

Providing fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May Slovo Deadline  
April 1

Spring Breakfast/Sale  
Sunday, April 1  
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Family Easter Saturday  
April 7, 4:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees  
April 11

Board of Directors  
April 12, 7 p.m.

Garage Sale  
April 12, noon - 7 p.m.  
April 13, 10 - 3 p.m.  
Drop off: April 11, 10 - 6

Membership Meeting  
April 27, 7 p.m.

Festival of Nations  
May 3 - 6

Senior Singers  
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Gymnastics  
Tuesdays, 6 p.m. and  
6:45 p.m.

Prostná: 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays

## Spring Breakfast...



**Sunday, April 1**  
**9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

All-you-can-eat pancakes and French toast  
fruit cup, sausage, juice, milk, and coffee.

*NO Reservations needed - Public Welcome*

**\$6.50 adult; \$4.50 children under 9**  
**\$20.00 family - of - four**

**Craft and Collectible Vendors - Bake sale**

Exquisite  
handcrafts  
for gift giving



Delicious  
pastries  
for your  
Easter table

Event Chairs: Doreen McKenney and Jean Draheim  
Vendor table reservations, call Jean: 651-426-2826

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.  
C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

## GARAGE



antiques, collectibles, books, clothing, and domestic treasures

**Thursday, April 12 - 12 noon - 7 p.m.**

**Friday, April 13 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Drop off donations**  
**Wednesday, April 11 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**  
Arrange early drop off April 2 - 10  
call for times: 952-941-0426

Event Chairs: Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Since 1932 Sokol Minnesota has been celebrating  
Czech and Slovak culture at the Festival of Nations for 80 years!

**VOLUNTEERING gets you free admission**

**May 3-6**  
**Saint Paul**  
**RiverCentre**



**Café or Culture Booth**  
Call Mary: 651-738-9470

**Bazaar**  
Call Doreen: 952-941-0426  
Kroj (ethnic costume)  
provided to wear while volunteering



The  
**Festival of Nations** is presented by the International Institute of Minnesota.

It is the largest and longest running multicultural festival in Minnesota,  
celebrating cultural diversity with food, music, demonstrations, and exhibits.

**Czech and Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota  
2012  
Board of Directors**

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

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

*Pozdrav bratri a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters*

Last month, I commented briefly about the mission of Sokol Minnesota and also about strategies that could be implemented in the future. The new Membership/Volunteerism Committee has been formed with Catherine Haselbauer as chair and members Norm Petrik, Marlene Hinshaw, Tom Aubrecht, and Michaela Wentz. We appreciate their willingness to lead and we support this important effort for Sokol Minnesota. Members will be hearing from them in the coming weeks, so please give them your support.

We have also made changes in our Gaming Committee. We have added Steve Shimer to the committee as Assistant Manager to support the effort of computerizing the accounting. Manually, the Gaming accounting is time consuming and somewhat tedious because of the number of entries that need to be made for the monthly and annual reports. The auditors of our annual budget strongly recommended this change. Ken Wyberg has done an outstanding job these past years keeping up with all the state requirements for record keeping and reporting, and we certainly appreciate all his work. Miro Verner is also commended for doing the required auditing of all pull tab games for the past 15 years. The dedication and support from members like these is truly unsurpassed.

With Steve Shimer moving to the Gaming Committee, he cannot also hold the Sokol Treasurer's position, since Gaming must operate independently of the sponsoring organization. Don Haselbauer has accepted the Treasurer's position. We appreciate Don's willingness to do this important job.

The Project Planning Committee has been working on a number of projects. The Heating System upgrade is nearing completion after a few delays with valve replacement. The Fire Protection System (Sprinkling system) is being reviewed by the National Park Service and the state Historic Architects, and we expect approval soon. The air conditioning of the second and third floors is being studied by Structural Engineers to determine the load carrying capability of the roof. At first glance some of these projects may not seem that involved but there are many details to address. I thank Joe Landsberger and Gary Novak for handling many of these details.

My appreciation and thanks to the Board of Directors, committees, members, and friends for their excellent support and efforts. It is very much appreciated.

A reminder to all of the upcoming Sokol Minnesota events (see page 12). I look forward to seeing many of you there. *Na Žďár!*

**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 2012 dues for members joining after June 30 are reduced.

Membership applications: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

or by request from Catherine Haselbauer (612-722-3430).

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

## Member News Update

In Florida for the winter, Sokol Minnesota member **Libby Imbrone** recently attended a lecture by Madeleine Albright at Florida Atlantic University. Libby had previously met Albright, first woman United States Secretary of State and a Czech American, during the Vaclav Havel Civil Society Symposium in Saint Paul in the fall of 2000. Throughout her speech, Libby notes, Madeleine Albright made numerous references to her Czech background and experiences. We can be proud and grateful for her great efforts on behalf of Czech people and interests for so many years!

As we were going to press, we learned that **Robert (Bob) Vanyo**, age 82, active member of Sokol Minnesota since 1949, passed away at his home in Saint Paul, on March 11, 2012. He is survived by 11 children, 18 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 3 sisters, 2 brothers, numerous other relatives, and many dear friends. His lifetime contributions to Sokol Minnesota include multi-year past president, gym instructor, *prostná* participant, hall manager, officer of Western District, and a member of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk

Dancers for over 50 years. Bob and Babe surely are dancing in heaven and having a beer with all their dear Sokol friends that have gone before. Bob will be memorialized in the May issue.

## Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the February 24 membership meeting, two persons were accepted into membership in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Marissa Samuelson, Roseville, has a daughter in gymnastics, and Barbara Carlson, Saint Paul, is a Slovak language class teacher and has interests in dances and gymnastics. Neither was at our membership meeting, but we welcome them to Sokol Minnesota! Our next membership meeting is April 20, 7 p.m.

## Monthly Membership Meetings 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, 7 p.m.

**April 27:** Czech and Slovak folk dancing with "audience participation."

**May 18:** check the website or read the topic in the May Slovo.

("My Grandmother's Trunk," stories of Sokol member Louise Wessinger's grandmother's immigration to America, will be rescheduled for a later meeting.)

## Czech Delegation

**Visited U of M, Rochester**  
By Bob Vanasek, Honorary Consul  
of the Czech Republic

The Czech Minister of Health, Leoš Heger, M.D., and selected staff members of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic visited the Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 28-30.

The Czech delegation met with key Mayo Clinic researchers and heard presentations of joint projects and results, including a presentation of programs such as CardioVision 2020, the Rochester Epidemiology project, and others.

The visit included meetings with Czech specialists and support staff stationed at the Mayo Clinic as part of the FNUSA-ICRC project.

The University of Minnesota visit included an official lunch with University of Minnesota researchers and officials. Collaboration of the U of M and FNUSA-ICRC in stem cell research was highlighted.

The Czech delegation also toured the Minnesota School of Public Health.

**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 May 2012 issue is April 1.** *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and layout editor; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Jeanette Pafko, Doreen McKenney, Norm Petrik, and Jitka Sebek advisors. Sokol ads are designed by Doreen McKenney. Photographs for this issue were provided by Marit Lee Kucera, Sue Martin, and Joyce Tesarek. This April 2012 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after April 30.

***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 (March 15 for May issue), with ad and payment due

by the copy deadline (April 1 for May 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 will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. Your copy is returned to Sokol; 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.** You can email us: <[slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

***Slovo* gift subscriptions** and non-member 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

## Education Program News

By Jean Draheim

If you would like more information about our events or if you want to have your contact information included on the interest lists, please contact Education Director Jean Draheim: 651-426-2826, or email: <education@sokolmn.org>.

**Photography for Travelers class, April 22**, starting at 2 p.m. Learn some of the finer points of taking photos while traveling. \$5.00 fee. Please register for class by April 18.

Watch the *Slovo* and our website <www.sokolmn.org> for information on more cooking classes (*kolache*, *kuba*, fruit dumplings), *kroje* preservation, leather belt crafting classes, and our continuing Family History Project.

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## 2012 Sokol Czech and Slovak Festival on September 16 Moves to International Institute of Minnesota

By Jean Draheim

The International Institute of Minnesota is the site of the Sokol Czech and Slovak Festival on September 16. The International Institute facility, 1694 Como Avenue, Saint Paul, offers both indoor and outdoor activities.

Along with the always-popular food, fun, and ethnic festivities, this year's Sokol Festival is the kick-off for a dance celebration called The *Tančuj* Project 2012. The project will be a weeklong series of dance events focusing on Eastern European folk dance.

Watch future *Slovo* issues for more information on reserving a vendor table or volunteering for the Sokol Czech and Slovak Festival.

Save the date: September 16.

4 April 2012 *Slovo*

## Sokol Camp 2012 Season Is Here! By Ann Miller

The 2012 rental season for our beloved Sokol Camp on beautiful Cross Lake in Pine City, Minnesota, is now underway. Volunteers are welcome to attend our annual **Sokol Camp opening on Saturday, April 28**, as we prepare the camp for the rental season that begins April 30.

Sokol Camp is a great summer vacation destination that offers boating, fishing, swimming, lounging, resting, and relaxation. Several golf courses and parks are nearby. There is a main lodge with indoor plumbing and ten rooms for rent at very reasonable rates, a detached one-room cabin with cold water and cooking facilities, and plenty of space to camp in tents or trailers. Your family will love it!

Just 1½ hours north of the Twin Cities, Sokol Camp makes a great starting point for day trips to Duluth, Grand Casino Hinckley, Hinckley Fire Museum, or western Wisconsin. Robinson Park in Downtown Pine City is home to the "Art in the Park" concert series every Friday evening throughout the summer.

**Room Rental Rates: Weekly** (seven nights) Members: \$160 - \$195. Non-members: \$195 - \$230. **Nightly:** Members: \$25 - \$30. Non-members: \$30 - \$35.

**Campgrounds:** Overnight campers, trailers or tents: \$5/person per night. Children under 10 are free. RV hook-ups are not permitted

**Grounds use:** Members \$10/family per day. Non-members \$15/family per day. Persons using the grounds for the day have bathroom and kitchen privileges. Rental is open to all Sokol members. Use is by reservation only. To make a reservation or request additional information, call Ann Miller at 651-260-1713.

**Sunday, August 12, is the 82nd Annual Sokol Camp Booya and Picnic** from noon to 5 p.m. There will be great food, bingo, cultural dance performances by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, children's games, old-time music, and of course our fantastic Booya! Come and spend the day with friends, old and new.

**Sunday, September 30, Sokol Camp closes** for the 2012 season.

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## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers on September 22 By Jean Draheim

2012 marks the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are making plans to celebrate. The dance group invites former dancers, musicians, supporters, and their families to join the current dancers for a 50-year-anniversary reunion on Saturday, September 22 at the CSPS Hall. Contact John Topic at <jandp\_55116@yahoo.com> to be included on our invitation list.

