



# Czech Slovak Sokol Minnesota

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



# SLOVO

February 2014  
vol. 37 no. 2

## UPCOMING EVENTS February 2014

March Slovo Deadline  
February 1

Board of Trustees  
February 12, 7 p.m.

Family Night  
February 16, 4 p.m.

Board of Directors  
Retreat February 15,  
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Member Meeting  
February 28, 7 p.m.

Mardi Gras Tea Dance  
March 2, 1 - 5 p.m.

Sokol Minnesota Singers  
March 4 and March 18,  
10 a.m.

Spring 2014  
Events Postcard  
are at the Hall.

Take a few  
to give to friends.

Thanks!

**Get your Sparkle  
and Join the Fun  
New Orleans Style**

**Sunday,  
March 2  
1 - 5 p.m.**

**C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall  
383 Michigan**

**\$15 entry**

**Featuring**  
**Southside Aces**  
 New Orleans jazz  
 Creole Cuisine  
**Jambalaya!**  
 Your beads, masks, and  
 alter ego...

**Mardi Gras III Tea Dance**

### *Laissez les bons temps rouler—encore! Let the good times roll—again!*

Plans for Mardi Gras III (MG III) on March 2 are well under way with a fantastic band, good food, and you—with your beads, masks, and alter egos! Event organizer Joe Landsberger is building on the past two years of Mardi Gras festivities to celebrate this year's C.S.P.S. Hall and West End feast on the Sunday before Fat Tuesday and the ritual fasting of the Lenten season. Mardi Gras II last year had an unwelcomed guest, a huge snowstorm, but that did not deter the many Sokols and locals who braved the elements. Proceeds again benefit the Hall's capital projects; this year's goal is air conditioning to keep our summer events cool!

Tony Balluff's *Southside Aces*, which led us for MGII last year, have been playing New Orleans jazz since 2003. Their music garnered the declaration "A true authentic New Orleans dance-hall style band" from the *New Orleans Traditional Jazz Quarterly*. The *Aces* are also known around the Twin Cities as a swing band, so bring your dancing shoes. Local chefs prepare the traditional Cajun a la carte menu to purchase: jambalaya (chicken and Andouille sausage, gluten free), red beans and rice (vegetarian, gluten free), and jalapeno cornbread. Sip some beer or wine.

Of course, *you* play a big role at our MG III New Orleans Tea Dance! Dress for the occasion! Join us on Sunday, March 2, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall, second floor, 383 Michigan at West 7<sup>th</sup>, Saint Paul. For entry tickets (\$15) and information, call 651-297-9000 or email <mardigras@sokolmn.org>. Be prepared to dance! *Laissez les bons temps rouler—encore!*



**Czech and Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota  
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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 Judy Aubrecht**  
***Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters***

My husband Tom and I went cross-country skiing today at a nearby trail. New, fluffy snow had fallen, and the trail had been groomed recently. As I sped down a hill, a low branch on a smaller tree grabbed my hat and the hat fell to the ground. As I went back up the hill to retrieve the hat, I was reminded of how sometimes things seem to be going just right, and then a glitch pops up. With Sokol Minnesota, similar situations can happen: tuck-pointing is again needed for the C.S.P.S. Hall and additional funding is needed to complete the air conditioning project. What helps during these unexpected situations is a cheerful attitude and a willingness to solve problems, simple or complex.

We are very fortunate to have three newly-elected members join our Sokol Board of Directors in January. Cynthia Coulter, who was appointed to the position of Recording Secretary last year, has graciously agreed to continue with the important job of taking minutes at our meetings. She also writes a monthly article for the *Slovo* summarizing the Board of Directors meetings. You may have seen Cindy at the September Czech and Slovak Festival. She was one of the organizers of the sweet shop, which sold hundreds of *koláče* and *perníčky* that day.

Marketa Resong and Jason Brozovich are the new members-at-large for the Sokol Board of Directors. Marketa is an active part of the Czech and Slovak Mom's group. She helped to bring a play in Czech to the stage at our Hall when the children of the Mom's group performed their holiday play for the ethnic Svatý Mikuláš party and again the following day for the members' holiday party and dinner. Some of the moms and actors even had a sleepover at the Hall. They slept on gym mats after their first performance on Saturday evening and were up early the next day to help get ready for the members' holiday party. Did you get a chance to sample Marketa's salsa and paté at the November Pancake Breakfast and Bake/Craft Sale? She purchased her fresh ingredients at a farmer's market and canned many delicious jars for the sale.

Jason Brozovich joins Marketa as a member-at-large. His Monday nights are busy at the C.S.P.S. Hall instructing six enthusiastic young boys in gymnastics. Jason was a Division I gymnast when he was in college. He then puts on his dancing shoes and practices for several hours with the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers. Jason also joins the *Slovo* mailing crew each month as they tab, label, and sort every *Slovo* before the delivery is made to the post office.

