NEWSLETTER

*Červenec – Srpen 2025*

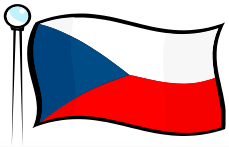
*July – August 2025*

*Volume 47 Issue 3*

**4482 Cook Road**
**Oconto, WI 54153**

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

***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 sponsors 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 parent, 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*



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

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**Send information for the November - December newsletter by October 24, 2025**
**to: franann@bayland.net**
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**Cover photo**: Folk muscians and peforming at the Folk Fair held each year on the first weekend after August 10th. This year it is held from Aug. 8, 2025 to August 10, 2025. Folk groups from all over the Czech Republic and several other countries come to perform. It is held in Domažlice, CZ and is one of the bigger festivals held in the Czech Republic.

## President's Message

Hello Czech Friends,

Happy summer! Today at our board meeting, we discussed the next 2 membership events, plus reviewed our scholarship banquet. We gave 3 scholarships in May to 3 very deserving students. We wish these individuals much success. Always a wonderful event for all of us.

We've had strong attendance at our 2025 programs. Our membership stands at 190. Financially, we are slightly above our 2024 bank balance at this same time. With gratitude, we have been gifted with full payment of our band for Pout by one of our members. We are thankful for this most generous donation. To ensure that raffles may continue at our events, we will be submitting a new application for a WI gaming license. As Pam's board term ends in December, please consider joining the WI Czech Board. We also are in need of a website coordinator and someone to take over the position of cookbook coordinator. Please submit your names and a short bio to Joe Kvitek for the December meeting and election. We appreciate your consideration.

Join us one and all for Pout on August 10th with the Jerry Voelker Band and our Christmas Party featuring Emily Sculliuffo playing the keyboards on December 7th.

With thanks to all of you,

Deb Hansen, President

| **Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. Treasurer's Report as of 5-21-25 by Gail Johanek** | Debit | Credit | Balance |
|---|---|---|---|
| **checking #8803 on 3-19-25** | | | **$ 1,138.29** |
| **Income** | | | |
| Membership | | $ 372.00 | |
| Scholarship Reservations | | $ 1,090.00 | |
| Donations | | $ 85.00 | |
| Sound system donations | | $ 10.00 | |
| 50/50 raffle | | $ 50.00 | |
| Pins sold | | $ 9.00 | |
| **Expenses** | | | |
| Envision (April - May newsletter and Stipen) | $ 499.00 | | |
| Swan Club (scholarship dinner) | $ 1,004.64 | | |
| TRHS - Sister City Fund | $ 250.00 | | |
| Zoom Communications | $ 159.90 | | |
| S. Terensinski (postage/ink) | $ 67.27 | | |
| Returned Check + fee | $ 32.00 | | |
| **Total Checking #8863** | | | **$ 748.48** |
| | | | |
| **Savings #1301 on 3-19-25** | | | **$ 6,220.27** |
| Income | | | |
| Cookbook Sales | | $ 370.00 | |
| Donations (for Pout Band) | | $ 800.00 | |
| Free Will Table | | $ 36.00 | |
| Interest | | $ 4.42 | |
| **Total Savings #1301** | | | **$ 7,430.69** |
| | | | |
| **Certificate of Deposit on 3-19-25** | | | **$ 16,328.77** |
| Interest | | $ 121.90 | |
| **Total CD** | | | **$ 16,450.67** |
| | | | |
| **Grand Total** | | | **$ 24,629.84** |

*Sejde s očí, sejde s mysli.*

Meeting of the eyes, meeting of the minds.

