

NATIONAL  
CZECH &  
SLOVAK  
MUSEUM &  
LIBRARY

# MOST

[The Bridge]

Winter 2017

A  
memorable,  
magical  
*BrewNost!*  
2017  
evening



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National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

# NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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*The NCSML is funded in part  
by a grant from the Cultural  
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# CEO Announces Her Retirement

President and CEO Gail Naughton has announced her intention to retire in June 2018. Only the second president and CEO in the NCSML's history, Gail has served in the role since 2002.

During her tenure, participation at the museum has grown by 40 percent, including a notable increase in attendance of families and children; the annual fund has increased two-fold; the endowment has jumped from \$600,000 to more than \$11.5 million; and education and programs are extending their reach and setting records for participation.

Under her leadership, the NCSML rose above the flood disaster in 2008, recovering stronger. More than \$28 million was raised enabling the NCSML to save the original building by moving it, setting it on a new foundation three feet above the flood, and adding 30,000 square feet. The expanded museum re-opened in July 2012, only four years after the flood, with a crowd of 10,000 people in attendance during the opening weekend.

A nationwide search to find Gail's successor is under way.

## SAVE - THE - DATE

Mark your calendars now for Sept. 14, 2018, for the 15th anniversary of *BrewNost!*, an International beer tasting to benefit the NCSML. Nicholas D. Lowry, president of Swann Auction Galleries in New York City and a regular on PBS's *Antiques Roadshow* program, will be making his second guest appearance as our Live auctioneer. Stay tuned for package announcements. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for *BrewNost! 2018*, contact Becky Robinson at 319.362.8500 or [brobenson@ncsml.org](mailto:brobenson@ncsml.org).

You won't want to miss this crown jewel of international beer festivals. Please plan to join us to celebrate an evening of the world's best brews and hippest local food. We look forward to seeing you at *BrewNost! 2018* on Friday, Sept. 14.



# FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO



A few months after I became CEO of the NCSML, a member of the board who was one of the original founders sat down in the chair across from my desk. I knew there was skepticism among many of the local Czechs and Slovaks that, not being of Czech or Slovak heritage, I might not really care about their culture and history. How could I understand if I wasn't one of them? Frank Novotny was kind of like a roasted marshmallow, crusty on the outside, but soft and squishy inside. Staring me in the eye, he harrumphed and finally said, "You know, I think you're gonna be ok."

I smiled but I could have cheered. I'd made it through the gauntlet of the founders and was on my way to acceptance. Over the years, Frank and I had many good times – he was a gifted artist among many other talents—and he stayed involved in the museum until his final days.

Most people don't know that not even four weeks into my job, a group of dignitaries from Moline, IL, visited. It was a delegation of government officials from Belgium along with locals who wanted to start a Belgian museum in Moline. Little did they know that I am half Belgian on my father's side. (When your maiden name is Van Walleghen, you can't escape it.) By the end of the tour, they offered me a job to help them establish a museum. I had to laugh, it was so ironic that they were from Belgium of all places. But even after only days at the museum, I knew the NCSML was the place I wanted to be.

Sometimes it's the little things you remember. Another early encounter I have never forgotten was listening to a lady who was complaining that there wasn't a place in our Homelands exhibition that told the story of her grandmother's immigrant experience. "What was it like for her to come over on a ship?" she asked. I was totally unprepared so I said, I've only been here six weeks but I'll remember what you said. And, by gosh, all these years later there's a ship in our *Faces of Freedom* permanent exhibition. I hope she comes back.

Another early, but quite different, experience was my first trip to Washington, DC. It was for the dedication of the statue of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk on Massachusetts Avenue. All the Czech dignitaries were there. I attended a panel discussion that included Madeleine Albright and Zbigniew Brzezinski, among other luminaries. The gala dinner that night was at the World Bank, with Governor Tom Ridge, who has Slovak roots, as the MC. All weekend, everyone was interested to meet the new CEO of the NCSML. Pretty heady stuff. This was my first taste of the "national" in National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

Forgive my reminiscences as I look toward retirement next June. The people and the stories have made this the job of a lifetime. Serving as president and CEO of the NCSML has been an honor that has changed and enriched my life and that of my family. I've been thinking about retiring for a while and this is a good time for me and my family and for the museum. We have a great staff and strong board of trustees, and I am confident the NCSML is well-positioned for the future.

