



*Our Czech and Slovak homelands endure challenges from many directions as they participate in the leadership in the European Union, the Visegrád Group (V4), and the Austerlitz format. These political and economic alliances form important links that help to bind Central Europe.*

## Czech and Slovak Republics Assume Important and Demanding Leadership Roles in Central Europe

On July 1, 2022, the Czech Republic assumed the presidency of the Council of the European Union. It will preside over the Council for a six-month term, which is on a rotation with the other 26 member states, and it has determined an agenda and five priorities.

### **CZ PRES Priorities: Five flagship areas**

In a June 15 message, Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala declared that the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February has necessitated the first priority: to manage the refugee crises through effective European cooperation and solidarity. The goal is to achieve long-term successful integration of refugees into the societies of the EU Member States.

The Russian invasion has created a more intense and urgent need for an accelerated transformation of Europe's energy sector. Though climate protection is of utmost importance, energy independence and security are paramount. The presidency will



**Refugee help at the Prague main train station. The UN says that, as of July 4, more than 5.2 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe; 79,770 refugees in Slovakia, and more than 382,768 refugees in the Czech Republic.**

SOURCE: BBC NEWS; PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

focus on "implementing the RePowerEU package, which includes a faster transition to low-carbon and renewable energy sources, energy savings or more resilient, diversified sources."

The third priority of the presidency is to strengthen European defense capacities and cyberspace security, especially in cooperation with NATO. PM Fiala goes on to say, "In addition, we will seek budgetary support for the renewal of the armaments of European armies."

Supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 and the Russian invasion have had a devastating effect on the EU economy. To strengthen supply chains and increase economic resilience, the presidency "aims to move forward as quickly as possible with the conclusion of trade agreements with democratic states and to deepen transatlantic

*continued on page 8*

# NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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Dr. Madeline Albright

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

## Let's Make Sure our Cultural Footprint is Never Lost

Dear Friends of the NCSML,

I cannot believe that Summer 2022 is almost over. Time clearly flies too quickly. As the hot sun of Summer 2022 radiated our lives, everyone at the NCSML was beaming with new exhibits, innovative programs, and special events. As you can see, in this past year, we have modified our MOST newsletter, not only to let you know about upcoming activities, but also to add some news and special interest stories.

In this issue, we are so proud to feature the leadership roles that the Czech and Slovak Republics are taking in Europe and the world. In spite of all the turmoil in our global society, the Czech and Slovak Republics have assumed major roles in helping to lead the European Union and Central Europe.

Kudos to our wonderful NCSML staff who have organized our upcoming calendar filled with new surprises for everyone. One of our big initiatives this summer and fall is to "Keep the Heritage Alive" through our participation in Czech and Slovak festivals throughout the U.S. We want to make sure that the important cultural footprint is NEVER lost.

Our curatorial team has done a fantastic job disseminating our traveling exhibits across the

U.S. We invite everyone to check out all our traveling exhibits, which are listed on our website. These exhibits are wonderful for communities and organizations to feature. The exhibits offer great opportunities for local programming and special events.



**Cecilia Rokusek**  
*President and CEO*

Our NCSML store is celebrating the "International Year of Glass." Please come and see the wonderful treasures that our store staff have available.

Our ongoing focus on student education continues with our expanded efforts with Palacky University in Olomouc, Czechia and our Cedar Rapids institutions of higher learning: Mount Mercy University, Coe College, and Kirkwood Community College. Our Smithsonian intern this summer was such a wonderful addition to our NCSML, as you will read in her story.

Enjoy the Fall 2022 MOST as we "celebrate and cross the bridge together" with new events and happenings throughout the county.

## Dr. Cecilia Rokusek Receives Crystal Heart of Gold

President and CEO Cecilia Rokusek was honored by Miroslav Konvalina, Director of the Czech Center New York, with the Crystal Heart of Gold. The award recognizes NCSML's collaboration with the Czech Center New York in 2021 in the American Midwest.

