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## HELP THE CSPS HALL WIN \$125,000

By Joe Landsberger and Joyce Tesarek

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express has named our own historic CSPS Hall as one of 25 local sites selected to participate in this year's Partners in Preservation (PIP) program. Under this initiative in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, we are eligible to vie for up to \$125,000 in preservation funding for our historic (1879) theater from American Express. The competition is a month-long American Idol-style Facebook contest. Since the announcement of the finalists on September 20, the public has been casting votes for the place they would most like to see receive funding. If we win the most popular votes, we will be able to air condition our hall, restore our historic stage and backdrops, provide better access to the stage, and upgrade technology. Even if you are not able to donate to Sokol Minnesota building projects, you can support us by voting. Your support is needed. **Please vote daily on Facebook for the CSPS Hall. Spread the word!**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

November/December  
*Slovo* Deadline  
October 1

Member Work Day  
October 8, 8 a.m.

CSPS Hall Open House  
October 9, 1 – 5 p.m.

Board of Trustees  
October 12

Board of Directors  
October 13, 7 p.m.

The Dvořák Project  
October 15, 8 p.m.

Family Events Sunday  
October 16, 4:30 p.m.

Roast Pork Dinner  
October 23, 12:30 p.m.

Membership Meeting  
October 28, 7 p.m.  
Singing, 6:30 - 7 p.m.

Annual Meeting  
November 18, 7 p.m.

Senior Singers  
Tuesdays 10 a.m.

Gymnastics  
Tuesdays, 5 p.m.



*In a media event and march on August 2, 2011, Joyce Tesarek (pictured) and Joe Landsberger (behind the camera) joined the National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express on the Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis as they revealed that Partners in Preservation was coming to the Twin Cities.*

*Over 350 non-profit and historic organizations submitted applications. Sokol Minnesota was one of only 25 chosen to qualify for the competition for funding that will total \$1,000,000.*

*To Joyce's right is Chuck Liddy, principal architect of the firm Miller Dunwiddy. The firm is developing the CSPS Sokol Hall Pre-Design & Schematic Design Study.*

*Wish us luck! Better yet, vote via Facebook!*

You must vote using Facebook. Visit [www.Facebook.com/PartnersinPreservation](http://www.Facebook.com/PartnersinPreservation) to cast your vote for the CSPS Hall. You can vote once every day of the contest, so remember to vote each day. Voting ends October 12. We need your help! Please spread the word! Send this information to all your "Friends" as well as family, friends, colleagues, everyone you know! It is fun, easy, fast, and we need your votes! For more information, visit our website at [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org) or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](http://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota) or call Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147. For a daily reminder and link, plus CSPS Hall Fun Fact info, email us at [events@sokolmn.org](mailto:events@sokolmn.org). Voters are entered in a drawing for prizes including Delta Airlines tickets!

At the end of the voting period, the winner of the popular vote is guaranteed funding. The remainder of the \$1 million in grants will be given to a number of the other sites after review by American Express, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and an advisory committee. The committee, co-chaired by Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, is composed of Twin Cities civic and preservation leaders. *(continued on page 3)*

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Past issues of *Slovo* and  
Sokol Minnesota's calendar  
of events are available online  
at <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)>

**President Komentář/President's Notes** By Ed Hamernik

*Pozdrav/Greetings!*

My note this month is brief as I am heavily involved in moving our company to a larger facility. See you all at the Open House on October 9, *The Dvořák Project* on October 15, and the Pork Dinner on Sunday, October 23. Remember also the Cleanup Day on October 8.

Sokol Minnesota isn't alone in its mission to spread Czech/Slovak culture throughout the Midwest. Objects that represent our heritage can be found throughout the area, even in the most unexpected of places. During a recent visit to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester to support a relative in his fight against cancer, my wife and granddaughter noticed an intricately wrought, large glass egg displayed in a waiting room. The egg's sculptor, Ivan Mares, is Czech. He is internationally recognized among designers and artists for his use of abstract geometric shapes, color, and stained-glass technique to create beautiful works of art. Born in 1956 in Decin in the Czech Republic, Mares still resides in his home country. He brings to life both the unique art form of glasswork and Czech spirit and culture, for the artists he works with and everyone who views his pieces. *Website with info on Mares's work:*

<[http://www.gallery.cz/gallery/en/Vystava/2000\\_05/Ramec\\_V.html](http://www.gallery.cz/gallery/en/Vystava/2000_05/Ramec_V.html)>

Keep your eyes open for other examples of Czech and Slovak heritage and culture, even in the most unlikely of places (like a doctor's office!). You never know what you'll uncover!

P.S. - Please vote daily for the CSPS Hall to win Partners in Preservation funds (see page 1)

*Nazdar!*

**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](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)>. **The deadline for the November/December 2011 issue is October 1.** *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; seeking volunteer for layout editor (M. L. Kucera, still standing in, ankle deep); J. H. Fonkert and M. L. Kucera, interim co-managing editors; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Norm Petrik, Mary Cahill, Jeanette Pafko, Jean Draheim, Cinnamon Whaley, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, advisors. Photographs for this issue were provided by Chuck Draheim, Norm Petrik, Sandy Saliny, and Joyce Tesarek. This October 2011 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after October 31.

*Slovo* accepts business card size ads (3.5"x2"), paid in advance: one-time insertion \$25; 3 consecutive issues: \$65; 10 consecutive issues: \$175. Ad reservation deadline is 6 weeks before publication (November 15 for January issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (December 1 for January 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. If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office does not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. 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](mailto: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



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**Partners in Preservation** (continued from page 1) The Twin Cities are the sixth location to participate in the Partners in Preservation program and to receive funding from American Express. The program previously made grants for preservation projects in San Francisco, Chicagoland, New Orleans, Greater Boston, and Seattle-Puget Sound.