I hope that you can join in the fun at the third annual Mardi Gras Tea Dance on Sunday, March 2, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the C.S.P.S. Hall. The Southside Aces will be playing music and Cajun food will be available from an a la carte menu. The entry fee is \$15 for this lively afternoon. *Nazdar!*

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

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko

Honorary Czech Consul: open

Past Honorary Czech Consuls: Josef Mestenhauer and Robert Vanasek

Sunshine Committee: Marlene Hinshaw

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson

Kitchen Coordinator: open

Website: Craig Johnson

Volunteer Coordinator: open

Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Joe Landsberger

Event Monitor: Ken Wyberg

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

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

## November and December 2013 Board of Directors (BOD) Meetings By Cindy Coulter, Recording Secretary

**November:** At the November BOD Meeting, guest Joan Sedlacek took the initiative to resolve a convection oven issue by contacting Horner Restaurant Equipment Service & Repair, which swiftly solved the problem at minimal cost and recommended simple tips that Sokol can do to help maintain its equipment. It is because of this behind-the-scenes conscientious care by Sokol members and friends that our C.S.P.S. Hall is kept in tip-top shape and remains a cherished site. Related to the building: concrete will be placed east of the dumpster to hold the dumpster in place.

Gaming Manager Steven Shimer is resigning on November 20. Sokol will search for a new Gaming Manager. The BOD is appreciative of Steven's persistent hard work in reorganizing and improving the bookkeeping for Sokol's Gaming Program.

Membership has sent many application forms in response to numerous phone inquiries about Sokol membership. Watch your mailbox for membership renewal forms for 2014. The Financial Secretary reports that there are currently 291 Sokol members, and the 2013 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report for American Sokol Organization (ASO) has been prepared and submitted. This report will be used to determine the number of delegates to the 2014 ASO Convention in April 2014. Positive results were reported from Mary Cushing's (National Operations Manager at ASO) meeting with the Minnesota Sokol Unit.

As 2013 winds down, a December 5 Hedgehog and Snowflake ornament craft class and December 21 Holiday Cookie Bake class are being offered. The December 6 Sokol Children's Holiday Party will be co-chaired by Mary Cahill and Louise Wessinger. The December 8 Annual Holiday Membership Party will be chaired by Ed Hamernik, with Denis Novak taking reservations. As we look ahead to 2014, Publicity is finalizing the Sokol postcard that will be mailed in December and will highlight key spring 2014 Sokol events and activities.

**December:** At the December BOD Meeting, President Denis Novak passed the gavel to incoming President Judy Aubrecht. The BOD is so very thankful for Denis' kindness and leadership during his term as Sokol President. The BOD also thanks Gary Novak for all his service and dedication as Member-at-Large on the Sokol BOD.

The BOD approved a return to monthly General Membership Meetings with special programming that will be held at the C.S.P.S. Hall on the fourth Friday of each month excluding June and July. Sokol hosted its Annual Membership Holiday Party on December 8 at the C.S.P.S. Hall with seventy-nine guests in attendance. A hearty "thank you" goes out to all who volunteered their time, talent, and hard work in making the Holiday Party a fun time for all!

Several generous year-end donations have been received with Sokol Membership renewals, and \$523.73 was received on Give to the Max Day. The Finance Committee is continuing to refine the reporting format to better reflect income and operating expenses (e.g., money from Legacy vs. money from General Operating). The Gaming Committee is working to obtain a permanent Gaming Manager.

The Board of Trustees is evaluating commercial cleaning company proposals. It plans to submit recommendations at the January BOD meeting. An old and unique piece of glass on C.S.P.S. Hall's mezzanine door unfortunately suffered a break; Sokol's boiler repairman kindly offered to secure this special piece of glass and donate it to the C.S.P.S. Hall. The City of Saint Paul granted Sokol more time to replace the fire escape on the C.S.P.S. building's north end.

As we kick off the New Year, volunteers are being sought for the upcoming January 25 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner and March 22 Šibřinky events. Be on the lookout for email blitzes from Sokol Publicity prior to upcoming Sokol meetings and events, as we hope to get the news out and keep the Sokol community informed in 2014!

### Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

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

**New memberships:** Individual **\$55**; Couple **\$95**. This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol Organization. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Dues are reduced for members joining after June 30.

Membership applications: <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)> or by request from Norm Petrik (612-822-6147). Please send your completed membership application and check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Attn: Membership, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:** The *Slovo* is published ten times per year by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership.

The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to <[slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)>. **The deadline for the March 2014 issue is February 1, 2014.**

Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and production editor; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, and Joan Sedlacek, advisors. Photograph for this issue provided by Dan Bednar, Chuck Kajer, (*New Prague Times*), Pam Kotval, M. L.

Kucera, Joe Landsberger, Doreen McKenney, and Donald Pakfo. This February 2014 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 (January 15 for March issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (February 1 for March issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through February 2015.) Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new/renewing non-member subscription. Make your check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; send to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *Slovo* Subscriptions/Renewals, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Extra copies of *Slovo* are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts.

