



# Czech Slovak Sokol Minnesota

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



# SLOVO

March 2014  
vol. 37 no. 3

## UPCOMING EVENTS MARCH 2014

April Slovo Deadline  
March 1

Mardi Gras Tea Dance  
March 2, 1 - 5 p.m.

Sokol Minnesota Singers  
March 4 and 18, 10 a.m.

Board of Trustees  
March 12, 7 p.m.

Flavors of Slovakia  
March 16, 12:30 p.m.

Family Night  
March 16, 4 p.m.

Board of Directors  
March 20, 7 p.m.

**Šibřinky** Supper/Dance  
March 22, 4 - 10 p.m.

Member Meeting  
March 28, 7 p.m.

Spring 2014  
Events Postcards  
are at the Hall.  
Take a few  
to give to friends.

# Sibřinky

## DANCE March 22

**4 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Ethnic Czech and Slovak  
Food for Sale.** Come for  
Supper.  
Stay for the  
Dance. **\$12.00**  
Admission  
at the Door. **Cash  
Bar.**

Menu:  
(Dinner \$6.50  
pork schnitzel-vepřový řízek,  
potato salad, pickled beet, and bread)  
Hotdog \$2  
Dessert \$1.50  
Cookie \$1

**Live Music  
6 -10 p.m.  
by the  
Cathy Erickson  
Band**

**Public  
Welcome.** Folkdance  
Performance  
at 5:15 p.m. by  
Taneční Mládež and  
Teen Dancers.  
Intermission  
Performance  
by the  
St. Paul  
Czech and Slovak  
Folkdancers.

**\$10.00** Prepaid ticket  
Cut off by March 15  
Mail to: Louise  
3704 Denmark Ave.  
Eagan, MN 55123  
651-452-6240  
Check to:  
Sokol MN

383 Michigan Street  
Saint Paul, MN  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)



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Minnesota  
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Past issues of *Slovo* and Sokol  
Minnesota's calendar of events  
are available online at

**www.sokolmn.org**

**Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Judy Aubrecht**

*Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters*

After our especially cold winter in Minnesota, March brings us a much-needed hint of spring and warmer days ahead. March is the time that the children, teens, and adult dance groups, each directed by Louise Wessinger, go to the International Institute, near the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, for a review of the dance programs that they will perform at the Festival of Nations in early May. My husband Tom and I have been members of Saint Paul Czech and Slovak dancers for over ten years. Sokol Minnesota supports the group by allowing the dancers to practice at the C.S.P.S. Hall every Monday night. For the Festival, Don Haselbauer created choreography for Antonin Dvořák's Slavonic Dance #7, Opus 46. Another dance will be the polka from the *Bartered Bride*, by Bedřich Smetana, Act 1, Part 2. Don Haselbauer and his first cousin, Louise Wessinger, worked together to teach this revived version of the polka. For both dances, the music is wonderful, and the dancing has many traditional ethnic elements including polka and *czárdás*. Our dance group is very diverse in age, with members from 22 to 72 years old. We hope to have thirteen couples, which will be one of the larger groups performing at the Festival of Nations this year. Please plan to come to the Festival of Nations May 1 to 4 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, to watch the adult, teen, and children groups dance and to enjoy all of the other cultural events and ethnic foods.

March will be an event-filled month at the C.S.P.S. Hall. I hope that you can join in the fun at the third annual Mardi Gras Tea Dance on Sunday, March 2 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Southside Aces will play dancing music and Cajun food will be available from an a la carte menu. The entry fee is \$15 for this lively afternoon.

If you enjoy eating *pierogi*, dumplings with gravy, and cabbage rolls, you will not want to miss our annual Slovak dinner, on Sunday, March 16 at 12:30 p.m. Reserve your tickets now.

At the Šibřinky dance on March 22, a Czech/Slovak ethnic dinner, including pork schnitzel (*vepřový řízek*), potato salad, pickled beets, and bread, plus hot dogs and dessert, will be sold and served from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Come for supper and then stay for the dance. The Cathy Erickson Band will perform Czech songs and other dance favorites from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Hot dogs and treats will be available from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Dance admission is \$10 prepaid (\$12 at the door). Ribbons and skirts will be flying when the children, teens, and adult dance groups each perform ethnic dances for you, before the live music starts and during intermission. You may even catch a preview of the 2014 Festival of Nations dances. *Nazdar!*

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

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko

Honorary Czech Consul: open

Past Honorary Czech Consuls: Josef Mestenhauser and Robert Vanasek

Sunshine Committee: Marlene Hinshaw

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson

Kitchen Coordinator: open

Website: Craig Johnson

Volunteer Coordinator: open

Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Joe Landsberger

Event Monitor: Ken Wyberg

*Slovo* newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks, Deb Ziskovsky

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

## January 2014 Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting By Cindy Coulter, Recording Secretary

Welcome to new 2014 BOD members: Marketa Palkova Resong (Member at Large), Jason Brozovich (Member at Large), and Ken Wyberg (Interim Gambling Manager).

Thank you to all who have sent in your Czech-Slovak Sokol Minnesota membership dues. Your membership helps our Sokol unit offer physical education, cultural, and social programs for individuals and family members, as well as remain a thriving member of the West End community in Saint Paul.

