



Old World Christmas Market December 4-5

SPONSORED BY CRST INTERNATIONAL

NCSML's Old World Christmas Market returns at full capacity this December, including all the activities you have come to enjoy over the years: free admission for all, family holiday crafts, artisans market, Czech Heritage Foundation wreath raffle, Kolache Café, fiber arts demonstrations, horse-drawn wagon rides, and the cookie walk! Performances by Darrin Crow, Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre, and Svetluský Youth Ensemble will be included on Saturday, and the traditional holiday movie *Three Nuts for Cinderella* will be shown throughout the weekend. Additional performances are likely. *Additional support for OWCM provided by Gary Rozek.*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:30-4	Museum galleries open with free admission for all	10-3	Ornament personalization by Master Czech Folk Artist Marj Nejdí (WFLA Heritage Hall)
10-4	Family holiday crafts (Jiruska Gallery)	11-1	Horse-drawn wagon rides through Czech Village (Circle Drive)
	Holiday Vendor Market (WFLA Heritage Hall)	11-3	Photos in front of the Christmas Tree (Rozek Grand Hall)
	Czech Heritage Foundation Wreath Raffle (WFLA Heritage Hall)	12-1	Darrin Crow presents a selection of Czech and Slovak Fairytales (Hemphill Theatre)
	Kolache Café (Rozek Grand Hall)	1-1:30	Svetluský Youth Ensemble (Rozek Grand Hall)
	Fiber arts demonstrations (Rozek Grand Hall)	2-4	Horse-drawn wagon rides through Czech Village (Circle Drive)
	Calm Space (Alliant Energy Classroom): <i>Three Nuts for Cinderella</i> movie and quiet activities	2:30-3:30	<i>The Bremen Town Musicians</i> presented by Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre (Hemphill Theatre)
10-12	23rd Annual Museum Cookie Walk (Rozek Grand Hall)		

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:30-4	Museum galleries open with free admission for all	10-4	Holiday Vendor Market (WFLA Heritage Hall)
10-3	Czech Heritage Foundation Wreath Raffle with raffle drawing at 3 pm (WFLA Heritage Hall)		Kolache Café (Rozek Grand Hall)
10-4	Ornament personalization by Master Czech Folk Artist Marj Nejdí (WFLA Heritage Hall)		Fiber arts demonstrations (Rozek Grand Hall)
10-4	Family holiday crafts (Jiruska Gallery)		Calm Space (Alliant Energy Classroom): <i>Three Nuts for Cinderella</i> movie and quiet activities
		11-3	Photos in front of the Christmas Tree (Rozek Grand Hall)

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Rising Czech Opera Star Ester Pavlu in Concert at NCSML December 10

NCSML is pleased to present a free public concert by mezzo-soprano Ester Pavlu on December 10. Pavlu is the laureate of several international singing competitions, and received the Beno Blachut Award from the Gstaad International Music Festival in Switzerland. A graduate of the Academy of Performing Arts (Prague), she is a current corps member at the National Theatre in Prague, where she is scheduled to cover the title role in Bizet's *Carmen* in March 2022. This concert will include operatic works by Dvorak, Martinu, and Janacek, plus holiday fare. NCSML is one of only four US locations where Ms. Pavlu will perform in December; please watch for future updates via social media and at [NCSML.org](https://www.ncsml.org). Though the concert is free, we are asking patrons to register by calling 319-362-8500. This concert is made possible by the Czech Center of New York. ■

NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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NCSML is funded in part by a grant from the Cultural Enrichment Partnership Program administered by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, and is a Smithsonian Affiliate Museum.



IOWA ARTS COUNCIL
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Progress Toward Full Capacity Continues

All of us at NCSML—staff, Board, and patrons of every type—are embracing the increasing return of events and other programming that comprise the community which National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has become over the past 47 years. While still basking in the excitement of the 25th Anniversary Celebration weekend in September, we are busy preparing for yet another return in its full-scale format: Old World Christmas Market. And next May 7 we will hold NCSML's long overdue 2nd Annual Preciosa Gala, where we will honor our very special friend Gary Rozek. These events are the cherished opportunities when we who plan and execute them get to enjoy these celebrations with you, the people we work hard for every day.

