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THE BRIDGE

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



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## Gift of Adjacent Property Expands NCSML Horizons

On June 30, the museum and library significantly expanded its physical parameters with the receipt of a gift from Scott E. and Penny Olson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa of the property at 1548 A Street SW. Located directly across the street from the museum, the 10,000-square-foot building and land, valued at \$240,000, sit in the heart of Czech Village.

Scott Olson, a registered architect and commercial real estate broker, has owned the building since 1997.

"I am thrilled that this gift will make future expansion options possible for the museum by providing property adjacent to their current facility," he said as he announced the gift. "This will assist in

the redevelopment of the Czech Village area by giving the museum control of a highly visible property and the ability to create an even more tourist-friendly environment."

Tim Kintner, chair of the NCSML Board of Directors, added, "This extraordinarily generous gift positions the museum and library for future growth. We are eager to explore the possibilities that it presents for us as we continue to develop our programming and outreach."

The building was most recently a bar and is well-known in the area as the site of the popular Bulicek's bar in the 1980s. For the immediate future, it will be used to store exhibit display cases and other museum supplies and furniture.



Penny and Scott Olson



This building across from the museum was donated to the NCSML in June.

## National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

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Several important initiatives are underway at the NCSML that will have great bearing on our future.

First, the Development Committee of the Board of Directors is organizing a

campaign to increase our endowment. It is clear that for us to continue to grow and flourish, we need a source of income that will guarantee steady operation through the ups and downs of the economy. Successful non-profit institutions such as ours typically have an endowment that produces 30 to 50 percent of the annual operating budget. You will be hearing more in the near future about this critical effort and I hope you will participate.

Second, the Collections Committee of the Board of Directors is spearheading a visioning process to develop a mission and vision for the NCSML library of the future. As we go forward in planning for a new library facility, we need to be confident of our direction and goals for this vital part of our mission.

And third, we are beginning a self-assessment process through a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. One of 170 museums across the country to receive a grant, we will work with the American Association of Museums (AAM) to assess our strengths and weaknesses in management and operations and plot a course for future improvements. This should prepare us to proceed with an application for accreditation by the AAM.

These elements of planning for the future are crucial to our continued growth and success. We hold a unique place in the United States as the only professional museum that focuses on the history and heritage of the Czech and Slovak people

and lands. It is incumbent on us to continue to examine our mission, vision and operations to be the best we can be and serve all the needs of our constituents now and in the future.

Over the last few months and intensely for the next two, our curator Carmen Langel will be focused on completing the design and installation of our next exhibit for the Robert J. Petrik Gallery, *Liberation! World War I and the Formation of Czechoslovakia*. This exhibit will be uniquely ours, and will be accompanied by insightful examination of how the lessons of building the nation of Czechoslovakia can be applied to our U.S. foreign policy of today. I encourage you to attend the related lectures and panel discussion, funded in part by Humanities Iowa.

Get out the cake and candles, because the NCSML will soon be 30 years old! We are looking forward to celebrating our 30th anniversary as a museum in 2004. Founded in 1974 as the Czech Fine Arts Society, the organization had a mission to promote an active interest in the Czech fine arts and in other fine arts, exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. To start off our 30th anniversary year, we plan a special commemorative issue of *Slovo* that will focus on the museum, its history, and the story of the immigration of Czechs and Slovaks to the United States, highlighted by numerous photos and descriptions of artifacts in our collection. Look for other special events and remembrances throughout the year.

There is always something happening at your museum. Be sure to plan a visit, come now, come often! As always, do know how much we appreciate your support. We couldn't do what we do without you.

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



## Ambassador Palouš to Address Fall Dinner

His Excellency Martin Palouš, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States, will present the keynote address at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library 9th Annual Fall Dinner for members and friends on Thursday, October 30. The festive evening will begin with a reception and ribbon-cutting at the museum to open a new exhibition, *Liberation! World War I and the Formation of Czechoslovakia*. Dinner will take place at the Collins Plaza Hotel, followed by the crowning of the Czech Heritage Foundation's Czech Prince and Princess, an appearance by Miss Czech-Slovak USA Stasia Krivanek, the keynote address and a special musical interlude. Watch for your invitation in the mail!