Sokol Minnesota is renewing its annual dues (\$250) for membership with the National Historic Preservation (Hagerstown, Maryland), which provides Sokol Minnesota the privilege to apply for preservation grant funds.

Sokol's bylaws will be updated to include a record retention policy and whistleblower's policy per the advice of Sokol's tax preparers.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) presented its recommendations for a commercial cleaning company. The BOT will follow-up with candidates to confirm flexibility and pricing in handling clean-up after special Sokol events and C.S.P.S. Hall rentals.

The BOT is putting together a 2014 budget to be presented next month.

Gaming is continuing its efforts to advise its new and current employees on gaming regulations and procedures.

Our Sokol Minnesota gymnasts have begun practicing to prepare for the April 2014 Sokol Western District Exhibition competition in Crete, Nebraska. The National Board of Instructors has a 2014 goal of growth through nutritional programming, so the Sokol Board of Instructors is considering ways to provide nutritional information and health tips to our gymnasts. A National Instructors School is scheduled for the Summer 2014 in Cleveland, Ohio; Sokol Minnesota hopes to have the opportunity to send a few instructors for training at this national school.

February is a busy month at the C.S.P.S. Hall, with four private rentals scheduled. Several C.S.P.S. Hall renters have inquired if the Hall has a list of potential caterers; Sokol currently does not offer a list. The BOD recommends that the Kitchen Committee research local area restaurants to determine their interest as potential caterers for C.S.P.S. Hall renters. A list of local area businesses would be informative for potential renters and, in turn, may be able to offer Sokol the chance to earn a small commission should the renter contract with a business on the list. This could be a win/win for C.S.P.S. Hall

renters, local restaurant caterers, and Sokol Minnesota!

There is a possibility that the C.S.P.S. Hall facility may be used in the future for a Czech School that would help children learn to read and write in the Czech language. During his onsite visit to the C.S.P.S. Hall in July 2013, Petr Gandalovič (Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States) stated that there is some funding available for starting Czech Schools in the United States. As a result, ongoing meetings are taking place with the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, our own Sokol Minnesota community, and others to evaluate the interest and feasibility of a Czech School venture in the Twin Cities.

Preparations are underway and **volunteers are needed**. Call to help: **Mardi Gras Tea Dance** on March 2:

Joe Landsberger: 651-297-9000

**Flavors of Slovakia** on March 16:

Doreen McKenney: 952-941-0426

**Šibřinky Supper/Dance** on March 22:

Louise Wessinger: 651-452-6240

**Pancake Breakfast with Craft and Bake Sale** on April 13:

Doreen McKenney: 952-941-0426.

BOD recommends that you mark your calendars and take part in these "Beat the Minnesota Winter Blues" and "Think Spring" events!

### Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

**Renewals:** Individual **\$50**; Couple **\$90**. Senior **\$40** (over age 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years); Senior couple **\$80**.

**New memberships:** Individual **\$55**; Couple **\$95**. This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol Organization. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Dues are reduced for members joining after June 30.

Membership applications: <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)> or by request from Norm Petrik (612-822-6147). Please send your completed membership application and check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Attn: Membership, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

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

The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to <[slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)>. **The deadline for the April 2014 issue is March 1, 2014.**

Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and production editor; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, and Joan Sedlacek, advisors. Photographs for this issue provided by

Dan Bednar, Vanda Kašová, M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Jitka Sebek, and Joyce Tesarek. This March 2014 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 (January 15 for March issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (February 1 for March issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through February 2015.) Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new/renewing non-member subscription. Make your check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; send to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *Slovo* Subscriptions/Renewals, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Extra copies of *Slovo* are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts.

Please contact us for a **change of address**, for problems with *Slovo* subscriptions, if you missed an issue, or received notice of payment due when a payment has already been made.

**If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. If you wish to have this newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know. After one returned issue, we hold all future issues until you notify us.** We pay 49¢ for each returned issue. Email us:

<[slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. *Thank you!*

Get your Sparkle  
and Join the Fun  
New Orleans Style

**Sunday,  
March 2  
1 - 5 p.m.**

**C.S.D.S. Sokol Hall  
383 Michigan**

**\$15 entry**



**Featuring**  
Southside Aces  
New Orleans jazz  
Creole Cuisine  
Jambalaya!  
Your beads, masks, and  
alter ego...

**Mardi Gras III Tea Dance**

## Festival of Nations May 1- 4 *Peace Among The People*

The Festival of Nations, presented by the International Institute of Minnesota since 1932, is the largest and longest-running multicultural festival in Minnesota, celebrating cultural diversity with food, music, demonstrations, and exhibits. This year's theme is *Peace Among The People*.

For 82 years, Sokol Minnesota has celebrated Czech and Slovak culture at the Festival. This event, located at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, runs from May 1 to May 4.

**Volunteer for a shift** at our café or exhibit booth and **get a free admission ticket**, with plenty of time to enjoy the FON festivities. Contact General Festival Chair Doreen: 952-941-0426.

Café chairs: Joyce Tesarek and Dawn Bulera. Leader of the children and teen dancers: Louise Wessinger.

