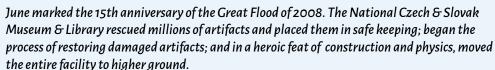
Bridging the past to the present, the village to the world | Fall 2023 | Vol. 33 No. 2





We are Shaped by Our Challenges

The world was watching, and the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library needed to prove that Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was the place to preserve the historic and cultural heritage of the Czech and Slovak peoples in North America. NCSML brilliantly rose to the challenge, and the recovery has been well documented. Under the guidance of then NCSML board president Gary Rozek, the 18,000-square-foot structure was moved to higher ground and incorporated into the total size of the current 60,000-square-foot exhibition center and library.

President and CEO Dr. Cecilia Rokusek explains, "The flood of 2008 was a wake-up call for our entire Cedar Rapids community. This disaster made us stronger, more resilient, and even more dedicated to our community and the people we serve. We at NCSML not only became significantly larger in size with underground parking, but we also became well positioned to be a cultural icon for our city, state, nation, and world. Our permanent gallery, Faces of Freedom, has told the story of immigration and democracy for all who visit this historical tribute to our rich cultures, traditions, and current and future aspiration. Our four temporary exhibit spaces allow us to bring our on-site visitors, and our virtual guests, amazing exhibits featuring art, history, technology, and insights into current-day Czechia and Slovakia. As a result of the flood, NCSML has three distinct periods: The Founding (1974-1975); The Flood (2008); and The Future (which is now)."

The Great Flood of 2008 was not the first flood in Cedar Rapids, and likely not the last. The challenge now is to protect our precious museum and its contents from future 1,000-year floods. In 2019, the City of Cedar Rapids began building a massive series of flood gates to protect neighborhoods and the community from rising flood waters in the future. Completed this past spring, the permanent full-height floodwall at NCSML extends from 16th Avenue SW to 12th Avenue SW, and includes a raised, terraced yard to accommodate outdoor activities at the museum and minimize the appearance of the floodwall.









Preparing to move 1,500 tons of museum building! The entire building was raised six feet to slide dollies under the building, and moved to the new site.



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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.



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Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this {article, book, exhibition, film, program, database, report, Web resource}, do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Brilliant Exhibits, Brilliant Celebrations

Dear NCSML members and friends,

Fall is just around the corner, and just as the multi-colored leaves of the season are brilliantly shining and moving in the wind, we at the NCSML are multi-tasking to plan brilliant exhibits, dynamic programs, and exciting events you'll remember for a lifetime. Our Fall 2023 MOST is filled with stories that we hope will connect you more to our wonderful Czech and Slovak heritage and allow you to plan your calendars for some really amazing upcoming events. Our 2023 BrewNost will be bigger and better than ever with new vendors, new beers and spirits, and lots of surprises including our annual raffle for a Prague trip. One lucky winner will receive round-trip travel for two to Prague and a six-night stay at the Rott Hotel in the heart of Prague, minutes from the astronomical Orloj Clock Tower. Find out how to obtain your raffle tickets and everything BrewNost on NCSML.org. To buy your BrewNost tickets online and to find

out more about the "2023 Prague Getaway Raffle," scan the code. And please mark your calendars for the Old World Christmas Market

December 2-3.

As we all celebrate the rest of the year, our NCSML family wants to thank you for your ongoing commitment, dedication, and support of the NCSML. The future is truly ours to build as we grow that spirit of cultural preservation and pride.

See you all soon!





Cecilia Rokusek President and CEO





DECEMBER 2-3

NCSML and the Czech Center New York Sign a Cooperative Agreement



Miroslav Konvalina, Director of the Czech Center New York, and Dr. Cecilia Roskusek sign an agreement to facilitate a close collaboration between the two cultural institutions.

The two most active Czech cultural institutions in the U.S. have signed an agreement cementing their close ongoing cooperation and opening new venues for even wider collaboration. NCSML and the Czech (Cultural) Center New York signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate closer collaboration between the two parties, with an emphasis on the development of joint educational and research projects, exhibitions, and programs. Both institutions will encourage direct contacts and cooperation between the members of their communities, departments, institutes, and other national and international entities.

They will encourage and execute an exchange of cultural programs, exhibits and speakers, joint partnerships for cultural exhibits and programs, joint educational projects, and an exchange of information and ideas for residencies and resources.

NCSML President & CEO Dr. Cecilia Rokusek welcomed the agreement as a further step to continue programs and truly enhance the Czech imprint in the U.S. with such programs as the series of Czech top opera female singers' recitals performed in Cedar Rapids over the past two years.

Director of the Czech Center New York, Miroslav Konvalina, pointed out that the best Czech opera singers from the Czech Republic have found their home base at the National Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as well as at the Bohemian National Hall in New York, where the Czech Cultural Center resides. This affiliation truly exemplifies the journey of those early Czech immigrants who arrived in New York and then came to Iowa, a state that so reminded them of their homeland.