“Through the Partners in Preservation program, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express work hand-in-hand to bring attention and funding to important historic places around the country,” said Stephanie Meeks, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “This year we have the honor of shining a spotlight on the Twin Cities’ many treasures.

By rallying public support and giving away \$1 million to these one-of-a-kind places, we hope to illustrate how important historic preservation is to our beloved cities and communities.”

The history of our historic hall dates back to 1879 where it served as the focal point for Czech-Slovak activities in Saint Paul. When the first wooden hall and stage burned in 1884, the current brick structure replaced it in 1887, with the third level meeting room added in 1917. Notable children of the hall include actress Blanche Yurka (1887–1974) and architect John Rockart (1872-1951); the composer Antonín Dvořák visited the hall and was celebrated on our stage in 1893. The six unique backdrops for the theater were painted by Vic Hubal, Sr., in 1932, some say from postcards of his beloved Bohemia. The furnishings of the historic meeting room date from the 1800s, as do the archival collections and displays. (See accompanying article on Sokol theater at CSPS Hall on page 11.)

## Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director



At the August membership meeting, one couple and one single member were accepted into membership in Sokol Minnesota. Brian and Theresa Schousek of Hoolton, Wisconsin, who had children at Sokol Culture Camp in June, became interested in Sokol, especially in language and genealogy. Virgil Nelson (seen here with Norm Petrik) of Burnsville is interested in language and is taking Slovak classes. He was present at the meeting, and was inducted into Sokol Minnesota. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota! Our October membership meeting will be October 28 at 7 p.m.

**Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships:** Renewals: Individual **\$45**; Couple **\$80**. Senior **\$35** (over age 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years); Senior couple **\$70**. New memberships: Individual **\$50**; Couple **\$85**. This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Year 2011 dues for members joining after June 30 are reduced. Membership applications: <www.sokolmn.org> or by request from Norm Petrik (612-822-6147).

Please send your completed membership application and check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Attn: Membership, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102.

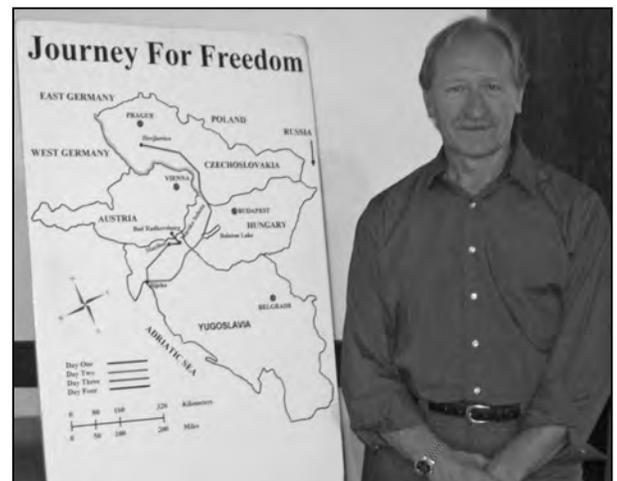
## An Evening with Sokol Member Peter Vodenka

by Shirley Verner

It was with a trace of foreboding that I sat in a gathering of Sokols and friends at the CSPS Hall on a sweltering August evening to hear a talk by Peter Vodenka, author of *Journey For Freedom*. Not knowing what to expect, would the audience be restless in the heat? Would Peter’s story hold our interest? When he was finished telling his fascinating, real-life story of defection from the Communist government in Czechoslovakia, everyone in attendance agreed that they could have stayed much longer to hear even more of his family’s ordeals.

The story of how Peter, his young wife Lilly, and their two toddlers drove, and then ran for their lives through all sorts of barriers and across several eastern European borders, was certainly the “unbelievable stuff” of intrigue and it was broader than any of our real-life experiences.

*Peter with a map of his flight in 1983 to escape the Iron Curtain.*



This year, Sokol Minnesota’s regular monthly meetings have changed to include abbreviated business sessions followed by informative and entertaining programs presented by members and special guests. If it’s been a while since you’ve attended a monthly meeting, give it a try in an upcoming month. You won’t be disappointed, that’s for sure.

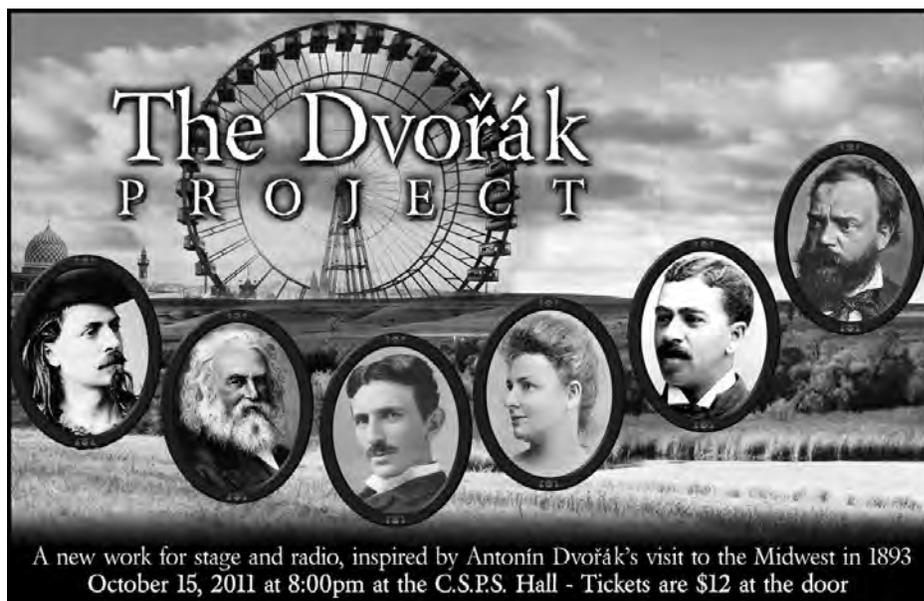
**Radio Play World Premier:  
Who's Who Guide to  
THE DVOŘÁK PROJECT  
October 15, 8 p.m. curtain**

