



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

## 2009 Play at our Sokol Theater: Karel Švenk's "The Last Cyclist"

The scene is the Terezin Concentration Camp in Czechoslovakia during World War II. A shadowy figure stands at side of stage or is heard as a voice-over. It is Jana Sedova, the woman who plays Manicka opposite Karel Švenk (the playwright's Borivoj Abeles in "The Last Cyclist." She is remembering back from much later in her life since all the other actors perished in the camp.



family and friends are or what has happened to them. Forget about the transports. For now, none of it matters. For now, the only thing that matters is what takes place here on this stage. What matters is that we are strong and courageous and proud. Our lives are not worthless. We are no one's misfortune. Okay. Time to warm up our voices. Terezin Hymn.

First chorus. Let's hear all those vowels and consonants..."

"Give me your attention, everyone. I want you to focus. You are actors. You are on the stage. Forget Terezin. Forget your exhaustion. Forget your hunger. Forget that you itch all over from lice and fleas. Forget that you don't know where half of your

Of the vast majority of Czech Jews who were taken to Terezin 97,297 died, among whom were 15,000 children. Only 132 of those children were known to have survived.

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### Upcoming Events

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**Expressions of Stability and Change: Ethnic Dress and Folk Costume** thru June 14  
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**Honoring Veterans: Past and Present Exhibit** May 7-June 13  
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**Membership Meeting** May 29

**"The Last Cyclist" play** June 5 & 6, 7:30 pm, June 7, 2 pm  
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**Slovo July Deadline** June 10

**Culture Camp** June 15-19, 8:50 am  
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## 13th Annual Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp

by Louise Wessinger, Education Director

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota has a tradition of supporting educational, cultural, social, and athletic activities. This year we are offering our thirteenth annual youth day camp. Our program provides campers with the opportunity to not only learn about Czech and Slovak heritage but also provide personal growth and cultural enrichment through social and recreational activities. Camp will be held June 15 to 19, 2009 at our historic CSPS (Sokol) Hall. Each day camp will be held from 8:50 to 3:00pm. Boys and girls must be 7 (must have completed first grade) to 14 years old to participate. Older youth are encouraged to volunteer at camp as Junior Leaders who will help adult leaders with activities. Limited after-camp care is available until 4:00 PM for an additional fee.

Activities for the week include gymnastics, folk art, ethnic sewing, dancing, crafts, cooking, stories and legends, castles, singing, games, folk customs etc. Every year we try to have a different theme and to vary the activities to mix in new activities with old favorites! This year we will be exploring the wonderful world of Slovak and Czech stories and legends through film, plays, storytelling, and puppetry as well as the written tale. Children bring their own healthy lunch each day. Milk and snacks are provided. Camp is limited to 40 campers.

Fees for a full week are \$85 for children or grandchildren of Sokol members and \$115 for non-Sokols. One child may attend camp for \$35 with each adult who volunteers for the full week. Limited scholarships are available.

For further information or registration you may go to the Sokol website at [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org) or call Louise Wessinger at 651-452-6240.



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**President Komentář/President's Note**

By Joe Landsberger

*Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters*

This month's focus is about Sokol de Paris. As part of a trip to France in April, I sent an email to their contacts and received a warm enthusiastic response. What follows is my impression of their unit.

My main contact was André Bascoulergue: a perfect guide! André is my age, 63, and is not Czech or Slovak, but rather came to Sokol through a work colleague/friend and embraced the Sokol philosophy and spirit. As a fit walker, each Saturday morning he also goes rowing with friends as his fitness routine. He is also very interested in developing international learning



A crackling fire reflects a warm Sokol reception



Under the flowering apple trees of Cathédrale Notre Dame de Paris, Joe and André enjoyed their *piqueunique* and a lovely French wine.

communities of young Sokols as the future of our organization. André and I walked the streets of Paris—including Montmartre, the Panthéon and the Latin Quarter, and a *piqueunique* in the shadow of Notre Dame. One evening he treated me and Sokols Daniel and Irène Vlach to a typical French dinner with lively conversation (in French!) on the nature and future of our units. The next day after our walk we headed out on Paris' efficient transit system, *métro*, to their Sokol "chalet" in Gournay where I met their president, Jiří Bystřický and his wife Jiřina, along with their two grandchildren. While André entertained the children with stories punctuated with laughter, Jiřina prepared another typical French meal topped with a good Czech apple strudel, and Jiří and I reviewed their grounds, archives and history. They have just published the Sokol de Paris history

in Czech and French, and gave me a copy for our library along with the past two issues of their quarterly newsletter. Here is a summary of their unit:

Similar to our own unit, Sokol Paříž/Sokol de Paris rose out of a cultural immigrant organization l'Amicale Tchèque-Morave/Česko-Moravská Beseda founded in 1862. Sokol founder Miroslav Tyrš visited in 1868, and in 1879 the name changed to Česko-Slovanská Beseda. After the second slet in Prague in 1891, gymnastics became a beseda component, and the Sokol unit itself was officially founded in 1892. From its beginning recreation, conferences, and annual balls were part of its agenda.



President Jiří Bystřický and his wife Jiřina

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At this time Sokol de Paris participated in gymnastics programs throughout France, as well as with other “Czech societies” including gardeners, cyclists, students, socialists, and an emergency fund. What strikes me in the book are the numerous early photos that could easily be mistaken for those of our own unit: whether gymnastic or uniformed attire.

