

**Czech
Slovak
Sokol Minnesota**



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

SLOVO

**February 2013
vol. 36 no. 2**

**UPCOMING
FEBRUARY 2013
EVENTS**

March Slovo Deadline
February 1

Mardi Gras Tea Dance
February 10, 1 p.m.

Board of Trustees
February 13, 7 p.m.

Family Night
February 17, 4:30 p.m.

Board of Directors
February 21, 7 p.m.

Flavors of Slovakia
March 3, 12:30 p.m.

Senior Singers
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Gymnastics
Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

**Get your Sparkle
and join the fun
in New Orleans Style
Sunday 1- 5 p.m.
February 10**



**PUBLIC
WELCOME**

**Tickets
\$15.00**

Beads, masks, and
your alter ego welcome!

Mardi Gras II Tea Dance

**Featuring Tony Balluff, clarinetist and
leader of the Southside Aces Band**

**Traditional New Orleans Jazz and
Cajun food for sale. Cash Bar.**

**Buy your ticket and reserve early
as last year's Tea Dance sold out!**

Contact: 651 - 297 - 9000
mardigras@sokolmn.org

**Hosted by
Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota
C.S.P.S. Hall**

**383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
www.sokolmn.org**



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Sokol Minnesota
2013
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Past issues of *Slovo* and Sokol
Minnesota's calendar of events
are available online at
<www.sokolmn.org>

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Denis Novak

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters

As I write this column for the February 2013 issue of *Slovo*, it is still the end of 2012. The demands of deadlines make this necessary, yet I feel out of step with the season. Events like the Duck Dinner that are still in the future will be in the past by the time you read my comments. I intend to enjoy that event and I hope you did also.

Two more major events are coming up soon. On February 10, Sokol will hold another Tea Dance, which we call Mardi Gras II. Plans are for an afternoon of traditional New Orleans Jazz, played this year by Tony Balluff and the Southside Aces. Tony was part of Butch Thompson's group last year. Cajun food is for sale and a cash bar is available. This dance is open to the public and was a very well-attended event last year. Come early, bring a friend, and spend the afternoon!

The second event is the Flavors of Slovakia Dinner on March 3. This event has been held for many years and the food always gets great reviews. Our space is somewhat limited and prepaid reservations are required.

Do you wonder why I mention these events? Really there are two reasons. The first reason answers the question "What does Sokol offer me?" These events are great opportunities to dance a little, hear some first-class music, eat the ethnic food you remember your grandmother making and, best of all, enjoy spending some time with old friends. You may even make new friends, but that's another story.

My second reason is more pragmatic. These are fundraising events. The days when dues or gambling profits paid the bills are gone. Projects to renovate the Hall are expensive. We need Sokol members and their friends and guests to attend major events and spend a little money while having a good time. I believe you get good value for your money, and all profits go back into our organization. Thank you for supporting Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

On a totally different note, I wish to honor the passing of Frank Miroslav Verner. "Mir" was a long-time member of Sokol and a good example of the ideals that Sokol encourages. I have been a member for only a few years and regret not knowing him earlier. I extend the condolences of all Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota to his wife Shirley and to the entire Verner family.

Those we hold closest to our hearts never truly leave us.
They live on in the kindnesses they shared and the love
They brought into our lives. (Anonymous)

Nazdar!

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

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

Past Honorary Czech Consul: Josef Mestenhauser

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Kitchen Coordinator: Jean Hall

Website: Craig Johnson

Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Joe Landsberger

Slovo: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks, Jeanette Pafko

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| Education & language programs: education@sokolmn.org | Events:

events@sokolmn.org | Finance and fund raising: finance@sokolmn.org | Fitness

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Mardi Gras II... and Counting the Days until February 10th Fundraiser By Joe Landsberger

Laissez les bons temps rouler—encore! (Translation of the Cajun French: Let the good times roll—again!)

Plans for Mardi Gras II (MG II) are well underway with a fantastic band, good food, and you—with your beads, masks, and alter egos! We are building on last year's Mardi Gras that celebrated our C.S.P.S. Hall's 125th anniversary. We had so much fun that we are doing this fundraiser again!