Martin Palouš, Czech Ambassador to the United States

## Hundreds Attend 2nd Annual Dance Festival



The United Moravian Societies Dancers from Berwyn, IL wowed the crowd with their colorful kroje, precise dance steps and jubilant singing.

The NCSML hosted its 2nd Annual National Bohemian, Moravian & Slovak Folk Dance Festival in the museum garden on Sunday, July 20. Dancers from Minnesota, Illinois and Texas performed to an audience of more than 500 people

from 13 states. Mark Vyhlidal's Band inspired many to get up and dance, despite the heat. You won't want to miss the fun at next year's dance festival, Sunday, July 18, 2004.

### It's Time for a Tour!

The NCSML is planning another tour to the Czech Republic and Slovakia! The dates are tentatively set for October 4-15, 2004. The tour will be highlighted by a special performance of the Red Cedar Trio of Marion at the National Museum in Prague. Red Cedar, which has performed at the NCSML since 1996, and the NCSML are collaborating on an exchange that will culminate with the premier of "Spillville Variations on a Theme by Dvorak" in honor of the 100th anniversary of Dvorak's death in 2004. Joining Red Cedar is Quartetto Telemann of Prague who will perform both at the NCSML and in Prague.

The tour itinerary and plans are being finalized and a brochure will be prepared soon. If you are interested in the trip and would like to receive more information, please call Shirley at (319) 362-8500.

### Visit the NCSML Web site

If you missed the exciting exhibits, *Czech Technology in Motion* in 2000 or *Kroje – Dress for the Dance of Life!* in 2002, you can view excerpts from each exhibit on the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Web site. Go to [www.NCSML.org](http://www.NCSML.org) and click on Exhibits. Enjoy your visit!

**Calling all Bohemian, Moravian and Slovak Folk Dancers:** Bring your troupe to Cedar Rapids for the 3rd Annual Bohemian, Moravian and Slovak Folk Dance Festival in 2004. For more information, contact Jan at (319) 362-8500 or [jan@NCSML.org](mailto:jan@NCSML.org).



## Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa Wins at Wilber



For the second time in three years, Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa won the Miss Czech-Slovak USA pageant held in Wilber, NE in August. Stasia Krivanek of Cedar Rapids, shown here with her Little Sister, Madeline Rupa of Lincoln, NE, wore a peasant kroj inspired by the kroje of her ancestors' home village, Litomyšl, Bohemia, Czech Republic.

## Red Cedar Returns

GreatAmerica Leasing will present *Gypsy!*, a concert celebrating the colorful music of Eastern Europe's fabled nomads, in a performance by the Red Cedar Trio in the Grand Hall at the NCSML at 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 4. As part of the concert, flutist Jan Boland, violist David Miller and guitarist John Dowdall will present the world premiere of a work called *Gypsy Inspirations*, a chamber trio by Red Cedar Chamber Music's composer-in-residence, Jerry Owen. Commissioned with funding from the Iowa Arts Council, *Gypsy Inspirations* showcases the hypnotic music of the Gypsy culture.

*Gypsy!* will also feature Red Cedar's first collaboration uniting music with dance. Angela Hayes, one of three featured dancers, has created special choreography through which the Iowa City dance troupe The Travelers interprets Owen's *Trio*



The Red Cedar Trio includes (from left) John Dowdall, David Miller and Jan Boland.

### Concertant Over Czech Folk Songs.

*Gypsy!* will also include a flamenco guitar rendition of the famous *Malagueña*, along with music by Matiegka, Doppler and Dvorak. Tickets are \$12 (\$8 for students) and are available at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library at (319) 362-8500. A reception will follow.

## COLLECTIONS UPDATE

## NCSML Acquires 1964 Tatra

This summer the NCSML had an opportunity to acquire a Czech automobile from museum member Don Schumann of Colorado. Leo and Irma Modracek purchased the Tatra on behalf of the museum and Dušan Neumann completed mechanical work on it while he was in town for a recent SVU conference. It should be a favorite in local parades and car shows!

The 1964 Tatra T 603 was made by Tatra Works in Kopřivnice, Czech Republic. Tatra Works was founded in the 1850s as a carriage factory and started producing automobiles in 1897; Tatra holds the distinction of being one of the few companies in the world to claim over a century of automobile production.