Director Konvalina said, "We greatly appreciate not only the cooperation we've established, but also the friendship that has blossomed between us both, and thanks to our collaborative projects at NCSML, also the friendship between the President/CEO and the visiting Czech artists. By working together, the Czech Center New York and the NCSML are able to offer great opportunities in culture and science. We regularly hold collaborative gala openings, organize concerts and lectures, plant commemorative linden trees, and even host great wine tastings. Cecilia Rokusek and Bob Petrik's residence in Cedar Rapids is a place where Czech artists can come and meet notable



**Miroslav Konvalina, Director of the Czech Center New York, presented President and CEO Cecilia Rokusek the Crystal Heart of Gold during Harafica Cimbál Band's concert in February.**

American figures, and also collaborate with them for the future."

The glass heart, designed by Czech glassmaker Lukáš Šulc, has been awarded by the Czech Center New York since 2019. Previous recipients of the Crystal Heart include opera singer Kristýna Kůstková. ■





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Coffee & Kolach
- 3 Free First Saturday for Students
- 12 7 pm: Children's theatre show with actors and clowns from Prague, CR (*Free to all*)
- 13 Beginner's Czech Language & Culture I
- 16 BrewNost
- 21 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration
- 22 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstration
- 30 7 pm: Concert by the Moravian Brass Band Dolněmčanka

### OCTOBER

- 1 Free First Saturday for Students
- 7 Coffee & Kolach
- 11 Christmas Market Tour RSVP Deadline
- 19 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration
- 19 7 pm: Book Review and discussion by Michele Patrick on *Haunted Prague*
- 20 7 pm: Book Review and discussion by Michele Patrick on *Haunted Prague*
- 27 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstration

### NOVEMBER

- Watch ncsml.org for dates and times of this month's NCSML Cooking Classes
- 4 Coffee & Kolach
- 5 Free First Saturday for Students
- 8 7 pm: Concert by Mezzo Soprano Ester Pavlu (*back from Prague by popular demand*)
- 16 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration

### DECEMBER

- Watch ncsml.org for dates and times of this month's NCSML Cooking Classes
- Watch for date of book review and discussion of *Cowboy from Prague* by Dr. Charles Heller
- 2 Coffee & Kolach
- 2 St. Nicholas Christmas Family Concert (*Svaty Mikulas*)
- 3 Old World Christmas Market 2022
- 4 Old World Christmas Market 2022
- 21 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration
- 22 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstration

### JANUARY

- 7 Free First Saturday for Students
- 18 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration
- 26 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstration

### FEBRUARY

- 3 Coffee & Kolach
- 4 Free First Saturday for Students
- 15 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration
- 23 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstration

### MARCH

- 3 Coffee & Kolach
- 4 Free First Saturday for Students
- 15 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration
- 23 *Roma Songs* by Antonin Dvorak (mezzo soprano and piano) in collaboration with CROpera
- 23 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstration

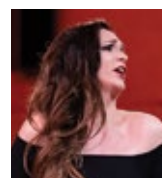
### APRIL

- 1 Free First Saturday for Students
- 7 Coffee & Kolach
- 19 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration
- 23 Concert by Jana Sibera – soloist of the National Theatre in Prague

## NCSML MUSIC SERIES

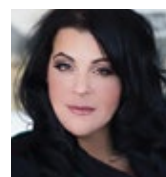
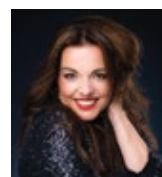


**September 30, 7 pm:**  
Concert by the Moravian Brass Band Dolněmčanka



**November 8, 7 pm: Back from Prague by popular demand:**  
Mezzo Soprano Ester Pavlu

**March 23, 7 pm: Dvorak's Roma Songs performed by Mezzo Soprano Janara Kellerman**



**April 23, 7 pm: Concert by Soprano Jana Sibera – soloist of the National Theatre in Prague**

Please visit [ncsml.org](http://ncsml.org) or call 319-362-8500 for more information on these events and additional programs to be announced.

## MOST

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](http://ncsml.org) or follow us at

**MUSEUM HOURS** Monday - Saturday, 9:30 AM - 4 PM;  
Sunday, 12 - 4 PM

**LIBRARY HOURS** Tuesday - Saturday, 9:30 AM - 4 PM  
Appointments recommended for research.

1400 Inspiration Place SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
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Available in Our Award-Winning Museum Store

# The International Year of Glass

Did you know this is the International Year of Glass declared by the United Nations? What a perfect opportunity to celebrate the centuries-old tradition of Czech or Slovak glass-making! Will you join us?