SEPTEMBER

- Coffee & Kolach
- Free First Saturday for Students
- 12 Beginner's Czech Language & Culture I
- 15 BrewNost 2023
- 16 Sanctuary Exhibit Opens
- 19 Czech Village Walking Tour with Mark Stoffer Hunter
- 20 Needlepoint Guild Demonstrations
- 23 Brilliant Bohemian Garnets Guided Tour
- 28 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstrations

OCTOBER

- 6 Coffee & Kolach
- Free First Saturday for Students
- 8 The Mad Silkman Exhibit Closes
- 18 Needlepoint Guild Demonstrations
- 21 Brilliant Bohemian Garnets Guided Tour
- 26 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstrations
- 29 Reclamation Exhibit Opens

NOVEMBER

- NCSML Cooking Classes
- 3 Coffee & Kolach
- 4 Free First Saturday for Students

NOVEMBER continued

4 NCSML Cooking Class

(C)

- 11 NCSML Cooking Class
- 15 Needlepoint Guild Demonstrations
- 15 NCSML Cooking Class
- 18 Brilliant Bohemian Garnets Guided Tour
- 23 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstrations
- 29 NCSML Cooking Class

DECEMBER

- Coffee & Kolach
- Free First Saturday for Students
- 2-3 Old World Christmas Market 2023
- 6 NCSML Cooking Class
- 13 NCSML Cooking Class
- 16 Brilliant Bohemian Garnets Guided Tour
- 16 NCSML Cooking Class
- 20 Needlepoint Guild Demonstrations
- 28 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstrations
- 31 Sanctuary Exhibit Closes

JANUARY

- 5 Coffee & Kolach
- 6 Free First Saturday for Students

JANUARY continued

- 13 Brilliant Bohemian Garnets Guided Tour
- 14 Brilliant Bohemian Garnets Guided Tour
- 17 Needlepoint Guild Demonstrations
- 25 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstrations

FEBRUARY

- Coffee & Kolach
- Free First Saturday for Students
- 21 Needlepoint Guild Demonstrations
- 22 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstration

MARCH

- Coffee & Kolach
- Free First Saturday for Students
- 20 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration
- 28 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstration

APRIL

5 Coffee & Kolach

(C)

- Free First Saturday for Students
- 17 Needlepoint Guild Demonstration
- 25 Embroiderers' Guild Demonstration



Please visit ncsml.org or call 319-362-8500 for more information on these events—more new programs to be announced throughout the year.



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Sanctuary

Anderson Gallery

September 16 - December 31, 2023

Zuzka Vaclavik is a dual citizen of the United States and Slovakia. She grew up in Germany, where she took art lessons from a Czech painter. Sanctuary is a series of paintings on wood panels inspired by Slovak folk art patterns. Vaclavik has exhibited her work in New York, California, Cambodia, Germany, Austria, and across the United States.



Mad Silkman: Zika & Lida Ascher Textiles and Fashion

Smith Gallery

June 3, 2023 – October 8, 2023

In collaboration with The Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, and the Czech Center New York, this exhibit focuses on the life and work of Zika and Lida Ascher, a husband-and-wife duo who left Czechoslovakia before the outbreak of WW2 and built a textile empire in the United Kingdom, which supplied fabrics to the international fashion industry. Featuring more than fifty original patterns, textile samples, photos, drawings and videos, the items in the exhibition have been generously lent by the Ascher Family Archive in the U.S.



Reclamation

Smith Gallery

October 29, 2023 – February 25, 2024

This exhibit investigates early twentiethcentury domestic textile design in Europe and the Jewish-owned textile printing companies in Czech Bohemia and Moravia. The textiles used are from Carl Breuer and Sons (CB&S), the artist's family's former textile printing business, founded 1897 in Bohemia. In 1939 the company was seized and sold to Naziapproved owners along with all other Jewishowned property in German-occupied areas. Through research trips to the company's archive of fabric samples and designs held at The Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, Noah Breuer has amassed a rich collection of primary source material in the form of digital scans depicting designs, and printed fabric and letters of correspondence. He creates an array of printed works which not only tell his family's story of persecution and emigration, but also raise questions about labor, authorship, and appropriation.



Keep our culture alive by sharing it with friends and family through an NCSML membership.

The benefits of membership:

- Unlimited museum admission
- 10% discount at our awardwinning Museum Store
- Subscription to Slovo magazine

 North American Reciprocal Museums (NARM) benefits at 450 other museums (at the Contributing and Sustaining levels)





Without a culture, we have no future.

