

Czech  
Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota

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



## Fifteenth Annual Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp June 13 to 17, 2011

By Judy Aubrecht, co-director

### UPCOMING EVENTS

August Slovo Deadline  
July 1

Board of Trustees  
June 8, July 13

Board of Directors  
June 9, July 14  
7 p.m.

Culture Camp  
June 13 - 17

No Membership Meetings  
in June or July  
See you in August

Sokol Camp Booya and  
Picnic, Pine City  
August 14, noon - 5 p.m.

Czech and Slovak Fall  
Festival, Highland Park  
September 18, 11- 5 p.m.

Senior Singers  
Tuesdays 10 a.m.

The fifteenth annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp takes place from June 13 to 17, Monday to Friday, at the CSPA Hall. The camp is geared to children who have finished first grade and are ages 7 to 14. A shorter session is available for children whose school does not end until June 14. The shorter session is from June 15 to 17 Wednesday to Friday. Campers arrive at 8:50 a.m. and depart at 3 p.m. An extended day can be prearranged until 4 p.m. Relatives often volunteer at camp, which creates a wonderful atmosphere in which campers may get to spend the week with cousins, grandparents, or other relatives. With so many generations together at camp, everyone has an enriched experience.

Morning camp activities include cultural-themed crafts, gymnastics, Czech language instruction, and ethnic cooking. Pot decorating, swinging from rings, balancing on a beam, learning to say "dobry den," cracking eggs, and cutting potatoes and onions are among the ingredients of a typical morning. Children will also get to learn to sing Czech and Slovak songs with correct pronunciation, callisthenic drills, and lively ethnic dances. During the afternoon, campers enjoy team games before a special guest arrives. Guests may include the reigning Minnesota Czech queen, musicians, and speakers. Choice time is very popular with campers because children can focus on a special interest, such as Lego® castle building, sewing, preparing a play or puppet show, adventures, and surprises. Camp is directed by Louise Wessinger and Judy Aubrecht.

Registration materials are available at [www.soklommn.org](http://www.soklommn.org). Please register now for an exciting week at camp. Camp may not take place in 2012 because our volunteers may be attending the international Sokol *slet* in Prague in the Czech Republic. The international *slet* takes place every six years. This year, 2011, is your children's big chance to attend Culture Camp. See you there!



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Sokol Minnesota  
2011  
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Past issues of *Slovo* and  
Sokol Minnesota's calendar  
of events are available online  
at <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)>

**President Komentář/President's Notes** By Ed Hamernik

*Pozdrav/Greetings!*

Everyone should be smiling now that Spring is finally here, and it is very welcome!

Sokol was busy April 13 to 17. Our Garage Sale from Wednesday through Friday, Membership Meeting on Friday night, workday and food prep on Saturday, the Breakfast/Bake Sale/Crafters Sale on Sunday morning, and the Grand Program and Food Booth at the Landmark Center Sunday afternoon completed the exciting week. The Landmark Center's Urban Expedition program spotlighted the Czech and Slovak Republics. I believe we had the largest number of volunteers for our two Sunday events since I have been active in Sokol Minnesota, and it was wonderful. There are many members who should be recognized for their individual efforts in making these events such great successes, especially the event team leaders and organizers, but the list would be long. However, I will say a heart-felt "Thank You" to all the volunteers for such a great job.

There were also special visitors in Saint Paul the following week. Curling teams from the Czech Republic and Slovakia (as well as many other countries) were at the Saint Paul Curling Club participating in the World Senior and Mixed Doubles Curling Championships, April 16 to 23. Sokol Minnesota was asked to sponsor the three Czech teams (men's, women's, and mixed doubles) and a mixed doubles team from Slovakia. Their curling schedule was quite full, but we were able to get the Czech Mixed Doubles curlers, Hana Čechová and Radek Ždárský, to be guests at our pancake breakfast. Jitka Sebek showed them around the Twin Cities one afternoon.



Sokol presented each curler with a gift bag of a Sokol T-shirt, Minnesota mementos, and other goodies. I was only able to visit them on Saturday, April 23, when there were position tie-breakers and awards. There was a banquet on Saturday evening for curlers and their sponsors, so I sat with eight of the Czech curlers. It was a great experience. Two did not speak English, three spoke fluent English, and the others spoke some English, so with my broken Czech we did well visiting and it was great fun. These people are not only devout curlers but great individuals. Some told about growing up where Sokol and its activities were significant in their lives.

Remember our upcoming events: Sokol Board of Directors meeting June 9 at 7 p.m., Culture Day Camp for children June 13 to 17, and Sokol Board of Directors meeting July 14 at 7 p.m.

**Generous Grants for The CSPS Hall Legacy Building Fund**  
By Joyce Tesarek

The CSPS Hall will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. In honor of this event, Sokol Minnesota has initiated our five-year CSPS Hall Legacy Building Fund Campaign. The building needs many upgrades and improvements. The Board of Trustees has prioritized this wish list:

- Plumbing and heating system upgrade - \$325,000
- Fire protection/sprinkler system - \$195,000
- Central air conditioning - \$304,000
- Elevator and 3-story stairwell - \$255,000 / \$290,000
- First and second floor and mezzanine remodel with installation of accessible restrooms - \$260,000
- Historic stage renovation and sound system technology update - \$85,000
- Basement renovation - \$196,000
- Infrastructure repairs (tuck pointing, etc.) - \$90,000

Many Sokol Minnesota members and friends have made generous donations. We have also applied for a variety of grants since the start of the campaign in 2007. We have received more than \$273,000 from the following generous donors:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- State Grants-in-Aid Program, Minnesota Historical Society
- Cultural STAR Program, City of Saint Paul
- Minnesota Historical Society
- Save America's Treasures, Historic Preservation Grants Division, National Park Service
- Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

*(Continued on top of page 3)*

**Grants continued.** These funds have allowed us to complete a third-floor secured office with updated computer and copier, and bring a sprinkler system from the street to the basement. We have also updated CAD architectural drawings and an Historic Structures report, both needed before beginning Phase 2 of fire protection or applying for future grants. We will also use some of our funds to hire an architectural firm to create a long-term plan for hall renovation, bring fire protection to the second floor and mezzanine, and replace antiquated steam pipes. We did not yet have sufficient funds to replace the boiler with a more efficient low pressure unit; just replacing pipes will save us tens of thousands of dollars in future repairs.

A very special thank you to all our generous grant organizations for making this work possible. Now, on to central air conditioning!

## **Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors** By J. H. Fonkert, Corresponding Secretary

Sokol Minnesota thanks generous donors who support Sokol programs and rehabilitation of the CSPS Hall. Recent donations to the **CSPS Hall Legacy Fund** include:  
Caroline Pearson, \$100  
Janette Staehl

Several donations to the **Legacy Fund** were made in honor of **Lorene Sedlacek's** 100<sup>th</sup> birthday:  
George Chlebecek  
James Chlebecek  
Georgiana Dolejsi  
Mildred Grealish  
Marit Lee Kucera  
Doreen McKenny  
Elsie Roepke, \$100  
Joan Sedlacek, \$255  
Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik  
Ken and Sharon Wyberg

Donations to the **Legacy Fund** in memory of **Dennis Shonka** include:  
Georgiana Dolejsi  
Kent and Marlene Hinshaw  
Doreen McKenny

*The Slovo withholds names or amount of donations when requested, and does not print amounts less than \$100.*

## **News from the Board of Trustees** By Chuck Draheim

The Board of Trustees held a successful workday on April 16. We removed enough trash and accumulated "stuff" to fill a 10-cubic-yard dumpster! Thanks to all who participated.

We continue to make progress dealing with our aging heating and plumbing systems. The planning committee has met with several outside firms seeking their input on how to best deal with our problems, meet our current and future needs, while not breaking the bank in the process. Members of the planning committee have also been meeting with representatives of the various stakeholder groups within Sokol to determine their needs and desires concerning possible renovations and modifications to the CSPS Hall.

The floor repair project has been put on hold pending completion of any possible piping work on the second and third floors. It was decided that postponing the project was necessary to prevent any possible damage to the newly refinished floor by potential construction activities.

As always, the BOT solicits constructive input from all Sokol members concerning the Hall. The BOT can best be contacted through our E-mail link on the Sokol website, [trustees@sokolmn.org](mailto:trustees@sokolmn.org).

**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 deadline for the August 2011 issue is July 1.** *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, temporary layout editor; seriously **seeking volunteer** for layout editor; J. H. Fonkert and M. L. Kucera, provisional co-managing editors; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Norm Petrik, Mary Cahill, Jeanette Pafko, Jean Draheim, Cinnamon Whaley, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenny, advisors. Photographs for this issue were provided by Megan Cahill, M. L. Kucera, Joe Landsberger, Sue Martin, Don Pafko, Darnell Stepan, Joyce Tesarek, Melanie Trnka, and Louise Wessinger. This June/July 2011 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after June 30.

The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Please send suggestions, articles, and pictures digitally to [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org).

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

For problems with subscriptions, please contact us via email: [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org); phone: 651-290-0542; or write to *Slovo*. We recently installed a new subscription operating system; we apologize to any subscriber who missed an issue, or who received notice of payment due, when a payment had already been made. Please let us hear from you if you think a mistake has been made. We thank you for your patience as we transition into our more efficient system.

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**Volunteer Positions available at Sokol Minnesota:**  
**Webmaster**  
**Publicity Director (Board of Directors position)**  
**Slovo Layout Editor**  
**For information: Jay Fonkert at 651-735-8630 or [jfonkert@aol.com](mailto:jfonkert@aol.com)**

# Education Updates

By Jean Draheim

Many thanks go to the Slovak and Czech language classes for helping with the culture booth at this year's Festival of Nations. Students translated into Czech and Slovak the names of the different items displayed in our farmer's market booth for the Markets of the World theme.

**Food Classes:** We are offering a class on making the open-faced sandwiches (*chlebičky*) that have been very popular at recent Sokol events. The class will be held Saturday, June 25, from 9 a.m. until noon. Registration is required by June 22.

Back by popular demand, our Sokol cooks are offering instruction on making fruit dumplings. The dumplings make a wonderful fall meal or dessert. The class will be held Saturday, October 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is required by September 28.

Both of these classes are sure to fill quickly. More information and registration forms are online at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org). Send your form and payment to Jean Draheim soon.

**Language Classes:** Sokol Minnesota is offering classes this summer for anyone interested in sampling Czech or Slovak language. Each class meets twice: Slovak on July 14 and 21, and Czech August on 16 and 23. The classes offer a brief overview of the languages, some basic vocabulary, and pronunciation. Registration due by August 9.

Regular fall session Slovak classes begin on Thursday, August 4, and run eight weeks through September 22. Registration due by July 28.

Fall session Czech classes begin the week of September 26 and run for eight weeks through the week of November 14. Registration due by September 20.

All classes require a minimum of six students, and are limited to 10 students. Send registrations to Jean Draheim, 4044 Cranbrook Drive, White Bear Lake, MN 55110 by the specified date. If there are not enough students registered, classes may be canceled. Class information and registration forms may be found at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

## Member News Update Contributed by Marlene Hinshaw (SEND YOUR MEMBER NEWS: [marle5421@aol.com](mailto:marle5421@aol.com))

Whew! April certainly was super busy at Sokol. On April 13, 14, and 15, we worked on the garage sale. On April 16, we made and baked 140 dozen *kolache*. The morning of April 17, we had a pancake breakfast with a bake and crafts sales. In the afternoon, our dancers performed at Landmark Center, where we also served ethnic foods. On April 29, we baked 170 dozen *kolache* to sell at the Festival of Nations. We have a great group of workers. Some worked all day, every day. A big "THANK YOU" to each and everyone of you.

The Czech and Slovak Urban Expedition performance at Landmark Center was simply great. The building's handsome interior made the dancers' *kroje* look especially gorgeous. The children (*Taneční Mládež*) were adorable; the teens impressed everyone with their vigor, and the adults danced with perfection. It truly was an uplifting performance.



*Taneční Mládež performed at Urban Expedition*

**DEATHS:** Sokol extends belated condolences to our Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, Bob Vanasek, on the death of his mother **Elsie Vanasek-Richard**. Elsie died April 13 at her home in New Prague. She was 92. Her family remembers her as having an amazing zest for life.

Sadly, I report the death of **Dana McKenney**. Dana died May 2, of cardiac arrest. He was 57. He is survived by his mother, Doris, sisters Doreen and Danita, and other family members.

**Frank Loss**, age 92, died May 14 after a short hospitalization. He was an active Sokol member since his youth. Most recently,

he was an active member of the Sokol Singers until a fall, several weeks ago.

**RECOVERING:** The good news is that **Pat Mestenhauser** is getting better and stronger each day. Her friends at Sokol wish her a speedy recovery.

**Charlotte Januschka** is on the mend after a fall. She is at home. **Bob Vanyo**, doing well again, rejoined his friends at the Sokol Singers on May 3.

Bicycles and sand are not compatible. Ask **Ron Andrie**. He has the stitches to prove it. No doubt he's back on his bike again, pedaling his way to fitness. Looking good, Ron!

**Lorene Sedlacek** (100 years old) has moved to Lyngblomsten Care Center for specialized care.

**Congratulations** to **Greg Chandler** on his retirement from Saint Paul Schools. **Bobby Jo** just might have herself an on-call chauffeur.

Tuesday, April 26, **Denis Novak** brought playwright Rachel Perimeter and composer J. Anthony Allen to our CSPA Hall to acquaint them with all things Czech. Perimeter and Allen are writing a play about Antonin Dvořák's visit to Saint Paul in 1893. Allen wanted to hear Czech folk songs. Evelyn Holman, Dennis Novak, and Mary Jo and Jim Chlebeck added extra volume to the Sokol singers. We (singers) thought we sounded great. We're eager to see how the play develops. The play will be held in our Hall sometime in October.

**Found:** A Saint Paul School Composition Book from 1921. Articles are handwritten in Czech. Included is a letter from Bohemia to the writer's sister. The name in the book is **Rosa Vitek**, who lived on Summit Avenue in Saint Paul. It appears her family came from Pisek in Bohemia. If you are a relative and are interested in owning this book, please contact Marlene Hinshaw.

**Seeing Information:** Might you know? **John Schneider's** grandfather, Stanley Mirovsky, operated either a saloon or butcher shop in the CSPA building in the early 1900s, or possibly 1918-19. If you have any information or pictures, please contact John at 651-492-1631. He would love to hear from you.

## Sokol Volunteers Ken and Sharon Wyberg

By Marlene Hinshaw



When I think of outstanding volunteers, Ken and Sharon Wyberg quickly come to mind. Slovaks by birth, they each lived with grandparents who emigrated from Slovakia. As a child, Ken lived on a farm. He remembers fall canning, making sauerkraut, and pig jelly (*Studenina*). Ken and Sharon both grew up in South Minneapolis.

Interest in their ethnic backgrounds led them to join

Sokol in 1982, finding friendship and camaraderie. They started participating immediately. About Sokol, Ken said, "It's a place where you can find enjoyment while contributing." Contribute they did! Sharon's expertise in the kitchen was evident. For years she chaired pancake breakfasts, Harvest Dances, *Šibřinky* festivals, New Year's Eve parties, ZCBJ dinners, and the Czech and Slovak Festivals at Highland Park. From 1987 to 2006 she chaired the Festival of Nations Café. She personally made the *pirohy*, *halusky*, and *kapusta*. She taught members how to make great cabbage rolls. She and Ken chaired the Slovak dinners from 1992 to 2004.

From 1986 to 2006 Sharon was the *Slovo* newsletter. She did the typing, editing, copying, and even helped mail it. While doing all this, Sharon was Mom to son Brian. She also did home daycare. Now grown, her daycare kids call her their third Gramma. Sharon, always prepared, was fun to work with. I was in awe of her calmness in the midst of chaos.

After a tour with the U.S. Army, Ken worked for the Aerospace Division of Honeywell doing design work on guidance and control packages for Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo. After the moon and space shots, he worked for Alliant Tech to automate turrets and cannons on tanks and howitzers. He also worked to set up programming and training for the early computer-aided design systems. At age 53, after 30 years of work, Ken retired. He said, "I loved every minute of it!" Their son Brian was one lucky kid. When he visited his Dad at work, he got to play inside real tanks. Following in his Dad's footsteps, Brian became an avionics engineer at Honeywell. Brian, also a volunteer, has worked with his Mom and Dad at many events.

Ken has chaired/co-chaired many Czech and Slovak Festivals at Highland Park, where he managed the booya kettles. This included all-night vigils on New Year's Day to get the coveted Highland Park picnic permit. He managed Euchre Tournaments at the CSPS Hall. As chair of the Board of Trustees for fifteen years, he signed the Glockenspiel tenant for Sokol and oversaw construction of the restaurant. Ken is one of those guys who can fix or build anything! He built the 385 Michigan area of the CSPS Hall's offices and oversaw the finishing carpentry. Ken was involved with the construction of the elevator addition, and repair and restoration of the Hall roof replacement, gym floor installation, boiler replacements, and restoration of the second and third floor walls and woodwork. He chaired the Board of Trustees from 1990 to 2005. He managed hall rentals starting in 1988. In 1993, Ken set up Sokol's gaming operation, which is very important because it provides Sokol with needed income. Previous to grant writing, the only way we could raise money was by having dinners and other fundraisers.

Sokol acknowledges the hard work of this "Dynamic Duo." Sokol is a successful organization because of the hard work and dedication of volunteers like Ken and Sharon. We thank you!

## Graduation for Teen Dancer Livi Martin By Louise Wessinger

In 2002, Dave and Sue Martin took their young daughter Hannah Olivia to the People's Fair at Lakeville Senior High School. Among the performers were the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers and the Sokol Youth Dancers, *Taneční Mládež*. Young Livi was so taken with the dancers and their beautiful folk dresses that she insisted her mother, Sue, call that night to see if she could join the group. Louise Wessinger, dance director, came home from Lakeville to find two messages on her phone from Sue Martin.

Livi was soon dancing with the TM dancers, and a few months later her older sister Emma also joined the group. Eventually, Dave and Sue joined the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers and also Sokol Minnesota, where they became active members. Sue's interest in Czech and Slovak folk dress and her sewing skills merged into a passion for creating authentic *kroje* for both groups.

Livi graduated from Burnsville Senior High School in May. Among her high school activities were choir and band. She also helped with the Minnesota Zoo Family Farm and raised money for the Cloud Foundation. Next fall, Livi will attend the University of Minnesota at Crookston. She plans to major in natural resources, with an emphasis on wildlife management, and to minor in equine studies. She has been inspired to help wild mustangs on public lands in a sustainable way by the Cloud Foundation and by the nature films of Ginger Kathrens.

*Livi wears a completely authentic kroj from Dobré Nivy, a region known for folk costumes of rich materials such as the velvet of her costume. This is an example of a villager's Sunday best. Livi wears two petticoats made from wide eyelet, a velvet skirt, a velvet apron, a rubac (similar to a tube top), sleeves, and vest. (Kroj Notes from Sue Martin, kroje curator, April 2011)*



## Hundreds of *Kolache* Baked for Spring Events By Doreen McKenney

Bakers and baggers made 70 dozen *kolache* on April 16 for the bake sale at the annual Spring Pancake Breakfast at CSPS Hall, and made another 70 dozen for the Urban Expedition at Landmark Center in downtown Saint Paul. Both events were the next day, Sunday, April 17. Volunteers were Doreen McKenney, Doris McKenney, Mary Cahill, Joyce Tesarek, Norm Petrik, Jean Draheim, Kat Nelson, Paula Vukonich, Teresa Pojar, Ann Seifert, Marlene Hinshaw, Darla Kolb, and Joan Sedlacek.



*Rolling dough: Paula Vukonich, Teresa Pojar, Kat Nelson, Norm Petrik (back), Kathy Jorgenson (who was at the Hall to prepare chlebičky, joined the Kolache Krew for this photo), Mary Cahill, and Ann Seifert*

At the Spring Breakfast, Shannon Duffy reported bake sales of \$679. Bake good donors included Sharon Laika, poppyseed horns; Pam Kotval, mini bundt cake and cookies; Hana Matousek, *kolache* and bars; Arlene Hamernik, lemon bars and peanut butter blossoms; MaryJo Chlebecek, bundt cake and eggs-in-a-nest.

The unsold 12 dozen *kolache* from the bake sale were transported downtown Saint Paul, then walked from Macy's parking ramp to the Landmark Center by Quint Larson and Shae McKenney, all dressed in  *kroje*  for the Urban Expedition event that was already in progress. We invited the curious onlookers on the street to join the free Urban Expedition event at the Landmark Center.

Marit Lee Kucera ran the Legacy Fund donation table at the pancake breakfast. Sales totaled more than \$160. Donations came from Jim and Darlene Baker, Mark Bigouette, Barbara Gawtry, Betty Kotval, Sue Martin,

Doreen McKenney, Doris McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, CGSI, Louise Wessinger, and Surprise (grab) Bags with themes such as Cat Lovers, Gardener, and Active Boy for \$1, filled from fun finds found at the garage sale, held 3 days earlier.

*Jim and Darlene Baker, members from Onamia, donated these Dancing House birdhouses to Sokol Minnesota, now available for purchase in our Sokol Gift Shop.*



## Successful Sokol Garage Sale on April 14-15

Our 2011 faithful garage sale volunteers -- from markers, organizers, sorters, gophers, cashiers, baggers, floor directors, sales associates, and clean-up crew -- were Karen Bauer,

Emily Chesick, MaryJo Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek, George Chlebecek, Jean Draheim, Barb Gawtry, Marlene Hinshaw, Kent Hinshaw, Joe Landsberger, Sharon Liska, Doris McKenney, Norm Petrik, Joyce Tesarek, Joan Sedlacek, Ann Seifert, Steve Shimer, Al Sladek, Dorothy Sladek, Dan Washick, and Louise Wessinger, with co-chairs

Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney. Sokol Minnesota made nearly \$1,300 on the 2011 Garage Sale. Thanks to everyone who so generously donated items and also time. Our remainders were given to Alley Shoppe, a free store (Pam Wiehe, director) at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church on the East Side of Saint Paul, and to Saint Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church (Walter Wietzke, pastor) in our West End neighborhood.



## **KROJE at SOKOL MINNESTOA** By Sue Martin

This begins a new, on-going *Slovo* series of pictures with historical information about  *kroje*  worn, danced in, and collected by local members and friends of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. I am inspired to document  *kroje*  in our community, of which there are many



beautiful examples. This is an exciting project. Approximately 550 different styles of  *kroje*  exist in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

*Don and Pat Andrles' kroje are from Ratiskovice in southern Moravia. The woman's apron has hundreds of hours of embroidery using a floral design native to the village. The apron is tied in a particular way done by all the village girls. The feathers in Don's hat represent girlfriends, and are clipped at the wedding. The woman's godmother makes the bride's bonnet, an heirloom decorated with over 2,000 glass beads and sequins, and ribbons with embroidered and hand-painted floral designs hanging from the back of the bonnet to the waist. At the wedding, the bonnet replaces the bride's wreath of flowers, worn while she was single. In earlier times, the woman's sleeves were filled with straw or sawdust to make them puff out. Now we starch a set of inner sleeves, or use tissue paper. Folk costumes have been worn for over 300*

# Urban Expedition: Czech Republic and Slovakia By Louise Wessinger

It was advertised as an opportunity to visit two countries without leaving Saint Paul. Many traveler-guests did just that April 17 at the Landmark Center in Saint Paul. From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., guests joined the Urban Expedition to visit the neighboring countries of the Czech Republic and Slovakia while in the beautiful first-floor atrium of this historic federal courthouse building.