Our band this year is Tony Balluff's Southside Aces. Tony is the band's founder and leader, and played clarinet with Butch Thompson at last year's Mardi Gras. The Southside Aces have been playing New Orleans jazz since 2003, and have released three CDs: *All Aboard!!* on Mardi Gras in 2005; *Bucktown Bounce* in September of 2006; and *A Big Fine Thing* in June of 2011. The band's music garnered the declaration "A true authentic New Orleans dance-hall style band" from the *New Orleans Traditional Jazz Quarterly*. It is also known around the Twin Cities as a swing band, so bring your dancing shoes.

A New Orleans traditional Cajun meal of jambalaya

(chicken and Andouille sausage, gluten free), red beans and rice (vegetarian, gluten free), and jalapeno cornbread - maybe even those tasty beignets - will be prepared for sale by Chef Tim Glover of Cajun2Geaux. Chef Tim grew up in the Deep South in Houma, Louisiana. Food was a big part of the culture in that area and is still a big part of his life today. He graduated from Saint Paul College's Culinary Arts program and has received two army commendations for his food preparation for his National Guard unit, not to mention very favorable reviews in local press. His food truck and catering business allow Chef Tim the ability to express his creativity through food and to serve others. A cash bar will also be available.

Of course, you will play a big role at our MG II New Orleans Tea Dance fundraiser! Dress for the occasion! Join us on Sunday, February 10, from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. For entry tickets (\$15) and information, call 651-297-9000 or email <mardigras@sokolmn.org>. Be prepared to dance, and *laissez les bons temps rouler—encore!*

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> 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

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.

If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. If you wish to have this newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know. After one returned issue, we will hold all future issues until you notify us. We pay 46¢ for each returned issue.

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

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 suggestions, articles, and pictures digitally to <slovo@sokolmn.org>.

The deadline for the March 2013 issue is February 1.

Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and layout editor; Jeanette Pafko, labels; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, Jeanette Pafko, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, and Joan Sedlacek, advisors. Photograph for this issue provided by M. L. Kucera.

This February 2013 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after February 28.

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 (February 15 for April issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (March 1 for April issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). 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

Update on American Sokol Milwaukee 2013 Sports Festival and Fitness Challenge Competitions

By Mary Cahill,
Women's Physical Director

American Sokol XXIII Slet, *Wheelin' in Milwaukee, 2013 Sports Festival*, will be held June 25 through June 30, 2013 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The farewell/closing event will be held on June 30. The Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee, is the event headquarters. Check out the web for all the latest updates: < <http://www.american-sokol.org/2013sportsfestival.php>>.

Interested in attending the Milwaukee event and learning and participating in the Senior Cal 2? If so, email <fitness@sokolmn.org> or call Mary at 651-738-9470 so we can get the group going.

Louise Wessinger and Mary Cahill received some training on the Senior Cal 2 at the American Sokol Conference in October, and it is a wonderful cal. Also, Sokol Minnesota needs to send its Unit registration form and participation survey in to American Sokol by February 1, 2013. I will need your name and contact information by February 1 if you intend to participate in any of the Sports Festival Events, such as the *prostna* (calisthenics), Folk Dance number, or Closing Special Number.

For the Sports Festival, American Sokol will utilize online registration which is currently being set up. Sokol Minnesota will be notified when this system is ready so individuals can formally register for hotel, all the events, and socials.

The American Sokol Fitness Challenge Competitions for ages 59 years and under and also 60 years plus are again being offered by American Sokol. We will be using these in the gym classes to promote conditioning. All participants will receive participant pins. All scores are to be submitted prior to April 1, 2013.

Looking for Family History Help? Try Cyndi's List By J. H. Fonkert

The vastness of the World Wide Web is both a blessing and a curse for family history seekers. The joy is the ease of access to information that might have taken us years to find in pre-Internet days. The downside is the sheer volume of information and the difficulty of knowing what websites to trust.

Google is great, but Google searches can be overwhelming. If you do a Google search for Czech genealogy you will get more than 10 million references; Slovak genealogy yields almost as many. Putting these phrases in quotes greatly reduces the number of hits, but still leaves you with far more than you want to wade through.

