



**OST**  
THE BRIDGE

*News of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library*



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## 2004 Is the Year of Music! 30th Anniversary Celebration Announced



Magda and Tony Golobic

It may seem like only yesterday, but the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is 30 years old this year. In recognition of this milestone, an exciting celebration is planned – a *Year of Music*. From Cedar Rapids Czech School children to world-renowned musicians, from chamber music to Roma guitar to polka bands, it will be happening at the NCSML this year.

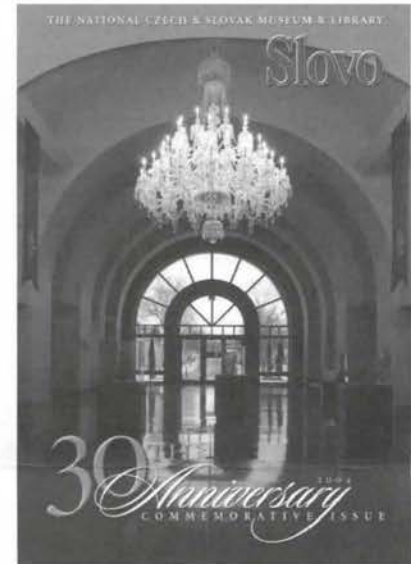
This coincides with the Czech Republic's own 2004 Year of Music and the Slovak Republic's ongoing musical heritage focus.

Board of Directors Vice-Chair Tony Golobic and his wife Magda, through

their company, GreatAmerica Leasing Corporation, have generously agreed to be “presenting sponsors” for the *Year of Music*. Look for the *Year of Music* logo with GreatAmerica on letterhead, banners and other materials for all 2004 events. We thank them for this outstanding support of our programming.

**Major events in the *Year of Music* will include:**

- *Muzika! A Celebration of Czech and Slovak Music* exhibit in the Petrik Gallery
- *Muzika! opening weekend festivities*: a dance with the St. Louis Express Band and a choral concert by the Silesian Choir from Ostrava, Czech Republic
- *UpBeat!* Concert Series featuring bands, ensembles and choirs
- *A Grand Night of Music* Concert Series under the Grand Hall chandelier
- Music theme issue of *Slovo*
- *Motorcoach Trip* to Spillville and Music Man Square, Mason City
- *Hitting the High Notes! Czech and Slovak Music Symposium*
- *National Bohemian, Moravian and Slovak Folk Dance Festival*
- Help blow out the candles on the birthday cake at the *Annual Fall Dinner* and gala closing to the *Year of Music*.



### Commemorative *Slovo* Issue Available

Are you enjoying the special 30th Anniversary *Slovo*? Extra copies of this dazzling, full-color commemorative issue are available in the Museum Store and would make great gifts for family or friends. Price is \$10.00 plus shipping.

See related articles in this issue of *Most* for dates and details, watch your mail for invitations, and check the Web site for further information. Be sure to mark your calendar to attend as many as possible of these festive events throughout the year.

## National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

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Welcome to 2004 – a *Year of Music* celebrating our 30th anniversary. This issue of *Most* describes the special exhibit, events and programs that pack this exciting year. There will be

music filling the air almost every weekend from April through October, as well as at evening concerts and dances. In addition, our dance festival is growing by leaps and bounds. In this, only the third year, we will welcome a dance troupe and band from Moravia, plus artists, artisans, food and drink, for a great festival weekend.

Even though our focus is 2004, I would like to report on the activities of 2003. According to our careful statistical records kept by Patricia Hikiji, 32,748 persons were physically here or reached by the NCSML in 2003, including 1,704 persons whom we met through outside presentations at meetings, programs and the like. This total doesn't begin to include the 92,314 distinct visits to the NCSML Web site throughout the year, resulting in 422,676 hits on NCSML Web pages, plus persons who stay in touch through publications, mailings, and just plain old personal contacts. Outreach was a focus for us as we raised awareness of our history and programs, and we were honored by the State Historical Society of Iowa at that organization's annual award program in May, receiving the Loren Horton Community Education Award. The extent of the communication among the NCSML and its many constituents provides evidence of the continually growing importance and recognition of your NCSML for its work preserving and educating about Czech and Slovak history and culture.

