



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

Flags, Ribbons, and History

*Contributed by
Joan Sedlacek*

We at Sokol Minnesota display six flags: our nation, the United States of America flag, the Czech flag and the Slovak flag to honor our heritage, the flag of the State of Minnesota, the international Sokol flag, and our unit flag. The unit flag has changed over the year as we have changed our from Sokol Zizka to St. Paul Sokol Gymnastic Society, then to Sokol Minnesota, and finally to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.



Ft Worth 2009 Slet

All six flags have gold fringe. Our unit flag is also heavily decorated with ribbons. These ribbons were presented at the Slets in which we have participated. In the grand entry at a Slet, the national, district, state, and unit flags parade in followed by the Slet participants. During the opening ceremony volunteers pass through the rows of assembled flags, hanging the ribbons. Each ribbon has the Slet logo, the city, and the year of that Slet. *continued on page 3*

Upcoming Events

Minnesota Sokol Camp Association Annual Stockholders Meeting
January 8,
7:00 p.m.

January Family Fun night: January 10, 4:30 PM

February Slovo Deadline:
January 10

Membership Meeting:
January 22,
7:00 p.m.

Duck Dinner:
January 23
Reservations by calling
952-941-0426



Duck Dinner - January 23, 2010



Look no further than our own beloved C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall to bring excitement to mid-winter. What better way to celebrate than a special early-evening dinner with candlelight, hearty fare, congenial company, and music in an historic setting!

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's ethnic dinners are popular far beyond the Czech and Slovak communities in St. Paul and Minneapolis. The first 2010 Sokol Minnesota dinner is the seventh annual candlelight roast duck dinner on January 23. You will feast on half a roasted duck, plus two Czech favorites: potato dumplings with gravy and sweet and sour red cabbage. Sokol members prepare these two traditional specialties from scratch. The duck is tender and roasted to perfection. Invite your friends to join you for this sumptuous repast. As always, the bar will sell the best of beers for you enjoyment.

Cost is \$22 per person. Cash bar.

Reservations must be made by January 19.

Call Doreen for reservations and more information: 952-941-0426

Dinner is at 5 p.m. on January 23 in the grand second-floor auditorium of the landmark C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul.



**Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota
2010 Board of
Directors**

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President Komentář/President's Note

By Joe Landsberger

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters

Last issue I reflected on transitions; this one continues the theme.

At our December membership meeting we inaugurated a new board. How fortunate that we have members stepping forward to take responsibility, either on the board or on committees. We also have many partnerships of “outsiders” that represent various interests in us. We can also call these “stakeholders” in the vitality of our organization—if we let them.

Who are these outsiders? Czech and Slovak Genealogical Society, Czech Slovak Culture Center, and the Honorary Counsels of the Czech and Slovak Republics. American Sokol Organization, and our sister units. Granting agencies, including the City of St. Paul, The Minnesota Historical Society, the United States Department of the Interior, foundations. Congresswoman Betty McCollum, and the Mayors of St. Paul (Chris Coleman) and Minneapolis (R.T. Rybak). The Glockenspiel Restaurant and Hot Rods Bar and Grill. Lex Ham Community Theater. The Fort Road Federation, West 7th Community Center and District 9 Community Council, West 7th Business Association, West End Arts, West End Gardeners. Neighbors and neighboring businesses. There are many more.

In business circles there is a strategic planning technique called a SWOT analysis. It attempts to identify strengths (what is internally helpful), weaknesses (what is internally harmful), opportunities (what is externally helpful), and threats (what is externally harmful) for our objective.

A strategic plan is usually visionary and rather brief, and provides the foundation and framework for a business or organizational plan which is much more detailed. It also should not be confused with an operational plan which is narrower in scope, measurable, tactical, and more focused.

