



NEWSLETTER

*Cervenec/Srpen 2023*

July/August 2023

Brookridge Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301



Dobrý den

*From Wisconsin Czechs, Inc*

Naše České Dědictví

Our Czech Heritage

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

Page 1

*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**

### **President**

Tom Cook (2023)  
(920) 835-5607  
[wisconsinczechs@aol.com](mailto:wisconsinczechs@aol.com)

### **Vice President**

Betty Schleis (2023)  
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[jackbettys@yahoo.com](mailto:jackbettys@yahoo.com)

### **Secretary**

Carol Sisel (2024)  
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[csisel@charter.net](mailto:csisel@charter.net)

### **Co-Treasurers**

Gail Johaneck  
(920) 884-0552  
Karen Konop  
(920) 432-1556  
[Krohrkonop@aol.com](mailto:Krohrkonop@aol.com)

*For information regarding this organization, Czech food, Czech music and links to other Czech sites go to: [www.wiczechs.com](http://www.wiczechs.com)*

### **Website Editor**

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## **Choraliers Director**

Orv Konop  
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[okkonop@aol.com](mailto:okkonop@aol.com)

Send information for the November newsletter by **October 31, 2022** to:  
[wisconsinczechs@aol.com](mailto:wisconsinczechs@aol.com)  
phone: (920) 835-5607



St. Lawrence church near Domažlice  
Photo courtesy of Kateřina Tomášková

## President's Message

I hope everyone is having a good summer and is able to take part in the Czech events taking place in their areas. Several actions related to membership have occurred. First, at the June Board Meeting, the Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. Board voted to take a change in the membership fee to the membership for a vote at our August 28, 2022 Pout' meeting. The recommendation is to make the membership fee \$12 annually for individuals. Also, we have not been issuing membership cards with the renewals. If you wish to have a membership card, you can request one from Karen or Gail at our general meetings or you can e-mail me at the address listed at the end of this article. Related to this, the wrong date of your membership's expiration was given with the address on the April newsletter. The correct expiration date is listed with the address on this newsletter. In the past few months Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. has made donations to sponsor the Two Rivers Sister City program, the Miss Wisconsin Czech Pageant (both as a sponsor and providing a financial award for the Oratorical Contest). We also continue to offer 4 \$750 scholarships each year. At our December meeting we will have an election to select a Board member to replace Gale Kronforst whose term expires at the end of December. If you wish to become a candidate or suggest a member to be a candidate contact Betty Schleis. I am thankful for the following people for submitting articles or information for this newsletter: Pam and Gale Kronforst, David Selner, Betty Schleis, Ann Cramer and Sally Teresinski. If you would like to submit an article or information for the newsletter, please e-mail me at [wisconsinczechs@aol.com](mailto:wisconsinczechs@aol.com). Comments and questions are also welcome. Tom Cook, President, Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.

## Děkují mnohokrát

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

Nancy Field, Orv and Karen Konop, Rita Wilson, Darlene Wellner, Carol Vangrowsky, Gwen Feit, Joel and Mary Ann Blahnik, and David Mahlek

## Vítejte

Welcome to the following person who has recently become a member of Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.:

Thomas Kvitek – Appleton, Wisconsin

## Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. Treasurer's Report as of 5-18-2022