Faces of Freedom

Permanent Exhibit

Seen any spy thrillers lately? You may have spotted a Tatra suspiciously tailing the hero. This Czechoslovakian-made car was favored by the East German Stasi (Secret Police) during the Cold War. NCSML owns a model and you can visit it in our permanent Faces of Freedom Exhibit. The exhibit is designed to give visitors a glimpse of the political repression that existed behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War, and when visiting, you might imagine a Czech patriot being whisked away in a shiny black Tatra 603. Escape will be difficult, as there is a (replicated) communist watch tower surveying this 7,000-square foot, state-of-the-art exhibit!





Now open through January 14, 2024, Brilliant Bohemian Garnets is a one-of-a-kind exhibition of nearly 200 priceless antique and modern garnets from the National Museum in Prague.

The 2005 Exhibit — A Popular Success

Once upon a time, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) glittered and sparkled with a dazzling deep red glow. Tens of thousands of people came from far and near to see the treasures inside. That time was 2005, when the museum hosted Bohemian Garnets: Exquisite Artistry from The National Museum in Prague. One of NCSML's most popular exhibits, people still talk about it today. Since 2006, we have heard requests to bring the garnets back. That time is finally upon us.

We are thrilled to announce that the garnets are returning to NCSML! In collaboration with the National Museum in Prague, this new exhibition is open until January 14, 2024.

The Many Uses of Garnets

The exhibition is divided into six themes:
Mining, Natural Motifs, Folk Jewelry, Sports,
Personal Life, and Religion. The mining
category was not part of the 2005 exhibition.
It will feature raw garnets, and tools and
equipment used in the mining process, as well
as in the cutting and setting of the gemstones.

Thousands of years ago, garnets were picked out of the soil after rain. Mining has evolved over time, and today most garnets are mined from quarries. "Bohemian" garnets are called pyrope (from the Greek words pyr for "fire" and ops for "eye") and are found in Central Bohemia. The Bohemian garnet is known for



a high degree of clarity and light refractivity, which gives the gemstone its sparkle and glow.

A Connection to Greek Mythology

Among the most whimsical of the jewelry in the nature motifs section are the pieces that resemble butterflies. Each wing is exquisitely formed with tiny red garnets that are placed on the metal butterfly shape. Other natural shapes include flowers, wheat, and birds. The word garnet comes from the Latin word granatus [seed or grain]. In Greek mythology, Persephone was the daughter of Zeus and Demeter. Persephone was abducted by Hades, the god of the underworld. Hades told her she would not be set free if she ate or drank anything while underground, but she ate one pomegranate seed. Because of this, she was fated to spend one-third of the year in the underworld with Hades. Bohemian garnets resemble pomegranate seeds.

Garnets in Every-Day Life

Artifacts in the folk category include a woman's cap wrapped in gold thread and adorned with dozens of garnets. This type of cap was worn by wealthy women near Prague. A dazzling picture frame encrusted with bright red garnets is another memorable piece.

Garnets were even used for sporting events.
Lucky winners of many Czech athletic
competitions received pins and medals
encrusted with garnets. The most stunning
piece in this area is a garnet studded belt
awarded to wrestler Josef Šmejkal, who won
the 1910 International Wrestling Tournament.

The personal life section has many pieces of jewelry, hair combs, and vases that are decorated with garnets. A particularly stunning example is an 1898 writing set that includes an inkwell, penholder, paper knife, pencil, and seal, all contained in a case. Every piece is made of opalescent shell with garnets attached.

The final section features religious objects, such as garnet crosses and prayer books with covers that are coated in garnets. Silver chalices adorned with gemstones dating back to the early 1700s also highlight this section.

Once-in-a-Lifetime Chance to see this exhibit

These marvelous garnets will not be traveling outside of the Czech Republic again, as many of these pieces will be used in a new permanent garnet exhibit at the National Museum in Prague. This is the last time they can be seen in the United States.

Please check out our website (ncsml.org) for more information about *Brilliant Bohemian Garnets* and the accompanying programs, as well as our other great exhibits, our library, and our award-winning museum store.



Jacob Lesan, Isaac Wiedenman, Rebecca Lessan, Michelle Simoneau. Andrea and Dalibor Mikulas, Tricia Bender's husband Ben and son Daniel, Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, Tricia's daughter Annika, and Dr. Robert Petrik marched in the 2023 Houby Days Parade in Czech Village.

Dr. Dalibor Mikulas named Vice President and COO of NCSML



Dalibor Mikulas Vice President and COO

NCSML is pleased to announce that Dr. Dalibor Mikulas has been named Vice President and COO of NCSML. He is a familiar face — for several months he served as a Presidential Fellow. In his new position, he has been working closely as a strategic thought

partner to the President and CEO, and is an integral member of the museum and library executive team. His responsibilities include providing strategic and daily leadership to NCSML. One of his major tasks is to interface

and build relationships within the organization, including staff, Board of Trustees, Board Committee members, local, state, national, and international officials, university partners, and other key stakeholders. He oversees the progress of the NCSML Strategic Plan, its adherence to the institutional mission, and the American Association of Museums accreditation issues.

