

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

# SLOVO

August 2013  
vol. 36 no. 7

## Enjoy the Summer's Best Booya at the Sokol Camp Picnic on August 11 By Scott and Kari Muyres, Booya Picnic Co-Chairs

The 83rd Annual Sokol Camp Booya & Picnic is Sunday, August 11, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Sokol Camp on the northeast corner of Cross Lake in Pine City, Minnesota. This event, open to the public, has food, music, beverages, kids games, bingo, and a country store. All these activities are at our beautiful lakeside location. Come join us for a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon.

This year's picnic will feature not only "The best Booya in Pine County," but also a variety of other delicious menu items such as meatloaf sandwiches, cabbage rolls, *koláče*, and a variety of refreshments. For the adults: relax in the shade as you enjoy old-time music, the Czech and Slovak dance group performance, or perhaps play Bingo, or find that rare treasure at our Country Store. For the kids: be sure to bring sunscreen for outdoor games and field activities! The picnic has something for every one of all ages.

Anyone interested in volunteering or assisting with the Picnic in any way, please contact picnic co-chairs Kari or Scott Muyres: 763-754-5441 or <skdlmuyres@yahoo.com>. White elephant and silent auction donations for the Country Store are always appreciated! Own a small business? Consider donating gift certificates or prizes from your business for our Bingo Table. Thanks and we look forward to seeing you on August 11. *Nazdar!*

*History:* The Sokol Camp was built in 1926 to "provide outdoor and indoor recreation" for its members. Since 1930, the Booya Picnic has been a tradition to unite Sokol members and friends in a spirit of brotherhood and service. The proceeds from this event support the maintenance, upkeep, and taxes for the Camp. *Location:* Our beloved Sokol Camp, located at 19201 Woodland Acres, Pine City, is about 1½ hours north of the Twin Cities, off of Interstate 35. There will be signs to help you find the Camp once you exit off the freeway at the first Pine City exit #169.

### UPCOMING AUGUST EVENTS

September Slovo Deadline August 1

Sokol Camp Booya  
Cross Lake, Pine City  
August 11, noon - 5

Board of Trustees  
August 14, 7 p.m.

Board of Directors  
August 15, 7 p.m.

Membership Meeting  
August 23, 7 p.m.

Czech and Slovak Festival  
1694 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul, 11 - 4  
September 15

**24<sup>th</sup> Annual Czech and Slovak Festival**  
Sunday  
September 15  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

International Institute of Minnesota  
1694 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Everyone welcome.  
Fully accessible facilities.  
Located adjacent to the State Fairgrounds on Como Avenue.

Free admission.  
Children's games.

Craft and information booths.

Silent auction and hourly prize drawing.

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An afternoon for the whole family!

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

***Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes* By Denis Novak**  
***Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters***

Summer at last! Winter has been very long. In fact, it continued on through spring and nearly into the start of summer. It's been a year that makes me thankful I did not stay on the farm. Was the corn knee-high by the Fourth of July? Not this year. Not in many fields. After much rain, although it was welcome because it broke the state's drought, many fields were too wet to plant on time, and we can only hope for a long fall growing season.

In my seventy-year-old memories, summer was always a great time. I was free from the routine of grade school, and the farm chores that Dad had for me were not too heavy. Warm summer days seemed endless. Hot days were welcome because my friends and I went to the beach. I was lucky. Many farm kids did not have my access to a beach. We farmed just outside of New Prague. Close enough that I could take advantage of the town's summer recreation program. Three days a week a school bus would pick us up and take us to the beach at Spring Lake, where we had an afternoon of wild fun.

Hot summer days were not limited to farm country. It was just as hot in the big cities. However, people there had air conditioning. Well, some did. At least some of the major buildings were air-conditioned, but most private homes were not. When I went to spend a week in Minneapolis with relatives, it was hotter in their house than it was at home. I would join the neighborhood kids and walk a few blocks to Van Cleve Park that had a large shallow pool much like what we call a zero entry water feature in parks today. We got wet and cool and then dry and hot in repeated cycles. In city or country, the solution to heat was a visit to water.

So, where is all this rambling writing about summer heat going? It leads to a big, old, and hot building in Saint Paul, the C.S.P.S. Hall. This 127-year-old building gets so hot that the main hall and the third-floor meeting room are essentially unusable. Last week, we had five or six inquiries about renting the hall for weddings and/or wedding receptions. This possible source of income is lost when we must admit we do not yet have air conditioning. We are in the process of getting A/C installed, but the building fights us at every turn. The Hall was just not designed with A/C in mind. Every step is complex and expensive and often requires additional work no one could have expected.

I did not start writing this column meaning to ask for money. Much-needed improvements to the Hall are going on. We have finished a plumbing and heating system upgrade, and a fire protection/sprinkler system has been installed. As these projects were finished, inspections uncovered other necessary work. These additional jobs slow down progress on the main items like A/C. Additional money can speed some things up. Please consider your situation and donate if you are able. *Nazdar!*

**Honorary Consuls, plus Sokol 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: 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* newsletter: 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)

## How to Become a Sokol Minnesota Volunteer? Easy! Fun!

Volunteering is fun! Just ask any Sokol member! Our organization is loaded with talent and expertise. What can you share as a volunteer? Your reward is getting to know other Sokol members and making new friends. Now is a great time to get involved! Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is run entirely by our volunteer members. We hope to hear from you. *Thanks!*

**Czech and Slovak Festival**, September 15, celebrates Czech and Slovak culture and traditions with ethnic food, vendors, dance performances, live musicians, silent auction, music, singing, a bike drawing, children's games, and more. Again this year we are at the International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Avenue, across from the State Fair grounds in Saint Paul. We need lots of volunteers: **food servers, children's activities, beverage sales, set-up/take-down, entertainment, banners and signs, silent auction**, to name a few.

We also are looking for **silent auction items**. All items should be in good condition with a value of \$10 or more (with Czech and Slovak items preferred). To volunteer your time, to donate silent auction items, or for more information on the Festival, please contact Joyce Tesarek: 612-822-6147 or <events@sokolmn.org>.

**Gaming Committee** needs two more members and help with **Friday Night Bingo** this fall. Contact Steve: <highgrove@comcast.net> or 651-224-3034

Our Sokol Minnesota unit needs a **Volunteer Coordinator** Contact: Events @sokolmn.org

**YOU are the secret to great publicity!** The newly-formed Publicity Team has many great ideas for promoting Sokol Minnesota events, but we are a small group. With a number of extra volunteers taking on small tasks, we can widen our reach. Here are some easy ways you can help us publicize the Czech and Slovak Festival on September 15: Send an email or two...Post an event on an online calendar...Deliver event flyers. Would you like to share your other skills: are you a whiz with databases or great at photography, graphic design, or research? Please contact us to help promote Sokol Minnesota events and activities. Call Jyni: 651-225-1285; we'd love to hear from *you!* **Call now! Thanks!**

### 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.

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 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](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)>. **The deadline for the September 2013 issue is August 1.** Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and production 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. Photographs for this issue provided by Katie Cuffey, Susie Fritze, Martina Gurgel, M. L. Kucera, Joe Landsberger, Sue Martin, Gary Novak, Don Pafko, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, and Deb Ziskovsky. This August 2013 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after August 31.

**If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail rates. If you wish to have this newsletter suspended during the time you are away 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¢ to 66¢ for each returned issue

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

*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 (August 15 for October issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (September 1 for October issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues, beginning September 2013). Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new or renewing non-member subscription. Make your check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; send to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *Slovo* Subscriptions/Renewals, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

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## 2013 Milwaukee Sokol Sports Festival

By Norm Petrik and Louise Wessinger

See pictures on page 16 of our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota participants.

The 2013 American Sokol Sports Festival was held June 25 – 30, in Milwaukee. The closing ceremony on Saturday, June 30, included 11 participants from Sokol Minnesota in the Senior II Coed Calisthenics (*prostna*), along with people from 10 different Sokol units from around the country. The Senior II Cal took about five minutes. We practiced weekly for eight weeks prior to the Festival (also known as *Slet*, is a gathering of Sokols. *Sokol* is the Czech word for falcon).

