



MOST

THE BRIDGE

SUMMER
1994

News of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

WFLA - HERITAGE HALL

Thousands to benefit from the work of Western Fraternal Life Association.

Ever since the beginning of the fundraising effort for the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, WFLA has helped in a big way. Ray Miller, National President of this leading fraternal organization, has served on the Capital Campaign Task Force since its formation in April of 1992.

The pledge of support from American fraternalists of Czech and Slovak ancestry nationwide has been exceptional. Fraternal organizations assisting in the capital campaign have not only spread the word, but helped in the fundraising effort as well. Two other leading fraternal organizations are Catholic Workman and Czech Catholic Union. Individual lodges from CSA (Czechoslovak Society of America) locally and across the country also are major benefactors.

Due to the fine efforts of Western Fraternal Life Association, over \$100,000 has been generously pledged to build the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. WFLA President Miller presented a check for \$60,000 to Museum &



Thomas Hruska and Ray Miller

Library President Tom Hruska at the groundbreaking ceremony in Cedar Rapids on October 28, 1993. This represented contributions to date from WFLA's fundraising effort.

Each lodge, and individual or couple who donates \$300 or more will have their names engraved on a permanent plaque and displayed in the new facility. To date, over 135 individuals or couples, and 120 lodges have contributed from the Western Fraternal Life Association fraternal family.

Western Fraternal Life Association will be permanently recognized for its combined contribution by having the beautiful 3,800 sq. ft. rental hall named in its honor.

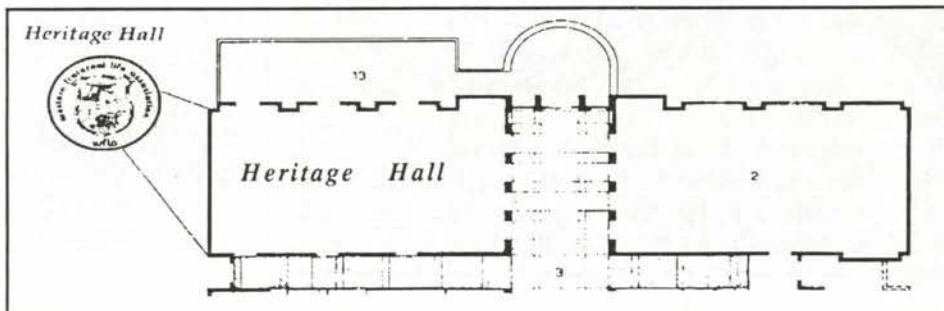
Uniquely set in the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Western Fraternal Life Association *Heritage Hall* will offer banquet seating for 250. Adjoining the hall is a magnificent river view terrace overlooking the Cedar River.

Cedar Rapids' newest and finest rental hall will be perfect for reunions, birthdays, holiday parties, anniversaries, corporate meetings, and wedding receptions.

We wish to thank Ray Miller and the staff of WFLA for lending their full support to this world-class national landmark project. Job well done!

by John Rocarek

Reservations for Heritage Hall will be accepted soon. If you have an upcoming event and would like more information on the hall's availability, please write: Heritage Hall, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, P.O. Box 5398, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-5398.



