



# Slovak Sokol Minnesota



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

# SLOVO

April 2013  
vol. 36 no. 4

## UPCOMING APRIL 2013 EVENTS

**May Slovo Deadline**  
April 1

**Šibřinky**  
April 6, 6 - 11 p.m.

**Board of Trustees**  
April 10, 7 p.m.

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

**C.R. Rotarians**  
April 12, 5:30 p.m. (p. 3)

**Board of Directors**  
April 18, 7 p.m.

**Spring Cleanup**  
April 20, 8 a.m. (p. 8)

**Family Night**  
April 21, 4 p.m.

**Membership Meeting**  
Program: Cesky Terriers  
April 26, 7 p.m. (p. 4)

**Festival of Nations**  
May 2 - 5

**Senior Singers**  
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

**Gymnastics**  
Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

# Šibřinky

Sokol Costume Dance  
(costumes optional)

## Saturday, April 6

**Fundraiser event for our Historic C.S.P.S. Hall**

\$12.00 Admission at the door  
6 - 10 p.m. Ethnic Czech and Slovak food for sale  
Cash bar

For \$9.00 pre-paid ticket by April 2  
Call Louise at 651-452-6240  
3704 Denmark Avenue  
Eagan, MN 55123

Folkdance performance from  
6 - 7 p.m. by Taneční Mládež Dancers.  
Intermission performance  
by the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers.



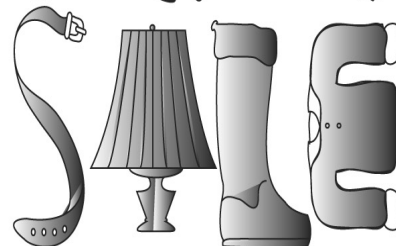
credit  
cards  
accepted

Come early for an evening meal and stay for the dancing!

**Dance to old tyme music  
by the Cathy Erickson Band  
7 - 11 p.m.**

Sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

# GARAGE



antiques, collectibles, books, clothing, and domestic treasures

Thursday, April 11, 12 noon - 7 p.m.

Friday, April 12, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Drop off donations Wednesday, April 10 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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

## PUBLIC WELCOME

Event Chairs: Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney

**GARAGE SALE** needs your extra

- paper bags with handles
  - newspapers and bubble wrap
  - help to set-up, work, & clean-up
- 652-941-0426 or 612-222-2483

## Since 1932, Sokol Minnesota has been celebrating Czech and Slovak culture at the Festival of Nations

**Volunteer! It Gets You Free Admission!**

**May 2-5  
Saint Paul  
RiverCenter**

Doreen McKenney (952-941-0426) General Chair  
Dawn Bulera and Joyce Tesarek (612-822-6147) Café Chairs  
Martina Gurgel (651-340-4767) Culture Exhibit Chair  
Louise Wessinger Children and Teens Dance Groups Chair

*The Festival of Nations*, presented by the International Institute of Minnesota, is the largest and longest-running multicultural festival in Minnesota, celebrating cultural diversity with food, music, demonstrations, and exhibits.



**Czech and Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota  
2013**

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open

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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 Denis Novak**

***Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters***

I have observed that attendance at our monthly membership meetings has gone down over the last four or five years. In addition to the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees, we seldom see more than a dozen people. This is discouraging for the board members who come to report on their board activities from the previous week and end up reporting mainly to each other. We wondered if we have too many meetings or too few, too long, too dull, bad time, or what? It is foolish, a wise person once said, to keep doing the same thing and expect the outcome to change.

After a good deal of discussion, the Board of Directors decided to give everyone at the January membership meeting the opportunity to share ideas for improving future meetings and attendance. We used a process of small group discussion with reports to the entire group. There were more good ideas than I can list here and the BOD has already taken action on some of them. Some changes include the following:

Membership meetings will be held at least once per quarter.

Meetings will include short, informative reports from BOD/BOT.

Meetings will include activities or presentations.

Time to socialize with food (coffee and *koláče*) will be included.

Friday night will continue to be the night to meet.

Details on implementing these changes may need some adjustments during the year. Meetings may be a little longer than they have been lately. Watch the *Slovo* or [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org) for updates..

Our first membership meeting using the "new format" will be held on April 26 at 7 p.m. After a short business meeting, a program about český teriér dogs will be given by Katherine Eckstrom. Katherine owns and shows the breed and is the author of *Cesky Terriers: A Comprehensive Owners Guide*. This is a great chance to learn about a dog "created" in 1938 by Dr. Frantisek Horak, bred true about 1949, shown internationally since 1959, and finally recognized by the AKC in 2012.

Another of Sokol's popular events, the *Šibřinky/Sokol* Costume dance, is set for the Saturday April 6 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Our event has its roots in a Sokol masked ball dating back to February 25, 1865, in Prague. I encourage you to attend in costume. At least be masked.

*Nazdar!*

**Honorary Consuls, plus Sokol Committee Chairs (not seated on the BOD)**

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko      Honorary Czech Consul: Robert Vanasek

Past Honorary Czech Consul: Josef Mestenhauser

Sunshine Committee: Marlene Hinshaw

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. Jacobson

Kitchen Coordinator: Jean Hall

Website: Craig Johnson

Volunteer Coordinator: open

Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Joe Landsberger

Slovo: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks

**Addresses:** President: [president@sokolmn.org](mailto:president@sokolmn.org) | Directors: [board@sokolmn.org](mailto:board@sokolmn.org) | Education and Language programs: [education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org) | Events: [events@sokolmn.org](mailto:events@sokolmn.org) | Finance and Fund Raising: [finance@sokolmn.org](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org) | Fitness Programming: [fitness@sokolmn.org](mailto:fitness@sokolmn.org) | Folk Dancing: [folkdancing@sokolmn.org](mailto:folkdancing@sokolmn.org) | Membership: [membership@sokolmn.org](mailto:membership@sokolmn.org) | Newsletter: [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org) | Planning: [planning@sokolmn.org](mailto:planning@sokolmn.org) | Publications: [publications@sokolmn.org](mailto:publications@sokolmn.org) | Trustees: [trustees@sokolmn.org](mailto:trustees@sokolmn.org) | Webmaster: [webmaster@sokolmn.org](mailto:webmaster@sokolmn.org)

## February Board of Directors (BOD)

### Meeting Summary By Ed and Arlene Hamernik

Joe Landsberger presented a summary of income and expenses for the last five years. It was very interesting to note what projects received gifts, what events were held and how profitable they were, the costs involved to operate/maintain the building, and more. Thanks, Joe.

