

Slovak Sokol Minnesota



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

SLOVO

February 2011
vol. 34 no. 2

Šibřinky 2011 features Cathy "Kotchka" Erickson Band

Cathy Erickson Band provides music for every occasion, from polka fests and masses, anniversaries, town celebrations, nursing homes concerts, Octoberfests, and senior dances to celebrating life at funerals with heritage music. You name it, they play it! Sokol Minnesota is privileged to present this band for our annual Šibřinky dance on March 5, from 6-11 p.m. Ed Hamernik, our new president, made the arrangements to bring this exciting band to CSPA Hall.

Cathy Erickson was born and raised on a farm near Waubun, Minnesota. Cathy and her husband Virgil farm near Middle River, where they have raised their two girls and four boys. An uncle called her "Kotchka" (cat), an affectionate nickname which she still treasures.

Cathy "Kotchka" Erickson started her own old-time dance band in 1975. *The Alley Cats* entertained at typical hot spots throughout northwestern Minnesota. Cathy feels it is very important for her band to promote the music of our ancestors with the old-time waltzes, polkas, and schottisches. The repertoire often includes the history of the accordion, polka music, certain dance traditions, and the important role music played in the life of our forefathers. Czech, Norwegian, German, and other traditional songs bring variety to the bandstand, along with swing tunes, classic country, 50's, and some newer pieces.

Cathy's own ethnic background is Czech, German, and Swedish. Her grandmother, born in Viden, Austria, came to the U.S. in 1919 and lived in Door County, Wisconsin. Her grandmother considered heritage very important, and she taught Cathy how to cook ethnic Bohemian dishes and also to enjoy music.

The band's old-time performances have taken the band to Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, and Arizona, as well as performing on a Caribbean Cruise. Late in 2010 Cathy reflected, "Thirty-five years after the first dance job, I still enjoy loading up my equipment and unloading at the various places of entertainment. We have been very fortunate to perform steadily over the years without deviating from our style. In 2008, I purchased a Diamond accordion which I play and love."

The band has several recordings; the latest release *I Wanna Dance* (2010), available on CD or cassette, is a collection

of 19 dance tunes including polkas, waltzes, swing, and country. Cathy also enjoys hosting her own radio show on Monday evenings on 90.1 FM <www.radionorthland.org> streaming audio. *The Cathy Erickson Monday Night Variety Show* began in March 2007 after she took a broadcasting class at the community and technical college in Thief River Falls.

In the winter of 2008, daughter Mary Jo, on alto sax and vocals, joined Cathy for several dances in the Mesa, Arizona, area. Whenever they can catch him, Cathy's son Andy plays the drums. Cathy describes him as a real crowd pleaser. He recently joined them for the RFD TV taping for the *Big Joe Polka Show* in Medina, Minnesota. In March 2010, they taped two one-hour Cable TV specials for the *Polka Spotlight Show* in Brooklyn Park; they will return in August 2011 to tape again.

The Cathy Erickson Band looks forward to playing for members and friends of Sokol Minnesota on Saturday, March 5, 7-11 p.m. During the dinner hour, the Sokol children dancers, *Taneční Mládež* and the *Taneční Teens*, under the direction of Louise Wessinger, will perform. The St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers will present a preview of their Festival of Nations program during the first band intermission. Ethnic food will be available starting at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to wear Mardi Gras or folk costumes. Volunteers are needed for set up, food service, and take down. To volunteer or to ask questions, call Louise 651-452-6240 or email louisewessinger@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

March Slovo Deadline
February 1

Board of Trustees
February 9

Board of Directors
February 10
7 p.m.

Family Sunday
February 13
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Membership Meeting
February 25
7 p.m.
Singing
6:30 - 7 p.m.

Šibřinky
March 5
6-11 p.m.

Slovak Dinner
March 20
12:30 p.m.

Senior Singers
Tuesdays
10 a.m.

Prostna
1st & 3rd
Mondays
6 p.m.



