

Proclamation / Prohlášení

Whereas, in the spirit of friendship and goodwill, the sister cities of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, USA and Domažlice, Czech Republic agree:

- To encourage a greater understanding of and appreciation for the history that binds our two communities together;
- To support and encourage visits by the citizens of both communities;
- To collaborate by exploring educational, economic, historical, and cultural opportunities.

V duchu přátelství a dobré vůle, se partnerská města Two Rivers, Wisconsin, USA a Domažlice, Česká republika dohodly, že budou:

- podporovat vzájemné porozumění a pochopení dějin, které se týkají obou partnerských měst;
- podporovat a podněcovat návštěvy občanů obou partnerských měst;
- spolupracovat na rozvoji příležitostí v oblasti vzdělávání, ekonomiky, historie a kultury.

Now Therefore, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, USA and Domažlice, Czech Republic do hereby proclaim themselves Sister Cities.

Na tomto základě samostatně prohlašují, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, USA a Domažlice, Česká republika, že jsou Partnerská města.

Sculpture Honors Deep Cultural Connection

Many Two Rivers area residents can trace their lineage back to Domažlice and the surrounding countryside.



Two Rivers/Domažlice Sister Cities
PO Box 214
Two Rivers, WI 54241-0214

The Two Rivers Historical Society/Sister City Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



**Two Rivers
Domažlice
SISTER CITIES**

FRIENDSHIP TABLE DEDICATION

August 6, 2023

**1 p.m. Dedication
Central Park East**

**2 p.m. Concert
Central Park West**

**Václav Fiala
Sculptor**

THE FIALA STORY

Václav Fiala is an award-winning Czech sculptor whose works have drawn praise and commissions across Europe, Australia, and the United States. Fiala studied art in New York City after the Czechs freed themselves of Soviet oppression in 1989. America became a symbol of freedom and opportunity.



Fiala learned of Matt Konop's Czech-American connection in 2015 at a performance in Klatovy, Czech Republic, of "The Accidental Hero," a one-man show about Col. Matt Konop of Two Rivers written and performed by his grandson, Patrick Dewane. The show tells the amazing story of his grandfather's role in the liberation of Domažlice.

Václav Fiala had been commissioned by the city of Domažlice to create a memorial to the American liberation of the city. He indicated he would be honored to create a monument for Two Rivers.

Fiala used Konop's actual World War II helmet as the model for both the Two Rivers Friendship Table and his monument in Domažlice.

Václav Fiala will be in Two Rivers to participate in the installation of the sculpture and to attend the August 6, 2023, dedication of his Friendship Table.

THE SCULPTURE



"Friendship Table"

A sculpture titled "Friendship Table" by renowned Czech artist Václav Fiala, will be dedicated in Two Rivers' Central Park on Sunday, August 6, 2023. The work will share design elements with Fiala's World War II liberation monument in Two Rivers' Sister City, Domažlice, Czech Republic.

The Two Rivers Friendship Table will be circular with a tree growing through an opening in the middle, a symbol of life and ongoing friendship. On the table top will be the two granite hats signifying two friends – one American, one Czech – sitting at a table for a meal and conversation.

THE SISTER CITIES

The Sister City story began with Matt Konop who was born in Stangelville, WI, but lived most of his adult life in Two Rivers. He is the central character in a story that unites the Two Rivers area with the city of Domažlice in the Czech Republic. Col. Konop was selected to head an advance party of soldiers charged with liberating cities and villages in western Czech Republic in May 1945.

Konop soon recognized that one of the towns being liberated by the American forces was Domažlice, his ancestral home from which his family had emigrated in the 1860's. The local citizens welcomed him and raised him on their shoulders as a hero – one of their own who had returned to liberate them.



Because of the Konop family's historical ties to the Czech area, the city of Domažlice asked the city of Two Rivers to become official Sister Cities in 2017. Adult and student delegations have forged strong friendships with both cities, including six adult and student cultural exchanges.