From visitor surveys we know that persons from at least 33 states and five other countries came to the NCSML in 2003, 98 percent of them rating their experience as very good to excellent. We hosted 60 different school tours and fielded

909 visitors to the library. Our two largest events, the History & Culture Conference and the dance festival, both more than doubled attendance over previous years. The Museum Guild and volunteers continued to provide invaluable service – 12,885.75 hours this year that would require more than \$66,000 in compensation at just minimum wage.

It was the many gifts of time, talent and treasure from members, friends and businesses that helped make the year 2003 a success. With generous support in contributions, memorials and sponsorships, we were able to balance the budget, no small feat for a non-profit organization these days. The NCSML is an organization founded on generosity – generosity of spirit and generosity of resources. Thank you to all who supported us this year!

Stay in touch and in tune. See you all on the dance floor in 2004!

Gail Naughton, *President/CEO*  
[gnaughton@NCSML.org](mailto:gnaughton@NCSML.org)

## Mitvalsky Named Board Chair



Frank Mitvalsky of Cedar Rapids was named Chair of the Board of Directors at the January meeting. First vice-chair is Tony Golobic, second

vice-chair is David Kubicek, secretary is Bernard Drahozal, treasurer is Bill Vernon, and past chair is Tim Kintner. New board members elected to three-year terms are Lu Barta Barron, Dyan Smith and Howard J. Wolfe. Four members of the board retired in December: Terry Brosh, Steve Michalicek, Gene Machacek and Sister Mary Lou Podzimek.

# MUZIKA! Offers Unique Experience at the NCSML This Summer

We've lost count of the number of people who have asked when we were going to feature music more prominently, why don't we mention the *Beer Barrel Polka* in the permanent exhibition, or why Czechs and Slovaks are so musical.

*Muzika! A Celebration of Czech and Slovak Music* is finally here to answer all these questions and many others.

The core of the exhibition is a loan of exquisite Czech and Slovak instruments from the National Music Museum at The University of South Dakota, Vermillion. With thousands of instruments in its collection, the National Music Museum owns some of the earliest, best-preserved and historically most important musical instruments in existence today. Their loan to the NCSML includes woodwind and brass instruments from the 16th through 20th centuries.

What is a music exhibition without the sound of music? The exhibit will draw upon the NCSML's vast holdings of recorded music to offer several listening stations where you can hear songs played



on the unique Czech *dudy* and Slovak *fujara*, enjoy a performance by violin virtuoso Jan Kubelik, or hear examples of early religious music, polka, jazz, brass bands or contemporary music.

When you visit, be sure to bring the kids and grandkids! Do you remember experimenting with triangles, tambourines and the glockenspiel in school? Look for our play corner in *Muzika!*, where adults and kids alike can try a variety of modern and traditional rhythm instruments made in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

If we still haven't piqued your interest, consider these questions: Why would the communists have banned a music group in former Czechoslovakia? What is Iowa's connection to the most celebrated Czech composer? Who was Slovakia's most famous composer? What is a schediphon? You must tour the exhibition to find out!

*Muzika!* opens to the public on April 17 and runs through October 17, 2004. Plan to join us for the opening weekend festivities (see below).

## Festive Weekend to Open *Muzika!* Exhibit

*Muzika! A Celebration of Czech and Slovak Music* will open in a whirl of, what else, music! On Friday, April 16, you are invited to a reception from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for the first look at the new exhibit plus a choral selection by the Silesian Choir from Ostrava to whet your interest for their weekend concert. Afterwards, walk (or polka) down the lighted pathway to the Round House for a dance with the St. Louis Czech Express from 7:30-11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 at the door. Food and drink will be available. Casual attire is suggested.

On Sunday afternoon, return to the museum for a full concert of the Silesian Choir in WFLA Heritage Hall at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for members, \$2.00 for youth 5-18 years, and \$8.00 for non-members. Members of the group will be our guests for a week in Cedar Rapids. If you are interested in home hosting, contact Patricia Hikiji at (319) 362-8500.

Opening weekend festivities are sponsored by Hall & Hall Engineers Inc., Brosh Chapel, Cedar Rapids and Solon, and BankIowa.

