

# CZECH the NEWS

## Newsletter of the Embassy of the Czech Republic

Vol. 3, 2008

### Ambassador Opens Historical Exhibit

On August 21, 2008, the 40th anniversary of the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, Ambassador Petr Kolar officially opened the black and white photography exhibit 68/89 at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC. 68/89 showcases 60 photos that capture the political events of the 1968 Prague Spring, which ended with the tightening of communist control in Czechoslovakia, and the subsequent Velvet Revolution of 1989, which swept away communism and ushered in democracy to modern Czech society. The photos capture unforgettable moments during



Ambassador Petr Kolar

Photo courtesy of Mary Fezko

those heady days—from a Soviet tank destroying a Czech building and the funeral of Jan Palach, who killed himself in protest of the invasion, to illegal protesters in Wenceslas Square and the moment when Czechoslovak leaders Vaclav Havel and Alexander Dubcek heard on the radio that the Communist Party politburo had resigned.

In his speech at the exhibit opening, Ambassador Kolar noted that the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia brought an end to the notion that it was possible to create “socialism with a human face” and said that instead it proved



Ambassador Petr Kolar opens the 68/89 exhibition at the Woodrow Wilson Center.

Photo courtesy of Mary Fezko

that human freedoms, including democracy, are fragile and can be lost easily and quickly.

The 60 photos in the 68/89 exhibit are the work of over 30 award-winning photographers whose honors include World Press Photo Awards, Czech Press Photo Awards, and Photographer

of the Year. The exhibit remains at the Woodrow Wilson Center until October 9 when it will move to the Embassy of the Czech Republic, where it will remain on display for the duration of October 2008. For more exhibit information please visit [www.mzv.cz/washington](http://www.mzv.cz/washington).

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Mrs. Alice Masters (center) and students from the British School of Washington

Photo courtesy of Mary Fezko

### Winton Film Sequel

Czech and Slovak film director Matej Minac, whose documentary film *The Power of Good* tells the story of the young Englishman Nicholas Winton who saved 669 Czechoslovak refugee children during the run-up to World War II, was in Washington in September to film parts of his sequel documentary, *Nicky's Family*. The sequel will chronicle how the story of Nicholas Winton and his heroic acts have inspired younger generations to do good in their own communities.

While in Washington, Minac

filmed at the British School of Washington, where over 100 students assembled to see *The Power of Good* and to speak with Alice Masters, one of the children Winton saved. After the screening and discussion, students participated in one-on-one interaction with Mr. Minac and Mrs. Masters, discussing how the story of Winton moved and inspired them. Minac also interviewed Ambassador Petr Kolar who has been a strong supporter of the Winton Educational Project, a U.S.-

Continued on page 2



Mrs. Masters shared with students artefacts from her escape just before World War II, including her dress.

Photo courtesy of Mary Fezko





Photo courtesy of Chad Hyatt

My Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all those who have expressed their condolences regarding the tragic and early death of our Ambassador to Pakistan Ivo Zdarek, who was killed in the terrorist bombing of the Hotel Marriot in Islamabad on September 20, 2008. Ambassador Zdarek, 47, a career diplomat, served his country and the international community fulfilling his duties with courage even in the midst of crisis. He was dedicated to improving relations among all nations, and died in pursuit of that goal.

The tragic death of Ambassador Zdarek will not stop the Czech Republic from our commitment to ending terrorism in all its forms and to promoting the values of democratic societies. The message of this latest terrorist attack is clear: in 2008, the need for vigilance and united international resistance to all forms of terrorist attacks against innocent people is stronger than ever.

Czechs in particular are intensely aware of the dangers threatening our freedom, values, and civilization as we mark the anniversaries of several political changes that took place in years ending with the number eight and that altered the course of our history, often with deadly and traumatic effects. During fall 2008, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, DC, will sponsor a series of events designed to remind us of the momentous historical occurrences that shaped Czech history from the hopeful 1918 founding of the First Czechoslovak Republic to the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, punctuated in between by the 1938 Munich Agreement which broke up our democracy and gave control of it to Hitler's Germany, and the 1948 communist coup that imposed 40 years of Soviet-bloc oppression on the Czech lands.

This year we are celebrating the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Czech Republic, a free and democratic country, a reliable ally of the United States of America in NATO, and an ambitious member of the European Union (EU), just preparing to assume the EU presidency in January 2009.

In 2008, we are also marking the 50th anniversary of SVU, the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, a society formed in Washington, DC during the communist dictatorship in Czechoslovakia by people who fled their home and found a new one in freedom and democracy in the United States.

In short, 2008 is an important year, rich with historical context, and one in which we Czechs cannot help but remember and spread the lessons learned from the past. We believe that our history serves as a textbook example to all good people who wish to prevent the tragic and fatal mistakes that the community of democratic nations made in the course of the 20th century. I invite you to participate in all the events we have planned to mark these pivotal anniversaries (for a full listing please go to pages 8-11).

In order to accommodate the many guests we will host during the EU presidency in 2009, the Embassy underwent renovations over the summer. The new space will debut to the public in October 2008, and I invite you to come see our new look.

The 2008-2009 season promises to be dynamic, with many opportunities for our community to enjoy Czech and Czech-American perspectives. Please join us in the numerous activities that we have planned for you.

Warmly,

Petr Kolar



Director Matej Minac interviews Petr Kolar for the Winton film sequel.

Photo courtesy of Mary Fetzko

## Winton Film Sequel (continued)

*Continued from page 1*  
based movement to teach students about Nicholas Winton's heroic story.

During his shooting schedule in the United States Mr. Minac also conducted an interview with prominent U.S. scientist Mr. Ben Abeles, another "Winton child" who lives in New Jersey. Moravian College in Pennsylvania held a screening of *The Power of Good*, followed by a panel discussion with Matej Minac; Hannah Slome and George Korper, two more of the surviving Winton children; and Peter Rafaeli, Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic in Philadelphia and President of American Friends of the Czech Republic (AFoCR). College President Christopher Thomforde moderated the discussion. While at Moravian, Minac also filmed a performance of the 80-voice



Ambassador Petr Kolar and Mrs. Alice Masters

Photo courtesy of Mary Fetzko

Moravian College Choir who performed in honor of Nicholas Winton. Minac wrapped up his U.S. filming with a group of high school students in Pennsylvania who have been volunteering for the Red Cross since being inspired by the story of Winton's humanitarianism.