See these beautiful pieces in person, shop online at [store.ncsml.org](http://store.ncsml.org), email us at [store@ncsml.org](mailto:store@ncsml.org), or call us at 319.362.8500.

Based in Karlovy Vary in western Czech Republic, Studio Moser and glassworks has been the *crème de la crème* of the Czech glass industry since it was established by Ludwig Moser in 1857. The amazing designs and high quality of craftsmanship in their hand-blown, hand-cut glass is unparalleled, and so are the signature Moser colors. Whether used for sipping wine, whiskey, or beer, all drinkware is made from lead-free crystal. Vases and other decorative items become family heirlooms. We are beyond thrilled and proud to introduce Moser glass to you and sell it in our store!

NOTE: To view and shop the collection of drinkware and vases in stock, please call 319.362.8500, x-112 or email us at [store@ncsml.org](mailto:store@ncsml.org), and we will be glad to send you a flyer with more details. Items have their own boxes. However, we will ship exclusively with UPS and insure as deemed appropriate.



Their two workshops may be separated by the Atlantic Ocean, but their love for working with glass and adorning women with their creations is close to their hearts. The jewelry is made by two Czech women artists — one living in the Czech Republic and the other in the US — and it proves that the glass making artistry is alive and well!

**Tumbler Culbuto Aquamarine**  
240ml .....\$53  
65ml .....\$39  
(also in rosalin/mauve)

**Oeno Wine Glass: 650ml.....\$55**

**Pebbles whiskey tumbler: 370ml .....\$148**  
(also in 65ml, and in smoke)

**Vase Purity Aquamarine Amethyst: .....\$1,270**  
(also in topaz rose)

**White gold pie earrings:.....\$19.95**

**Blue platinum set:..... \$42.95**

**Turquoise heart: ..... \$26.95**

**Silver Blue Turquoise: ..... \$65.95**

**Double Leaf Fuchsia: ..... \$65.95**

**Orange Flower: .....\$57.95**



# Keeping Our Heritage Alive Throughout the World

*As the only National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in North America, we are committed to connecting Czech and Slovak communities everywhere. We are helping to "Keep Our Heritage Alive Throughout the World." Connecting to each other, we are helping to make a stronger footprint so that all can learn and benefit from our cultural past, present, and future.*



CEDAR RAPIDS: Audrey Mickelson, Miss Czech-Slovak Queen of Iowa, was on hand for the July 22 ribbon-cutting ceremony that marked the reopening of the 16th Avenue Bridge of Lions. Audrey, left, is joined by her royal court: Natalie Hopkins, Allyana Pokorny, Ingrid Landa, Lars Landa, Danika Robe, and Mikahla Powers. The bridge closed in October 2021 to create flood gates on either side — part of a larger flood prevention project along the Cedar River to mitigate future floods like the one in 2008.



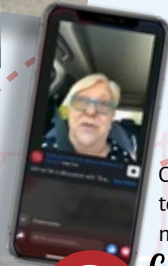
This incredible monument in Crest Hill, IL is a national treasure that all should visit — not only to remember but to learn from for future generations.



Enjoying their 2022 Czech festival in Protivin, Iowa, with Mollie B at a Polka mass.



Wilber, NE: The Czech capital of the US, population 1,953 that grows to 40,000 during this annual festival and National Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant.



Calling in *Coffee & Kolach* en route to the Wilber Czech Festival — never a dull moment!

**Coffee & Kolach**  
Káva a Koláč



Sugar Creek, Missouri: What an incredible event in Sugar Creek as we celebrated with our Slavic brother and sisterhood together.



Great weekend spent in the "Czech Capital of Kansas" at the Wilson After Harvest Czech Festival.



Celebrating the 125th anniversary of Bohemian National Hall in Cleveland... so proud to be there with them.

## Moravian Ornament Painting

CEDAR RAPIDS: Thanks to a "Folk Art Apprenticeship Grant" from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, the NCSML was able to partner with expert artists in Moravian art design to help teach a future generation of artists, and to then produce artwork that can be displayed in Czech Village. The project focused on preserving a lost art in the Czech/Moravian culture. This form of art is called "Moravian ornament painting." Two master artists taught emerging artists about the art form and how to do it. As a result of the workshops, emerging artists produced art pieces that will be hung in Czech Village for all to enjoy. Videos of their teaching will be available for future education.