Gail Johaneck and Karen Konop

Checking #8863 2-16-22 Balance	\$2,999.32
Income 2-16- -5-18-22	
Membership Dues	\$600.00
Dinners	
(Masopust=\$818/Scholarship=\$1092	\$1,910.00
Masopust Dance	\$530.00
Scholarship 50/50 raffle (1/2 of 140)	\$70.00
Pins/sticker sales	\$20.00
Donations	\$101.50
Amazon Smile	\$6.57
Expenses	
DeGrand=1103.52 Susters=1076.10	-\$2,179.62
Len Whipp - band	-\$600.00
Envision-newsletter( Feb.=499.6	
April=445.18	-\$944.84
Masopust decorations (AC)	-\$25.00
Refund two meal overpayments	-\$29.50
Treasurer's expenses (GJ=40.00 KK=66.80	-\$106.80
Two Rivers Sister City donation	-\$250.00
<b>Total checking #8863</b>	<b>\$2,101.63</b>
Savings #7301 2-16-22 Balance	\$5,788.66
Interest	\$4.08
Cookbook Sales	\$96.00
Free Table = donations ST (Masopust=27 -	
Scholarship=34)	\$61.00
Masopust Raffle	\$256.00
Donations	\$557.50
<b>Total Savings #1301</b>	<b>\$6,763.24</b>
Savings #1465 2-16-22 Balance	\$4,033.92
Interest 3-31-22	\$2.49
<b>Total Savings #1465</b>	<b>\$4,036.41</b>
Certificates of Deposit as 5-25-22	
#5778 - 2-22-22 balance	\$5,441.11
Interest - 3-31-22	\$13.27
<b>subtotal CD #5778</b>	<b>\$5,454.38</b>
#5781 - 2-22-22 balance	\$5,468.41
Interest	\$13.34
<b>Subtotal CD #5781</b>	<b>\$5,481.75</b>
<b>Total CD</b>	<b>\$10,936.13</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$23,837.41</b>

## Cookbooks

Wisconsin Czechs cookbooks: *Vařte s námi* (red) and *Dobré chutnání* (white) sales support the scholarship program. Available at the pout', each book costs \$20.



## Wisconsin Czechs

The annual Scholarship Meeting of the Wisconsin Czechs was brought to order by President Tom Cook at 12:47 pm at Susters Arcade, Denmark, WI on Sunday, May 1, 2022. All of the individuals present stood and joined together reciting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Cook greeted and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. Guests that were acknowledged are Bev Wicinsky, Richard and Susan Pike and our newest member Thomas Kvittek. Further acknowledgments were given to Ann Cafilisch for organizing the banquet and to Gail Johaneck and Karen Konop for creating the tags and invitations.

The scholarship awards committee was recognized for their efforts in the selection process of choosing today's recipients. These members are as follows: Betty Schleis, Chairperson with Mary Ann Blahnik, Rose Quinlan, Mary Ann Rabitz and Diane Steinberger, rounding out the committee. The secretary's minutes from the Masopust meeting were approved with a motion by Jeff Rabas and second by Mary Ann Rabitz. The motion so moved by the membership.

Gail Johaneck gave her treasurer's report. There were no further inquiries by the membership.

The membership report noted by Karen Konop that we currently have 273 members. Active membership is 231 with 42 members currently outstanding as of the end of the calendar year of 2021.

Susan Krubsack gave information on the Phillips Czech-Slovak Community Festival, scheduled for June 17-18, 2022. It will be held in the park this year and not the high school. It is still not too late to enter as a participant to compete for the title of Miss Czech-Slovak WI State Queen.

Our historian and cookbook member, Sally Teresinski congratulated today's scholarship winners prior to giving her report. She indicated the cookbooks are available for \$20.00. The proceeds to these purchases help fund the scholarships. We have 100 red cookbooks on order. Today we have copies of the red and white, along with 2 used cookbooks. The used books may be purchased for \$5.00 each. She also indicated that there are free materials, such as issues from old newsletters as well as music and books. Information has also been deposited in the Archives at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay campus. She indicated that in 2022 the WI Czech organization is 44 years old.

Tom Cook led the new business with the general consensus of the membership that they will still like to receive the newsletter through the US mail. A few people would still like to have the availability to access it through an electronic method. He will look into this further to perhaps have it placed on the WI Czech website. The Amazon Smile donations have accumulated to \$6.29 cents and the website is now working properly. The Facebook page for the group is still being worked on. Joe Blahnik reminded everyone that the Two Rivers/Domažlice Sister City exchange starts on June 1, 2022. Tom Cook indicates that he has a schedule of events if anyone is interested. As of this meeting the group is in transit from the Czech Republic to the United States. Susters also provided a picture from 1870 for viewing. There are some Czech names on there if anyone has an interest.