*Nicky's Family* is slated for release in September 2009.

## Havel Among World's Top 100 Intellectuals



Photo courtesy of Mary Fetzko

Former Czech President Vaclav Havel

The U.S. political journal Foreign Policy (FP) has included former Czech president Vaclav Havel on their list of the 100 top intellectuals whose ideas have most influenced current world development. Featuring some of the most prominent philosophers, writers, politicians, clerics, and other leading figures from around the world, the list also gives a nod to Italian novelist Umberto Eco, American biologist E.O. Wilson, and British economist Paul Collier. FP describes those on the list as the "thinkers who are shaping the tenor of our time." All names are listed in alphabetical order and can be viewed online at [www.foreignpolicy.com](http://www.foreignpolicy.com).



## GE and Czechs Celebrate Aviation Partnership

In celebration of GE Aviation's recent acquisition of certain assets of Walter Engines, a Czech manufacturer of small turboprop engines and high-precision machined parts for the aviation industry, more than 100 guests attended a rooftop reception overlooking the airfield at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh on July 28, 2008, in Wisconsin. The reception was hosted by GE Aviation in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, DC. AirVenture is the annual fly-in convention of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) that attracts upward of 10,000 airplanes and as many as 750,000 visitors to Oshkosh every year.

In 2008, the Czech Republic was represented by 12 Czech aviation manufacturers and the Light Aircraft Association of the Czech Republic (LAA CR), an association of pilots, builders, designers, manufacturers, and operators of light aircraft. This year's convention featured a workshop that showcased the

craftsmanship and high quality of Czech Light Sport Aircraft (LSA) and other Czech aviation products. Czech-made LSAs currently hold 30 percent of the U.S. market and are popular in the United States for their high quality, fuel efficiency, and overall design.

Acquisition of Walter Engines will enable GE Aviation to enter the fastest growing aviation segment—small, twin-engine turboprop aircraft. A \$28 million company, Walter Engines has been manufacturing aircraft engines since 1923. The company has produced more than 37,000 engines and its Walter M601 turboprop engine family has more than 1,500 engines on over 30 aircraft types. In a separate interview, David Joyce, president and CEO of GE Aviation, described the benefits that the acquisition will bring to both companies, "Walter's deep industry experience in turboprop applications is a complementary fit with GE's strategy to better position GE Aviation in this



Photo courtesy of Jan Fridrich



An aircraft featured at AirVenture 2008



Photo courtesy of Jan Fridrich

Left to right: Vice President of Light Aircraft Association (LAA CR) Jan Fridrich, Head of the Economic Section at the Czech Embassy Martin Dvorak, Director for Trade of Evectov-Aerotechnik Milan Mach, Project Manager for MLT Lukas Bartunek, CEO of Evectov-Aerotechnik Jaroslav Ruzicka, and Director of the Chicago Branch of Czech Invest Bohuslav Frelich

growing segment. GE will help Walter with investment funding as well as technical knowledge of materials, turbine design, and 3-D aero modeling. Walter will help GE better understand the business aviation segment

and its customer's need for simple, straightforward design." Additional information about Walter Engines, which employs 400 people in the Czech Republic, can be found at [www.walterengines.com](http://www.walterengines.com).

## Czech-U.S. Medical Research Project

The International Clinical Research Center (ICRC) in Brno, Czech Republic, and the U.S.-based Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, will partner on one of the European Union's largest initiatives to enhance 21st century biotechnology and medical research. The ICRC-Mayo Clinic partnership, which will be based in the new ICRC facility in Brno, will focus on medical research and education, particularly in the areas of cardiovascular and neurovascular diseases, internal medicine, neurology, and oncology. The center will offer advanced clinical research facilities, a state-of-the-art cardiovascular clinical center, international educational center, and a technology cluster.

Researchers at the ICRC Brno have extensive experience collaborating with the Mayo Clinic and both sides see this

initiative is an extension of those efforts.

"At this time we already have an informal program that allows Czech physicians and engineers to train in our Mayo lab," says Dr. Virend Somers, Mayo Clinic cardiologist and professor of medicine, "We look forward to broader and even more productive cooperation with our colleagues in Brno."

The framework for the ICRC was developed and refined at the Mayo Clinic by Dr. Somers and Czech doctor Tomas Kara, who trained at the Mayo Clinic with Dr. Somers and now heads the ICRC Brno project. Together they will chair the ICRC's

International Advisory Board. Dr. Kara describes the increased benefits of collaboration between the Czech Republic and the United States, "The logistics of the ICRC and the basic principles are very similar to those used at the International Space Station. This approach will result in the research process being shortened by as much as 50 percent compared with existing research facilities."

Medical research of the joint Czech-U.S. collaboration, which begins in November 2008, will initially focus on treatments for

heart failure at Brno's St. Anna Faculty Hospital, home to the first five labs that will comprise the ICRC. The full ICRC facility will be completed within 2 years.



Photo courtesy of Mayo Clinic

The future ICRC facility in Brno where Mayo Clinic and Czech researchers will join forces.





Jana Svehlova with her mother

## Daughter of the Enemy

When Dr. Jana Svehlova, born Jana Roubikova, was a little girl growing up in Czechoslovakia, her proud father, Jan Roubik, used to stand her up on the kitchen table and have her sing political songs to his friends. “My dad spoiled me,” she recalls, “Each day when he returned from work, he brought me a gift—a pencil, an eraser, or pages of writing paper. Even when I misbehaved, he would say, ‘Isn’t she sweet?’ His friends had no choice but to listen to me, the spoiled brat.”



Jana Svehlova with her father Jan Roubik circa 1945

Jana, an only child, wouldn't be spoiled for long. In 1949, three days after her sixth birthday, her father was arrested by the Czechoslovak communist regime, subjected to a kangaroo court spectacle—the show trials associated with the Stalinist era—and sentenced to 10 years in prison for treason. “In his case, treason in the Czech communist dictionary meant fighting with the British Royal Air Force against the Nazis during the second World War,” Svehlova says.

