



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

UPCOMING EVENTS
APRIL 2014

May Slovo Deadline
April 1

Sokol Minnesota Singers
April 1 and April 15, 10 a.m.

Board of Trustees
April 9, 7 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast
with Bake and Craft Sales
April 13, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Board of Directors
April 17, 7 p.m.

Family Easter
April 19, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

General Membership
Meeting April 25, 7 p.m.

Festival of Nations
May 1 – 4 (details on page 4)

Spring 2014
Events Postcards
are at the Hall.
Take a few
to give to your friends.



Spring Breakfast



Bake and Craft Sale

Sunday
April 13

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

NO
reservations
needed.

9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

C.S.P.S.
Sokol Hall
383 Michigan St.
Saint Paul, MN
55102

\$7.00 Adult
\$5.00 child under 9
Family of four \$22.00

Donated
bake goods
wanted!

www.sokolmn.org

Hosted by
Czech and
Slovak Sokol
Minnesota.

Public
Welcome.

Variety of
exquisite
hand-crafted
items for sale.

Call:
651-426-2826
to reserve a
vendor table.

Delicious baked
items including
koláče for your
Easter table.

Call:
952-941-0426
to pre-order
koláče.

**Czech and Slovak Sokol
Minnesota
2014 Board of Directors**

President

Judy Aubrecht

First Vice President

Megan Cahill

Second Vice President

Doreen McKenney

Recording Secretary

Cindy Coulter

Corresponding Secretary

Arlene Hamernik

Treasurer

Don Haselbauer

Financial Secretary

Tom Aubrecht

Sergeant at Arms

Ed Hamernik

Members at Large

Jason Brozovich
Marketa Palkova Resong

Membership Director

Norm Petrik

Board of Budget and Finance

Joyce Tesarek, Chair

Educational Director

Jean Draheim

Board of Instructors

Mary Cahill,

Women's Physical Director

Megan Cahill,

Men's Physical Director

Publicity Director

Jyni Koschak

Board of Trustees

Chuck Draheim, Chair

Interim Gambling Manager

Ken Wyberg

Telephone: 651-290-0542

Past issues of *Slovo* and Sokol
Minnesota's calendar of events
are available online at

www.sokolmn.org

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Judy Aubrecht

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters

Our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors gathered at the C.S.P.S. Hall on a recent Saturday morning for a board retreat. It was an opportunity for the board members to get to know each other better, for new members to understand more about how Sokol works, and to decide on goals for our unit for 2014 and beyond. A top priority for this year is to develop our Sokol Minnesota brand, with web site and other updates. Other goals include ongoing fundraising for hall maintenance and capital improvements, adding Featured Friday night monthly meetings for members, and organizing the unit's gaming operation so that it will run more smoothly. This will be a busy year for our organization, with many important decisions to be made and implemented. We are very fortunate to have many skilled and dedicated volunteers who contribute to our unit in a variety of ways; more are always welcome!

Miller Dunwiddie Architecture of Minneapolis recently completed their "Master Plan for the C.S.P.S. Hall." Staff members from their office and other supporting personnel spent many hours at the Hall getting to know more about the structural details of the building: everything from the sump pump in the basement to the parapets on the roof. Their staff members interviewed assorted Sokol members to learn more about what works well at the Hall and what may need to change. The Master Plan takes into consideration the historic aspects of the building and will be a guide for our future development. Many recommendations were made, including suggestions for building repairs, a market analysis for potential rental space, and even options for the elevator to go to the third floor. Later this year, please join us for a presentation that will be made by a Miller Dunwiddie staff member, which will explain short and long-term recommendations for the Hall.

This month, Joyce Tesarek, Norm Petrik, and Marit Lee Kucera will travel to Saint Louis, Missouri, to represent Sokol Minnesota as delegates at the national American Sokol Convention. Joan Sedlacek will also attend the convention, representing Crete, Nebraska, another unit in our Western District. During the convention there will be sessions about important topics like gymnastics, cultural and educational programming, membership development, and public relations. Our delegates will get to meet and interact with Sokol members from many other units and to have input related to American Sokol.

Please consider volunteering to work a shift during the four days of the Festival of Nations, May 1–4, 2014. The theme for the festival this year is *Peace Among the People*. Help is needed in the cultural booth and in the café. Volunteers receive a free ticket to the festival. It is a great way to get to know other Sokol members and to enjoy the festival performances. *Nazdar!*

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

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko

Honorary Czech Consul: open

Past Honorary Czech Consuls: Josef Mestenhauser and Robert Vanasek

Sunshine Committee: Marlene Hinshaw

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson

Kitchen Coordinator: open

Website: Craig Johnson

Volunteer Coordinator: open

Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Joe Landsberger Event Monitor: Ken Wyberg

Slovo newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks, Deb Ziskovsky

E-Addresses: President: president@sokolmn.org | Board of Directors: board@sokolmn.org | Education/Language Programs: education@sokolmn.org | Events: events@sokolmn.org | Czech/Slovak Festival: Festival@sokolmn.org | Finance/Fund Raising/Legacy Fund: finance@sokolmn.org | Fitness Programming: fitness@sokolmn.org | Folk Dancing: folkdancing@sokolmn.org | Hall Rental: hallrental@sokolmn.org | Membership: membership@sokolmn.org | Newsletter: slovo@sokolmn.org | Planning: planning@sokolmn.org | Publicity: publicity@sokolmn.org | Public Relations: publicrelations@sokolmn.org | Social Media: socialmedia@sokolmn.org | Treasurer: treasurer@sokolmn.org | Board of Trustees: trustees@sokolmn.org | Webmaster: webmaster@sokolmn.org

Meeting Program News By Jean Draheim

For more information on events or classes or to be included on our interests' lists, please call Education Director Jean Draheim at 651-426-2826 or email: <education@sokolmn.org>.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is restructuring the general membership meetings for 2014. Starting in April, after a short informational meeting, there will be a Featured Friday Program followed by treats and social time. We have a variety of events lined up, so you will want to mark your calendars now!