FROM: *Přísloví.* Compiled by Charles Krejci, Cedar Rapids, Ia. 1987, p. 112

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET: MAY 4, 2025
Swan Club at 875 Heritage Rd, De Pere, WI Social Hour 11-12:00 Meal 12:00 Meal Prayer: Tom Cook
General Meeting 12:45, Followed by Scholarship Program
I. Pledge of Allegiance
II. Introduction of Guests: Keith Cramer, Lynn Hlinak, Jack Krubsack, Erv & Trish Psenicka, Katie Wanek, Dennis Schleis, Sandy Robinson, Ryley Robinson, Maddie Smith, Addie Rabas, Lila Rabas, Augustine Rabas.
III. Acknowledgement of Pam Kronforst for chairing this event, great job!
IV. Approval of the minutes from the Masopust event. Motion 1 Jeff Rabas, seconded by Gail Johanek; motion passed.
V. Reports
A. Gail stated that the Treasurer's Report is as it should be in the newsletter.
B. Pageant Report Susan Krubsack. The next pageant is on June 20th through 21st at 10:00 in Phillips, WI. The queen is crowned in the late afternoon.
C. Website Report Ann Cramer. Always looking to improve it. Ann would like to have help to work with it or someone to take over.
D. Cookbooks/Historian Sally Teresinski: All Scholarship winners will receive 1 year of the newsletter starting January 2026. Board revised postage for cookbooks to Media Rate will be detemined by the weight of mailed cookbooks. Debra Anderson, Archivist, UW-GB says students in Green Bay's Genealogy classes are using Czech archives. We should have her speak to our club sometime.
E. Newsletter Update Tom: July-August Newsletter articles are due by June 27. Newsletters are being digitized into volumes and issues. Missing May 2021 if anyone has this one. Have already done 1979 to 1983 and 2005 up to 2024. Always looking for input to newsletters.
VI. Unfinished Business:
1. The sound system's one channel is not working. Tom will check the cost of getting an additional wireless microphone.
2. Heritage Farm is in transition right now. Jeff Rabas does not think anything will be happening this year. Discovery Wisconsin Farm in Newton was suggested as an event venue. Meals are provided.
VII. New Business: Masopust was great, with bake sale/raffles. An email was sent to the Charitable Gaming at WI gov for a raffle permit. Gail has received those documents.
VIII. Upcoming Czech Events: Pout': August 10, 2025 in Kellnersville. 10 am mass at St. Joseph's in Kellnersville. 11:00 am membership meeting: 12:00 meal: 1:00 to 5:00 the Jerry Voelker band will play. Chairperson Jim Young.
IX. Next Board Meeting: June 21, 2025. Time 9:00 am Place Cup O'Joy/Nicolet Room. X. Adjournment motion made to adjourn, 2 36 nd motion made by Gloria, motion passed.
XI. Scholarship Candidates: Betty Schleis. Betty has 3 out of 4 candidates for scholarships at $750.00. Scholarship Committee: Kathy Kochan, Jeff Rabas, Mary Ann Rabitz, Judy Yanda, Betty Schleis.
A. Claire Carriere was our first recipient from Black River Falls High School. Sponsored by her grandmotherAnn Cramer. She was first in her class of over 130 students. Her major is in Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
B. Kate Ledvina is from Luxemburg-Casco High School. Sponsored by her parents Josh and Jessica Ledvina.Kate came in 2nd in her class of 156 students. She will major in Kinesiology with a minor in Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She wants to become an Occupational Therapist.
C. Gracie Robinson Algoma High School: Sponsored by Jean & Jeff Rabas, grandparents. Gracie will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Majoring in Elementary Education.
Best Wishes to our Scholarship winners
Scholarship Meeting Minutes May, 4 2025 Submitted by Phillis Ripley 5-9-25

2025 Scholarship winners (left to right): Katie Ledvina, Claire Carriere, and Gracie Robinson

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

By Betty Schleis

The Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. Awarded three scholarships of $750.00 each at the dinner meeting on Sunday, May 4, 2025 at the Swan Club in DePere. The three scholarship recipients were: Claire Carriere, Katie Ledvina and Gracie Robinson.

Claire Carriere is from Black River Falls High School. She wants to get a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Her parents are Collin and Amy Carriere. Her sponsor is her maternal grandmother Ann (Vojta) Cramer.

Katie Ledvina is from Luxemburg-Casco High School. She will be attending U.W. Madison. She plans to major in Kinesiology and minor in psychology to earn a bachelor's degree. She will pursue a doctorate in occupational therapy. Her parents are Joshua and Jessica Ledvina. Her parents are also her sponsors.

Gracie Robinson is from Algoma High School. She will be attending U.W. Stevens Point. She plans to get a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and become an elementary school teacher. Her parents are Marty and Jackie Robinson. Her sponsor is her grandfather, Jeff Rabas.

