



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

# SLOVO

**January 2015**  
**vol. 38 no. 1**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2015

**February Slovo Deadline**

January 1

**Member's Holiday Party**

January 4, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

**Sokol Minnesota Singers**

January 6 and 20, 10 a.m.

**Board of Trustees**

January 7, 7 p.m.

**Board of Directors**

January 15, 7 p.m.

**Family Night**

January 18, 4 p.m.

**Members Meeting**

January 23, 7 p.m.

**Duck Dinner**

January 24, 5 p.m.

**Sunday**  
**January 4, 2015**  
**3p.m. - 6p.m.**

**C.S.P.S. Hall**



**\$10.00 per person**  
**Lasagna, salad,**  
**French bread, and coffee**

**Hors d'oeuvre's or dessert**  
**to share are welcome.**

**12th Annual**  
**Roast**  
**Duck Dinner**

**Saturday**  
**January 24, 2015**

**5:00 p.m.**  
**\$22.00 per person**

**Prepaid reservations**  
**are required by January 21**  
**To reserve call: 952-941-0426**  
**Limited seating**

**Soup, 1/2 roast duck, potato dumplings,**  
**gravy, sweet and sour red cabbage,**  
**applesauce, caraway rye bread,**  
**coffee, and dessert.**  
**Beer and pop will be available for sale.**

**Hosted by Czech and Slovak**  
**Sokol Minnesota**  
**C.S.P.S. Hall**  
**383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul**  
**www.sokolmn.org**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**from your**  
**Slovo Volunteers!**



**Czech and Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota  
2015 (BOD)  
Board of Directors**

**President**

Judy Aubrecht

**First Vice President**

Denis Novak

**Second Vice President**

Jean Hall

**Recording Secretary**

Cindy Coulter

**Corresponding Secretary**

Arlene Hamernik

**Treasurer**

Don Haselbauer

**Financial Secretary**

Tom Aubrecht

**Sergeant at Arms**

Michael Sebek

**Members at Large**

Jason Brozovich

Marketa Palkova Resong

**Membership Director**

Norm Petrik

**Board of Budget and Finance**

Joyce Tesarek, Chair

**Educational Director**

Jean Draheim

**Board of Instructors**

Mary Cahill,

Women's Physical Director

Megan Cahill,

Men's Physical Director

**Publicity Director**

Jyni Koschak

**Board of Trustees**

Chuck Draheim, Chair

**Gambling Manager**

Ed Hamernik

**Telephone: 651-290-0542**

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**

The Sokol Minnesota annual meeting on November 21 included the election of new officers for 2015 and updates about our organization. A number of officers generously agreed to continue with their positions for another year. New officers for the Board of Directors include Denis Novak as First Vice President, Michael Sebek as Sergeant at Arms, and Jean Hall as Second Vice President. Denis will assist the president. Mike is very interested in sharing his technology and business knowledge with us. Jean hopes to spend one day each week at the Hall to help things run smoothly. This will include accepting deliveries and telephone work. My most sincere thanks are offered to our officers who are retiring at the end of 2014. Doreen McKenney has spent many hours at the Hall ensuring that important events had a chairperson and ran smoothly. Ken Wyberg served as interim charitable gaming manager this year. It was a period of transition for the gaming program and audits were completed by State of Minnesota gaming and revenue departments. Ed Hamernik completed a gaming manager's course this fall and is our new gaming manager.

December 13, 2014, or *12-13-14*, was the last date comprised of sequential numbers until January 2, 2034, or *1-2-34*. December 13 was also a special day for our Czech and Slovak community, because we were invited to perform at the Holiday Marketplace at Peavy Plaza in downtown Minneapolis. This was the first year for the Marketplace, which took the place of the Holidazzle parade. The Marketplace opened on November 29 and continued until December 24. Several other countries were also represented by performers, including France, Germany, and Hungary. Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdance director Louise Wessinger helped to coordinate the entertainment for Czech and Slovak Day. The day began with Corbin Jerde, Miss Czech and Slovak Minnesota, singing a selection of ethnic songs. Corbin was followed by Sokol members Colleen Cahill and Kate Aubrecht introducing Czech and Slovak holiday customs. Children from *Taneční mládež* (our youth folk dancers) with their parents, held up colorful posters that showed common customs. My favorite customs were wearing out a broom with heavy cleaning and shopping for carp at the holiday market, keeping it alive in the family bathtub until cooking it for Christmas Eve dinner. Jarda and Jitka, the giant puppets, made a dramatic appearance. The teen dancers, Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, and the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers each performed lively dance programs. It was an honor for our Czech and Slovak community to be invited to participate in this new, festive event.

**With the membership renewals for 2015, you received Joyce Tesarek's letter about the \$50,000 matching grant that an anonymous donor has donated to the Sokol Minnesota Legacy Fund to help finish the air conditioning project. Our Spring 2015 Events Postcard also lists this donation opportunity. Already \$20,000 has been pledged. Please consider making an end-of-the-year contribution. With your help, we can raise the final \$30,000 needed to meet the matching grant and complete the project. Thank you! Nazdar a šťastný Nový rok!**

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

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko      Honorary Czech Consul Nominee: Marit Lee Kucera

Past Honorary Czech Consuls: Josef Mestenhauer and Robert Vanasek

Sunshine Committee: open

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson

Kitchen Coordinator: open

Website: Craig Johnson, Joe Landsberger

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 | Board of Directors: board@sokolmn.org | Education/Language Programs: education@sokolmn.org | Events: events@sokolmn.org | Czech/Slovak Festival: festival@sokolmn.org | Finance/Fund Raising/Legacy Fund: finance@sokolmn.org | Fitness Programming: fitness@sokolmn.org | Folk Dancing: folkdancing@sokolmn.org | Gift Shop: giftshop@sokolmn.org | Hall Rental: hallrental@sokolmn.org | Housekeeping: housekeeping@sokolmn.org | Membership: membership@sokolmn.org | Newsletter: slovo@sokolmn.org | Planning: planning@sokolmn.org | Publicity: publicity@sokolmn.org | Public Relations: publicrelations@sokolmn.org | Social Media: socialmedia@sokolmn.org | Treasurer: treasurer@sokolmn.org | Board of Trustees: trustees@sokolmn.org | Webmaster: webmaster@sokolmn.org

## Membership Milestones in 2014

Compiled by Tom Aubrect, Financial Secretary

At the 2014 Annual Membership Meeting on November 21, Sokol Minnesota recognized these members for their years of membership. Congratulations! Thank you!

**5 Years** (joined in 2009) 12 total: Geneva Adams, Christina Banks, Zuzana Bracknell, Lenka Bragg, Ann Janda, Kenneth Janda, Christine Maghrak, Michaela Makarianova-Wentz, Reverend Jim Nelson, Irene Thayer, Sara Votruba, Gary Wentz

**10 Years** (joined in 2004) 10 total: Tim Curtis, Kevin Hurbanis, Katherine Jorgenson, Darla Kolb, Sharon Liska, Jeff Martinka, Doris Moravetz, Teresa Pojar, Marvin E. Smisek, Bryan Swartz

**15 Years** (joined in 1999) 4 total: Dennis Cahill, Kay Edquist, Josef Mestenhauser, Juliana Slavik

**20 Years** (joined in 1994) 1 total: Marcia Dworshak

**25 Years** (joined in 1989) 2 total: Marlene Hinshaw, Edward Machacek

**30 Years** (joined in 1984) 5 total: Roger Green, James Kohout, Donald Pafko, Darlene Siko, Philothea Sweet

**35 Years** (joined in 1979) 6 total: John Cicha, Mary Halbert, Ralph Halbert, Hana Matousek, Doris McKenney, George Pokorny

**40 Years** (joined in 1974) 4 total: Mary Cahill, Catherine Haselbauer, Wayne Hawkinson (d. November 6), James Hillier

**50 Years** (joined in 1964; now Honorary Members) 3 total: Val Kuisle, Robert Marabella, Louise Wessinger

**60 Years** (joined in 1954) 1 total: Richard Saliny



(L-R) Tom Aubrecht, Financial Secretary, presented 50 Years Award Certificates to Bob Marabella (Sue Marabella accepted the award for her husband), Louise Wessinger, and Val Kuisle, with Judy Aubrecht, Sokol Minnesota President.

## Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the November Board of Directors meeting, one couple, **Robert and Claudia Tuma** from Lonsdale, Minnesota, with interest in dances, dinners, festivals, films, and history, and one individual, **Nancy Blume** from Minnetonka, were accepted as members of Sokol Minnesota. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota! January 23, 7 p.m., is our next Featured Friday Membership Meeting at the Hall.

### Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

**Renewals:** Individual **\$50**; Couple **\$90**.

Senior **\$40**; Senior couple **\$80**.

**New memberships:** Individual **\$55**; Couple **\$95**. (New memberships 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 February 2015 issue is January 1, 2015.**

Member Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and production editor; Mary Kucera, production assistant; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, mailing production; Joan Sedlacek, mailing; with Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, and Frank Trnka, advisors.

Photographs for this issue were provided by Martina Gurgel, M.L. Kucera, Jyni Koschak, Marketa Resong, Jitka Sebek, and Joyce Tesarek.

This January 2015 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after January 31st.

*Slovo* accepts business card-size ads (3.5"x2"), paid in advance: one-time insertion \$25; three consecutive issues: \$65; ten consecutive issues: \$175. Ad reservation deadline is 6 weeks before publication (December 15 for February issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (January 1 for February issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through January 2016.) 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.

Please contact us with a **change of address**, for problems with *Slovo* subscriptions, 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 have to 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!*

## Sokol Western District Update By Western District President Dan Rannells

The holidays are often a hectic time with planning, shopping, traveling, and running from one event to another. It's a wonderful time of year, rich in tradition and significance. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas full of lots of time spent with family and friends. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the season, and take some time to reflect on the past year and to look forward to 2015.

The New Year is a wonderful time for reflection. It gives us an opportunity to let go of past mistakes, missed opportunities, and baggage and to focus on the possibilities of the future. For Sokol, this means learning from our past (successes and failures) and working together to build an even brighter future. It's an opportunity for us as individual Units and as a national

organization to remember what is truly important and to work together toward those goals.

As you know, 2015 is an important year for Sokol. It represents 150 years of Sokol in America. Surviving for 150 years is a tremendous feat for any organization. The generations that came before us worked diligently to build and preserve our Sokol Units. Now it is our turn. We must work together to ensure that future generations can enjoy the same opportunities that our predecessors gave us, and we must always strive to be a positive force in our communities.

Merry Christmas to you and Happy New Year! *Nazdar!*  
<dan@sokolomaha.com>

### 2015 Sokol Minnesota Boards and Committees

#### Board of Directors (BOD)

##### BOD Officers: Terms 2015-2016:

President: Judy Aubrecht

First Vice President: Denis Novak

Corresponding Secretary: Arlene Hamernik

Financial (Membership) Secretary:

##### BOD Officers: Terms 2014-2015:

Second Vice President: Jean Hall

Recording Secretary: Cindy Coulter

Sergeant at Arms: Michael Sebek

No term limit: Treasurer: Don Haselbauer

##### BOD Board Members: Terms 2015-2016:

Educational Director: Jean Draheim

Gaming Manager: Ed Hamernik

Member-at-Large 1: Jason Brozovich

Woman's Physical Director: Mary Cahill

##### BOD Board Members: Terms 2014-2015:

Member-at-Large 2: Marketa Resong

Membership Director: Norm Petrik

Publicity Director: Jyni Koschak

#### Board of Trustees (BOT)

**BOT 2015-2017:** Dennis Cahill and

Chuck Draheim

**BOT 2014-16:** Lloyd Krocak, John

Liemandt, and Terry Shima

**BOT 2013-2015:** Dan Bednar and Jake Jacobson.

#### Budget and Finance Committee:

**2015-2016:** Scott Muyres and

*One Seat Remains Open*

**2014-2015:** Don Haselbauer (member as Treasurer), Joe Landsberger (non-voting), Joyce Tesarek (Chair), and Ken Wyberg

#### Board of Gaming:

**No term limit:** Ed Hamernik, Manager

**2015-2016:** Joan Sedlacek and Ken Wyberg

**2014-2015:** Judy Aubrecht (member as President), Steve Shimer as Assistant

Manager, and Joyce Tesarek

#### Delegates to the Western District Meetings 2015:

Automatic delegates: Mary Cahill and Megan Cahill as Men's and Women's Physical Directors

One year term: Courtney Benson, Jason Brozovich, Marit Lee Kucera, and Norm Petrik. Alternate Delegates: Joan Sedlacek and Joyce Tesarek

**C.S.P.S. Hall Planning:** Judy Aubrecht (current Sokol President), Chuck Draheim (BOT), Ed Hamernik (Chair, Sokol Past President), Joe Landsberger (Historic Compliance Liaison, non-voting), Gary Novak (Project Manager), and Joyce Tesarek (Finance)

*Sokol Nominating Committee for 2015: Cindy Coulter, Ed Hamernik, Marketa Resong, and Joyce Tesarek*

### We Remember Three Sokols

**Mary Tesarek** passed away October 15, 2014. Born on September 17, 1922, to Jan and Božena Dolejší Fanta in Větrný Jeníkov, Czechoslovakia, who immigrated to the United States in 1924 and settled in Hopkins, Minnesota. As a girl, Mary was a member of the Hopkins Lodge 11, Western Fraternal Life Association (WFLA) and danced the *beseda*, a Czech national folkdance, at the first Festival of Nations in Saint Paul in 1932. She married Emanuel Tesarek in 1947, and raised raspberries and five children on their Minnetonka farm. Descended from a long line of bakers, Mary will be missed, as well as her famous *koláče*. She was proud of her heritage and active with her WFLA lodge and Sokol events throughout her life. Carrying on the Sokol traditions are daughter Joyce Tesarek (Norm Petrik), son Tom (Penny), granddaughter Gina Roers Liemandt (John), and grandsons James, Matt, and Paul Narr. Also surviving are daughters Janice (Mike) Roers, Terry (Brad) Narr, and son John (Cheri), plus seven other grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, sister-in-law Virginia Fanta, plus many nieces, nephews, and cousins both in the United States and the Czech Republic. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and brother John Fanta.

After a long illness **Norman Sladek**, Edina, Minnesota, age 75, passed away on October 29, 2014. His daughter Theresa was his main caregiver after his wife died. Although he was confined to a wheelchair for many years, his family made sure he attended many Czech events. Norm's last visit to the Hall was to attend

the *Domažlická dudácká muzika* concert on October 19. He served as president of Sokol Minnesota and was a wonderful supporter of all our programs for many years. Norm grew up in Montgomery, Minnesota. He was a faculty member in the Medical School's Department of Pharmacology, University of Minnesota. Norm received the 1991 King Charles Award for his contributions to science and the Czernin Palace Medal in 2005. He was the first inductee into the Montgomery High School Wall of Fame and held numerous offices at Sokol Minnesota. He founded Norm Sladek's World Bohemian Euchre (a card game) Tournament, now in its 36th year. His other interests included coaching girls' basketball and fast-pitch softball, playing the button accordion, and doing genealogical research. Surviving him are daughters Theresa Sladek (Todd Dale), Rebecca Sladek, Melissa Sladek (Scott Hawxhurst), and four grandchildren, plus his brother Sokol Member Allen (Dorothy) Sladek and his sister Betty Swanson.

Sokol Minnesota member **Wayne Hawkinson**, Phoenix, Arizona, passed away on November 6. Wayne was born on September 3, 1939, in Minneapolis. He moved to Arizona in 1972. He owned and operated Tiger Plumbing for over 30 years. Wayne and his wife Vera (Verner) were members of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers before moving to Phoenix. Vera was one of the original founders of the dance group. Wayne is survived by his wife of 50 years, Vera; his daughters, Dorothy (Mark) Belanger, Karen Hawkinson, and Linda (Andrew) Wilson; his son, Glen (Erin) Hawkinson and his six grandchildren. Wayne was a warm, friendly, generous person who will be greatly missed.

## Sokol Minnesota Given a \$50,000 Challenge Grant Opportunity

By Joyce Tesarek, chair of Board of Budget and Finance Committee

It's a new year! 2015!

Our exciting news is that Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota has been offered a \$50,000 Challenge Grant.