Despite the snowstorm, many people enjoyed the music of Tony Balluff's Southern Aces at Mardi Gras II on Sunday, February 10. (Read Joe Landsberger's report on page 7.)

Doreen McKenney shared her design for a generic Sokol business card for all BOD members to use to help promote Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer presented the financials. Steve Shimer presented the Gaming Report.

Tom Aubrecht reported that we have 292 members, including 5 new members. There were 35 members who did not renew.

Sokol Minnesota and the Czech Slovak Culture Center are among the co-sponsors of Euro Day in early May, to recognize our countries of heritage.

BOD decided there will be a minimum of 4 membership meetings a year. Upcoming meetings for 2013 are scheduled for 7 p.m. on the following 4th Fridays: April 26, August, 23, and November 22.

Gary Novak reported that the Fire Protection sprinkler system will be completed soon and pipe painting will begin. Roof

support work for the air conditioning system is scheduled to start in March.

Ed Hamernik reported that six **Czech Rotarians** (three ladies and three men) will visit Minnesota in April. They will be guests of the Fridley Rotary group April 11 - 14. On **Friday evening, April 12**, Sokol Minnesota will host a small potluck reception including a tour of our historic C.S.P.S. Hall. If you would like to meet them, please RSVP to Ed Hamernik <eahamernik@gmail.com> or 763-571-6091 indicating the number attending and what your "dish-to-share" will be. The guests from C.R. will arrive about 5:30 p.m. and we plan to eat about 6:30. Advance word is that Sokol Minnesota is a "must visit" on their agenda, so let's make this event a special Minnesota treat for these visitors.

### You Are Invited to Volunteer

Volunteering can be fun! Our organization is loaded with talent and expertise, and we'd like to know what you can share by volunteering. Your reward is getting to know other Sokol members. Now is a great time to get involved with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. We will be waiting to hear from you.

● **Šibřinky on April 6:** Louise at 651-452-6240

● **Garage Sale on April 10-12:** Doreen at 952-941-0426

● **Festival of Nations on May 2-5:**

■ general chair Doreen McKenney at 952-941-0426

■ café chairs Dawn Bulera & Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147

■ exhibit chair Martina Gurgel at 651-340-4767.

● We also need a **Volunteer Coordinator** for our Sokol unit. Sound like your cup of tea? Talk to Louise at 651-452-6240.

### 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 Organization. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Year 2013 dues for members joining after June 30 are reduced. Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership.

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

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:** The *Slovo* is published ten times/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 2013 issue is April 1.** Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and layout editor; Pamela Kotval, labels; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, and Joan

Sedlacek, advisors. Photograph for this issue provided by Katherine Eckstrom, Martina Gurgel, M. L. Kucera, and Joyce Tesarek. This April 2013 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 copy deadline (April 1 for May issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** (10 issues) are \$15 per year. (Rate is good through April 2014.) Please include name, address, phone number, and email with your new or renewing non-member subscription. Make your check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; send to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *Slovo* Subscriptions/Renewals, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

**Change of address or for problems with *Slovo* subscriptions**, please contact us if you missed an issue or received notice of payment due when a payment has 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. If you wish to have this newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know.** After one returned issue, we will hold all future issues until you notify us. We pay 46¢ for each returned issue.

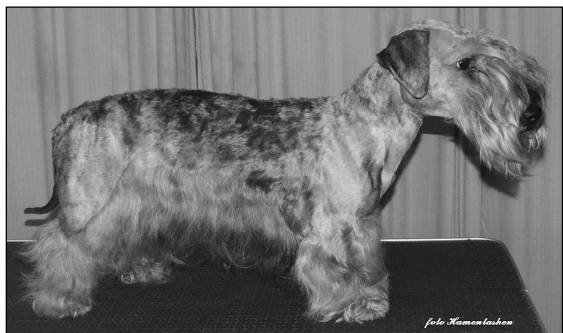
Email us: <[slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

## April 26 Sokol Member Meeting, 7 p.m., Friday The Cesky Terrier By Katherine Eckstrom

Going to the dogs! You bet! You definitely will want to attend this member meeting to learn all about the wonderful Cesky Terrier breed from Katherine Eckstrom. Katherine and her husband Ted have owned Cesky Terriers for over 20 years. She will bring one (maybe two) of her "allrounder" dogs to the April 26 Member Meeting. Ceskys hunt boar, go to ground for rabbits and fox, are bird and water retrievers, as well as make excellent pets. Her late championship dog, a major worldwide winner, was Chlap Lovu zdar. He is pictured on her website <<http://www.ceskyterrierusa.com/home.cfm>>. Pictured here is Dalava od Fontanky, mother to one of Katherine's current dogs, Galanka.

"Lovu zdar! Lovu zdar!" raise your glasses, so rings out the hunter's toast. Lovu zdar is the kennel name of František Horák, breeder, showman, judge, hunter, and creator of the Cesky Terrier.

Born in Chlumec, Czechoslovakia, in 1909, Horák and his family moved to Karlova Koruna Castle when he was nine years old. His parents became caretaker and housekeeper of this castle. Young František was taken under the Count's wing. He was encouraged to use the vast library and was also invited to the wonderful world of dogs. It was here he learned about hunting and breeding. And so it began.



In 1928, he saw a pair of Scotch Terriers, and four years later the Scotties came into his life. So began Lovu zdar Kennel. In 1934, the Horák family moved to Pilsen, where the Bohemian Forest

offered the opportunity for hunting. Together with fellow Pilsen Terrier

club member F. Cervenka, a breeder of Sealyhams, the two men met and hunted often. They compared notes on the qualities of both breeds.



Mr. Horák wrote in 1934, "I never lost sight of the idea," his vision of the perfect hunting dog. In 1940, they moved to Klánovice, just east of Prague, where he lived, bred dogs, and hunted until he died

in 1996. It was there he began the work of producing the Cesky. As a genetic scientist, he was well able to make his "dream" a reality. Horák bred the Scotty to a Sealyham and after several tries, a pup was born that met his idea of dropped ears. Balda was bred back to his dam Scotch Rose, who produced Diana Lovu zdar who became the foundation of the Cesky. After 16 cross-breedings, the type was set.