Cyndi's List (www.cyndislist.com) can help. Cyndi's List is a completely free website with more than 325,000 links to genealogy and family history resource websites spread over 192 categories. One of those categories is "Czech Republic and Slovakia." To find Cyndi's links for Czech and Slovak genealogy, go to Cyndi's front page (www.cyndislist.com) and click on the "categories" tab near the top-left of the page. Next, either click "C" at the top, or scroll down the page until you find "Czech Republic and Slovak." One more click will take you to Cyndi's Czech-Slovak page.

You will now see nearly two dozen sub-categories, things like "birth, marriage and death," "census," "immigration and naturalization," and "military." Explore these sub-categories to find websites that might help you with your Czech or Slovak family history search.

Let's take a peek at a few examples of what you might find. Under "immigration and naturalization," you will find a database of Moravian immigrants to the United States.

Under "military," you will find links to several dozen websites with information about Czechs who served in World War II. Under "birth, marriage, and death," you will find links to various sites such as regional archives or the Family History Library that have information about birth, marriage, and death records.

Two of the most useful categories are "General Resources" and "How to," which lead to dozens of websites with helpful tips for Czech or Slovak family history research.

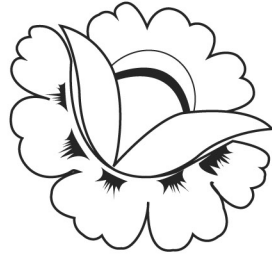
Cyndi's List will save you a lot of time and lead you to genealogy resources you might never find on your own. You will be glad you paid Cyndi a visit.

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

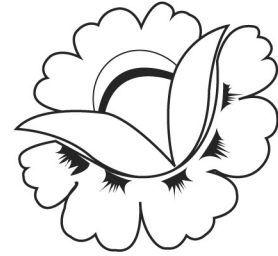
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FLAVORS of SLOVAKIA DINNER



Sunday, March 3

Reserved Seating at 12:30 p.m.

PUBLIC WELCOME

This year our traditional Slovakian dinner includes:
holubky/cabbage rolls, zelená fazulka s kôprom/dilled green beans,
zaváraná cvikla/pickled beets, pirohy/filled dumplings,
halušky s kapustou/dumplings and cabbage, caraway rye bread,
dessert, and coffee. The cash bar has plenty of good beer on tap.

\$16.00 adults, \$8.00 child under 9

Prepaid reservations are required by **February 26**, and seating is limited.

For reservations call: 952-941-0426

Mail your check to: 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
payable to Sokol Minnesota. Also accepting credit card payment.

Prepaid takeout is available by reservation.

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

SOKOL MEMORIES...Found in the Pages of Old Slovos from the archives of Joan Sedlacek

From *Slovo*, October 1986 Vol. 9 No. 8

Czech Seminary Benefit

A Czech mass with Czech music will be celebrated on Sunday, October 19 at 11 a.m. mass at St. Therese Church, Prior and Norfolk, St. Paul, followed by a Czech dinner 12:30 to 4 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Czechoslovakian Catholic seminary in Rome, for which Rev. Peter Esterka of the College of St. Catherine is the U.S. liaison. The Women's Club of St. Therese will sponsor the event.

Florence Haselbauer and **Laura Jansen** will ensure its authenticity. The Sokol dancers will set the mood of the Czechoslovakian spirit and a Czech craft table will be featured. The menu consists of pork roast, sauerkraut, dumplings, applesauce, kolacky, coffee, milk, beer. Take-out orders are available at reservation time or at the door. Tickets are \$7.00 adults and \$3.00 children under 12. For dinner reservations call 690-5995 or 698-6693 or 698-3371, 9-3 p.m.

From *Slovo*, December 1976

Our Czech Hall By Karleen Sheppard

When my parents, **Karel and Albina Chott**, were young, the C.S.P.S. Hall was their only social center. Both of them were Sokols: my mother was a gym instructor, and my father was frequently gymnastic competition judge. My father gave my mother her engagement ring at a Slet in New Prague in 1920. My father often played the leading role in the many Czech language plays put on at the Hall, and my parents attended lodge meetings and dances,

Czech national dress dances, masquerades and, in the 1930s, hard times dances. My earliest memories of the Hall are of being bedded down in the coatroom during lodge meetings, where I dozed off hearing the beautiful Czech language spoken in the next room.