Dr. Mikulas worked previously at Palacky University Olomouc as Head of Internationalization Division, and has held leadership positions at two other universities. He defended his thesis at Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia. His research and professional life have focused on issues connected with Central Europe and North America.

Dr. Mikulas, with his special skills and abilities in the field of education and leadership — specifically, in the area of internationalization and the advancement of Czech and Slovak issues in North America — is working in close collaboration with the President and CEO. Together, they will champion and implement the strategic and operational plans to streamline, unify and elevate NCSML to the next level in terms of outreach, impact, and local, regional, national, and international prominence.

FLOOD PROTECTION FOR THE FUTURE continued from page 1

Other flood control work currently underway in the Czech Village District includes the installation of a new underground stormwater gate, which will close during Cedar River flood emergencies. The new gate will prevent river water from backing up into the City's storm sewer system and causing street flooding. The gate will also reduce the City's reliance on plugs and pumps that are annually deployed as temporary protection during high river events. The underground gate is scheduled to be completed by the end of the 2023.

In addition to the levee, underground gate, floodgate, and floodwall, future plans for this area also include a pump station that will be installed adjacent to NCSML.

The 16th Avenue SW floodgate — similar to the one already completed on the SE side of the bridge — will roll across the road in times of flood emergencies, protecting the neighborhood and community from rising flood waters. The project also included the installation of a decorative gateway arch that welcomes residents and visitors into the Czech Village. A similar arch is installed on the east side of the bridge.

The years that followed the flood were dark, but people and cities are resilient, and the museum and the village are now more active and vibrant than ever.

SOURCES: FLOOD WALL INFORMATION FROM CEDAR-RAPIDS. ORG; PHOTOS AND FACTS ABOUT THE MOVE: https://www.prweb.com/releases/2011/6/prweb8544962.htm



In building our destination place for Cedar Rapids, we are truly becoming a replica of our homeland: Czech Village, NewBo, The Lions Bridge over a beautiful river, and a national museum on the hill.

PHOTO: CINDY HADISH/HOMEGROWNIOWAN.COM





Lukas Dvorak and his father Hudba Dvorak, in front of the same organ Antonín Dvořák played 130 years ago. Events like these always take community effort. Some who participated in making this happen are (left to right) Ken and Lois Zajicek, Bernie Pecinovsky, Clair Blong, Eileen Tlusty, Kay Pecinovsky, Lukas Dvorak, Michael F. Klimesh, Hudba Dvorak, Mark Balik, Rita Kovarik, Margaret Hruska, Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, and Dr. Robert Petrik. Back row: Bernie Pecinovsky, Michael F. Klimesh, Mark Balik, Paul Wermers.

The New-World Spirit of Antonín Dvořák Still Strong in Spillville

BY PAUL WERMERS

Gradually and then suddenly the historic walls of St. Wenceslaus once again echoed the musical bliss of Antonín Dvořák's music from the 1879 J. G. Pfeffer pipe organ. The world-famous composer Antonín Dvořák spent the summer of 1893 in Spillville, and while in the village with Czech heritage, he composed the

American String Quartet in F major, one of his most famous and revered works.

On Friday, July 7 at 7 pm, Lukas Dvorak, noted organist from the Czech Republic, was performing at St. Wenceslaus Church in Spillville. He graduated from the Prague Conservatory and has been performing throughout Europe. His program featured that

of Dvořák's Czech and German predecessors, and Dvořák's Evolution music. This was a freewill event made possible by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Czech Heritage Partnership, and Better Life, formerly known as Western Fraternal Life Insurance.

A sizeable crowd enjoyed a program of classical music from the 1600s to the 1900s. ■



Tribute to Ross Marine, Slovak Honorary Consul and Great Friend of NCSML

We are saddened by the passing of Ross Paul Marine on April 9, 2023, at age 85. Ross was a long-time museum member, cherished friend of the Czech and Slovak community, and Honorary Consul to the Slovak Republic.

Ross dedicated his professional career to public health, and received many awards for his commitment to that field, which included service to the aging and the medically under-served. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association awarded him the "Gaylord W. Anderson Leadership Award for Outstanding Public Health Alumni."

In 2001, Ross became Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, and served as the official government representative of the Slovak Republic. Ross was an exemplary honorary consul. He led with dedication, love of culture, and a passion to spread our rich heritage to all.