In 1959, the Cesky appeared on Czech television, as well as in a children's book. Two Czech postage stamps were issued in honor of the breed. Today, the Cesky is considered the "Czech National Dog."

In 1963, the FCI (the European registry) recognized the Cesky as a purebred dog. They are now recognized worldwide. Although small in number, Cesky Terriers live in many countries including the United States. They are a great family pet, and they are non-shedding, playful, love people, and not much given to barking. What was purposed to be a better hunting dog has become an alert watchdog and a loving companion that is small, slim, and elegant. Lovu zdar!

## Czech, Slovak, & Rusyn Bluegrass takes over the stage at C.S.P.S. Hall on April 20, 8 p.m.

Local vocalist Natalie Nowytski is celebrating with the Czech, Slovak, and Rusyn communities at C.S.P.S. Hall for the release party of her CD *Amerikana*. A first-generation Ukrainian, she has shared the stage with Garrison Keillor on *A Prairie Home Companion* and served many years as a member and vocal director of Ethnic Dance Theatre (EDT) and Mila Vocal Ensemble. *Amerikana*, her first solo effort, combines traditional folk songs of Czech Republic, Slovakia, and the Rusyns of Eastern Slovakia set to American bluegrass, old time, country, and Americana arrangements. The CD release party will be on Saturday, April 20, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 (\$10 for Sokol Minnesota member). Coffee and koláče will be for sale at the performance. CDs will be on hand for \$15 each. More information about Nowytski is available at [www.natalien.com](http://www.natalien.com).

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## Warm and Sunny Times Ahead at Sokol Camp By "Pine City Petunia," the Second

Summer is just around the corner, and daydreams are turning to vacations, long walks outdoors, and water-sports. Where to indulge in these rites of spring and summer? How about coming up to Sokol Camp? Renting rooms and spending time at camp is one of the perks of being a Sokol member. Come up for the day, the weekend, or a week.

Sokol Camp is 1½ hours north of the Twin Cities, on the northeastern shore of Cross Lake in Pine City, Minnesota. With a main lodge that has ten bedrooms, a large common room with a fireplace, a large kitchen, two baths, and hot and cold running water, Sokol Camp is a convenient and affordable vacation destination. When you rent time at Sokol Camp, you have access to the docks, rowboats, and some of the best fishing spots on the lake. Launch your own watercraft at the public access in Pine City and spend the weekend on the water.

**The Sokol Camp season opens Saturday, April 27**, with our annual Camp Open-up. Help sweep the cobwebs from the Camp and the winter from your mind. For more information about using Sokol Camp, call Julie Andrlé at: 763-742-7666.

Save the Date: **Sunday, August 11**, for a fun-filled day at the annual **Booya Picnic**.

## Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors By Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary

Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates your donations supporting Sokol programs and the refurbishing of our historic C.S.P.S. Hall. *Donations are listed under the following categories: under \$100; \$100-\$499; \$1000-\$4999; \$5000+, and undisclosed.*

**Legacy Fund: under \$100: Ralph/Mary Halbert (in memory of Karleen Sheppard).** \$100 - \$499: **The Czech Heritage Club, New Prague; James/Patricia Dolejsi (in memory of Mir Verner); Josef Mestenhauser; Bessie O'Neill (in memory of Mir Verner, Rudy and Wally Schovanec, Karleen Sheppard).** *Undisclosed: George/Nancy Hoffman; Darlene Sitko.*

**Offset language class costs: under \$100: George Hoffman; Karen Olson.**

## MEMBER NEWS

### By Marlene Hinshaw

● **Georgiana Dolejsi**, recovering from a fall, returned to her new apartment on Saturday, March 2. Her new phone number is 651-554-3630. She's already making plans to return to lead the Sokol Minnesota Singers.

● It's good to see **Jim Chlebeck**, back to normal after a very serious surgery.

● Two of our WWII Navy vets celebrated birthdays: **Al Imbrone**, was 92 on February 28 and **John Cicha** was 95 on April 9. Cheers to you!

● We sadly report the death of long-time Sokol member **Violet Dvorak**. Violet died on February 13, at the age of 94. She was the twin sister of Blanche, who preceded her in death. For 47 years, Violet worked as Head Clerical Clerk for Saint Paul Schools. She and Blanche, along with their family, were involved with Sokol Minnesota since childhood. Violet and

Blanche were great supporters. Over their lifetimes, they helped whenever and wherever they could. Violet requested that memorials be sent to CSA Fraternal Life, Violet and Blanche Dvorak Scholarship Fund. Violet and Blanche were very special people. We miss them dearly.

## C.S.P.S. Hall Central Air Update By Joyce Tesarek

Exciting news! The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors has approved the start of the air conditioning project. The project will be done in phases. First, we need to build steps/ladders etc., to provide a means for workers to get onto the roof of the hall for construction, installation, and maintenance. The next stage will include reinforcing the roof structure, building a roof top platform on which the air handling equipment will be mounted, and adding an access hatch from the roof into the attic for installation and maintenance purposes. While this is in progress, purchase orders for the entire AC system will be placed, since there are long lead times. This will complete the initial phase of the air conditioning system project.

The 2011 Partners in Preservation grant must be applied to the project this summer. Coupling that grant with the many generous donations, we can support this phase of the project as well as some of the additional work. We have found that working on an aged facility like our Hall, there are often costly surprises. Therefore, we want to proceed cautiously to cover any surprises.

The final phase of the project will include equipment installation, duct work, electrical wiring, and controls.

We would love to complete the project in order to have air conditioning for the summer use of C.S.P.S. We need to take advantage of summer rentals to help support our normal operation costs. Please consider a generous donation to help either Legacy Fund capital projects or to support our operating expenses.

## Support C.S.P.S. Legacy Fund

Grants have funded several of the renovations of our C.S.P.S. Hall, but many of these grants also must be matched. We ask for your support to insure that upcoming projects can be completed as C.S.P.S. Hall celebrates its 126<sup>th</sup> year in 2013. Please consider a tax-deductible donation. *Thank you!*



Contact Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147 or <Joyce@sokolmn.org> to discuss volunteer or donation opportunities.

### LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the C.S.P.S. Hall, I make a tax deductible

single donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5-year pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

per year for total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like my gift designated:

in memory or  in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

List my name in the *Slovo* newsletter

List amount  Don't list amount

Don't list name or amount

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**.

Write **Legacy Fund** in the memo line.

Please charge my gift to

Visa  Discover  Mastercard

AmericanExpress

# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

**C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund**

**383 Michigan Street**

**Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102**

# MASHER

## TAILORS & CLEANERS

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*"Keeping You in Stitches Since 1913"*

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**In March, Czech and Slovak Moms were hard at work making Easter cards to fundraise for C.S.P.S. Hall.**

*(L-R) Jana Castillon, Eva Giese, Jitka Sebek, Michaela Giancarlo (COO of the project), and Alena Youngberg, plus Martina Gurgel (photographer) and other Moms helping. The Moms work together on Saturday mornings while their children learn folkdances.*



**WINTER 2013 SOKOL MINNESOTA EVENTS**

**10th Candlelight Dinner Gathering By Doreen McKenney**

Reservations for this year's 10th annual Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner on January 26 sold out, but that was no surprise to co-chairs Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek. Many friends and families have made the Duck Dinner an annual tradition for the past ten years. Members Ruth Ahrens and her Uncle Ken Kadlec arranged for a family gathering of twelve guests to dine together. As you can see, the meal was plentiful and finger-licking good.



*Roast duck, potato dumplings with gravy, sweet and sour red cabbage, applesauce, caraway rye bread, poppy seed cake, and good Czech beer.*

The event chairs would like to thank the following who were involved in the preparation and serving of the meal: MaryJo Chlebecek, Danita Larson, Ann Seifert, Mary Cahill, Marit Lee Kucera, Ted Schiffer, Hana Matousek, Don Andrlle, Louise Wessinger, Robert Jacobson, Steve Shimer, Mara Locketz, Alex Dolejsi, Cindy Coulter, Gina Roers, Pamela Kotval, Teresa Pojar, Jyni Koschak, Tom Aubrecht, Judy Aubrecht, Denis Novak, Ed Hamernik, Joyce Tesarek, and Norm Petrik.



*Ted Schiffer and Joan Sedlacek with a tray of roasted duck halves straight from the oven.*

**Book Review**

**An Illustrated Story of Life in Cold-War Czechoslovakia By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.**

*The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain.* Peter Sis. New York: Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007, outsize (9" x 12"), 56 pp. This book is available through libraries and bookstores.

In *The Wall*, prolific children's book author/illustrator Peter Sis uses a chronological mix of information from his journals, descriptions of historical events, and distinctive artwork to tell his story of growing up in communist Czechoslovakia during the Cold War. The author was born in Brno in 1949 and grew up in Prague, the son of a filmmaker father and an artist mother.

In this highly acclaimed graphic memoir for young readers, Sis recounts both joyous and horrifying experiences: making art and music in private at a time when certain books and films were banned, children were encouraged to report on their families and fellow students, and those who didn't obey were forced into manual labor, imprisoned, or worse.

Sis's intricately detailed illustrations are black and white with red accents when he's discussing the constrictions of life in the Eastern Bloc. They explode with lively color as the story moves into the 1960s, a time of freedom, music, the Beatles and the Beach Boys, art, travel, and the Prague Spring.

As Sis recalls from his journal: *March 1968* A rally for Dubček! We all march. He is calling for "socialism with a human face."

*May 1968* Censorship is lifted! We can have long hair and wear jeans! But our school magazine is shut down. The principal complains of anarchy.

On August 21, 1968, the freedoms were squelched. Sis writes: 500,000 troops from the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, East Germany, Hungary, and Poland invade Czechoslovakia. Ordinary citizens try to persuade the invading soldiers to leave. They change street signs to confuse them. The Czech progressive government is sent to Moscow for "reeducation." Help from the West doesn't come.

This quick read not only tells Sis's touching personal story, but offers Americans an education in what Prague was like when it was "a dark place full of fears, suspicions, and lies," so different from the colorful city it is today. As Václav Havel, former dissident and Czech president, said, "Peter Sis's book is most of all about the will to live one's life in freedom and should be required reading for all those who take their freedom for granted."

The government allowed Sis to visit Los Angeles in 1984, five years before the fall of the wall, to make an animated film about Czechoslovakia's participation in the Olympics, and he chose to seek asylum. He was "tired of being told what to do, what to think, and what to draw."

A correspondence with author/illustrator Maurice Sendak led Sis to move to New York and expand his career from celebrated filmmaking to children's books. He went on to produce more than twenty books, numerous drawings for *The New York Times*, posters, dust jackets, and murals. He is a MacArthur Fellow, a three-time Caldecott Honoree, and a Sibert Award and Hans Christian Andersen Illustrator Award winner.

*Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. For additional information, go to [http://www.cs-center.org/wp/category/programs/literary\\_ventures/](http://www.cs-center.org/wp/category/programs/literary_ventures/) or contact Gwen at [gwen@cs-center.org](mailto:gwen@cs-center.org).*

## ***Laissez les bon temps roulez in Whatever the Weather or the Culture*** By Joe Landsberger

Despite the snowstorm Sunday afternoon, February 10, we had a great time at Mardi Gras II. While Sokols braved the elements to attend, many neighbors pitched in, volunteered, and demonstrated that the hall is indeed a great venue for a party!



The Southside Aces played traditional New Orleans Jazz, inspiring many to hit the floor dancing and to follow them through the hall for a traditional jazz funeral promenade. Chef Tim of Cajun2Geaux provided a feast that could rival the servings at the southern end of the Mississippi. In the drawing for prizes, neighbor Tom Brock won two tickets for our Slovak Dinner, and Sokol past president Ed Hamernik claimed the band's latest release CD.

Despite the challenge of the winter storm, the event nearly broke even; with wine, beer, and food for our Šibrinky on April 6. Come taste the delights!



Two of the new features at this year's MG II were Sokol bakers Doreen McKinney and Joan Sedlacek's "Cajun koláče" and the Czech/Slovak moms elaborately decorated *perníčky* (honey gingerbread) in Mardi Gras shapes and colors that nearly sold out!

With enthusiasm, volunteers, neighbors, and guests all requested a midsummer encore for more jazz, food, and great times.