### INTERESTING NEWS AND NOTES.....

*Bohemian Boudoir*, an exhibit of more than 95 Czechoslovakian glass perfume bottles, is on exhibit at the Tacoma Museum of Glass, Washington, January 15 - May 1. Consisting entirely of items from the personal collection of **Rosie Loss Bodien**, *Slovo* subscriber and whose family has many Sokol connections in Minnesota, the exhibit features perfume bottles and bedroom accessories handcrafted in Czechoslovakia during the First Republic (1918 to 1938) and popular in the United States both for their beauty and affordability. Famous glass companies such as Heinrich Hoffmann, Henry Schlevogt, Vogel & Zappe, Josef Schmidt, Frantisek Halama, and Johann Umann produced the bottles. Rosie's collection is titled the Ladd and Lydia Straka Loss Collection, named for her parents. Visit the website at <<http://museumofglass.org>> and click on "Upcoming Exhibitions." After the exhibit closes in May, the collection will be donated to the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Did you know that **the United States Ambassador to Czechoslovakia for three years during the fall of communism** in Eastern Europe was Shirley Temple Black, the world famous 1930s child actress? President George H. W. Bush appointed her ambassador in 1989. She died at age 85 on February 10, 2014.

**Learn how education in the Czech Republic compares globally and how it relates to future competitiveness.** A new free electronic journal covers the entire role education plays in the life of a country as it follows the educational scene, from the decisions by the government, from the views of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), teachers, principals, parents, and students: <[ww.eduin.cz/feed](http://ww.eduin.cz/feed)>. Subscribe: <[katerina.lanska@eduin.cz](mailto:katerina.lanska@eduin.cz)>.

4 March 2014 *Slovo*

## Sokol Minnesota GARAGE



**Antiques, collectibles, books, clothing, and domestic treasures.**

**Thursday, May 15, noon - 7 p.m.**  
**Friday, May 16, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Spring cleaning is right around the corner, so bag up those no longer needed treasures and donate them to our annual sale.  
*Unfortunately we are unable to take:  
mattresses, bikes, electronics, and large furniture.*

**Drop off donations  
Wednesday, May 14, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
to arrange early drop off: 952-941-0426  
starting March 15.**

*We need to have everything in boxes with lids that close.  
Our storage space is very limited.  
We must be able to stack the boxes. No big bags, please.  
Thank you for donating your old treasures.*

**Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota**  
*Event chairs: Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenny*  
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102 - [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

# **FLAVORS of SLOVAKIA DINNER**

**Sunday  
March 16**

**Reserved Seating  
12:30 p.m.**

**\$16.00 adults  
\$8.00 child under 9**

This year our traditional Slovakian dinner includes:  
cabbage roll, dilled green beans, pickled beets, pierogi,  
dumpling, cabbage and bacon dish, caraway rye bread,  
dessert, and coffee.

The cash bar has plenty of good beer on tap.

Pre-paid reservations are required by **March 11**

**Call: 952-941-0426** for reservations.

**LIMITED SEATING**

Prepaid takeout is also available by reservation.

**PUBLIC WELCOME**

**Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**

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



## Roast Duck Dinner: Delicious as Always

By Doreen McKenney, Event Co-chair

At the annual Duck Dinner on January 25, we served 92 very satisfied diners (including a few without the duck). My Co-Chair Joan Sedlacek roasted the ducks once again to perfection. This year's Roast Duck Dinner made \$1,202.82 for



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

*Left: Mary Jo Chlebecek with Alena Youngberg and her daughter Elsa helped to make the potato dumplings before the dinner.*

*Below: Doris Moravetz and Pam Kotval cut poppyseed cake for dessert at the dinner.*



All the leftovers sold quickly; a few guests were disappointed at missing out on the chance to purchase extra potato dumplings and the crowd-

favorite sweet and sour red cabbage. One man commented when he learned the sweet and sour red cabbage contained bacon, "My wife is a vegetarian. That means I get to eat it all."

Before dinner, a University of Minnesota chamber group (*right*) with Teng-Kuan Wang (pianist), Hsin-Yin Min (first violinist), Flavia Zappa Medlin (second violinist), and Doug Starkebaum (cellist), directed by Mr. Young-Nam Kim (not pictured), performed Antonín Dvořák's



*Bagatelles* to a most appreciative crowd. The musicians were excited to play at a venue where Antonín Dvořák had once performed.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the dinner: Don Andrie, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Jake Jacobson, Jyni Koschak, Pamela Kotval, Lloyd Krocak, Marit Lee Kucera, Shae McKenney, Norm Petrik, Marketa Palkova Resong, Ted

Schiefer, Ann Siefert, Joyce Tesarek, Shirley Verner, Louise Wessinger, Alena and Elsa Youngberg. Volunteers behind the scenes included the Slovo team, the publicity team, and treasurer Don Haselbauer.