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 hold all future issues until you notify us.**

We pay 49¢ for each returned issue. Email us: <[slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto: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!*

## News from the Board of Trustees (BOT)

By Chuck Draheim

First, we want to welcome John Liemandt to the BOT. We look forward to working with him on our many projects.

It has been many months since the BOT reported to the general membership on our activities, but we have been busy. We temporarily addressed the problem of our basement sump water causing damage to the alley behind the Hall. We have presented a permanent solution to the BOD for approval. The estimated cost of the permanent solution is \$26,000.

The Saint Paul Department of Inspections has directed us to replace our existing fire escape on the north end of the building to bring it into compliance with current building codes. Plans are being prepared for submission both to the BOD and the City of Saint Paul for approval. Funds need to be found to pay for this required work.

Our October workday went very well, despite the fact that the weather did not cooperate and we were not able to complete our outside cleanup work. We did, however, additional cleaning in the basement and installed more storage platforms to keep stored materials off the damp floor. The platforms

were constructed from materials donated by Draheim Carpentry and initially used as the outdoor stage for the 2013 C/S Festival in September. To date, all of the storage platforms have been provided at no cost to Sokol.

We are in the process of changing how the routine cleaning of the Hall is handled. Currently BOT member Robert "Jake" Jacobson is taking care of all cleaning on an interim basis. The BOT is exploring the possibility of hiring a commercial cleaning service. We have interviewed two companies and are analyzing the financial implications of hiring an outside service as opposed to directly hiring an individual for this work. Taking into account the cost of Work Comp insurance and the employer's match of certain taxes, it may be more economical to hire an outside service.

The upcoming year promises to be very busy as the BOT continues to work on repairs, maintenance, and improvements to the Hall. Our biggest challenge is not the work, but rather how to fund what needs to be done. The BOT is preparing a proposed budget to be presented to the BOD for approval.

Any questions or concerns relating to building, repair, or maintenance should be directed to <trustees@sokolmn.org>.

## History: Wilson Statue – Czech Sculptor - Saint Paul Muska Family - Sokol Minnesota - Polasek Museum By Joe Landsberger

In gratitude for President Woodrow Wilson's insistence on the creation of the nation of Czechoslovakia after WWI, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk's government selected Albin Polásek (Albin Polasek), a Czech immigrant to the United States, to sculpt an 11' bronze statue of Wilson on a 14' granite pedestal. It was erected just outside Prague's art nouveau train station (also named for Wilson) on July 4, 1928. Inscribed on its base are Wilson's words: "The world must be made safe for democracy" in English and Czech. The Nazis destroyed the statue in 1941. It was re-erected and re-dedicated October 5, 2011.

Albin Polasek, who was born in in Frenštát, Moravia, came to the United States in 1901. Polasek had strong ties to Minnesota, Sokol, and Saint Paul. His arrival and artistry in the United States began in Veseli, Minnesota. He then settled in La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he founded a Sokol, and another in Eau Claire, based on his Moravian Sokol background. Polasek led the sculpture department at the Art Institute of Chicago for almost 30 years. Polasek's works include the wood carving of the grand fireplace at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis.

After a brief first marriage, he married Emily Muska Kubat of



*The Muska family of Saint Paul, (l-r) Mrs. Teresa Muska (mother), Josef, Frank, Tony, Rudy, Henry, and Emily.*

Sokol Saint Paul's Muska family. Muska Lighting on Grand Avenue in Saint Paul was founded in 1919 by Emily's brother Tony and two other brothers. Tony's son Bill sold Muska Lighting on Grand Avenue to his staff in 1986, one of the first such "employee" sales in the United States.

This past summer I led a tour of the C.S.P.S. Hall for Mrs. Teresa Muska, whose father-in-law was Emily's brother Tony Muska. She was accompanied by Debbie Komanski, executive director of the Albin Polasek Museum in Winter Park, Florida. As part of the tour, we looked at several oil paintings of Czech castles in our Sokol Minnesota archives painted by another of Emily's brothers, Henry Muska. I showed them books on Polasek in our library; the two visitors were most interested in a translated biography titled *Carving His Own Destiny: The Story of Albin Polasek* by Ruth Sherwood, Polasek's first wife. The Czech translation of Sherwood's book *Život Albína Poláška* has a handwritten dedication by Albin Polasek to Emily's brother Tony Muska. Upon request by the Polasek Museum in Florida, the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors voted to donate the book to the museum.

For more information on Polasek, you can visit the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens, 633 Osceola Avenue, Winter Park, Florida, 32789 or its website: <www.polasek.org>

# MASTER

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# **FLAVORS of SLOVAKIA DINNER**

**Sunday  
March 16**

**Reserved Seating  
12:30 p.m.**

**\$16.00 adults  
\$8.00 child under 9**

This year our traditional Slovakian dinner includes:  
cabbage roll, dilled green beans, pickled beets, pierogi,  
dumpling, cabbage and bacon dish, caraway rye bread,  
dessert, and coffee.

