



OST THE BRIDGE

News of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

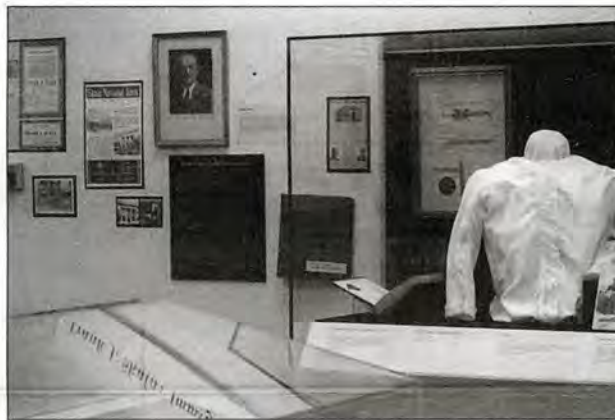


Volume 5, No. 1 — Winter 1998

Frank J. Skala Highlighted in Latest Archives Series Exhibit

THE LATEST INSTALLMENT of the Archives Exhibit Series is entitled *Frank J. Skala: Immigrant Entrepreneur*. Frank J. Skala came to the United States from Písek (Czech Republic) in 1890 and settled in Chicago. After working in the Chicago stockyards, he was able to bring his parents and other siblings to the United States. Frank and his father bought an existing business and later founded a bank called F. J. Skala & Co. Bankers. The bank was chartered as The Skala State Bank in 1919 and as The Skala National Bank of Chicago in 1938. Frank Skala was also responsible for founding the Berwyn National Bank of Berwyn, Illinois in 1937.

Featured in the exhibit are original



Preparing to open: *Frank J. Skala: Immigrant Entrepreneur*

clothing and an immigrant basket from members of Frank Skala's family. Accompanying the artifacts are photographs and advertisements that document the family and business histories.

Frank J. Skala: Immigrant Entrepreneur is now open to the public through January 16, 1999. ■

A New World Presence Celebrates Sesquicentennial

NEXT SUMMER THE NCSML WILL mount a special exhibition in celebration of Cedar Rapids' Sesquicentennial entitled *A New World Presence: Czech Contributions to Cedar Rapids*. We need your help now to make this exhibition a success. We are particularly interested in old photographs of 16th Avenue, Czech businesses from anywhere in Cedar Rapids, or of any Czech organizations in town. Although we would love to have the photographs donated, we can make a copy and return the originals if you prefer.

We are also interested in the donation

or loan of objects made and/or sold by local Czech businesses, especially items that have the business name printed on them. For example, we may use the bottle from W.F. Severa's pharmaceutical company or the milk bottle from Vondracek's Dairy that are already in the collection. Those objects loaned to the museum would be returned next fall at the end of the exhibition.

If you have any questions, or think you have something we would be interested in, please contact Carmen Langel at 319/362-8500. ■

TAKING NOTE...

Czech Chamber Music Concert

Red Cedar Chamber Music, in partnership with the NCSML, presents *Vintage Viennese*, a concert of chamber music for flute, viola and guitar at the museum on Sunday, February 28 at 4:30 p.m. The concert features music from Vienna by early nineteenth-century Czech composer Wenceslaus Matiegka, including Matiegka's *Grand Trio*, and his arrangement of Ludwig van Beethoven's *Serenade Op.8*. Flutist Jan Boland and guitarist John Dowdall, will be joined by east-coast violist David Miller. All three musicians will play nineteenth-century instruments. *Vintage Viennese* is a rare opportunity to hear classical Czech music performed on authentic instruments. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 319/362-8500. A reception will follow.



Inside this issue...

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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY continues to grow in many ways. Public programs and exhibits continually expand into new areas of discussion and interpretation. This will again be the case in 1999 with a slate of programs that will venture into entirely new areas. However, signs of growth can as well be found in less visible areas.