*Phyllis Vosejпка (second right) hosted (left) Radek Kovář, Ivana Kovářová, and Karolína Kovářová, visiting from the Czech Republic, and Pavel Daněk (far right) at the Duck Dinner.*

## Upcoming Events of Interest

**Masopust, pre-Lent Carnival** (Czech-style Mardi Gras), Montgomery (Minnesota) American Legion Club, Sunday, **March 2**, 1 – 5:30 p.m. 2014 Czech Heritage Ambassadors, Czech food, silent auction, Domaci Czech Folk Dancers, traditional Masopust skit, crowning of a Masopust King, and music by Glen Wondra and the Country Gentlemen. Information: Jim Mladek at 507-364-5659

**Cantus Vocal Ensemble presents *Dvořák: Going Home*, March 13 to 23.** Drawing from the folk music of his Czech homeland and, later, the melodies of Native and African Americans, Antonín Dvořák created a legacy that helped define "home" through music. Cantus traces this lineage through Dvořák's own works along with music that influenced him and the future generations of composers he inspired. Five metro Minneapolis-Saint Paul concert locations. Tickets: \$25 adults/seniors, \$10 students/children. 612-435-0055 or <<http://www.cantussings.org/2013/09/06/dvorak-going-home/>>

**Martin Roberts: *Austerity Measures and Europe*, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center Lecture on Sunday, March 30, 2 p.m.** at C.S.P.S. Hall, from Spain via Skype. Focus is on economic measures that currently are impacting Spain. These economic issues, which are finding their way into many European countries, could be a bellwether for future events in the Czech Republic and Slovakia

**University Opera Theatre presents *Přihody lišky Bystroušky, The Cunning Little Vixen*** (aka *The Adventures of Vixen Sharp Ears*), a dance/opera by Leoš Janáček with libretto adapted from a novella by Rudolf Těsnohládek and Stanislav Lolek, premiered in Brno in 1924. **April 10–12**, 7:30 p.m.; **April 13**, 1:30 p.m. Ted Mann Concert Hall, University of Minnesota, 2128 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis. Tickets: \$20 (2-for-1 tickets for U of M faculty, alumni, retirees, and staff). 612-624-2345 or <<http://music.umn.edu/ensembles/opera>>

## Sokol Minnesota News

### A Call for Voices: Join us on March 4 and 18

The Sokol Minnesota Singers carry on an important part of our Czech and Slovak culture: singing and remembering our folk songs. We are looking for more voices. You do not need to know the language; most of us don't. Those who do, help the rest of us with pronunciation. You might already be familiar with some of the melodies from childhood. If not, they're short, simple, and easy to remember. None of us are professional singers. We just like to sing and don't want to lose our heritage. You do not even have to be Czech or Slovak to sing with us. All you need is a desire to sing. **Don Haselbauer** is our director. Starting on March 4, we'll meet at 10 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of most months (not June, July, and August) at the Hall. Come and join us! Your heart will rejoice. For information, call **Marlene Hinshaw** at 651-340-8619.

### You Are Invited to be a Sokol Volunteer

Volunteering is fun! Our organization is loaded with talent and expertise. We'd like to know what you can share as a volunteer. Your reward is getting to know other Sokol members and making new friends. It's a great time to become involved with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. We are waiting for your call. **Call Cindy Coulter** 651-815-5286  
We need: **Volunteer Coordinator**  
**Kitchen Coordinator**  
**Gaming Committee Members**

### 25<sup>th</sup> Czech and Slovak Festival Sunday, September 14, C.S.P.S. Hall

Help plan our anniversary celebration!  
<festival@sokolmn.org>  
or Joyce Tesarek: 612-822-6147

**Member News:** Help **Marlene Hinshaw** gather news about our members:  
Call: 651-340-8619 or send an email:  
marle5421@aol.com

**JOB OPPORTUNITY: Gaming Manager** to oversee Sokol Minnesota's charitable gaming operation. Paid position. Must be a Sokol member. Inquiries: <finance@sokolmn.org>

### Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors By Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary

Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates your donations supporting Sokol programs and the refurbishing of our historic C.S.P.S. Hall.  
Donations are listed under the following categories: under \$100; \$100-\$499; \$500-\$999; \$1000-\$4999; \$5000+, and undisclosed.

**General Fund:** under \$100: **Darla Kolb, Roseanne Kostelecky, Pamela Langworthy, Richard Pavlicek, Pamela Snopl, Rose Vesely.**  
\$100 - \$499: **Cynthia Coulter, Gary and Mary Ann Novak.** In Memory of **Johnny Kalvoda and Michael Volas: Charles Kalvoda.**

**Legacy Fund:** under \$100: **Minnesota Sokol Camp Association.**  
\$100 - \$499: **George Chlebecek, Darlene Sitko, The Whitney Foundation (Wheelock and Kathleen Whitney).**

**Slovo:** under \$100: **Minnesota Sokol Camp Association, Josephine Parvey, J.R. Pokorny.**  
\$100 - \$499: **George Chlebecek.**

**In-kind Donations:** Food items for the Duck Dinner: **Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek.**

### Education News

By **Jean Draheim, Education Director**

*Czech language classes* for the spring session start the week of March 17 and run through the week of May 19. Spring Break is in late April and early May. Registration form: <www.sokolmn.org>

*For more information on classes or to be included on our interests lists, please call Education Director Jean Draheim at 651-426-2826 or email: <education@sokolmn.org>.*

### Czech Proverbs

*Co je napsáno, to nesmyješ*  
Never write what you dare not sign

*Ráno moudřejší večera*  
Morning is wiser than evening

*Trpělivost růže přináší*  
Patience brings roses

### C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

We ask for your support to insure that renovations can be completed as C.S.P.S. Hall celebrates its 127<sup>th</sup> year in 2014.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation.

