



Czech

Slovak

Sokol Minnesota



SLOVO

March 2009 vol. 32 no. 3

Flavors of Slovakia Dinner Sunday, March 22, Initiates Sokol MN Spring Flings in 2009

Springtime brings a flurry of activities to CSPS Sokol Hall. Our spring season at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota begins blooming with our annual Flavors of Slovakia sit-down dinner on Sunday, March 22, at 12:30 p.m.

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

Invite your family and friends to join us for a Slovak Sunday dinner. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7 for children under 9. Seating is limited; reservations are required. Take-out is available. Mail prepaid reservations by March 12, with your check made out to Sokol Minnesota to: Jeanette Pafko, attn: Slovak Dinner, 5232 W 96th St., Bloomington, MN 55437. Please include your phone number or email address. Your tickets will be waiting for you at the door.

Dinner team leaders are Jeanette Pafko, Doreen McKenney, Mary Cahill, and Joyce Tesarek. Volunteers are welcome to help with *halusky* preparation on Saturday, March 21 at 8 a.m. as well as to help serve the dinner on the 22nd. Dinner preps are always a good learning experience, as well as a great time working together with other Sokols. If you would like to learn how to make this authentic Slovak dish or to help serve, please call Joyce (612-822-6147) or Jeanette (952-831-1440).

Please see Spring, page 8

Flavors of Slovakia

Sunday March 22nd

Historic CSPS Sokol Hall 383 Michigan Street - St. Paul MN 55102
www.sokolmn.org

holupky (cabbage roll)
halusky kapusta(dumplings and cabbage)
pirohy, pickled beets, green beans
caraway rye bread, dessert and coffee

limited seating-12:30 only

\$15.- Adult \$7.- for children under 9

For Reservations Call Jeanette 952.831.1440
or Mail Payment no later than March 18th
to Jeanette Pafko-5232 West 96th St. Bloomington, MN 55437

public welcome • take-outs available

Easter bake

(Kolace, lamb cakes, houska and more)



and French toast or Pancake breakfast

Historic CSPS SOKOL Hall • 383 Michigan street • www.sokolmn.org

Sunday April 5th
9a -1pm

\$6.00 per person / Children under 9 \$4.00

French toast, all you can eat pancakes
sausage, juice, milk or coffee

Doreen 952.941.0426 Louise 651.452.6240 Ed 763.571.6091

Upcoming Events

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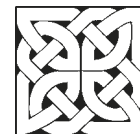
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President Komentář/President's Note

By Joe Landsberger

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters



This month's focus is on our public relations! At the recent January Board of Director's retreat, we discussed forming a public relations committee with several purposes. The first is well served: publicizing our events! Thanks to Marit Lee Kucera, Publicity Director, our extensive media list is the vehicle for publicity notices that have already had significant impact on attendance at our events. A second purpose is also underway: creating publications. This Slovo is now a product of Marit, Cinnamon and Rosemary Whaley, Ginger Simek, Teresa Pojar, Jyni Koschak, and myself acting as a Publications Committee. The third purpose will be more challenging: coordinating efforts in building and maintaining relationships with outside and associated groups.

For example, Finance Committee has successfully written grants for projects, and has testified before City of St. Paul departments and the Minnesota Historical Society. Did you know that St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman participated in our gymnastics program for two years in his youth, and that Councilman Dave Thune's daughters did as well? This Slovo (page 7) features the product of another relationship that we have fostered, the performance showcase of West End Arts, a task force of our neighborhood council, the West 7th/Fort Road Federation-District 9 Community Council. The showcase was organized by Sokols Mary Esch and Jason Gorski. The Federation has a wonderful history with Sokol, helping us save, and gain historic status for, our building (1977), and funding construction of the Community Gate in the North High Bridge Park (2003) that commemorates Bohemian, Moravian, Silesian, Rusyn and Slovak immigrants who contributed to building West Seventh neighborhoods. They also co-funded our puppets and the history I compiled and co-authored: *Gateway to a New World; Building Czech and Slovak Communities in the West End*.

Other organizations will be vital to us in the 21st Century. Our gymnastics program, as well as our families, have a historic relationship with the Turner Society, and we are now exploring resurrecting a boys' gymnastics program with them, as well as with the West 7th Community Center whose executive director is Sokol Jeff Martinka. Additional organizations include the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (whose President is Sokol Ginger Simek), the Minnesota Association of Museums, and the Lex-Ham Community Theater who each year coproduce a Czech or Slovak play with Sokol and the Czech Slovak Culture Center. St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers, led by Sokol Louise Wessinger, practices weekly in our hall, and an association is emerging with the Czech Heritage Club of New Prague. Did I forget to mention the alphabet: CSPA-CSA, ZCBI, and WFLA? Annual renters include Irish, Latvian, German, and Scandinavians with whom we share cultural affinities. What rich associations all! If you are interested in helping, please contact me at publicrelations@sokolmn.org or 651 297 9000. Nazdar!

