appropriated	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00										
Unappropriated	3,008.82	3,337.67	3,834.70										
	8,008.82	8,337.67	8,834.70										

We're Everywhere... We're Everywhere!

MUSEUM GUILD OF THE NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

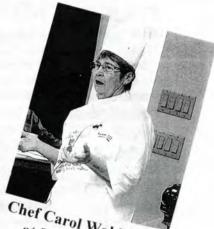


Leonard Reyman and Darlene Suchomel provide us with toe-tapping music.

Guild members Liba Ayach,



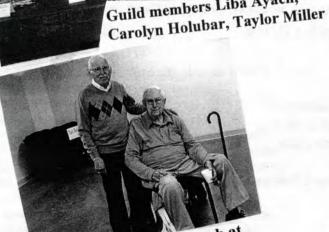
Lu Volsch, Chair Extraordinaire



Chef Carol Wohlleben at Babi's Kitchen



Lavanda Woosley in Czech red in the NCSML gallery



Joe Kurka and Ed Volsch at NCSML Guild Reception



THANKS to ALL ...who participated in the 2010 Taste of Czech & Slovak

Bruce Alexander	Shirley Alex	ander Jack	ie Allen Jud	У
Antone Lib	a Ayach	Dolores Blood	Kecia Boys	sen
Lindsey Buchheit	Marie Cada	vera	Conway	Arlene
Dayoff Beu	la Dvorak	Evelyn Dvorak	Conway / Gary Dvoral	(
Barb Edmunds	Frank Edmund	s Lydia E	lias Feri	n
Fackler	Warren Fackler	Laverne Fish	lias Feri er Shally G	arin
Diana Geoffrey	Helane Go	lden Bonnie	Holubar Ca	arolyn
Holubar Me	el Holubar	Karen Hospo	darsky Carol Haye	k
Janet Havek	Alicia Jackso	on Andre	ea Jilovec Cele	ste
Inhannes Fran	Hanzel Johnson	Reverly Kadlec	Gene Kadle	
Cindy Kendall	Pat Kent	Ann Kloub	ec Stefai	nie
Kohn Irene	Konecny	Emil Koval	Bette Krall Pat M	
Mary Ann Kucera	Joe Kurka	Patti Marc	olf Pat Ma	artin
	Donna Merkle	Bob Moore		
Maxine Stastny-M	iller Taylor Miller	Cindy Monroe	Dave Muhl	ena
National Czech &	Slovak Museum 8	Library Mari	Nejdl Gail Naug	ahton
Alli Nemecek	Karen Nemer	cek Milen	a Novosad	
			OB-Gyn Associated	P.C.
			radsky Barb Pu	
			ila Altar & Rosary So	
Nancy Schmuecke	er John Shean	Sally She	ean Betty S	heets
Andrea Siebenma	nn Susan Sokols	sky Jeff Spo	ean Betty S oner Jes	ssie
Stastny L	eni Stastny	Carol Stoffer	Jan Stoffer	
Marjorie Stone	Radka Strnadko	ova Darlene Suc	homel Betty Suc	chan
Loreen Svoboda	Dorothy Voelk	ers Jeanne	Vogt Ed Vo	olsch
Lu Volsch	Lenora Watso	on Marie V	Vebster Allvs	on
Wheaton L	eah Wilson	Lauren Wils	on Carol Wo	hlleben
Lavanda We	oosley Jaso	n Wright	Pat Yilek	
Lois	Yoerger	Marilyn Zvacek	US Corrugated	Co.

Czech Heritage Royalty-Little Sister Abby Frerick

Czech Village and New Bohemia Businesses:

Al's Blue Toad Dostal Catering
Parlor City Pub & Eatery Sykora Bakery

Maria's Tea Room The Red Frog

Our Volunteers Make it Happen!

Minutes of March NCSML Guild Membership Meeting

The Museum Guild of National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library met at St. Wenceslaus Church on March 6th, 2010.

Pat Martin, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Irene Konecny will be Treasurer Pro Tem. Working with Alicia Jackson, Treasurer, until she is able to attend meetings.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Kurka.

There were 52 members and 2 guests attending.

A new member was introduced, Liba Ayach.

Pat Martin asked that all cell phones be turned off.

Program: Shirley Alexander introduced Andrea Jilovec, NCSML director of education and programs, "Volunteer Opportunities at Kosek Building". And, Douglas Smith, director of NCSML retail and business development, "Rebuilding Store and New Opportunities".

