



The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Speakers Bureau

As a national cultural museum and library, we are dedicated to providing lifelong education opportunities through a variety of interdisciplinary presentations. Our staff have created and cultivated a diverse range of discussions, each highlighting their unique expertise in art, genealogy, folklife, health, and history.

AVAILABLE TOPICS:

ART

- *Alphonse Mucha*
- *Madeline Albright: Read My Pins*

FOLKLIFE

- *A Look at Kroje, from Then to Now*
- *Ancient Symbols in Traditional Textiles*
- *Birth, Death, and Name Days*
- *Czech and Slovak Immigrant Foodways*
- *Saint Days, Bathtub Fish, and Polar Plunges: Czech & Slovak Winter Holiday Traditions*
- *Tips on Organizing and Conducting a Community Oral History Project*

GENEALOGY

- *Intro to Czech and Slovak Genealogy*

HEALTH

- *Aging in the 21st Century*
- *No One Is Ever Old!*
- *Spas of the Czech and Slovak Republics*

HISTORY

- *Collections, Culture, and Connecting*
- *Czech Life in Iowa*
- *Library 101*
- *Monarchs, Martyrs, and the Midwest: A Look at the Czech & Slovak Saints*
- *Museums, Folklife, and Cultural Sustainability*
- *Twist and Turns: The Story of Sokol*
- *Walking Tour of the Czech Village*
- *1989, Revolutions and the Fall of the Iron Curtain*

Most presentations are 60 minutes long, can be presented virtually, and be tailored to fit the needs of your audience.

Speaking engagements require preparation, logistics, and travel time. In order to honor the value of that time, the NCSML kindly requests honorariums for speaking engagements.

	Local Nonprofit (Cedar Rapids metro area)	Local For-Profit (Cedar Rapids metro area)	Nonprofit Group	For-Profit Group
Speakers' Fee	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
Mileage Fee			50 cents/mile	50 cents/mile

Call the Museum at 319-362-8500 to schedule a program or to request additional information.

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Speakers Bureau Offerings

ART

Alphonse Mucha

Did you know that the father of Art Nouveau was Czech? Learn about the life and work of one of the most famous Czech artists in modern history. Presenter: Stefanie Kohn, NCSML Curator

Read My Pins

Madeleine Albright, one of the most famous Czech Americans of the contemporary era, has a storied career in diplomacy and public service. She's also known for her collection of pins, many of which told rich stories and reflected her life's work. Presenter: Stefanie Kohn, NCSML Curator

FOLKLIFE

A Look at Kroje, from Then to Now

This participatory program will involve the audience in examining and discussing ethnic folk clothing from Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia, and the historic significance of it. Explore the evolution of the "kroje" and learn how the design industry has used many of the old fabrics for modern-day wear. Presenter: Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, NCSML President and CEO

Ancient Symbols in Traditional Textiles

Czech and Slovak textiles are a link to its past, connecting symbols of the ancient world with things of the present. Learn how clothing and textiles connect to the historic past and teach us about culture. Presenter: Stefanie Kohn, NCSML Curator

Birth, Death, and Name Days

Czech and Slovak culture are rich with folk life, especially when connected to major life cycle moments such as birth, christening, naming, and death. Presenter: Stefanie Kohn, NCSML Curator

Czech and Slovak Immigrant Foodways

One can say that food is the primary cultural identifying factor around the world. Explore the history of Czech and Slovak food, and even taste some of the ethnic food "standards". Presenter: Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, NCSML President and CEO

Saint Days, Bathtub Fish, and Polar Plunges: Czech & Slovak Winter Holiday Traditions

Why put a carp in your bathtub? Who visits kids to find out if they've been good? Why do witches factor into the Advent season? This program explores the many unique traditions, customs, and practices of Czechs and Slovaks. Presenter: Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, NCSML President & CEO

Tips on Organizing and Conducting a Community Oral History Project

How do you interview people? What about a whole community of people? This program will teach you how to organize an oral history project that will have the best impact on your community. Presenter: Dave Muhlana, NCSML Library Director

GENEALOGY

Intro to Czech and Slovak Genealogy

Learn how to trace your family's Czech and/or Slovak roots. This program will include valuable resources and ideas for making your search fulfilling and successful. Presenter: Dave Muhlena, NCSML Library Director

HEALTH

Aging in the 21st Century

There are more centenarians in the 21st century than ever before, with the United States, Europe, and Asia seeing significant population growth in individuals age 90 and older. What does this mean in terms of economics, education, travel, housing, and the overall social scene? These questions are explored in this interactive program. Presenter: Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, NCSML President and CEO

No One Is Ever Old!

Ageism is a factor in today's world, but how is age viewed around the globe? What does "a maturing society" mean in different parts of the world? This program offers a unique perspective on aging in Europe in this program, with particular attention to Central Europe. Presenter: Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, NCSML President and CEO

Spas of the Czech and Slovak Republics

Explore the unique and diverse spas of the Czech and Slovak republics. This program will cover the history as well as healing traditions used in many spas. Presenter: Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, NCSML President and CEO

HISTORY

Collections, Culture, and Connecting

How does the NCSML build its collections? How are artifacts cared for? What happens when an object goes from family hands to a museum artifact? This program will share how the museum acquires, stores, and uses its artifact collection. Presenter: Stefanie Kohn, NCSML Curator

Czech Life in Iowa

Learn about the fascinating history of Czech immigration and cultural life in Iowa, from early settlement to modern-day life, and how the story of Czech immigrations to Iowa has much in common with contemporary immigration in the United States. Presenter: Dave Muhlena, NCSML Library Director

Library 101

Have you ever wondered what happens in the NCSML's Skala Bartizal Library? How are items catalogued, preserved, and kept for the future? The program will let you in on behind-the-scenes information. Presenter: Dave Muhlena, NCSML Library Director

Monarchs, Martyrs, and the Midwest: A Look at the Czech & Slovak Saints

Who was Good King Wenceslaus? Were there saints working against the Nazis? Has a saint ever lived in Minneapolis? From the first millennium to the modern age, this talk dives into the fascinating world of Czech and Slovak sainthood. Presenter: Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, NCSML President & CEO

Twist and Turns: The Story of Sokol

What is the history and culture behind one of the most famous organizations in the Czech world: Sokol? This presentation explains how gymnastics, national politics, and community come together. Presenter: Stefanie Kohn, NCSML Curator

Walking Tour of the Czech Village

From founding to flooding to rebuilding, the Czech Village of Cedar Rapids - home to the NCSML - has a rich history of stories. NCSML staff will share that history, as well as the architecture and culture, of the area for visitors. Presenter: Josh Waldorf, NCSML Lifelong Learning Specialist

1989, Revolutions, and the Fall of the Iron Curtain

Learn how the events of the 1968 Warsaw Pact Invasion, and the Velvet Revolution of 1989, was part of a greater phenomenon of global transition from communism to democracy. Presenter: Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, NCSML President & CEO

Additional programs or other topic areas may be requested.

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