

MOST

[The Bridge]

Summer 2018

The art of Uprka,
'a story that
should be told,'
comes to
the NCSML

See page 9



*Ubuhle Women: Beadwork
and the Art of Independence*

See page 5

*"Stunning" "Dazzling"
"Shimmering"*

**Thank you for your support of the
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.*

NEW NCSML BOARD MEMBERS



Dr. Brad Buck was born and grew up in Cedar Rapids, graduating from Jefferson High School. He earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa and both a Master's Degree and Ph.D. from Iowa State University. Dr. Buck began his career in education as a classroom teacher and then held administrative roles in various districts. In 2013, Governor Branstad named him Director of the Iowa Department of Education. He moved from that role into his current position in July 2015. As Superintendent of the Cedar Rapids Community School District, and in partnership with the Board of Directors, the focus is on innovation and the implementation of a bold five-year strategic plan.



Mary Kay McGrath was born and raised in Cedar Rapids and is a graduate of Coe College. Over the years her career included working in Chicago for Revlon Cosmetics, Corporate; was a buyer for Seiferts clothing stores; and was in the advertising business. After having children she stayed home to raise her family. She is married to Pat McGrath, with whom she has three children—Lindsay, Gavin and Jaymie—and nine (soon 10!) grandchildren. She always has been a supporter of the museum; her grandmother came over from Czechoslovakia to the USA, along with her great grandmother, great aunt, and great uncle. Mary Kay still has relatives who live there.



Saturday, July 28, 2018 ► 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Stop by for a day full of family-friendly activities, tasty food, and live music. Enjoy free admission for the whole family to the NCSML's galleries!

The 1910's: A Decade of Innovation

We will have activities related to many advancements that happened in the years before, during, and just after WWI. These included animation, movies, radio, and jazz!

NCSML.org/event/summer-family-free-day



Contributing sponsors:
Lu and Katherine Svoboda

FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO



It's funny what comes to mind when you think back over 15 years. From the unglamorous to the glamorous, such as cleaning Grand Hall after the first BrewNost or going to dinner with the President of the Czech Republic in Prague Castle, each experience is a prized memory. But it's the staff members, board members, founders, volunteers, museum members, and friends and supporters across the country and in the Czech and Slovak Republics who have places in my heart.

Then there was the defining moment when the world turned upside down on June 13, 2008. Cedar Rapids has been celebrating its "Epic Rebirth" in this 10th anniversary year, and the memories have come flooding back, so to speak. The red roof floating above the river; the first time we walked into Czech Village with people who were either crying or struck dumb when they saw their places; the overwhelming sadness and shock as we made our way into a museum that was twisted, broken, and covered with black, gooey mud. My reminiscences, coupled with my retirement, have made this a time of reflection and yes, pride.

Looking back from the vantage point of a decade, it's amazing to have worked with so many people as part of a once-in-a-lifetime experience that led to transforming the museum into one of the leading ethnic museums and a local, regional, national, and international resource. It was inspiring to be part of an entire community working together to accomplish something big. The best thing is, the enthusiasm and energy that drove the recovery and enlargement of the museum and the rebirth of the city still exist today.

The whole time there was constant support from city, state and federal leaders, members, friends, donors, people standing on the platforms watching the building move—everyone. We asked and you answered. You gave from your pocket books, and most important, from your hearts. You encouraged us when we were down, you cheered when we were up.

The words of Sen. Tom Harkin at the opening dinner say it best:

"In June of 2008, we saw Mother Nature at her very worst. But in the weeks and months that followed, we saw human nature at its very best."

Since then the museum has grown its educational and public programs and its focus both locally and nationally. We like to say "it's what's going on inside the building that counts." We took off, building relationships across the country and serving children and young people in new and exciting ways. And it's only the beginning!

These memories and many more will be with me always. To the board members who hired me way back in 2002 and to all of you, thank you! It's been more than a job—it's been a life-changing experience I will cherish forever.

Gratefully,

Gail Naughton

.....

FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



On the Centennial of the establishment of the Czechoslovak state, it is an honor for me to serve as Chair of the Board of the Museum. I am the first Chair to be an immigrant and the first from outside Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

I've been on the Board of Trustees for two years but have a history that goes back to Dan Baldwin when he was the President and CEO from 1996 to 2002. Dan began cultivating the Drost family in 1996. Both my parents met Dan and together helped start to bridge my interest in the Museum. The relationship continued with Gail Naughton as we were able to work to enhance the Museum's educational endowment that added financial strength after the 2008 flood.