The reunion will be held in conjunction with the *Tančuj* Project 2012, a week-long dance festival focusing on Eastern European folk dance.

The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers have represented the Czech and Slovak communities by performing at many events over the past 50 years. The group has regularly participated in the Minnesota Festival of Nations, the Czech/Slovak Festival Day, Sokol Camp Booya Picnic, *Dožínky* in New Prague, and Kolacky Days in Montgomery.

They have also performed for special events including the dedication of the Tomáš Masarek's statue in Washington, D.C., the opening of the Civil Society Symposium in Saint Paul presided over by then Czech President Václav Havel, and the dedication of the Czech and Slovak National Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Future performances include Houby Days and the grand re-opening of the Czech and Slovak National Museum and Library, both in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



## Rachel Kuzma, Senior Dancer to Graduate By Louise Wessinger

We only have one senior in the *Taneční* Teens dance group this year, but she is a special one. Rachel Kuzma is the daughter of John and Ann Kuzma of Mankato, Minnesota. Rachel is a senior at Mankato West High School where she plays violin in the school orchestra; she is a member of both the track team and the National Honor Society. She plans to attend the University of Minnesota and to major in anthropology. She enjoys studying evolution, especially of humans.

She has been a member of the teen dance group since she was in sixth grade. Her parents have driven Rachel from Mankato to CSPS Hall for dance practice ever since Rachel found Sokol Minnesota online. Rachel's grandparents on her father's side of the family were both born in Slovakia. They each moved from Slovakia and settled in eastern Ohio where they met. Rachel's parents John and Ann, who also met in eastern Ohio, moved to Minnesota before Rachel was born to take professorships at Mankato State University. Rachel was motivated to join the dance group by a school report she did on her Slovak ancestry.



Rachel loves to be in the group "because it is fun and also I enjoy dressing in *kroj* (folk dress) and spreading the culture." One of her favorite memories was dancing in the rain at one of our Czech and Slovak festivals in the hall parking lot. She also enjoys making *kolaches* for an event.

**Sokol Minnesota is proud to sponsor Rachel as a candidate in the 2012 Miss Czech and Slovak Minnesota contest on April 14 in Montgomery.**

## Czech and Slovak Selections at Film Festival By Al Milgron, MSP Film Festival Artistic Director

New features and documentaries from the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic are scheduled to debut at the 30th Minneapolis/Saint Paul International Film Festival opening Thursday, April 12 and running through May 6. Main showings are at the Saint Anthony Main Theater in Minneapolis. Featured are more than 200 films from 50 countries (in original languages, with English subtitles).

Included in the Czech/Slovak group will be the late President Václav Havel's directorial debut, *Leaving*, taken from one of his major plays; *Nicky's Family*, about British diplomat Nicholas Winton's saving more than 700 Czech children from the World War II death camps; the village comedy *Matchmaking Mayor*, and the striking animated feature *Alois Nebel*.

2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the parent festival organization, the University of Minnesota Film Society; several Czech big screen "classics" are slated. Full list and ticketing (discount packages) can be found on the festival website <[mspfilmfest.org](http://mspfilmfest.org)>.

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## Cooking with Cinnamon: Pečená vejce s bramborovou kaší Baked Eggs with Mashed Potatoes

By Cinnamon Whaley

*Boil and mash the potatoes smooth, seasoning with salt, butter, hot milk or cream, and pepper. Put them in a buttered baking dish; with a small croquet mold (you may use a clean egg, if the mold is lacking) make deep little hollows in the potatoes. Drop carefully a raw egg into each hollow, dust each with salt and pepper, dot with butter, and bake in oven. Serve at once.*

Flipping through the *Bohemian-American Cookbook*, I found a handful of egg recipes that you probably wouldn't find now in 2012. If I had an extra afternoon, I might just write about them all. "Eggs baked in sour cream," "Stuffed eggs with white sauce," "Sour eggs," "Fried stuffed eggs," and four variations of a "plain" omelet.

With the right level of curiosity and old world charm, I chose "Baked eggs with mashed potatoes." Cooking for myself, I boiled one large potato. The smell of raw potato makes me think of making potato stamps as a child. I grew up in a mash-it-with-a-fork household, so pulling out the beaters to make *real* mashed potatoes was exciting. With no guidance from the recipe, I used 5 tablespoons of cream. I've since been told that this is enough cream to enrapture even the most hardened food critic and probably harden the most healthy arteries! My starchy Russet potato was transformed into a smooth, rich, whip.

Following the instructions, as I do not have a croquette mold, I made a mound of mashed potato on a baking sheet with the center indented. In went a large egg, which drizzled over the side. I set the oven to 350°F, baked for

seven minutes and broiled for four. The potatoes browned nicely in the broiler. (It smelled like breakfast in a diner —creamy potatoes and cooking eggs. If only I had had some coffee!) I wanted a soft yolk and worried that four minutes in the broiler would be too long, but I ended up with a nearly perfect yolk! Potatoes are often present in breakfasts but creamy mashed potatoes were a nice substitute to crispy hash browns or sliced potatoes.

If I had children, I would make this often. The act of putting the egg in the potatoes, as well as the resulting presentation, made for a fun recipe, but it took nearly 40 minutes for this little nighttime snack. If I were cooking for more than one person (namely a small group of kids), I think this would go over smashingly.

## Got Pivo? You Betcha! By Cinnamon Whaley

On the evening of February 24, we tasted six beers at the Sokol Minnesota monthly membership meeting.