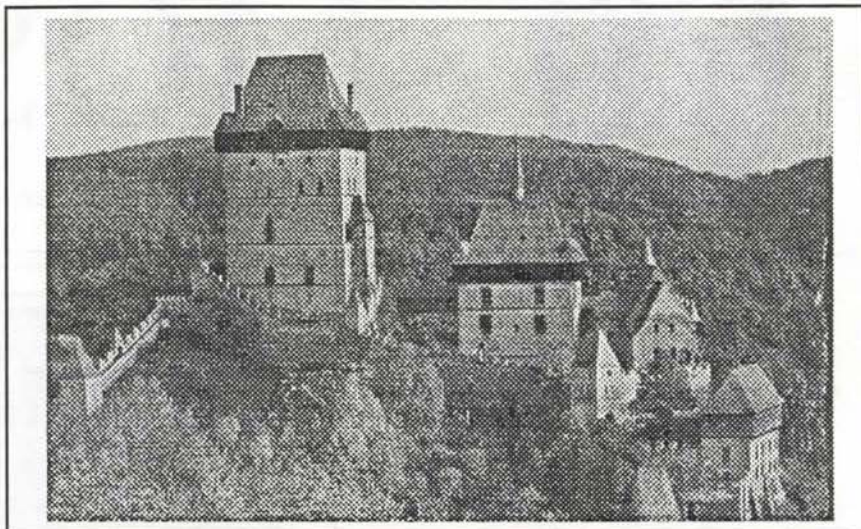
North East half of Museum & Library Floor Plan

KARLSTEJN CASTLE

He who finds himself in Karlstejn valley to the southwest of Prague might think that he is in the fairy-tale world of the brothers Grimm. In front of him there appears, on a rocky headland, a mighty castle of fantastic shapes, a structure such as can be found nowhere else in Europe. What do we actually know about Karlstejn? Why, with great persistence, do hundreds of thousands of people stream there every year?

Karlstejn is a castle linked essentially with the personage of its founder, the German Emperor & Bohemian King Charles IV. The period of his reign witnessed the all-around development of the land of the Bohemian crown: a state of calm was installed in the political field, economic relations were improved and strengthened, the domain of the Kingdom was extended, and through its architecture Prague became one of the creative centers of High Gothic mediaeval art.

The prestige of Charles IV as the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire was firm and great: renowned not only for his ruling abilities, but also for the outstanding characteristics of the new, modern religion which he adopted particularly as the result of his long years of contact with Pierre de Rosiers, originally the Abbot of Fecamp, later the Cardinal of Avignon, and finally Pope Clement VI. Naturally, Charles IV was also influenced to a considerable extent by family traditions, his years of upbringing at the French court, and sojourns in Italy. It is there that we must seek the stimuli which led to the foundation of such an individual,



and his special castle, in accordance with his wishes, Charles' longed-for Karlstejn was to become.

What was it that Charles pined for? Peace and quiet, a place to rest and recuperate, a place where, from time to time, he could escape from the heavy burdens of a sovereign? Perhaps, but the ambitious and tenacious emperor undoubtedly must have been moved by additional impulses too. He needed a reliable shelter for the imperial coronation jewels and holy relics. He was well acquainted with the French Gothic which kept spheres of architecture, sculpture, and painting that captivated the contemporary Christian world.

Charles wanted to ensure that his Karlstejn was admired as a unique and inimitable symbol of the unity of his spiritual devotion and humility and his imperial power. Everything had to surpass the expectations of Charles' guests: even the seemingly modest and sober exterior of the castle buildings, devoid of sculptural decorations, fully contrasted functionally with the magnificence of the interiors and bearing witness to the will, manifested by God's grace, of Charles, the Emperor of the Holy

Roman Empire and King of Bohemia. Karlstejn castle could boast of five chapels: Chapel of the Holy Rood, Chapel of Our Lady, Chapel of St. Catherine, Chapel of St. Nicholas, and a private oratory adjoining the imperial beachcomber on the second floor of the palace.

The decorations in the Chapel of the Holy Rood reflect best and most perfectly the achievements of High Gothic painting in Bohemia. The epoch of the reign of Charles IV imprinted Karlstejn with a likeness which remained decisive even for future ages. In the course of its existence the castle has undergone many transformations, but none has ever succeeded in surpassing the endeavors of the fourteenth century.

by *Sheryl Nejd*



"AT' ŽIJE SOKOL"

The spirit of sokol lives on! Last year, my family and I started planning for our trip to the Czech Republic which included my participation in the XII International Sokol Slet, I had always heard of Strahov Stadium (Europe's largest stadium) and now I would be experiencing the thrill of participating there and representing my country. Well ... it was about to happen!