The upcoming event for the organization is the board meeting on June 13, 2022 at Sally Teresinski's home. On August 28, 2022 is our annual Pout'. The festivities start with a 10 am mass at St. Lawrence Church in Stangelville, WI. Then the transition will then take place at Eddie Whipps in Poland, WI. Dancing will follow. The WI Czech Choraliers will be singing at the International Community Festival on September 16, 2022 from 4:30pm to 5:00 pm. Any person who loves to sing is invited to join the Choraliers.

At the beginning of today's dinner there was a 50/50 raffle. The winning number of 2001650 was held by Christine Bressler. The amount won was \$140.00. She will give Gail Johaneck the name of the music department she'd like the other half donated to. The drawings of the table centerpiece flowers for door prizes were done, as well as singing happy birthday to Betty Schleis.

Betty Schleis introduced the winners of the 2022 WI Czech Scholarships. The recipients recited their winning essays to the membership. The four 2022 winners are:

Julia Bressler	Mishicot High School	UW Milwaukee-Nursing
Max Konop	Dodgeville High School	UW Platteville-Engineering
Isabella Otradovec	Luxemburg-Casco High School	UW Whitewater-Spanish Education
Mark Wanek	Denmark High School	UW Green Bay-undecided

The entire membership wishes them every bit of success in their future endeavors. They also receive one year of free membership to the organization, and members hope to see them return to the club.

The meeting ended at 1:42 pm with a motion by Jeff Rabas and second by Gail Johaneck. The motion moved.

Respectfully submitted  
Carol A Sisel, Secretary

Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.  
2022 – Scholarships  
By Betty Schleis, Scholarship Chairperson

The Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. awarded four scholarships of \$750 each at the dinner meeting on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at Susters Arcade, Denmark. The four scholarship recipients are Julia Bressler, Max Konop, Isabella Otradovec and Mark Wanek.

Julia Bressler is from Mishicot High School. She is going to the U.W. Milwaukee and plans to major in nursing. Her parents are Christine and Michael Bressler. Her grandmother is Darlene Wellner.

Max Konop is from Dodgeville High School. He planning to go to U.W. Platteville to study STEM/Engineering. His parents are Jeffery and Deanna Konop. His grandparents are Orville and Karen Konop.

Isabella Otradovec is from Luxemburg-Casco High School. She plans to go to U.W. Whitewater to get a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, becoming a high school Spanish teacher. Her parents are Michael and Nelly Otradovec. Her grandparents are Franklin and Gertrude Otradovec.

Mark Wanek is from Denmark High School. He is planning to go to U.W. Green Bay – interested in Business Education. His parent is Barbara Wanek. His grandmother is Caroline Hlinak.



2022 Scholarship recipients. (left to right) Julia Bressler, Isabella Otradovec, Mark Wanek, and Max Konop

These applicants were chosen because of their academic achievements, extra-curricular and school activities. The scholarships are payable second semester after a transcript of the student's first semester grades is sent to the scholarship committee chairperson.

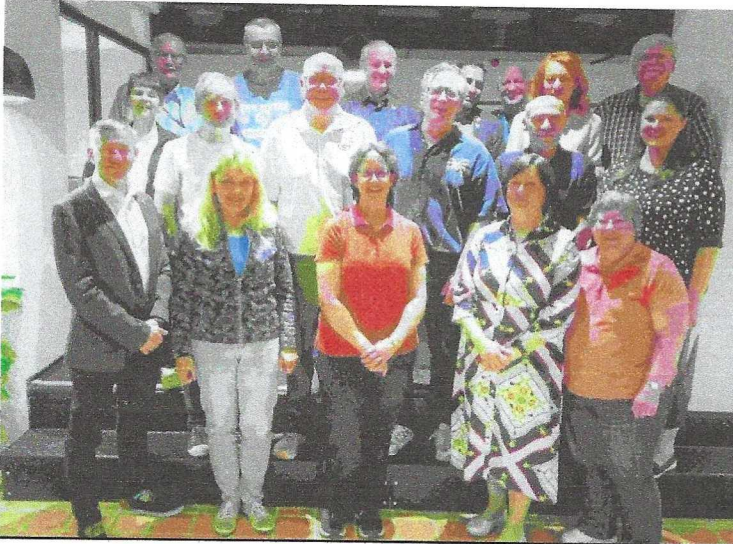
The scholarship committee member are: Mary Ann Blahnik, Rose Quinlan, Mary Ann Rabitz, Diane Steinberger, and Betty Schleis. We are grateful that there was adequate funding for the four scholarships. We hope the members are generous in the organization's fund raiser so that we can continue to award four scholarships. We thank you for your generosity. Donations to the scholarship fund are always welcome.