*Cinnamon Whaley and Ryan Beck-Buysse, both certified beer judges, discussed brewing and beers, with members tastings of six beers.*

We began with two Pilsners, Budweiser from the Czech city of Budvar, and Budweiser from the U.S. city of Saint Louis, Missouri. Budweiser was introduced in America

in 1876 after Adolphus Busch visited Budweis in Bohemia, not far from Pilzn. The Budweiser from Budweis has been called "The Beer of Kings" since the 16th century. Busch changed this slogan to "The King of the Beers," still in use today. Lawsuits began between the two breweries in 1907. Today there are still 40 trademark dispute cases pending. Through most of the world, the American version of Budweiser only can be legally marketed as "Bud."

Pilsners were introduced in the 1840s. Prior to that, the Bohemian region was well known for its wheat beers. The next two beers we tasted were wheat beers.

Hoegaarden, Belgium, was the home of the original wheat beers. The wheat style of Belgium is different from the wheat beers of German in that they commonly use orange peel and coriander in the recipe to give the beer a nice citrus flavor. Hoegaarden had more than 20 breweries and distilleries built up through hundreds of years. In the 1900s they began dying off, and the last closed in the 1950s. A Hoegaarden local revived the style slowly, through the 60s into the 80s. Now it's again known around the world.

Our comparison beer was the Ommegang Witte, from the Ommegang brewery in Cooperstown, New York. Ommegang was opened in 1997, specializing in Belgian styles. In 2003, it was sold to a very popular Belgian brewery, Duvel. Ommegang is the only American brewery with this type of relationship. Ommegang makes wonderful Belgian beers. You can find them in your local liquor stores and they are all well worth a try.

Our final stop was back through Germany, with Schwarzbier, or "black beer," is a German dark lager. This beer contains a high percentage of dark roasted malts, which give the beer its color and a good deal of its flavor. This can be compared to coffee roast; the longer the malt is roasted, the darker the malt and the flavors change. As the roast gets darker, the more coffee and chocolate flavors

Our first Schwarzbier was from Ayinger. Ayinger beers are brewed in Aying, Barvaria. Ayinger has been brewing since 1877. Our comparison was Shiner Bohemian Black Lager, originally brewed as a limited edition schwarzbier for the Spoetzl Brewery's 97th anniversary in 2006. Spoetzl was a Germany immigrant who settled in Texas and opened his brewery in 1909. The brewery managed to survive after prohibition; through the 70s and 80s the Shiner brand grew in popularity. Today Shiner is the fourth largest craft brewer in America.

There are roughly 100 types of beer throughout the world, many of them easily obtainable in today's craft beer market. Both Minneapolis and Saint Paul have specialty beer stores that carry all of the beers we tasted. Beer is a great way to explore the entire world, from Japan to Brazil, and back to Czech Republic. For more information or any questions, please email me at <cinnamon.whaley@gmail.com>.

*An energetic group, led by Don and Katie Haselbauer, met before the February meeting to make chlebičky, the open-faced party sandwiches that are so popular in the Czech and Slovak Republics. The beer and the sandwiches were a hit! Pamela Kotval (far left) serving chlebičky to Gale Thompson, Norm Petrik, and Marit Lee Kucera (Norm and Marit are wearing the new CSPS Hall 125<sup>th</sup> commemorative t-shirts).*



*The (editor's) favorite chlebičky: Pomazanka Z Redkvicek a Syra, Radish and Cheese Spread. Cream ½ c. butter with ½ c. cream cheese. Add 1 c. grated radishes, 1 T. chives, salt to taste. Spread on bread or crackers. Garnish with sliced radish and parsley.*



**Celebrate 125<sup>th</sup>  
CSPS Hall Anniversary!**

Red and navy blue 125<sup>th</sup> logo on gray t-shirt.  
Sokol's website in navy blue on the back.  
S-XL/\$15 • XX/\$17 • XXX/\$18  
Sokol MN members save \$5/shirt.

Available for purchase at all  
Sokol Minnesota events or by mail order.

Add shipping: \$5.50 first shirt; \$3 each additional shirt.  
Send check (made out to Sokol MN) or full credit card information to:  
Sokol Minnesota 125<sup>th</sup> T-Shirts, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

# Butch Thompson's Mardi Gras Tea Dance: CSPS 125<sup>th</sup> Special Event

By Joe Landsberger, Event Chair

The bookends of our Mardi Gras on February 19 were sweet: setting up tables, we enjoyed Butch Thompson as he practiced soft melodies on the 7-foot grand piano (rental donated by Kieran Wells of Wells Pianos); those with the task of cleaning-up were serenaded by Don Haselbauer doing the same. Exceptional music made light work with this special ambience.



*Above right: Butch Thompson and his Hiawatha Jazz Band on stage.*

exceptional New Orleans style jazz. A predominantly non-Sokol mix of guests were introduced to our historic Hall. Devotees of Butch's music and West End neighbors heard jazz classics, which are also popular in the Czech and Slovak Republics.



*Left: From the balcony, a scene of dancers and musicians below.*

*Right: Mary and Honorary Czech Consul Bob Vanasek with Ed Hamernik, Sokol Minnesota president.*



Sokol is indebted to over 20 Saint

Paul neighbors who contributed to organizing the dance; Sokol members had fewer responsibilities at this event, so many could attend and just enjoy the afternoon. Event organization was divided with the largest group being guest services led by Denis Novak and his team of Bruce Lier, Jyni Koschak, et al;

Several Sokol members invited family and friends, and introduced them to our historic hall. Megan Cahill invited ten, Gary Novak had eight from his Saint Stanislav's church group, and numbers of my family and family friends came—even a retired policeman, Rich Muñoz, who provided security. Fifteen businesses along West Seventh paid for ads that subsidized printing our CSPS 125<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Program and event tickets. Several made cash donations, discounts, and of course, joined in the festivities!