Mardi Gras II was a success thanks to the many volunteers. The C.S.P.S. Hall's neighbors: Kathleen Corley, Jim Diehl, Anne Gilmore, Laurie Harris, Craig Johnson, Mary Johnson, Mike Justin, Bruce Leier, Betty Moran, Rich Muñoz, Darren Tobolt, Wendy Underwood, and Elisa Warhol. Thanks also to West End businesses: Liquor Barrel, the Mississippi Market Coop, Mojo Monkey Donuts, St. Stanislaus Church. Sokols, many of whom traveled distances through the snows to take part: Rosemargy Baisden, Jason Brazovich, Dan Bednar, Dawn Bulera, Megan Cahill, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Jake Jacobson, Lloyd Krochak, M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKinney, Norm Petrik, Teresa Pojar, Joan Sedlacek, Steve Shimer, Joyce Tesarek, Penny Tesarek, Tom Tesarek, and Cinnamon Whaley.

With better weather the night before, February 9, the Nordic Ball had a full house! Each year, Danes, Swedes, Norwegians, and Finns rotate hosting this annual event at our C.S.P.S. Hall. Their repast this year was a traditional smörgåsbord under the Danes, celebrating their *Festelavn* or Danish Carnival. There were five musical acts that had nearly every attendee dancing traditional dances of each country in native costumes, while musicians enthusiastically played without the benefit of printed scores! Hütenänny of Northfield led off with Danish walking dances (in 1600 there were penalties for too much turning!). The Danish folk ensemble Ballade followed, then Finn Hall, a Finnish dance ensemble. Mary Hegge soloed on the Norwegian hardanger fiddle and still the dance floor filled. Finally the American Swedish Institute's Spelmanslag drew the evening to a close with more than 20 fiddlers and a few other instruments for "diversity."

What a weekend for cultural traditions at our C.S.P.S. Hall!



Slovak Dinner cooks dished up cabbage rolls, pirohy, dumplings and cabbage, and other Slovak favorites. (L-R) Joyce Tesarek, Pamela Kotval, Judy Aubrecht, and Doreen McKenney. Love those hats!

## **Slovak Dinner: the Warmth of Friendship on a Winter Afternoon** By Doreen McKenney

The aroma and taste of a home-cooked Slavic meal brought plenty of shared memories to new as well as to many of our faithful returning guests to Sokol's *Taste of Slovakia* dinner. Once again, Slovak



Honorary Consul Don Pafko (left) greeted the 130 diners. Volunteer co-chairs of the dinner Joyce Tesarek and Doreen McKenney are grateful for all the support in putting together this fundraising dinner. A team of

volunteers pitched in to make the dinner a success, from grocery shopping, ordering and getting the beer license, scheduling, cooking, setting tables, serving, to the enormous amount of clean up. Thanks to Don Andrle, Pat Andrle, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Christy Banks, Dan Bednar, Lenka Bragg, Zuzana Bracknell, Mary Cahill, George Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Cindy Coulter, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Shannon Duffy, Dominik Giancarlo, Darren Giese, Eva Giese, Jean Hall, Ed Hamernik, Jake Jacobson, Darla Kolb, Pam Kotval, M. L. Kucera, Joe Landsberger, Denis Novak, Norm Petrik, Romana Pulkrabek, Gina Roers, Rich Saliny, Joan Sedlacek, Steve Shimer, Olga Splichalova-Espinosa, Joe Stodola, Maddie Stodola, Alena Youngberg, Louise Wessinger.



Sokol Dinners are a great place to celebrate birthdays: Marlene Diamond (L) and Nanette Mercier (R) brought their mother Dorothy Mercier to celebrate her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Slovak Dinner. Sokol President Denis Novak welcomed the family on its first visit to C.S.P.S. Hall. Dorothy proudly claims Czech heritage and said they would all be back for another Sokol event. You too can plan your next birthday party at a Sokol dinner!

**HISTORICAL GEMS** found in the pages of old Slovos are from the archives of **Joan Sedlacek**. Originally published in September 1981, this article is the second in a series of three parts.

## **Staré pověsti české Old Czech Legends**

*Editor's Note: This is the second installment of an original translation by Sokol Minnesota member **Hana Matousek** of the famed Czech author, Alois Jirásek's work, Staré pověsti české (Old Czech Legends).*

Part I - O Čechovi (About Čech)

A long time ago, behind the Tatra mountains, in the plains around the river Visla, extended the great Slavic nation. Many similar tribes lived there in that land, related by language, customs, and lifestyle.

As it happened, hostilities and antagonisms grew among them. Bloody fights over the boundaries of their villages and lands occurred. One clan fought the other; relatives destroyed relatives. Soon everyone was up in arms.

At that time two brothers whose names were Čech and Lech decided to leave their native land, disrupted by fateful conflicts. Their people, as long as they remembered, were accustomed to cultivating land, growing grains and tending the animals. The brothers passed the resolution: "Let us find a new land where our kin can settle, work and live in peace." The resolution was accepted. All of the kin were summoned. They sacrificed to their gods, blessed their motherland for the last time, and began their journey to the west, to a great unknown land.

Clan after clan, each of numerous families, all friends and relatives proceeded ahead slowly, for there were a great many of them. Scouts and armed men in the front followed by the leader Čech, white haired but healthy, strong and brave, with his brother, Lech, and all the elders, all of them on horseback. Behind them women, children and old people on wagons or horses, then their cattle and livestock and, closing the caravan from behind, armed riders. At the beginning they traveled through lands familiar to them, those of their neighbors. Then as they crossed the river Odra, they approached

unknown mountain land. There they found only a few settlements where people spoke a familiar language, and a few more further yet, by the river Labe, where settlers were cultivating their land. But, after they crossed the Labe, the scenery changed. Wilderness surrounded them, settlements were scanty. The inhabitants, dressed in animal skins, spoke a foreign language. They were of a fearless nature and defended their land with arms in hand. Čech and Lech with their fighters overthrew these people and, destroying their deplorable dwellings, progressed further, from woods to woods.

Now their road, full of difficulties, led them through dense forests, marshes full of reeds, spongy mosses, and sharp bushes. Every evening they built fires and kept them lit until dawn to keep away the beasts. During that time of extreme hardship, they came upon a third river, the Vltava, flowing through the wilderness. After crossing this river people started to complain, "There seems to be no/end to this difficult journey and no rest." So, the leader Čech pointed to the wide open land, to the high mountain in the distance and said, "Let us go to the foot of that mountain; there our children and cattle will rest."

