

OUR CZECH HERITAGE
Náše České Dědictví

A decorative graphic featuring the text "OUR CZECH HERITAGE" in a simple font above the stylized Czech text "Náše České Dědictví" in a cursive script. Below the text is a vibrant illustration of a heart-shaped flower with a yellow and red center, surrounded by purple and red flowers, green leaves, and two yellow birds perched on a branch. The entire design is framed by floral motifs on the sides.

Světlušky performed for an audience of 144 at CSA's 75th Anniversary Get Together at the Cedar Rapids Marriott on August 7. CSA members from throughout the U.S. enjoyed the performance.

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

Fall 2011

CHF CONTACT INFORMATION

Editor: Karen Lehmann

Website: czechheritagefoundation.org

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.

CHF MEETINGS

Date: 2nd Tuesday of month

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Kosek Building (lower level)
87 - 16th Ave. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Edmunds, President
Joyce Netolicky, Secretary
Dennis Hrabak, Treasurer
Loreen Svoboda
Adeline Volesky
Zelda De Hoedt
Amanda De Hoedt,
Arlo Netolicky
Barb Edmunds
Denver Dvorsky
Steve & Karen Lehmann
Blair & Lee Thornbloom
Jason Wright
David Faltis
Bob Schaffer
Kitty Chadima
Marj Nejd
Guenter & Donna Merkle
Kathy Frerick

IN MEMORIAM

It is with a deep sadness that we commemorate the passing of our president, Lud Svoboda, on August 25, 2011.

Lud was extremely proud of his Czech heritage. He and his wife Loreen



were both members of the Czech Heritage Foundation of Cedar Rapids. He served as President and Vice President and both of them served on the Executive Board.

Lud was also a member of the Czech Singers and sang at several functions. He was an advocate of Czech School and attended adult Czech language classes.

Lud spoke Czech and could read some. Lud always enjoyed talking with his elders and hearing stories about the past, especially Czech stories.

Lud was a learned man and he believed that if you join an organization you should become active and receive all you can from it.

Lud led by example encouraging all CHF board members to proudly wear their kroje to Czech functions.

He was instrumental in supporting the CHF tradition of

award-winning floats. Under Lud's leadership, CHF constructed a float to take "on the road" to out-of-town parades. Proudly pulling the float full of young CHF royalty he always said, "The kids in their kroje

are what make the float!"

Lud kept extremely busy throughout his life volunteering in many other organizations as well. Lud was a people person and enjoyed working with his wife Loreen.

He and Loreen did everything together as members and officers of these organizations: Boy Scouts, Sunday School, Rodeo organizations, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Red Cedar Leather Crafters, Benton County Pork Producers, Fairfax Senior Club, Farm Bureau, Fairfax Pekomy American Legion, St. Patrick's Parish in Fairfax, and Knights of Columbus.

Lud is survived by his wife Loreen, five children, nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and six siblings.

He was preceded in death by his parents Paul and Albia Svoboda.

Lud's no-nonsense, get it done approach to leading our organization will be greatly missed



Czech Youth Out & About

New CHF Youth Group

By Donna Merkle

The Czech Heritage Foundation is trying to organize a new youth group for teens. The purpose is to allow teens to get involved in their Czech heritage, or remain involved in their Czech heritage after graduating from Czech School. There are already two Czech youth groups in Cedar Rapids that include teens, but each has its special requirements: Sokol requires getting involved in gymnastics, and Světlušky requires getting involved in music and dance performances.

Aside from special fun activities to be determined by the teens and their leaders, the youth group can also help at CHF functions. Beyond that, the group can volunteer to help at functions sponsored by Czech Village, New Bohemia, or the Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

The initial organizing meeting for parents and teens is scheduled for Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 PM, in Cedar Rapids. E-mail

or call for location and directions. Of course grandparents and other interested persons are also welcome to attend the meeting.

Attention Snowbirds!

If you have a known winter address, a newsletter staff member is willing to forward your newsletter to that address. Please contact Guenter Merkle with your winter address and which newsletter issues you want sent south.

Guenter Merkle



Pictured left: Megan Lehmann, (center) Czech Heritage Foundation Princess, attended a reception at Kingston Place honoring a vocal group from the Czech Republic called Camera Chadra.



Camera Chadra, the 22 member vocal group from the Czech Republic performed at St. Wenceslaus and Gatherings in Cedar Rapids on Sept. 3. The group was on a two week performing tour throughout the Midwest.



Cassie Lehmann, (center) Miss Czech-Slovak, Iowa Little Sister, gets her photo taken with Johnny Blood and Maggie Martin members of the musical group The Mad Maggies from the San Francisco Bay Area. They were featured performers during the Accordion Symposium which included performances in Gatherings and a pub crawl through the NewBo District and Czech Village on Sept. 24 and 25.



Despite 100 degree temperatures and a one hour delay, over 200 people lined 16th Avenue on July 20 to catch a glimpse of the hulking horses marching to the Budweiser theme song.

Horsin' Around in Czech Village

Budweiser Clydesdales visit Village on way to promote Capone's Restaurant and Hideaway Bar



A team of the eight Budweiser Clydesdales marched down 16th Ave. on their way to Capone's Restaurant and Hideaway Bar located at the corner of 3rd St. and 12th Ave. SE. Capone's sponsored the event to promote their business.