Lately I have become well aware that we are in need of some organizational planning. The problem is I don't know how to bring this about given the critical nature of our core membership that is endemic. Often our strengths and weaknesses are one and the same. I won't go into examples, but our transitions depend on our willingness to honestly celebrate our accomplishments and confront that which holds us back.

Nazdar



The SLOVO is published by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, MN 55102. We welcome your contributions, text and pictures!

The Slovo Publications Committee welcomes submissions. Send your suggestions/submissions digitally to publicrelations@sokolmn.org, or call 651 290 0542! The deadline for the February issue is January 10.

Slovo gift subscriptions and non-membership renewals: \$12 Sokol MN SLOVO, 5604 Morgan Ave So., Mpls, MN 55419

Visit us at:
www.sokolmn.org



Norm Petrik at the Ft Worth 2009 Slet

The simple ribbon represents many hours of learning and practicing the prostna (calisthenics), travel to the Slet, as well as pride and love of Sokol. Each ribbon is a memory of past Slets, friends old and new, and the continuity of the Slets.

Our unit flag has been carried in many states, Canada, Czechoslovakia, and the Czech Republic. Why not be part of the next ribbon presentation at the next Slet and be part of Sokol history?

At the November Annual Membership Meeting, Norm Petrik and Lloyd Krocak hung the 2009 Ft. Worth Slet ribbon on our unit's flag. While in Ft. Worth, Norm carried the flag in the parade and Lloyd carried it in the closing ceremonies.



Dennis Cahill, Norm Petrik, and Lloyd Krocak hang the 2009 Ft. Worth Slet ribbon on our unit's flag

The ribbons were not ready for distribution at the Slet in late June, but our unit's flag now proudly bears its latest banner.

Early Sokol Memories

Contributed by Wally Schovaneck

When I was about nine in 1936, my mother took the picture from our back steps you see here. The accordion you see is a small twelve bass model. I had been taking lessons for about a year from Ralph Trafficante, an experience I share with President Joe Landsberger. Back then lessons cost a dollar and street car tokens about seven cents one way, and with my mother 28 cents round trip to downtown! In those days it was quite a lot to spend on something you couldn't eat or wear.

My year-older brother, Rudy, was taking saxophone lessons from a Czech, Joe Vavro, so there were no transportation costs for him. He often said that I was treated better than he was with my transportation expense!

Our Czech School Group played, sang and did the Beseda at Nursing Homes, orphanages, and our Hall. When I talk about our school, I must always begin with the wonderful ladies and occasional man who devoted their Saturdays to teaching us Czech. Some that I recall are Mrs. Vaněk, Mrs Cinkl, Mrs. Schwanhausen. A man whose name I forget thrilled us with rides in his convertible Skodorka. Lord forgive me for not remembering all of them because of the sacrifices they made for us! I also remember braving that unheated room of the old kitchen on those bitterly cold Saturday mornings, then out in the big hall to teach us the beseda. Those teachers must all be in heaven for their sacrifices and especially for putting up with my "devilment." I really could be a čent at times!

Karleen Shott Sheppard and I were in a play performed in Czech that we put on for the Sokol membership. She was a princess lost in the woods; I was a woodland sprite who comforted her, or tried to. I am not sure where the original script can be found.

Editor's note: Karleen picks up the remembrance from here:

This short play, *O Jedné Princezně*, was put on by pupils of the Czech School on the stage of the CSPS Hall in the mid 1930's. It was directed by Bessie (Mrs. Frank) Vanek. The cast included myself as the Princess, Walter as the Jester, and George Loss as the Robber. It was originally a puppet play published in *Radostné Čtení* (Joyful Reading), a fourth grade reader for American Czech schools published by the Alliance of Free Thought Schools, Chicago, 1929.