When I was 5, I started attending gym classes and by the time I had learned the alphabet, I was enrolled in the Czech school. Czech school was held on Saturdays in the dining room of the Hall. We studied language, literature, history, folk songs, and folk dances. Toward the end of the morning we put on our coats and went into the gymnasium to dance. The reason for the coats was the cold—it was too expensive to heat that big gym for heating the Hall in those poor days was a problem.

The Czech School Mothers Club had bingo and bazaars to raise money to pay the fuel bills. During World War II, the Czech ladies formed a Red Cross sewing group and bazaars were held at the Hall for war benefit. After the War, the bazaars continued to raise money for Hall maintenance.

After the War, I left St. Paul and was gone many years, but when I came back, there were most of the familiar faces still at the Hall, and the Czech activities—gym classes, lodge meetings, our fabulous Czech dancers, the singing group—all were going strong.

This is our Czech heritage, it is a big important part of our lives, and we need our Czech Hall to carry it on. And now we know that our Hall will continue to stand.

If you have fond memories of Sokol Minnesota events and people that you would like to share with our readers, please send them to us at <www.slovo@sokolmn.org>.

This is our Czech heritage, it is a big important part of our lives, and we need our Czech Hall to carry it on. And now we know that our Hall will continue to stand.

These words were written over 36 years ago. They echo loud, clear, and oh-so true today as we restore and enhance our C.S.P.S. Hall for the 21st century. With your support of the C.S.P.S. Legacy Fund, our Czech and Slovak heritages are assured of a home for many generations to come.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Member News

We mourn the recent passing of these Sokol Minnesota members:

Frank Miroslav "Mir" Verner passed away on December 24, 2012

Rudolph (Rudy) Schovanec passed away on January 9, 2013

Karleen Sheppard passed away January 10, 2013

Libby Imbrone writes: Our grandson Paul Bell lives near the Capitol and he informed me of a new restaurant in his

neighborhood that reminds him how awesome it was to spend months in Prague to study....the name is Bistro Bohem. Paul gave it a favorable rating! I signed on to the website (<www.bistrobohem.com>) and read the interesting menu. I am still laughing by the offering of *hemenex*: ham and eggs. Is that funnier than *krekesi* or *kukesi*? (This is my guess at the Czech spelling of the "borrowed" English words "crackers" and "cookies.")

Bistro Bohem will screen Czech films over the next few months as part of a retrospective of the works of director Jiří Menzel...a big treat! Menzel visited our C.S.P.S. Hall in 1990 when his films were shown during Twin Cities Spring Film Festival... Georgiana Dolejsi and I had our picture taken with him. At the time he spoke no English and we were the only brave souls to attack him with our second-hand knowledge of spoken Czech. *Na schledanou!*

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.

Legacy Fund/Air Conditioning: under \$100: **Anita Maker (in honor of Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser); Gerry Rang Mooer; Charles Rusnacko, Jr., (in memory of Czech Folk Dancers - Candace Schmit and Frantisek Bonus).**

\$100-\$499: **Georgiana Dolejsi; Charles Kalvoda (in memory of Johnny Kalvoda); Richard Pavlicek; Joan Sedlacek; Milan L. Sebek. Marit Brock (donated via GiveMN on Give to the Max Day).**

\$500-\$999: **Tom and Judy Aubrecht; Kenneth and Ann Janda (in honor of John Mozolak); Zdenek Mestenhauser; Gary Novak.**

\$1000-\$4999: **Joseph K. Dolejsi (in memory of Joseph, Tillie, and Jay Dolejsi).**

\$15,000: **Joe Landsberger and Steve Shimer** (Their generous donation came with this wish from Joe and Steve: "We hope that individuals and/or groups will share our interest in donating to the C.S.P.S. Legacy Fund to preserve our C.S.P.S. Hall.")

