

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Slovo Deadline
March 1

Šibřinky Dance
March 3, 6 - 11 p.m.
Ticketed Event

Family Sunday
March 4, 4:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees
March 7

Board of Directors
March 8, 7 p.m.

Flavors of Slovakia
March 11, 12:30 p.m.
Reservation Required

Membership Meeting
March 23, 7 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast
April 1, 9:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Senior Singers
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Gymnastics
Tuesdays, 6 p.m. and
6:45 p.m.

Prostná, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
1st and 3rd Mondays



Šibřinky

Sokol Costume Dance
(costumes optional)

Saturday, March 3

*Dance to old tyme music
by the*

*Cathy Erickson Band
7 - 11 p.m.*

6 - 10 p.m. Ethnic food for sale
Cash bar

**\$10.00 at the door
or \$8.00 prepaid ticket**

Contact Louise at 651-452-6240
for prepaid ticket sales by March 1
3704 Denmark Avenue Eagan, MN 55123
Now accepting credit cards

Folkdance performance from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
by Taneční Mládež Dancers

Intermission performance
by the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers

Event chairs are Ed Hamernik
and Louise Wessinger

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul



FLAVORS of SLOVAKIA DINNER

Sunday, March 11

Reserved Seating at 12:30 p.m.

This year our traditional Slovakian dinner includes:
cabbage rolls, dilled green beans, pickled beets,
Potato and cheese filled dumplings, dumplings and cabbage,
caraway rye bread, dessert, and coffee.
The cash bar has plenty of good beer on tap.

\$15.00 adults, \$7.00 child under 9

Prepaid reservations are required by **March 7**,
and seating is limited.

Call Doreen at 952-941-0426
followed by sending your check to
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
payable to Sokol Minnesota.

Prepaid takeout is also available by reservation.

There are many volunteer opportunities to help produce the dinner.
If you would like to assist, please call Joyce at 612-822-6147.

Chairs are Mary Cahill, Doreen McKenney and Joyce Tesarek

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

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Sokol Minnesota
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Past issues of *Slovo* and Sokol Minnesota's calendar of events are available online at <www.sokolmn.org>

2 March 2012 *Slovo*

Prezidentův Komentář/President's Notes By Ed Hamernik

Pozdrav bratri a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters

At times, it is good for an organization to reflect on its past in order to look to the future. To "provide fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs" is Sokol's mission that has stood the test of time. The 150-year history of Sokol is a treasure that few organizations truly can realize or understand. The Sokol traditions of Education, Fun, Friendship, and Community still guide our programs and activities today and as we plan for the future.

Joyce Tesarek, Maryann Fiordelis, Strategic Planning Task Force and Organizational Development Team chair, Tom Pajer, President of American Sokol, Mary Cahill, Ed Hamernik, Arlene Hamernik.



On the weekend of January 14 and 15, Joyce Tesarek, Mary Cahill, Arlene, and I motored to Brookfield, Illinois, to attend the American Sokol Administrative Conference. And what an inspiring and educational conference it was. The Executive Board and Staff of American Sokol developed and presented over 20 hour-long sessions on topics that every local unit encounters and must deal with regularly. The presenters for each topic were experienced unit leaders or professionals who shared their experiences and expertise. Thus, there was a wealth of useful information presented and discussed. Unfortunately, with 20 sessions and the conference running from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon on Sunday, one person could not monitor all the sessions; but between the four of us from Sokol Minnesota, we were able to attend all sessions. After the Saturday evening and Sunday morning sessions our ability to absorb and retain information was waning, and we did not have cushioned chairs either. *Prezidentův Komentář.... Continued on page 3*

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

The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send suggestions, articles, and pictures digitally to <slovo@sokolmn.org>. **The deadline for the April 2012 issue is March 1.** *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and layout editor; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, Jeanette Pafko, Norm Petrik, and Cinnamon Whaley, advisors. Ads are designed by Doreen McKenney. Photographs for this issue were provided by Joyce Tesarek. This March 2012 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after March 31.