I often look to my parents' experience as immigrants and give thanks for the opportunities that America has given our family. My father had a Latin phrase our family has adopted: "Ad Astra per Aspera," meaning "To the stars through difficulty."

I see the opportunities for the Museum to be taken to the stars, as it transitions and adapts to an ever-changing environment, preserving and remembering the past and building its programs and partnerships based on shared values. Together, we all can move positively and strategically to a better place for the Museum we all love.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my vision. I look forward to meeting many of you at events during the next two years. Please let me know your opinions, your ideas, and your feelings about the NCSML. I think we all agree, it's a great place!

Best,

George Drost



New NCSML curriculum features pivotal moments from Czechoslovak history, 1968–1989

The NCSML has released a new curriculum for high school and college students.

The curriculum—titled 68.77.89: Arts, Culture, and Social Change—features lessons revolving around important moments in 20th century Czechoslovak history: the 1968 Prague Spring, the Charter 77 movement, and the 1989 Velvet Revolution, as well as the lasting legacy and global impact of these moments.

The 68.77.89 curriculum combines relevant literature excerpts, oral histories, media, and questions into four ready-made modules for teachers, and it aims to teach students about the true meaning of freedom and the culture of dissent in Czechoslovakia during the country's fight for democracy.

68 77 89
ARTS CULTURE
SOCIAL CHANGE

The curriculum can be found at: www.687789.org

Working with the Socialism Realised project and the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague, the new curriculum aims to give a well-rounded, global view of the events it focuses on. The curriculum is

the culmination of work by people from various states, countries, and universities, said Nicholas Hartmann, NCSML director of learning and civic engagement.

"All of the scholars involved in creating this curriculum are very active in the Czechoslovak Studies Association. There's a lot of engagement of folks who are well-known in their field," Hartmann said.

Hartmann also said that he hopes that students can gain inspiration from the curriculum and relate what they learn about the past to recent social movements involving students.

"I hope that students will see examples of people before them and see how people can unite together. I want them to know that they have a voice," he said.



The 68.77.89 curriculum was unveiled in March at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C. The presentation of the curriculum included a discussion panel, as well as a gallery opening, featuring art collected from behind the Iron Curtain by NCSML board member Lee Freeman.

The new curriculum meets Common Core, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate standards and is designed primarily for grades 9-12. It has already had success at an area high school, where students completed projects using the curriculum.

A workshop for teachers on the 66.77.89 curriculum will be held July 11-13 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in collaboration with the university's Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia.

This project is supported by:

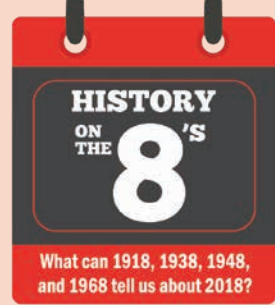


Lee Freeman



NCSML's special 2018 History on the 8's lecture series continues

History on the 8's, a lecture series featuring five acclaimed scholars and authors, will continue on July 18 at the NCSML at 6 p.m. with local author and historian Michael Eckers. All of the lectures in the series are free and open to the public. RSVP is required.



Michael Eckers

Eckers will discuss how World War I led to World War II and how World War I was, in fact, not the “war to end all wars” as was hoped, as well as the lasting effects of both world wars.

History on the 8's revolves around the significant events in Czech and Slovak history that occurred in 1918, 1938, 1948, and 1968. Director of programs Teresa Stenstrup said that inspiration for the series was drawn particularly from the NCSML's ongoing *Guts & Glory* exhibition, which tells the story of Czechoslovakia's formation in 1918.

“It seemed like a perfect fit to do this full-year lecture series that in one sense accompanies this exhibition but isn't just about 1918 and the hundredth anniversary [but] is about those other key years ending in 8 as well,” Stenstrup said.

She explained that the goal of the series is not only to discuss and contextualize important moments in Czech and Slovak history but also to show how history continues to shape people's lives in 2018.