April 25 Come and kick up your heels at an **informal dance party**. Members of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, led by instructor Louise Wessinger, will be on hand to guide members, family, and friends through several basic dance steps and some fun mixer dances as well as perform some lively folk dances for your enjoyment.

May 16 Sokol will kick-off the summer picnic season with a **potluck picnic** at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Bring family and friends.

June and July There are no membership meetings. Enjoy the great outdoors!

August 22 Ever wonder who the **Rusyns** are and why we haven't heard much about them? **Karen Varian**, president of the Rusyn Association of Minnesota, will speak about this eastern Slavic ethnic group; many Rusyns live in Slovakia.

September 26 Sokol commemorates the 25th anniversary both of the Velvet Revolution and the Fall of Communism.

October 24 To be announced.

November 21 Sokol Minnesota's annual membership meeting and election of board members.

December 7 Our December meeting switches to a Sunday afternoon to celebrate Sokol's holiday party.

Sokol always has the coffee pot on after the meetings, but we hope that members will volunteer to "host for the evening" by bringing treats and setting up the goodies for the social time. We would like two or three folks to sign up for each Featured Friday. To volunteer, please contact Jean Draheim, program coordinator, at <education@sokolmn.org> or 651-426-2826.

As always, members are encouraged to bring family members and friends to our events. See you at the next Featured Friday!

Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

The February 21 member meeting was canceled because of cold winter weather, but the Board of Directors by email approved for membership two individuals: **Andrea Marboe**, Saint Paul, who expressed interest in gymnastics; and **Denise Wickiser**, Saint Paul, who expressed interest in gymnastics, history, dances, dinners, festivals, films, and theater; and one couple: **Lyda Morehouse** and **Shawn Rounds**, Saint Paul, who expressed interest in cooking, language, gymnastics, music, dances, dinners, and festivals. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota! Our next meeting will be April 25 at 7 p.m.

25th Czech and Slovak Festival September 14

On Sunday, September 14, Sokol Minnesota hosts its 25th annual Czech and Slovak Festival at our own C.S.P.S. Hall. To help us plan this anniversary festival: <festival@sokolmn.org> or call Joyce Tesarek: 612-822-6147. We want to make this anniversary event extra special with lots of new energy and ideas.

April 2014 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 (April 15 for June issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (April 1 for May issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through April 2015.) Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new/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, MN 55102.

Extra copies of *Slovo* are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts.

Please contact us for a **change of address**, for problems with *Slovo* subscriptions, 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 hold all future issues until you notify us. We pay 49¢ for each returned issue.

Email us: <slovo@sokolmn.org>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. *Thank you!*

April 2014 *Slovo* 3

Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

Renewals: Individual \$50; Couple \$90. Senior \$40 (over age 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years); Senior couple \$80.

New memberships: Individual \$55; Couple \$95. 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. Dues are reduced for members joining after June 30.

Membership applications: <www.sokolmn.org> or by request from Norm Petrik (612-822-6147). Please send your completed membership application and check to

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Attn: Membership, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

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 news, articles, and pictures digitally to <slovo@sokolmn.org>. **The deadline for the May 2014 issue is April 1, 2014.**

Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and production editor; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, and Joan Sedlacek, advisors. Photographs for this issue provided by Chuck Draheim, Martina Gurgle, Chad Wuori, and Deb Ziskovsky. This

Volunteer and get a *FREE* admission ticket!

Volunteer for a shift at the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota café or exhibit booth, and stay for the day if you wish!



**Festival of Nations has cafes, exhibits, demos,
and bazaar booths representing 90 cultures
plus children, teen, and adult dance performances.**

**To volunteer, contact, General festival chair
Doreen: 952-941-0426.**

Café Chairs: Joyce Tesarek and Dawn Bulera.

Exhibit Chair: Doreen.

Children and Teen Dancers Chair: Louise Wessinger.

Visit festivalofnations.com

for dance schedules, parking, and more information.

Student Hours:

Thursday, May 1, 9:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday, May 2, 9:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

General Public Hours:

Friday, May 2, 4:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 3, 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 4, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

News from the Board of Trustees (BOT)

By Chuck Draheim BOT Chair

Your Board of Trustees has been hard at work dealing with a number of repair, maintenance, and improvement issues at the Hall in recent months.

Water Discharge to the Alley: In February 2013, Sokol was cited by the Saint Paul Department of Inspections for discharging basement sump water to the alley on the north end of the building and causing damage to the alley making it nearly impassable. Over the course of the last year, the BOT has considered several engineering solutions for the problem and has proposed a final solution to the Board of Directors for approval. Due to budgetary constraints the project has been placed on hold until sufficient funds can be secured. The current estimated cost is \$26,000.

A temporary fix to the problem was put in place on December 12, 2013; however, Sokol must still address and implement a final, permanent solution.