We arrived two weeks prior to the slet and with our rented van proceeded to just tour around and visit relatives. Getting lost took us on many adventures that were not planned. One such time, following a road, that ended up not being a road, in the middle of a barley field (looking for my father's, Charles Kopecek, village - Nový Dvory - of which there are four. We traveled from Most to Domažlice to Česká Budějovice to Telč, Lidice, Žamberk, Strážnice - back and forth - just to name a few. We really did get around but I'd better get back to the subject on hand - the Sokol Slet. Back to Praha.

Starting Saturday, July 2, each number participating had at least 2 hours of practice which included the line up procession. It took a lot of ingenuity just to get all the people lined up for entry on to the

field and find your marker. Sunday was practice again with a parade scheduled for evening. The parade was something else! All countries represented (U.S.A., Canada, England, France,

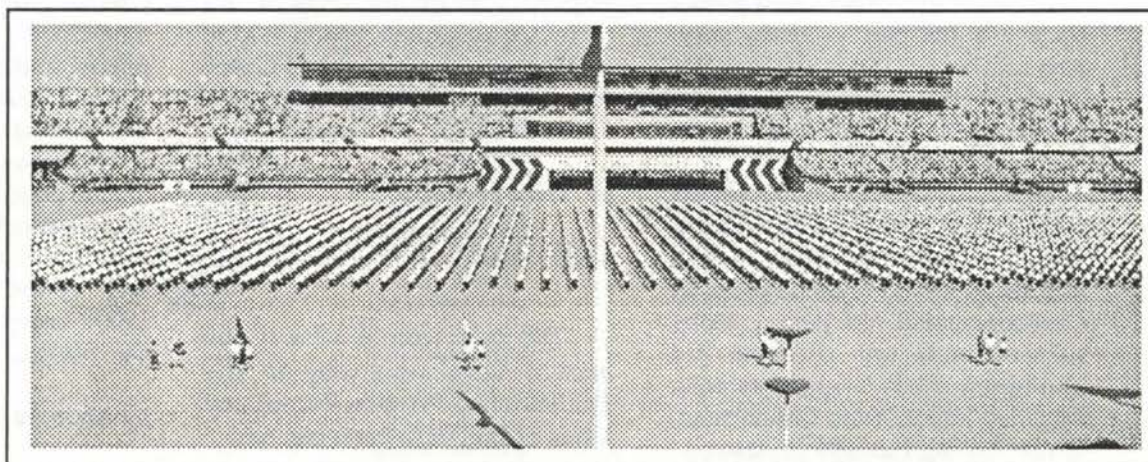
Belgium, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Australia, Switzerland, and Russia) estimated guess of 20,000, marched for 2 1/2 hours on the cobblestone streets of Praha. The crowds were so emotional with shouts of "AT' ŽIJE SOKOL - AT' ŽIJE SOKOL" along the whole route. The people were sobbing, waving banners, scarves, handkerchiefs, proving that 48 years of sokol suppression did not kill the spirit. The people came into our throngs to hug us and welcome us. It was so emotional that our tired feet didn't mind the abuse of the tram rails and cobblestones that they were subject to! Monday, more practice. Tuesday ... the BIG DAY. The spectators numbered into 120,000. The number I participated in was called "Verná Garda" (Loyal Guard) for senior men and women of about 3,500. Our uniform was a copy of the one they had in 1948. It's difficult to describe the thrill of marching out on the field to the exuberance of clapping and cheers from the audience. All ages were represented from tots to seniors in a total of 11 numbers.