The arrest and incarceration of Jana's father immediately rendered her a “daughter of the enemy of the state,” a label that would alter her childhood in numerous unpleasant ways, not the least of which was the loss of her right to a higher education. It would take immigration and 4 decades to reclaim that education, which culminated in Svehlova eventually earning a Ph.D. in Human Sciences with a concentration in Political Psychology from George Washington University in Washington, DC. While writing and researching her dissertation titled “The Enemy's Daughter: The Psychological Effects of Stalinism on Female Children of Political Prisoners” she met dozens of other women who, just like her, had lost their childhoods and their futures to the political imprisonment of a parent in communist Czechoslovakia. With upward of 250,000 political prisoners incarcerated during the communist era in her homeland Svehlova realized that there must have been thousands of daughters whose lives also were upturned by being labeled a daughter of the enemy of the state, yet she was struck by the silence that surrounded their fate. As a result of her work, many of these women



Jana Svehlova and her mother Lola Roubikova during Jana's childhood

formed Daughters of the Enemy, a Czech nongovernmental organization (NGO) that collects and publicizes the experiences of these “daughters” and allows them to connect with and support each other.

The circuitous journey that led Jana to become a daughter of the enemy of the state and eventually a champion of healing the generational wounds of Stalinism began when word of the treatment of Jews in Hitler's Germany first arrived in Czechoslovakia. An uncle of Jana's father, who had a daughter, sensed that the same brand of anti-Semitism might soon spread to Czechoslovakia, and, in 1939, ordered Jana's father to escort his cousin out of the country to safety. Traveling through Slovakia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia, Roubik made it to Palestine where the British armed forces were recruiting European refugees. He enlisted in the Royal Air Force and went to England. It was there during World War II that he met another Czech refugee, Lola, fell in love and married her, and then had Jana.

As soon as the war ended, Roubik, an attorney, brought his young family back to Prague where he planned to raise his

child in his beloved homeland. “For 4 years, we lived as any middle class Czech family in a democratic country that was recovering from the war,” Svehlova recalls, “Dad went to his office in the morning; Mom stayed home and took care of me.” Jana's intellectual father also spent time discussing politics and social justice with his friends in the Prague cafes. But the post-war years in Czechoslovakia proved to be difficult. Dr. Svehlova recounts the chain of political events,

**“The memory of the West ‘selling’ Czechoslovakia to Hitler at the Munich Agreement in 1939, the Russian tanks liberating Prague in 1945, and the promises of the Czechoslovak Communist Party to nationalize private enterprise and organize a land reform won the communists 38 percent of the vote during the first free elections in 1946.”**

But by 1948 the populace had started blaming the communists (then the dominant political faction) for the shortages of

basic goods. Communist control began slipping, prompting the party to provoke a political crisis. In February 1948 the country's democratic leader, President Eduard Benes, resigned and the communist takeover was complete. Svehlova describes the effects, “With the Communist Party as the sole ruler of the country, the regime changed from a democratic way of life to a system of terror with arbitrary arrests.”

For Jana and her mother, Roubik's imprisonment meant their middle class comforts were immediately a thing of the past. The police moved in to evict them from their apartment, but apparently believed Jana's mother when she threatened to kill herself and her daughter if she was forced to leave. The authorities relented and instead moved another family into the small flat with the Roubiks. Jana and her mother were relegated to the tiny kitchen and living room. The loss of her father also meant the loss of his income and Jana's mother took a job in a bakery to support herself and her daughter.

Other hardships awaited Jana. With much of her family killed in concentration camps during World War II and the

remaining survivors having immigrated mostly to England, Jana was often alone as a girl. She remembers the sadness she felt watching the neighbor children being packed off to country cottages to spend summer vacations with their grandmothers, and even envied the children photographed for propagandist reasons in the arms of Josef Stalin.

In perhaps a poignant homage to her father, who used to stand her up to sing political songs, Dr. Svehlova recounts an incident where the loss of her real father and the introduction of his state-instituted replacement, Josef Stalin, reveals itself.

*Mrs. Svobodova, our first grade teacher, told us that Josef Visarionovich Djugasvilli was Stalin's real name. He changed it to Stalin because that name meant 'steel.' Stalin was not Russian; he was from Soviet Georgia. His favorite song was Sulika from his native Georgia; it has a sweet melancholic melody. One day, when I was home alone from school in bed with a sore throat, keeping warm with a thick quilt, I heard Stalin's much loved Sulika. With the first note coming from the radio, I jumped out of bed, took my neck compresses off, and stood at attention while the singer sang Sulika with a sad sounding tenderness. Nobody ever taught me to stand at attention to that folk song; but I did. With nobody around, I was saluting my temporary father figure Josef Stalin.*

At the end of her middle school years, Jana, an excellent student, was told by the school's principal that she would not be allowed to attend high school, and ordered her to contact the department of labor to find a job. Dr. Svehlova remembers, "At that time, my mom was in the hospital with stomach ulcers. I went to visit her, told her what had happened, and was surprised how upset she was. I did not think it was such bad news because I was going to earn some money. I would not have to worry that every time I asked her for new shoes, I would hear, 'You know we don't have any money.'" Jana reported to the Tesla television factory where she was trained to solder parts. After a year, a friend of her mother's found her a better job working day and night shifts



Jana Svehlova lecturing at the University of Hradec Kralove in April 2005

in the operating room of a local hospital where, she says, she "had to wash the blood from the walls and floors because it would dry up by morning." After 2 years of working as a nurses' aid and with aspirations to become a pediatrician, Jana met with the hospital's committee to request that she be allowed to attend high school. She remembers,

**"The committee was made up of male physicians, all members of the Communist Party. Some of them I knew from the operating room. They did not grant me permission to continue my education. Their refusal was probably due to my failure to answer the question, 'If you become a pediatrician, would you take care of capitalist children?' I did not know the proper response. There probably was no response that would have been acceptable. Absurd as it may seem, the correct answer may have been, 'No, I would never treat a capitalist child.' I will never know."**

What she did know was that it was time to leave. Under the pretense of visiting relatives in England, Svehlova had been applying repeatedly for permission to travel. Suddenly after nine declined requests and 2 years before the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, she was granted a passport. Svehlova muses that with her lowly status the authorities did not see her vacation as a potential threat to



Jana Svehlova and a Czech film crew shooting the "Daughters" project

state security, "I certainly was not a brain drain on the nation, not with the few years of education the authorities had permitted me to have." She left Czechoslovakia with only enough clothes for a reasonable holiday stay but remained in England. In the years that followed, she married and immigrated to the United States where she became a clinician working in gynecology for the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. She also earned her high school equivalency diploma, bachelors and masters degrees, and finally a Ph.D.

