Let the good times roll/Laissez les bons temps roulez!

**Mardi Gras with Butch Thompson Comes to the CSPS Hall on February 19**

By Joe Landsberger

In celebration of our CSPS Hall’s 125\textsuperscript{th} anniversary, Sokol members and West End neighbors come together for a Mardi Gras Tea Dance/Thé Dansant, special Cajun-style food (jambalaya and jalapeño corn bread) and drink, and a general good time on the Sunday before Fat Tuesday, on February 19, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the CSPS Hall. The traditional pre-Lenten celebration includes a masquerade ball and classic parade. Noted jazz musician Butch Thompson and his Hiawatha Jazz Band perform from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The sweet and buoyant rhythm of New Orleans music took hold of Butch Thompson’s life at an early age and hasn’t let go. These roots are deep, and he has played his personal style of traditional jazz and ragtime worldwide. Thompson, a clarinetist and a pianist, was a member of the Hall Brothers New Orleans Jazz Band from 1966 to 1991 at the Emporium of Jazz in Mendota. The group was nationally known for its presentation of authentic New Orleans-style music. The band was included in the Minnesota Historical Society’s 2008 “MN150” exhibit of 150 significant people, organizations, and ideas from the state’s first 150 years.

Butch Thompson’s Hiawatha Jazz Band for our Mardi Gras celebration includes Butch Thompson on piano, Charlie DeVore on cornet, Tony Balluf on clarinet, Bill Evans on trombone, Bob Andrews on bass, and sitting in on banjo, Dick Parker.

This is the first of several special events for the CSPS Hall’s 125th anniversary. It is primarily the West End neighbors of our beloved CSPS Hall who organized this Tea Dance so that Sokol members can attend and just enjoy themselves (i.e. not have to work!). We hope you can join us for this unique event in the life of our West End cultural corridor.

We expect the event to sell out. Contact Joe Landsberger at <jfl@studygs.net> or 651-297-9000 for more information and to order your pre-paid $20 tickets.
**Prezidentův Komentář/President’s Notes**  By Ed Hamernik

**Pozdrav a Šťastný nový rok** (Greetings and Happy New Year)

The year of celebration for the 125th Anniversary of our historic CSPS Hall has begun. On February 19, Butch Thompson, the popular Jazz performer, will honor us with a Mardi Gras Tea Dance. I invite everyone to attend and recommend that you make advance reservations, since space is limited. Come join in the fun! This is a fundraising event for our CSPS Hall to assist with the preservation/renovation efforts that are already well under way. We appreciate your support.

The events for this year will have special emphasis on the CSPS Hall’s 125th Anniversary. The Board of Directors and committees are finalizing plans, but the success of any event depends upon many volunteer hours. We encourage you to become involved at any level in our Sokol events. Please make your interests known by contacting a Board member, emailing: <events@sokolmn.org>, or leaving a message on the CSPS Hall phone: 651-290-0542. Every member has unique skills and ideas that are needed for our success.

Our formal membership renewal effort for the year 2012 is completed. If you have not returned your renewal form and check, please do so. We have enjoyed an increasing membership in the past few years. A thriving organization needs a strong and growing member base to support it.

Even though our fall and a portion of the winter have been mild, we appreciate the CSPS Hall’s renovated heating system, now without leaks or other problems. This is one important step in the rebuilding effort to preserve our historic hall. Plans continue to be developed and formalized. The grants that were received these past years have been very helpful, but there is much more to be done. Any support in the form of donations is very much appreciated.

Hope to see many of you enjoying the Butch Thompson Concert and Tea Dance on February 19 and swinging at the Šťiblinky Dance on March 3. Also join us at the special membership meeting on February 24 to learn more about beer.  

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:** The Slovo is published ten times per year by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Sokol Minnesota members receive the Slovo with their membership.

The Slovo Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send suggestions, articles, and pictures digitally to: slovo@sokolmn.org. The deadline for the March 2012 issue is February 1. Slovo is produced by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota’s own Garage Sale

Drop off: Wednesday, April 11, 10 - 5

### THE Spring Shopping Event is Sokol’s Minnesota’s own Garage Sale

Save the Dates: April 12 and 13

Let your unused and no-longer needed (gently used) treasures become someone else’s bargains.

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Slovo accepts business card-size ads (3.5”x2”), paid in advance. Single insertion $25; 3 consecutive issues: $65; 10 consecutive issues: $175. Ad reservation deadline is 6 weeks before publication (February 15 for April issue) with ad and payment due by copy deadline (March 1 for April issue).

