

THE GUILDED PAGE

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

Cookie Walk Sweetens Holidays for 125 Patrons, Nets over \$1700 for Guild Fundraising

Some 125 delighted patrons purchased over 168 pounds of holiday goodies during the 11th annual Cookie Walk December 12 at NCSML at Lindale. More than \$1700 was added to the Guild's treasury. Fifty volunteers and friends of the Guild baked cookies and made candies. Everything from decorated Christmas sugar cookies, fudge, and gingerbread men to caramel corn, special Czech and Slovak traditional Christmas cookies, and mini loaves and bundt cakes could be purchased. Many commented about the fantastic quality and large quantity of items this year.

There were 36 Guild members and friends who helped sign-in, label, box, and categorize cookies on the selling tables, and assist patrons in putting their selections in styrofoam containers. Gloved Guild members wearing Guild aprons were stationed behind the tables, which were covered with white toppers and festive red skirts provided by Lindale Mall. Much chatter was heard as patrons conferred with volunteers about the many choices. An ethnic atmosphere was provided by Guild and Czech Heritage Royal Court members dressed in colorful kroje. Four very busy volunteers at the end of the line weighed, bagged, priced, tallied, and accepted payment from the patrons who were excited about their purchases of sweet tasting, aromatic goodies. Some shoppers commented, "Is that all?", when told the cost of their purchases, which ranged from 1, 2, up to 8 pounds. Shoppers were charged \$8 per pound, a great buy in today's market.

Guild members and friends were treated to a light breakfast, provided by the Guild Board, prior to the Cookie Walk. This event was not only providing a venue for our fundraiser, but also seemed to be the Guild's holiday end-of-the-year gathering as observed from the laughter, chatter of small groups, tasting of treats, and relaxed atmosphere of the morning as members took turns standing behind the selling tables. From the bustle of activity in preparing for the sale to the slow down of sales in early afternoon, everyone happily pitched in and left tired, but very content, for working on a cause dear to their hearts and hopefully knowing how very much they are appreciated.

Your Fundraising Committee: Shirley Alexander, Gary Dvorak, Karen Hospodarsky, Andrea Siebenmann, Lu Volsch, Marie Webster!

~~~~~ by Lu Volsch, Cookie-Walk Co-chair



Cookie Walk Committee takes time out for a photo.



Mel Holubar tries out cookies

\*\*\*\*\*2010 DUES DUES DUES\*\*\*\*\*

Bring your \$10 check to January 2 Meeting  
or mail NOW: Alicia Jackson, Treasurer

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President's Message

*Joy*

*Peace*

*Love within our NCSML Guild...in 2010*



Greetings, Guild members! On behalf of your executive board, I thank you all for a wonderful and productive 2009. You have given your best to National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Please accept my best wishes to you and your loved ones for a joyful, peaceful, and successful 2010.

As we look ahead to 2010 we have the excitement of the opening of the new exhibition/location in Czech Village/Bohemia District and the beginning of new construction on our Czech Village campus.

I look at our membership roster and I see NO SLACKERS!!! You are all involved at some level of volunteering with NCSML as well as with other Czech organizations and churches. All of these efforts concentrate on our Mission. Still, we need even more help in the year ahead.

Now, how do we augment our ranks, especially when we stage a rigorous event, such as Taste of Czech & Slovak or Cookie Walk?

I am asking you to resolve this New Year, to find a friend/relative who will commit to join Guild or help Guild and NCSML on occasion. Think about a friend you notice who always attends "Taste" and ask that person if he/she will help us by preparing a dish for that Houby Days event? Work a shift at one of our sites?

—Our Volunteer Coordinator, Patty Hikiji, keeps a list of volunteers she calls on occasion. We can help build that list. Some people embrace full membership in our Guild, but others might choose to NOT become Guild members because they want to help in a limited way. We need help at all levels, so let's encourage all levels of volunteerism. Hopefully some will join as full-fledged Guild members. As we have done in the past, invite someone to one of our meetings!

Congratulations on our successful 11th Annual Cookie Walk. What a celebration as well as a successful fundraiser! Again, you were all at your very best!