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 members are Kathleen Kochan, Mary Ann Rabitz, Judith Yanda and Betty Schleis, Chairperson. We are grateful that there is adequate funding for the four scholarships. We hope members are generous in the organization's fundraisers so we can continue to award four scholarships each year. We thank you for your generosity. Donations to the scholarship fund are always welcome.

***Cookbooks:*** ***by Sally Teresinski***

***Vařte s námi: Cook with Us and Dobré Chutnán! Good Eating!***

**The red cookbook, completed in 1984. The white, in 1996.**

**The books are companion books; there is no recipe duplication. About 1,100 recipes which are ethnically Czechoslovakian are available in both books. Each has an alphabetical index. Represented are the Czech Republic & Slovakia. Proceeds and donations support the scholarship fund. The books are available at the following businesses:**

**Algoma Motors, Algoma, WI**
**Book Nook, Manitowoc, WI**
**The Czech Connection/J. Vogel@tm.net**
**Kugel's Cheese Mart, Lena, WI**
**NCSM&L, Cedar Rapids, IA**
**Olde World Pastries Plus, Little Suamico, WI**
**LocoWisco@gmail.com**

**To purchase cookbooks by mail, check our website: www.wiczechs.com or contact SallyTeresinski at (920) 582-7836, or by email: sallyteresinski@outlook.com. Each cookbook costs $20.00 plus postage determined by weight for media rate. (Originally 4th class)**

**Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. History, 1978 – by Sally Teresinski**

**Brief summary**

**Incorporated July, 1978. First meeting held on July 22, 1978 at 10 am, in Forestville, WI. Plans to develop chapters did not come to be. The organization evolved into quarterly members' meetings: masopust, scholarship, pout' and Christmas. By-laws were drawn, with a Board of Directors responsible for their welfare.**

**Members activities and participation**

**The Wisconsin Czech Choraliers was organized in the same year, 1978. Since then, a numbers of directors, with members have sung in Czech and English languages at various places: festivals, nursing homes, dedications, and out-of-state trips. The Choraliers have produced three CDs.**

**Quarterly meetings programs: Speakers on many heritage-related topics, music presentations, member's Czechoslovak related experiences, holiday and folklore recognition make up programs.**

**Participation and attendance in the Czech-Slovak Queen Pageant, state contest held in Czechoslovak festival in Phillips, WI. The WI Czechs sponsor contestants. In 2009, our candidate went to Nationals, held in Wilber, NE. This year our candidate took second place as Czech Slovak Princess.**

**Participation and attendance occurred at Český Den, the Czech festival in Hillsboro, WI, occured by selling our cookbooks, with members of dance bands and the Wisconsin Czech Choraliers appearing on stage.**

**Conference participation and attendance at CGSI,Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International meetings in various states. WI Czechs sponsored a CGSI conference in Green Bay, WI in 1994.**

**Attendance and participation at history conferences at the National Czech & Slovak Museum &Library in Cedar Rapids in various years gave members excellent history accounts of our ancestral lands from year one. Members participated in the states' parade at the dedication of the new Museum/Library in 2012.**

**Members participate and attend the the Czech & Kolache Festival at the Kewaunee Heritage Farm, Kewaunee, WI in August each year. Members and area people cook, bake, play, dance, pray, display and speak at the packed-full schedule in recognizing our total ancestry.**

**(continued on page 6)**

**The scholarship program was established in 1984. The proceeds of one cookbook, written in 1984, paid for the first years' scholarships. In 1996 a second cookbook was written, to allow the scholarship program to continue in recognizing young people. A committee each year selects winners from a number of high school graduate applicants.**
**In addition to the cookbooks, members have written produced a coloring book, history books of the Stangelville, WI history and locale, and articles that appeared in various area newspapers.**
**We established a website: www.wiczechs.com**

# Vitejte

Welcome New Member:

Brian Jagodzinski - Kewaunee, WI

# Dekuji mnohokrat

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

In memory of Mary A. Selner $100 by Sally Teresinski
In Memory of Helen Marash $98 by John Marash
Dan Kodish $15 donation to the Scholarship fund

# Books with Czech characters

The Maid and the Socialite by Lynda Drews (the maid is a Czech girl from Cooperstown
Unbreakabe: The Woman who Defied the Nazis in the Worlds Most Dangerous Horse Race by Richard Askwith
Countess Lota Grandisova's 1937 Victory over Nazis Officers in the Velka Paralubicka Steeple Chase at Pardubice, Czechoslovakia
The Lipstick Bureau by Michelle Gable (a novel inspired by true World War ll events

In this Wisconsin Czech, Inc. newsletter and in some of the future issues I would like to introduce you to some magazine, newspaper or recorded events that tell the history of our ancestors and the events and struggles that shaped their transition to life in America. It will also introduce you to some of our local small-town museums that were the repository for some of these materials. Perhaps there will be names and events that you will recognize.