After Eckers' talk on July 18, the series will continue with Martin Nekola on Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. and Mark Kurlansky on Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.



Martin Nekola

Nekola will talk about the Czechoslovak exile after 1948, particularly focusing on the U.S. and immigrants living in the U.S., and Kurlansky will discuss his best-selling book, *1968: The Year that Rocked the World*, speaking about the Prague Spring and the multiple world-wide uprisings occurring at the same time.



Mark Kurlansky

Past speakers have also included authors Kenneth Janda and Kevin McNamara. Janda spoke about his book, *The Emperor and the Peasant*, which contrasts the experiences of a monarch and a peasant on the Eastern front during World War I. McNamara discussed his book, *Dreams of a Great Small Nation*, which tells the story of the formation of Czechoslovakia and inspired the NCSML's ongoing *Guts & Glory* exhibition.

This lecture series is supported by GreatAmerica Financial Services.

Visit www.ncsml.org/events/historyonthe8s to learn more and to RSVP.



Open through
Sept. 17, 2018

UBUHLE WOMEN: BEADWORK AND THE ART OF INDEPENDENCE

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 Ubuhele 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. *Ubuhele* means “beauty,” and it describes the shimmering quality of light on glass.

Sponsored by Western Fraternal Life, Joyce Anderson, and International Arts and Artists

RISING ABOVE

THE STORY OF A PEOPLE AND THE FLOOD

- ▶ Ten years after the epic surge of the Cedar River in 2008, the NCSML is commemorating the anniversary by displaying its 2009 exhibition, *Rising Above: The Story of a People and a Flood* through August. Starting in the museum's lower-level elevator lobby, the exhibit continues in Anderson Gallery. Read more at NCSML.org/10-years-after-the-great-flood.

Thank you to our vibrant community of supporters!



In 2011, when we moved the museum, we expanded our footprint from **20,000 to 50,000 sq ft**

- ▶ Join us in celebrating some of our many milestones since re-opening in 2012.

110,000

- ▶ Welcomed more than **110,000** Museum visitors

50+

- ▶ Mounted more than 50 exhibitions



- ▶ Hosted more than **15,000** students and teachers for study trips



- ▶ Offered **450** family and community programs and events



- ▶ Engaged **65,000** attendees through business meetings and social events



HOW MAY I HELP?

- ▶ Grew our staff from **12 to 31** employees



GUTS & GLORY

THE WAR TRAIN THAT SHAPED A NATION

Continues through December 31, 2018

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

Our original exhibition *Guts & Glory: The War Train the Shaped a Nation* opened April 7 with a lecture by Kevin McNamara, author of the book *Dreams of a Great Small Nation*, and remarks by distinguished visitors Hynek Kmoníček, the ambassador of the Czech Republic to the U.S., and Jozef Polakovič, deputy chief of mission at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, D.C. Also present were students and teachers from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, schools Iowa BIG and Metro High School STEAM Academy; they created the exhibit's virtual reality experience and replica train cars.



Presented By



2018 marks the 15th anniversary of BrewNost

Fabulous beverages, food will be featured — and the Live Auction returns!

The 15th anniversary presentation of BrewNost, an international beer festival supporting the NCSML mission, will be held Sept. 14, 6:30 – 10 p.m. The live auction is back! Once again, it will be hosted by celebrity auctioneer Nicholas “Nicho” Lowry, president of Swann Auction Galleries in New York City and a regular appraiser on PBS’s Antiques Roadshow.

The NCSML is excited to announce a new presenting sponsor for the special 15th anniversary: Basepoint Wealth, a financial planning and investment firm based in Cedar Rapids. Basepoint Wealth employees have been longtime BrewNost attendees and are excited to be the presenting sponsor for the 15th year.

The Midwest’s premier international beer festival, BrewNost features a wide variety of international beers selected by Doug Alberhasky from John’s Grocery in Iowa City. In addition to Doug’s picks, BrewNost will host several local breweries and distilleries. Beverages will be paired with food from some of the area’s top restaurants, and local breweries and distilleries will offer a variety of distinctive beer, wine, cider, and spirits. Attendees can enjoy unlimited sampling of both beverages and food.

The 15th anniversary of BrewNost will take on a special flavor and atmosphere, said Becky Robinson, NCSML development and fundraising events manager.