Undisclosed: **Dr. Jarda Červenka; George Chlebeczek; Charles Rusnacko, Jr., (in memory of Chuck and Leona Rusnacko).**

General Fund: Under \$100: **Jim and Darlene Baker; Mark Bigaouette; Jason Brozovich; Katherine Jorgenson; Martin Kubic; Denis Novak; Leah Sticha Rieckens; Pamela Snopl.**

\$100-\$499: **Betty Andrews (in honor of Marit Lee Kucera); Kent and Marlene Hinshaw; Robert Kucera; Kathleen Philipp (in honor of the Children's Dance Group; Elsie Roepke (in memory of her husband Jim); Tom and Penny Tesarek.**

\$500-\$999: **Don and Katie Haselbauer (kitchen sink repair).**

In honor of the 125th Anniversary: under \$100: **Chuck and Jean Marie Draheim; Mir and Shirley Verner.**

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota also thanks its many volunteers who together donate hundreds of hours monthly to maintain our hall and keep our unit strong.

Your Continued Generosity Will Bring Central Air to C.S.P.S. Hall this Summer

By Joyce Tesarek, Finance Chair

After being awarded an \$80,000 Partners in Preservation Grant in late 2011 to install central air in the C.S.P.S. Hall, our building team discovered in summer 2012 that we needed another \$85,000 just to upgrade the roof to support the air conditioning system.

We have received many generous Legacy Fund donations, including the recent significant contribution of \$15,000 from Joe Landsberger and Steve Shimer for air conditioning. We are on our way to reaching our Legacy Fund/air conditioning goal. However, we still need to raise about \$55,000 more so the air conditioning project can be completed this summer.

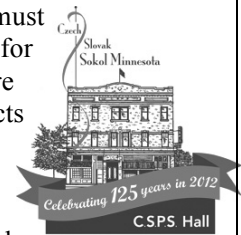
If you would like to make a donation, or if you know someone who would like to donate, you can go to our website at <sokolmn.org> to donate online, or you can use the form here.

An alternative to a single year-end contribution is to break your donation into monthly automatic contributions from your credit card or bank account. You may designate your donation in someone's honor or memory. All donations are tax deductible. 100 percent of all current donations to the Legacy Fund will go to pay for central air installation. Contact Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147 with any questions.

Thank you for helping to make C.S.P.S. Hall air conditioning happen!

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's begins its 126th year in 2013. Please consider a tax-deductible donation. *Thank you!* Contact Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147 or <Joyce@sokolmn.org> to discuss volunteer or donation opportunities.



LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

single donation of \$ _____

5-year pledge of \$ _____

per year for total of \$ _____

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

I would like my gift designated:

in memory or in honor of:

List my name in the *Slovo* newsletter

List amount Don't list amount

Don't list name or amount

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN.**

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

Please charge my gift to

Visa Discover Mastercard

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Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to:

C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund

383 Michigan Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

SONG OF THE MONTH by Georgiana Dolejsi

Blanche Havel Zellmen wrote this piano score out for Georgiana. The song is filled with intrigue and mystery.

Černý cikán (Black Gypsy) Waltz

- The night is beautiful, the night is peaceful
On the mountains and in the valleys.
Who is coming hurrying from a distance
With the light step of his heritage?
Who was it? A gypsy, a black gypsy.
- The sweetheart is lying in the clear evening,
thinking about her lover.
Oh, my God, how beautiful
Are his black eyes, his black hair.
Who was it? A gypsy, a black gypsy.
- They are so beautiful; the girl is thawing
and her head is spinning.
Near the window a shadow flickers
And someone jumps into the room.
Who was it? A gypsy, a black gypsy.
- The sweetheart resists for a while,
but then she sweetly sighs.
The night is beautiful until daybreak
And only quiet words can be heard.
Who was it? A gypsy, a black gypsy.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of ten staves of music with corresponding lyrics in Czech and English. The lyrics are:

 noc je krás- ná noc je ti- chá ná ho- rač i
 mi- ka le- ží v no- cy jas- ne ná mi- lač- ka
 ná do- li- ně kdo sém zdá- li tak po- spí-
 v z fo- ní- ná si Ach můj Bo- že jak jsou krás-
 chá ne- leh- kým kro- kem po dě- di- ně kdo to
 žer- ne- o- ži žer- ne- vin- sy
 byl cí- kán čer- ní cí- kán
 kdo sém zdá- li tak po- spí- chá leh- kým kro- kem
 Ach můj Bo- že jak jsou krás- ne žer- ne- o- ži
 po dě- di- ně kdo to byl cí- kán čer- ní cí-
 žer- ne- vin- sy
 kán

