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[The Bridge]

Spring 2015



NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK
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Pilgrims, Patriots and Pilsner, [page 4](#)
Year of Beer store preview, [page 9](#)
Year of Beer programming guide, [page 10](#)



Interactive children's exhibit, [page 8](#)



This book is from 1596.
Find out what's inside, [page 8](#)

Bringing Maňa's
story to students, [page 6](#)



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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.

STAFF ADDITIONS



Cole Swanson Annual Fund Manager

Cole joined the NCSML in April 2015. Prior to joining the staff, he worked on behalf of more than 50 nonprofit organizations in his role with consulting firm Ruffalo Noel Levitz. He holds a B.A. in English/Language Arts Teacher Education from the University of Northern Iowa.



Rachel Wobeter Visitor Services Coordinator

Rachel joined the NCSML in December 2014. She graduated from Luther College in 2009 with degrees in anthropology and environmental science. She is currently pursuing a Museum Studies certificate from the University of Iowa.

BOARD ADDITIONS



George Drost concentrates in estate planning, corporate law, and international law. In 1985, he founded George T. Drost and Associates, Ltd. He previously served as the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. George resides in Arlington Heights, IL with his wife, Beth. They have three grown children and twelve grandchildren and serve as foster parents.



Charles Ota Heller's career has consisted of six phases: engineer, educator, entrepreneur, venture capitalist, management consultant and author. Today, he is President of Annapolis Capital Group, a management consulting and investment firm. Charlie has one son and three grandchildren and resides in Annapolis, MD with his wife, Susan. He is an avid golfer, skier, boater, hiker, and writer.



Bob Petrik is a Doctor of Pharmacy and has had a full career, including over 26 years with Pfizer Laboratories, from which he retired in 1995. Bob is past-president of American Czech-Slovak Cultural Club. He previously served as the Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic for Florida.

Bob's father was born near Prague and his mother was born in what is now Slovakia. Bob was born in Cleveland and currently resides in Davie, FL. He is counted as one of the most traveled persons in the world (195 independent countries).



Martin Valko is Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to Texas, Legal Advisor to the Mexican Consulate General in Dallas and the Embassy of Slovak Republic in the United States. He is a partner with the immigration law firm Chavez & Valko, LLP. Born in Levoca, Slovakia, Martin spent his childhood living in several countries thanks to his father's life-long career as a diplomat and Ambassador for the Slovak Republic (formerly Czechoslovakia). He is married to a 5-time Olympian and World Champion swimmer Martina Moravcova Valko. They reside in Dallas, TX with their daughter Karolina.



Barbara Pivnicka is President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Francisco Global Trade Council. The Council is widely recognized for its trade missions, as well as its programs focusing specifically on international trade and commerce issues. Barbara has also served as Chief Executive Officer of the International Diplomacy Council.

In 2001, Barbara was appointed Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic by the Foreign Minister of the Slovak Republic. She is the first woman in the US to hold the post. She and her husband, Richard, live in Woodside, CA.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO



So far, 2015 has been a transformative and exciting year for the NCSML. Our staff and board members have worked tirelessly these past few months drafting, rewriting, and finalizing our new strategic plan. In the midst of planning for the future, we have also been working to bring a slew of new exhibits and activities to the museum. I'm excited to say we are more focused than ever — and with that focus comes drive and motivation. We are positioned to do some incredibly great things in the coming months and years.

We opened our new original exhibit, *Beer, Please!*, on April 17 with a pub trivia event which was attended by more than 200 people (many of whom had never been to the museum before). The exhibit is one of the most fun I have seen in my years in the museum world and will immerse you in beer culture. You'll have a great time! Along with the exhibit comes a year's worth of events celebrating the history and culture behind beer. *Be sure to read more about those events on page 10 of this issue... we hope you can join us for our Year of Beer!*

This year isn't just about beer, though. We are offering more programs today than we ever have before. Our attendance has increased — both in terms of general museum attendance and at our ticketed events — in comparison to last year. The rest of the year looks great, too:

Global Shoes, an exhibit on loan from the Brooklyn's Children Museum, will open on May 9 with a day filled with activities for children and families. The exhibit teaches an understanding of cultures from around the world and exposes children to ideas that will turn them into true global citizens. Also of note is that the exhibit is presented in both English and Spanish.

