

February 2007 vol. 30 no. 1

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Sokol Gymnasts Prepare for Competition in Nebraska

Story and photos by Jay Fonkert



A youthful contingent of Sokol Minnesota gymnasts is preparing for a trip to Crete. No, not sunny Crete in the Mediterranean, but the Czech community of Crete, Nebraska. About 15 girls will compete at the Sokol Western District Exhibition April 14. Crete is located about 80 miles southwest of Omaha. The competition is sponsored by the Western District of American Sokol. The girls, aged about 7 to 17, will compete in a variety of gymnastics events, including vaulting, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercises.

The Western District competitions are the first experience competing outside the Twin Cities



for many of the girls. "They really look forward to seeing how they place," said Lisa Hollibush, the lead instructor and Sokol Minnesota's new women's physical director. "They also like showing off what they've learned to parents and the crowd," she added. Lisa has trained in the program since she was four years old, and has been an instructor for three years.

Mary Cahill, who recently stepped down as women's physical director, but still manages the gymnastics program, said meeting gymnasts from other Sokol units is part of the fun. The Minnesota girls will compete against gymnasts representing Sokol units in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Omaha, South Omaha, Crete and Wilbur, Nebraska. The Exhibition features age-group competitions for more than 100 girls, boys and adults. Lisa Hollibush will compete in the adult field.

continued on page 2

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 10
Literary Ventures Book Discussion
 - Feb. 17
Šibřinky (Czech Mardi Gras)
 - Feb. 18
Movies at the CSPS Hall
 - Feb. 25
Kolače Bake Sale
 - Mar. 9, 10, 11
Czech Plays
 - March 25
Flavors of Slovakia Dinner
 - April 7
Euchre Tourney
 - April 13-14
Garage and Bake Sale
 - May 4-6
Festival of Nations
 - May 19
Tea Party Social
- see calendar on pg 2 for event details



Šibřinky

(Czech Mardi Gras)

Saturday • February • 17th

The Gift Shop will be open from 6-8pm

For more info www.sokolmn.org or Call Tim 651.274.6486

\$10.00 Admittance Fee

Dance to live music by the Dale Pexa Band 7-11pm

Czech food and sausages available for sale 6-9pm

Public Welcome! Public Welcome!

Kolače Bake Sale

Open Face or Closed

Poppyseed, Apricot, Prune, Cherry, Cream cheese

\$10.00 dozen

(no assorted orders)

Sunday • February 25th

Pick up from 11a - 1pm

Baking 23rd and 24th so please place your order no later than 12N - Feb. 22nd by calling: Doreen 952.941.0426

Mark your calendar for the SLOVAK DINNER March 25th

President Komentář/President's Note

By Joe Landsberger

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters!

This is my first column as your new president, and I guess an introduction to many of you. Since I am relatively new to the organization, I want to first express my appreciation to all the contributions and work of my immediate predecessors, and now new-found friends. This is truly a wonderfully fun, interesting, and historic organization: how else could I get so involved! When I left full time employment March 2006, you became a very important part of my life. How amazed I am when I look at the pictures on the third floor, and think of my own Bohemian relatives in this hall, including my mother Blanche in her teenage years when she lived with her Aunt Julia and Uncle Joe Svobodny off Randolph Avenue in the West End of St. Paul. Her father Joe Dvorak was from Spillville, with great grand parent names of Moznett and Hlavik (Neplachova, Czech Republic).

More auto-biography: I am a life-long resident of St. Paul, the last 27 years not far from the C.S.P.S. Hall. There I live surrounded by my gardens with my cat Cali on the bluff. My partner of ten years, Bro. Steve Shimer, lives across the High Bridge. At my end of the Bridge you will find the park I developed with its gardens and sculptures. See our neighborhood District Council's web site www.fortroadfederation.org/highbridge/ for more, as well as the commemorative sculpture we commissioned that celebrates the contributions of early Czech and Slovak immigrants who created the neighborhoods, businesses and institutions in the West End. You'll also see the puppets Jarda and Jurka. As part of this project I researched, compiled, co-authored and co-edited Gateway to a New World that documents Czech and Slovak immigration into the West End through family stories. (The book is available through our gift shop)

I worked for nearly thirty years at the University of St. Thomas, the last five as web (site) master and developer, but I left in March of 2006 to return to working with learners. My "hobby" (and pride) of the past twelve years has been my web site of Study Guides and Strategies www.studygs.net. Through it I have researched and authored over 120 topics to help students around the world learn better. The site is popular with middle school students through returning adult learners, and also with teachers and support professionals, and even (gasp) parents. There are currently over one million viewings a month, and the site is translated into 32 languages, including some guides in Czech/Slovak. These were done by Marta Kotonova, who returned to the Czech Republic a couple years ago. I am now a educational consultant to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (system).

Now: what will I want to do as president? My passion will be stewardship of our history, our building, our mission. Since I basically am inclined towards projects and communications, I hope that each meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) will focus on an important topic. Our January BOD Meeting dealt with all of our publications, and applying the new Sokol logo design. Wow! In December we changed our stationery, and now the Slovo and web site. Check them out, and let us know what you think. They are, of course, works in progress by dedicated volunteers. We have a committee to help Sis. Sharon and Bro. Ken Wyberg produce the Slovo, and Bro. Jim Robasse the web site. Think of the years they faithfully worked on these!