In addition to OWCM December 4-5, we will be hosting up and coming Czech opera star Ester Pavlu in a free concert Friday, December 10 (see article on page 1). Another special event to make

sure you get on your calendar is a wine tasting led by sommelier Dr. Steven Greif on February 10 (see below for more details). This wine tasting will highlight affordable French wines, and is not to be missed. And if you are looking for some new additions to your traditional holiday preparations, Chef Tomas Slepicka is offering a six-part Czech cookies series, plus an additional class dedicated to preparing a traditional Czech Christmas meal. Choose one or two, or sign up for the whole series—your celebration will be all the tastier and more meaningful for it!

Thank you for your continued interest and participation in, and support for the work being done at NCSML. We do it for you, and we could not do it without you. Děkuju! Děkujem! Thank you!

Cecilia Rokusek



Cecilia Rokusek
President/CEO

Affordable French Wines Tasting at NCSML February 10

Sommelier Dr. Steven Greif will lead a wine tasting event at NCSML on Thursday, February 10. This tasting will feature affordable French wines—just in time for Valentine's Day. Greif is a Certified Sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers, and has been hosting wine tastings locally for many years, including a



sold-out Moravian wine tasting at NCSML last May. Greif has also passed the WSET exam, which leads to a Master of Wine classification. Watch for more details at ncsml.org and on social media in the coming months, but make sure you have February 10 marked on your calendar now! ■

MOST, "the bridge," is published semi-annually by National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML). For additional information on NCSML programming and events, visit ncsml.org or follow us at

MUSEUM HOURS Monday - Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday, 12 - 4 PM

LIBRARY HOURS Tuesday - Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Appointments recommended for research.

1400 Inspiration Place SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
319-362-8500
ncsml.org

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EXHIBITS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit ncsml.org for more details on specific events.

CLOSES JANUARY 31



OPENS FEBRUARY 10



CLOSES FEBRUARY 27



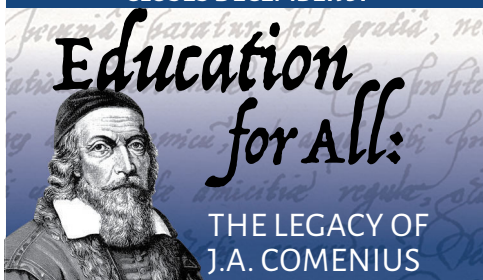
OPENS MARCH 19



CLOSES MARCH 20



CLOSES DECEMBER 31



NOVEMBER

- 3 NCSCS*: Ischel's Cookies & Linz Tarts
- 5 Coffee & Kolache
- 6 Free First Saturday for Students
- 6 Hubert's Night Owls
- 10 NCSCS*: Mini Walnut Rolls & Nests w/ Almonds
- 17 NCSCS*: Coconut Cookies & Masaryk's Cookie
- 20 NCSCS*: Czech Christmas Meal
- 25 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration

DECEMBER

- 1 NCSCS*: May Beetle Cookies
- 3 Coffee & Kolache
- 4 Old World Christmas Market (free admission)
- 4 NCSCS*: Walnut Cookie Sandwich & Parisian Cream and Almond Cookies
- 5 Old World Christmas Market (free admission)
- 10 Concert: Ester Pavlu
- 11 NCSCS*: Vanocka (sweet Czech braided bread)
- 13 Museum Store Holiday Open House
- 15 NCSCS*: Decorated Gingerbread Cookies
- 18 Dance Workshop
- 23 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration

JANUARY

- 1 Coffee & Kolache
- 20 Lecture: Helene Cincebeaux on Slovak Headdresses
- 27 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration

FEBRUARY

- 4 Coffee & Kolache
- 5 Free First Saturday for Students
- 5 Hubert's Night Owls
- 10 Wine Tasting: Affordable French Wines
- 22 Embroidery Workshop
- 23 Embroidery Workshop
- 24 Embroidery Workshop
- 24 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration

MARCH

- 4 Coffee & Kolache
- 5 Free First Saturday for Students
- 5 Hubert's Night Owls
- 22 Egg Decorating Workshop
- 24 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration

APRIL

- 1 Coffee & Kolache
- 2 Free First Saturday for Students
- 2 Hubert's Night Owls

Please visit ncsml.org or call 319-362-8500 for more information on these programs.

