

Czech
Slovak
Sokol Minnesota

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

SLOVO

MAY 2011
vol. 34 no. 5

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS is May 5 – 8 Looking for FON? We Need You!

By Mary Cahill

UPCOMING EVENTS

June/July Slovo
Deadline
May 1

Festival of Nations
May 5–8
Saint Paul RiverCentre

Genealogy Class
May 9, 7-9 p.m. (page 4)

Board of Trustees
May 11

Board of Directors
May 12, 7 p.m.

Membership Meeting
May 20, 7 p.m.
Singing 6:30-7 p.m.

Culture Day Camp
June 13-15

Senior Singers
Tuesdays 10 a.m.

Ninety different ethnic groups from around the world share their foods, crafts, and traditions at the 2011 Festival of Nations. Czechs and Slovaks have participated since the Festival's beginning in 1932. Presented by the International Institute of Minnesota, the purpose of the Festival of Nations is to showcase Minnesota's ethnic diversity, encourage ethnic understanding, and unite people through shared values.

This celebration is one of the largest and longest-running multicultural events in the United States. The 2011 Festival of Nations features 60 cultural and educational exhibits, 75 ethnic dance ensembles and musicians, 55 bazaar booths, 35 art demonstrations, and 37 authentic ethnic cafés with more than 300 food items. The Czech and Slovak food menu includes *Jitrnice* (Czech sausage), *Parky* (hot dogs), Pork Burger, Cabbage Rolls, Fried Cheese Sticks, *Kolache* (fruit-filled pastry), Cream Rolls (non-dairy), Coffee, Lemonade, and Water.

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that provides **Fun, Opportunity, and Novelty**? Look no further! Say "yes" to a shift at this year's Festival Of Nations (FON). Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota needs many volunteers to staff participation in the Festival. This year's FON event is May 5 - 8 at The Saint Paul RiverCentre in downtown Saint Paul. Volunteers receive an admission ticket, *kroj* (ethnic costume) to wear while volunteering, on-the-job instructions, and the fun of working with a great group of people. Volunteers are needed in the café, the culture booth, and the bazaar.

It takes *many* people to fill the shifts. For example, the café needs six volunteers per shift, there are 10 shifts, thus 60 people are necessary just to staff the café! We need people to take the customer's orders, help prepare the orders, and fill the orders.

For more information, or to sign up for a shift, please call Mary Cahill, 651-738-9470 (café) or Doreen McKenney, 952-941-0426 (bazaar). Consider recruiting a friend to volunteer with you. Better yet, fill an entire shift with friends and family. The Tesarek-Dolejsi families have done this on Sunday afternoon in the café for the past couple of years; this fantastic group of people has a great time working together and helping out Sokol at the same time. Shifts are 3-4 hours in length. The Festival is open long hours, so there is plenty of time to come before or stay after your shift to take in the various performances and demonstrations, as well as shop the international bazaar and sample ethnic foods in the cafés. Please consider contacting one of us to take a shift, or saying "yes" when we call you.



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

President Komentář/President's Notes By Ed Hamernik

Pozdrav/Greetings! The year 2011 seems to be quickly flying by; a person surely must hustle to keep up with the calendar and to get at least a few things accomplished. (I probably feel this way because I'm getting older.)

The Sokol calendar will be extra busy as the weather warms and planned renovations and repairs get underway. The long-needed heating system overhaul, re-plumbing, and the other projects will reduce maintenance costs significantly, improve energy efficiency, and increase the functionality of the entire building. Other upgrades including a sprinkler system for added safety, sewer re-plumbing, and work required to upgrade the entire basement to create a dry, odor-free, usable space. These are just a few of the planned projects that have been identified as urgent, safety-related projects that we can build on for the total plan.

The overall building plan is ambitious, but it is needed to preserve our Historic Sokol Building as a place where Czechs and Slovaks can gather and share their heritage. To achieve our plan we need support and funds. Joyce Tesarek, Joe Landsberger, plus others have worked diligently to secure grant funds, and we have been blessed with significant success. However, we are far from fully funded. I would like to remind everyone that contributions to this rebuilding plan, large or small, are greatly appreciated. Donations to the CSPS Hall Legacy Building Campaign are tax-deductible. Send checks to Sokol MN, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. We will also have opportunities for members to help on workdays as our projects progress.

Remember our upcoming events: Festival of Nations, May 5–8 Saint Paul RiverCentre; Sokol Board of Directors meeting, May 12, 7 p.m.; and Sokol Membership Meeting, May 20, 7 p.m. *Nazdar!*

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 deadline for the June/July 2011 issue is May 1. *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, makeshift layout editor; J. H. Fonkert and M. L. Kucera, fleeting co-managing editors; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Norm Petrik, Mary Cahill, Jeanette Pafko, Jean Draheim, Cinnamon Whaley, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, advisors. Photographs for this issue were provided by Don Pafko, Jean Draheim, Joan Sedlacek, and Joyce Tesarek. This May 2011 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after May 31.

