Rebuilding the Future

NCSML Moves Forward with Plans for New Museum and Library

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library continues to make strides in recovering from the devastating Flood of 2008. In the past few months, the NCSML has secured the property on which the new museum and library will be built and finalized the schematic design of the building. This October, the NCSML will host a groundbreaking to officially kick-off the construction phase of recovery.

The proposed building will accommodate: an enlarged library with space for researchers, genealogists, casual visitors, and library-based programs; a large permanent exhibition space; two temporary exhibition galleries to accommodate traveling and original exhibits; a classroom; an auditorium; an expanded Museum Store; a multifunctional hall for NCSML-related events and private functions; a back-of-house workshop for exhibition construction and preparation and artifact collection storage; and administrative offices and meeting space. There will also be an underground parking garage positioning the building three feet above the 2008 flood level. The building is being designed to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver certification for green building. An open loop, reinjection well geothermal heat pump system is planned along with high efficiency mechanicals and equipment to the extent the budget will allow. The goal is to reduce operational cost and decrease impact on the environment.

Durrant of Dubuque, IA, and Rinderknecht Associates, Inc. of Cedar Rapids, IA, have been hired as the architect and construction managers, respectively. Pre-construction planning is underway to coordinate construction with the move of the existing building, which is tentatively scheduled for February 2011. The completion of construction is currently planned for May 2012. The cost is estimated at $16 million.

While the new museum and library is the largest phase of the plan, it is only one of five major projects to complete recovery from the disaster of 2008. With an endowment to generate additional revenue to support increased operations costs, the goal for recovery totals $25 million.

GOALS

Rising Above Exhibition and Kosek Building Renovation in Czech Village . . . . . . $ 1,800,000
- Exhibition on Czech heritage and story of the flood of 2008
- Staff offices; Educational classroom

Historic Buildings Restoration . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $ 200,000
- Move and restore Immigrant Home
- Restore the last single-family home in Czech Village

New Museum and Library . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $16,000,000

New Permanent Exhibition . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $ 2,500,000
- Featuring immigration history
- Multimedia, immersive educational experience

Replacement of Infrastructure/Disaster Expenses . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $ 2,500,000

Endowment . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $ 2,000,000

TOTAL . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $25,000,000

Fundraising continues, and naming opportunities are still available. For more information about donating to the NCSML’s recovery efforts, please contact Leah Wilson at lwilson@NCSML.org or by calling 319-362-8500 X215.
I just arrived home from a trip to Prague and Tabor in the Czech Republic. These visits are important so I can connect with our colleagues in the museums and government to keep them informed of our progress rebuilding. I seldom encounter someone who doesn’t know about the NCSML. Our story was broadcast far and wide at the time of the flood and the media are always interested in our latest updates.

Possible collaborative projects and traveling exhibitions are also discussed with our partner museums. We share experiences and future plans. With our building plans getting more solid every day, it is time to organize our upcoming exhibition schedule and we hope to bring new and exciting exhibits to the NCSML from across the ocean, as well as the U.S.

My husband and I were privileged to attend the annual 4th of July party at the U.S. ambassador’s residence. I was able to visit with Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg and other friends in the Czech government. It gave me the opportunity to again express my appreciation for their financial support, and to assure them that it was a wise investment. Another highlight was meeting the architect for the Prague Castle, Zdeněk Lukeš and to visit his office located in a wing of the castle. We discussed the architecture of the new NCSML building and he outlined his numerous projects to restore the castle and grounds since 1989. It was an inspiring visit.

Back in Iowa, we are moving ahead with the building plans and have added a whole level of planning — the inside. Watch for more updates and information on our developing plans for new exhibitions and programs.

And for the big event this winter! Our movers tell us it’s the largest museum move ever in the country. The process involves removing the lower five courses of brick to place steel beams under the structure, then a temporary road will be built so the structure can stay level as it is rolled across the street. When it arrives at the new foundation, it will be elevated and rolled on top — within a half inch of center. Although it will take four to five days to do the actual move, the preparation will take months.