All my best,

Gail Naughton



# FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Toward the end of May I received the news no board chair wants to hear. The CEO came to my office to tell me she was going to retire by the end of June 2018. It's hard to picture the museum without Gail.

So much has happened during her tenure, it's a challenge to recall it all. But who can forget the flood she guided us through? When I joined the board in 2009, already there was an interim plan outlining goals, one of the most important of which was to help Czech Village come back. With the help and devotion of board members, staff, Cedar Rapidsians, members, and friends, we came back with gusto. Gail was always the cheerleader, the one who broke the champagne bottle on the building, the one

who traveled tirelessly to keep the museum in the minds and hearts of people nationally and internationally. When we reopened in 2012, more than 60,000 people visited the museum in less than 6 months.

I am chairing the committee to lead a national search for her successor, and an executive search firm has been contracted to assist.

We are a much stronger and more visionary museum than we were when Gail started. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for what she has done for Cedar Rapids—and for Czechs and Slovaks everywhere.

Sincerely,

Tom DeBoom



# ***Maña: One Girl's Story Wins National Leadership in History Award***

By Nicholas Hartmann, Ph.D., Director of Learning and Civic Engagement



*NCSML Director of Learning and Civic Engagement Dr. Nic Hartmann, with former NCSML Director of Education Jan Stoffer, at the AASLH Leadership in History Awards ceremony. Jan was the creator of Maña: One Girl's Story, which is now used in schools throughout Eastern Iowa and beyond.*

This year, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) awarded the Leadership in History award to the NCSML for its curriculum and school tour program, *Maña: One Girl's Story*. Considered to be “the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history,” the program was one of 48 award-winning programs, and the only award winner in 2017 to come from the state of Iowa.

For the NCSML, *Maña: One Girl's Story* matters because it tells an immigration story from a different perspective: that of a child who had to immigrate. When Maña Machovsky Zlatohlavek moved from Kolin, Czechoslovakia, to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, it was not her choice—she went with her family because her father was offered a job. It was out of her control, and people can understand that life is often affected by circumstances beyond our control. Children's stories make that more realistic, and they can touch on multiple themes: moving, immigration,

human rights, and community, among others. By using a blend of oral history interviews, photographs, and other media, as we do at the NCSML, we are teaching students how primary sources tell stories. And through international collaboration, as well as the efforts of Maña's family, the story is extensive, personal, and multi-faceted.

The project was nearly 10 years in the making, and according to former NCSML Director of Education Jan Stoffer, waiting for the right moment was one of the most difficult challenges.

“Children in the United States all know that most of us have a family member who came from another country; but, the specifics have been lost over time,” Jan said. “I have observed a lack of understanding about immigration and emigration, both here and abroad. Questions as to why someone would leave, what the journey was like, and how an immigrant assimilated in a new country are common.

“Maña's story answers some of these questions,” Jan continued, “while providing opportunity for students to consider what it might be like for them to move to a new country. And Maña's story is relevant to European audiences as it explains why some families chose to leave and addresses how immigrants maintained and have infused cultural practices into their new homeland's traditions.”

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## Gifts that ensure passions and stories will endure

*Thanks to annual supporters like you, the NCSML will be here for future generations. We are so grateful for your generosity, which ensures our mission delivery is the best it can be. Just as important as crucial annual gifts are those that are future-focused. Through such current and future support, we can make sure your passions are kept alive and your stories are shared.*



### YOUR LEGACY

"His heritage was everything to him, and helping establish the museum was one of his biggest legacies. He would be so proud and touched to see the success of the NCSML today." —Nikki Modracek Smith of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on her grandfather, Leo Modracek, a member of the NCSML Legacy Society. The Irma and Leo Modracek Endowed Fund is designated to support the NCSML's CEO position.