## It's Raffle Time

We will have a raffle as part of our Pout' program. This raffle is used to support our Scholarship and Pageant programs. There will also be a silent auction of Czech-related items. All are encouraged to wear their Kroje. Donations of items for the raffle are welcome.

Our Trip to the Czech Republic  
By Pam Kronforst

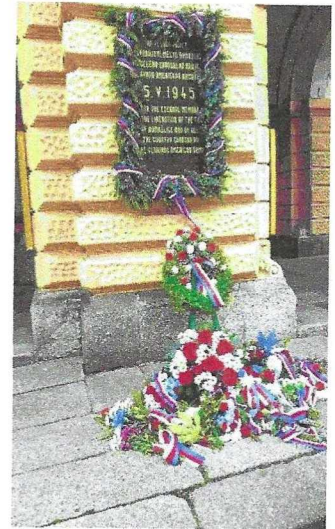
The Two Rivers Sister City delegation consisted of Pat De Wane, Bill and Laurie Kiel, Mike and Marilyn Kronforst and Gale and Pam Kronforst.



The Czech delegation: Back Row are Mike Kronforst, Miroslav Mach, Miroslav Vokac, Amar Ibrahim, sister city committee member ,Jana Stenglove, Gale Kronforst  
Second Row Marilyn Kronforst, Kamil Jindrich, Bill Kiel, Pat Dewane, Zdenek Novak, a translator  
First Row Sister City committee member assistant to the mayor Laura Kie,l Jarka Veckova, Pam Kronforst

On May 5<sup>th</sup> we attended the liberation celebration in Domažlice. We walked to the Memorial Monument with a collective march back to the town square. Here we heard speeches and witnessed the laying of a wreath at Matt Konop's plaque. On May 8<sup>th</sup> we rode in a WWII military vehicle in the Plzeň Liberation Parade. The parade was two miles long with 210 WWII military vehicles.

We met Czech author Jana Poncarová, who writes historical romance novels. We also met Czech sculptor Václav Fiala. He did the memorial monuments in Domažlice. Our travels took us to Libov, the village where the Kronforsts' great, great, grandfather came from. No one was home so the brothers just looked around the out buildings. Next we went to Kout na Šumavě where Laurie Kiel's great grandfather



Wreath laid at the base of Matt Konop's plaque

came from. We got to meet her relatives still living there. Before we flew home, we visited the Czech Kronforst cousins in Prague.



(Left) Gale with a women in native dress at the liberation parade in Plzeň

The Czech Delegation visit May 28 to June 4, 2022

By Pam Kronforst

Two delegations from Domažlice arrived on May 28. The Sister City delegation consisted of Zdeněk Novák, Miroslav Mach, Jana Štenglová, Miroslav Vokáč, Roman Kalous, Jaroslavá "Jarka" Vecková. The second delegation was from the music school consisting of 2 teachers and 10 students. Kamil Jindřich was the teacher in charge.



Orv Konop and the Czech Choraliars perform as part of the Two Rivers Sister City program.

On Sunday the Sister City delegation went to Parallel 44 for a tour and wine tasting. They next visited St. Lawrence Church and cemetery in Stangelville. The Two Rivers High School students arranged activities for the music students. A welcome dinner was held at the Lighthouse Inn in the evening.

