

kol Minnesota



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

Legacy Fund Project "Cool the Hall"

By Joe Landsberger

Sokol was first founded in the Čech nation in 1862. Soon after, the first American Sokol unit was begun in St. Louis, Missouri in 1865. St. Paul's began in June 13, 1882 and has been continuous since then as a Sokol unit. The Sokol movement evolved from the great idea that bodily health produced mental and moral health. (From Bob Vanyo's article "Sokol" in Gateway to a New World, 2003, page 31.)

UPCOMING EVENTS March 2015

April Slovo Deadline March 1

Taste of Slovakia Dinner March 8, 12:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees March 11, 7 p.m.

Family Night March 15, 4 p.m.

Sokol Minnesota Singers March 17, 10 a.m.

Board of Directors March 19, 7 p.m.

Members' Meeting March 27, 7 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast March 29, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Times have changed, and so has our beloved national treasure, the C.S.P.S. Hall. On Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's 125th anniversary in 2007, the Board of Directors defined and prioritized a series of projects that would bring the Hall's physical plant into the 21st Century. A Project Planning Task Force was created that included Joyce Tesarek, Ed Hamernik, Chuck Draheim, Joe Landsberger, and Gary Novak, who put in countless hours as Project Manager. The plumbing and heating systems were upgraded, a fire suppression system was installed, and installation of air conditioning (AC) initiated. To date, project costs exceed \$320,000, funded by donations (25%) and city, state, and federal grants (75%).

AC installation stalled at the end of 2014 for lack of money! Since our grant sources have been expended, we are returning to fundraising



from Sokol members and the greater community. We have an anonymous donation and challenge grant of \$50,000 to complete the project! This edition of the *Slovo* contains an envelope addressed to our Legacy Fund and a postcard that highlights where our funding was at the beginning of the year. Sokols and neighbors have since stepped up with \$39,828, but \$10,172 remains to match the grant, with another \$10,000 to complete the project. We still need a total of \$19,632. We are targeting AC installation to be completed by Sokol's 128th anniversary date of June 13, just in time for the beginning of the annual children's culture camp on June 15. The AC will bring in additional summer rentals that will help fund future operations. For more information, email <finance@sokolmn.org>. This is your Legacy. Can you help? *Thank you*.

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

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Past issues of *Slovo* and Hall Calendar of events: www.sokolmn.org

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Judy Aubrecht

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters

New visitors to our C.S.P.S. Hall are often very surprised to see the impressive theater roll drops that decorate the stage. Some of the roll drops were painted in the early 1930s by Sokol Minnesota member and artist Vic Hubel, Sr. The six roll drops include scenes that Hubel cherished from his native Bohemia: the Charles Bridge with Hradčany Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral on the skyline in Prague, small shops on an inviting village street, golden autumn woods, the rolling countryside with a church, a small country village, and a city scene. Hubel used vibrant colors and skill to create the scenes. The roll drops, valued recently at more than \$150,000, were cleaned and repaired some years ago with a generous donation from Charlotte Januschka. Repairs are again needed after snow melted on the roof in 2014 and leaked onto the stage area.

Our Sokol Minnesota theatrical programs date back to the first show in 1902. The program's nine acts included five musical numbers, two comic skits, a one-act comedy *Smetanova Hubička* (Sweet Kiss), and a solo act by Jan Šrámek. Our Sokol Minnesota collection includes over two hundred scripts written in Czech and sixty-five programs which list details about the author, cast, and director of the productions that were presented in Czech. Many of the scripts are comedies dealing with village life in Bohemia before 1900. Sokol Minnesota Historians Denis Novak and Joe Landsberger have spent many hours organizing these materials for Sokol Minnesota.

At the January Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors meeting, twelve board members learned about the unique features of the roll drops and were trained on how to properly lower and raise the drops. For safety and security, a locked box will soon cover the roll drop lines and only people who have been trained recently will have a key to open the box. Chuck Draheim, our Board of Trustees Chair, led the training and shared some of his theater knowledge with us. The five rear drops have a unique "fly" system, which includes a simple pulley and rope to raise and lower the drops, which are mounted on the long boom rollers. This system is historic and rarely seen in theaters today. The Charles Bridge drop at the front of the stage has a counterweight to make it easier to move the drop. We learned about the importance of pulling the drop lines vertically to insure the proper balance of the rollers. Improper pulling could result in the drops being held on by a few tacks or the chance that a drop could fall down and injure someone. All of the trainees watched how the hand-operated system worked and then each lowered and raised a drop, including showing that we knew how to properly store the lines on cleats. We saw old country craftsmanship at work in the caps on the ends of the booms: the slats or ribs of the roll are tapered in much the same way as the staves of a barrel and have lap joints for added strength. When I looked at a lowered drop from behind, I noticed that large panels of canvas had been stitched together to make the drops.

While on the stage, the group also learned how to properly move the two sets of "splatter flats." One set is "cool" grey, and the other set is "warm" beige. There are nine painted pieces in each set that are each ten feet tall. Unlike modern hinged sets, these flats are lashed together to form sets that are placed on the sides of the roll drops to give a three-dimensional feeling to the stage. Sokol Minnesota also has additional props to enhance the roll drops.