2013 Fire Safety Inspection: Also in February 2013, the Hall received its annual inspection. This inspection provides us with a valid Certificate of Occupancy and is necessary to continue operation of the Hall. Sokol received a number of citations for minor infractions, which were immediately corrected.

We did, however, receive two citations for not maintaining a clear and unobstructed exit path from the north end of the second floor and for a non-code compliant fire escape. Our current fire escape is quite old and in questionable structural condition. It does not meet any current codes for emergency egress. A preliminary design has been prepared to correct the problem, but the plan needs



Above: Temporary remediation of fire escape citation, 2/1/2014

Right: Basement storage platforms, 2/8/2014

to be reviewed by the city before any work can begin, and a few code questions remain to be answered. The cost of this project has not yet been determined. As with the sump system, a temporary fix to the problem has been put in place; however, as before, Sokol must still address and implement a final, permanent solution.

Basement Storage: The Hall is woefully short of dry storage for many of the items used for various programs and events. To alleviate some of the shortage, the BOT has constructed elevated platforms and shelving to accommodate those items that can tolerate being stored in the relatively humid basement environment. Additional platforms and shelves will be installed as time and materials become available. To date, Draheim Carpentry, Inc., has donated all of the materials for the platforms and shelves, including those used for pull-tab storage.

The BOT requests that only essential and non-critical items be stored on these shelves. Currently, all unused storage space is reserved for the Garage Sale in May. Please contact Doreen McKenney: 952-941-0426 before placing any garage sale materials here. All items must be stored in closed boxes to ensure efficient use of the available space.

Water Leaks: On Monday, February 17, a water leak over the area of the stage where the flats (painted stage backdrops) are stored was reported to the BOT Chair. The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers group took time from their rehearsal to remove the flats from the storage area to prevent further damage. Two BOT members, Chuck Draheim and Dan Bednar, arrived at the Hall, determined where the problem was and cleared up the leak. The next day BOT members Chuck Draheim and Jake Jacobson spent over eight hours stacking the wet flats on the stage to allow them to dry and prevent further damage.

The leak and possible damage was reported to our insurance company. The BOT also contacted our set restoration/preservation expert, Wendy Waszut-Barrett of Bella Scena, LLC for instructions on how to proceed.

The full extent of the damage and the cost of any repairs cannot be determined



until Wendy has had a chance to examine the sets in person. Twenty-three of our 31 set pieces appear to have sustained some amount of water damage.

One week later the flats were placed back into the storage rack with the assistance of BOT members Terry Shima, Dan Bednar, and BOD member Jason Brozovich.

Water Heater Replacement: On February 14, one of the two water heaters supplying the Glockenspiel Restaurant failed and required replacement at a cost of \$1,900 to Sokol Minnesota. The second unit supplying the restaurant is still in operation, but given its age, may also require replacement in the near future. Our remaining three water heaters are still in good condition.

Elevator: Sokol has been informed that one of the safety components on our elevator is obsolete and replacement parts are scarce. Should this component fail, our elevator would be out of service for several days. The BOT will evaluate the situation with respect to the cost of immediate replacement, \$3,106, versus the risk of failure and subsequent downtime of the elevator while repairs are being made.

Conclusion: This is just a brief summary of the many repair and maintenance issues facing Sokol and the BOT. It takes a lot of money to make emergency and temporary repairs at the Hall, not to mention the costs of the many other scheduled, planned, and proposed repair and maintenance projects that need to be completed. These are needed projects outside of the scope of any proposed long-range improvements and enhancements.

Please consider these monetary needs of Sokol Minnesota as you review your planned charitable contributions for the upcoming months. All donations to Sokol Minnesota are tax deductible to the extent allowed under the law.

Spotlight: Sokol MN Gymnastics Program By Mary Cahill, Women's Physical Director, with Joyce Tesarek, Fundraising Chair, and Alisa Hollibush, Head Gymnastics Instructor

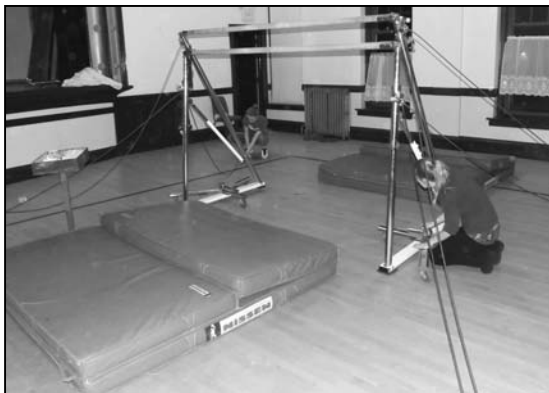
This article is the second in a series to spotlight Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota programs, activities, and events. Our goal is to familiarize our readers with an activity, plus list ways readers might financially assist the featured program. This month we feature our gymnastics program, which has given generations of children a wonderful opportunity to learn, enjoy, and compete in this sport. We include ways you can help build and sustain the program with your donations. Pick your favorite and send a check or go online to donate on our website <www.sokolmn.org>. All donations go into Sokol Minnesota's general fund to help support the activity that you designate. Volunteering your time and expertise is welcome as well.

Each week, our beautiful C.S.P.S. Hall main floor is transformed with equipment and mats to a bustling hub of gymnastic activity. Beginning with the boys' class on Monday evenings, Coach Jason Brozovich takes out mats, bars, rings, a climbing pole, and various auxiliary tumbling aides. He spends 30 minutes setting things up for the one-hour class and then 20 minutes to take it all down so the floor is cleared for the adult folk dancers to practice later that evening. This same routine is repeated on Tuesday evening, when even more equipment is added (for example, three beams for the girls' classes). After the girls' gymnastics class, all equipment is packed away in storage for the remainder of the week, and the process starts again the following week. This is hard on equipment; however, our instructors handle everything with care. We have used equipment well beyond what most would consider a reasonable life span! The photos show you the hard work involved to take down the equipment and store it properly.



The strengths of our gymnastics program are small classes that allow for plenty of individual attention, working with all abilities across the age spectrum, and "home grown"

instructors. We identify youth that have been in our program for several years who demonstrate an aptitude for the sport, leadership potential,



and good work ethic. Sokol Minnesota sends these gymnasts to American Sokol Instructor Schools, which prepare them for beginning instruction in Sokol gym programs. Sokol Minnesota has augmented our girls' program with instructors from Hamline University's college gymnastic team. We have also added our capable Sokol member, **Jason Brozovich**, a former Division 1 gymnast, who is developing our long-dormant boy's program.

We provide a supportive learning environment that allows participants to experience the sport in a non-competitive atmosphere. We also provide those who desire a more competitive opportunity the option to compete annually with gymnasts from the other four Sokol Units with gymnastics programs in our Western District. Gymnasts can try the sport, progress at their own pace, and continue with their other seasonal sports such as soccer, hockey, basketball, or tryout for a local play and spend time with rehearsals. We allow participants to enroll for one, two, or three 10-week sessions from September to April. This has worked well for our small program, and for parents who would like their children to be able to experience a variety of sports or academic activities throughout the year.



Gymnastics is an overall-conditioning sport, using all muscle groups at each practice improving strength, balance, agility and posture. It is a confidence building sport; being able to move one's body through a variety of positions on a variety of equipment successfully is a very rewarding experience. Our overarching gymnastics programs goal is to be educational, safe, and fun.

We invite you to come to the Hall to observe a class, and we welcome and would greatly appreciate any level of support for the program. Equipment needs are many; however, the biggest need is new uneven bars. We have a great start with a very generous donation from **Kent and Marlene Hinshaw**, in memory of **Georgiana Dolejsi**, that has us a quarter of the way to this \$4,000 piece of equipment. Another pressing need is replacement mats, which run hundreds of dollars each. Other ways to help are to sponsor a competitor's entry fee of \$35; sponsor the end-of-year Exhibition Night (trophies for all and refreshments) for \$250; sponsor the cost of tuition to train an instructor at American Sokol Instructor School for \$375; sponsor 10 weeks of instruction for a gymnast for \$50 or \$70; sponsor a night of instruction for all the gymnasts (4 hours) for \$180; or help us organize a successful fundraiser that will allow us to purchase needed replacement equipment and provide several more generations of youth an opportunity to experience the sport of gymnastics and instill a love of exercise and fitness for life. *Thank you!*

6 April 2014 Slovo

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; \$500-\$999; \$1000-\$4999; \$5000+, and undisclosed.

General Fund: under \$100: **Bessie O'Neill** in Memory of **Helen Lander; Richard and Sandra Saliny** in Memory of **Lyle Mottinger.**
 \$100 - \$499: **Ruth Pafko** in Memory of her husband, **Ed Pafko.**
Slovo: \$100-\$499: **Gerald Mashek.**
Legacy Fund: \$100 - \$499: **Donald Hodgdon, Darlene Sitko.**

*Dear Czech and Slovak Members,
 I wish to Thank You for your kindness.
 Ed and I enjoyed all your dinners, bake sales, and friendship.
 Thank you again. My husband died November 27, 2013.
 Love and Prayers Always, Ruth Pafko.*

Thinking about Summer and Cultural Day Camp

By Louise Wessinger, camp co-director

After this long, cold winter, it is fun to think about summer activities. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota offers our 17th annual **Cultural Day Camp** from June 9 through June 13 at the C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall from 8:50 a.m. to 3 p.m. The camp is for children ages 7 to 14. Group activities in the morning are Czech language (including a group for children who speak Czech), cooking, crafts, and gymnastics. The afternoon offers a variety



These 2013 Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Campers learned folk dances (left), made favorite ethnic foods (above), and told stories with puppets (below),



of choices for campers, including puppets, arts, Lego castles, and sewing. Volunteers make camp fun by lending their expertise and hobbies to create a fun experience that will help our campers value the traditions of our Czech and Slovak Heritage.

Inspiration for our theme this year comes from a beautiful book *Happy Times in Czechoslovakia* by the American Libushka Bartusek. The book follows the Horaks, a Moravian family, through a year as they celebrate the traditions of each season. We will celebrate a season each day and end on Friday, as the book does, with a family member leaving for America taking the traditions of her homeland with her. We last did this program in 2005 and it was very popular with the campers and the volunteers.

Eleanor Roosevelt wrote the forward to this book, which was published in 1940, before World War II Nazism and the years of Communism that followed. In her forward, she writes that the new government may try to “obliterate some of the things which have existed in this country for some time; such as the background of national culture. Nothing is ever lost, however, as long as it lives in books and pictures and in the hearts of children.”

A brochure about camp and registration forms are available at the Sokol Minnesota website <sokolmn.org>. A shortened camp session can be arranged for campers whose school year was extended due to the cold winter weather. Call **Louise Wessinger** at **651-452-6240** for further information.