In keeping with this year's theme, a Root Beer Festival will be this summer's free day. The event will be held on July 25. Our last free admission event (held in December of 2014) brought in more than 3,000 people (many of which were families with young children) to the museum.

Our education team is booking more and more school tours every day. It is truly a treat to see so many young minds come through our facilities.

These are just a few of the many reasons that I have never been more excited to see what the future holds for the NCSML. I am honored to have your continued support as we work toward our goal.

All my best,

Gail Naughton

FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Create connectivity. Engage our constituency with ambition. Animate Czech and Slovak histories and cultures. With these principles in mind, our staff and board have taken inspired steps together to position the NCSML as one of the nation's leading

ethnic museums and libraries for years to come.

Our vision statement says it best: the stories of Czechs and Slovaks are filled with themes of freedom and identity, family and community, human rights and dignity. Timeless as they are, these themes have prominence in contemporary life and are infused in today's multicultural civil society. Through delivery of the finest educational content, high impact cultural programming and exhibits, and thought-provoking lectures, we have chosen to accentuate these themes at the forefront of our strategic plan.

Staff has been at work creating an exceptional arrangement of world-class cultural exhibits and programs. Be certain to read about several

in these pages and on our website, and partake during your next visit.

Keeping pace, in 2015 the NCSML transitioned governance to a Board of Trustees, now boasting five new trustees calling Illinois, California, Texas, Maryland and Florida their homes. You will enjoy reading more about each new trustee on the previous page. In total, our board now features seven "national" trustees in an intentional decision to bring uniquely distinguished and regionally diverse representation and viewpoints to our board. It is my tremendous privilege to welcome and serve with each of our new trustees.

Let me leave you with this — become engaged with us! Membership to NCSML is the single best way for us to share all that we do with you, and for you to meaningfully participate in our museum. On behalf of the board, you have my many thanks for your support of the NCSML.

Sincerely,

Rich Mitvalsky

PILGRIMS, PATRIOTS AND PILSNER

The first beer brewed by American colonists was at the Roanoke colony in 1587. Most of the early breweries were small, home-based operations. Traditional ingredients were not available in the New World, and were often replaced with maize, molasses, bran, persimmons, potatoes, spruce twigs, birch bark, ginger, and allspice. Colonists continued to request shipments of "real" beer from England, and in 1609 colonists placed an ad in a London newspaper, asking for brewers to come to America.

"We could not now take time for further search or consideration, our victuals being much spent, especially our beere."

-Excerpt from a diary kept by a colonist on the Mayflower, December 19, 1620.

The pilgrims on the Mayflower were destined for Virginia, but dwindling supplies of food and beer caused them to land at Plymouth Rock. Breweries in the New World were among the first businesses established. In colonial America, the alehouse served as the unofficial town hall and the social and political focal point of every town. As early as 1768, the Sons of Liberty were holding meetings at the Liberty Tree Tavern in Providence. The Green Dragon Inn in Boston was called the headquarters for the revolution. George Washington made his headquarters at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

19th century immigrants, especially those from Ireland and Germany, brought their beer culture with them. Breweries and bars spread across the United States with these new Americans. The most famous breweries in the United States, such as Miller, Coors and Pabst, were founded by German immigrants. Czechs established breweries in Ohio, Illinois, Texas and Iowa. One of the more well-known Czech-owned breweries in Chicago was the Bohemian Brewing Company, founded by Charles Vopicka in 1891. It changed its name to Atlas Brewing Company in 1896 and continued to operate until 1962.

Cleveland was home to several Czech owned breweries, including Forest City Brewing Company, Bohemian Brewery, and Pilsner Brewing Company. All three brewed Bohemian or Pilsner style beer, which was a lighter beer as compared to heavier German lagers. Americans of all backgrounds grew to like the taste of this type of beer and most U.S. breweries began to produce a pilsner-type brew.