If everyone who says they want to see it shows up, we may have to shore up the bridges and set up bleachers! For those who don’t want to brave the cold weather, we hope to show the move on our website in real time. The final plans are in the works, and we’ll be sure to let you know how you can share in this historic event.

Sincerely,

Gail Naughton

www.NCSML.org
FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Much time has been expended these past months in determining the future of the NCSML. Our Design Committee has wrestled with space needs, exterior concepts, interior finishes, construction approaches, finance, etc., etc. It would be easy to lose ourselves in the ‘building’ process if it were not for the very wise insights from our President, Gail Naughton.

I share with you her reminder that the NCSML is far more than a building. It is the story of immigration, hard work, and responsibility. It is the interpretation and application of history to the issues of today and tomorrow. It is the nurturing of pride and humility for Czechs and Slovaks in the United States, and beyond, as we demonstrate our shared heritage. Equally important, the Museum and Library stimulates discourse among all peoples regarding the values we’ll carry forward. I invite you to join us in creating this future!

Sincerely,

Sue Olson

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Transformative Challenge Grant Received from Hall-Perrine

Gail Naughton, President/CEO of NCSML recently announced the receipt of a $3 million grant from The Hall-Perrine Foundation to the NCSML’s capital fund for rebuilding following the flood of 2008. The grant is presented as a challenge, requiring matching funds of $2 for every $1 from The Hall-Perrine Foundation, or $6,000,000 committed in pledges or cash, to match the $3,000,000 grant.

“The Hall-Perrine Foundation is pleased to offer support to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library,” said Jack Evans, president. “We are very impressed by the board of directors’ broad-based plan for recovery and business plan for sustainability after the project is complete.”

An estimated $11 million in damages and related expenses were caused by the 2008 flood. Five museum buildings were extensively damaged and contents were demolished. During the past two years, the board and staff have taken the time necessary to assess total loss and create a visionary plan for recovery. “The Hall-Perrine funds will be used to energize additional local and national donors and to match a variety of funding sources. An investment from Hall-Perrine is a significant stamp of approval,” said Sue Olson, Chair of the NCSML Board of Directors.

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Gary Rozek Recognized at 27th Annual Governor’s Volunteer Awards Ceremony

Gary Rozek of Cedar Rapids received a Governor’s Volunteer Award from Governor Chester J. Culver, during a special recognition ceremony on July 22, at Prairie High School in Cedar Rapids, IA.

The Governor’s Volunteer Awards (GVA) program was created in 1982, with inaugural awards presented in 1983. The program has grown from a small program only available to state agencies to its present function of providing all Iowa non-profit, charitable, and government organizations with an easy and effective way to honor their volunteers with a prestigious state-level recognition award.

Rozek was honored with an individual Volunteer Award. He was nominated by Sue Plotz Olson, the current board chairman of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, for leading the organization through the crisis of flood recovery and guiding the longer term rebuilding project as board chairman in addition to being chairman of the building and grounds committee.
Save the Date for *BrewNost!* 2010

“*It’s the basic pillar of Czech National Pride.*”

—The Heart of Europe magazine

This year the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is prouder than ever to present *BrewNost!* 2010, a seriously trendy celebration of the fermented grain, held every fall to benefit the NCSML. It’s the corridor’s hippest hops-sipping event to celebrate a spectacular, upcoming monumental feat: the hoisting and inland heave ho of a world-class ethnic museum! Picture it: an evening of suds-inspired joviality and witty pontification about how the heck the building’s gonna get hauled!

It’s the seventh year of partnership with the “Beer Guys” at John’s Grocery and a special celebration. Guests will lightly imbibe a plethora of premium international beers, expertly matched with savory hors d’oeuvres created by talented Cedar Rapids and Iowa City chefs to celebrate the NCSML’s upcoming monster move. Live music by SlovCzech Trio from Edina, Minnesota will set the mood. For those who prefer grapes to barley, don’t despair! BrewNost will have a nice selection of Eastern European wines to please the most discriminating sipper. The evening rounds out with a silent auction and Old World Market and the raffle drawing for our *Golden Prague Getaway*...airfare for two and a 7 night stay at the Hotel Rott, next to The Old Town Square in Prague!