## Dance Music Available in the Museum Store



The Czech band, *St. Louis Express*, from St. Louis, Missouri will play for your dancing pleasure at the Round House across the street from the museum on Friday, April 16. Their music is available in the Museum Store. *St. Louis Express, From Danube to Mississippi*. CD \$15.00, cassette \$13.00.



The *Mark Vyhldal Orchestra* from Fremont, Nebraska will perform at the street dance on Saturday night, July 17, at the NCSML. For anyone who attended the Folk Dance Festival in 2003, you will remember this great-sounding band playing on the garden stage. *Just Doin' Our Thing*, CD \$19.00, cassette \$13.00. *Old Time Czech Favorites, Volume #1 and #2*. CD \$19.00, cassette \$13.00.

## Motorcoach Trip to Dvořák's Spillville and The Music Man Square

On June 10, 2004, the NCSML will sponsor a motorcoach trip to Dvořák's Spillville and The Music Man Square in Mason City, Iowa. This special day-trip includes:

- Coffee and koláče before touring the Bílý Clock Museum and the Dvořák exhibition
- A visit to the beautiful church where Dvořák performed plus a special concert on the organ
- Lunch in Marjorie's Tea Room
- Tour of Music Man Square and the boyhood home of Meredith Wilson, including a special behind-the-scenes tour with members of the museum staff and board
- Dinner at the Snowden House in Waterloo

The fee for this musical adventure is \$75.00. Limited seating is available. Register today by calling Shirley at (319) 362-8500.



The colorful United Moravian Societies Dancers and Singers, favorites at the 2003 Dance Festival, will be back in 2004!

## Music Experts, Aficionados to Hit High Notes at Summer Symposium



Dr. Michael Beckerman

To celebrate this special *Year of Music*, the NCSML is presenting *Hitting the High Notes! Czech and Slovak Music Symposium* on June 11 & 12.

This outstanding music weekend begins with a motorcoach trip to Dvořák's Spillville and Music Man Square (see adjacent item.)

Leading experts in Czech and Slovak music will present on topics including Dvořák, Janáček, vocal music, unique instruments, folk music, band and recorded music, and more. And you won't want to miss the two outstanding concerts featuring Leonard Reyman's Accordion Club and Trevor Stephenson (see page 5).

The keynote speaker is Dr. Michael Beckerman, professor of music at New York University and the co-founder of the Czechoslovak Music Society. Dr. Beckerman was the Laureate of the Czech Music Council in 2000 and was awarded the Medal of the Dvořák Society in 1991, the Medal of the Martinů Society in 1990, and the Janáček Medal of the Czech Ministry of Culture in 1988. He lectures widely, writes for *The New York Times*, and is regularly featured on *Live from Lincoln Center*.

Czech Music Alliance & Alliance Publications, Inc. are co-sponsors for this event. The symposium convenes at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 11, and includes all meals, plus two special concerts. Watch for the brochure with reservation form in the mail. For more information, call Jan at (319) 362-8500.

## Popular Dance Festival Expands

Mark your calendars and plan your trip to Cedar Rapids for the National Bohemian, Moravian and Slovak Folk Dance Festival, Sunday, July 18. The NCSML is pleased to announce that Western Fraternal Life Association has generously agreed to sponsor this event. Special guests will include Cimbálová muzika

Soláň from the Czech Republic, the Veselica Slovak Folk Ensemble from Chicago, and the United Moravian Society Dancers and Singers from Chicago.

For only \$5.00 adults, \$2.00 children 5-12, and free for children under 4, you can:

- Hear wonderful, festive music
- Learn from talented artisans creating authentic Czech and Slovak folk art
- Meet the Slovak artist *Pipka* and see her newly commissioned work depicting Sv. Mikuláš, the angel and the devil, exclusively designed for the NCSML
- Dance, dance, dance
- Eat good food, koláče and beer!
- Have fun!!!



The popular Mark Vyhldal Orchestra kept dancers on their feet during last year's festival. Mark and his ensemble will be the featured performers at this year's Saturday night Street Dance.