Many thanks to our teachers, **Megan Cahill** and **Jason Brozovich**, for their great leadership! Megan and Jason used the detailed written choreography as well as a video from the national ASO office to master the cal in order to teach the group. **Marit Lee Kucera** stood on the stage to video our performers from the back for Part 1 (music: *The Entertainer* by Scott

Joplin) and videoed from the balcony above for Part 2, a circular formation cal (music: *Millennium* by The Magic Orchestra). These videos proved to be more useful than the front-on videos from ASO. Each Minnesota participant then had CDs to practice the two cal on his own.

Several of the Senior II Cal participants, who are members of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, also danced in the folk dance portion of the Sports Festival program. Fourteen dancers from the Twin Cities joined dancers from Chicago, Detroit, and Milwaukee to perform three dances: *South Bohemian Waltz*, *Dudacka Polka* (a bagpipe polka), and Slovak *Vrtielka Čardáš*. **Louise Wessinger** coordinated the 62 dancers. Out-of-state dancers learned the dances by watching our Saint Paul group on a video edited by **Richard Sargent**. National Sokol Director Maryann Fiordellis presented Louise Wessinger and the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers with a tile plaque in recognition of their authoring and teaching the folk dance for the Sports Festival closing ceremony.

## Education News

By Jean Draheim

Language classes will resume the last week in September. Please consult <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)> for updates and complete information.

### Ethnic Dancing Performance

Here's your chance to enjoy a spirited performance of Slovak and other Eastern European music and dance. The Duquesne University Tamburitzans from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will return to the Twin Cities on Monday, August 12, 7 p.m., at Roseville High School. Formed in 1937, the group is comprised of more than 30 student performers, guided by experts in various Eastern European traditions to ensure that every show highlights authentic Eastern European cultural experiences through songs, dances, and more than 400 ethnic costumes. For more information, contact (651) 604-3512 or <<https://roseville.thatscommunityed.com/course/summer-2013/tamburitzans>>

## Honorary Czech Consul Vanasek Recognition Dinner

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Culture Center of Minnesota, and Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International recognized Robert E. Vanasek upon his retirement for five years of service as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota. More than 50 people attended the dinner on June 5 at C.S.P.S. Hall.

Before the formal sit-down dinner, the St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble performed *Polka pro čerta*, *Mrakotin*, *Koledování s fanfrnochem*, *Na Bíle Hoře*, and *Hrábětová*. Ensemble members are Frank Trnka, *dudy* (Czech bagpipe); Sue Martin, E-flat clarinet; Judy Aubrecht, B-flat clarinet; Dawn Bulera, violin; and Dave Martin, *vozembouch*, *fanfrnoch*, and *hrábě* (Czech rhythmic folk instruments).

Donald Haselbauer played the piano for the American, Czech and Slovak national anthems; Hana Matousek, Marlene Hindshaw, and Libby Imbrone led the singing.

Černín Palace Memorial Medal recipients in attendance were Libuse (Libby) Imbrone, Milan Sebek, and Arnold and Deborah Ziskovsky.

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Speakers were (l-r) Katherine Jorgenson, president of Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International; Dr. Josef Mestenhauser, former Honorary Czech Consul; Denis Novak, president of Sokol Minnesota and the evening's master of ceremonies; Renata Ticha, president of Czech and Slovak Culture Center of Minnesota; Kjell Bergh, Honorary Tanzanian Consul and vice president of the Minnesota Consular Corp; Robert E. Vanasek, the honored guest and retiring Honorary Czech Consul; and Donald Pafko, Honorary Slovak Consul.

A small crisis with the kitchen ovens was solved with extra baking time by having the speakers precede the dinner, instead of afterwards as planned. Dinner included chicken Kiev, wild rice, vegetable medley, and salad with wine, beer, and coffee. Our retiring Honorary Consul and his wife Mary honored the dinner guests by serving each with a piece of cake at dessert time.

Volunteers from all three organizations worked together on this event: Tom and Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, Barb Dovie, Chuck and Jean Draheim, Bea Flaming, Ed and Arlene Hamernik, Don and Katie Haselbauer, Meghan Haselbauer, Jake Jacobson, Jyni Koschak, Marit Lee Kucera, Joe Landsberger, Denis Novak, Steve Shimer, Joan Sedlacek, Al and Dorothy Sladek, Dave Stepan, Louise Wessinger, and Harriette Wock.

## Sokol Minnesota Membership Meeting, August 23, 7 p.m.

### May and June 2013 Board of Directors (BOD) Meetings

By Cindy Coulter, Recording Secretary

**May 16 BOD Meeting:** A discussion on the variation in Liquor License fees revealed: \$1,100/year total (license including insurance) to sell 3.2 beer only versus \$175/event (license including insurance) to sell strong beer and wine. Since Sokol has six events per calendar year where alcohol is served, the anticipated total liquor license cost to sell strong beer and wine is \$1,050/year.

The Board of Budget and Finance and the Treasurer worked hard, pulling together income data from this year to formulate a spreadsheet that provides analysis and budget visibility to the chairs.

The Festival of Nations exhibit in May, "Children Past and Future," was a success thanks to the many volunteers who donated their time and talents, including our folk dancers and those who prepared the booth, purchased and donated supplies, and worked while wearing *kroj* both in the Culture Booth and the Café

The popular and profitable *koláče* classes, held at C.S.P.S. Hall on May 11, had an extra session added in the afternoon to accommodate the 17 students. Although there have been several C.S.P.S. kitchen rental inquiries, none have led to confirmed rentals at this time.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) shut down the boiler on May 16. A boiler inspection is scheduled with Cincinnati, the boiler insurer. A Sokol Minnesota workday was lost in April, so a make-up workday was scheduled for the weekend of May 18. A meeting to review the new fire protection sprinkler system was scheduled for June.

The visiting Czech and Slovak Rotarians expressed that the hospitality they received at Sokol Minnesota was one of the highlights of their stay in Minnesota. Program details were discussed regarding the June 5 event scheduled at C.S.P.S. Hall to honor Robert Vanasek's retirement after five years as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic to Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

**June 20 BOD Meeting:** Thanks to a grant, Sokol is working with architectural firm Miller-Dunwiddie Architecture to discuss potential C.S.P.S. Hall upgrades. As required by this Park Service Grant, a meeting in July the architects will meet with Sokol stakeholders to better understand Sokol's current use of the facility and to inquire about potential facility improvements to benefit the Sokol community.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Cultural Day Camp (held June 10–14 at the C.S.P.S. Hall) generated \$1,100 profit and created memorable times for the children, who expressed a wish to return as campers the following week.

Kudos to Sokol Minnesota, which was awarded a grant from the Czech Republic totaling 20,000 *Koruny České* (CZK) or Czech Crowns. C.S.P.S. Hall rental negotiations are underway that could generate future income if agreements are reached.

Because the Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections cited a fire-escape deficiency in February, the BOT is diligently working to replace the fire escape on the north end of the building this summer. Gary Novak led an informative sprinkler system show-and-tell on June 12.

The new Publicity Team is working to improve Sokol's website in consultation with two IT volunteers, Craig Johnson and Matt Resong. The BOD brainstormed a list of ideas to answer three questions: 1) What can the website do for Sokol? 2) What is Sokol's vision? and 3) Who is Sokol's website audience?

The details for the Fall 2013 Calendar of Events Postcard are being finalized. Sokol's calendar still has fall events that need event chair volunteers, including the Roast Pork Dinner on October 27, the Pancake Breakfast on November 24, and the Membership Holiday Dinner on December 8. There was a well-attended planning meeting on May 28 for the Czech/Slovak Fall Festival on September 15 at the International Institute.