Now’s the time to reserve an evening with friends on Friday, Oct. 15, 2010, from 6 – 9:30 p.m., for an unforgettable event! Advance tickets are on sale now for $55 by calling NCSML at 319-362-8500 or purchase at the door for $65. Tickets are also available through John’s Grocery Store website, visit http://www.johnsgrocery.com/Events/calendar/index.cfm

**AND…**

**Earn Your Medal**

Put up a little extra cash for a good cause and we’ll bedeck you with a coveted *BrewNost* medallion!

Become a *Brewmaster* for a contribution of $125 per person. Brewmasters are listed in the program, have the opportunity to pour beer at *BrewNost! 2010* and receive an invitation to our *exclusive* Patron Party at the newly restored Theatre Cedar Rapids, on Sept. 29, just two weeks prior to the big event.

Join the party as a *Patron* by contributing $75 per person. Your name is listed in the program, includes admission to *BrewNost! 2010* and receive an invitation to the Patron Party two weeks prior to the big event.

You know you want one! Call Kecia Boysen and become a proud supporter of *BrewNost* and the NCSML today, 319-362-8500, X209.
Raffle Winners Reminisce

Mary Beth and Dolph Leytze had already left their home in Independence, Iowa, to spend the winter in Florida when they got the call that they were the lucky winners of the BrewNost! 2009 Golden Prague Getaway Raffle.

“We had gone to a movie and were getting an ice cream cone, and Sue Olson called and asked if we had our bags packed. We thought she meant for Florida and we said ‘Sue, we’re already here!’ And she said, ‘No, you won!’ We were shocked and thrilled,” Mary Beth said.

And for good reason. The Leytzes had visited Prague on their own accord five years earlier, and winning the raffle gave them the opportunity to go back to the city that Mary Beth calls “wonderful and beautiful.” The raffle prize included five nights at Corinthia Towers Hotel in the area called Vysehrad and round trip airfare for two.

This year, the winner of the raffle will receive round trip airfare for two and seven nights at Hotel Rott, located in the Old Town Square area. “That will be great — it’s of course right in the middle, by the Jewish quarter and by the St. Charles bridge. That’s the area we stayed in the first time we went,” says Mary Beth.

When asked how many BrewNost raffle tickets she bought and if it was worth it, she says, “We just bought one. I’ve never won anything, so it was really surprising.”

The Leytzes will definitely be at BrewNost this year. “It’s a little bit of Prague in Cedar Rapids!” says Mary Beth. To purchase 2010 Raffle tickets, contact Kecia Boysen, 319-362-8500, X209.

The success of BrewNost depends on its sponsors!

Our thanks to our generous sponsors to date for BrewNost! 2010...

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Mary Beth and Dolph Leytze visited the earliest Romanesque rotunda in Prague during their winning visit in May 2010.
NEWS & EVENTS

More Staff On Board

Staff changes and additions have been announced within the NCSML organization for 2010.

Tricia Bender returned to her position as collections manager after leaving in 2008, due to the flood. During her time away, she was employed at The University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist.

Leah Wilson has been promoted to the position of major gifts officer, a position created to assist with the NCSML’s capital campaign.

Diana Baculis joined the staff in August 2008 as the director of programs and marketing.

Diana Baculis joined the staff in June as director of marketing and communications. She will direct and oversee media relations, publications, electronic media and advertising.

Kecia Boyesen has been hired to fill the new position of annual funds manager. Her role is to design and implement an annual plan to raise operating funds and oversee the implementation of a targeted strategy for fundraising from foundations and corporations.

Cooking Koláče In Babi’s Kitchen!