In the First World War, the Sokol battalion “Compagnie Nazdar” suffered heavy losses for the French side, and the unit created a fund to support the wounded and widowed, and protested the dissolution of Sokol in Prague. Tomáš Garrigue Mazaryk, who would become the first Czech president, was also present. The between-war period was dynamic for the unit, and membership grew to 270 in 1938. Just before the German occupation following the slet in 1938, the unit was fortunate to withdraw its savings from banks in Prague, and with the proceeds purchased their current property in Gournay sur Marne, a suburb of Paris. (The River Marne flows across the street from their property.)

The Gournay chalet/complex of just over an acre of land holds two buildings: the main center has a dining room/bar, kitchen and small multi-purpose/gymnastics room. The second building holds its library, archives and storage. Collections to 1980 were transferred to the National Archives in Prague in 1994. Members often travel to the site on weekends and camp since it is a distance from the city and the métro. The first Sunday of each month (in good weather) there is a gathering with food and beer, and each year three events are featured: the opening of the season with commemoration of war dead, a volleyball tournament in May, and the feast of St. Wenceslaus in September. In 1954 they hosted a European regional slet, and in 1990 an international slet. Cultural activities would be very familiar to Sokol Minnesota, and in 1997 a folk dance group was created.

Sokol de Paris is similarly challenged as are units throughout the world, and members are responding thoughtfully and creatively. My friend André is working on a project connecting young Sokols aged 7 to 13 throughout the world via the Internet. Membership in their Sokol is about 100, and the outlying location of their facilities also presents a unique set of problems for their future. The publication of their history will provide an excellent framework for meeting them, and I look forward to working with them as a sister unit.

*Nazdar, Bro. Joe*

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*“The Last Cyclist” continued*

Sokol Minnesota is proud to partner with the Lex-Ham Community Theater and the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center in bringing you Švenk’s *Last Cyclist* in Sokol Minnesota’s theater, the oldest in the State of Minnesota. The US premiere of *The Last Cyclist*, Karel Švenk’s cabaret, has been adapted by Naomi Patz and is directed by Adam Arnold.

This year the play will be performed in three locations: at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6, and 2 p.m. Sunday June 7 in our historic Sokol Theater. Additional performances will take place June 11 and 14 at the Jewish Community Center; and June 12 and 13 at the Good Samaritan United Methodist Church in Edina. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for children, students and seniors age 65 and older. A discount is available to Sokol members. For further information, please see the Sokol Minnesota Web site at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org).

Scholar Lisa Peschel and the playwright Naomi Patz will also lecture on “The Cultural Life of the Thereisenstadt Ghetto.” Lisa is a doctoral candidate in Theater Historiography at the University of Minnesota, and is writing her dissertation about survivor testimony on the cultural life of the Theresienstadt ghetto. In the fall of 2008 she published a collection of scripts written in the ghetto. Lisa and Naomi will speak about the context in which the play *The Last Cyclist* was created. The program is sponsored by the Jewish Community Center on Thursday, June 4th at 7:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public. All visitors must have photo identification for entry.

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## **Finance Committee (Thank you for your donations!)**

by Jeanette Pafko, Finance Recording Secretary

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

### **Building Fund (We use these funds to match our grant requirements)**

\$100-\$499: Mary Tesarek, Frank Loss  
To \$100: Richard Mashek

### **General Fund:**

\$100-\$499: Lodge Orel No. 69 in honor of Sokol Minnesota’s 125th anniversary (overlooked in 2008!)

## The Art of (Not) Paying Attention by Cinnamon Whaley



photo by Cinnamon Whaley

I'd just returned from Las Vegas and knew that I needed to cook this month's recipe that day, among a handful of other things and was a bit distracted. Phyllis and I spoke prior to my trip about making Pineapple Dessert and I was grateful for the simplicity of the recipe given my timeframe. Everything started out fine; I used more crackers for the crust but otherwise was on a roll. I realized I forgot fresh lemons and am happy to report that I live 5 blocks from the grocery store and an extra trip was not a big deal.

Lemons retrieved and squeezed, I began pouring my mixture on the crust. As I was pouring I looked over and saw the full container of Cool Whip! I stopped pouring and contemplated my options. I mixed up the pineapple mixture I'd poured in with the crust and tasted it. Pretty darn good! I added more crackers to distribute the mixture and keep the crust "crusty." Grocery store trip number three for more pineapple, condensed milk, and lemons. Mixing these up, I was on my way again.

I really enjoy pineapple and how could you go wrong with pineapple, butter and Cool Whip! Phyllis spoke of how she's made this for Easter for years and that it's a great light, spring treat. I completely agree! I will also be serving this at Easter! While I strayed from the recipe a bit and have pineapple mixed in to my crust (which makes it a bit sticky) it really is a nice cool dessert for spring! This recipe is not in our Sokol cookbook but is a tasty dessert that can be made ahead of time.