On Monday the delegations walked in the Memorial Day parade and the students marched with the Two Rivers High School Marching Band. After the programs at the cemeteries, everyone visited Matt Konop's grave. The delegations sang the Czech National anthem. They ended the day with a party at Pat Dewane's house.

On Tuesday Greg Buckley welcomed all the delegations to Two Rivers's city hall. The students went to school for the day. The Sister City delegation visited the different city departments. After lunch they visited four of Two Rivers' manufacturers.

On Wednesday morning the delegation visited the high school. After lunch they visited London Dairy Alpaca farm. They fed the alpacas and tasted wines of South America. In the evening

there was Czech music in Central Park. Music was provided by Domažlice and the Two Rivers students, Orv Konop and the Czech Choraliars, Don Konop and the Bohemian Band, and the Two Rivers Community Band.

On Thursday everyone went to the Maritime Museum with a tour of the submarine USS Cobia. Lunch was on the museum's rooftop. They went to the Hamilton Wood Type Museum. Everyone got to print a simple poster on an old printer. A farewell dinner was held at the Yacht Club. The students performed for everyone. On Friday some of the group went fishing on Lake Michigan. Lunch was a fish boil using the fish they had caught. The ones who didn't go fishing spent their time as they wanted. The Two Rivers High School students including the Czech students put on a variety show that evening. On Saturday morning the two delegations left Two Rivers.



Czech music students played Czech folk songs and dances as part of the farewell dinner

### Genealogical Research Opportunity By Ann Cramer

**Start Time: 2:00 PM; Date: 9/10/2022; End Time: 3:30 PM**

**Description:** Join us via Zoom for a virtual genealogical program as part of our annual Find Your Ancestors series.

Program Topic: Introduction to Czech Archives

Do you have ancestors that hail from what is now called the Czech Republic? In various records, your ancestor might have been listed as a citizen of Austria, Austro-Hungary, Bavaria, Czechoslovakia, or Germany or may have considered themselves Bohemian, Moravian, Silesian, Czech or German. This program will discuss locating parish vital records in Czech regional archives, how to get help with the language and what resources are available to learn more about your Czech ancestors! Please note to get the most out of this presentation, you will need to know the name of the village where your ancestors came from.

Presented by Sokol Milwaukee leaders Susan Chapman, Ann Cramer and Don Skarda.

Sokol Milwaukee hosts informal genealogy sessions via Zoom about six times a year. Susan Chapman has several years of genealogy research experience and is a member of Czechoslovak Genealogical International Society (CGSI), German-Bohemian Heritage Society (GBHS), and Milwaukee County Genealogical Society (MCGS). Ann Vojta Cramer is of 100% Czech heritage. She has worked on the Czech genealogy of her four grandparents and is familiar with the Czech Regional archives in Litomerice and Prague. She has a working knowledge of Czech culture, history and language, and has visited the Czech Republic nine times. Don Skarda, a Czech descendant, is the technical resource person for Sokol Milwaukee and other groups.

To find the link to register for the program go to [www.sokolmilwaukee.org](http://www.sokolmilwaukee.org) After, registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the program.

# Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. Pout banquet/meeting

Date: **Sunday August 28, 2022**

Where: **Eddie Whipps Hall**  
Eddie Whipps's Hall, 5073 State Highway 29  
Hwy. 29  
Poland, WI

Time: 10:00am: Mass at St. Lawrence Church, Cty. Rd AB, Stangleville, WI  
11:00 am Social hour  
12pm: Dinner  
12:30 – 1:30 Membership Meeting/ Raffle Drawing/silent auction  
1:30 – 4:30 Dance – Sugarbush Boys – Please wear your Kroj

Menu: Family Style Baked and Broasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Dressing, Gravy, Coleslaw, Kraut, Cranberries, Rolls, Pickles, Assorted Desserts

Cost: Dinner and dance with tip included:  
  
Adults: \$18.00  
  
Children: ( to 8 yrs. old): \$10.00



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 \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 per family in the same household.