Among the cultural experiences was a two-hour program hosted by Sokol Vice President Denis Novak. Sokol President Ed Hamernik and Honorary Slovak Consul Don Pafko welcomed the crowd. Don also spoke on behalf of Honorary Czech Consul Bob Vanasek, who was unable to attend due to his mother's death.



*Right: Teen Dancers with rakes and stilts.*

*Left: Stu Anderson, Frank Trnka, and Jody Ouradnik performed selections from Antonin Dvořák.*



Opening the program with selections from Czech composer Antonin Dvořák were pianist and Czech bagpiper Frank Trnka, soloist soprano Jody Ouradnik, and her husband Stu Anderson on sax. Next, the young Sokol dancers of *Taneční Mládež* and Teens took over the large dance floor to perform their favorite dances for the delighted audience. Twenty-four young dancers and a dozen teen dancers, in their beautiful *kroje*, filled the floor.

Special guests included Miss Czech Slovak 2010-2011, Debbie Jindra and her successor, the 2011-2012 Queen, Makayla Skluzacek. Debbie performed two dances from her talent competition. A folk-dress style show organized and narrated by Sue Martin featured more than 50 models proudly dressed in their Slovak, Moravian, and Bohemian *kroje*. Also featured was the traditional Slovak pipe instrument, the *fujara*, played by Marek Mino and his son.

Closing the program was the energetic performance of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers featuring, among other dances, their new Festival of Nations suite. Counting the 25 adult dancers, the total number of our dancers for the afternoon was 62!



*Right: Gina Roers and Kathy Jorgenson with chlebičky, open-faced sandwiches.*

*Left: Don Hasselbauer with gift items for sale.*

Very busy all afternoon were Joyce Tesarek and Kathy Jorgenson and their fabulous Sokol team who served up authentic foods, including *jaternice*, *chlebičky*, *kolache* and *potica* along with soft drinks and coffee.



The "Czech Mom's Club" spent a month making traditional *perničky* (gingerbread) so that children could decorate the cookies with brightly colored frostings. Children could also watch a Sokol Puppet theatre performance of *Červená Karkula* (Red Riding Hood) by Lenka Bragg. There were also coloring activities featuring the Slovak and Czech flags.

In addition to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, other participants included the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, Czech Heritage Club of New Prague, Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant, Rusin Society, Baltic Imports, and a Slovak display by Marek and Amy Mino.

Two hours flew by and everyone was amazed by the large crowd and the beautiful Landmark Center, which, for one April afternoon, became a part of our ancestral and native homelands. A huge "thank you" to all who worked so hard to make it such a great success.

## Outstanding Sokol Presence at the Festival of Nations 2011

By M. L. Kucera with Louise Wessinger, Doreen KeKenney, Kate Aubrecht, and Joyce Tesarek

The magic age for our youngest dancers is five (or in kindergarten). It means they are old enough to perform at the Festival of Nations; this year May 5-8, in Saint Paul. In 2011, five of our young dancers performed in their first festival, for a total of 18 *Taneční Mládež* dancers. The children danced group favorites “*Boleslav, Boleslav*” and “*Tancuj, Tancuj.*”

The Teens opened the program with the girls raking hay in a field, but they soon found themselves dancing rather than working (see picture on page 7). Special “rake” props were made by Brittany and Michelle Stepan’s dad, Dave, who copied theatre props found at our CSPS Hall. Dave also made three pairs of stilts for the boys to use in their challenge dance. The 14 teen dancers performed as well two dances choreographed for them last

year by youth dance director Louise Wessinger. In addition to the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, Sokol Minnesota members danced in other groups, including the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers, and The Klompdancers of Minnesota (Dutch).



Above: Erik and Kay Edquist stamp a passport at the Czech and Slovak Culture Booth.

Below: Liz Rheume and Teresa Pojar (Jason Brozovich, behind) at the Cafě.

This year’s Culture Booth, with the theme of Market Places of the World, was created by Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek. Jean Hall set up the display, Kate Aubrecht scheduled volunteers, and Czech and Slovak language class members and teachers made the translations of market items such as eggs, apples, bread, chickens. Students had their passports stamped throughout the whole cultural area. Volunteers included Pat and Don Andrie, Jen Aubrecht, Blanca Brichta and friend, Kay and Erik Edquist, Jean Hall, Robert Jacobson, Paul and Deb Makousky, Livi and Sue Martin, Elyse Moullette and husband, John Topic, and Michaela Wentz (who charmed her audience on Friday morning with stories about markets at *home* in Slovakia). Passports were stamped and many questions answered about our two old-world countries.



Above Top: Teen Dancers on stage.

Above: Joe Landsberger spent his birthday volunteering in the Cafě.



The Bazaar Booth, under the direction of Doreen McKenney, occupied prime real estate, facing the new park area designed for shoppers to relax and take a break, while listening to strolling musicians. 7,000 students attended Thursday and double as many on Friday. Popular items were our new Czech T-shirt designs: *jak se mas?* (how are you?), Czech princess, spell czech, and the traditional Bohemian lion; floral head wreaths, *kolache* candles, wrapped “love” boxes, handmade cards and magnets, and aprons. Assisting Doreen with set up/take down were Dennis Cahill, Danita Larson, Doris McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, Dan Washick, and Louise Wessinger. Bazaar sales staff during the four-day event included Jean Hall, Kathy Jorgenson, Marit Lee Kucera,

Danita Larson, Doris McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, and Ann Seifert.

The Cafě, coordinated by Mary Cahill and Joyce Tesarek, did an outstanding job of dishing up favorite Czech and Slovak foods: 50 lbs. *jitrnice* (Czech sausage), 40 lbs. *parky* (hot dogs), untold pork burger, 40 lbs. kraut, 216 cabbage rolls, 20 lbs. fried cheese sticks (especially popular with the kids), 180 dozen *kolache*, over 500 cream rolls, plus coffee, lemonade, and water. The long list of loyal, hard-working Cafě volunteers will appear in the August issue. Also look for more pictures



Below: Georgiana Dolejsi, who had just completed a Channel 9 TV interview about the Festival, and Marit Lee Kucera with Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek standing in the Bazaar Booth.