### Pineapple Dessert

1.5 Packages Keebler Toll House crackers  
1/2 Cup butter or Oleo  
8 oz can Condensed sweetened milk  
8 oz can crushed pineapple with juice  
1/3 cup lemon juice, bottled or fresh (three lemons)  
12 oz Cool Whip



Crush one package (of four in the box) of Keebler crackers. Melt 1/2 cup butter. Mix and press in to a 9x13 pan. In large bowl, mix condensed sweetened milk, pineapple with juice, and lemon juice. Fold in 12 ounces of Cool Whip. Pour over crust. Crush a half package of crackers and sprinkle over top. Cover with foil and freeze. Take out 20 minutes prior to serving.

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## Exhibition of Folk Costume At the University of Minnesota by Marit Lee Kucera

Expressions of Stability and Change: Ethnic Dress and Folk Costume, is the current exhibition at the Goldstein Gallery Museum that runs through June 14. Ethnic dress provides a visual and emotional connection between members of an ethnic group and place. Drawn from the Goldstein's collection of international apparel, this exhibition showcases special occasion apparel that expresses aspects of both stability and change. Even though no Kroj is on exhibition, Slavic costumes on display include Slovenian and Ukrainian. The collection at the Goldstein does include a Kroj, which can be viewed by special arrangement with the staff. The Goldstein is located at 241 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota. 612-624-7434 Hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10-4; Thursday, 10-8; Saturday-Sunday, 1:30-4:30. Free admission. Sunday parking in nearby Gortner Ramp is free. For more information, visit the website: <http://goldstein.design.umn.edu/exhibitions>

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## Who Wants to Kill Jessie? (1966) Film not rated by Cinnamon Whaley

"Who Wants to Kill Jessie" is a quirky film about married scientists, one of which, Rosie, builds a machine that allows her to view the dreams people are having while they sleep. First tested on a cow, not only do we see what the cow is dreaming but they inject her with a solution that makes her dreams better! Strangely, the flies that were plaguing the cow in it's dream have suddenly appeared in the lab...

Rosie's husband Harry is not as lucky in his career. He begins reading a comic book about Jessie, a beautiful inventor of things like antigravity machines. Villains chase Jessie and try to steal her gadgets. For better or worse, Henry begins dreaming about Jessie. In his dreams, Jessie and the villains speak in comic bubbles, a fun twist. Rosie discovers that Henry is dreaming of Jessie and injects him with her "world famous" solution. When they awake in the morning, Jessie and the villains have been made real - and still speak in comic bubbles!

This is a great example of comic 60's sci-fi and it's interesting to see that it wasn't just the USA who was a little adventurous in the 60's! This isn't a deep and thoughtful movie but definitely has a fun plot. The film is not rated but I'd suggest screening it for teenagers, for some adult content.



## Sokol MN – Participation in the 2009 American Sokol Slet

by Norm Petrik, Men's Physical Director

Since January 5th, seven Sokol Minnesota members have been rehearsing the Senior II Calisthenics twice a month for the American Sokol Slet in Fort Worth June 23-27, with Doreen McKenney as our outstanding instructor!

American Sokol has a Slet every four years, the last one being in Chicago in 2005. Our last worldwide Slet was in Prague in 2006, and they are held every six years. We are performing in groups of nine, with six women and three men per square. There are nine person squares all over the performing area, with persons from Sokol units throughout country doing the same movements to music.

This year's Slet has three parts done to three different songs: "To Our Maidens," "Coming to America," and "America the Beautiful." There are groups of all ages participating in the Slet, doing different routines at different times. Our seven Sokol members who are now signed up for the Slet include Jean Hall, Marit Lee Kucera, Mary Cahill, Hana Matousek, Joyce Tesarek, Lloyd Krocak, and Norm Petrik. We thank Doreen McKenney for teaching us, and unfortunately she will not be able to join us at the Slet this year.

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## Representative Betty McCollum visits Sokol Minnesota

On April 16, Congresswoman Betty McCollum visited the CSPS Sokol Hall with her Chief of Staff Bill Harper and Scheduler/Office Manager Tod Herskovitz. Betty represents the Fourth Congressional District that includes St. Paul, and holds the prestigious position of Senior Democratic Whip within the House Democratic Caucus. She is also one of three House members appointed to serve on the National Council on the Arts, and is very interested in being an advocate and supporting our work in bringing our 121-year hall to current standards. As part of the US Interior Department's program "Saving America's Treasures" she submitted a FY 2010 Interior Subcommittee Appropriations Project Request which needs to go through the budgeting process. (cf:<http://mccollum.house.gov/index.asp>) The CSPS Sokol Hall



was declared a State and Federal Historic Site and placed on the National Register in 1977. Sokol should hear in October of this year if we are to receive funding to continue our work installing a fire protection sprinkling system. The tour began in the mezzanine level meeting room and they were most impressed with our collection, with lots of questions on the future, preservation and cataloguing of our archives. While the hall was filled for our garage sale that day, Betty prioritized seeing the stage. She remarked that it was the first time she saw the mechanisms for lowering/raising the backdrops as they were originally used. Of course, the tour concluded in the basement which has become quite a tour destination. Betty's St. Paul office is in the basement of Blair House—which has similar stone foundation walls. The red pressed brick and Bayfield sandstone structure sits on the corner of Selby and Western Avenues in the National Register's Hill Historic District of St. Paul.