He will be sorely missed by his family and all those he encountered over his many years of service to the community. ■

DEMOCRACY IN THE HOMELANDS

NCSML Bids "Adieu" to an Old Friend, and "Welcome" to a New

At the 11th Annual Czech Language School that NCSML hosted last June, Cedar Rapids Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell took the opportunity to make an important proclamation on the occasion of Consul General Jaroslav Kantůrek's retirement from the Czech Foreign Ministry. It reads:

Whereas, for exemplary diplomatic service to Iowa from 2019-2023; and Whereas, for outstanding dedication to preserving the Czech footprint throughout the Midwest; and

Whereas, for leadership in public diplomacy and collaboration between the Czech Republic and the United States; and

Whereas, for outstanding service to Czech centers around the world; and Whereas, for extraordinary support and leadership to Czechs living abroad: and

Whereas, for visionary guidance in the preservation, promotion, and creation of lasting Czech impacts in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the entire Midwest, and, in particular, the only National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library in North America.

Now, Therefore, I, Tiffany O'Donnell, Mayor of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, do hereby recognize June 2023, as: "Czech Consul General Jaroslav Kantůrek Month" in Cedar Rapids. Furthermore, I encourage residents to acknowledge that Consul General Jaroslav Kanturek has been a major force in preserving the Czech footprint in Cedar Rapids and throughout Iowa. Over the past four years, he has facilitated outstanding exhibits and programs at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Consul General Kantůrek has been a frequent visitor to our historic Czech community, and his presence will be greatly missed. We hope to welcome him back often in the future.



A message from new Consul General Jacob Utěšený

The city of Chicago and the American Midwest bear visible marks of Czech presence that span from the past to the present day. Both the city and the region played a crucial role in the endeavor of creating an independent Czechoslovakia back in 1918, thus contributing significantly to the formation of the modern Czech identity. This is something for which we, in Czechia, are immensely grateful.

Consequently, the local Czech community serves as the cornerstone of our work at the Consulate General in Chicago. We are dedicated to upholding high standards of service for Czech citizens and compatriots within our jurisdiction. Moreover, we will proactively collaborate with Czech community members and their associations to contribute as much as possible to the preservation of Czech traditions, culture, language, and customs in the Chicago area and the American Midwest. This approach proves to be an effective means of fortifying the existing bonds between Czech and American people while also laying the groundwork for new connections between individuals, businesses, institutions, research and cultural organizations.

It was no mere coincidence that my first official trip outside of Chicago, shortly after my arrival in early August, was to the Czech Festival in Wilber, Nebraska. This town takes pride in being the "Czech Capital of the U.S." and its festival serves as a great platform to support the local Czech community in their endeavors to promote Czech heritage. On my return journey, I deliberately made a stop in Cedar Rapids to visit the NCSML, one of the most significant institutions dedicated to preserving Czech heritage and culture in the U.S. This place is profoundly inspiring, offering an opportunity not only to reflect on one's origins and the path that led the Czech people to freedom and democracy, but also to contemplate the ways in which the strong connections between Czechs and Americans can contribute to a better future for humanity and the world. I am looking forward to cooperation with the NCSML, its president Cecilia Rokusek, and other great colleagues from this institution.





Election in Slovakia: Impossible to Predict Outcome

Michal Kovačič is the moderator of the Slovakian television show NA TELO, where he has focused on politics with more than 2,000 broadcast stories in the past five years. He recently visited Iowa, where he expressed an interest in the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, and in the political process in Iowa. We were able to contact him on his departure from Iowa.

NCSML: What do you think of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library?

Kovačič: I heard about NCSML before, but I didn't expect such a big institution. I was surprised not only by the size of the building, but also by the overall level of content. The permanent exhibition, and all of the rest of the exhibitions, are very well designed, and I think many Czech and Slovak museums could be inspired by them.

NCSML: How would you describe the current political situation in Slovakia?

Kovačič: During the last week in Iowa, I spent a lot of time talking about the political situation in Slovakia. And I got a lot of questions about the upcoming parliamentary elections at the end of September. "Do you expect a pro-Russian government?" I've heard it many times, but I'm not sure of the answer. The Slovak electoral system is completely different compared to the USA. Our system is proportional. If a political party gets 5% of the vote, it is in parliament. Current surveys show that five parties are on the edge of 5%. Four of them are pro-Western and one of them is pro-Russian. And the big question is, who will be in or out? Therefore, it is not possible to predict what kind of coalition and government Slovakia will have in two months.

NCSML: What else struck you about the Americans you encountered?

Kovačič: I was surprised how many people in the USA are generally interested in their ancestors. I have already agreed with three people that when they come to Slovakia to get to know their roots, we will meet. I hope that the mayor of Cedar Rapids Tiffany O'Donnell (she used to be a TV journalist) doesn't get angry when I reveal that we have already agreed that I will take her to our television station for a tour.



A publicity shot of Michal Kovačič for his television show, NA TELO, a public affairs program with a discussion/interview format.

While in Iowa last July, Michal Kovačič, along with NCSML President and CEO Cecilia Rokusek, visited Cedar Rapids Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell at City Hall.