*Thank you!*



Contact Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147 or <Joyce@sokolmn.org> to discuss your donation.

### LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the C.S.P.S. Hall, I 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: \_\_\_\_\_

- List my name in the *Slovo* newsletter  
 List amount  Do not list amount  
 Do not 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: **C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund**  
**383 Michigan Street**  
**Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102**



With former Vice President Mondale (center) are Don Pafko (left), Honorary Consul of Slovakia, and Marit Lee Kucera, candidate for Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic.

**Minnesota Consular Corps Luncheon with Walter Mondale**  
**By Donald Pafko, Slovak Honorary Consul**

The Minnesota Consular Corps held its monthly meeting at the Minneapolis Club on January 22. We were honored to have as our guest speaker former Vice President Walter Mondale. In a panel discussion with Kjell Bergh, president of the Minnesota Consular Corps, the former Vice President discussed a variety of topics. Over 100 members and guests enjoyed listening to the former Vice President as he shared stories about his life in public service.

# Spring Breakfast



**Bake and Craft Sale**

**Sunday April 13**

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

**9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**\$7.00 Adult**  
**\$5.00 child under 9**  
**Family of four \$22.00**

**NO reservations needed.**

C.S.P.S.  
 Sokol Hall  
 383 Michigan St.  
 Saint Paul, MN  
 55102

[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

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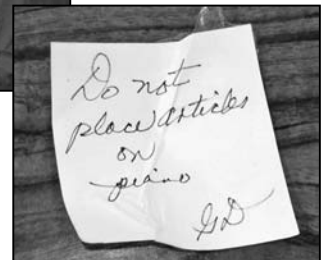


Lenka Bragg teaches Czech language to our children on Saturday mornings. This delightful picture of the students in kroje was taken after a picture-taking session for Taneční Mládež, the children's folk dancers. The children will perform at Šibřinky on March 22. Come to watch them and the Teen Dancers at 5:15 p.m., enjoy a dinner, and stay for the dance with live music by the Cathy Erickson Band from 6 – 10 p.m. St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers perform at intermission.



(Left) Norm Petrik and Tom Aubrect put the piano in its locked cupboard after the Duck Dinner in January. Again in March the piano will accompany the Sokol Singers, led now by Don Haselbauer. Please join in!

(Right) Now a keepsake: this sticky-note was written by Georgiana Dolejsi (1938-2013) who led the Singers for decades. Georgiana's daughter Bobbie Gross (Brookings, OR) wrote in her subscription renewal letter: "I am so glad to read the Sokol Minnesota Singers will continue. My Mom would be delighted. She'll be there in spirit."





## ***Slovo*, one of the Gems of Sokol Minnesota**

By Joyce Tesarek, Fundraising Chair

There is so much more to what makes Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota fabulous than just our historic C.S.P.S. Hall. We host events, activities, classes, and dinners. Besides supporting our Hall renovation through the Legacy Fund Capital Campaign, there are many ways that you can help Sokol thrive. If you particularly like an activity/event and want to see it continue, we have a place for you to help. In upcoming issues of *Slovo*, an activity/project leader will introduce you to their project/event and suggest some great ways to help. Pick your favorite and send a check or donate online at <www.sokolmn.org>. All these donations go into the Sokol Minnesota General Fund to help support the many programs and needs of our Sokol unit. Of course, volunteering your time and expertise is always welcome (and needed). This month's author is our *Slovo* Managing and Production Editor, Marit Lee Kucera.

We would like to highlight our acclaimed gem of a newsletter, *Slovo*. It is the "face" of Sokol Minnesota to our members and subscribers, as well as to the whole world, through its posting on our <www.sokolmn.org> website. *Slovo* is published ten times per year. In addition to members who receive it as one of the benefits of their membership dues, we also have scores of subscribers from all over the United States who like to read about what's happening at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. One of our Board of Directors recently said, "*Slovo* is the glue that binds our Czech/Slovak members together."

Barb Tuzinski, West Saint Paul sent this note with her renewal: "I enjoy reading the *Slovo* very much. I like the dancers' pictures especially. Lately I've been reading the articles by Dr. Josef Mestenhauser. They are thoughtful, indeed!! Keep up the good work." Elsie and Alice Khol, Sokol Greater Cleveland, wrote, "Enclosed is our check to renew your wonderful newsletter *Slovo* for next year. We enjoy it very much. *Nazdar!*"

