

Major Milestones Reached

Groundbreaking Held and Fundraising Goals Met

Cheers could be heard across the 12th and 16th Avenue bridges as more than 100 people gathered on a cold December afternoon to watch local, state and international dignitaries officially break ground and commemorate the start of construction of the new museum and library. "What an overwhelming feeling to be standing here, with all of you, on the very ground where we faced the destruction of our museum in 2008," said Sue Plotz Olson, chair of the NCSML Board of Directors. "It's a triumphant

feeling knowing that, because all of you care so much, we really are rebuilding the future. I can see, clearly and with confidence, a world-class museum and library right here opening in 2012."

Guests brandishing shovels at the December 15, 2010, groundbreaking were: Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron

- 302 donors have contributed to the capital campaign, 75% from Iowa.
- Fifty-six volunteers assisted in the local capital campaign.
- More than one million dollars was leveraged from national and international donors.
- Fund raising will continue to seek support for programming, educational services and exhibitions on a national scale.
- More details and speeches may be found on the website www.NCSML.org

Corbett; Regenia Bailey, chairwoman, Vision Iowa Board; Jack Evans, president, The Hall-Perrine Foundation; Don Pafko, Slovak Honorary Consul from Minneapolis; Lu Barta Barron, Linn County Supervisor and secretary of the NCSML board; Linda Langston, chair, Linn County Board of Supervisors; Rob Hogg, Wally Horn and Bob Dvorsky, Iowa State Senators; Tyler Olson and Kirsten Running-Marquardt, Iowa State Representatives, and Gail Naughton, president/CEO of the NCSML.

This alone would normally be reason to rejoice, but there was more to celebrate. Following the groundbreaking, reception guests inside the Kosek building rang out a cheer as the NCSML board of directors



announced that they had met a major milestone in the recovery and rebirth following the 2008 devastation. Thanks to generous funding from the State of Iowa; Cedar Rapids area individuals and businesses; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) public assistance, and national and international donors, the NCSML had reached its capital fund raising goal of \$25 million.

Closing the gap on the capital campaign goal occurred when the last dollar was raised to meet the six million dollar challenge from The Hall-Perrine Foundation. "The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is a shining example of recovery and rebirth.... Their foresight and commitment to grow and expand their services and programs is certainly inspirational and well-deserving of this three million dollar grant," said Jack Evans, president of The Hall-Perrine Foundation.

"As we were nearing our campaign goal, we were notified on Dec. 3, that FEMA approved our improved project application," said Gail Naughton. "With that news, we got ready to break ground and celebrate how far we've come."

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has received outstanding support for its "Rebuilding the Future" campaign. People from all over the nation invested their resources to make this vision a reality. Every gift and donor mattered. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all. A permanent plaque and publication recognizing donors will be placed in the new building. In the meantime, in the next issues of MOST, we will highlight a few donors who helped the NCSML with some extremely significant gifts.

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.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



When I prepared my remarks for the groundbreaking and announcement, I pondered the meaning of the day. I thought, among other things, about the day of June 12, 2008. The first time I saw the flooded building was on television after flood waters rose in the museum overnight. It was such a dark, stormy, dismal day, it looked and felt like the end of the world. I let myself cry for a bit, but by that afternoon, staff sat at my dining room table planning immediate disaster response. Within days the board of directors had an initial plan for recovery. Most of all, we never hesitated in the belief that the museum would come back.

When we set a recovery goal of \$25 million, people expressed concern; they told us it was too ambitious, it had never been done. But we were convinced the NCSML could rise above this set-back and become even more than it was before. In early 2008, the NCSML was already planning a much-needed expansion, and we were not about to let a flood get in the way. However painful the situation we were thrust into, the NCSML focused on this transformative opportunity to be a truly national museum and library.

We told our story in Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, New York, Washington D.C., Florida, Chicago, Silicon Valley, Prague and Bratislava, to name a few. People were impressed by our tenacity and vision for the future. The extraordinary response of Cedar Rapids and Iowa has made our recovery a reality. Fully 75% of the gifts and pledges we have received

to date are from Iowa. We are humbled by this belief in our mission and the importance of this museum and library to the city and the state as an economic, cultural and educational resource and destination. We pledge that we will work with all our hearts to meet and exceed your expectations.

On December 15, 2010, we celebrated meeting that unimaginable goal by successfully completing the first phase of our recovery and rebirth. While we have had to focus on capital rebuilding, we have always realized and planned for what goes on inside the building — it must be populated by incomparable events and programs.