Wednesday's performance was repeated with the exception that President Havel was in the audience. This was an experience

I'll never forget. I've been in many slets or festivals, local, national and international, but none measure up to the importance of this one. I can fully appreciate the importance of traditions and customs that my parents instilled in me as a young person. I felt their presence with me throughout the whole trip. I was happy that my family could share this with me. Even my Czech was good enough to converse with the people. We went on with the rest of our vacation with the slet the high-light of happy memories.

by Marj Nejd & family ...
husband - Ed, sons - Phillip & Chuck, daughter-inlaw - DeeAnn

Sokol was founded by Miroslav Tyrs and Jindrich Fuegner in Czechoslovakia in 1862. The concept was developed from the philosophy promoting mental, spiritual and physical excellence - to preserve the identity of the people of Czechoslovakia. Because of its fundamental ideas it was banned by the communists. The first sokol unit in the united states was formed in St. Louis, MO. in 1865.



SPECIAL TO THE "MOST"

The day dawned bright and clear and hot. Some children rolled over and took another forty winks, but some of them yawned and stretched and said: "Today is the first day of Czech school this summer!" It was June 6, 1994, and the 124th consecutive year of the oldest continuous ethnic school of language for children in the United States. And it's here in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

A total of forty-six families enrolled a total of seventy-two children aged 6 to 13 in a five week course which ranged from simple alphabet memorization to an advanced peek into modern Czech history and a study of political events. At Wilson Elementary School on J Street SW teachers, Bessie Dugena, Leona Poduska and Olga Drahozal were assisted in the enrollment of the students by members of the Matices Skolska school board.

Classes were from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Learning to count in the Czech language and to recognize the Czech works for primary and secondary colors was reinforced by children's folk songs which used these words. Older children related to Czech words as if they were learning to use a secret code. Playing "Around the World" and "Hangman" and other word games became a fun part of every day. And on Fridays there was usually an ice cream treat from one of the sponsoring lodges to ease us into the weekend.

Several resource persons visited our school this year: Jindra Bayer, a student at Mount Mercy, told us about his student years in Czechoslovakia. John Kuba stopped in to tell us about his immigrant grandparents. Stephan Hejda, from Connecticut, while visiting our school, shared

with us his experiences. When he was four, his parents decided to escape to the west with their family from the Communist controlled country of Czechoslovakia in search of freedom and a better life for their family. Aaron Raynolds, student-teacher from Kirkwood, brought in his twelve (Wilson Middle School) students who were experiencing a five day crash course in "All Things Czech". They particularly enjoyed our singing classes.

A very special highlight was the Gazette's visit to Czech Village on June 21 when students of the Czech School were invited to appear on the band stand and present a program of Czech folk songs.

The educational field trip this year was to Pella, Iowa, to visit the museum of that predominantly Dutch community. Two full buses carried students, parents and friends on the all-day excursion.

A program on Friday July 8th in the Wilson School auditorium presented to the community a kaleidoscope of learned accomplishments. It was followed by the traditional "Zmrzlinovy Dychanek" (ice cream social) and was well attended.

We are grateful to the staff of Wilson Elementary School for their hospitality and kind assistance. And to the Czech community for supporting the Ceska Skola for 124 years.

by *Olga Drahozal*

ORIGINAL BOHEMIES

The Boii were a tribe if the ancient Celts who were in the British Isles, Western Europe and lands of the Mediterranean and

Turkey earlier than 400 B.C. An explanation of the work Biohemie is what the Romans called the part of Central Europe where the Boii lived for centuries. The name was finally Bohemia.

In the years about 437 A.D. the Slavs moved out of the Ural Mountains that separate Russia and Siberia. The leader of one group of Slavs was Jan Cechus. When they reached the part of Central Europe that looked desirable they decided to stop there and make it their new home area. And so the name Bohemia was the name until W.W.I.

In the mean time there had been a Kingdom of Moravia (900 - 1000) and later a Kingdom of Bohemia (1100 - 1200). Then the following years brought German control over the area and it was later followed in the mid 1800's by Bohemia becoming a province of German Austria. Finally at the end of W.W.I Czechoslovakia came to be its own nation. President Masanjh (d. 1937) served his nation from 1918 - 1935 and then Beres was president. After W.W.II, the nation was communist and remained that way until recently.