In February, NCSML received a unique musical instrument for its collection: a cimbalom. Made in a workshop in the small Moravian village of Kozlovice in northern Moravia, the instrument was played for more than 10 years by one of the best Czech cimbalom players, Petr Gablas, a native to Uherské Hradiště and member of the folk music group Harařica. The instrument, whose acquisition was financed by Czech-Slovak compatriot Bob Petrik, will not only serve as an item on display in the museum, but will also open the door to cimbalom band concerts in the American Midwest and help teach all generations of Czech and Slovak descent how to play this instrument.

President and CEO Cecilia Rokusek said: "We were absolutely thrilled and honored to have hosted Harařica, the original cimbalom orchestra from Moravia. As the only national Czech and Slovak museum and library in North America, it is important that we bring our cultural stars of the 21st century to our community and our national audiences. We are especially excited to introduce cimbalom music to our children, as the younger generation is truly our future. Harařica represents the finest in terms of history, culture, and unique music that is important to preserve for all generations, current and future. We welcome with open hearts this cultural gem to the Midwest and the heart of America. The cimbalom played for our concert will become part of the museum and will be used to teach all generations interested in this important instrument in the Moravian and Slovak cultures." ■

### **Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II** **Petrik Gallery** **July 23 - October 2, 2022**

After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the United States entered a war in Europe and the Pacific, the nation was overcome by shock, anger, and fear — a fear exaggerated by long-standing prejudice against Asians. In response, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. This order sent 75,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry and 45,000 Japanese nationals to incarceration centers.

*Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II* traces the story of this incarceration and the people who survived it. Young and old lived crowded together in hastily built camps, endured poor living conditions, and were under the constant watch of military guards for two and a half years. Meanwhile, brave Japanese American men risked their



**School girls reciting the pledge of allegiance.**  
**Dorothea Lange, Courtesy of National Archives.**

lives fighting for the United States. Some 40 years later, members of the Japanese American community led the nation to confront the wrong it had done—and urged Congress to make it right.

This important new traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian's National Museum of

*continued on page 7*



### **Gridiron Champs: George Halas and the Chicago Bears** **Smith Gallery** **March 19 - November 6, 2022**

This exhibit features the life and work of George Halas, a first-generation Czech-American who played a significant role in the formation of the NFL, and spent time as a player, coach, and owner with the Chicago Bears.

Visitors can test their football knowledge with an interactive quiz or try some NFL training camp moves. Video screens will feature footage from early games and 1985's Super Bowl Shuffle.



### **The Second Life of Vendulka V** **Skala Bartizal Library** **August 12- December 31, 2022**

The exhibition presents the life story of Vendulka Vogelová, a girl who survived the Holocaust. Her story would probably never have made it into written form without the existence of photographs by the Czech photographer Jan Lukas, who photographed the Vogel family only a few hours before their deportation to the Terezín/Theresienstadt ghetto. Eighty years later, Vendulka Vogelová talked about her eventful life and friendship with the photographer Jan Lukas to the author of the book, Ondřej Kundra, who had searched for her in the USA on the basis of the photographs taken by Jan Lukas. Thanks to the Czech Consul General in Chicago for this very important exhibit.



President Ronald Reagan signing the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, Aug. 10, 1988, Washington, D.C. Courtesy of Densho, the Kinoshita Collection.

American History will bring heart-wrenching personal stories, fascinating documents, stunning photographs, and engaging interactives. Embracing themes that are as relevant today as they were 75 years ago, the exhibition takes a deep look at immigration, prejudice, civil rights, heroism, and what it means to be an American. ■



The Masuda family, owners of the Wanto Grocery in Oakland, California, proclaimed that they were American, even as they were forced to sell their business before they were incarcerated in August 1942. Dorothea Lange, Courtesy of National Archives.



### **Sokol Local Guard Anderson Gallery**

**September 25 - December 31, 2022**

The photographs by Roman Franc in Sokol Loyal Guard show the oldest living members of the Sokol movement from the so-called Loyal Guard of Sokol Brno I and Sokol New York. In the photographs, the aged bodies of former gymnasts assume long-learned poses, in which they suddenly freeze as if they were to stay that way forever.