By the late 19th century, there were nearly 4,000 breweries in the USA. Repeated attempts to enact prohibition led to a decline, and by the time prohibition was the law of the land, there were only about 500 breweries operating in the United States. These companies tried to survive the dry years by producing near beers and soft drinks. Once prohibition was repealed, some breweries tried to rebound. By the late 1960s, only a handful of large breweries were able to compete and the smaller companies closed their doors.

These stories and many more are featured in the NCSML's original exhibit *Beer, Please!*

Original exhibition: *Beer, Please!*

(April 17- October 27) Smith Gallery

You think you know everything you need to know about beer... but you don't. Relax and have fun with this interactive exhibit that is as enlightening as it is mood-enhancing. Is it true that Good King Wenceslas ordered the death penalty for anyone caught exporting the much-coveted Bohemian hops? Or that the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock because they ran out of beer? Test your beer savvy in this pub quiz-themed exhibit.

It'll bend your mind without the hangover in the morning. Make your plans to visit the NCSML to see this great exhibit now! (*More information + photos on back cover.*)



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LIBRARY ACQUISITION

A recent addition to the Skala Bartizal Library's rare book collection is a Czech-language botanical book published in 1596. Research into the publication history of the book reveals it is a translation of a book by Italian physician and naturalist, Pietro Andrea Mattioli, who wrote commentaries on the botanical works by the ancient Greek physician and botanist, Dioscorides. Mattioli's book was first published in Italian in 1544 and translated into Latin in 1554.

Interestingly, two Czech translations of Mattioli's works were published: a 1562 edition that was translated from the 1554 Latin edition, and the 1596 edition that was translated from a later 1586 German edition. Even more interesting, the 1562 Czech edition appeared before the German edition was released (1563, translated by Georg Handsch).

So, why was Mattioli's book translated into Czech in the first place? Prague at that time was the imperial residence of the Habsburg Empire, and was a major center for science and the arts (Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler were among Prague's most famous scientists). It turns out that Mattioli was a well-respected physician who, in 1554, was called to serve as the personal physician to the Archduke Ferdinand II in Prague. Mattioli's book was first translated into Czech by Tadeáš Hájek z Hájku, who was the personal physician to Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II; it was only natural that the two would meet and collaborate.

The 1596 edition the NCSML owns is a translation of the later 1586 German translation by Joachim Camerarius the Younger, which in turn was based upon Handsch's 1563 German edition, though expanded and enhanced with new woodcuts of plants as well as distilling equipment. It was translated into Czech by Adam Huber z Riesenpachu, who succeeded Hájek as personal physician to Rudolf II, and published by Daniel Adam of Veleslavína, who also published the Kralice Bible.

The book itself is in very good condition, though there is evidence that it was rebound at some point in its existence due to hand-written marginalia at the edge of some pages being inadvertently trimmed off as a result of a repair. It was donated in 2014 by the Janelle Rohlena Ciccarelli Family in loving memory of Sylvia Blaha Rohlena.



A title page from the book



Two pressed leaves found inside the book



The book's cover



A page detailing domesticated and wild roses

THE MAÑA PROJECT



In the Alliant Energy Classroom, students create a flower craft similar to one that Maňa created when she was their age.

The NCSML has long been a resource about immigration for second, third, and fourth grade teachers and students. The *Faces of Freedom* exhibition was designed, in part, with this in mind. Director of Education Jan Stoffer, Education Coordinator Megan Creasey, and elementary school teacher Catherine Metz are working to better meet the needs of teachers and students by creating lesson plans and an onsite study trip that support the Common Core and the State Core Standards of fourteen states. The lesson plans and onsite experience are being piloted this spring, and the initial feedback has been positive.