Slovo accepts business card-size ads (3.5"x2"), paid in advance: one-time insertion \$25; 3 consecutive issues: \$65; 10 consecutive issues: \$175. Ad reservation deadline is 6 weeks before publication (March 15 for May issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (April 1 for May issue).

For problems with subscriptions, please contact us if you missed an issue or received notice of payment due when a payment had already been made. **If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. Your copy is returned to Sokol; we pay 45¢ for each returned copy. If you wish to have the newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know.** You can email us: <slovo@sokolmn.org>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

***Slovo* gift subscriptions** and non-member renewals are \$15/year (10 issues). Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new or renewing non-member subscription. Make your check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; send to Sokol Minnesota *Slovo* Subscriptions/Renewals, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Prezidentův Komentář *Continued from page 2*

A number of the topics dealt with operational matters such as Insurance and Legal Liability, Building Maintenance, Rentals, Non-profit Status and Taxes, and Financial Responsibility. These sessions were very informative and were done very professionally. However, I think the real value of the conference were the sessions dealing with developmental and growth issues such as Membership, Volunteerism, Community and Community Awareness, Mentoring, Leadership Development, and PR/Marketing. These are the topics that we must focus on to keep our organization strong and to perpetuate it for years to come.

In several of the sessions, the word “community” was part of the discussion: Community Awareness, Know your Community, What is our Community, What does the Community offer Sokol, and What does Sokol offer the Community. In its early years, our Sokol community was a small geographic area near the Hall where most members lived; the Hall provided a gathering spot as well as a sense of belonging. Today many of our members travel 20 plus miles to the Hall; our community has grown geographically.

In recent years, Joe Landsberger has worked hard to increase awareness of Sokol and the CSPS Hall in the local neighborhood community, and I believe progress has been made. Developing programs that contribute to and support all of our community, near and far, is the challenge before us. PR/Marketing is an element that is needed to build community and hopefully membership will grow as well. Again, my appreciation and thanks to the Executive Board and Staff of American Sokol for an excellent conference.

Volunteerism is what Sokol Minnesota is built on and runs on. We have a number of very active, devoted volunteers, but to develop and extend programs that include the broader community, we must have volunteers to support them. Consequently, we plan to begin a Membership/Volunteerism Committee that will focus on new members and better identifying and expanding our volunteer base.

A reminder to all about the Šibřinky Costume Dance on March 3, the Flavors of Slovakia Dinner on March 11, and the Membership Meeting on March 23. I look forward to seeing many of you there. *Nazdar!*

SOKOL MINNESOTA THANKS DONORS

**By Arlene Hamernik,
Corresponding Secretary**

Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates your donations supporting Sokol programs and the refurbishing of our CSPS Hall. For donations under \$100, the *Slovo* publishes only the names of donors. Some donors request that the amounts of their donations be kept confidential, regardless of amount.

Legacy/Building Fund:

Cynthia Coulter, \$100
William E. Jech
Charles Kalvoda, \$100
Martin Kubik
Doris Moravetz
J.R. Pokorny and Jean M. Pokorny
Elsie Roepke
Josef Ruzicka

In memory of Chuck and Leona Rusnacko and Frantisek Bonus:

Charles Rusnacko

Taneční Mládež Dancers:

Kathleen Philipp

Slovo:

Minnesota Sokol Camp Association

Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director



At the January 27 membership meeting, Sokol Minnesota accepted five new members. John Adan (*above right, with Norm Petrik, Membership Director*), a medical doctor currently working in Rochester, has interest in language, history, and dinners. He is a native Slovak who has lived in the United States for several years. He attended the membership meeting, was installed, and received the welcome hug from Georgiana Dolejsi.

Gale Thompson from Apple Valley has interest in cooking and language. She planned to be at the meeting, but was unable to attend.

Robert Jacobson of Saint Paul has interest in dance; he has renewed an earlier membership that had lapsed.