Our February topic will be membership, and for that we need your help! Don't throw away your Slovo! Give it to a person you think might be interested in Sokol! Maybe a family member, a neighbor, a friend. Bring them to the dance, the films, cooking classes. Recruit! We are rich with activities and companionship.

In March we will have another important topic: fund raising. This is critical. While we try to make all of our programs self supporting, our building and organization has great needs. We would like to extend the elevator to the third floor, add air conditioning for summer use and rentals, and perhaps develop the basement? Our 125th year is 2012, and we will celebrate with a capital campaign and applications for grants.

So, that's only three month's topics! If you have time, give us a call. We need you as committee members to help.

Nazdar,
Bro. Joe

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2007 Board of Directors

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Sokol Minnesota's Board of Directors & Gambling Board 2007



Pictured are:

Front: Tim Curtis, Tom Bulera,
Bob Vanyo, Ken Wyberg Middle: Joyce Tesarek,
Louise Wessinger, Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill,
Alisa Hollibush, Nancy Imbrone, Jean Hall
Back row: Scott Hinshaw, Tom Aubrecht,
Dennis Cahill, Norm Petrik, Jay Fonkert,
Kent Hinshaw, Joe Landsberger

January Membership Meeting

By Joe Landsberger

The first Membership Meeting of the new year, and the new president Joe Landsberger, began at 7 p.m. Friday, January 26 on the third floor meeting room. Members began with remembrances of Cecilia "Babe" Vanyo who passed away peacefully at home on January 5. Georgiana Dolejsi then led us in Kde Domov Múj (Czech national anthem), Nad Tatrou Sa Blýsk (Slovak national anthem), and God Bless America. There followed the membership report by Norm Petrik, Membership Director (see below) and Gambling Report by Ken Wyberg.

Maryann Fiordelis, Interim Strategic Plan Manager for American Sokol, then presented American Sokol's strategic plan to determine the best course of action for American Sokol Organization to ensure growth and prosperity. This plan has been approved by the Executive Board and the Board of Governors and is now undertaking the task of presenting this information to all units. After the PowerPoint presentation, Maryann distributed forms for members to become involved with various Strategic Imperative Teams. If you are interested, contact Joe Landsberger at 651 297 9000. You may view the new mission and its nine focus areas on American Sokol's web site at <http://american-sokol.com/sokol.asp> under the "members" link.

The next membership meeting will return to its usual starting time, 7:30 p.m., on Friday, February 23 on the second floor.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Brad Hokanson, President of Svenska Sällskapet (Swedish Society). Hokanson will give a history/overview of the Swedish Institute, their membership groups, programs, etc.

January Membership Report

By Norm Petrik

At the January 26 Membership Meeting, fifteen new membership applications were processed, including two couple memberships for a total of seventeen new members. Seven of the applications were from parents of gymnastic students, including Donette Peterson, Kris Martin, Todd Cherveney, Chris Kelly, Thomas Schroeder, and Rochelle Weber, all of St Paul, and Mundy Satler of Maplewood.


Eight applications expressed interest in cultural activities to include language, cooking classes, and neighborhood activities. These included Cheryl Nelson and Mike Theunick of Maple Grove, Tom and Penny Tesarek of Golden Valley, Richard Sargent of Woodbury, Pam Kotval of Bloomington, Jyni Koschak of St Paul, and Barbara Williams of Shoreview. New members Andrew Hine and Steve Shirmer, both of St. Paul, were present and inducted and received the traditional hug from Georgiana Dolejsi!

A main agenda item of membership meetings is induction of new members, and all are welcome for its program as well as companionship! Contact Norm Petrik, Membership Director, 612 822-6147 for all membership inquiries.

Sokol Gymnasts *continued from page 1*

As the photos accompanying this story demonstrate, the CSPA Hall is a beehive of energy on Tuesday and Thursday nights during gymnastics classes. The Sokol gymnastics program is alive and thriving! Dozens of gymnasts fill the floor for regular classes on Tuesday nights from September through April. Those preparing for competition are back for another hour of practice on Thursday nights. The other instructors in the program are Lexy Millet, Megan Pera, Molly Coleman and Laura McCormick



				1 Make & Take Koláče Class 6-8:30 pm	2	3 Make & Take Koláče Class 9 am
4	5 Czech Lang. Class Intro/Beg. 6:30-8:30 pm, Slet practice 6 pm	6	7	8	9	10 Literary Ventures Book Discussion
11	12 Czech Lang. Class Intro/Beg. 6:30-8:30 pm	13	14 	15	16	17 Šibřinky (Czech Mardi Gras) Dance 7-11 pm
18 Movies at the CSPS Hall 2 pm	19 Czech Lang. Class Intro/Beg. 6:30-8:30 pm, Slet practice 6 pm	20	21	22	23 Sokol Membership Meeting 7:30 pm	24
25 Koláče Bake Sale 11 am-1 pm	26 Czech Lang. Class Intro/Beg. 6:30-8:30 pm	27	28	For more details visit us at: www.sokolmn.org		

Thank You!