* National Czech & Slovak Cooking School referenced as NCSCS

Give the gift of NCSML membership this year

Share your pride in your Czech or Slovak heritage by introducing a friend or family member to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library with the gift membership this holiday season. When you purchase a gift membership, you AND the recipient will each receive a 2022 NCSML Calendar full of beautiful photos. This calendar also includes NCSML's 2022 events, and both Czech and Slovak Name Days.

Gift membership includes all benefits, including unlimited admission to NCSML, reciprocal free admission to more than 100 US museums, a subscription to Slovo, and Museum Store discounts. There are three easy ways to give: visit [NCSML.org](https://ncsml.org); mail a check using the return envelope inserted in this

newsletter; or call Laura McGrath at 319-362-8500, x205.

Support NCSML by sharing the gift of membership today! ■





IN THE GALLERIES

SKALA BARTIZAL LIBRARY



Treasures of Slovakia brings rare and significant artifacts from the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava to NCSML, many leaving Slovakia for the first time. These items represent the rich history and culture of Slovakia as far back as 1,000 years to current times. Exhibit **closes March 20**.

◀ Jan Amos Comenius is the Father of Modern Education. Born in 1592 in Nivnice, Moravia, he developed a philosophy called pan sophism which emphasized political unity, religious reconciliation, and cooperation in education. This exhibit is on loan from the National Pedagogical Museum & Library of J.A. Comenius (Czech Republic). Exhibit **closes December 31**.

PETRIK GALLERY



SMITH GALLERY



◀ **Crowning Glory: A Feast of Slovak & Moravian Headdresses** will feature nearly 100 items from the Baine/Cincebeaux Collection of Slovak & Czech Folk Dress and Folk Art. Hours of labor and generations of meaning, mystique, and creativity are infused into each unique piece of art. Exhibit **closes February 27**.

◀ **Monsters of the Midway: George Halas and the Chicago Bears** will spotlight Halas' life and work, including his significant role in the formation of the National Football League, and his time as both a player and coach with the Bears. Halas was a first generation Czech American, his parents immigrated from Bohemia. This exhibit will include items on loan from the NFL Hall of Fame and the Chicago History Museum. Exhibit **opens March 19**.



ANDERSON GALLERY



◀ **Vincent Hložník: Between War and Dream** features 20 Surrealist-inspired linocut prints by this Slovak artist. From the series Dreams (Sny, 1962), this work is on loan from Derfner Judaica Museum and The Art Collection at Hebrew Home at Riverdale. They represent a turning point in Hložník's work where his figurative motifs take on more symbolic and metaphorical meanings. Exhibit **closes January 31**.

◀ **Amazing Athletes** is an exhibit of posters and photographs of famous Czech and Slovak athletes. Exhibit **opens February 10**.



PERMANENT EXHIBIT



Faces of Freedom, NCSML's 7,000 square foot, state of the art exhibit, will show you why the Czech and Slovak immigrant story is everyone's story. Discover how it felt to sit in a living room during WWII, or to lie on the bunk of a steam ship on your way to America. Stand in Wenceslaus Square amidst shaking keys at the height of the Velvet Revolution, view a Tatra secret police car, an authentic JAWA motorcycle, and a replicated communist watch tower. See rare artifacts, experience cutting-edge interactive displays, and celebrate your own culture with exhibits on puppets, music, and art.





Hubert's Night Owls provides low-sensory museum experience

Established this year with the generous support of McGrath Family of Dealerships, NCSML has introduced a new Museum experience for those with significant environmental sensitivities (ASD). Hubert's Night Owls will occur from 4-5 pm (after general admission has closed) on designated Free First Saturday weekends. Lights and sound will be adjusted in the galleries, and adaptive arts specialists will be on hand to do crafts and activities with kids. Noise cancelling headphones will be available at the visitor desk.