Come the night before and kick up your heels to the highly danceable tunes of Mark Vyhldal's Band. Last year, they delighted the crowd at the festival; this year, they will perform at the Street Dance, Saturday, July 17, 7:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m.!

## Calendar Highlights

**MARCH 20: St. Joseph's Day** at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. The NCSML will host the **3rd Annual National Koláče Bake-Off**. Koláč bakers are invited to submit their entries in the following categories: Open Koláč, Closed Koláč, Specialty Koláč (including the large traditional Czech koláč and koláč with non-traditional fillings). Participants are encouraged to use their own special family recipe. Prizes will be awarded at 3:00 p.m. to first-place winners in each category as selected by a panel of distinguished judges, in addition to a People's Choice Prize. Please enter by March 17. For more information or to register, please call (319) 362-8500 or consult the Web site at [www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org).

From 12:00-2:00 p.m. visitors are invited to sample and rate the entries. Tickets are \$1.00 for five samples or \$0.25 for one sample.

Work off those koláče with a **Walking Tour of Historic Czech Village** at 3:15. Jan Stoffer Tursi will lead a guided hour-long tour of the west side of Czech Village. Tickets are \$4.00 for members, \$5.00 for non-members.

**MAY 9: UpBeat! Concert Series presents Violinist Annette-Barbara Vogel.** Accompanied by Ayako Tsuruta, piano.

2:00 p.m. Heritage Hall. Tickets are \$6.00 for members, \$8.00 for non-members, and \$2.00 for youth ages 5-18.

**MAY 14, 15 & 16: The Czech Village Association's Houby Days Festival.** The NCSML will participate by hosting the following:

- **A Taste of Czech & Slovak.** May 14. 5:00-7:00 p.m. Heritage Hall. Tickets are \$3.00 for 10 samples or \$6.00 for 20. Proceeds benefit the Museum Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.
- **Walking Tour of Historic Czech Village.** May 14. 6:00 p.m. Grand Hall. \$4.00 members, \$5.00 non-members. Advance registration encouraged.
- **May Pole Dances.** May 15. 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. NCSML Garden. Free.
- **27th Annual Houby Days Parade.** Look for the NCSML's 1964 Tatra T-603 and an appearance by the Jawa Motorcycle Club. May 15. 2:00 p.m.
- **UpBeat! Concert Series presents Leonard Reyman's Iowa Accordion Club.** May 15. 3:00 p.m. NCSML Garden. Free.
- **Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant Talent Competition.** May 15. 3:00 p.m. Heritage Hall. Free.
- **Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Pageant Crowning Ceremony.** May 16. 1:30

p.m. NCSML Garden. Free.

- **Parade of Kroje.** May 16. 3:00 p.m. NCSML Garden. Free.

## NCSML to Host Celebration Tour October 10-20, 2004

Join president/CEO Gail Naughton on the NCSML Celebration Tour of the Czech Republic & Slovakia, which will feature music, architecture, art, history and wine. The tour begins with three days in Prague, highlighted by a private tour and reception at the National Museum followed by a concert with Red Cedar Chamber Music of Cedar Rapids in a joint performance with Quartetto Telemann of Prague on the marble stairs of the museum. This concert is sponsored by the NCSML and will include the once-in-a-lifetime Prague premier of "Spillville Variations on a Theme by Dvořák."

### Other tour highlights:

- picturesque Holasovice
- historic Cesky Krumlov
- romantic Castle Hluboka
- Romanesque Telc
- UNESCO-protected Lednicko-Valticky area
- Moravian capital Brno
- quaint Cimany in the Low Tatras
- beautiful Banská Bystrica
- historic Bratislava

A special treat for tour-goers is dinner at the home of John Kuba, one of our own NCSML members, at his newly restored home in Podivin. Festive food and wine tasting, superior hotels plus a night at a hunting lodge in the Low Tatras will add up to a unique and memorable tour. For more information, contact Lee Buhr, Carlson-Wagonlit Travel, (319) 393-1359 or 1(800) 391-1359.