## 7 (+ 1) Things I will Always Remember about Minnesota

By Vanda Kašová  
Prague, Czech Republic

*In April, a Rotarian-sponsored group of Czechs and Slovaks was invited to our C.S.P.S. Hall for dinner and a taste of home.*

As a part of Rotary Group study exchange (program for young professionals organized by Rotary International), I spent a month in Minnesota. And it was an exceptional month. The group of six journalists from Czech Republic and Slovakia was sent across the sea to learn about their vocation in a different country. And we have learned so much more. Let me tell you about some of those I find important.

1. Weather: I know, I know that it was not what it was supposed to be. It was supposed to be spring, but it was still winter. We tried to complain, we laughed about it and in the end we gave up and enjoyed it. Nevertheless, the view of lakes and hills covered with snow – that is how Minnesota landscape looks like in my still-fresh memories.
2. Friends: All those people who we met and who decided to spend some time with us, to show us around, to teach us about America and Americans. The 72-year-old lady that goes dancing four times a week (it would have killed me, and I am about a half of century younger than she is!), the anchor from WCCO who keeps smiling even though she wakes up at 3:30 a.m. every morning, people who dance polka and can sing "*Ach synku, synku*"... Thank you, all.
3. Strangers: To people from central Europe, Americans seem overexcited. Even a girl who sells parking lot tickets would ask you how are you or where are you from, once she recognizes a weird accent. This is quite rare in Czech Republic. But I like it. And I promise I will try it.
4. Burgers: Just awesome.
5. *Koláče*: I would never have guessed that I would hear this word so far from home. But I did. And in the Bohemian Hall near Waseca, I tasted homemade *koláče* almost as good as from my grandmother.
6. Guthrie Theater: One of the best performances I have ever seen in my life. And what a stage!
7. Blossoming art: Arts museum and flowers designed to match with the masterpieces of art. Incredible.

One last: There are so many things that I have experienced. So the last thing I will always remember is gratitude. Thank you all for everything. And see you soon.



## Member News By Marlene Hinshaw <Marle5421@aol.com>

Sokol member **Renae (Andrle) Faunce** recently received her master's degree in social work from the University of Minnesota. Kudos! She is employed by the University.

**Shirley Verner**, recovering from recent knee surgery, is entering a rigorous period of physical therapy. Please contact daughter Jean, 651-210-0401, to check on Shirley's progress or to schedule a visit. We wish her a swift and complete recovery.

June was a month of much sadness for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. We said goodbye to two great Sokols, **Georgiana Dolejsi**, 95, and **Jeanette Pafko**, 72. Both were premier models of Sokol ideals. **Georgiana** lived and worked for Sokol her entire life. She went from child gymnast to gym instructor. She was the "sparkplug" of this Sokol unit. She held just about every office, including president. She chaired scores of committees and was involved in just about every activity. About 40 years ago she organized the Minnesota Sokol Singers to keep Czech/Slovak culture alive. She was still practicing with the singers three weeks before her death. George was a great leader: positive, diplomatic, caring, and loving. **Jeanette**, a 35-year member of Sokol, was neither Czech nor Slovak, but Belgian. She got involved with Sokol through her Slovak husband, Don. She easily could have worn sashes titled *Ms. Commitment* and *Ms. Dependable*. If you needed a job done well and on time, you gave it to Jeanette. My last visual memory of her was at the Hall as she was coming from the kitchen into the dining room with a hot pan of freshly baked *koláče* warning, "Hot! Hot!" Jeanette helped preserve Czech and Slovak cultures through her involvement with museums and dance. She was also a big help to Don with his duties as Honorary Slovak Consul. We thank and honor these two great leaders. They will be greatly missed. They both set the bar very high.

We recently learned of the May 2 death of longtime Sokol supporter **Eleanore Adamek**. She was an organist/pianist at Hazel Park UCC. We express our sympathy to Edward and their son Donald.



Left: After all the sadness comes joy. **Katie Cuffey** and husband **Joel** announce the birth of **Josiah Paul Cuffey** born June 4. Welcome Josiah! Our congratulations to Mom and Dad

**George Chlebecek** was featured in *Road Trip—Geezer Style* in the May 2013 issue of *Minnesota Good Age*. Weekly breakfasts and yearly road trips are part of the fun for the Wednesday Morning Breakfast Brotherhood, a group of retired St. Louis Park male teachers who have met for the past 25 years. George, one of the founding members, "is in charge of maintaining the log, which now consists of two volumes filled with photographs of scenery, events and 'wild life' – at least, as wild as a geezer's life gets." Read the whole article: <[www.mngoodage.com](http://www.mngoodage.com)>, click on Archives, type in *Road Trip-Geezer Style* in Archives box, scroll down.

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**Deb** (far right) and **Arnie** (fourth from right in back) **Ziskovsky** are directors of Domáci Czech Folk Dancers and the Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Ambassadors (girls and boys of Czech descent between the ages of 9 and 15). 2013 Ambassadors are Michaela Goettl and Katrina Reeder (Montgomery), plus Madeline Svoboda and Sarah Stresnak (New Prague). The Ambassadors represent the Czech Heritage of southern Minnesota. In early May two Ambassadors wore *kroje* for the Festival of Nations, Saint Paul. At the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Houby (mushroom) Days festival in late May in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the Ambassadors and several of the younger dancers had the opportunity to meet and talk with Madeline Albright at a student-only event. Madeleine Albright (in middle) told about being the first woman United States Secretary of State (1997-2001). The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library's current exhibit (runs through October 27), *Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection*, features over 280 pins that Secretary Albright wore when she created diplomatic history. In June, the Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Ambassadors attended the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Czech Slovak Festival in Phillips, Wisconsin, held in memory of Lidice, the village in Czechoslovakia, which was wiped out by the Nazis on June 10, 1942.

## Finance Committee News By Joyce Tesarek, Chair

Once again, the government of the Czech Republic awarded Sokol Minnesota 20,000 Czech Crowns (about \$1,000) "...for your great contribution in enhancing the knowledge of the Czech language, keeping Czech traditions and culture alive for future generations, and deepening the friendly mutual Czech-U.S. relations... The Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of its highest consideration and is ready to assist you in carrying out your important projects." We appreciate the continued support of the Czech government and gratefully acknowledge this generous grant.

The long-anticipated central air conditioning for C.S.P.S. Hall has run into more delays and extensions; installation was not completed for this summer's rental season. Recent quotes for strengthening the roof structure to support the large air handling system exceeded previous quotes. Also the bids for hall roof access, for installation, and maintenance purposes increased. We now expect the total project to cost \$207,000.

Dedicated, but sweaty dancers practiced in 89° heat on July 8. Richard Sargent, Jason Brozovich, Dave Martin, Tom Aubrecht pointing to the thermostat, Scott Hinshaw, and Pat Andrle eagerly await air conditioning in C.S.P.S. Hall. They practice every Monday night all year, summer and winter.



## 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:** \$100 - \$499: **Mary and Dennis Cahill** for the purchase of trophies for gymnasts.

**Legacy Fund:** under \$100: **Marit Lee Kucera** in recognition of the 80th birthdays in June of **Marlene Hinshaw** and **Lloyd Krocak**.

