

**SATURDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT**

**ETHNIC DANCE THEATRE (EDT) COMPANY**

A special performance is being given by the Ethnic Dance Theatre, now in its 24th year. This special group of performers agreed to perform at the 6th Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Conference at a reduced rate. Please give them a hearty welcome as a show of thanks for their generosity. We're sure you'll be pleased by their show.

The Ethnic Dance Theatre (EDT) was formed in 1974 by Jonathan Frey and Donald LaCourse. The two had performed together in the Koleda Folk Ensemble of Seattle and shared a vision of founding a multi-cultural folkdance ensemble in their native Minnesota. Today, EDT is composed of 45 dancers, singers and musicians whose repertoire spans choreographies and music from a stunning Armenian dance suite to an exotic Egyptian women's dance, from a romantic courting dance from Costa Rica to a humorous courting dance from Poland. Traditional performances of the full company run approximately two hours, with choir and orchestra pieces of many cultures interspersed throughout the show.

Aesthetically, EDT strives to be as authentic as possible in the presentation of various dance and musical forms. The company regularly works with native masters who locally, nationally and internationally represent the pinnacle of their craft to learn choreographies and musical styles. Bruce and Ixchell Dimetral-Maerker of the Avaz Folk Ensemble; Rogelio Lopez, artistic director of the Compania Folklorica de la Universidad de Cost Rica; and Tianjiang Cui of the Beijing Dance Academy are some of the artists who have worked with EDT, influencing and adding to the company's performance repertoire.

As live music and vocal accompaniment add authenticity to EDT's staged choreographies, wardrobe also serves to enhance each presentation. EDT's first acquisition was an original set of women's costumes from Bulgaria. Since then, EDT has amassed a stunning collection of over 5,000 pieces from around the world, some 300 of which might be seen in a typical performance. When it is not possible to purchase apparel from the country of origin, EDT adheres to strict principles of authenticity to create costumes here in the Twin Cities. Whenever possible, the raw materials (boots, fabric, jewelry, etc.) are purchased abroad and original models are painstakingly copied to create the reproductions.

EDT's commitment to authenticity reveals the company's deep respect for the cultures represented and yields a performance repertoire that is very sensitive to differences between cultures and their respective dance and musical forms. The company's artistic excellence has been recognized and applauded at venues throughout the region. The company is annually presented at O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, St. Paul, in addition to concert halls throughout the Midwest.

Besides the performance at the CGSI Conference the EDT can be seen on October 23 at a full-company performance at 7 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul and its annual spring series in April at the E.M. Pearson Theater at Concordia College in St. Paul. The company will wind up its season with its second European tour as the only American company to perform at the Festival Folklorique des Pyrenees in Oloron Sainte Marie, France. Specific dates are to be set.

The EDT is based in the Latvian House, 2337 Central Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

**Leo Baca**, has been documenting the arrival of Czech immigrants to America and has conducted Czech genealogical research for twenty some years. He has published six volumes of the book, Czech Immigration Passenger Lists for the ports of Galveston, New Orleans, and New York. He has spoken at the 1991 and 1995 CGSI conferences and in many localities in his native state of Texas. He is a fourth generation Czech Texan.

**Joel Blahnik**, is co-founder of Czech Music Alliance and Alliance Publications, Inc. He is an internationally recognized composer/conductor, and travels to the Czech Republic frequently, conducting, recording and teaching in various cities. Joel comes from a long line of musicians in the Blahnik family who were involved in brass bands. He has participated in CGSI's 1991, 1994 and 1995 Conferences. He also participates in various other ethnic and musical events.

**Kathy Foster**, is Research and Membership Director of the Czechoslovakian Collectors Guild International (CCGI) in Kansas City, MO. She is a collector of Czechoslovakian (Bohemian) decorative arts of the period 1900-1938 and is a writer for the CCGI newsletter. Her first article for the newsletter was entitled, "A Mystery to Be Solved: The Glassmaking Industry in Czechoslovakia."

**Duncan Gardiner, PhD., C.G.** has been a certified genealogist since 1991 and has made ten research trips to the Czech and Slovak Republics where he has researched over 250 ancestries. He is proficient in Russian, Czech, Slovak, German and reads Polish, Latin and Hungarian. He is editor for Rocenka, Yearbook of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International and author of German Towns in Slovakia and Upper Hungary: A Genealogical Gazetteer.

**Karen Hobbs**, is a researcher in Austrian Military History in an effort to document the life of an Austrian foot soldier and the impact of military service and military action on peasant populations in Bohemia. She also has done translation projects from German to English, including history of place names in Mies (Stribro) County, Bohemia. Regular contributor of articles on Sudeten culture to the German-Bohemian Heritage Society.

**Joe Hornack**, is the founder and director of the Slovakia - Surname Location Reference Project (SLRP). Developed a computer database from submitter known relations to North America, from Slovakia. Published a series of articles about "historic counties of old" in Slovakia, familiar counties known to the early immigrants. Speaker on Slovak genealogy in Ohio, Pennsylvania and neighboring states. Also active in Cleveland - Bratislava Sister City.

**Miroslav Koudelka**, of Olomouc, Czech Republic has been a professional genealogist since 1993 when he undertook the job of translating the History of Czechs in America written by Dr. Jan Habenicht for CGSI. He has done archival and village research for many individuals from the United States, Canada, Netherlands, Israel and Germany. He has written a number of articles for the Nase rodina and was a speaker at the 1995 Conference.