In the first half of the 19th century, the leading Tatra automotive engineer was Hans Ledwinka, who worked for Tatra

for about 40 years. One of Ledwinka's legacies was his series of streamlined automobiles featuring rear-placed air-cooled engines. The Tatra T 603 came out in 1956 after Ledwinka had left Tatra. However, it features the distinctive rear air-cooled V8 engine based on his previous models.

Today the Tatra T 603 is remembered by many Czechs and Slovaks as a "communist car," as it was the favored luxury car of Czechoslovak government officials



Leo and Irma Modracek purchased this red-and-white 1964 Tatra T 603 for the NCSML.

in the 1950s and 1960s. The NCSML staff is inquiring with the Tatra museum in Kopřivnice to find out if information about previous owners of the museum's Tatra is available.



## Liberation! World War I and the Formation of Czechoslovakia

As Europe suffered under the ravages of World War I, three men, Tomáš Masaryk, Edvard Beneš and Milan Štefánik, worked in exile to promote the formation of a free Czecho-Slovak country. Meanwhile, Czech and Slovak soldiers were forced to fight for their oppressors, the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Tens of thousands of these soldiers crossed "enemy" lines to surrender to the Allies and fight in Czechoslovak Legions, helping to defeat their oppressors.



Trapped behind enemy lines during World War I, thousands of men from the Czech and Slovak Legions commandeered the Trans Siberian Railway and traveled across Siberia to Vladivostok and the ships that would take them home.

This fall the NCSML will tell the heroic story of these men in a first-time exhibition titled *Liberation! World War I and the Formation of Czechoslovakia*, which opens on October 31. Original artifacts, photographs and maps will illustrate how, in the middle of a horrific war, these men waged an international campaign to win support for the creation of a free Czecho-Slovak nation.

Although there were several prominent individuals in the Czecho-Slovak movement, this exhibition doesn't tell just one story, but many. It is the story of three men living in exile and traveling around the world to promote their dream. It's also the story of thousands of Czech- and Slovak-Americans who provided necessary support to the Czecho-Slovak movement. It's about the tens of thousands of Czech and Slovak soldiers, including prisoners of war, who were recruited to fight against the Central Powers. It recounts the story of how France, Italy and Russia allowed the formation of Czecho-Slovak Legions on their soil. And

it also tells the tale of the Czecho-Slovak Legions in Russia who were forced to remain there long after the war's end. Ultimately, this is the story of the birth of a new democratic nation – built upon the very principles that we, as Americans, value.

*Liberation!* opens at a time when the United States is once again involved in complex foreign policy decisions. The NCSML is preparing a series of educational programs concurrent with the exhibition that will examine U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's role in World War I and the formation of Czechoslovakia (see related article).

*Liberation!* and the accompanying programs are funded, in part, by a grant from Humanities Iowa, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit opens to the public on October 31, 2003 and runs through March 7, 2004. Plan now to attend the members' reception on October 30, followed that evening by the Annual Fall Dinner at Collins Plaza.

## Nation-Building Forum in November

The NCSML will take a closer look at Woodrow Wilson, World War I and the formation of Czechoslovakia during the weekend of November 7-9, 2003. Noted historians and scholars will present their research and views of this critical period of Czechoslovak history. A Sunday forum will address how U.S. foreign policy affected Czechoslovakia and continues to influence other emerging nations, such as Iraq. All weekend events are free and open to the public and will be held in the museum's Heritage Hall.

The weekend begins with a two-part documentary film, *American Experience: Woodrow Wilson*, on November 7 at 7 p.m. The film follows President Wilson from his early political career through

his presidency, including efforts to keep the U.S. out of World War I and the events that ultimately pulled the U.S. into the war.

On Saturday, November 8, two lectures will take a closer look at the role of Woodrow Wilson in the formation of Czechoslovakia. At 2 p.m., Dr. John M. Cooper will present "Woodrow Wilson's Foreign Policy and the League of Nations." Cooper is professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After a brief intermission, Dr. Betty Miller Unterberger will present "President Woodrow Wilson and the Role of the U.S. in the Formation of Czechoslovakia." Miller Unterberger is a professor of history at Texas A & M University.

The NCSML is proud to host the forum, *Nation Building: The Question of U.S. Intervention from Czechoslovakia to Iraq*, at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 9. Scholars will discuss the role that the U.S. has played in the formation and protection of foreign countries, with particular attention to a comparison of actions in former Czechoslovakia and current-day Iraq. Drs. Miller Unterberger and Rex Honey, Professor of Geography at the University of Iowa, will participate. U.S. Congressman Jim Leach will moderate the discussion.