Wally Schovaneck as a boy with his accordion

“They Came to the Heartland”

Contributed by Ginger Simek, President of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l

This is the theme for the upcoming CGSI Symposium to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska on Friday, April 30th and Saturday, May 1st 2010. This two day event offers the opportunity to use the resource materials of CGSI's Traveling Library which will be available all day on Friday. The approximately 60 key reference materials are duplicates of what is housed in the CGSI main library collection at 1185 Concord Street N, in South St. Paul, Minnesota. Assistance will be available in using the resource materials. The Nebraska State Historical Society library may also be open (depending on their construction schedule) for research. Another Friday alternative is the tour to “The Czech Capital of the U.S.A.”; Wilber, Nebraska. It was officially designated as such by a proclamation signed in July 1987 by President Ronald Reagan. The tour features the Wilber Czech Museum, the historic Sokol Hall, opportunities to see Czech *kroje* and vintage musical instruments, the Dvoracek Memorial Library Heritage Room, and a visit to the first all-Czech cemetery.

Session speakers on Saturday include Leo Baca, Tom McFarland, Bruce Garver, Mike Prohaska, Mila Saskova-Pierce, and Margie Sobotka. Topics will include Czech language for genealogists, DNA and genealogy, genealogical Internet research, Czech-American free thinkers, the homesteading experience, and others. There will be a Friday evening social and a Saturday dinner with entertainment. The symposium will be held on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Campus. Special hotel rates for symposium attendees are available at the Holiday Inn Lincoln-Downtown 1-(877) 863-4780. For more information and to register for the 2010 CGSI Lincoln Symposium, contact: Wayne Sisel at sisel001@umn.edu or write CGSI, PO Box 16225, St. Paul MN 55116. Also see details on our website www.cgsi.org

A fun event to round out the weekend is the 41st annual Czech Festival presented by the Nebraska Czechs of Lincoln complete with ethnic food, heritage demonstrations, and music. This takes place on Sunday, May 2nd from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Moose Lodge Center, 4901 N. 56th Street in Lincoln. For more information on the festival, visit www.lincolnczechs.org.

On a different subject - after countless hours put in by great volunteers over many months working with a website design company, the CGSI new website launched on November 20, 2009. It has a better design, improved navigation, and offers two searchable databases for members - with more information to come. We invite you to visit www.cgsi.org

Look for Part III of Slovak Surnames: What They Can Tell A Family Historian in the February 2010 SLOVO.



Nebraska Union – Lincoln CGSI

***Didn't need that fourth pair of slippers Santa brought?
Is the kids' toy chest overflowing?***



Box up older, good condition toys, clothes, etc and bring to the hall for the spring garage sale!

Now accepting boxes with lids (no bags please)
Mark your box “Sokol Garage Sale” and drop off at: C.S.P.S.Sokol Hall • 1st Floor • 383 Michigan, St. Paul

Sale: April 15-16

No electronics, bicycles, large furniture, or mattresses



The Ramsey County Historical Society held its annual meeting and dinner at the CSPS Sokol Hall Thursday, December 3. Benson K. Whitney, Retired Ambassador to Norway, outlined the historical connections between Ramsey County and Norway as well as shared his experiences during his appointment from 2006 to 2009 in his talk “Skis, cheese and diplomacy: reflections on an adventure in Norway”.

A note from incoming Education Director Jean Verner

Starting in January, I will be serving as the Education Director for Sokol Minnesota. This is a very exciting prospect for me. Not only is this my first time to serve on the Board of Directors, I am following in my grandfather's footsteps. Frantisek (Frank) Verner served as an Educational Director in the 1930's.

Currently we have a strong and diverse offering of courses developed under the leadership of Louise Wessinger. It is my aim to maintain what she has worked so hard to establish--the language and cooking classes--that have been the backbone of our programs, as well as expand into new areas.

Having said that, I am looking for ideas. Some that have been suggested already are genealogy, family histories, folk arts and performing arts. I welcome your suggestions for classes or talks. Along with topics, I am looking for Sokol members and their family or friends who would like to share their special talents with us. If you have suggestions, please contact me at sokolmnedu@aol.com or at 651-426-2826.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to Louise for all that she has done to establish our education programs! I hope that I can live up to the standards that she has set.