**In Memory of Georgiana Dolejsi:**

**General Fund:** under \$100: **Jeffrey and Mary Armstrong, Karen Bauer, Lawrence and Christine Bell, Frank and Delores Bergland, Gerald and Barbara Born, Al Dolejsi and Shelley Varner, Jon and Jackie Daniels, Charles and Jean Draheim, Shannon Duffy, Wendy Erickson and Tim Sifferath, James and Barbara French, Jay and Nina Haines, J. Hanson and Barbara Fonkert, Carol Jo Forneris, Richard and Louise Gilson, Thomas and Jean Ginther, Mildred Grealish, Ed and Arlene Hamernik, Jean Hanna, Frances and K. A. Hillier Smith, Emily Holman, Janice Jacobson, Edwin and Nancy Kanis, Jeanne Kadrlík, Beverly Kieffer and Larry Keck, Mary Kodada, Valeria Kuisle, Darla Kolb, Leslie and Margaret Kotek, Ivan and Mary Krizan, Robert and Carol Kohout, James and Rochelle Landy, Sue Lawson, Hans and Phyl Lefebber, Ralph and Beverly Macholda, Jeffrey and Cynthia Mains, Robert and Susan Marabella, Hana Matousek, Katherine Miesen, Doris Moravetz, Joyce Nelson, Anne Newbauer, Leonard and Beverly Noyes, Richard and Linda Nicole, Wallace Oliva, JoAnn Wanous Parvey, Charles Parvey, Michael and Radmila Rasmussen, Curtis and Dianna Rieck, C.A. Rusnacko Jr, Lucie Silorova and Martin Pesl, Dorothy Sladek, Richard**

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**\$500 - \$999: Joseph and Kaye Dolejsi, Joan Sedlacek (kitchen).**

**\$1000 - \$4999: Kent and Marlene Hinshaw (gym equipment); Smolik Family (Nancy Smolik, Kathy Mach, and Cynthia Rasmussen).**

**Legacy Fund:** under \$100: **Bill and Angela Caldwell, Nancy Imbrone, Brian and Jodi Mondor, Kathleen Keenan, Jan Knudtson, Pam Kotval.**  
**\$100 - \$499: Donald and Patricia Andrlé, James and Mary Jo Chlebecek, Ralph and Mary Halbert, Albert and Libuse Imbrone, Kathleen Keenan, Doreen and Doris McKenney and Danita Larson (air conditioning), Darlene Sitko.**

**\$500 - \$999: Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.**

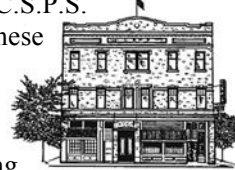
Undisclosed: **anonymous, Marit Lee Kucera, John and Erin Rankin.**

**Legacy Fund: In Memory of Joel Loketz:** under \$100: **George Chlebecek, Jim and Mary Jo Chlebecek.**

*Donations for this reporting period are \$1,620 to Legacy Fund and \$7,965 to General Fund for a total of \$9,585.*

## 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 donation or volunteer opportunities.

### LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM

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

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

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

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List my name in the *Slovo* newsletter

List amount  Don't list amount

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Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**.

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**383 Michigan Street**

**Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102**

### Czech Heritage Club presents

**The Czech Village at 111 East Main, New Prague**

**Dožínky • Saturday • September 21 • 10-5**

**Opening Ceremony on the Czech Village Stage at 10 a.m.**

• Czech Tales told all day • Performances of Czech Singers & Dancers

• Vendors selling Czech goods • Genealogy

• Czech Bingo at 4 p.m.

## Festival of Nations

By Martina Gurgel, Sokol Member and *CS Maminec*

Sokol Minnesota once again represented both Czech and Slovak cultures at the Festival of Nations, May 2 – 5. Held annually at the Saint Paul River Center, the festival is the largest and longest-running multicultural event in the state of Minnesota. Its tradition goes back all the way to 1932! In addition to the Czech and Slovak dance groups (children, teens, and adult dancers) and a variety of our ethnic foods sold in the Café, we prepared a cultural information booth as well. This year's topic for the cultural displays was truly dear to our heart: "Children, Our Past, Our Future."

Doreen McKenney and Martina Gurgel prepared the booth, with assistance from many of our *CS Maminec* (Czech and Slovak Moms Club) who kindly lent their own (and often treasured) toys, books, and other exhibits. Photographs came once again from our own members, by our dear friends and families who still live in the Czech and Slovak Republics, and by the Czech Tourism and Slovak Travel Portal photo databases. Booth volunteers not only answered a mountain of questions from the visitors but also applied the popular stamps to the Children's Passports.

We showcased the world of Czech and Slovak children in a way that was both appealing and easy to relate to the visiting school-aged children. Many field trips visited the Festival; kids and teachers came, not just from Minnesota but also from the



neighboring states of Iowa and Wisconsin, traveling for five or more hours by bus and braving the record May snowfall weather.

Part of the exhibit was devoted to the school lives within the educational

systems in the Czech and Slovak Republics. What was most popular among the visiting kids? Surprisingly: slippers! Czech/Slovak kids change their shoes upon entering the school buildings. Most American children, to our surprise, agreed that it would be so much more comfortable not to wear sneakers or other outdoor shoes the whole day at school! Another popular fact: most of the Czech/Slovak schools have their own professionally staffed cafeterias and kitchens, having cooks who daily prepare three-course meals from scratch (offering several choices). Meals include soup, a main course, and a dessert.

The exhibit also highlighted the similarities of the Czech and Slovak languages. Kids tried to learn and repeat phrases, but most

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of all they were amazed by our tongue twisters! The "brave ones" attempted to repeat some words after us. Some also tried to write words in Czech/Slovak cursive on the prepared blackboard.

True or false questions were part of the exhibit as well; often children knew or guessed the answers correctly. One of the facts, however, surprised them all: the word "robot" actually originated from the Czech language. It was used for the first time by the Czech playwright and author Karel Čapek in his science fiction play *R.U.R.* The play premiered in 1921 and introduced the word "robot" to the English language and to science fiction as a whole.

Traditional toys and wooden marionettes were a hit. The world of Czech and Slovak fairy tales was represented by a selection of books and movies. The most popular item of our cultural booth was a turntable

photo prop (made by our own Doreen McKenney) displaying characters from Czech and Slovak fairy tales. Literally hundreds of visiting children took photos at our booth, posing as a *princezna* (princess) or a *vodník* (waterman), often sharing their photos online instantly with their Facebook friends and families.



Our own Czech and Slovak children were represented in our cultural exhibits. While preparing the booth, we asked our kids to write answers to three questions: what is your favorite Czech/Slovak food, what do you like to do the most when visiting your Czech/Slovak extended families, and what is your own favorite book or fairy tale character. *Koláče* and dumplings, *Krtek* (*The Little Mole*), castles and sightseeing, mushrooming, and blueberry picking were among the most popular answers.

The last part of our exhibit, maybe the main one, was a large photo collage covering most of the main back wall. It featured numerous scenes and shots of various holidays and of the everyday life of Czech and Slovak children through the different seasons of the year, including kite flying, mushrooming, berry picking, sledding, swimming, Christmas with its nativity scenes, Christmas tree, cookie baking with mom, carps in the bathtubs, Easter with Easter eggs and Easter whips (*pomlázka*), and burning of the witches. Other photos showed typical food, scenes of family celebrations, little helpers in the garden or at home doing chores, favorite places for children to visit both in Prague and in Bratislava, together with other places to see: castles and nature parks etc. We tried to picture everyday life of the Czech and Slovak children from all possible angles. It turned out to be a truly rewarding journey and experience for us; we loved sharing the typical Czech/Slovak childhood experiences with all the visitors!

Overall the Czech and Slovak exhibit was very popular. All of us Czech and Slovak Moms (and families) truly enjoyed each and every minute of our time spent volunteering and interacting with the visiting public. We were proud to represent our heritage. We can't wait to take part in the Festival of Nations again next year. See you there!



1. Martina Gurgel and Markéta Resong in the Culture Booth.
2. Romana Pulkrabek with high school students from Wisconsin.
3. Alena Youngberg (L) and her daughter with Dawn Bulera, Pam Langworthy, Richard Sargent, and Tom Aubrecht in the far background.
4. Louise Wessinger (L) and Dave Stepan with Brittany Smisek, Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota 2013.
5. Behind the scenes in the Café kitchen: Cynthia Coulter, Terry Shima, and Joyce Tesarek.



Martina Gurgel, culture booth chair; and Louise Wessinger, children and teens dance groups chair.

**CULTURAL BOOTH:** Judy Aubrecht, Kate Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Lenka Bragg with family, Martina Gurgel, Jake

Thanks to all the volunteers in the Café and the Culture Booth! Sokol made \$4,378 on this year's FON event.