For problems with subscriptions, please contact us if you missed an issue or received notice of payment due when a payment had already been made. **SNOWBIRDS:** If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office does not forward your Slovo because we use bulk mail; it is returned to us. We pay 45¢ for each returned copy. If you wish to have the newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know. Email us at <slovo@sokolmn.org>, phone us at 651-290-0542, or write us at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

Slovo gift subscriptions and non-membership renewals are $15/year (10 issues). Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new or renewing non-member subscription. Make your check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

Send to: Sokol Minnesota Slovo Subscriptions/Renewals, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102
Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors By Arlene Hamernik

Sokol Minnesota thanks the generous donors who support Sokol programs and rehabilitation of the CSPS Hall. (The Slovo withholds names and/or amount of donations when requested and does not print amounts less than $100.)

In memory of Joseph, Jay, and Tillie Dolejsi: Joseph and Kaye Dolejsi, $1,000 (Legacy/Building Fund).

In memory of Tillie Dolejsi: Joan Sedlacek. General Fund: anonymous, $100 (in honor of Marit Lee Kucera); Robert M. Frame; Marcia Novak.

Legacy/Building Fund: Ruth Ahrens; Marilyn Becker; George Chlebecek, $1,500; Kay Edquist $100; Joyce Ehmke; Roger and Nancy Green, $100; Darla Kolb; Kathleen Krisko; Pamela Langworthy and Richard Sargent; Hana Matousek; Bessie O’Neill; Gary Novak, $105; JoAnn Parvey; Frank Petruska; Darlene Sitko; Ted Skluzacek; Sara Vortuba.

Sokol Receives $2,500 Grant from Allina By Joe Landsberger

On December 16, 2011, Allina Hospitals and Clinics awarded Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota a $2,500 grant for fitness programming. Heather Peterson, Director of Community Engagement of Allina’s East Metro Region, wrote: “Allina recognizes the important role organizations such as yours serve in providing exercise and wellness programs in our community. Thank you for the very important work you all do. It is an honor for us at Allina to support an organization as important as Sokol Minnesota.”

With this grant, Sokol Minnesota can allocate funding for a community outreach coordinator and fitness trainer to build on our 129 years of fitness programming for all ages, all skill levels, and all abilities. Sokol’s philosophy is “a sound mind in a sound body.” Our gymnastics program for ages two through high school largely serves neighborhood children in three groups: Tumbling for Tots, beginning gymnastics, and intermediate gymnastics. A Monday evening adult program of low-impact callisthenic routines (Prostná) is also offered.

We strive to tie into existing neighborhood organizations that have complementary missions, facilities, or programs related to fitness and health to serve more fully the West 7th and its neighboring communities. These include Allina, as well as the West 7th Community Center, Salvation Army, United Health Care Residency, senior centers and residences, local schools, and service agencies.

The new, part-time, limited term (approximately 6 months) position has three objectives: 1) contact local related organizations to explore partnerships in programming based upon the Sokol program; 2) develop one additional daytime fitness program that would serve a specifically targeted population, such as seniors, minority and/or low income youth, or persons with disabilities; 3) hire a trainer in the tots program Tuesday afternoons and assistant trainer in the Tuesday/Thursday evening gymnastics. Qualified individuals should send an inquiry to <fitness@sokolmn.org>.

Support CSPS Legacy Fund

Grants have funded several of the renovations of our CSPC Hall, but many of these grants also must be matched. We ask for your support to insure that upcoming projects can be completed during CSPS Sokol Hall’s 125th Anniversary Celebration in 2012. Please consider a tax-deductible donation. Contact Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147 or <Joyce@sokolmn.org> to discuss volunteer or donation opportunities.

LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM

Name:
Address:
City:
State, Zip:
Phone:
Email:

To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the CSPS Hall, I will make a tax deductible

☐ single donation of $_____________
☐ 5-year pledge of $_____________
per year for total of $_____________

☐ Please send me information about ways to include the Legacy Fund in my/our will/estate plans.

I would like my gift designated

☐ in memory of or ☐ in honor of:

☐ Please list my name in Slovo newsletter
☐ List amount ☐ Don’t list amount
☐ Don’t list name or amount

Make checks payable to Sokol MN.

