New Name, Classic Tradition

Old World Christmas Market Returns To NCSML Dec. 7 & 8

The Christmas Market has become a popular annual tradition at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. And now it has undergone a makeover to make it even better.

Previously known as the Old Prague Christmas Market, the Old World Christmas Market will kick off Saturday, Dec. 7 with a larger-than-ever selection of vendors, demonstrations, classes and family activities.

“We have changed the name of our market to celebrate the diverse cultures represented by our market vendors and demonstrators,” says NCSML Program Coordinator Sara Jacobmeyer.

Old World Christmas Market
Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 8 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Enjoy our heated outdoor market filled with artisan vendors, take a free horse and wagon ride through Czech Village, visit with a real reindeer, and more! All activities, except brunch and folk art workshops, are free of cost. Paid admission is required to visit the exhibition galleries.

Museum Guild Cookie Walk
Saturday, Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m.
Pick out your favorite homemade Christmas cookies and pay by the pound. Sales continue until 12:30 p.m. or until gone.

Brunch with Svatý Mikuláš
Sunday, Dec. 8, 10:00 a.m.
Join us for a fun family brunch with Svatý Mikuláš, Cert and Anděl! Your ticket will include a buffet brunch, entertainment, a meet-and-greet with St. Nicholas, the Angel, and the Devil, and admission to museum galleries and films for the day.
Adults and ages 13+: $25; ages 4-12: $15; 3 and under: free
Reservations required. Call 319-362-8500 or email EWeber@NCSML.org for tickets.

European Traditions Holiday Workshops
Class sizes are limited. Advance registration required. Call 319-362-8500 or email SJacobmeyer@NCSML.org for tickets.

Dough and Wheat Ornaments
Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Create traditional Moravian dough ornaments and explore the art of wheat weaving. Adults and ages 12+: $35; ages 6-11: $20 (must be accompanied by an adult)

Egg Decorating and Polish Paper Cutting
Saturday, Dec. 7 from Noon - 2:00 p.m.
Decorate eggs using the batiking method and learn wycinanki, the Polish art of paper cutting. Adults and ages 12+: $35; ages 6-11: $20 (must be accompanied by an adult)

Decorating Czech Gingerbread Cookies
Saturday, Dec. 7 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Learn about the treasured custom of decorating traditional gingerbread cookies. Adults and ages 12+: $20

Decorating Czech Gingerbread Cookies for Kids
Sunday, Dec. 8 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Learn simple icing designs and listen to stories about gingerbread. Ages 6-11.
Per child: $10; per child with adult helper: $15
George and Louise Kalous donate $3.4 million to NCSML through estate

Longtime friends George and Louise Kalous have donated a total of $3.4 million to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library through trusts in their estates. George Kalous, a World War II veteran, died in 2006. Louise died in 2012. The Cedar Rapids natives loved to travel internationally, including the Czech Republic, to visit relatives.

Louise learned about investing from an employer in the 1940s and the couple began creating a portfolio which they nurtured for over 60 years.

"George and Louise were wonderful, practical people," said NCSML CEO Gail Naughton. "Louise and I would share a little evening toddy on occasion and talk about her charitable intentions. She was adamant that she wanted the museum and library to stay strong and succeed.”

George worked as a mail clerk with the U.S. Postal Service for 34 years, and Louise worked for the Iowa/Illinois Gas and Electric Co. They had no children.

A portion of the estate is in a permanently endowed fund at the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. Investments from the fund will come to the NCSML annually. The balance is invested with the NCSML endowment. The gift is unrestricted, meaning the Museum will be able to utilize the money to fit its needs.

"It goes without saying that we are immensely grateful for the generosity of George and Louise. Their belief in the mission of the Museum is inspiring to us all," said Gail. "Louise attended the opening Gala in July 2012 and enjoyed herself immensely. As a permanent memorial to them, we named the entrance in front of the Museum, the George and Louise Kalous Plaza."
If I have one word for this year, it’s gratitude.

Actually I need two words: gratitude and transformation. In this issue, you’ll read about two gifts that will, in effect, triple our endowment. We’re also in the process of adding $2 million from capital campaign pledges now that our capital projects are winding down.

Louise Kalous was a fun, beautiful and generous woman who looked decades younger than her 94 years. Even as she slowed down and couldn’t get to the museum as often, she never wavered in her plan to gift her assets to the NCSML. She was savvy and insisted that it be unrestricted, because the needs of society change and she wanted us to be able to respond.