NCSML Legacy Society members come from a variety of backgrounds and live all across the United States. All are united by a passion for keeping the NCSML's stories vibrant and significant for generations to come, and have made provisions to support the NCSML through planned gifts—wills, trusts, or other estate plans.

When you establish a planned gift for the NCSML, you leave a lasting legacy and enable the museum to continue its critical work in perpetuity. There are many ways to include the museum in your estate planning; the NCSML Development Team can work with you and your financial advisors to identify a plan that works for you.

Enrollment in the NCSML's Legacy Society is easy: Any planned gift agreement qualifies you for membership. Visit [www.NCSML/support](http://www.NCSML/support) for a Legacy Society agreement, or contact Emily Stochl or Dion McInnis.

All members of the Legacy Society will be recognized at the annual Legacy Society Brunch. President/CEO Gail Naughton says of the Legacy Society Brunch, "It is one of my favorite annual museum events. At the recognition ceremony, we read a memorial, light a candle, and say a prayer for our dear Legacy Society members. This ceremony warms my heart. When I hand a family member a flower as a tribute, there's usually not a dry eye among us as we remember old friends. This is what Legacy Society is all about. It's about being remembered after you're gone for the wonderful impact you've made."

When you join the Legacy Society, you ensure that your passions are kept alive and your stories are shared. And when you are a member of the Legacy Society, your legacy becomes part of ours.

### Endowment Giving

"When my mother, Henrietta Skala Bartizal, decided that she wanted to establish an endowment for the NCSML, she was already familiar with the museum and its goals. Having made some contributions in kind, she contributed to the NCSML's first capital campaign and then to its major exhibition. Her endowment support is a living memorial to her parents, whom she credited with instilling in her a love for learning and desire to remember her Czech heritage as part of this great country, the United States of America."

— Henrietta Bartizal Pons, Chicago, Illinois, from *A Thousand Years of Czech Culture*

To learn more about these giving options, please contact Emily Stochl, Director of Development, [estochl@ncsml.org](mailto:estochl@ncsml.org) or 319-362-8500 ext. 209; or Dion McInnis, National Development Officer, [dmcinnis@ncsml.org](mailto:dmcinnis@ncsml.org) or 832-877-8821.

## IN THE GALLERIES

### *The Art of Accessories*

Continues through February 11, 2018 • Petrik Gallery

#### THE ART OF Accessories

An original exhibition featuring beaded bags, decorated shoes, fanciful hats, and gorgeous jewelry from the NCSML collection is dazzling visitors. Accessories are often highly personal items that can be an expression of a personality or a belief system. Sometimes accessories are overshadowed by the complete ensemble. The exhibit showcases beautiful and often quirky items that shine as they take center stage.



Lead Sponsor:



### *Guts & Glory: The War Train that Shaped a Nation*

April 7 – December 31, 2018 • Petrik Gallery

It's the most epic, heroic World War I story you've never heard. An original exhibition recognizing the 100th anniversary of the formation of Czechoslovakia, *Guts & Glory* was inspired by Kevin J. McNamara's book, *Dreams of a Great Small Nation*. As World War I ends in 1918, political leaders in Europe and America create the new nation of Czechoslovakia. Crucial to that decision are 70,000 brave Czech and Slovak soldiers who support the Allies, seizing the Trans-Siberian railroad and fighting their way across Siberia—and eventually reaching their new homeland in Europe.