Šibřinky

Traditional Sokol Costume Ball
Saturday • March 5 • 6-11 p.m.
\$10.00 Entry Fee

*\$8 advance sale tickets are available by sending check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall, 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, MN 55102 (attn: Louise)
Checks must be postmarked by February 28 to receive the discount

Ethnic food available starting at 6 p.m. • Old Tyme Dancing 7 - 11 p.m.
Cathy Erickson Band (accordion, vocals, sax, and drums) • Folkdance performances by Taneční Mládež, Taneční Teens, and St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers

Info: Louise 651-452-6240 <www.sokolmn.org>
Dance is hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
383 Michigan at West 7th Street, St. Paul

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2011 Board of Directors

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Past issues of *Slovo* and Sokol Minnesota's calendar of events are available online at <www.sokolmn.org>

President Komentář/President's Note

By Ed Hamernik

Pozdrav/Greetings

The year 2011 is off and running and we at Sokol are off and running also, planning events for the enjoyment of members and friends. Mark your calendars for the Šibřinky Dance on Saturday, March 5, the annual Slovak Dinner on March 20, and Family Nights on February 13 and March 13. Watch the *Slovo* and the Events Calendar on the Sokol website for information on coming events.

If one of your New Year's resolutions was to get moving, Sokol has choices for all ages. Gymnastics for youngsters and youth, ethnic dancing for the youth and adults and *Prostna* calisthenics for the adults are currently scheduled on a weekly or bi-monthly basis. A good way to learn more about these sessions is to drop in at the hall during the scheduled times to see for yourself what is happening and talk to the instructors or leaders and they will help you get signed up.

Don't forget the monthly membership meetings at 7 p.m. on February 25 and March 25. Hear about events, the organization's finances and progress on the efforts to upgrade the facilities. Come a little early at 6:30 and join in singing a few ethnic songs led by Georgiana Dolejsi, the *youngster* who has been a member of Sokol for only 75 years.

As we get into our events of the year, please consider becoming more involved with Sokol activities and events. It is great to have new ideas in organizing scheduled events and in planning new events. And there is always room for more hands to complete the work during an event. So include Sokol in your plans for 2011. Express your interest to anyone on the Board of Directors or contact me (eahamernik@gmail.com or 763-571-6091).

Nazdar!

Gymnastics and Fitness Classes

By Mary Cahill

Prostna practice takes place on the 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6-7:30pm. *Prostnas*—AKA “the cal or the drill”—are unique to Sokol and a hallmark of the program. These callisthenic routines are performed at the end of gymnastics competitions (*Slet*) as part of the closing ceremony. The *prostna* we are learning will be performed June 29 – July 2, 2011, at the *Slet* at Cleveland; however, you need not participate in the Cleveland *Slet* to join the fun and camaraderie while learning this “cal.” FREE to Sokol members, this is a great way to have fun, meet new people, and sneak some physical fitness in over the winter months. Questions? Call Mary at 651-738-9470.

Publications Committee

The *Slovo* is published 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 deadline for the March 2011 issue is February 1.** *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; Julie Tomáška, layout editor; J. H. Fonkert and Marit Lee Kucera, co-managing editors; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Norm Petrik, Mary Cahill, Jeanette Pafko, Jean Draheim, Cinnamon Whaley, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, advisors. Photographs for this issue were provided by Marit Lee Kucera, Jeanette Pafko, and Joyce Tesarek. This February 2011 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after February 28. The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send suggestions, articles, and pictures digitally to: slovo@sokolmn.org.

Slovo now accepts business card size ads (3.5"x2"), paid in advance: one-time insertion \$25; consecutive issues: 3 issues: \$65; 10 issues \$175. Ad reservation deadline is six weeks before publication (February 15 for March issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (March 1 for April issue).

