

Czech and Slovak Museum Grand Opening Sunday

(KLZA)-- Dedication of the new Czech and Slovak Educational Center and Cultural Museum is set for Sunday, November 23, at 4 p-m, in Omaha.

The museum and cafe at the Crossroads Mall on 72nd and Dodge Street in Omaha opened just recently without fanfare so staff and volunteers would have time to train and prepare before the rush.

The museum will honor a prominent ethnic group in Nebraska. There are more Americans of Czech and Slovak ancestry in Nebraska, per capita, than any other state in the U.S. Visitors will see a combination of interesting exhibits. Admission is free.

Executive Director, John Rocarek, credits the hard work and dedication of the more than thirty volunteers for making the museum a reality. To begin, the facility will be open from 10 a-m until 5 p-m Saturdays and Sundays.

Exhibits include artifacts from the Eddie Janak Orchestra, fine Czechoslovak china, Royal Dux porcelain, Slovak folk art, and original oil paintings from "the old country. Donation of select items to preserve and display are being sought. The 501(c)3 organization, with tax exempt status granted in April of 2008, was created specifically for the purpose to preserve the cultural heritage of Czech and Slovak immigrants and share their rich history and traditions by offering creative educational opportunities and entertainment.

Exhibit content also comes from all over the state of Nebraska. One exhibit features the ZCBI (Western Fraternal Life Assoc.) Hall in rural DuBois. A search continues for photos and possession of early Nebraska immigrants of Czech, Moravian and Slovak ancestry including tools, business signs and items related to the early fraternal and social organizations.

Every month there will be a Movie Night, where Czech and Slovak movies are shown, with English subtitles, and then a discussion follows. There will also be regularly scheduled conversational Czech language gatherings, in order for those who speak the language to have an outlet to use and maintain it. Beginners have scheduled time as well with free instruction."

You can even take a small piece of the museum home with you. The museum gift store offers a wide variety of items.

You can have a kolach or two with your coffee or favorite beverage at the museum's café.

Anyone that would like to donate an item, become a volunteer, or just have a question, call John Rocarek at 319-981-3017.

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