Czech Language Class: Summer Field Trips in Czech

Improve your vocabulary and general conversational skills. Sign up for one or both field trips. Instructor: Blanka Brichta. Registration is required for all classes. Use the registration blank found at <www.sokolmn.org>.

**Foods and Markets**
Saturday, August 21, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Fee: Sokol Minnesota members, $15; non-members, $20

Class will meet at the CSPS (Sokol) Hall and walk to Cooper’s SuperValu to practice Czech grocery vocabulary. learn how to ask questions such as cost and location, and practice numbers and counting in Czech currency. We will then leave for the Saint Paul Farmer’s Market where we will have another chance to practice our Czech shopping skills. Sounds like fun? Join us! Next time you visit a store in the Czech Republic, you will be able to shop like a pro! No textbook is required, and students of all skill levels are welcome.

**Outdoor/Indoor**
Wednesday, September 1, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Fee: Sokol Minnesota members, $15; non-members, $20

Class will meet at the CSPS (Sokol) Hall and go for a short walk around the neighborhood, ending at the Glockenspiel Restaurant. This unique class will give you the opportunity to refresh your Czech vocabulary, ask for directions, and describe locations. At the Glockenspiel you can practice ordering a meal. Come and play along: pretend you are a tourist in Prague! No textbook is required and students at all skill levels are welcomed.

**Mark your calendars! Czech-Slovak Festival returns to Highland Park**

*Contribution by Joe Landsberger, Festival Chair*

The 21st Annual Czech-Slovak Festival returns to St. Paul’s Highland Park Pavilion Sunday, September 19. Plans are underway to bring old and new programs together for a fun celebration for the whole family! Ray Vanyo promises a menu focused on Slovak and Czech specialties. Cinnamon Whaley is bringing back the Sweet Shop that premiered last year. Program Chairs Louise Wassinger and Dave Stepan are orchestrating a program that will feature a band, folk dancing and perhaps a songfest! Visit our booths, vendors, and community kiosks for your added enjoyment.

The pavilion is conveniently located off Montreal Avenue, between Snelling and Lexington Avenues, with fully accessible facilities and convenient drop-off. The Festival has been held at the CSPS Hall for several years, but major street construction on Michigan Avenue forced a return to Highland Park this year. The Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors is also testing whether the location will provide a more public venue and easier set up process for the event. To help or join in the fun, call 651-297-9000 or email festival@sokolmn.org

**Mystery Dinner Theater – “Death by Kolacky”**

As the sun sets on the Tenth Day of the Tenth Month of the Tenth Year, a mystery will unravel inside the CSPS Hall. Our very own Denis Novak is sleuthing again, and he needs your help to solve the Roaring 20’s West End murder of one of “Aunt Mary” Hruska’s boys.

Enjoy a delicious 1929 CSPS dinner as the interactive mystery swirls around you. It’s “who-dun-it” at its best. This original Denis Novak-Sokol Minnesota production of “Death by Kolacky” will have you sitting on the edge of your chair. With your table-mates’ help, solve the crime and win a prize. You can add to the atmosphere (and maybe forestall the imminent Depression) by coming dressed to the nines in 1920s St. Paul gangland fashion.

Don’t trust the person next to you – or better yet, bring a table-full of friends for a special full-table discount price. All profits will support the CSPS Hall. Seats are $40; $200 for a table of six. Call 651-459-9494 for reservations. Mark your calendar now for a great Triple Ten (10-10-10) evening, starting at 6 p.m.
President Komentář/President’s Note

By Joe Landsberger

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters.

How interested are you in your physical and mental condition? Do you embrace the Sokol philosophy of *Mens sana in corpore sano* (a healthy mind in a healthy body)? This famous Latin quotation from the first- and second-century Roman poet Juvenal was embraced by our founders, Miroslav Tyr and Indris Fugner. Are you a “fit Sokol”?

Fitness is not a condition of age (physical), but rather of attitude (mental). For this reason, Sokol is participating in a very interesting project in the West 7th area. United Family Medicine on West 7th Street area, with Sokol Minnesota as a partner, is convening a series of focus groups to ask these questions:

- Tell us about yourself: who are you and who are those closest to you?
- How do you and those closest to you stay healthy?
- What do you and those closest to you need to become healthier?
- Where do you go when you need help?