Then the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic came into being. There is a difference in the language, culture, political ideas and social customs. The Slovaks are communists, in contrast the Czech Republic has highly developed manufacturing and mining and agriculture.

Cedar Rapids is predominately of Moravian ancestry with Czech & Moravian making up about 30% of the population. The first wave of settlers came in 1858 - 1860. Then the Curt War there was a troubled era. By the late 1880's and into the 1900's many more Czechs came to the States.

by *Melvina Svec*



V upomínku "In Memorium"

From July through August, 1994, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library received monetary donations in memory of the following individuals:

For: Clare Hlavaty
From: M/M Francis J. Simon

For: Victoria Hruska
From:
M/M Almil Kubat & Family
M/M Kenneth Manger
M/M Gustav Sramek
M/M Anton Blazek
M/M Claude E. Hobbs, Jr.
M/M Richard E. Jirak
M/M Claude Jilen
Julann Watson
Deborah Brehm
M/M David Livingston
M/M Rollin R. Bailly
Dr. Edward Holyoke
WFLA Lodge
Louis J. Gogela M.D.P.C.
M/M John Gomien
M/M Joe Masek, Jr.
M/M Thomas Milliken
M/M Ivan Karpisek
Mrs. Jean Andersen
M/M Wesley Drahozal
M/M Stanley J. Drahozal
M/M Jerry A. Drahozal
M/M Howard Sowl
M/M Robert Tondl & Louise
Jay C. Ehle
M/M Russell Brehm
Sissy Silber
M/M George Kurlmel
Frank Tesar
M/M Earl Zentz
M/M Monte Taylor
For: Mary Kroupa
From:
M/M Leonard Kitz
M/M Edward Nejd
M/M Leo Modracek

For: Emil Rohlena
From:
M/M Darryl Modracek
M/M E.J. Buresh

For: Lester Sykora
From:
M/M Jerry Prochaska
M/M Frank Prochaska
William Prochaska
Mrs. Mary Vranich

For: Phylis Franklin
From:
M/M E.J. Buresh



GOODBYE ... WENDY

How do you say goodbye to a great friend and confidant? Maybe a big hug, a little tear in your eye, or just saying that we'll never forget you. Sadly, we have to say good bye to Wendy Booker a good friend of the Czech people.

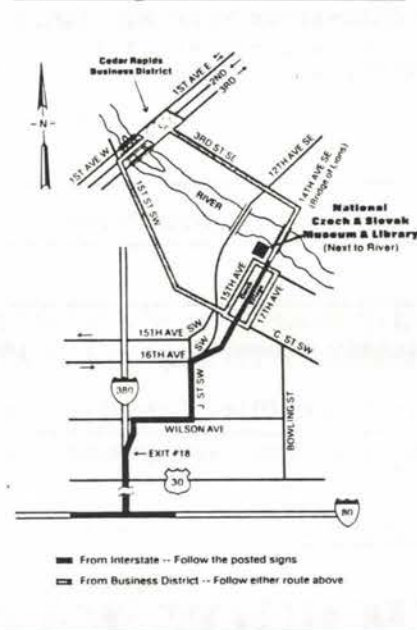
Wendy, her husband Wayne, and her three sons Chris, Jeff, and Alex, are moving to the East coast.

Wendy has dedicated herself to the betterment of the Czech Village, National Czech & Slovak Museum, Czech Heritage and all the other fine Czech organizations. She will be sorely missed by all.

Thank you again for the fine job you have done and we'll never forget you.

by Allen A. Zinderick, President
Czech Village Association

How to get to the Museum:



NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY 1994 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Robert Schaffer
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Robert Stone
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MUSEUM GUILD

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Guild was organized April, 1994. The purpose of the guild is to serve as an educational, service and social organization for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

Currently, there is a group of thirty enthusiastic members. Membership qualifications include an interest in Czech/Moravian/Slovak culture, and a desire to give 20 service hours to the guild per year. Business meetings are held the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 A.M.

The Museum Guild is currently looking for members to join in support of the Museum activities. For more information contact: The Czech & Slovak Museum & Library at 319-362-8500.

by Sylvia Rohlena

The next Museum Guild meeting will be on Saturday, September 10, 1994, at 9:30 A.M., in room 115 at Hamilton Business College. Interested guests are welcome.

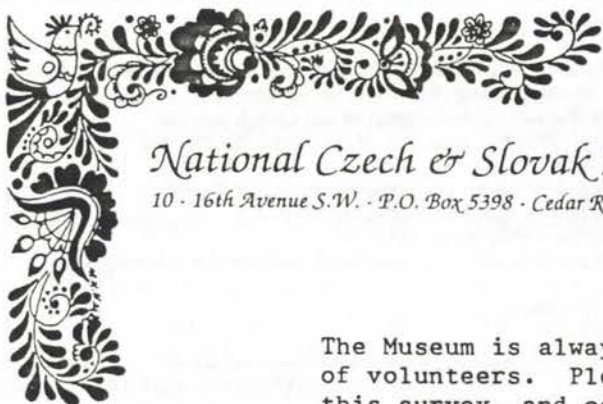
KALENDAR

August 20-21
"Czech Days"
Protivin, IA

September 11
Younkers "Czech Fest"
Westdale Mall

Antonin Dvorak Birthday
Celebration Concert &
Traditional Czech Dinner
Spillville, IA

October 7-8
Fourth Genealogical/Cultural
Conference, Green Bay, WI



National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

10 - 16th Avenue S.W. - P.O. Box 5398 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406 - (319) 362-8500

VOLUNTEER SURVEY FORM

The Museum is always interested in the participation of volunteers. Please take a moment to read through this survey, and consider ways in which you might be able to contribute your available time and particular talents, skills, and abilities to the growth and development of the Museum.

Name _____ Home Ph. _____

Address _____ Bus. Ph. _____

Age Category: Elementary School _____ Grade _____

Middle School/High School/College _____ Grade/Year _____

Homemaker _____ Working Adult _____ Retired Adult _____

INTEREST AREAS FOR MUSEUM DOCENTS (Please check all areas that apply.)

Museum Tour Guide _____ Children's Tour Guide _____

Gift Shop Sales Clerk _____ Oral History Interviewer _____

Library Helper _____ Clerical Helper _____ Computer (Data Entry) _____

Maintenance _____ Housekeeping _____ Building _____ Grounds _____

Arts/Crafts Demonstrator _____ Specific Art/Craft _____

Special Museum Events _____ Decorating _____ Refreshments _____ Serving _____

Other Special Events _____ Festivals _____ Celebrations _____ Performances _____

Other Supportive Interests: Baking _____ Sewing _____ Carpentry _____

Photography _____ Video-taping _____ Other _____

Days & Times You Are Available _____

Do You Wish To Volunteer On: An On-Call Basis _____ A Scheduled Basis _____

What Volunteer Experience Have You Had? _____

What Employment Experience Have You Had? _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

The Museum Gift Shop features unique, ethnic gifts created by local Czech artists and craftsmen, and imported items from the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Choose from:

- Beautifully hand-crafted and hand-painted ceramic items
- Intricately decorated Easter eggs
- Cookbooks, language tapes, and handcraft booklets
- Aprons, T-shirts, and Sweatshirts of special designs
- Road Maps and Guide Books
- Corn Husk Dolls
- Hand-blown, glass Christmas ornaments (available year-round)

Stop by the Museum during business hours or write to the **Gift Shop Manager, P.O. Box 5398, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-5398** for information regarding orders by mail.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

I wish to renew my membership to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$100 to \$199 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$200 to \$999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$50 to \$99 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Individual | \$1,000 or more |

[2]

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Why not consider a gift membership for someone special. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library depends on the support of its members to further advance the promotion of our Czechoslovak heritage.