The project of creating *Guts & Glory* involves a remarkable collaboration with high school students and teachers at Iowa BIG and Metro High School, both based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Iowa

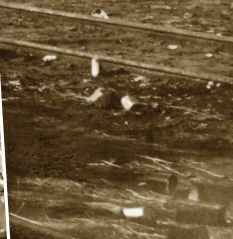
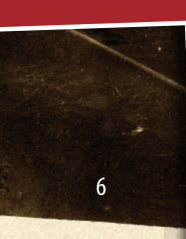
BIG students created and programmed the interactive virtual reality stories that will be at two stations, and Metro students created replicas of some of the typical railroad cars that the Czech and Slovak Legion occupied as a rolling community in their trek across Siberia. The interpretive materials for the exhibit use a graphic novel look and approach; the illustrations were created by University of Iowa faculty member Rachel Marie-Crane Williams.

As part of the exhibition's opening events, Kevin McNamara will make a public presentation about the story told in the exhibit, for which his book provides the historical background. The high school students who helped create portions of the exhibition also will be on hand for its opening.

Major support comes from: Rockwell Collins, Aegon Transamerica Foundation, Western Fraternal Life, ITC Midwest, and the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.



## COMING IN APRIL

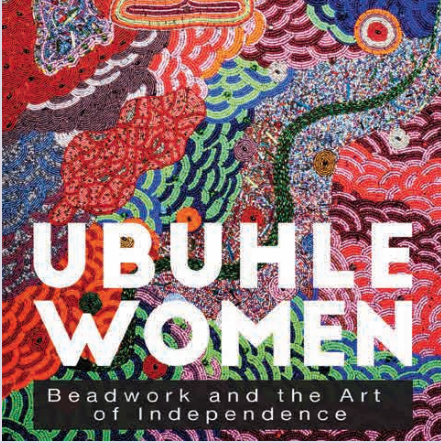




COMING IN MAY

## *Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence*

May 12 – September 17, 2018 • Smith Gallery



This exhibition showcases a form of bead art developed by a community of women living and working together in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The six featured artists call their “paintings in beads” ndwangos. The Ubuhle women work on a black background fabric, and by stretching this textile like a canvas, they transform the flat cloth into a contemporary art form colored with Czech glass beads.

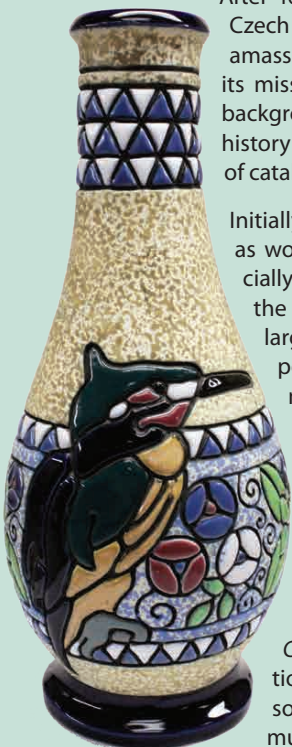
Ubuhle means “beauty” in Xhosa and Zulu, and it describes the shimmering quality of light on glass. From a distance each panel seems to be formed from a continuous surface, but as each tiny individual bead catches the light the viewer becomes aware of the meticulous skill that went

into each work and the scale of ambition: A single panel can take more than 10 months to complete.

The Ubuhle community was established in 1999 as a way of creating employment for rural women. By incorporating and teaching beadwork—a customary form of artistic expression for generations of South African women—the community provided women with a source of income and a route to financial independence.

## *Cool & Collected*

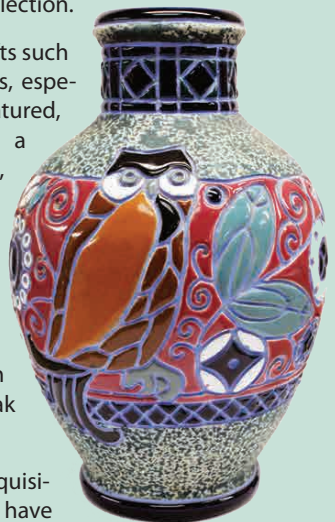
February 3 – April 15, 2018 • Smith Gallery



After 40 years of growth, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has amassed a core collection worthy of its mission to inspire people from every background to connect to Czech and Slovak history and culture. Today there are thousands of cataloged objects in this growing artifact collection.