The Arts and Heritage Center of Montgomery, Minnesota invites Sokol Minnesota to view the "Honoring Veterans: Past and Present Exhibit" May 7 – June 13. The exhibit includes Saturday, May 23 7 p.m. performances of World War II stories of the *Mushroom Picker* by Patrick Dewane, and *My War: From Bismarck to Britain and Back*-- three women reading from letters by Ruth Register and a diary by Edith Christianson. Exhibit hours: Thursdays/Fridays, 2-5 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. – noon. For more information, call 507 364 5497

# My Little Czech Glass Family

by Rosemary Loss Bodien

*Editor's note: Rosie grew up in North St. Paul and now lives in Kirkland, Washington. She is the coordinator for the Czech/Slovak Interest group for the East Genealogy Society. Rosie's parents Lydia and Ladd Loss were active members of Sokol Minnesota.*

I never thought I would be collecting Brychta glass figurines! About 1990 I started researching my mother's family. We always were in touch with my father's family in Czechoslovakia, now the Czech Republic, so I knew about most of them. After my maternal grandmother died in the 60's, we lost touch with my mother's relatives in Bohemia. My mother died in 1984 and I never asked her much about her family.



Slowly I found information from my mother's cousins, sister and my father's records. About that time I needed to find replacement dishes for our Denby pottery which was discontinued. A friend told me to try antique stores. So I found some dishes there, but just loved the brightly colored Czechoslovak pottery and crystal perfume bottles that also caught my eye. That was it! Soon brightly colored Czechoslovak pottery and elegant perfume bottles adorned my dresser and bookshelves! So I bought some books on collecting Czech. I noticed Brychta figurines were featured in one of these books. Soon I joined the Czechoslovakia Collector's Guild International, now no longer existing.\* Their quarterly magazine featured a wonderful article by Joy Kelly called "Lilliputians from Czechoslovakia."

As Joy writes in her article, Jaroslav Brychta worked to perfect the method of making these figurines in Zelezny Brod. Three glassblowers are involved in making one figurine. These figurines depict the Czechoslovak people at work, on holiday, performing daily tasks, their customs and their traditions.

Never had I seen one of these figurines in an antique store. But soon I found them on the internet. The first one I bought is a very scholarly looking gentleman. Hmm, I thought, this man reminds me of Masaryk. He even had the goatee. Slowly I added to my family. I did buy a shoemaker, my Great-Great Grandpa Straka had been a shoemaker in Horazdovice! My Grandpa Loss was a bricklayer in Kladno and here, too. Many times I saw a bricklayer with his wall of bricks on the internet, but either they were too expensive or I got outbid. I finally got the bricklayer, he is my favorite! Next a tall soldier playing a drum was offered online. Gee, Napoleon and his troops came thru Moravia where my Grandma Loss was born. I was quite good at rationalizing how these guys fit into my "family." Next I found a tailor pulling his tread. This guy is a real family member. Great-Grandpa Smetka was a tailor in Hroznova Lhota, Moravia! Then I found colorful musicians. Whose relatives didn't play the accordion or fiddle or another instrument? So I have musicians.



You can find many doctor figurines on the internet auctions. You can find a vet, an obstetrician, doctors with stethoscopes or needles, a pharmacist, an eye doctor, a surgeon, a heart doctor, a nurse and even dentists! Recently I did buy the dentist for a Czech relative who had a dentist in their family. You won't catch me buying one of the dentist figurines for myself, tho. That would bring back memories! It was 1997 and my husband and I had been visiting Straka relatives in Horazdovice, CR. I thought I was getting a sinus infection so cousin Vaclav took me to his doctor. She knew it was not a sinus infection and told Vaclav to take me to his dentist. Well, if the dentist office was as old as the doctor's office, I wasn't going. Thank goodness it was a brand new building with modern equipment. Of course I could speak only a little Czech and no one there spoke English, but the dentist took an x-ray and said no problem, he could take care of it. He did. He did a root canal with no novocaine. Once he stopped drilling I would not open my mouth again. Soon he got an English-Czech

dictionary and I realized he was just going to pack the hole, no more drilling. So I let him! He didn't even charge me for the dental work, but I didn't appreciate that at the moment. Cousin Vaclav took me to another cousin's home who offered me some Becherovka. That helped!

*continued on next page*

Armed with Joy Kelly's information about the glass factory in Zelezny Brod, my husband and I visited the CR in 2002. ( I visited my dentist before I left to make sure all was well! ) It was autumn and the train ride there was spectacular. The next day we visited the factory. When I saw the showroom with all the figurines and glass items, I was thrilled. I travel light, with a backpack on rollers. Alas! Where do I put a couple figurines? We managed. My husband took one in his luggage, too. There are very few women figurines, so I chose the Babicka carrying her pray book. I have both my Great- Grandma Kure's and Great-Great Grandma Straka's prayer books. This figurine is an authentic member of the family. Next I picked out a farmer carrying a bag of grain on his back. Most of my ancestors were farmers!

Online at home, I had seen a picture of a Brychta gal and guy dancer figurine in colorful costumes. That figurine brought back wonderful memories of learning to polka and waltz with my dad at the St.Paul MN Sokol Hall. In 1988 I went with my dad to Czechoslovakia to see the Bohemian and Moravian relatives. He arranged for the Moravian relatives to have a Kyjov kroj made (folk costume) for me. What fun it was putting on all the pieces of the kroj and then, of course, dancing with my cousin Jenda, in his living room in Straznice. So this figurine holds special memories for me. Now my husband and I love to contra dance! It is the czech heritage! Soon I found that figurine online!