**Informational Tour Meeting  
Sunday, March 28, 2004  
2 p.m. Heritage Hall**

## Trevor Stephenson to Perform on Antique Fortepiano



Trevor Stephenson

Join us June 12, 2004 for *A Grand Night of Music* concert featuring pianist Trevor Stephenson. Performing on an 18th-century fortepiano, Stephenson offers an interpretive program comparing Czech

composers to their contemporaries, Mozart and Hayden. This unforgettable concert will begin at 8:00 p.m. under the chandelier in the NCSML's Grand Hall. Tickets are \$10.00 with current NCSML membership card, \$12.00 for non-members (cash or check only). Advance ticket sales begin in the Museum Store on May 29. NOTE: Music Symposium attendees and their guests have priority access to Saturday evening concert tickets.

## New Donations on Exhibit

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library received several exceptional gifts to the collection in 2003. If you toured the museum recently, you may have seen some of these items. Others will be on view in the months ahead. For example, this past winter, elements from a set of 17 complete Slovak kroje, donated in 2003 by John and Catherine Postemski of Willington, CT, were exhibited in the Laska Gallery. Also featured was a collection of red Egermann glassware donated by William Whipple in memory of his wife Gayle. Ten pieces of exquisite Czech and Slovak art glass (promised gift from Don and Carol Wiiken) graced the Laska Gallery and *Homelands*.

Visit the Laska Gallery this spring to see a set of 45 modern prints donated by Gerald Cerny of Washington, D.C. Most of these prints were prepared as New Year's greetings and are just a few square inches in size.

Measured by sheer bulk, the largest gift in 2003 was a set of ornately carved oak furniture designed and made in Chicago in 1899 for a Czech immigrant family and donated by James Verunac of Skokie, IL. Look for pieces of this furniture on



(left) This chair is part of a large donation of carved furniture designed by Czech immigrants and made in Chicago in 1899. The set was donated in 2003 by James Verunac. (right) This 1995 New Years Print is one of 45 that will be on exhibit in the Laska Gallery from March 5 - May 31, 2004.



exhibit in 2004.

The 2003 donation from Don Schumann of the 1935 JAWA motorcycle, currently on exhibit in *Homelands*, ensures this historic machine will have a permanent home in the museum.

## Call for Papers

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library invites proposals for the conference "The Czech and Slovak 20th Century in Retrospect: Czechoslovakia Behind the Iron Curtain, 1948 - 1970," to be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 4-5, 2005.

Topics may pertain to Czech and Slovak history, culture, art, music, emigration, literature, politics, foreign relations, Prague Spring, military affairs and personal accounts of the

Communist era. Poster sessions about these topics will also be accepted.

Presentations should be no longer than 45 minutes in length; the working language is English. Interested scholars may submit abstracts of no more than 500 words and a curriculum vitae/summary of achievement by October 1, 2004, via mail to Jan Stoffer Tursi, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 30-16th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404, ATTN: 2005 CONFERENCE, or as an e-mail attachment to [Jan@NCSML.org](mailto:Jan@NCSML.org).

## Library Update

The NCSML continues to catalog its backlog of library materials with the help of a two-year grant from the Czech Heritage Foundation. The grant has allowed the NCSML to hire a part-time cataloging assistant who is responsible for managing cataloging-related activities. Our cataloger, Samantha Schmehl, is a 2003 graduate of the library science program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Samantha worked in the UIUC cataloging department as a graduate assistant, where she learned valuable cataloging skills that she is putting to good use at the NCSML. Since coming to the NCSML in August, she has set up a cataloging department and has been entering books and periodicals held by the NCSML, reaching 3,250 records. The online catalog can be found at [www.NCSML.org/library.htm](http://www.NCSML.org/library.htm).

## Out and About: NCSML Staff Members Share Museum Message

- Gail Naughton was the featured speaker at the September 2003 meeting of Sts. Peter & Paul Historical Society in Pocahontas, Iowa.
- Jan Stoffer Tursi participated in Vernon Middle School's Folklife Day, November 21, 2003. She spoke to 75 students and educators about Czech and Slovak Christmas traditions. The students made paper nut basket ornaments and aromatic Christmas oranges.
- Gail Naughton and Dave Muhlena attended the "Working Conference on Czech & Slovak American Archival Materials" held at the Czech and Slovak Embassies in Washington, D.C., November 22-23, 2003. Dave presented a paper about the archival holdings of

the NCSML and Gail represented the NCSML on a panel discussion. The conference was a great opportunity to highlight what the NCSML has to offer and to network with archival professionals from other institutions with significant Czech or Slovak archival materials.