Write Legacy Fund in the memo line. Please charge my gift to

☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ Mastercard
☐ AmericanExpress
#______________________________

Expiration Date ____________________
Signature ____________________________

Mail to CSPS Hall Legacy Building Fund
383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

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Václav Havel: Neither Playwright nor Dissident
By Josef A. Mestenhauser

I wanted to write something about Václav Havel (1936-2011) and his passing in December that would be different than the meager coverage that the media provided. Media have a tendency to explain people by shortcuts, finding a label that everybody recognizes and then placing a person into a box with that label. For Václav Havel, who disliked being labeled a playwright turned dissident, these categories are insufficient and inaccurate.

The problem is not only one of scale but also of historical significance and meanings. Theater has had a special significance in the Czech and Slovak history because it is associated with the national awakening that may have saved the Czech language from extinction. Anybody who is associated with this tradition is writing not just for entertainment, but for a cause of solidifying national consciousness. The theater’s prestige touched nearly everybody, and people started creating an entire network of voluntary theater clubs and traveling puppet groups that still exist today and that neither the Nazis nor the communists could control. Being a dissident is relatively common, with many examples from individual countries such as Burma, China, India, Ukraine, and many others. In contrast to these dissidents, Havel was a global dissident who challenged the entire Soviet empire that ruled almost half of the world based on turning everybody into one type of a socialist personality in order to gain compliance through fear and to punish those who do not fit this model.

Havel’s work touched not only the literary elites but also common citizens everywhere, as evidenced by the extraordinary outpouring of sympathy from all over the world that his death occasioned. An example of his sensitivity to common human problems is the performance of one of his plays, which was first translated into German and produced in Berlin. Organizers conducted exit-interviews and were surprised that the most common response to the play was, “This is amazing. He is not even a German but understands our bureaucracy so well.”

Havel was certainly a playwright of some distinction and a dissident of unprecedented courage, both with global outreach, but he was much more than that. All of these qualities cannot be understood when they are used analytically, one at a time, because they all converged into one consistent and holistic personality. Still, with this caveat in mind, it is well to suggest several of his other qualities. Havel was a philosopher of great distinction; his writings, papers, and speeches about society, religion, family, democracy, dictatorships, statecraft, and civil society fill eight huge volumes of “collected works.” He drew heavily on other Czech greats such as Masaryk, the Čapek brothers, and Patočka, whose philosophies he used to develop his own intellectual positions. He was also a statesman of high class. To label him as a politician is totally inadequate. He stood above the issues but also appreciated a variety of positions. During his first term as President, he invited a number of prominent and common people from all segments of Czech and Slovak society to his summer residence in Lány for dinner and a discussion of contemporary problems and social issues. Rumors had it that the food was not the attraction of these Friday dinners, but rather the sophistication of views and the sharing of perspectives that showed Havel as not only a skilled moderator but also as a highly knowledgeable person who prepared carefully for these events. An example of his statesmanship was the first international trip he took after his election was to Slovakia to re-establish ties and restore trust and respect. He had no formal training in social sciences such as history, political science, or psychology, yet he was a first class social scientist. Suffice it to cite his work on the “power of the powerless,” one of his most quoted works, which shows an extraordinary grasp of the dynamics of living under a totalitarian regime. In one passage he analyzed the past by confronting everybody in the former Czechoslovakia with the statement that “we were all complicit in installing the regime” and that it was time to learn from the mistakes in order to look forward to the future. His ratings after the publication of that article went down, as he expected.

Havel was a diplomat of a global stature who understood the nature of international relations, the role of small nations in it, and the need to create a global system of security. One of his most courageous diplomatic acts was to apologize publically to the Germans who were forcefully expelled from Czechoslovakia often under brutal conditions and treatment, knowing that his ratings of support would also dip substantially. It was under his leadership that his associate, Alexander Vondra, well known to us when he was the Czech Ambassador to the United States, crafted an extraordinary document of understanding with the German Federal Government that put the issue to rest.