The portraits of old Sokol members capture the energy accumulated over the years, which may no longer reside in the body, but becomes a matter of the spirit.



### **Magic and Mystery: Mardi Gras and Carnival Traditions**

**Petrik Gallery**

**October 29, 2022 - March 19, 2023**

All over the world, Carnival celebrations take place in the days leading up to Ash Wednesday and Lent. In the United States, this festival is called Mardi Gras. Czechs call it *Masopust*, and the Slovak word is *Fašiangy*.

This exhibit will feature Czech and Slovak Carnival masks and costumes next to ornate beaded parade costumes from the American south, along with Czech beaded necklaces. Artifacts and images will be borrowed from museums in the United States as well as in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.



### **Memoryscape**

**Smith Gallery**

**December 3, 2022 - May 6, 2023**

Honza Sakař's fascination with the wet-collodion process began around five years ago. His photographs stand as a counterpoint to digital perfectionism, by virtue of being a study, a drive to capture an otherworldly presence.

The exhibit features iconic points of interest in South Moravia, including meadows, forests, castles, historical sites, and local celebrities.





## LEADERSHIP ROLES *continued from page 1*

cooperation within the EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC), with an emphasis on strategic cooperation.”

Finally, the fifth flagship and overall objective of the presidency is to contribute as much as possible to creating the conditions for the security and prosperity of the EU. Together with the United States and other democratic states, the EU should become a strong foundation for a strategic community defending fundamental values, human rights, a free way of life, and liberal democracy.

## Strategic Alliances Increasingly Important

With its close geographic proximity to Ukraine, Slovakia is on high alert. Concurrently with the Czech EU Presidency, 2022-2023 is the year of Slovakia’s presidency of the Visegrád Group (V4 — the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia). In addition to the V4, it is also involved in another regional group, Austerlitz (the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria). With these memberships and collaborations, they are actively addressing problems jointly faced by Central Europe.

Pavol Demeš, a member of the NCSML International Advisory Board and the first of NCSML’s Visiting Scholars this coming fall, explains that participating members of the EU, Austerlitz and the V4 are standing in solidarity against the Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Member nations facilitate and help to house and support huge numbers of Ukrainian refugees as they cross borders throughout the continent.

They share the challenges of economic strife, of developing and utilizing technology, and overcoming the consequences of the global pandemic. ■

*Want to learn more? Here are some excellent online resources:*

[bit.ly/3wTMCnv](https://bit.ly/3wTMCnv) (Czech Presidency)

[bit.ly/3edM9G9](https://bit.ly/3edM9G9) (Visegrad Group)

[osw.waw.pl](https://osw.waw.pl) (Centre for Eastern Studies)



## Reflections of an NCSML Intern

BY MIRIAM MADRIZ, 2022 SMITHSONIAN AND EMERSON COLLECTIVE INTERN

It has been an honor to be a Smithsonian Summer 2022 Intern in partnership with the Emerson Collective Youth Collaboration and the NCSML, a Smithsonian Affiliate. The internship spanned an eight-week period; six weeks were spent remote, and two weeks were spent on site at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. During the remote part of the internship, I spent my time researching and attending Zoom lectures about poverty, media impact, curating a diverse museum, etc. An impactful Zoom meeting mentioned that many people have made accidental discoveries in museums. I, myself, made a discovery!

The NCSML has an exhibit on George Halas, with Czech ancestry from the Pilsen area in Chicago, Illinois. George Halas was a player and owner of the Chicago professional football team, the Bears. As I went through the exhibit, I could not help but think about how strange it was that George Halas was from Pilsen. I kept seeing the importance of this community intertwined with his story. I am from the South Side of Chicago, and I did not know Pilsen had Czech and Slovak influences. This neighborhood is now predominantly Mexican while experiencing gentrification.