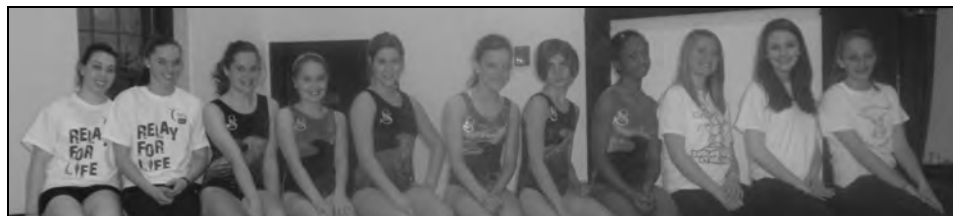


## 2010-2011 Season Gymnastics Recap By Sokol Minnesota Board of Instructors

This was an exciting year for Sokol Minnesota's gymnastics program. Returning head instructor, Lisa Hollibush, was joined by first-year instructors Madeline Moser, Ellen Sutton, and Shelby LaBonne. All four instructors are graduates of National Sokol Instructor Courses; all four have been active Sokol gym class participants for years and have competed with their high school gymnastics teams. Rounding out the Sokol-trained instructors were first-year Hamline University gymnastic team competitors Erika Degman and Courtney Benson, and also Jason Brozevich, a member of The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak adult folk dancers. Ericka and Courtney are from Winona,

Minnesota, where they taught gymnastics, competed for their high school and were state-level champions. Erika and Courtney, the two of three Hamline University gymnasts, advanced to national competition. Jason Brozevich, a former junior Olympic gymnast and Division 1 recruit, volunteered his time to instruct the two boys who enrolled during the later part of the season. We are hopeful that we can formally start and grow a boys' program for the 2011-2012 class season.

In addition to the fun and skill development that occurred during the regular gymnastics classes, several girls put extra time into practices and training for the annual Western District Competition, which was held April 8-10 at Sokol South Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska. Six Gymnasts from Sokol Minnesota competed against gymnasts from Sokols Crete, Cedar Rapids, Omaha, and South Omaha. Five of the six have competed in at least one previous Western District Competition. For one girl, it was her first year in gymnastics and very first gymnastics competition.



*L-R: Erika Degman, Courtney Benson, Jayne Pobanz, Siri Schroeder, Carli Weber, Erica Meyers, Alice O'Brien, Kyenne Mc Querry, Ellen Sutton, Shelby LaBonne, Madeline Moser.*



*This year's instructing staff: L-R: Courtney Benson, Ellen Sutton, Madeline Moser, Jason Brozevich, Shelby LaBonne, Erika Degman, not pictured Lisa Hollibush.*

Our gymnasts won a substantial number of medals and ribbons, and they were truly wonderful ambassadors from our Sokol Unit. We can be proud of them and their coaches. The competitions are a great way to promote friendships within the "Sokol family" both here in Minnesota and among other Sokol units in the Western District. The 2012 Western District Competition will be held at Sokol Cedar Rapids.

A big thanks to Sokol Minnesota's immediate past president, Joe Landsberger, who envisioned and established a successful parent/child tiny tots class. Joe was class assistant along with head instructors Russ Goodman (former director of Turner's Gymnastics) and McKinzie Woelfel.



*Six of Sokol Minnesota's first "Tumbling for Tots" children (ages 2-4) received ribbons and graduated Thursday, May 12. Pictured (L-R top): Hazel, Anna, Jonah, Finn; George (assistant), Hazel, and Andrian. Not pictured are McKinzie Woelfel and Russell Goodman, trainers; Joe Landsberger, coordinator; and all the parents who exercised along with their tots.*



*This group competed at Sokol South Omaha: L-R top row: Erica Meyers, Alice O'Brien, Kyenne McQuerry, bottom row L-R: Jayne Pobanz, Siri Schroeder, Carli Weber.*

We thank Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota for its support of the gym program and look forward to strengthening and expanding programs in the 2011-2012.

### Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

Renewals: Individual **\$45**; Couple **\$80**; Senior **\$35** (over age 65 and member of Sokol for five years); Senior couple **\$70**.

New membership dues are Individual **\$50**; Couple **\$85**. This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee for registration with our national organization, American Sokol.

Year 2011 dues for members joining after June 30 are \$25, individual; \$42.50, couple. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

Membership applications are available at <[www.Sokolmn.org](http://www.Sokolmn.org)>

or by request from Norm Petrik at 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

## Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival

By Ginger Simek, President of Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International <[www.cgsi.org](http://www.cgsi.org)>

A good source to help you find your immigrant ancestor's arrival record is *They Came in Ships* by John P. Colletta, PhD. The book offers steps to find the passenger list record with your ancestor's name. Generally, each ship carrying passengers to America had a list of passengers headed by the name of the ship, captain's name, port and date of departure, and the port and date of arrival. After 1892, passenger lists recorded more information, including birth places, names of close relatives in the home country, and the immigrant's destination in the United States.

The book describes the information you need to find your ancestor in passenger lists. It discusses major ports as well as some of the minor ports where immigrants arrived on the Atlantic coast, Gulf coast, and the Great Lakes. It covers how to work with various published indexes, how to deal with years that lacked a published index, newspaper records for the port of entry, crew lists, emigration lists, and more. Sources and suggestions help locate a picture of your ancestor's ship.

The valuable chart at the end of the book, "How to Find Your Immigrant Ancestor's Ship," summarizes the research steps in the text and focuses on the direction for an individual's personal search. The book can be used at the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Research Center, 1185 Concord Street North, Suite 218, South Saint Paul. The library is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Library admission is free to MGS, branch, and affiliate members. For non-members there is a \$10 fee. 651-455-9057.

The original passenger lists are housed at the National Archives. Searchable indexes and images are available at <[www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com)>. This genealogy database is available in many libraries, including the Minnesota Genealogical Society and the Minnesota History Center.