One day when I was returning home from Des Moines with then-Board Chair Sue Olson, I received a call from our great friend George Drost. That call set in motion a series of negotiations that led to a historic agreement for the NCSML to partner with the Council of Higher Education. I hung up the phone and said to Sue, “I think that was a phone call about an endowment of over $2 million for education.” We were both speechless.

These types of gifts are transformative, and the effects will be measured in decades and even centuries! The timing couldn’t be better. With our new facility complete, our focus now is to significantly expand education and programs, both locally and nationally. We are heading into a new exciting era in our history.

It may sound counter-intuitive but right now, new members and donations are more important than ever. Now is the time for more investment in the NCSML’s annual operations, so we can make the most of these new assets. When the year-end appeal letter arrives, be generous. With strong annual support, we will be able to move forward with developing an education initiative that will involve the generations of today and influence those in the future with the profound lessons of Czech and Slovak history and culture.

Each and every gift matters as much as Louise’s and CHE’s, and we are equally grateful.

All my best,

Gail Naughton

This has been an extraordinary year for the NCSML.

The fabulous Read My Pins exhibit by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was a clear highlight. On display from May through October, the exhibit opened with a visit from Madeleine herself, along with a reception, book signing and women’s breakfast.

The opening of the permanent Faces of Freedom exhibition featured a reception and public conversation with Eugene Cernan, the commander of Apollo 17 and the last man to walk on the Moon.

BrewNost celebrated its 10th anniversary on Oct. 11. More than 1,100 people were on hand to help us raise money for the NCSML.

2013 has been an extraordinary year, but it isn’t over yet.

The Old World Christmas Market is back on December 7 & 8 and will feature family-friendly activities, live music, workshops, a brunch with Svatý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas), and much more.

I invite you to stop by the Museum Store to do holiday shopping for unique gifts directly from Slovakia and the Czech Republic. I invite you to visit the Museum, bring a friend, and experience Faces of Freedom. If you’re not a member, please sign up to receive the newsletter, invitations to events and a discount in the Museum Store.

We are proud of our extraordinary year so far. We look forward to sharing the rest of it with you.

Sincerely,

Lu Barta Barron
Share Your Own Story
Oral History Booth Lets Visitors Leave Their Own Mark

The NCSML has concluded the second phase of its oral history project. However, thanks to the library’s new Oral History recording booth, visitors to the museum can now leave their own mark by recording stories about what their ethnic heritage means to them.

From the outside, the booth is designed to reflect the architecture one might find in Bratislava or Prague. Once visitors step inside, they will find a touchscreen computer that prompts users to respond to a variety of questions about their ethnic heritage. They can then choose to share the recordings online.

Visitors can also view others’ stories from within the booth. No reservations or tickets are required.

Installed in the library, the NCSML’s new Oral History Booth is designed to reflect the architecture one might find in Bratislava or Prague.

At left, Library Director David Muhlena demonstrates the booth’s touch-screen interface. Visitors can record answers to a variety of questions about their heritage.

Supporting Education
Chicago’s CHE Establishes $2.7 Million Endowment At NCSML

On January 1, 2013, the NCSML finalized an agreement with Chicago’s Council of Higher Education (CHE) to establish a $2.7 million endowment for educational programming.

A 110 year-old nonprofit organization, the CHE’s mission is to promote Czech, Slovak, and Ruthenian heritage and culture through the encouragement and support of higher education in the United States and Canada with scholarships for college students.

“The CHE Board of Directors decided to broaden the reach of our mission and found a partner in the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library,” said Chicago attorney and former CHE President George Drost. “We identified the NCSML as a vibrant organization that has the capacity to continue to support Czech, Slovak, and Ruthenian culture through its education programs. The CHE board visited the NCSML campus, and we were fully and duly impressed. As stewards of this endowment, we could imagine no better organization to take on this responsibility.”

While the NCSML already offers substantial educational programming, this agreement provides a steady source of income to support and increase those efforts.

“This is a transformative agreement,” said NCSML President and CEO Gail Naughton. “With this endowed fund we can confidently plan and provide even more robust educational offerings to serve people of all ages.”

To read the full story and find out how the CHE and NCSML share beginnings in Cedar Rapids, visit our website at www.NCSML.org.
The Spiritual Dimension In Czech Printmaking

Opening at the NCSML Nov. 16, The Spiritual Dimension in Czech Printmaking features 33 exquisite works by renowned Czech printmakers from the HOLLAR Association of Czech Graphic Artists in Prague.