Renovations update: Joan Sedlacek, Denis Novak and myself are rapidly concluding renovation of the mezzanine level office/workroom. The work includes sanding and refinishing the floors; washing, priming and painting the cabinets and walls, and installation of telephone and Internet connectivity. This workspace will serve to archive and store Sokol collections, and serve Sokol committees and office management. Working documents as for event planning and facility renovation will also be valuable! The project is supported by a matching \$2,000 grant from the City of St. Paul's Cultural STAR program.

The first phase of installing a fire protection sprinkling system in the basement has also begun. While the St. Paul Division of Kraus Anderson is the general contractor, the International Fire Protection Corporation (IFPC) of Scandia, Minnesota has the winning bid. IFPC is owned by Sokol member Peter Vodenka and his wife Lilly. Congratulations! This work is supported by matching grants from the City of St. Paul Cultural STAR Program, the Minnesota State Historical Society, the Czech Government and the generosity of Sokol members. Thank you!



Paul Labovitz

Sokol March Membership Meeting Paul Labovitz, Superintendent, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

Paul Labovitz will present on his work in eastern European parks and twenty-year service and current position as Superintendent for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, at the Sokol Membership Meeting Friday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a short business meeting followed by the program, with refreshments to follow. Paul will talk about his experiences working with park professionals and conservation groups. He holds an undergraduate degree in Forestry and Wildlife Management at The Pennsylvania

State University, an MBA at Frostburg State University in western Maryland, and has managed a 10,000 acre privately owned tract of hardwood forest in southwest Pennsylvania.

In 1993 Paul traveled as part of a National Park Service planning team to Bieszczady National Park in Southeast Poland to work with national park directors from Poland, Slovakia and the Ukraine, as well as the international biosphere reserve from these three nations. In 1995 Paul worked with the US Peace Corps on an environmental program review in Slovakia. Paul traveled to many of Slovakia's parks and protected areas and met with the conservation staff and their partners, and initiated a sister park program between a Slovak Protected Landscape Area in the Záhorie region with Cuyahoga Valley National Park, in northeast Ohio.

Paul has returned to central Europe several times to work on addition park and conservation projects in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Montenegro. Additional sister parks connect Rocky Mountain National Park with both the Slovak and Polish national parks along the High Tatras mountains, and Paul hopes to connect the 72-mile Mississippi National River & Recreation Area to similar resource parks around the world with large river system resources.

Paul and his wife Sue live in Fridley, MN where they enjoy gardening and most outdoor recreation along the Mississippi River from a canoe with fishing rods. Paul and Sue have three adult children living in Ohio and two dogs named Yukon and Moose.

Membership Committee

by Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the January 23 Membership Meeting five persons were accepted for Sokol membership: Jakub Dasc of Eden Prairie is an instructor in the beginning Czech classes; Christina Banks of Minneapolis has interest in language; Barbara Kellett of Roseville has interest in genealogy; and Jason and Ivana Abram of Rosemount have an interest in language classes, children's dance, and culture camp. Their son Thomas is 19 months old. Welcome to Sokol! Monthly membership meetings are the fourth Friday of each month at 7 p.m., and I urge you and other members to come, as well as to other Sokol events.



Finance Committee (Thank you for your donations!)

by Jeanette Pafko

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

Building Fund (Matching our grant requirements):

\$100-\$499: Tobias & Maria Turon and in memory of her mother Josephine Krusina, Charlotte Martin.

To \$100: Judy Metcalf, David Factor, Karen Machlica, Romelle Vanek, Nancy Imbrone, and Patricia Wolesky.

General Fund (for general operations and programming)

To \$100: Kathleen Phillipp and Minnesota Sokol Camp Association

Recipes from the Czech and Slovak Cookbook

by Phyllis Vosejпка and Cinnamon Whaley

Grandma's Best Cookies

1 cup shortening (margarine)	2 eggs	1 cup quick cooking oatmeal
1 cup granulated sugar	3 1/2 cups flour	1 cup Rice Krispies
1 cup brown sugar	1 tsp salt	1 cup coconut
1 cup oil	1 tsp soda	1 cup chopped nuts
1 tsp vanilla	1 tsp cream of tartar	



Using an electric mixer, beat shortening, sugars, oil, vanilla and eggs well. Add flour, salt, soda, cream of tartar and mix well. Stir in oats, Rice Krispies, coconut and nuts. Drop by teaspoonful onto ungreased cookie sheets. Flatten with fork. Bake at 350° for 12 minutes and cool. These will freeze well.



Grandma's Best Cookies - Taste Test Approved!

Grandma's Best Cookies from page 136 of the Sokol Cookbook (2nd Edition) is Laura Jansen, Louise Wessinger's mother's recipe. Laura made this recipe for her six grandsons and always had the cookie jar well stocked. While Louise has baked similar recipes, this one she left to her mother. At Phyllis Vosejпка's suggestion, I gave the recipe a try.

