

MOST THE BRIDGE

News of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

NATIONAL
CZECH &
SLOVAK
MUSEUM &
LIBRARY

Volume 16, Number 2 -- Fall 2006

Gift Provides Expanded Presence In Czech Village

This August the museum and library purchased the only original single family home still existing on 16th Avenue in Czech Village. Ernie Buresh, long-time friend of the museum, gave a gift in honor of his mother to enable the NCSML to purchase the building at 77 16th Avenue SW next door to Sykora Bakery.

"I believe in the future of the museum and library and the importance of Czech Village to that future," said Buresh as he made the gift. "I am thrilled to support the expansion of the museum and especially to do it in honor of my mother." In recognition of the Buresh gift, the building will be called the Babi Buresh Center.

Included in the gift is the pledge to renovate the 111 year-old home. Work is underway on the exterior to replace windows, siding and porch posts, add insulation, plus painting and decorating.



Babi Buresh Center in Czech Village

The exterior work is being aided by a grant from the City of Cedar Rapids through the Czech Village Façade Renovation Program. Work on the interior will include upgrading heating and cooling, wall repair, painting and carpeting. Donations of carpet by Gary Skogman of Midwest Home Distributors, furniture from Ed and Joan Hemphill, and paint from Diamond Vogel and Klinger Paint Co. will help finish the interior.

It appears from records that the original two-story frame home was built by Jacob and Barbara Pizarik in 1895. The abstract of title shows that they borrowed \$300 from Lodge Vaclav No. 4 of Ceska Slovanska Bratska Podporujici Jednota (C.S.B.P.J.) as a real estate mortgage. In 1945 Leonard J. Melichar opened a barber shop in the front of the house and since that time, some form of retail business has occupied that space, along with living quarters behind and upstairs.

Over the years the home was enlarged to reach 1,650 sq. ft., plus a garage. The museum and library is in discussions with the Cedar Rapids Convention and Visitors Bureau to house a Cedar Rapids Visitor Information Center in the front of the house. In addition, plans include an office, meeting rooms and a guest apartment, plus storage.

Works by Warhol Opens November 3rd

Works by Warhol from the Cochran Collection features two dozen original large prints created from 1974 to 1987, including a rare set of his silkscreen series "Cowboys and Indians." Other



John Wayne Silkscreen 1986

pieces in the exhibit include iconographic images of Mick Jagger, Mickey Mouse, and the Moon Walk of astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

Born in 1928 as Andrew

Warhola in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Andy Warhol's art built upon the folk

tradition, undoubtedly influenced by his folk artist mother, of exploring the ordinary, of finding and redefining images found around us everyday. In so doing he came to dominate a wild and popular movement known as Pop Art, became a celebrity of the highest order, and created some of the most indelible images of the second half of the 20th century.

Andy Warhol was the youngest of three brothers born to Ondrej and Julia (Zavacky) Warhola. Andy's father left the village of Mikova in an isolated part of the eastern Carpathian Mountains in what is now northeastern Slovakia and came to the United States in 1913. His

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Museum Store Now Online

The NCSML Museum Store is now available on the World Wide Web!

Over 200 selections from our unique museum merchandise can be viewed in color and ordered directly via the internet. Just click on the Museum Store on the NCSML web site www.NCSML.org. You can also reach the Museum Store directly via these addresses:

www.czechgifts.net, www.czechgifts.org,
www.slovakgifts.com,
www.slovakgifts.net, and
www.slovakgifts.org



National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

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The NCSML is funded in part by a grant from the Cultural Enrichment Partnership Program administered by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

As leaves float past my window, I am reminded that the year is waning and I should take this opportunity to tell you about the wonderful things that are happening. During the summer, work was completed on the refurbishing of the streetscape in Czech Village. New streetlights, benches, plantings, sidewalks and entry pillars give a fresh, colorful visage to our venerable neighborhood. This investment by the City of Cedar Rapids catalyzed a whole new atmosphere of optimism; work on the exterior of several businesses is started, and new ones are opened. We are excited to be right in the middle of it! The Babi Buresh Center is located almost in the center of the street, and, with its exterior renovation, will be a visible magnet for traffic in the village. We are completing negotiations with the Cedar Rapids Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and, pending funding, will house a new visitor's welcome center, providing information on Czech Village and the NCSML, as well as on all visitor sites and amenities in the area. This wouldn't have happened without the vision of our great friend Ernie Buresh, who foresaw the need for such a site and didn't hesitate to move ahead when the perfect building became available.