It's a Fact! This Reference Book on Czech Popular Culture Is a Keeper By Christy Banks

From *Good King Wenceslas to the Good Soldier Švejk: A Dictionary of Czech Popular Culture* by Andrew Roberts, 222 pages, CEU Press, Cloth \$50/Paperback \$25.95

Slovo readers in search of a sure-to-be-appreciated gift for their favorite Czechophile (or even looking for a present for themselves!) won't go wrong with this entertaining short encyclopedia on popular culture in the Czech Republic. Written by Andrew Roberts, *From Good King Wenceslas to the Good Soldier Švejk: A Dictionary of Czech Popular Culture* offers informative and often humorous explanations of cultural artifacts familiar to any native Czech yet possibly mysterious to others. As Roberts, an assistant professor of political science at Northwestern University, puts it, the dictionary's entries form "the furniture of [a Czech's] mental universe," from children's nursery rhymes, to historical milestones, to stars of pop music or movies, to mainstays such as *Becherovka*—the kinds of things that carry underlying assumptions that can make learning a culture or learning to speak a language tricky.

Roberts recommends that readers browse the entries, rather than try to read them sequentially, and the resulting serendipity is much like a virtual visit to the Czech Republic: full of random encounters. A typical entry can add a new word to your vocabulary: "rádiovka (beret). Berets are popular headgear for middle-aged and older men. The Czech name comes from a small antenna-like projection on the top." (Page 140) Or else, readers find under *majáles* (spring student festival) that in 196[5], Czech university students elected visiting American Beat Poet Allen Ginsberg as king of their annual May street party. (Page 100) And following-up with some online research on that unlikely, but fantastic get-together can lead to a quick history lesson on both Czech and American cultural and political tensions in the '60s.

With over 600 entries, there's enough material to keep readers' interest for days, and entries are often so insightful and funny that you'll find yourself looking around for someone to share them with. You may not learn how to pronounce the tongue twister *Strč prst skrz krk* (Stick your finger through your neck), but after reading this book, you'll know Czechs and their culture much more intimately than before. *Na zdraví!*

To order, contact your local independent bookstore, or try the Central European University Press website at <http://www.ceupress.com>

Czech Proverb

Pěkné slovo železná vrata otvírá
A nice word opens an iron gate

....NOTES OF INTEREST for our Readers

Art and Culture at Airports: While passing through the Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta recently, one of your editors stopped to enjoy the puppets from the Czech



Republic, part of the collection at Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta. <www.puppet.org>. The display window description read: "Puppetry is very popular in the Czech Republic. At one point in its history, almost every household owned its own toy puppet theater. Family members performed plays for each other and guests in their home. These toys are miniature versions of the traditional Czech marionettes which are manipulated from above and have a rod to control the head and strings for the arms and legs." Is that *čert*, the devil, lurking on the left?

Czech-American Internet TV: For nine years, Czech-American TV has promoted Czech culture, tradition, and history through various educational programs and documentary films available for streaming to viewers across the United States and worldwide.

On Czech-American TV (available at www.catvusa.com), you can watch documentary films about genealogy, cuisine, language video classes, folk art, music, and dances that feature Czech culture. All programs are in English. Streamed shows of the past six months are conveniently stored in the online archive for viewers to watch. Broadcasts with new content are available every Monday and Tuesday.

Czech Biologist Researches Parasite's Influence on the Human Brain:

Like Slovo's intrepid editor, you likely missed this article published a few months ago in *Atlantic* about Jaroslav Flegr, an evolutionary biologist at Charles University in Prague, and his research about the connections between human behavior and a microscopic parasite. For more on his thought-provoking ideas, you can read the entire article at

<<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/03/how-your-cat-is-making-you-crazy/308873/>>

Undergraduate and Graduate Programs at Charles University in Prague: English-language Bachelors, Masters, and PhD degree programs are available for qualified students at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague, according to Anna Pečmanová, International Office at Charles University.