The cash bar has plenty of good beer on tap.

Pre-paid reservations are required by **March 11**

**Call: 952-941-0426** for reservations.

**LIMITED SEATING**

Prepaid takeout is also available by reservation.

**PUBLIC WELCOME**

**Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota**

**[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**

**C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102**

## Slovak Consul Donald Pafko is Appointed a Chancellor of Consular Corps College

By Donald Pafko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic



In December 2013, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic Donald Pafko attended the Consular Corps College in Washington, D.C. This college is a three-day seminar, which prepares and educates honorary consuls. A wide variety of subjects is taught including working with one's embassy, diplomatic relations, passport and visa verification, and diplomatic protocol and formality.

Consul Pafko has attended the Consular Corps College in the past. At this year's seminar, he was appointed a chancellor of the national Consular Corps College. As a chancellor, Consul Pafko will help develop curriculum to be utilized in future seminars. He will be returning to Washington, D.C., in February to meet with the other chancellors to plan next year's college curriculum.

*Slovak Honorary Consul Donald Pafko (center) with Kit Moss, General Director for Public Relations and Meetings of the Consular Corps College (left), and Patrick Kennedy (right) of the United States State Department.*

## 2014 Czech Heritage Junior Royalty

The Czech Heritage Junior Royalty for 2014 was crowned at the annual European Christmas Event on a snowy Sunday, December 8, in New Prague. Sokol Members **Deb** and **Arnie Ziskovsky** organize the Junior Royalty.

The group, pictured with last year's royalty, includes (front: l-r) 2014 Little Sister Anna Novak, 2014 Ambassadors Keisha Kuhn and Elizabeth Trnka, 2014 Little Sister Grace Tumasmith, 2013 Ambassador Michaela Goettl; (back:) 2013 Ambassadors Madeline Svoboda and Sarah Stresnak, 2014 Ambassadors Chrsitina Raduenz and Victoria Soukup, 2013 Ambassador Katrina Reeder. As Ambassadors of the Czech heritage representing southern Minnesota, they attend local pageants and parades, as well as Czech events both local and out-of-state.

Jeanne Wertish was awarded the 2013 Ambassador of the Year Award. The Czech Heritage Junior Royalty awards this to an outstanding



*Photo courtesy of Chuck Kajer, New Prague Times*

person who works as an ambassador for the community. Jeanne is part of the Bechyn Czech community in southwest Minnesota, 10 miles north of Redwood Falls. The 23rd annual Czech Heritage Festival will be August 10, 2014. This Czech Fest celebrates Czech heritage and commemorates our ancestors who emigrated from Czech lands. Many Sokols have attended this fundraiser for The Church of St. Mary of Bechyn.

## SOKOL MINNESOTA NEWS

Sokol Minnesota seeks a new **Gaming Manager** to oversee our charitable gaming operation. This is a paid position. Manager must be a Sokol member. Inquiries: <finance@sokolmn.org>

**Lend your voice...**The Sokol Minnesota Singers want additional voices to carry on an important part of our Czech and Slovak culture: singing and remembering our folk songs. You do not need to know the language; most of us don't. Those

who do, help the rest of us with pronunciation. No doubt you're already familiar with some of the melodies from childhood. If not, they're short, simple, and easy to remember. None of us are professional singers. We just like to sing and don't want to lose our heritage. You do not have to be Czech or Slovak to sing with us. All you need is a desire to sing.

**Don Haselbauer** is our director. Starting in March, we'll meet on the first and third Tuesdays of most months (not June, July, and August) at the Hall. Come, join us! Your heart will rejoice. For information, call **Marlene Hinshaw** at 651-340-8619.

## Czech and Slovak 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 in the following categories: under \$100; \$100-\$499; \$500-\$999; \$1000-\$4999; \$5000+, and undisclosed.

**General Fund:** under \$100: **Joyce Ehmke, Frank Petruska, Virginia Simek.** \$100 - \$499: **In honor of M. L. Kucera: Elizabeth Andrews; Hana Matousek; In memory of Gloria Pallo: Tom Pallo; Daniel Washick.** \$1000 - \$4999: **Joseph and Kaye Dolejsi, Joe Landsberger, Norm Petrik and Joyce Tesarek.**

**Legacy Fund:** under \$100: **Joseph Kocab.** \$199 - \$499: **Ed and Arlene Hamernik, Darlene Sitko.** Undisclosed: **In memory of Georgiana Dolejsi and Jeanette Pafko: Marit Lee Kucera.**

## Winter Weather By Vanda Kašová, Columnist from Prague

Last year at the beginning of May, I was in Minnesota with my friends from the Rotary exchange team. It was snowing. We were told that it was not a typical weather for that time of the year. We thought the weather was bad and that we had bad luck. But yesterday in the news, I saw what bad weather in Minnesota terms really means. Overnight temperatures of -40 °C below zero! I cannot even imagine that. The snowstorm we saw was like a child's game compared to what you have now.