“For the fifteenth anniversary, everything is going to be a little bit more flashy and exciting, but it’s still the same BrewNost that everyone knows and loves,” Robinson said.

BrewNost acts as a “fun fundraiser” for the NCSML, supporting the museum’s educational and cultural mission, while also aiming to give attendees an enjoyable evening and bring the community together.

“BrewNost is a really special night,” said Robinson. “It brings the museum and the village to life, with the lighting, with the music. But it revolves around the people. That’s why BrewNost is just such a cool event that we have here at the museum, because it is an opportunity for all those people to come together for a great cause. We want people to walk away saying ‘That was special; I’ve never experienced something quite like that before.’”



TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW AT: NCSML.ORG/BREWNOST

ONLINE COLLECTION

Explore the NCSML's artifacts online — and create your own 'collections'

The NCSML's artifact collection is now online! You now can view over 1,500 artifacts of the more than 14,000 objects in the museum's artifact collection. The goal is to make all of the artifacts available for viewing and to keep adding to it as the museum's collection continues to grow. The online collection can be explored at ncsml.emuseum.com/collections.

The software allows users a variety of database interactions. People can view and learn about items by looking through a several categories, ranging from vehicles to folk costumes to artwork, or they can search the database for specific items, characteristics, or donors. The online database also allows users to create and share their own online "collections," as well as view "collections" others have shared.

NCSML collections manager Tricia Bender explained the main goal of placing images and information about the museum's artifact collection online is to increase accessibility and interest—locally, nationally, and beyond. Most people aren't aware of the depth and breadth of the objects in the collection, because of the number of items and the fact they aren't always on display.

"I think a lot of people don't realize the full extent of the collection. This is an opportunity to get the whole database, the whole catalog, available for people to see," Bender said.

The NCSML plans to use the online collection database as a tool for teachers. NCSML educators will be able to create collections to support lessons and curricula. Teachers also will be able to create their own collections tied to a course for students to access. In addition, the curators can now create "exhibitions" in the online database of the artifacts from the NCSML's own collection that are in one of our original exhibitions. This will enable people to dig deeper into the information on the individual artifact not always possible to include in a large exhibition.



The online collection project was made possible by generous donations from Don and Irene Naxera Hamous and the Program Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

The art of Uprka, ‘a story that should be told,’ comes to the U.S. at the NCSML

In the first solo exhibition of the artwork of Joža Uprka in the United States, the NCSML will present stunning oil paintings, posters, and mixed media on loan from NCSML Board Chair George Drost.

National Treasure: The Art of Joža Uprka from the George Drost Collection will be on display at the NCSML from Oct. 13, 2018, to March 24, 2019.

Uprka was a Czech painter and graphic designer whose works often portray the folk life of Southern Moravians during the late 19th and early 20th century. At a time of industrialization and urbanization, Uprka captured the simple nostalgia of the people of his birthplace.

Born in Moravia, Drost started collecting Uprka works in the 1990s, drawn by the tie to his birthplace and the style of Uprka's work.

“Uprka brought out the colors and joy of the people he depicted,” Drost said. “His work tells you about what the regions of Moravia and Slovakia looked like at the turn of the last century. It tells a story about these people who had a joy and a rhythm to their lives in a world that was disappearing because of the changes in the economy.”

Uprka is an important figure because he documented the traditions of his people, said NCSML curator Stefanie Kohn.

“He painted people in the Moravian countryside in their traditional folk dress who were often attending festivals or religious pilgrimages,” Kohn said. “Uprka was a formally trained artist and studied at academies in the Czech lands and beyond. He had several teachers and influences in Prague, Munich, Paris, and elsewhere. He was exposed to the rest of the world, but then he came home and painted these very personal works.”

She added, “It’s a rare opportunity for people here to see this Czech painter’s works. To have so many of his works together on display is impactful.”

Drost said that it is particularly important to him to share Uprka’s artwork with people outside of the Czech Republic, who don’t know Uprka’s work as well.

“It brings a certain sense of pride that there’s an artist who has skillsets that were as good as any other European artists. This is a story that should be told,” he said.

Drost also said that the NCSML is an ideal place for gaining recognition of Uprka’s work in the United States.