Pat Martin, President  
NCSML Guild



## 'Genealogy Going Digital'

Tracing one's Czech-Slovak genealogy was the topic of Rev. Jan Dus, Oct. 22 at NCSML at Lindale...From left, Rev. Bill Harnish, Jessie Stastny, Rev. Dus, and Leora Zahorik, those who arranged this public program for NCSML Guild.





**Carolyn Holubar and Dolores Blood...many apples were peeled and prepared for the strudel filling.**

## **Babi's Kitchen features Apple Strudel**

Apple Strudel, a favorite Czech-Slovak dessert, was featured in a fall Babi's Kitchen Class.

Janelle Kamerling, instructor in Hospitality Arts/Culinary Department at Kirkwood was the teacher, assisted by Guild's Carol Wohlleben, a past instructor in this KCC program.

This class, an NCSML public program, was co-chaired by Lu Volsch and Carolyn Holubar.



**Marie Webster and Lenore Watson...making headway with the mountain of apples used in the cooking demonstration.**



**Janelle and Carol s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d the dough carefully. Some 35 students, then, got to practice the process.**



**Marj Nejdli...hurrah!  
A finished product!**





## Andrea Helps Obtain \$17,000 Grant for NCSML

By Rob Cline, NCSNL Grants Manager

“That will be \$103 and it will arrive on Tuesday.”

I stared at the copy shop shipping clerk.

“No, no,” I said once I found my voice.

“As I said, I need that to arrive in Bratislava on Monday.”

“Looks like we can’t get it there until Tuesday.”

My brief career as the Grants Manager for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library flashed before my eyes. Sure, I’d managed to handle a few previous grant crises, and I’d managed to bring some dollars in with successful applications. In that moment, however, I was fairly certain I’d be turning in my magnetized NCSML name badge.

This, after all, was no ordinary grant request. This was a request to the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad. NCSML President/CEO Gail Naughton had laid the groundwork for our application on a visit to the Slovak Republic.

The reason was the incredible and generous effort of Andrea Siebenmann. Andrea, who works for Kirkwood’s Community Colleges for International Development, Inc., is a native of the Slovak Republic and was absolutely essential to our application effort. For while I handle English fairly well, without Andrea’s facility with the Slovak language, I never could have read the application, let alone answered any of the questions.

Early one morning, NCSML Vice President for Development Jason Wright

and I had sat spellbound while Andrea conversed with an official in Bratislava, seeking clarification and guidance as we prepared to dive into the grant. It was beautiful to listen to; it was also daunting.

Of course, the answer was just the same as with any grant: get started and do your best. The added layer of translation was a challenge, but with Andrea’s diligent help, not an insurmountable one. Working this project into her schedule wasn’t easy, but she found a way to make it work.

But as I stood in the copy shop — after having collected the final signatures I needed by interrupting a meeting Gail was having was Congressman Loeb’s representative in a downtown coffee shop.

When my mobile rang, I took a deep breath and hoped it was good news. We could, indeed, get the application to Bratislava by Monday. We were thrilled when we received what seemed to be an indication that we’d been funded. It took some more of Andrea’s translation efforts for us to finally learn that we had been awarded \$17,635.43. The dollars will be used to purchase equipment needed for the ambitious nationwide oral history project in which NCSML is currently engaged.

This, of course, is a success story, but it is also a reminder of the dedication and talents of the NCSML corps of volunteers. As Andrea’s efforts amply demonstrate, volunteers continue to be essential members.





## Andrea Becomes U.S. Citizen

Andrea Siebenman was born Andrea Kovačová in Nitra in what is now the Slovak Republic. She came to the U.S. in 1994 to work at Iowa State University. She graduated from ISU, majoring in International Development.

She uses those skills, working at a non-profit located at Kirkwood Community College. There is a treaty between the U.S. and the Slovak Republic that recognizes dual citizenship.

Andrea submitted her application for U.S. Citizenship in March of 2009. She was invited to take her test in June. Andrea answered ten questions, including naming the Governor of Iowa, the significance of the Fourth of July and other U.S. holidays.

Her oath was taken in Davenport, IA, August 28 in the presence of family and friends. Thirty individuals from 20 countries took the oath with Andrea.