Now I look for a coal miner figurine, since my Kratinas and Strakas were coal miners. Then my family would be complete! Well, maybe it will never be complete. It is too much fun adding figurines who do somehow fit into my family!

\*Now there is the Czech Collector's Associaton: [www.czechcollectors.org](http://www.czechcollectors.org)



## Sokol Camp 2009

by Jean Verner

After a long winter of rising snowdrifts and dropping temperatures, it's nice to see that spring is finally here. Thoughts are turning to vacations, long walks outdoors, and water-sports. Where to indulge in these rites of spring and summer? How about coming up to Sokol Camp? Being able to rent rooms and spend time at Camp is just one of the perks of being a Sokol member! Come up for the day, the weekend, or a week.

Sokol Camp is just 1 1/2 hours north of the Twin Cities on the north-eastern shore of Cross Lake in Pine City, Minnesota. With a main lodge that has ten bedrooms, a large common room with a fireplace, a large kitchen, two baths and hot and cold running water, Sokol Camp is a convenient and affordable destination.

When you rent time at Sokol Camp you have access to the docks, rowboats, and some of the best fishing spots on the lake. Launch your watercraft at the public access in Pine City and spend the weekend on the water.

Sokol Camp is also a great jumping off point for day excursions. The Northwest Company Fur Post historical reconstruction is just west of Pine City. Hinckley, with its casino and fire museum is 15 minutes north. There are several golf courses nearby and Duluth is less than two hours away.



Watercolor of pencil sketches from a group of 20 by Ferdinand Uebel at Sokol Camp, Pine City, 1954-58.

Along with the water activities and the day trips, there is another favorite thing to do....nothing. There is a wonderful opportunity for relaxation when you spend some time just looking at the lake, listening to loons, or reading on the front steps.

The Sokol Camp season opens with our annual Camp Open-up on April 25, 2009 and ends September 27, 2009 when the shutters go up and screens come down. Dishes are put into storage, the docks are pulled from the lake and the water pump is turned off.

*For more information about using Sokol Camp, please call Jean at 651-426-2826 or 651-210-0401.*



## News of the Unit



Frank Trnka

Two Sokol members have been selected to attend the Czech Language Course in Dobruška, Czech Republic. The Dobruška program was created by Charles University following the fall of Communist rule in Czechoslovakia and numerous members of Sokol Minnesota have participated in recent years. Frank Trnka is eager to have a chance for an extended stay in the Czech Republic with the opportunity to jump start his Czech language skills--a dream of a lifetime. Knowing some Czech will be very helpful in the work he is doing on the Sokol music archives at our hall, as well as his volunteer work with the Czech resources at the genealogy library in South St. Paul. Kathy Roushar Jorgenson is looking



Kathy Jorgenson

forward to improving her Czech language skills. Her ancestry is totally Czech and she has located relatives from both sides and would like to sit at the kitchen table with them and converse on her own.

Sokol Minnesota extends its sincerest condolences to the family of Pat Pavelka. Pat, 68, of Eden Prairie died suddenly on April 8 and is survived by her husband of 47 years, Dave; brother, Don Deline (Mickie); sons, Lee (Elise) and Donald (Sandy); granddaughters, Grace, Megan, Emily, and Rosalyn. She taught for 25 years a teacher in the Eden Prairie Schools, and after retiring, taught teachers at Crown College. A celebration of Pat's life was held at Faith Presbyterian Church, Minnetonka, on Friday, April 17.

Congratulations to Therese and Donn Linscheid's (St. Paul) for their first grandchild, Grant Robert Linscheid, born November 10, 2008. Grant's parents are Neil and Nikki Linscheid, Clarksfield, MN. Neil is an Economic Development Educator at the University of Minnesota Extension Office in Marshall.

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### Membership Committee by Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the March 27 Membership Meeting five were accepted for membership in Sokol Minnesota. Three were Geneva Adams from Minneapolis, who expressed interest in language, dance and history; Lenka Bragg, Minneapolis who expressed interest in the children's dance group for her children ages 4 and 2; and Christine Maghrak from Marshfield, Wisconsin. Mario and Olga Espinosa Splichalovi, from St Paul's West End, joined and have a 3 year old child. Olga helped organize the first "family day" at our Hall. At the April 24 Membership Meeting, six new members were accepted to Sokol Minnesota: Lucille Maghrak from Burnsville, whose interests include language, cooking and dance; and her brother Patrick Maghrak from Blaine, whose interests are cooking, history and various events; Gina Roers, from South St Paul, interests include cooking language and genealogy; Nicole Haakinson, from Woodbury, interests include language, cooking and history. One couple was accepted: Michaela Makarianova-Wentz, and Gary Wentz, from St Paul, they have one child Elizabeth; their interests include dance, and gymnastics for daughter Elizabeth, and dance and various events for themselves. Lucille and Christine Maghrak were present and inducted into membership by taking the Sokol pledge, and received the welcome hug from Georgiana Dolejsi! Welcome to all to Sokol Minnesota!