At least 100 participants will answer these questions toward creating a healthier community. In June, Sokol Men’s Physical Director Mary Cahill and I attended training to be focus group facilitators for this effort. I will also be joining interns and resident physicians at United Family this summer in surveying organizations and businesses, including Sokol Minnesota, about their fitness and programs as a first step toward building a “Healthy West 7th!” Women’s Physical Director Alisa Hollibush, Mary, and I will also be looking to expand our fitness programming at the CSPS Hall in collaboration with other organizations such as the West 7th Community Center.

Our Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors welcomes your help and participation in this effort! If you would like to participate in a focus group, or explore how you can help with these efforts, contact Mary (651-738-9470) or me (jfl@studygs.net, 651-297-9000).

Nazdar!

To shorten the time it takes to compile, produce and mail the *Slovo*, and get it to our readers in a timely fashion, the Sokol Minnesota Publications Committee has opted to have the *Slovo* copied and folded by a professional printer. For many years, Ken and Sharon Wyberg have printed and prepared the *Slovo* for mailing in their home. Sokol Minnesota says “Thank You” to them for their long dedication to the *Slovo*.

Publications Committee

The *Slovo* is published by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. The deadline for the September 2010 issue is early: July 28. *Slovo* staff: Cinnamon Whaley, copy editor; substitute August copy editor: J. H. Fonkert; layout editor: Julie Tomáška; interim managing editors: J.H. Fonkert and M.L. Kucera; photographer: Joyce Tesarek; advisors: Norm Petrik, Mary Cahill, Jeanette Paiko, Jean Verner; language experts: Hana Matousek, Milan Tomáška. Photographs for this issue: Chuck Draheim, M.L. Kucera. The Sokol Advisory Committee welcomes Christy Banks, who will replace Cinnamon as copy editor in December. The August issue of *Slovo* can be viewed on the Sokol Minnesota website <www.sokolmn.org> after September 1.

The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes reader submitted news about Sokol Minnesota and Slovak- and Czech-related subjects. Send articles and pictures digitally to: slovo@sokolmn.org. For problems with subscriptions, e-mail: slovo@sokolmn.org, or call 651-290-0542. Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership. *Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-membership renewals are $12; please send to: Sokol Minnesota Slovo Subscriptions/Renewals, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.
Are you looking for a fitness activity for your children that emphasizes fun, friendships and sportsmanship? Consider Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics at the CSPS Hall.

Our program is part of an international program for physical fitness and whole character development. We offer instruction for boys aged 4 to 6, and girls aged 7 through high-school age in small classes, with individualized attention and competition opportunities – all at affordable fees. Classes begin Tuesday evening, September 14. For more information, call Sokol Minnesota at 651-290-0542 or email us at publicrelations@sokolmn.org.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota thanks members and friends who have made contributions to support our programs and our historic C.S.P.S. Hall. All donations are credited to the general fund, unless otherwise noted.

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Donations received by the Corresponding Secretary after June 20 will be acknowledged in the next issue of The Slovo.

Submitted by J. H. Fonkert, Corresponding Secretary

Sokol Minnesota’s popular Slovak and Czech language classes resume this fall. Registration is required for all classes. Registration is easy using the registration form available at <www.sokol.org>. Class size is limited to 10 students; a minimum of six students is required for the class to proceed. All classes meet at the CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan St., St. Paul. For further information, contact Sokol Minnesota Education Chair Jean at 651-426-2826.

**Slovak Language Class - Beginner Level (Session 1)**
Instructor: Barborka Carlsonova
Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
8 weeks – September 30 through November 18.
Fee: Sokol Minnesota members, $65; non-members, $80.
Textbook: *Slovak* (Slovak for You) text, workbook and phrase book (Approx. $65).

**Slovak Language Class - Advanced Beginner Level (Session 1)**
Instructor: Barborka Carlsonova
Thursdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
8 weeks – September 30 through November 18.
Fee: Sokol Minnesota members, $65; non-members, $80.
Textbook: *Slovak* (Slovak for You) text, workbook and phrase book (Approx. $65).

**Czech Language Class - Beginner Level (Session 1)**
Instructor: Jakub Dajc
Mondays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
8 weeks – September 27 through November 15.
Fee: Sokol Minnesota members, $65; non-members, $80.
Textbook: Čeština Hrou, plus cassettes and workbook (Approx. $115).

**Czech Language Class - Advanced Beginner (Session 1)**
Instructor: Jakub Dajc
Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
8 weeks – September 29 through November 17.
Fee: Sokol Minnesota members, $65; non-members, $80.
Textbook: *Čeština Hrou*, plus cassettes and workbook (continued from Beginner above).

**Czech Language Class - Conversational Level (Session 1)**
Instructor: Jakub Dajc; coordinator: Norm Petrik
Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
8 weeks – September 28 through November 16.
Fee: Sokol Minnesota members, $65; non-members, $80.
Text: Czech language text and workbook continues as before.
Our members must be enjoying a summer of good health. I’ve only heard of two surgeries.

What is it with knees? Too much floor scrubbing? Too much praying? Hana Matousek and Kent Hinshaw are recovering from June knee surgeries. They’re progressing through physical therapy on schedule. Shortly after knee surgery and just before Culture Camp opened in June, Louise Wessinger was ordered to bed rest. I just can’t picture that! We’ll have to take turns holding her down.

Congratulations to Babina Hana, on the birth of granddaughter Sofie Matousek, born June 14 in Prague.

Our best wishes and thanks to two grand ladies on their 90th birthdays: Millie Grealish, June 22, and Tillie Dolejsi, July 27. For many years, our Sokol unit has been enriched by their support and good deeds.

Stay well! Drink pivo! Enjoy life!

Send member news updates to me at 651-222-4073 or email to: marle5421@aol.com.

Board of Trustees News

Contributed by Chuck Draheim

The BOT held another successful workday on June 19. We addressed several issues identified during a recent inspection by the City of Saint Paul Department of Health, cleaned up after the most recent plugged drain line, replaced some rotting window trim, and painted the front windows.

Sokol Minnesota now has a new enclosure for its dumpster. The new enclosure has a gate into the alley so the garbage truck does not need to maneuver in the parking lot to pick up and empty the dumpster. This will save wear and tear on the parking lot surface and reduce our repair costs.

The street repair project has started. Access to the Hall parking lot may be limited on occasion and on-street parking will be a problem. On the plus side, we will be getting new, lantern-style street lights in front of the Hall. They will be more in keeping with the style of the building and they will match the other new streetlights being installed. The city is providing these lights at no cost to Sokol Minnesota, and the city will now be responsible for maintenance and the cost of the electricity to run them. Currently, we are responsible for all maintenance and operating costs.

A friendly reminder: please remember to close and lock the windows after each event. Locking is necessary to maintain proper operation of the windows.

14th Annual Children’s Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp

By Judy Aubrecht and Louise Wessinger, Co-directors

The CSPS Hall in St. Paul was a whirl of Culture Camp activity from June 14 to 18. The 20 campers include many from previous years who returned for another year of fun. Several brought a parent or grandparent along to assist with cooking, language, craft, or gymnastics lessons.

The theme this year was “Legends and Heroes.” Jakub Dajc taught campers about Bohemian King Wenceslaus, as well as Juraj Janosik, the famous Slovak “Robin Hood.” Campers also heard tales about Bruncvik of Prague’s seven-year adventure with the lion that had two tails. We learned about modern-day heroes Vaclav Havel and Madeline Albright. Author Peter Vodenka spent a morning at camp telling about his family’s escape from communist Czechoslovakia.

Sokol President Joe Landsberger presented stories of some of our Sokol heroes, including several long-time Sokol Minnesota members. When Lou Pavlicek was recognized for her program development for girls and tots, two cousins proudly announced, “That’s our great-grandma!”

Campers sang folksongs, danced, built castles out of Legos, put on a show with authentic puppets, and got to know each other better. As one camper left after the final program, she was overheard saying fondly, “Goodbye, camp. See you next year!”

Doreen McKinney and Mary Jo Chlebecek teach campers how to make kolache.
TM Dancers Celebrate 20 Years

Contributed by Louise Wessinger

“Tancuj, tancuj…” “Dance, oh dance!” Sokol Minnesota’s Taneční Mládež Children’s Czech and Slovak Dancers celebrated their Twenty Year Anniversary with music and dance May 16. Several dozen alumni representing the more than 200 dancers who have passed through the program presented a dance concert for parents, grandparents, former dancers, and Sokol members who packed the CSPS Hall.

A Grand March of all the dancers opened the show. The Sokol Senior Singers led singing of the American, Slovak, and Czech national anthems.