THE POLITICAL SCRAMBLE IS ON: QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE UPCOMING ELECTION

- Slovakian parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held on September 30, 2023
 the first time in 20 years that parliamentary elections will take place in September.
- Slovakia's Pro-Ukraine stance is a major issue in this election.
- Once the early election was announced in June 2023, spending limits for parties were put into place. By law, each party running in the election is allowed to spend no more than €3 million on campaigning up to the end of the campaign, which is officially on September 28 (when the 48-hour pre-election moratorium starts).

SOURCE: THE SLOVAK SPECTATOR

spectator.sme.sk/c/23180927/what-you-need-to-know-about-slovakias-election-campaign.html?ref=temacl

The New Slovak Citizenship Law



The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association in Pittsburgh presented Dr. Victor Valla, from the Slovak Embassy, to speak on Slovakia's new dual citizenship law. The program was recorded and is available

to watch on WPSCA's Facebook page. The lecture was recorded on May 1, 2023, at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library. Dr. Valla explained the recently enacted law that

expands the eligibility to become Slovak citizens. He also took questions from the audience. To watch, go to https://shorturl.at/egoLs or scan the code.



Fraternal Societies Among Early Czech/Slovak Immigrants

Fraternal societies have played a significant part in the integration of Czech and Slovak immigrants to America since the mid-1800s. They have assisted immigrants from these nations in learning the English language and assimilating American values, while at the same time maintaining a strong and evolving sense of their own origins, identity, and customs.

When Czech and Slovak immigrants to America entered mining and industry professions, some sort of support network was needed when accidents occurred, and the family's breadwinner may have been injured or killed. In a broader sense, fraternal societies passed on the values of their countries of origin, including helping immigrant families get an education. What began as protective associations often later became insurance companies. MOST looks forward to highlighting more of our valued fraternal partners in future issues. Please contact Rick Martin, Director of National & International Development, at rmartin@ncsml.org, for more information on fraternal partnerships.

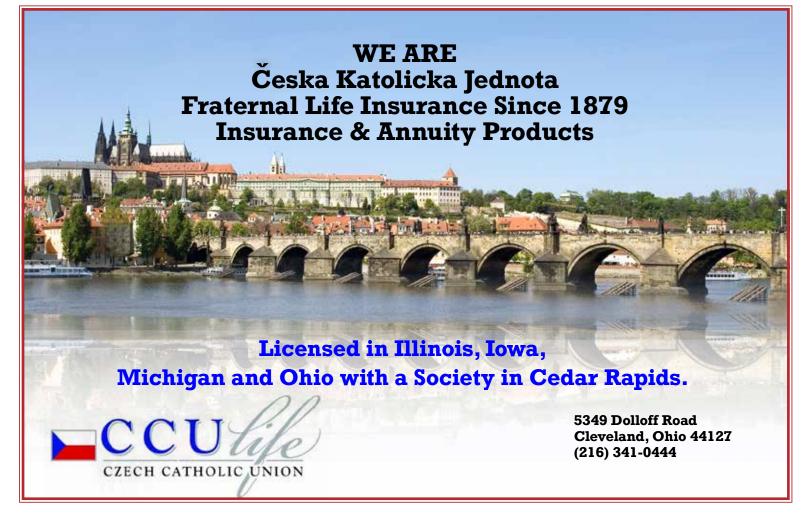
Czech Immigration and Fraternal Societies

In 1854, 29 Czech men met at Jacob Mott's Tavern in St. Louis to discuss the need for support for widows and children. They organized the Czecho-Slovak Protective Society (CSPS), which became a model for the modern fraternal societies in America. In 1933, the CSPS was joined by four other fraternal societies:

- Society of Taborites
- Bohemian-Slavonic Fraternal Benefit Union
- Bohemian-Slavonic Union
- Bohemian American Foresters

What is a fraternal society? According to the IRS, an organization has a fraternal purpose

if membership is based on a common tie or the pursuit of a common object. The organization must also have a substantial program of fraternal activities. It must operate under the lodge system ("Fraternal Societies", IRS). An example is CSA Fraternal Life, formerly the Czechoslovak Society of America, the oldest fraternal society in America, founded in 1854 on the principles of equality, harmony, and fraternity. With a home office in Lombard, IL, CSA serves over 24,000 members throughout 64 lodges in 21 states. According to CSA, "While there remains a strong connection to those Czech and Slovak roots, as a general fraternal society, membership is



open to all individuals of good character that share a common value system and meet our underwriting requirements."

Slovak Immigration and Fraternal Societies (See "Fraternalism and the Slovak Immigrant" by Daniel F. Tanzone)

Thousands of Slovak families sought refuge in the new world in the late years of the 19th century. They were fleeing political oppression, which threatened their national identity. Hundreds of thousands of Slovak immigrants passed through German and Dutch ports between 1881 and 1907. Passage from Germany or Hungary cost about \$20. Between 1880 and the outbreak of WWI, Slovakia lost over 800,000 people to American emigration.