Humanities Iowa, a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is the primary sponsor of all of these programs.





Museum docent Ed Hemphill demonstrates Immigrant Home cooking utensils to young visitors.

## NCSML Will Raise and Renew Immigrant Home

The NCSML's 19th-Century Immigrant Home remains a very popular exhibit, but 20 years of visitors have taken their toll on the 120-year-old structure. Later this fall, the NCSML will raise the house and move it aside while a new foundation is prepared for it and the structural beams are "shouldered" to increase their load capacity. The House will then be replaced on the same site and re-opened to the public.

The Immigrant Home was built 1884-1888 by Czech immigrant Joseph Sleger and occupied by Sleger family members until 1983, when the NCSML acquired the house to serve as an exhibit of immigrant life. Volunteers helped move the house to its site next to the NCSML museum building, then devoted more than 5,000 hours to cleaning, restoring and furnishing it with artifacts appropriate to 1890.

This extensive renewal project would not be possible without the support of the Frank and Josephine Lorenc Fund, administered by Ernest Lorenc, and the Weaver Witwer Trust, administered by the Linn County Board of Supervisors.

*Děkujeme Vám!*

## Czech Heritage Foundation Makes Threshold Gifts to the NCSML

The Czech Heritage Foundation was formed in May 1973 in Cedar Rapids to protect and honor an old-world heritage. Many of the group's founders were instrumental in forming the Czech Fine Arts Foundation in 1974 with the primary goal of establishing a museum. That vision eventually resulted in the founding of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Throughout the NCSML's 29-year history, the Czech Heritage Foundation has remained as staunchly supportive of the NCSML as a good parent, offering help at every important step of the museum's development, often enabling the NCSML to undertake important new initiatives.

Early this year, the Czech Heritage Foundation came through for the NCSML once again, pledging \$10,000 to the exhibits fund and \$20,000 to a five-year project to catalog NCSML library materials and make them available online (see related article). The Czech Heritage Foundation's support for the library cataloging project is a significant, threshold gift – allowing the NCSML to step forward

into a new endeavor and upward to a higher level of service.

The Czech Heritage Foundation continues to be an all-volunteer organization with more than 1,000 members throughout the world. In addition to supporting the NCSML, the group maintains several youth programs, including college scholarships to youth of Czech descent, a cultural exchange and home-stay program for Czech and American high school students, a local competition for Czech Prince and Princess, and a statewide competition for Miss Czech Iowa. The Czech Heritage Foundation also publishes many historical, language and children's books, takes a mini-museum to schoolchildren in their classrooms, and routinely takes home first prize for fantastic floats promoting Czech heritage in Cedar Rapids-area parades.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is profoundly grateful to the Czech Heritage Foundation for nearly 30 years of friendship, support and commitment and for this most recent gift. *Děkujeme Vám!*

## Museum Volunteers Recruit New Members

Wearing colorful ribbons that say "Ask me how you can get in free" or "Ask me how you can get 10% off museum store purchases," museum volunteers and guild members are actively inviting visitors to join the NCSML. Since the "Ask Me" campaign kicked off in June, 48 volunteers have enticed 105 new members to join, gaining friends for the NCSML from throughout the U.S. and increasing membership revenue for the year by almost \$5,000. The campaign continued through Labor Day weekend, with a party for campaign participants held at the museum on September 8.



Volunteer Betty Kosek greets visitors at the NCSML information station, wearing her "Ask Me" ribbon and a friendly smile.

## Kanskys Leave a Legacy

Ida Schuster and Walter Kansky grew up in Cedar Rapids and married in 1934. Together, they traveled the world as Walter, a career Army man, rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel. The Kanskys returned to Cedar Rapids following Walter's retirement, and Walter passed away in 1977. Ida continued to live in Cedar Rapids, furthering her interest in several local organizations.

Before her death in 2001 at 98, Ida worked with her bank to place her estate in an investment account. From this legacy, interest will be distributed annually for scholarships and to benefit several community groups. One beneficiary of Ida's will is the National Czech & Slovak

Museum & Library. Ida generously directed that \$500 should be given annually to the NCSML with no restrictions. Unrestricted gifts like Ida's are especially appreciated because they help support the NCSML's annual operations. It is as if Ida has maintained a membership forever, making a large impact over time.