"I was the only Slovak! It certainly was a day to remember for the rest of my life, and I am very proud to be an American. God Bless America," Andrea said.

Andrea recalls fondly the year 2000, when



**Andrea with her American flag.**

NCSML Guild member Sylvia Rohlena paid Andrea's dues and she joined Guild. Sylvia, now deceased, was a former Guild President, as is Andrea!

Andrea tells us, "the rest is history!"

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### ***Important Guild Business Notice***

Revision of NCSML Guild bylaws discussion will be led by Bob Stone at the Jan. 2 Membership Meeting. Copies of bylaws, with suggested revisions will be distributed then.

Membership will vote on revisions at February 6 Meeting.

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**Can you read this?  
(Andrea translated four pages for the grant!)**

**Program: Projekty na pomoc Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí 2009**

**Žiadateľ (organizácia, fyzická osoba): Národné České a Slovenské Múzeum a Knižnica**

**Názov projektu: Dokumentácia a kolekcia histórie Slovákov a Čechov v USA**





## Minutes of October NCSML Guild Membership Meeting

**The Museum Guild of National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library met at the NCSML at Lindale on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.**

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gary Dvorak.

There were 31 members attending.

### Program:

Jessie Stastny introduced Donna Merkle and her "Svetluský Group/Dance, Vocal and Instrumentalists", called "Fireflies", eleven children entertained us with song, dance and musical instruments for 40 minutes. The entire group was wonderful and extremely talented.

**Refreshments:** A 'fall' theme was presented by Fern Fackler, Marie Webster and Vicky Mussman. They served pumpkin cake, baked bean bars, nutty chip bars, candy and nuts, juice and coffee.

**New Members:** Three new members joined our Guild today. Fran Hanzel Johnson. Pam Novy. And Diana Geoffrey. We are so pleased to have them join us.

### Officer Reports:

**Czech & Slovak Vocabulary:** Bob Stone.

English: It is autumn. The leaves are already falling from the trees.

Czech: Jěpodzim. Listy už padají se stromů.

Slovak: Je jesen. Listy už padajú zo stromov.

### BrewNost...OLD WORLD MARKET:

Pat Martin gave us an overview of the donations already acquired for the Old World Market. October 5 is the deadline to be listed in the booklet for donations.

**Museum Guild Representative:** Mel Holubar. Read by Gary Dvorak. The NCSML Board met on September 22, 2009.

The meeting started as usual with the agenda in approving last month's minutes which were approved.

The financial report was short as we all received a copy via email.

Report on the Kosek Building. Recommend all visit to see the progress.

As a site survey committee had been appointed, now a Red Roof recommendation team has been appointed to review many options for this building including razing or possibly moving it.

Bulk of meeting centered around Jim Daniel from Benz, Whaley and Flesser, firm from Minneapolis, who has been obtained to lead us on the financial effort for the new building. He is a real professional.

Gail Naughton gave us some NCSML news; a colored picture of how the front of the Kosek Building will look. A diagram of the inside of the front of the building (the store), etc., and some colored pictures of how the exhibit will look.

The office personnel will move in January, hopefully the

Kosek building will be open to the public Jan. 9, 2010.

**Recording Secretary:** Carolyn Holubar read the minutes of the Sept. meeting, with one correction from Lu Volsch, The paper sent around was to be a 'Taste of Czech Survey' not a 'Cookie Walk Survey'.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Shirley Alexander sent a Baby Card around for everyone to sign, then to be sent to Jan and Mark Stoffer.

She read thank you notes from the families of deceased Joan Hemphill and Karla Zahradnik.

**Treasurer's Report:** Alicia Jackson. Ending balance for the month of September is \$8,287.09.

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Patricia Hikiji. Number of Guild members recording hours in September - 39.

Number of Guild hours recorded - 410.75

Volunteer Needs: Can still use more volunteers at the Museum of Art exhibit. Volunteers for BrewNost will be notified as soon as the needs and schedules are established. The Museum has hired a young woman to coordinate the Oral History Project the Museum is doing. She will need a place to stay for 2-4 weeks, and will also need furnishings for an apartment. A list will be made of items available to her.