Our *Slovo* team, all volunteers, puts in long hours. We have several regular monthly contributors who write the articles, ranging from upcoming Sokol educational/cultural/gymnastic/fundraising events, book reviews, honorary consul news, special columnist in Prague, genealogy information, historical/political/economic analysis, and news-of-interest about *things* Czech or Slovak. The copy editor, Christy Banks, and the managing/production editor, Marit Lee Kucera, easily spend 60 hours or more per 12-page issue. Deb Ziskovsky spends several hours each month maintaining our member and subscriber mailing lists. And then there are the many combined hours of the proofreading team, which includes a native Czech speaker, plus our creative ad designer and our mascot, the NewsNag, who reminds all our writers on the 20th and the 25th of each month to send in their articles by the first of the month preceding the publication date (March 1 for the April issue). Our Mailing Party team, lead by

Mary Cahill, tabs, labels, and zip-code sorts the approximately 350 copies we send out each month. Joan Sedlacek then hauls six mailing trays to the Business Mail Entry Unit in Eagan, Minnesota, where she often has to stand in a long line to get our *Slovo* weighed and finally entered into the postal system before it's on its way to you, our readers. Sokol Minnesota qualifies for non-profit bulk mail rates, among the lowest rates the USPS has, at about one-third the cost of a regular first-class stamp. A month later, our webmaster puts the issue online. Most months we have upwards of two dozen volunteers working to produce each issue. Now, that's a gem of a team!!!!

Members and subscribers have an exclusive to each issue of *Slovo* for 30 days. At the end of the month, we put that issue on our website for anyone, anywhere to read.

For each issue of *Slovo*, we print 375 copies, which costs about \$350 for printing and postage. By itself, *Slovo* does not cover its costs of production. *Slovo* wants to thank Gerald Mashek of Mashek Tailors and Cleaners in downtown Hopkins, Minnesota, for renewing his ad for the third year in a row. We hope our readers support Mashek's.

Besides taking out an ad, there is another way to support specifically our great newsletter. *Slovo* wants to encourage members and friends to support *Slovo* with a designated donation. We will acknowledge our *Slovo* Sponsors (named after gemstones) in each upcoming issue:

*SlovoGarnet*: \$350 (single issue sponsorship: you can designate a dedication to yourself, another person, or an event)

*SlovoMoldavite*: \$175 (half-issue sponsorship or business-card size ad for 10 issues)

*SlovoAmber*: \$100 - \$174

*SlovoCrystal*: up to \$99

This past year several donations to the General Fund of Sokol Minnesota were designated for *Slovo*. Without anyone asking them, the following donors recognized *Slovo* specifically and we want to thank them again for their generosity. They are listed here, in alphabetical order: George Chlebeczek, Jim and Mary Jo Chlebeczek, Joseph A. Kocab, Minnesota Sokol Camp Association, Josephine Parvey, and J.R. Pokorny. *Thank you!*

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## **Gym Notes By Mary Cahill**

The cold snap that resulted in school closures did not deter our dedicated Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota instructors from holding classes. Many class participants live in the vicinity of the Hall, we have not cancelled classes. The classes provided a great cabin fever alternative. Gymnasts and instructors give a "shout out" to our Sokol Board of Trustees that works hard to keep the building in good repair and toasty warm on these bitter cold days.

The young boys of Jason's Monday night class are demonstrating tremendous growth in their skill development. The charter participants are spreading the word; we have had friends try a class and a couple have enrolled. They are catching up to their peers on floor and rings.

Our female gymnasts are working hard to learn new USGA routines for this year's competition on April 12 at Sokol Crete, Nebraska. Unfortunately not all of our participants can make the trip to Crete. Those who are able to make the Western District competitions experience Sokol in a larger way, forming connections and friendships with Sokol competitors from other units in our Western District plus reinforcing friendships they make through classes at Sokol Minnesota. We plan an end-of-year exhibition at Sokol Minnesota on April 15 to showcase the achievements of ALL of our Sokol Minnesota gymnasts. Look for more information on our gymnastics program in the April *Slovo!*

March 2014 *Slovo* 9

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In front of the National Museum, this bronze cross embedded in cobblestone marks the exact place where Palach self-immolated in Wenceslas Square. At the foot of the Wenceslas monument is a second memorial, dedicated In Memory of the Victims of Communism, with pictures of Jan Palach (11.8.1948 + 19.1.1969) and Jan Zajíc (3.7.1950 + 25.2.1969) etched in polished marble. There are always fresh flowers and candles at both of these memorials.



In August 1968, the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia to suppress the liberalizing reforms. (You might remember my article in the October 2013 *Slovo* about Soviet tanks? This is how the story continues.) Jan Palach, a 20-year-old student in Charles University's Faculty of Philosophy, was disgusted not only by the invasion but also by the demoralization of Czech people who started to give up hope for a better future. He decided to sacrifice himself in flames in the very center of Prague, and he did so on January 16, 1969.

This was not an act of a lunatic. He had attended anti-Soviet protests and he had tried to persuade other people in many ways to fight the occupation army. And, only when he did not succeed, he committed suicide. "A man has to fight the evil that he can actually reach" is probably his most famous

statement. His funeral became a protest against occupation. But it did not help.

His act, although he did not wish so, was followed by several other young people who also wished to sacrifice themselves. However, it was not until 1989 that the ice of Soviet occupation started to melt. In January, during the so-called Palach's Week that celebrated his act, the big protests started to take place in Prague. In November the system collapsed under pressure of the Czech and Slovak people. Palach succeeded; he helped to change things as he had hoped, although it was 20 years later than he thought.