When they came upon the foot of the mountain Říp, the elders of the families surveyed the surroundings, and, to their pleasure, they found the land around rich and fertile.

In the early hours of the next morning, the leader Čech, alone ascending through the quiet woods full yet of the last night's shadows, set out for the top of the mountain, Říp. It was a beautiful morning when he reached the top. In front of his eyes spread wide, open, boundless land reaching to the hazy, bluish mountains far away, wild and free, woods and bush, clearings and meadows, rivers shining in all that green lushness like flowing silver. The leader Čech, delighted over such a wonderful sight, prayed thankfully to his gods in the name of his people and their future generations.

When he descended and announced what he had seen, others set about surveying their surroundings. They liked what they observed; the land was fertile, the waters overflowed with fish, and the scenery was wild but beautiful.

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## **News from the Board of Trustees (BOT)**

By Chuck Draheim

**BOT Spring Work Day:** Mark your calendars for **April 20**, the spring cleanup day at the Hall. Our goal is to clean up the winter's debris from the parking lot and around the building and to continue cleaning out the basement drain trenches and removing other accumulated "stuff." We made great progress in cleaning out the drain trenches in our last few workdays; however, more needs to be done as debris continues to accumulate. Keeping the trenches clear promotes better drainage and helps to keep the basement odors to a minimum. Cleanup begins at 8 a.m. with the cleaning of the parking lot. Bring your rakes, brooms, and leaf blowers. Basement work starts at 9 a.m. Wear rubber gloves for trench cleaning; regular work gloves come in handy for the remainder of the work.

A note to our newer members: these workdays are a great way to get to know your fellow Sokols. Please plan to help with this essential work. *Thank you!*

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## **Koláče Class Old World taste! New World methods!**

Learn to make this delicious, versatile pastry: *koláče* are great for picnics, family gatherings, even wedding receptions. Taught by Mary Jo Chlebecek, and assisted by experienced Sokol bakers, the class will cover making dough from scratch and learning the different forms of *koláče*.

**Saturday, May 11, noon to 4:00 p.m.** at the CSPS Hall. Fee: \$20.00 for Sokol members; \$25.00 for non-members. You will be given a list of cooking utensils to bring when you register and pay for the class. Ingredients are included in the class fee. Class size is limited, so register soon!

Register **by May 6**. Download a registration form: <[www.Sokolmn.com](http://www.Sokolmn.com)>. Mail, with your check made out to Sokol MN, to: Jean Draheim, 4044 Cranbrook Drive, White Bear Lake, MN 55110.

If you have any questions, please call Education Director Jean Draheim: 651-426-2826.



## Your Ancestors' Arrival in America By J. H. Fonkert

Did your Czech or Slovak ancestors pass through Ellis Island? If they arrived before 1892 or after 1924, the answer is "no." Ellis Island wasn't established until 1892 and ceased operation in 1924. But if your ancestor arrived in America after 1820, you have a good chance of finding a copy of her or his arrival record.

Just seeing your ancestor's name on an immigration record makes the search worthwhile, but the real payoff is the biographical information the records can contain. Passenger records from before 1892 give only limited information -- usually just name, age, occupation, and country of origin. Beginning in 1893, passengers were asked about last residence and if going to join a relative in the U.S., the relative's name, address and relationship, as well as who paid for the passage (often a relative). Starting in 1906, the records give place of birth, and beginning in 1907 they named the passenger's nearest relative back home.

In 1820, the federal government first required ship captains to file passenger manifests. Passenger records exist for some ports before 1820, but they were state or local records, and are hard to find. Most Czech immigrants emigrated after 1850, and most Slovaks after 1870, making it more likely that federal records survive at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington.

You can't get to Washington? No problem. Indexes and images of passenger manifests are available free at several Internet sites. The most comprehensive database is at Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com). An Ancestry subscription is necessary to view actual records, but index searches are free after you register. In addition, many libraries, including Hennepin County and the Minnesota Genealogical Society, offer free access to Ancestry's Library Edition.

If your ancestor did arrive at Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924, you may be able to find passenger record information

free at www.ellisland.org, sponsored by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation. The Battery Conservancy sponsors another free site (www.castlegarden.org) for searching for immigrants who arrived at Castle Garden between 1820 and 1892.

If you'd like to learn more about passenger records, a good source is John Colletta's *They Came in Ships* (Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 2002).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
No.	NAME IN FULL	Age	Sex	Occupation	Nativity	Place of Birth	Country	City or Town	Last Permanent Residence	The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence they came.	Other
1	Kopecky, Franz	27	M	Baker	Bohemia	Horni Rolsh	Czechia	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Bohemia	Nearest relative: Aneška Kopecká, born [illegible]	Other: [illegible]

Passenger manifest, S. S. Mains, 1910 (digital image, ancestry.com)

Suppose your ancestor was Frank Kopecky, who lived in Poplar Grove, Roseau County, Minnesota, in 1920. According to the U.S. Census, Frank was 36 years old and a naturalized citizen. He had been born in Bohemia and had immigrated to the United States in 1910. A search in the Ancestry.com immigration index finds 27-year-old Franz Kopecky, a baker, arriving at Baltimore on the S.S. Mains in March 1910. Although the entry is hard to read, it appears his last residence was Hlinsko, Bohemia, and his nearest relative at home was his wife, Aneska, who lived in Vitanov. Hlinsko and Vitanov are 2 km apart, about 75 miles southeast of Prague. Franz was destined for Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to join his cousin. He had gray eyes, blond hair, a fair complexion, and was 5' 4" and in good health. The manifest indicates Franz was born in Horni Rolsh (or Kolsh). Franz' wife Aneška (Agnes) and children arrived a month later at New York on the S.S. *President Lincoln*.

*J. H. Fonkert is a board-certified genealogist and former Sokol Minnesota president and board member. He has no Czech or Slovak ancestry, but wishes he did.*

## Czech and Slovak Films at Film Festival

Recent Czech and Slovak films will debut locally at the annual Minneapolis St. Paul Film Festival, which runs from April 11 to 28. The festival will screen more than 200 films from over 60 countries (in original language, with English subtitles) at the Saint Anthony Main Theater in Minneapolis.

