

CO JE NOVÉHO?

News from the Czech & Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City

Spring 2003

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National Czech & Slovak Museum President to attend April 12 Annual Meeting

Don't miss our special guest Gail Naughton, President/CEO of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) in Cedar Rapids, IA. Gail will be joining us at the Annual Meeting on April 12 at Southminster Church in Prairie Village, KS.

NCSML opened over 10 years ago and features two exhibit galleries filled with information and items about the Czech and Slovak peoples.

Homelands is a permanent exhibit focusing on Czech and Slovak history and culture. Special exhibits that focus on varied topics are part of the museum's second gallery. The current special exhibit is titled *Glass Behind The Iron Curtain: Czech Design, 1948-1978*. It explores glass design during communist times in Czechoslovakia, a time of limited artistic freedom. In addition to the museum galleries, the library holds impressive collections of books and archival materials pertaining to history and culture.



Gail Naughton

About Gail....

Naughton joined NCSML in September, 2002 after 15 years at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA where she served as Vice President for Institutional Advancement. She also held leadership positions in public relations and development while at Clarke College. During her tenure, she was responsible for fund raising, public relations, marketing, communications, and publications. Naughton has a Bachelor of Science degree from Creighton University and has completed graduate coursework at the University of Nebraska and the University of Iowa.

"I became familiar with the Czech Republic and Slovakia when my husband, Dennis, was in business there in the 1990s," commented Naughton. "Now, I am honored to work with such a dynamic and exciting organization as the NCSML to celebrate the vibrant Czech and Slovak culture. It is important locally, nationally, and internationally to have institutions such as the NCSML who are attentive to our history and who recognize and remember those who made our country great."

Come and learn from Gail about NCSML—its mission, upcoming activities and exhibits and dedication to the future. I believe you'll find her talk entitled *The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library: Resource for the Present and for the Future*, interesting and informative.

Czech and Slovak Republics Invited to the European Union

On December 13, 2002, successful negotiations concluded on the accession of the Czech and Slovak Republics to the EU at the European Council in Copenhagen, Denmark. The EU summit concluded 10 countries will be ready to enter the EU in 2004. The candidates to join in 2004 include: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The accession will enhance political stability, democracy, human rights and the protection of minorities. It will bring a population of nearly 100 million into a common economic area with a total population of nearly 500 million. The addition of the 10 new countries will create the world's largest single market, well-equipped to meet the challenges of global competition. The Czech and Slovak Republics will reap the benefits of being centrally located in the single market.

Assuming successful completion of a ratification procedure, membership to the EU will likely become official on May 1, 2004.



Successful 2003 Diplomatic Ball

With support from Kansas City, Missouri's Parks and Recreation Department, the Ethnic Enrichment Commission hosted the Diplomatic Ball at the Muehlebach Hotel on March 8. Tradition is that each year the Diplomatic Ball features a different country represented on the Commission. The Philippines were the featured hosts this year. Nearly an hour-long demonstration of dance and gymnastics entertained approximately 900 attendees.

Commissioners Jirina LaVine and Mike Kalny represented the club during the parade of Commission countries. During the opening ceremony, Commission representatives greeted the Diplomatic Consular Corps. Club members Sharon Valasek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic and Ross Marine, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, greeted the Commission representatives.

Club members and guests in attendance included: Jirina LaVine & Herb Ziegler, Mike & Maria Kalny, Ron Vobornik and Mary Lou Nash, Terry and Pamela Smitka and guests, Joyce Cox, Sharon Valasek and Gary Lofstrom. Joyce Cox, our club secretary, won a drawing for a weekend getaway to Branson.

Vesele Velikonoce! (Happy Easter!)

Do you know the Czechoslovak tradition involving kocicky and pomlaska?

At Easter time, it is tradition for boys to gather kocicky (willow) tree branches and weave or braid them into a pomlaska (switch). The boys take the switch and chase the girls trying to catch them and use the switch. The following day, the girls take a bucket of water and chase the boys in an attempt to pour water on the boys head. Jirina LaVine will be demonstrating how to make a switch at the April 12 meeting. Maybe she'll also demonstrate how to use it!

CLUB NOTES

In recent months, our club marked the following life passages.

- Mary Simon celebrated her 90th birthday on November 17, 2002. Mary is a long-time club members and has been one of our most reliable and generous members.
- Marshall Smith passed away in November 2002. Marshall had recently joined the organization, and was very giving of his time, talents and resources.
- Lillian Macek recently underwent heart surgery in December 2002, and is steadily recovering.
- Frank Nadvornik passed away in January 2003. Frank was an original member of the club. Over the years, the Nadvornik's were faithful supporters of the organization.

Kuchyne (Kitchen)

Beef Goulash (Hovézí guláš)

Ingredients

2 lbs. beef shank or chuck	pinch of marjoram
1/4 c. oil	salt and pepper to taste
1 large onion, chopped	1 Tbl. Flour
1/4 tsp. paprika	about 2 c. water
1 clove garlic, mashed	

Saute onion in oil until yellow, add paprika and meat. Brown. Add seasoning, pour in 1/2 c. of water. Cover and simmer until tender using the rest of the water as it evaporates. When meat is done, uncover and let all the water evaporate. Dust with flour, stir until brown. Add 1 more cup water, simmer for 10 to 15 minutes longer.