## Torch Number 1

By Vanda Kašová, columnist from Prague

*Torch Number 1.* That is what Jan Palach called himself in his last letter. And then he set himself on fire. On January 19, 2014, at 15:30 it was exactly 45 years since he died. Today I want to tell you his story. You might have heard it many times before; however, this is a story worth repeating and should never to be forgotten.

*The Murder of Lidice.* Edna St. Vincent Millay. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1942, 32 pp. Available in libraries and used-book stores.

## Remembering Lidice

By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

The fate of the Czechoslovakian town of Lidice is well known. The Nazis obliterated it, based on suspicions that assassins of Acting Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich had been sheltered there. The men of the town were executed on June 10, 1942, most women and children were sent to concentration camps, other children were given to SS (the elite corps of Nazis) families for Germanization or sent off to be gassed, and the town was leveled.

News of the atrocities quickly spread around the world. Towns were named after it, monuments erected, music composed, and the story told in films, articles, essays, books, memoirs, poems, and plays. One outstanding piece of literature is *The Murder of Lidice* by American poet and Pulitzer Prize winner Edna St. Vincent Millay. Two days after news of Lidice was received by the

Writers' War Board, members resolved to make sure Lidice was never forgotten. Among their actions was asking Millay to write a poem about it.

Later in 1942, Millay's poem was broadcast by NBC across America and beamed by shortwave to millions in Europe, published as a book, and excerpted in *Life* magazine. It is still performed more than 70 years later.

These excerpts give a feel for the words penned by Millay in a vision of romanticized, noble life and nature in the countryside and harrowing death and destruction:

*It was all of six hundred years ago,  
It was seven and if a day,  
That a village was built which you may  
know*

*By the name of "Lidice,"  
All on the fair Danubian plain,  
Rich in cattle and rich in grain,  
In far Bohemia. . . .*

*—oh, never forget the day!—  
On the tenth of June in '42,  
They murdered the village of Lidice*

*Dead mouths of men once happy as you, ...  
All in the morning of a June day*

*Were caught, and shot and put out of the way . . .*

*The whole world holds in its arms today  
The murdered village of Lidice,  
Like the murdered body of a little child.  
Innocent, happy, surprised at play,—  
The murdered body, stained and defiled,  
Tortured and mangled, of a helpless child!*

Understandably, some details were not accurate and some made up, but Millay's writing excellence shines through, as in: "The maniac killer who still runs wild—Eating pastries, moulding the crumbs into bullets . . ." Her efforts to support the Allied war effort brought criticism for blatant propaganda, although "The Death of Lidice" is considered the best of these works. *Kirkus Reviews* claimed that the printed text "has the power of its subject, of its sincerity; as poetry, it is not exceptional." Book critic Merle Rubin noted, "She seems to have caught more flak from the literary critics for supporting democracy than Ezra Pound did for championing fascism."

*Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. For more information, go to <www.cs-center.org> or contact <gwen@cs-center.org>.*

## Two Kinds of Czechs: Those who Escaped into Exile and Those who Stayed *Part 3.* By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser, Distinguished International Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota Department of Educational Policy and Administration, Comparative and International Development Education



Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic (1999-2008)

*Editor's note: This article originally appeared on the CSCC website <cs-center.org>. Part 4 will appear in the April Slovo.*

My job at the University of Minnesota enabled me to travel extensively in pursuit of educational opportunities for our students and faculty. Often, when I got on a plane to go somewhere, I pretended I was either sleeping or working intensely. In this way, I avoided mundane conversations that usually started with my being asked where I was from and which continued with “How do you like it here?” and ended with “So, your country turned communist now.” I had no easy response to that assertion because it appeared to be accurate. Initially, I had predicted that the communist system would be unable to last longer than had the seven years of Nazi occupation. But the longer the communist regime lasted, the more prolonged my estimate had to become as well. This, in the land of Masaryk, Comenius, and Charles the IV! As time disappeared, so too did our aspirations to return home to assume some unspecified leadership positions. The Prague Spring of 1968 was a very brief sign of light, but the Warsaw Pact invasion and the brutal suppression of the Czechoslovaks that followed crushed our hopes even further. When at last communism fell, we were able to convene the world congress of the SVU (Czechoslovak Society for Arts and Sciences) in Prague for the first time. To a standing ovation, the SVU president expressed our sentiments about our exile when he praised Charter 76 and its dissident leaders, especially President Havel, by saying: “You have made it possible for us to feel proud to be Czechs again.”

My return to Czechoslovakia as visiting Fulbright professor was a time for extensive revision of some assumptions I'd held. I established many contacts, who in turn helped me interview communists and former communists, as well as leading dissidents; but I concentrated on the student leaders who had played a decisive role in the demise of the regime. They had pressed the government extensively and refused to give up, finally forcing the communist nomenklatura\* to change despite its intensive efforts to stay in power. The composite picture I obtained, and which I still continue to refine, did not correspond to the image many of us exiles had had: that the country was one giant, impregnable prison surrounded by barbed wire that forced its citizens into total compliance. I underline “total” because that word distinguishes communism from other forms of dictatorships and earned it the term *totalitarianism*. I had imagined such total rule was what the regime intended, but I learned that, in reality, there were many fissures in the metaphoric wall of control that foiled these intensions. And today, it is in order to forestall public understanding of their goals that the communists violently oppose the Institute to Study Totalitarianism and place every possible barrier to block its success.