Progress is being made on the strategic plan. The board of directors contracted for an analysis of the economic feasibility, market, and space requirements for our expansion project. We are very aware of the need to do our homework before finalizing the scope of our building project, carefully assessing the financial implications before progressing to the next steps. Again, the investment in the future by two of our long-time supporters, Ray and Rod Jiruska, made it possible to initiate early planning on the way to a capital campaign.

Partnerships with individuals and organizations like the ones above are a hallmark of this year. The stories in this issue highlight many more, from foundations and government agencies that give critical mission-driven project support to individuals and businesses that believe in our mission and provide special sponsorships. Let me mention just three more. Doug Alberhasky's family moved to Johnson County from

Czechoslovakia in 1861. He is the seventh generation in Iowa and third generation to manage John's Grocery, an Iowa City icon for University of Iowa students and alums. Known as the "Bier Guy," Doug is an expert on imported beers, as well as an excellent retailer and marketer whose enthusiastic involvement in *BrewNost* has been critical to its success.

Partners can provide many kinds of expertise. When we decided to do an exhibit of textiles, we immediately thought of producing our own needlework patterns and having needlework demonstrators. But how to do this? Two master embroiderers, Sally Olsen and Robin Rossignol, came to our rescue and brought along their embroiderer's guilds with extraordinary results - five new needlework patterns inspired by our own collection and 26 consecutive Saturdays when members of the guilds were on hand to interact with and inspire visitors. This added immeasurable value to the exhibit experience.

Staff can be partners, too. A major milestone was achieved on September 26 as we mailed our completed Self-Study to the American Association of Museums on our way to museum accreditation. The result of eight months of intense work, it was a collaborative effort of several staff members who took on extra work on top of their regular duties. The next step in the process is review by AAM staff and accreditation committee, followed by a peer review visit next year.

There are so many more stories that could be told, so many people and organizations that make a difference each and every day. This museum and library is blessed to have a community of members and friends who assure we stay solvent, alive and moving forward. We will be pushing now through the end of the year to balance the 2006 budget. When you are contacted for an end-of-the-year gift, please remember that the support of many makes it possible for us to flourish.

Best wishes and thank you!

Ambassador Kolář to Address Annual Fall Dinner

His Excellency Petr Kolář, ambassador from the Czech Republic to the United States, will be the keynote speaker at the twelfth annual fall dinner on Thursday, November 2, 2006. Members and friends will enjoy a festive evening beginning with a wine and cheese reception at the museum and library where a ribbon cutting will open the new exhibition *Works by Warhol From the Cochran Collection*. Dinner will follow at the Cedar Rapids Marriott. Ambassador Kolář will be



Ambassador and Mrs. Petr Kolář and son Adam.

accompanied by his wife Jaroslava, Press Secretary Daniel Novy, and Chicago Consul General Marek Skolil. This will be the first visit of the ambassador to the NCSML since he assumed his position in September 2005. Sponsors of the dinner are Jim and Julie Sattler, reception, Bradley & Riley PC, and special guests, Bankers Trust. Leo and Irma Modracek are the honorary chairs of the fall dinner this year.

Upcoming Exhibits

Two exhibits are in preparation for 2007. *Puppets!* opens April 12 through September 29. Puppet theatre has long been a form of artistic expression in the Czech and Slovak lands. It was used during the 19th century to make subtle political statements, and remains popular today to recreate favorite folk tales. Czech puppet carvers and performers are

known as the best in the world. *Puppets!* will feature a variety of old and new hand puppets, finger puppets, marionettes, puppet theatre advertising, and scenery, plus an interactive theatre.

