Festival Celebrates its 20th on September 20th

Our Czech and Slovak (C/S) Festival celebrates its 20th anniversary on Sunday, September 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Every year new and exciting events are added to this family day which takes place outdoors in the C.S.P.S. parking lot and on Michigan Street, as well as inside the C.S.P.S. Hall. Event coordinators are Doreen McKenney, Joyce Tesarek, Ed Hamernik, and Marlene Hinshaw.

The menu this year has all the old-time favorites, plus several new taste treats: grilled jitrnice (Czech sausage) served with sauerkraut and rye bread, grilled parky (hot dog) or a brat on a bun, and holupky (Slovak cabbage roll). Katie and Don Haselbauer are food coordinators, with help from a great crew of Sokol MN members and friends.

In the pivo (beer) and víno (wine) garden, Summit beer and red or white wine can be savored while snacking on zelníky (sauerkraut crackers), pretzel sticks and mustard, or kysely salam (pickled bologna-see page 10!). Soda pop and water are also available for sale.

A special booth sells kolache, filled with poppy seed, prune, apricot, cream cheese, or cherry. The kolache are baked by our own Sokol cooks as a fund raiser for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota: $1 each or $10 for a dozen. Sokol cooks, led by Doreen McKenney, plan to bake 160 dozen. Come early. They sell out fast.

cont. on pg. 3
President Komentář/President’s Note

By Joe Landsberger

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters

“The Enjoyment of Music” has recently come to mind. This series has been used by more than 3.5 million students as the most trusted introduction to music for over five decades. In connection to this, my thoughts turned to the theme of this month’s Slovo: Festivals! In May we participated in the Festival of Nations, in August Sokol Camp Booya took place, and in September we will hold our Czech-Slovak Festival. Add to that the cultural dinners, breakfasts, craft and bake sales, the new family and grandparents’ days, as well as the garage sale. Sokol MN has had a very busy year!

What these events have in common is that they are social occasions: The Enjoyment of Sokol! These are times when old and new friends come together to meet, catch up, and to have some fun. Enjoy this festival issue and join us for our Czech-Slovak Festival September 20! If you can, lend a hand. Our dedicated volunteers think in terms of the work involved: organizing, ordering, permitting, recruiting, publicizing, etc. In the aftermath, gathering the reviews and storing information to be used for the next year’s event. Part of socializing is working together - many hands make light work, and even more fun. Evan Esar, American humorist (1899-1995), defined play as work that you enjoy doing for nothing. Let us remember that there are rewards to volunteering and we should enjoy them together!

Nazdar!

2009 Festival of Nations

Thank you to all involved and kudos to Culture Booth Chairs on Award of Excellence!

By Jean Hall, Festival of Nations General Chair, Czech and Slovak

A heartfelt thank you to all of this year’s Festival of Nations (FON) volunteers and performers. Your participation is key to making sure that Czech and Slovak culture and traditions continue to be shared with the public at this large scale venue. It is particularly gratifying that we are continuing our uninterrupted annual presence at the FON. The Czechoslovak group organized through Sokol MN, was one of the charter ethnic groups involved in the founding of the FON in 1932. This year we had nearly a hundred volunteers helping staff the café, culture booth, and bazaar as well as the dancers in the adult and children’s Czech and Slovak Dance groups.

Especially noteworthy this year was the Award of Excellence presented by FON officials to the Czech and Slovak Culture Booth. It is truly an honor to receive this Award of Excellence and the $200 honorarium that accompanies the Award. Thank you to co-chairs Kate Aubrecht and Jakub Dajc. Thank you also to café co-chairs Joyce Tesarek, Mary Cahill and honorary co-chair Jeanette Pafko (who spent many hours in the café), Bazaar co-chairs Doreen and Doris McKenney for tasty food and wonderful wares. Doreen also over saw all of the food preparation activities for kolache baking, dumpling and halusky making.