We are very fortunate to have a working stage at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Our training session gave me renewed respect for our stage and its historic roll drops. *Nazdar!*

Honorary Consuls, plus Sokol Minnesota Committee Chairs (not seated on the BOD)		
Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko	Honorary Czech Consul Nominee: Marit Lee Kucera	
Past Honorary Czech Consuls: Josef Mestenhauser and Robert Vanasek		
Sunshine Committee: open	Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney	
Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson	Kitchen Coordinator: open	
Website: Joe Landsberger	Volunteer Coordinator: open	
Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger		
Hall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik		
Slovo newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks, Deb Ziskovsky, Mary Kucera		
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:		
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slovo@sokolmn.org Planning: planning@sokolmn.org Publicity: publicity@sokolmn.org		
Public Relations: publicrelations@sokolmn.org Treasurer: treasurer@sokolmn.org		
Board of Trustees: trustees@sokolmn.org Webmaster: webmaster@sokolmn.org		

We thank Dr. Josef Mestenhauser for writing over 65 articles for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's Slovo from 2007 through 2014. Members of Sokol Minnesota and Czech and Slovak Culture Center who know him well express their appreciation here.

Thank you, Dr. Mestenhauser

Joyce Tesarek: Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser has been a generous *Slovo* contributor. In his monthly columns, he has shared his insights on Czech history, culture, and the Czech viewpoint based on his study, observations, and experience as a scholar and citizen who escaped communist Czechoslovakia himself on March 19, 1948. Joe and I met in the late 1980s when his

Joe and I met in the late 1980s when his wife Pat was bringing her beautiful Shetland Sheepdogs to my veterinary clinic. One day, she told me her husband was leaving for Japan; she asked if he could weigh his suitcases on our walk-on dog scale. He could, he did, and we've been friends ever since.

We've worked together on many things: getting his Honorary Czech Consul office at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall up and running (1999) amid first floor construction setbacks and delays; working for months with a great group to formulate the purpose and mission of the new organization, the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center (2001) and working on its board with Joe and a great leadership team (2001-2015); and helping to host Czechoslovak President Václav Havel (1999) and other dignitaries on their visits to Minnesota. And always I have so much respect and admiration for Joe's integrity, intellect, and scholarship. I am proud to call him my friend.

Renáta Tichá: If it were not for Joe Mestenhauser, I would not be where I am today. When I was planning to come to the United States to study on an invitation of my dear friends, Baba and Renée, it was unclear at that time whether I would get a student visa. Fifteen years ago, it was not easy for a young, single woman from the Czech Republic to come to the United States to study for longer periods of time. Joe was so kind to explain the whole process of applying for a visa to me, first on an international phone call, and later in person. We met in Prague for the first time; Joe assured me that he would do anything in his power to help me pursue my graduate studies in special education at the University of Minnesota.

Now, 15 years later and after spending many wonderful moments with Joe talking about education, international travel, or Czech history and culture, I am grateful for his wisdom and energy to make my life what I wanted it to be. Bea Flaming: I am so glad I know Dr. Josef Mestenhauser! He is the biggest reason I know as much as I do about Czech Republic historically, geographically, and culturally! Hearing the story of his escape from Czechoslovakia, from his own lips, and hearing him give the first lecture in a series named in honor of him at the University of Minnesota are special memories I will never forget. I first met Joe at Sokol Minnesota's Czech-Slovak Festival in 2003. I joined Czech and Slovak Culture Center shortly after it started. I began going to lectures in the fall of 2003, where I started to get to know Joe better. Thanks to Joe's encouragement and guidance for CSCC, I have learned much. The Literary Ventures group, which Joe was eager to have begin, has also increased my knowledge with all that we have read during the past decade. I joined the CSCC board in 2004. I have been honored to meet many wonderful educators.

On a trip to the Czech Republic in 2005, Joe was there at the same time and we met for lunch at the beautiful *Obecní Dům*. Joe has been a wonderful friend and mentor since I first met him, Even without being an official student of his, I have learned so very much and thank him tremendously! He has enriched my life, and for that I am deeply grateful!

Gwen Willems: Josef Mestenhauser is an extraordinary person and an exceptional friend. I'm grateful to him for guiding me through grad school and introducing me to many things Czech. He included me in his first Fulbright-Hays Study Abroad tour. It gave me six weeks of life-changing, intensive study of educational reform in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and the Czech Republic. I have a vivid memory of Joe's delighted face overlooking the Vltava River and Prague. He said it was one of the first things he always liked to do when he returned to his homeland.

Following that trip, Dr. Mestenhauser continued advising me about my return trips to the Czech Republic, dissertation on democratic citizenship among young Czechs, research on the Romany people, and Minnesota's Czech community. Through Joe, I have seen many memorable places and met many remarkable people. His confidence in me, encouragement, and the doors he opened have made me a better person. Thank you, Joe. Chervl Nelson: I met Dr. Joe Mestenhauser in 2002 when invited to be on the board of the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center (CSCC). It was during that time that I learned of his strength and perseverance in leaving his home country, and the challenges he encountered as he immigrated to America. His leadership, kindness, and generosity of spirit have been an inspiration to me. Whether it's interacting with the CSCC board or in everyday conversations, Joe has always been supportive of my thoughts and opinions, and encouraging of my leadership. He wrote an eloquent recommendation for me to enter a doctoral program that was clearly influential in my acceptance. I am very appreciative of all that I have learned from Joe and wish to thank him for all that he has done for me.