Our curator and librarian continue to accession new donations to the collection, some of which have found their way into *Homelands*, our core exhibition. Others will be part of future exhibits. Collections growth is a very meaningful part of our "success," indicating that we are both diligent and assertive about our charge to be the national repository for items that interpret Czech & Slovak culture. Donations come from all across the nation. Often our first contact with a donor is through our web site, www.ncsml.org.

Our membership continues to grow, as it must if we are to sustain the very positive path we have taken. In the past two years, our director of development and the board of directors have been seeking annual support in the local business community, and have found a warm reception from corporate leaders who believe in what we are doing and recognize the impact we have made on Cedar Rapids. Amazingly, we have grown our corporate membership from less than 10 to more than 100 in this time. Individual memberships have also increased, an indication that the institution is touching more people in meaningful ways. In 1999 we will embark on a campaign to broaden our individual membership base geographically. Though we currently have many out-of-state members, we have yet to actively solicit members from around the country who may not know about all that is going on at the museum. Membership and annual giving are vital to our ability to present programs, adhere to collections management standards, and maintain our facility.

And we are growing and maturing as a non-profit organization. In the first half of 1999 the board of directors will complete a long-range plan outlining objectives and strategies for the next five to seven years covering all aspects of our institution. Expanded programs and exhibits. Endowment



Dan Baldwin,
Executive Director

growth. Additions to and a better-defined role for our National Advisory Board. The development of the annex (former museum building) into a first-rate collections center. Just to name a few.

None of this would have been, nor will be, possible without you — member, supporter, advocate, and hopefully cheerleader (maybe that's my job, but I'm sure willing to share it) for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Always know how much we respect your contributions of time, interest, and financial resources, and how we are working to make your museum & library the very best it can be today, tomorrow and well into the 21st century. ■



Installation of the new chandelier.

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The National Museum in Prague
Dr. Peter Maraky,
The National Museum in Bratislava

THE MUSEUM'S NEW CHANDELIER was officially dedicated at the 1998 Fall Dinner. The chandelier was produced exclusively for the museum by Preciosa-Lustry in the Czech Republic and hangs in the Roman L. Hruska Grand Hall. The chandelier is 6'6" in diameter and 8' high and was installed by a technician sent from the Czech Republic. Nelson Electric and the local IBEW provided volunteer electricians to assist with the installation. Funding for the chandelier was provided by long-time supporter Ms. Leora Zahorik and her brother, Edwin, in memory of their parents, Edwin V. and Lillian F. Zahorik. ■

Happy Holidays from the Gift Store

THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON has arrived at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library with the decorating of three Christmas trees. The museum gift store has many ideas for gift giving.

First, I'm sure mom or Aunt Mary would enjoy a nice piece of crystal, Modra ceramicware, handmade Czech glass beaded jewelry or a cookbook. Second, dad or Uncle Henry could sit back and relax in their easy chair with a book by Vaclav Havel or the *History of Czechs in America* by Jan Habenicht. Third, the grandchildren would love to have grandma read the story of *Good King Wenceslas* by John Mason Neale. Finally, how about a personalized hand blown glass Christmas tree ornament from the Czech Republic or Slovakia?

Local artist, Marj Nejd, described by the Iowa Arts Council as a master Czech Folk Artist, will be at the museum personalizing your hand blown glass ornaments for \$1.00 over the cost of the ornament. Marj has done this for several years as a fundraiser for the museum gift store. Marj will be present on December 11 and 12 from 10 am - 4 pm. These personalized ornaments become keepsakes for teachers, classmates,

neighbors, co-workers, children, grandchildren and anyone who finds a special place in your heart at Christmas time.

After purchasing your hand blown glass ornaments, you can decorate your Christmas tree in the Old World Tradition. The Christmas tree represents a symbolic ladder to the heavens. Ornaments are hung on the tree depending on their symbolic position in life. Fruits and vegetables are hung on the lower third of the tree because they come from the earth. Churches, houses, people and animals are placed in the middle of the tree. Birds and angels are on the top third of the tree to symbolize their closeness to the heavens. At the very top of the tree a glittering star is placed because this is the highest goal one can reach.