Joe and Tamara Amon-Stodola, Saint Paul have interests in cooking, dances, language, dinners, and festivals.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

Renewals: Individual **\$45**; Couple **\$80**.
Senior **\$35** (*over age 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years*); Senior couple **\$70**.

New memberships: Individual **\$50**;
Couple **\$85**. This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs

from January 1 to December 31.

Year 2012 dues for members joining after June 30 are reduced.

Membership applications:

<www.sokolmn.org> or by request from Norm Petrik (612-822-6147).

Please send your completed membership application and check to

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota,
Attn: Membership, 383 Michigan Street,
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102.

LIKE TO SING?

Join Senior Singers on Tuesdays
10 a.m. for song, fun, & friendship!
Everyone welcome!

Looking for FON? We Need YOU!

Looking for a volunteer opportunity that provides Fun, Opportunity and Novelty? Then look no further than saying "yes" to a shift at this year's Festival Of Nations (FON). Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota needs many volunteers to staff our participation in the event.

This year's FON event will be held May 3 through May 6 at The Saint Paul River Center. Volunteers receive an admission ticket, *kroj* (ethnic costume) to wear while volunteering, on-the-job instructions, and the fun of working with a great group of people. Volunteers are needed in the café, bazaar, and culture booth.

It takes *many* individuals to fill the shifts. For example, the café needs six volunteers per shift; there are ten shifts; this adds up to sixty people! We need people to take customers' orders, help prepare the orders, and help fill the orders.

For more information, or to sign up for a shift, please call Mary Cahill at 651-738-9470 (café, culture booth) or Doreen McKenney at 952-941-0426 (bazaar). Consider recruiting a friend to volunteer with you. Or, consider helping us fill an entire shift with friends and family. The Tesarek-Dolejsi families have done this on Sunday afternoon in the café for the past several years; it is a fantastic group of people that have a great time working together and helping out Sokol at the same time. Shifts are 3-4 hours in length.

The Festival is open long hours, so there is plenty of time to come before or stay after your shift to take in the various performances and demonstrations, as well as to shop the international bazaar and cafes to sample ethnic foods. Please contact Mary or Doreen to take a shift, or just say *Yes!* when we call you.

4 March 2012 Slovo



NEW!! T-Shirts Celebrate 125th CSPS Hall Anniversary! Wear Yours with Pride!
Red and navy blue 125th logo on gray t-shirt.
Sokol's website in navy blue on the back.
S-XL...\$15 • XX...\$17 • XXX...\$18
Sokol Minnesota members save \$5/shirt.

Available for purchase at all Sokol Minnesota events or by mail order. Add shipping: \$5.50 first shirt; \$3 each additional shirt. Send check (made out to Sokol MN) or full credit card information to: Sokol Minnesota 125th T-Shirts, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

March Education Program News By Jean Draheim, Education Director

If you would like more information about any of these events or if you want to have your name included on the Interest Lists, please contact Education Director Jean Draheim: 651-426-2826, or email: <education@sokolmn.org>.

The spring session of **Czech and Slovak Language Classes** starts the week of March 12 and continues through the week of May 1. Register by Friday, March 9.

New Date! Cream Horns (*kremrole*): Saturday, March 31, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the kitchen/dining room, second floor, CSPS Hall. This "bake and take" class covers making dough from scratch, rolling the dough onto the forms, baking the pastry, and filling the horns with a cream mixture.

Instructors are our own Sokol cooks, led by Georgiana Dolejsi.

Cost to Sokol member: \$15.00; non-member: \$20.00 (second Sokol member from a household: \$10.00.) You will be given a list of equipment to bring when you register. Registration is required by March 24. Class size limited to 10.

The leather belt making class will be rescheduled for later in the year. Watch the *Slovo* and our website <www/sokolmn.org> for information on belt making, plus more cooking classes such as *koláče*, *černý kuba* (barley/mushroom sidedish), and *ovocné knedlíky* (fruit dumplings), *kroje* preservation, photography for travelers, and our continuing Family History Project.