Officer Reports:

Bob Stone. By Laws; the work is completed, but it is not finalized yet.

Pat Martin, President, told of some Czech Village news. Some information on the Roundhouse; the building is owned by the Czech Village Association, the land is owned by the NCSML.

Joe Kurka, Vice President, gave us an up-date on the brass plaque project. He said he, Emil Koval, and Mel Holubar are waiting for warm weather to sand them outdoors, cleaning them is difficult to restore. Jan Stoffer said she knows of a chemical that will do the cleaning of the brass.

Recording Secretary: Carolyn Holubar read the minutes from the February meeting. One correction was made, "A" street is not referred to as the A Avenue Street. The rest was approved as read.

Corresponding Secretary, Pro Tem: Shirley Alexander said Charles Opatrny and Alicia Jackson are still on the list for recovery.

Treasurer's Report: Irene Konecny said our balance is \$8,337.67 at present.

Museum Guild Representative: Mel Holubar.

News on the proposed banner: It will be approximately 2' x 8', and will cost about \$150.00. It will have eyelets on the ends, and loops to place a rod through so it can be carried.

Gary Rozek completed his two years on the board as chairman, Sue Olson is the new chairperson. Mel is on the collections/library committee, and the permanent exhibit design.

New Business; Outstanding bills: Carolyn Holubar asked that \$92.45 be paid for the printing of the Guilded

Page. Lu Volsch asked that \$100.00 be paid to St. Wenceslaus for the room rent through December, 2010. Both bills were accepted by the Executive Board. Lu Volsch said our Taste of Czech and Slovak will be held on May 14th 2010 from 5-7 PM, at St. Ludmila's. 10 samples for \$5.00 and 20 samples for \$10.00. The room rent was increased to \$200.00. Donations have already covered this expense.

Reception Honoring two volunteers, Patricia Hikiji and Pat Kent will be held on March 16, 2010 from 3:30 to 5:30 PM at St. Ludmila's Church Social Hall.

Acknowledgements at 4:30 PM. 40 people are coming so far, and about 20 more will be contacted. All Guild members who plan to come should sign up with Lu. Volsch. Lovely gifts will be presented to Patricia and to Pat. There is also an opportunity to contribute monetarily to help cover the expenses.

Audit: Emil Koval, chairman. He, Mel Holubar, Fern Fackler and Irene Konecny will be doing the audit.

Membership: Milly Ortner said, very excitedly, that we have 16 new members. Social: Cindy Monroe will be the hostess for the April meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolya Holubar
Recording Secretary

The April 10th (2nd Saturday of April) membership meeting will be held at 9:00 AM at St. Wenceslaus Church. The program will be Deb Walser, Master Gardener, at Pecks Floral Shop, speaking on Container Gardening.

Czech-Slovak Vocabulary: Bob Stone.

March 6, 2010 6 brezna 2010 6 mareca 2010

English: There are no frogs in our water.

(There are not no frogs in our water.)

Czech: V nasi vode, nejsou zadne zaby.

Slovak: V nasej vode nie su ziadne zaby.

Refreshments: A delicious selection of Pecan Squares, Pineapple Bread, Breakfast Bars, Cracker Delights, fresh fruit compote, juice and coffee were served by Marie Webster, Marge Stone and Fern Fackler.

Andrea Jilovec said thank you to Babi's Kitchen, 60 guests attended. March 20th Marj Nejdl's class on "Egg Decorating" will be at Hus Memorial Church. March 20th, St. Joseph's Day Parade. April 9th at 3 PM, will have a hard hat tour of the Kosek Building. April 10 will have a Red Cedar Chamber concert at 8 PM Attendance Lottery:

A "Czech" decorated dish cloth, donated by Marj Nejdl was won by Ed Volsch.

A cross-stitched, framed piece, donated by Betty Mihal Sheets was won by Marj Nejdl.

Minutes of April NCSML Guild Membership Meeting

The Museum Guild of National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library met at St. Wenceslaus Church on April 10, 2010.

Pat Martin, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Kurka, Vice. Pres. There were 54 members and two guests attending. Jan Stoffer's parents are new members, Carol and Gene Stoffer, as well as Don Pulkrab.