One special project was creating the 2012 Commemorative Program. This 20-page colored booklet traces the history of both the CSPS Hall and Sokol Minnesota, as well as listing current projects and events. It will be available as long as copies last. Come celebrate 125 years of the CSPS Hall and get your very own copy!

*Right: Joyce Tesarek, Steve Shimer, and Louise Wessinger selling tickets.*



*Left: Teresa Pojer and Joe Landsberger cutting the rug!*



menu by Bob Parker and Diane Gerth; kitchen equipment expertise by Joan Sedlacek; bar by Bob (again!), Charles Marabella, Dan Kueny, and Norm Petrik; utility and clean-up by Darren Tobolt; sound by Paul Garding; ticket sales by Joyce

Tesarek and Steve Shimer; event information by Louise Wessinger; gift shop sales by Chuck and Jean Draheim, plus Marit Lee Kucera. The original concept was developed by Andrew Hine who connected Sokol Minnesota Chair Joe Landsberger with Butch Thompson.

Every seat was filled, even the dance floor was crowded, with Butch Thompson's Hiawatha Jazz Band and their



*Left: Don Haselbauer tickling the keys at the end of a great Sunday afternoon celebrating CSPS Hall.*

## SOKOL MINNESOTA THANKS DONORS

By Arlene Hamernik,  
Corresponding Secretary

Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates your generous donations supporting our programs and the refurbishing of our CSPA Hall.

### Legacy/Building Fund:

Anonymous, \$5,000 (Legacy Pledge)

Anonymous, \$200

Don and Pat Andrlé

### In memory of Ed and Millie Andrlé:

Ron Andrlé, \$150

### General Fund:

Pam A. Kotval

Cynthia McArthur

Phyllis Vosejпка

### In memory of Blanche Bandas:

Kristine Masek Shields (Blanche was the 99-year-old mother of Lorraine Delehanty.)

### In memory of Bob Bastyr:

James and Mary Jo Chlebeck, Georgiana Dolejsi

For donations under \$100, only the names of donors are published in *Slovo*. Some donors request confidentiality regardless of amount.

## Still Going Strong

That is the title of the article, by Dave Page, page 4, in the February 8 issue of the *Villager* in Saint Paul, subtitled "CSPA Hall marks 125<sup>th</sup> year as center of St. Paul's Czech and Slovak heritage."

This congratulatory letter was sent to Sokol Minnesota on February 21:

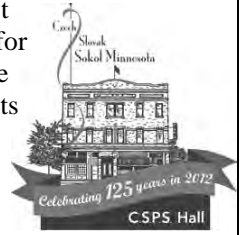
*Greetings! We at Euphoria Salon recently came across the article in the Highland Villager featuring CSPA Hall's 125th year anniversary and wanted to extend our congratulations! As a business in the St. Paul community, we look forward to learning about the fellow successes of our neighbors. Supporting community and staying local are important keystones to keeping a city like St. Paul great and we applaud your efforts. We wish you continued success and great memories for years to come.*

*Sincerely, Andrea Tedford  
Administrative Assistant  
Euphoria Salon  
256 Cleveland Avenue South, Saint Paul*

## Support CSPA Legacy Fund

Grants have funded several of the renovations of our CSPA Hall, but many of these grants also must be matched. We ask for your support to insure that upcoming projects can be completed during CSPA 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

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

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

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Mail to **CSPA Hall Legacy/Building Fund**  
**383 Michigan Street**  
**Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102**



## Šibřinky 2012

Cathy Erickson Band entertained for Sokol Minnesota's annual Costume Dance on March 3, with folkdance performances and ethnic foods. Ed Hamernik and Louise Wessinger were Event Chairs.

## Website has NEW FACE

Have you seen what's on the Sokol Minnesota website lately?

Take a look!<[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)>

In addition to our "new face," you now can find information on the CSPA Hall's theater, plays, and musical history.

## Czech Collectors Convention

The Czech Collectors Association is sponsoring an antique show of Bohemian and Czechoslovakian pottery, glass, jewelry, perfumes and decorative arts from 1850 – 1940 at its 2012 CCA Convention, June 7 - 9 at the Czech Center Museum, 4920 San Jacinto Street, Houston, Texas. There will be seminars, mini sessions, silent auction, and a dinner. The public is welcome. For more information, contact <[czechcollectors.org](http://czechcollectors.org)>



In honor of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CSPA Hall, we are publishing articles of historical interest.

## **CSPA Hall: Beginnings** By Karleen Sheppard *This article first appeared in Slovo in three parts, August to October 1978, as part of the Hall's Centennial.*

*Karleen Chott Sheppard is a long-time CSA member and an avid collector of Hall history as well as a participant in many Hall activities. Recently, Karleen translated the book Dejiny Čechů v Chicagu (A History of The Czechs in Chicago) by Rudolf Bubeneček. The 500-page book, now out of print, was published only in Czech in 1939. The book covers the immigration of Czechs into Chicago from 1850 to 1900; it has an index of 8,000 names. If anyone is interested in ordering a copy from CSAGSI, you can email <czechekf@aol.com>*

The property the CSPA Hall is situated on was purchased in 1879 by Rad (Lodge) Čech, No. 12, CSPA (Česko-Slovenský Podporující Spolek, parent organization of the CSA) for \$600 from William and Mary Dawson, a banker, and at the time of the sale he was mayor of Saint Paul. In March of 1887, the CSPA took out the first building permit and hired a neighborhood contractor, W.J. Gronewold, who had offices where Mancini's now stands. The estimated cost of the two-story building was \$10,000. After years of legal snarls, the construction was completed in 1890.