10 a.m. – Noon, Saturday, Oct. 23

The next Cooking in Babi’s Kitchen will be held at St. Ludmila’s Church, 215 21st St. SW, Cedar Rapids. This very popular program will present the variations of different koláče — from different types of dough, to sizes, fillings, and closed versus open. Guild members and volunteers Lu Volsch and Carol Wohlleben are “cooking up the program,” which promises to be fun, and, of course, open to audience participation. No matter how the koláče are baked, it will be a delicious program. Cooking in Babi’s Kitchen is free and open to the public, so mark your calendars today. Remember to invite family members and friends to this program. Phone the NCSML for more information, 319-362-8500.

Old World Christmas Market & Cookie Walk

9 a.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4 • Noon – 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5

Enjoy this unique outdoor event including special holiday shopping, old fashioned window displays, and seasonal treats in historic Czech Village featuring local merchants and restaurants as well as juried vendors. Take time to delight in carolers, a (magical) tree lighting, and horse-drawn wagon rides between New Bohemia and Czech Village. Warm up with hot chocolate, cider and hot wine, and indulge in a selection of international holiday treats. On Saturday, Svatý Mikuláš, Anděl, a Čert (Saint Nicholas, the Angel, and the Devil) will hand out small treats to children and remind them to behave as Christmas draws near.

Additionally, the Museum Guild will host their 12th Annual Cookie Walk at the Saint Wenceslaus Church gymnasium, 1230 5th St. SE, from 9:30 a.m. – Noon or until all cookies are sold. Shoppers can buy fancy and traditional holiday cookies by the pound prepared by Czech & Slovak bakers. All proceeds benefit NCSML Museum Guild.

Parking is available in lots accessed via Fifteenth and Seventeenth Avenues SW.

www.NCSML.org
In cooperation with The University of Iowa’s Hancher Auditorium, a special one-hour program with award-winning Tomás Kubínek will be given at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Kubínek, a self proclaimed “certified lunatic and master of the impossible,” has brought laughter to audiences around the world. His presentation at the NCSML will feature an illustrated humorous and factual account of his travels, life, and work in connection to his Czech roots. He will also discuss his family’s escape from the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and how his culture and traditions of physical theatre, clown, and puppetry have continued to inspire and inform his work.

Kubínek is working on a collaborative project with Orchestra Iowa and will also perform with the Cedar Rapids Symphony this fall. This is the second time he has worked in cooperation with Hancher Auditorium.

Admission is free, but reservations are required, call 319-362-8500, X217.

It’s Almost Time for the Czech and Slovak History and Culture Conference

Every other year, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa hosts a Czech and Slovak History and Culture Conference. On March 11 – 12, 2011, we will host the fifth in a five-part series titled, The 20th Century in Retrospect. The first conference in this series was subtitled Czechoslovakia’s First Republic (1918 – 1938). The 2002 conference was subtitled The Decade of Turmoil 1938 – 1948, and 2005 addressed the Czechoslovakia Behind the Iron Curtain 1948 – 1970. To coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Prague Spring, the 2008 conference was subtitled 1968 – 1980: Prague Spring, Normalization, and Charter 77. This is the final installation in this series. This conference, titled Transitions to Democracy, 1989 – 2011 will take a look at the most recent period of Czech and Slovak history and culture.

The years 1989 – 2011 include seismic change for both the Czech and Slovak

Václav Havel, a Czech playwright, writer and politician

Republics. Some of the areas we are addressing include Václav Havel, the media, art, student activities, politics, economics, emerging democracies, NATO and the EU. First-hand accounts from those who have shaped history and influenced these new countries will be featured throughout the conference.

Previous conferences have hosted more than 20 speakers and panelists and more than 300 registrants from all over the United States. We expect this conference to be just as, if not more, popular.

Watch the mailbox later this fall for more details about the conference.
Wow! What a Store!
The NCSML Museum Store is now loaded with new merchandise for the holidays. Shoppers will find some unique products from the Glassworks & Brewery in Harrachov, Czech Republic including beer shampoo, beer soap, beer shower gel, beer after shave balm, beer body lotion, beer face mask and beer massage lotion. The beer-based products are excellent for hair and skin and have a light, relaxing fragrance suitable for men and women, young and young-at-heart. All are bottled under the Czech label Manufaktura and make for great holiday gifts.