That Havel was a global leader is beyond doubt. He made a substantial impact on European efforts at unification and supported NATO as the most effective instrument of global security. He was fiercely pro-American and supported every measure that the U.S. was promoting on the world scene. He was a thoughtful historian who understood the deep ties between the Czechs and Slovaks and the West. “Returning to the West” was his slogan that reflected his strong views about where the Czechs and Slovaks belong, thus rejecting the common myth, advocated by many including former President Beneš, that Czechoslovakia was a bridge between the East and the West. The metaphor of the bridge proved to be a disaster for the people. Although few gave Havel credit for being an economist, he became a strong advocate of a free enterprise system while rejecting what he termed the “cowboy capitalism” that was evident in post-socialist Czechoslovakia.
Above all these roles stood one of his defining characteristics: his advocacy of human rights and his promotion of civil society. He took a stand against such regimes as Castro’s and the Burmese military, and spoke on the subject of oppression each time he had a chance. He organized the “World Forum” of outstanding world leaders that included other famous dissidents such as the Dalai Lama. Havel invited the Dalai Lama to his summer residence in the hradčany near Trutnov a week before his passing. Speculations circulated in Prague media that he was seeking spiritual guidance for his final trip – indeed, that was Havel’s signature character: to prepare carefully everything he did.

Did Havel make mistakes? Indeed; he was neither saint nor superman. One of his biggest mistakes was that he ignored his own health. Already when he visited us in the Twin Cities his health was highly precarious, and we were required to furnish an ambulance, staffed with medical specialists, that followed Havel within short reach wherever he went. From that point onward, he lived on borrowed time. His second major mistake was that he underestimated the arrogance and persistence of the communists. He assumed that after the dissemination of information about the atrocities that they committed and the damage that they caused to life, liberty, and property, they would just fade away. That has not happened; to this date, they accept full responsibility for the communist era and look forward to the time when socialism returns.

Many of us political refugees value Havel for another reason. When it appeared that the people of Czechoslovakia willingly supported the regime, joined the communist party in large numbers, and worked enthusiastically to produce goods (mostly for the Soviets), many of us did not know how to explain the paradox of how people raised on Masaryk could embrace Stalinism. Havel exposed the true nature of the communist system and the enormous propaganda machine and regimentation that sustained it. Havel made us proud to be Czechs and Slovaks again.

In the last two centuries, a small nation has produced and given to the world two outstanding persons, Masaryk and Havel. The world responded with acclaim and embraced them as their own. Too bad that these men’s receptions were more enthusiastic outside of Czechoslovakia than it was at home. After Havel’s death, the Czech people made amends by making him into an icon, designating him as the foremost of the three most important people in the Czech history (the other two being Charles IV and Masaryk) and enshrining him as the beacon that enlightens the building of the civil society whose realization he did not live to see, but whose foundation he created. In these respects, Havel’s legacy is of enduring value.

Postscript: Havel may have been disappointed, but I am outright angry that he did not receive the Nobel Prize for Peace. I do not know what the Nobel committee was thinking in bypassing him. J.A.M.

Minnesotans Send Condolences to the Family of President Václav Havel By Bob Vanasek

Several dozen Minnesotans signed a Book of Condolences in honor of former Czech President Václav Havel, who died on December 18, 2011. Offering condolences included Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives Kurt Zellars, Majority Leader Matt Dean, and members of Minnesota’s Consular Corps. Czech Honorary Consul Robert Vanasek sent the Book to the Czech government. It will be given to Havel’s family along with other condolence books from around the world.

In honor of President Havel, the storefront window at the CSPS Hall in Saint Paul was decorated with several artifacts from his visit here several years ago. Joan Sedlacek organized the memorial display.

He gave Czech Americans a day to remember...of course his death brings tears to my eyes

Remembrances by Libby Imbrone

May he rest in peace...we have our own memories of meeting Václav Havel...for several years the negotiations by the committee from Saint Thomas, House of Hope Presbyterian Church, and Macalester College “teetered” on the worry that at the last minute he would become ill...On April 26, 1999, Václav Havel finally arrived on the MSP Air National Guard tarmac. I took his hand in both of mine and babbled something in Czech...I was there with Joe Mestenhauser and then-Czech Foreign Minister Palouš (later Czech Ambassador to the United States and still later Czech Ambassador to the United Nations, whom we entertained at the CSPS Hall so many times he said he was embarrassed. But we loved Palouš and the feeling was returned. We gave him the organ that had been donated to us (but we could not use); he had the Press Secretary from the Czech Embassy drive up with two aides and a van to take it back for the Embassy...he was such a musician)...So the children and adults danced for President Havel and paní Dagmar Havlová...The Seniors sang and we gave him much pleasure on his visit to Minnesota...At the reception all the Czechs smiled, showing the poppy seed from authentic koldačí made by Jim Felger, a Czech...Miro Verner drove 70 miles to Hinckley that morning to get them...We Czechs were willing to put ourselves out to show our best...As Joe, Palouš, and I waited in the terminal lobby, Governor Jesse Ventura strode in wearing a tweed sport jacket, open-collar shirt, and blue jeans (I did not approve!). Havel later spent time with the governor and seemed to admire his turnout of politics-as-usual in Minnesota...We had to promise to hold a Václav Havel Civil Society Symposium for each of the three following years. It still continues but not quite the same...Macalester eventually dropped out. We had to fit in the intellectual expatriates and Czech National organizations...Remember the breakfast hosted in our Hall? All those charming Czech political notables! I see Petr Pithart is still active...wonderful personality...Certainly Saint Peter greeted Václav Havel warmly for his bravery against evil...To die during the Holy Season of Christmas is special.
February Education News  By Jean Draheim