Sokol Minnesota thanks you for these donations:

In memory of JoAnn Oliva: Jim & MaryJo Chlebecek, Millie & Jack Grealish, Frank Loss, Don & Doris McKenney, Norm & Joyce Petrik, Phyllis Vosejпка, Louise Wessinger, Bob & Cecilia Vanyo, Czech/Slovak Genealogical Society International, Jim & MaryJo Chlebecek, Georgiana Dolejsi, Tillie Dolejsi, and Elsie Roepke.
 In memory of Tim Vrchota: Georgiana Dolejsi.
 In memory of Henry Santo, Georgiana Dolejsi.
 In memory of Charles Krusell: Georgiana Dolejsi.
 In memory of George Loss: Libby & Al Imbrone.
 Donations to Elevator Fund: Darlene Sitko \$100.00
 Donation to Kitchen Fund: George Chlebecek \$100.00
 Donation to Window Fund: Ann Neubauer
 Donation to the Slovo: Mir & Shirley Verner
 Donations to Culture Camp: George Chlebecek \$200.00
 Donations to Tanecni Mladez: George Chlebecek, \$200.00; Karen Vitalis, \$125.00; John & Ann Kuzma and Kathleen Philip
 Donations to General Fund: Raymond Vanyo, \$100.00; Richard Pavlicek, 100.00; Al & Libby Imbrone, Georgiana Sobola, Bessie O'Neill, Joan Sedlacek, Michael Wolesky & Susan Lindoo, Don Factor, Frank Petruska, Gary Novak, Anita McKeown, Lillian Bednar, Josef Mestenhauser, Martin Kubik, Patricia Wolesky, Robert Kruta, and Ann Neubauer.

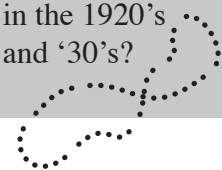
Total donations \$1,935.00.

Koláče Bake Sale

Open face or Closed Poppysseed, Aprilcot, Prune, Cherry, Cream Cheese
 \$10/dozen (no assorted orders)
 Sunday, February 25 Pick up from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Place your order no later than 12 noon February 22. Call 952 941 0426

Fun Fact

Did you know that Czech beads were exclusively used during the Mardi Gras in New Orleans in the 1920's and '30's?





She builds icehouses; she takes pictures

Story and photo by Joe Landsberger

Beatrix Reinhardt came to Minnesota to build her icehouse as part of the 2007 Art Shanty Project on Medicine Lake. The Art Shanty Projects are part gallery, part residency and part social experiment, inspired by the tradition of ice fishing and ice fishing houses used in the Minnesota winter. Artists from around the US and Minnesota realize their concepts of art-icehouses, including a karaoke shanty, a knitting shanty, Pinhole Camera shanty, The Cactus Conservatory. Beatrix built hers in New York where she teaches photography at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York (CUNY), then trucked it here and rebuilt it. Her shanty is a collaboration with Gordon Marsh and Melanie Almeder, and titled: Club Medicine Lake

Beatrix, however, is also photographing “clubs” throughout the world for a fine arts project she hopes to publish. She began her journey photographing interior spaces with an artist’s residency in Trivandrum, India in 2001. There she focused on offices, classrooms, auditoriums in schools. Her inspiration to photograph and document clubs began in 2003, seeking to convey the sense of community they represent, as well as their sense of history. Physical spaces attract her the most, preferring to leave out people. Lately she has even discovered those of her neighborhood in Queens in New York City where membership clubs are both numerous and rich visually. She has given Sokol Minnesota permission to reproduce images taken here.

...seeking to convey the sense of community they represent, as well as their sense of history.

The C.S.P.S. Hall entered her possibilities through our web site. She made some calls, and spent several hours on Thursday, January 18 in its spaces. When she entered our third floor she was most impressed, and nearly speechless, and very excited about the 2nd floor’s hand-painted screens as well as the colorful geometrics of the gymnastic mats. Considering that she has already documented halls in India, Australia, and China, our pride in our hall is most validated.

Beatrix is a child of Jena, Thuringia (East Germany) near the Czech border, and has lived in the United States on and off for about ten years. In addition to her teaching, ice houses and clubs project, she is preparing for an exhibition in Finland.

Sokol Minnesota Slet Practice begins!

By Norm Petrik

Rehearsal for the national Sokol Slet begins on Monday February 5th at 6 p.m. Sokol is Czech for “falcon” and slet is Czech for “flock.” So when a large group of Sokols gather, it is a Sokol Slet, or a gymnastic festival that includes competitions, parades, demonstrations and programs. Most Sokol districts host slets each year, and the national slet will take place this year in Pittsburgh on July 1, 2007

Doreen McKenney will be our instructor as she has been in the past few years. We will learn the Senior Cal which is a ten-minute series of movements to music. Practice will take place every 1st and 3rd Monday at 6 pm until the Slet. Please join us, or call Norm Petrik, Men’s Physical Director, for further information. 612 822-6147.

Last Year’s Slet in Prague



photo by Joyce Tesarek

Up-coming Czech language classes

Beginner level:

March 5: Monday evenings, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.; 8 weeks

Fee: \$50.00 (Sokol member); \$65 (non-member)

Instructor: Karen Kapusta-Pofahl; Text *Čeština Hrou* \$55 (includes cassette)/Workbook \$40.