Program: Shirley Alexander introduced Deb Walser, Master Gardner. "What's New in Container Gardening". New rosters were handed out by Milly Ortner. Joe Kurka, Vice Pres., Said that all of the brass plaques are finished, the cleaning agent was alcohol. Cindy Monroe is in charge of the kiosk brass plaques.

Recording Secretary: Carolyn Holubar read the minutes from the March meeting. They were approved as read.

Corresponding Secretary: Helene Golden read letters from Pat Hikiji and Pat Kent, thanking the Guild for the lovely reception held in their honor.

Treasurer: Irene Konecny, Pro Tem, said our balance is \$8,734.70. There is \$5,000.00 in reserve.

Pat Martin, President, mentioned payment for outstanding bills;

- l. Marilyn Tucker for mailing labels, \$10.70.
- 2. Reception for the "Pats". Income \$263. Item \$100.00 reception. Rest for room rent, \$75.00; Guild absorbs rest of expenses; nuts, mints, etc., donated. Monetary gifts were given individually.

New Business: \$500.00 was given to Andrea Jilovec, to purchase kitchen items for the kitchen on the second floor, in the Kosek Building. Motion passed by Leni Stastny, 2nd by Mary Ann Kucera.

Museum Guild Representative: Mel Holubar told how Jan Stoffer and Andrea Jilovec gave Hard Hat Tours at the Kosek Building. The Opening will be April 16 and 17, and the ribbon cutting will be held on Sunday, the 17th. The Round House is presently being dis-assembled. Rinderknecht will be building the new museum. Cindy Monroe will be meeting with the Garden Committee at 1:30 PM on 4-14-10.

Unfinished Business: The By-laws were endorsed, no more work on them is necessary.

Andrea Jilovic, NCSML, Director of Education, Programs, Volunteer & Visitor Services, needs help In all areas. Volunteers will be needed in different areas of the Kosek Building, plus staffing the Museum of Art gallery.

Douglas Smith will have training classes on April 14,

2010, to learn how to use the cash register.

Audit: Emil Koval, chairman, Fern Fackler and Mel Holubar found the books to be in good order.

Fund Raising: Lu Volsch introduced the fund raising committee; Gary Dvorak, Marie Webster, Shirley Alexander, Karen Hospodarsky, Andrea Siebenmann, and Cyndi O'Brien.

Taste of Czech & Slovak Report for April 10, 2010.

- Cost of tickets 20 samples for \$10.00, 10 samples for \$6.00.
- 2. Public Relations and flyer distribution.
- 3. Food samples 33; items that have been omitted and others added.
- Food donations by Czech Village establishments Blue Toad, Dostal's Catering, Maria's Tea Room, Red Frog, St. Ludmila Altar & Rosary, Sykora Bakery, and Wilson Hy-Vee.
- 5. Volunteer sign-up times.
- 6. Sign up for cooking various food and info sheet about bringing the food, etc.
- 7. 4:00 meeting before the TASTE.

Respectfully Submitted, Carolyn Holubar

Recording Secretary

Public Relations: Lavanda Woosley on the Publicity Committee; Taste of Czech flyers are organized according to areas. Sign up sheets to help before and clean up after, other lists for serving line, sign up sheets for runners and ticket sellers. Sign up for cooking or making donations, (some foods are discontinued and others have been added) Many professional business are donating foods. Instructions for bringing in foods are on back of the recipe sheets. Wear the Czech aprons.....

The May 1st membership meeting well be held at 9:00 AM in the St. Wenceslaus Gym, right next to the church. **Refreshments:** Thank you to Vera Conway, Laverne Fisher, and Betty Krall for the delicious coffee cakes, punch and coffee.

Social: Lu Volsch; The hostesses for the May meeting will be Irene Konecny, Sally and John Shean.

Program: Shirley Alexander. Larry Sylvester will present "Wood Carving".

Czech / Slovak Vocabulary: Bob Stone.

English Friend(s) Friendship Czech Pritel, pritelkyne, pratele, pratelstvi Slovak Priatel, priatelka, priatelia, priatelstvo

Attendance Lottery:

A tote bag decorated in Czech was donated by Marj Nejdl, and was won by Donna Merkle.

Minutes of May NCSML Guild Membership Meeting

The Museum Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library met at St. Wenceslaus Church, in the Gym, on May 1, 2010 at 9:00 AM.

Pat Martin, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Kurka, Vice. Pres. There were 36 members and two guests attending. We have one new member, Douglas Smith, Director of NCSML retail and business development.