Upcoming dates for Hubert's Night Owls include November 6, February 5, and March 5. Additional dates will be determined in early 2022. For more information on Hubert's Night Owls, please contact Rick Woten (rwoten@ncsml.org, 319-362-8500).

HUBERT'S NIGHT OWLS AT NCSML



NCSML welcomes new Director of Outreach & Innovation Dr. Rick Woten

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Rick Woten to the NCSML staff! Rick comes to NCSML from ISU Extension Region 25 where he was the Regional Extension Education Director. Rick is also faculty with the American Public University System (Charlestown, WV) and Excelsior College (Trenton, NJ). He received his PhD from Iowa State University in 2009 (History). He currently serves as a Partnership Panel member for Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, and recently was engaged as a grant evaluator for the National Endowment for the Humanities. Previously he served as a board member to the Iowa Museum Association, and Ottumwa Historic Preservation Commission. Rick is a former bicycle racer and general outdoorsman, enjoying recreational activities in every variety of Iowa weather. ■

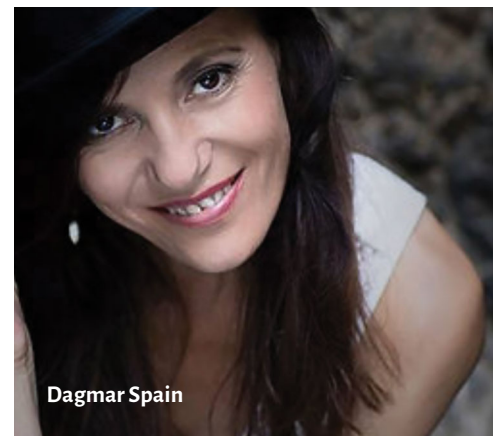


Dance Workshop Addresses Issues of Democracy

On Saturday, December 18 from 2-6 pm, dancer, educator and choreographer Dagmar Spain will lead a workshop at NCSML on movement as a physical dialogue for expressing democracy. This workshop is appropriate for anyone interested in communication: no prior dance training or experience is necessary.

Spain considers and refers to movement as dialogue, quoting theologian Kai Alhanen as her inspiration for this approach: *The kind of learning that occurs in dialogue is a constantly developing understanding of the world's phenomena, other people, and oneself.* Through her workshop, she strives to deepen participants' understanding of their contribution to democracy and empowered citizenship.

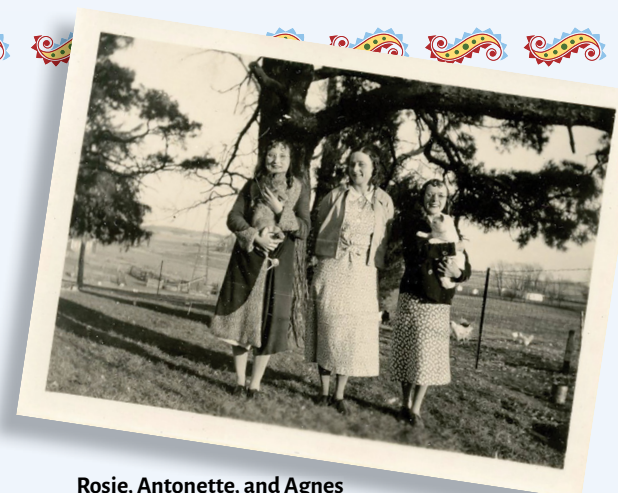
A native of the Czech Republic, Spain holds an MFA in dance and choreography from Tisch School of the Arts, NYU, and is currently pursuing doctoral studies in dance education at Columbia University (NY). This innovative, experiential workshop will be offered free of charge, but registration is required by calling 319-362-8500. ■



Dagmar Spain

Genealogy services at NCSML Library

The Thanksgiving and December holidays, when families gather and reminisce about past and present, are the perfect opportunity to document stories about family members and their experiences. These stories enhance what may be found in a family tree or obituary by providing descendants with details about their family which may have otherwise been lost. NCSML recently added a few links to the genealogy section of its website that can guide you on how to conduct your own family history interviews. These new resources may be explored at <https://ncsml.org/library/>. You may also contact Dave Muhlena (dmuhlena@ncsml.org) or Leroy Bradway (lbradway@ncsml.org) at any time if you have additional questions or need assistance. NCSML's Library hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 9:30-4:00, and the phone number is 319-362-8500, x120. ■



Rosie, Antonette, and Agnes
Kloubec on Thanksgiving Day 1938.