With the help of older children, the youngest children, the Mlada Skupina (young dancers), performed several dances, including a rousing version of “Sla Nanynka do zeli” The grade school-aged children then took over with some of their favorite dances including “The Blessing Dance,” which they performed for the first time this year at the Festival of Nations!

The little children returned to lead our Czech-style “seventh-inning stretch” singing “hlava, ramena, kolena, paty” – you guessed it – head, shoulders, knees, and toes! Special performances by the Sokol Senior Singers and the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers added a beautiful and historic element to the program.

The program continued with the Tanecni Teens performing some of their favorite dances, including a special number on stilts put together by the boys based on a video I received from a group in the Czech Republic. The final number was a repeat of Tancuj with all the dancers (including former dancers) who knew it.

I express very special thanks to all who helped make this day so special. I will always treasure the lovely gifts I was given – the lovely dish, flowers, and filled photo albums. But even more appreciated were the kind words of so many and the hugs from my dancers. We all want to know that what we do matters and that we have made a difference – on that day I was reminded that, with the help of many others over the years, I had made a difference!

Stefan Heyn with Emma and Olivia Martin represent the Teen Dancers to thank Louise for her leadership.

It Started with a Question

Contributed by Ginger Simek

It started with a question left on the CGSI answering machine by Mr. Louis Meyer of Lincoln, Nebraska. He said his family came from Schuttiber, Austria, near Karlovy Vary. Was there a way to find this village?

Our genealogy research coordinator, Tony Kadlec, relayed the question to our CGSI volunteer researchers. This set in motion a search of various library resources. Volume 15 of Das Königreich Böhmen, a 16-volume geographical and statistical reference book compiled by J. G. Sommer in the mid-1800s, proved helpful. Volume 15 covers Elbogener Kreis, the area around Karlovy Vary. An index in the back of each volume lists the towns, villages, and estates in the county; Schüttuber, alternative spelling Schüttüber, is listed. In 1847 the village consisted of 61 houses, 631 inhabitants (including 27 Jewish families), a maierhof (large farm), a wirthaus (public house/restaurant), and a synagogue. To learn more about these books, visit: <www.cgsi.org/news/2005/10/15/sommer-books-line>.

Ortslexikon Sudetenland, another book in the CGSI library (located at the Minnesota Genealogical Society in South St. Paul, Minnesota), revealed the present-day name of the Schüttiber: Malá Štiboř. Of course it is located in Bohemia, part of the Czech Republic, not Austria. The area was formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The 1654 civil census of Bohemia (Berni rula) states that a Georg Meyer was a farmer on the neighboring estate of Miligau, present-day name Milikov. So the name “Meyer” was certainly present in the area at least as far back as the mid-1600s. Mr. Meyer now has the single most important piece of information necessary to continue his search: his ancestor’s town location.

Mr. Meyer is 92 years old. He said he felt he should ask now, rather than put it off. Good words of advice – at any age!

Editor’s note: Ginger Simek is president of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International. The story told here is a good example of how CGSI can help with Slovak or Czech family history research.
Song of the Month

Contributed by Georgiana Dolejsi


Cherries, Cherries

Cherries, cherries, because my bag broke, you are scattered all over the road. Surely, whoever finds you will pick you up.

I met a young man last evening. He was as handsome as a beautiful rose, and I decided that this was the man I wanted to marry.

I wouldn’t even let him work – I would take care of him with loving and tender care just like a rose.

Long Awaited Lecture Series is Here

The Czech and Slovak Cultural Center and the University of Minnesota Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development announce a series of Saturday morning programs focusing on the Czech and Slovak Republics as “case studies” of small nations in search of a place in global affairs. Save the following dates:

- September 25, 2010
- October 23, 2010
- November 13, 2010
- January 29, 2011
- February 26, 2011
- March 26, 2011
- April 23, 2011

Scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon, the programs will begin with a lecture by a prominent expert (9-10 a.m.), followed by one-hour seminar-like discussion (10-11 a.m.) moderated by Allyn Johnson, J. Mestenhauser, and John Moravec. The mornings will conclude with an English-subtitled documentary video relevant to the subject (11 a.m.-12 p.m.).

Fall 2010 program:

- September 25
  “The Unpredictable Birth of a Nation: Not the story that your grandmother told you”
  Dr. Gary Cohen, outgoing Director of the Center of Austrian Studies and incoming Chair of the Department of History, University of Minnesota.