As soon as the new CSPA Hall was ready to rent its corner store space in 1889, Vaclav Picha moved in, advertising "Wines, Liquors and Cigars", and his 25-year occupancy was legendary. The saloon had a wide reputation, and when anyone came in from out of town they knew where to go. At the end of the bar was a free lunch counter. A person could buy a big glass of beer for a nickel and go to the lunch counter and eat for nothing.

Picha was a free-thinker, and his friendship with Father Jan Rynda, priest at Saint Stanislaus Church around the corner, was something remarkable. The men had great respect for each other and spent many hours in conversation in Picha's rooms back of the saloon.

Vaclav Picha died at the age of 73 in 1914 and his funeral was held in his living quarters. His son Karel, who had been helping his father tend bar throughout the years, and Peter Nekola, who was married to Vaclav's daughter Gustie, continued the saloon. But somehow things didn't go well, and after five years the store was occupied by Fishbach and Bepalec Meat Market.

The south half of the main level has been a bakery, dry goods store, and even storage space. The canopy above the entrance to the upper level is a unique architectural feature of the exterior of the building, as are the flag pole and parapet on the roof.

Formerly, a stage occupied the area where the women's restroom is now located. The stage was quite small, there was a cubbyhole off the stage and the piano was attached to the cubbyhole wall on the side of the stage. There was another entrance to the stage from the other lobby. This lobby was used to reach the bar room across the end of the room and behind it were the kegs. The present 8' x 8' bar area once served as the kitchen and the bar, on the other

hand, occupied the area of the present kitchen. The ladies never stood around in the bar room; they had to pass through it and drink their beer in the assembly hall. There was a gas plate but no water in the kitchen, it was necessary to go behind the bar for that.

Since Sokol's beginning, the small room to the north of the bar has been the site of many animated and serious fraternal business meetings. The small, circular, pivoting, wooden piece on the inside of the door goes virtually unnoticed today. It covers a peep-hole once used for passwords. The trophy case in memory of Ben Fisher, contains gymnastics awards, and the plaques honoring Frank Verner, Ben Fisher, and Bessie and Albert Smolik.

The main hall is a multi-purpose room serving as a dance hall, gym, meeting room, and auditorium. It was in this room that Czech composer Antonin Dvořák "was hailed with great applause and cheering" in 1893 when he visited Saint Paul en route to Spillville, Iowa, where he composed his "Symphony from the New World."

Sokol began primarily as a gymnastics and physical fitness organization, and it continues that tradition today, hence the screen-covered windows, basketball hoops and sideboards, plethora of gym equipment, and metal plates in the floor, used for securing gym apparatus.

The "drops" and "flats" on stage were used a great deal in the early part of this century, when Sokol presented many Czech and Slovak plays and musical reviews. The three main drops were painted by the late Victor Hubal Sr. They represent a scene of the Vltava River in Prague, with Charles Bridge (*Karlův Most*) and Prague Castle (*Hradčany*) in the background, a city street in Prague, and the Bohemian Forest.

The large room on the third floor is now used as the meeting room, and eventual museum and library of Sokol Minnesota. The heavy carved chairs and tables are museum pieces today. The photos are important historical data, recording names and likenesses of every member until the mid-twentieth century.

The balcony, overlooking the second floor, with its glass folding doors, is a point of architectural interest. It was added in 1917, ostensibly to accommodate a spotlight for the frequent dramatic presentations. Also of interest is the old ticket booth, or "cage," used in the past for selling tickets at dinners and dances.

In 1977, the CSPA Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. During the restoration which followed, the membership chose an interior color theme of cream and brown, with gold highlights, and armed themselves with buckets and paint brushes. Indeed, most of the restorative and repair work has been executed by Sokol members themselves, to keep costs down. Later, white lace curtains and red geraniums were added to create an "Old World" atmosphere. The cataloguing and shelving of many Sokol books and files has to be done, so that they will be accessible to Sokol members and to students of Slavic studies.

Sokol Minnesota is committed to preserving the CSPA Hall, so that generations to come will be able to use and appreciate this fine, historic building.

## ***February 25, 1948: The Day of Shame***

**By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauer,  
Distinguished International  
Professor Emeritus, University of  
Minnesota, Department of  
Educational Policy and  
Administration, Comparative and  
International Development  
Education  
Honorary Consul of the Czech  
Republic (1999-2009)**

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



The contemporary political, economic, and social scenes in the Czech and Slovak Republics have been largely defined by the dissidents and the generation of the Prague Spring 1968 era. This definition hides an important antecedent, the communist coup d'état on February 25, 1948. I was an active participant in those events and wanted to reflect on them. The occasion arose when my wife and I recently moved from our home of 55 years into a nice cooperative unit, necessitating the painful sorting through what had been accumulated over a half century. To my great surprise, I discovered behind my bookshelves my diary from 1948, saved by my family before the communist police confiscated my property. The diary started in Prague and ended on March 19, 1948 – the day I escaped from Czechoslovakia. Suddenly, I was confronted with the traumatic memory of what I chose to call the “day of shame.” Even after sixty years, I was overcome with the same feelings of despair, resignation, and disappointment that we experienced then, in disbelief that the country of Masaryk and the heir of Western traditions that gave birth to the only democracy in Central Europe could surrender itself to one of the worst dictatorships, for the second time in a decade, without a single shot or resistance. It took me time to recover some distance and perspective to write this article.