C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

We ask for your support of the renovations to C.S.P.S. Hall as we celebrates its 127th year in 2014.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation.

Thank you!



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

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: _____

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**.
 Write **Legacy Fund** in the memo line
 Mail to: **C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund**
383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Or donate online: www.sokolmn.org



At Masopust, the Czech-style Mardi Gras celebration on March 2 in Montgomery, Minnesota, the Domaci Czech Dancers performed as well as directed the traditional carnival skit of masked characters to celebrate. The town's mayor, Jean Keogh, had to provide an "official" license before the Masopust celebration could begin. Masked characters took to the stage, symbolically preparing for the Lenten season. Swordsmen assisted by replicating the tradition of throwing a version of Bacchus, the mythological god of overindulging, into a pond. Attending the Montgomery Masopust coronation: (left to right) Britney Smisek (Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Queen/ Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. Second Runner-Up 2013-2014), Danielle Patzel (Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. First Runner-Up 2013-2014) from Nebraska, Anna Hand (Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. 2013-2014) from Kansas, Bryant Norsten (2014-2015 Montgomery Masopust King), and the Czech Heritage Junior Royalty from southern Minnesota, plus (not pictured) other neighboring royalty courts. Sokol Minnesota donated two Flavors of Slovakia dinner tickets to the silent auction, won by musician Glenn and Darlene Wondra, Montgomery.



Promoting Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota: Sokol Minnesota members Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky set up a table (above) to promote our Sokol unit with membership information and copies of *Slovo* at the Masopust celebration in Montgomery on March 2. Domaci, Inc., maintains Czech Center kiosks in the local libraries

in New Prague, Montgomery, and Lonsdale (the primary towns in what is known as Minnesota Czech Country), with information about Czech organizations in Minnesota and beyond, including Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota brochures and information.

Sokol Minnesota GARAGE



Antiques, collectibles, books, clothing, and domestic treasures.

Thursday, May 15, noon - 7 p.m.

Friday, May 16, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Spring cleaning is right around the corner, so bag up those no longer needed treasures and donate them to our annual sale.

*Unfortunately we are unable to take:
mattresses, bikes, electronics, and large furniture.*

Drop off donations

Wednesday, May 14, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

To arrange early drop off: 952-941-0426
We need to have everything in boxes with lids that close.

We must be able to stack the boxes.

Our storage is very limited. No big bags, please.

Thank you for donating your old treasures!

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Event chairs: Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102 - www.sokolmn.org

MASHER TAILORS & CLEANERS

"Keeping You in Stitches Since 1913"

916 MAINSTREET HOPKINS, MINNESOTA 55343 • 952-938-8052

Olympic Fever By Vanda Kašová, columnist from Prague

February was a month of Czech national pride. During the Olympic Games in Sochi, Czech athletes won eight medals (two of them gold). This is the highest number of medals ever won in the Olympic Games by the Czech team.

We tend to think it is *our* common success. People say “We won gold” and “We have another one.” And they feel happy. During these two weeks, people seemed much more united than they usually do. They know their support is crucial for the Czech representation to win. Pubs are full; their TVs are on all day long. Big screens are installed in public places so that everybody could watch and share the experience with others. People canceled their usual activities so that they could participate in this festive atmosphere. National flags are in the streets, which is something you do not usually see. And people cheer for athletes whose names they only heard for the first time on that day, competing in sports that they know nothing about.

This year we discovered the biathlon (cross-country skiing combined with shooting). The Czechs had never won a medal in Olympic Games in the biathlon. Nobody cared. This time they brought home five of them. We are all very proud. And all of a sudden, these winners are celebrities and heroes. Their faces are on the billboards and on the front pages of newspapers. Every little boy or girl wants to be like them and wants to try that sport. Next year, trainers expect a growing interest in biathlon.

On the one hand, it is funny. This expected wave of nationalism comes regularly with important sports events ever since Olympics in Nagano, 1998, where the Czech hockey team got a gold medal for the first time. On the other hand, we are a small country that likes to be proud of everything that we have got to show to the world. When you watch sports news, they usually mention all the games where Czech players in the NHL scored or helped their team to victory. And I am glad that at least

something can still unite the Czech people on the town squares all over the country. So let’s cheer with the crowds. Anybody who is not jumping is not a Czech!

Sochi 2014 Czech and Slovak Olympic Medalists

(compiled by Arlene Hamernik)

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Biathlon: Men's 10km Sprint: **Jaroslav Soukup**, Bronze. Men's 12.5km Pursuit: **Ondrej Moravec**, Silver. Men's 15km Mass Start: **Ondrej Moravec**, Bronze. Women's 12.5km Mass Start: **Gabriela Soukalova**, Silver. Mixed Relay: **Veronika Vitkova, Gabriela Soukalova, Jaroslav Soukup, Ondrej Moravec**, Silver

Snowboard: Women's Cross: **Eva Samkova**, Gold.

Speed Skating: Women's 3000: **Martina Sablikova**, Silver. Women's 5000: **Martina Sablikova**, Gold.

SLOVAKIA:

Biathlon: Women's 7.5km Sprint: **Anastasiya Kuzmina**, Gold.

Daylight in the Nightclub Inferno: Czech Fiction from the Post-Kundera Generation. Elena Lappin, Ed.
North Haven, CT: Catbird Press, 1997, 300 pp.
Available in libraries and used-book stores.