Among the Czech and Slovak films scheduled are:

- *Alois Nebel*, an animated film inspired by film noir about an isolated train dispatcher at a border station during the Cold War.
- *Flower Buds*, a drama about the gradual breakdown of a family living in a small town.
- *In The Shadow*, a crime thriller set in the 1950s about a jewelry store robbery that gains political overtones when the secret police become involved.
- *Made in Ash*, a drama about a young woman who leaves her native Slovakia to work as a seamstress in the bleak Czech border town of Aš.

A full list of films and ticketing information can be found on the festival website <mspfilmfest.org>.

## Thanks to Everyone By Robert Vanasek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic

Five years ago, the Foreign Ministry of the Czech Republic appointed me to the position of Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic. My term expires in April of 2013. I have decided not to seek reappointment to this position. My wife and I are nearing retirement and plan to spend significant time "down south" during the winter months. Obviously, I cannot carry out the duties of Honorary Consul when I will be away from Minnesota for that length of time.

It has been a great honor to serve as Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic. Serving in this position has given me a great deal of satisfaction by being able to assist Czech citizens in need, as well as promoting stronger political, cultural, and economic ties between the states I covered and the Czech Republic. I want to thank Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, and the many individuals throughout Minnesota who helped me strengthen our relationships with the people and government of the Czech Republic. The process for choosing my successor will begin shortly.

## Are We All Europeans? Let's Celebrate Our Common Heritage to Promote Mutual United States – European Union Relations By Josef A. Mestenhauer

Celebrate! That is exactly what a large number of ethnic and internationally oriented organizations will do for the Euro-American Celebration during the week of May 1 – 9. The Czech and Slovak Cultural Center (CSCC) partners with Sokol Minnesota. Both organizations are actively and enthusiastically participating in these events.

The newly-appointed American Secretary of State John Kerry made it a point to use his international travel to visit several European capitals before going anywhere else. This is an important gesture, because many people in this country no longer consider Europe of importance and are focusing on Asia. We tend to think in "either one or the other" reasoning, which is very dangerous in these times of global interdependence, because the word should be "and" or "both" or "others as well." The European Union (E.U.) is greatly worried about this trend in the United States and it is funding these celebrations. The E.U. selected Minnesota because it observed least active interest in Europe here.

Our American media seem to delight in pointing out problems Europeans are having, primarily because of their perception of Europe as an expanding

*In 2013, Košice, Slovakia, has been named the European Capital of Culture together with Marseille, France. The European Capital of Culture is a city designated by the E.U. for one year during which it organizes a series of cultural events with a strong European dimension. As an economic and cultural center, Košice will have a wonderful opportunity to share Slovak culture with the world.*

competitor. Indeed, Europe has many problems and issues, but so do we. But in contrast, Europeans do not seem to be so obsessed with American problems because they feel that a strong America is in their best interest.

So let's celebrate our European roots, because they form so much of our own culture and tradition. Doing so, we do not leave out Asia, Middle East, Africa, and Latin America because all these other continents have also inherited some features of the Western traditions and civilization, even if it was (sadly) through the hated colonialism.

Sokol Minnesota's and The CSCC's websites will have updates and details

of the celebration's complete schedule. For further information, contact either Cheryl Nelson, representing the CSCC <clnelson2000@earthlink.net> or Louise Wessinger, representative for Sokol Minnesota <louisewessinger@msn.com>.

Euro-American Celebration participating organizations include: Alliance Française Minneapolis/Saint Paul  
Minnesota Trade Office  
Italian Cultural Center  
Minnesota Hungarians  
Czech and Slovak Cultural Center  
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota  
American Swedish Institute  
Bulgarian School of Minnesota (TBC)  
Germanic-American Institute  
Swedish American Chamber of Commerce Minnesota  
French American Chamber of Commerce  
Heritage Organization Romanian-Americans  
Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce USA  
Minnesota International Center  
Casa de Espagne  
The list is growing and will include all Honorary and regular Consulates in Minnesota.

**From Our Readers:** from time to time, we receive notes from our readers. We thought we would share a few with you.

From Jerry Mashek in Hopkins, Minnesota:  
"Thank you very much. I look forward to receiving each issue and read them cover to cover."  
*Slovo sends a special Thank You to Jerry, who owns Mashek Tailors and Cleaners at 916 Main Street in Hopkins. He has been advertising with us for over a year. We appreciate the support. We urge Sokols to patronize your business.*

From LuVerne A. Johnson in Chapel Hill, North Carolina:  
"Your newsletter gets better and better, interesting articles and recipes. I like the addition of pictures of events. And the dinners at the C.S.P.S. Hall! Good thing I'm 1250 miles away or I'd have a weight problem!"

From Bernie and Ellie (Bujak) Babka, Riverside, Illinois:  
"We enjoy reading about your events and successes particularly our Czech and Slovak heritage. Only one question: how do you manage keeping your dues at your current rate in

view of the rising assessments that must be sent to the national AS Office? Just wondering."

From Bessie (Anča) O'Niell, Vancouver, Washington, in a letter to Joan Sedlacek: "...reading your article on the Chott family, the memories took me back to the '30s when we had the Czech plays going. My brother Tony and I took part in most of them and Karel Chott also participated. I remember him in his *kroj* with the *fajfčička* (long pipe), reminded me of the well-to-do *sedlák* (farmer). He had a good voice too and sang a lot. I well remember parents of all three departed Sokols (Mir Verner, Rudy Schovanec, and Karleen Sheppard), memories had taken me back....At 96 I am doing fine."

From Lorraine David in Montgomery, Minnesota:  
"Just a reminder about the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant on April 6 at the American Legion Club in Montgomery. We have an ethnic dinner featuring Czech and Slovak foods at 5 p.m. The pageant starts at 7 p.m. A reception and dance follow the coronation. For advance tickets, call Lorraine or Jerry David at 507-364-5384."

## Where Is the Czech Gold Now? What Can We Learn from its Incredible and Complex Travels?

By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser,  
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 source of information used in this article is a recent book by Stanislav Motl, *Kam zmizel zlatý poklad republiky* (Where Did The Gold Treasure of the Republic Disappear?). Motl is a well-known journalist who has produced several TV programs on this subject. Part 4 of this article appeared in the March issue of the *Slovo*.