Our GREAT volunteers are willing and ready to help you make selections in the gift store. Remember, shipping is available and your membership offers a 10% discount on sales \$10 and over. Happy Holidays to you and your family. We look forward to your visit to our gift store. ■

— Shirley Rosencrans, Gift Store

3-Way Admission Ticket Now Available for National Czech & Slovak Museum, Brucemore and Museum of Art

YOU CAN NOW VISIT three of Cedar Rapids' premiere cultural and historic sites by purchasing one ticket. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Brucemore and the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art have joined forces to present this unique Cedar Rapids opportunity.

The tickets, which are available at all three locations, sell for \$10 each and result in a 40% savings for an adult admission. These make a unique and interesting holiday gift.



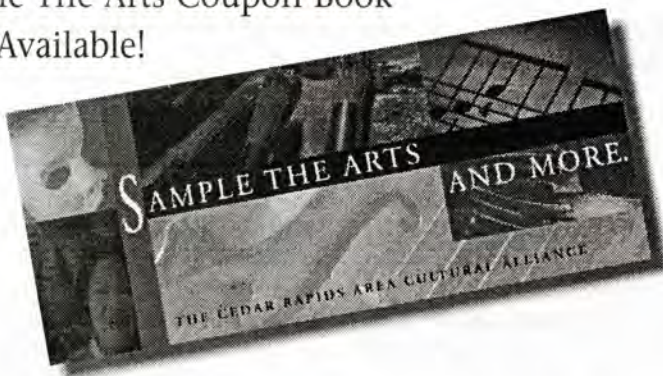
GIFT MEMBERSHIPS to the NCSML are available for the holidays! For as little as \$25 for an individual, or \$35 for a family, you can give someone a unique and thoughtful Christmas gift this year. The benefits are great including free admission, gift store discounts, and guest passes to enjoy all year. The museum will send your gift including their membership card with a notation from you — benefits will begin immediately. Call the development office at 319/362-8500 for more information.



THE CEDAR RAPIDS AREA CULTURAL ALLIANCE

Sample The Arts Coupon Book

Now Available!



For just \$25 receive coupons worth \$1000 in Free admissions and discounts.

Call the Cedar Rapids Area Cultural Alliance at 366-4739. Available at the Museum Gift Store.

Sponsored by **USWEST**



MUSEUM STORE DISCOUNT COUPON

20% OFF

20% OFF

All Merchandise
(excluding books, tapes and CDs)

Effective January 2 – February 28, 1999

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Recent Additions to the Artifact and Library Collections

Artifacts

Lately there have been several donations to the collections and archives related to music groups in Cedar Rapids. In researching these organizations, one is reminded of the great number of Czech bands and orchestras that flourished in Cedar Rapids in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One of the earliest was the Kouba National Band, founded in 1872 by Frank Kouba, Sr. This fall JoFran Falcon of Maryland donated the marching baton used by this band. She also donated a photograph of Mr. Kouba in his band uniform and other images of the band. During the 34 years of the band's history, they earned a statewide reputation and performed for dances, parties, plays, state fairs, picnics, parades, and political conventions.

Among the other bands formed in Cedar Rapids were Kubicek's band (called the Bohemian-American Band), Mokrejs' Band, and Ben Jansa's Band. When a large band was requested, Kubicek and Jansa's bands were known to "combine forces."

In the 1920s and early 30s there was even a Fireman's Saxophone Band composed entirely of firemen. Dr. Robert Sedlacek recently donated the clarinet used by his grandfather in this band (there was one clarinet player and one drummer besides the saxophones). Dr. Sedlacek also gave numerous old newspaper articles, photos and other information about some of the early bands in Cedar Rapids.