Monthly Membership Meetings: 4th Fridays, 7 p.m.

March 23: Finding Your Ancestors Online with member Jay Fonkert, director, Association of Professional Genealogists; member, Genealogical Speakers Guild; member, International Society of Family History Writers and Editors.

April 27: Czech and Slovak Folk Dancing with "audience participation."

May 18: "My Grandmother's Trunk," stories of Sokol member Louise Wessinger's grandmother's immigration to America.

Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant on April 14

The 23rd annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota pageant will be held April 14 at the American Legion Club in Montgomery, Minnesota. The competition is for women from 16 to 26 years old of Czech, Slovak, or Moravian heritage. The pageant winners receive cash awards, crowns, and make several appearances throughout the State of Minnesota. The new Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen will represent Minnesota at the National Miss Czech Slovak U.S. Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska. The application deadline is March 15. Information: Lorraine David: 507-364-5384 or 507-364-9370. Email to <davidsdiner@hotmail.com>.

On April 14, an ethnic dinner featuring Czech and Slovak foods will be served at 5 p.m. The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant begins at 7 p.m. A reception and dance follow the coronation. Advance sale tickets for the dinner (\$16.50) and pageant/dance (\$5) are available from Lorraine or Jerry David at 507-364-5384 or Montgomery Oil Company 507-364-9370 in Montgomery. Pageant/dance tickets can be purchased the night of the pageant at the door.

Remember Lidice? Skype Visit with Survivors on April 21

“Remember Lidice” is a dramatic appeal to the people of the world not to forget that tragic event in June 1942 when an entire Czech village was leveled and its inhabitants shot or sent to concentration camps. This appeal is as powerful in the Czech recent history as the battle cry “Remember the Maine!” (1898, sinking of U.S. battleship in the Spanish-American War) is in U.S. history. No one remembers Lidice the way two sisters, who are the last survivors of the tragedy, remember it. They will be featured via Skype for the lecture organized by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center and the University of Minnesota Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development.

The two sisters, Mrs. Jarmila Skleničková and Mrs. Miloslava Kalibová have unbelievable memories to share with us. Granddaughter Šárka Kadlecová will moderate the panel in Prague, with Dr. Josef Mestenhauser as moderator here in Minnesota. Mrs. Skleničková recently published her memoirs, now available in English under the title *If I Were A Boy, I Would Have Been Shot*. Both sisters are featured in the Czech drama film *Lidice* released in June 2011.

Saturday, April 21, 2012, 9 a.m. – noon, Room 2-224, Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis. Ample parking on the street or in the ramp opposite the school accessible by skyway. Voluntary donation of \$5 (\$3 for students). For further information, see the webpage of the CSCC at <www.czech-center.org>.

SONG OF THE MONTH: *Přijde jaro, přijde*

By Georgiana Dolejsi

Found in *Album of Bohemian Songs*, from the Czech Heritage Foundation, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This book can be ordered for \$10 from <<http://www.czechheritagefoundation.org/forms/pubOrders.pdf>>. Composer is Arnošt Förchtgott-Tovačovský (1825-1874); lyrics by Jan Vlk (1822-1896) in 1853.

Přijde jaro, přijde
Spring is Coming, Coming

*Přijde jaro, přijde, zase bude má
usmívá se louka, usmívá se háj.
Stříbrné své vlny hora vyleje,
rozkvete se růže, slavík zapěje,
rozkvete se růže, slavík zapěje,
zase bude máj!*

*Rozpuknou se ledy, volný bude proud,
po vlnách šumících lodi pyšně plout.
Vyskoč z hrad klasy, bujný bude květ,
kosa bude řinčet, zpěv radostný znět,
kosa bude řinčet, zpěv radostný znět,
zase bude máj!*

*Aj ta naše lípa bude zelená,
z větví mocných listí nám na věnce dá.
Aj ty vlasti plesej, usmívá se háj,
přijde jaro, přijde, budem míti máj,
přijde jaro, přijde, budem míti máj,
budem míti máj!*

THE STORY. Spring is coming, soon it will be May. The meadows and the woods are smiling. Silver clouds pour over mountains. Roses will bloom and the nightingale will sing. The ice is breaking. Over the water skim the proud ships. Bursting from the ground is an abundance of flowers. The scythe will resound. Joyful songs will burst forth. Our linden will green. From its leaves we will make wreaths. Rejoice too, my homeland, the woods are smiling. Spring is coming, coming, we will have May.