“As someone who was born in Moravia, it’s very important to me and makes me very proud to have



The NCSML will host an opening reception for NCSML members at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 12, the night before the exhibition opens to the public. Invitations with details will be sent to members in early September.

something that comes from my area of the world be exhibited in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The NCSML is home territory for the artist. Hopefully, it will bring some well-deserved attention to this very creative and prolific man born in Moravia,” Drost said.

On the occasion of this exhibition, Drost is publishing a monograph, *National Treasure: The Art of Joža Uprka from the George Drost Collection*, that covers his entire collection of art by Uprka.

The exhibition is supported by George and Beth Drost.

PROGRAM CALENDAR

JULY-SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, July 17, 6:00 p.m.

New Bohemia Walking Tour with Mark Stoffer Hunter

Cost: \$5/members of The History Center or the NCSML; \$7/non-members.

Join Mark Stoffer Hunter, historian at The History Center, for a walking tour of the historic New Bohemia neighborhood. Learn about the evolution of this unique Bohemian commercial district from the early 1870s through the present day. *Sponsored by CRST International.*

History on the 8's Lecture Series

(See story on page 5.)

Cost: Free, RSVP required

Many of the most significant moments in Czech and Slovak history occurred in years ending in "8." History on the 8's is a lecture series featuring authors and scholars who will put the pivotal events of 1918, 1938, 1948, and 1968 into historical context and show how they shape our lives in 2018. *Sponsored by GreatAmerica Financial Services.*

Wednesday, July 18 6:00 p.m.

The War to End all Wars

Author Michael Eckers

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 6:00 p.m.

Czechoslovak Exile After 1948

Dr. Martin Nekola

Immigrant Foodways

Cost: \$5, registration required. Space is limited.

Learn more about the traditions surrounding food, how to make certain recipes and sometimes even taste some great food in this series of workshops.

Saturday, July 21, 1:00 p.m.

Potato Wizard

There are a lot of reasons traditional recipes may be altered; one is accessibility during wartime. Using a pamphlet found in the archival collection, we will try our hands at making a wartime potato recipe from Czechoslovakia!

Saturday, Aug. 18, 1:00 p.m.

Ham it Up

Tapas are all the rage nowadays, but finger foods or hors d'oeuvre have come in and out of style for centuries! One of the most famous in the Czech Republic is the open-faced sandwich - Obložené Chlebíčky. Today we will be learning about the tradition and how to make these bite-sized sandwiches.

Saturday, Sept. 15, 1:00 p.m.

Strudel

September is German American Heritage month, and a large number of Iowans are of German descent. Germany borders Czechia, and the two countries share many cultural aspects. We will be celebrating our German friends by learning how to make strudel.

Saturday, July 28, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Summer Family Free Day

The 1910s was an interesting decade across the globe, primarily because all of the advancements that came out of the Great War. But there was more than the war going on! Many other advancements started in this important decade, including early animation, movies, radio — and even jazz. Stop by for a day full of family-friendly activities, tasty food, and live music. Enjoy free admission for the whole family to the NCSML's galleries! *Sponsored by CRST International, Wells Fargo. Contributing sponsors: Katherine & Ludvik Svoboda.*

Aug. 4: Plane Ole' Craft

Sept. 1: Beautiful Beading

Free First Saturday 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 (9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). Each month students are also able to take part in different fun activities. *Sponsored by United Fire Group. Contributing sponsors: Katherine & Ludvik Svoboda.*

Wednesday, Aug. 8, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

History on Tap: Music of the '60's

Location: NCSML Cost: Free, RSVP required

Steven Horowitz, the University of Iowa's resident professor of "Rock and Roll in America," presents an energetic look at the music of the late '60s including performance footage and audio clips. Join us after for a game of 1960's themed trivia! *Sponsored by CRST International.*

Summer Family Art Workshops

Cost: \$5 per child. Registration is required, space limited.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. For each paid child admission, one adult may attend for free. This series of art workshops for children and their families will include beading projects inspired by our exhibit, *Ubuhe Women: Beadwork and the Art Independence*. *Sponsored by CRST International.*

Saturday, Aug. 11, 2018 1:00 p.m.

Building Beads

The Czech Lands are world renowned for their quality glass beads that have been used across the globe for centuries. Today we will try making our own beads — not out of glass — but various materials from fabric to ... bread? Yes, you read that correctly!