A new bold-imagining of Antonin Dvořák's visit to the American mid-West will be staged October 15 at the CSPS Sokol Hall. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is proud to co-produce this world premier production in the same hall that hosted a huge reception for Maestro Dvořák on September 5, 1893. Doors open at 7 p.m. with Czech food and beer for sale before and after the performance. Curtain rises at 8 p.m.

Dvořák's visit to the Midwest in 1893 coincided with the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The Exposition, a world's fair including exhibits from 47 nations and attended by more than 27 million people, marked a major cultural shift into the technology and attitudes of the modern world as well as symbolically marking the "coming of age" of the U.S. In August, Dvořák conducted the "Bohemian Day" concert at the Exposition and his "American" String Quartet, just completed in Spillville, was performed. This play links a cast of characters inspired by several fascinating historical figures connected to Dvořák or to the Columbian Exposition who represent a variety of important American cultural traditions. Here is a helpful who's who guide, just to whet your appetite!

**Jeannette Thurber:** Founder of the National Conservatory of Music in New York, she recruited Dvořák to be its director, certain that his aptitude for using folk material in a classical idiom might spur the creation of a uniquely American classical music. Inspired by her studies at the Paris Conservatory as a young woman, she was committed to supporting talented students regardless of need.

**Harry T. Burleigh:** Gifted baritone, student at the National Conservatory from 1892-6, Dvořák's assistant and friend, he went on to have a trailblazing career as one of the earliest arrangers of African American religious music. He later served on the faculty of the Conservatory, received honorary degrees from Atlanta and Howard Universities, and published a major series of music called *Negro Spirituals* in 1917. He collaborated with **Will Marion Cook** to coordinate the music for "Colored People's Day" at the Chicago Exhibition. Cook spent time at the Conservatory before launching an important Broadway career.



**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:** Major 19<sup>th</sup>-Century American poet who penned the epic poem *The Song of Hiawatha*, which took the nation and the world by storm and, like many of the writer's works, was hailed for its musical cadences and melodies. Today the legacy of the poem is complicated by its fictive inventions many Native Americans find typifies paternalistic attitudes. Dvořák worked on a possible opera based on *Hiawatha* during his sojourn in the United States.

**Josef Jan Kovařík:** After noticing the musician's aptitude for English at a Prague bookstore, the Maestro enlisted him to travel to New York with his family to serve as his translator and secretary. Kovařík suggested that Dvořák spend the summer of 1893 in Spillville, Iowa (his hometown), thinking that it might remind the homesick composer of his beloved country house, *Vysoká*. Kovařík later became a member of the New York Philharmonic.

**William Cody:** Also known as "Buffalo Bill," launched his *Wild West Show* in 1883 after a decade in show business doing border shows and stage plays. In 1886, with the help of theatrical impresario **Steele McKaye**, the show was transformed for Madison Square Garden and titled "The Battle of Civilizations." Featuring an enormous cast, "real" cowboys and Indians, and many eccentric characters (including the legendary sharp shooter **Annie Oakley**), McKaye later schemed to top this spectacle with a historical pageant dramatizing Columbus' discovery of America for the World's Columbian Exhibition. Had his colossal Spectatorium show come to fruition, it would have featured a score by Antonin Dvořák.

**Nikola Tesla:** Brilliant Serbian scientist and inventor, his revolutionary work with Alternating Currents (AC) resulted in a "Battle of the Currents" with **Thomas Edison**, developer of the Direct Current (DC) system. Ultimately Tesla's system, bankrolled by Westinghouse, won the contract to electrify the fairgrounds of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

**Ida B. Wells:** African American journalist, editor, and crusader for civil rights and women's suffrage. She collaborated with the famous abolitionist **Frederick Douglass** and others on an important pamphlet that posited "Reasons Why the Colored American Is Not in the World's Columbian Exposition." A courageous investigative reporter, she was also the author of "Southern Horrors: Lynch Laws in All Its Phases" and spent the last phase of her career in Chicago fighting for progressive urban reform.

These are just some of the many intriguing people that Dvořák encountered on his travels or whose lives touched his journey in some way. Written and directed by Rachel Perlmeter with an innovative score by J. Anthony Allen, who teaches composition at McNally Smith College of Music in Saint Paul, the work brings this vivid era of invention and exploration to life. Tickets will be \$12 and available at the door. Visit the project website for further background and more details:  
<<http://dvorakproject.tumblr.com/>>

## MEMBER NEWS

**Rich and Sandy Saliny**, Sokol Minnesota members from Minneapolis, hosted 15-year-old pianist Jakub Sladek and his teacher Marina Mareckova during the International E-Piano Junior Competition held at Hamline University in Saint Paul from July 1-8. Jakub was one of 25 students chosen from 500 students who auditioned for this honor. The weeklong competition was presented by Musicians in Debut International, with the top five students performing with the Minnesota Orchestra. The winner was from Hong Kong.



