



NEWSLETTER
Leden 2023
January 2023

337 Brookridge Street
Green Bay, WI 54301



Naše České Dědictví – Our Czech Heritage

The traditional sweeping of the streets to remove the bad spirits and welcome in the spring.

Naše České Dědictví (Our Czech Heritage) Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.

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The Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. was organized to promote the cultural achievements of the Czech and Slovak people. This is achieved through the study and celebration of the art, music, literature, language and history of the lands.

Organized in 1978, the club is cultural and non-political. Membership is open to all persons of Czech, Moravian or Slovak ancestry and those interested in Czechoslovakian heritage.

Our ancestral home is made up of the Czech Republic including the provinces, Bohemia and Moravia. The Slovak Republic, to the east of The Czech Republic, is also a part of our heritage.

The Wisconsin Czechs' activities include the promotion of the Czech heritage and culture through four meetings held each year, and attendance and participation in other ethnic festivals and events in the state.

The Wisconsin Czechs sponsor a scholarship program.

The scholarships are financed through the selling of cookbooks which include ethnic recipes. Scholarships are awarded to qualifying high school seniors who are members or have a parents, or grandparents who are members of the Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. and have been members for at least the past two years.

Meetings: Masopust, Scholarship, Pout' and Christmas

The Wisconsin Czech Choraliers present Czech folk music to anyone requesting their program. The Choraliers sing in English and Czech languages. If you would like to hire them for an event, call: (920)432-1556.



Officers

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Tom Cook (2023)
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wisconsinczechs@aol.com

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For information regarding this organization, Czech food, Czech music and links to other Czech sites go to: www.wiczzechs.com

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Send information for the April newsletter by

March 24, 2023 to:

wisconsinczechs@aol.com

phone: (920) 835-5607



Characters from the Masopust parade held in the main square in Prague.

President's Message

Welcome to one of the festive times in our Czech, Slovakian and Moravian heritages, the masopust.

I hope you enjoy the activities of our organization as well learning about those of our ancestral homelands.

Please pay close attention to the schedule on our reservation page for Masopust 2023 as the format will be quite different from what has been our traditional one. This year we will join the Happy Hoppers in a joint meeting. On occasion the calendar dictates that our meeting date for Masopust, always the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, will conflict with the date of the Happy Hoppers' monthly dance, which is the case in 2023.

Since many of our members belong to both organizations, we thought we would try to do a joint venture.

I would like all Wisconsin Czech, Inc. members to have the opportunity to take part in the Masopust Celebration in person if possible. If not in person, at least members can be aware of the history and traditions of Masopust or Shrovetide through reading, or with our technology today. It's possible to view this event as it takes place in present day Czech culture.

What is Masopust or Shrovetide? We often find it compared to the Mardi Gras celebrations in the U.S. However, the tradition of the celebration goes back to pre-Christian times of pagan Europe. Originally a celebration of the end of winter and the coming of spring, it has developed into a celebration of preparation for fasting for the Christian period of Lent. You can find out more about this celebration in the article on Masopust and its revival in the present-day Czech Republic.

I hope to see you at our dinner and dance celebration.

Tom Cook, President Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.

Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. Treasurer's Report as of 12-21-2022 Gail Johanek and Karen Konop

	Debit	Credit	Balance
Checking #8863 8-17-22			\$1,187.02
Income 8-17-22 - 12-21-22			
Membership dues		\$ 870.00	
Pout reservations		\$ 648.00	
Christmas reservations		\$ 972.00	
Scholarship donations		\$ 10.00	
Savings account transfer		\$ 1,100.00	
Expenses			
Mishicot Music Dept.	\$ 70.00		
Father Dillenburg (Pout Mass)	\$ 70.00		
Whipp's Hall (Pout)	\$ 1,057.55		
Ken Whipp (Pout band)	\$ 600.00		
Envision (July and Nov. Newsletter)	\$ 841.49		
Fat Boyz (xmas meal)	\$1,538.05		
Gale Kronforst (Xmas decorations)	\$ 37.79		
Total checking #8863			\$572.14
Savings #1301 8-17-22			
Balance			\$7,277.46
Income 8-17-22 - 12-21-22			
Membership Dues		\$ 36.00	
Donations		\$ 302.00	
Pout reservations		\$ 432.00	
Dance (pd. at door)		\$ 360.00	
Cookbooks		\$ 628.51	
Interest paid 9-22-22		\$ 4.56	
Expense transfer to checking	\$ 1,100.00		
Total Savings #1301			\$7,940.53
Savings #1465 8-17-22			
Balance			\$4,038.93
Interest paid 6-30-22		\$ 2.55	
Total savings #1465			\$4,041.48
Certificate of Deposits 12-27-22			
#5778 -8-25-22			\$5,468.14
Interest paid		\$ 18.30	
Subtotal CD #5778			\$5,486.44
#5781 8-25-22			\$5,495.58
interest paid		\$ 29.72	
sub-total CD #5781			\$5,525.30
Total CD's			\$11,011.74
Grand Total			\$23,565.89

Is your membership current? Check the date after your name on the mailing label. The year your membership expires is listed there.

Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. 2023 Scholarships

Do you have a child or grandchild that will graduate from high school in 2023? Each year our organization awards four scholarships of \$750 each to qualifying graduates from either a public high school, a private high school, or home-schooled. Scholarship applications are open to any graduating seniors who, either they are, or their parents or grandparents are members in good standing of the Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. for at least the past two years.

Recipients of the scholarships receive the monetary award after they have completed their first semester of their freshman year of college. At that time, a transcript of their first semester grades is forwarded to the scholarship committee. Once the grades are submitted, the monetary scholarship will then be forwarded to that student's college or trade school.

The deadline to apply for a scholarship is March 13, 2023 the second Monday in March. Scholarship applications for 2023 graduates can be found on our website: www.wiczechs.com or by U.S. mail by sending the request and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Betty Schleis, N 1441 Knutson Road, Denmark, WI 54208.

Scholarship applications will also be available at the Masopust Banquet. Please see page 7 for more information regarding the banquet and for information on how you can send donations to the Scholarship fund.

Our History

Our history with newsletters from 1980, programs, Board and membership meeting minutes are deposited with the Wisconsin State Historical Society in its collection at UW-Green Bay. The Cofrin Library houses these collections in the Library's Archives. The Wisconsin Historical Society and the University of Wisconsin (UW) System cooperate in a network of Area Research Centers (ARCs) located at UW campus libraries throughout the state and at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Our collection at Cofrin can be requested by anyone from another ARC; by the same token, Cofrin can get materials from any library in the state. Cofrin Library can be reached at (920) 465-2540. Call me if you have questions about the deposit be reached at program, or if you have items you'd like to see in the collection, or in our scrapbooks. Sally Teresinski, Historian

Cookbooks

Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. sells cookbooks at meetings, festivals, events and by mail throughout the United States. The sales of these cookbooks go toward four annual scholarships that are awarded to high school seniors who complete application and have a sponsor(s) who is a member of Wisconsin Czechs for at least two years.

Vařte snámi: Cook with Us (1984 - red)

Dobré Chutání: Good Eating (1996- white)

These two cookbooks, are indexed and are companion books; about 1,100 recipes are available within the two books. They may be purchased at the following locations:

- * Algoma Motors, Algoma, WI
- * Book Nook, Manitowoc, WI
- * Kugel's Cheese Mart, Lena, WI
- * NCSM&L, Cedar Rapids, IA
- * Olde World Pastries Plus, Little Suamico, WI

To purchase cookbooks by mail, check our website:

www.wiczechs.com or contact Sally Teresinski at (920)582-7836 or by email: sallyteresinski@outlook.com

Cost is \$20.00 each. For purchases thru the USPS, \$3.50 is charged for shipping.



Upcoming Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. Events

- February 19, 2023 Masopust Dinner and Dance with the Happy Hoppers: The Rendezvous – Luxemburg, WI
- March 13, 2023 Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. Board meeting – Brillion Community Center – Brillion, WI
- May 7, 2023 Scholarship meeting and Dinner – Suster's Arcade in Denmark, WI

We Say Goodbye

Mary Medo, age 98, died Mon. Sept 12, 2022, at Aurora Hospital in Grafton. Active in ethnic groups in Wisconsin, Mary was a member of the Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. 2005-2022. Though living in Milwaukee, Mary always found a way to join us at our quarterly meetings. It was always nice to see her; she genuinely enjoyed the meetings and was happy to stay in touch with her Czech heritage.

Mary Ann Blahnik, 82, of Fish Creek died on December 30, 2022. Mary Ann and Joel joined the Wisconsin Czechs in 1991 and took part in our programs of music, history and scholarship. She served in our organization in a number of ways, most notably on the scholarship program, selecting applicants to receive the WI Czs annual awards. Mary Ann gave to many: smiles, encouragement – with a positive and generous attitude.