Many thanks to Ryan Beck-Buysse and his supporting cast of Cinnamon Whaley and Rosemary Baisden for a very informative talk and tasting on Czech, German and Belgian beers. Georgiana Dolejsi's song selections of beer drinking songs were a perfect match, and the crowd of 40 sang and toasted with gusto. The next membership meeting will be held Friday, May 29 with a short program on Joe Landsberger's visit to Sokol de Paris. Join us then, and at our other activities.

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### Trustees Committee by Terry Shima, Trustee Recording Secretary

The Board of Trustees (BOT) conducted a Spring cleanup day on Saturday, April 18 and nine Sokols gathered at the hall to clean out the basement in preparation for the start of the asbestos abatement project. In just four short hours the entire basement was cleaned, organized and all of the trash was taken out to the dumpster, and everything within four feet of the asbestos pipes in the basement had to be moved. The asbestos abatement contractor was scheduled April 22-29 in anticipation of Phase I of the fire suppression system installation. A big thanks goes out to all who participated in this very necessary task. In the vaulted stone basement beer cellar, from top - bottom, left to right: Chuck Draheim, Jeff Martinka, Norm Petrik, Terry Shima, Scott Hinshaw, Cinnamon Whaley, Joyce Tesarek, Mary Cahill, Ed Hamernik (not pictured).





# What's Happening in Cleveland, Ohio Next October?

By Ginger Simek, President, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI)

Cleveland, Ohio is the site of CGSI's 12th Genealogical/Cultural Conference October 14-17, 2009. Greater Cleveland is home to about 50,000 Czechs and an even larger number of Slovaks, as well as a significant number of Rusyns. Dr. Milan Belej, Deputy Director of the Prešov Archives will be coming from the Slovak Republic. Rev. Jan Dus and Dr. Miroslav Koudelka, both experienced family researchers, will be coming from the Czech Republic. Excellent, knowledgeable speakers from the US and Canada will complete the speaker list. Genealogical, cultural, and historical topics will be presented. The topics will appeal to Slovaks, Czechs, Rusyns, as well as to those interested in the background, records, and the effect of the Austrian military on our ancestor's lives.



Bohemian National Hall 1897-1997

As part of the four day conference two Slovak and Czech neighborhood tours will be offered and a tour of the Western Reserve Historical Society. The Society was one of the first institutions in America to collect genealogical material.

An on-site library, sales room, ethnic music and dance performances, and other special events will also be part of the conference program. Information and registration forms are now available. Write CGSI, PO Box 16225, St. Paul MN 55116-0225, or go to CGSI's website: [www.cgsi.org](http://www.cgsi.org)



## Minnesota Association of Museums visits Sokol MN

The Minnesota Association of Museums (MAM) met at the Sokol for a Super Sampler program on immigration on Wednesday, March 18. The evening began with refreshments including fresh kolache made by Phyllis Vosejka, Joe Landsberger and Joe's sister Kaye Goers, and with two tours of the hall. Archivist Joan Sedlacek presented on the mezzanine level meeting room and history of the building, and by request (!) Joe gave a tour of the basement and its beer cave beneath the front sidewalk. The program that followed featured speaker Yorn Yan, who spoke of the different experiences and situations of refugees and immigrants. Sokol Minnesota received a free membership in MAM in gratitude for our generosity in hosting.

## Song of the Month

Submitted by Georgiana Dolejsi

From the songbook  
*Krásná Pasačká* 1993



*Byla Noc Krásná* (A Beautiful Night in May)

1. By-la noc krás - ná, má - jo - vá, ví -  
tr se do ní ti - še nes, zda na to  
dra - há vzpo - me - neš, jak zna - ven jsem  
1. v tvou ná - ruč kles, zda ná - ruč kles.

## Jenůfa at the University Opera Theater

The University of Minnesota School of Music Opera Theater presented *Jenůfa*, an opera by Leoš Janáček April 23-26. According to Wikipedia, he was a Czech composer, musical theorist, folklorist, publicist and teacher. He was inspired by Moravian and all Slavic folk music to create an original, modern musical style. Cinnamon Whaley, Joe Landsberger and Steve Shimer attended the opening performance. The cast was entirely made up of undergraduate and graduate students studying music. Mark Russell Smith conducted and David Walsh directed.

## Official Visit of Slovak Delegation

by Don Pafko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic Designate

On Sunday April 5th and Monday April 6th we were honored to have a delegation from the Slovak Republic visiting our state for purposes of networking and interfacing with the educational community here in Minnesota.

Leading the delegation was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, H.E. Jan Mikolaj and his distinguished entourage of Rectors and Ministry of Education Administrators. Included in the delegation were: H.E. Peter Burian, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States; Dr. Vladimir Bales, Rector of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava; Dr. Anton Cizmar, Rector of the Technical University in Kosice; Dr. Frantisek Gaher, Rector of the Comenius University in Bratislava; Ms. Dagmar Hupkova, Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Education in Bratislava; and Ms. Dana Spankova, Spokesperson of the Minister of Education.