**2013 FON VOLUNTEER CHAIRS:**

Doreen McKenney, general chair; Dawn Bulera and Joyce Tesarek, café co-chairs;

Jacobson, Doreen McKenney, Doris McKenney, Ludmila Pálková, Romana Pulkrabek, Markéta Resong, Jitka Sebek with family, Joan Sedlacek, and Mary Yanta.

**CAFÉ:** Don and Pat Andrlle, Tom and Judy Aubrecht, Rosemary Baisden,

Barb Boyer, Jason Brozovich, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, Jim and Mary Jo Chlebecek, George Chlebecek, Cynthia Coulter, Betty Danielson, Jean Draheim, Shannon Duffy, Peg Endres, Michaela Giancarlo, Arlene and Ed Hamernik, Gretchen Haselbauer, Katie and Don Haselbauer, Jake Jacobson, Jan Knudtson, Darla Kolb, Bob Koteck, Ruth Krinhop, Kathy Krisko, Marit Lee Kucera, Mary Kunesli Podien, Joe Landsberger, Pam Langworthy, John Liemandt, Sharon Liska, Doreen McKenney, Doris McKenney, Lois and Roger Meihak, April Murphy, Pat Nau, Cheryl Nelson, Denis Novak, Michael Peterka, Norm Petrik, Teresa Pojar, Petra Riedel, Liz Rheume, Gina Roers, Vickie Rosenthal, Richard Sargent, Joan Sedlacek, Terry Shima, Dave Stepan, Tom and Penny Tesarek, Joyce Tesarek, Gale Thomsen, John Topic, Paula Vukonich, Dan Washick, Cinnamon Whaley, and Alena Youngberg.



**Book Review A Witness to History By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.**

*Under a Cruel Star: A Life in Prague 1941-1968.* Heda Margolius Kovály. New York: Holmes & Meier, 1986, 192 pp. It is available printed and electronically.

Heda Margolius Kovály, a Czechoslovakian Jew born in 1919 at the beginning of the First Republic, suffered persecution under two contending totalitarian regimes in her lifetime: Nazism and communism. "It seems beyond belief," she writes, "that in Czechoslovakia after the communist coup in 1948, people were once again beaten and tortured by the police, that prison camps existed and we did not know, and that if anyone had told us the truth we would have refused to believe it."

In the fall of 1941, Kovály and her family were part of a mass deportation of Jews from Prague. She went to the Lodz Ghetto, the Christianstadt labor camp, and Auschwitz. As the Eastern Front approached and Auschwitz was evacuated in January 1945, Kovály was among the prisoners forced on a weeks-long death march west to Bergen-Belsen. Along with three other young Czech women, she escaped the column and returned to Prague. Kovály visited her old friends one-by-one. Most refused to help, even the one who had promised, "Whatever happens, I'll be your anchor. ... You'll always have somewhere to come back to." Her friends were afraid for their own safety, especially for what the Germans would do to anyone helping labor-camp escapees. "Until then, I had had to face only the police system of a fascist regime," Kovály writes. "Now I had to cope with a worse enemy, human fear and indifference."

After coming close to suicide, she finally found assistance through a friend active in the resistance. Kovály waited out the rest of the war in the solitude of secret apartments.

After the war, Kovály married her childhood sweetheart, Rudolf Margolius, had a son, and worked in publishing. They both joined the Communist Party; Rudolf was a deputy minister in Klement Gottwald's communist government. In November 1952, Rudolf was convicted in the Soviet-staged Slánský Trial based on confession under torture; he was executed on December 3. Related to "a people's enemy," Kovály lost her job and apartment, and in a perverse twist was persecuted for being unemployed and

homeless. She survived through persistence and with the help of friends and family.

She married Paul Kovály in 1955. When Soviet troops invaded after the Prague Spring of 1968, she fled to the United States, where her husband was lecturing. She worked as a librarian at Harvard University; in 1985, she published a novel, *Nevina* (Innocence), in Czech. Between 1958 and 1989 Kovály translated from German or English into Czech more than 24 works of well-known authors. She returned to Prague with her husband in 1996 and died in 2010 at age 91.

This edition of the book, translated into English from Czech, is occasionally choppy in flow, detracting from Kovály's insightful reflections on politics and human nature. The remembered dialogue is sometimes so detailed as to stretch credibility; at other times the narration leaves out large parts of her experiences. Yet the clarity of her analysis elevates *Under a Cruel Star* far above a typical life chronicle.

*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)>.*

## Georgiana Smolik Buzicky Dolejsi, 1918-2013 By Joan Sedlacek



No one at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota today has known a time when Georgiana was not here. Her grandfather, Josef Walla, was the first gym instructor and her parents, Albert and Bessie Smolik, were enthusiastic and loyal members. Georgiana's early memories are of being at the Hall and falling asleep on the theater chairs while her parents worked. Born on March 14, 1918, Georgiana passed away on May 31, 2013, in Saint Paul.

Joining as an adult Sokol member at age 17, Georgiana (or "George," as she was often called) became *náčelnice* (women's director) of the unit from 1937 to 1941 and from 1951 to 1968. She was *náčelnice* of the Northern District from 1948 to 1962. She was unit secretary in 1970

and 1971, educational director in 1975 and 1980, and president from 1987 to 1990. She was also the chief instigator of many projects. Nothing happened at Sokol that she wasn't a part of it. She was of a generation who knew someone who actually knew Miroslav Tyrs, the Czech founder of Sokol (1862).

Georgiana married Albert Buzicky and daughters Bobbie, Patty, and Susie joined the family. With so many children around C.S.P.S. Hall, George and longtime friend Lulu Pavlicek added a Tot's Class to the ones for the older children. Many of us had our first marching orders from her. After Al's death, George married John Dolejsi, an equally avid Sokol member, on May 31, 1976.



*The Koláče Ladies:  
(L-R) Lucille Pavlicek,  
Laura Jansen,  
Florence Haselbauer,  
Tillie Dolejsi, and  
Georgiana Dolejsi.*

When Sokol needed money, George and her dear friend, Florence Haselbauer, and their husbands chaired the Pork Dinner and the *Jiternice* Dinner, doing much of the cooking and baking themselves. They had friends and relatives help, and at times there was more fun than work, but the results were delicious and benefitted Sokol.

In 1938, George and her parents were part of the Minnesota delegation to the *Slet* in Prague. Many *Slety* at Soldier Field in Chicago and then Morton West followed. In 1976 a group attended the *Slet* in Zurich. For the 1990 *Slet* in Paris, George and John



*The St. Paul T. J. State Sokol Meeting at Pine City, June 13, 1926. Georgiana Smolik is seated on the far right. Her sister Sylvia Smolik is center with arms crossed. The Dvorak twins, Blanche and Violet, are in black coats on the far left.*

learned the Group II *prostna* exercise and proudly performed in Paris and again to a cheering crowd in Prague. In 2000, George didn't plan to perform at the *Slet* in Prague, but she came to every practice and filled in wherever there was an empty space. Still planning to be a spectator, George answered the call at the last minute; after being pinned into a borrowed skirt and blouse and feet stuffed into loaned shoes, she came to the dress rehearsal area to the loud cheers and hugs from all the teenage girls. Sixty-two years after her first *Slet* trip to Prague, eighty-two-years-old Georgiana never missed a beat, a step, or an arm movement!



*Georgiana as a gymnastic instructor (undated photo from the Sokol archives).*

George's parents had a house next to Sokol Camp in Pine City, so they had many good times at camp. George and Lulu Pavlicek were counselors for Kids' Week. They oversaw boys and girls with games, singing, marching, hiking, swimming, pranks, stories, and heritage. With husband Al Buzicky, she bought the house next door to her parents' lake house; whether at home or at the lake, she was close to Sokol. The booya picnic was a special time; George always was there to lend a hand.