*Sandy and Rich Saliny with Jakub Sladek and his piano teacher Marina Mareckova in July.*

Jakub, from Brno, Czech Republic, has already performed in many national and international competitions. Among his awards are IPC Virtuosi Musica di Pianoforte Grand Prize (2004 and 2008), Young Piano of Prague Conservatory Grand Prize (2009), and Ettingen Piano Competition, Laureate of the Competition (2010). The Salinys very much enjoyed hosting this talented student and his teacher.

**Reminiscing:** The article about Little Bohemia in the September *Slovo* brought back many memories of living in the neighborhood. My Grandfather, **John L Moravec**, came to the U.S in 1910, and first lived in Milwaukee before coming to Saint Paul. In Saint Paul they first lived at 407 Michigan and then 453 Saint Clair before finally moving to 554 Superior Street. For four years we (father, mother, brother, and sister) lived at 382 Banfil. So many memories of that neighborhood and the CSPA Hall. My aunt (**Mary Moravec Kraker**) had her wedding reception there. My Grandmother **Frances Moravec** was one of the dancers and was involved with the Festival of Nations. Thanks for the memories. **Juliana Moravec Slavik**, Alexandria, Minnesota

**Send your news to Marlene Hinshaw <Marle5421@aol.com>**

**CORRECTION:** In "A Tribute to Sokol" on page 3 of the August 2011 *Slovo*, the third paragraph should have stated Frank Verner rather than Frank Loss. **Vic Hubal**, the author, intended to draw a parallel between the exceptional lives of service led by **Blanche Dvorak** and **Frank Loss** and with the life of **Frank Verner**. *Slovo* very much regrets the error.

*Plan Now to Attend*

**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota  
Annual Meeting  
Friday, November 18, 7 p.m.**



*In early August, Sokol member **Mark Andrl** caught this 47", estimated 32-pound muskie near the Minnesota Sokol Camp on Cross Lake. It isn't too early to be thinking about 2012 and coming next summer to Sokol Camp in Pine City, Minnesota.*

**Pilsner, Plays, and Preservation  
CSPA HALL OPEN HOUSE  
Sunday, October 9, 1 - 5 p.m.**

**Twin Cities Carpathian Folk Festival 2011**  
By Louise Wessinger

The first Carpathian Folk Festival in the Twin Cities is September 30 to October 5. Hosted by the Minnesota Hungarians, Inc., events include a Mississippi River Cruise, dance workshops, a dance party, a narrative presentation at the Minnesota History Center, and two concerts.

The first concert features the Duvo Ensemble, master musicians from Hungary, and the second concert showcases seven local dance groups that share the dance heritage of the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe. These groups include the *Duvo* Ensemble, *Videki* Hungarian Dancers, Cheremosh and the Ukrainian Village Band, *Dolina* Polish Folk Dancers, *Lipa* Slovak Folk Dancers, Ethnic Dance Theater (representing Romania), *Szaska*, and the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.

The dance concert, 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 2, is at Saint Anthony Village High School Auditorium. Admission: \$10/adults in advance, \$15 at the door, \$5/students, children under 6 are free. Advance tickets are available from any of the participating dance groups. For further information about all the events, contact <www.minnesotahungarians.com>

## Education Updates

By Jean Draheim

**Cooking Classes:** *Vánočka* (Christmas Bread) Back by popular demand. Start the holiday season out with a morning of traditional Czech and Slovak Baking.

*Vánočka* is a braided sweet bread that is made during the Christmas holidays. This "bake and take" class will cover making the dough from scratch, braiding and forming the loaves, and baking. The class will be held Saturday, November 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Registration by November 21.)

This class will fill quickly. Be sure to get more information and your registration form online at <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)>. If you do not have Internet access, please call Jean at 651-426-2826.

**Free-to-Members Events:** Sokol Minnesota's Education Committee invites all interested members to *Free-to-Members* "classes." These events are a wonderful way to meet other Sokols and to learn more about Czech and Slovak culture.

Our first event is a *make-and-take* greeting card party on Friday, October 21, at 7 p.m., in the first floor classroom. Member Doreen McKenney has graciously offered her art supplies to create up to five cards each. If you want to bring a non-Sokol friend or family member, they may purchase cards that evening. (Registration by Tuesday, October 18.)

January will be our *Soup-er Sokol* cooking event. Members will have the opportunity to learn about Czech and Slovak soups as we make the soups for the January 27 members' meeting. You won't want to miss it!

Classes require a minimum of six students and are limited to 10 students. We need to know the number of participants so that we have enough supplies. If there are not enough students registered, classes may be canceled.

Registration forms can be found on the Sokol Minnesota website: <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)>. Registrations must be made by the specified date and sent to: Jean Draheim, 4044 Cranbrook Drive, White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110.

## News from the Board of Trustees (BOT) By Chuck Draheim

Exciting things are happening at our beloved CSPS Hall! Hopefully by the time you read this, you will have had an opportunity to view the newly-refinished floors in the main hall and dining room. Our flooring contractor, Generations Hardwood Flooring, LLC, worked long and hard to restore the floors to their original glory. This work was made possible, in part, by a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society and funds from the Legacy Building Fund.

Sokol needs your help and cooperation to keep the floors looking great. When you move tables and chairs or any other non-rolling items around the hall please refrain from dragging them across the floor. If something is too heavy for you to lift, get help.

Progress is being made towards replacing our antiquated steam pipes in the basement and installing the fire protection system on the first, second, and third floors of the building. Bids have been received for both projects and contracts will be awarded after Sokol has received final approval from the National Park Service. This work is being funded, in part, with funds appropriated by Congress from the Historic Preservation Fund for the Save America's Treasures Grant Program.