I went to the grocery store at about 5:30 p.m. on Super Bowl Sunday and it was hard to find a place to park but I assure you I was the only person in the baking aisle! This recipe calls for one cup oil. I knew not to use peanut or olive oil but being new to baking, I wasn't sure what type of oil to use. I called grandma for advice and she recommended Canola oil. When these recipes were written there was less attention paid to fats and calories but I dove right in with one cup unsalted butter (substitute for shortening) and one cup oil, throwing my guilt to the wind!

Did I say I substituted butter? My jack-of-all-trades boyfriend told me later that margarine generally is used in softer cookies so I made a second batch with margarine! My taste testers weren't able to tell the difference, possibly due to the smallish amount of dough used for each cookie, and that they were flattened. Both batches were praised equally!

Using this recipe I got about 4 dozen cookies – the gals at work were pleased; the treats table will be full all week! The cookies are crisp but melt in your mouth quite quickly. My batches were browned around the edges and golden in the center. Phyllis suggested that the original recipe be adjusted slightly; the original instructs to switch oven shelves half way through but baking on one shelf for 12 minutes produced fantastic cookies and we've adjusted the recipe (above) as such.

These cookies have such a great combination of ingredients. The texture of the Rice Krispies and flavors of coconut, vanilla, and brown sugar create a wonderfully sweet treat. I enjoy oat cookies and am not a chocolate lover - this cookie really satisfies my personal sweet tooth. I was impressed by the addition of Rice Krispies to the cookies – for a relatively bland cereal, the texture and taste is very apparent in the cookies! My only open questions is what I can do with the rest of the coconut, oats, and cream of tartar. I think more cookies are in my future!

If you're interested in Czech and Slovak cooking, we will need volunteers for the upcoming Slovak Dinner in March as well as the Festival of Nations in April. Please see the ads and information sections on these events in this Slovo! If you're interested in purchasing the Sokol Cookbook, they are \$15 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling. We ship twice per month: Check to Sokol Minnesota, memo cookbook. Addressed Sokol Minnesota attention gift shop, 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul MN 55102.

Egg Decorating Class with Master Folk Artist Marj Nejdł

The Czech Heritage Club of the New Prague-Montgomery area, will host Master folk Artist Marj Nejdł, who will teach wax-resist egg decorating, also known as the batik process. Nejdł is nationally known for her folk art, and her work can be seen at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids. As a participant, you will have hands-on guidance in creating your own decorated egg to bring home. Date to be announced. Class size is limited, registration deadline is Thursday, April 9. Please call Arnie or Deb Ziskovsky at 952-652-2677. Based in the New Prague – Montgomery area, the Czech Heritage Club's mission is to preserve Czech culture in their communities.

At the (Czech-Slovak) Movies by Cinnamon Whaley

The End of August at the Hotel Ozone (1966) Not Rated

This 1966 post-apocalyptic Czech movie is suspenseful and striking. *The End of August at the Hotel Ozone* opens with a countdown from ten in multiple languages with still shots of a church, a field, a warehouse. It then cuts to the rings of a tree and a woman's voice which explains that forty years prior an incident occurred which killed some people immediately, while most died over time. There are now no other known people left on earth.

The movie centers on seven young women led by a matriarch who holds on to the world as she remembers it and is driven to find survivors. *The End of August* is not action packed and is not thick in plot; it is about survival and development of women on their own in the world. They keep moving, looking for food and people. The young women treat animals cruelly, show little emotion, and have never seen a male. Eventually the group discovers an old man who's family died twelve years ago and he is overjoyed by their arrival. In his home they consider chess and milk for the first time and the man plays them music on a gramophone, an old favorite - *Roll Out the Barrel*.

I found this movie to be very well crafted with a handful of scenes portraying emotion with impressive realism; both excitement and despair. It moves slowly but at only 87 minutes is compact, with little wasted time and a story line that may leave you considering the future. *The End of August at the Hotel Ozone* is not rated. It contains the briefest of nudity and some animal cruelty (a snake, dog, and cow are killed) but if your family enjoys post-apocalyptic films you may want to consider adding it to your queue.

Minnesota Association of Museums

Sokol members are invited to join members of the Minnesota Association of Museums at the CSPS Sokol Hall 3rd floor membership room for their monthly "Super Sampler," get-togethers for people working at Minnesota museums. The program begins with tours of our 1887 historic hall (including the basement!). Following the social hour, Cambodian native Yorn Yan will explain the stages immigrants progress through when assimilating to life in the United States. Wednesday, March 18, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.; suggested free-will donation of \$5. RSVP by March 11 to Melinda Hutchinson, 651-259-3459 or melinda.hutchinson@mnhs.org

Song of the Month

Translated by

Georgiana Dolejsi and Evelyn Holman

from *Rějme Píseň Dokola, No. 2, Praha 1972*



Tam Na Stány

By the Hillside

There, at the hillside with
the moon shining brightly,
I was making love to my
dear Andulička.