Since 1932, when the Festival of Nations began, George attended every Festival, working at all but the last couple. At the 2012 Festival, she was honored as one of the original participants and was interviewed for television. She absolutely charmed the reporter, who stayed with her long after the interview was over. She danced, cooked, baked, and sold for 50 years.

A self-taught pianist, George always wanted to share her family's love of music. The women's club held couple's parties, and with two pianists, they would sing most of the



Georgiana played the keyboard and lead the Senior Singers at the outdoor Czech-Slovak Festival in 2008.

night. She started the Sokol Singers, and with her faithful followers, met almost every Tuesday, first in the evening and after her retirement, in the mornings. After an hour of singing, the group headed to the gym for marching, exercising, and volleyball, followed by lunch. The volleyball ended when the 80+s had to explain sprained fingers and bruises to their doctors. They continued the singing, visiting, laughing, and caring for each other until George's health didn't let her drive to the C.S.P.S. Hall this winter.

George had great love for her family. When she married John, his family became hers, and her pride and love encompassed them all. The rest of us were her Sokol Sisters and Brothers, and as such, also had her boundless love and loyalty. We are lucky that we have so many "Remember when's ... " She is as much a part of the Hall as the stage where she acted and the Third Floor that holds Sokol's history, and whenever we hear the folk songs, we'll think of George.

For 78 years, George saw Sokol's fortunes wax and wane many times. In the last very few years, she had stepped back physically, a little bit, but not emotionally. She watched the building she loved move forward with preservation of the C.S.P.S. Hall, the gym classes she led grow, the language she loved being taught, the customs she cherished being shared, and the respect due her shown. For years, no one joined her beloved Sokol without a welcoming hug, a beautiful smile, and a heartfelt greeting.



Robert E. Vanasek (L), Honorary Czech Consul, presented the Černin Palace Medal in 2008 to Georgiana and to Kent Wilson. Josef Mestenhauser, former Honorary Consul, added congratulations.

Georgiana received the Černin Palace Memorial Bronze Metal Award in 2008 for a lifetime of service and contributions to Sokol and the Czech and Slovak community. She was also a longstanding member of C.S.A. Lodge Čech #51.

She was very sentimental and easily moved to tears. She was also quick to smile and when pleased, would have a hugely infectious grin. She bubbled over with enthusiasm, had an opinion on everything, and many conversations started with "Now, Honey." She was part of almost all of our Sokol Minnesota 126-year history. She was one of a kind and is irreplaceable.

*Dobro noc, milá sestra  
s Bohem*

Georgiana is survived by three daughters, two stepchildren, twelve grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

*Sokol Minnesota Members, Thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent in honor of our Mom, Georgiana. Sokol was Mom's life-long passion. She loved Sokol and cherished her Sokol friends. Your thoughtfulness is so appreciated. Our Mom was a remarkable woman, and we're celebrating her life.  
With Love,  
Her daughters, Bobbie, Patty, Susie*

## Senior Singers Pay Tribute

At Georgiana's memorial service on June 5, the Senior Singers, accompanied by Don Haselbauer, sang *Pisnička česká, Snubní prsteny*, and *Aj Lučka, Lučka, široká*.

Marlene Hinshaw and Bob Kostichka of the Senior Singers chose this song as a salute to Georgiana. *Slovo* will greatly miss working with Georgiana each month on a Czech/Slovak Song of the Month.

**Jiřiny**

Na pod-zim když kve — tou ji - ři - ny, —  
cho - dí - vám tak sám, — tak sám a je - dí -  
ný. — V do - lej - sí hos - po — dě  
hra - je mu - zi - ka, — kaž - dý se svou  
mi — lou, hned tam pos - pí - chá. —

(The singer recalls his beloved Jiřiny.)  
*In the fall when blooms the dahlia,  
I walk so alone.  
The moon is shining brightly over head.  
Down in the tavern the music is playing.  
Each one, with his girlfriend, is hurrying  
towards the music.*

*To All Mom's Blessed Singers,  
Oh, she loved you all so much!  
Mom would tell me each Tuesday afternoon:  
"Oh, we had such a great group and they  
were in such good voice!"  
You were, and are her shining stars and we  
are so grateful that you blessed her with  
your beautiful singing at her funeral. Thank  
you all so much for the joy and love you all  
shared together.  
Our love, George's daughters Susie, Bobbie  
and Patty*

## Remembering Sokol Minnesota Member



### Jeanette Pafko, 1940 – 2013 Compiled by Mary Cahill

On June 10, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota lost a dear member, Jeanette Pafko, age 72, to a brave two-year battle with cancer. Jeanette was not born into Sokol as many are; however, her dedicated involvement with Sokol Minnesota spanned decades and she was truly a

beloved Sokol “sister.” Her husband Donald, Honorary Slovak Consul, and their son Mark survive Jeanette.

Jeanette was a welcoming face of Sokol Minnesota, a tireless, selfless volunteer, and a dear friend to many. Jeanette served numerous years on Sokol Minnesota’s Board of Directors, held several officer positions including Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, member of the Finance Committee, member of *Slovo* Committee, chaired and co-chaired many events including Czech and Slovak Festival, Czech and Slovak ethnic dinners, Festival of Nations Café, represented the Czech and Slovak community, along with her husband Don, on the Friends of the Immigration History Research Center, where she also volunteered countless hours sharing her many talents.

How do you do justice to describing, honoring, and remembering someone with the caliber Jeanette Pafko possessed? Sokol member Joan Sedlacek suggested we ask a small, representative sample of Sokol Minnesota members to share their memories of Jeanette. It is the sharing of ourselves and talents with others, making a difference in their lives, which help define the person we are. Read on and see how Jeanette made a difference:

*I have known Jeanette forever. Actually this is not quite correct, but knowing her felt like we have known each other since the beginning of my time in Minnesota. She seems to have been always where I was and always ready to give advice and ideas. She gave them with tact, knowledge, insight, and sophistication. Whatever she did, she did very well, whether it was dancing with Don, serving as secretary of Sokol, attending meetings where decisions were made, helping organize the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, hosting me in their home, participating in activities welcoming various dignitaries, including Václav Havel, or just getting together informally. It always amazed me how she managed to navigate her triple identity – American, Slovak, and Czech. Although she was not from Slovak or Czech background, she swam in between these identities with dignity, appreciation, and insight. She was one of a kind; people like Jeanette do not come often, but when they do, they make tremendous contributions to others and remain in their memories forever.*  
Josef A. Mestenhauser, former Honorary Consul, Czech Republic, member, Sokol Minnesota

In the fall of 2011, I had the privilege of nominating Jeanette Pafko for the Černín Palace Memorial Medal, which honors individuals who have contributed significantly to the progress of

Czech-American relations. My nomination was approved by the Czech Ambassador to the United States and the Medal was awarded to her on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Jeanette enthusiastically promoted Czech and Slovak heritage and traditions for almost 30 years. She was a tireless volunteer and was held in high esteem by everyone she worked with.

Robert Vanasek, former Honorary Consul, Czech Republic, member, Sokol Minnesota

*Jeanette was born into a proud Belgian family. When she married Don she embraced all things Slovak. In her years with Sokol, she served many years as Financial Secretary, first getting records into order, and then keeping her own precise bookkeeping. She and Don wanted to join the dance group, so they videotaped the dances and practiced in their garage until they had perfected the dances. I remember when President Havel was here and we were part of the program at St. Thomas University. Jeanette and Don were in the front of the group and they just flew. Their smiles beamed and it seemed as if their feet never touched the floor.*

*After attending numerous Czech and Slovak dance camps, Don fulfilled one of his dreams and started Slovanske Lipa, an all-Slovak dance group, and Jeanette kept dancing in his arms. Jeanette became fascinated and intrigued by the various kroje, even joining a textile tour specializing in Czech and Slovak kroje. She became very knowledgeable and always had pictures and books to aid in the displays and lectures she gave. Jeanette became a “mother,” opening her heart and home to many Slovak young people. She truly was a warm and caring person.*

Joan Sedlacek, former member Board of Directors, member, Sokol Minnesota

What I will remember most about Jeanette and her life was her love and concern for other people. She was a devoted wife and mother and loyal friend. She had great pleasure in people; she was interested in their lives, thoughts, and activities, and was always ready to help. She took the new Slovaks into her home as family. She loved a coffee or lunch or exchanging an email. She was always ready to listen and give words of support or humor, as needed. Jeanette was a wonderful friend.