This will be the year we complete installation of our central air conditioning in our beloved C.S.P.S. Hall, built in 1887. We are so close now, with the roof reinforced, the unit purchased and installed on the roof, meeting all the requirements of the building's status on the National Register of Historic Sites. What remains is to complete ductwork, pour a concrete slab and mount a condenser, and wiring. The estimate for the bill is approximately \$100,000.

However (*roll the drums!!*) ....

An exciting end to the project is in sight. A very generous anonymous donor has come forward with a challenge grant of \$50,000 to complete installation of air conditioning. \$20,000 has been pledged already. We still need \$30,000 to match the grant. We hope you can help finish the match. Make your donation today. *Thank you!*

All donations are tax deductible. You can send a check made out to Sokol Minnesota (write Legacy Fund in the memo line) or send credit card information to Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. You can also donate on our website at <SokolMN.org>. Transfer stock and/or inquire at <finance@sokolmn.org> or call Joyce at 612-822-6147.

## C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND \$50,000 Challenge Grant

We ask for your support of renovations to C.S.P.S. Hall as we celebrate the Hall's 128<sup>th</sup> year in 2015. Help us match the \$50,000 Challenge Grant.

Contact Joyce Tesarek: 612-822-6147  
or <finance@sokolmn.org>

to discuss your tax-deductible donation.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

a tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my gift designated:  in memory or

in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**.  
Write **Legacy Fund** in the memo line.

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

Or donate online: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) *Thank you!*

## 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.

**General Fund:** under \$100: **Martina Gurgel and Letty Lie (Give MN), Karel Mara.**

\$100 - \$499: In memory of **Norm Sladek: Norm Petrik and Joyce Tesarek.**

**Legacy Fund:** \$100 - \$499: **Czech & Slovak School of the Twin Cities, Martin and Ludmila Ganco, George Hoffman (Give MN for AC unit), Terry Shima.**

In honor of **John J. Kalvoda, Jr.:** **Charles Kalvoda.**

In memory of **John Cicha:** **Roseanne Kostelecky.**

In memory of **Larry Hall:** **General Fund:** Under \$100: **Don and Pat Andrie, Dennis and Mary Cahill, Jim and Mary Cahill, Don and Katie Haselbauer, Al and Libby Imbrone.** \$100 - \$499: **Norm Petrik and Joyce Tesarek**

In memory of **Mary Tesarek:**

**General Fund:** Under \$100: **Don and Pat Andrie, Tom and Judy Aubrecht, Dennis and Marcella Brask, Robert and**

**Darlene Carlson, George Chlebecek, Jim and Mary Jo Chlebecek, Chuck and Jean Draheim, Georgia Elwell, Ed and Arlene Hamernik, Don and Katie Haselbauer, Marie Hinsvark, Stanley and Jane Hooper, Janice Jacobson, Pamela Kotval, Marit Lee Kucera, Doreen and Doris McKenney, Ronald and Gretchen Nelson, Leonard and Beverly Noyes, Barbara O'Leary, David Pavelka, James and Mary Pavelka, Elsie Roepke, Robert and Nancy Rutherford, Joan Sedlacek, Robert and Mary Vanasek, Shirley Verner, Chuck and Louise Wessinger, Ken and Sharon Wyberg.**

**\$100 - \$499: Dennis and Mary Cahill, James and Patricia Dolejsi, John and Mary Dolejsi, Joseph and Kaye Dolejsi, Al and Libby Imbrone, Michael and Lorinda Jackson, Thomas and Penny Tesarek,**

**\$500 - \$599: Joseph and Kaye Dolejsi, Virginia Fanta and family, Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik,**  
**Legacy Fund:** Under \$100: **Richard and Sandra Saliny, Anonymous (2).**

**November-December 2014 Donation Totals:**

**General fund: \$3,245.30      Legacy Fund: \$1,073.50.**

*Here are recollections from two of the '48er/'68er/'89er Panelists at our September 26, 2014, Featured Friday Meeting, which celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and the fall of communism (November 17, 1989)*

## **From A Child's Perspective: Remembrances of Czechoslovakia before 1989** By Jitka Sebek, '89er Generation

When you read *For the Love of Prague* by Gene Deitch or *The Twelve Little Cakes* by Dominika Dery, when you page through *The Wall* by Peter Sis or immerse yourself into the play *Rock 'n' Roll* by Tom Stoppard, you appear in a different world that is unbearable for pro-democrats, a gold mine for apparatchiks, but simply a home for all of us who as children witnessed the years after 1968 and before 1989 in communist Czechoslovakia. As moms from the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities looked back in time, with relief that no family members had experienced serious persecutions, they candidly and with laughter contributed to this list of memories from behind the Iron Curtain.

Karolina Peterson and Martina Gurgel alternated in creating an oral collection of school symbols: white shirts and blue briefs for girls, red boxers for boys in Physical Education classes; drawings of the battleship Aurora\* in Art Classes every October; home assignments for parents to conserve electricity (by turning lights off at home); subsidized milk for snacks; collecting money to help Armenia after a devastating earthquake; herb picking, drying, and collecting at school annually; paper drives for recycling to show success in the collective effort to improve the overall economy. Have you ever practiced tossing a mock grenade during PhyEd? Have you looked forward to a school field trip just to end up walking into a suburban park to learn how to put on a gas mask, rain poncho, and bread bags over your limbs in case of an atomic attack?

Barbora Carlson from Slovakia remembered the overfilled city buses taking children to and from schools. "We joked every day: How was your ride? I had to stand again with enough room for just one foot on the bus floor; actually, I am not even sure if the foot was mine or yours." Renata Scholtz, Dagmar Rosenthal, and Zuzana Bracknell focused on living conditions and individual decisions in one-fits-all communist times: those people who chose not to flee the country felt a strong sense of responsibility and stayed. Some quietly risked it, applied for college, graduated with a degree, skipped entering the Communist Party, and exhaled in relief when accepting a better-paid job. "Just do what you are asked, don't rebel and end up ruining your life forever," was part of the advice from Zuzana's high school teacher.

"I think my dad had a shot of *slivovice* on every May Day Eve when I had to stand on a stage in full Young Pioneer uniform with Gold Medal Builder medals and show off to the

parade of marchers," chuckled Olga Espinosa, who together with Marketa Resong relived for a moment the most pronounced oppositions, the Communist Party vs. Catholicism. "Because of my religion", added Marketa, "I was not allowed to participate in a Math Olympiad. Growing up in Moravia, I attended weekly religious classes at a parish, but I had to stand up and describe the content to my homeroom teacher and classmates."

Michaela Wentz, born in Bratislava, pointed at the everyday paradoxes, like outsmarting stores' policies by bringing all members of the family into a queue to get more than just one pack of grocery goods. "We experienced true hardship, but there in the line we were all together and that counted. People made the best of the bad times."

Some people suffered, some escaped, some could not leave as writer Ivan Kraus describes in his book *Má rodina a jiná zeměřesení* (not available in English), and some decided to stay. After all, it was our homeland.

\*A blank shot from the ship's forecandle gun signaled the start of the assault on the Winter Palace in Saint Petersburg, Russia, the beginning of the October 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

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## **Havel Films Shine Focus on Velvet Revolution's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** By Cinnamon Whaley

On Monday and Tuesday nights throughout November 2014, the Trylon Microcinema in south Minneapolis (3258 Minnehaha Avenue South) showed a series of films provided in cooperation with the Czech Embassy to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and fall of communism in the Czech Republic. The series of nine films was titled *The Play's the Thing: Václav Havel, Art and Politics* and focused on the life of Václav Havel, the first president of post-communist Czechoslovakia in 1989 and then the Czech Republic in 1983, and his roles through 50 years of Czech history, including dissident and imprisoned dramatist, film director, politician world-renowned statesman.

This program was based on the places and people that Havel knew, from the influential Theatre on the Balustrade, where his theatrical career began, to his friendships with filmmakers of the Czech

New Wave, and to his political ascendancy in Prague.

The films were shown free to the public, courtesy of the Czech Embassy in Washington, which has non-commercial rights to the films. Trylon also partnered with the National Film Archive Prague, Václav Havel Library, and the Mutual Inspirations Festival 2013. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Czech and Slovak Culture Center were proud to help support the screenings.