If you have any photographs, newspaper clippings, or other memorabilia from these old bands that you would be willing to share with the museum, please let Carmen Langel know at 319/362-8500. The museum would be particularly interested in a band cap and/or uniform. ■

— Carmen Langel, Curator

Library Materials

Word has been getting out that the library accepts materials in a number of different languages — including English! An example is a small donation of books



Czech Band memorabilia on exhibit.



Books recently donated to the library.

written in English from Ida Kansky of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Among these are five items that date from the Second World War era, when the Czechoslovak government was in exile in England. Three of these books were written and published by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of Information. The titles are *Towards a Lasting Peace*; *Two Years of German Oppression in Czechoslovakia*; and, *On the Reign of Terror in Bohemia & Moravia under the regime of Reinhard Heydrich*. These books were written in order to elicit international recognition and

support for the Czechoslovak cause.

The other two books were published by *Czechoslovak*, a publishing house in London that produced English-language materials. *Prague Braves the Hangman*, published in 1942 by E.V. Erdely, tells of the terror brought on by Heydrich. The last chapter is entitled "Retribution Will Come," which foreshadowed the assassination of Heydrich but did not anticipate the destruction of Lidice and the murder of its citizens. The most interesting item is a miniature book entitled *The Czechoslovak Army*. Measuring only 2 1/4" x 3 1/4", this item was the perfect size to fit into a shirt pocket. It was intended to educate the English-speaking public about the history of the Czechoslovak army from the time of the Hussite wars to the Second World War.

The library has also received a book about Milan Rastislav Štefánik. He is best known as the famous Slovak general who fought with the French in the First World War and co-founder of the Czechoslovak state along with Masaryk and Beneš. He died in 1919 in a plane crash on Slovak soil on his way back to the newly formed Czechoslovak state. 1999 will mark the 80th anniversary of his tragic death.

However, it may come as a surprise to some that Štefánik was also a noted astronomer and adventurer. The book, entitled *Návraty Do Polynésie — po Štefánikových stopách (Returns to Polynesia — On the Trail of Štefánik)* is co-written by Dr. František Kele, contemporary Slovak geographer and explorer, and Dr. Miroslav Musil, the Cultural Counselor at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, DC. The authors retraced Štefánik's steps by climbing the highest peaks of Europe and French Polynesia, experiencing the geothermal activity in New Zealand, and visiting Stonyhurst College in Australia, where Štefánik was a member of the British Solar Eclipse Expedition of 1911. Dr. Musil is currently seeking funding to have the book translated into English. ■

— David Muhlana, Librarian

Christmas Customs in the Czech & Slovak Republics

TRADITIONALLY, CHRISTMAS DAY in the Czech and Slovak Republics was celebrated mainly as a religious observance.

The Christmas calendar starts on December 4th (St. Barbara's Day) when girls would bring a sprig of a blossoming tree into the house and place it in water. Called "Good Luck Branches," it is believed that if the branch blossoms on Christmas Eve it means good luck is in store and the girl will find a good husband during the coming year.

The first celebration is Svätý Mikuláš (Saint Nicholas Day) on December 6th. Legend has it that Svätý Mikuláš descends from heaven on a golden cord accompanied by an angel (Anděl) all in white and a devil (Čert) dressed in black with a face painted red. Saint Nicholas walks through villages, stopping at each home to ask the children about their behavior during the past year. The Angel carries a pen and a book to record their answers, while the Devil lurks in the background rattling his chain. A favorable response is rewarded with candy, fruit, or cookies. An unfavorable response earns a lump of coal or a potato from the Devil.

The fast of Advent ends on Christmas Eve (Vánoce, in Czech and Vianoce, in Slovak.) Legend held that anyone who fasted until the end of Advent would see the "Golden Pig" and have good luck all the following year.

The tradition of eating carp on Christmas Eve appeared in the 19th century, when the upper classes began to enrich their meal with fish, turkey, and deer. Those who were less well-off could only afford carp. The pond-raised carp are sold in village streets at Christmastime and purchased live. To the delight of the children in the household, the carp was put into the bathtub to swim around until it was time to begin the Christmas Eve meal preparations.