Board of Trustees News

Contributed by Chuck Draheim

Greetings from the Board of Trustees.

First of all we would like to thank Judy Aubrecht and Jeff Martinka for their years of faithful service on the BOT. Judy is moving on to the BOD and, unfortunately, Jeff is moving to Milwaukee. Both Jeff and Judy will be greatly missed.

We would like to welcome Jean Hall, Lloyd Krocak and Don Haselbauer to the BOT. All three come to the BOT with many years of Sokol experience.

The next year will be full of challenges for the BOT as we move forward with the planned and proposed improvements to the C.S.P.S. hall in addition to our regular duties as the group charged with the administration of all real property owned by Sokol Minnesota.

The various grants that have been received or applied for will provide funding for many greatly needed improvements and repairs to our historic facility. Sokol Minnesota has already received a \$150,000 grant through the efforts of Congresswoman Betty McCollum and for this we are deeply grateful.

Returning BOT members are Chuck Draheim, Terry Shima, Dennis Cahill and Scott Hinshaw.

Membership Notes

Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the November 20th membership meeting, one couple and one single member were accepted into membership in Sokol Minnesota: Ann and Kenneth Janda from Roseville whose interests include gymnastics, language, cooking and various events; and Zuzana Bracknell from Minneapolis whose interest includes children's dance. Two first time members were present at this meeting, Leah Sticha and Mary Booles were installed and received the traditional welcome hug from Georgiana Dolejsi!

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota. For non-members reading this and interested in possibly joining, please call me at 612 822-6147. Our meetings are usually the 4th Friday at 7pm. Our next meeting will be Friday January 22nd at 7pm. Watch the Slovo for this information and other Sokol events.



Members Mary Booles and Leah Sticha were inducted at the November Membership Meeting.



Pancake Breakfast cooks: Ed Hamernik, Kathy Jorgenson, Richard Guttman, Becky Olson, Chuck Draheim and Joe Landsberger

Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale



Rachel Olson helping serve coffee



Bake sale participants: Shannon Duffy, Doreen McKenney, Sue Marabella, Marit Lee Kucera, Darla Kolb, Mary jo Chelbeczek, Sharon Liska, & Joyce Tesarek



Jean Verner and Cinnamon Whaley



Pancake breakfast from the third floor gallery





At the Czech/Slovak Movies

Contributed by Cinnamon Whaley

Beauty in Trouble (2006)

Beauty in Trouble is a story of a young mother, Marcela, and her husband, Jarda, who supports their family by stripping stolen cars in the Czech Republic after the 2002 floods. Marcela leaves Jarda and takes the two children to stay with her mother and stepfather in a small apartment. The stepfather makes it clear that he does not want three house guests. This makes for an uncomfortable living situation, and very good cinematography. Jarda steals another car and his prison sentence leads to a series of coincidences including allowing Marcela to meet a well-off older gentleman who happens to have had his car stolen. They begin dating and this man, Benes, eventually takes Marcela and the children to Italy where he lives when he is not doing business in Czech Republic, his native country. When Jarda gets out of jail an array of thought provoking, sometimes unfortunate events unfold.

The movie had the darkness of a dark comedy without the comedy. It seems designed so that you feel bad for every character in the film including the bad guys. Movies like this are rare and I believe are enjoyable to watch in part because they make you feel a little uncomfortable and put you outside the happily-ever-after. The plot was somewhat cliché but had interesting bits of originality, was well acted and overall worth viewing. The movie has not been rated by the MPAA but I would rate it R for language and nudity.