Initially the focal point was traditional folk crafts such as woodcarving, egg decorating, and textiles, especially folk costumes. As the museum has matured, the collection has expanded to include a large selection of Czech and Slovak glass, porcelain, items created in the modern manufacturing industries, and immigrant-related objects. In addition to historical artifacts, the NCSML is continually seeking artifacts of the latter 20th century, such as objects to illustrate the fall of communism and separation of the Czech and Slovak Republics.

*Cool & Collected* celebrates recent acquisitions by the NCSML and the donors who have so generously entrusted their treasures to the museum’s care.





Preserving history, honoring memories

Donated Slovak-language books pay tribute to a way of living

By David Muhlena, Library Director

The oft-quoted saying “don’t judge a book by its cover” comes to mind when considering a donation of library materials made by first-generation Slovak-American Janet Jancuska Klein. While these well-used books might not look especially impressive at first glance, the story provided here by Ms. Klein may change your initial impression:

“My father, Daniel Jancuska, was born in 1905 in what was then Austria-Hungary. He came to the United States in 1912 and eventually settled in Easton, CT. He was very proud of his Slovak roots. He brought me up to be equally proud.



Slovak was his first language. He learned English in a one room unheated schoolhouse in Easton. He lived on a farm and as such worked very hard.

There were no conveniences: no electricity, no indoor plumbing, no central heat, and no supermarkets. They ate mainly what they grew and whatever livestock they were able to accumulate. Life was not easy. He nevertheless survived and flourished.

He married, and I am his daughter, his only child. He taught me old-world values, which unfortunately today are not generally followed. He taught me to be proud of my Slovak heritage; to do whatever I can to help support Slovak causes and institutions. He thought it very important that the old-world Slovak traditions continue onward for future generations.



My father had some very old books, written in Slovak. Some were school books, some not. He kept these books throughout his lifetime and now they passed to me. I too am getting on in years. I would love to have these books maintained permanently as a tribute to my father’s memory.”

It is stories like this one from Janet that make our jobs here at the NCSML so fulfilling. We hope you agree!





## COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT



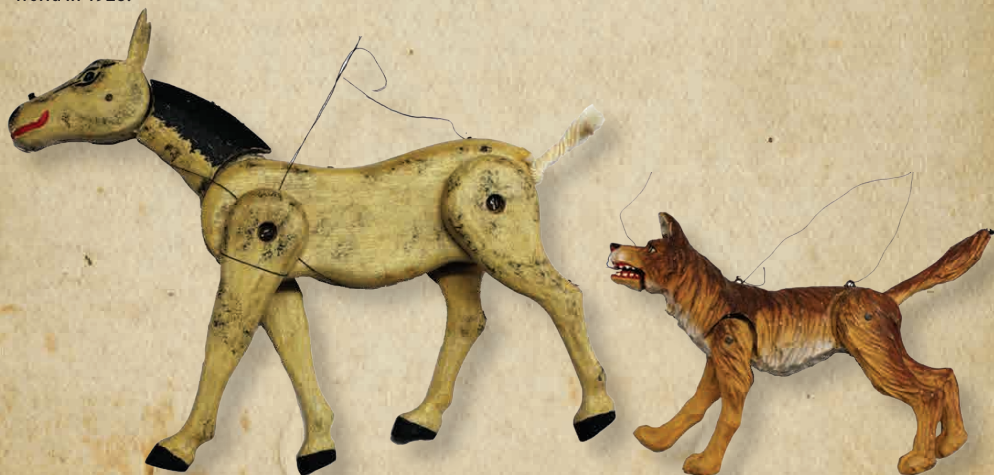
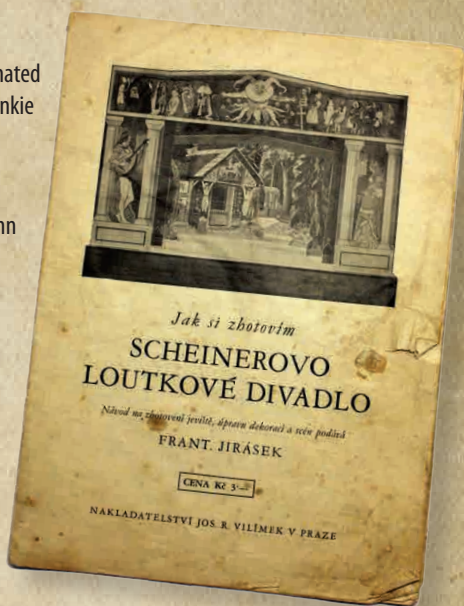
### Family donates unique complete marionette theater set