Often, we live in areas without knowing the culture that resides around us. Through my two weeks that I have spent at the NCSML, I have learned about the preservation of culture, curating exhibits and being more adventurous. I spent a lot of time learning about culture preservation through cuisine. I was reading a book called *Food Lore Folklore Cookbook* by the Czechoslovakian-American

Social Club in Tucson, Arizona. The essay submitted by Shirley Masa Jakimowich stood out to me as Shirley talked about Cermak Road, which is named after the Czech Mayor, Anton J. Cermak. When she lived on Cermak Road, it was a famous street of Czech bakeries, butcher shops, florists, taverns, savings and loans, and restaurants. She recalled famous restaurants — “Klas” and “Old Prague.” Cermak Road was the main street of Czechoslovakia in Chicago, Cicero, and Berwyn. I, myself, go on Cermak Road almost every day, as Cermak Road remains the heart of these neighborhoods. But I visit them for a new reason. Cermak Road is now predominately Mexican too. The restaurants and shops she mentioned are long closed as the area shifted in its ethnic population.

I worked alongside Stefanie Kohn, the exhibit curator of the NCSML, to learn about curating a museum. The museum was preparing to open the *Righting a Wrong* exhibit, showcasing the Japanese experience in America. This is a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian. From afar, one would think the museum only focuses on Czech and Slovaks, but it creates an inclusive atmosphere for all to come and learn about immigration and participate in a fascinating culture.

I would like to thank Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, my supervisor Michelle Simoneau, executive assistant to the NCSML President and CEO, and their husbands for their hospitality throughout my trip. I would also like to thank the employees at the NCSML for welcoming me with open arms, and the Smithsonian and Emerson Collective for this opportunity. ■





## Rent our space!



*Corporate or social — we have a venue for you.*

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 professional event staff who will assist with your event from start to finish.



### Hemphill Theater

Equally appropriate for business or social gatherings, Hemphill contains 51 comfortably upholstered and permanently affixed chairs (with ample space for wheelchairs), making it ideal for presentations and film screenings.



### WFLA/ZCBJ Heritage Hall

Host up to 200 guests in this art nouveau-inspired space with state of the art A/V equipment and internet access. This space may also be divided into two rooms, if desired.



### Naxera Terrace

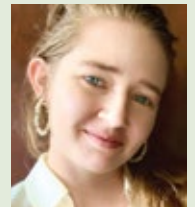
Ideal for cocktail receptions or outdoor ceremonies, Naxera can seat up to 200 guests and includes a view of the Cedar River.



### Rozek Grand Hall

This space, featuring the Preciosa chandelier, can accommodate up to 150 guests and be configured for a broad range of purposes.

**For tours and additional booking information, please contact Nicole Everhart, Event Manager.**  
**neverhart@ncsml.org or 319-362-8500 ext. 217**



## NCSML welcomes new members of the Event Services Team



**Tomas Slepička** is the NCSML Interim Director of Event Services and also the head chef of NCSML's Czech & Slovak Cooking School, established and managed by the NCSML. He is originally from Brno, the second largest city in the Czech Republic.

A few years after he met his wife, who is an American, they decided to move to her hometown, Cedar Rapids, which is also, fortunately, the home of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. They have lived here for almost nine years and are raising two girls and a pug dog.

Tom graduated from culinary school in Brno. While still in school, Tom established and ran a full-service event and catering company that operated in the Czech Republic, Slovakia,

and Austria, and organized events for up to 3,500 guests. Soon after the successful start of his company, Tom also started a consulting business which consulted for the events, catering, and restaurant industry, as well as to help with crisis management, procurement processes, and setting up systems for effective workflows. Later, he opened and operated the first language school teaching American English in central Europe. After moving to the United States, he opened a restaurant that also provided full-service catering. A year later, he decided to continue in his consulting business that originally started back in the Czech Republic. In addition to being the Interim Events Director and Culinary Instructor for NCSML, he is also a food blogger, recipe creator, an independent culinary instructor, and a consultant for restaurants, the events industry, and non-profits.



**Romana Goodell**, Associate Event Manager, is originally from the Czech Republic, and has lived in Cedar Rapids with her husband and stepson for three years.

In the Czech Republic, Romana studied public administration. While studying, she worked in several restaurants as a waitress and quickly rose to the role of manager. Romana has managed events, such as weddings, birthday parties, celebrations of life, festivals, and much more.

The variety of events is one aspect of the job Romana enjoys most. She enjoys fitness and traveling. And she enjoys working in the NCSML because she can be close to her culture and be a part of events and celebrations that are exciting as well as educational.