So, my dear readers, as I know how important the weather is for your beautiful country, let me tell you about the situation on the other side of the world. It might sound like a story from a different planet to you. We have been experiencing the warmest winter in at least a hundred years. The temperature has risen above 10°C (50 °F), which is higher than last May around the Great Lakes, as you may remember. It has already confused animals that are awakening from their winter dreaming; you can even see flies and bees in the air. The bears in the zoos refused to go to sleep. Some flowers started to blossom as if the spring was just behind the corner – you can find snowdrops and primroses in the gardens. Trees have buds and the air has a different smell. And people are confused too. Yesterday I noticed several people wearing short-sleeve T-shirts – in January! Last week I went to the mountains; instead of skiing we could only walk among new small lakes from the melting of the last snow. Winter has not reached this country yet. Maybe all the snow and freeze is now locked in the U.S.A. However, the weather forecast says everything is returning to normal next week. The terrible freeze is leaving Minnesota and winter is finally coming to Czech Republic. We will have sleeping bees and bears, trees covered with snow, and people properly dressed. We will go skiing and we can finally start to complain about cold and rain and dirty snow in the streets. And we can start to look forward to spring. I hope it will hurry more than last year. Until then – keep your feet warm!



977 Spring 2014 Events Postcards and 336 copies of the January Slovo were tabbed, labeled, and sorted for mailing on a cold mid-December night. Great Sokol smiles: (l-r) Arnie Ziskovsky, Deb Ziskovsky, Joan Sedlacek, Jean Draheim, Mary Cahill, Craig Johnson, Lizzie Vangh, Jason Brozovich, Megan Cahill, and Val Kuisle. Missing: Joe Landsberger and M.L. Kucera (photographer).

**Slovo Fund:** under \$100: **Joseph Kocab.**

**MN Give to the Max:** under \$100: **Zuzana Bracknell, Robert Frame.** \$500 - \$599: **Kenneth Janda.**

## C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

We ask for your support to insure that renovations can be completed as C.S.P.S. Hall celebrates its 127<sup>th</sup> year in 2014. Please consider a tax-deductible donation.



*Thank you!*

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

### LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

single donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5-year pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

per year for total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like my gift designated:

in memory or  in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

List my name in the *Slovo* newsletter

List amount  Do not list amount

Do not 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

AmericanExpress

# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund**  
**383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN**  
**55102**

# Sibřinky

## DANCE March 22

4 - 7:30 p.m.  
Ethnic Czech and Slovak  
Food for Sale.

Come for  
Supper.  
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\$12.00  
Admission  
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Folkdance  
Performance  
at 5:15 p.m. by  
Taneční Mládež and  
Teen Dancers.  
Intermission  
Performance  
by the  
St. Paul  
Czech and Slovak  
Folkdancers.  
383 Michigan Street  
Saint Paul, MN  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

**Live Music  
6 -10 p.m.  
by the  
Cathy Erickson  
Band**

**\$10.00**  
Pre-paid ticket  
Cut off by March 15  
Call Louise at  
651-452-6240  
3704 Denmark Ave.  
Eagan, MN 55123



## UPCOMING EVENTS... NEWS...NOTES

**Polka in the snow!** Join Hank Thunander, an accordionist nationally known for his mastery of Slovenian Style and Cleveland Style polka music, as he plays some “toe-thumping Bohemian tunes.” He’ll be performing free to the public on **Saturday, February 8**, 2 – 3 p.m., at the Washburn Library, 5244 Lyndale Avenue South in Minneapolis. For more information, call 612-543-8375.

**Slovakia/Czech Republic and the Environment**, lecture by **Daren Carlson** (Sokol member), a scientist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, who has spent time studying environmental issues in Slovakia. **Sunday, February 9**, 2 p.m., C.S.P.S. Hall, sponsored by Czech and Slovak Cultural Center.

**Czech Dual Citizenship Lecture with Q&A**, via Skype with the Czech Consulate General in Chicago, **Wednesday, February 19**, 7 p.m., third floor, C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul. The Czech government has made changes in its citizen laws. Effective January 1, 2014, Czech nationals are permitted to have dual and even multiple nationalities. This may affect a number of people in Minnesota. Sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Czech and Slovak Cultural Center. Contact: Renata Ticha, president, CSCC: <tich0018@umn.edu>

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Quarterly Program, **Saturday, February 22**, presents two lectures that clarify how DNA testing can help in genealogical research. An incredible amount of information about ancestry is encoded in our genetic material (DNA).