- Dave Muhlena and Carmen Langel participated in the January 2004 Coe Forum at Coe College. Dave used a map presentation to explain the geography and history of the Czech and Slovak lands. Together, Carmen and Dave gave a lecture about modern Czech and Slovak history, with Carmen focusing on World War I and formation of Czechoslovakia. Between 175-210 people attended each session of the four-part forum.
- Gail Naughton represented the NCSML at Cultural Advocacy Day at the State Capitol in Des Moines on February 11. The event was sponsored by the Iowa Cultural Coalition, a group of organizations dedicated to adequately funding all cultural and historic preservation programs in the state of Iowa.
- Jan Stoffer Tursi spoke to Mt. Mercy and Kirkwood Community College students on February 16 about immigration and Cedar Rapids' Czech heritage.
- Shirley Rosencrans attended the Jack Rabbit Lines Marketplace and Travel Show February 21-22 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Shirley met with bank club planners, tour planners and travel companies to invite them to come to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Prior to the show, she gave three presentations to tour planners along with Barbara Holub from the Cedar Rapids Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and Matthew Kreutner from the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

### Legacy Society Formed

#### Charter members being enrolled

The NCSML is pleased to announce that we have established a Legacy Society as a way to recognize, honor and show appreciation for those dedicated individuals who make provision for the institution in their estate plans or through a planned gift arrangement. Membership in the Legacy Society is open to all, and any deferred gift qualifies the benefactor for membership.

Members of the Legacy Society may direct their gifts to the Endowment Fund, to be invested in perpetuity, or leave their gift unrestricted to be used for the area of greatest need at the time it is received.

Charter members are being enrolled into the Legacy Society at this time. A recognition event is planned for later in 2004 to welcome charter members and honor those who have made estate gifts. For more information, contact Gail Naughton at (319) 362-8500.

### Langel Named Director of Development



Carmen Langel will take on a new challenge at the NCSML after seven years as the museum curator. Carmen has been named Director of

Development, effective May 1, replacing Laurie Robinson, who left the NCSML in December to move to Wisconsin. As Director of Development, Carmen will be responsible for all fund-raising efforts, including individual contributions, the Wall of Memory, project and event sponsorships, grant writing and the Legacy Society. A search is underway to find a new curator.

### Founding Board Member Dies

Board member Marie Trachta of Cedar Rapids died unexpectedly on February 12, 2004. Marie was one of the founding members of the Czech Fine Arts Association, the original organization that established the first museum. An active volunteer for 30 years, she was elected to the current board in 1999 and was serving a second three-year term.

*First in a Limited Edition Series*  
**Announcing the NCSML  
 Collector Series Folk Art Egg**



Hand-painted by nationally recognized Master Folk Artist Marj Nejd. Only 40 eggs will be made. Duck eggs with white on red folk art pattern. Each egg is signed,

dated and numbered. \$45.00. (Member discount does not apply.)

**Pipka Commissioned  
 to Design Svatý Mikuláš**

Nationally known Slovak artist *Pipka* will be at the NCSML signing her *Pipka Collectibles* on Sunday, July 18, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. during the National Bohemian, Moravian and Slovak Folk Dance Festival. *Pipka* began designing Santas and other collectibles “to share something that has some history, tradition and meaning in an art form, and to make it beautiful.”

*Pipka* has been commissioned by the NCSML to design a Svatý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas) Santa, who is accompanied by the angel and the devil. Come and meet this delightful lady and purchase your Svatý Mikuláš figurine – exclusively

available at the NCSML during 2004.

You will be allowed to bring one previously purchased *Pipka Collectible* for the signing. All figurines purchased at the NCSML on Sunday, July 18, may be signed by *Pipka*.



To reserve your egg or figurine, contact Shirley at (319) 362-8500 or e-mail [giftstore@NCSML.org](mailto:giftstore@NCSML.org).

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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