Donna Merkle passed around copies of the Czech Heritage Foundation, Winter 2010, newsletter for those who wanted one.

Program: Marge Stone introduced Larry Lebeda and Larry Sylvester. They both are marvelous wood cutters. Larry Lebeda carved "folksy caricatures and animals" and Larry Sylvester carved gorgeous "wild ducks and animals", then they proceeded to tell us how it is done.

Recording Secretary: Carolyn Holubar read the minutes from the April meeting. One correction was made, the ribbon cutting ceremony was held on April 17, not April 18th. The rest was approved as read.

Corresponding Secretary: Helane Golden sent a thank you note to the Czech Heritage Foundation for the \$100.00 donation for the reception for the two Pats....

Treasurer: Alicia Jackson. Our balance is \$9,005.25. There is \$5,500 set aside. One bill to pay, \$200.00 to St. Ludmilas for Taste of Czech room rent.

Museum Guild Representative: Mel Holubar Sylva Fischerove, visiting from Prague, was featured at the April 16th evening at the Kosek Building, along with the staff, Board Members and past large donors, she read a poem in English and then in Czech. Mel and Carolyn Holubar kept her for the weekend. On April 17th, she was present for the ribbon-cutting, and on April 18th, she wanted to visit St. Wenceslaus Church, Czech Village and the Red Roof Bldg. She left for Kansas City by bus. Saturday the ribbon cutting ceremony attendance was 600. Sunday attendance was 400. Sales for both days totaled \$3,200 in the Gift Shop.

In the new proposed Museum, the ground floor will be at 734.4 feet which is three feet above the 500 year flood plain. Right now layout has room for 119 parking places, but 134 are needed.

BrewNost is at the Cedar Rapids Art Museum on Friday, Oct. 15, 2010.

Houby Day parade is May 15, Please wear your Kroje, If you have one!

Unfinished Business: Andrea Jilovec, "Mini-training for Gallery Attendants". She said "thank you" to all

volunteers who helped open the new museum.

Volunteers are needed to serve as gallery attendants. She reminded us that flexibility is a gift, and she will contact those who have not signed up.

The gallery attendant job is very important. The museum is the first public face a visitor will see.

In the exhibit space - welcome them, make them feel comfortable, anticipate questions. Guide them through and tell them they have all the time in the world. Introduce them to the Czech and Slovak history and maintain integrity, give them a reason to celebrate this heritage that is still alive today.

There is new technology: touch screens, how to change views, press buttons for oral history. There are computer interactions, they are <u>our guests</u> and they are there to learn and see our history.

No food or drink is allowed in the gallery.

Cell phones are to be turned off.

Pictures (without flash) may be taken until further notice. If children are acting up, or abusive talking, etc. we may ask them to leave.

Andrea has sign-up sheets for AM and PM gallery attendants.

Sign-up sheets for telephone volunteers.

Sign-up sheets for help with the Houby Day dancers.

Fund Raising: Lu Volsch said PR is going well for Taste of Czech & Slovak. Lavanda Woosley is doing a fantastic job, Jan Stoffer has sent out news releases and is working with Leah on the menu/tickets. Still need people to prepare foods, and a lot of people to serve. Purses should be left in car trunks, the committee is trying to eliminate people going through the kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,

OMOLYL Holubar

Carolyn Holubar

Recording Secretary

Refreshments: A delicious fruit compote, cookies, yellow cake and cranberry bread were prepared by Irene Konency, Sally and John Shean.

Social: Lu Volsch; the hostesses for the June 5th meeting will be Betty Gallagher, Dianna Geoffrey and Cindy Feller Kendall.

Program: Linn County Trails.

Czech & Slovak Vocabulary: Bob Stone.

English: twilight Czech: soumrak Slovak: sumrak

Review: Morel(s); smrz(e); smrcok (smrcky)
Bob then read an article, A Memory Of Alma Turechek.
Attendance Lottery: a carved wooden morel was

donated by Marge Stone, and won by Fran Johnson.



Vitam e Vas Malek's Fishermen Band starting at Ipm Le Welcome To The Grand Czech Czech Cartnersh

Loreen and Lud Svoboda represented Czech Heritage, donned in their kroje.



Masopust...Czech Mardi Gras

Sponsored by Czech Heritage Partnership, this pre-Lent celebration was enjoyed by a busload of Guild members and their friends February 13 in Protivin.