Volunteers from Sokol Minnesota and the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center were present to provide theatergoers with information over the course of four Mondays and four Tuesdays. I was fortunate to volunteer with Marit Lee Kucera on Tuesday, November 10, for the 1968 film *A Report on Party and Guests*. This film concerned a group of friends, meeting for a picnic in a woods, who are diverted by unidentified "officials" to a large outdoor "party." The friends are tormented by

these strangers and their reactions seemed telling of the era: they were only too eager to agree with their interrogators, willing to put blame on their friends, and follow orders, generally without question.

The second film I attended was *Leaving*, after I volunteered at the information table with fellow Sokol member Steve Ernest. This film, directed by Havel in 2011, was about an ex-government official presented with the need to leave the government and the provided estate he had grown used to. *Leaving* had moments of comedy and absurdism throughout, and was very enjoyable. The 50-seat theater was nearly full for the screening I attended. There were a number of Sokol and Culture Center members in the audience, as well as many others film fans. There were two young men behind me, who looked over the Sokol events postcard wondering what would be an "appropriate" first Sokol event to attend.

*This article continues on the bottom of page 7*



## The '48er Story of my Grandfather, Milan Sebek

By his 13-year-old grandson  
Thomas Sebek

October 28 is a double anniversary for the Sebek family: this day is the founding of Czechoslovakia as a democratic republic in 1918 and also the anniversary of my grandfather's escape in 1950. By that time the Communists had taken power in Czechoslovakia (in February 1948) and people had lost their freedom.

My grandfather, Milan Sebek, was 20 years old and living in Prague. He left with only a small briefcase as his luggage, so he looked like he was just leaving from work. He left on a holiday that was followed by a weekend, thus he would not immediately be found missing. My grandfather took the train to Děčín and from there he walked, following the Elbe (Labe) river above in the hills. He chose this route because the Elbe would take him across the border to the East German town of Koenigstein. My grandfather did not want to try crossing

the border directly into West Germany where the Czech border patrol used machine gun posts and electric and barbed wire fences. He tried to stay most of the time in the forest above the river to lead him on his way.

He had learned from his father's friend to look up the pastor in Koenigstein's church. The pastor had an apartment where he could stay overnight. My grandpa was instructed to have a small ID picture of himself because during the night, the photo was used to produce a fake ID card for him. The next morning the pastor's wife handed my grandfather

a ticket for a train. With the ID and his briefcase, he continued the journey to Dresden and from there to Berlin. The train had an old steam engine and the ride was slow. It was, however, an uneventful trip. Dresden was totally destroyed from the Allied bombing during the war and only a few streets had been bulldozed and opened up to the traffic. Because of the bombed ruins, the train ended there. All of the passengers were put on trucks that were going to a station north of Dresden. From there trains were leaving for Berlin. My grandpa had to wait for about three hours for the next train.

There were a lot of people in the train station and my grandpa noticed that occasionally East German policemen were checking people's IDs. My grandfather went to the station restaurant and confident of his Russian, he decided to sit down at a table with a few Russian soldiers. Later a police patrol was checking IDs, passed by his table and ignored him because of the Russian soldiers sitting there. The ride from Dresden to Berlin was long, with many stops. At the last stop before Berlin, the train stopped and an East German police came into the train checking everybody's IDs. My grandpa showed his fake ID and the policeman asked about his luggage. He only had a small briefcase, so the policeman lost interest and went on to checking other people.

When the train started moving, the next station was going to be in West Berlin. The people on the train knew that they were no longer going to stop in East Germany, which was communist controlled. They started to relax and talk to each other. My grandfather then spoke in German to a boy who was a fellow passenger in their train compartment. Finally, after the train stopped in the American sector of West Berlin, my grandpa asked the boy where he could find the nearest West Berlin police station. At the police station my grandfather asked for asylum. He had to fill out some papers and then was sent to a modified bomb shelter rebuilt to accommodate refugees to stay overnight. The next day my grandpa had to go to a refugee collection camp where he had to be registered with the United Nations International Refugee Organization (IRO). After several weeks my grandfather got all of his documents needed to apply for immigration for the United States. His family had some friends who were living in Illinois, and they became my grandfather's sponsors. It took one more year before my grandpa landed in New York.

### Havel Films *continued from page 6*

Over the four weeks, a total of more than 200 people attended the fourteen screenings. It was great to see people attend these films from the greater Twin Cities community. Perhaps we will see some of these new faces at our events at the Hall in the coming months!

During November, nine of us sat at a table in Trylon's lobby before and between screenings to talk about Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Culture Center, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI), and the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Moviegoers picked up brochures and signed the mailing list to receive Sokol's Event Postcards.

Special thanks to the volunteers: Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Russ Christensen, Steve Ernest, Martina Gurgel, Jan Knudtson, Marit Lee Kucera, Marketa Resong, and Cinnamon Whaley.

# MASTER

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**Musical  
Treat  
on Stage  
October 19:  
Domažlická  
dudácká  
muzika**

**By Doreen  
McKenney,  
Event Chair**

The *Domažlická dudácká muzika* (bagpipe band) took the stage at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday October 19, for a unique and entertaining afternoon consisting of arrangements of Chodsko folk vocal and instrumental compositions. The band members included Josef Kuneš, Kamil Jindřich, Martina Pincová, Josef Stočes, and Tomáš Kúgel, plus Michael Cwach and Eleonora Morysková.

Michael Cwach and Joseph Kuneš took the audience through the history of how the band evolved with music and narration, as they introduced the instruments in order in which they were added to the ensemble, from the sole bagpiper (in Czech called *pukl*, and also known under a variety of other names, including *české dudy* and Bohemian Bock).



they do not sing about work. Songs instead tell stories about lovemaking, drinking, or both. With the grand acoustics of the Hall and the projection of band's powerful voices, the audience felt as if they were in a surround-sound theater.

There was audience participation when the unique, nearly forgotten



*ABOVE LEFT: vozembouch: percussion instrument on a wood staff with a variety of surfaces to drum and clang, topped with a wood-carved head of a devil.*

*The band mingled with Family Night participants after the concert. RIGHT: From the concert audience, Sokol member Dave Martin (second left, percussionist with St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble, lead by Sokol member Frank Trnka) and Dick Hensold (well-known early music and small pipes expert, Minneapolis) trying out the fanfrnoch, clay container with horsehair that is pulled to make a howling, eery sound; water lubricates the horsehair strand.*

Every village has a bagpipe player, but as Michael explained, this was probably the first and only time we would witness and hear more than one *české dudy* played at the same time.

One of the major differences between a Czech bagpipe and other kinds is that it is designed for the musician to play and sing at the same time. If you understood Czech, you would have noticed that



ancient Czech folk rhythmic musical instruments were introduced: the *fanfrnoch* (a clay or metal container with horsehair), *vozebouch* (wood staff hung with rattles and tapped with a stick), and the *hrábě* (wood rake). Later, the audience joined in a refrain.

Prior to the performance the band sampled an authentic Minnesota dish of wild rice soup made by Marketa Resong. Before and after the performance, the bar served Czech beer and the kitchen offered up

*koláče*, *halušky* (a Slovak dish of cabbage, onions, butter, and bacon), and *kulajda* (a very traditional mushroom and cream-based soup) with caraway rye bread. Many volunteers helped to make this event successful. Home-stay volunteer hosts were Jason Brozovich and Megan Cahill, Dave and Sue Martin, Romana and Ryan Pulkrabek, John Topic and Peggy Endres. Kitchen servers, bar, tickets, set-up and clean-up volunteers: Judy Aubrecht, Dan Bednar, Jason Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, Mary Cahill, Cindy Coulter, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Robert (Jake) Jacobson, Jyni Koschak, Marketa Resong, Joan Sedlacek (kitchen co-chair), Shirley Verner, Louise Wessinger. Cooks: Doreen McKenney, Marketa Resong, Joan Sedlacek. *Koláče* bakers: Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek. Thank you to the parents of the Czech and Slovak School for helping with cleanup.



## Sokol and CGSI Teamed Up for Dinner and Dance on October 24 By Doreen McKenney

Sokol Minnesota's Featured Friday event on October 24 was held jointly with Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI). CGSI's Fall Symposium at the Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS) Library in South Saint Paul hosted professional speakers and classes. The Symposium's related cultural activities began and ended at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Starting early in the day, Joan Sedlacek and I prepped 18 batches of goulash that went into the ovens for a low and slow cook for the evening Dinner and Dance.