Fall Festival & Accordion Symposium September 24 & 25, Czech Village



Roxanne Oliva, was one of several professional accordion musicians in Cedar Rapids Sept. 24 and 25 for the Accordion Symposium held in conjunction with the Czech Village Fall Festival. Oliva is from San Francisco.



CHF Royalty enjoyed the festival. Pictured l-r: Cassie Lehmann, Hannah Van Deusen, Samantha Hubler, Emily Nejd, and Sydney Rieckhoff.



Vendors lined 16th Avenue for the festival.



Chalk artist Mary Campbell of Cedar Rapids recreated an Alphonse Mucha painting. Mucha was a famous Czech artist of the 1880s.



The NCSML Guild sold baked goods at the Babi's Bakery Booth.



Czech music was performed in the bandstand.

Two CR Women Compete for Same Title



Samantha Hubler, Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2011 and Heritage Involvement Winner. Samantha is sponsored by Czech Heritage Foundation, Cedar Rapids.

By Samantha Hubler, Miss Czech-Slovak, Iowa

Representing Iowa at the National Miss Czech Slovak U.S. competition in Wilber, Nebraska was the experience of a lifetime. I didn't know much about any of the other competitors because I was preparing to be the best representa-



Emily Samek, originally of Cedar Rapids, Miss Czech-Slovak Utah 2011 and 2nd Runner-Up Miss Czech-Slovak, U.S.

By Emily Samek, Miss Czech-Slovak, Utah

Being a part of the Miss Czech/Slovak US pageant was truly a unique experience and one that I will cherish for years to come.

I was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa which has a very strong Czech and Slovak community. When I moved

tive of Iowa as I could be. This included dance lessons, reading numerous books, and best of all talking with friends, family and attending cultural events.

The talent I chose was very meaningful to me. I performed a solo polka with other dance steps incorporated as well to "These Boots Are Made for Walking" in Czech and English. It bridged my Czech and American heritage together. The summer before I had studied in Prague and as I walked the cobblestone streets, I learned very quickly that flip flops were not the proper shoe attire and that boots really were made for walking! I also heard the song everywhere while I was there.

I went to Wilber looking forward to making new friends and having a great experience. I left Wilber with exactly what I was looking for and more. I won the Heritage Involvement Award and was so honored. In my mind, this was the best award I could have won. The award encompasses everything I have worked for. This is what it all is really about. It is about sharing my heritage with others and being involved in a community where I can celebrate who I am and where I came from. I am so proud to have represented Iowa. I will continue to share my heritage and spark the interest of others to learn about their own.

to Utah to attend Utah Valley University, that is something which I truly grew to miss.

Through church I became acquainted with Owen Fuller, who does marketing for the Honorary Czech Consul of Salt Lake City, along with Jonathan Fuller, who is in charge of the consul. After finding out that I came from Cedar Rapids, Iowa and grew up on

kolaches and "Ta Naše Písnička Česká," they asked if I would be willing to represent Utah at the Miss Czech-Slovak pageant.

In some sense I felt I was betraying my home state of Iowa by representing Utah, however I have grown to love my new home in the west and as a representative in Utah one of my goals is to foster a stronger Czech and Slovak community in Salt Lake City.

I was the first representative in Miss Czech-Slovak history to represent Utah, which is a great honor and I would like to see Utah continue to send girls to the pageant after my reign ends.

I walked away from Wilber with a 2nd Runner-Up sash, tiara and bouquet of flowers, but also many wonderful new friends in each of the girls at the pageant along with a deep appreciation for our national Czech and Slovak community.

It is about sharing my heritage with others and being involved in a community where I can celebrate who I am and where I came from.

- Samantha Hubler

Franklin Students Help Beautify 'The Avenue'



Twenty-six Franklin Middle School students helped plant geraniums along 16th Avenue in early May. The flowers were purchased through Main Street grant money and donations.



DON'T BE A SCROOGE . . .
Renew your membership TODAY

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone () _____

_____ New Member

_____ Returning Member

Mail form and check to:

Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 8476

Cedar Rapids, IA 52408



Newsletter expiration dates are printed in the top right corner of your address label. Look at your label and please renew your membership if the label reads "Expires end of 2011."

Czech Heritage Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 8476
Cedar Rapids, IA 52408

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 127
Cedar Rapids, IA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NCSML Old Prague Christmas Market Dec. 2 & 3



Friday, December 2 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

- Outdoor shopping booths include European importers and Midwest Artisans.
- 6 p.m. Tree Lighting Ceremony.
- Seasonal treats and food.
- Free horse drawn wagon rides featuring Belgian horses through Czech Village.
- Fire Juggler Dean Franzen will entertain.

Saturday, December 3 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- 9:30 a.m. until gone NCSML Guild Cookie Walk at St. Wenceslaus gymnasium. Free trolley rides shuttle shoppers between Old Prague Christmas Market and the Cookie Walk.
- 10 - 10:30 a.m. Sv. Mikuláš (St. Nicholas), Andel (Angel), and a Čert (devil) stroll 16th Avenue.
- Free admission to the exhibition gallery thanks to a generous sponsorship from Brosh Chapel and The Avacentre.
- 10:30 - 5 p.m. Children may visit Sv. Mikuláš (St. Nicholas), the Andel (Angel) and the Čert (Devil).
- Free horse drawn wagon rides featuring Belgian horses through Czech Village.
- 1 - 5 p.m. Free trolley rides between Old Prague Christmas Market and Very Cherry Christmas in New Bohemia.
- Holiday decor on the Avenue.
- Fire Juggler Dean Franzen.