The exhibit offers a meditative insight into the soul of Czech artists while showcasing the beauty of craftsmanship and tradition in Central European printmaking.

Eleven artists present etchings, drawings, drypoints, lithographs and mixed media works with different approaches to spirituality. Some artist are direct, relating to Biblical themes, while others dwell deep in the realm of the inner self, drawing inspiration from nature.

The HOLLAR Association of Czech Graphic Artists is a non-profit organization located in Prague with a long tradition of fine art printmaking. It was founded in 1971 and is named for 17th century engraver and printmaker Václav Hollar.

The Spiritual Dimension in Czech Printmaking is on loan from KADS NY. It will be on display in the Petrik Gallery through February 9, 2014.

Written In The Czech Landscape

Starting in December, the NCSML's Smith Gallery will host Written in the Czech Landscape, a retrospective of the Czech landscape studies carried out from 2003-2009 by graduate students at Pennsylvania State University.

Sponsored through the Department of Landscape Architecture at Penn State, students and faculty in the university's summer academic programs collaborated with a variety of Czech agencies to study growth and development impacts on heritage sites.

While a sizable body of work in the form of reports and recorded community meetings and presentations were the primary outcomes of these studies, program participants also formed profound impressions of Czech places and people. The images here express the connections to and insights about the many inspiring landscapes that were studied and visited.

The multi-media exhibition includes photographs, drawings, collages, and design plans. Written in the Czech Landscape will be in the Smith Gallery from December 21, 2013 to March 23, 2014.
What will be your legacy? What receives your passionate support now? And how can you ensure that support continues after you’re gone?

Joining the NCSML Legacy Society is the perfect way to guarantee that your support continues into the future. Legacy Society members have made provisions to support the NCSML through planned gifts — wills, trusts, or estate plans.

Through the passionate support of its Legacy Society members, the NCSML is able to fulfill its mission to inspire people across the country to connect to Czech and Slovak history and culture, and to make sure the stories of these people are not lost in time. Thanks to Legacy Society members, the NCSML’s work will be relevant and vibrant today as well as tomorrow.

Planned gifts can provide financial security for your family now and support the NCSML’s mission in the future. Most planned gifts offer a form of charitable tax deduction, and can be given as an unrestricted or designated gift. Our development officers can work with you and your financial advisors to identify the best plan for you.

Joining the Legacy Society is easy. You simply complete a form that states that you intend to leave the NCSML something in your estate. This form is revocable at any time, so it costs you nothing to join. But it will allow you to continue to grace the NCSML with your gifts in perpetuity.

For more information about the Legacy Society, contact Charity Tyler or Jason Wright in the NCSML Development Department.

Presidential Seal
Learn How To Join Our New President’s Society

Special people deserve special thanks. And the NCSML is supported by some very special people, indeed.

To recognize the organization’s most committed individual donors, the NCSML has created the President’s Society. Members of the new society will be feted at the inaugural President’s Dinner in March.

“These are people who, on an annual basis, make a special commitment to help the NCSML deliver its mission throughout the country,” states Jason Wright, Vice President for Development. “The President’s Society is a way of expressing our gratitude to those who have made an annual gift of significance. Anyone,” he continues, “can become a member of the President’s Society. A gift of $1,000 or more to the annual fund will open the doors for your membership.”

While each and every dollar donated to the NCSML is essential and appreciated, the President’s Society will honor those who have invested most substantially in the organization’s ongoing success. Members will enjoy “insider” access to the organization, which may include early notification of upcoming programs and plans, as well as other perks.

The President’s Dinner, which will be free for members of the President’s Society, will be held in March 2014. Cocktails will be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the dinner and program commencing at 7:30 p.m. The event will feature a program (yet to be announced) and will formally establish the President’s Society. More details will be available as the event nears.

For more information about the President’s Society and how you can become a member, please contact a member of the NCSML Development Team.
Giving Back

Local Organizations To Present $50,000 Donation To Flood-Damaged Library In The Czech Republic

Cedar Rapids has successfully raised $50,000 of flood-relief funds for the Czech Republic.

The Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation, Sokol Cedar Rapids, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library and St. Wenceslaus Church have jointly announced the successful completion of CR2CR, a fundraiser for Děčín's flood-ravaged library in the Czech Republic. The CR2CR campaign kicked off in August and successfully concluded at the NCSML's BrewNost event Oct. 11, reaching its $50,000 goal.

"The campaign was a huge success," says Committee Co-Chair Steve Groner.