Since retiring from the Naval Medical Center in 2005 Dr. Svehlova has devoted herself to helping tell the stories of the children of Stalinism, which she believes is helping to heal their long-ignored psychological wounds, and she lectures frequently in the United States and Europe on the subject. She also is completing a book about

her experiences that will include the stories of some of her fellow "daughters." In October 2008, Dr. Svehlova will participate in a historical conference co-organized by the Czech Embassy and George Washington University that analyzes the highlights and low points of Czech 20th century political history (see page 8 for conference details). This summer the European Commission

chose an audio/visual project based on the work of Svehlova's NGO as a recipient of a Golden Star award. The project, which recorded interviews with dozens of the "Enemy's Daughters," was shot by a Czech film crew. The Golden Star recognizes outstanding contributions

to civic society and will be conferred in Brussels in November 2008. For more information on Dr. Svehlova and her work go to [www.enemysdaughters.com](http://www.enemysdaughters.com).



Jana Svehlova earns her Ph.D.



## Czech Military Hero General Hasal

**A**t a ceremony held at the residence of Ambassador Petr Kolar on September 4, Dagmar White, daughter of Czech General Antonin Hasal, donated her father's World War II uniform to a delegation from the Military History Institute in Prague on behalf of her family. Mrs. Jarka Kolarova stood in for Ambassador Kolar who was unable to attend.



Lt. Col. Stehlik, Capt. Burian, Dagmar White, Lewis White, Mrs. Kolarova, Col. Knizek

Photo courtesy of Mary Fatzko

General Antonin Hasal was born in 1893 in the Austro-Hungarian town of Nova Hut pod Nizborem and attended the officer candidate school of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After completing his required service, he joined the reserves and left for Russia to live with extended family. When World War I broke out, he was called to serve in the Austro-Hungarian Army but instead he volunteered for the Czechoslovak legion in Russia and fought with them until the end of the war. In 1918 he became commander of the Second Rifle Regiment of "George of Podebrady" and returned to Czechoslovakia with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1920.

After the war he remained in the Czechoslovak Army until 1938 rising steadily to the rank of Lieutenant General. Like many Czechoslovak officers he was opposed to the Munich Agreement of 1938, and, when the Germans occupied Bohemia and Moravia in 1939, he joined the underground resistance. In May 1940 he escaped to join the Czechoslovak Army in France. The Gestapo arrested his wife, son, and daughter and interned them in Svatoborice Camp for the duration of the war, leaving his youngest daughter homeless.

Hasal stayed in Paris for the remainder of the war where he served as chief of the Czechoslovak Military Administration. After the fall of France he joined the Czechoslovak government-in-exile and was appointed chief of President Eduard Benes' Military Chancery and his military advisor. In 1944 General Hasal became Commander of the Liberated Territories and subsequently was promoted to the rank of General of the Army. After liberation of Czechoslovakia he was appointed Minister of Transportation and later reassumed the position of head of the President's Military Chancery.

Loyal to democratic ideals, General Hasal went into exile in response to the communist takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1948. He and his family escaped to the United States, where, as president of the Czechoslovak Officers in Exile organization and as advisor to the United States Government, Hasal continued to strive for the return of democracy to his homeland until his death in 1960.

General Hasal's uniform will become part of the permanent collection of the Military History Institute in Prague. *Dagmar White contributed to this article.*



Photo courtesy of Dagmar White

General Hasal



Photo courtesy of Dagmar

General Hasal

## Czech Reporter Wins Emmy

**R**eporter Tomas Etzler became the first Czech ever to win America's most prestigious TV award, garnering a 2008 Emmy for Technology and Engineering. Etzler was part of a U.S. team which won the Emmy for developing equipment which allows journalists to report from remote places that are cut off from modern technology. He helped develop the system during an 8-year stint at CNN.

Now a reporter for Czech Television, Etzler described the

technology, "It's a new system which is referred to as digital news gathering. It replaces what we know as the satellite truck—huge machines with equipment worth between 1 and 2 million dollars each—with satellite modems. They are the size of a laptop, and cost around 5 or 6 thousand dollars. It's basically an external satellite modem which is capable of broadcasting live pictures over broadband via satellite... It's a very small device which can fit into everybody's small



Tomas Etzler

Photo courtesy of Czech Television

backpack." Running on battery, the device allows journalists to report from remote areas even without power. Etzler calls the new low-cost broadcast device "a revolution in broadcasting technologies."

## Brussels Honors Czech Projects With Golden Stars



Photo courtesy of the European Commission

**T**he European Commission (EC) has chosen two projects from the Czech Republic as its 2008 Golden Stars recipients. Golden Stars are awarded annually out of the EC's Europe for Citizens program and are given to what the EC describes as "shining examples of projects around Europe that encourage active civic participation in EU issues."


The first 2008 winner is the Daughters of the 1950s project that, using students from the Prague Film Academy (FAMU), recorded interviews with women whose parents were political prisoners during Stalinism in Czechoslovakia (for more information see Daughter of the Enemy on page 4).

The second winning project is the Neighbors Who Disappeared exhibition, which chronicles the fate of Czech families who "disappeared" from the Czech lands during World War II. The project was motivated by the work of Czech school students who were curious about holes in 20th century history of their local towns. After listening to stories from their grandparents about childhood friends and neighbors who did not live through World War II, students traced the histories of these "neighbors who disappeared." The educational exhibit has since traveled from the Czech Republic to schools and organizations in the United States, Canada, Italy, and Slovakia. The Golden Stars will be conferred at a ceremony in Brussels in November 2008.



## Library of Congress Receives Czech Books

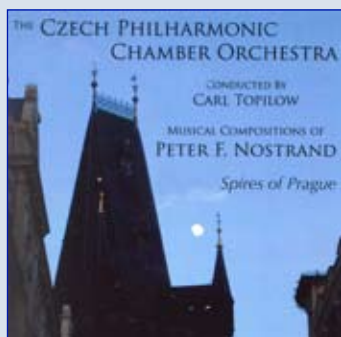
Deputy Ambassador Jaroslav Kurfurst and former SVU president Mila Rechcigl presented several Czech books to the Library of Congress (LOC) at a reception held at the Czech Ambassador's residence on August 14, 2008. Dr. Jeremy Adamson, Director of Collections and Services at the LOC, accepted the books on behalf of the Library. Tomas Papousek, Czech author of the donated book titled *The Large Photo Atlas of Mushrooms from Southern Bohemia* inscribed his

more than 800-page tome to the LOC writing, "With this gift, I would like to express my gratitude to the people of the United States of America for the help they have generously provided to our people on our troublesome path to freedom and democracy." In total Mr. Rechcigl and Deputy Ambassador Kurfurst presented the LOC with six books ranging in topic from Bohemian mushroom species to the contributions of Czechoslovaks to both U.S. and international arts and sciences. 