Now, without missing a beat, we are proceeding with a national initiative to provide support for exceptional programming, educational services and exhibitions on a national scale. There are many people who have not been reached, but are eager to help; there are those who love us, who are deeply engaged and have not invested yet. Cedar Rapids and Iowa have stepped up by saying this museum is critical to our heritage, our knowledge of who we are. The nation will follow.

When Václav Havel spoke at the museum dedication in 1995, he said something that is appropriate for us today. "We are united by the same ideals. We believe in the same values. And we share the desire to cherish and protect them. Our experience, often a bitter one, has taught us that they cannot be simply taken for granted as something that will just be there forever."

He was speaking about our two countries, but I believe this also speaks to us. We, you and I, members, friends, board, staff, donors and volunteers, are united by the same values and ideals. And we are joined in a bright vision for the future.

Sincerely,

Gail Naughton
Gail Naughton

From our Board Chair

New beginnings. A fresh year, the approach of spring, and renewed life for the NCSML. Construction is well underway on the new museum/library building. Our cherished red roof building takes the next step in its history when it's moved to the new site in early May. I can hardly take my eyes off the live webcam as I watch dirt moving, deep foundations being sunk,

and workers crisscrossing the site. Be sure to check out the drama at www.ncsml.org (follow the link). To our board and community volunteers I say **thank you** for your efforts on the capital campaign which make this dream a reality!



However, the building is only a shell holding our essence. Also on the website we are fresh with oral histories, fresh with an international conference in March, fresh with program options, and fresh with SHOPPING! Wow — the retail store online uses cutting-edge technology to tempt a worldwide audience with unique items.

Our newest board members are already contributing to our future. Be sure to check out their information below. "Spring"! I love the way that word sounds...

Sincerely,

Sue Olson

Sue Olson

We welcome our new board members

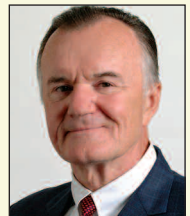
Christopher Blake Ph.D., is president of Mount Mercy University. Since arriving in 2006, Blake has led his institution through a mission and visioning process which resulted in Mount Mercy's current strategic plan. He has also led the launch of graduate programs in business, education, marriage and family therapy and nursing. Christopher received his Ph.D. in education from the University of London, King's College.

Tony Golobic CPA, is chairman and chief executive officer of GreatAmerica. He previously served as general manager of GE Capital Office Technology Financial Services, and as senior vice president of Mellon Financial Services. Tony earned his M.B.A. degree in finance from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. He is a member of the board of trustees of Coe College and at Mercy Medical Center.

Jitka Šonková Ph.D., is a lecturer in the Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Iowa, where she teaches Czech language, literature and culture courses. She received her Ph.D. degree in linguistics at the Charles University, Prague. Jitka has authored a monograph, *Morphology of Spoken Czech: Frequency Analysis* (2008), and co-authored the *Frequency Dictionary of Spoken Czech* (2007).

Tom J. Stanczyk is the vice president for tax at Rockwell Collins Inc. A Wisconsin native and CPA with almost 28 years of experience in business and personal taxation, Tom worked for a number of large Wisconsin companies including MillerCoors LLC, Joy Global Inc., CNH Global NV, and Deloitte & Touche before beginning his current position in August 2010. He is a graduate of Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and resides in Cedar Rapids.

Doug Wenzel is a Certified Investment Management Analyst™ with The Schmidt, Vander Leest and Wenzel Group in Iowa City. He graduated with honors from the University of Iowa College of Law and began his career in the investment advisory business in 1992. Doug was born and raised in Cedar Rapids and now resides in Iowa City with his wife, Lori, and three children, Karl, Piper and Jack. He is active in many community and church activities and associations.



Webcams Provide Eagle (Orel) View



As the flood-damaged museum & library building prepares for moving and elevation, thousands around the world will be able to view the dramatic action and relocation now that two webcams have been installed near the construction site. Find the link to the webcams at the upper right hand corner of www.NCSML.org.

Schedule for Relocation of Museum & Library

Patterson Structural Movers of Washington, IA, will move and elevate the structure on the following dates, provided it does not rain.