Late into the evening, the moon
disappeared behind the clouds
and I whispered to my dear one
how much I like her.

Today we no longer sit by the
hillside because at home we have
children to cuddle. Perhaps some
years from now they too will sit
by the hillside and have children
to cuddle.

Our youthful years have long
passed by and we now have white
hair but I have never stopped
loving my dear Andulička.

Hudba J. Štěpánek - Slova E. Matějčkové

The musical score is presented in two columns. The left column contains the vocal line with lyrics in Czech, and the right column contains the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: TAM NA STRÁ - NI Dnes na strá - ni ne - se - pí mé - síč - ku lí - bá - dá - me, do - ma dě - ti ko - lá - val jsem An - du - lič - ku. bá - me, Noc už by - la, mě - síč snad po le - tech na ta šel spát, já jí šep - mta ta bu - dou ta - tal: mám tě rád! ké cho - dt - vat.

West End Arts Showcase Smash Hit

Adapted from, and as reported by, Jerry Rothstein and Sokol Becca Hine, *Community Reporter* newspaper, February 2009.

Historic C.S.P.S Sokol Hall was overflowing with excited Sokols and West Enders on January 17 for the first *SCENE, Be SEEN and Be HEARD* winter showcase, featuring artists and performers from the neighborhood and beyond. Judging by the standing-room-only audience's delighted responses, the evening was a huge success. Guided by Sokol members Jason Gorski and Mary Esch, and with the strong support of Joe Landsberger, the members of Sokol and West End Arts (WEA) provided hard work, organization, and countless volunteer hours. WEA is a task force of the Federation, the neighborhood council of West 7th neighborhoods in St. Paul. Their three efforts - the Pilney Gallery Show, the Iron Pour and the Showcase have truly gotten the ball rolling.

The range of talent and performance media was impressive. Afro-Cuban drumming, jazz guitar, poetry and spoken word, song and comedy. Hip Hop artist Denami, along with paparazzi and fans gave a little boost to the spectacle. Brilliant short films, classical violin. Mary Esch's stage drawing was a unique art form that had the audience gasping with delight. Queen Elizabeth II (who knew she could dance?) and her

surprise guest, Abraham Lincoln, may have been the evening's crowning moment.

Gorski was the creative muse in publicizing and stage technical engineering, and Esch was the artistic organizer. West Ender Nance Derby-Davidson served as guiding light in stage management and production. The Sokol kitchen and facility staffing included Ed Hamernik, Jeanette Pafko, Mary Cahill, and Norm Petrik with treats and set up expertise.



This playbill or billboard for a circa 1920's production of *Pepičky a Pepíci*, loosely translated as *Josey and Joey*, was discovered in preparation for the showcase.



Showcase performers (l-r, top to bottom): Lee Orcutt, Lynn Cross, Armaiti and Ross Winberg, Mary Esch's stage drawing. Josie Winship and Stephen Carpenter, Heidi Arneson, Kathryn Stewwedel. Mary Esch, Danami, Kerin McTiegue O'Connor. Photos by Jerry Rothstein



This rarely-seen backdrop, furthest back and narrowest of the five, was featured with five others in the WEA showcase.

March Family Night at the Hall

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, the "Mom's Club," neighbors and friends will meet at the Sokol Hall on Sunday evening, March 15th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. for a potluck supper followed by family activities. The activities for the first meeting will be active age-appropriate games and activities followed by a short cartoon Czech movie on making stick puppets. Each family is asked to register with one of the chair persons: Olga & Mario Splichova-Espinoza at scscsilverrays@yahoo.com/651-293-3999 or Louise Wessinger at louisewessinger@msn.com/651-452-6240. When registering, please leave your name, phone, number attending, ages of children and what you will bring for the potluck (appetizer, entree, salad, side dish or dessert). Register by Tuesday, March 10th. Paper products, milk, lemonade, coffee and water will be provided. A \$5.00 donation per family will be accepted at the door. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and clean-up. A Czech/Slovak Easter-themed Grandparents Day on Sat morning, April, 11th is also envisioned. Volunteers are needed. Details will appear in the April Slovo.

Sokol Scenic Stage Sets Benefit from Performance

by Joe Landsberger



President Joe Landsberger acted out the prop cottage window as Nance Derby Davidson peaked out from the door at right.

Prior to January's production of *SCENE, be SEEN, and be HEARD*, volunteers Nance Derby Davidson, John Davidson, Lili Payne, and Joe Landsberger photographed and measured, organized, and properly stored the historic sets of the CSPA Sokol Theater, oldest in the State of Minnesota. Derby Davidson is owner of Acme Scenic Arts (www.acmescenicarts.com) located at 974 West Seventh Street, a premier faux painting company that has created beautiful scenes and spaces for over 24 years for Target and Macy's Minneapolis Christmas and Flower Shows.