Dr. Mila Rechcigl, Dr. Jeremy E. A. Adamson (Director of Collections and Services at the Library of Congress), and Mr. Jaroslav Kurfurst

Photo courtesy of Mary Fetzko



## American Composer Records CD in Prague

American composer Peter Nostrand was in Prague in May 2008 where he hired the Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra to record a CD of his classical compositions. The result of this Czech-U.S. collaboration, *Spires of Prague*, a collection of 13 classical and romantic compositions, was released this fall. A former chairman, president, and CEO of SunTrust Bank, Greater Washington, Mr. Nostrand now dedicates himself fulltime to composing classical and film music. Mr. Nostrand and his wife Nancy came to the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington to present a copy of the CD to Ambassador Petr Kolar, and spoke with CTN about *Spires of Prague*, Nostrand's first classical CD release.

**CTN:** Out of all the world-class musicians available, how did you choose to record this CD in the Czech Republic and specifically with the Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra?

**PN:** Since the 1940s, the Czech Philharmonic (also known as the Czech Screen Orchestra) has been sought after by composers writing for the film industry. My music is either traditional classical or classy romantic, and the pieces, usually 3-4 minutes each, are well suited for movies.

**CTN:** What was your experience like working with the Orchestra?

**PN:** The Czech Philharmonic is a terrific asset of the Czech Republic. The most rewarding experience was when the musicians tapped on their music stands, indicating they liked the music and appreciated the experience.

**CTN:** What are your impressions of professional Czech musicians?

**PN:** They are extremely well trained, professional,

experienced, and knowledgeable. They compare favorably to any A-rated American orchestra like the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony, or the National Symphony (of which I was a board member for 10 years).

**CTN:** Talk about the music on *Spires of Prague*.

**PN:** There are 13 compositions—classical and/or romantic. I am holding three back that were recorded in Prague, including Symphony #1—the "Shubertian" for a second CD I'll likely put out later this year.

**CTN:** How long did it take you to compose the music on the CD?

**PN:** I write one or two compositions a month. The longer I tinker with it, usually the better it becomes.

**CTN:** Which style of music do you prefer to compose?

**PN:** My favorite is traditional classical, in the style of Beethoven, Mozart, and Schubert, against whose talent I



Ambassador Petr Kolar, Mrs. Nancy Nostrand, and Mr. Peter Nostrand

Photo courtesy of Mary Fetzko


pale. I also am drawn to deeply emotional romantic themes.

**CTN:** What inspires your compositions?

**PN:** When I was a child, my parents took me to Tanglewood in Massachusetts where, amid the Berkshire Mountains, I used to hear Charles Munch conducting rehearsals with the Boston Pops. My dad, a clergyman, was an expert violinist and taught me to appreciate music, and to write it down on blank score paper.

**CTN:** What is your hope for the life of the music on this CD?

**PN:** My dream is to be able to influence our public elementary schools to restore music into the classroom. Music is one of the greatest gifts we have. It teaches good listening. It teaches communication on levels that disregard age, gender, nationality, language, religion, and income. In a country where we put a disproportionate value on getting ahead, we would be better off concentrating more on getting along. Music can help.

To purchase *Spires of Prague* and to learn more about Mr. Nostrand, go to [www.peternostrand.com](http://www.peternostrand.com). 



## Embassy Commemorates Czech Historical Anniversaries

Throughout fall 2008 the Embassy of the Czech Republic will sponsor a series of events to mark the anniversaries of historical occurrences that have shaped the Czech political landscape and took place in years ending with the number 8. These milestones include the 90th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918, as well as the German takeover of 1938,

the communist coup of 1948, and the Soviet-led invasion of the country in 1968. The events also celebrate the 15th anniversary of independent Czech Republic, established in 1993, and precede the Czech presidency of the European Union which begins in January 2009.

The series, which includes photography exhibits, documentary and feature film

screenings, concerts, lectures, and conferences, will culminate with an October international historical symposium cosponsored by George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs. The symposium "Fateful Eights in Czech History: Historical Anniversaries of 2008" will convene panel discussions with dozens of scholars, diplomats,

academicians, and government officials from Europe and the United States.

For a complete listing of fall commemorative events please go to [www.mzv.cz/washington](http://www.mzv.cz/washington) and click on the "Culture and Events" tab.



## Touching Sensitive Moments in History Through Film

The Lions of Czech Film Series provides the Washington, DC, community with an invaluable opportunity to view Czech films that are hits in Europe and have received numerous honors and awards at film festivals, including the prestigious Czech Lion Award, the Czech equivalent of an Academy Award. The upcoming selections for the series focus on historical themes that have touched Central Europe: love, heroism, and survival during WWII and the invasion of the Communist regime, the struggle to find identity in the midst of the upheaval, and seeing humor even in the direst situations.

The screenings below take place at the Avalon Theatre located at 5612 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Tickets are \$10 (Adults), \$7.50 (Children 11 and under, Students with a valid college ID, and Seniors). For additional information, visit [www.theavalon.org](http://www.theavalon.org).

**October 8, 2008, 8 pm**



*Dark Blue World*  
(*Tmavomodry svet*)

At the beginning of the 1950s, ex-Royal Air Force (RAF) Czech pilot Franta Slama is confined to a labor camp as an "enemy of the people," because he flew for the RAF during WWII. The new totalitarian communist regime deemed him contaminated by the Western ideals of democracy and freedom and a potential threat to the state. The communists feared such heroes would once again fight for freedom. The film flashes back to March 1939, just before world peace is irredeemably shattered. Franta congratulates his protégé, fresh-faced trainee pilot Karel Vojtisek, for passing his flying test. Soon afterward, Franta and Karel escape Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and reach England, where they join the RAF. Both men fall in love with the same woman, Susan. For Karel, Susan is his first love and the men's friendship is tested to its limit.

Director Jan Sverak, 2001, 119 min., in Czech with English subtitles.