Moving building — April 26 & 27

Elevation — May 17 & 18

Roll across onto foundation — May 19 & 20

Set down on foundation — May 21

Last year, the board of directors of the NCSML decided to move the 1400-ton structure and elevate it three feet above the 2008 flood level. A crew from Patterson Structural Movers of Washington, IA, are on site placing the beams and jacks in place to move the building to its new location across the street. The entire move will take 45-60 days beginning in April. It is believed to be the largest museum ever moved, according to Jeremy Patterson of Patterson Structural Movers.



The 20th Century in Retrospect 1989 – 2011: Transition to Democracy

Attendees from across the U.S. and Europe listened as scholars and dignitaries discussed the many aspects of the Czech and Slovak transformation to democracy during the bi-annual History and Culture Conference presented on March 11 and 12. More than 100 participated in learning and exchanging ideas regarding this critical, yet joyous time in Eastern Europe. All programs and keynote addresses were given at the Marriott Hotel in Cedar Rapids. Conference sponsors included the Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library; Ilten's Inc.; Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust and the Czechoslovak National Council of America Endowment.



Ambassador Peter Burian from Slovakia (l) with Donald Pafko Honorary Slovak Consul from Minnesota at the welcome reception on March 10.



Speakers James Grove (l) of Mt. Mercy University, Zora Bútorová of the Institute for Public Affairs and Martin Bútora (r) former Ambassador from Slovakia.



Jiří Ellinger of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in the U.S. speaks at the March 11 conference dinner.



President/CEO of NCSML Gail Naughton (l), former Slovakia Ambassador Martin Bútora, Zora Bútorová and Slovakia ambassador to the U.S. Peter Burian (r).



Zora Bútorová speaks on women's rights issues.



Ray Capek, Gail Naughton and Ken Dvorsky (l to r)

Save the Date for Friday Evening, Sept. 23, 2011

Our Eighth Annual International Beer Tasting to Benefit the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



Over the past seven years the NCSML has raised more than \$438,000 in operational support from our largest annual fundraising event. Last year a record-breaking \$76,000 was raised and reservations surpassed 750. The success of *BrewNost!* 2011 is an integral part of NCSML's financial health as a cultural institution. Now, as the road to rebuilding continues, the need for more unrestricted annual operating funds is greater than ever. So reserve the evening of Friday, September 23, 2011, and plan to join us for the Best BrewNost ever!

Lamb Cake (Beránek) Contest

Communal celebrations such as religious holidays within any culture bring about the tradition of gathering family and friends for the enjoyment of food and festivities. One feature of the Czech and Slovak Easter holiday, this year April 24, is the baking and enjoyment of the lamb cake. As a delightful sweet treat it can be prepared as a sponge or pound cake and can be glazed and decorated.

This spring, the Museum Store will host a lamb cake contest with judging on Saturday, April 16, at 11 a.m. Application forms are now available for pick-up and there is no entry fee. Cakes may be entered in one of two divisions — youth (ages 9-17) and adults (18 and older). Entries must be homemade and decorated by contestant. Celebrity judges will select a winner based on appearance and taste. Cakes will be on display for the remainder of the day in the Kosek Building classroom.

Winner of the children's division receives a \$25 gift certificate to the NCSML store and a \$5 gift certificate from Sykora's Bakery. Adult division winner receives a \$50 gift certificate plus a \$10 gift certificate from Al's Blue Toad restaurant. Although not required for competition, lamb cake pans are available for purchase in the Museum Store.



Lamb cake created by Grant Wright of Cedar Rapids, IA.

NCSML Collectable Egg

Only 40 collector eggs designed and decorated by Marj Nejdľ are available for purchase from the Museum Store. These limited edition eggs, priced between \$40 and \$50 each, will be available for pick-up after April 1. Demand is extremely high and anyone interested may stop in or call the store for pre-sell details.

Master folk artist Marj Nejdľ has created several collector eggs in the past. They feature vivid colors, intricate design and elaborate decorative appeal.



Get Ready for Easter Decorating

Easter egg decorating supplies are available in the Museum Store, including dyes, wax and stylists for decorating eggs. Stop by to see and purchase the colorfully decorated goose and chicken eggs created in the Czech and Slovak tradition.

Mission: Exhibition

by Stefanie Kohn, Curator

In July 2010, four NCSML staff members traveled to New York City on a mission to research exhibits and meet with staff members from several key museums. The exhibits visited had either a strong immigration component or told the story of a specific ethnic group.

The first stop on a warm Monday evening was Bohemian Hall in Astoria. Built in 1910, it is the last original remaining beer garden in New York City. The hall is operated and managed by the Bohemian Citizens’ Benevolent Society of Astoria, a fraternal organization dedicated to education and preserving the Czech and Slovak communities in the area.