The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send suggestions, articles, and pictures digitally to <slovo@sokolmn.org>

Slovo now 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 six weeks before publication (April 15 for June/July issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (May 1 for June/July issue).

For problems with subscriptions, please contact us via email <slovo@sokolmn.org>; phone 651-290-0542; or write to *Slovo*. We apologize to any subscriber who missed an issue or who received notice of payment due, when a payment had already been made. Please let us hear from you if you think a mistake has 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. Mail that cannot be delivered comes back to us, costing Sokol an additional 44 cents. If you wish to have the newsletter suspended during the time you are away or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please call, write, or email us. Our email address is <slovo@sokolmn.org> or phone 651-290-0542 or write us at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

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

Volunteer Positions available at Sokol Minnesota.

Webmaster

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Slovo Layout Editor

For information: Jay Fonkert: 651-735-8630 or <jfonkert@aol.com>



Sokol Minnesota hosts Czech and Slovak Curlers By J. H. Fonkert

Sokol Minnesota proudly co-sponsored four Czech and Slovak curling teams that competed in the 2011 World Senior and Mixed Doubles Championships hosted by the Saint Paul Curling Club in Minnesota, held April 16 to 23.

Teams from the Czech Republic competed in the Senior Men's, Senior Women's, and Mixed Doubles divisions. A Slovakian team competed in Mixed Doubles.

Most of our readers probably know more about hair curling than the sport of curling – a game that from a distance looks a bit like team shuffleboard on ice. The object of the game, played through 10 ends, is to place your team's stones closer to "the tee" than the opposing team's stones. Teams consist of four players: a skip, a second, a third, and a lead. Tools of the game are stones, sliders, and brooms. The stones weigh 42 pounds. If you'd like to brush up on all the ins and outs of curling before next season, visit the website of USA Curling at <<http://www.usacurl.org>>.

Sokol welcomed the Czech and Slovak teams with hospitality gift bags and invited them to sneak over to the CSPS Hall between games for our famous American pancakes and French toast on April 17. As this issue of *Slovo* went to press, we did not know the outcome of the competition. To find out how our Czech and Slovak friends fared, check the tournament results at <<http://www.2011worldcurling.com/draw--scores>>.

News from the Board of Trustees By Chuck Draheim

By the time you receive this edition of the *Slovo*, the heating season will be over. Sokol now can work to replace our building's aging steam distribution system. In the first two weeks of March, steam system or plumbing leaks and one drain line backup were dealt with at a cost of more than \$8,000. The Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors intend to have the steam system replaced before the next heating season.

The floor-refinishing project, planned for May 15 – May 31, will be postponed until after all of the construction projects anticipated for this summer have been completed.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Mir Verner for assisting with the cleanup of the basement on March 8 and 9. We bagged up all of the moldy, stinky, water-damaged pull-tabs; swept and scrubbed the basement floor; insulated many feet of sweating, dripping cold water pipes; and disposed of a large quantity of trash that had accumulated in the basement.

Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

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

New memberships: Individual **\$50**; Couple **\$85**. This includes a one-time \$5 fee for registration with our national organization, American Sokol. Year 2011 dues for members joining after June 30 are \$25, individual; \$42.50, couple. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Please make check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Attn: Membership, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Comments from our Paid Subscribers

Compiled by Jeanette Pafko

Thank you for putting together a great newsletter. I enjoy reading it very much - BG, Oregon

I enjoy the articles about the conditions in Bohemia today especially - BT, Minnesota

Great *Slovo* - Very entertaining and informative - keep up the good work - DM, Minnesota

Keep up the good work. Thanks to all - MY, Minnesota

You guys are great - KH, Texas

If you have paid your renewal subscription and have not been credited, please contact us at 651-290-0542 with details of the renewal or email us at <slovo@sokolmn.org>.

Report: March 20 Flavors of Slovakia Dinner By Jeanette Pafko

Once again in March we held a very successful Flavors of Slovakia dinner, featuring a variety of favorite Slovak food prepared under the leadership of Doreen McKenney. Co-chairs were Mary Cahill, Joyce Tesarek, and Jeanette Pafko. It is always great to see the CSPS Hall filled with an enthusiastic crowd. We served 126 dinners. The tables were decorated with small Slovak flags, red flowers, blue tablecloths, white placemats, and red napkins.



Our guests were welcomed by our President Ed Hamernik, followed by a greeting from the Honorary Slovak Consul Donald Pafko. Door prizes donated by the Pafkos were awarded to Dan Washick, Adeline Chovancek, and Mary Beth Redmund. Special thanks go to Joan Sedlacek for her support and work that make many of our events possible.

Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp By Judy Aubrecht, co-director

The 15th annual children's cultural day camp will take place at the CSPS Hall from June 13 to 17. A shorter session is available for those children whose school does not end until June 14. The camp is for boys and girls 7 to 14 years old. Campers learn about Czech and Slovak heritages. Daily activities include gymnastics, language, ethnic stories, singing, dancing, crafts, and cooking. Special activities may include guest speakers, language games, legends and folk tales, holidays, and customs. Fees are \$115 for non-Sokol members and \$85 for Sokol members. For more information or registration materials go to <www.sokolmn.org>.