Later that morning, the Hall quickly filled with people attending either the *koláče* workshop or the tour of the building. Seeing familiar faces as the guests arrived was a treat for me, since I was on the CGSI board for many years. I reunited briefly with friends from other states whom I had not seen for a while.

The *koláče* class instructors were Sokol member Marketa Resong and her mother Ludmila Pálková, who was visiting from Moravská Nová Ves (in South Moravia, near the Czech borders with Slovakia and Austria). Ludmila, a professional baker showed the class several styles of *koláče* made in different regions of the country, including a daintily-made wedding *koláče* (in South Moravia traditionally filled with *tvaroh*/farmers cheese); open-face Bohemian *koláče*; a two-filling Moravian *koláče*; a tied four-corner *šátečky*; Bohemian *chodské koláče* (*tvaroh*/farmers cheese, poppy seed or plum marmalade, decorated with

almonds and raisins); Moravian *valašské koláče*, or also known as *frgále* (*tvaroh*/farmers cheese, pear jam, plum marmalade, or poppy seeds covers the entire *koláč*, then topped with *drobenka/posýpka*/strussel). Both Bohemian *chodské koláče* and Moravian *valašské koláče* are the size of a pizza. The same dough is also used to bake enclosed square *buchty* (buns) and *závin* (strudel).

That Friday morning the Hall also was the starting point of a historic Saint Paul city tour, guided by local architectural-historian Jim Sazevich. Upon their arrival, the guests were treated to coffee and *koláče* that Joan Sedlacek and I baked. Shoppers were able to purchase ethnic items from the Sokol's gift shop before they boarded the tour bus.

Meanwhile, the Hall was decorated, the stage's beautiful fall backdrop was lowered into place, and the aroma from the kitchen slowly changed from the sweet smell of baked *koláče* to the savory scent of goulash.

For the second time that day, the Hall filled up with guests; this time a hearty meal of goulash and bread dumplings was served. Bottled Czech beer was the beverage of choice, and *koláče* were available for dessert. The Jerry Kadlec Trio played waltzes and polkas for dancing.

During the band's intermission, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak folk dancers added a festive cultural flair with their storytelling dances and authentic

folkdance attire. The first dance was choreographed by Don Haselbauer to Dvorak's *Slavonic Dance No. 7 Opus 46* and then came a polka from Smetana's *Bartered Bride*. The second set started with the Bohemian waltz, a beautiful dance from Valašsko, a man's *verbuňk* dance, a women's Slovak dance, and ended with a Slovak *čardaš*.

Special thanks to all the volunteers. Dancers: Don and Pat Andrlle, Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Jason Brozovich and Megan Cahill, Bobby Jo Chandler and Chuck Draheim, Don and Katie Haselbauer, Robert (Jake) Jacobson and Jyni Koschak, Dave and Sue Martin, Emma Martin and James Metcalf, Teresa Pojar and John Topic, Dave Stepan and Louise Wessinger (dance instructor).

Volunteer crew made this event possible by cooking, setting up, selling tickets, decorating, tending bar, and cleaning up: Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Marit Lee Kucera, Kathy Jorgenson, Pam Kotval, Doreen McKenney (event chair), Deb Makousky, Shae McKenney, Joan Sedlacek (Kitchen co-chair), Shirley Verner. Activities planning team for the events at C.S.P.S. Hall: Jean Draheim, Sokol education chair; Kathy Jorgenson, CGSI president; Ken Kadlec, CGSI; Paul Makousky CGSI, Co-chair; Doreen McKenney, Sokol, Co-chair; Louise Wessinger, Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.

### Spring 2015 Events at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, MN 55102 • 651-290-0542 Join Us! ~ Gift shop open during Sokol events ~

- **Family Fun Activities: Sundays, 4 p.m.:** January 18, February 15, March 15; **Saturdays, 11 a.m.:** April 4, May 16. Potluck supper and activities. Fun for all ages.
- **12th Annual Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner: Saturday, January 24, 5 p.m.** Dumplings, dessert, and more. \$22/person. Cash bar. Limited Seating. Pre-paid reservations by January 19: 952-941-0426.
- **Flavors of Slovakia: Sunday, March 8, 12:30 p.m.** Cabbage rolls, pierogi, dumplings, and more. \$16 adult; \$8 child 9 and under, cash bar. Pre-paid reservations by March 1: 763-571-6091.
- **Pancake Breakfast with Craft and Bake Sales: Sunday, March 29, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** \$7 adult; \$5 child under 9; \$22 family of four. No reservations needed. Pre-order *koláče*: 651-290-0542. Reserve a craft table: 651-426-2626 or events@sokolmn.org
- **Šibřinky: Saturday, April 18, 4 - 10 p.m.** Supper and dance: Dale Pexa Band; children, teen, and adult folk dancers; food for sale; cash bar. \$10/advance (by 4/11, mail check made out to Sokol MN to 3704 Denmark Ave, Eagan, MN 55123). \$12/door.
- **Festival of Nations, April 30 - May 3, Saint Paul RiverCentre, downtown Saint Paul.** Enjoy Czech and Slovak food and culture; children, teen, and adult folk dancers on stage.
- **Garage Sale: Thursday, May 14, noon - 7 p.m. and Friday, May 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** \$5 bag noon Friday. Drop off: Wednesday, May 13, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Early drop off: 651-290-0542.
- **Children's Cultural Day Camp: June 15-19.** For boys and girls ages 7-14. Ethnic cooking and crafts, Czech language, gymnastics, and more. Questions: 651-452-6240. Registration forms at www.sokolmn.org
- **Czech and Slovak Festival: Sunday, September 13, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Live music, folk dancers, vendors, children's games, ethnic food, Czech beer, info booths, silent auction. Free Admission. Accessible facilities. 612-822-6147.



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's full color 2015 Spring Events Postcard is included in this issue. We hope you post it where you can read it often. We have many exciting events planned for this spring.

Join with your friends in 2015 at C.S.P.S. Hall to celebrate 150 years of Sokol in the U.S.A.

Please check [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) for the latest information on all events. Questions? [events@sokolmn.org](mailto:events@sokolmn.org)

## 2014 Czech Roast Pork Dinner: A Success on November 2 By Joyce Tesarek, chair

This year's Roast Pork Dinner on November 2 was a particularly special one because all our main chefs, Hana Matousek, Marketa Resong, and Ludmila Pálková, are native Czechs who generously shared their own recipes. Ludmila came all the way from the Czech Republic to share and prepare the delicious apple strudel we enjoyed for dessert. (Actually she was here to visit her daughter, Sokol member Marketa Resong.) We are encouraging Ludmila to visit again next year in time for the pork dinner. The strudel, as well as Ludmila, received a standing ovation!

Of course, besides sharing our heritage through a traditional, delicious meal, this dinner was also a fundraiser for our Sokol Unit. We are proud to report that Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota raised over \$2,000.

The dinner included roast pork, raised-bread dumplings, sauerkraut, caraway rye bread, applesauce, dessert, and coffee. Czech beer, plus wine and pop were available from the bar.

We want to thank all who helped make this fundraising dinner a success, including all who supported the event with their attendance as well as those who volunteered.

Our faithful volunteers include chairs Mary Cahill, Joan Sedlacek, and Joyce Tesarek; along with Don and Pat Andrie, Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Darlene and Jim Baker, Colleen Cahill and Alex Cho, Megan Cahill, Jim and Mary Jo Chlebecek, George Chlebecek, Cindy Coulter, Jean and Chuck Draheim, Jean Hall, Don and Katie Haselbauer, Ed and Arlene Hamernik, Jake Jacobson, Lloyd Krocak, Hana Matousek, Doreen McKenney, Don Pafko, Ludmila Pálková, Norm Petrik, Rad Rasmussen, Marketa Resong, Joan Sedlacek, Ann Seifert, Steve Shimer, Shirley Verner, and Louise Wessinger.