Thank you to all NCSML President's Society Members

NCSML's President's Society is comprised of those who make an annual unrestricted gift of \$1,000 or more to the Museum. If you would like more information on becoming a President's Society member, please contact Laura at lmcgrath@ncsml.org or 319-362-8500, x205.

A special thank you to these leaders among NCSML's many generous contributors.

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*Denotes new President's Society member



PRESERVE NCSML'S LEGACY

Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation (GCRCF) Challenge Grant

Are you passionate about the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library? Would you like to ensure that the traditions, education, culture, and heritage preserved and shared by this organization remain available for future generations? If your answer is yes, please consider joining NCSML's Legacy Society and help us fulfill our GCRCF Challenge Grant.

NCSML's Legacy Society was established in 2003 to recognize, honor, and express appreciation to those dedicated individuals who make provisions for NCSML in their estate plans or through a planned gift arrangement.

In March 2019, NCSML received a \$25,000 challenge grant from GCRCF to grow its endowment through legacy gifts. For every \$3.00 contributed

by a donor, GCRCF will match it with \$1.00. NCSML must raise \$75,000 to secure the \$25,000 challenge grant; when accomplished, a total of \$100,000 will have been added to its endowment held at GCRCF.

Donors who are Iowa residents may also be eligible for Endow Iowa Tax Credits.

Please help NCSML successfully fulfill this Challenge Grant and consider a legacy gift of \$3,000 or more. For your gift to qualify for the Challenge, checks must be written to GCRCF (with NCSML on the memo

line), and gifts of appreciated assets must be assigned to GCRCF on NCSML's behalf. For more information, please contact NCSML's Office of Development at 319-362-8500 or cnodland@ncsml.org. ■



25th Anniversary Weekend Highlights

The weekend of September 17-19 was a joyful one at NCSML, and arguably the busiest ever on its campus! Kicking off with BrewNost on Friday night, its first time as an all-outdoor event was a success on every level. Thank you to EVERYONE who donated their time, resources, and the contents of their wallets to enable this triumphant return of NCSML's signature event.

Saturday was packed from beginning to end, culminating with the 25th Anniversary Dinner. Speakers included NCSML President/CEO Cecilia Rokusek, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Director Chris Kramer, Senator Charles Grassley, Slovak Ambassador Radovan Javorcik, and Czech Ambassador Hynek Kmonicek. Video messages from Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and President Bill Clinton were also shared. The evening began with a concert by Romani pianist Tomas Kaco, and culminated with the premiere of *Fantasia on South Bohemian Folksongs*, composed and performed by Jacob Beranek. **The Anniversary Dinner was sponsored by UFG Insurance, with music sponsored by Sharon Curtis.**

Sunday included brunch for members of NCSML's Legacy Society (those who have made provisions for NCSML in their estate), with comments by Board member Sharon Schweitzer, and an encore performance by Beranek. Guests also enjoyed a curator led tour of the exhibit, *Treasures of Slovakia*. The full schedule of events for the weekend were detailed in the last issue of *MOST*; if you would like to view it again, please visit ncsml.org. ■



Helene Cincebeaux with her sister, Dr. Rosalie Baine



Czech Consul General (Chicago) Jaroslav Kanturek, Amb. Javorcik, Sen. Grassley, Amb. Kmonicek, Slovak Consul General (NY) Milan Vrbovsky, and Czech Consul General (LA) Amb. Jaroslav Olsa, Jr. raise a toast to NCSML.



Live Auction Host Megan Cogerty



Composer Jacob Beranek



David, Elizabeth and Lijun Chadima with an authentic reproduction of their family's original ice wagon. The ice wagon made its debut at BrewNost and is on permanent view in NCSML's parking garage.