- October 23, 2010
  “One Country - Seven Regimes”
  Dr. Winston Chrislock, Professor of History, St. Thomas University.

- Saturday, November 13
  “The Human Face that got bloodied” (tentative title)
  Kenneth N. Scoug, retired high-ranking U.S. diplomat assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Prague during the “Prague Spring” and author of a seminal book about that period.

Gardeners wanted!

The Community Gate sculpture that celebrates and honors the contributions of Czech and Slovak immigrants to building the neighborhoods and businesses along West 7th Street in St. Paul invites your attention. Sokols are invited to help with monthly weeding and trimming of shrubs in a community garden in North High Bridge Park near the Community Gate. Contact Mark Bigouette at 651-426-1222 or email bmark@visi.com to keep this area a source of singular pride in the old neighborhood.

Installed in 2003 in the North High Bridge Park as a collaborative project of Sokol Minnesota and the West 7th /Ford Road Federation, the Community Gate features the baptismal gate of St. Stanislaus Church. Sokol’s puppets, Jarda and Jitka, assisted in the inauguration ceremony. The garden includes a well-tended butterfly garden and lily garden.
he recently concluded elections in Central Europe brought many surprises that should have left the analysts looking for ways to explain their faulty predictions. In both the Czech and Slovak Republics, the largest percentage of votes went to social democrats (CSSD and the Smer), but they will not be able to form governments.

In Slovakia, former Prime Minister Fico returned his mandate to form a government in Slovakia because he could not find enough support; the new prime minister will be Iveta Radicova, President of the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union (SDKU-DS). She was a presidential candidate in 2009, and will be the first woman to hold the post. In all, eighteen parties nominated 2,401 candidates for 150 seats. With a turnout of 58.8 percent, only six parties obtained enough votes to be seated in parliament. Others, including former President Meciar’s party, did not get in. Predictions are that this spells his political death. By August, Slovakia should have a new coalition government supported by SDKU-DS, the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH), the Freedom and Solidarity Party (SaS) and the moderate Hungarian Party. The Communist Party received less than one percent.

In the Czech Republic the results were similar. Only six parties received enough votes to be seated in Parliament. Two major parties that were previously members of the Topolanek cabinet failed to receive the minimum five percent of votes and were thus decimated, as was the new party of former Social Democratic Prime Minister Zeman with only 4.3 percent. Communists received only 11.3 percent. President Klaus appointed Petr Necas of ODS to form a new cabinet.

When you read this in August, the Czech Republic should have a coalition cabinet composed of the ODS party, the TOP 9 headed by Schwarzenberg, and the VV (Public Affairs) headed by Radek Jahn (who spent a year at Macalaster College). The coalition will command a safe majority of 118 votes in the 200-seat parliament. The coalition has already reached an agreement on major policy issues, with a few to go. The new president of ODS has given coalition partners important ministries, but has been less friendly to his arch rival Paroubek, who wanted to be President of Parliament. People clearly blamed Paroubek for toppling the cabinet at the time when the Czech Republic served as President of the European Union. He was also seen as flirting with the communists when he blocked several pieces of important legislation.

We can expect major policy changes because the coalition appears to be taking its mandate seriously; it is expected to fight corruption and come up with a package of fiscal responsibility. I will keep you posted on developments – so keep your interest up – as well, as your hope that the people of the Czech and Slovak Republics have matured in their understanding of parliamentary democracy.
Everyone knows how beautiful, intricate, and individual that Kroje are. Here are a sampling of vest backs seen at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Taneční Mládež Children’s Czech and Slovak Dancers, May 16. See the full story on page 5.

Top Left: Frank Trnka, St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers, vest custom made by Sue Martin.
Lower Left: Isabella Speiss, girl’s Moravian vest, which Louise Wessinger purchased in the Czech Republic and donated to the TM dancers. Top Right: Chuck Draheim, St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers, vest owned by Louise Wessinger, made by her mother, Laura Jansen, and her sister, Linda Nicoli, for Linda’s husband, Rich. It is a copy of a Kyjov vest (South Moravia). Lower Right: Adam Acs, Mlada Skupina/young dancers, boys’ vest from the Czech Republic which Sue Martin purchased online and donated to the TM dancers.