Gift membership/renewal for:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In the amount of: _____

Please send this coupon together with your check made payable to National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, P.O. Box 5398, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-5398.

Membership renewals after October 1, will be valid through December 1994.

Younkers

Presents for your entertainment
& enjoyment . . .

Sunday, September 11th
6 - 9 PM
at Younkers Westdale Mall

CZECH & SLOVAK FEST



As a special attraction, a traditional Czech dinner will be served in Younkers dining facility from 5 P.M. to 6 P.M. A limited number of tickets will be available due to the seating capacity of the restaurant . . . diner tickets will be sold for \$20 per person (this includes admission to the regular Czech Fest activities) . . . get your tickets early!

Admission Tickets may be purchased at Younkers, Westdale Mall or through the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Join the Fun:

Free Hors d' oeuvres
& Beverages
Drawings for Special
Gifts
Ethnic Food
Demonstrations
Entertainment
20% off
most purchases

This event is being brought to you as a benefit for the new National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library . . . please join us in this celebration.



National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
P.O. Box 5398
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406-5398

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cedar Rapids, IA
Permit No. 414

CZECH & SLOVAK FEST

All Proceeds to Benefit:



Charity Night at ...

Younkers

Sunday, September 11th
6 - 9 PM

Westdale
Mall
Special entrance
on the Second
Level

Your \$5 Donation entitles you to
20% OFF All Sale & Regular
Priced Merchandise!
(some exclusions apply)

CEDAR RAPIDS' VERY OWN



CZECH PLUS POLKA BAND

WITH A SPECIAL GUEST
PERFORMANCE BY THE
MORAVIAN CULTURAL
SOCIETY DANCERS
BERWYN, IL

FREE HOR D'OEUVRES & BEVERAGES

DRAWINGS FOR SPECIAL GIFTS

ETHNIC FOOD DEMONSTRATIONS

6-6:45 PM Zindrick's Czech Restaurant
Roast Pork, Sauerkraut &
Dumpling Dinner
(co-sponsored by Polehna's
Meat Market)

7-7:45 Zindrick's Czech Restaurant
Kolac Baking

8-8:45 Sykora Bakery
Mushroom Tarts

PARADE OF AUTHENTIC & FOLK COSTUMES
7-7:30

ETHNIC CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS

6-9 Wheat Weaving, Egg Painting,
Bobbin Lace and Embroidery

ENTERTAINMENT

6-6:30 Czech Plus Polka Band
6:30-7 Moravian Cultural Society
Dancers - Chicago
7-9 Czech Plus Polka Band

Tickets on Sale NOW at National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and Younkers Westdale
* 2600 Edgewood Rd SW * Cedar Rapids, IA

CZECH & SLOVAK FEST Charity Night
at YOUNKERS Westdale
Sunday, September 11th, 6-9 pm

ORDER YOUR TICKETS BY MAIL!
Send \$5 per person made payable
to: National Czech & Slovak Museum
& Library, P.O. Box 5398, Cedar Rapids,
IA 52406-5398

Enclose this form:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Children 12 and under admitted free!

Number of tickets _____ x \$5 = _____

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
National Czech &
Slovak Museum & Library

SPECIAL PRE-EVENT!!

Younkers is hosting a special,
limited seating TRADITIONAL
ROAST PORK & DUMPLING DINNER
served by Dostal Catering
Sunday, September 11th at 5pm

Fundraising Dinner

\$20 per person

(includes Charity Night Admission)

To order by mail enclose this form:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Number of tickets _____ x \$20 = _____

Nat'l Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
P.O. Box 5398, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-53

CZECH & SLOVAK FEST Charity Night
at YOUNKERS Westdale
Sunday, September 11th, 6-9 pm

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