A landmark exhibition is in development, titled *1968*, to open in November 2007. The 40th anniversary of Prague Spring and the Warsaw Pact invasion provides a

fitting time to examine the tumultuous events of 1968 in Czechoslovakia set in the context of world-wide turmoil. Curator Edie Blanchard is seeking artifacts and documents from that time for loan for the exhibit. If you have anything that might be of interest, contact her at 319-362-8500 or eblanchard@NCSML.org.

Works by Warhol, continued from page 1.

mother was forced to wait until 1921 to join him, in the interim seeing her village ravaged by WWI.

His mother had a profound effect on Andy. Folk art was a deeply rooted part of how she expressed herself. During the 1930s, Mrs. Warhola supplemented the family income by making fanciful bouquets out of empty tin cans and crepe paper. After removing the lid, she cut the sides of the can into linear patterns that could be bent into stem-like shapes. It is not difficult to connect her use of common food tins as objects of art and Andy's later use of Campbell's Soup cans as compelling artistic images.

Devoutly Catholic, Mrs. Warhola, who always wore her babushka, took Andy with her each week to mass at St. John Chrysostom Church in Pittsburgh. (He diligently attended mass his entire adult

life.) The wall behind the altar of St. John Chrysostom is covered by a series of icon paintings. From a distance they look remarkably similar, but on closer inspection they are all different. Andy spent hours and hours of his young life looking at this wall. The use of repeating images with subtle differences became a hallmark of Warhol's work, most famously portrayed through his many Marilyn Monroe portraits.

The NCSML exhibit is especially fortunate to feature a complete set of Warhol's series "Cowboys and Indians" (1986). Though not as well known as his other work, these prints are significant in the illumination of America's collective mythicizing of the West. The exhibit closes March 11, 2007.

WORKS BY WARHOL

FROM THE COCHRAN COLLECTION

PROGRAMS

Guided Gallery Tours will be featured during the run of the Warhol exhibit: Nov. 4, Nov. 30, Dec. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 13, Jan. 18, Feb. 10, Feb. 15, Mar. 1, and Mar. 10. All are at 2 p.m. except Jan. 13 and Feb. 10, which are at 1 p.m. Gallery tours are free for members and are included with admission.

On Jan. 27, 2007 a **Life Long Learning Lecture** will be presented by University of Iowa art history professor Craig Adcock "Andy Warhol: Artist of the Century." WFLA Heritage Hall. 2:00 p.m. Free.

NCSML Receives Archival Records of Czech Freethinking School in Chicago

The NCSML recently acquired the organizational records of the Jan Neruda Czech Freethinking School, which was located in Chicago's West Side neighborhood of South Lawndale. Included in the collection are minutes books, a dues book, a minutes book for the Teen Club and a program celebrating the 30th anniversary of the school. Of special interest are construction contracts and lien waivers relating to the construction of the school building from 1912 to 1913.

Upon reaching America, many Czech immigrants chose not to affiliate with the Catholic Church, which they associated with the oppressive Austro-Hungarian Empire. Instead, they opted to join Czech freethought organizations that were established in many Czech communities throughout America

(freethought is the philosophy that man is in control of his destiny, thus denying there is divine intervention in life). The Jan Neruda School was one of several Czech language schools organized by the Czech freethought community in the Chicago area.

While providing rooms for Czech language classes for children of Czech immigrants, the school also rented out meeting space to other Czech organizations and fraternal lodges. The rental income was used to cover utility and maintenance costs. Over the course of several decades, many hundreds of children received Czech language education at the Jan Neruda School until the school building was sold in the 1980s. The proceeds of the sale now support the wages of teachers of the adult Czech classes at the T.G.

Masaryk Czech Freethinking School in Cicero, Illinois.