**November 12, 2008, 8 pm**



*Divided We Fall*  
(*Musime si pomahat*)

Based on a true story, the film is a black comedy about the ability of fear and necessity to turn common people into heroes. Set in a small Czech town occupied by the German Army during the last years of WWII, a childless Czech couple named Josef and Marie come across their former neighbor, a Jew who has managed to escape imprisonment in a Nazi camp. Although desperately fearful of taking on such a potentially dangerous responsibility, they decide to offer him refuge in their home. This is the beginning of a dramatic fight for survival that forever connects their fate. Heroism and collaboration, generosity and cowardice intermingle making it difficult, if not impossible, to pass judgment.

Nomination for the Best Foreign Language Film category – 73rd Annual Academy Awards, 2001

Director Jan Hrebejk, 2000, 117 minutes, in Czech with English subtitles.

**December 10, 2008, 8 pm**



*Zelary*  
(*Zelary*)

This film is the story of an extraordinary relationship, fear, misgivings, suspicion, and love that form out of a common will to survive.

Set in the 1940s, the Czech lands are occupied by the Nazis. Eliska is unable to finish medical school because the Germans closed the universities. She now works as a nurse in a city hospital and is involved in the resistance movement. The resistance group that the doctors are involved in is discovered and hunted by the Gestapo. While Eliska's lover, Richard, flees the country overnight, the group quickly has to find a different safe haven for her. She joins Jonza, a patient whose life she had saved at the hospital. He keeps her safe in a mountain village called Zelary.

Nomination for the Best Foreign Language Film category – 75th Annual Academy Awards 2003

Director Ondrej Trojan 2003, 150 minutes, in Czech with English subtitles.

## Register Now!

### Historical Conference at George Washington University

**October 23–24, 2008**

Ambassador Petr Kolar will open the "Fateful Eights in Czech History" conference, cosponsored by George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, DC. Vilem Precan, founder of the Czechoslovak Documentation Center, will present an opening address on the Czech 20th century. The 2-day conference will convene nearly 30 experts who will participate in panel discussions ranging in topic from the creation of Czechoslovakia and the repercussions of the Munich Agreement, to the political psychology of modern Czechs. The program also includes films, lectures, exhibitions, and other events surrounding the historical anniversaries. To view the complete conference program, list of panelists, discussion topics, and session times, go to [www.mzv.cz/washington](http://www.mzv.cz/washington).

The conference is free and open to the public but registration is required and must be completed by October 20, 2008. To register, please e-mail [czech\\_events@yahoo.com](mailto:czech_events@yahoo.com) and provide your name, phone number, and e-mail address. For more information, please call (202) 274-9105.





## Director Discovers Hidden Secrets

French director Jean Bodon uncovers the truth about his Czechoslovak father's wartime experience and hidden Jewish heritage in the World War II documentary *Howling with the Angels*, which will screen at the Library of Congress on October 22, at 12 noon. Following the screening, viewers can participate in a Q&A with the director.

*Howling with the Angels* tells the story of Jan Bodon, a young blond-haired, blue-eyed captain in the Czech Army, who was fluent in German. In March 1939, Hitler's army marched into Prague, Czechoslovakia, and Bodon was "asked" to join the Nazis. He promptly fled and joined the Czech Resistance Movement instead. In this powerful documentary directed by Jan's son, Jean Bodon discovers that his father was secretly a Jew in a country which underwent one of the largest extermination campaigns of the war.

When making the film, Jean Bodon meticulously researched the details of his father's escape. He learned that his father met secretly with ex-president Edvard Benes and other deserters. Benes instructed the soldiers to escape as best they could and meet up in France. Jan Bodon told his son that he escaped Czechoslovakia by walking, then taking the train. "As it turns out, the way he 'took' the train was by hiding underneath it, near the wheel, where the latrines emptied out," Jean Bodon said.

About 3,000 Czechs including Jan Bodon successfully escaped and became fighters in the Czech Resistance Movement. Though he did not go on the final mission, Jan Bodon was one of the 20 British-trained Czech soldiers selected to assist in the May 1942 assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, "The Butcher of Prague," who chaired the Wannsee Conference to plan the extermination of all European Jews. The retaliation by Nazi forces was savage—at least 1,300 Czechs were murdered on Hitler's order to "wade through blood" to find Heydrich's killers. On June 10, 1942, Nazis soldiers entered Lidice, a town known for its hostility toward the occupation and suspected of harboring resistance fighters, seized all 173 men, and killed them. The women were sent to concentration camps and the children were sent either



First picture (far left): Jan Bodon (right) in London with Josef Opalka, one of six Czech soldiers who was on the final mission to assassinate Reinhard Heydrich. Second picture: Jan Bodon on a motorcycle. Third picture: Jan Bodon (center) with his sisters Patcerka (right) and Magda, and Magda's husband who was eventually tried and convicted as a Nazi war criminal. Fourth picture: Jan Bodon as a child.

to camps or to Germany for "Aryanization."

Through researching his father's experience in World War II, Bodon stumbled upon the shocking truth concerning his father's background. Jean Bodon wondered why his father returned only once to Czechoslovakia after the war despite having fought in the Czech Resistance Movement. So Bodon called a distant relative in Slovakia and asked him why he thought his father had stayed out of Czechoslovakia. The relative responded matter-of-factly, "He was a Jew," a secret that Jan Bodon had kept even from his French wife and friends.

Upon discovering his heritage, Jean Bodon did not feel angry at his father. He believed that there were many reasons for hiding the truth. Probably the main reason was for safety and not knowing who could be trusted during such tumultuous times. Additionally, after the war the family travelled throughout the Middle East. Jan Bodon worked as an engineer on a pipeline. "Living in the Middle East, it would have been difficult for my father to be known as a Jew... He could have lost his job," said Jean Bodon.

Through the Internet, Jean

Bodon dug deeper into his Jewish roots. He discovered that in 1892, his family's name changed from Weinberger to Bodon. Additionally, Jean recalled a visit with his mother to Slovakia during which his aunt claimed not

to know where his grandmother was buried. In light of the discovery of his Jewish heritage, Jean believed that his father had told her to keep the identity of his family secret from even Jean and his mother. Jean later learned that his grandmother was buried in the Jewish cemetery of Kosice.

"What Hitler wanted, he got: I went to discover the Jewish culture of that area, and it simply isn't there anymore," said Jean Bodon on his trip back to Kosice to uncover more of his heritage. In 1939, 15,000 out of the 70,000 who lived in Kosice were Jewish. Of that 15,000, only 400 survived the concentration camps. Today, only 10 are still living, and none of their children has remained in the Czech Republic. "They encouraged their children to go away," said Jean Bodon. "They are very proud to say that their children are in the United States or in Israel."