If you would like more information about classes or membership meetings (or want to have your contact information included on our interest lists), contact Education Director Jean Draheim: 651-426-2826, or email: education@sokolmn.org. Watch upcoming Slovos and our website (www.sokolmn.org) for information on more cooking classes (koláče, černý kuba, ovocné knedlíky), kroje preservation, photography for travelers, and our continuing Family History Project.

“Bake and Take” Cream Horns: Saturday, February 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the kitchen/dining room, second floor, CSPS Hall. Learn to make dough from scratch, roll the dough onto forms, and bake the pastry, plus fill the horns with a cream mixture. Instructors are our own Sokol cooks led by Georgiana Dolejsi. Cost: Sokol member: $15.00; non-member: $20.00 (Second Sokol member from the household: $10.00.) When you register, you will receive a list of equipment to bring. Registration is required by February 1. Class size limited to 10.

Chlebíčky (Open-faced party sandwiches): Thursday, February 23, 2012, starting at 6:30 p.m., in the kitchen/dining room, second floor, CSPS Hall. You have a party in your pantry! Easy to make, with infinite combinations, these tasty treats make perfect appetizers or party food. Learn the basics; then you can go home and experiment to your heart’s content. We will make several varieties to be served during the February Sokol meeting the next evening. (We will have a tasting after the class!) Cost: Sokol members: free; non-members: $10.00. Class is open to anyone age 11 and older. Registration is required by February 20. Class size is limited to 10 people.

Leather Belt-Making: Sunday, March 4. These traditional belts are worn with Moravian and Slovak men’s kroje. The time and fee is yet to be decided. If you are interested, please contact Jean Draheim by February 24.

Membership Meetings: 4th Fridays, 7 p.m.
February 24: pivo! (beer) – learn about it with Sokol member Cinnamon Whaley and Ryan Beck-Buyssse, plus an extra treat, Chlebíčky. Free will donation.
March 23: finding your ancestors online.
April 27: Czech and Slovak folk dancing with “audience participation.”
May 18: “My Grandmother’s Trunk,” stories of Sokol member Louise Wessinger’s grandmother’s immigration to America.

MEMBER NEWS: Former Member Passes Away
Bob Bastyr, age 68, Mendota Heights, Minnesota, died on January 8, 2012: Bob was men’s physical director for Sokol and taught the boys’ classes for many years. He and his wife Jill were long-time Sokol members. Bob was also an active member of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Both he and Jill were group directors. He was a member of the 133rd Security Police Squadron, Minnesota Air National Guard, and a Minnesota OSHA retiree.

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SONG OF THE MONTH By Georgiana Dolejsi
The American “sweetheart” song (1910) was a whim of mine to sing in the Czech language. With the help of John, my late husband, the Czech words materialized. The toast: Živijo (to live) appropriately followed. Translated it means to live many years. Versions vary such as: together, in good health, on happiness, etc. Unfortunately I do not have the original source of Živijo. Both of these songs can be found in our songbook, Sokol Minnesota Sings.

Overhead Projector Needed
By Louise Wessinger
Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp and the Sokol Children’s Holiday party for many years have relied on an overhead projector to display words to songs for group singing rather than handing out pieces of papers with printed words. Alas, at the children’s party this year the projector tumbled off its stand and met its demise! It had been previously damaged and was being held together with a giant paperclip! The overhead technology is old. Many schools and businesses are getting rid of these projectors, but for our needs it is still very useful. I ask our Slovo readers to check around at their work or school to see if anyone has one they would like to donate to us. We would be very grateful. If you have any questions, please contact louisewessinger@msn.com or 651-452-6240.