Members and volunteers receive an additional 10% discount on Thursday night. Enjoy hot beverages and light refreshments.

Friday Nov. 19 thru Wednesday, Nov. 24
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Buy three ornaments get one free! Personalization of ornaments is available for a small fee. Free gift wrapping. All ornaments are from the Czech Republic or Slovakia in the old European tradition.

Learning Opportunity for Volunteers
Training sessions for volunteers are on the third Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. Anyone who is interested in volunteering as a gallery guide is welcome to attend these one-hour sessions held in the Kosek Building classroom. Topics for discussion include: the exhibitions; tour-giving techniques; history of Czech Village; the Czech and Slovak Republics; folk dance; art; music and tales; current events, and much more. Practice tours on all topics will be given. The lessons will not follow a consecutive order and promise to be interesting and fun. For more information call 362-8500, X217.

Museum Store Holiday Open House
Member and Volunteer Preview, 5-8 p.m., Thursday Nov. 18
Members and volunteers receive an additional 10% discount on Thursday night. Enjoy hot beverages and light refreshments.

Friday Nov. 19 thru Wednesday, Nov. 24
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Buy three ornaments get one free! Personalization of ornaments is available for a small fee. Free gift wrapping. All ornaments are from the Czech Republic or Slovakia in the old European tradition.
The Magic of Repair

University of Iowa Libraries Preservation Department recently took a sampling of the museum’s flood-damaged books to its conservation lab to show how repairs can improve books. Some volumes needed only relatively minor repairs, others required more extensive restoration, and one book was damaged beyond repair. The University of Iowa has posted a blog for more details on the NCSML restoration work.

http://blog.lib.uiowa.edu/preservation/category/national-czech-slovak-museum-library/

One Year in a Czechoslovak Factory

This book was first dry cleaned with ground eraser crumbs. The spine was reinforced with wheat starch paste and Japanese paper, and the cover was mended and tipped onto the text block with paste. Upon consolidating the text block, new endpapers were attached on a case built from book cloth and book board.

Broučkova Pozuštalost: Pohadky

Completely disbound and disheveled best describes this volume, as it was found after the flood. Although the cover was discarded the original image from the front board was preserved. The text block was flattened by humidifying it. This process involves misting the paper with water to relax it and then putting it into the press to let it dry under pressure. The text block was then mended and resewn, and the front cover image lined with a thin Japanese paper to strengthen it. Spine of the text block was lined with Japanese paper and wheat starch paste and tipped on to the original end sheets. New endpapers were attached to a new cover and put in the press to dry. When the book was completed the original cover image was attached to the new cover.

Photos courtesy of The University of Iowa
Click. Cook. Connect.

Young Slovak launches slovakcooking.com to celebrate the diverse tastes of home

By Lubos Brieda

For one reason or another, the one dish that a vast majority of second or third generation Slovak-Americans associate with Slovakia are stuffed cabbage leaves called holubky. As a young person from Slovakia, I found this quite strange. After all, the first time I had this dish was not in Slovakia, but in the United States, at a Christmas party highlighting traditional Slovak dishes.

Is this some mistake? Turns out, not quite. Stuffed cabbage was actually very popular at the turn of the 19th and 20th century and can still be readily found in eastern Slovakia, the region which many immigrants called their home. But these days, you won’t find it in many Slovak restaurants. Instead, the national dish of Slovakia is small potato dumplings mixed with special Feta-like cheese called bryndza. Other popular dishes include sauerkraut soup, baked chicken, breaded and fried pork schnitzels and many types of stews and goulashes. And then there are the many kinds of sweets, ranging from home baked buchty to elaborate cakes found in the many pastry shops dotting the country.

After several years of living in the United States, I began to miss these delicacies. There is only so much pizza and sandwiches one can handle! I figured I could learn how to cook Slovak food and share my culinary adventures with others. That’s how slovakcooking.com got started. The year-old site now features over 70 illustrated step-by-step recipes and receives over 10,000 monthly visitors. The best thing, there is nothing hard about cooking Slovak food. Slovak cuisine evolved to easily satisfy the hunger of shepherds and peasants working Slovak fields while relying on ingredients grown locally.