## Potica with Slovak Origins By Cinnamon Whaley



If you visited the Sweet Shop at the Czech and Slovak Festival at Highland Park last September, attended the Landmark Center's Czech and Slovak cultural event in April, or the Festival of Nations in May, chances are you tried *potica*, the swirled walnut or poppy seed-filled pastry treat that I am holding here.

These *potica* are the creation of Ján Gadzo of Chisholm, Minnesota, and his family. They have been baking *potica* for more than nineteen years, using a family recipe handed down through the generations. Ján makes the dough and his son Andrej grinds the

walnuts and weighs the dough. Then, with his wife Jean, Jan rolls the dough by hand, spreads the filling, and prepares the pastry for the oven.

Sokol's relationship with Ján began twelve years ago when members of the Slovak community suggested that Don Paľko get in touch with Ján. Ján helped the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers get into the Ironworld Ethnic Festival, and afterward they became fast friends and have remained so to this day, keeping in touch on a regular basis.

*Potica* is made across the Iron Range in several variations, depending on one's nationality. The Gadzos' version has Slovak roots; if it were made in Europe it would be called *orechovník*, *orech* meaning "walnut." A poppy seed version is also offered; we have had both varieties at our festivals.

Ján's *potica* is available locally at Lund's and Byerly's, as well at his website at <http://poticawalnut.com>.

## SONG of the MONTH

By Georgiana Dolejsi

This song, taken from the operetta *Večer nad Prahou* (A Night in Prague), is a tango. Copyright 1936 by Mojmir Urbánek, music publisher in Prague from 1900-1949.

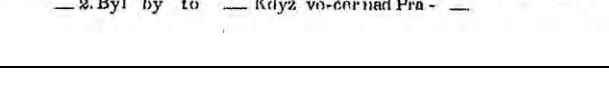
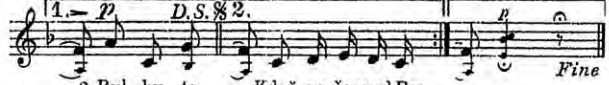
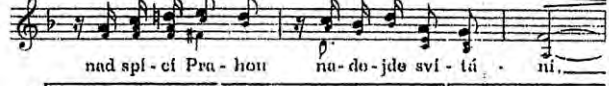
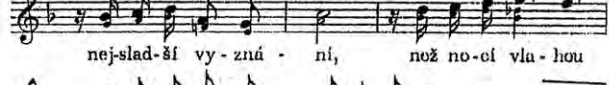
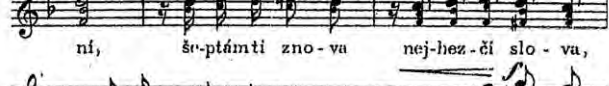
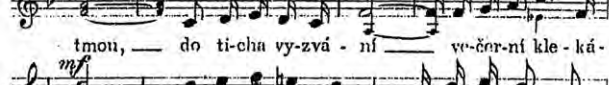
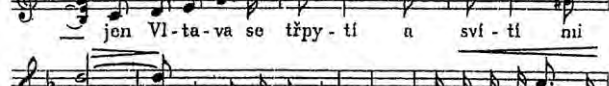
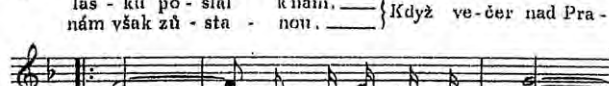
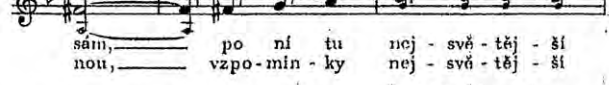
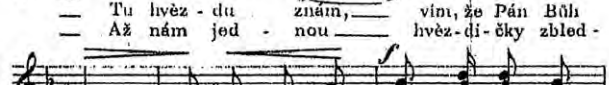
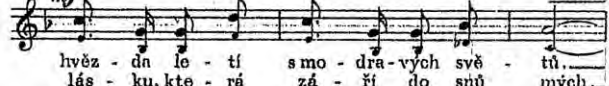
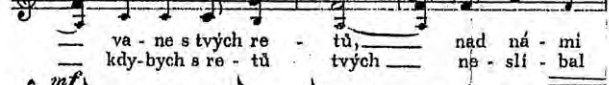
### Večer nad Prahou

Píseň a tango z operety, „Podej štěstí rukou“

Slova: J. MOTTL a K. MELÍŠEK

Hudba: J. STELIBSKÝ

Tempo di Tango



## What Do you Know (Want to Know) (Need to Know) By Josef A. Mestenhauser

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

This article deals with three questions; the answers to each depend on three different concepts that I will try to relate to each other. One concept is what we actually know, in our case, about the Czech and Slovak Republics that we learned from school or experience that is "stored" in our minds. For most people, knowledge about the Czech and Slovak Republics and their people is very scanty. The second concept concerns what motivation we have to learn new things. The answer depends on the mental priorities people establish regarding the immediate or future use of such knowledge, the priority they attach to other kinds of learning, and the perceived relevance to their daily lives. For most people knowledge about two small countries far away does not appear to be very important. As long as the Czech and Slovak Republics are not in the daily news, it seems almost irrelevant. Other people might know a little, and therefore believe they already know everything important there is to know. This leaves the third concept: what we should know; the answer to this question exposes a gap between what most people know and what they should know.

This discussion raises three questions: 1) how much and what kind of knowledge is enough, 2) why should we want to learn it, and 3) if we should, how do we bridge that gap? For people who have special interest in the Czech and Slovak Republics, either because of their own ethnicity or other connections, these questions have a special resonance.

The first and the third questions are simple to answer. The Czech and Slovak Cultural Center organizes regular lectures on selected aspects of these two republics and their roles in the world (including effects on us here in the U.S.). The topics are timely, do not require any prior knowledge or preparation, and are limited to the most important issues and events. Speakers are well prepared and now, thanks to modern technology, we can bring any speaker to the Twin Cities using Skype; this has proved very



effective. This technology is also extremely cost effective, because most voluntary associations do not have sufficient funding to bring prominent speakers here from abroad.