The Czech Republic suffered catastrophic flooding in June of this year, with the cost of the damage estimated at more than a billion Czech crowns. Děčín was one of the hardest-hit Czech communities; more than 1,600 of its 50,000 residents were evacuated, and many lower-lying buildings were ruined when water levels went up by 10 meters. Images of Děčín's waterlogged library painted a dramatic portrait of the devastation – one that was eerily similar to Iowa's own flood damage in 2008.

CR2CR originated early this summer during a friendly golf game between Groner and Tom Hansen of Cedar Rapids. Both recalled how, in 2008, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic delivered a flood-relief donation to Cedar Rapids of more than $500,000.

It was among the first major contributions to the city, said Hansen, who had been serving as President of the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation at the time. Groner agreed that Cedar Rapids needed to repay that kindness.

"All of the citizens of Cedar Rapids have benefited from the Czech Republic's generous gift five years ago," says Hansen, who became one of the organizers of the project. "This is a great opportunity for our city to show its appreciation and friendship to the Czech people."

A contingent of donors and campaign organizers will journey to the Czech Republic in early December, where the donation will be presented at the Děčín library in person.
HOLIDAY SHOPPING

A Present That's Truly One Of A Kind

Stop By Our Museum Store For Hand-made Gifts, Toys, Books & More

The NCSML Museum Store represents the cultures of both the Czech and Slovak Republic. As a result, we feature a wide range of unique items that make perfect gifts for the holidays, from toys and books to beer cosmetics and handmade jewelry. Stop in to find the one-of-a-kind gift that will make the season truly memorable.

Ornament Sale
Starting November 14th, buy three ornaments get the fourth (of equal or less value) FREE!
Want an ornament personalized? Call the store for details.

Cookbooks
In the mood for some great Czech and Slovak food? Pick-up one of our cookbooks for yourself or as a gift and take advantage of our Winter bakeware sale.
As a bonus, get half off select bakeware with the purchase of any cookbook!

Glass
We have a great selection of glassware, with modern and traditional styles handcrafted in the Czech Republic. Perfect for holiday shopping!

Jewelry
- Handmade jewelry from the Czech Republic.
- One-of-a-kind designs inspired by Czech and Slovak heritage.
- Truly unique limited edition pieces.

Upcoming Store Events

Member/Volunteer Appreciation Night, Nov. 14th 5-7pm
This exclusive event offers 25% off for current NCSML members and active volunteers.

Saturdays in December
Folk Artist Marj Nejdl will be personalizing ornaments for store shoppers, with rates starting at $3.00 for each ornament. All proceeds go to the NCSML.

Holiday Open House, Dec. 12th 4-7pm
Get 20% off for one night only as you shop for your last minute gifts. (No other discounts apply.)

For more info: (319) 362-8500, ext. 112. Or visit store.NCSML.org.
Free shipping for orders over $20.

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Visit www.NCSML.org
Here's To 10 Years!
BrewNost Marks Big Anniversary With Record Crowd

BrewNost, the annual beer-tasting extravaganza to benefit the NCSML, welcomed a record-setting 1,100 people on Friday, October 11.

Featuring 21 styles of beer from 8 different countries, an international wine tasting, premium spirits, live music and more, the event lived up to its billing as “the party of the decade” as it celebrated its 10th anniversary.

“It seems like just yesterday we welcomed the first 300 or so people to the inaugural BrewNost,” says NCSML President/CEO Gail Naughton. “This signature event has been a key fundraiser for the NCSML, and we know that it will continue to prosper.”

Thanks to local Brewmaster Quinton McClain, owner of the upcoming Lion Bridge Brewing Company, the 10th Anniversary of BrewNost had another special feature: 30 gallons of a custom brew called “Ziva Voda,” made exclusively for the event.

BrewNost! 2013 was presented by the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency. Save the date for next year, when BrewNost returns to the NCSML on Friday, October 3, 2014.

Old World Christmas Market Returns To NCSML Dec. 7 & 8

While it may have a new name, the traditions of the holiday season will be as familiar as ever for visitors at the Old World Christmas Market. Surrounded by the scents and sounds of the season, the heated outdoor tent will host dozens of vendors, music and more.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for everything from holiday shopping to taking one-of-a-kind holiday workshops and classes at the NCSML,” says President and CEO Gail Naughton.

The presenting sponsor is GreatAmerica Leasing. “The Christmas Market would not exist without the support of Tony and Magda Golobic,” says Gail. “They have been enthusiastic about this growing event since the beginning.”