The custom of decorating a Christmas tree came to the Czech and Slovak Republics from Germany. Traditional decorations include candles, hand-blown, glass ornaments, gingerbread cookies, wrapped candies, nuts, "medovniky" (honey cakes), and ornaments crafted from straw, cloth, and baked dough. Sometimes, in Slovakia, the Christmas

tree is hung upside-down over the holiday table. After the Christmas Eve meal, the presents are opened. Little children believe that the donor is the newborn Christ Child traveling through the countryside. When someone secretly rings a bell on the Christmas tree, it means Jesus has visited, and the family is allowed to open their presents.

Christmas Day is Hod Boží. After church services, the main meal is usually roast goose with dumplings and sauerkraut. The day is spent visiting with relatives and friends. In Slovakia, the "jasličkáři," (men and boys of the village), go from house to house, carrying a miniature nativity scene, and bringing wishes for bountiful crops, fertility, love, peace, and satisfaction.

The day after Christmas is St. Stephen's Day. It is a day for children to go caroling and receive rewards of can-

dies, fruits, and cookies. "On St. Stephen's Day there is no master" is a popular expression.

December 31st is called Sylvestr, after the saint's day. A festive drink of eggnog with cognac is served. Traditionally, little sandwiches (chlebyčky) consisting of white bread heaped with potato salad, ham, eggs, sliced pickles, and cheese are served.

The Christmas season ends on January 6th, Tří Krále, or Three Kings Day. Three men ("kings") would dress up in costumes and go caroling. With a piece of chalk blessed by the local priest, they would inscribe the words "Kaspar," "Melchior," and "Balthazar" or just "K M B" above the doorway of the home to insure a blessing on the household. ■

— Patricia Hikiji, Program Coordinator

Volunteers decorating one of four trees on display at the museum (one in the Grand Hall, two in the Gallery, and one in the immigrant home). The trees in the gallery are decorated exclusively with hand-blown, glass ornaments from the Czech and Slovak Republics. Shown from left to right: Marie Reinhart, Olga Sedenka, Dolores Blood, Irma Rozek, Linda Price and Dolores Kaiden.



Programming Schedule December 1998 – April 1999

December 12 — Stories, Tales, Legends, & Lore (Children's Storytime)
 • 10:00 a.m. in Museum Library. Free to the public.

January 20 — Learn At Lunch: "Sokol: A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body"
 • 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. in WFLA Heritage Hall. Free to the public.

February 8 — "Káva a Knihy" Reading-Lecture-Discussion Series: *The Castle* by Franz Kafka
 • 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in WFLA Heritage Hall. Free to the public.

February 17 — Learn At Lunch: "Forgotten Czech-Americans in Cedar Rapids' History" by Rollie Raim
 • 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. in WFLA Heritage Hall. Free to the public.

February 28 — Red Cedar Chamber Music: "Vintage Viennese"
 Concert of music for flute, viola, and guitar by Jan Boland, David Miller, and John Dowdall
 • 4:30 p.m., Grand Hall, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.
 Admission Fee: \$6.00.

March 8 — "Káva a Knihy" Reading-Lecture-Discussion Series:
 • 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in WFLA Heritage Hall. Free to the public.

March 17 — Learn At Lunch: "Baking for Easter"
 • 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. in WFLA Heritage Hall. Free to the public.

March 19 — St. Josef's Day

March 20 — "Fun With Easter Crafts"
 Crafts workshop for children, in WFLA Heritage Hall.

March 27 — Czech & Slovak Easter Customs & Traditions
 • 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Demonstrations of ethnic arts and crafts, by local artists and artisans. WFLA Heritage Hall.

March 27 — Batik Egg Decorating Classes
 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in WFLA Heritage Hall. Learn how to make "kraslice" (decorated Easter eggs) in the batik, or wax-resist style. Instructor: Master Artist, Marj Kopecek Nejd. Pre-registration required.