The donors of the materials, John and Elsie Loukota Scheffel of Berwyn, Illinois, were also members of the Jan Neruda School. Elsie has been involved with the school since she started taking Czech classes at age seven. She graduated from the school at around age twelve, joined the school's youth club (serving as secretary) and later became part of the patronát or board that oversaw the operations of the school. John was a member of the youth club, serving as treasurer. Years later, after the school building was sold, Elsie saved the record books and documents from being thrown out in the trash. Thanks to her foresight, she was able to ensure this unique part of Czech-American history has been preserved.

Deposit Your Family Histories at the NCSML

It should come as no surprise that many visitors to the NCSML enjoy reminiscing about their Czech or Slovak heritage. Inevitably, their thoughts drift to those family members who left their homes in the Czech and Slovak lands to make a new life in America. Unfortunately, we hear of many instances where the family connections between the Old and New Worlds have been lost over the course of time. Our library use statistics reflect

this interest in family history: a full 40% of the reference questions received by the library are related to family history. In an effort to better serve researchers who seek information about their ancestors from the Czech and Slovak lands, we encourage you to deposit a copy of your family history at the NCSML. Family histories published in book form are cataloged and entered into our online catalog,

Komensky, while genealogical charts are indexed and kept in a vertical file. Also welcomed are local histories, either of towns or regions in the Czech Republic or Slovakia, or of communities in America that were settled by immigrants from the Czech and Slovak lands. Contact Dave Muhlena at 319-362-8500 or dmuhlena@NCSML.org for more information about depositing your family history in the library.

What's New in the Collection Center

This summer intern Heather Coffman, a senior from Graceland University, assisted NCSML Collection Manager, Stefanie Kohn in completing the rolled textile project. Funded by a Linn County Grant, large textiles were taken from boxed storage and photographed, evaluated and inventoried, and rolled on large archival tubes for storage. Previously these large textiles such as quilts, ritual cloths, and tablecloths were stored folded in archival boxes. While this is acceptable for museum storage, creases where the items were folded can produce long term wear and tear on these artifacts. In addition, as our collection



Rolled Textiles in the Collection Center.

grows, it becomes increasingly necessary for the collections to be stored in more compact space.

The NCSML also received a grant from the Historic Resources Development Program from the State Historical Society of Iowa for \$5,564 to improve collections care. This involves updating the current heating and cooling system in the Collections Center to regulate humidity. Museum artifacts have specific humidity requirements that are more strict than our own personal homes and offices. If not kept at a constant humidity level, fluctuations can cause objects such as textiles to expand and contract, copper to corrode, and wood to warp or crack.

Svatý Mikuláš Day Celebration December 2

Coloring Contest Added

U.S. Bank is partnering with the NCSML for Svätý Mikuláš Day again this year. The day will bring family fun, music, a puppet show, traditional holiday craft activities and a coloring contest. Sv. Mikuláš, the Angel, and the Devil will be here of course!

The day begins at 9:30 a.m. with the arrival of Sv. Mikuláš, the Angel, and the Devil. Youngsters have the opportunity to meet Sv. Mikuláš while the Angel checks her list of naughty or nice children. Most children get a treat; but, some might find themselves receiving a friendly reminder to be good so Baby Jesus can bring them presents on Christmas Eve.

At 10:00 a.m., the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company presents, "The Dragon's Three Golden Hairs," in the WFLA Heritage Hall. This classic European tale of adventure and greed is the story of Michael, a young boy who, with the help of a kindly prophetess, saves himself by outsmarting a wicked king and a ferocious beast. This production features five near life size



Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company presents "The Dragon's Three Golden Hairs" on December 2nd.

hand-and-rod puppets, a glorious magenta dragon, and a costumed human in the part of the prophetess. It's enhanced with luscious appliquéd and soft-sculpted scenery. Tickets are \$3.00 for adults, and \$4.00 for children (includes materials fee for post-show puppet making workshop). Afterwards, join the puppeteers as they show us how to make some creative and personable puppets and put on a puppet show.