March 5: Wednesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.; 8 weeks

Fee: \$50.00 (Sokol member); \$65 (non-member)

Instructor: John Topic; Text *Čeština Hrou* \$55 (includes cassette)/Workbook \$40.

For more information call Louise Wessinger (651) 452 6240

Slovak Language Interest Group: Call Robin Anderson (763) 300 3782

Jarmila Novotna

By Joe Landsberger



Jarmila Novotna Dauberk (1907-1993) was a Czech-born opera singer and film star who was born in Prague, on 23 September 1907. As a teenager, she began studying with renowned Czech opera singer Emmy Destinn and Hilbert Vavia.

Later, in Milan,

she studied with Antonio Guarnieri, resident conductor at La Scala.

Novotna began her professional career in 1925 as Marenka in Bedrich Smetana's "The Bartered Bride". Later that year, she created a sensation in "La Traviata" (Verdi) as Violetta. Both operas were presented at the Prague Opera House and, on the strength of her performances, she was made a regular member of the company. She made her film debut in the same year with the Czech silent movie "Vyznavaci slunce" (1925), but the great successes in the film business came with the talkies of the 30's.

Jarmila Novotna was able to expand her career beyond Prague in 1928. She got engagements in Verona, Naples and Berlin. She lived in Berlin till 1933 where she launched a successful film career. She was convincing in the movies "Der Bettelstudent" (1931), "Die verkaufte Braut" (1932) and "Die Nacht der grossen Liebe" (1933).

When the political mood became more and more hostile in Germany she went to Austria where she met the composer Franz Lehar. He engaged her for the leading role for his new play Giuditta. Because of the huge success she was signed on at the Viennese Staatsoper and was appointed to a Kammersängerin. At the same time she appeared in her last

...her role as Violetta gave her the reputation as one of the best singers of that time.

German-language movies, "Frasquita" (1934) and "Der Kosak und die Nachtigall" (1935). When the Nazi's took power in Austria, Jarmila Novotna left for England.

There she appeared in a movie with the title "The Last Waltz"

(1936). When she was invited to New York in 1939 by Arturo Toscanini in order to impersonate the role of Violetta in "La Traviata", this marked the beginning of her last career phase. She signed a contract with the Metropolitan Opera in 1940 and was very successful in the whole US. Especially her role as Violetta gave her the reputation as one of the best singers of that time.

In the US she also appeared on Broadway (among others in "Helen of Troy" and as Irene Adler at Basil Rathbone's side in "Sherlock Holmes") besides the opera stage. She also took part in several movies and TV productions, "The Search" (1948), "The Great Caruso" (1951) and "The Great Waltz" (1955). In 1956 she retired from the stage and attended her family.

Jarmila Novotna was a great operatic voice of her time, and effectively balanced the roles of opera star, film and stage star, wife and mother.

Song of the Month

Submitted by Georgiana Dolejsi

Let Me Call You Sweetheart

Nech mé volat miláček, já tě miluji
Šeptej mé má milá, ze mé rada mas

Nech tu lásku svitit, ve tvé verne oči
Nech mé volat miláček, já tě miluji



From the Sokol Minnesota Cookbook

(available from Krásné Dárky Beautiful Gifts of Czech and Slovak Imports at the C.S.P.S. Hall)

Křehké těsto s bramborama/Crisp potato dough sticks

3/4 cup grated cooked potatoes

1-1/3 cup flour

1 egg lightly beaten

Salt to taste

(optional: coarse salt, caraway seed, grated cheese)

Work potatoes, flour, shortening, and alt into a smooth dough. Roll out about 1/4 inch thick. Cut into sticks, brush with egg, and sprinkle with optional ingredients. Bake in preheated oven for 15 minutes.

Recipe contributed by Nase Dejiny, Cleveland Ohio.

2nd Annual: Czech Plays at the Sokol Hall

By Marshall Toman

Once again the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center and Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota are co-sponsoring the Lex-Ham Community Theater in presenting a program of two Czech plays March 9th through the 11th. This second annual event will again feature one play by Vaclav Havel and another by a Czech writer with a likewise interesting career, Pavel Kohout.

Lex-Ham producer Urban Landreman said “A major part of Lex-Ham’s core mission is to help build community through the Arts. It’s a joy for us to partner with the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center since they, also, see how people can be brought together and communities strengthened by involvement with high quality arts activities.”

“Apprentice” Producer Jack Rose adds “We’re thrilled to have a chance to mount another production in this historic performance space!”

Havel is well known as a playwright, dissident against Communism, and president of Czechoslovakia from 1989 to 1992 and subsequently of the Czech Republic until 2003. Last fall Havel was invited to Columbia University for a seven-week residency featuring lectures, interviews, conversations, classes, performances, and panels centered on his life and ideas. For the occasion, all of his plays were performed throughout New York City.

Each evening’s program will feature both Havel’s and Kohout’s plays, leading off with Havel’s *Motomorphosis*. This play is clearly a reference to another Prague writer’s (Franz Kafka’s) famous work where Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams to find that he had been transformed into a giant insect. Havel’s characters, unlike Gregor in *The Metamorphosis*, are turning into automobiles. The playlet was commissioned by Ivan Vyskocil when Havel arrived at the Theatre on the Balustrade in 1960 to fit into two other humorous pieces already written by Vyskocil. But Havel’s piece was not performed, and Vyskocil delivered his two pieces as monologues.