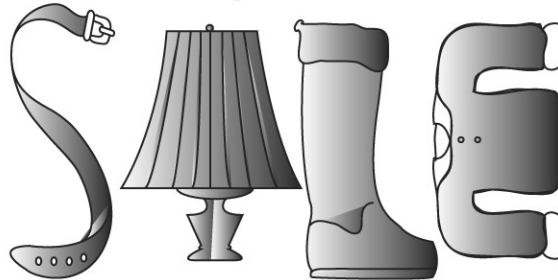
Charles University in Prague was founded in 1348 by the Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV and is among the oldest, largest, and most prestigious universities in the world. Furthermore it is also the oldest and largest university in the Czech Republic

The Faculty of Social Sciences is the second-newest faculty of Charles University. The faculty offers some of the highest quality Bachelors, Masters, and PhD degree programs in Central and Eastern Europe in all fields of social sciences. Many of the alumni continue their studies at top universities in the United States and the United Kingdom and they procure highly-sought-after positions.

Charles University is currently seeking talented and ambitious candidates for its Bachelors, Masters, and PhD degree programs. The application deadline for the academic year 2013-14 is April 15, 2013.

More detailed information about the programs can be found at <fsveng.fsv.cuni.cz>. Information is also available at the Sokol Minnesota website <sokolmn.org>.

GARAGE



antiques, collectibles, books, clothing, and domestic treasures

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

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

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

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

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Event Chairs: Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney

Šibřinky

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\$12.00 Admission at the door

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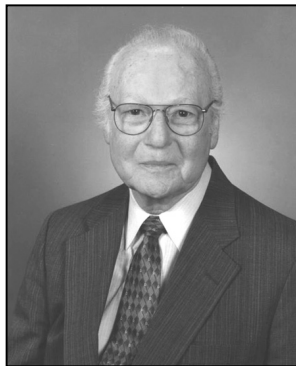
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***Dance to old tyme music
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7 - 11 p.m.***

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Czechoslovak Gold - Was the “Jewish Gold” Part of It?

**By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser,
Distinguished International
Professor Emeritus, University
of Minnesota
Department of Educational
Policy and Administration,
Comparative and International
Development Education
Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic (1999-2009)**



Editor's note: This article originally appeared on the CSCC website <cs-center.org>. Parts 1 and 2 of this article appeared two previous issues the Slovo

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

As an issue related to the Czechoslovak gold, the “Jewish gold” is even more complex. The Nazis conducted a ruthless campaign not only to confiscate businesses and factories owned by Jews in Czechoslovakia but also, of course, their collections of art, jewels, and gold. This confiscation was accomplished gradually, first by legislating that Jews must declare all such property, and then by requiring that they deposit these valuables in the Czechoslovak National Bank, which the Nazis controlled. In exchange, Jews received bank credit certificates at discounted prices. Sadly, some officials of the Protectorate “government” aided this seizure, apparently in the hope that this property would remain under Protectorate control to be used for domestic expenditures. This was, of course, not to be the case, as the Nazis took control of these possessions, which eventually included gold fillings from the teeth of dead prisoners. It was estimated by surviving Jews that the Reich obtained from these actions about 5 tons of pure gold, a half ton of pure platinum, and almost 17 tons of silver, not to mention thousands of diamonds and precious stones.

There's more to the Jewish gold issue, though. The Nazis also confiscated property and gold from Jews who either left before the Anschluss or were later permitted to leave provided they surrendered all their possessions. As we shall see later, it was these people who after the war made claims against the Czechoslovak gold that was on deposit or under control of the United States and the United Kingdom. There is some evidence that many of these claims were excessive or frivolous. Since the seizures of property were made by the puppet government set up by the Nazis (with some help even from the Czech collaborators), the Reich's legal responsibility should have been taken into account in the lawsuits filed in Great Britain and the United States.