The Czech Heritage Singers return for their annual performance in the Grand Hall at noon. Audience members will be able to

sing-along, and might sneak in a request or two.

Jan will be in the Grand Hall leading make-and-take activities. Children and adults can create traditional Czech and Slovak Christmas decorations for their home and tree from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Museum's Hruska Grand Hall. The Iowa Accordion Club Trio takes the Grand Hall stage at 2:00 p.m. to perform traditional Christmas carols.

Now about that coloring contest... Children under 5, 5 - 9, and 9 - 12 may enter the coloring contest and have a chance to win a \$50.00 savings bond from U.S. Bank AND have their work displayed at the NCSML and in the U.S. Bank branch office in Czech Village. Coloring sheets are available from the Museum from November 1 through Sv. Mikuláš Day. The drawing for the savings bonds will be conducted on Dec. 9 at 11:00 a.m. during the Museum Guild's Cookie Walk.

For more information about Sv. Mikuláš Day, contact Jan Stoffer at Jan@NCSML.org or at (319) 362-8500.

Museum Store Holiday Open House

November 17, 18, & 19, 2006

- Weekend Special:** Buy 3 ornaments on the wall and get 1 ornament from the Christmas tree FREE - no limit.
- Master folk artist, Marj NejdI,** will be available to personalize your ornaments on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 17 & 18. Personalize with the name of the person and the year for just \$1; additional information is \$2. Ornament personalization will also be available on Nov. 24 & 25, and Dec. 2 & 9.
- Book Signing** Saturday, Nov. 18 in Hruska Grand Hall from 10 a.m. - Noon by author Karen Roth. Her book, *Found on 16th Avenue*, is available for sale in the Museum Store.
- Enjoy** hot apple cider and cookies while you shop!

New in the Store: Ceramic Sculpture from South Bohemia

We have a new folk art line in the Museum Store - hand-made ceramic sculpture by Alena and Martin Rabochovi of Trhové Sviny. Each figure is decorated in the characteristic white and earthy red colors beloved in the region. The unique folk art of the Rabochovi's is found in private



Hand-made Bohemian ceramic sculpture for sale in the Museum Store.

collections all over the world. One of their Bethlehem scenes was awarded 3rd prize in the International Creche Festival in Bellingham, Washington.

We have a charming selection of cats, roosters, village women and children, sheep and shepherds, an angel, a horse, and an enchanting Bethlehem scene. Don't hesitate, we won't be able to restock these one-of-a-kind folk art figures very soon. Call the Museum Store at (319) 362-8500.

Mark Your Calendars Now for the 2008 Czech and Slovak History and Culture Conference

The NCSML continues with the Czech and Slovak History and Culture Conference's series *Twentieth Century in Retrospect* on **March 7 - 8, 2008**. Remembering the 40th anniversary of the Prague Spring, the conference will re-visit the period of 1967 - 1980, taking a close look at Prague Spring, the Warsaw Pact invasion, Charter 77, and the events that ultimately led to the Velvet Revolution. As in previous conferences, the Museum will invite and host academic experts and first-hand witnesses of this important historic period. If you are interested in participating in this conference, contact Jan at Jan@NCSML.org or (319) 362-8500.

New Prints Donated to NCSML

This summer the NCSML was the recipient of a set of Marek Hofman prints, donated by Patrick Muller. Muller met Hofman while he was studying in Prague and became friends with the artist. Marek Hofman is a student at the Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design in Prague and will graduate with a degree in printmaking in 2007. His prints reflect his interpretation of musical compositions, such as Don Giovanni, and his personal views on life. Watch for Marek Hofman's prints to be featured in an upcoming Laska Gallery exhibition.

NCSML to Document Iowa Czech Communities

Work has begun on a project to identify and document Iowa communities with significant Czech populations. The project will produce permanent original resources documenting Iowa's Czech heritage as it exists and is celebrated today in several Czech communities, and how it changed or evolved in these communities during the 20th century.