April 3 — Czech & Slovak Easter Customs & Traditions
 • 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Demonstrations of ethnic arts and crafts, by local artists and artisans. WFLA Heritage Hall.

NEWS FROM DEVELOPMENT

Donor Creates Endowment to Benefit Library

FUNDS GIVEN BY HENRIETTA SKALA BARTIZAL in honor of her parents, Frank J. and Bessie Panosh Skala, will provide resources to assist in growing the museum's endowment. Inspired by her father's love of history, the funds will be used to benefit the library. Through the establishment of a living trust, Mrs. Bartizal was able to make a generous commitment to the endowment on an annual basis. A life-long resident of Berwyn, Illinois, she was able to attend the museum's annual Fall Dinner, at which time she presented her initial contribution to the fund. This gift, in addition to her generous annual support and a major gift to the building campaign, as well as numerous donations to the museum's collection, make it possible for her to preserve her Czech heritage, of which she is very proud, and benefit future patrons who wish to learn more about Czech culture. ■

Matching Gift Program Another Way to Benefit Museum

DOES YOUR EMPLOYER have a Matching Gift Program? If so, the value of your gift to the Museum & Library can be doubled, even tripled by completing a simple application form available from your personnel office. Hundreds of companies across the nation participate in matching gift programs that support cultural organizations. They allow full-time and, in most cases, retired employees to make personal gifts to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library that are eligible to receive matching funds. Gifts of cash, check or securities having a quoted market value are matched dollar-for-dollar and, in some incidences, a higher match ratio. Once you have made your gift to the museum, you can initiate this process by following these simple steps:

- Contact your personnel office for application information and eligibility requirements

- Complete your portion of the application form and mail it to the museum

- The museum will complete and return its portion of the application form to the company's personnel office

- The matching gift is processed and forwarded to the museum

Because of your efforts, the museum is able to enjoy the benefits of matching funds that would not otherwise be available. If you have any questions about how you may participate in this type of program, we encourage you to contact the museum's development office for more information. Your interest and support in helping with this process is deeply appreciated and can make a real difference for the museum. ■

— Judy Ostrander, Director of Development

OUR GENEROUS DONORS...

V UPOMINKU "IN MEMORIUM" Donations received for September 16, 1998 through November 23, 1998

- For: **Elmer L. Aldrich**
Leo & Irma Modracek
- For: **Richard Becicka**
Peg Merta
Leo & Irma Modracek
Robert & Sylvia Rohlena
- For: **Georgia Bezdek**
Harold & Beverley Klink
- For: **David Bruce Chase**
Evelyn & Cheryl Rutledge
- For: **Carlton M. Dailey**
Lucille M. Pazour
- For: **Dr. Jerald Greenblatt**
Jeanne Vlasek Tompkins
- For: **Jerry L. Hejkal**
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- For: **Mary Bohac Holecek**
Anna Mae Vanous
- For: **Milo and Mary Holecek**
James & Olga Holecek Kelly
Marge & Pat Pace
- For: **Milo E. Holecek**
Anne B. & Edward J. Machacek
- For: **Dorothy Longstaff**
Frances A. Batchelder
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Marjorie & John Cernin
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Eldon & Margaret Pugh
Sheet Metal Workers Local #263
Retirees Club
Lois & A. Sconyers, Jr.
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James & Joanne Trcka
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- For: **Frank & Josephine Lorenc**
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Ruth and Bill Marling
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Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Netolicky
Vicki Newburn
Frank Novotny
Marge & Pat Pace
Paul & Mary Ann Pisarik
Mary Ann Pochobradsky
Evelyn Prucha
Jane A. Tow
Mary Catherine Tow
Anna Mae Vanous
Doris Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Yeries
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Zobl
- For: **Fredona Schultz**
Elaine J. Voss
- For: **Marie Kopecky Serbousek**
James & Martha Serbousek
- For: **Libbie Staskal**
Cedar Lodge #7 ZCBJ
Ruth L. Mitvalsky
- For: **Charles "Chuck" Vorel**
Vondracek Cousins
- For: **Christine S. Walton**
John A. Kuba