With all her dedication and talent, she did not demand center stage, and although she was a part of the leadership team on so many Sokol events and dinners, she didn’t want special attention. She made Sokol events more special with her attention to detail: the perfect decorations on the table at the Slovak dinner, a white tablecloth and flowers for the ambassador’s reception. She made the volunteers and guests feel welcome and relaxed; her corny jokes had everyone laughing in the Café booth at the Festival of Nations; she and Don personally greeted guests at dances. She was willing to do any task and work all the hours needed to get an event to happen. She is so missed. We lost an extraordinary person and friend with her passing. The world needs more Jeanettes.

Joyce Tesarek, Past President, current Chair of Finance Committee, member, Sokol Minnesota

*Jeanette was an officer with Sokol Minnesota when I became a member. She asked me many questions and I guess I answered them all okay because I became a member. Jeanette was loyal to Sokol and a tireless worker. At one of the Fall Festivals, she was the person in charge. She did not eat anything all day long, and worked without stopping, making sure the event was a success. Afterwards, she, Don, and I went to eat at 10:30 p.m.!*

*At one of the dinners at the Sokol Hall, Don was in charge of seating the guests. He said to me, “I suppose you would like to sit next to the most beautiful lady in the Hall.” I said, “Yes, but I*

*think that your wife is busy." Don never forgot that. Jeanette and Don were always a witty and gracious couple.*

*Dan Washick, member, Sokol Minnesota*

I met Jeanette when I started working on the *Slovo* as copy editor a couple of years ago. Jeanette was one of the readers who went over our finished copy, and she saved me from making a lot of mistakes, mostly with misspelled names or bad dates. I appreciated the directness of her emails when she pointed things out because she so clearly cared that the news articles be as perfect as possible. But the biggest and kindest favor she did me was a year ago last spring when, although she was already ill, she wrote me a recommendation for a scholarship in the Dobruška language program (a 4-week intensive study course offered each summer in the Czech Republic by the Czech government). It was a wonderful, strong recommendation that was amazingly personal given that she didn't really know me that well and that she had many more important things to take care of then. I know, though, that that's the kind of person Jeanette was—completely dedicated and always doing something as best as it could be done. Although I only knew her for a little while, I miss her very much and I wish that I had had a chance to know her longer and better.

*Christy Banks, Copy Editor, Slovo,  
member, Sokol Minnesota*

*Early in my membership in Sokol Minnesota, I found Jeanette to be very helpful and a great resource in learning about the organization. She soon became a mentor and confidant, which I appreciated and cherished. Jeanette was a devoted, hardworking member who always had the best interest of Sokol Minnesota foremost in her decisions and work. It was an honor to have her as a friend.*

*Ed Hamernik, Past President,  
current Vice President, member, Sokol Minnesota*

Jeanette was one of the first members whom I met when I volunteered as a non-member. Her quick smile and her kind spirit made people feel comfortable. A conversation with Jeanette always included many good laughs and yet many serious moments. She was influential in my decision to join Sokol, especially since she and I were only Czech/Slovak through our husband's heritage. As we got to know each other, we discovered more similarities. Jeanette and my mother shared the same first name as well as a bit of a resemblance. Much to our delight, we found we even enjoyed the same artwork by California artist Robert Sexton. I will dearly miss her and her help with proofreading when I work on the donation articles for the *Slovo*.

*Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary,  
Slovo Committee, member, Sokol Minnesota*

*I joined the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors in January 2008 as a member-at-large. At the first meeting I attended, I looked around the room. I spied Jeanette. There was an empty chair next to her; I sat down. I introduced myself to her and said, "I want you to be my mentor." She looked at me like I had just arrived from outer space. The look in her eyes was one of amusement and also disbelief at my audacity. After all, who was I? It turned out to be a very good choice for me. Jeanette was thorough, knew all the ropes at Sokol, was knowledgeable with her three-decade memory of Sokol Minnesota, never forgot a name (or how to spell it), was efficient and hardworking, and always did what she said*

*Jeanette  
wearing kroj  
from the  
village of Vazec,  
Don's ancestral  
Slovak home.*

*she was going to do. We all have busy lives and yet we find time to volunteer for Sokol Minnesota; Jeanette was one of the best volunteers I ever worked beside. When I became managing editor of Slovo, Jeanette took on the task of maintaining the mailing lists (three lists: members, subscribers, and postcard). Even though she was very ill, she did not give this job up until April of this year; yet she remained as one of the proofreaders of copy until the very end, reading the June/July issue before it went to press. Thank you and farewell, dear mentor and friend.*

*Marit Lee Kucera, Managing and Production Editors, Slovo,  
member, Sokol Minnesota*

Jeanette was gracious, spirited, and competent. A few of the most vivid memories I have of Jeanette include the time I was struggling to get the gymnastics equipment out of the storage area to set up for class. I am sure I was grousing aloud and was surprised when a face that was new to me popped her head in and said, "Tell me what to do to help you." That was Jeanette: always, always there to lend a helping hand. Sitting at meetings, looking for previous minutes, Jeanette pulling out her binder and producing just the information needed. That was Jeanette, always, always organized and prepared. Shaking my head in disbelief over what I was reading, Jeanette leaning over with a witty comment. That was Jeanette, always, always finding the humor in things and whipping off an insightful, clever comment. Discouraged that things hadn't gone as I'd plan, Jeanette was there with a hug and a kind word. That was Jeanette, always, always supportive and making you feel good about yourself. We shared a birth date, and so much more. Those precious memories will be with me forever.

*Mary Cahill, Women's Physical Director,  
member, Sokol Minnesota*



*The generous donations to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota in memory of Jeanette will be listed in the September Slovo.*



# Czech and Slovak Sokol Cultural Day Camp

By Louise Wessinger

Czech and Slovak stories, legends, and fairytales were the theme for the week at Sokol's 16th annual cultural day camp for children, June 10–14. And what an exciting week of fun and learning it was!

After taking 2012 off to visit the Czech and Slovak Republics, co-directors Judy Aubrecht and Louise Wessinger welcomed another group of campers to learn about the ethnic culture of our ancestors. With a staff of six full-week and six part-week adult leaders plus six junior leaders, 18 energetic campers ages 7 to 14 came to our C.S.P.S. Hall.

Mornings were filled with rotating activities in cooking, the Czech language, gymnastics, and crafts. This year's cooks, under the direction of Judy Aubrecht, made such wonderful ethnic treats as *vomacka* (soup) and *chlebičky* (open-face sandwiches) led by Dawn Bulera, *Babi's* crescent rolls led by Sharon Liska, strawberry rhubarb *Bubliana* (thanks to Joan Sedlacek's home grown donation) and Judy's own Czech thumbprint cookies. Tumbling and balance beam were the focus of gymnastics taught by Sokol instructor Alisa Hollibush. Czech language classes led by Martina Gurgel, Hana Matousek, and Lloyd Krocak gave the children the experience of learning correct pronunciation of many words and phrases.

Artist and graphic designer Doreen McKenney along



with Jean Draheim designed the crafts based on the stories and fairytales read that day. The coloring book/2014 calendar that Doreen designed used English, Czech, and Slovak words for the days and months. Each month featured one of the 12 stories featured with our camp theme.