The project is partially funded by a grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa through the Historic Resource Development

Program. Sher Jasperse, editor of *Slovo* and professional writer, has been contracted as the project researcher. Over the next year she will research and identify eight communities in Iowa, followed by on-site visits, photography and oral history recordings. These materials will be housed in the NCSML library as primary resource materials for researchers and historians.

It is planned that this project will provide a model for the NCSML to undertake similar documentation projects in other states with significant Czech and Slovak population.

Building Makes Way for Green Space

The building at 1548 A St. SW, owned by the NCSML since June 2003, was demolished in July. In deteriorating condition, the building demolition was supported by a grant from The Hall-Perrine Foundation in Cedar Rapids.

The 130 x 84 ft. lot will be landscaped to provide a green space for Czech Village and museum and library visitors. The site may be a



Demolition of A Street building

possible location of a planned expansion of the museum and library in the future.

Save the Date! We're Moving the National Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance Festival



Dance Festival 2006 Sponsored by Western Fraternal Life Association

The 2007 National Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance

Festival is moving to coincide with the Czech Village Association's Houby Days celebration.

Houby Days is held the weekend after Mother's Day. Next year, it will be **May 18, 19, & 20**. In addition to folk dancing, festival highlights include the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant, guided gallery and neighborhood tours, a lively parade, folk dance workshop and May Pole Dance, live music, and the Museum Guild's fantastic Taste of Czech and Slovak. Don't forget to check out the Houby Contest or sign-up for the Koláče Eating Contest or The Cabbage Roll! Fun for the whole family! For more information, call (319) 362-8500 or visit the museum's web site, www.NCSML.org.

Curriculum Now On The Web Site

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is proud to unveil two curricula on the Museum's web site. *Ma Vlast, My Country: Czechs and Slovaks Here and Abroad* is geared toward elementary students learning about immigration, history, and how Czechs and Slovaks influenced communities within the United States. Using Cedar Rapids, Iowa as a model, the curriculum may be used in any school district. Curriculum for *Works by Warhol: From the Cochran Collection* is also available online. After viewing the exhibition, students are encouraged to create their own piece of Warhol-inspired art and submit it to a juried art show to be exhibited at the NCSML next spring. Both curricula may be found at www.NCSML.org. For more information, contact Jan at Jan@NCSML.org or (319) 362-8500.

Endow Iowa Provides Tax Credits for Donations

NCSML donors who pay Iowa income tax may want to take advantage of Endow Iowa, a unique endowment building program that provides tax credits to donors. Here's how it works. Individuals or businesses who create or give to endowed funds at qualified community foundations, receive Iowa income tax credits in amounts equal to 20% of the gift. Simply put, a \$10,000 gift generates a \$2,000 tax credit for the donor, in addition to the normal state and federal deductions. You can make gifts of cash or appreciated stock. The largest credit you can receive in one year is \$100,000 (meaning a \$500,000 gift). You can also make gifts as small as \$20.

For many years the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has had an agency endowment fund at The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation (GCRCF). Supporters of the NCSML can give directly into this fund and

receive Endow Iowa tax credits and help the NCSML build its endowed funds. While the GCRCF would own the asset, the beneficiary will always be the NCSML. Many other local agencies have been able to benefit from doing this. As someone who knows a bit about museum financing, however, I urge you to please use Endow Iowa gifting to supplement your annual giving. The museum still needs your continued support of its operations.

You can read more about Endow Iowa on the foundation's web site (www.GCRCF.org) or by calling (319) 366-2862.