Session 1, 1:00 p.m.: **DNA Testing to Prove Lineage.** Dianne Plunkett Latham demonstrates what kind of genetic genealogy information is available through DNA by using yDNA (patrilateral line), mtDNA (matrilateral line), and Autosomal testing (chromosomes #1 - #22).

Session 2, 2:45 p.m.: **Czech DNA Project:** Background and Update. Leo Baca explores where genetics research can take us. **Minnesota Genealogical Society Auditorium**, 1185 Concord Street North, South Saint Paul, MN 55075.

Suggested Donation: \$5 members, \$8 non-members. Preregistration is not required. Info: Pat at <cgsiprograms@gmail.com>

**Masopust, pre-Lent Carnival** (Czech-style Mardi Gras), Montgomery (Minnesota) American Legion Club, **Sunday, March 2**, 1 – 5:30 p.m. 2014 Czech Heritage Ambassadors make their first appearance. Czech food, silent auction, performance by the Domaci Czech Folk Dancers, traditional Masopust skit, and the crowning of a Masopust King. Music by Glen Wondra and the Country Gentlemen. Info: Jim Mladek at 507-364-5659

**Cantus**, a premier nine-voice men’s vocal ensemble, is performing **four concerts with a Dvořák theme in mid-March** in Minneapolis. <<http://www.cantussings.org/2013/09/06/dvorak-going-home/>>

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual **Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant** is **Saturday, April 12**, in Montgomery, Minnesota. The pageant is open to women ages 16 to 26 of Czech, Slovak, or Moravian heritage who are residents of Minnesota or attend school in Minnesota. The pageant winners receive cash awards and crowns, plus they have a year of memorable appearances throughout the state of Minnesota. The new Miss Czech

Slovak Minnesota Queen travels to the National Miss Czech Slovak US Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska, in early August. The application deadline is March 1. For more information, contact Lorraine David: 507-364-9370 (days) or 507-364-5384 (evenings), email: <davidsdiner@hotmail.com>. The pageant website is <missczechslovakmnpageant.org>.

**Czech Voice of Cleveland** airs Sunday afternoons from 3:03 to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Radio WHKW at 1220-AM from Cleveland, Ohio. Catch it live on the Internet at <www.whkwradio.com>, click “listen.” *Slovo* subscriber and Sokol Minnesota supporter, **Joseph Kocab** is the DJ. Slovak programming in Cleveland: 11 a.m. to noon, WERE 1490-AM and 5:05 to 6 p.m. on WCPN 90.3-FM

Did you know there is a **Bohemian Waxwing** bird? It is a North American bird of the far north, which occasionally winters along the United States/Canadian border. How did it get its name? The *Bohemian* refers to its nomadic winter migration. Whoever named this species associated the inhabitants of Bohemia with those who live unconventional lifestyles and move often like the Roma (Gypsies). It is a beautiful medium-sized songbird, mostly grayish brown, with a black mask over its eyes, with some white, red, black, and yellow on tail and wings. Maybe you have seen one this winter. They are known to feed on mountain ash berries in the Grand Marais area. A fine little bird, but not from Bohemia!

**Sokol Minnesota thanks all its members for renewing their memberships for 2014.**

**Sokol Minnesota**

# GARAGE



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

**Thursday, May 15, noon - 7 p.m.**  
**Friday, May 16, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Drop off donations**  
**Wednesday, May 14, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**  
**to arrange early drop off: 952-941-0426**

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

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

**Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota**  
*Event chairs: Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney*  
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102 - [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

**Cross Roads.** Karel Čapek. North Haven, CT: Catbird Press, 2002, 224 pp. Available in libraries and bookstores.

## Searching for Meaning, Treading Tormented Paths By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

Although these stories are oddly structured and sometimes difficult to understand, they have the intelligence, clear voice, and ease of reading typical of Karel Čapek's writing. *Cross Roads* brings together two volumes of short stories, *Wayside Crosses* (1917) and *Painful Tales* (1921). The second came out right after the premiere of his play, *R.U.R.*, which introduced the word "robot" and led to the author's international acclaim. Following the play's success, Čapek concentrated on writing plays and novels, not publishing another story collection for eight years.

The original title of the first collection, *Boží muka*, literally means "God's torment" and is the term for the small European roadside shrines. The protagonists in these stories often find themselves tormented at crossroads in their lives. The second collection, *Trapné povídky*, translates as "painful," indicating the awkward, embarrassing, and frustrating feelings of the protagonists and the reader.