Katie's Quick Czech Dumplings (with apologies to Florence)

Contributed by Cinnamon Whaley

A few weeks ago I saw Katie Haselbauer at the hall and she said that she had a recipe she'd like to share with the membership through the Slovo. The recipe is for Czech dumplings and takes less than a half hour to make! When I contacted Katie to get the recipe she said she'd just made it the night before with granddaughters Meghan, Gretchen, and Jackie. While she and I were on the phone she asked the girls if they enjoyed the dumplings and through the phone I could hear a chorus of "Yes! Yes!" The girls asked if this was how grandma made dumplings and with a thought towards Florence's dumpling recipe Katie said, "No, no it's not!"

1/2 cup Bisquick
1/2 cup flour
1/4 cup milk
1 egg
mace to taste
2 slices of stale bread

Shake eggs and milk, add dry ingredients. Mix together with spatula. Fold in bread crumbs. Gently roll on a floured board until lightly coated. Put in to boiling water for 16 minutes, covered. No peeking, no turning - nothing! Recipe can be doubled and boiled in one batch

Song of the Month

Contributed by
Georgiana Dolejsi

This famous American Christmas song was originally written for Thanksgiving! The author and composer of Jingle Bells was a minister called James Pierpoint wrote and composed the song in 1857 for his Boston Sunday School Thanksgiving, but it was so popular it was repeated for Christmas, and for Christmases thereafter!

Rolničky (Jingle Bells)



*Sláva, už je sních, jedem na saních, kluci křičí, zvonek zní,
jenom táta ztich.*

Kouká na syna, uši napíná... Co to slyší v rolničkách? Na co vzpomíná?

Refrain:

Rolničky, rolničky, kdopak vám dal hlas?

Kašpárek maličký nebo děda Mráz?

Rolničky, rolničky, co to zvoní v nich?

Maminčiny písničky, Vánoce a sních.

*Zvonky dětských let, rozezvoňte svět! Těm, co už jsou dospělí, ať je
znova pět!*

Zvoňte zlehýnka, stačí chvílka: Vzpomínka jak rolničky v srdci zacinká.

New Children's / Bilingual Feature!

Contributed by Joe Landsberger

We are starting a bilingual children's section in the Slovo utilizing our archives of children's books in Czech, beginning with this poem below! Our archives are over 100 years old and this will make a nice addition to our Slovo - not only for children but also language learners! A challenge to our readers: send us your translations of the poem below and will publish a story about the responses we receive! Send translations to publicrelations@sokolmn.org.

Zimní radovánky polárních medvědu (od Svet zvírat 1917)

*"To ví kozel, ne a ne
Suchou vrbu postavít
Hlava Klouže po lede
V prackách nemam zadny cit."
"Bodejt hlava! Výmluvy!
Kamaráde, nech to, nech!
Vis, Michaele, FIM to je
Teziste mas v Kalhotech*



Prostna Practice Starts January 4, 6- 7:30 p.m.

Sokol Minnesota members will meet on the first and third Monday nights of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. to learn a *prostna* (calisthenics). Not only will you get some good exercise, but you will also learn precision drills. Exercise is one of the core principals of Sokol. Join our *prostna* group and learn more about your Sokol roots. No experience necessary. All ages are welcome.

Our Minnesota unit plans to perform our cal next September in Spillville, Iowa for the 150th anniversary of the St. Wenceslaus Church. Show up on the 4th or call Mary Cahill (651-738-9470) or Marit Lee Kucera (651-222-2483) if you have any questions.

Finance Committee (Thank you for your donations!)

Contributed by Jeanette Pafko, Finance Recording Secretary

Sokol acknowledges all donations as they are received. They are listed in two categories, Building Fund and General Operating Fund although programs within each are not listed. Amounts are now grouped in five categories: under \$100, \$100-\$499, \$500-999, \$1000-\$4999, and \$5000-+.

Building Fund (We used these funds to match our grant requirements)

Under \$100 – Cecilie Gaziano, Frank Petruska, Ray Vanyo, Darla Kolb, Bessie Anca O'Neill, Tom Pallo, Roger & Nancy Green, Gary Novak, Donovan R. Johnson, Judy Metcalf, Karen Machlica, Elsie Roepke, Romelle Vanek, Charles Rusnacko, Jeff Martinka, Lenka Hester, Geneva Adams

In memory of Florence Haselbauer – Bessie Anca O'Neill, Ralph & Mary Halbert

\$100-\$499 – Susan Lindoo and Michael Wolesky, David & Susan Martin, Richard J. Pavlicek, Jaroslav Verner, Joan Sedlacek, Geraldine Dooley

In memory of Florence Haselbauer – John & Marian Rich, Sr.

In memory of parents Michael Elavsky and Anna Bartko – Helen Fruetel

\$500-\$999 – Tom & Judy Aubrecht –pledge to building fund, George Chlebeczek Culture Camp & Building Fund

Christmas membership meeting and board installment

The December/Christmas membership dinner program included a dinner, entertainment, and the installation of the new board of directors and committees of trustees, finance, and gambling. Jeanette Pafko and Marit Lee Kucera decorated the tables with greenery, bows, spangles, angels, wreaths, snowflakes, ribbons, and candles for the Christmas Holiday Members' Party, with help from Joan Sedlacek and Don Pakfo. Steve Shimer was in charge of signing in those who came to enjoy the holiday cheer at a modest \$10 per person and Katie Haselbauer served the main course.



*Sokol Minnesota 2010 Board of Directors
Left to right: Jean Hall, Marit Lee Kuchera, Jeanette Pafko, Mary Cahill, Steve Shimer, Megan Cahill, Joe Landsberger, Alisa Hollibush, Norm Petrik, Joyce Tesarek, Ed Hamernik, Ken Wyberg, Denis Novak, Jean Verner*

About 50 members first enjoyed appetizers they provided. The menu included a Bohemian pork goulas (that Joe Landsberger created by emptying out the Sokol freezers), baked potatoes, tossed salad and rolls. The dessert course again was provided by members who eagerly relished its offerings while the new Honorary Consul for the Republic of Slovakia, Don Pakfo, greeted them. Pianist Frank Trnka followed with a Frederick Chopin Christmas carol variation as well as an improvisation. The formal program began when Jeanette Pafko, Financial Secretary, and Norm Petrik, Membership Chair, presented membership certificates to an impressive list of long time members. The 2010 Board of Directors was then sworn in by Georgiana Dolejsi, who also recognized several committees.

The meeting concluded when members pitched in for clean up!

Congratulations to the Sokol members who received longevity awards at the December membership meeting!



Robert Vanyo with Membership Director Norm Petrik



Financial Secretary Jeanette Pafko with new Recording Secretary Megan Cahill, her Grandmother Val Kuisle and Norm Petrik



Miroslav Verner with Membership Director Norm Petrik

60 years

Robert Vanyo
Miroslav Verner

55 years

Richard Saliny

45 years

Wayne
Hawkinson
Valeria Kuisle
Robert Marabella
Karleen Sheppard
Louise Wessinger

35 years

Mary Cahill
Catherine
Haselbauer

30 years

John Cicha
Mary Halbert
Ralph Halbert
Hana Matousek
Doreen
McKenney
George Pokorny
Elizabeth Pokorny

25 years

James Kohout
Donald Pafko
Jeanette Pafko
Darlene Sitko
Philothea Sweet

20 years

Marlene Hinshaw
Edward
Machacek
Wallace Oliva
Josef Ruzicka

15 years

Robert Bina
Garnet Bina
Marcia Dworshak
John Dworshak
Fran Kaschak

10 years

Dennis Cahill
Kay Edquist
Josef
Mestenhauer
Milan Sebek
Juliana Slavik

5 years

Tim Curtis
David Factor
Heidi Glynn
Alisa Hollibush
Kevin Hurbanis
Katherine
Jorgenson
Marlene King
Darla Kolb
Joe Landsberger
Sharon Liska
Jeff Martinka