You may have noticed that the paint on the wall at the bottom of the main stairway is peeling away. This was caused by water getting into the wall through gaps in the caulking around many of the south facing windows. Restoration Technologies, Inc., has now sealed the gaps and work will begin shortly to restore the plaster surface. Sadly, the wonderful painting on the wall will be lost. The painting has been photographed for historical purposes. Member Doreen McKinney has volunteered to paint a new design for the wall. The new painting will be done on a removable panel that will be attached to the wall. This should ensure that the design will not be damaged should further leaks occur in the future.



On October 8, beginning at 8 a.m., the BOT hosts a fall clean up day at the Hall in preparation for the open house on October 9. All Sokol members are encouraged to help spruce up the interior and exterior of the building. Your help will be greatly appreciated as we prepare the Hall for this very important event.

The BOT solicits your input regarding any concerns you may have about the condition of the Hall and any maintenance or repair issues that may require our attention. Contact the trustees by sending an email to <[trustees@sokolmn.org](mailto:trustees@sokolmn.org)>.

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## FAMILY EVENT SUNDAYS

October 16  
November 13  
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Potluck Meal & Family Activities

Registration:  
612-384-1604  
or 612-724-5464

Saturday Svatý Mikuláš  
December 3, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

**Friends of the Immigration  
History Research Center  
Annual Meeting, Dinner, and  
Program on November 12**  
by Mary Cahill

*(includes excerpts from the Fall 2011 IHRC  
Friend's Newsletter)*

The annual meeting of the Friends of the IHRC (Immigration History Research Center) will be held on Saturday, November 12, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., at the Minnesota Humanities Center, 987 Ivy Avenue East, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106.

This year's program will feature a report by historians Dr. Marilyn Chiat, Professor Jeanne Halgren Kilde, and doctoral candidate Anduin Wilhide on their research into religious congregations and houses of worship formed by early settlers in nine neighborhoods developed along the Mississippi River between 1849 and 1924. The research project explores such themes as community creation, ethnicity and identity, relationships among congregations, intra-congregational interactions, the role of houses of worship, and social-class structures. The goal of the project is to document the long heritage of religious diversity that has been central to this area's growth and development.

Friends of the IHRC is a non-profit auxiliary organization associated with the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center. It is dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary research on international migration, developing archives documenting immigration and refugee life, and making specialized scholarships available to students, teachers, and the public. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is a member of the Friends of the IHRC and has representation on the Friend's board.

The cost for dinner and the program is \$25 per person; advance reservations are required. Please send your advance reservation by November 1 and check payable to Friends of the IHRC to: Friends of the IHRC, c/o Vicki Albu, 326 23rd Court South, South Saint Paul, Minnesota 55075. The evening includes a social hour, dinner (please indicate choice of Maple Vinegar Chicken or Vegetarian Option), and entertainment by Ukrainian Village Band. Direct any questions you may have to: <young754@umn.edu>

**Do You Know Your Family? By Ginger Simek**

President of Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International <www.cgisi.org>

Often there are questions we wish we had asked our grandparents, older aunts and uncles, or cousins who have passed away. Questions about what their life was like when they were growing up, what did they do for fun, who were their friends, how far was their school and how did they get there, and so on. Knowing the answers adds so much and gives us a picture of the person and the family they were a part of.

But what about the current generations of your family: do you know them as well as you think you do? Do you really know very much about your parents, and what do your children really know about you? Why not ask questions of the family you have around you right now and record those answers for future generations.

A fun game for a family gathering or a family reunion is a family trivia game with each person submitting a fact or event (one or more) in their life and having others guess which person it is about. It is a great way to spark more stories and memories. Or have a "Who is in the photo?" session using photos from many years ago or even more current ones. A more formal way is to interview family members, using a list of questions, and combine them into booklet form, recording what is here in the present for those to come in the future.

The idea for this came from an article, "Take A Census of Your Family" by Clair Haberman; *Naše rodina*, Volume 11, Number 2, June 1999. Two books mentioned in the article are: *How to Interview a Sleeping Man* by Milli Brown and *To Our Children's Children: Preserving Family Histories for Generations to Come* by Bob Greene.

**CZECH ROAST PORK  
DINNER**

**Sunday, October 23, 12:30 p.m.**

**Roast pork, raised-bread dumplings,  
sauerkraut, dessert, and coffee**

**\$16 adults/ \$8 child under 9  
Cash beer bar.**

**Pre-paid reservations by October 17  
952-941-0426**

## So you think you know about Lidice, 1942?

By Josef A. Mestenhauser

*Editor's note: This article originally appeared on the CSCC website <cs-center.org>.*



Most of us know that the entire village of Lidice was leveled in 1942, that men and boys over 15 years were executed, that women and children were sent to concentration camps, and that children were separated from parents. The brutality of this

“event” far exceeds the common knowledge, however. I was sixteen when Lidice “happened;” I also lived through the massive retaliation by the Nazis that followed the assassination of the Reichsprotektor Heydrich.

The memory of these war years came back when a Czech student sent me two recently published books about Lidice, both in English. One is a carefully researched commemorative volume providing detailed information about the “old” Lidice, the events of June 10, 1942, and the town’s subsequent rebuilding. The second book is the memoir of one of the few survivors, written by my student’s relative, Jarmila Sklenickova. She has put to good use her photographic memory in recounting the gruesome events of that June and its aftermath. She provides a graphic but unemotional picture of the Nazi bestiality that has not been generally known, until recently. The peaceful village was encircled by more than 500 Nazi police, Gestapo, and SS troops, who woke up residents with instructions to collect their most precious possessions and to gather: men and boys over 15 at the Horak orchard, and women and children at the schoolhouse.