Christy Banks: A great, unexpected bonus for me when I began copy editing Slovo was getting to know Dr. Mestenhauser, or Joe as he prefers to be called. Seeing a writer's thoughts progress to their final shape, as well as how they handle that process, lets you appreciate the kind of person they are. Joe was always wonderful to work with. We communicated by email a few times a month, he always had his next article to me early, and he either graciously accepted my suggestions or gently fixed my garbling of his meaning to a final wording that did work. He felt getting his column to Slovo readers was important and he made writing it each month a priority.

Joe makes plenty of room in his life for friendship, and the kindness he showed me is typical of that he showed many others. Joe wrote a strong recommendation for me that was instrumental in my acceptance to Dobruška's 2012 summer language program. Early on, Joe suggested we meet for lunch to talk, and as he began going out less he'd sometimes invite me to stop by his home to visit. The summer before last, we spent several days together working on Shifting Landscapes, the collection of his Slovo articles, during which he gamely took on the new technology involved in selfpublishing to produce the book in order to raise funds for Sokol and the CSCC.

Joe is the kind of person you hardly ever meet anymore: unfailingly gracious and unpretentious, interested in many topics and also in each individual he meets. A friend of his I met with in Prague remarked to me that Joe embodies the "old Sokol virtues" that include patriotism, diligence, and brotherhood. He's a very good man, and I treasure his friendship highly.



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2015 Board of Directors

Front L-R: Denis Novak, First Vice President; Judy Aubrecht, President; Jean Hall, Second Vice President; Jason Brozovich, Member at Large.

Middle L-R: Michael Sebek, Sergeant at Arms; Chuck Draheim, Board of Trustees chair; Jean Draheim, Educational Director; Mary Cahill, Women's Physical Director; Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary; Joyce Tesarek, Board of Budget and Finance Chair; Ed Hamernik, Gaming Manager; Cindy Coulter, Recording Secretary.

Back L-R: Don Haselbauer, Treasurer; Tom Aubrecht, Financial Secretary; Norm Petrik, Membership Director.

Missing: Megan Cahill, Men's Physical Director; Jyni Koschak, Publicity Director; Marketa Resong, Member at Large.

Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

Renewals: Individual \$50; Couple \$90. Senior \$40 (over age 65); 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**> 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**>. **The deadline for the April 2015 issue is March 1.**

This March 2015 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after March 31: <**www.sokolmn.org**>

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).

Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the January Sokol Minnesota. Board of Directors meeting, we accepted into membership one couple, Bill and Peggy Eral from Lindstrom, with interests in genealogy and history, and also Chung Hyun Cho (the husband of member Colleen Cahill), from Saint Paul. At the January membership meeting, we accepted one new member, Joseph Gall from Cottage Grove. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

March 27 is our next membership meeting at 7 p.m. at the Hall.

One Hundred and Fifty Years and Counting! By Dan Rannells, Western District President

February 14 marks the 150th anniversary of Sokol organizations in America. Sokol Saint Louis was the first Sokol Unit in the United States; they will kick off the celebration with a party on that date. There are many other opportunities to celebrate this historic year. The Western District will celebrate at our District Slet in Cedar Rapids on April 18. This will be a great time for us as a District to celebrate together (and to get a look at the newly renovated Sokol Cedar Rapids).

The American Sokol will host activities in Chicago from November 13 to 15 to celebrate as well. In this month's American Sokol publication, you will find a survey regarding the types of events that you would like to see as a part of the celebration. Please take a moment to give your input. After all, this is a celebration for the whole American Sokol, so it's important that the celebration reflects the wishes of all our members. This survey gives us the chance to help shape the anniversary activities and make it a truly memorable weekend. I also encourage you to consider a trip to Chicago in November to celebrate with other Sokols from across the country. *Nazdar!*

Slovo gift subscriptions and non-member renewals are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through March 2016.) Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new/renewing non-member subscription.

Make your check to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Send to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *Slovo* Subscriptions, 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 if you 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**>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. *Thank you!*

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



Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

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: Zuzana Bracknell; Lenka Hester; William Jech; Kathleen Jerde; Vince Jirik; Donovan Johnson; Minnesota Sokol Camp Association; John Palka; Josephine Parvey; Kathleen M. Philipp; Pamela Snopl; Gale Thomsen; Cinnamon Whaley. \$100 - \$499: Betty Andrews in honor of Marit Lee Kucera; Hana Matousek.

Legacy Fund: under \$100: Betty Bauer; Ken Kadlec; Rosanne Kostelecky; Monika O'Keefe; Doris Moravetz. \$100 - \$499: John Adan; George Chlebecek; Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities (Family Night); Roger Green; Elsie Roepke; Robert and Claudia Tuma; Darlene Sitko; Raymond Vanyo; Shirley Verner; Jaroslav and Lois Verner in memory of Mary Tesarek. \$5000 +: Joe Landsberger.

Special project for the Legacy Fund by Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities (\$835: Houses for Sokol Hall, see page 6): Diane Bell; Jean Draheim; Eva and Darren Giese; Libby Imbrone; Michaela (Giancarlo) and Bob Kotek; Pamela Kotval; Jacqueline Kovarik; Marit Lee Kucera; Sister Lucy; Marketa Drbohlavova; Doreen McKenney; Dr. Josef Mestenhauser; Marilou Sethre; Milan Sebek; Vladimir and Pavlina Sverak; Adriana Wenberg; Roger Wencl; Michaela Wentz; Louise Wessinger; Brian and Alena Youngberg.