The lesson plans and part of the onsite experiences are based on Maňa Machovsky Zlatohlavek's immigration story. The Machovsky Family immigrated to Cedar Rapids, IA in 1922, when Maňa was seven years old and her sister, Vera, was five. Their father, František, had been hired by Sokol Cedar Rapids as the director and instructor, prompting the family to relocate. Maňa and Vera were interviewed by the NCSML and provided valuable information about what it was like to be a child immigrating to a new country. They spoke of their life in Kolín, Czechoslovakia, experiences on the ship, stay at Ellis Island, and new life in America. Maňa's sons have generously provided ad-

ditional information and resources, such as stories, photographs, letters, documents, and art projects, which have helped create strong connections between the students and Maňa.

"I have wanted to bring Maňa's story to students for years. I knew Maňa and Vera. Both volunteered at the NCSML for years, and taught me so much. They knew they had an important story to tell, and wanted the NCSML to share it; but, they didn't want to be talked about while they were living and asked that we wait until after they passed before we developed the experience," states Jan Stoffer. "Maňa's family has been very supportive and is working with us to tell the story as accurately as possible."

During the student study trip, students and teachers meet Maňa in the gallery. Using a tablet, docents are able to play video clips from the oral histories, allowing Maňa and Vera to tell their story. Students are spellbound as they realize they are listening to actual immigrants tell their personal recollections. Items on exhibition, such as a blouse the girls wore and Sokol-related artifacts, help illustrate their story. Highlights include going into the sleeping quarters of a reconstructed 1920's era steamliner and learning about the foods they ate, in particular, gingersnaps the girls were served on the deck of the ship and the first time they ate a banana.

In the classroom, students have the opportunity to make an art project like Maňa made when she was a girl. Students draw, cut, assemble, and glue a scene with a flower as the primary focus. The project teaches composition, symmetry, and helps develop fine motor skills. Elements of *krój* and pieces of Modra pottery from the NCSML's teaching



Students in the steamship built environment located in the Faces of Freedom exhibition with Jan Stoffer, NCSML director of education.

collection are used as inspiration. The projects go back to school with the teachers at the end of the experience.

The Sleger Immigrant Home provides a means for the NCSML to build upon lessons learned in first grade about life long ago. Using their observational and critical thinking skills, students are challenged to consider living in a 360 sq. ft. home without electricity or running water. Trained and nimble docents keep the conversation moving, making as many discoveries as possible.



A docent engages students in the Sleger Immigrant Home.

Working in small groups, students participate in a SOCC (Source, Observe, Collaborate, and Corroborate) activity in the Library. Thinking as a curator or librarian, they analyze an object, photo, or document and try to figure out what it is, how it was made, why it was made, how it was used, and where they could go to learn more about it. Afterwards, they share their findings with the group.

Upon departure, students are given a coupon, which grants one free adult admission with one paid youth admission. They are encouraged to bring their favorite adult and share what they learned.

The experience was piloted in January 2015. Thus far, over 1,000 students have participated. According to Anne Suggs, Lead Teacher for Cedar Rapids Home School Assistance Program, "You seem to be very much on the right track to get students excited about Cedar Rapids history, and beyond. The Manya [sic.] story, complete with oral history components is most compelling."

Johnson Elementary School for the Arts principal Candace Lynch said, "I learned so much – we are so fortunate to have the NCSML in our community." Thank-you notes from students include comments about and drawings of their favorite part of the experience as well as statements about what they learned while at the NCSML. The lesson plans and accompanying PowerPoint presentation are scheduled to be completed and posted on the website in time for the 2015 – 16 school year.

Cost should not be a barrier.

Each year a growing number of students (now at 2,000) in grades 2, 3 & 4 visit the NCSML on a study tour with teachers. These tours are designed to enrich teachers' curriculum in the areas of history, immigration, home and family. The NCSML has created a restricted fund to provide free admission for students and teachers. It helps remove the barrier of cost for teachers so they can take advantage of this interactive and special learning experience.

Every \$1,000 raised provides free admission for 200 students and teachers! If you would like to make a donation to the Student & Teacher Study Tours Fund, please contact a Development Officer at the NCSML at 319.362.8500.