Several volunteers have given their time to a shift or two for many years. Volunteering at the FON is a fun way to spend time with family, old and new friends. If you had a good time volunteering at the FON this year or in the past PLEASE say yes when we call you again next year. Better yet, tell a friend and we’ll get them involved as well!

See pg. 6 for Festival photos
New this year is the cukrovina (sweet shop). Visit with friends over a cup of hot coffee and a sweet... or two or more... in the old-world cukrovina, with chairs and cloth-covered bistro tables. Treat your sweet tooth to poppy seed cake, sugar or ginger cookies, crispy bars, several flavors of strudel, koblahey (fried half-moon-shaped rolls filled with apricot, prune, or poppy seed), and kolache, of course. Mother-daughter Rosemary and Cinnamon Whaley are the cukrovina hostesses.

On the first floor of the C.S.P.S. hall is the Sokol Gift Shop, Krásné Dárky/Beautiful Gifts, run by Doreen McKenney, filled with fine garnet jewelry, music CDs, straw ornaments, hand blown glass, books, cards, t-shirts, braids and trims, and much more.

Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek, wearing their finest kroje, will wander the C/S Festival to greet guests, as well as to inform Festival goers about the wonderful Silent Auction upstairs in the main hall.

The Silent Auction is not only a fundraiser for our fine Sokol Minnesota unit, but also a great opportunity to bid and buy extraordinary items for yourself or as gifts for family and friends. Bids are accepted from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; promptly at the stroke of 3 p.m. the Silent Auction ends. Items can be picked up after 3:30 p.m. Certificates for dinners, goods, or services as well as tickets for entertainment events make exciting prizes for bidders to vie. Last year we had certificates for jewelry repair, genealogy research, and legal services. Bidders also eagerly competed for baskets of quality individual items and groupings of related items such as bath and body baskets and food and cooking related baskets. Czech and Slovak Sokol MN members are invited to donate a service or basket. Louise Wessinger is in charge of accepting items for the silent auction. Call Louise at 651-452-6240 with any questions about items to donate.

Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota, Olivia Cada of Shoreview will attend, wearing her kroj and crown. Olivia was crowned Miss Congeniality on August 2 in the 2009 Miss Czech Slovak US pageant in Wilber, Nebraska. Here is a wonderful photo opportunity for children of all ages to be photographed with the Miss C/S Minnesota queen. Who doesn’t like to be seen with a queen!

On the stage throughout the C/S Festival, there will be live music; folk dancing by the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers and the Taneční Mládež/Taneční (youth and teen dancers), Louise Wessinger, dance program director; and singing by the Senior Singers, Georgiana Dolejsi, director. Masters of Ceremony are Dave Stepan and Dennis Novak.

Filling out the day are bingo and games for children. Of special interest are the ethnic language table staffed by native Czech and Slovak speakers, the Sokol Minnesota membership and information table (with Norm Petrik), and several merchant vendors with merchandise that ranges from books, toys, and folk costumes to precious Czech crystal jewelry and glass. The childrens bike give-away is courtesy of the St. Paul and the Minneapolis WFLA lodges (Western Fraternal Life Association). Kids under age 16 can register to win one of two bikes (one for girls, one for boys) with helmets. The drawing is held at the end of the Festival at 4 p.m.

For $25 you can purchase a business card size ad in the printed festival program. An ad is a practical route for you to advertise your business and to support Sokol MN at the same time. Contact Doreen McKenney at 952-941-0426 for more information. If you are interested in becoming a vendor at the C/S Festival this year, please contact Doreen. Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen spearhead publicity; with help from Jyni Koschak to decorate the ground-floor window.

C/S Festival is a great way to spend a glorious fall Sunday afternoon. You can count on beautiful weather. You won’t want to miss the fun and festivities on September 20.

Scores of Sokol members and friends work to produce the C/S Festival every year. If you would like to help, call Doreen McKenney (952-941-0426), Joyce Tesarek (612-822-6147), Ed Hamernik (763-571-6091), or Marlene Hinshaw (651-222-4073). They would love to have you volunteer.