Background history: It all started nearly 3 years earlier with the Munich pact of October 1938 that surrendered the Sudeten area to the Reich, and the subsequent occupation of the rest of the “Czech and Slovak Republic,” turning it into “Protektorat von Bohemia und Moravia” in March 1939. Growing resistance again this “Anschluss” prompted Hitler to replace the Reich’s “Protektor” with his henchman Reinhardt Heydrich who arrived in Prague on September 27, 1941. He began his term with massive arrests and public executions of prominent Czechs and by imposing severe restrictions on the entire population. As his terror unleashed, the exile government of President Benes in London began thinking of its own retaliation, focusing on Heydrich. The plans, made in conjunction with the British Special Operations Executive, called for sending specially trained paratroopers to assassinate Heydrich. After parachuting into Czechoslovakia, they organized the attack on Heydrich’s car on May 27, 1942. Heydrich died of wounds on June 4, and he was buried in Berlin in an exceedingly pompous funeral attended by Hitler himself.

Here is probably how the fate of Lidice was sealed; the Gestapo was certain that the inhabitants of Lidice were complicit in the assassination. Their circumstantial evidence was so weak that even Gestapo must have known it was of doubtful value. One, a letter to a girl from her suitor, turned in to the police by the girl’s employer, where in which the suitor implied that he was member of the assassination group. When arrested, she revealed that the suitor brought greetings from “Horak” who was originally from Lidice but escaped to England.

Second, a captured paratrooper of

a different unit testified under interrogation that two people, named Horak and Cerny, both from Lidice, had been trained by the British for Special Forces assignments in the Protektorat.

The order to inflict collective punishment on Lidice came directly from Hitler. An SS unit was renamed in honor of Heydrich; its most elite members were selected to be the executioners. Hitler’s order was to 1) shoot all men and boys over 15; 2) send all women and children to concentration camps, 3) select children suitable for Germanization and send them to SS families in Germany, and 4) level the village and erase its name forever.

The men were executed in the Horak orchard, five at a time, each by three of the SS elite corps. One aimed at the head, two at the chest, with another soldier finishing the act with another bullet into the head of each person. The next group of five had to step over the dead bodies of their friends and family; the execution squad took three steps back, and the atrocity continued. When the process appeared too slow, men were shot ten at a time. The women and children were trucked to Kladno; from there the women went to concentration camps, while children were sent for extermination in Chelmno near Lodz. Of course, the prisoners were stripped of all their “precious belongings.” The Horak and Cerny families were all arrested separately and executed in the special execution site in Kobylisy in Prague.

In Lidice, all houses were searched for valuable possessions, including money, bank books, furniture, and livestock. The estimated value of the funds alone was three million crowns, which were used to pay for the executions and destruction of the village. It was several months before the village was razed. Not even the cemetery was spared: caskets were removed, bodies of the dead searched for gold teeth and jewelry. Observers testified that soldiers amused themselves by using the skulls to play soccer.

The entire Protektorat was under martial law, with special courts imprisoning thousands and ordering the execution of almost 1,500 people; this was in addition to the 173 men and boys who died in Lidice, the 82 children who died in Chelmno, and the 60 women who died in concentration camps. Only 17 of the 105 children survived and returned, while only 143 of the 203 women did. These numbers do not include people who were executed independently, but in conjunction with these retributions, while already in other concentration camps or prisons.

In reading these two books and writing this article, I was surprised at my own reactions. Suddenly, I felt the same anxiety, fear, and hate that I experienced then, almost seventy years ago!!! It was as if it happened last month. I even had a nightmare; I felt disconnected from normal activities. I was surprised, indeed, and thought about the implications of Lidice, not only for me, but in general. I want to share with my readers these thoughts.

First, time does not always heal injustices, no matter how one may try to forget or even forgive. Such intense memories as green Gestapo cars circling the country revive the agony of people wondering whether they might stop to make more arrests. Not only do people remember such injustices, but tend to exaggerate them.

Secondly, I am persuaded that Lidice was the turning point beyond which most people in Czechoslovakia no longer distinguished between “good” and “bad” Germans. They started to believe it would be impossible to live together in a liberated country. Jan Masaryk reinforced this perception, as I noted in previous articles. *(continued on page 9)*

(continued from page 8) Thirdly, consistent with the previous point, the idea of the “collective guilt” principle used by the Nazis in Lidice would be employed by the Czechs as well. Despite the twenty years of Masaryk’s democracy, the culture continued to be “collectivistic” and thus amenable to such generalizations.

Fourth, the extreme brutality employed by the Nazis was so severe that forgetting or forgiveness are very difficult. Enjoying themselves while people are slaughtered, playing soccer with skulls of those long dead, robbing personal property, and dividing families make unforgettable impressions. Indeed, the question is how people can live with these memories; whether they can remember the bestiality, but let go of the feelings and focus on the future?

Fifth, a tremendous amount of treachery and deception was used by the Nazis to secure compliance with orders. Their acts made it very difficult to establish and maintain any kind of trust among people. Treacheries also were committed by Czechs against other Czechs. For example, the paratroopers’ hiding place was revealed by one of them who responded to the Nazi offer of amnesty for anyone providing information about Heydrich’s assassination. The paratrooper revealed the assassins’ hiding place in a church crypt in Prague, but he was executed just the same. The infamous Czech police inspector Vit participated in the action in Lidice. On the other hand, exceptional bravery was demonstrated by the victims who faced execution squads with their heads up, shouting “Long live free Czechoslovakia.”

Sixth, how can people who have suffered so much deal with the double burden of living with the memories and also with the burden of revenge? This is not just a Czech and German issue. Just look around and you will see such abuses happening in many countries, including in our own, over a long period of history that do not get forgotten.