Ms. Dagmar Hupkova, Frantisek Gaher, Jake Slegers, Deputy Prime Minister Jan Mikolaj, Governor Pawlenty, Ambassador Peter Burian, Anton Cizmar, Donald Pafko, Vladimir Bales

The objectives of this official visit were as follows:

- *Contribute to sharing best practices of business-academic cooperation between United States and Slovakia;*
- *To establish contacts with complex system of educational institutions; and*
- *Sharing best practices between United States and Slovakia: charter school system and community college system.*

The delegation arrived Sunday afternoon and began business by an official meeting with Dr. Joseph Nathan, Senior Fellow, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs regarding the charter school system of Minnesota. Following this meeting the delegation was hosted at a gala reception in the Radisson Plaza Hotel. In attendance at this reception were forty distinguished Minnesota educators and public officials. Over wine and hors d'oeuvres, many educational ideas and concepts were shared. This reception was sponsored by Sokol Minnesota, the Czech & Slovak Cultural Center and the Ministry of Education of Slovakia.

Monday morning began a very busy day of educational activities began with a breakfast meeting with Dr. David Jamison of Robert Morris University in Pennsylvania. This meeting included a brief signing ceremony of an agreement of cooperation as well as exchange of ideas.

The delegation then traveled to the Office of the Commissioner of Education of the State of Minnesota, Alice Seagren. Commissioner Seagren discussed education in Minnesota including charter school system, private schools, as well as primary, secondary, and upper level education.

This was followed by a trip to the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Campus, where the delegation was given a brief tour of the Slovak community formerly known as the "Bohemian Flats", as well as a brief car tour of the campus. Then it was off to lunch at Coffman Union hosted by Ms. Meredith McQuaid, Associate Vice President and Dean of the Office of International Programs. In attendance were University officials involved in international activities. While at Coffman Union the delegation met with Dr. George Seldat of Southwest Minnesota State University and Dr. Joseph Opatz President of Normandale Community College.

The delegation then journeyed to our State Capitol in St. Paul for a meeting with Governor Tim Pawlenty. Minister Mikolaj and the Governor exchanged gifts and the Governor discussed with the delegation some of his views of education in Minnesota. After the visit many photos were taken with the delegation and the Governor. This ended the visit to Minnesota and the limousines took the delegation to the airport for their return to Slovakia.

Coordinating the visit in Minnesota were Dr. Josef Mestenhauer, former Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, Don Pafko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic Designate and his wife Jeanette.

Jake Slegers, Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic, and a Minnesota native, coordinated and organized the North American component for the Slovak delegation.



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Dr. Josef Mestenhauser

## Back to the future? or Future is now?

By Josef A. Mestenhauser

We hear these clichés often, mostly in advertising; but most often we do not stop thinking about the kind of nonsense that these phrases represent. Most scholars agree that the human capacity to predict the future is very limited – notwithstanding the many efforts at strategic planning that is widely practiced by businesses and private non-profit organizations. Yet there are many ways that we can predict trends, if not exact course of events. However, these trends tend to be contingent on several scenarios and possibilities. My entire career was and still is in international education – which is

for the future – so I have been following the literature about these contingencies. Three publications came to my attention most recently and reinforced my interest in what is happening not only in the Czech and Slovak Republics, but in the entire European Union. The reinforcement came from a visit of distinguished Slovak educators, including the Minister of Education and three University Rectors who visited the US and the Twin Cities in search of ideas about how to reform educational system to meet the demands of the 21st century – in other words, of the future.

The first publication is a just released intelligence report entitled *Global Trends 2025. A Transformed World* published by the National Intelligence Council, a recently established coordinating agency of all US intelligence services. On its hundred pages the report identified several contingent scenarios that will be facing the US by the year 2025 – all with implications for individual Americans and their organizations, private and public. This report is the fourth installment of documents that are designed to identify the drivers of things to shape the world. The first looked for trends by the year 2010, the second to 2015, and the third to 2020. This fourth and last publication suggests that the “international system as constructed following the second world war will be almost unrecognizable by 2025 owing to the rise of emerging powers, a globalization economy, an historic transfer of relative wealth and economic power from the West to the East, and the growing influence of non-state actors”. Please note that I italicized the last point because it relates to things we do or do not do to help our local organizations think globally.

The second document echoes the first. It is a newly published book by Kishore Mahbubani, the former Singapore Ambassador to the UN and current Dean of the newly established University of Public Affairs in Singapore. The title is *The New Asia Hemisphere: The irresistible shift of Global Power to the East*. The author is a well known and highly respected commentator on international affairs and foreign policies of countries including the US, and often cited in major US journals. As the title indicates, Mahbubani predicts an inevitable rise of countries in the Eastern Hemisphere and speculates on the impact of such rise to the prosperity and peace with the Western powers, especially the US. His contingency is the way in which the US will adjust to the new realities. Will the West embrace these new realities and cooperate with the East, will it retreat into its own fortress, or alternatively, will it insist on the supremacy of its own heritage and mission?