Dan Baldwin
President/CEO
The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation
200 1st Street SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404
319.366.2862

NCSML Grants Update

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is grateful to be the beneficiary of several generous grants to support mission-driven initiatives. Recent grants include:

- **Iowa Arts Council** - \$1,500 to support "Living with Beauty: Creating and Caring for Embellished Textiles Symposium."
- **Iowa Arts Council** - \$1,000 to support "Public Programs for *Embellished Textiles - Absolutely Art!*"
- **Community Fund of the Greater**

- Cedar Rapids Community Foundation** - \$5,000 to support "Programs in Conjunction with *Embellished Textiles - Absolutely Art!*"
- **GreatAmerica Leasing Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation** - \$20,000 to support the museum's cataloging specialist position.
- **Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs** - \$3,524 to support the National Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance Festival.
- **Historic Resources Development Program** grant from the State

- Historical Society of Iowa for \$5,564 to improve collection care at the NCSML.
- **Iowa Community Cultural Grant** - \$14,000 for "Creating a Permanent Full-Time Cataloging Position at the NCSML."
- **Hall-Perrine Foundation** grant for \$25,000 to demolish the museum's A Street building and create an attractive green space (for possible future expansion)
- **Linn County Historic Preservation** grant of \$4,936 for "Appropriate Storage of Flat and Framed Art at the NCSML."

BrewNost! Guests Make an Impact

September 22nd was the museum's third annual *BrewNost!* at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Four hundred guests sipped international beers and listened to jazz while supporting their favorite national museum.

BrewNost! began as a board initiative in 2004 to introduce an exciting fresh mission-related event, bring a new audience to the museum, and to raise critical operating funds for the NCSML. With the help of John's

Grocery in Iowa City and a host of sponsors (lead sponsor was Alliant Energy in 2006), *BrewNost!* is now one of the hottest events in the area. Proceeds from *BrewNost!* (generated by sponsorships, raffle tickets, event tickets, and a silent auction) now support about 1½ full-time professional staff positions at the museum. The highlight of the evening is the drawing for the trip for two to Prague. This year's winner was Robert Boes of Ely, Iowa. Previous winners were Fred Foy of Arlington Heights, IL (2005) and Nick Abou-Assaly of Cedar Rapids (2004).

It's Holiday Time in the Museum Store!

NEW ORNAMENTS FOR 2006

Shop the Museum Store for the largest selection ever of hand-blown glass Christmas ornaments and tree toppers from the Czech & Slovak Republics. Beautiful balls, icicles, clowns, snowmen, animals in all shapes and sizes, light houses, hot air balloons, bears small and large, clip-on birds and bugs, angels and of course, the famous green pickle to hide in your Christmas tree.

Still available is the Museum Collector Hana ornament for \$48. This sparkling creation is an exact replica of our kroj from the Hana region of Moravia. This one-of-a-kind ornament is 8" high, mouth-blown and hand-decorated, signed, dated and numbered by the artist. Packaged in a presentation box with satin lining. Membership discount does not apply.

WEDDING GIFTS

Do you need a wedding gift? We have a

special box of 12 hand-blown glass ornaments for the bride and groom's first Christmas tree. Each ornament has a special meaning. For example, a clip-on bird means happiness and joy and a church promises God's guidance. \$55.

GARNET JEWELRY

Garnets make wonderful Christmas gifts and will become family heirlooms. Many styles are available in the Museum Store. Please call for selection and pricing or visit our website at www.NCSML.org and click on "store".

BOOKS

Play Mozart, Play by Peter Sis \$16.99 HB (children)

Train of States by Peter Sis \$17.99 HB (children)

Travelers' Tales: Prague and the Czech Republic \$17.95 PB

Our People: Carpatho-Rusyns and their Descendants in North America \$38.00 HB

Historical Atlas of Central Europe
\$45.00 PB

Call Shirley and Pat, your personal shoppers at the Museum Store 319-362-8500. We can ship your purchases anywhere in the USA.

Membership Makes an Excellent Gift!

For those hard-to-buy-for relatives and friends, why not give the gift of an NCSML membership? They will receive *Slovo* and *Most*, free admission and museum store discounts – a year of benefits from one gift. It's easy - call Tara or Carmen at 319-362-8500 and they will take the information and send a special note to your recipient announcing your gift. Perfect for the holidays!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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