#### 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 Pout Banquet

Please return by: **Friday, August 19, 2022**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

# adults attending \_\_\_\_ @ \$18.00 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# children to 8 yrs old) \_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

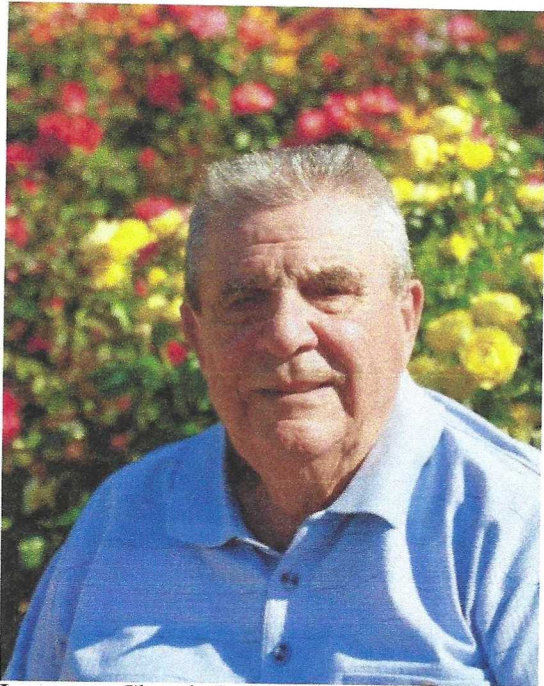
Total amount sent in: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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**





## Raymond Selner Biography by David Selner

Ray was born in 1926 into an immigrant Czech farming family in the western part of Kewaunee County near Stangelville, Wisconsin. He was the grandson of Bohemian immigrants who came to the area in the 1860s. Ray grew up in this village which was heavily populated by other Bohemian immigrants. The Czech language and customs were followed just as in the old country. Thus, Ray grew up speaking and reading in the Czech language which he still does today. These Bohemian immigrants were noted for hard work, strong family values, religious devotion and having numerous celebrations that involved music, dancing, and some liquid refreshments.

The Selners were very proud of their Czech heritage and strongly supported the church and community. Ray was involved in his church community by serving two terms as a church board member for Saint Lawrence Church in Stangelville. He also was treasurer for the church for several years. He served as one of the leaders when the church built its basement meeting center and helped in the improvements to the cemetery. One of the Ray's proudest achievements was getting the Saint

Lawrence Church designated as a Wisconsin and National Historic site in 1989. This process took hundreds of hours of research, filling out applications and attending meetings with state historians. The Saint Lawrence Church became one of the first churches in the state to achieve this recognition.

The Selner family was also proud to be American citizens and made sure that their children learned English and became part of the culture of their new home. Ray's father served in World War I and his brother served in World War II.

Ray graduated from Denmark High School and then started his service to this community and his country. He served in the Army from 1945 to 1946 at the end of World War II as a staff sergeant at Fort McClelland in Anniston, Alabama. After his discharge from the army, he secured a Veterans Administration loan to attend the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Short Course program to learn more about the dairy farming business he intended to operate on his family's home farm. The Selner farm was started by Jacob Selner in 1872 and was to be handed down through the generations just like in the Czech Republic. Ray purchased the farm from his father in 1957, he ran the business for 30 plus years until selling the farm to his son Steven in 1993, who still operates it today. Ray and his wife Marion were married for over 50 years and raised five children that have been proud of their heritage and good citizens as well.

While he operated this farm, he made numerous improvements to the buildings and land. Always one to want to improve the land, he implemented many new conservation practices to improve the land and water quality of his farm. The buildings were remodeled to adopt for new technologies in dairy cattle housing, feeding and milking. Ray believed as his father Stephen before him that it is the duty of each generation to leave something for the next generation that was better than what they had inherited.