Dožínky in New Prague

Look for the Sokol MN booth in the Czech Village at Dožínky the 25th annual Czech Harvest Festival Saturday, September 19 in New Prague, Minnesota. We will have a historical display of many units of Minnesota Sokols though the centuries. You will also be able to buy our t-shirts, and the history of Czech and Slovak immigration into St. Paul, Gateway to a New World Building Čech and Slovak Communities in the West End. If you would like to help staff our booth, please contact Joe Landsberger 651 290 0542 or publicrelations@sokolmn.org.
**Song of the Month**
By Georgiana Dolejsi

**Škoda lásky**
*(Wasted Love)*

Music by
J Vejvoda; lyrics by
Václav Zeman

Škoda lásky as a Czech song was written in 1934, but became popular in American as the *Beer Barrel Polka*, recorded by Will Glahé, with English lyrics by Lew Brown and Wladimir Timm. It reputedly was General/President Dwight Eisenhower’s favorite song.

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**Save the Date**
By Mary Cahill

The Friends of the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, Nov. 8 at the Andersen Library, University of Minnesota campus. The featured speaker will be Sokol member and certified genealogist Jay H. Fonkert. The focus of Jay’s presentation will be the importance of the census and immigrant stories. Watch for more details in the Slovos to come!

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**Correction:**
The July/August issue of Slovo misidentified the President of the Central District. He is Brother Tom Pajer.
Mr. Gregory Harris is Executive Director of American Sokol. We regret the error.
St. Paul Minnesota’s Sokol Gymnasts Love to Tumble
…and they are very good at what they do!

By Women’s Physical Director, Alisa Hollibush

In preparation for our annual competition, team girls learn a routine from the USA Gymnastics for floor, balance beam, uneven bars, and vault. This year we competed in the Western District competition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. All of the girls did really well; they placed from first to tenth. Our team came in first place as a group, and team members placed with individual medals and trophies! We have fourteen team girls though we are limited for space at our C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall. We don’t have a full size floor and have one spring board lane to do our floor routines on, so we use Gleason’s Gym Club where they can work on their floor routines on a full size floor. This greatly helps them increase their floor skills!

In April we put on an exhibition for all the gymnastic kids to show what they have learned, and they brought family and friends to watch! The toots and junior kids created a routine on floor and a pick from bars or beam. The team girls get to show the routines they learned on beam, floor and bars. All of the kids received a nice trophy to bring home.

In December Sokol is hosting a Sv. Mikulas party for children. A Christmas story will be told and Saint Nicholas will make an appearance. The gymnasts will perform a small tumbling routine for those in attendance!

I enjoy teaching gymnastics because it’s fun seeing the kids learn new things and getting to know each of them!

Finance Committee: Thank you for your donations!

By Jeanette Pafko, Finance Recording Secretary

Sokol acknowledges all donations as they are received. They are listed in two categories, Building Fund and General Operating Fund although programs within each are not listed. Amounts are now grouped in five categories: under $100, $100-$499, $500-999, $1000-$4999, and $5000+. 

Building Fund (We use these funds to match our grant requirements)
Marit Lee Kucera – Pledge commitment for 2009 – Capital Campaign
$500-$999 – Joe Landsberger – Pledge commitment for 2009 – Capital Campaign
$5000+ – MacDonald & Mack Architects, Ltd. The firm has worked with Sokol preparing our Historic Structure Report that will assure our hall renovations comply with preservations standards.

General Fund (We use these funds for general operation of programs, etc.)
Under $100 - Gregory & Kathy Malecha – Slovo

Sokol Member News

Get well wishes to Tillie Dolejsi, Elsa Roepke, Sue Marabella, Susie Fritz, Marcella Bigaouette. Sokol Minnesota’s oldest member, Helen Lander, celebrates her 99th birthday. Helen attributes her longevity to Sokol and the years she spent in gymnastics. Happy Birthday, Helen!