What happened is well known. Non-Communist parties in the government could no longer tolerate the dictatorial actions of the ruling coalition of Communists and Social Democrats, and submitted a collective resignation. They thought they acted prudently; President Beneš had indicated that their resignations would be rejected but would trigger dismissal of the entire cabinet and lead to new elections. These parties hoped to break the Communist stranglehold; indeed, public opinion clearly showed a significant shift away from Communists. This rejection was demonstrated when twice during my speeches a significant number of Communist ID cards were handed to me by those who no longer felt that their party was truly democratic. In other words, many of us trusted in the president and in elections and assumed that all parties would respect the democratic process.

Parliamentary process required new elections should a majority of the government resign. That did not happen. Beneš believed that he must follow the legal requirements, and he eventually—even if under enormous pressure from the communists—accepted the resignations.

The new cabinet he appointed consisted solely of people submitted by the communist Prime Minister. Attention shifted to see the reaction of Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk, son of the country's founder and a powerful moral arbiter, but he reluctantly chose not to resign. The Communists then claimed that unlimited power was granted them through parliamentary process. The crisis ended peacefully – except for a desperate protest by university students, dispersed brutally by the police.

Immediately unleashed was a rule of terror, with countless arrests, terminations from employment, mock trials, further nationalization of industry, and changes in the educational system. Non-communists were forced to flee the country or face lengthy prison terms. Most blame for the failure of democracy was directed against Beneš and Masaryk, though obviously the situation was difficult. Past events do not stand alone, to be analyzed like separate parts of a machine. Together, events form patterns influencing the future. Analytical thought processes often consider actions singly and neglect the whole. Historians also tend to concentrate on single events and so fail to recognize the important cognitive structures people develop to guide their actions.

Marx-Leninist ideology guided the leadership of the Soviet Union, seeing World War II as an imperialistic war that must be transformed into a proletarian war. To achieve a socialist paradise, a transition was necessary first, during which a great struggle would occur as the capitalists/imperialists desperately fought to retain power. Most Western policymakers mistakenly thought the Soviet goals merely continued Czarist expansionism.

This misunderstanding allowed Stalin to mislead Western powers and Beneš about Soviet respect for other countries' sovereignty, including Czechoslovakia's. Furthermore, it disguised and promoted actions undermining democratic movements and led to installation of socialist regimes in Poland, East Germany, Hungary, and Rumania. Intending such subversion, Soviets had dropped in Czechoslovakia paratroopers who came not to help fight the Nazis, but to organize communist cells – and this as early as 1943, when the London-based Czechoslovak government signed a treaty of mutual assistance with the U.S.S.R.

Similarly, Stalin prevailed when Roosevelt agreed to divide Europe into “spheres of influence,” giving Czechoslovakia to Stalin without consulting the Czechoslovak exile government. This agreement explains why the Soviet-led coup succeeded so easily in 1948. By the Cold War's beginning, the Soviet's Cominform (successor of the Comintern) sought global Communist rule. In 1947, it secretly slated Czechoslovakia next for socialist revolution. Western diplomats and intelligence agencies knew and shared this information with leading non-communists in Czechoslovakia, who nonetheless continued believing that their country could not succumb to Soviet terror. I too was given this information; when I visited Paris for Student Sport Olympics in the summer of 1947, representatives of DeGaulle told some of us of credible sources indicating an imminent coup d'état.

By war's end there were two governments in exile, one in London and one in Moscow. Reconciliation efforts resulted

*The Day of Shame continued.* not in compromise, but in capitulations to the Communists, who gained control of the important Ministries of Interior (in charge of the police), Agriculture, Treasury, Education, and Information. The two non-political ministers were Jan Masaryk and General Svoboda, a silent supporter of the Communists. The Communists also established the so-called "National Front," denying recognition of non-socialist parties and forcing collaboration for the sake of consensus.

Next month I will conclude my discussion with how the National Front served communists' plans and how the communists misused the powers of the Ministries.

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## A Bit of Hamernik Family History

By Ed Hamernik, president Sokol Minnesota

Both of my parents immigrated to the United States from Bohemia, at that time under Austrian rule, my father in 1906 and my mother in 1916. A few years ago, our daughter went online to search for information on their arrival. Interestingly, she was able to get copies of the ship's Manifest showing their arrivals in New York and a picture of each of the vessels.

My father Frank Hamernik came with a friend, and they each declared having \$30 on their arrival. They first went to Chicago and after about a year, they moved to Omaha. When asked why he came to the United States, he would respond, "*se podívat*" (to look). Shortly, his brother joined them in Omaha where they all worked in packing plants for a few years. About 1912, they got news of unrest in the homeland, so his brother decided to return. However, upon entering the German port of Bremen, he was inducted into the German Army. He served tours in Italy and Africa, where he was wounded, losing his left leg. He did, however, return to the home farmstead, which is owned and lived on by his family today. My father and a friend heard of inexpensive farmland in northwestern Minnesota, as they traveled to Minnesota and bought neighboring farms near Flom. This farm is still owned by family today.

My mother Alouise Dvorak came to the United States at the age of 16 to help a neighbor travel with two young children; the husband was already in Omaha. She planned to return that same year but became seriously ill with influenza. Before her planned return in 1918, she went to visit her step-aunt in northwestern Minnesota, who lived on a farm about two miles from the farm my father had purchased. They met in Flom, and the rest is history.