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Revival Theater
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Tornado's



Doug Alberhasky

Star Charm Jewelry: ▶

The star, a symbol of new life, hope, and secret wishes, has adorned every form of folk art across Slovakia, Moravia and the Czech lands. This series by KJK Jewelry of New York features star charms in a range of colors and styles.



Available in NCSML's award-winning Museum Store



Star Pullover Hoodie and Zip Pullover:

Perfect for her or him, this custom design created for NCSML by Lindsey Podzimek at Eduskate Board Shop was inspired by the folk art of Slovakia.



NCSML's fifth annual limited edition Christmas ornament for 2021 was custom designed exclusively for the Museum Store by Czech American Master Folk Artist, Marj Nejdle.

Marj Nejdle Kroje puzzle: Bringing the young and young at heart together to celebrate folk traditions is something that Marj Nejdle has done all her life. NCSML collaborated with Marj on this new kroje puzzle so that you can do the same! ▶



Thank you, NCSML volunteers!

This mighty army of dedicated individuals is invaluable to the successful delivery of everything that happens at NCSML. If you recognize a name on this list, please share your gratitude next time you are in touch. If you are someone named on this list, please know how very important you are to everyone affiliated with NCSML.

2021 Volunteers

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* designates more than 50 volunteer hours in 2021

** designates more than 100 volunteer hours in 2021

Congratulations NCSML Board Member George Drost!

Current member and former President of NCSML's Board of Directors George Drost was honored by the Office of the Czech Consul General with the Distinguished Contribution to Diplomacy Medal. This award was presented in Chicago on October 26 at the offices of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic. Drost was honored at the first public event held by the Consulate General since the onset of the pandemic.

Also featured at the October 26 event was the unveiling of a six-panel exhibit by NCSML Curator, Stefanie Kohn: *Planting our Roots*. This new traveling exhibit highlights the immigration and contributions of Czechs to America, and NCSML's role in expanding that footprint. *Planting our Roots* will be on view at the Consulate General's office indefinitely. If you are in Chicago and would like to view the exhibit, please call 312-861-1037 to schedule an appointment. The address is 205 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60601. ■



Rent our space!

NCSML is the ideal setting for meetings, corporate, or social events. Whatever the occasion, we can assist in making it just right for your needs. All rental spaces include complimentary indoor and outdoor parking, full accessibility, tables and chairs, and full setup and tear down. A full service bar with bartenders can be added to any rental agreement, as well as discounted admission to the galleries. Wedding party dressing rooms are provided for onsite ceremonies. Also included are experienced coordinators during every step of your event—start to finish. No sales tax, fees, or automatic gratuity are added for rentals. Available space includes:

WFLA/ZCBJ Heritage Hall, Capacity 240

Naxera Terrace, Capacity 200

Rozek Grand Hall, Capacity 180

Hemphill Theater, Capacity 51+

For tours and additional booking information, please contact Naomi Winder, nwinder@ncsml.org or 319-362-8500 ext. 113.



NCSML plans three Central European tours for 2022

Get out your passport and your calendar, because NCSML is headed to the homelands in 2022!

The three trips which have been planned are:

April 30 - May 11—This **Czech Heritage** tour will include stops in the Western Czech Republic, Prague, southern Bohemia, and Pilsen for the festival commemorating its liberation in WWII by US soldiers.

September 3 – 16—This **Castles and Wines** tour will cover both the Czech and Slovak Republics with stays in several castles and chateaus, and daily opportunities to enjoy the wines of Moravia and Slovakia. Live like Central European aristocracy for two weeks during balmy September!

December 10-19—Tour the **Christmas Markets** of Vienna (Austria), Budapest (Hungary), Bratislava (Slovakia) and Prague (Czech Republic). Each of these markets is unique, and several stops at smaller community Christmas markets between the primary locations will be included. It's a European shopper's paradise, and just in time for holiday gift giving!

Tours will include all ground transportation, two meals per day, lodging, and all attractions. Participants will be responsible for their own air travel. Pricing and other additional information on all these tours will be available in early 2022. If you have immediate questions, please contact Cynthia Nodland (cnodland@ncsml.org; 319-362-8500, x200). Please note that these schedules will be ambitious; participants are encouraged to arrive two days ahead to avoid travel delays and fatigue.