# Chicago's Czech Legacy

BY SUSAN MARCINKUS

Manifest Film's new 90-minute documentary film, *Czechs in Chicago: A Home in the Heartland*, tells the story of the Czech immigrant experience in Chicago, past and present. Spanning nearly two centuries of turbulent times, it shows how the Bohemians helped build and shape the city, and what Chicago did in turn, to empower them to thrive in a new land and help establish a free and sovereign Czechoslovakia.

Our documentary was completed in May of this year, and had its preview theatrical screening in the Gene Siskel Theater at a special event sponsored by the Czech Consulate of Chicago. It had its television premiere on Chicago PBS, WTTW, with a very enthusiastic audience response and extraordinary Nielsen TV ratings for the entire week it aired.

At the dawn of the twentieth century, Chicago had the third largest Czech population in the world, behind only Prague and Vienna. The sizeable presence of Czechs in the city was evident in the names of neighborhoods like Pisek, Praha, Pilsen, and Ceska Kalifornie — or sites like the Bohemian National Cemetery,



Sokol lodges, Pilsen Park, and Thalia Hall — and in the emerging political career of the Czech immigrant Anton Cermak, born in Kladno, Bohemia. Cermak would be elected mayor of Chicago in 1931 as a Democrat. He became known as the George Washington of the Democratic machine, and we see how he strove to bring together the working, immigrant classes of Chicago. He was the first immigrant mayor of a major American city.

The film portrays how the Czechs in the “Windy City” also worked for the independence of their homeland from the repressive Austro-Hungarian Empire, providing funds and support and frequently hosting one of the eventual founders of

an independent Czechoslovakia, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk. Chicago was a major hub of activity that ultimately brought freedom and sovereignty to the Czechs following World War I.

Our goal in creating *Czechs in Chicago* is to foster in all generations an indelible sense of their own Czech and Czech American cultural identity, history, and heritage, while informing and arousing in viewers, no matter what their nationality, a strong curiosity about their own cultural heritage. ■

To learn more about director and producer Susan Marcinkus' film, *Czechs in Chicago: A Home in the Heartland*, e-mail Susan at [info@manifestfilms.tv](mailto:info@manifestfilms.tv).

## LIBRARY, INNOVATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Need a program for your organization, school, or club?

As a national cultural museum and library, we are dedicated to providing lifelong education opportunities through a variety of interdisciplinary presentations. Our staff has created and cultivated a diverse range of discussions, each highlighting their unique expertise in art, genealogy, folklife, health, and history. Our staff are more than glad to work with organizations, clubs, churches and schools to bring our offerings to your community. If you'd like to be one of these groups, please contact us! Offerings include:

#### ART

- Alphonse Mucha
- Madeleine 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 Republic

#### HISTORY

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

### Melina Testin joins the NCSML



**Melina Testin**, Lifelong Learning Specialist, joined the NCSML team in May 2022. A Cedar Rapids native, Melina worked three summers for NCSML while earning her degree

in Military History from Loyola University Chicago. In addition to her work at NCSML, Melina's professional experience includes the publication of a graphic novel she wrote and illustrated in collaboration with the Pritzker Military Museum & Library in Chicago. *POW Graphic Novels: True Stories from the Prison Camps of Nazi Germany and North Vietnam* is available for purchase in the NCSML Museum Store.

Melina's passion for history and enthusiasm for scholarship will shape the next generation of historically and culturally empathic leaders at NCSML and beyond. When she isn't leading exhibit tours, hosting international visitors, planning educational programs, and inspiring the historians of tomorrow, Melina enjoys trying new recipes and spending time with her family.

To schedule a program or to request information, contact Melina Testin (319-362-8500 ext. 205; [mtestin@ncsml.org](mailto:mtestin@ncsml.org)). Most presentations are 60 minutes long, can be presented virtually, and can be tailored to fit the needs of your audience. For Genealogy and Library related information, contact Dave Muhlena, head librarian (319-362-8500 ext. 120; [dmuhlena@ncsml.org](mailto:dmuhlena@ncsml.org)).





# Legacy Society Members Create Lasting Impact for Generations

BY TISHA RITTER  
CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER

NCSML'S Legacy Society exists as an opportunity to recognize and honor those individuals who make provisions for NCSML in their estate plans or through other methods of planned giving. Members of this select group create a very personal and powerful philanthropic legacy which will have a direct impact on the future of the NCSML, ensuring that the work of preserving, protecting, and transcending the history and culture of Czech and Slovak immigrants continues for generations.