No accurate statistics are available that allow generalizations about the kind of support the Communist Party enjoyed, so I must extrapolate from information I have gleaned over time. Party membership at its height was about one million; this was the committed core at the top of the organizational machinery in charge of enforcement. Party members occupied governing positions ranging from chairs of each housing unit, the units in the place of work, the committees in each village, city, and district to the state and national central committees. This machinery included members of the police, the feared StB (*Státní bezpečnost*), and company units of the military – all backed up by an extensive network of paid and unpaid informers who were also active in all branches of the government. These Party chapters were in addition to various “national committees” that pretended to be a part of the so-called National Front and were primarily an executive body whose functions were to carry out decisions made by party chapters.

The first period of the communist rule that immediately followed the February 1948 coup d'état was the Stalinist era. It was characterized by massive arrests, executions, firing of large numbers of people, dislocation of entire families, and extensive confiscation of private properties, including that of people who escaped into exile. The primary method of oppression was fear; children had to report “suspicious” activities of their parents, and their parents had to do the same to their children. People worried constantly that somebody was hiding behind the doors of their apartments, listening to what was being said. This made conversations brief and limited to the weather, children's plays, and the price of beer.

No wonder that there was no evident sign of opposition. The brutal suppression of the Hungarian revolt of 1956 and the failure of Western powers to respond persuaded people in Czechoslovakia that compliance to their rulers was more prudent than standing up, being beaten, arrested, or killed. These consequences were only part of the story because the regime punished not only the people caught in some “subversive” action, but entire families on the basis of the collective guilt. All were stigmatized, declared enemies of the people, fired from jobs, and forced into manual labor. Children were denied higher education.

Still, there was evidence of widespread discontent. People found ways of infiltrating the very top of the party headquarters where they photocopied minutes from the secret committee and cabinet meetings and then smuggled them to dissident journalist Pavel Tigrid in Paris. His organization obtained the best and most accurate information, which was immediately published worldwide. One of the most notable signs of a low level of sabotage was humor. Knowledgeable people report that this period was the golden era of a Czech humor that was both punchy and subtle. For example, during the Prague Spring *Dikobraz* (*Porcupine*), the weekly satirical magazine begun in 1945, was briefly free to reproduce such humor in the form of cartoons that are now considered classics. *Dikobraz's* motto, which appeared on each issue's first page, was “*S úsměvem jde všechno líp*” — “With smiling, everything goes better.”

\*The inner circle of communists in key administrative positions.

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*Shifting Landscapes in Central Europe: The Czech and Slovak Republics and Their Relations with The United States of America* by Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser is available in book or CD format. <http://www.cs-center.org/wp/?s=Shifting+Landscapes+book>

## ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER! SOKOL Minnesota 2014 EVENTS

### Mardi Gras III Tea Dance

March 2, Sunday, 1 – 5 p.m.

- Music by Southside Aces • Cash bar and • Cajun menu
- \$15. Reservations: <mardigras@sokolmn.org>

### Flavors of Slovakia Dinner

March 16, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

\$16 adults, \$8 children

Reservations by March 11: 952-941-0426

### Šibřinky Dance and Supper

March 22, Saturday, 4 – 10 p.m.

- Czech Food • Children/Teen/Adult Folk Dancing
  - Dance to live music: Cathy Erickson Band 6-10 p.m.
- \$12 at the door (\$10 in advance: *see page 1*)

**Collect • Gather • Clean Out • De-clutter • Donate!**  
**Support our *Sokol Garage Sale*: May 15 – 16**  
**Drop off: Wednesday, May 14, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

Check for event updates: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

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## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* March 2014

### March 28 Membership Meeting with Dan Bednar: A Photo Tour of Bohemia

After a long and cold winter, spring is in the air! Finally! You won't want to miss the program of our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota general membership meeting on March 28. After a brief business meeting, we can all settle back to enjoy member Dan Bednar's superb photographs and stories about his adventures on two recent trips to the Czech Republic.



In September 2012, Dan went for nine days to the Czech Republic, his first trip.

Červená  
Lhota

He rented a bicycle in Prague and spent seven days pedaling 400 km (250 miles) in Bohemia. His goal was to visit his ancestral village of Nová Bystřice in southern Bohemia, on the border with Austria. He found no relatives; all had immigrated to the United States or had gone to Austria. He biked, on his own, from Prague through Průhonice, Týnec nad Sázavou, Tábor, Jindřichův Hradec, Nová Bystřice, Slavonice and back through the same towns to Prague.



*A stop to admire the beautiful view.*

He had such a great time, he wanted to show his wife Kim the beautiful countryside and lovely cities. He returned in October 2013 with Kim to share his great enthusiasm for the sights in the Czech Republic. They stayed the entire time in Prague where Kim enjoyed the art, the food, and the street vendors in Wenceslas Square.