Děkuji mnohokrát

Thank you very much to the following people who made donations to the WI Czechs, Inc.:

In Memory of:

Deacon Bud Klister by Delores Klister

Helen Maresh by John Maresh

Evie Steeber by Kristy Omernick

Others: Thomas Kvitek, Gloria Kaminecki, Frank and Gertrude Otradovec, Tom and Mary Ann Sladek, and Darlene Wellner

Vítejte

Welcome to the following people who have recently become members of WI Czechs, Inc.:

Jim Grimm – Two Rivers, WI

Bill Grimm - Carmel, CA

Jacob Johaneck – Green Bay, WI

Marge Hendrickson – Two Rivers, WI

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) Conference

Society Czechoslovak Genealogical International (CGSI) is busy planning its 19th Czechoslovak Genealogical/Cultural Conference to be held in the **Milwaukee, Wisconsin** metro area from **October 17 – 21, 2023**. This will be CGSI's first major in-person event since the 2019 Conference in Nebraska.

The 2023 Conference is at The Ingleside Hotel located in Pewaukee, Wisconsin (just 18 miles from downtown Milwaukee). The Ingleside Hotel provides an inspirational setting unlike any other in the Milwaukee area, offering Lake Country hospitality at its natural and vibrant best, conducive to all CGSI Conference sessions and activities.

CGSI's mission is to help educate attendees about their ancestors, by teaching them how to research who they were, where and how they lived, their culture and traditions, and their contributions to society. We will emphasize early immigrant life of the Czech, Slovak, German-Bohemian, Jewish, and Carpatho-Rusyn people that emigrated from the Czech and Slovak ancestral lands to Wisconsin and the Milwaukee and Racine County areas. The State of Wisconsin is home to some of the earliest Czech, German-Bohemian, and Jewish immigrants in the nation because of the timing of its 1848 Statehood to the 1848 Austrian Revolution. Wisconsin's strong ethnic heritage was enriched some years later by arrival of Slovak and Carpatho-Rusyn immigrants.

Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. has been one of the co-sponsors of this event in the past.

State and National Czech Events

June 15-18, 2023 State Queen Pageant – Phillips, WI

August 4-6, 2023 62nd Wilbur Czech Festival

October 17-21, 2023 CGSI Conference – Pewaukee, WI



Ruth Alice Hlinak Prochazka

If you have attended any of our meetings, you already know Ruth for opening our meetings with the meal prayer recited in both Czech and English. You may have been one of the lucky ones to win some of the delicious Kolache Ruth brings for our raffles.

The above picture was painted by local artist Bonnita Budysz in 2000 for the "Farm Stories" exhibit. It was on display at the Rahr West Art Museum in Manitowoc, WI and now hangs in her living room. Ruth recently celebrated her 95th birthday with her family.

Ruth and the Wisconsin Czech, Inc. have a long history, along with the Czech Choraliers. She has been an original member of both organizations. In addition to being a valuable member, Ruth has held a number of offices in the past. She had served as secretary from 1992-1995 and again from 1998-2001. She had also served on the Board from 2003-2005 and again from 2009-2011. In addition to these office positions she has willingly served to advise different projects and committees.

Ruth is proud of her Czechoslovakian heritage. Her father's family came from Poděbrady, Bohemia 1881 and settled in the Neva, Wisconsin area. Her grandparents Frank Hlinak (born on January 11, 1851) and Marie Karbon (born in 1867) were married on January 6, 1890 and settled on a farm in the Mělník, Wisconsin area. There they raised five children; Emily who married John Novak, Estelle who married Anton Honzik, Frank Joseph who married Lillian Skarievoda, Joseph who married Emma Stangel and Edward who married Tess O'Keefe. Ruth's parents Frank J. and Lillian Skarievoda were married June 14, 1922 and had six children. Two passed away in infancy; a sister in 2008, a brother Frank in 2018, and a brother Fredrick in 1974. Ruth is the last surviving member of her family.

Growing up in this Czech farm family meant preparing food for themselves. After butchering a pig, the whole family made Jaternice. Ruth's father would handle the sausage stuffer, her mother made the bread for filling and the children had their duties. The copper boiler filled with water would be on the stove to cook the meat parts that would go into the sausage.

The Czech language was learned by Ruth by going next door to her Grandma's and Grandpa's place. Because of their not knowing the English language, Czech was spoken. This enabled Ruth to learn the language at a young age. Her mother's side of the family Adolph and Anna Skarievoda also spoke the Czech language. Spending time with them furthered her knowledge of Czech. She has kept up her knowledge of the language by joining the Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. and singing with the Czech Choraliers. Because of her knowledge of Czech, she has been able to help the Choraliers in singing songs in the Czech language.

Ruth has been a lifelong member of the Mělník Presbyterian Church. The church continues the tradition of making Kolache as fund raisers for the church. In her growing up with her church family there were traditions of quilting bees and feather stripping. If this tradition was not held in the church basement, you would find the ladies at Ruth's house doing the same. Many feather pillows were made from the down of the home-raised ducks and geese.