Gymnastic Equipment: \$100 - \$499: George Chlebecek. Slovo: under \$100: Harold Davidson; Minnesota Sokol Camp Association.

\$100 - \$499: George Chlebecek.

By Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary

In-Kind Donations: Doreen McKenney for notecards for Sokol use; **Marketa Resong** for printing costs of Sokol Hall rental brochure; **Louise Wessinger** for Czech Christmas ornaments for **Corbin Jerde**, Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen, to present to King Boreas and the Queen of Snows, Saint Paul's Winter Carnival 2014.

General Fund: \$735 Legacy Fund: \$13,626.98 Gymnastics Equipment: \$100 *Slovo:* \$220

Name:	\$50,000 (We ask for your s to C.S.P.S. Hall a the Hall's 128th y match the \$50,00 Contact Joyce Te	LEGACY FUND Challenge Grant support of renovations s we celebrate ear in 2015. Help us 00 Challenge Grant. sarek to discuss your ta 22-6147 or <finance@so< th=""><th></th></finance@so<>	
City: State, Zip: Phone: Email: To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the C.S.P.S. Hall, I make a tax-deductible donation of \$ I would like my gift designated: □ in memory or □ in honor of: Make checks payable to Sokol MN	Name:		
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Make checks payable to Sokol MN			
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Mail to C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 Or donate online www.sokolmn.org Thank You!			



1st row: Simona Nemcova, Blanka Danecek and friends, Rosina Kostal, Andrew Danecek, Romana Pulkrabek, Katarína Bielá. 2nd row: Eva Giese (daughter), Ľudmila Gančová, Marit Lee Kucera, Adriana Wenberg, Martina Gurgel, Eva Giese (daughter). 3rd row: Lenka Hester, Markéta Pavek, Louise Wessinger, Zuzana Bracknell, Michaela Wentz, Dagmar Beckel. 4th row: Dagmar Beckel (daughter), Olga Andish, Helena Šverák, Ľudmila Gančová, Alena Youngberg, Jim Yanta.

Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities Raised \$835 for Sokol's Legacy Fund

Members (both parents and children) of *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities* (Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities) and other invited friends participated in the House Project as a fundraiser for Sokol Minnesota's effort to bring air conditioning to the Hall. On January 13, Martina Gurgel set up the online silent auction; it ended at the Roast Duck Dinner on January 24.

Jitka Sebek, who spearheaded this fundraiser, gave each house maker a blank gray cardboard shell of a house, which she cut out of lightweight cardboard recycled from pop can cases and then glued together. Ribbons, handmade tatted lace, *perniky* clay cookies, Czech braid, decorated paper, crayons, paint, dried flowers, wood, clay, birch bark, pine cones, poker chips, buttons, and beads are just some of the adornments that the artists used. All the houses are really works of art! It was not only a clever and successful fundraiser, but also School members and friends had the fun of creating for a good cause and many others had the joy of taking home a small Czech-Slovak inspired house (to hide a square tissue box) and donating money to the Legacy Fund at the same time. *Naše škola*, as the school is affectionately known, was proud to give Sokol Minnesota \$835.

Libby Imbrone, longtime Sokol member, emailed her bids from her winter home in Florida. She wrote, "Congratulations and thanks for the wonderful work the Czech and Slovak Moms are doing to keep our heritage alive while having fun. It makes me so happy to read about your activities. My best wishes and love to you all."

12th Annual Duck Dinner:

Sold-Out Success By Doreen McKenney

We had a full house at our 12th annual Duck Dinner. This particular dinner limits the seating to 96 diners, not because of lack of chairs but because the ovens only can handle a limited number of roasting ducks. This is one of the reasons that reservations needed to be made in advance.

Joan Sedlacek is our expert with the roasting time of the ducks. She starts the first batch baking in a 500° oven to crisp up the skin, then transfers that batch to a 350° oven to finish them off, finally the tray is moved a heated proofer so she can start the process all over again. The duck halves are sorted by right and left sided wings making sure they do not touch on the baking pans. When the ducks get heated, the skin is like an adhesive; if they touch, they will stick together.

We had guests come from as far as Darwin, Owatonna, and Rochester, Minnesota, as well as Langley, Washington. One couple came to our

dinner soley because they had enjoyed a very good duck dinner in Prague on a recent trip. They had said to each other that if our dinner was half as good as the one they had in Prague that they would be well satisfied. Much to their delight, our Sokol Minnesota dinner was equally as good!

Compliments to the chefs and all the volunteers: co-chairs and kitchen cooks were Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek. Duck dinner volunteers, working as prep cooks, bartenders, servers, schedulers, door sale, and clean up were Don Andrle, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, Cindy Coultier, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim,



The 2015 Duck Dinner was a huge success enjoyed by all. Our Flavors of Slovakia Dinner is on March 8. Purchase your ticket now to avoid disappointment if it sells out. Call 763-571-6091 for reservations.

Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Jyni Koschak, Marit Lee Kucera, Dave Martin, Sue Martin, Denis Novak, Norm Petrik, Joyce Tesarek, Shirly Verner, and Louise Wessinger.

The Czech and Slovak School Twin Cites finished its silent auction fundraiser of the decorated Houses (covers for square tissue boxes) that evening at the dinner. Many of our diners added their bids and took home a beautiful, practical treasure. Jitka Sebek, who organized the fundraiser for Sokol Minnesota's Legacy Fund to air condition the Hall, displayed the 24 houses on the stage for everyone to admire and place a bid.