For problems with subscriptions, please contact us via e-mail: slovo@sokolmn.org; phone: 651-290-0542; or write to *Slovo* (address below). *Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-membership renewals are \$15/year (10-issues); Make your check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota please send to: Sokol Minnesota Slovo Subscriptions/Renewals
383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Visit us at: www.sokolmn.org

Education Updates

Contributed by Jean Draheim, Education Chair

Craft class

Štětíčka (feather brush) making is coming to Sokol Minnesota! Doreen McKenney will teach students how to make these decorative and useful feather brushes. The *štětíčka* are used when baking pies, breads, and *koláče*.

The class will be held Saturday, February 26, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the CSPS Hall. Students should be 8 years or older, and must be able to tie a knot. Class size is limited to 6 students. If the 9:30 a.m. class fills, we will add an 11 a.m. class. All that students need to bring to class is a pair of scissors.

The fee for this “make and take” class is \$8 for Sokol members and \$10 for non-members. If a second Sokol member from a household wishes to take the class, the cost will be \$7 for the second person. Registration is required and must be made by February 22.

Cooking class

Sokol Minnesota will be offering an Easter bread-baking class on Saturday, March 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the CSPS Hall. Taught by Doreen McKenney and assisted by some of our experienced Sokol cooks, the class will cover making dough from scratch and bread of several different shapes. This bread is similar to the braided *vánočka* sweet bread that is made for Christmas.

The fee for this “make and take” class is \$25 for Sokol members and \$35 for non-members. If a second Sokol member from a household wishes to take the class, the cost will be \$20 for the second person. Students should be 14 years of age or older. Class size is limited to 8 students, so sign up early!

Students will be given a list of cooking utensils to bring to class when they register and send payment for the class. All baking supplies are covered in the class fee. Come and learn how to make this wonderful, versatile, sweet bread. It makes a great addition to holiday meals!

Registration is required and must be made by March 22. See the Sokol website for more information and to print a registration form for the classes. For more information call Jean Draheim at 651-426-2826.

Singing

We will be singing with Sister Georgiana Dolejsi for one-half hour (6:30 p.m.) before our membership meetings. Come and make your voice heard in Sokol, Slovak, and Czech song!

Family History

Remember to send your Family History stories to Brother Chuck Draheim. He will be compiling them and organizing a presentation of those that members are willing to share.

If you have any question about any of these programs, please call Education Director, Jean Draheim at 651-426-2826.

Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

Renewals: Individual \$45

Couple \$80

Senior \$35 (over 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years)

Senior couple \$70

New membership dues are Individual \$50; Couple \$85. This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol. Year 2011 dues for members joining after June 30 are \$25, individual, and \$42.50, couples. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. To continue receiving your *Slovo* newsletter, please pay your 2011 dues by January 31. Please make your check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Attn: Membership, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102.

News from the Board of Trustees

Contributed by Chuck Draheim

Welcome to the new Sokol year! We look forward to tackling the many challenges that face us in 2011.

A BOT priority will be to address the problems with our aging heating and plumbing systems. In November and December alone we identified and repaired leaks in six different locations in the heating system and two separate leaks in the building's plumbing.

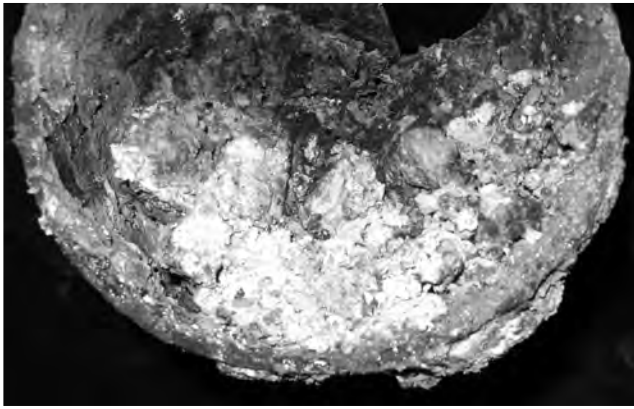
The Board of Trustees structure remains the same as last year with Chuck Draheim as chair and Terry Shima as recording secretary. Each BOT member has accepted primary responsibility for one aspect of the BOT functions.