If you are considering a legacy or bequest to the NCSML, please call Director of Development Laurie Robinson or President/CEO Gail Naughton at (319) 362-8500 for information about ways to structure your gift. We would also like the opportunity to recognize your gift and to thank you for your generosity.

## NCSML Library Catalog Goes Online

### Czech Heritage Foundation Gift Supports Cataloging Position

The NCSML Library has just gone live on the Internet! You can now search the NCSML online library catalog from your home, office or dorm room. Go to the library web page at [www.NCSML.org/library.htm](http://www.NCSML.org/library.htm) to find the link to the online catalog. This is the culmination of a yearlong grants-funded effort that involved the purchase and setup of computer hardware and software to support the online catalog. Over the past year, grant funds have also allowed us to sub-contract the cataloging of a large portion of our English-language materials. We are now in the process of sub-contracting the cataloging of the Czech-language books we received from Benedictine University in 2000. By year's end we should have catalog records for more than 3,000 items.

The NCSML thanks the following people and funding sources for their generous support of this project: An Anonymous Donor; Robert Drahozal in memory of Frank and Mary Drahozal; the Merveaux Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation; the Witwer Trust, administered by the Linn County Board of Supervisors; and the General Endowment Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

We will continue to catalog our large backlog of library materials due to significant financial support from the Czech Heritage Foundation (see related article). Their two-year, \$20,000 gift will allow the NCSML to hire a part-time cataloging assistant who will be responsible for managing cataloging-related tasks. We are currently accepting applications for the position.

## State of Iowa Supports NCSML

The operations of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library are supported this year, in part, by a grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, Cultural Enrichment Grant Program.

## NCSML Staff

**Gail Naughton, President/CEO**  
Gnaughton@NCSML.org

**Patty Hikiji, Volunteer Coordinator**  
Phikiji@NCSML.org

**Carmen Langel, Curator**  
CLangel@NCSML.org

**David Muhlena, Librarian**  
Dmuhlena@NCSML.org

**Laurie Robinson, Director of Development & Communications**  
Lrobinson@NCSML.org

**Shirley Rosencrans, Museum Store Manager**  
Giftstore@NCSML.org

**Jan Stoffer Tursi, Museum Educator**  
Jan@NCSML.org

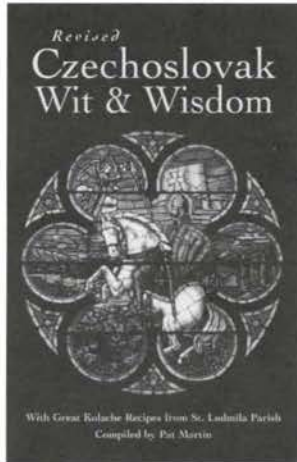
**Josie Velles, Development Assistant**  
Jvelles@NCSML.org

**Esther White, Business Manager**  
Ewhite@NCSML.org

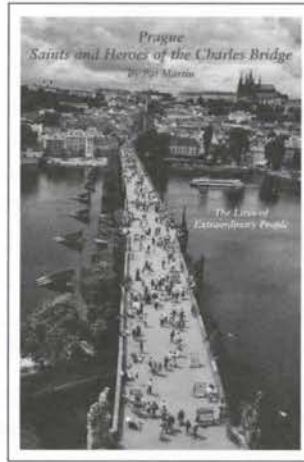


## Museum Store Features Books, Ornaments

New books available in the Museum Store include:



*Czechoslovak Wit & Wisdom Revised*, by Pat Martin. Cultural nuggets, the national anthems and great koláče recipes from St. Ludmila Parish.



*Prague Saints and Heroes of the Charles Bridge*, by Pat Martin. Stories of the 37 Saints of the Charles Bridge.



The store is also featuring hundreds of new hand-blown glass Christmas tree ornaments and tree toppers from the Czech and Slovak Republics. Master Card, Visa, Discover and checks are accepted. Shipping available. Call (319) 362-8500 to see if we have the design you want.

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30 Sixteenth Avenue SW • Cedar Rapids, Iowa USA 52404-5904  
(319) 362-8500 • Fax (319) 363-2209