This marionette theater, complete with 18 marionettes, was donated to the NCSML in October 2017 by Susan Bilodeau in honor of Frankie King and Marcia Dykema, and in memory of Eleanor Larsen and John and Florence Kvasnicka.

The set was purchased in Czechoslovakia in the late 1920s by John Kvasnicka, who immigrated to the US around 1900 but traveled back to Czechoslovakia several times to visit family. John's daughters, Frankie and Marcia, played with the theater set as children.

The set includes a wooden carrying case that doubles as the theater and paper and cardboard backgrounds, including castle interiors, woods, cottages, and kitchens. It also includes wooden props such as benches, chairs, and beds. The 18 marionettes came with 13 extra heads so that they can "play" multiple characters by a simple change to a new head.

The marionettes portray several characters, including classic fairy tale characters such as a witch, a princess, a king, and the fabled water spirit Vodník. Of special interest is a Mickey-Mouse-like marionette, which offers a clue as to when the set was purchased, since Walt Disney introduced Mickey Mouse to the world in 1928.





# PROGRAM CALENDAR

## JANUARY

**Saturday, Jan. 6, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

★ **Free First Saturday for Students: Artsy Accessories**

**Cost: Free for students; regular admission for non-students**

Students of all ages are invited to visit the NCSML's exhibitions for free on the first Saturday of every month. For January: There are plenty of different types of accessories to make any outfit pop! Come see our *Art of Accessories* exhibit and be inspired to make your own accessories to take home. *Sponsored by United Fire Group and Ludvik & Katherine Svoboda.*

**Thursday, Jan. 25, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

★ **Behind the Scenes Tour with Curator Stephanie Kohn**

**Cost: \$25 per person**

Satisfy your curiosity and learn to think like a curator! Sign up to join the NCSML's very own Stefanie Kohn, Curator, for a behind-the-scenes tour as she prepares the new exhibit, *Cool and Collected*. Stefanie will take 12 guests on an exclusive tour of the NCSML collections, storage, work room, and Smith Gallery to see how an exhibit comes to life! This program is for ages 10 or older. Back up bad weather day set for Tuesday, Jan. 30, 6:30 p.m. Contact Stefanie at 319.362.8500 with questions.

## FEBRUARY

**Saturday, Feb. 3, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

★ **Free First Saturdays for Students:**

**Cost: Free for students, regular admission for non-students.**

Students of all ages are invited to visit the NCSML's exhibits for free on the first Saturday of every month. *Sponsored by United Fire Group.*

**Sunday, Feb. 4, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

★ **Superheroes of History Day 2018**

**Cost: Free, RSVP at [ncsml.org/events](https://ncsml.org/events), seating is limited.**

Learn about making comics from a local comic artist! Use your imagination to draw your own superhero, and hear about real-life heroes in history. And don't forget to wear your cape! Costumes are encouraged but not required. All ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## MARCH

**Saturday, March 3, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

★ **Free First Saturdays for Students:**

**Cost: Free for students, regular admission for non-students.**

Students of all ages are invited to visit the NCSML's exhibits for free on the first Saturday of every month. *Sponsored by United Fire Group.*

**Wednesday, March 14, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

**History on Tap: Remembering 6-on-6 Girls' Basketball: Celebrating Girls' and Women's Sport in Iowa**

**Cost: Admission free; all food and beverages purchased from Cedar Ridge during the program.**

Celebrate Women's History Month and join us at Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery in Swisher, IA, to hear from the Curator of the Iowa Women's Archives, Kären M. Mason, as she shares details and discoveries while researching a new traveling exhibit on 6-on-6 Girls' Basketball in Iowa.