The first of these articles will be: "Life Story of (Jiri) Primcl of Mishicot, Wisconsin translated from American Narodns Kalendar (1922) from the article "Memories of Czech Settlers in America"

While the article is designed to be an introduction to the complete article it will depend on you going to the link at the end for the complete article and local museum source.

**Life Story Of George (Jiří) Princl Of Mishicot, Wisconsin**

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*From Amerikan Národní Kalendář (1922) "Memories of Czech Settlers in America"*

*Translated, with parenthetical comments*, by Kryštof Ořeský in June 2024 (thank you!) Further edits and update by Michael Jindra.*

*Original Czech article discovered and posted on Facebook by Ron Tikalsky in February 2024.*

Pamětí českých osadníků v Americe.

Jiří Princl – In a town called Mishicot in Wisconsin, lives an old compatriot Jiří (George) Princl, about whom our old friend, Mr. A. J. Jedlička writes: Grandfather Princl is a great reader, and a researcher. In his house, you can find plenty of Czech writings, and newspapers, but I also found two lexicons. Grandfather's small striking figure, especially his good-natured face, in which you can see two bright blue sincere eyes, will immediately convince you who you are dealing with.

Grandpa really likes to joke, and sing, because he also has a good voice, and hearing. Personally, I consider it as his greatest gift, and a personal reward for a life that he lived for a favor of good. When I see an old man at this age as physically and mentally fresh, and well preserved, like Grandpa Princl is, I want

to call him like Ponce de Leon said: “Watch It, man, here is the fountain of grateful youth.” No money, neither power nor fame cannot even remotely compensate for this position of a simple peasant from among the people, who look behind him with satisfaction at his work done. However, these meager ranks of those first pioneers of ours here in America and especially here in Czech Wisconsin, among whom the Morana [grim reaper] has been raging badly for the past few years, are thinning out, thinning out fast, but let’s hope firmly that grandfather Jiří Princl, our old writer and philosopher will spend many, many years in health and contentment. His good son Mates Princl with his good wife, even when Jiří Princl is living in “výminek” (a small part of a house, maybe one or two rooms, where mostly old people live, with its own kitchen)* are trying to make his everyday life pleasant from all sides. It for sure does not apply to every old person that lives in a“výminek.”

Grandfather Princl writes here about his life experiences:

I was born in Bohemia (a main part of the present-day Czech Republic)* in Horní Kamenice, which is close to Stankov, in the “okres” (“okres” is similar to county)* Horšův Týn (“okres” Horšův Týn no longer exists, in 1960 “okres” Horšův Týn merged with “okres” Domažlice)*, Plzeň (Pilsen, where Pilsner Beer is from)* district on October 16 1840. My school education was really modest, because my parents had only a small farm, and back then the schools were insufficient. I also could not go to school all the time, only in the winter time it was possible, and there, we were able to study just a little bit, because there was a priest, so only theology was taught, nothing else. After all, the teacher didn’t know much.

In spring 1848, when the corvee was cancelled [unpaid labor serfs owed to the feudal lord; the feudal system was abolished that year], the priest came one day, that we have to go to church on Sunday, because Mr. Karel Havlíček will have a speech there. Havlíček actually came, and in the morning after the first service, the priest, who was a good nationalist, brought Mr. Havlíček in, in front of the altar, and introduced him as a big advocate of the Czech people. Then Mr. Havlíček was speaking. I was too young to remember what he was talking about, but later, all of us, who went to the church that day, were proud that we could h

ear Mr. Havlíček speaking. My father subscribed to Havlíček’s “Slovan”, published in Kutná Hora, from the very beginning. We had many copies of this magazine. When I went to America, I wanted to take them with me, but since I didn’t have enough space, I had to give them to my brother.