Czech Cookies (Ceske cukrovi)

Ingredients

2 sticks butter (only butter)	2 c. flour
1 c. sugar	1 c. chopped walnuts
2 egg yolks	1 c. strawberry preserves

Butter 9"X13" oven-proof pan. In large mixing bowl, cream butter until soft. Gradually add the sugar, creaming until mixture is light and fluffy. Add egg yolks, blend well. Gradually add the flour and mix thoroughly. Fold in the chopped walnuts. Spread half the batter in the prepared pan. Top with the preserves. Cover with remaining batter. Bake 1 hour at 325 until lightly browned. Remove from oven, cool and cut in 1'X2" bars.

Klaus succeeds Havel as President

After 13 years as president of then Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel left office on February 2. He served his country as long as allowed by Czech law. He is and will continue to be internationally known as a promoter of democracy, human rights and human dignity.

Succeeding Havel is Vaclav Klaus, a long-time political rival of Havel. As Havel, Klaus was also a central figure in Czech post-Communist transformation. Klaus is a politician who comes into office with a wealth of experience. As Czechoslovakia's minister of finance, he oversaw the transformation of the economy from socialism to capitalism in a swift manner. He also oversaw the peaceful division of Czechoslovakia and continuation of the Czech economic transformation while serving as prime minister of the Czech Republic.

During his long and fruitful political career, Klaus has been guided by libertarian principles of limited governance and free-market economics. He is credited with creating a solid basis for a high level of foreign investment and respectable economic growth in the Czech Republic. The Czechs continue to enjoy one of the lowest unemployment rates and one of the freest economies in the post-Communist world.

Of note, Klaus opposes anti-Americanism as the basis for the future European foreign policy. Both his social and economic attitudes and the Czech historical experience will drive him toward building rather than burning the bridges between Europe and the United States.

Klaus was born on June 19, 1941 in Prague. He studied in Prague, Italy and at Cornell University in the United States. In addition to his extensive political career, Klaus has over 15 years of financial experience at Czechoslovak State Bank.



Czech Language Course in Dobruška

The annual Czech language course in Dobruška is organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. It is part of the Czech Republic's program to assist Czechs living abroad in educational matters and will take place July 31 through August 28, 2003.

Eligibility for the course is limited. To be eligible for the fully covered course, applicants must meet be:

- Of Czech origin
- Actively assisting Czech-American organizations and societies to preserve and promote Czech language and culture
- An individual whose language skills will contribute to the activities of these societies in the future

A recommendation from at least one of the above-mentioned societies is required.

Courses for complete beginners to advanced students will be offered. The minimum age for participation is 18; Czech living abroad who will be 18 by July 31, 2003 may apply. Application forms are available on the web site of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs at www.mzv.cz and the Cultural section of the Embassy at www.mzv.cz/washington/.

Applications should be mailed to the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C. The deadline for receiving applications is April 11, 2003. Due to the large number of applicants, it is recommended applications be sent as soon as possible. Should you need further information on the course, contact the Cultural section of the Czech Embassy at 202-274-9127.

LOOKING AHEAD

Central Slavic Conference – April 3-5

The conference is held at the Kansas Union, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, and is sponsored by the KU Center for Russian & East European Studies. More information: visit the web site at www.ku.edu/~csc or crees@ku.edu.

Formal Opening of Czech Honorary Consul Office – May/June

The U.S. state department has approved Sharon Valasek's selection by the Czech government to be regional honorary consul. An official opening will occur in the coming weeks, including a visit by the Czech ambassador. Details will be made available ASAP.

Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) North American Conference 2003 – June 25-29, Cedar Rapids, IA.

For more information, visit the SVU website at <http://svu2000.org/headlines/b47.htm> or call Cathy Oslzly at 402-472-3121.

Ethnic Enrichment Festival – August 22-24

The festival has less funding from the KC, MO budget and needs additional volunteers for this worthy festival. Contact Jirina LaVine to help.

Annual Club Meeting - April 12 Come join the fun!

The Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City is holding its annual meeting. We'll have a potluck dinner on Saturday, April 12 and it promises to be fun for all. The evening activities will also include celebrating Velikonoce (Easter), a special presentation (see p. 1) and the election of club officers.

Club Meeting

Saturday, April 12, 4:30 -7:30

4:30 social, 5:30 meal, 6:30 program, 7:30 cleanup

Southminster Church

63rd & Roe

Prairie Village, KS 66208

Potluck

A-I = dessert

J-R = meat/main dish

S-Z = salad/vegetable

Beverages and tableware provided

Program

Theme – Velikonoce (Easter)

Demonstration of Velikonoce tradition

Pussy Willow (Kocicky) tradition of weaving into switch (Pomlazka)

Speaker - Gail Naughton from the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library.

Election of Officers - Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City

If you will not be in attendance at the April 12 club meeting, please complete this ballot and mail it to Gene Simon, 12818 Cambridge, Grandview, MO 64030. Ballot must be mailed by April 5, 2003.

Slate of officers

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President – Sharon Valasek* | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1st VP (Membership) – Terry Smitka | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd VP (Social/Programs)– Juanita Stude | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd VPs – Jirina LaVine and Mike Kalny,
Commissioners to Ethnic Enrichment Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary – Joyce Cox | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corresponding Secretary – Sheryl Janda | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer – Marcel Janda | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historian – Gene Simon | <input type="checkbox"/> Write-in_____ |

Your signature/date_____

*David Kurovski will be assisting the president throughout the coming year.