The campers started the week assembling Czech crystal snowflake ornaments inspired by the winter-themed book *Marushka and the Month Brothers*. Other crafts were poppy flower magnets, *Vodnik* puppets, "three keys" key chains, and watercolor/salt creations. Afternoon-choice crafts included hedgehog ornaments, Golem clay figures, snow globes, fairy dolls, earrings, headbands,

and floral bags. Sharon Liska and Martina Gurgel offered help and new ideas as well.

Before lunch each day, Don Haselbauer lent his piano skills to our traditional flag ceremony and half hour of singing and dancing led by his cousin, Louise Wessinger. After lunch, games such as the popular "Czechs and Slovaks" burned off some of the extra energy. Following game time, Jean Draheim used her theatrical experience to direct our all-camp play, *Maruska and the 12 Month Brothers*.

Afternoons featured two 45-minute choice activities, including craft activities, the ever-popular Lego Castle building, and puppet theater. (Thank you, Gary Novak, for fixing and repainting the theatre). Our

ever-helpful junior leaders were Andrea Atcheson, Greta Helm, Carly Siewert, Hailey Greschner, Michelle Stepan, and Nolan Rohde. They did a lot to make camp run smoothly, from leading groups and planning activities to sweeping the floor and emptying trash.

The 2014 camp will be June 9–13. The theme will be traditional ethnic seasonal celebrations, based on the book *Happy Times in Czechoslovakia*. This was our camp theme in 2007—a camper and leader favorite!



## ***Life And Many Deaths in the Protektorat Boehmen und Maehren\****

***March 1939 – June 1945***

**By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauer,  
Distinguished International  
Professor Emeritus, University of  
Minnesota, Department of  
Educational Policy and  
Administration, Comparative and  
International Development Education**

**Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic (1999-2009)**

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



**Part 1. Context:** Even after more than seventy years, I still tense up when I see a dark green sedan with three people in it. That was the style of Tatra used by the Gestapo to arrest people; one person remained in the car, and two arrested the targeted individual. It was that model car that took my father for questioning several times and made us worry whether he would ever return.

Fortunately, he did, often after several days, and he was always extremely depressed. Ironically, that was also the style of car the communists sent to arrest me at my office at the Faculty of Law of Charles University in February 1948, two days before their coup. The communists not only appropriated the cars from the Nazis, but also learned their techniques for dealing with those arrested. Both regimes often dispatched these cars randomly in order to maintain their presence and to keep people afraid, calling this method the “visible influence.” They succeeded very well.

The memory of the conditions that prevailed during the Nazi occupation made it difficult for me to write this article and describe those six long years. Yet this period of Czechoslovak history has not received as much discussion as the periods that followed it. Surprisingly, there have been relatively few studies about it – until now. Harvard University Press published an excellent study by professor Chad Bryant entitled *Prague in Black: Nazi Rule and Czech Nationalism*, on which I draw in this article. There are not very many left to tell the stories of survival, heroism, cowardice, treason, betrayal, and hope. These stories are well-documented in the above-mentioned book, which was exceptionally well-researched and objective, as is typical of good histories. True to this tradition, Bryant elaborated on his text with ninety pages of notes and with an extensive bibliography. I was pleased to see that Bryant often cited our own Gary Cohen, chair of the History Department at the University of Minnesota, who has been a frequent speaker at our lecture series. What I missed in the book, though, is the spirit of the time, a sense of the ways in which people had to adjust and repeatedly re-adjust themselves to the regime over six long years, and people's changing moods of suffering and hope that an objective description bolstered by statistics cannot capture, no matter how detailed it is.

Let's review briefly the context of what happened. I wrote about this in my previous articles, especially about the Munich agreement that handed over Czechoslovakia to Hitler. That began a dark period for most Czechs, although not for most Sudeten Germans, 80% voted to join the Reich, having been influenced by Hitler's “Heim ins Reich” (“Back to the Reich”) policy. Hitler

informed his generals in 1937 of his plans to occupy Austria and Czechoslovakia, justified by the claim that both historically were part of the greater German Empire and because Germany needed more Lebensraum (“living room”) for its growing population and more resources to wage further wars. Rule by Germany ignited a discourse about what it means to be Czech; Germans were confronted with a similar question. By the time the occupation of the Sudetengau (Sudetenland) was completed, the Nazis had already arrested some 10,000 people, including some ethnic Germans. On March 19, the Nazis entered what remained of Czechoslovakia. They split off Slovakia, gave some territory to Hungary and Poland, plundered the Czechoslovak gold reserves and Jewish properties, confiscated all military equipment, and laid the groundwork for total integration of the Czech economy with the Reich. Hitler entered Prague by car the next day and triumphantly entered the ancient Prague Castle to assert his claim that the heart of Europe belonged to Germany and that Czechs were an inferior people, incapable of governing themselves. He appointed Konstantin von Neurath as Reich's Protector. Within a year some 400,000 Czech government workers were supervised and watched by 10,000 Germans. Czechs responded with demonstrations, showing solidarity by attendance at Czechoslovak concerts and operas (especially Smetana's *Libuše*), illegal publications, and other forms of active and passive resistance, including *Švejkovina*.\*\* These events began the turnaround in Czech – German relations. Next was the German invasion of Poland, which raised German nationalism to a higher level and incited many documented incidents of violence against Czechs.

Neurath did not like Czechs, but he appeared to be somewhat tolerant of acts of resistance until October 28, 1939, the Czechoslovak National Day, when University students staged a protest in Prague. After the demonstration, some students became unruly and started removing German street signs and confronting everything German. The German military dispersed the crowd with guns, critically wounding one student who died later. His funeral was held on November 19, when the students again demonstrated, only more intensely. German response followed immediately. Demonstrators were brutally dispersed, and the next day all Czech universities were closed, 1,200 students and several professors were arrested and taken to concentration camps, and nine students were publically executed. The names of the nine were posted throughout the entire country. This was the second point in the turnaround in Czech – German relations. Neurath and his secretary of state drafted a memo for Hitler suggesting how to resolve “the Czech problem.” They proposed a system whereby half the Czechs would stay and “become German” and the other half would be deported to the East for extermination. Hitler later approved that memo. Signs of resistance continued but became less open. There were anonymous acts of leaving flowers at the statue of St. Wenceslaus, more frequent performances of *Libuše*, industrial sabotage, and an increase in underground publications. The measures of the Nazis were just the beginning of a much more brutal oppression, which will be described in the next issue.

\*Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia

\*\**Švejkovina* is a term meaning *Švejk*-ness, after the fictional character in *The Good Soldier Švejk* (Jaroslav Hašek, 1923) who rendered Austrian authority absurd through his literal obedience to orders.

**ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!  
SOKOL Minnesota FUNDRAISERS**

**Minnesota Sokol Camp Booya, August 11**

Noon – 5 p.m., Cross Lake, Pine City  
Fun-filled day for the entire family

**Czech and Slovak Festival, September 15**

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

International Institute of Minnesota  
1694 Como Avenue, Saint Paul

**Be an All-Star! Volunteer!**

Information: Joyce: 612-822-6147

Check for event updates: **[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](http://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)



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Our 2013 Fall Calendar of Events Postcard will be mailed with the September *Slovo* issue. If you have family or friends who would like to receive our card, please send addresses by August 15 to [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org) On the subject line, type: postcard mailing list

**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* August 2013**

**SOKOL MINNESOTA *Prostna* and Dancing Teams at 2013 Milwaukee *Slet***

*Prostna* Team: (L-R) Don Haselbauer, Louise Wessinger, Jason Brozavich, Megan Cahill, Mary Cahill, Katie Haselbauer, Joyce Tesarek, Norm Petrik, Hana Matousek, Chuck Drahiem. (Kneeling) Jake Jacobson.



Dancers: (Back L-R) Dave and Sue Martin, Chuck Drahiem, Dawn Bulera, Jason Brozovich, Tom Aubrecht, Rich Nicoli, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Richard Sargent. (Front) Louise Wessinger, Megan Cahill, Judy Aubrecht, Linda Nicoli, Pam Langworthy. (Kneeling) Jake Jacobson, Jyni Koschak.