Checking Out Newer Czech Fiction By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

In selecting a representative sample of Czech fiction written after Czechoslovakia became independent, Elena Lappin took on a challenging editing job for Catbird Press. Unfortunately, her book introduction is too short and light on background information and analysis.

These 20 stories and novel excerpts by 17 authors were originally published between 1990 and 1996. I found them to vary greatly in quality, as well as length and styles. They are serious, funny, frustrating, perceptive, traditional, and experimental.

In “The Other City” by Michal Ajvaz, the protagonist investigates an alien city behind the walls and across the borders of the usual Prague. Here visitors have forgotten their primal tongue, party at nighttime festivals, and can be attacked by a shark in the Slavia Café.

Mr. White in Vašek Koubek’s short-short story, titled “Hell,” is an average, “not really happy, not really unhappy” person. The story is a delightful exaggeration of Mr. White’s nightmare flight on a beat-up old airplane. It hits the ground repeatedly before taking off, a passenger and his loose seat end up stuck to the ceiling, the engine stops and restarts, a window falls out, and finally the plane lands. Before he’s thrown on another plane, Mr. White finds life on earth is just as hellish.

Daniela Fischerová’s “Letter for President Eisenhower” is about a ten-year-old girl who comes to know fiction in several arenas: writing, communism, friendships, and her emerging sexuality. Her principal asks her to write a letter to the American president to make sure there isn’t a war. Eventually the letter is posted at school and she realizes: “That letter was never intended to be sent. There was no hope it would reach its addressee; it was just pretend.”

Jiří Kratochvíl’s “The Story of King Candaules” is an insightful critique of the literary scene and literary mystification, exemplified by Ludvík, the prolific writer whose work is not popular until he promotes it as his beautiful, erotic wife’s. The protagonist observes and recognizes this mystification, but by the end, after Ludvík has committed suicide, he is still so drawn to the hypnotic glitter of Svatava that he takes on Ludvík’s role, writing and promoting words credited to Svatava. He concludes that “mystification is the king of all games, because it is the art of living. It extends the boundaries of play to the kingdom of reality.”

If these selections are indicative of the new voice of Czech writers, their group standing is not yet clear. They follow in the footsteps of icons such as Havel, Klíma, Kundera, and Škvorecký, all influenced by a repressive political system and restricted publishing opportunities. Perhaps one can expect that newer authors enjoying the freedoms of democracy and capitalism, liberated to explore in all directions, will produce a broad and uneven set of works lacking the unity that totalitarian oppression gave earlier authors.

Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. For more information, go to <www.cs-center.org> or contact <gwen@cs-center.org>.

Two kinds of Czechs: Those who Escaped into Exile and Those who Stayed *Part 4*

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 (1999-2008)

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

Prague Spring and the role of Dubček: The Prague Spring was a more important turning point than many of us in exile recognized at the time because it cracked open the very foundation of the communist system. It produced a flood of testimonials from people who had suffered from the excesses of the regime, warning the communist officials that they could no longer function behind the curtain of secrecy. These revelations intimidated the harsh prison guards, police interrogators, and informants who realized that their rule of fear might be at its end. This period also experienced a massive flight from the country of many refugees. At the same time, it produced a large number of highly-educated dissidents assigned jobs as manual laborers – and who thus, paradoxically, earned relatively high salaries but had no place to spend it, so they tended to invest in learning languages, to order illegal books from abroad, and to read the *samizdat* dissident literature which was distributed widely in the form of as many as 100 copies typed from a single original.

The Prague Spring lasted only a short time and was followed by a period of “normalization,” less outwardly brutal than had been communist rule in the 1950s, but nonetheless quite punitive, during which the regime punished people for having actively opposed the invasion of the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Block allies. However, the regime could not successfully recover its former totalitarian character. It had lost what remained of its dwindling credibility and the seeds of its demise were sown, even if it took another twenty years for these seeds to mature.

Normalization: What was different about normalization was that it targeted not only the emboldened dissidents but also the many party members and their basic unit leaders who had signed petitions opposing the Soviet invasion, at great risk to themselves and their families. Many were punished by a range of means, from outright expulsion from the party and loss of privileges to merely being “crossed” from membership (probation that could be removed by showing a proper “attitude adjustment”).

I interviewed a person who before the invasion had been the director of research in the Central Committee of the Party and who had conducted a sophisticated research project (apparently commissioned by Dubček) to ascertain the changing loyalties of party members. I was very impressed by the study’s research methodology that showed the influence of western social science research. I was not allowed to make a copy of the research nor to take notes, but I examined the data long enough to get the most important information into my memory. The

10 April 2014 *Slovo*



rank and file of the party favored by 70% a return to formal democracy with free political parties and an end to repression. When responses were tallied for the district committee members, the percentage of support for multiparty democracy fell to some 49%, while in the top layer of the Central committee, support went down all the way to 7%. However, even party members would not give up on the socialist structure of the country under Dubček’s slogan of “socialism with a human face.”