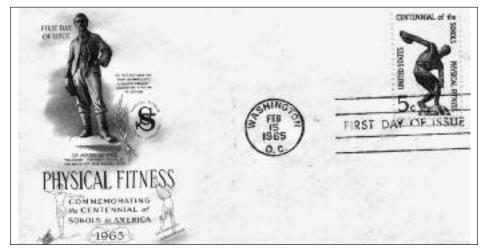
Celebrating 150 Years of Sokol in the United States

The first Sokol meeting in the United States of America was February 14, 1865, in St. Louis, Missouri. During this sesquicentennial anniversary year, our Slovo is reprinting historical information from the collection of honorary life member Joan Sedlacek. This article appeared on page 17 of the Souvenir Book, XIII Slet American Sokol Organization in Chicagoland, June 21-24, 1973.

Sokol's Physical Fitness Stamp

At the A.S.O. Convention held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in June, 1960, the newly elected Executive Board was assigned the task of using every honorable means to secure the issuance of a commemorative stamp honoring the Centennial of the Sokol movement in America.

A formal memorandum to secure the stamp was presented to the then Postmaster General, John A. Gronouski, by representatives of the Sokol Organization,



November 20, 1963. The Sokols knew that the request for the stamp could elicit a national desire if the outcome was to be successful. The ensuing campaign brought hundreds of thousands of petitions, postcards, formal requests and personal letters from children, junior and adult gymnasts, their parents and grandparents.

The Sokols were not alone. They had the support of innumerable fraternal, cultural, professional and social organizations. The stream of mail became a torrent. And then came the great day when the Sokols were invited to Washington, D.C., to receive word of the verdict. The good news that the stamp would be issued unleashed a wave of enthusiasm. The Sokol's century of uninterrupted training of hundreds of thousands of Americans would be signally honored by the issuance of the Sokol's Physical Fitness Stamp, February 15, 1965.

Truly a great day in the annals of Sokol in America!

Editor's note: 115,095,000 of the maroon and black 5¢ first class commemorative stamps were issued, plus commemorative postcards, on February 15, 1965. The classic discus thrower statue stands near the State Department in Washington, D.C.

Sokol Camp 2015 Season Is Here! By Julie Andrle

The 2015 rental season for our beloved Sokol Camp on beautiful Cross Lake in Pine City is now underway. Volunteers are welcome to attend our annual Sokol Camp opening on Saturday, April 25, as we prepare the camp for the rental season that begins any time after opening date.

Sokol Camp is a great summer vacation destination that offers boating, fishing, swimming, lounging, resting, and relaxation. Several golf courses and parks are nearby. There is a main lodge with indoor plumbing and ten rooms for rent at very reasonable rates. There is also plenty of space to camp in tents or trailers (sorry, no hookups available). Your family will love it!

Just 1½ hours north of the Twin Cities, Sokol Camp makes a great starting point for day trips to Duluth, Grand Casino Hinckley, Hinckley Fire Museum, or western Wisconsin.



Robinson Park, in downtown Pine City, is home to the "Art in the Park" concert series every Friday evening throughout the summer. **Room Rental Rates:** Weekly (seven nights) Members: \$160 - \$195. Non-members: \$195 - \$230. Nightly: Members: \$25 - \$30.

Non-members: \$30 - \$35. Campgrounds: Overnight campers, trailers, or tents: \$10/person per night. Children under 10 are free. RV hook-ups are not permitted.

Grounds use: Members \$10/family per day. Non-members \$15/family per day. Persons using the grounds for the day have bathroom and kitchen privileges.

Rental is open to all Sokol members. There are private rentals available. Use is by reservation only. To make a reservation or request additional information, call Cecilia Yingling at 612-747-9573.

Sunday, September 27, Sokol Camp closes for the 2015 season. Any help that day is also greatly appreciated!



Memories from the 2014 Booya Picnic: (L-R) Dylan Muyres, Scott Miller, Richard Vanyo, Aby Klukas, and Ray Vanyo who is diligently stirring the Booya.

Volunteer for our Czech and Slovak Café

Festival of Nations Saint Paul RiverCentre April 30 to May 3

Volunteers Needed (4 hour shifts) Thursday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call to volunteer: 317-409-1095

Start Planning for Booya at Sokol Camp, August 9 By Kari and Scott Muyres, Booya Co-chairs

With January record-low temperatures and a snowy start to the winter, it's hard to believe that only a few months ago we were enjoying pipinghot Booya and toe-tapping to the concertina at the Sokol Camp Booya Picnic. On behalf of the Booya Planning/Preparation Team, we extend our thanks and appreciation to all who helped contribute to the success of the 2014 Booya Picnic at our historic Sokol Camp. The weather cooperated, the Booya was tasty, and the Picnic was once again profitable for the Camp. This event wouldn't happen without the tremendous outpouring of help from our dedicated members. *Thank you!*

It's never too early to begin planning for the next Booya Picnic! This year we will celebrate our 85th year of hosting the Booya tradition. Please mark your summer calendars now for an unforgettable and entertaining picnic on Sunday, August 9. The 85th annual Booya Picnic is a fun-filled event featuring many delicious foods, beverages, and live entertainment. Games for adults and kids alike are available. Of course, Ray Vanyo and crew will be hard at work preparing the best Booya ever!