Stefanie Kohn (left) and Dave Muhlena (right) met with Ellis Island staff and assisted them in identifying two kroje on display at the Island.

NCSML Director of Operations Jan Stoffer presented a program about the 2008 flood and recovery to the assembled members of the society. We were shown incredible hospitality, starting with a delicious dinner and ending with a tour of their building. This organization has both a Czech School and a Slovak School. The Society generously donated a beer mug and a historic photograph to the NCSML collection.

Exploring more than 2,000 years of Jewish culture was part of the Tuesday expedition as two of us headed for the Jewish Museum. Another two went to the Center for Jewish History to see the library and exhibits. The staff at both institutions was kind enough to meet with us and we had great conversations. In the evening, we gathered at the Czech Center to learn about their recent remodel, exhibits and programs. As luck would have it, Tuesday evening is movie night at the Czech Center. We had an incredible evening outdoors on the rooftop garden, watching the Czech film *You Kiss Like a God*.

Wednesday included a visit to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. Built in 1863, this tenement apartment building was home to nearly 7,000 working class immigrants until the 1930s. Families tended to stay only a year or two, allowing for the high number of occupants. It was impossible to avoid contrasting life in a tenement to life in the NCSML immigrant home.

A visit to Ellis Island on Thursday proved to be productive as well, as our group was shown plans and drawings for a new exhibit exploring immigration in the years before and after Ellis Island was in operation. NCSML staff was thrilled when asked to identify two *kroje* on display from the Moravian villages Kyjov and Velká nad Veličkou. Ellis Island staff expressed interest in our oral histories and shared a list of their oral histories that were obtained from Czech and Slovak immigrants.

The evening included a visit to the Museum of Chinese in America and we found an exhibit that presented a good number of oral histories. There was an interesting parallel in the stories of Chinese citizens who escaped communism, much like many Czechs and Slovaks.

It was an exhausting, exhilarating week. We made new friends for the NCSML and received many ideas about how to tell our story in the new permanent exhibition currently being planned. Mission accomplished!



Cooking in Babi’s Kitchen

Learn how to make homemade noodles and incorporate them into main dishes. The free program begins at 10 a.m., on Saturday, April 9, at St. Ludmila Catholic Church, 211 21st Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids.

Sharing food preparation and meals brings people together to share experiences and often

love. Cooking in Babi’s Kitchen has accomplished just this type of intimacy in a public program, and through the years has gained a reputation for excellent and fun instruction. Experienced cooks and novices are encouraged to attend and learn about traditional food and preparation. Participants always learn new information and have an opportunity to sample new delicious dishes.

Other Programs & Events

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Cake Walk. Take a chance at winning a home-made treat at the first ever NCSML cake walk at 1 p.m., at the Kosek building in Czech Village. Small ticket fee.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Lace-making Demonstration. The Doris Southard Lace Guild demonstrates the art and craft of bobbin lace-making. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Kosek building. Also presented on May 17, June 21, July 19 and Aug. 23.

FRIDAY, MAY 13 – SUNDAY, MAY 15

34th Annual Houby Days.

Special hotel room rates available at the newly remodeled Hometown Inn and Suites (formerly Heartland Inn), 3315 Southgate Court SW, (319) 362-9012 or 1-800-334-3277 ext. 17. Standard room rate is \$69.99 plus tax, includes breakfast. Ask for the Houby Days rate.



FRIDAY, MAY 13

Taste of Czech and Slovak. Enjoy samples of Czech and Slovak cuisine at this popular annual event hosted by the Museum Guild of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. 5–7 p.m. \$10 for 20 samples/\$6 for 10 samples, St. Ludmila Catholic Church.

SATURDAY, MAY 14



Rising Above Gallery Tour with Curator Stefanie Kohn. Guided tour begins at 2 p.m. and is included with paid admission to the gallery in Kosek building. Free for members. Tours repeated on Saturdays, June 18, July 17 and Aug. 20.

Move That Building Presentation! Learn about the flood-damaged museum & library's journey across A Street SW. 9 a.m., 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. Free. Meet near construction site.

Houby Days Parade, Noon, Czech Village.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, *continued*

May Pole Dance. Learn two traditional May Pole circle dances with Jan Stoffer. 11 a.m., in Czech Village.

National Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance Festival featuring the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers from St. Paul, MN.