As always, the chairperson of the BOT can be contacted for any and all questions and concerns. The BOT can best be contacted by sending an e-mail to: trustees@sokolMN.org. In an emergency situation please call Chuck Draheim at 651-426-2826 or 612-414-5283.

Area of Responsibility	BOT Member
Landscaping and grounds maintenance	Dennis Cahill
Personnel - Custodial and Bldg. Mgr.	Don Haselbauer
Elevator, telephone, alarm systems	Scott Hinshaw
Kitchen, storage, rentals, kitchen and cleaning supplies, and paper products	Jean Hall
HVAC	Lloyd Krocak
Board of Finance Liaison	Dennis Cahill
Plumbing, electrical, building repair and maintenance	Chuck Draheim
Copier and office supplies	Terry Shima

Double Your Money! Support the CSPS Hall Legacy Campaign

Contributed by Joyce Tesarek



Ninety-year-old steam pipes will be replaced with Legacy Building Funds.

Sokol has been awarded a Save America's Treasures matching grant of \$150,000. We have made significant progress toward the match, but there is still a long way to go.

At the beginning of the campaign, the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors pledged \$44,060 over the five years of the campaign, with \$27,255 received to date. Since our *Slovo* mailing in September, an additional \$55,726 of private donations has been received. Several anonymous donors made very generous donations in memory of beloved family members.

As of the writing of this article, we have \$82,981. This leaves us just \$67,019 to raise to match this grant with donor funds. If 30 people would donate or pledge \$2,250 each, we would have our match! Every dollar donated is tax deductible, will be doubled by the grant, and will be only used for CSPS Hall restoration.

We are very grateful for all the support we have received to help restore and renovate our historic CSPS Hall. To contribute, make checks to Sokol MN Legacy Campaign and mail to 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

Sokol Says "Thank You" to Generous Donors

Unless otherwise noted, cash donations are to the general fund; The *Slovo* lists only amounts of \$100 or more. A donor may request that the dollar amount of a larger gift be held private; in such a case, the *Slovo* prints only the donor's name.

The CSPS Legacy Fund continues to grow with four new contributions:

Joe & Kaye Dolejsi, \$1,000 in memory of Joseph & Jay Dolejsi

Joe Landsberger, \$500

Anne C. Neubauer, \$100 in memory of Frances A. Loss

Paul Zastrow, in memory of Adelaide Aubrecht Adams

Other recently received donations include:

Elizabeth Andrews, \$100, in honor of Marit Lee Kucera

Cindy Coulter, \$100, General Building Fund

Amounts listed here reflect donations received; some donations are installments on 5-year pledges. Sokol Minnesota is especially grateful for multi-year pledges to the CSPS Hall Legacy Fund. For information on how to make a multi-year pledge, contact Joyce Tesarek, 612-822-6147.

Jan and Liba Jelinek, \$100

Charles Kalvoda, \$100, Building Fund

Darla Kolb, General Building Fund

Ann Neubauer, \$100 in memory of Frances Antonia Loss

Bessie Anca O'Neill, General Building Fund

Richard J. Pavlicek, \$100, General Building Fund

Elsie Roepke, General Building Fund

Cheryl Nelson Theuninck, General Building Fund

In-kind donations include:

Hana Matousek, donated time for teaching *kolache* class

Doreen McKenney, donated time for teaching *kolache* class

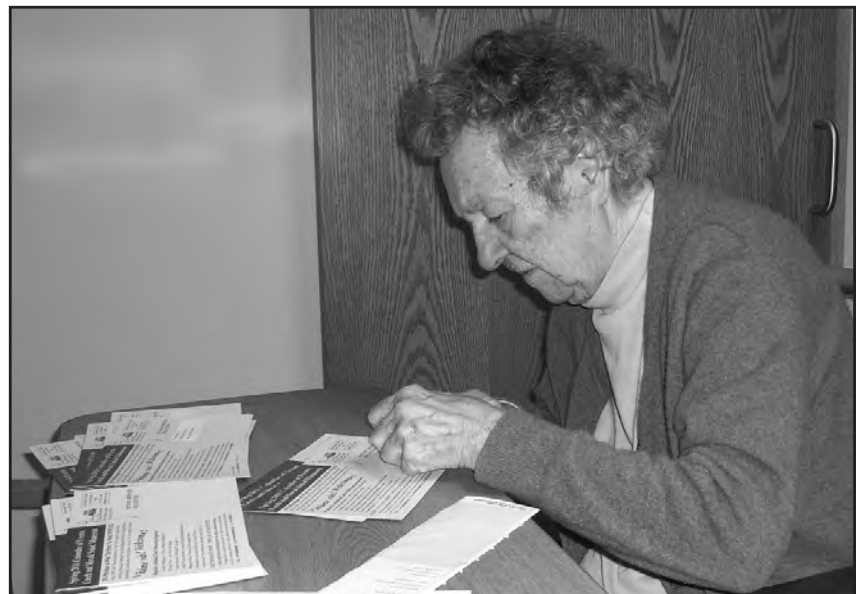
Mothers who Label/Mothers who Labor for Sokol Minnesota

Contributed by Marit Lee Kucera

Rosemond I. Kucera (age 92), mother of 10-year member Marit Lee Kucera, spent a snowed-in December evening helping attach labels to the Spring 2011 Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota postcard, which was mailed to nearly 1,000 friends of Sokol Minnesota.

Val Kuisle (age 86), 46-year member of our unit (mother of Mary Cahill, 36-year member, and grandmother of Megan Cahill, 10-year member, both BOD members), helps each month to label the over 370 *Slovo*s mailed to members and subscribers. It is the ongoing dedication of our tireless volunteer members (and their mothers) which keeps our unit strong and alive.

Thank you, mothers!



Arnie and Deborah Ziskovsky Receive Cernin Palace Award

Contributed by Robert Vanasek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic

Robert Vanasek, the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, has announced that Arnie and Deborah Ziskovsky of rural Webster, Minnesota, have received the Cernin Palace Memorial Bronze Medal and Diploma for their significant contributions in preserving and promoting relations between the Czech Republic and the United States of America. Vanasek presented the award to Arnie and Deborah Ziskovsky, on January 12 at the New Prague City Hall with members of the New Prague Area Czech Heritage Club in attendance.

Daniel Kostoval, the Charge d' Affaires Ad Interim of the Embassy of the Czech Republic, acting on behalf of the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, approved the nomination of the Ziskovskys which was submitted by Honorary Consul Vanasek in November.

Arnie's and Deborah's shared passion for promoting Czech heritage and traditions has existed throughout their entire marriage. They were dance partners with the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers for 14 years. In 2000, the couple started their own dance group, the Domaci Czech Folk Dancers. The group performs at a variety of venues including nursing homes, expositions, and festivals across Minnesota.

Both Deborah and Arnie are long-time members of the New Prague Area Czech Heritage Club. Under their leadership, the club has evolved into an organization that actively promotes the area's Czech heritage with the general public. Deborah currently serves as president of the Czech Heritage Club and Arnie serves as Vice President.

Both Deborah and Arnie are well-known experts on traditional authentic Czech costumes (*Kroje*). They have been guest speakers at numerous conferences and workshops throughout the Midwest and have displayed their own personal *Kroje* for the public to view at various venues.

During the past 13 years, Deborah and Arnie have been consultants to six Miss Czech/Slovak Minnesota candidates. This past year the Ziskovskys organized an exhibit of authentic *Kroje* in conjunction of the 25th Anniversary of Minnesota's Miss Czech/Slovak Pageant.