Today, several large synagogues that once served Kosice's thriving Jewish

community stand in ruins; a rabbi travels the area to serve the remaining parishioners. The Jewish cemeteries, such as the one in which Bodon's grandmother is buried, are often unkempt and bedraggled.

"I wish I could've talked to him about it... There are so many things I would like to know," Bodon said reflecting on the discovery of his father's Jewish heritage. Bodon's father died in 1985, before Jean's great awakening to his past.

Jean Bodon is a Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He teaches courses in television production, cinema, and broadcasting.

The information in this article was taken primarily from "Howling with the Angels, A UAB filmmaker discovers his hidden heritage," by Terriane Latsis, visit: <http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=87836>.

**Bodon skillfully articulates the complex sequence of events following the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia and its tragic consequences for the Jewish population. A testament to heroism and a poignant story of identity lost and rediscovered."**  
~ Daniel A. Reich, Curator, St. Louis Holocaust Museum

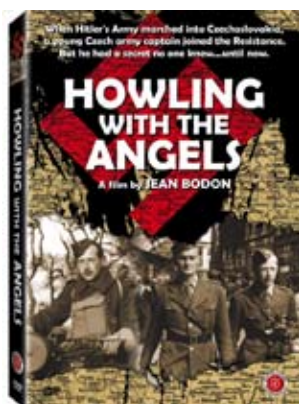


Photo courtesy of Jean Bodon

## Magnum Photographer Josef Koudelka's *INVASION 68 PRAGUE*

In 1968, Josef Koudelka was 30 years old. He had committed himself to photography as a full-time career only recently, and had been chronicling the theater and the lives of gypsies, but he had never photographed a news event. That all changed on the night of August 21, when Warsaw Pact tanks invaded the city of Prague, ending the short-lived political freedom in Czechoslovakia that came to be known as the Prague Spring. In the midst of the turmoil of the Soviet-led invasion, Koudelka took to the streets to document this critical moment.

Western photographer Ian Berry was in Prague the week of the invasion. He remembers: "The only other photographer I saw was an absolute maniac who had a couple of old-fashioned cameras on a string round his neck and a cardboard box over his shoulders, who was actually just going up to the Russians, clambering over their tanks, and photographing them openly. He had the support of the crowd, who would move in and surround him whenever the Russians tried to take his film. I felt either this guy was the bravest man around or he is the biggest lunatic." That photographer was Josef



Photo courtesy of Josef Koudelka / Magnum Photos

**"What is the maximum to me and maximum to reality is a good picture. My contact sheets are a personal record of my life.**

**They are my diary—where I sleep, how I eat and who I am with." ~ Josef Koudelka**

Koudelka.

Koudelka's images were smuggled out of the country. A year after they reached New York, Magnum Photos distributed the photos, but credited them to an unknown Czech photographer to avoid reprisals. The intensity and significance of the images earned the still-anonymous photographer the Robert Capa Award. Sixteen years would pass before Koudelka could safely acknowledge authorship.

"These photographs are proof of what happened. When I go to Russia, sometimes I meet ex-soldiers who occupied Prague during that period. They say: 'We came to liberate you. We came to help you.' I say:


'Listen, these are my pictures. I was there.' And they have to believe me," said Josef Koudelka in an interview with Aperture Foundation's Melissa Harris printed in *Aperture* magazine (Fall 2008).

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the invasion, the Embassy of the Czech Republic, in collaboration with the Katzen Arts Center at American University and the Aperture Foundation, present *Invasion 68 Prague*, a remarkable exhibit which documents the Soviet-led invasion through Koudelka's powerful black and white photography.

The show, organized by the Aperture Foundation and co-

produced by Magnum Photos, is presented in conjunction with a publication of the same name. The exhibit is comprised of 74 prints, 1 document, and portions of significant texts from the book. The selection and sequence of the work were arranged in collaboration with Josef Koudelka.

*Invasion 68 Prague* will be on display at the Katzen Arts Center from November 11–December 28, 2008, with a Meet the Artist Reception featuring guest photographer Josef Koudelka on November 18, at 6 pm.

For more information about Josef Koudelka, please visit [www.magnumphotos.com](http://www.magnumphotos.com). 

### Michael Borek to Open *Wide Asleep*


Czech-American photographer Michael Borek's work ranges from the playful, a fairytale-like balloon sailing over Prague, to the ominous, a scene from a Santa Fe railway depot that is evocative of a David Lynch movie. All his photographs share a dreaminess that pays homage to the many surrealist artists he admires.



Photo courtesy of Michael Borek

Borek, who lives in Bethesda, MD, derives his inspiration from the old in our modernized world. Having spent a number of years surrounded by the lifeless architecture of the communist era, Borek was drawn toward the aged architectural structures of the 1920s and 1930s. The magic of the buildings' falling stucco and peeling paint captivated the author's lens. In the U.S. landscape, Borek seeks the forgotten neighborhoods with his camera capturing the randomness and traces of former lives.

Meet photographer Michael Borek at the opening reception of the exhibition *Wide Asleep* on November 6, 7–9 pm. The exhibition will be on display at the Embassy of the Czech Republic from November 6–December 15, 2008. Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9–5 pm. Please call (202) 274-9105 to schedule an appointment to view the exhibit.

For more information about Michael Borek's work, please visit [www.michaelborek.com](http://www.michaelborek.com). 

### Czech Artist Jiri Anderle Creates Visionary Works from Behind the Iron Curtain

**Now—January 4, 2009 (Cincinnati, OH)**

The Cincinnati Art Museum presents the first major U.S. retrospective exhibition of work of the esteemed Czech artist Jiri Anderle. Working in spite of political oppression and censorship behind the iron curtain, Anderle has created a varied body of work that explores fundamental issues facing mankind. The exhibition *Illusion and Reality: Prints by Jiri Anderle* features four decades of his gripping work. For more information, visit [www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org](http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org). 



## Folk Legend Brings Music To DC

Every Czech seems to know the name Jaromir Nohavica, who sprang to fame in the 1960s and continues to be one of the most celebrated stars on the Czech folk music scene. His soft voice resonates with passion as he plucks tunes to sing-a-long lyrics, reflecting on the very nuances that shape humanity.

At age 13, Jaromir Nohavica taught himself how to play the guitar, then the violin, flute, and accordion. He has received no formal musical training, but this self-made man has inspired and entertained a nation through his highly acclaimed talent.

He first made a name for himself as a songwriter, beginning with lyrics for the regional Czech groups Atlantis (1967), Noe (1968), and the Ostrava rock band Majestic. Later, he collaborated with Czech Radio and leading popular singers such as Petr Nemeč, Vera Spinarova, and Marie Rottrova.

By chance, his first public performance with his original songs occurred at the Folk Carousel Festival in Ostrava-Poruba, and he quickly became a familiar face as one of the leading personalities of Czech folk music. At a national competition, he won the viewers'

poll as the most interesting artist, in particular through his song *The Men Above* (*Panove nahore*). This song openly attacked the evil effects of unlimited political power through making use of an adaptation of international classics by the French writer Boris Vian. This and other texts of Nohavica's soon provoked the ire of Communist censorship and Nohavica began experiencing many obstacles placed in the way of his freedom of expression. However, his work remained widely dispersed in the form of illegal amateur radio recordings and handwritten copies of his songs prior to the Velvet Revolution.

Since the fall of communism, Nohavica's popularity has continued to abound. As a unique artist pursuing his own path, he has been able to come to terms with the radical post-communist transformation of folk music within Czech society.

For example, in 1996, he received a Czech Grammy (the first time that a folk recording had ever won), and has written lyrics and music for many theatrical performances. Also, he became one of the leading figures in the Czech Television documentary *Legends of Folk*

and *Country*, covering the Czech folk scene from the 1960s to the present. In 2002, Nohavica even played the leading role in the fictitious documentary *Year of the Devil* (*Rok d'abla*) by renowned director Petr Zelenka. The film won the Czech Lion award from the National Film Academy for best film score, shared by Nohavica and the group Cechomor. Additionally, he has recorded over a dozen top-selling CDs.

Nohavica's music remains poised between folk and folklore. His stylistic orientation tends to look eastward: using elements of Slavic melody, taking subject matter from a Slavic scene and inspiration from Russian Romantic literature in general. For instance, he has set to music the work of several Czech poets including Frantisek Gellner (*The Joys of Life | Radosti zivota*), and Petr Bezruc (*Where Do I Belong | Kdo na moje misto*). Nohavica's great advantage is his rich vocabulary and melodic ear.


Themes in his music range from holding a mirror up to the current state of society and putting forth a political or civic stance, to philosophical reflection. He makes use of subtle humor and



Jaromir Nohavica

wordplay, and is a master of the epic narrative, love lyrics, satires, and more. Through his music Nohavica grapples with the deepest experiences of life.

Singer-songwriter Jaromir Nohavica will perform at the Embassy of the Czech Republic on October 14, 2008, 7:30 pm.

Information for this article was taken from the *Czech Musical Dictionary of Persons and Personalities*. 

## Czech Christmas Concert Reminder




Mucha's Winter

The Choral Arts Society of Washington will hold their annual Christmas concert, holiday gala, and silent auction at the Kennedy Center on Monday, December 15, 2008, at 7 pm. This year's concert will feature Czech Christmas music, sung in Czech, followed by a gala and silent auction chaired by Ambassador Petr Kolar and Mrs. Jaroslava Kolarova. The Choral Arts gala is one of Washington's most premier fundraisers. This year's theme, Winter in Wenceslas Square, will feature Czech art, products, and commerce, as well as travel in the Czech Republic. The concert also will be performed on December 20 and 24 at 1 pm. For Choral Arts concert tickets and more information on the gala, please call Emily Riffle at (202) 244-3669, ext. 15, or go to [www.choralarts.org](http://www.choralarts.org). 

## Worthwhile Reading



In his recently published third collection of short stories, *Fausto's Afternoon*, Dr. Jaroslav Cervenka hands his readers a round-the-world ticket that not only transports them to five continents, but even provides a map in the front of the book to orient them along the journey. Whether in Prague, Kenya, or the Colombian jungle, Cervenka's characters celebrate discovery and friendship, while witnessing the ever-fascinating parade of humanity.

Born and raised in Prague, Cervenka, left there with his wife and son in 1968 in response to the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia. He spent the next 35 years as a professor of medical genetics at the University of Minnesota and is an expert in the field of cytogenetics. Since retiring from medicine, Cervenka has dedicated himself fulltime to fiction writing and is currently preparing his first novel for publication. In addition to three collections of short stories, *Fausto's Afternoon*, *The Revenge of Underwater Man*, and *Mal D'Afrique*, Cervenka also has published a children's adventure travel book, *The Adventures of Missi One*. *Fausto's Afternoon* is available from Whistling Shade Press. For more information go to [www.whistlingshade.com](http://www.whistlingshade.com). 

## Czech Government Aids Flooded Museum

The government of the Czech Republic has pledged 10 million Czech crowns to aid Czech historical sites in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, including the Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, which was nearly destroyed by the summer 2008 floods. Gail Naughton, president and CEO of the Museum, was in Prague in September to meet with the U.S. ambassador and with Czech government officials when she learned the news.

“It is a wonderful gesture, not only financially speaking,” said Naughton, “But it is also a gesture of support, and solidarity, and belief in our mission. It is just fabulous.”

The extent of the damage to the Museum and its collections, which were in the beginning of an expansion project when the floods hit, has yet to be fully determined. “We are just really getting to know exactly what we are dealing with, because items

were, for their best preservation, whisked off at the crisis moment to the conservators. Now we are getting back assessment reports of the damage and recommendations for restoration,” said Naughton who added that the entire process of assessing and restoring collections will take years to accomplish.

In addition to the Museum, other sites in Cedar Rapids that will be rebuilt with the help of the Czech funds are the Sokol



Photo courtesy of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Hall, St. Wenceslaus Church gymnasium, and the public library. For more information on the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library or to make a donation, please go to [www.ncsml.org](http://www.ncsml.org).

## Embassy Undergoing Reconstruction

In order to better accommodate the activities of the upcoming Czech presidency of the European Union in 2009, the Embassy has been undergoing renovations since early summer. Among the changes are a new security booth at the front gate, a

completely renovated main hall, and a new foyer and reception area. Construction is scheduled to be completed by late September or early October. The Embassy will fully re-open to the public in October 2008.



Photo courtesy of Mary Fetzko