The Sokol backdrops were painted in 1932, three by Vic Hubal, Sr. Documented in the inventory are two sets of "splatter flats". The "cool" or grey and "warm" or beige sets are ten feet tall

with nine pieces: three are 4.5 feet wide, two at 36 feet, two "door" flats at 4.5 feet; one window with screen (!-only in Minnesota) at 4.5 feet, and one door at 5 feet. Unlike modern hinged sets, these are lashed together to form sets for productions. In addition, one roofed cottage, several flats of brick, and three trees complete the scenic stage property of the Sokol theater. Further research is needed to document how these were used in Sokol productions in the hall since the 1800's. Combined with over 300 paperback plays printed in Prague between 1880 and 1930, as well a few scripts and production notes, additional research is needed for this historic Sokol, state, and theatrical resource.



In preparation for the showcase, John Davidson rose to the occasion on the rickety stage ladder, eliminating gearwheel squeaks by oiling each of the five scenic backdrops and front proscenium of the Charles Bridge.

2009 Play announced

Lex-Ham Community Theater, Czech Slovak Culture Center, and Sokol Minnesota will join forces to produce Karel Svenk's *The Last Cyclist* for the first weekends of June in the CSPA Sokol Hall. Jana Sedova, female lead and a lone survivor of the production, reconstructed the play in her later years. The locale is the Terezin Concentration Camp in Czechoslovakia during World War II. Nazis featured the camp in its propaganda as an idyllic internment for Czech/Jewish prisoners, though 80,000 died there, including 15,000 children. Courageous songs, including *Terezin Hymn*, offer a remarkable glimpse of life in the camp through the eyes of its inmates.

Ethnic Dance Theatre Presents "The Kaiser's Jubilee"

The Kaiser's Jubilee, Ethnic Dance Theatre's 35th Anniversary show will be a full-length dance concert featuring the vibrant music, haunting songs and breath-taking dances of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Inspired by the 1913 celebrations of Kaiser Franz Joseph's 65th anniversary as monarch, The Kaiser's Jubilee recalls village life in Austria, Bohemia, Bosnia, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine through beautiful staging, dazzling costumes, and spectacular music. Choreography is by Eva Maria Kish, Edzio Rajtar and Donald LaCourse. LaCourse, founder and artistic director since 1974, has a special love for the cultures of the former Habsburg Empire and has made numerous trips to research traditional music and dance including one to Ukraine this past summer. "This particular show has been with me for a long time." Audience members are encouraged to wear period 1913 dress or their own ethnic costumes from the regions of the former Empire. Performances are March 20-22 at The Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul. For more information, Web site www.ethnicdancetheatre.com; phone 763-545-1333 or e-mail info@ethnicdancetheatre.com.



Spring, from page 1

The Spring Breakfast with Craft and Bake Sale is a colorful spring floral bouquet of activities on Palm Sunday, April 5, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. This spring's menu features French toast and all the pancakes you can eat, fruit cup, sausage, juice, milk, and coffee. Cost is \$6, adults; \$4, child under 9; or \$15, family-friendly of four. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join you.

The Bake Sale blossoms with a variety of lamb cakes and Paska, traditional Czech Easter breads, as well as other favorite breads, cakes, and pastries for your Easter table, plus filled Easter Baskets for children and adults. Chairs Louise Wessinger, Doreen McKenney, and Ed Hamernik invite Sokol members and friends to help on Saturday, April 4, starting at 9 a.m., to bake and to decorate lamb cakes and other Easter treats.

Anyone who has baked goods, filled baskets, and potted plants for the Bake Sale can bring them to the hall on Saturday morning between 9-12. Help is also needed on Palm Sunday to make and serve the breakfast, as well as to assist in the sales booths. Please call Louise (651-452-6240), Doreen (952-941-0426), or Ed (763-571-6091) to volunteer. Join the fun! All proceeds help our wonderful Sokol unit and our historic old building.

New this year at the Spring Breakfast is the Craft Sale. To reserve a craft table for \$25, contact: events@sokolmn.org or call the chairs.

Our Sokol Gift Shop, *Krásné Dárky/Beautiful Gifts*, is open during the Slovak dinner and Spring Breakfast. The shop is filled with Czech and Slovak jewelry, cards, ribbons, books, music tapes and CDs, plus dolls, t-shirts, glassware and fine Czech crystal. Plan to stop by *Krásné Dárky*, on the first floor.

Baking for Festival of Nations is slated for Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30, starting at 9 a.m. This

is a great opportunity to help make koláče, halusky, and dumplings. In charge of baking prep are Joyce Tesarek (612-822-6147) and Mary Cahill (651-738-9470), who are also the co-chairs for the Sokol Café at the Festival itself.