Theatre Cedar Rapids is presenting Tom Stoppard's play, "Rock and Roll". Volunteers are invited to attend their dress rehearsal, free of charge, on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. BrewNost tickets are available, see me to check them out.

### NCSML Public Program:

**Babi's Kitchen** report from Lu Volsch: 15 volunteers came to help, 35 people were in attendance. A wonderful time was had by all, and the strudel was delicious .....

**Fund Raising:** Pat Martin mentioned the cook book inventory - does anyone have any books out on consignment? We will start a sign-out program soon.

**Social:** Hostesses for the November meeting will be Alicia Jackson, Mary Ann Berry and Lu Volsch.

**Membership:** Milly Ortner. We have three new members joining this month and a new member will join next month, her name is Karen Sindelar.

**Publications:** Marilyn Tucker. The Guilded Page will be mailed the week of October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**November Program;** Jessie Stastny. Patricia Hikiji will present the Book Club Members and they will speak about their favorite books.

**Special Program:** Jessie Stastny said the Genealogy specialist from Prague, Rev. Jan Dus, will present "Archives - Getting Digital", What Can I Do Myself? And When Do I Need Help?, on October 22, 2009 at 9:30 AM. at NCSML AT Lindale. Open to the Public.

**New Business:** Bob Stone. The Bylaws revision is postponed at this time until, possibly, the Nov. meeting.

**Appointment of the Audit Committee:** Marilyn Tucker, chair., Emil Koval and Fern Fackler.

**Election of Nominating Committee:** Jessie Stastny, Karen Hospodarsky and Betty Sheets.

**Attendance Lottery:** Decorated pumpkin donated by Marj Nejd, and won by Pat Martin.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Holubar





### *Minutes of November NCSML Guild Membership Meeting*

The Museum Guild of National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library met at the NCSML at Lindale on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

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

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gary Dvorak.

There were 37 members attending.

Gary Dvorak read an invitation to all Guild Members from Gail Naughton and the NCSML Board of Directors, to be in attendance at the Red Roof Building in Czech Village for a very important announcement regarding the NCSML to be held on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 9:30 AM. Pat Martin announced that Douglas Smith will be the new Director of Retail and Business Development. He will start in November.

Andrea Jilovec will be the new Director of Education and Programs. She started in October.

Pat Martin said Gail Naughton gave a hearty "thank you" to all the Guild Members for their contributions making BrewNost (Old World Market, and the silent auction) such a success. Pat Martin read names of all Guild contributors to Old World Market and the silent auction.

**Refreshments:** A "Fall" theme was presented by Alicia Jackson, Lu Volsch and Mary Ann Barry, they served an array of cookies, pumpkin bars, nuts, coffee and juice.

Lu Volsch gave us some information for the Fundraising Committee. Members were asked to sign up for making cookies and working at the Cookie Walk on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at NCSML at Lindale. A summary of information about the Cookie Walk was handed out and discussed. That summary is on file with the secretary's report.

**Dates of Events:** 1. Book signing with authors: Karen Roth, author of On 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and My Portion Forever. Thomas Flagel, author of History Buff's Guide to World War II and History Buff's Guide to the Civil War. Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at NCSML at Lindale at 2:00.  
2. Sunday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Wenceslaus Church at 2:30 with a tour of the Church and an educational program of "Brundibar in Terezin: Music Amidst Inhumanity".  
3. Brundibar Opera, written for the children in the concentration camp, Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at CSPA Hall: 1:00 and 3:00 performances. \$10.00 adults, children free - need a ticket.

#### **Officer Reports:**

**Czech and Slovak Vocabulary:** Bob Stone.

English: Christmas Eve; Merry Christmas; Saint Stephen's Day; and Holiday Greetings.

**Recording Secretary:** Carolyn Holubar. Read the minutes of the October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. Approved as read.

**Treasurer:** Alicia Jackson. Ending balance for the month of October is \$8,793.96. Pat Martin mentioned updating the inventory of our cook books. As of January, 2010, Alicia will be in charge of the cook book inventory.

**Volunteer Coordinator Report:** Patricia Hikiji

Number of Guild members recording hours in October, 38. Number of hours recorded, 538.