Now add these confiscated items to the Jewish property that was seized under the nationalization laws of the Czechoslovak government after the war. An additional complication was the aggressive search conducted by the Soviet forces looking for their “war bounty.” The Soviets had in fact initially amassed a great deal of Jewish gold that the Nazis did not have time to remove, which led to some of the most difficult negotiations. The Czechoslovak government argued that the Jews involved were Czechoslovak citizens, and thus not subject to the international practice regarding war bounty, which applies only to the property of citizens of defeated countries that actively supported the war effort. This was another dimension of the Jewish gold because some of it was in fact nationalized after the war and was a legitimate basis for the gold's recovery in United States and United Kingdom courts.

In any event, the Jewish issue was even more complicated by demography. In the census of 1930, 117,551 people declared themselves as being Jewish by religion, and of these only about 43,000 listed their nationality as Czechoslovaks. Another 33,000 listed themselves as Germans. This is not the full story. During the last decades prior to the war, many Jews migrated to Czechoslovakia from Germany and Austria, and later some 30,000 escaped from the occupied Sudetenland. Only about 14,000 managed to migrate further west. The combined value of Jewish property was estimated by Rudolph Beran (briefly the prime minister before the establishment of the Protectorate) at about 16 billion Czech crowns.

I could not leave the story of the Jewish gold without mentioning the sad complicity of the Czechs in persecuting the Jewish people. In fact, the Nazis considered Czechoslovakia to be their own “heartland” and did everything to make sure that it was ruled by the German “race.” Thus all confiscated properties – not just of Jews but other Czechs – was managed by German directors. There were some 1,250 such enterprises, of which 96 were managed by Czechs (perhaps too many at that).

Some Czech shops posted signs that they only served Arians; some professional societies, such as those for medical doctors, campaigned for laws prohibiting Jewish doctors from practicing medicine. There were even incidents of Czechs who volunteered to hide Jewish properties until the owners' return but spent it expecting that those Jews would perish in the concentration camps. And yet, there were also many Czechs who did everything possible, often at great risk, to help Jewish families by hiding successfully both people and their property, which was eventually returned to their proper owners or their heirs after the war.

Note: Of the total number of Jews from the Czech territories, only 14,045 survived the ordeal of the concentration camps.

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\$15. Reservations: mardigras@sokolmn.org

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Dinner: Sunday, March 3, 12:30 p.m.
\$16. Reservations by February 15: 952-941-0426

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\$9 prepaid (651-45-6240), \$12 at the door
Czech and Slovak ethnic food and beer for sale
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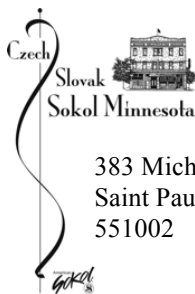
Collect--Gather--Clean Out--Donate Old Treasures!

Sokol Garage Sale, April 11-12

Drop off: Wednesday, April 10, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org

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



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* February 2013

Contestants Sought for Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant

By Lorraine David

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant is looking for young women of Czech, Slovak, or Moravian heritage to compete for the state title of Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota. The 24th annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota pageant will be held on April 6 at the American Legion Club in Montgomery, Minnesota.

The competition is for women from the ages of 16 to 26 years old. The pageant winners receive cash awards, crowns, and will have a year of memorable appearances throughout Minnesota. This unique pageant focuses on the heritage of the Czech, Slovak, and Moravian candidates. The new Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen will represent Minnesota at the National Miss Czech Slovak U.S. Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska.

The application deadline is March 15, 2013. For more information and a registration form contact Lorraine David

at 507-364-5384 or 507-364-9370, Stella Vlasak at 507-364-5055, or Cindy Taylor at 507-364-5524, or e-mail to davidsdiner@hotmail.com>. An ethnic dinner featuring Czech Slovak foods will be served at 5 p.m.

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant will begin at 7 p.m. A reception and dance will follow the coronation. Advance sale tickets for the dinner and pageant are available by calling Jerry or Lorraine David at 507-364-5384 or Montgomery Oil Company at 507-364-9370. Pageant and dance tickets can be purchased the night of the pageant at the door.

The reigning Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen is Rebecca Enrooth of New Prague, daughter of Douglas and Deborah Enrooth. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Princess is Mary Kate Gross, daughter of Larry and Mary Lynn Gross of New Prague. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Miss Congeniality is Rachel Kuzma, Sokol Minnesota Teen Dancer and daughter of John and Ann Kuzma of Mankato.