Which model of car would you turn into? Perhaps the Czech-built silver 1948 4-door sedan Tatra T87 (like the one on display at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts)? Although set in the 1960s when Czechs were car-crazy, the humorous, satiric skit provides a window onto 1960s’ Czech Communist culture. Havel’s character chooses a Skoda Felicia, which is also a Czech woman’s name.

The second playwright, Pavel Kohout, was born in Prague in 1928, and experienced career turns that were not unusual for a creative intellectual of his generation: from an initial unconditional acceptance of the Stalinist regime, through disillusion and participation in reform in the 60s, to opposition in the 70s, and exile in the 80s.

The beginning of his career, however, was atypical: at 21 years old, he was the cultural attache in Moscow and from ages 22 to 24 (1950-52) he edited a cultural journal, all while finishing his university degree at the philosophical faculty of Charles University. Soon after graduation he published two collections of poetry and was a screen writer for a film, and

wrote a verse comedy, “Good Song” (1952), which holds a place in the Golden Fund of Czech Stalinist literature.

Already in 1955, however, he began to criticize the divorce of the theory of Socialism from its practice in his country. His main vehicle of protest was the theatre. From 1952 to 1990, he wrote 45 plays. His plays written after 1968, however, could be produced only outside the country, where they became, along with Havel’s, the most frequently produced Czech plays.

State Security, especially after Kohout’s signing of Charter 77, of which he was a founder and one of the most active members, was exceptionally watchful of him and his wife, to the point of almost open harassment and even an assassination attempt (which failed because the two operatives appointed to murder him refused). In 1978 he was denied re-admittance from Austria where he had been granted a year’s stay at the Burgtheatr in Vienna, where he still mostly lives.

Fire in the Basement, Kohout’s play and the second feature of each program, is set in the early 1990s after the fall of Communism. It presents firemen as scam artists who intrude into the honeymoon setting of a couple. This satiric comedy addresses the confusion of the time where a new economic system is replacing the old and no one knows who to trust.

“These plays bring another exciting Czech theatrical addition to our many Cultural Center programs,” said Gwen Willems, Vice President for Programs for the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center. “The idea for last year’s inaugural performances on the historical CSPS Hall stage came out of Literary Ventures, the Cultural Center’s book club, when we were reading and discussing selections from Vaclav Havel’s book of plays, *The Garden Party and Other Plays*. Literary Ventures member Lucy Smith then contacted a couple local theater groups; then she and I began discussions with Lex-Ham, and the rest is history.”

Again this year Sokol volunteers will be producing delicious and artistic chlebicky and other homemade treats for purchase and beer will also be available for purchase, sort of like at the Narodni Divadlo in Prague.

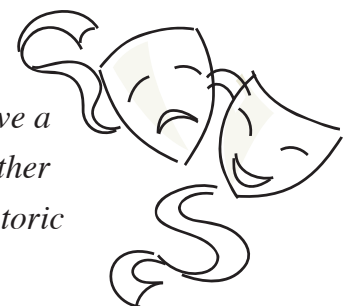
The Friday and Saturday performances will be at 7:30. The Sunday, March 11th performances will start at 2:00 p.m.

Ticket prices have not been finalized. However, a regular ticket might be approximately \$15 with a substantial discount to Sokol and Cultural Center members.

With the hope of truly making this event annual, next year’s play is already chosen-another Havel, and one of his best: the black comedy called *The Memorandum*.

Mark your calendar. Come to eat, view, and enjoy!

“We’re thrilled to have a chance to mount another production in this historic performance space!”



Czech news

Adapted from the Prague Post

A traditionally-favored Czech camping area between a nature reserve and the historic tourist sites of Český Krumlov and its monasteries has been targeted for development (\$46 million) by an Austrian company, UBM. The development will create an artificial resort village for foreigners along the shore of the Lipno Reservoir on unused farmland near the village of Frymburk, south Bohemia. The development would draw tourists year-round from nearby Austria, Germany and the Netherlands.

While the mayor of Frymburk supports the development and its economic impact, the civic association has reservations over its environmental impact on the lake and reserve, as well as under-utilized existing hotels. UBM has completed a study and is expected to apply for zoning and building permits this year, with construction beginning 2008 if approved.



Slovak news

Adapted from the Slovak Spectator

The first European Kia automobile has rolled off an assembly line in Žilina, Slovakia on December 7, 2006. The Kia plant was built in record time beginning April 2004 by Kia Motors Corporation, Seoul, South Korea. The new 300-robot plant aims to produce 100 cars per employee per year in a few years. The facility is considered Europe's most advanced and efficient vehicle production line, and cost an estimated 3-billion Euros. Employment should peak at 3,000 employees.

Adapted from the German Press Agency

Bratislava-Sony Europe has started building a factory for LCD flat-screen televisions in Nitra. The company is expected to employ 3,000 workers producing 3 million units each year. For Slovakia, this is the first major investment since the change of government in July 2006. The project lessened fears that Prime Minister Robert Fico's left wing party and his coalition partners would worsen the climate for investment. The new coalition seems to be carrying on the business-friendly reform course of the previous new-liberal government. When the Nitra plant comes online, Sony is expected to close its plant in Trnava about 45 kilometers away and relocate their production staff.