Legacy Society members enjoy the knowledge

that their future contributions will make a huge impact. In addition, they receive special recognition in the NCSML building and at special "legacy members only" events. You can become a member of this very special group of supporters by making your gift or pledge today. Most planned gifts offer a form of estate charitable tax deduction and can be given as unrestricted or a designated gift. We can work with you and your financial advisors to identify the best plan for you.

For more information, call Tisha Ritter at 319-362-8500, email her at [tritter@ncsml.org](mailto:tritter@ncsml.org), or scan this code.



*"The Czech and Slovak story has vital lessons for us all about the value of freedom and the importance of showing respect for basic human rights. By supporting the museum and library, we can keep that story alive for generations to come."*

—Madeleine Albright,  
Former US Secretary of State and  
NCSML Advisory Board Member



## Is there a "Nana" in your life?

"Today was interactive, moving and meaningful. Took a nine-year-old and two six-year-olds to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

THEY LOVED IT AND WERE SO ENGAGED.

"From listening to immigrant stories to listening to a radio broadcast of the Russian invasion to experience living in the steerage of an immigrant ship to making decisions on what to pack in a small suitcase if they had to leave their home suddenly to putting on a puppet show to seeing costumes . . . This doesn't include the Chicago Bears exhibit filled with George Halas (owner) memorabilia including super bowl rings, uniforms, photos, etc.

"As we exited, the kids could write on a white board what they learned . . . 'I learned the Russians banned music, food and other things.' 'I learned there was a war.'

**They learned about the loss of freedom."**

—Diane Stefani. Nana Camp. Every Day is a Great Day.



Thank you, Diane Stefani, for sharing your wonderful day with us. It made *our* day, and we couldn't have made a more powerful case for membership.

All memberships to the NCSML include these standard benefits: Free Admission to all NCSML exhibits; Biannual journal, *Slovo*; Biannual newsletter, *MOST*; discounts in the Museum Store; free enrollment in *Time Travelers Program*, with benefits at more than 100 museums in 42 states; and invitations to members-only events. Also available to add on to any level for an additional fee is our **Smithsonian Affiliate Membership**, which gives you the benefits of two memberships in one!

There are three easy ways to give: mail a check using the return envelope inserted in this newsletter; contact Jennifer Thiele at 319-362-8500, x224 or [jthiele@ncsml.org](mailto:jthiele@ncsml.org); or scan this code.

Preserve and celebrate the rich cultural history for future generations by giving the gift of member ship to family and friends! ■



### Dr. Cecilia Rokusek reappointed to State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) Board of Trustees

President and CEO Cecilia Rokusek will serve another three-year term on the SHSI's Board of Trustees. The board oversees the society, which has been a trustee of Iowa's historical legacy since 1857. With a dual mission of preservation and education, it maintains a museum, archives and historical libraries, preservation office, and eight historic sites. These bureaus preserve and provide access to Iowa's historical resources through a variety of statewide programs, exhibitions and projects while serving as an advocate for Iowa's past and connector to the future.

"It is a true honor to serve our wonderful state and join in the great work of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Iowa has such an incredibly rich history of being the home to immigrants over the past several hundred years. It is more important now than ever to preserve and celebrate this rich history for our state," said Dr. Rokusek. ■



**National Czech & Slovak  
Museum & Library**  
1400 Inspiration Place SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Cedar Rapids, IA  
Permit No. 414



In 2021, the Chadima Family decided to celebrate their unique Czech immigrant success story with a project that we can all enjoy! Family members from around the world contributed funds and commissioned Weaver Wagons of Dalton, Ohio, to build an authentic horse-drawn ice wagon, 100% to historic standards. After arriving in Cedar Rapids, the ice wagon, along with historic photos and ice artifacts, was placed on permanent display in the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

The family brings the ice wagon out for special events, such as BrewNost at the NCSML, and the Freedom Festival Parade in downtown Cedar Rapids. Here, joined by friends, they prepared for the 2022 Freedom Festival Parade.

Please stop by the NCSML to see the wagon in its permanent exhibit!