They raised a family of nine on that farm, four sons and five daughters: Anna, Frank Jr., Georgia, Betty, Stanley, Jerry, Helen, Irene, and Ed. They taught us Czech heritage with *kolache*, *mák* (poppyseed), *knedlíky* (dumplings), *jiternice* (Czech sausage), *vánočka* (Christmas bread) and old time music. Together, they always spoke Czech, so we children had exposure to the language. We all grew up with many happy and proud memories.

April 2012 Slovo 11

## MGS Central and Eastern European Conference on April 27 and 28 By Ginger Simek, President of Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International <[www.cgisi.org](http://www.cgisi.org)>

Inver Hills Community College, Fine Arts Building, is the site of this conference organized and presented by the Minnesota Genealogical Society, the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, the Germanic Genealogy Society, the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, the Pommern Regional Group of Minnesota, and the Romanian Genealogy Society on April 27 and 28.

This cooperative effort brings together many resources and knowledgeable speakers to help those researching family ties to Central and Eastern Europe. A reception and lecture opens the conference on Friday evening. "Discovering the REAL Stories of Your Immigrant Ancestors" is the topic of the lecture given by John Philip Colletta, Ph.D. Dr. Colletta is a nationally-known genealogical speaker. For twenty years he has conducted workshops for the National Archives and taught courses for the Smithsonian Institution. One of his books, *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record*, has helped many people answer the question of where to look for ancestor ship arrival records.

In addition to two sessions presented by Dr. Colletta, attendees will be able to select three sessions from fifteen offered on Saturday. Examples of some of the sessions are: "Discovering CGSI Databases," "Overcoming Research Brickwalls: A Case Study," "An Overview of the Czech and Slovak Newspapers at the IHRC," "Using Maps and Gazetteers: How to Match a Place Name to a Location," and "DNA for Genealogists."

Registration opens at 6 p.m. for the Friday evening reception with a dessert social followed by Dr. Colletta's presentation at 7:30 p.m. Saturday registration opens at 8 a.m. and the opening session with Dr. Colletta begins at 9 a.m. The last session ends at 4:30 p.m.

Conference fees for both Friday and Saturday start at \$60 through April 14 and increase to \$65 for registration April 15 and later. For details and to register, see the MGS website <[www.mngs.org](http://www.mngs.org)> or <[www.cgisi.org](http://www.cgisi.org)> or call 651-964-2322 (message line) to request a brochure.

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SOKOL MINNESOTA EVENTS**

***Pancake Breakfast w/Bake & Craft/Collectibles Sale***

**Sunday, April 1, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

***Sokol Bakers: Please Donate your Finest Baked Goods!***

***Family Easter Saturday: Activities and Potluck***

**Saturday, April 7, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Register: 612-384-4604 or 612-724-5464**

***Garage Sale, Thursday and Friday, April 12 - 13***

**Set up: Wednesday, April 11, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

**Early drop off: April 2 - 10, call: 952-941-0426**

***Festival of Nations***

**Thursday to Sunday, May 3 - 6**

**St. Paul River Centre, downtown St. Paul**

***Czech/Slovak Festival***

**Sunday September 16, 11 - 4 p.m.**

**International Institute, 1694 Como, Saint Paul**

***Check the calendar on our website for updates***

***www.sokolmn.org***

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**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* April 2012**

***BAČKORY: The Tradition of House Slippers* By Libby Imbrone**

The other day my feet hurt, and although I have three pairs of house slippers, none seemed to be quite the right choice. I have not seen a pair of felt slippers in years, but I recalled my mother's *bačkory*, peasant Czech for "house slippers" with closed toes and open heels. (*Pantofle* are similar house slippers, but with enclosed heels.)

In Mandan, North Dakota, in the 1930s and 1940s there were three women who waited eagerly for Mushik's Shoe Store to get in the order of felt bedroom slippers. Katherine Mushik, Filipine Mushik, and Antonie Rybniček, my mother, were dear friends whose families shared hunting trips, outings to Spiritwood Lake parties, and the need for new *bačkory*. Dad called my mother Tony, but usually the women addressed each other as "Mrs." That seemed strange, as the men called each other by first name. All the children took music lessons, piano for girls and violin for the boys. Some even excelled, and their music gave us much enjoyment.

*Bačkory* were worn in the house, even while cooking, in the days when the ladies wore housedresses and aprons and a handkerchief or scarf around the forehead while baking. This was about comfort during the making of comfort food. Don't think these ladies weren't progressive. Katherine and Filipine

drove autos, but Mother gave up after she drove into a ditch and Dad laughed. But my mother wore jodhpurs in the 1920s and had a pantsuit when we went to Yellowstone in 1937.

Always to be found at the Mushik Shoe Store was Grandpa Mushik, in the shoe repair department, as he spoke little English. He was a true Santa figure with white beard and jolly disposition. The German-speaking Czech Mushik family migrated to Crimea from somewhere in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in response to a request by Katherine the Great for German-speaking farmers to come show the people how to farm, with the promise of no military service or taxes. But after few generations that promise was forgotten and the Mushik family immigrated to the United States. John and his sister Filipine were teenagers when they immigrated to the United States and had both exciting and fearful memories of Cossacks dashing through their village.

*From my cousin Petr Skala: Additional terms for the slippers include přezuvky and papuče. Some common idioms that mention bačkory include Jsi pod pantoflem - jsi ženatý (He is under a slipper - he's married) and Natáhl bačkory - umřel (He put on slippers—he died!) These rather tough or morbid idioms are used with "he," not "she."*