Čapek's desolate perspective was influenced by his health problems and the mass killings during World War I. He juxtaposes searching and acceptance, miracles and metaphysics, and faith and reason. Written in a time of artistic creativity, as exemplified by cubism, the *Wayside Crosses* stories are full of experimentation, such as continuing one story in another. In "The Footprint," Boura meets another man as he walks in the countryside. They observe a single footprint in the snow, with no trace of footsteps before or after it, and discuss possibilities. *Could the person leaving the footprint have jumped on one foot? Was it made by a man with one leg? Did a bird drop a boot into fresh snow and then carry it away?* Exhausted and out of ideas, Boura turns philosophical: "And when I think about my life, it seems that I must acknowledge that there are footsteps in it that come from nowhere and lead nowhere. It's terribly mistaken to think of everything I've lived through as no more than a chain that begins at one link and ends at another.... I know of things from which nothing flows, which bring salvation to nothing and no one, and yet, things have happened which led nowhere, offered no help in living, and yet were perhaps the most important things in life." The next story offers a potential answer: Boura's brother has long had the ability to disappear. *Is it a miracle or something else?*

*Painful Tales* has more conventional structures and fuller character development. "Two Fathers" tells of a doting, dark-haired father who takes his sickly, frightened, six-year-old daughter on walks about town. She dies, and through her funeral service we find out how the blonde child resembles the uncaring town organist, her biological father. As the story ends, the gravedigger is burying the child of two fathers.

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

### Save the Date!

25<sup>th</sup> Czech and Slovak Festival  
Sunday, September 14, C.S.P.S. Hall  
Volunteer now to help plan our anniversary celebration!  
<[festival@sokolmn.org](mailto:festival@sokolmn.org)> or Joyce Tesarek: 612-822-6147

## Holiday Baking



The Sokol Minnesota **Holiday Cookie Bake** on December 21 was a great success; the cookies were shared (to rave reviews) at many family gatherings throughout the holidays. Three members of the cookbook committee took turns teaching different



Czech/Slovak recipes, which will be included in the new cookbook that Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is compiling. **Pam Kotval** instructed how to make the delicate two-layered, jam-filled Linzer Cookies. **Jean Draheim** taught the recipe for melt-in-your-mouth Almond Crescents. **Doreen McKenney** taught Bear Paws. By the look and texture of the Bear Paw dough, one might have thought it was a pottery class, but not after tasting the exquisite and unique flavors of clove, ground walnuts, and chocolate dipped in chocolate. Intently concentrating on cookie making are (above, l-r) **Ann Siefert, Cindy Coulter, Ken Kedlac, Ruth Ahrens, Chuck Draheim**. Also in the class: **Shirley Verner**.

The picture of cookies also includes Rumballs, which were not part of this class. Next time!! Traditionally in Slovakia and in the Czech Republic, the holiday baking starts in November and sweets are stored in a cool place until Christmas.



*Happy New Year!*

**CZECH TOURS 2014**

June 16 - 30: Heritage Tour...\$2,965

September 1 - 15: Bohemia Tour...\$2,985

*Includes airfare from Minneapolis, welcome and farewell dinners with music, land transportation by motor coach, hotels, breakfasts, sightseeing (some entrance fees), fully escorted by Hana (20 years experience).*

For more information, contact:

**Hana Matousek at CZECH TOURS**

• 952-440-4289 • [CzechTours@aol.com](mailto:CzechTours@aol.com)

## Two Kinds of Czechs: Those who Escaped into Exile and Those who Stayed *Part 2*

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 (1999-2008)

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



Since most of us had escaped in a hurry, we did not anticipate some of the problems we would face. One of which was our illegal status. Because those fleeing Czechoslovakia had not yet been granted official refugee status and aid, many of us were placed in refugee camps designated for the *Volksdeutsche* (Germans escaping from Eastern Europe) and for the Sudeten Germans just expelled from Czechoslovakia. The latter group naturally hated us so intensely that confrontations occasionally ended in fistfights. Another problem was that whatever property was left behind was immediately confiscated by the communist regime and awarded to trusted party functionaries. After 1989, efforts to reclaim that property sometimes led to exiles receiving a cold reception.

The problem of lacking our own camp was resolved when an American student from the University of Chicago, whom I had met and worked with in Prague earlier, came to visit our wretched conditions in a refugee camp in Schwabach, West Germany. She decided to visit the commanding officer of the U.S. Army division in Nuremberg, and she persuaded him to settle us temporarily in an unused army building in that city located opposite the International Court of Justice. The General was so sympathetic to the plight of us students that he allocated a military vehicle with a driver so that we could visit various refugee camps to invite more Czechoslovak students and professors to join us in Nuremberg, and later, in a regular refugee camp in Ludwigsburg after the International Refugee Organization granted us legal status in Germany.

Here we had assembled all the officers of our student organizations and formed the National Association of Czechoslovak Students in Exile. Our primary goal was to explore our contacts with Western associations of students, and to take advantage of the sympathetic view most people held about the fall of Czechoslovakia to the Soviet camp. These efforts were very successful: we received some 300 scholarship offers from student leaders and their governments in The Netherlands, Norway, France, Switzerland, and Great Britain, with the U.S. coming forth a bit later. I was able to receive one of these scholarships in the U.S., which I accepted because there was nobody else in our camp who had the requisite qualifications, namely to be a certified ski instructor. Our activities were also political; we wanted to persuade these various national student associations to quit their membership in the then communist-dominated International Union of Students (IUS) and to create opposing organizations to counter communist efforts to influence students, especially those from the Third World. This occurred in a meeting in Paris that the U.S. military command allowed us to attend with limited financial and travel assistance. The importance of our presence in Paris became evident when our quarters in the Cité Universitaire were broken into and our records, funds, and position papers stolen.