Dancers will perform a variety of Bohemian, Moravian and Slovak dances. Spectators can join the fun and learn circle and other group dances as part of the performance. Dancing begins at 2 p.m., in Czech Village.



SUNDAY, MAY 15

Puppet Show featuring Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company, 2 p.m., in front of the Kosek building.



SATURDAY, JUNE 11



"Where the Water Went" Bus

Tour. Take a guided tour of the exhibition, *Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood*, with Jan Stoffer. Then, join Jan and local historian Mark Stoffer Hunter as they lead a bus tour through the city citing where the flood waters went in 2008. Learn about the history of Cedar Rapids and the recovery efforts. Tours begin at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the Kosek building. \$20 for non-members; \$15 for NCSML and The History Center members. Also offered on Saturday, Aug. 13.

SATURDAY, JULY 9

Walking Tour of Historic Czech Village with Jan Stoffer. Learn the history of this unique Cedar Rapids neighborhood, its businesses, and buildings. 10 a.m. Fee \$6 for members, \$7 for non-members. Kosek building.

Value of Volunteer Time

The gift of time and talent freely given by volunteers is essential to the successful operations of nonprofit museums! The dollar value placed on volunteer hours in Iowa is \$16.69 per hour.

During 2010, museum and library volunteers contributed nearly 4,400 hours. Using the wage figure provided by "The Independent Sector," a coalition of charities, foundations, corporations and individuals, the value of contributions by volunteers alone is nearly \$74,000 to the NCSML. This is no small

sum by anyone's calculation. The gift of one or two hours here and there may not seem significant, but the shared totals of one and two hours adds up quickly.

Far more significant is the fact that with all the noteworthy organizations to which one can contribute time, the NCSML has received significant gifts of time over the last 15 years. We truly value and rely on volunteer time as a sustaining gift to the museum and appreciate the time and energy given. Thank you for your contribution!



Guild members and volunteers give hundreds of hours throughout the year to benefit the museum and library. Jeanne Vogt (left) and Lydia Elias assisted with Babi's Kitchen last spring.

Make a Difference for the NCSML and Save Taxes!

On December 17, 2010, Congress passed new legislation that extends the IRA rollover provision for charitable gifts in 2010 and 2011. Donors aged 70½ or older can make charitable gifts up to \$100,000 per year directly from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to eligible charities like the NCSML — without claiming increased income or incurring additional tax.

Since the transfer does not generate taxable income or a tax deduction you

will receive the benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions. The transfer may count against your unsatisfied required minimum distribution. A contribution for 2011 may be made anytime between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2011. Please consult a tax adviser or attorney for details, and contact Leah Wilson, major gifts officer, if you wish to direct a transfer to the NCSML.

Signs of Progress Recognition

On Saturday, Jan. 22, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library was honored during a special program, "Celebrating Progress in Our Community." It was one of three arts and culture organizations honored for its progress in moving, rehabilitating and expanding the museum and library that was flood damaged in 2008. President/CEO Gail Naughton accepted the award on behalf of the organization.



Many thanks to our Corporate Members for their extraordinary commitment to the NCSML!

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Members as of February 2011

*Affiliate members

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library invites your business or company to become a Corporate Member and enjoy the many benefits of being a member of our museum family. As a Corporate Member, you demonstrate support for Cedar Rapids' only nationally and internationally recognized museum and library.

Oral History Web Pages Present Music and More

By Rosie Johnston,
Oral History Coordinator

The NCSML's oral history project now has its own web pages, where visitors can view oral history video clips, read interviewees' biographies, and look at photos and other archived materials. Visit www.NCSML.org and listen to songs written and performed by Czechs & Slovaks in the United States, such as the following:

Vladimir Maule was in a rock band called The Explosive Group at school in Prague before he came to Chicago in 1969:



"Of course we played The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. That was seen like not only blasphemy but an anti-communist gesture. But for me, being in the band changed everything because — this has nothing to do with politics; it has to do with girls — in school, my self-confidence surrounded by these fans was great. And all the politics at those moments went aside."

Upon arrival in Chicago, he became involved in a Czech-language program on WXRT called Radio Kaleidoskop:

"We wanted to appeal to the younger crowd, the people like us... We poked serious fun at the establishment. And we were ruthless. Little



by little the advertisers started to check out, but while it lasted we had a great time. I composed a song called *Emigrant's Cry*. It was introduced by Jan Novak who said 'Vážení krajané' — you know, 'Dear Countrymen: the Czech Bob Dylan' — and then I came on. It was great."