Deborah and Arnie have been members of the New Prague Czech Singers since 2007. Arnie has also been the drummer for numerous polka bands and currently plays with the Dale Pexa Band, where he also sings Czech vocals. Deborah and Arnie have organized tour groups to the Czech Republic. Tour participants, many of whom have never before traveled to the Czech Republic, were able to see not only the usual tourist attractions, but also traditional craftsman at work, authentic folk dancing, and much more.

In his nominating letter Vanasek wrote, "These two nominees are truly exceptional people. They are proud of their Czech heritage and have enthusiastically shared it with literally thousands of people over the years."

Groundbreaking For The New National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library

Contributed by Donald Pafko, the Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic



Pictured Left to right - Mayor of Cedar Rapids, Don Pafko, and other dignitaries.

On Wednesday, December 15, 2010, the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to initiate the move and expansion of the flood-damaged building currently located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. During this groundbreaking ceremony, the library's Board of Directors announced they had met a major milestone in the reconstruction of the museum following the devastation of the June 2008 flood. With funding from the State of Iowa, individuals, and businesses in the Cedar Rapids area, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance, and national and international donors, the library reached its capital fundraising goal of \$25 million, which made it possible for the museum to officially break ground on the site of the new museum and library.

The ceremony was held on the building site, followed by a reception at the museum's Kosek Building, its home since the flood. Along with thirteen other individuals, including state senators and the mayor of Cedar Rapids,

I was honored as Slovak Honorary Consul to be part of the groundbreaking ceremony. We were all issued white construction hardhats and golden shovels with which to break ground as television cameras and photographers snapped pictures.

Site preparation has begun, with the move of the damaged building scheduled for May 2011 and the opening of the new expanded library scheduled for May 2012.

FON - We need You!

Contributed by Mary Cahill

Looking for a volunteer opportunity that provides Fun, Opportunity, and Novelty? Then look no further than saying "yes" to a shift at this year's Festival Of Nations (FON). Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota needs many volunteers to staff our participation in the event. This year's FON event will be held Thursday to Sunday, May 5-8, at the Saint Paul River Center. Volunteers receive an admission ticket, *kroj* (ethnic costume) to wear while volunteering, on-the-job instructions, and the fun of working with a great group of people. Volunteers are needed in the café, culture booth, and bazaar. If you are interested in chairing the Culture Booth, we want to hear from you now. For more information, or to sign up for a shift, please call Jean Hall at 763-753-4104. Consider recruiting a friend to volunteer with you. Shifts are 3 to 4 hours in length. The Festival is open long hours, so there is plenty of time to come before or stay after your shift to take in the various performances and demonstrations, as well as shop the international bazaar and cafes to sample ethnic foods. Please consider contacting Jean to take a shift, or saying yes when we call you.

Available Now! Great Volunteer Opportunities with the Publications Committee!

Sokol Minnesota offers three exciting volunteer opportunities. We need a hands-on *Webmaster* who has experience with Website development and design software (FrontPage, Dreamweaver, CSS, etc.) as well as some Photoshop or imaging applications. Any additional recreational online experience is a plus (Facebook, LinkedIn, Flash, digitized music, video, etc.). Duties include monthly updates to the Website, plus development of features yet unrealized and unknown! Some training available in Sokol Minnesota's office (PC-based).

We also need a *Publicity Director* to write and send press releases about Sokol events, as well as produce an events postcard twice a year. If you like to write and you have a knack for promotion, this is the perfect volunteer job for you. An extensive list of contacts is already established to make it easy for you to promote the many fine events and activities that Sokol Minnesota produces and hosts.

We also need a *Layout Editor*. If you have experience with newsletter design and page layout using a program such as InDesign or PageMaker, this is the job for you! As a Sokol volunteer, you will work with our energetic Publications Committee. Some training and technical assistance available.