28 Museum volunteers helped with the BrewNost event.

23 of those volunteers were Guild members. Patricia then read the names of the Museum Volunteers participating in BrewNost. More volunteer help is needed at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art exhibit.

**Museum Guild Representative:** Mel Holubar. Pat Martin read a short report from Mel Holubar.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Fund Raising:** Lu Volsch gave us an over-view of the Cookie Walk. Clip boards were furnished for the Guild members to sign up for the work schedule and another one for the list of baked goods and candy. Be sure and read through the hand-outs that are provided. She announced that the Guild Board will provide a light breakfast for all the workers at approximately 9:30 AM that morning, before we start selling cookies at 10:00 AM

**Social: Hostesses for the January meeting will be** Milly Ortner, Jessie Stastny, and Dorothy Voelkers.

**Publications:** Marilyn Tucker. The Guided Page was handed out to all the members present, those remaining will be mailed to those who are absent.

**Membership:** Milly Ortner is having Carpal Tunnel surgery. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

**New Business:** The nominating committee of NCSML Guild recommends the following members of the Guild as officers for the 2010 year.

President: Pat Martin

Vice President: Joe Kurka

Recording Secretary: Carolyn Holubar

Treasurer: Alicia Jackson

Corresponding Secretary: Helene Golden. The slate of officers was elected unanimously

Submitted by: Jessie Stastny, chairman, Betty Sheets and Karen Hospodarsky.

**Meeting Attendance Lottery:** A small "crock" was decorated, and donated by Marj Nejd. It was won by Olga Sedenka.

**Program:** Today's program, Jessie Stastny. Two students from the Czech Republic are attending Mt. Mercy College this year, and will give us an over-view of their life in the Czech Republic and how they are adjusting to life here in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There will be a question period afterwards. Their names are Radka Strnadkova and Adela Cavojska.

Dr. Libor Prager and Dr. Jim Grove will give a program on The Velvet Revolution, 20 years Later, on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at 7:30 PM at Mt. Mercy College.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carolyn Holubar





**Karen Hospodarsky and Pat Kent... among the smiling Guild volunteers at this annual BrewNost celebration.**



**In line for BrewNost festivities**

## 'BrewNost 2009' Gets Added Boost from NCSML Guild

BrewNost surpassed its goal of \$65 thousand much needed funds (\$68 thousand) ...and Guild helped!

Some 30 of us contributed volunteer hours directly to this year's BrewNost: in everything from soliciting items, wrapping and washing glasses, packaging the 30 dozen kolace donated by St. Wenceslaus St. Monica Circle, managing coat check, to selling raffle tickets...and the list goes on.

Another some 15 members created/baked/contributed a "taste of something Czech or Slovak" for patrons to purchase to take home from the Old World Market, new to the fundraiser this year. Further the artistry of four of us added to the popular Silent Auction.

Working as part of a team of our staff

### **2010 Guild Officers**

Pat Martin, President  
Joe Kurka, Vice-President  
Carolyn Holubar, Recording Secretary  
Helene Golden, Corres. Secretary  
Alicia Jackson, Treasurer  
Mel Holubar, Museum Guild Rep.

and community volunteers, NCSML Coordinator Patty Hikiji organized our efforts, including the corps that made some 700 dessert bites for guests.

"Thank you, all."

### ***Guild Meetings...2010***

**Saturday, Jan. 2**

**Saturday, Feb. 6**

**Saturday, March 6**

**Saturday, April 10\***

**Saturday, May 1**

**Saturday, June 5**

**Saturday, July 10 \***

**Saturday, Aug. 7**

**Saturday, Sept. 11\***

**Saturday, Oct. 2**

**Saturday, Nov. 6**

**All monthly membership meetings are at 9 a.m. and on Saturdays.**

\*date changed from first Saturday due to holiday weekends

**Friday, May 14, Taste of Czech-Slovak**





Alex Tomes, Red Chamber Music  
Volunteer Coordinator with Patricia  
Hikiji, NCSML Volunteer Coordinator  
and Pat Martin, Guild volunteer.