Festival of Nations, April 30-May 3 this year, has been a favorite springtime tradition in St. Paul ever since it began in 1932. It is a lively, fun-filled 4-day weekend for everyone. Jean Hall is the 2009 Sokol general chair for Festival of Nations. In addition to Joyce and Mary, committee chairs are Doreen McKenney (952-941-0426), Bazaar; Jakub Dajc (612-703-1240), Culture Exhibit; Louise Wessinger (651-452-6240), Children's Dance Program; Diane Bell, Adult Program.

Many hands are needed to produce Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's participation in the Festival of Nations. Join the fun! If you would like to participate, call one of these chairs. Everyone needs to be dressed in costume; but do not let the lack of a Kroj hold you back from volunteering. If you need a Kroj, ask a chairperson; there are extras available.

Your Spring Cleaning Benefits Sokol Minnesota: Garage Sale, April 16-17. Set up is Wednesday, April 15, with the sale itself on Thursday afternoon, noon to 7 p.m. and all day Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$3 Bag Sale starts at 1 p.m. on Friday. You can drop off your items in boxes with lids (no bags please) at the CSPS Sokol Hall at any time or bring your treasures, junque, regifts, collectibles, antiques, clothing, jewelry, linens, books, toys, household and shop utensils, small furniture, yard and garden tools on April 15, starting at 10 a.m. Unfortunately, we cannot accept electronics, bicycles, skis, large furniture, or mattresses.

Call Doris McKenney (952-881-6715) or Dorothy Sladek (507-645-4793) with questions or to volunteer to help. Join the fun!



Education Committee Report: Session 3 Language Programs

by Louise Wessinger, Education Chair

CSPS Sokol Hall: eight sessions, March-April-May 2009: \$55 members; \$70 non-members plus text. Registration is required through the Web site www.sokolmn.org or at 651-452-6240

Slovak Language Class---Beginner Level, Thursday 7 p.m.; Instructor: Barborka Carlsonova; 8 weeks beginning March 12.

Czech Language Class---Beginner Level, Two classes: Mondays and Wednesdays; 7 p.m.; Instructor: Jakub Dajc beginning March 30 or April 1. Advanced Beginner Level; Instructor: Blanka Brichta; Wednesdays 7 p.m. beginning March 11.

Czech Language Class---Intermediate Level; Instructor: Jitka Sebek (Norm Petrik Coordinator); Tuesdays; 7 p.m. beginning March 10.





Treasures of Slovakia

Story and photos by Jyni Koschak

Editor's note: the town of Lendak mentioned in the article was also the home village of Slovak immigrants to the neighborhoods of West 7th Street in St. Paul as related by Frantisek Gerga to his daughter, Sokol Mary Gerga Bolles.

Last Spring, I found a flyer at the CSPS Sokol Hall for Helene Cincebeaux's Treasures of Slovakia Tour in July 08. I had been impressed by her kroj exhibit and slide presentation years before, so I knew this was the trip

for me. In this short article, I can't possibly do justice to all the wonderful things I saw: the castles, museums, churches, town squares, mountains, and people, but here are a few highlights.

The first day we drove through the foothills of the low Tatras to medieval Čachtický hrad/Cachtice Castle. Even though I had jet lag, the first sight of the ruins on the cliff gave me new energy—I got a second wind and hiked up the hill to the crumbling castle. I wandered, shooting picture after picture, captivated by the beauty of the warm stone walls. We had dinner at a gasthaus nestled below the castle, under the strikingly patterned cliffs, then we drove higher into the mountains to our modern hotel in the mining town of Banská Bystrica. Once in a while during our travels, we had a stork alert; storks were pointed out on a rooftop, light pole, or field, and we rushed to get photos.

Helene describes Slovaks as lovers of beauty. I saw evidence of this everywhere: in the flower-bedecked yards and window boxes, the careful arrangement of food on plates, the decoration of buildings, and of course the crafts. On our second afternoon, we went to the Detva Folk Festival to see dance performances by folk groups from across the region, browse local crafts, and taste interesting new foods. Entering the grounds, I heard what sounded like firecrackers, but in the field, surrounded by a crowd, I saw a man in shepherd's dress repeatedly cracking a long whip—the noise is said to scare the wolves away. I couldn't resist bringing home a smaller version, bought directly from the 89-year-old craftsman who made it.



photo by Janice Decker

In the High Tatra Mountains of Northern Slovakia, we took an exciting raft ride through the dramatic landscape of the Pieniny Gorge (Pieninský národný park), along the border of Poland. Our traditionally-dressed guide explained that women were not allowed to steer the rafts. Why? Because they are women. Nevertheless he had me put on his vest and hat and gave me a chance to try my luck with steering--it was a bit difficult. That night we drove higher into the Tatras, ending at an old Soviet resort. Helene joked that there was a surprise in our rooms. The views of the cloud-capped mountain from our balconies were lovely, but it was our bathrooms that were indeed unique. There was a toilet, a sink--and a shower curtain that pulled around the sink, which was equipped with a small hand shower, our introduction to Soviet-style luxury!