Support CSPS Legacy Fund

Grants have funded several of the renovations of our CSPC Hall, but many of these grants also must be matched. We ask for your support to insure that upcoming projects can be completed during CSPS Hall's 125th Anniversary Celebration in 2012.



Please consider a tax-deductible donation. Contact Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147 or <Joyce@sokolmn.org> to discuss volunteer or donation opportunities.

LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the CSPS Hall, I will make a tax deductible

single donation of \$ _____

5-year pledge of \$ _____

per year for total of \$ _____

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

I would like my gift designated

in memory or in honor of:

Please list my name in *Slovo* newsletter

List amount Don't list amount

Don't list name or amount

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**.

Write **Legacy Fund** in the memo line.

Please charge my gift to

Visa Discover Mastercard

AmericanExpress

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to **CSPS Hall Legacy/Building Fund**
383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

THE COST OF IGNORANCE

**By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauer,
Distinguished International
Professor Emeritus, University of
Minnesota, Department of
Educational Policy and
Administration, Comparative and
International Development
Education
Honorary Consul of the Czech
Republic (1999-2009)**



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

What is the cost of ignorance? That question is not often asked. Instead, we focus on the climbing cost of education affecting virtually everyone's checkbook. Yet ignorance does cost a lot, more than most people recognize, and the Czechs could tell you a gruesome story about it. However, they probably won't because – according to Martin Jan Stransky, the publisher of *Pritomnost*, one of the most respected Czech journals – this subject demonstrates a convenient lapse of memory, or perhaps a conspiracy of silence.

So how much does ignorance cost? One million crowns? A hundred million? How about ten billion crowns and climbing; three billion in legal damages for a breach of business deal; and seven more for accumulated interest, increasing by one million each day.

The case has dragged on since the early nineties, when the then-Czechoslovak government faced a critical shortage of blood plasma at the beginning of the HIV epidemic. It decided to seek a blood supply internationally and entered into negotiation with Josef Stastny, a Czech with Swiss residence, who was President of Diag Human company. A concourse for competitive bids was issued, and a consortium of firms organized by Stastny competed with others. Stastny's consortium did not win the contract, or the next concourse, and no formal contract was ever signed. However, the Minister of Health explained in writing to one consortium member that the reason why their firm was also excluded from the deal was that Stastny's Diag Human was associated with illegal activities, including sales of prohibited goods. (Indeed, Germany requested Interpol to issue an arrest warrant for Stastny, though no evidence was ever produced.) Diag Human got hold of the Czech Minister's letter and began legal proceedings against the Czech government – four years later.

The chronology of this never-ending case and the technology regarding processing blood plasma are so complex that even a full-size book by Jan Urban titled *Tunel Plný Krve* (Tunnel Full of Blood) could not explain the case fully. Suffice it to say that a number of issues explain why the matter falls into the category of ignorance.

First, the lengthy case continued

through many changes. Czechoslovakia split and the Czech Republic joined the European Union. Government officials changed often, all attempting to deal with the matter differently. Secondly, the various governments chose different channels through which to resolve the case, finally agreeing to arbitration. This proved to be a mistake, because the parties could not agree on the composition of the arbitration commission. Thirdly, over time, some officials, including cabinet ministers, made public statements that eventually helped the Diag Human case.