## ' Evening of Gratitude' Celebrates Cedar Rapids Area Volunteers

A professional organization, in which I represent the NCSML, is "Leaders in Volunteerism" (or LIV for short). Currently, 23 different agencies make up the LIV roster, and the representatives from these agencies make up the LIV membership. These members are professional volunteer managers and program directors representing non-paid personnel. Two primary purposes for LIV are to strengthen the leadership skills of volunteer managers and to increase community awareness of the importance of volunteerism.

In 2001, LIV sponsored a city-wide volunteer appreciation event, known as "VolunCheer!" This evening of special programming was held on the grounds of Bruce more (as some of you may remember). This year, the LIV organization planned another special event, "An Evening of Gratitude," which was held October 20 in the Linn Mar High School auditorium. Linn Mar students, dressed in formal attire, greeted volunteers as they arrived, held doors open for them, ushered, and gave directions.

The foyer and Upper Commons meeting room were furnished with tables, chairs, and cocktail tables, dressed with white, linen tablecloths, raspberry and deep-blue colored ribbons, and centerpieces lit with tea light candles. Sprayed white tree branches, strung with twinkling white lights, and pots of tropical foliage added to the festive atmosphere. Long tables, down the center of the room, filled with artfully arranged platters of crackers and cheeses, were interspersed with huge bowls of red and green grapes. Volunteers mingled, meeting volunteers from other agencies, visited, and toasted each other with sparkling apple cider. Roving photographer, Chris Carman, captured the evening's activities in pictures.

Moving into the auditorium, volunteers could watch a power point presentation of "volunteers-in-action" – pictures from the 14 agencies represented on the event's planning committee. Recognizable faces on the big screen, "belonging" to the NCSML were those of Emily NejdI, Irma Kelly, Joyce Netolicky, Shirley Alexander, and Joe Kurka – Marj NejdI's "hands" were included also. Amy Johnson Boyle served as mistress of ceremonies for the program. She introduced Cedar Rapids Mayor Kay Halloran, and Marion Mayor Paul Rhen, who read a proclamation which proclaimed "this Tuesday Evening, October 20, 2009 an 'Evening of Gratitude' for our Metro Area Volunteers" – and urged all citizens "to recognize our shared tradition of volunteering and commit to volunteer involvement as a unifying force ultimately building stronger communities."

The highlight of the evening was a presentation by V.J. Smith, motivational speaker, and author of the book, The Richest Man in Town. To V.J. Smith, the richest man in town was a gray-haired senior known by the nickname, "Marty," who was the cashier on aisle # 9 at the Wal-Mart in Smith's hometown of Brookings, South Dakota. "Marty" wasn't college educated. He had to leave school after the eighth grade to go to work. He served in the military, worked minimum wage jobs his entire adult life, lived in a mobile home (a double-wide he was proud to add) and was married to the prettiest girl in town.

He was the richest man in town – in kindness, and good character. He thanked his customers, when he gave them back their change, bear-hugged his friends, grand-parented their children, and was always ready with a smile and a good word. In addition to telling people about "Marty," V. J. Smith has made it his personal mission to remind everyone he meets of the power and importance of two little words – "Thank You." He threw handfuls of brightly-colored cards into the air, to flutter down over the audience, bearing these two special words and the reminder underneath to "Say it often, people will love you for it."

V. J. Smith's message resonated with the members of the volunteer audience and the Planning Committee members were happy and proud to pronounce it a FANTASTIC evening and a huge success!!

–Patricia A. Hikiji, Volunteer Coordinator





**Samantha Hubler, immediate past Miss Czech and Slovak Princess of Iowa...with her mentors, Guild members Bob and Marge Stone. The Stones, both most knowledgeable about their Czech culture, helped Samantha prepare for competition.**



## Meet A Princess!

Former Miss Czech and Slovak Princess of Iowa, Samantha Hubler, spoke at the June NCSML Guild meeting. Samantha is a junior at Iowa State University, studying elementary education, and her competition reached the Miss Czech and Slovak pageant in Wilber NE.

Young women first compete for this title at Houby Days in Cedar Rapids, as they are interviewed publicly and privately. There is a talent competition and a kroj modeling competition. The winner goes on to represent the state of Iowa at the pageant in Wilber.