The next day, we visited the village of Lendak to meet a 90-year-old artisan, famed for his sheepskin coats, in the two-room house where he had raised 11 children. Their Slovak hospitality was quite an experience; his wife and daughter brought us shots of Demänová, Viacny liqueur, vodka, etc...and we learned too late that if you drained your glass it was a signal for more. They passed around nut rolls and other baked goods as well as platters of meat, bread, cheese...and more shots. By the end we were quite tipsy. After all the drinks a few of us had to visit the outhouse—there was no indoor bathroom—an eye-opening experience for middle class Americans.

Heading for a remote Rusyn village, Helene pointed out blue paint decorating some ancient log houses--the sign of marriageable daughters. We were greeted at the bus by musicians--and women pouring shots, then led inside for a festive re-creation of a Rusyn wedding. A young woman from our tour was chosen to be dressed as the

Continued on Page 10

bride and led thru the ceremony, which featured lots of singing punctuated by shots of slivovica as the bride's maiden headdress was removed and replaced with the cap of a married woman. We had a celebratory dinner with traditional food: halubki, pirohy, *slivovica*...and of course, we all had to dance.

Most of us on the tour had Slovak heritage, and we developed a nice camaraderie as we shared the discovery of our culture. During the trip, Helene managed to connect quite a few people with relatives. I did not find relatives, but I did get some new leads for my search, along with the priceless introduction to my heritage. Just looking at the faces of people on the street, I could see the features of some of my relatives. And coming from an English-speaking country where my last name is routinely mangled, it was truly amazing to see Slovak language on signs, and to hear it spoken all around. To paraphrase Helene, we Slovaks come from a beautiful country with a wonderful culture, something to be proud of.



Maya and her friend Lori Vosejpka
photo by Phyllis Vosejpka

News of our Sokol Unit

Lori Vosejpka, daughter of member Phyllis Vosejpka, has recently been appointed to the Budget and Finance Advisory Council of the United States Courts. Lori at present is Clerk of Court for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota. Congratulations! Lori also loves her Czech classes at the hall!

President Joe Landsberger has had the Vietnamese translation of his Study Guides and Strategies Web site (www.studygs.net) published in Hanoi. All proceeds of the book benefit students in Vietnam. Translations in 31 languages of the Web site include a Czech section.

Dr. Joyce Tesarek, owner of Minnehaha Animal Hospital and Chair of Sokol's Finance Committee, was voted "Favorite animal hospital or veterinarian" by the readers of the Minnesota Women's Press. She also was voted an honorable mention in two other categories: "Women Owned Business You Can't Live Without" and "Favorite Role Model for Women in Business." Joyce also attended part two of her 'mini-MBA' on her favorite subject, finance, at the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University's West Lafayette campus, Indiana the first weekend of February. The American Animal Hospital Association's Veterinary Management Institute conducts an intensive, four-module, management education program offering 72 hours of graduate-level instruction on contemporary management issues. Joyce reports that the weekend's program was most intensive Thursday through Sunday with working dinners and evening lectures.

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

By Ginger Simek, President, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

*What would you expect to find in Grandmother's Trunk?
And what does that piece of lace have to do with my family?*

Sokol Member and Education Chair Louise Wessinger will present Grandmother's Trunk, as the first half of the March 28th Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International program, March 28 at their offices at 1185 N. Concord Street, South St. Paul, first floor auditorium. What decisions did those Bohemian families face in leaving their home, family, friends, and way of life to come to America? Why did they feel life would be better in America than staying where they were? What did they decide to put in that trunk that would help them start a new life but not forget their old one? Come and enjoy this entertaining presentation.

And if you are looking for a creative way to tell your family story, the second half of the program will help get you going. A map, a special piece of lace, pictures, a passport are only some of the items that can be used to express and relate the story in a visual way. Through her workshop, Susan Weinberg will demonstrate and show how to take items with special family meaning and bring them together to tell that personal story. This will not be a workshop but she will give us some insights, ideas, and examples as to how this can be done. Registration for the day starts at 12:30 p.m. with program at 1:00. Suggested donation \$5 for members, \$8 for non-members.