Writing this article convinced me that the only solution might be to remember the past, never to allow it to be repeated, but to declare a moratorium on violence to punish violence, and to focus on restoring humanism for the betterment of the entire world. What do you think?

*NOTE:* Jarmila Sklenickova, on whose book this article was based, will do a live interview on Saturday, April 21, 2012, from 9 a.m. to noon at Carlson School of Management as part of the lecture series sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center and the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development at the University of Minnesota. Jarmila is the youngest survivor of Lidice holocaust; she and her older sister, Mila (Mrs. Miloslava Kalibova) will appear via Skype large screen format to give their perspectives and recollections on Lidice, past and present.

In a related note, Magic Box, a.s., and Czech Television produced a feature film *Lidice* that premiered in Prague in June. The Cultural Center has requested that English subtitles be added so the film can be shown in conjunction with the interview.



### **KROJ at SOKOL MINNESOTA**

Sue Martin (above), our Sokol Minnesota Kroje commentator, wears a Piešťany kroj, identifiable by the distinctive monochrome embroidery on backskirt and apron, edged

with wide lace. Sleeves are covered in open-work embroidery, typically in yellow/gold or blue. Vests are brocade, trimmed in floral ribbon and metallic trim. The traditional bonnet worn by married women is also decorated with open-work embroidery. Piešťany is a quiet, spa resort town renowned for the successful treatment of arthritis using thermal springs and curative mud. A popular tourist destination, the town offers beautiful parks, sport facilities, a summer music festival, year-round live entertainment, a casino and shopping.

### **Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors** By Mary Cahill

Sokol Minnesota thanks generous donors who support Sokol programs and rehabilitation of the CSPA Hall Legacy Fund:

\$100 from Robert and Genevieve Gibson. (Jinny won the Booya raffle first prize.)

\$617 from the April 9, 2011, Prospect Park Community Concert Series' *České Písničky* Concert performed by Jody Ouradnik, Stu Anderson, and Sokol member Frank Trnka.

*In Memory of Lorene Sedlacek*

JoAnne King  
Barb Kodada Severni  
Mary Annie Kodada  
Sharon and Ken Wyberg

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Georgiana Dolejsi

## SONG OF THE MONTH by Georgiana Dolejsi

This Moravian patriotic song is from *The American Sokol Sings*,  
American Sokol Educational and Physical Culture Organization, Berwyn, Illinois, 1974.

MOHAVOI

English lyric:  
Olga Paul

Arranged by:  
H.A. Schimmerling



Mo-ra- vo, Mo-ra-vo, Mo-ra-ven-ko mi-lá, Go zte-be,  
Oh my true na-tive land, Oh my dear Mo-ra- via. All your folk  
po- chá-zí cha-sa u- šle- chti-lá, Cha-sa u-šle- chti-lá,  
show such fine And such brave be-ha-vior. What a won-drous peo- ple,  
Zá-do sti-vá bo-je! A ja-ké po-tom-stvo, ro-dí pŕ-da  
Fight-ing with such dar-ing. What a great her-i- tage, Great and small are  
tvo- je, A ja-ké po-tom-stvo ro-dí pŕ-da tvo-je.  
shar-ing. What a great her-i- tage, Great and small are shar-ing.

### KROJE at SOKOL MINNESOTA

Sisters Paula Vukonich (left) and Teresa Pojer (right) wear Bohemian kroje from different villages. Paula's kroj represents the Chodsko region, also known as the Bohemian Forest, ancestral home of her paternal grandfather. The skirt is an antique original purchased in Prague and the shawl is new from the Czech Republic. She made the remainder of the outfit to closely duplicate a picture from an old Czech kroje book, using details like authentic vintage red buttons. Some specific features of the kroj from this region include: brocade apron with vertical striping, red pleated skirt with ribbon trim on lower edge, black embroidered vest, fringed shawl, large puffed sleeves, ruffled at elbows, red stockings, and shoes decorated with ribbons. A black embroidered headscarf was worn by women who were married, a flower wreath was worn if single.

Teresa's kroj is in the style of Turnov, north Bohemia, and is a replica of kroje on the Dvorana website. Her striped skirt is covered with a white apron edged with eyelet. Her dark vest is distinctively laced with red ribbon up the center back. Turnov is a traditional center for gemstone polishing, glass craftsmanship and arts. Turnov lies in the heart of the Bohemian Paradise (Český ráj) nature reserve which makes it a wonderful place for tourists and summer residents.

From Sue Martin, Sokol Minnesota Kroje commentator.



# A Short History of Sokol Theatrical Productions in the CSPS Hall

By Joe Landsberger and Denis Novak

Authors' note: In the September Slovo, we reviewed the physical assets of our historic theater. This month, we are writing about the plays performed, and next month we will write about musical events.

We are fortunate to have an interesting accumulation of ledger books, scripts, and programs relating to theater productions at the CSPS Hall. There are 203 different scripts in the Czech language that were considered for production, and at least 65 programs that detail the playwright, cast, director, and advertise a dance afterwards. Many of the scripts are comedies about village life in Bohemia prior to 1900. They are well suited to community theater production. The earliest production we can document consisted of three short one-act comedic plays performed in 1908. The plays were *Poprvé u Fotografu* (First Time Sitting for the Photographer), *Smetanova Hubička* (Sweet Kiss), and *Vypálený Před Souderu* (Burned before the Court). Without a doubt, there were prior productions which we hope to document. If your family has any original documents on musical or theatrical events performed at the CSPS hall, or wish to help us in our archival project, Denis Novak welcomes your help: 651-459-9404 or <denmar@usfamily.net>. We want to validate our status as the oldest theater in the State of Minnesota.