And as far as holubky? Although I may never become a fan, I have realized this dish is part of the Slovak-American identity. If you have a great recipe for this or any other Slovak food, please share it at slovakcooking.com. Dobrú chut! 

Lubos Brieda has been living in the United States since 1994. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in Aerospace Engineering at the George Washington University in Washington D.C. Besides maintaining slovakcooking.com, he is also active in the local Slovak community by assisting with organizing events through Washington D.C. Slovak Meetup.

Slovak bryndza pierogi topped with fried bacon bits and sour cream
Slovak Christmas Traditions

By Elaine Badnarik

The Christmas traditions that I love so much had nothing to do with multiple, elaborate gifts under the Christmas tree. Our focus was on the traditions brought from “stary kry” that kept our family close and involved. We all looked forward to the pleasant aromas coming from the kitchen and gathering of the clan.

I was lucky enough to remember my grandparents and the older I get the more I remember my grandparents mix, a whole head of the clan.

A crystal bowl contained pleasant aromas coming from in the center of the table. We all looked forward to the table with a blessed candle damask tablecloth on the sation. We always had a white dinner was a special occasion.

As we sat down at the table, the menu evolved because the coming year and bless-ings including the wheat for the foods available in the “old country.” Nuts and mushrooms were gathered in the woods, the cabbage, potatoes and other vegetables including the wheat for the flour were grown in the garden. Plums and apricots grew on the trees and the poppy seed was gathered from fields full of poppies. The table was laden with desserts. Nut rolls “orehovnic,” poppy seed rolls “mokovnic” and apricot rolls; delicate, flaky “rosky” pronounced “rosky” were shaped like the horns of a farm animal and were filled with nuts, apricots or cream cheese.

Nut Roll

Makes 4 rolls

Mix with electric mixer: 5 cups flour, 1 lb margarine or butter. Dissolve: ¼ cup very warm water, 1 package dry yeast, 1 tablespoon sugar.

Mix: 2 beaten egg yolks, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 1 teaspoon vanilla and ¼ cup Minot or evaporated milk.

Mix liquids and pour over flour/margarine mixture. Mix with wooden spoon until combined. Chill several hours or overnight. Dough will be easier to work with. Can put in freezer for hour or two. Divide into four equal portions and form 4 balls. Roll out one ball at a time in sugar sprinkled on bread board (and tiny amount of flour if needed). Roll into rectangle about 10” X 13”. Fill each roll with 1/2 lb. nut mixture, apricot or poppy seed and roll like jelly roll. Tuck in ends and pat into long narrow roll. Place lengthwise on greased cookie sheet. Four rolls will fit on large cookie sheet.

Cover with kitchen towel and let rise 1/2 hr. in warm place until double in size. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown. Use filling below.

Walnut Filling

2 lbs. coarsely chopped nuts (use food processor if available) This will fill 4 rolls. After nuts chopped remove able) This will fill 4 rolls.

2 egg whites beaten

2 T. honey

grated rind from 1 orange

Add few tablespoons of milk to make nuts easier to spread.
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
87 Sixteenth Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404
319-362-8500
319-363-2209 (fax)
www.NCSML.org

Hours
Monday – Saturday, 9:30 – 4:00.
Closed Sunday
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Christmas Day, and New Year’s
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of July, and Labor Day.

Admission
$6 adults
$5 seniors
$3 college students w/I.D.
$2 children ages 6+
Under age 5 and NCSML members
FREE. Group rates available.

Visit the Museum Exhibition
and Store at the Kosek Building
In addition to learning about Cedar Rapids’ Czech and Slovak heritage, visitors can
experience the dramatic events of the Flood of 2008. Also take some time to browse
the selection of gifts and treasures for the entire family at the Museum Store.

• Czech wine glasses in seven different styles
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