Jay Fonkert is waiting to hear from you!
He can be reached at 651-735-8630 or jfonkert@aol.com

Two Genealogical Topics to Be Presented

Contributed by Ginger Simek, President ,Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International - <www.cgsi.org>

February 12 is the date for the CGSI Quarterly Program. Tom Rice, professional certified genealogist, is the presenter for the first part of the program. Mr. Rice is a knowledgeable, popular speaker and is involved in a variety of ways with family history. His topic will be "Using Land Records in Genealogical Research." Land records are often under-used and not widely understood. Find out more about them: where to search for them, their value, and what they can tell us.

Once you have that family story, our speakers in the second half of the program will help you pull it all together. For many researchers, the next natural step is to write and publish their family history. Theresa Dirksen and Judy Herbert will present "Publishing a Family History." Come and learn about approaches, design, content considerations, and illustration options. Both of these topics are useful for *all* ethnic groups and not limited to Czech and Slovak.

The program will be held at 1185 Concord Street North, South Saint Paul, Minnesota, in the main floor auditorium. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. and the first part of the program begins at 1 p.m. Shop our Sales Table before the first part of the program and during the refreshment break at 2:15 p.m. following the Land Records presentation. Our Sales Table has many hard-to-find, useful genealogical items. The second part of the program begins at 2:45 p.m. and will end at approximately 4 p.m. Ample parking is available on the north and south sides of the building and across the street. Bus line 71B stops in front of the door. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for CGSI members and \$8 for non-members. Come and join us!

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West 7th Senior Prom Dinner and Dance

Music by Golden Tones Dance Band
Friday, February 11 • 4-7pm
West 7th Community Center

Tickets: \$10 per person

Info: 651-298-5493

Tickets on sale at front desk

Funding Supported By Evercare

We Still Do Not Know...

Contributed by Josef A. Mestenhauser



Josef Mestenhauser

Editor's note: This is an abbreviated version of an article appearing on the CSCC website <cs-center.org>.

This portion in my series of articles about the mysterious death of Jan Masaryk took me the longest time to write. New evidence and historical facts led to several reviews to make sure I was neither neglecting some important evidence nor distorting it through excessive abbreviation. Furthermore, it is important to cite not only the facts but the context in which Masaryk lived and worked. Jan Masaryk is still revered in the Czech and Slovak Republics for his enormous contributions to international relations and Czechoslovak foreign policy. Not surprisingly, he is celebrated by both the communists whom he helped to power in 1948 and also by those who honor his contributions to democracy. He was not just a son of a great President, but a skilled diplomat, leader, and thinker who championed the common people. Unfortunately, he was also the victim of the times he lived in, caught between one world which betrayed him and the other which killed him.

When I was growing up in Prague, Jan Masaryk was mythic. In reality, his complex personality was split between his private and his public selves. Poorly educated and over-indulged during his early years, he seldom achieved the analytical and critical thinking skills of his father. He lacked the ability to reach independent judgments or to face and resolve conflicts, and, most importantly, he seemed unable to reflect on the consequences of his actions.

The follow-up to my original article has expanded to a series of four. In the first, I identified the social and political issues regarding Masaryk's death. In this article, I discuss aspects of Masaryk's psychological make-up that were generally unknown earlier. The third article will detail factors that might support the theory that he committed suicide. The last issue will discuss the opposing theory that he was murdered. The final article will explain my own conclusion about what happened that fateful night of March 9, 1948.

The circumstances of Masaryk's life – in which he survived the great global crises of two world wars, two exiles in foreign lands, and many personal tragedies – affected what he did and especially what he did not do. The fact that he was a very poor student, once expelled from one gymnasium only to be admitted through his father's influence in another that he did not finish, produced his naïve beliefs about world affairs and his inability to analyze complex issues. His split personality allowed him to use and also to misuse his extraordinary communication and personal skills, his sense of humor, his knowledge of several languages, and his ability to play the piano and enjoy music, in order to gain trust and popularity. These outgoing qualities hid his private self, his need to be loved, to gain approval, to “fulfill” the mission for which he thought he was born, and to protect the legacy of his great father.