Czech & Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp

The eleventh Annual Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp will be held June 18-22 at the C.S.P.S. Hall. From 9 a.m.–3 p.m. volunteers provide a variety of fun and friendly activities for campers ages 7–14. Activities include Czech and Slovak language basics, ethnic cooking and crafts, gymnastics in the Sokol tradition, puppetry, folklore and more! For further information, call Judy Albrecht (651) 699 5148.



Czech tours 2007

From \$1,365 air included
Prague & Czech Republic
Vienna – Salzbrug – Munich
Hana (952) 440 4289
czechtours@aol.com

National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library

By Sharon Wyberg

Now through March 11, the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa is exhibiting works by Andy Warhol from the Cochran Collection. On display will be two dozen original large prints created from 1974 to 1987, including a rare set of his silkscreen series *Cowboys and Indians*. Other pieces in the exhibit include iconographic images of Mick Jagger, Mickey Mouse, and the Moon Walk of Astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

Two exhibits are in preparation for 2007, *Puppetry! Suspended Imagination* opens April 13 through September 29. It will feature the puppets from Minnesota Sokol, Jarda and Jurka, with variety of old and new hand puppets, finger puppets, marionettes, puppet theatre advertising and scenery, plus an interactive theatre.

A landmark exhibition is in development, titled *1968*, to open in November 2007. The 40th anniversary of Prague Spring and the Warsaw Pact invasion provides a fitting time to examine the tumultuous events of 1968 in Czechoslovakia set in the context of world-wide turmoil. In conjunction with the exhibit, a major history and culture conference is planned for March 7-8, 2008. The conference will revisit the period of 1967-1980, taking a close look at Prague Spring, Warsaw Pact invasion, Charter 77, and the events that ultimately led to the Velvet Revolution and Velvet Divorce. Check the NCSML web site at www.ncsml.org or call (319) 362-8500 for more information.

Two Czech Plays

Vaclav Havel's *Motomorphosis*
&

Pavel Kohout's *Fire in the Basement*

Fri. & Sat., March 9-10, 2007: 7:30 p.m.;

Sun., Mar. 11: 2:00 p.m.

Doors open at an hour before performances. Sokol volunteers are providing wine, Czech and Polish beer, and homemade Czech and Slovak delicacies for purchase before the show.

C.S.P.S. Hall

Vaclav Havel, playwright and president, writes a humorous, satiric skit that provides a window onto 1960s' Czech Communist culture.

Pavel Kohout's play, set in the early 1990s, comically addresses the confusion of the new economic order as it presents firemen as scam artists who intrude into a couple's honeymoon setting.

Ticket Prices: REGULAR: \$15; MEMBER/REDUCED (Sokol & Czech & Slovak Cultural Center members, Seniors): \$10; STUDENT: \$5. Produced by the Lex-Ham Community Theater.

Readers Write

My daughter, Therese and I were at the Festival in October and picked up a copy of Slovo. We enjoyed the Festival and the good food. The October issue had some very interesting articles. I used to go to Sokol gym classes & also learned some Czech language in the 1930s. I surely remember the dances I went to at C.S.P.S. God bless you!

Betty Langevin
St. Paul

Enjoy reading the Slovo very much.
Thank You!

S.V.

Please renew my subscription to the Slovo.

Keep up the good work!

Barb Tuzinski

St. Paul

The Slovo has been a great way for me to keep in touch with my Czech heritage. Keep up the good work!

Bobbie Gross

Brookings, OR

Contestants sought

For the 18th annual **Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota** Pageant
Held April 14, 2007

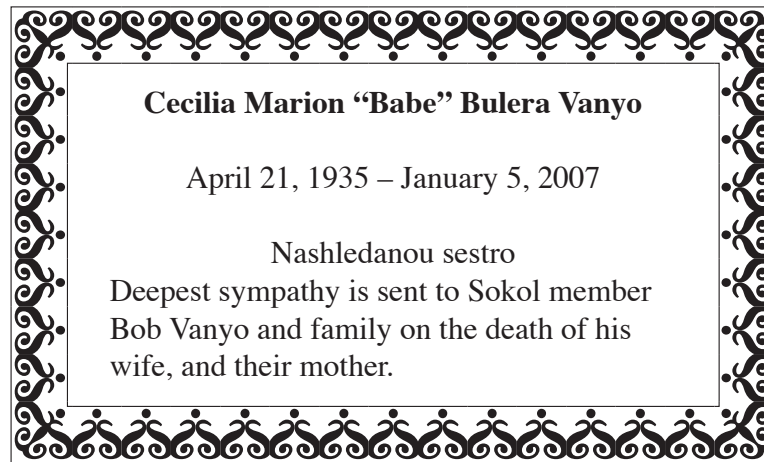
American Legion Club, Montgomery, MN

Women, aged 16-26, of Czech, Slovak, or Moravian heritage.

Pageant winners receive cash award, crowns, and a year of memorable experiences.