We, in fact, urgently solicit suggestions for topics from readers. Some of the topics on our tentative list are controversial or thought provoking, such as the three "curses:" Munich, Yalta, and the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans. Others are designed to explain what happened to Czechoslovaks and their organizations, including Sokol and the churches, during the two most horrendous occupations, the Nazi and the communist. One program might be devoted to the legacy of Lidice; while another might feature the "crimes of communism," the findings of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism. This Institute prepared an excellent exhibit of the methods used by the secret police; we hope to bring it to the Twin Cities. Additional sessions will focus on the positive aspects of how Czechs and Slovaks are building and improving their democratic institutions and through them a civil society, rebuilding religious institutions, and catching up with the rest of the world in the European Union, NATO, the Atlantic community, and the world society at large. We have many connections in both republics and plan to bring some prominent speakers via Skype to discuss such topics as the revival of Sokol and its role in the development of these two republics, or the survival of religious organizations. For people interested in tourism, Skype enables us to present our audiences with the beauty of these countries by way of a virtual "tour" of the Czech and Slovak Republics, going far beyond the capital cities.

The answer to the second question, why we should want and feel we need more knowledge, must remain with individual readers to answer. This article challenges each of you to respond, at least mentally. I hope the answer will be consistent with the demands of the information society in which we now live, which requires more knowledge and skills to connect the different pieces. This way we will not be surprised when world events occur that we otherwise might not expect, solely because we were ignorant of the conditions that created them.

*To suggest additional topics for the lecture series, contact John Moravec at (612) 325-5992 or Moravec@umn.edu; Allyn Johnson at (763) 427 9307, cell 703 670-3016, or john2023@umn.edu; or Josef Mestenhauser at (612) 822 8862 or j-mest@umn.edu*

## NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

**By Donald Pafko, Honorary Slovak Consul**

On Thursday evening, April 21, the Museum of Russian Art in Minneapolis hosted a cocktail hour and dinner for the international officers attending the National Defense University (NDU) in Washington, D.C. Military officers from 47 different countries and senior leadership from the NDU attended this gala event. In addition, the Minnesota Consular Corp was invited. Attendees of the NDU travel throughout the United States during their course work with the University. My wife and I were

honored to be seated with Lt. Col. Slavomir Staviarsky of the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces. Lt. Col. Staviarsky was very pleased to find a Slovak connection here in Minnesota; he indicated he would be very happy to have future involvement with Minnesota Slovaks, as well as with my functions as Honorary Slovak Consul.

Members of the Minnesota Consular Corp were paired with military personnel from the countries they each represent; they were able to establish a relationship with these military officers and to make plans for future similar events. Seated at our table were military officers from Japan and

Columbia. Sincere thanks to the Museum of Russian Art and to Mr. Alain Frecon for hosting this event.



*Lt. Col. Slavomir Staviarsky, of the Slovak Armed Forces, and Donald Pafko, Honorary Slovak Consul.*

**ATTEND, SUPPORT, and  
VOLUNTEER for SOKOL  
EVENTS**

***Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp  
for Children, ages 7 - 14***

**Monday thru Friday, June 13 - 17**

Contact Louise: 651-452-6240

***81<sup>st</sup> Annual Sokol Camp Booya and Picnic***

**Sunday, August 14, noon – 5**

Pine City, Minnesota

***Czech and Slovak Fall Festival***

**Sunday, September 18, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Highland Park Pavilion on Montreal Avenue  
two blocks north of West 7th Street, Saint Paul

**check the calendar on our website**



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**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO June/July 2011**

**81<sup>st</sup> Annual Booya and Picnic on August 14**

By Colin Clancy

Minnesota Sokol Camp on beautiful Cross Lake in Pine City will host its 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Booya and Picnic on Sunday, August 14, noon to 5:00 p.m. We are ordering an incredibly beautiful and sunny day filled with fun activities and great foods, including delicious chicken Booya for sale by the bowl or in bulk. Bring a jar or pot to fill to take home and enjoy or share with friends. There also will be *jiternice*, brats, hot dogs, meatloaf sandwiches, cabbage rolls, *kolache*, and candy. A cold *pivo* or refreshing soda pop will satisfy any thirst. Old time music, dancing, bingo, a cash prize raffle, kiddy games, country store, and a performance by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers will take you back in time.

Our Country Store welcomes white elephant donations. Please call Pat Andrlé at 651-484-6360 for pick-up coordination or bring your donation to the Sokol Camp on August 14. For any other questions, please call Colin Clancy at 651-329-7109.

To get to Camp, take Exit 171 off I-35 at Pine City and follow the signs. There is a posting on Facebook under "Sokol Camp Booya" with pictures of the road signs and several fun pictures of past events. Get away for a day and enjoy life at the Sokol Camp Booya & Picnic on Cross Lake in Pine City, Minnesota.

**Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers**

**Summer Performances** By Jean and Chuck Draheim

Summer and fall are times to be out of doors in Minnesota. That's also true for the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, which performs year-round celebrating Slovak, Moravian, and Bohemian culture. Several performances are scheduled for summer and early fall. On July 24 the group goes to Montgomery, Minnesota, to march in the Kolacky Days parade and perform in the city park. (<http://www.montgomerymn.org/kdayindex.html>)

The Sokol Camp Booya is the second road trip of the summer. The Booya Picnic, in Pine City, provides food, fun, and sun for the entire family. The dancers perform annually at the Booya.

The third weekend of September has the dancers hopping. On Saturday the 17th, the dancers entertain audiences for the 26<sup>th</sup> annual *Dožinky* Festival celebrating New Prague's Czech and Slovak heritage. The event includes a parade, outdoor dance performances, food, and cultural exhibits. (<http://www.newprague.com/dozinky/>)

Sunday the 18th, the dancers are on home turf at the Czech and Slovak Festival, sponsored by Sokol Minnesota, in Saint Paul's Highland Park. All of the events are free and open to the public.