The Royal Court of young people, sponsored by C.R. area Czech Heritage, added greatly to the festivities. From left, back: Eric Sindelar, Prince 2010; Queen Amanda DeHoedt, Miss Czech Slovak Iowa 2009-10; Andrea Cada, Princess 2009. In front are Cassandra Lehman, Little Sister Iowa 2009-10, and Abby Frerick, Little Sister Iowa 2009-10.



Marj Nejdl and Marge Pace...never at a loss for fun, celebrated festivities, which included a scrumptious Czech meal in early evening, served buffet style.

Malek's Fisherman Band provided afternoon entertainment, along with dancing, skits, auctions, and general good cheer.

HOUBY DAYS CELEBRATES SPRING "SPORT" OF CZECHS

In 1978, plans were made for a spring festival in Czech Village, Cedar Rapids, a neighborhood known for its ethnic history. The neighborhood already had a very successful fall festival, and merchants wanted a spring festival to compliment it. Lumir Vondracek and Frank Nusetril came up with a theme – mushrooms – and Houby* Days was born. Both men were houba* hunters and supported that "sport" as the mainstay of the spring festival. Merchants and festival planners met weekly at Joens Brothers Interiors, sitting on rolls of carpeting, as they discussed plans for the first spring festival.

The first Houby Days

was held the weekend after

Mother's Day in May, 1978. The Czech Village Assn. set that date so people could plan to attend years in the future. Of course it was also a probable date for a good houby crop. Lumir was an expert mushroom hunter, and he and his houba pals, George Tichy and Dick Jones, served as judges of the Houby Competition in the early years.

Trophies were awarded for the Largest, Smallest, Tallest, Most Oddly- Shaped Large and Small Houba, Best Display, and the Best Houba in the Show!

Although there are many more events staged during Houby Festivals now, including NCSML Guild's Taste of Czech & Slovak cuisine extravaganza, this festival continues to celebrate the culture of the Czechs and Slovaks!

This was the 33rd year.
Pat Martin, the
first Czech Village
Coordinator, 1977 -1985



1977 Czech Village Association. Pictured I-r: Les Sykora, Sykora Bakery; Pat Martin, Czech Village Coordinator; Frank Nesetril, United State Bank (where US Bank is at present); Bud Howell, Riverside Neighborhood Assn. (also member of 16th Ave Commercial Club, which preceded Czech Village Association); Jerry Boddicker, Boddicker School of Music; Rick Bartunek, Bartunek's Maytag; Vince Fiala, Pohlena Meat Market; Bob Schaffer, Czech Cottage; Julie Stastny Sadler, Czech Closet; George Joens, Joens Brothers Interiors; Jessie Stastny, Czech Closet; Lumir Vondracek, 16th Ave. Meat Market; Richard Holden, attorney; George Barta, Saddle and Leather Shop; Paul Kosek, Kosek's Variety Store; Rollie Pierson, Pierson's Flowers; Ernie Hlas, Ernie's Tavern; Jim Kruse, Coast to Coast Store.

Guild Membership Hits 120...Changes for your 2010 Roster

Renewals: Marjeanne Jungjohann Susan Rock

Address Change: Charles Opatrny

New: Carol and Gene Stoffer

Don Pulkrab

Douglas Smith

Pat Martin Co-Editor







Next Meeting: Saturday, June 5, 9 a.m. St. Wenceslaus Church, Chihak Hall, lower level

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The opening of "Rising Above:
The Story of a People and the Flood"
was celebrated with a Ribbon-Cutting
Ceremony on April 17. From left,
Consul General Marek Skolil, from
Czech Consulate in Chicago, Gail
Naughton, CEO of NCSML, Gov. Chet
Culver, Lu Barron and Sue Olson,
NCSML Board members, and members
of Czech Heritage Royalty and C.R.
Ambassadors. Czech Plus Band added
to the festivities at the Grand Opening
at the 87-Sixteenth Ave. S.W. location.

Hosts/hostesses make Guild meetings festive June--Diana Geoffrey, Cindy Fetter Kendall, Betty Gallagher July--Helane Golden, Gary Dvorak, Evelyn Dvorak August--Loreen and Lud Svoboda September--Jeanne Vogt, Marilyn Tucker, Dolores Usher October--Carolyn Holubar, Mel Holubar, Emil Koval November--Dolores Blood, Joe Kurka December--Cookie Walk: Executive Board