Jan Knudtson, on leave as Sokol Financial Secretary, is spending this Fall Semester in Prague at Charles University studying the Czech language! Hezký výlet!
Sokol Minnesota at Festival of Nations
Scenes from past Sokol Minnesota C/S Festivals
American Sokol Slet

By Norm Petrik, Men’s Physical Director

Seven Sokol Minnesota members participated in the American Sokol Slet in Fort Worth on Saturday June 27th. The Senior II routine has been our primary activity during our practice sessions so ably led by Doreen McKenney since January. Sokols from around the country learn the same routines and perform them together for the slet closing ceremonies; approximately 150 persons were in Senior II. Deb Allison from Cedar Rapids joined our group of Jean Hall, Hana Matousek, Joyce Tesarek, Mary Cahill, Marit Kucera, Lloyd Krocak, and Norm Petrik to make our square. We held a practice session the day before to get organized. It was 103 degrees, so fortunately they moved the event indoors to the Convention Center arena which was air conditioned! Lloyd Krocak carried the Sokol Minnesota flag for the Saturday night performance.

We also participated in the final closing ceremony number called Let Loose, together with about 900 others. The young people joined us in lines, older people had blue shirts and younger people had red shirts. We did a variety of moves full of life. When we completed that event we marched off the field for the last time during the 2009 Slet. There was a lot of ceremony associated with opening and closing the Slet. There were twenty states and sixteen countries represented. It was held alongside The International Sport and Cultural Festival and we had a chance to watch some fantastic gymnastic competitions and exhibitions. I carried the Sokol Minnesota Flag as we marched in the parade through Fort Worth together with others from the Western District and other US and foreign units. We went to a big party in the Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District on Thursday evening and there was ample opportunity for socializing with other Sokols and among ourselves.

The next American Sokol Slet will be in four years, 2013. The next World Wide Slet, held every six years, will be in Prague in 2012. It was a great opportunity for us, and I look forward to doing it again.

Editor’s note: For more photos from the Slet, please see the USA Gymnastics Website at www.usa-gymnastics.org. Go to the Photos link, and then International Sport and Cultural Festival gallery.

Minnesota Wild Autographed Jersey

By Anita McKeown

In 2007, the Minnestoa Wild made the National Hockey League Stanley Cup playoffs for the second time in franchise history, winning their first Northwest Division title and placing third in the tight Western Conference with a 44-28-10 record. Now you can own a piece of this exciting history by making the winning bid on EBay for an official 2007 MN Wild autographed sweater signed by 22 of the players and coaches, including Slovaks Martin Skoula and Marian Gaborik (who set the franchise scoring record in 2007 with 42 goals and 83 points). Minimum bid is $500. Proceeds will benefit Sokol MN so indulge your passion for collectable hockey fashion. For more information, contact Joyce Tesarek 651 290 0542. Go Wild!
Czech & Slovak Sokol Minnesota Language Programs (Sept-Oct-Nov 2009) Session 1

Education Chair Louise 651-452-6240/www.sokolmn.org

*Slovak Language Class---Beginner Level (Session 1)
Instructor: Barborka Carlsonova
Thursday Evenings 7:00-8:30 PM CSPS (Sokol) Hall
8 weeks beginning October 1, 2009
Fee: $60.00 (Sokol members) $75.00 (non-members)
Slovak Language text, workbook & phrase book ($60.00)

*Czech Language Class---Beginner Level (Session 1)
Instructor: John Topic
Monday Evenings 6:00-7:30 PM CSPS (Sokol) Hall
8 weeks beginning September 28, 2009
Fee: $60.00 (Sokol Members) $75.00 (Non-Members)
*Cestina Hrou Text plus cassettes/Workbook ($105)

*Czech Language Class---Advanced Beginner Level
Instructor: Jacob Dajc
Wednesday Evenings 7:00-8:30 PM CSPS (Sokol) Hall
8 weeks beginning September 30, 2009
Fee: $60.00 (Sokol Members) $75.00 (Non-Members)
*Cestina Hrou Text /Workbook Continues As Before

*Czech Language Class---Intermediate Level
Instructor: Blanka Brichta
Wednesday Evenings 7:00-8:30 PM CSPS (Sokol Hall)
8 weeks beginning September 30, 2009
Fee: $60.00 (Sokol Members) $75.00 (Non-members)
*Cestina Hrou Text/Workbook Continues As Before

*Czech Language Class---Conversational Level
Instructor: Jacob Dajc (Norm Petrik Coordinator)
Tuesday Evenings 7:00-8:30 PM CSPS (Sokol) Hall
8 weeks beginning September 29, 2009
Fee: $60.00 (Sokol Members) $75.00 (Non-Members)
Czech Language Text/Workbook Continues As Before

Note: Registration is required for all the above classes. Please use the registration blank found on the Sokol Website www.sokolmn.org and mail with payment. A minimum of six paid students and a maximum of ten will be required for each class.

Sokol MN Community Outreach in the C.S.P.S. Neighborhood

St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, led by Louise Wessinger, danced Tuesday, August 4, at the West 7th Community Center for National Night Out. The group performed dances from Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia before ending its lively program with the Bohemian National Polka. Louise explained to the enthusiastic audience that this performance was part of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota’s effort at community outreach and education. To the cheers of descendants of Czechs and Slovaks who settled in the West End over a century ago, Louise let it be known that the Polka originated in Bohemia. Dancers were Louise, Dave Stepan, Don Andrle, Dawn Bulera, Diane Bell, Scott Hinshaw, Jeff Martinka, and Teresa Pojar. The National Night Out at West 7th Community Center included music, performances by other dance groups, as well as a kids’ bike decorating content, community information booths, and food (hot dog, corn-on-the-cob, lemonade, and cupcakes all for a $1 donation). Sokol MN member Jeff Martinka is executive director of the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida Street.
Adventures in Pickling

Story and photo by Cinnamon Whaley

At the Czech & Slovak festival meeting on August 3rd the idea of serving pickled bologna was discussed. After some members scratched their heads I said that I would make a batch for our next board meeting just to try it out. During the meeting conversation, it was mentioned that the next Slovo deadline was coming up in a week. With the board meeting just a few days later I thought I better get in gear and make some pickled bologna! I enjoy pickles, pickled herring, and pickled garlic so why not? At least the recipe is quick!

The only ingredient that gave me pause were the roasted peppers. If making something for our household, I would have purchased the habanero peppers. Bringing this to the board meeting and not knowing how habanero would taste with ring bologna I purchased the roasted red peppers.

As I boiled the pickling mixture I found a few glass jars and tried to imitate the artfulness of canned items I’ve seen at farmers markets or specialty shops. I’d never pickled anything before and am intrigued that my first attempt is at ringed bologna. I’ve had so much fun cooking from the Sokol cookbook, things I had no idea even existed sometimes!

This turned out delicious! The pickling mixture is simple but very effective. It only took a few minutes to cut the ingredients and boil the mix. The meat, onions, and peppers have soaked up the pickling mix yet retain their own original tastes and textures. A zing has simply been added to these three basic ingredients. I will make this again - maybe with the habaneros, maybe with a few cloves of garlic. Whether I keep it at home for a snack or bring it to a party is yet to be seen, but if people like the pineapple dessert so well, maybe they’ll go for pickled bologna, too!

**Pickled Bologna**

2 1/2 cups water  
1 3/4 cups white vinegar  
1 1/2 tsp salt  
2 tbsp sugar  
20 peppercorns  
16 whole allspice  
1 ring bologna (1 lb)  
1 large onion sliced and separated into rings  
1 jar (7 1/2 oz) roasted peppers

Combine water, vinegar, sugar, salt, peppercorns and allspice in a saucepan. Bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Cool completely. Slice bologna diagonally into 1/2 inch pieces. Layer bologna, onion slices and roasted peppers in a large glass or ceramic casserole. Pour cooked pickling liquid over this. Refrigerate three days.

Czech and Slovak language film review

**Something Like Happiness (2005)**

(Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America)

By Cinnamon Whaley

**Something Like Happiness** features three 20-somethings whose lives are mingled and tied by their apartment block. It’s a story of the daily trials of normal people doing the best they can in downtrodden situations. Struggling with the impossible task of hauling 100 lb bags of potatoes (then watching an older aunt do it). Having a friend end up in the psychiatric ward and trying to raise her children for her so that they don’t go to the state. Chastised by parents, told that they’re doing it all wrong but trying very hard to do what they each believe is right. So much goes wrong, the movie made me somewhat uncomfortable. Not in catastrophic ways, just knowing how things add up for people and sometimes it takes a while to get moving in the right direction again. The movie is very well scripted and acted as a view into the lives of Tonik, Moni, and Dusha. This is a great example of an international drama that could have been written and filmed as easily in the States as abroad. The human element is relatable and can lead to inflection on the ups and downs of one’s own life. With adult situations and language, this one isn’t for the kids.
Those Important Church Records!

By Ginger Simek, President, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International
www.cgsi.org

Church records are among some of the first records that come to mind for a beginning family researcher. In most cases they are recorded on the day of, or close to the event of baptism, marriage, or death. This is in contrast to information that is recorded years later. An example is the question of Year of Immigration which is asked on the 1900 US Census. The time between the occurrence of the event and when it is recorded allows for errors of memory and resulting inaccuracies. Church records can provide the vital information of the event and offer the valuable supplementary information of who were the baptism sponsors, who stood up for the bride and groom, and where the deceased was buried. All of these can be additional sources for research.

Church records vary on how they are organized, how clearly they are recorded, and generally reflect the personality of the priest or pastor recording them. Fortunately for Minneapolis and Saint Paul church record researchers, CGSI has many great volunteers working on extracting those records for an online Church Record Database. It focuses on Catholic churches known to have had a large number of Czech and Slovak parishioners. The database includes some outlying churches as well such as those in New Prague, Lonsdale, and Montgomery. The volunteers have been extracting the information from microfilms purchased from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The records start with the earliest available records up to and including 1934.

S.S. Cyril and Methodius Church is an example of one of the churches included in this database. It has been a landmark in northeast Minneapolis for well over 100 years. The first church was officially incorporated in February of 1891 and the building dedicated in October of 1893. Initially, the church membership was made up entirely of immigrant Slovak Catholics. The homilies were delivered in Slovak and Slovak customs observed. The present existing church building dates from 1917.

The CGSI searchable online database will be available to CGSI members as soon as the transition to our new website is complete. Many churches are complete and ready to go. Others still in process will be added as they are completed. The microfilms are part of CGSI’s library collection and the actual complete records may be viewed at the MGS Library, 1185 N. Concord Street, South St. Paul MN 55075. Keep watching www.cgsi.org for updates.

Family Night at Sokol Hall

Last March we held our first Family Night at Sokol Hall. More than 20 families came ...and had a great time! Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, the “Mom’s “ Club and West 7th Neighbors invite you to join them with your family on Sunday, September 13th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM for a potluck supper and family activities. Each family is asked to register with one of the chairpersons; Olga & Mario Splichal-Espinosa at 651-293-3999 or sccsilverrays@yahoo.com or Louise Wessinger at 651-452-6240 or louisewessinger@msn.com. When you register please leave your name, phone number, number attending, ages of children and what you will bring for the potluck (appetizer, entrée, salad, side dish or dessert). Please register by Tuesday, September 8th. Paper products, milk, lemonade, water, and coffee and also craft supplies will be provided. A $10.00 donation per family will be accepted at the door. Volunteers will be needed to help with set-up and clean up a half an hour before or after the event.

The SLOVO is published by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, MN 55102. We welcome your contributions, text and pictures! The Slovo Publications Committee welcomes submissions. Send your suggestions/submissions digitally to publicrelations@sokolmn.org, or call 651 290 0542! The deadline for the October issue is September 10.

Slovo gift subscriptions and non-membership renewals: $12 Sokol MN SLOVO, 5604 Morgan Ave So., Mpls, MN 55419
Sokol Camp, Pine City, MN
Booya and Picnic
August 8, 2009