**Sunday, March 18, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

★ **Farewell to Winter**

**Cost: Free**

Celebrate the triumph of Spring over Winter by helping us toss Morena into the nearby Cedar River! In Slavic tradition, Morena is an entity associated with death and winter, and who must be vanquished to make way for sunny skies and warmer weather.

**Wednesday, March 21, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

**History on the 8's Lecture: The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire**

**Cost: Free, RSVP at [ncsml.org/events](https://ncsml.org/events)**

Author Kenneth Janda, Ph.D., and Payson S. Wild, professor emeritus at Northwestern University, will present his new book showing there was more to World War I than the Western Front. This history, presented as two intertwined narratives in alternating chapters, juxtaposes the experiences of a monarch and a Slovak peasant on the Eastern Front. The book will be available for purchase with a book signing to follow the lecture.

**Friday, March 23, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 24, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

★ **Egg Decorating with Master Czech Folk Artist Marj Nejd**

**Cost (class materials are included in the ticket price):**

**\$35 per person, Egg Decorating Class only**

**\$50 per person, Egg Decorating Class + Traditional Starter Kit to take home**

**\$60 per person, Egg Decorating Class + Traditional Deluxe Kit to take home**

Class participants will learn how to decorate eggs using the batik/wax resist method. The traditional wax resist process involves several stages of tracing designs with wax and dipping the egg in different colored dyes. Each student will leave with new knowledge and one finished egg. Class size is limited. Pre-registration is required. For ages 8 and older; ages 8-11 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Find detailed information about these and other programs, including RSVP and tickets, at [NCSML.org/events](https://ncsml.org/events).**



## IN THE MUSEUM STORE

Antique Charm  
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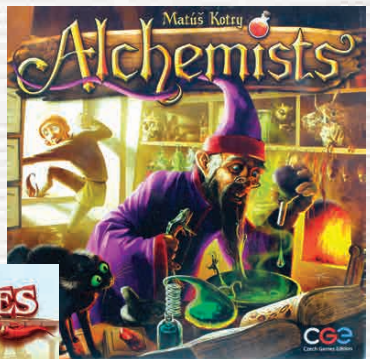


The exclusive designs in this line of jewelry are inspired by a traditional heart symbol found on many items in the museum's artifacts collection.

View the entire collection in the store or online at [NCSML.org/store](http://NCSML.org/store)

## Got games? Czech!

Popular board games for those long winter nights.



**Codenames:** Try to guess the right words to reveal the secret agents identities and avoid assassination! **\$19.95**

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**Alchemists:** A game of deduction, strategy and risk assessment. Run experiments, mix potions and publish your way to academic fame. **\$59.95**

We're proud to offer board games from independent board games company Czech Games Edition, whose focus is publishing games by Czech and Slovak authors and designers.

Shop in-store and online at [NCSML.org/store](http://NCSML.org/store)

# It's the most epic, heroic World War I story you've never heard!

## GUTS & GLORY

THE WAR TRAIN  
THAT SHAPED A NATION

April 7 - December 31, 2018

As World War I ends in 1918, political leaders in Europe and America create the new nation of Czechoslovakia. Crucial to that decision are 70,000 brave Czech and Slovak soldiers who support the Allies, seizing the Trans-Siberian railroad and fighting their way across Siberia.

### LOCATED IN CZECH VILLAGE

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Major support comes from: Rockwell Collins, Aegon Transamerica Foundation, Western Fraternal Life, ITC Midwest, and the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.