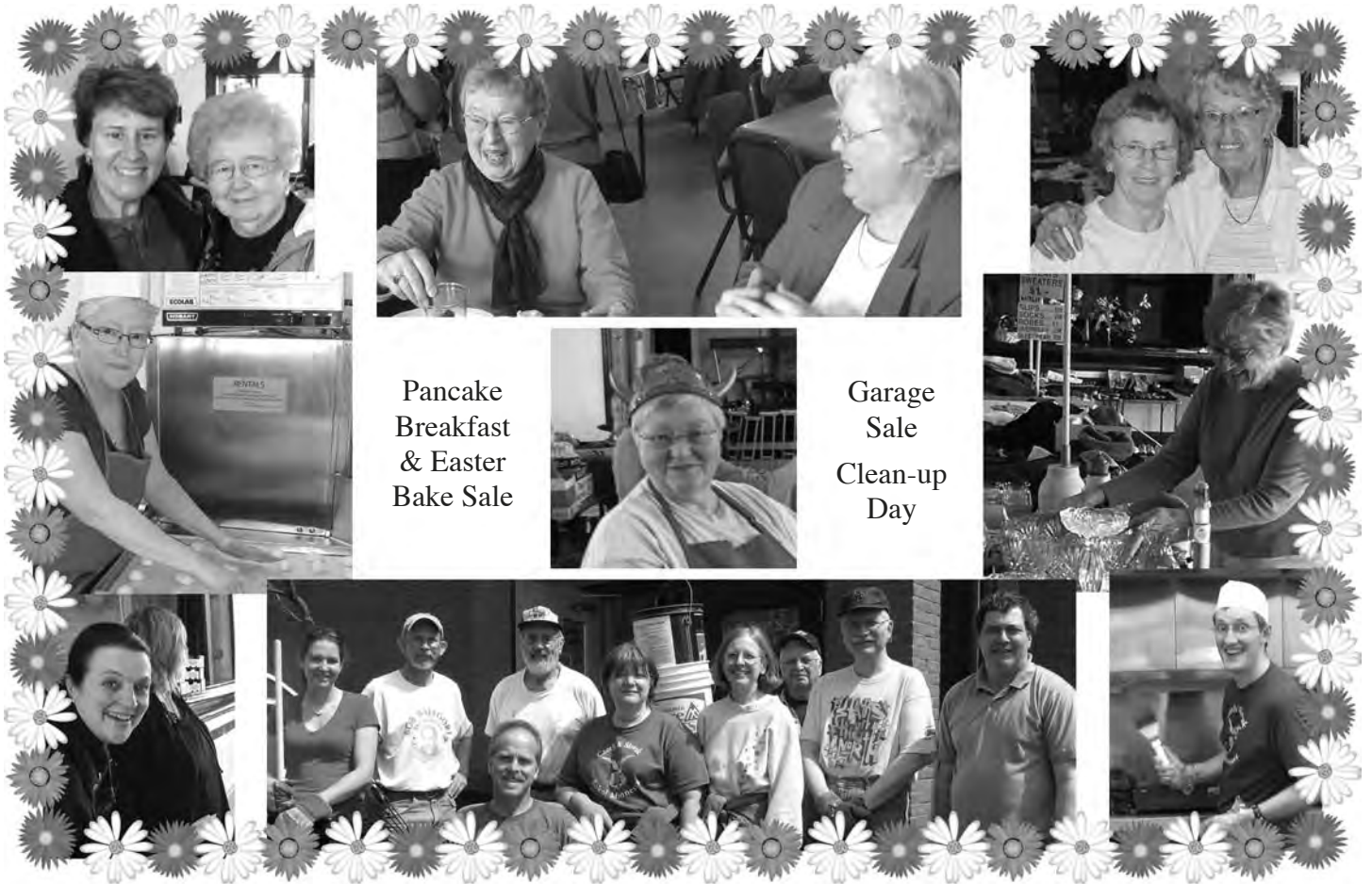
The third book of interest is Fareed Zakaria’s *The Post-American World*. A frequent commentator for CNN, Zakaria provides a well balanced and objective picture not of the “downfall of the West” but of the “rise of the rest”. He provides a rather optimistic picture of the outcome of initial losses for the long term benefits and projects, as do the other publications – a scenario for a peaceful and prosperous world.

There are a number of lessons to learn from these sources. One is the need to recognize that changes will come and that they will require some adjustments if the US is to continue to play an important leadership role in the future world. The second is that education and knowledge of this world will be an essential feature of that adjustment and that we have a long way to go to gain that knowledge. The third implication is that the world forces have equivalents in national and even in local conditions. Appearance of new actors tends to diminish the importance of the traditional sectors, yet the traditional sectors remain important actors nevertheless.

We may well ask if our ethnically based organizations are aware of these trends and if they are prepared to play the part required of them. My guess is that a re-examination of our goals is long overdue and that we would be well advised to educate ourselves to these trends that are already at our doorsteps, even if we do not recognize them. Andy Grove, the founder of Intel Corporation, expressed it this way: “...the worst part is that nobody knows it. They are all in denial, patting themselves on their back as the Titanic heads straight for the iceberg full speed ahead.”

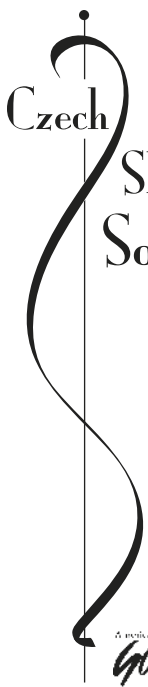
How about organizing another “book club” similar to the jointly functioning Literary Ventures, about these future trends, accompanied by a series of lecture/seminars on the implications of the new theme “forward to the future”?

*Sokol Minnesota Spring Scenes*



Pancake  
Breakfast  
& Easter  
Bake Sale

Garage  
Sale  
Clean-up  
Day



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