In my younger years, I was always eager to see the mother Prague, so in 1852, me and my neighbor decided to walk to Prague. The walk took us a little over two days. I was there over the St. John’s pilgrimage. We stayed in Prague for two days, and I really enjoyed it. I also saw the Emperor Ferdinand the Benevolent (that is how they called him) in the Saint Vitus church in devotion.

When I was 15 years old, I went to a German village to serve. I got 24 gold coins per year. The farm was very large. There were 3 pairs of covers, from spring till harvest, we were still plowing, after harvest, all the way till winter. When I left home, my father bought me two pairs of new shoes, he spent 24 golden coins on them. My parents had to buy the clothes for me using their own money, but when I came back home, I paid the 24 golden coins back to my father.

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Editor note: To complete reading the remainder of the article follow this link: https://mishicotmuseum.com/2024/07/19/life-story-of-george-jiri-princl-of-mishicot-wisconsin/ I will also have several printout of the complete article at the Pout’ meeting. I would like to thank Michael Jindra for bringing this article to my attention. Anyone interested in learning more about the Mishicot Museum can contact Gale Kronforst at 920-676-4097 or Pam Kronforst at 920-639-8795.

# Folk Faire Domažlice, Czech Republic

Some of the folk music performers at a past Folk Faire held in Domažlice, CZ. Some of them can be recognized as having performed in Two Rivers, WI as part of the Sister City, exchange.

Part of the Crowd attending the Folk Fair. One of the larger Pout' celebrations in the Czech Republic. The three day event is a display of Folk Music, traditional dress and food of the region. Participants and visitors come from througout the Czech Republic and Europe.

Right) The traditional Chodsko Pie which this area is well know for. An assembly line of women prepare, decorate them in traditional designs of the area and bake them for the large crowds that attend this event. (It kind of reminds you of all the preparation that went into the Kolaches at the events at the Heritage Farm.)

When we hear the word Pout' we think of our celebration and dance held in August each year. However, the word Pout' simply means pilgrimage or celebration. In reality some Pout' start as early as January. Why do the Wisconsin Czechs celebrate a Pout' in August and what Pout' is it? Could it be that many of the Wisconsin Czechs members originated from the Domažlice or Chodsko area? This is an area that has maintained a strong connection to its past history. Their celebrations maintain traditional dress, music, and food historic to the area.

What are the celebrations the may be the origins of our Pout'? The Folk Farie held about August 10th each year in Domažlice, CZ is a major event in Czech Pout'. Groups come from all over the Czech Republic and other European countries to perform traditional Czech folk songs, music, dance, and food. The St. Lawrence Pilgrimage is also held in conjunction with this event to pay homage to St. Lawrence the Spanish Saint who represents the recovery from fire. This is held in his honor as a result of a promise for the recovery from a fire in June 1863 that destroyed a large portion of Domalize. A pilgrimage leads to St. Lawrence church today that ends in an outdoor mass on Saturday and Sunday

Right) The procession to St. Lawrence church to celebrate mass as part of the events connected to the Folk Fair. Notice the hats worn by the men in the picture. This is the same style depicted on the matching table in Two Rivers, WI along with the American military helmit honoring the connection between the two cities.

# Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. Pout' meeting/Banquet and Dance

DATE: **Sunday August 10, 2025**

WHERE: **K-City Pub and Grill**
1233 Main Street
Kellnersville, WI 54215

TIME:
10:00 – 11:00 Mass at St. Joseph's Kellnersville
11:00 – 12:00 Meeting
12:00 - 1:00 Dinner and Raffle
1:00 – 5:00 Dance – music by The Jerry Voelker Band

MENU: Serving family style broasted chicken, mashed potatoes and stuffing, gravy, rolls,veggies, coleslaw

COST: Dinner and Dance with tip included:
Adults: $25.00 - $5.00 more at the door
Dance only $10.00

Chodsko pies which are part of the traditional Czech faire at the Folk Fair in Domažlice.

***Raffle items welcome – Dress in your Kroi – Reservations are due August 1, 2025***

***Is your Membership current - Check the date after your name on the address label***

*Return this portion* ✂---------- *Return this portion* ----✂----------

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:_____

_____

**Reservation**

**Name:**_____

**Name:** _____**Phone #**_____

**Guests:**_____

_____

# adults 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 Johanek – Treasurer**
**1008 Nicolet Ave.**
**Green Bay, WI 54304**