Ray also got very involved in serving his local community. He was elected to be a board supervisor for the Town of Franklin. After serving 2 years he was elected as the town clerk for 12 years. Then he served 4 years as Franklin town chairman and was on the Kewaunee County Board for four years. During his tenure many improvements were made to local roads and bridges while holding taxes in line. Ray became involved in the Denmark School Board by serving as a board member for 12 years. For five of those years, he was President of the Denmark School Board. This time frame was one of great change in the school district. The new high school was built under his leadership. The local rural schools owned by the district were sold and the monies received were used to purchase land for future school buildings and to

create an athletic complex to give the students and parents a suitable place to build community pride. Ray enjoyed sports especially baseball and played on several local ball teams and was always known as “Lefty” to many of his teammates.

In his later years Ray continued his pride in his heritage by delving into the local history of the Czech immigrants of this area. He wanted future generations to know about the struggles to develop this community and gain extensive knowledge of the rich Czech heritage of the early immigrants. His willingness to document the history of the region led him to a new literary career. He wrote several books on local history and culture. His first book was a history of Saint Lawrence Church developed for the 125-year anniversary of the church community. Later he published “The Czech’s of Stangelville” a history of the Stangelville area and its Czech immigrants. Another book was a compilation of the historical writings of Father Adalbert Cipin a revered Bohemian immigrant priest who had a profound impact in the cultural development of the Czech immigrant area from Reedsville, WI to Stangelville and up to Casco, WI. Another Selner publication is a colorful booklet explaining the history, artwork, and artifacts of Saint Lawrence Church. Ray created a history book about the “Bridges of the Town of Franklin” which covered the road building history of this area. The most recent book is a Selner family genealogy history that documents the Selner family from the 1500s in Bohemia to their United States descendants today.

In an effort to continue his emphasis on his Czech heritage Ray was a member of the Czechs of Norman and served as president in 1976. This was a very local Czech group that celebrated many Czech customs. Meanwhile there was another organization doing similar things called the Wisconsin Czechs. Ray and Marian along with his in-laws Victor and Mary Blaha were also members of that organization. The Wisconsin Czechs had members from a much larger geographical area and were a much larger organization with the same mission. Ray has served on numerous committees and shared his talents for the Wisconsin Czechs over the years. He is proud to still be a member today and especially appreciates that the mission of this organization is to keep the Czech heritage alive. Ray further promoted the Czech music heritage by being a member of the Czech Choraliers from 1980 until 2015. He initiated an annual Czech Christmas performance of the Choraliers at Denmark High School which has been enjoyed by numerous residents for many years.

Additionally in his retirement Ray has served as a local tour guide for the Kewaunee County Historical Society. Hosting tour groups from all over the United States to visit tourist historical stops in the area. His favorite tour stop was the beautiful historic St. Lawrence Church. His advice is routinely sought on many other local history activities. He was also active in the development of the Kewaunee County historical farm on highway 42, south of Kewaunee. Ray has also allowed the Kewaunee County Historical Society the rights to sell several of his books to raise money for their organization.

In addition, Ray has been also active in local cooperatives and associations. He has serving as delegate to co-op annual meetings for many organizations over the years.

Finally, he has passed on his passion for his heritage and for community involvement to his children who are following in his footsteps by getting involved in community activities, organizations and historical preservation.

**Note:** This is the second in what I hope is a series of articles honoring members of the Wisconsin Czech, Inc. organization who have been instrumental in the development of the organization and promotion of our heritage. If you have someone you would like see honored in this series contact me at [wisconsinczechs@aol.com](mailto:wisconsinczechs@aol.com) . Tom Cook, President Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.

**FREE! FREE! FREE!**

Music, books and articles from members’ estates donations will be free to attending members and guests at the pout’. These collections have been offered to libraries and museums but items that could not supplement those organizations’ collections will be available to you. Some of the offerings are Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. materials: past newsletters, heritage items. Your **donations, appreciated!** will be added to the **scholarship fund**.

You may recall these collections were offered at the masopust and scholarship meetings and I remember that you found some goodies for yourselves. You were so excited! Sally Teresinski, Historian