The support for the regime from the general public was similar to that expressed by party regulars, who actually considered themselves to be victims of the regime. They had to attend meaningless party meetings at which were passed empty resolutions. These meetings were designed simply to whip up support in order to reassure higher-level leaders of their subordinates’ loyalty. Although they had some benefits from party membership, these were minimal in comparison with what their superiors received. Party bosses kept double entries of collective farm inventories in order to have enough free meat, sausages, eggs, and farm produce at hand for monthly bashes held in nationalized castles and confiscated mansions, with female “escorts” and plenty of alcohol provided. These bashes were justified on the grounds that these higher-level officeholders had sacrificed much for the cause and thus were entitled to a few perks. By this time, the communist utopian ideal of a classless society eventually emerging after a period of socialism simply was not emerging, and even the communists no longer believed it would, even if they still had to constantly insist that it was forthcoming.

This leads me to my favored theory to explain how people survived. They had to become ideologically schizophrenic in order to cite Marx, Lenin, and Stalin in the middle of the night if prompted to do so, and to save the rest of their brains for everything else, especially their private lives. To divide one’s mind into the free and the regimented is no simple task; it requires constant assessment of ones’ memories and expansive knowledge about where in the brain the two aspects are located.

A simpler way to show dissent was through a kind of repression of memory, a form of denial that Havel called “living within the lie.” People did not want to be reminded of it, but recognized it. The following story – one of many I collected – demonstrates this denial. It started long before I was able to return, when a large group of Czechoslovak social workers arrived in the U.S. for advanced training. Two were assigned to our university, and one of them actually happened to be a distant relative of mine. I was conscious that they ultimately would be debriefed after returning to Czechoslovakia, so I had to be extremely careful about what to discuss. But I realized that things had changed. Previously, social work was considered a bourgeois occupation unneeded in the land of socialism, where there are no social ills or no juvenile delinquency. When it was revealed during the Dubček era that actually much of both existed, the regime did an ideological somersault and ruled that social ills were not products of the socialist system but were remnants from the previous capitalist one and so had to be addressed. Even Dubček’s daughter was arrested and mistreated by police for drug abuse. Awareness of this event traveled all the way to the Central Committee of the Party, which accused Dubček of not being a good socialist; he retorted that others on the committee had similar problems with their own children. The meeting devolved to some of the dirtiest language imaginable as members threw insults at each other. After this event, social work was recognized as a field of study and led to new social workers sent for training in the west. When I finally was able to return to Prague, I established immediate contact with these

people, because I wanted to learn about the kind of mental disorders or personality conflicts that they dealt with that were the result of living under communism.

In this month's segment, I have described two examples of adjustment to communist rule, one based on a schizophrenic attitude or one based on denial. I use these polar opposite and extreme examples at some risk of conveying a distorted picture.

Everybody in that system had to make adjustments, including the communists themselves. Most survival strategies fall in between these two, and there are many of them; more and more are being reported daily, even twenty years afterwards. As you read next month about two additional examples, please recognize that they are not the rule and that people adjusted in a variety of ways. (*Part 5 of this article will appear in the May Slovo.*)

CSCC Lectures at the Hall

The Czech Slovak Cultural Center offers two lectures this spring at C.S.P.S. Hall.

Lecture by **Dr. Thomas Ort** via Skype from New York: *Art and Life in Modernist Prague: Karel Čapek and his Generation, 1911-1938*. Tuesday, **April 8**, 7 p.m., 3rd Floor Sokol Hall

In most histories of Europe before the First World War, modern life in Habsburg Mitteleuropa takes on a decidedly gloomy cast. Centering on Vienna in the twilight years of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, such accounts describe the failure of rationalism and the rise of a dangerous politics of fantasy. Dr. Ort tells a different story in this lecture based on his book, published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2013. He highlights a generation of Czech writers and artists distinguished by their affirmative encounter with the modern world in the first decades of the twentieth century. Novelist and playwright Karel Čapek, along with other members of his cohort, embraced the possibilities of the post-Habsburg era. Tracing the roots of Čapek's generation to cubist art and turn-of-the-century philosophy,

author Thomas Ort shows that the form of modernism they championed led not into the thickets of fascism or communism but closer to liberal political ideals.

Dr. Ort is assistant professor of modern European history at Queens College, City University of New York. The main focus of his research has been modernist and avant-garde life in early twentieth-century Czechoslovakia, but his most recent work concerns the politics of memory in postwar Eastern Europe. He is the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including a Fulbright Fellowship.

Lecture by **Matthias Falter: Politics of Nationalism and Violence Challenging Europe. The Far Right in Central Europe**. Saturday, **May 17**, 2 p.m., 3rd Floor Sokol Hall. Sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center and the Center for Austrian Studies

Like all Western European societies, Central European countries are confronted with right-wing populism and right-wing extremism. Far-right parties running for elections call for the deportation of minorities. Neo-Nazi groups launch attacks against Roma and other minorities. Most of these parties and organizations remain at

the margins of mainstream society. Occasionally, others achieve electoral successes, and a few become part of the government. While most far-right parties do not enter political institutions or government, they have an impact on public policies and discourse by disseminating an ideology embracing anti-Semitism, racism, anti-European sentiment, anti-Americanism, and homophobia. On the occasion of the elections to the European Parliament, the talk addresses right-wing tendencies in Central Europe and the consequences for European politics. Falter is a Ph.D. candidate (Department of Political Science/University of Vienna) and a visiting research fellow at Center for Austrian Studies/University of Minnesota.

Information: Cheryl Nelson Theuninck <info@cs-center.org>

Literary Ventures Book Discussions
10 a.m.-noon, 1st floor, C.S.P.S. Hall
Saturday, April 26: *Living in Truth* by Václav Havel

Saturday, May 24, 2014: *The Company Car* by C. J. Hribal

Information: Gwen <gwen@cs-center.org>

Events and Notes of Interests...