We welcome and appreciate your ideas, comments, and feedback as we begin the preparations for the picnic. Please feel free to contact us with your input: <scott.muyres@idq.com> or <skdlmuyres@yahoo.com>. We can't wait to see you there!



The Three Golden Keys. Peter Sís. New York: Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1994, 64 pp. Available in bookstores and libraries

Visit the Prague of Peter Sís' Childhood By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

Czech-born illustrator and writer Peter Sís has produced many children's books since his early days as a filmmaker. Among his many honors are the Hans Christian Andersen Medal, *The New York Times Book Review* Best Illustrated Book of the Year award (seven times), and a Caldecott Honor for illustrations. Educated at the Academy of Applied Arts in Prague and the Royal College of Art in London, he travelled to the United States in 1982 to work on an animated film, remained, and was granted asylum.

The Three Golden Keys is especially touching since it tells the protagonist's story of returning to Prague just a few years after the Velvet Revolution, guided by the family cat through familiar neighborhoods. By the library, the Emperor's garden, and the town-square clock, ethereal figures unroll scrolls that hold the three keys to his childhood home and relate traditional Czech stories. Sis shares with the reader legendary figures that are well-known, such as the Golem, a mythical man created by Rabbi Loew, and lesser known, including Prince Bruncvík, whose magic sword is said to be contained in one of the Charles Bridge pillars, and Master Hanuš of Růže, who produced the wonderful astronomical clock in Old Town Square in 1490.

Sís dedicated this charming, evocative, fantastic tale to his daughter Madeleine, who he writes was "born in New York, in the New World, and surely you will be wondering one day where your father came from. This book is to explain just that."

The book begins, "Madeleine, a wild and turbulent storm took control of my hot-air balloon and sent me off course. When the storm finally calmed, I found myself floating toward the spires of a big city... Could it be that the storm had taken me all the way back to Prague, where I grew up? Would I still remember the way through the twisting streets to my family house? ... The cat waits for me as I wander the empty streets filled with December memories—my sister's birthday, Saint Nicholas with his angel and his devil, 'Presents for the good children, coal for the bad!' Christmastime with carp in the bathtub, family visits, and a magical tree."

The Three Golden Keys appeals to readers of all ages. The fantastical visual images are a delight for youngsters and adults. Imagine a man and a cat sailing through the clouds on the Vltava River, time travelers caught in one frozen universal second on the Charles Bridge, a librarian and literary characters made of books who emerge from the shelves, and an emperor taking shape from flowers, plants, and fruit. Sís' illustration style is amazingly detailed, down to multitudes of Prague cobblestones and roof tiles. Laid out across roughly 21" by 24" spreads, each of the three legends with main illustrations is surrounded with 24 smaller illustrations.

The next Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures: 10:00 a.m. to noon at C.S.P.S. Hall, **Saturday, March 28**. Discussion of the book *War with the Newts* by Karel Čapek.

Gwen coordinates the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. For more information: <www.cs-center.org> or contact <gwen@cs-center.org>.

The Czech and Slovak Cultural Center Events Community Room, City Bella, 6600 Lyndale South, Richfield

Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m., the film, *Burning Bush*, part 2. This drama focuses on the personal sacrifice of a Prague history student, Jan Palach, who set himself on fire in protest against the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1969 (see page 9, February *Slovo* for details).

Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m., Dr. Anna Matušková lectures from Prague: "Can We Say That?" Experiences in Managing Czech and Slovak Political Campaigns. The presentation focuses on Dr. Matušková's experiences managing political campaigns, including Karel Schwarzenberg's 2012 presidential campaign, the 2013 campaigns of the ANO party in the Czech Republic, as well as campaigns in Kosovo and Egypt. Dr. Matušková teaches political marketing and strategy at Charles University, Institute of Communications and Journalism (IKSŽ) in Prague. She was a 2007 Fulbright Research Fellow at Columbia University's Institute for Social and Economic Research. Since 2006, she has been a vice-chair of Evropské hodnoty, the European Values Think Tank in Prague.

Movie Review: *The Castle* By Cinnamon Whaley

Michael Heneke's 1997 film adaptation of Franz Kafka's 1922 novel *The Castle* follows a land surveyor, "K," who has just arrived in a village with the expectation of beginning his new assignment. Straightaway he's blocked from doing so after being awoken on his first night to be told he doesn't have the necessary permit to stay within the vicinity of the castle. After a number of phone calls with



villagers and representatives of the castle, he's allowed to stay and told he must report to Klamm, a castle official. Two assistants appear, having been assigned to him by the castle, although they admit to having no knowledge of land surveying. K decides to call them both "Arthur," although one is named Jeremiah.

A number of absurd comedy gems such as this are provided as the movie unfolds, while K tries to find answers to his questions around why he was called upon, whether there is any work at all for him to do, and whether he can ever reach the castle and/or Klamm. He meets with a number of bureaucrats along the way who either openly or indirectly are unhelpful and usually add nothing to clarify K's situation. Rather like purgatory, K continues to push on with little reward.

K's character is not shy or cowardly; he continually approaches people for information, but he never receives clear direction, leaving the castle and Klamm in vague ambiguity. Following K's story makes you feel uncomfortable and lost yourself, wondering when he will awaken from this bad dream. Heneke is an Academy Award winning director and seeing him adapt Kafka was a pleasure.