IN HONOR

- For: **Chris Contard — 50th Birthday**
Dolores & "Mike" Usher
- For: **Gary & Ruth Golladay —
on their Marriage**
Leo & Irma Modracek
- For: **Norma Mitchell — 80th Birthday**
Leo & Irma Modracek
- For: **Robert & Agnes Netolicky —
50th Anniversary**
Leo & Irma Modracek
- For: **Dolores & "Mike" Usher —
50th Anniversary**
Irma & Leo Modracek
Chiropractic Health Care Assoc., P.C.
– Dr. David Johnson
& Dr. David Swope
- For: **Arnold & Mary Yanecek –
50th Anniversary**
Leo & Irma Modracek

NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

September 16 through
November 16, 1998

- Sheryl Abbott
Martha Aldridge
Joyce & John Anderson
James & Betty Crofter
Steve & Joan Dolezal
Francene Drake
Kenneth Freund
Mark Hischar
Robert Hosna
Juanita LoGuidice
Edward Nestor
Don & Karen Pfeiler
Georgiana Prince
Barbara Stammer
Scott Truhlar
Camilla Werner
Jaffar Zoroufchi

NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

September 16 through
November 13, 1998

- Entre Information Systems
Junge Ford/Lincoln-Mercury
Novak Design Group
St. Augustine Court #2236 Catholic Order

NATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

♦ **Alphonse Mucha: *The Spirit of Art Noveau*** presents some 150 paintings, posters, drawings, jewelry, sculputres, and illustrations by Mucha. Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL (November 7, 1998 - January 10, 1999); the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC (January 30 - March 28, 1999); and the Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK (April 24 - June 20, 1999). **For more information, call 703/548-4554.**

♦ **November 20, 1998 - April 4, 1999**
DOWRY - *Eastern European Painted Furniture, Textiles and Related Folk Art* features folk treasures from the Baine/Cincebeaux Collection. Mingei Museum, Balboa Park, 1439 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101. **For more information, call 619/239-0003.**

♦ **November 21, 1998 - January 24, 1999**
Mostly Prague: *Photographs by Anna Tomczak* presents staged works by one of a handful of artists authorized to use on of five existing 20" x 24" Polaroid view cameras in the world. Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL. **For more information, call 561/832-5196.**

♦ **December 31, 1998, 8 pm - 2 am**
Silvester '98 New Year's party. Bohemian Hall and Park, 29-19 24th Avenue, Astoria-Queens, New York City. **For more information, call 718/274-4925.**

♦ **January 15-17, 1999 • Symposium celebrating Eastern European folk art, folk culture and folk ritual.** Mingei Museum, Balboa Park, 1439 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101. **For more information, call 619/239-0003.**

♦ **February 20 - 21, 1999 • Genealogical/Cultural Symposium** co-sponsored by the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International and the American CzechoSlovak Social Club. **For more information, write to CGSI, PO Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 55116 or call their hotline at 612/595-7799.**

♦ **February 10, 1999, 7:30 p.m. • Opening of an exhibition at the Czech Embassy** of the works of Petr Sís and presentation of his recently published book, *Tibet Through the Red Box*. **For more information, call 202/274-9127.**

1999 Heritage Tours Presents: Small Group Journeys through the

Czech & Slovak Republics

Hosted by Mark Vasko-Bigaouette, former President and Founder of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, includes: Round-trip airfare from Cedar Rapids to Kosice Slovakia, and Prague back to Cedar Rapids. Small superior hotels, each room with private bathroom. 2 to 4 night stays in one place. Two full meals daily, of local specialties. Lots of entertainment, many surprises and unique places visited, plus lots more. Early sign-up discount. For more information, call Mark anytime at 612/426-1222 or toll free 1-888/427-8687.



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