Teachers, students and parents consistently send their compliments:

"My daughter, Frankie, and her third grade class at St. Matthew's went to NCSML yesterday for a field trip. Beth went along, too. Frankie loved the tour (she said that her favorite part was the immigrant house). Beth told me that the tour was exceptional.

She was extremely impressed with how the tour kept the kids interested the entire time and was aimed at their level. She sat by one little (9 year old) boy who told her that this was only the second time he had ever been to the museum, and he loved it."



DONOR RECOGNITION

Legacy Society Brunch, April 12

On Sunday, April 12, guests and staff gathered in Rozek Grand Hall to recognize and honor members of the NCSML Legacy Society. The Legacy Society was established as a way to recognize, honor and show appreciation for those dedicated individuals who make provisions for the institution in their estate plans or through a planned gift arrangement. The event began with a brunch followed by a presentation recognizing new members who received a Legacy Society prism, which resembles the crystals of the NCSML's grand chandelier. The event concluded with a candle lighting ceremony honoring those Legacy Society members who have passed within the last year. New members in 2015 are Jason & Leslie Wright and David & Joann Fairbault.

If you are interested in learning more about the NCSML's Legacy Society or would like to share an arrangement you have already made to support the NCSML through a planned gift, please contact a member of the NCSML Development Team at 319-362-8500.

President's Dinner, May 16

The NCSML's second annual President's Dinner will be held the evening of Saturday, May 16. President's Society members will be treated to a delicious meal in Hruska Room followed by entertainment and a dessert reception in Rozek Grand Hall. This year's speaker is the Honorable Jim Leach. The President's Dinner is held to honor and show appreciation for our President's Society Members, those who give \$1,000 or more to the NCSML Annual Fund. In 2014, we were fortunate to have more than 60 such members. The dinner is sponsored by United Fire Group.



If you are interested in learning more about the President's Society, please contact a member of the Development Team at 319-362-8500.

GLOBAL SHOES

Global Shoes encourages children and their families to explore global cultures within the context of a fantasy shoe store and factory. The exhibition incorporates intriguing cultural artifacts from the Brooklyn Children's Museum's collection and a variety of hands-on, feet-in activities.

This exhibition, for ages 5-12, features an interactive shoe store and factory complex that "manufactures" shoes from around the world. Through try-on, role play, and investigative activities, children will explore how shoes are clues to people and places.

Global Shoes meets national curriculum standards for social studies, geography, and visual art. The exhibit is in English and Spanish. Members' donated passed are being used to allow many underserved families to have access to this exhibit and the rest of the museum in 2015.

***Global Shoes* will be open at the NCSML May 9, 2015 - September 7, 2015 and is produced by the Brooklyn Children's Museum. (*Global Shoes* is sponsored by Gary and Cathy Rozek.)**



NEW IN THE NCSML STORE

BOTANICUS

We are happy to announce that Botanicus products are now available at National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library's Museum Store! These high end products are rarely available in the U.S.

Organic growing. Traditional recipes. Quality products. These are the three basic principles that guide Botanicus. They grow high quality plants and herbs organically. They create their range of products in as traditional a method as they can and have the highest possible standards of production and presentation.



Lavender Aromatic Candle
\$9.00 in store and online

"The products are luxurious and aromatic," says Gail Naughton. "Botanicus was always my first stop in Prague; now I can shop right here at the museum."

The Botanicus range has grown into original, inspiring and practical products, all made on ecologically sound principles, using local skills and materials. Botanicus cosmetics contain the highest possible quantity of plant material.

Get these products in store or at
NCSML.org



Rose Hand & Body Cream
\$36.00 in store and online



Lavender Pure Essential Oil
\$31.00 in store and online

YEAR OF BEER PRODUCTS

Celebrate the Year of Beer with us —
These products (and more) are available now!



Year of Beer Programming (Details at NCSML.org)

April 17	9:30am	<i>Beer, Please!</i> Exhibit Opens <i>Sponsored by Western Fraternal Life</i>
May 30	1:00pm	Beer 101, led by Fleck Sales <i>Sponsored by Western Fraternal Life</i>
June 24	5:30pm	History on Tap: Lion Bridge Brewing Company <i>Sponsored by Western Fraternal Life</i>
July 21	6:00pm	Grub & Suds Culture Walk (Cedar Rapids, IA) <i>Sponsored by Western Fraternal Life</i>
July 25	9:30am-4:00pm	Family Root Beer Festival (Free Gallery Admission) Sponsored in-part by Wells Fargo
August 18	6:00pm	Grub & Suds Culture Walk (Cedar Rapids, IA) <i>Sponsored by Western Fraternal Life</i>
August 20	7:00pm	Brew & View: Kooky <i>Sponsored by Gary and Cathy Rozek</i>
August 26	5:30pm	History on Tap: Big Grove Brewery (Solon, IA) <i>Sponsored by Western Fraternal Life</i>
September 17	7:00pm	Brew & View: Želary <i>Sponsored by Gary and Cathy Rozek</i>
September TBA	TBA	Craft Beer Talk & Workshop <i>Sponsored by Western Fraternal Life</i>
October 2	6:00pm	Cooking with Beer Demo & Dinner (The Hotel at Kirkwood Center) <i>Sponsored by Western Fraternal Life</i>
October 16	6:30pm-10pm	BrewNost! <i>Presented by Northwestern Mutual</i>
October 21	5:30pm	History on Tap: Location to be Announced <i>Sponsored by Western Fraternal Life</i>
October 23	7:00pm	Brew & View: Burning Bush <i>Sponsored by Gary and Cathy Rozek</i>
November 5	7:00pm	Brew & View: The Lady in Number 6 <i>Sponsored by Gary and Cathy Rozek</i>

Beer, Please! programs
presented by:


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SUMMER CAMPS

Sponsored by Ludvik and Katherine Svoboda

NCSML's Little Adventurer Camp

Monday, June 15 – Wednesday, June 17, 2015

1:00pm – 4:00 pm each day

Ages: 2nd – 6th grade

\$50 members, \$60 non-members

What do Eskimos, dragons, Galileo, and rockets have in common?

You'll find them all in this summer camp! Inspired by the illustrations and stories of Czech-American author Peter Sís, this three day adventure includes crafts and activities that explore outer space, airplanes, world cultures, and more. Snacks are included.

Creative Kids Folk Art Camp

Monday, July 20 – Friday, July 24, 2015

12:00pm – 3:30pm each day

Ages: 2nd – 8th grade

\$90 members, \$100 non-members

Get creative and spend a week this summer learning from a Czech Master Folk Artist! Decorate beautiful eggs using traditional techniques, learn simple weaving, discover the art of Polish paper cutting, make dolls out of ordinary straw and wheat, and much more. All projects are great for beginners, and lots of fun! Snacks are included.



Register today at NCSML.org

JUNE 26-27 Collins Road Theatres Cedar Rapids, IA



Friday, June 26 at 6:30pm

To See the Sea

With special guest, film director Jiří Mádrl, followed by Q&A and reception.

Saturday, June 27

10:00am – *Listopad*

12:30pm – *Clownwise*

3:00pm – *The Icing*

4:30pm – *Krásno*

7:00pm – *Fair Play*

\$5 per film, \$15/Saturday pass (includes 5 films), \$15/opening evening*

Tickets online beginning
May 1 at NCSML.org

*Opening evening includes screening of *To See the Sea* and Q&A with director Jiří Mádrl at Collins Road Theatres; reception at Campbell Steele Gallery with hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, live music, informal discussion with Jiří Mádrl.)

*SPONSORED BY GARY AND CATHY ROZEK

ROOT BEER FEST

SPONSORED IN PART BY WELLS FARGO

Saturday, July 25 (9:30am-4:00pm)

Join us for this summer's family free day — no admission charge!

- Root beer samples + root beer floats!
- Live music!
- Fun family activities!
- Tasty eats and treats (food)!
- Games for all ages!



EXHIBIT NOW OPEN



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SCIENCE,
CULTURE,
(AND MORE)
BEHIND BEER.**



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