> Collect - Gather - Clean Out! Support our Sokol Garage Sale: May 14 -15 Drop off: Wednesday, May 13, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Part 3 of an ongoing series. Here is the recollection from Adriana Wenberg, one of the '48er/'68er/'89er Panelists at our September 26, 2014, Featured Friday Members' Meeting, which celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and the fall of communism (November 17, 1989). Also Hana Matousek, a '68er, shares the first of her two-part recollection. If you are a '48er/'68er/'89er and would like to share you experience, you are welcome to send it (600-800 words) to <slovo@sokolmn.org>

Memories of Childhood in Communist Czechoslovakia By Adriana Wenberg

I was 13 years old when the Velvet Revolution happened in 1989. Being raised under communism wasn't bad at all for me as a child. As a child, you are not directly impacted by the political system you are raised or live under. What you care about is being loved by your parents and family while having friends around. I did have it all and had a beautiful childhood in a lovely Czechoslovak (CS) village called *Jerichov*.

I realized that I lived in a communist country when I was about 11 or 12 years old. I learned about communist countries and about capitalism in school. I learned that capitalist countries were our enemy! We were taught that there was high unemployment, poverty, and racial issues in those countries. I realized there was something not completely right about communism when I started to receive secret lessons in church. Every Saturday morning we had classes to prepare us for confirmation. My parents told me not to mention these secret lessons to anyone.

I distinctly remember my grandma's uncle from West Germany visiting in 1985 or 1986. This visit was exciting, not only for the kids but adults too. As kids, we were excited about what kind of

Prague's Winter Alchemy By Vanda Kašová, columnist from Prague

The great thing about winter in Prague is that darkness comes early in the afternoon. Streetlights and snowflakes falling from the sky create a magical atmosphere that makes you want to walk around and then sit in a small coffee shop in one of the picturesque crooked streets in the city center. There you would drink hot wine and listen to the stories of the great history of these places. Let's imagine that this is all happening. And I will tell you one of my favorite legends.

In the 16th Century, Prague was the real heart of European culture and alchemy. But it was also a time of great fear in the Jewish quarter. Houses and the people living in them were often attacked due to their wealth. At that time an old Jewish man named Rabbi Loew lived in one of those houses. To get some help and to protect himself and his neighbors, he decided to use his knowledge to create a very strong creature. From the clay of the river Vltava he made a huge body of a giant, and he called him the Golem. Then he followed an old ritual to bring him to life. The Hebrew word *emet* (truth) was placed on his forehead and with this clay tablet he came alive.

At the beginning, everything went well. The Golem helped the old man to carry heavy bags from the local market, kept peace in the streets, and became very popular. But then, as it usually is with this kind of supernatural powers, he grew too strong, too powerful, and aggressive. Even though Rabbi Loew tried to stop him, he started to uproot trees in the streets and destroy houses. People were scared. They begged Rabbi Loew to stop the violent deeds of the creature. So he hurried home and removed the tablet from the Golem's forehead. The life came out of the body made of clay and he was once again a motionless figure. Rabi Loew placed the body under the roof of Prague's Old-New Synagogue, where it is said to be to this day. To make sure nobody would use this power again, stairs that led to the old attic were removed and entrance was forbidden. This was an end of the Golem and the beginning of the great legend. It is just one of many legends that you can hear when you explore the fascinating history of Prague.

gifts we would receive. We received chocolate and calculators. I remember the cover of the box of chocolates being full of colors and so different from what we got in CS. I began to collect the covers from the boxes of chocolate. This uncle was amazed at how inexpensive products were in CS. Each day, uncle took the kids to buy ice cream. That was a wonderful summer for us kids. *Tuzex* was a store where one could purchase limited items from the West, such as jeans (known as rifle, pronounced ree-fla), sweets, coffee, cigarettes, televisions, and cassette tape recorders. The store's name was a contraction of *tuzemský* export (domestic export). The store had its own currency, the bon; the Czechoslovak koruna was not accepted. These stores were only in the bigger towns. The closest *Tuzex* to my village was in the town of Trenčín or in Piešťany. I don't recall the exchange rate of CS koruny to bony or how much a family or individual could purchase in the *Tuzex* store, but there was a limit. My family purchased our first tape recorder from Tuzex. My parents saved for a very long time.

One or two years prior to November 17, 1989, we went to an open market in *Slušovice* in Moravia, where one could purchase Western goods such as clothes, shoes, music cassettes, and the magazine *Bravo* (a German teen magazine). We did see police observing market sellers and buyers. As I remember, the market seemed to be tolerated by the police without interference.

During Christmas, there were long lines to buy tropical fruit. This was because of the limited amount of fruit available. In some cases, we waited one or two hours in line without knowing if there would be anything available once we were in the shop. There were, however, plenty of Cuban oranges.

There was one type of grocery store called *Jednota* (which is a chain that still survives.) Although almost everything was available, the food selection was limited. For example, you could choose only from two kinds of milk or bread.

My father was never a member of the communist party. When he was a young man, he had to complete his mandatory military service in the CS army. He did it close to *Znojmo* on the Moravian/Austrian border. My father did think about the possibility of leaving his post and crossing to Austria as a refugee. In the end, he did not because it was too dangerous and he could have easily been killed.

I translated a story for my husband Jeff about a car accident my father had near our village. The accident was between two cars. Once the police came to investigate, the officer had one question for each driver. "Are you in the communist party?" The other man in the accident said yes, he was let go with no penalty. My father said he was not in the party, and he was penalized without further investigation.