The French Sécurité discovered that this was not a simple break-in but one perpetrated by Czechoslovak “diplomats” who, using diplomatic passports, entered France solely for that purpose and who left the country immediately after the break-in. I do not recall the names of many of the Western delegates who attended this I.U.S. congress, but among them were distinguished future leaders of their countries, including a few members of the French parliament, and the famous Prime Minister of Sweden, Olof Palme. Our participation in that conference and the news about the break-in were duly noted around the world and Western student associations did create a new counter-organization.

The reflection that our Czechoslovak leaders had failed and that the country would ultimately need a new generation of leaders encouraged us to use our exile for yet another reason. Aware of the danger of intellectual starvation in a refugee camp, we established not only our student association but created a “virtual” college that we named “Masaryk College in Exile.” We met regularly in seminar format, with lectures by anybody who knew anything. We were both students and teachers simultaneously. At that time, we did not realize that it would take almost half a century for our goals to be realized. By the time the communist dictatorship was overthrown, many in my generation had adjusted extremely well to new lives in the U.S. and elsewhere in the free world, received higher degrees, published, taught in universities, traveled around the world to lecture, and participated in an active fight against what Gorbachev later called the *Pax Sovietica*, the Soviet effort to achieve total world domination.

There were a number of vehicles in this fight available to us in the free world, but one that I would like to emphasize was the Czechoslovak Society for Arts and Sciences, with the acronym S.V.U. (*Společnosti pro vědy a umění*). This association, still in existence, had at one time branches in 27 countries and a membership of some 7,000, one of whom was Václav Havel. Its main goal was to counter the ideological efforts of the Soviets to garner support for Marxist intellectual culture. In Czechoslovakia, this Marxist effort was conducted largely by the Academy of Sciences, to which the regime nominated, for lifetime membership, its most staunch and conservative communists, who were exported all over the world to spread their poisonous ideas. After 1989, S.V.U. had to change its nature and goals since Czechs and Slovaks were again able to explain themselves without third party intermediation. Still, the S.V.U. remains active, has branches in the Czech and Slovak Republics, and jointly sponsors with them conferences, seminars, publications, and lectures.

This is a brief picture of my generation of 1948 exiles, eventually enriched by the 1960s younger generation of exiles. It shows how well these generations managed to adjust themselves to new conditions, how they gained the trust and respect of the peoples in the countries in which they resided, and what contributions they made not only to Czech and Slovak issues but also to their host countries in general. How was all of this possible when initial conditions were so unfavorable, the pressures of daily life so immense, the handicaps so numerous, and outside support so lacking? Nothing was given to us free, but we were given the opportunity to grow and practice what we came for in free societies and in cultures that respected hard work and our loyalty.

I have a term that explains the determination and sustained motivation to succeed in adverse conditions. I think the Czechs and Slovaks have a built-in “reserve power” that kicks in when needed, like a battery booster or life support. We may lose everything except our beliefs, values, faith in democracy, and the conviction that right eventually wins. This reserve power is my concept, but I believe in it, and will mention it again in my next article, which will deal with the “other” kinds of Czechs and Slovaks: those who stayed behind.

February 2014 *Slovo* 11

**ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!  
SOKOL Minnesota 2014 EVENTS**

***Mardi Gras III Tea Dance***

March 2, Sunday, 1 – 5 p.m.

Music by Southside Aces

Cash bar and Cajun menu a la carte

\$15. Reservations: <mardigras@sokolmn.org>

***Flavors of Slovakia Dinner***

March 16, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

\$16 adults, \$8 children

Reservations by March 11: 952-941-0426

***Šibřinky Dance and Supper***

March 22, Saturday, 4 – 10 p.m.

children, teen, adult folk dancing

Dance to Cathy Erickson Band live music 6-10 p.m.

\$12 (\$10 in advance: 651-452-6240)

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

Support our ***Sokol Garage Sale***: May 15 – 16

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

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

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



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**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* February 2014**

**Prague in Autumn.** Sokol Member Dan Bednar, on the Board of Trustees, and his wife Kim were in Prague in October. Dan, who is an excellent photographer, took these stunning photos. They walked through Olšany Cemetery



(left) daily as they toured the city on foot. *Olšanské Hřbitovy* is Prague's largest cemetery with many beautiful pathways amidst its numerous art nouveau monuments. The Wallenstein Gardens, *Valdštejnská zahrada*, built with the early Baroque-style palace in 1623–1630, has a stalactite Grotto (above).