For her talent, Samantha wrote a book about her Czech heritage in the form of the "Curious George" children's story. It was the history of her family, Czech immigrants, and culture and art. Her kroj was Bohemian, and it researched by Samantha and made by a professional seamstress.

In her competition interviews, Samantha talked a great deal about the flood and its impact on Czech Village. She participated in her ornate costume in several parades and endured 103 degree heat in one parade in Wilber.

"It is good for children to know where they come from," Samantha said, and added that she plans to use study of heritage and cultures in her teaching.

Samantha's uncle, Gary Rosek, is President of NCSML Board of Directors and another uncle, Jeff Hubler is a member of this Board also.

## Czeching the Fridge

**Jason Wright, Museum Vice-President for Development, was the subject of an article in "Edible Iowa River Valley" magazine. In the "Behind Closed Doors" column, writer Rob Cline looked into the Wright refrigerator to see if the food reflected Jason's heritage.**



**He found Bohemian Roast Chicken as well as nadvka (stuffing), made from his grandmother's recipe. Jason started cooking after he left home, "learning from my mother from a distance in my first bachelor apartment.**

**Non-Czech food were also in the fridge, including "Scorned Woman Hot Sauce," which Jason adds that he is too old to eat. Members of the Wright family who enjoy his cooking are his wife, Leslie, 17-year-old daughter Casey, and 7-year-old Grant.**





## Our Exchange Student Experience

Mt. Mercy College had the good fortune to host exchange students Radka Strnadkova and Adela Cavojska. The young women chose Mt. Mercy because of their area of study and the Czech and Slovak representation in the community. They are technically still students at Palacky University in Olomouc.

Both students spoke about their holiday traditions. Radka's family starts baking cookies after St. Mikulas Day. She said that this was very special because, "Some of the cookies are like pieces of art and take a long time to bake." She thinks they taste better before the holiday, although they are officially meant for after Christmas Eve.

Adela's family enjoys a holiday dinner of carp, potato salad and pea soup. The vanocka, another traditional food, is baked the week before.

The young women have enjoyed their stay here. She observed that so many events here revolve around food! The young women were delightful, and we wish them the best of luck.

Adela will return home for the holidays. Rudka will spend her vacation with her mother, who will be coming to New York to meet her, and then on to California, where there is no snow!

## Guild Hosts Arts Programs

The NCSML Guild hosted receptions for two events related to the arts.

The first author to present his book was Thomas Flagel, author of "The History Buff's Guide to World War II." Karen Roth told us about her books "Found on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue" and "My Portion Forever." Her attachment to our community gave her much inspiration to write.

The third author was Victor Verney, whose book, "Warrior of God," told the history of Jan Žizka, a thinker far ahead of his time. The Guild hosted a reception after the program. The second reception Guild volunteers hosted was the opera called "Brundibár." It was the poignant fable told by children in the Terezin concentration camp in Czechslovakia which inspired them to be strong.



Lu Volsch poses with author Karen Roth after chairing the reception.



# THE GUILDED PAGE

Co-Editors:  
Helene Golden



Pat Martin

## Next Membership Meeting

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Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010 9 a.m.  
NCSML at Lindale

*Volunteers are GIFTS that keep on giving!!! Thank you all!*

### Volunteer and Programs Report for October 2009

the month of October 2009, 38  
ld members recorded hours in  
ober. 538 Guild hours were  
rded. Patty Hikiji, Volunteer  
rdinator, would like to thank  
3 Guild members who helped  
at BrewNost.

We still need more volunteers  
help at the Cedar Rapids Museum  
of Art exhibit.

#### Top Ten List for October:

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Donna Merkle      | 54.50 |
| Lu Volsch         | 39.50 |
| Carolyn Holubar   | 33.50 |
| Ed Volsch         | 32.00 |
| Ann Kloubec       | 31.75 |
| Betty Gallagher   | 31.50 |
| Marj NejdI        | 30.00 |
| Marie Webster     | 29.00 |
| Karen Hospodarsky | 21.75 |
| Lydia Elias       | 17.00 |