Go to www.ncsml.org/Content/Oral-Histories.aspx to hear Vladimir's rendition of *Emigrant's Cry*.

Ludmila Anderko (right) came to Cleveland, also in 1969, and says it was music which helped her overcome her homesickness:

"I really missed my family — the first two years I would cry every weekend. Then later on I met some young people that came from Slovakia and... we started singing and performing and dancing and stuff like that, which was a lot easier and I felt like I was at home, you know, not in America, but like I was in Slovakia."

In 1997 she formed the singing group Slovenské mamičky with her sister Maria and their friend Monika Smid:

"It's just fun, I love to sing. Monika — she makes up the songs; she takes the melody from another song and makes up the words for whatever occasion we are singing for... One time we were going on a trip to the casino and she made up a song about going to a casino."

"When we were in Slovakia, she wrote song words about being in Slovakia; how we love Slovakia, how we miss our family and we came back to sing for them... And we sang that song and people were talking about it. You know, simple words but it really touched you, and they wrote about it in the paper."

Listen to the Slovenské mamičky sing especially for the NCSML at www.ncsml.org/Content/Oral-Histories.aspx



Donating treasures to the collection of NCSML is encouraged and appreciated, not only by the staff but by so many visitors to our exhibitions. These wonderful gifts help to tell the story of the Czech and Slovak people.



Wool jacket with blue embroidery and cutwork. The donor purchased the jacket at an antique store in Bratislava.
Gift from Marilyn Langhurst 2010.10



Kroj from Western Slovakia. The costume is from the early 1900s. It was made and worn by the donor's grandmother. The top shows a close-up of the exquisite detail on one of the ribbons. The bottom image is a view of the back of the apron and the goldwork sash.
Gift from Jana Magnuson 2010.17



This charming drawing was originally owned by Andrew Polehna.
Gift from Christine Polehna Hartman 2010.6



This wicker trunk was used by either Frank Hlavacka or Emilie Nemecek Hlavacka. They were married in 1910 in Uherské Hradiště, Moravia. Frank came to the United States in April 1914 and Emilie came in June 1920.

Gift from Karen Bedard 2010.9

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

87 Sixteenth Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

319-362-8500

319-363-2209 (fax)

www.NCSML.org

Hours

Monday – Saturday,
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed Sunday

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas
and New Year's Day. Open Memorial
Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.

Admission

\$6 adults • \$5 seniors

\$3 college students w/I.D.

\$2 children ages 6+

Under age 5 and NCSML members
FREE. Group rates available.

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National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
87 Sixteenth Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rising Above Exhibition Wins Honor

The Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance (ICCA), a group of more than 150 arts and cultural organizations in the Eastern Iowa, presented an Icky award to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML). The award was given for 2010 History Exhibit/Programming during the 5th Annual Excellence in Innovation Honors presentation on January 31. The Emmy-like event, known as the Ickys, was created to elevate the awareness of artistic and cultural organizations in the area and to celebrate excellence in innovation in

artistic programming and events from the previous calendar year.

Stefanie Kohn accepted the award on behalf of the museum and library for the exhibition, *Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood*, that opened in April of 2010 inside the renovated Kosek Building. This multi-media exhibition depicts the story of the Czechs and Slovaks who came to Cedar Rapids to forge a new life in the fertile bend of the Cedar River, and presents dramatic news stories, personal accounts and video of the epic flood of 2008.



Stefanie Kohn accepted the award.

Photo courtesy of George Burrows



2010 in Review

During the annual meeting of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, held Jan. 25, several key accomplishments for 2010 were noted. "It seems like we spent a lot of time moving from Lindale Mall and the Magid building, relocating our storage areas, emptying the flood damaged building, and then moving into the Kosek building," quipped Gail Naughton,

president/CEO of NCSML.

Significant milestones announced included:

- Exhibit opening of *Rising Above: The Story of a People and the Flood*
- A new museum store with increased revenue
- Presentation of an inaugural event, "Old Prague Christmas Market"
- Groundbreaking for the relocation and expansion of the museum & library

- Secured new leased collection storage space
- Attendance at programs & events has rebounded to 24,878
- Visitors from 49 states and 14 countries have visited the exhibition
- Oral History project has completed 77 interviews with 36 online
- Design and details for the building were finalized

REBUILDING THE FUTURE
For the immigrant spirit in each of us.