## Holiday Pancake Breakfast with Bake Sale and Craft Sale, November 23 By Megan Cahill

It was a warm, but foggy, day on Sunday, November 23, for the Holiday Pancake Breakfast with Bake and Craft Sales. With the help of Jason Brozovich, Megan Cahill, Ed Hamernik, Arlene Hamernik, Bob Kosticka, Cinnamon Whaley, Rosemary Whaley, Darlene Baker, Jim Baker, Denis Novak, Alex Cho, Colleen Cahill, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Cindy Coulter, Joan Sedlacek, and the local Girl Scout Troop, over 140 breakfasts were served to appreciative diners. We made French toast and pancakes, plus we served fruit cup, sausage, juice, milk, and coffee. We had several vendors who sold exquisite handcrafts for gift giving.

Mary Jo Chlebecek managed the bake sale table, while Doreen McKenney assisted those purchasing items from the Sokol Gift Shop table. Our gift shop table had lovely handmade straw snowflake ornaments thanks to Martina Gurgel and Doreen McKenney, as well as clay ornaments made by Jitka Sebek.

Doreen McKenney, Danita Larson, and Joan Sedlacek busily baked 54 dozen *koláče* a few days before the breakfast. Mary Jo Chlebecek, Arlene Hamernik, Bob Kosticka, Hana Matousek, and Sharon Liska contributed the other wonderful

baked goods to the bake sale. Thanks to Olga Andish, Martina Gurgel, Kaja Jost, Ludmila Pálková, Marketa Pavek, Karolina Peterson, Romana Pulkrabek, Marketa Resong, Dagmar Rosenthal, Jitka Sebek, Renata Scholtz, Adriana and Jeff Wenberg, and Alena Youngberg for donating materials for and making gingerbread candle cookies.

### Invitation to Sing Along: January 6 and 20

**The Sokol Minnesota Singers need additional voices (*yours!*) 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. You might already be familiar with some of the melodies from your 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. We meet at 10 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of most months at the Hall. Come, join us! Your heart will rejoice.**



**Sokol Children's Party** on December 5 was full of festive ethnic dancing, a children's gymnastics display, Christmas carols, .....and then the special guests came: *Sv. Mikuláš, anděl,* and *čert* also known as St. Nicholas, the Angel, and the Devil. The Angel wrote down the names of all the good children (of course, all reported good behavior all year), while the Devil tried to tempt them with wilted celery, carrots, and onions. Finally St. Nick handed out a gift to all the good children. Everyone was happy!

*Collage courtesy of Sokol member Martina Gurgel who created it for use on the Facebook page for Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities. January 2015 Slovo 11*

## Contestants Sought for Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant, April 11 • Deadline is March 1

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant is looking for young women who are between the ages of 16 and 26 and who are of Czech, Slovak, or Moravian heritage to compete in the 26th annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant to be held on April 11 at the American Legion Club in Montgomery, Minnesota.

Pageant winners receive cash awards, crowns, and will have a year of memorable appearances throughout the State of Minnesota. This unique pageant focuses on the Czech, Slovak, or Moravian heritage of the candidates. In August, the new Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen takes part in the National Miss Czech Slovak U.S. Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska.

The application deadline is March 1. For more information and a registration form contact Lorraine David (507) 364-5384 or (507) 364-9370, Cindy Taylor (507) 364-5524, or Ashley Zimanske (952) 201-4107 or email [davidsdiner@hotmail.com](mailto:davidsdiner@hotmail.com)

or [missczechslovakmn@hotmail.com](mailto:missczechslovakmn@hotmail.com) The pageant website is [missczechslovakmnpageant.org](http://missczechslovakmnpageant.org)

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant on April 11 features ethnic foods served at 5 p.m. The pageant begins at 7 p.m. A reception and dance follow the coronation. Advance sale tickets for the dinner and pageant are available from Jerry and Lorraine David (507) 364-5384 or Montgomery Oil Company (507) 364-9370 in Montgomery. Pageant and dance tickets can be purchased the night of the pageant at the door.

The reigning Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen is Sokol Minnesota member Corbin Jerde of Golden Valley, daughter of Kathy and David Jerde. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Princess is Heather Vikla, daughter of Kelly and David Vikla of Lonsdale. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Miss Congeniality is Melissa Bastyr, daughter of Victoria and Roger Bastyr of New Prague.

*Rustic Baroque*. Jiří Hájíček. Brno, Czech Republic: Real World Press, 2005, 212 pp.  
Available in bookstores and libraries

### ***Rustic Baroque***

By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

*Rustic Baroque* was translated and published in English in 2012 by Gale A. Kirking, who hails from Wisconsin but has a lot in common with the author. Both come from generations of farmers, grew up in rural communities, graduated from agricultural universities, worked in banking, and are authors. This book is set in the countryside of Southern Bohemia, about a decade after the Velvet Revolution, when people attempted to reclaim land and property nationalized under communism.

Hájíček packs this short, 150-page novel with action, ideas, Czech history, geography, characters, and a range of relationships. Through protagonist Pavel Straňanský, a professional genealogist scouring countryside archives for “the truth,” we learn details of the collectivization of agriculture in the early 1950s and how decades later people came to terms with the losses, gains, betrayals, and different views of reality. Could there be justice? Some people are bitter and full of revenge, others willing to accept and move on. The book weaves together story lines about the remnants of collectivization that Straňanský unearths, his family reconciliation, and a little romance. Action is propelled by a client who hires Straňanský to research his political opponent to keep him from office. The novel’s surprise ending is one that even inveterate mystery readers won’t see coming.

The author’s evocative description shines:  
**12 January 2014 Slovo**

“I drove up the narrow road to a small hill and pulled off onto a field road. Leaving the door open, I ran up the slope that afforded a view of the countryside. There was a long dairy barn just beyond the village, not kept up, the nettles reaching almost to the windows. I sat down on the meadow and stretched myself onto the spiky grass. Short, bristling blades, like a hedgehog’s quills or my son Hynek’s crew cut hair. I smiled at the thought of him, staring into the sky as small clouds slowly moved along. The shimmering air was drawing out the scents of grasses and flowers, strewing them all about. Only then did I feel light again, and the shivers left my spine. Delight poured into me, and when I half-closed my eyes and relaxed a giddiness took me into its arms and carried me away. Open countryside. I smiled contentedly at the sky.”

The book has good messages about the complexity of life and history, letting go of the past, and recognizing that not everything is quite what we think it is and “not everyone is quite what he thinks he is,” as Straňanský puts it.

Hájíček has published four novels and three short story collections. *Rustic Baroque*, which won the Magnesia Litera award for fiction in 2006, also includes four short stories from Hájíček’s *The Wooden Knife*. It has a translator’s introduction, note on Czech pronunciation, list of major characters, and page notes that are especially helpful for readers just learning about Czech history and customs. A map of small towns in Southern Bohemia would be a good addition.

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).

## Czech and Slovak Culture Center Winter 2015 Lectures

[www.cs-center.org](http://www.cs-center.org)

**January 31**, 2015, 10 a.m. *Mozart in Prague*. Daniel E. Freeman, Ph.D. Cosponsored by Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures. C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul

**February 21**, 2015, 10 a.m. *Czech-Slovak History and Language*. Professor Dieter Prow, Carleton College. City Bella, 6600 Lyndale Avenue South, Richfield.

## Notes of Interest...

*Song of a Czech*, a new CD by local a capella group **Cantus**, focuses on the works of Antonín Dvořák and Leoš Janáček, two of the most beloved Czech composers who were also great personal friends. Both wrote music for male chorus, taking similar inspiration from folksongs of Bohemia and Moravia. Their lifelong musical conversations undoubtedly played an integral role in shaping the national choral sound, and even the development of European choral music in the 20th century.

Cantus is a group of nine men who perform more than 60 concerts around the globe each year. They sing almost entirely unaccompanied in this CD. Lyrics in Czech with translations are included in the CD. With this new recording, Cantus lends their trademark warmth and exemplary musicianship to these fascinating and rarely recorded treasures of the choral canon.

CDs can be ordered online: <http://www.cantussings.org/buy-music/listing>.

## August - November 2014 Board of Directors (BOD) Meetings By Cindy Coulter, Recording Secretary

**August – September:** The Publicity Team is working hard devising creative ways to keep everyone up-to-date on upcoming Sokol Minnesota events. Look for the “Chill the Hall” sign that was specially created by Jyni Koschak to keep members and neighbors informed of the amount of money raised and still needed for the C.S.P.S. Hall air conditioning project. Also watch your in-boxes for the e-mail blasts that are handy reminders of upcoming events and quick references for times and locations.

Ed Hamernik resigned as Sergeant at Arms to become the Gaming Manager. Sokol President Judy Aubrecht appointed Denis Novak as the Sergeant at Arms replacement. President Aubrecht received a letter from the Minnesota State Gambling Control Board that states Sokol Minnesota has a 3-star rating. Sokol Minnesota is in the clear with lawful purposeful expenditures of 37.05%. The BOD approved the Gaming Committee’s purchase of a computer and gaming software to efficiently manage gaming records.

BOD job descriptions and the Bylaws were reviewed. The BOD approved that the Treasurer position continues with no term limits. The BOD also approved under the Bylaws: the new and current directors will be voted-in by a majority of the members, rather than a majority of board members present at the annual meeting.

Parking lot repairs, surfacing, sealing, and striping have been completed; a restriping of the parking lot will take place next spring. The BOT is working to obtain signs for the parking lot to designate Glockenspiel and C.S.P.S. Hall guest parking only. It has been challenging for the BOT to determine available workdays due to the popularity of weekend C.S.P.S. Hall rentals. Watch for reminders of upcoming workdays

Gymnastic classes for the new season have begun and are well attended. Sokol Gymnastics attended the Western District Annual Meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on September 27. Language classes have begun with the help of three fantastic teachers: Blanka Brichta (Czech Beginners and Intermediate), Renáta Tichá (Czech Conversational), and Barbara Carlson (Slovak). Numerous upcoming fall

events are sure to satisfy: Czech-Slovak Festival, Monthly Sunday Family Events, *Domažlice dudácká muzika* (bagpipe band from the Chod region), Jerry Kadlec Trio, Czech Roast Pork Dinner, Pancake Breakfast/Holiday Craft and Bake Sales, and the Velvet Revolution Commemorative Films showing through out the month of November at Trylon Microcinema in south Minneapolis. Sokol Minnesota is proud that it is consistently providing fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs!

**October – November:** If Sokol Minnesota raises \$50,000 in air conditioning funds, an anonymous donor will generously match the amount to help complete the air conditioning installation. \$20,000 already has been pledged. We need an additional \$30,000 to fulfill the matching grant. So roll up your sleeves and help support 2015 fundraisers so we can take advantage of this charitable opportunity to modernize the C.S.P.S. Hall with air conditioning.

The BOD approved renewal of Sokol Minnesota’s membership with the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota renewal membership forms will be mailed soon; the BOD has approved the 2015 rates: Individual: \$50, Couple: \$90, Senior: \$40, Senior Couple: \$80, Honor and Honorary: \$0. American Sokol New Members Registration: \$5/person. The BOD also approved that seniors (age 60 and over) qualify for the senior rate in 2015 regardless of how long they have been a member of Sokol Minnesota (until now there was a 5-year member requirement). Please watch your mailbox and consider also adding year-end donations.

The BOD reviewed the C.S.P.S. Hall Rental Agreement and discussed benefits of having a Rental Hall Manager in the future because C.S.P.S. Hall rentals significantly increased in 2014. In addition, security sources are being considered for monitoring during hall rental events. Marketa Resong and her husband Matt Resong are working to create a C.S.P.S. Hall Rental Brochure to highlight the Grand Hall. Sokol Minnesota is proud that good times are

still being enjoyed at the C.S.P.S. Hall so many years after being built in 1887.

The BOT is busy keeping the C.S.P.S. Hall running. One of the letters is out on the outdoor C.S.P.S. Hall lighted sign; the BOD approved the hiring of a company to make a service call for the light repair.

Sokol Minnesota continues to “go green” as the BOD approved adding a recycling dumpster to help recycling disposal.

The Gaming Committee has worked tirelessly with the Gaming Compliance Officer and the Minnesota Department of Revenue auditors response to operation reviews this summer and fall. The Gaming Committee has implemented Gaming process improvements. Gaming expenses have been reduced; the newly purchased computer and QuickBooks software should improve Gaming management and record-keeping efficiency.

The BOD discussed the possibility of Sokol Minnesota sponsoring the “Czech & Slovak School of the Twin Cities,” started informally by the Czech and Slovak Moms and has continued to grow in numbers and interest. The children concentrate on reading and writing in Czech and Slovak. The group hopes to continue holding classes at C.S.P.S. Hall and advertising in cooperation with Sokol Minnesota.

Sokol Minnesota will participate in the Minneapolis Holiday Market event at Peavey Plaza for the Czech & Slovak National Day on December 13. Louise Wessinger is organizing teams of dancers to perform onstage at Peavey Plaza; volunteers will staff the Sokol Minnesota village kiosk handing out brochures and information.

During the first half of December, volunteers produced the January *Slovo*, which included inserting the Spring 2015 Events Postcard into the *Slovo* January issue at the mailing party on December 17.

The BOD wishes to thank everyone for all the hard work, innovative ideas, and unending support during year 2014. We look forward to seeing all of you in the New Year. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a jolly good New Year 2015!

## Churchill, Roosevelt, and Beneš The Post-World War II Fate of Czechoslovakia

**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>*



What do these three men have in common? They knew each other since 1918 when they worked together in Geneva in the League of Nations on collective European security, following the devastation of the continent during the war. They also decided the fate of Czechoslovakia. I am not taking Stalin into consideration at this time. I will deal with that later, but suffice it to say that Czechoslovakia was an easy conquest for him. The reason why? This was the second time in the history of this country that it had been sacrificed by the major superpowers.

The first time was Munich in 1938, of course. The second time was in 1944 when Roosevelt expressed lack of knowledge and concern for this small country. He sided with Stalin against Churchill with regard to military strategy during the last months of the war that favored the USSR. The strategic issue was how to liberate Europe. Churchill was a strong advocate of an invasion through the Balkans that would allow the Western armies to liberate countries, including Czechoslovakia, before the Soviets could. Churchill made three dangerous trips to Washington in efforts to persuade Roosevelt of the advantages of this plan, but in vain. The image that these men were cooperative and in full agreement regarding strategy is wrong. Roosevelt's ideals focused on self-determination by nations, a strategy that would dismantle Great Britain's worldwide colonial system. In contrast, Churchill was an imperialist and monarchist who strongly believed that not only should Britain hold onto its colonies and dominions, but that kingdoms should also be established in Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, and Albania. During one of their conferences, the two almost came to blows when Churchill lost his temper and pounded on the table. The argument ended when Churchill realized that Roosevelt held all the trump cards. While Roosevelt maintained that imperialist powers had exploited their colonies for the sake of developing the master countries, he also had an additional goal. He intended to make sure that U.S. commercial interests had an equal chance to compete in the former colonies, without the heavy tariffs the British had imposed.

I selected this topic because I have always been interested in the role Beneš played in deciding the fate of his country and hope that readers will share my interest. It was no surprise that Beneš played a major role, although it might not have been the kind that was needed. He persuaded Roosevelt, who lacked an understanding of the long Western cultural orientation of the small countries in Central Europe, to follow a policy friendly toward Stalin. In a special trip to Washington, during which Beneš was received exceptionally

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well, he conveyed to Roosevelt several ideas that originated in his conferences with Stalin during a prior trip to Moscow. First, Beneš believed Stalin's promises not to intervene in the either the domestic and foreign policies of Czechoslovakia. Second, he felt that the USSR would be too busy rebuilding from its own wartime damage to attempt expansion of its sphere of influence. And lastly, he thought that Czechoslovakia, with good relations with both the East and the West, would be able to act as a bridge between the United States and the Soviet Union, a favorite vision of Beneš' that he did not abandon despite the betrayals of Munich and World War II. Beneš also visited Churchill in Cairo after his return from Moscow with the same message. However, the British were opposed to the United States and USSR's bilateral treaty of mutual assistance and non-intervention, and declined to become a party to it. The purpose of the treaty was to prevent a military buildup in postwar Germany, but it also served Stalin's future interests. The Allied powers disagreed about the fate of Germany also, with Stalin preferring strict sanctions and limitations on virtually everything, while Churchill wanted to avoid the mistakes of the Versailles peace treaty after World War I, thinking that a strong and peaceful Germany must be part of a reconstructed Europe.

The source for this article is an old text published in Prague in 1968 (in the Dubček era) by Jaroslav Matějka entitled simply "W.C." (Winston Churchill). I found this book very interesting not only because it was published in communist Czechoslovakia, but also because it is one of the best biographies of Churchill that I am familiar with, even if I have a few serious reservations. First, the author clearly has a "socialism with a friendly face" bias, at one point criticizing Churchill for not understanding socialism's historic destiny to dominate the entire world. The second reservation is that although the author repeatedly quotes Churchill and his associates, he does not include references. The standards of the social sciences in communist countries were very poor, so this might account for the lack of precise references. But the text also has a third bias: it overstates the need for the British to cooperate with the USSR and develop a relationship of trust.

Churchill was without doubt one of the greatest statesmen of the times. He was a military leader, writer, diplomat, member of Parliament, and several times Prime Minister. He read prolifically, but according to Matějka, was no philosopher; rather, he was a pragmatist who frequently changed his mind and course of action. He reversed himself several times regarding the USSR and the trust he accorded to Stalin. Moving from a cooperative relationship during the latter half of the war, he developed a strong distrust when he realized how the countries of Eastern and Central Europe were falling into the communists' hands. The final straw for Churchill was Stalin's "liberation" of Poland, which the British had wanted as their own ally led by the Polish government-in-exile that had operated out of London.

Seeing Roosevelt's failing health and disinterest toward the fate of Central Europe, along with Churchill's distrust of Stalin, Beneš was persuaded that Czechoslovakia must depend more on the USSR than the Western powers. Yet Churchill had been the most significant opponent of both the Munich agreement of 1938 and the subsequent German occupation of the rest of what was left of Czechoslovakia (as he would later condemn the 1948 communist coup d'état). Churchill expressed his opposition to these events in two

speeches before the British Parliament that are regarded by historians as his best ever, but no action on the part of the British government followed. Churchill also showed an exceptional regard for Beneš, for whom he organized a splendid welcome banquet in 1948 after Beneš abdicated his post as President and exiled himself in London. Still, after the war Churchill dragged his feet in denouncing and repudiating the Munich agreement, although eventually he helped guarantee the original geographic integrity of the country and recognized the Czechoslovak government-in-exile as the true government. Later, Beneš also obtained British agreement to expel the Sudeten Germans.

All three statesmen bear responsibility for the post-war fate of the former Czechoslovakia, while Stalin hoped that his expansionist policies would not be contested. Roosevelt and Churchill did not mention Czechoslovakia in any of the Allied conferences (some of which did not include Stalin) at Casablanca, Cairo, Teheran, Yalta, and Potsdam during which postwar plans were discussed. During these conferences, Churchill gradually lost his power to influence decisions and saw that Roosevelt and Stalin worked together against him.

In 1948, it was too late for Beneš to lament that Stalin had betrayed him, and too late for the Western powers to express disappointment in Beneš, whom they had depended on to maintain a balance between the Western and Eastern orientations. Roosevelt died before 1948. With regard to Czechoslovakia, he left only a sad legacy.

Why is it that people, including prominent statesmen, completely fail to understand the motivation of others? When this happens, it is treated as an unfortunate happenstance requiring no further explanation. But the reason for a lack of understanding appears to be that we assume that people in other cultures think the same way we do. TV reports are full of such cognitive distortions. For Churchill, it was his belief in national interest that justified his commitment to the British empire with its reliance on colonies. He later assumed that Stalin's also was committed to pursuing the national interests of the USSR. Stalin, though, was focused on fulfilling the communist ideology of world dominion, hoping a takeover of all of Europe would be completed during his lifetime.

It's essential to keep in mind that people of different cultures think differently. Culture is the variable that defines many

people's way of thinking. This is my field of primary interest. It's difficult to avoid the conclusion that the world might be a much more peaceful and cooperative place if these dynamics were better understood.

**Dear Sokol Brothers and Sisters,**

*I regret very much to announce that this article is my last as part of the regular monthly series. I have enjoyed communicating with you in this fashion since 2007 and am sorry that I had to make this decision. Age and health conspire against my ability to continue on a regular basis, though if the muses kiss me, and if I run into an interesting topic and have the strength to research it, I will send another contribution or two. I have informed the presidents of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of my decision. I have also expressed my thanks and appreciation for her editing work to Christy Banks, Slovo's copy editor. I hope Slovo is able to find a replacement for me and continue this important series. I had intended to start writing a ten-part history of Czechoslovakia and the Czech and Slovak Republics intended for readers with little prior knowledge of the subject, so that we could use this history for our language classes, especially the youth group. It would not have included a lot of names and dates, but would have explained the major developments that formed the Czech and Slovak character. I wonder if anyone else is interested in taking on this task?*

*I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your readership, constructive suggestions, and, above all, your interest in knowing more about our common traditions and history. I am pleased with the series, for which I have produced more than 70 articles. The first 52 are compiled into a book which is still available for purchase with a membership discount of 20% at \$12.00 plus \$3.50 shipping for bound copies, or \$9 plus \$3 shipping for CDs (pre-paid orders only, please). The book can also be ordered from the webpage of the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center <cz-center.org> A few copies are also available from the gift shop at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Though I bid you goodbye with the articles, I will continue to support these organizations to the extent possible.*

**Josef A. Mestenhauser**



## Honorary Consul News

Five members of the Minnesota Consular Corps attended The Consular Corps College in Washington, D.C., November 19 to 21. Don Pafko, Slovak Honorary Consul, a Chancellor of the College, served as moderator of one of the panel discussions on the topic of Law and Order for the Consul: from Arrest through the Legal Process and Punishment in the Federal, State, and Local Systems. (L-R) Kjell Bergh (Tanzania), Csilla Grauzer (Hungary), Marit Lee Kucera (nominee, Czech Republic), Don Pafko (Slovakia), Katherine H. Moss (Director General of The Consular Corps College) and Örn Arnar (Iceland).

Kucera also attended events in Washington,

November 17 to 19, as part of the *Celebration of Freedom*, including a concert by the Czech Philharmonic, two symposia, and the unveiling of the Václav Havel bust in the Hall of Freedom in the United States Capital, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and the fall of communism in 1989 in Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic).

**ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!  
SOKOL Minnesota 2015 EVENTS**

***Sokol Members' Party:*** meal and entertainment  
**January 4, Sunday, 3 p.m., \$10**  
 Reserve by December 29: [events@sokolmn.org](mailto:events@sokolmn.org)

***12th Annual Roast Duck Dinner***  
**January 24, Saturday, 5 p.m., \$22**  
 Reservations by January 19: 952-941-0426

***Taste of Slovakia Dinner***  
**March 8, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.**  
**\$16 adults, \$8 children**  
 Reservations by March 1: 763-571-6091

***Collect! Gather! Clean Out!***  
**Support our Sokol Garage Sale: May 14 – 15**  
**Drop off: Wednesday, May 13, 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* January 2015**

**American Sokol Celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Starting in February**

The celebration on February 14, 2015, in St. Louis kicks off Sokol's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. February 14 was the actual date of the first Sokol meeting in St. Louis in 1865. There will be a national gala celebration later in the fall of 2015. Each unit is urged to plan a Sesquicentennial Celebration. Minnesota has plans in the works, with a special program at our February meeting.



In conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Sokol, there are commemorative shirts, pins, and badges. We need to order as a Sokol Unit. These prices do not include shipping. (Unfortunately, there will be no returns or exchanges.)

Anyone interested in purchasing, please **contact Mary Cahill: <[fitness@sokolmn.org](mailto:fitness@sokolmn.org)>**  
**Deadline: January 1, 2015**

**Cloisonné Pin and Fabric Patches:**

**1.5" Round Logo Lapel Pin...\$6**  
**2.5" Circle Patch...\$6      3.5"x1.5" Rectangle Patch...\$6**

**Shirts:** These shirt prices include the Sokol logo.  
**Polo shirt:** with collar and short sleeves, Red or Navy, all cotton (Gildan brand) pique knit sport shirt, logo on left side of the three-button placket printed in white with blue on red shirts and white with red on blue shirts.  
 Men XS-XL ...\$18      Men 2XL-3XL ...\$20  
 Ladies S-XL ...\$18      Ladies 2XL ...\$20  
**T-shirts:** Red or Navy, (Gildan brand)  
 50-50 cotton/polyester, large logo printed across chest.      Unisex S-XL...\$10      Unisex 2XL-5XL...\$12      Child's XS-L...\$10