They arrived in Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Boston, and Portland. Centers of Slovak life in the US included Scranton, Hazelton, Cleveland, Wilkes-Barre, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Yonkers, Youngstown, New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, Bridgeport, and Newark. According to Tanzone, "... everywhere they went, two opposing drives moved them. One toward Americanization



Stephen Furdek (1855 – 1915) was a Roman Catholic priest, a writer, and a co-founder of the First Catholic Slovak Union. He was the founder and publisher of its journal, *Jednota*. He helped organize the first parishes for Czech and Slovak immigrants in Cleveland, Ohio, and was an activist for Slovak identity and nationhood.

A BRONZE STATUE OF THE REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK BY SCULTPTOR LADISLAV MAJERSKÝ STANDS IN BRATISLAVA. PHOTO BY PETER ZELIZŇÁK: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS and with it the social acceptance all new immigrants sought from their immigrant predecessors. The other, to preserve the culture and above all the faith of the Slovak past."

Tanzone continues, "Economic and social need led the Slovaks to form lodges." The first Slovak fraternal-benefit society was founded in New York in 1883 as First Hungarian-Slovak Fraternal Society. Such societies grew up in industrial and mining towns to protect the wives and children of miners, to help with funeral benefits arising from mining disasters. "It was the Slovak fraternal which taught the early Slovak to be an American in the truest sense of the word." The fraternals also established funds for higher education. They also kept the Slovak culture alive, and spoke out in behalf of the oppressed Slovaks of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Within these early Slovak societies, as Tanzone says, "... two distinct camps began to appear, one totally Slovak nationalistic without any regard to religion, and the other societies organized purely on a religious basis.... Of the two camps which developed, the religious camp became the strongest and most fruitful. The leader of this group was the Reverend Stephen Furdek.... He was the single most important figure in the history of American Slovaks." In 1890, Furdek proposed all Slovak Catholic societies should merge. The proposal was unanimously accepted.



What's the Difference Between a Fraternal and a Sokol?

A fraternal society or fraternal order is equivalent to a mutual aid society, to sustain disaster victims and support the welfare of immigrant communities. An example is the CSPS lodges around the country, with CSPS standing for Czech-Slovak Protective Society. A Sokol, on the other hand ("Sokol" meaning "falcon"), was originally a gymnastics society, later expanding to include lectures, discussions, and group outings. The idea of the Sokol has its roots in ancient Greece.

The Sokol is also influenced by the German Turnverein movement.

SPOTLIGHT: The Czech Catholic Union

The following is excerpted from the website of the Czech Catholic Union:



Čeští vystěhovalci do Ameriky (Czech emigrants to America)

REPRODUCTION: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

- "Our Forefathers, people of Czech descent, and newcomers in a strange land, joined to form an association of benevolent societies which offered spiritual as well as material security. Their deep rooted faith and desire for personal sanctification, as well as love in their heart, provided a natural framework for a fraternal group with concern for the bereaved. Their dedication to the Church coupled with their Czech tradition uniquely set them apart as a solid, ethnically-oriented arm of the Church.
- ".... In 1938 a merger took place between the Czech Roman Catholic Central Union of Women, the Catholic Cleveland Union of Men and the Czech Catholic Union of Women. The new organization became the Czech Catholic Union. After an invitation to other groups was made through the media of Catholic newspapers, societies were organized in Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.
- ".... Over the years, The Czech Catholic Union has supported the educating of students for the priesthood. Today we donate to Czech language schools, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, multiple Catholic churches and high schools and two Benedictine Abbeys (St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio and St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle, Illinois).



VISITING SCHOLARS AT NCSML



Dr. Martin Palouš speaks at the 11th Annual Conference of Czech Schools in North America, hosted by NCSML last June.

Our Second Visiting Scholar

Dr. Martin Palouš is NCSML's second visiting scholar. He will be working with the museum and library to further coordination and collaboration among Czech and Slovak institutions, programs and communities — making sure the rich impacts of both Czechs and Slovaks in the U.S. are never forgotten, and to assure that future generations will learn about the valuable lessons in democracy and freedom that our Czech and Slovak ancestors brought to America.

Dr. Palouš is a Senior Fellow at Florida International University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and Director of the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Democracy. Born in Prague on October 14, 1950, Dr. Palouš studied Natural Science, Philosophy, and International Law. In 1974, he received a Doctorate in Natural Sciences and went on to earn a Higher Doctorate in Political Science/Philosophy at Charles University (Prague), where he became an Associate Professor. He also completed his PhD in International Law in 2007 at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, with a dissertation entitled "Freedom of Expression in the European Court of Human Rights."