Let's tell the story about the Slovak gold. In March 1939, when the Nazis' Anschluss annexed the rest of Czechoslovakia, Slovakia seceded. With Hitler's encouragement, the Slovak Free State under President Andrej Hlinka immediately requested a share of the Czechoslovak gold from its Nazi sponsors. As expected, this request was denied. The Slovaks had a small amount of gold and continued to mine gold at Banska Bystrica and Komarno. In addition, the Free State also completed a successful national collection of gold similar to the one in Czechoslovakia in 1918. Slovakia then added together all its gold sources, including the gold confiscated from the Jews, and deposited most of it in the security of Swiss banks. The remainder was left in Banska Bystrica and was later evacuated to Moscow during the very last day of the Slovak National Uprising before the Germans occupied the city. To the credit of the Soviets, all of that gold was returned after the war.

However, this was not the way that the Soviets acted after the war, when they attempted to raid virtually all financial Czechoslovakian institutions, pawn shops, and private homes in search of what they considered their war bounty. The uranium mines near Kladno were confiscated outright. The Soviets claimed as bounty all property belonging to Germany or Germans, and included in their claims all Jewish property that the Nazis did not have time to remove. It took some difficult negotiations to persuade the Soviets that the Jews were Czechoslovak citizens, and thus not subject to confiscation. Some property was returned, but the Soviets refused to disclose how much they kept for themselves.

There is an interesting footnote associated with the Slovak gold. During the last few days of the war, a few high-ranked Nazis raided the Slovak National Bank. They found large amounts of gold bullion and many valuable credit papers. Delighted, they loaded everything into prepared trucks and departed for Italy. Eventually, they were caught, but they must

have been very surprised to find out that what they looted from Slovakia was not gold but gold-plated steel bricks that the Slovaks had prepared just for such an occasion. The valuable credit papers were also fakes.

But there's more. When Czechoslovakia split in 1992, the newly independent Slovak Republic negotiated for its share of the former Czechoslovak gold. By this time, Czechoslovakia had recovered some 100 tons of its gold reserve. The two new nations agreed to divide it according to the established formula of 2:1. Slovaks should have received 34 tons, but actually were given 39.14 tons, plus another 4.5 tons of gold from unrelated sources.

What happened to the Czech portion of this gold? It disappeared again! It was sold, not by the Nazis, the communists, nor the Western allies, but by the Director General of the Czech Central Bank, Dr. Josef Tosovsky. Acting without consultation with the government, Tosovsky sold most of this gold for certificates of credit (Eurobonds) for some 100 million Czech Crowns, which was used for regular government expenditures. This was done at the urging of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund; which determined the golden standard had ended and countries should get rid of the gold, whose value was dropping dramatically at that time. (Readers may recall that the U.S. during the Nixon presidency left the gold standard in 1971.) It is difficult to estimate how much Czech gold would be worth today had it been kept, especially now when the value of gold continues to climb upward. Suffice it to say that the Czech Republic would be a lot richer today.

The story of Czechoslovak gold has many implications for today. I will conclude this series with a detailed assessment of these implications in the May issue of the *Slovo*.

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### NOTES OF INTEREST for *Slovo* Readers

**Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) Celebrated its 25th Anniversary** on March 23, promoting genealogical research at its quarterly program held at the Faith Presbyterian Church in Minnetonka with a typical Czech repast of Czech open-faced sandwiches, deviled eggs, cake, and beverages. The program included a short presentation on the Czech roots of the Faith Presbyterian Church; an interactive dialogue with past and current CGSI presidents on the founding, growth, and significant points of development of the organization; and a discussion about the legacy of the Reverend Frantisek Kun, the Czech Missionary of the Midwest. Congratulations to all CGSI members!

There is still time to see these **exhibitions at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa**. *Artists Caught Behind the Iron Curtain: The Freeman Collection*, forbidden modern paintings that were produced in the Communist era, collected by American Lee Freeman.

Closes: April 28, 2013

*Prague 1968: Photographs by Paul Goldsmith*, photographs of the Warsaw Pact invasion by a visiting college student from the United States. Goldsmith successfully smuggled them out of the country to be seen by the rest of the world.

Closes June 2, 2013

# Šibrinky

Sokol Costume Dance  
(costumes optional)

**Saturday, April 6**

**Fundraiser event for our Historic C.S.P.S. Hall**

\$12.00 Admission at the door

6 - 10 p.m. Ethnic Czech and Slovak food for sale  
Cash bar

For \$9.00 pre-paid ticket by April 2

Call Louise at 651-452-6240

3704 Denmark Avenue

Eagan, MN 55123

Folkdance performance from

6 - 7 p.m. by Taneční Mládež Dancers.

Intermission performance

by the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers.

credit  
cards  
accepted



**Come early for an evening meal and stay for the dancing!**

**Dance to old tyme music  
by the Cathy Erickson Band  
7 - 11 p.m.**

Sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102



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## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* April 2013

**ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!  
SOKOL Minnesota FUNDRAISERS**  
for our historic 126-year-old C.S.P.S. Hall

***Šibrinky/Sokol Costume Dance***

Saturday, April 6, 6-11 p.m.

\$9 prepaid (651-45-6240), \$12 at the door

Special ethnic food and beer for sale

Folkdancers perform. Dance to Cathy Erickson Band.

*Collect—De-clutter--Clean Out--Donate Old Treasures!*

***Sokol Garage Sale***, April 11 - 12

Drop off: Wednesday, April 10, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

***Festival of Nations***, May 2 - 5

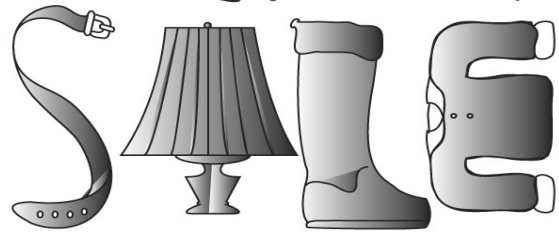
Saint Paul RiverCenter. Volunteer & Attend Free.

Café (612-822-6147) and Culture (651-340-4767)

Check for event updates: **www.sokolmn.org**

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook: **www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota**

# GARAGE



antiques, collectibles, books, clothing, and domestic treasures

**Thursday, April 11, 12 noon - 7 p.m.**

**Friday, April 12, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Drop off donations Wednesday, April 10 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

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

**PUBLIC WELCOME**

Event Chairs: Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney

