

# Miss Czech-Slovak US Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2013

Vol. 3 Issue 2

## *From the Queen!* *Anna Hand* *2013 Miss Czech-Slovak US*

These last few months have been a whirlwind for me as Miss Czech/Slovak U.S.! I still can't believe that it has already been four months since I was crowned! Less than a week after the pageant, I made my first appearance as Miss Czech/Slovak U.S. I visited the Czech Center Museum in Houston, Texas. It was beautiful and the director of the museum was kind enough to give me a wonderful tour.

Just a week later, I was able to ride in the Cowtown Day Parade in my hometown of Ellsworth, Ks. It was an honor for me to bring this title back home!

Labor Day, I participated in the Labor Day parade in Hoisington, Kansas. This is a great parade that attracts many people from across the state. I was able to talk to many people, including Kansas Senator, Jerry Moran, about the pageant and the Czech and Slovak Cultures across the U.S.

In September, I also made the journey to Denver, Colorado to attend the Second Annual European Festival in Littleton. This festival may be brand new but it seemed like such a success! I was also asked to speak at the first Miss EuroFest Beauty Pageant. That weekend I also discovered a great little Czech restaurant in Denver called Sobo151. If you ever get the chance I definitely encourage you to go! I ordered the Schnitzel a Brambora as well as the Strudel, and I give it my stamp of approval! October 5<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Czech and Slovak Street festival at the Bohemian National Hall in New York City. Here, I spoke with many Czechs and Slovaks that have come to the U.S. from Europe. They have such an active Czech and Slovak Community! I also met with the Czech Ambassador to the U.S., Petr Gandalovic, and the Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations from the Czech Republic, Edita Hrdá.

This was my first time to New York City, so my mother and I made the most of it! We went shopping on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, walking in Central Park, and ate hot dogs off of a street vendor. However, my favorite cliché activity was going to the Broadway musical, Newsies, and afterwards, I even got to meet the cast! But, it was here I realized that it really is a small world. During intermission, I was speaking with a woman in the row behind me who had asked why I was in New York. It turns out, she is from near Montgomery, MN (where the Miss Czech/Slovak Minnesota pageant is held) and had actually seen pictures of Brittany Smisek in her local newspaper!

November was a pretty quiet month for me, but I still made it to one of my favorite festivals in Munden, Kansas! I have been to this festival for the past three years and it is definitely lots of fun (and the food is amazing!)

I will be wrapping out the year with the FrostFest Christmas parade in Hays, Kansas where I am a sophomore in college. I will also be attending the Christmas festival in Wilber, Ne.

**I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Great New Year and thank you for your support!**



2013 Court Left to Right:  
Danielle Patzel: 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up  
Anna Hand: Queen  
Brittney Smisek: 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up



Alumni Association Founded in 2011  
Wilber, Nebraska

785-317-5010

[www.facebook.com/MissCzechSlovakUS](http://www.facebook.com/MissCzechSlovakUS)

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## Pageant Memory Moment!



A highlight from the pageant weekend is riding the parade – do you remember your pageant parade moment? Send an email to the pageant to share!



*Traditional eggs - Egg ornaments made by workshop participants at the Victoria Czech Heritage Society in Victoria, TX using the traditional color-resist method with hot beeswax, candle flame and kistka (drawing tool).*

*Teresa Mahoney was crowned the 2008 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up at the Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant. Teresa represented Oregon and she is the daughter of Daniela Mahoney, both continue to preserve our wonderful culture. Here is her mother's story....*

### **Czech Egg Artist & Cultural Educator Celebrates 30 Years**

It's been a busy season for Czech folk-art preservation this year! 2013 marks Daniela Mahoney's (my mom's) 30th anniversary as an egg artist and cultural educator. And I couldn't be more proud of the work she does! (See video I produced for her [here](#)).

This year, she traveled across the country to teach [cultural weekends](#) (a concept she recently developed) where organizations can invite her to give lectures, art demonstrations and teach hands-on cultural crafts. Participants can experience everything from various methods of Czech egg decorating to Slovakian wheat weaving. It's all very hands on, and most all, very fun!

In 2013 alone, she's taught cultural weekends at T. G. Masaryk Czech school (Chicago, IL) the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (Cedar Rapids, IA) and the Victoria Mall on behalf of the The Victoria County Czech Heritage Society (Victoria, Texas).

In addition, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library recently included her in their oral histories collection, a recorded interview that tells the story of how she transitioned from the Communist Czech Republic to Germany, and finally to the US. (see [here](#)).

By day, she's a social worker living in Oregon, but her true passion still remains: to preserve and promote the Czech and Slovak heritage. Here's to many more years of spreading tradition!

To try some heritage exploration at home, Daniela has a line of [activity books](#) that encourage educational cultural entertainment. For updates on Daniela's work and travels, please follow her Facebook [artist page](#) or "Czech" out her new website at [danielam.com!](#)

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## Time to Celebrate! Slavnosti!

Do you have life event that we can celebrate? If so email us at [missczechslovakus@gmail.com](mailto:missczechslovakus@gmail.com) and the entire alumni association will celebrate with you in an upcoming newsletter:

*Congratulations to Debbie Jindra-Kozłowski, 2010 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up, on her wedding to Seth Kozłowski.*

*Sandy Ptak-Carey, 2008 Miss Czech-Slovak US married Marcus Carey on September 27, 2013*

Erin Tycz- Sedleck, 2004 Miss Czech-Slovak US, welcomed George Jon Sedlacek on 9/6/2013 6lbs. 8 oz. This is Erin's 2<sup>nd</sup> baby!

Brandy Beekley-Vandewalle, Nebraska 1999/2000 welcomed baby Merideth Jane on December 1 weighing 7 lb. 9 oz. Merideth joins big sister McKenzie.



Thank you to all who assisted with the newsletter!  
MaryElizabeth Lackey

Want to be part of the  
newsletter!

No Problem – contact the  
pageant with ideas and  
updates on Slovak and Czech  
events!

Next Newsletter, April 2014

## New Jobs!

Congratulations to Marissa Cada, Minnesota, started a new job at Kenneth Cole

Liz Klasek – Brown, Missouri, has started her own design shop and can be found at <http://www.etsy.com/shop/ArocGaming>

Aroc Gaming specializes in creating handmade custom gaming accessories to add a special flair to game night.

## 9% to go!

### Missing:

Tiffany Bishop, AL, 1996  
Jordana McBride, CA, 1988  
Brynn Rodemich, CO 2005  
Jennifer L'Huillier, FL, 1991  
Martina Hedvicek, FL, 2001/02  
Debra Karikova, MI 1992  
Jill Chalupsky, MN 1993  
Joleen Sticha, MN 1994  
Elizabeth Springer, MO 2005  
Tami Effle, NE 1993  
Emily Rowley, NE, 1995  
Amie Manas, ND, 1998  
Molly Lipstreu, OH, 1994  
Bev Azlin, OK, 1998  
Sarah Stempien, PA, 1997/99  
Crystal Carda, SD, 1991  
Angie Kostal, SD, 1995  
Nina Dolezal, SD, 2000  
Mary Ann Krupa, SD, 1992/93  
Angie Kreber, SD, 1992/94