Her husband's side of the family came to the United States in 1890. His grandmother, along with her four children, settled in Rockford, Illinois. Later they moved to Zander, Wisconsin where he and his sister (Prochazka) married brother and sister (Paider) and settled on a farm in Zander. There they raised two children, Carl and James. Carl remained and worked on the farm until passing away in 1975. This left his wife Ruth and two children, Carol and Wesley Prochazka. Ruth still lives on the farm with her son.

We'd like to thank you, Ruth, for being such a valuable member of our organization. You are so willing to share so much of your talents with and for our organization. You also share your knowledge of the Czech language, your baking skills, musical talent and leadership ability – Děkuje. Thank you Ruth.

Masopust Today

Today the various Masopust or Shrovetide celebrations in the Czech Republic are being promoted to encourage tourism. In some of the areas it is seen as a series of parades with costumed characters, entertainment and dancing. Other regions follow a more traditional pattern.



One of the most traditional takes place in the Hlinecko Region. It is located in Eastern Bohemia along the Bohemian-Moravian border with Poland to the north. It is about a two-hour drive east of Prague. The celebration takes place in the town of Hlinsko and a few neighboring villages – Vortová, Sidmoce, Hamy and Blatno. Because of the celebrations' pagan traditions in the past, they were banned by the Catholic Church and the Socialist government when they were in power. One of the unique features of this celebration is the traditional going from house to house instead of a simple parade format. This celebration has been recognized and listed by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) on its list of intangibles cultural heritage.

For more information about this celebration for 2023 put this link (<http://www.praguest.com>masopust>) in your browser or search on-line on the web. There is a good deal of information about this celebration and its history.

Another center for Masopust celebrations is centered in and around Prague itself...with many parades, music venues, and various food options. Somewhat akin to our neighborhood parades and festivities in New Orleans, Prague offers a wide variety of activities in relation to its Masopust celebration, with each area offering its particular flavor.

Many of the events in characters you see in the parades and events today have their roots in ancient beliefs. The sweeping of the streets by the Women of a village – to drive away bad spirits, for example. Here are some questions for you to answer in your search for information on Masopust. What is the significance of the farmer's wife; what is expected when they visit the houses in the villages; what is the symbolism of the killing of the mare? Why is the bass fiddle buried and for how long?

What about the characters seen in the parades – what do they symbolize? The bear, the chimney sweeps, the bass fiddle and the grave diggers, for example.



The Masopust celebrations have evolved over time from the Pagan rites of the past to the celebration in relation to the Christian period of Lent to evolving almost to a combination of American's Halloween and Mardi Gras. While justice could not be done in a single article to providing the flavor and information about Masopust today in the Czech Republic and Moravia ([Fašánek](#)), I would encourage you to use the Internet to see the celebrations as they take place today. Perhaps you could find a link to the area your ancestors came from to see how they celebrate today.

Here are a few links for you to use the Internet to explore the Masopust celebrations in the Czech Republic and Moravia today:

<http://myczechrepublic.com> - about the many events that take place throughout the Czech Republic

<https://theculturetrip.com> - Masopust celebrations in Prague

www.CATVusa.com - Czech Lent traditions

<http://www.carnivaland.net> - Masopust in the Hlinecko Region - authentic Czech Shrovetide processions

Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. Masopust Meeting Dinner and Dance

Date: **Sunday February 19, 2023**

Where: **Rendezvous of Luxemburg**
E896 County Rd. N
Luxemburg, WI 54217

Time: 10:30 - 11:00 Membership meeting
11:00 - 12:00 Dinner
1:00 - 5:00 Dance with music by
the Carl Laack Band

Menu: The dinner includes chicken, pork
loin, sauerkraut and dumplings,
dessert, and various side dishes

Cost: Dinner and dance \$25.00



Return this portion ✂-----

Membership Renewal and Gift Form

I / We wish to renew our membership in the Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.
Please find \$_____ for my /our membership dues for _____ years through the yr. 20____.
Annual membership dues are \$12.00 per person.

Gifts

I/We would like to contribute a donation to the following fund:
Scholarship Fund \$ _____
Pageant Fund \$ _____

I/We would like to make a donation \$ _____
in memory of: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Comments: _____

Return this portion ✂-----

Reservation for Masopust Dinner and Dance

Please return by: **Friday, February 10, 2023**

Name: _____

Phone # _____

Guests: _____

attending _____ @ \$25.00 ea = \$ _____

Total amount sent in: \$ _____

Reservation fees are Non Refundable

Write checks payable to Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.
Return Paid Reservations and/or Memberships to:

WI Czechs
Gail Johaneck – Treasurer
1008 Nicolet Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54304