My memories of communism are somewhat limited, as I was young and really just following the guidance of my parents. We lived on a farm, so between what our farm produced combined with the goods available on the market, I felt that we had all we needed. As kids, we played and enjoyed village life with little thought of communism. It was only after the fall of communism that I started to realize there was a difference between communism and capitalism, but even then I still lived the life of a village child for a few more years.

Život v komunismu / Life under Communism By Hana Matousek

Preparing this description of my young years in Czechoslovakia, I found it quite difficult to lift all those images from the now deep places in my memory. The theme of this article is "my memories of a life in the communist era." Without going into a very detailed description of the international, political, economic, and social situation of that era, I hope the readers will take these factors, as many as they are themselves aware of, into consideration.

We are talking about the early era of the communist takeover of the Czech government in 1948, after which the first wave of mostly educated, professionally trained, and mainly communismopposing Czechs emigrated abroad to the free world. In a nutshell, the communist idea is to take from the rich to give to the poor. And under Soviet control, the new, self-appointed government of 1948 set out to do just that.

This process of displacing the old democratically-elected leadership and replacing it with communist ideologues and ruthless Party men took most of the first decade, the 1950s. Party purges, puppet courts, and severe punishments were rampant. The jailing of members of opposite parties, bank presidents, former members of parliament, high-ranking Czech army officers, and just anyone in opposition was common.

These were tragic years for the Czechoslovak people. Those who owned anything of value, big or small, sooner or later lost it. And yes, these were the years of the "new land order" when the farmers lost their land, which in some cases had been held in the same family for generations. The Czechoslovak aristocracy emigrated or was forced out of their ancestral homes and lands also. The new government, under directives from Moscow and under the control of KGB agents, sent their henchmen far and wide to follow the orders.

And here is where my first "political" memory lies: my parents owned and ran a watch and jewelry shop on the main floor of our house on the main street of a medium-sized city in south Morava. Soon enough my parents learned about the changes and consequent socio-political results for the whole country. We lived upstairs, and mother had a nanny for us children. Nanny Jozka was a young girl from a nearby village and had a small handicap: her speech was not fully developed. Her parents were happy my mother took her in. Now, reluctantly, my mother had to let our well-liked Jozka go. We all cried. Father had a couple of employees in a shop, whom he also let go with a heavy heart. The official Party slogans, blared to the population, were full of victory and success, but the grapevine news was dreadful. People anticipated the future with much apprehension and fear.

Then one day they came, the local STB, the Statni Bezpecnost (State Security). They officially presented my parents with confiscation papers and made their first "walk-through" of the premises to inventory the wares and the furnishings of the downstairs shop and upstairs living guarters. To a small child like me, they all looked very tall and ominous in their long leather coats. I clung to my grandma, whose presence they strongly questioned, but they relented when my father said she was his mother visiting for just a few days. They prowled the building from the cellar to the attic, scrutinizing and noting every single thing in their papers. I remember after they finally left that grandma almost collapsed, shaking like a leaf throughout this ordeal. But my parents felt much relieved and even somewhat victorious. I learned the reason later; my father had asked grandma to come in her special village clothing with wide skirts for a secret reason. Both grandma and my mother wore special underwear, in the United States known as bloomers, which were

packed with the highest quality of jewelry, gold, and diamonds, as much as they could safely carry around and which of course was *not* on The List!

Kudos to my father! He realized he couldn't escape the inquisition, so at least he tried to outsmart them. Father's profession helped him avoid punitively being assigned work mending the streets. Being trained as a fine mechanic, he had worked throughout World War II as a technician making aircraft control devices. The communists put him in a similar kind of work, but where all the production went east to the Soviet Union.

His work was located quite far from our town, so in subsequent years he did not have too much time for the family. He left daily, even on Saturdays, at 4:00 a.m. and returned home at 5:30 p.m. He also understood German, having been born in Vienna; I remember him daily tuning his radio to Radio Free Europe very, very quietly. (In those years, even the walls could talk!) Every piece of even the slightest good news from the West was eagerly absorbed, carefully commented upon, and intensely debated in low voices, almost whispering, with Mother. We children, if present, were strongly reminded to never ever say a peep about anything we saw or heard at home, to anyone outside, or else we'd be severely punished. This from my father, who hardly ever otherwise punished us. He did not have to be too explicit; we somehow knew that he would be the one punished.

Yes, for a long time the Czechoslovak people wished for some sort of intervention from the West, sort of like another liberation by General Patton's army! This awful, cruel, tyrannical system could not go on for much longer, could it?

(The conclusion of Hana's story will be published in the April 2015 Slovo.)



ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER! Sokol Minnesota 2015 Events

Taste of Slovakia Dinner March 8, Sunday, 12:30 p.m. Reservations by March 1: 763-571-6091

Pancake Breakfast with Craft/Bake Sales Sunday, March 29, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please Donate Baked Goods Rent/Reserve a vendor table: 651-426-2826 Pre-order *koláče*: 651-290-0542

Šibřinky Dance \$12 at the door Supper food for sale. April 18, 4 to 10 p.m.

Festival of Nations, Saint Paul RiverCentre April 30 to May 3

Support our **Sokol Garage Sale:** May 14 to 15 Drop off: Wednesday, May 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Czech - Slovak Festival NEW DATE! September 27

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook: www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org



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