In short, many mistakes based on ignorance were made: how to conclude a trust-based business deal; which governmental agencies held responsibility; and how to assess whether damages were caused and if so, to what extent. The protracted case led to an impasse that led to yet another arbitration in 2008 ruling in favor of Diag Human. Diag Human initially demanded over 500 million crowns, ending eventually with a claim of 50 million crowns. At this point the case really got murky. Diag Human considers the result of this arbitration as final and enforceable, while the Czech government appealed and thus considers the case still unresolved. The plaintiff began increasing the amount of damages that now stand at three billion crowns with accumulated interest at seven billion. It searched for Czech government property that could be seized and actually attempted to obtain from a court injunction from Vienna to confiscate priceless artwork on loan to Austria. Other property the company seeks includes the Czech Centers in New York and Paris and some naval property in Hamburg.

The problem is indeed ignorance: of the market economy, legal systems, the role of consultants, a lack of confidentiality, the morality of large-scale awards to single individuals, lack of agreement on the process of conflict resolution or the correct use of legal remedies, and the general lack of accountability of public officials. Add to this list the character of Mr. Stastny, presumably an unscrupulous “cowboy capitalist” who took advantage of confusing policies and of incompetent officials.

My own explanation of this case is that it is larger than corruption and incompetence. I believe that the Czech transition to democracy was too fast and complex, with the assumption that once communism was dead, normality had returned. My favored metaphor for this can be found in a *New Yorker* story that appeared some time ago regarding the exceptional case of a blind man who underwent surgery resulting in his gaining the capacity to see; however, the blind man's brain was programmed to *not see*, and it continued to do so even after surgery. He still depended on his white cane, on the sense of touch. In other words, he saw but did not see. This metaphor suitably explains the situation in Czechoslovakia immediately post-communism and even today, with many still using their “canes.” The cultural brain, long programmed by communist brain-washing, was stunted from developing trustworthy relationships. Furthermore, the regime destroyed any sense

of individual accountability, damaged basic human values, prevented open communication, and undermined the government's purpose of serving the public good. There was a general paranoia that Czechs were being exploited by outsiders. Values became dominated by materialism and secularism with the expectation of immediate rewards. Only one former cabinet minister objected to the claims of Diag Human on the ground that it was immoral to hand over such a large sum to a single individual.

My second explanation is that people underestimated the gap that developed over the years of ideological separation between the constantly increasing educational levels in the West and the level of "planned" education determined suitable by the communist party. The gap was much larger in the social sciences and humanities, and it still exists. As research shows, if people do not know something exists, then it does not exist. In order to determine what was missed or lost, the Czechs and other former Soviet block countries must "catch up;" there is a new field of knowledge management and transfer that suggests that five conditions need to be satisfied for this process to occur. First, people must be aware something is missing; this is a sore point if you do not know what exists. Secondly, they must know where to find the missing knowledge. Thirdly, they must have a strategy of how to gain the knowledge; and fourth, they must have infrastructure into which to absorb the new knowledge. The fifth condition is especially important because it requires that the new knowledge be absorbed, but immediately be used to create continued knowledge. Otherwise, in this case people may catch up to a certain level without recognizing that Western countries continue to grow, so that the process is never complete, leaving the handicapped party continually behind.

This is my punchline. How do we catch up on things and knowledge that we do not know exist? My own field of international education deals with the global supply of knowledge, so what I am describing is a lesson not only for the Czechs, but also for us in the U.S. as well. The Czechs are deficient on all five criteria mentioned above; we ourselves likely would not have instituted a field of international education were it not for the realization that globalization has also placed us on the list of deficient countries. Can we think of times when we have made critical decisions based on ignorance that resulted in damage to our national interest and cost a great deal of human and material resources?

A prominent social scientist, Martin Lipset, who visited Prague several times, was heard to speculate that despite the Velvet Revolution, people of the Czech and Slovak Republics did not have a chance to catch up with the most prominent parts of the outside world. After the creation of Czechoslovakia, Tomáš Masaryk predicted that 50 years would be needed to catch up with the rest of the world. So far, the Czech and Slovak Republics have had just over 20 years since communism to shed the white cane and see again.