He was born on September 14, 1886, as the third child of Tomas and Charlotte Garrigue Masaryk, following the oldest son Herbert and his sister Alice, and he was followed by the youngest sister Olga. Their names had been carefully chosen by their father to symbolize the roles– and in Jan's case, anticipating his fate – that they were to play in life. Jan was named for Jan Hus, thus forecasting his role as a martyr for the independent Czechoslovak state. As a child, he became the darling in a family that allowed him a great deal more freedom than his strictly-reared siblings received. Their American mother gave her children unlimited and unquestioned love, while their father was often physically remote, first as a university professor and a member of the Imperial parliament in Vienna, later as a highly-controversial champion of unpopular causes, and eventually as a political exile.

While personally charming, Jan also drank, womanized, and lied frequently, and he was a failure academically. (In fact, of the four siblings only Olga completed her university education.) Jan failed to appear for the “abitur” (*maturitni zkousku*) twice; to avoid the shame his son's failure cast on a prominent university professor, his father sent him to America (*na zkusenou*) to learn independence and the English language. His seven-year stay became Jan's next failure – he earned little, lived beyond his means, and survived through the generosity of his American relatives and through secret funding from his mother. Constantly in debt, he continued borrowing more and more money. His unstable behavior and fiscal irresponsibility eventually led his relatives and other friends to end his employment and to send him to a sanatorium for the mentally ill; when notified, his mother came to return him home to Europe.

Jan's diary of his stay revealed that he gained some insight but no skills in overcoming his shortcomings. Although his doctor at the sanatorium had been optimistic about Jan's recovery initially, he later concluded that Jan remained emotionally immature and incapable of returning to work. Interestingly, while in the sanatorium, Jan helped translate Tolstoy's play “Living Corpse” (my translation) that dealt with a trial for a feigned suicide, which ultimately precipitates a genuine suicide. Jan was also familiar with his father's famous work in the social science literature on suicide, a work that was severely criticized by the Soviets later on.

These details on Jan Masaryk's formative years offer important insight into his unsteady character, as well as his philosophical interest in the idea of suicide. Next month, we'll consider Masaryk life leading up to his key role in the post-war government and his possible solution to his dilemma after the Communist takeover.

**WINTER 2011
EVENTS AT CSPS HALL**

Šibřinky

Traditional Sokol Costume Ball

Saturday, March 5, 6-11 p.m.

Food, dancing, folk dance performances
\$10; \$8 in advance

(Note: March 5 is Saturday, not Friday, as stated on
2011 Spring Events Postcard)

Flavors of Slovakia

Sunday, March 20, 12:30 p.m. \$15

Reservations by March 14: 651-290-0542

Annual Sokol Garage Sale

Thursday April 14, noon- 7 p.m.

Friday, April 15, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Drop off and Set up on

Wednesday, April 13, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

www.sokolmn.org for updates



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Spring Cleaning? Already? You Bet!

Box up unwanted
holiday gifts,
all your gently-used surplus,
and lonesome dust collectors

Save them for the annual
Sokol Garage Sale
April 14-15

Drop off/Set up
Wednesday, April 13

Sorry, no space at CSPS Hall this year to
accept items before March 25.



Tumbling for Tots, Ages 2-4:

The Tumbling for Tots program continues in
February on Thursday afternoons. To enroll
your child, or for more information, contact
fitness@sokolmn.org

FLAVORS of SLOVAKIA



**Sunday
March 20**

*Reserved Seating
12:30 p.m.*

**CSPS Sokol Hall
383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul**

- holubky/cabbage rolls • pirohy/filled dumplings • zelená fazulka s kôprom/dilled green beans zaváraná
- cvikla/pickled beets • halušky s kapustou/dumplings and cabbage • caraway rye bread • dessert • coffee
- cash bar

\$15 adults, \$7 child under 9

Reservations by March 14:

651-290-0542

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