Doris Moravetz
Teresa Pojar
Marvin E. Smisek
Bryan Swartz





Dr. Josef Mestenhauser

Focus on Slovakia

By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser

Last December 10th was a very important day for Slovak-Americans in Minnesota. It was a very important day for all Minnesotans – the day Don Pafko was officially installed as Slovak Honorary Consul in Minnesota. The inaugural ceremony was a dignified and festive occasion that was attended by many very important people whose major conversation had to do with how everybody knew Don Pafko. Everybody did. One lady did not follow the pattern when she came to me and asked not how I knew him, but how long I have known Don. I thought that was a silly questions because, as everybody knows, forever. We stood together to fight the communist regime and did all we could under the circumstances to represent the real freedom loving people of the then Czechoslovakia. We cheered when the velvet revolution succeeded to throw out the communists, and applauded that the split of the country was so peaceful and supportive. And then we worked together to lay a foundation for an expanded “cultural diplomacy” designed to bring the people of the Czech, Slovak and American republics closer together.

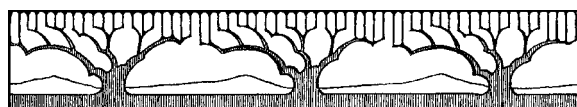


Ms. Dagmar Hupkova, Frantisek Gaher, Jake Slegers, Deputy Prime Minister Jan Mikolaj, Governor Pawlenty, Ambassador Peter Burian, Anton Cizmar, Donald Pafko, Vladimir Bales

The ceremony was attended by a high power Slovak delegation – the second such group that visited Minnesota in a year’s time. That showed what importance the Slovak Republic attaches to their connections with Minnesota. Slovak Ambassador Petr Burian spoke eloquently about the progress Slovakia has made in the past 20 years, stressed the solidarity with the United States in several points of foreign policy in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans, and in general talked about the smooth conversion to the Euro, the progressive legislation, the sound economy, the stable government, the active movement of people between the two countries, and the similarity of Slovakia and Minnesota in terms of population, size, industry and business interests. Ambassador Burian expressed some of the same thoughts in this and previous meetings with University of Minnesota officials and called for closer cooperation in science and education.

I felt sorry that Slovakia was not well represented among the some twenty seven countries that have regular or Honorary Consulates in Minnesota and supported strongly an effort to bridge this gap. Needless to say I was very pleased that this has now been accomplished and that Slovak Republic has placed Minnesota on its map and radar screen. But this raised an unpleasant question in my mind: why should Ambassador Burian be the one coming here to explain the Slovak friendship and interest of future cooperation to us? In other words, has this placed Slovakia also on our map and radar screen? And if it has, how much do we actually know about these friends? Many Europeans are accusing us of being too much involved in ourselves to pay attention to people who want to be friends with us and that we do not recognize that friendship is a reciprocal affair. It also means that friendship is usually based not just on emotional proximity, but on actual knowledge about our friends. How much do we know about Slovakia’s rise to be a true democracy, and how much do we recognize that it is also a part of the European Union in which Slovakia will play a very important role in the European Commission. The President of the European Commission Manuel Bartoso just appointed the Slovak Commissioner Mares Sevcovic to oversee the portfolio for Inter-institutional Relations and Administration, a very important post with responsibility to see that all organs of the Union, including its foreign relations, relations with the Council and with the other commissions, function smoothly and efficiently. In addition, the Slovak Commissioner was appointed Vice Chair of the Commission itself.

Slovakia may be a small country – like Minnesota – but it has its place in the affairs of political things. It is up to us to reciprocate their friendship and to learn more about them. Due to the rising importance of the European Union that friendship is precious, and cannot be taken for granted.






This year Theodore Kadlek celebrated his sixth birthday on Halloween Saturday, October 31.

With the able assistance of athletic directors Mary Cahill and Alisa Hollibush, 15 children and 17 adults went through their Sokol paces!



Czech
Slovak
Sokol Minnesota




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