**Edward Langer**, is an avid genealogist with emphasis on emigration of German-Bohemians from the Lanskroun area of Bohemia. He has been researching local history and genealogy for over 20 years. His article on emigration from Lanskroun has been published in four different publications, including the Rocenka. He spoke on emigration at the 1996 FEEFHS Convention and also in Milwaukee. He is proficient in the German language.

**Daniela Sipkova Mahoney**, was born in Prague and has established many interests and business dealings while living in the U.S.A. She is an artist that designs Czech, Slovak and Ukrainian Easter Eggs for Easter and Christmas. She has experience as an interpreter, tour guide, and product demonstrator. Currently she is involved in the production of Czech children's books containing folk dress. She is fluent in German and Czech, and knowledgeable in Russian.

**Ken Meter**, has been an independent journalist, writer, policy analyst and educator since 1972. He is co-author of the Border People, the first published account of German-Bohemian emigration to America (1992). This was published in article for the CGSI's Rocenka. He has had first hand genealogical and historical research in the Czech Republic (Plzen and Prague archives); as well as field work in Western Bohemia and Germany.

**Chris Miksanek**, is the computer consultant for both the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l and the Czech and Slovak American Genealogy Society of Illinois. He has presented Czech and Slovak computing topics at CGSI's last three conferences. He has authored several articles on Eastern European computer genealogy topics and has developed several computer programs for both MacIntosh and IBM computer genealogists including CZECHitOut! a CZ-ENG dictionary.

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

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**Joan McGuire Mohr**, received her Master's degree from the University of San Diego and is a Doctoral candidate in History at the University of Pittsburgh. Her specialty is United States Immigration History with an emphasis on the Czechs and Slovaks. She is an author on the Odyssey of the Czecho-Slovak Legion in Siberia, 1918-20, and on the immigration patterns of the Plzen/Rokycany families who settled in Western Pennsylvania from 1870 to World War I.

**Wes Nedblake**, is president and founder of the Czechoslovakian Collectors Guild International of Kansas City, Missouri. He is owner of Parkway Galleries, Ltd. and is the Nation's Top Collector/Buyer of Loetz and other Czechoslovakian Glass. He along with Kathy Foster have written articles for their CCGI newsletter, including one on Austrian born artist, glassmaker, sculptor, ceramicist, and educator Powolny called "Michael Powolny: His Life and Art."

**Bob Paulson**, has spent 18 years researching German-Bohemian Immigration History and has traveled to his ancestral Bohemian homeland 15 times. He is founder of the German-Bohemian Heritage Society located in New Ulm, MN. He is compiling German-Bohemian surnames for the GBHS. Bob is co-author of *Border People* and *German-Bohemians: The Quiet Immigrants*. He has organized and led genealogical tours to Bohemia. Presenter at three past conferences.

**Steve Potach**, is an enthusiast of Czech history and culture, and has been researching his family history for over 20 years. He received a B.A. in history from the University of Minnesota and has been a speaker on historical topics at CGSI meetings and conferences and a contributor to the *Nase rodina*. His undergraduate study, "The Patachs of South Omaha: Two Generations of a Bohemian-American Family" was a 1976 winner of the Ida B. Davis Ethnic Heritage Award.

**Jim Sazevich**, is an independent historian, researcher and tour guide. He has done extensive research on the Bohemian Settlement of St. Paul. He also lectures on Czech, Slovak, German-Bohemian and Belorussian topics. He conducts tours of ethnic neighborhoods, notably St. Paul, New Prague, and Spillville, Iowa. Another of Jim's interests lies in researching Twin Cities buildings, hence the nickname "House Detective". Jim can be found in public-record offices.

**Anita Smisek**, entered the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters in 1960, receiving her B.A. from Rosary College in 1964. She completed a Master's Degree from the University of Minnesota which started her interest in research in Czech Christmas music. Collecting and performing Czech folksongs has become her favorite avocation. She is the co-founder of the Czech Music Alliance and Alliance Publications. She has performed in the Czech Republic as well as the U.S.

**James Warren**, has sixteen years of research and lecturing experience, seven of those as a full time professional. He is a Director of the Federation of Genealogical Societies for 1995-97. Jim serves on the Association of Professional Genealogists Board of Trustees. He is a past president of the MN Genealogical Society. He has authored books, researched, taught classes and lectured extensively at local, regional and national levels. Leads trips to research centers.

**Paula Stuart Warren, CGRS**, has eighteen years research and lecturing experience, fourteen of those years as a full-time professional. In 1988, she earned her national certification from the Board for Certification of Genealogists, and renewed in 1993 as a Certified Genealogical Record Specialist (CGRS). The author of several booklets and articles on genealogical research, Paula's "Research in Minnesota" was published in 1992 as a NGS Special Publication.

**Joel Wurl** is curator and assistant director of the Immigration History Research Center. He is a co-author of *The Immigration History Research Center: A Guide to Its Holdings* and has written related articles for a number of publications. He has been curator for the IHRC since September 1985, previously having served as University Archivist at the University of Toledo. He spoke at the 1991 CGSI conference and at the 1996 FEEFHS Convention, both in the Twin Cities.