Saturday, Sept. 8, 2018 1:00 p.m.

Beaded Bugs

As we're preparing to say good-bye to our exhibit, *Ubuhe Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence*, we're also finishing up our Summer Family Art Workshops. For this class we will make beaded bug brooches inspired by the art of the Ubuhe women.

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 6:00 p.m.

Czech Village Walking Tour

Cost: \$5/members of the NCSML, \$7/non-members.

Join National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library staff on a walking tour of historic Czech Village. Learn about the unique history behind this fascinating neighborhood. Special stories associated with architectural landmarks in the Village will be highlighted. *Sponsored by CRST International.*

To learn more about these and other programs, visit ncsml.org/events.

There's always something for everyone in the Museum Store!

IN THE MUSEUM STORE

▼ **FOR HER** Our Custom Heart Charm is now available in an all new setting featuring beautiful blue jasper stones and elegant cultured pearls!

Necklace.
\$124.95

Bracelet.
\$42.95

▼ **FOR HIM**

Made in Prague by BoomBowTie, this charming linen tie with graceful floating poppies is perfect for any summer event.

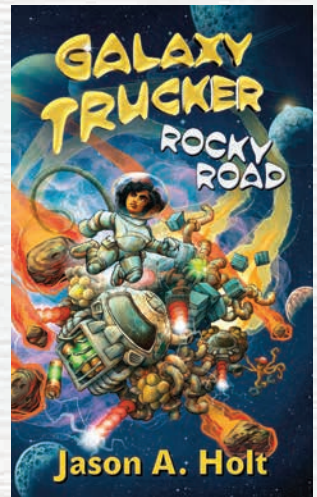
Earrings.
\$28.95



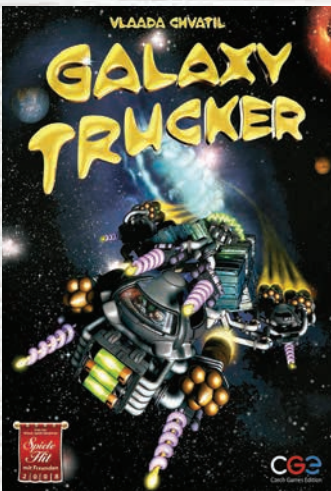
Tie. **\$59.95**
Bow Tie
(not shown).
\$54.95

FOR THE KIDS ▶

A novel by Jason Holt. This story follows a woman and an alien trying to deliver a load of sewer pipes in the goofy Galaxy Trucker universe, so you know it's going to be funny and it's also kind of sweet.



Galaxy Trucker: Rocky Road. **\$16.95**



◀ **FOR THE FAMILY**

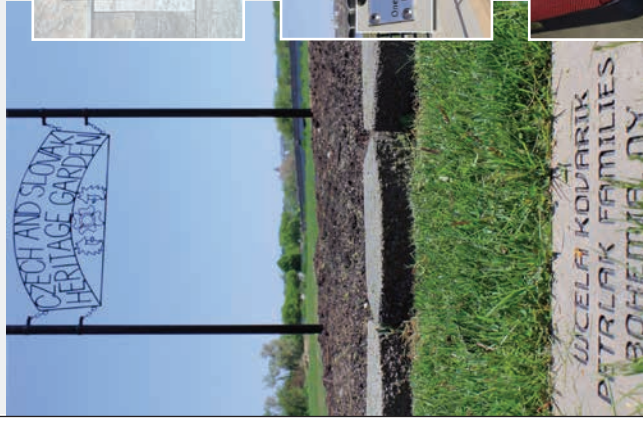
Galaxy Trucker Board Game — Grab tiles to create the best space ship and then fly across the Galaxy dodging meteors, fighting pirates and seizing loot.

Galaxy Trucker. **\$59.95**

Shop in-store and online at NCSML.org/store



Honor an important story or person in your life



All donations to the NCSML during the **Summer Dedication Drive** — gifts of every size — support the NCSML's mission to educate, inspire, and connect people from all backgrounds to history and heritage.

Through August, make a dedication on a Wall of Tribute Plaque, a Theatre Seat Plaque, a picnic table, an engraved paver, or a raised garden bed.

Learn more at [NCSML.org/support](https://www.ncsml.org/support).

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