The Old World Christmas Market Media Sponsor is CBS 2/Fox 28. Also, the NCSML has partnered with NewBo City Market, the Cherry Building and the Czech Village/New Bohemia Main Street District for “Deck The District,” with trolley service shuttling visitors to each location for events throughout the weekend.
Why Ken & Ginger Erger Call The NCSML Home

By Jessica Carney
NCSML Staff

Ken Erger has been part of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library since before it had a building. In fact, one of Erger’s properties – a three-room house – served as the NCSML’s first home.

So you can see why Ken and his wife Ginger feel a special attachment to the NCSML, one that goes beyond a tradition of volunteering that continues to this day.

When it came time to plan for their 65th wedding anniversary party, Erger says the NCSML was an easy choice. The couple had already had their 50th anniversary party at the Museum in 1997 prior to the renovation, with 400 guests in attendance.

Ken and Ginger patiently waited for the museum to re-open in July 2012 to have their party – one month after their actual anniversary date.

Ken has planned many events at the Museum including a Catholic Layman event and events for the Optimist Club. In fact, when asked what his favorite event was, Ken had a hard time deciding: “I was just so happy with the way the events have been handled,” he said.

Eventually, though, the long-time volunteer singled out the Cookie Walk, an annual event held by members of the Museum Guild.

Ken had an easier time answering when asked what his favorite part of being involved with the Museum is: “The people.”

Through putting on events and volunteering, Ken says he’s had a chance to meet people from all over the world.

“Do you have Czech or Slovak ancestry?” we asked.

“No – but I’ve been seeing this woman for about sixty-five years who does,” Ken said.

Ken & Ginger Erger at their wedding in 1947. 50 years later, the couple marked their anniversary with a party at the NCSML.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PRESENTATION.

The NCSML is the perfect location for your next meeting, holiday party, reception or special event. Contact Amy Lyness at (319) 362-8500 ext. 217 or A Lyness@NCSML.org to learn more.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Museum Guild Monthly Meeting
Join in the fun and learn more about how you can help the NCSML deliver its mission.
Saturdays, January 4, February 1, and March 1., Free

Recent Acquisitions Exhibit Closes
Sunday, Dec. 1

Faces of Freedom: The Czech and Slovak Journey Continues
See rare artifacts, experience cutting-edge interactive displays and explore exhibits on puppets, music and art in the NCSML’s spectacular permanent exhibit. Ongoing in the Jiruska Gallery. Monday - Saturday 9:30 to 4, Sunday noon to 4.

JANUARY 2014

Film Series: Dark Blue World
(Tnavomodry svet)
Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7:00 p.m.
2001, 112 minutes, in English, R
Set in 1939 during the German invasion of Czechoslovakia, two Czechoslovak pilots flee to England to join the Royal Air Force, where both fall for the same woman.
Tickets: $5 at the door

FEBRUARY 2014

Film Series: All My Loved Ones
(Vsichni moji blizci)
Thursday, Feb. 6 at 7:00 p.m.
1999, 91 minutes, in Czech with English subtitles, NR
During World War II, Czech patriarch Jakub Silberstein struggles to keep his family together while British humanitarian Nicholas Winton tries to get Jewish children out of the country before the Nazis invade.
Tickets: $5 at the door

DECEMBER 2013

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Sunday, Dec. 8, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
See page 1 for description.

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Sunday, Dec. 8, 10:00 a.m.
Join us for a fun family brunch with Svaty Mikulás, Cert and Andel! Your ticket will include a buffet brunch, entertainment, a meet-and-greet with St. Nicholas, the Angel, and the Devil, and admission to museum galleries and films for the day.
Adults and ages 13+: $25; ages 4-12: $15; 3 and under: free
Reservations required. Call 319-362-8500 or email EWeber@NCSML.org for tickets.

Film: Three Nuts for Cinderella
(Tri orisky pro Popelku)
Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7:00 p.m.
1973, 83 minutes, in Czech with English subtitles
In Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, a childless couple agrees to hide a Jewish friend at great personal risk.
Tickets: $5 at the door.

To learn more about any of these events, visit www.NCSML.org or call (319) 362-8500.
Meet The NCSML Corporate Member Of The Week

The NCSML appreciates all of its corporate partners and will soon begin recognizing each of its Corporate Members through the new Corporate Member of the Week program.

The featured Corporate Member will be featured on the NCSML website and have signage in our Grand Hall, and all employees will enjoy additional member discounts at the Museum Store, throughout the week of recognition.

Visit www.NCSML.org weekly to learn more about NCSML Corporate Membership.

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