Dr. Palouš has engaged in rich academic practice for more than 25 years. He has lectured at many universities both in the Czech Republic and in the world (particularly in the United States), and has authored numerous publications in the areas of political philosophy, contemporary history, international relations, and international law.

In Their Own Words

Four Smithsonian Interns from around the country and abroad spent three weeks at NCSML this summer. The *Leadership for Change Internship* is offered to rising college sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are committed to helping communities, are passionate about social justice, and are driven to accelerate positive impact in our world.

The interns at NCSML marked the end of their internships by appearing in a special series of "mini" editions of *Coffee & Kolach* during the month of August. As they toured our galleries, they expressed their feelings about what they had learned and experienced during their stay in Cedar Rapids. Through the process of learning about the Czech and Slovak story, they discovered much about their own cultures.



Kambura Kinoti, born and raised in Kenya, is a senior at Oberlin College studying politics and art history, with a minor in African Studies. Her thoughts on the Faces of Freedom exhibit:

There is a unique opportunity here at NCSML to see that with immigration, the world becomes more intersectional. We're at a point where people are Czech, Black, Slovak, Latin—at a time when cultures are integrating so much—and I think the museum does a really cool job of emphasizing that as a point of growth and strength and more familiarity than difference. NOTE: Faces of Freedom is on permanent exhibit at NCSML.



Isaac Winchester is a recent graduate of Arapahoe Community College in Colorado with a degree in Criminal Justice. His thoughts on the Moravian Folk Motif exhibit in the Anderson Gallery:

I found it fascinating how passionate the folk art instructors were about exactly what order the colors go in and how things need to be a very specific way . . . there is a lot of personal expression but there is definitely a lot of history in every piece of art that they create.



Anja Harris is a sophomore at Virginia Commonwealth University, majoring in Communication Arts. About the *Brilliant Bohemian Garnets* exhibit in the Petrik Gallery:

I was overwhelmed by how beautiful every single piece is — every gem, every piece of jewelry — they are just so brilliant. And what's so special about Czech garnets is that their cut is so deep and their color is so red and it's beautiful to look at. I loved how they used them in all types of ways, whether it be in jewelry, or in frames, or clothing — it's just all very important to the Czech people.



Emily Hainstock is a senior at the University of Iowa, double majoring in art and creative writing, From The Mad Silkman exhibit in the Smith Gallery: My mom is a fashion designer, so I felt a personal connection in seeing the styles and seeing the designs in the textiles. I was particularly struck by how Lida first found her design. She started water coloring on a piece of fabric and she sent it to a factory and that's how the design got started . . . I thought it was a lovely way to begin this collection of textiles.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT NCSML









Top, clockwise: Lijun Chadima applies the traditional blue to her canvas. Upper right, she poses with her finished piece and her two Moravian instructors, Kristyna Homolova (left) and Bara Bartosikova (right), who were on site in July to teach the art of traditional Moravian Motifs. Several mediums were used in the classes — from large format to smaller utile items, like coasters and wine glasses. NCSML Lifelong Learning Specialist Jacob Lesan helps prepare the template. The workshop was an overwhelming success and will be offered yearly. Watch for next year's date and plan to participate!



NCSML was honored to host the 11th Annual Conference of Czech Schools in North America this past June 2-4. The conference, conducted entirely in Czech, offered an intensive two-day training program. Attendees from all over the continent gathered to study; to renew old acquaintances and meet new colleagues; to mingle with the local Czech and Slovak community; to enjoy music, dancing, and traditional Czech food from the homeland; and to meet and hear a wide variety of Czech dignitaries and academics. The 2024 Conference is scheduled to be held in Toronto.



Left to right: Senator Patrik Kunčar, Senator Helena Pešatová, Consul General Jaroslav Kantůrek; Cedar Rapids Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell; His Excellency Miloslav Stašek, U.S. Ambassador of the Czech Republic; Senator Tomáš Czernin, Dr. Cecilia Rokusek; Senator Patrik Hilšer.





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Diane Simalchik and Chris Jackson — Last year's BrewNost winners of the Trip to Prague! Event and raffle tickets to win a trip for two to Prague are on sale for BrewNost's 20th anniversary on September 15!

ENJOY BREWNOST IN A WHOLE NEW WAY

Do you enjoy unlimited food and beverages?

Or just unlimited beverages?

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How about some of both?

Find these new ticket levels on our website at NCSML.org/BrewNost or call 319-362-8500 to learn more. Join us for this festive event that supports the educational and cultural mission of NCSML!

Na zdraví — Cheers!



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 FROM 6:30-9:30 P.M.

Event and raffle tickets to win a trip for two to Prague are on sale at NCSML.org/BrewNost or call 319-362-8500 to learn more!