A new Czech law allows former Czech or Czechoslovak citizens and/or their children to apply for Czech citizenship without having to give up their current citizenship. The new law came into effect January 1, 2014; however, some applicants can only apply until December 31, 2014. The new regulation primarily is applicable to (i) emigrants and (ii) their children born between October 1, 1949 and May 7, 1969. Gaining Czech citizenship affords the benefits of the Czech nation and EU such as: work in the Czech Republic and any European Union country; highly subsidized study programs for students through university; ability to vote in Czech and EU elections; participate in social and retirement programs. Information: Milana Ličková, Deputy Head of Mission, Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago: 312-861-1037 ext. 106. Email: <Milana_Lickova@mzv.cz>. Consulate website: <<http://www.mzv.cz/chicago/en/index.html>>

April 10-13, University of Minnesota Opera Theatre presents Leoš Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen (The Adventure of Vixen Sharp Ears)*, the libretto for this opera-dance is from a novella by Rudolf Těsnohládek and Stanislav Lolek. It premiered in Brno in 1924. Ticket prices: \$20 adults, \$5 students/children. Two-for-one tickets are available for UofM

faculty, alumni, retirees, and staff: <<https://music.umn.edu/ensembles/opera>> or call 612-624-2345.

April 17, 7 p.m., the Stillwater Lions Club presents *Accidental Hero* by Patrick Dewane at the Water Street Inn. Dewane tells the story of his grandfather, an outstanding WWII soldier from a small town in Wisconsin. Through a multimedia presentation, sights and sounds bring to life the dramatic efforts of our troops that liberated a village in Czechoslovakia and won the hearts of its residents who had been victims of the Nazi regime. Social and pre-show activities at 6 p.m. Purchase tickets (\$20) online at www.eventbrite.com/e/accidental-hero-tickets-10622621547. The Water Street Inn will prepare a three-course Czechoslovakian dinner (\$19.95) served prior to the performance. For dinner reservations: 651-439-8000.

Navihanke from Slovenia perform Thursday, **May 1**, 7 p.m. at the Buetow Music Auditorium, Concordia University, 300 Hamline Avenue North, Saint Paul. Sponsored by the Twin Cities Slovenians, the group offers a mixture of traditional Slovenian music arrangements and contemporary Slovenian folk music. This award-winning group, on its first U.S. tour, is young, vibrant, talented, and very entertaining. Tickets at the door: \$12 or reserve advance tickets (will call): \$10 at <www.navihankeusa2014.com/event/minneapolis-mn/>.

ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER! SOKOL Minnesota 2014 EVENTS

Pancake Breakfast with Craft and Bake Sales

April 13, Sunday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
\$7 adult/\$5 child under 9/\$20 family of four

- Pre-order koláče: 952-941-0426
- Reserve a Craft Table: 651-426-2826

Festival of Nations

May 1- 4, Saint Paul RiverCentre

Get a free admission ticket when you volunteer!

Volunteer at Café: 612-822-6147
or Culture Booth: 651-340-4767

Collect • Gather • Clean Out • De-clutter • Donate!

Support our Sokol Garage Sale: May 15 – 16

Drop off: Wednesday, May 14, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Early drop off: 952-941-0426

PACKED IN BOXES WITH COVERS

Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org

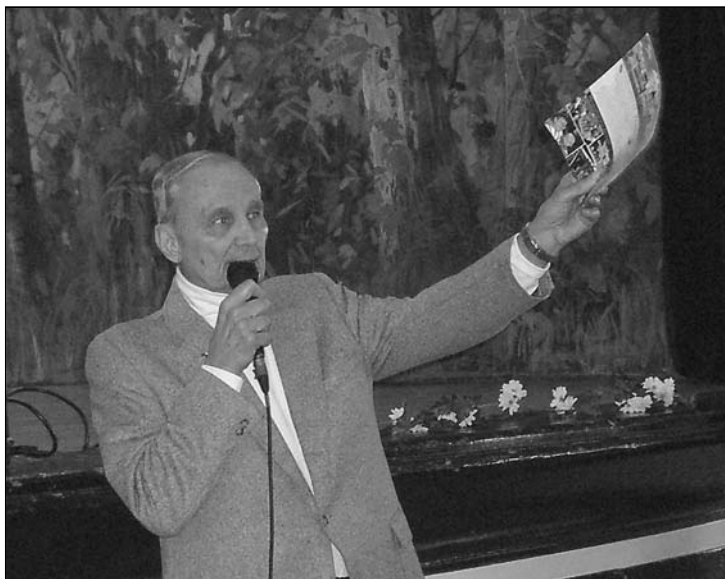
Sokol Minnesota on Facebook: www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota



NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO. 5744

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* April 2014



Honorary Slovak Consul Don Pafko greeted the dinner guests at the annual Flavors of Slovakia dinner on March 16. He invited everyone to pick up one of the colorful Slovakia travel brochures now available at the Hall.

Girl Scout Troop 55398 members, with Leader Rhonie Waldron, sold cookies at the Flavors of Slovakia Dinner on Sunday, March 16. As part of community outreach by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, space is made available at the Hall for the bi-monthly meetings of this West End Saint Paul neighborhood Girl Scout Troop. The Troop also



participates as servers at our pancake breakfasts. Don't miss the next Pancake Breakfast with Bake and Craft Sales on Sunday, April 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.