Our Sokol theatrical tradition continues into this century. From 2007-2009, Lex-Ham Community Theater and Sokol Minnesota co-produced a series of shows. Lex-Ham producer Urban Landreman said, "A major part of Lex-Ham's core mission is to help build community through the arts ... and to see how people can be brought together and communities strengthened." The first, *Metamorphosis* by Vaclav Havel, referenced the famous work of another Prague writer, Franz Kafka, where Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams to find that he had been transformed into a giant insect. Havel's characters turn into automobiles. The second, Pavel Kahout's *Fire in the Basement*, is set in the early 1990s after the fall of Communism. It presents firemen as scam artists who intrude into the honeymoon setting of a couple. The satiric comedy addresses the confusion of the time in which a new economic system is replacing the old and no one knows who to trust. In 2007, we also presented *The Mushroom Picker*, Sokol member Patrick Dewane's story about his grandfather, Matt Konop, who led American troops in liberating Domazlice, his ancestral village. In 2008, we presented Vaclav Havel's best-known play, *The Memorandum*, that drew upon absurdist traditions in theater. *The Memorandum* follows Gross, the Managing Director of a large bureaucracy. His Deputy Director has declared that Ptydepe, a completely logical and almost completely incomprehensible language, must become the new official language for all office communications. Bureaucratic rules, office politics, and management fads rule as employees throughout the organization respond to the new mandate.

In 2009, the set on our Sokol stage was the Terezin Concentration Camp in Czechoslovakia during World War II. Again with Lex-Ham, we staged the U.S. premiere of *The Last Cyclist*, Karel



Town, one of six stage backdrops hand painted by Vic Hubal, Sr., in 1932.

Švenk's cabaret, adapted by Naomi Patz and directed by Adam Arnold. Jana Sedova, female lead and a lone survivor of the original production at Terezin, reconstructed the play in her later years. Courageous songs, including the "Terezin Hymn," offer a remarkable glimpse of life in the camp through the eyes of its inmates. Nazis originally featured this concentration camp in its propaganda as an idyllic internment for Czech/Jewish prisoners, even though 80,000 died there, including 15,000 children.

Sokol Minnesota produced our first mystery dinner theater in 2008, written by our own Denis Novak. This spine-tingling mystery aroused more than suspicions as dastardly detail after detail emerged. Dinner guests, who were seated at the Captain's Table aboard a 1920s luxury cruise ship, helped solve a staged mystery. Dinner guests wore 1920s costumes. The successful event raised \$2,000 toward Sokol flood relief in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In 2010, we produced our second mystery dinner play, again written by Denis Novak, *Death by Kolacky*. Publicity proclaimed: "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 bootlegging boys."

This fall we premiere Rachel Perlmeter's new work with music by J. Anthony Allen for stage and radio. The Dvořák Project re-imagines composer Antonín Dvořák's visit to the Midwest and to our own hall in 1893. The journey included a trip to Minnehaha Falls and a celebration held in Dvořák's honor at the CSPS Hall. Join us on October 15 at 8 p.m. to see *The Dvořák Project*. We appreciate your support for Sokol's theatrical tradition in Minnesota's oldest theater. (See page 4 for details.)

Please vote daily for the CSPS Hall  
September 20 to October 12  
[www.Facebook.com/PartnersinPreservation](http://www.Facebook.com/PartnersinPreservation)  
Tell all your friends to vote too!

## ATTEND and VOLUNTEER SOKOL MINNESOTA EVENTS

Fall Cleanup Day at the Hall  
Saturday, October 8, 8 a.m.

Sokol-CSPS Open House  
Sunday, October 9, 1 - 5 p.m.

Staged Radio Play: The Dvořák Project  
Saturday, October 15, 8 p.m. \$12 at the door

Czech Roast Pork Dinner  
Sunday, October 23, 12:30 p.m., \$16

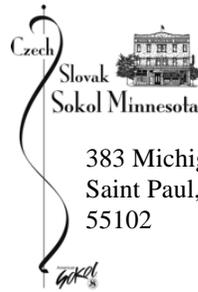
Pancake Breakfast with Craft & Bake Sale  
Sunday, November 20, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Check the calendar on our website for updates  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

**Sokol Minnesota has joined Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](http://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)

Read updates on happenings at CSPS Hall as well as share your Sokol stories and experiences with the online community.

We welcome your suggestions on how to best utilize this exciting new technology! Please contact administrator Cinnamon Whaley through our Facebook page.



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## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* October 2011

### **Pilsner, Plays, and Preservation!!** By Joyce Tesarek

We are thrilled and honored to have our CSPS Hall be one of the 25 sites selected to participate in the 2011 Partners in Preservation program, sponsored by The National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express. We are hosting an open house for visitors to tour our historic and fascinating 125-year-old hall and theater on Sunday, October 9 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The open house, which is free to the public, features a public presentation of all six hand-painted stage backdrops with a discussion of each. Historic displays and hall tours, a Czech puppet show *Červená karkulka* (Red Riding Hood), and complimentary pilsner-style beer and koláče will add to the festivities. Sokol Minnesota's teen and children's dance groups will perform in colorful folk costumes. Learn to dance a polka with the group!

Everyone is encouraged and welcomed to visit our historic site. Computers will be available for you to cast your Facebook vote for the CSPS Hall as your favorite Partners in Preservation site.

For more information, visit us at <[sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org)> or call 651-290-0542.  
Remember to vote daily for CSPS Hall through October 12! Tell all your friends to vote too!

**Go to [www.Facebook.com/PartnersinPreservation](http://www.Facebook.com/PartnersinPreservation)**