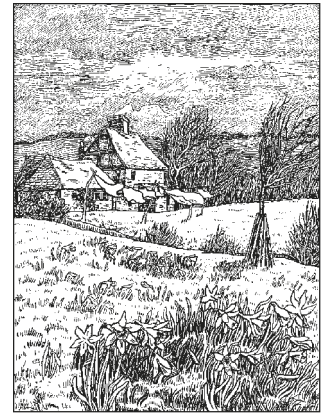
An example from a collage workshop

Václav Havel's Message to Minnesotans

by Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser

Through this column, I visualize my task to bring you larger issues because they represent the context in which we live, and next issue I will focus on Slovakia in connection with a forthcoming visit of the Slovak Minister of Education. As always, I welcome responses of readers to my pieces to insure that my comments match their interests – write at j-mest@umn.edu

Last September Dr. Kent Wilson, Chair of the Václav Havel Symposium on Civil Society, visited former President of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel, in Prague to inform him about on-going activities of this consortium that includes the Czech and Slovak community. The last scholar-in-residence under this program was the former Slovak Ambassador and later candidate for the post of the President of Slovakia, Dr. Martin Butora and his wife, Zora. The following is President Havel's message to Minnesotans from the award ceremony. I think it represents best the importance of civil society and civic commitment.



Dear friends, ladies and gentlemen,

I vividly recall my visit to Minnesota many years ago, when I was still Czech President. On that occasion I gave a lengthy speech on the topic of civil society. I am very glad that the topic is still remembered here and that you regularly return to it in your symposia. I am more and more convinced of the importance of civil society and the need to support it. We live at a time of growth for formal democracy. It provides an environment for the existence and functioning of all democratic institutions, such as parliaments, political parties, elections, as well as the answerability of the government to parliament, and yet this does not imply a free and democratic society. Political parties and other political entities are structured hierarchically and therefore they can be manipulated from above through their internal mechanisms to ensure their loyalty to the central will of an authoritarian state leadership. After all, the first thing that Communism did was to launch an onslaught on all types of civic association and on all expressions of social self-structuring, which it perceived as the greatest threat to it. Conversely, the development of self-structuring and the evolution of civil society, which can encompass the independence of higher education, local government, public-service media and many other diverse institutions, is precisely what can protect freedom and democracy from formalization, manipulation and misuse. Civil society has its own natural sources of immunity and acts as an element of stability within the state. Wherever developed civil society exists, change of government or president does not represent a fatal upheaval.

We, Central Europeans, who have not enjoyed two centuries of continuous free development, have a lot to learn from the United States, where civil society is highly developed and plays an important role. We observe, in particular, how difficult it often is to build civil society, but also how very important it is. We are all the more aware of this in view of the fact that the post-Communist world now confronts attempts to establish a new and essentially more sophisticated and cynical type of authoritarian rule in various countries. I'm glad that the good relations which the Czech Republic and other central European countries have with the United States will help us to develop our civil societies and also help protect us from the danger of new dictatorships, or the return of authoritarian or even totalitarian rule.

Václav HAVEL, September 2008

Corrections:

In the December 2008 Slovo, page 11, the top line should read "In my junior years as a dorostenka, I had the privilege to attend..."
In the February 2009 issue, page 1, two dates and a time were incorrectly listed. The Slovo deadline is always the 10th of the previous month; the Flavors of Slovakia dinner on March 22 is at 12:30 p.m., and the Spring Breakfast, Craft and Bake Sale is April 5. We regret the errors.

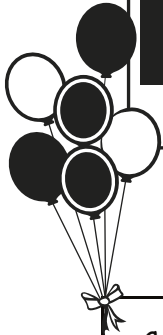
April Slovo deadline: March 10

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Slovo gift subscriptions and renewals: \$12; Members receive the Slovo free!

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Minneapolis, MN 55419

Visit us at:
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GARAGE SALE

APRIL 16-17

Thursday: noon - 7
Friday: 10 - 5
DROP OFF:
April 15, 10 - 5

Collectibles, antiques, clothes, jewelry, books, toys, household, tools, yard & garden, misc.
(No electronics, bicycles, skis, large furniture, mattresses, please)

early drop off or to volunteer:

Doris: 952-881-6715

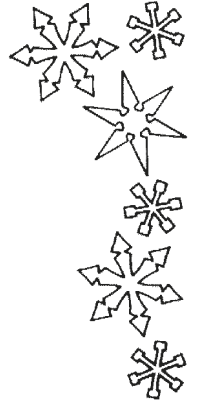
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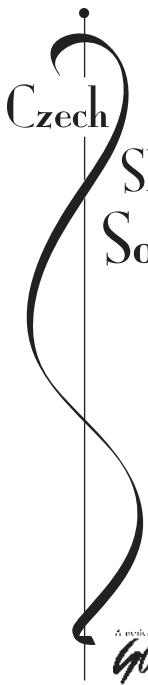
383 Michigan, St. Paul

www.sokolmn.org

6th Roast Duck Dinner



Another in an excellent series of Sokol Minnesota ethnic meals was served on January 24. The sixth annual Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner was the product of many industrious hands. Doreen McKenney was the chair, and Joan Sedlacek was responsible for the excellent very crispy duck, which she can create with her eyes closed.



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