LOGO for 125th Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota’s commemorative logo to celebrate the 125th anniversary of CSPS Hall was designed by member Teresa Pojer.
The Lands They Left: A Look at the Societies which Bohemian, Moravian, Slovak, and German Emigrants Left in the 19th Century
By Ginger Simek, President, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International <www.cgsi.org>

Have you wondered why your ancestors chose to leave their homelands for an uncertain future in a new land? This is the topic of the CGSI Quarterly Program on February 11. The Habsburg lands were going through major economic, demographic, social, and cultural transformations. Traditional feudal social patterns were still widespread in the countryside, while population growth and early industrialization put new economic pressures on both countryside and the rapidly growing towns. At the same time, the Habsburg state, which had been rapidly modernizing under the enlightened monarchs of the later 18th century, was eager to industrialize but struggled with the consequences of urbanization and education.

This program examines the cultural and political conditions and changes in our ancestor’s homelands, combined with the possibilities of new opportunities, which influenced the spurt of migration, especially to the United States.

The speaker is Dr. Diethelm Prowe, the Laird Bell Professor of History Emeritus at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, where he taught European History for 42 years. He regularly taught a course on the history of Eastern-Central Europe. In the fall of 2000 he directed the Central European Studies Program in Olomouc, Czech Republic, for the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. He also served as the editor of the German Studies Review from 2001-2011.

CGSI meeting location on February 11 is 1185 N. Concord Street, South Saint Paul, Minnesota, in the first floor auditorium. Plenty of free parking is available. The 71B bus stops at the front door. Registration starts at 12:30; the program begins at 1:00. Suggested donation: $5. There will be a sales table and a refreshment break. <www.cgsi.org>
ATTEND and VOLUNTEER!  
SOKOL MINNESOTA EVENTS

*Family Sundays:* Activities and Potluck  
Sunday, February 12, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Register: 612-384-4604 or 612-724-5464

*Butch Thompson’s Mardi Gras Tea Dance*  
Sunday, February 19, 1 - 6 p.m.  
Tickets: 651-297-9000

*Šibřinky, Sokol Costume Dance*  
Saturday, March 3, 6 - 11 p.m. Tickets: 651-452-6240  
Dance to Cathy Erickson Band from 7 - 11 p.m.

*Flavors of Slovakia Dinner*  
Sunday, March 11, 12:30 p.m. reserved seating  
Tickets: 952-941-0426

*Garage Sale,* Thursday and Friday, April 12 - 13  
Set up: Wednesday, April 11, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Early drop off: April 2 - 10, call: 952-941-0426  
*Check the calendar on our website for updates*  
www.sokolmn.org

Visit Sokol Minnesota on Facebook  
www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* February 2012

Jeanette Pafko Receives Prestigious Černin Palace Memorial Award

By Bob Vanasek, Honorary Czech  
Consul for Minnesota, Iowa,  
North Dakota, and South Dakota

As honorary Czech Consul, I am  
pleased to announce that Jeanette  
Pafko has received the Černin  
Palace Memorial Award from the  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs on  
behalf of the Czech Republic.

The award is given to individuals or  
institutions in the United States who  
contributed greatly and significantly  
to the progress of Czech-American  
relations. The award is a bronze  
medal with the image of the Černin  
Palace, seat of the Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of the Czech  
Republic, in Prague.

The award is made on the basis of  
nominations from Czech Honorary  
Consuls who are entitled to make  
one nomination each year. Honorary  
Consul Robert Vanasek nominated  
Jeanette in October, and her  
nomination was approved by Czech  
Ambassador Petr Gandalovic in  
early December.

Jeanette Pafko has been a member  
of the Czech and Slovak Sokol  
Minnesota for 28 years. She has  
erved the organization in many  
ways, holding several offices and  
organizing numerous special events.  
For 18 years, Jeanette performed  
with two Czech and Slovak folk  
dance groups, and had the privilege  
of performing for United States  
President Clinton, Czech President  
Havel, and Slovak President Kovac.  
She has conducted seminars,  
conferences, and workshops on  
Czech and Slovak folk dress across  
the United States. She is a current  
board member and past co-president  
of the Friends of the Immigration  
History Research Center at the  
University of Minnesota.

In his nomination letter, Vanasek  
stated that “Jeanette has  
enthusiastically promoted Czech  
heritage and traditions for almost 30  
years. She has been a tireless  
volunteer and is held in high esteem  
by everyone she has worked with.”