Applications available from Lorraine David (507)davidsdiner@hotmail.com

Or Carol Pavek (507) 364 8749



Sem a Tam

N.E. Sládek aka Svatej Normíček První a Poslední & Dědoušek Sládků.

By Norm Sladek

An Easy Decision:

Přisel Franta mezi Franty
Prodal Kabát, koupil karty
Lepší karty než ten kabát
S kartama se můžem zahrát

Taught to this columnist 30 years ago by former long-time volunteer náčelník (director of men's education), the late Frank Verner. The English translation:

Frank came upon other Franks
Sold his coat and bought some playing cards
Better the deck than a coat
With a deck of cards we are able to play.

It rhymes in Czech folks! Nežlobte se na mně

Athletic excellence

Tony Kubes & Al Imbrone

I chronicled the considerable 2005 football exploits and recognition of New Prague's High School junior Tony Kubes (Kubeš) last year: Missota All-conference Team, All Metro first team, and All-State first team. But as the demanding statement goes, "What has he done lately?" A lot as it turns out! As in 2005, Kubes, now a 6'1" 185 pound senior, was named to the 2006 Missota All-Conference and the 2006 All-Metro (defensive back) football first teams. Moreover, a statewide panel of sportswriters and broadcasters voted to put him on the 2006 Minnesota Associate Press All-State prep football 2nd team. He was also one of ten senior finalists for the Minnesota Mr. Football Award given by the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association.

Kubes was much more than an outstanding defensive back as this statistics in his final high school game, a 16-20 loss to Totino-Grace High School in the state semi-final. In that game, Kubes rushed 11 times for 67 yards, caught eight passes for 124 yards including a 34-yard touchdown, and returned a put and two kickoffs for 39 yards (total = 230 yards). At the other end of the age spectrum, is far-beyond-senior citizen, honorary Czech-American and Sokol Minnesota member Al Imbrone who aced the 149-foot par three 4th hole at the

18-hole Highland National Golf Course in St. Paul. His two playing partners can't seem to remember which club he used or the date—no doubt due to an extended stay at the 19th hole. It was the esteemed one's first career hole-in-one. Reportedly, Imbrone, 85, is now giving serious thought to joining Arnie, Jack, Lee, and Chi Chi on the senior PGA golf tour, for this would-be legend more commonly known as Libby Imbrone's husband.

75 Years Ago, The New Prague Times, December 10, 1931

A program of music and dialog was put on by Sokolists from Hopkins, St. Paul, and Minneapolis at Glen Lake's community hall. A number of New Prague people, led by Sidney Hanzal, Sokol Instructor, attended as well.

75 Years Ago, The New Prague Times, January 7, 1932

The New Prague ZCJB (Západní Česko Bratrské Jednoty) Lodge's annual New Year's play and party took place December 31 and January 1. Frank Frolik acted and coached thirteen actors, including Mrs. J. Ferlik, Miss Sylvia Vlach, Jerry Bednar, Thomas Koktavý, Mrs. J. Vlach, John Jasan, Mayme Tuma, Joseph Frolik, Frank Marek, Mrs. E Dobes, Joesph Koktavý, and John Benes.

*Nedělejte hlouposti, vostudů i dluhy
Nechte to všechno na mně*

Norm Sladek's 31st Annual Bohemian Invitational Euchre Tourney

Saturday April 7th Starting Time : Noon Sharp!!!!

Note: Time Limited Play

Entry Fee: \$15.00 Per Individual (\$30.00 per team)

Fee Includes: Prizes, Trophies, Lunch, & Refreshments

Location: KC Hall, 411 4th Avenue SW, New Prague, MN 56071 952-758-3656

The tournament will again be a team event, i.e., you select your own partner and enter as a team. Marital mates are not allowed to play (cards) as a team. Only 248 contestants (128 teams) can be accommodated due to limited space. Former entrants will be given preference up to two weeks before tournament; after that slots will be filled as entries are received. All proceeds will go towards the continued restoration of the C.S.P.S. Hall in St. Paul, home of Minnesota's Czechoslovak Americans.

Cemeteries and Genealogy in the Czech and Slovak Republics

By Mark Bigaouette

Grave sites and customs are very important in Czech (hřbitov) and Slovak (cintorín) cemeteries. They are covered by flowers and are well cared for, though ownership differs than in North America. Plots can be owned, or even rented for two to ten year periods. All of the information about the individual is kept by the village/town or church authorities. There is almost no information on the gravestones themselves.

Authorities greatly disapprove of unkempt plots, and people are asked to give up the space if not maintained. New owners can choose to dispose of the old gravestone and replace it, or leave it and reuse it. When searching a cemetery in the republics, don't overlook gravestones laying in a pile or for ones thrown over a wall!

Lessons to be learned include:

1. Researching records, not cemeteries, is important
2. Never place an emphasis on cemetery on your trips to the republics
3. Rarely will you find a gravestone dated prior to 1900, and many are simply inscribed rodina or family with the surname and no given names or dates.

When I was in Letohrad, Bohemia in the a cemetery there was a sign placed by the authorities on spaces 136-7 that said volný hrob (available grave/urn). To the left of the Rodina Kubelkova gravestone is the site of my great grandmother's grave. He name is the only one of the stone, though my cousin's parents' urns are now part of that space. When they came into control of that space, they could have had the body removed and cremated (they didn't).