While the example of this legal case provides evidence of bungling and incompetence, it would be a mistake to make assumptions regarding the state of affairs in the Czech Republic. I follow the news and want to end on a very positive note. There is emerging evidence that shows substantial renewal and improvements that are beginning to take a strong hold of public and private life. We are witnessing what some have termed the "reserve power" of the Czechs that has allowed them to survive the Hapsburgs, the Nazis, and the communists. But this does not eliminate the need for knowledge; if you think education is too expensive, try ignorance and see where it ends.

Note: The Czech Republic is the third most sued country in the world. It has had to pay over 20 billion crowns in total damages, plus legal fees.

Significant Changes Related to Czech Archive Records

By Ginger Simek, President of Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International <www.cgsi.org>

Dr. Miroslav Koudelka is a professional family researcher in the Czech Republic. He is also our CGSI Regional Representative for the Czech Republic. In one of his presentations at the CGSI conference held in Saint Louis, Missouri, this past October, he made the point that there have been significant changes regarding the records in the Czech Republic Archives. He used the term "revolution" in referring to the fact that archive information is in the process of being digitized, and much of it is now available online for family researchers.

There are seven State Regional Archives in the Czech Republic. The State Regional Archives are where the birth, marriage, and death registers are kept, so it is definitely good news for family researchers that digitization is progressing. The seven State Regional Archives are located in Plzen, Prague, Třeboň, Litoměřice, Zámorsk, Brno, and Opava. Brno and Opava contain the Moravian records. According to Dr. Koudelka's information, several of the archives indicated that 100% of their records would be completed by the end of 2011.

Go to our CGSI website, <www.cgsi.org>, to view the progress as provided by Dr. Koudelka. From our home page, scroll down the right hand column and click on "Czech & Slovak Archive Collections." At that point make your selection from the various options. On that same page is a progress report on Family Search filming from the Latter-day Saints Church with links to the Czech and Slovak collections on the Family Search website. We are so fortunate to have more and more information becoming available and accessible. Searching archive records online can be challenging, so one of our tasks this year is to develop some tools to make that search easier.

ATTEND and VOLUNTEER! SOKOL MINNESOTA EVENTS

Family Sundays: Activities and Potluck

Sunday, March 4, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Register: 612-384-4604 or 612-724-5464

Šibřinky, Sokol Costume Dance

Saturday, March 3, 6 - 11 p.m. Tickets: 651-452-6240
Dance to Cathy Erickson Band from 7 - 11 p.m.

Flavors of Slovakia Dinner

Sunday, March 11, 12:30 p.m. reserved seating
Tickets: 952-941-0426

Pancake Breakfast w/Bake & Craft/Collectibles Sale

Sunday, April 1, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Sokol Bakers: Please Donate your Finest Baked Goods!

Garage Sale, Thursday and Friday, April 12 - 13

Set up: Wednesday, April 11, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Early drop off: April 2 - 10, call: 952-941-0426

Check the calendar on our website for updates

www.sokolmn.org

Visit Sokol Minnesota on Facebook

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* March 2012

Spring Breakfast...



Sunday • April 1 • 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

All-you-can-eat pancakes and French toast
fruit cup, sausage, juice, milk, and coffee.

NO Reservations needed - Public Welcome

\$6.50 adult; \$4.50 children under 9

\$20.00 family - of - four

Craft and Collectible Vendors - Bake sale

Exquisite
handcrafts
for gift giving



Delicious
pastries
for your Easter table

Event Chairs: Doreen McKenney and Jean Draheim
Vendor table reservations, call Jean: 651-426-2826

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

GARAGE



antiques, collectibles, books, clothing, and domestic treasures

Thursday, April 12 • 12 noon - 7 p.m.

Friday, April 13 • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Drop off donations Wednesday, April 11 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Arrange early drop off April 2 - 10; call for times 952-941-0426

Event Chairs: Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

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