Should you see a cemetery on your visit to the republics, you will be astonished as to its beauty, but not to its genealogical value. The only way to be astonished about that (and you will!) is with using the records. Remember that the churches and village only have those records going back to about 1900. All matriky (vital records) books filled prior to 1900 were sent to the osudný archiv (regional archives). You to can be very successful and walk the land of your ancestors just don't take a wrong turn and only visit the cemetery!



Sokol offers family history class

Everyone has ancestors. Do you know who yours were?

Sokol Minnesota is offering a two-part workshop in genealogy for beginners. The workshop will give tips on how to get started, where to find information about ancestors, and how to keep track of it all.

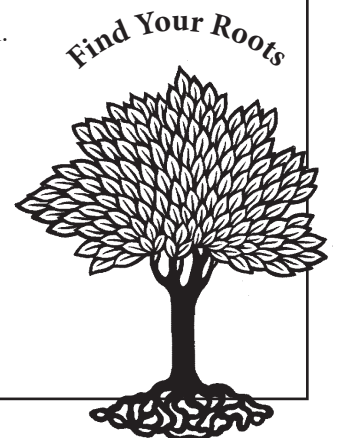
The workshop will be 7 p.m., March 15 and March 29, at the CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul.

The first session will provide an overview of European ethnic settlement in the Midwest, show examples of how to make a family tree, and discuss readily available resources in the Twin Cities.

A second session will give an introduction to research in the U.S. Census, explore how to find immigration records and give advice for finding records in Europe.

The workshop will emphasize Czech and Slovak resources, but will be useful for people with other European ancestries, as well.

St. Paul genealogist Jay Fonkert will teach the classes. He is member of the board of directors of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, and a lecturer at the Minnesota History Center and the Oakdale Family History Center. To register call 651-452-6240



Our New Slovo Look

By Joe Landsberger

This month's SLOVO has a whole new look! We've incorporated Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's new logo into a new layout. The Board of Directors feels this change very much reflects the history, mission, and joy of our organization. With the new format we hope to build on the years of work Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Wyberg have dedicated to producing the SLOVO. We hope you will enjoy it! The Board of Directors also re-instituted a Publications Committee to help Ken and Sharon publish our SLOVO, with writers, designers, and workers. If you want to help, please call Bro. Joe Landsberger, Chair, or Ken and Sharon.

We also celebrate the work of Bro. Jim Robasse as our webmaster. Jim has incorporated the new look into the web site, and it is quite striking! The Publications Committee will also support Jim in this work in the months to come. Thanks goes to Sis Jeanette Pafko for her work in updating the stationery (don't forget your membership renewal!), and look for new applications (of the logo) on all our forms in the months to come.

March 2007 SLOVO will feature the Martin Ziegler, new owner of the Glockenspiel Restaurant, which is located on the first floor of the CSPS Hall, as well as a feature on our Children's Dance Group, Taneční Mládež.

Visit us at:
www.sokolmn.org

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO

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Sharon Wyberg, Editor

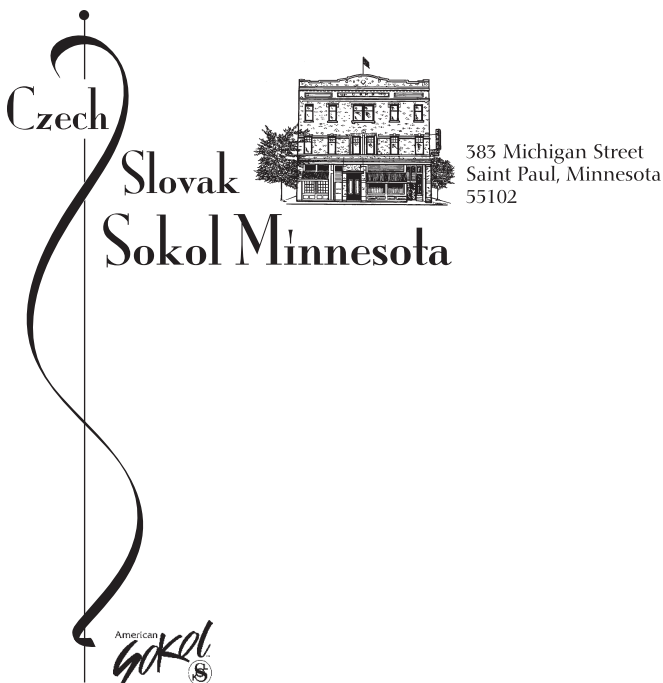
Kenneth Wyberg, Business Manager

To subscribe to SLOVO, please send an annual donation of \$10.00 together with your name and address (including zip code) to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO, 5604 Morgan Ave So. Minneapolis, MN 55419

A complimentary copy will be sent to potential subscribers so designated by our readers, Please submit complete addresses with all names.

Advertising Rates:

\$15 and \$25 for one eighth and one quarter page prepared commercial ads, respectively. Discount rates for recurring ads are available. The SLOVO will publicized without charge, all newsworthy items and events that pertain to Czechoslovak-American heritage. Submission is by the 15th of the previous month to which it appears. Send to the SLOVO Editor at: 5604 Morgan Ave So. Minneapolis, MN 55419



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