Education Updates

By Jean Draheim

Genealogy Class, Monday, May 9, 7-9 p.m., is for anyone who wishes to learn how to write all of the wonderful family lore and stories that they have been collecting while doing genealogical research. Linda Coffin, of *HistoryCrafters*, will lead us in setting pen to paper or fingers to keyboard. Linda specializes in helping families get their photos and stories out of the boxes and onto the page.

Sokol Minnesota is co-sponsoring this class with Synnøve-Nordkap, Sons of Norway Lodge #1-008. The fee is \$18 for Sokol or Synnøve-Nordkap members and \$23 for non-members. A second member of Sokol or Synnøve-Nordkap, from the same household, can register for \$12.

Registration is required. Download the form at <www.sokolmn.org>. Send the form and payment to Education Director Jean Draheim by May 5. If you do not have access to our website, please call Jean at 651-426-2826.

Check our website <www.sokolmn.org> for information about **summer classes**.

When you are at CSPS Hall, stop by the **Education Bulletin Board** next to the stairs leading to the third floor. Information about upcoming education offerings are posted as soon as the date/times are finalized; photos of past class sessions are posted. If you want to post information on the bulletin board, please contact Jean Draheim.

Easter Bread Baking: (L-R) Ann Seifert, Roz Ferguson, Jeanette Hulet



Three students and three of our Sokol cooks “rose” to the occasion, braving the icy roads, to bake Easter yeast breads on Saturday, March 12. All loaves were successful! The aroma brought participants from the other room into the kitchen to sniff, savor, and ask about future baking classes. Thanks to Doreen McKenney, Mary Jo Chlebeczek, and Chuck Draheim for leading the fun-filled morning class.

Membership Updates By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the March 25 membership meeting, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota accepted one couple and one individual into membership. Jana and Scott Finley from Blaine were present and inducted by Norm Petrik. Jana is a native Czech; Scott is American-born and is studying Czech language. Louise Wessinger gave them the welcome hug in the absence of Georgiana Dolejsi, who was sick and missed the meeting. Jodi Weber, new member, has a daughter in gymnastics who competed in the Western District *slet* on April 9. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota! Our May meeting will be Friday, May 20, at 7 p.m.



Member News Update By Marlene Hinshaw (send news: marle5421@aol.com)

You should have been there! The Šibřinky Mardi Gras Dance on March 5 was great. Folk dancers of all ages performed. Saint Paul Winter Carnival royalty made a surprise visit and knighted **Bob Vanyo** and **Ed Hamernik**. The Royals were fun and added some fizz to this annual event. The consensus is to invite the Cathy Erickson Band back real soon.

Volunteering is a great way to meet people. At the Slovak Dinner on March 20, **Arlene Hamernik** introduced me to **Jana Finley**. Jana, Czech by birth, and husband **Scott Finley**, are new to Minnesota. Jana had been seeking a Czech connection, but wasn't having any luck. Scott found our website and surprised Jana with tickets to the Slovak Dinner. She was delighted to find Czechs and Slovaks and plans to become involved in Sokol. *Vítáme Vás*, Jana and Scott.

Sokol Pride: After receiving a Certificate of Merit for 65 years of Sokol membership, **Lucille Pavlicek** wrote to say how proud she is of her certificate. She has it posted in her room at the Episcopal Church Home in Saint Paul.

Illness: **Bob Vanyo** was hospitalized on March 23. He returned home on April 9. His Sokol Singer mates have missed him. Did you know Bob likes tangos?

Proud Grandma: **Phyllis Vosejpka**, had her bags packed and was waiting for “the call,” summoning her to Midland, Michigan. Quite possibly grandson Will, a junior, would be playing in the final game of the Division 2, Michigan State Hockey Tournament. Will, a forward on the Midland High team, had scored 24 goals and 29 assists to help his team get to the semifinals. In their first semifinal game, Will scored 5 goals. Sadly, the call never came. The Chemics were defeated in their last game before the final round. It was a big disappointment, but Grandma Phyll and Will can be very proud of his stunning record. Maybe 2012 will be the year!

Ladies' night out? **Lori Vosejpka**, our well-known anthem singer, will perform the role of Sister Margaretta in the Lakeshore Players Theatre production of *The Sound of Music*, April 29 to May 29, in White Bear. Tickets: 651-429-5674.

Deaths: I sadly report the death of member **Dennis Shonka**, age 69, on March 1. Dennis, a Navy veteran, worked at Northwest Airlines for 34 years as Administrator of Technical Publications. Dennis was a generous and caring man. He and his wife Sharon opened their home to several people in need. Dennis was Treasurer of our Sokol unit. He and Sharon danced with the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers. Dennis began having major health issues at age 45. He suffered a long and arduous battle with them for the next 24 years. Dennis is survived by wife Sharon and daughter Lori (Eric) Nelsen.

Sokol Minnesota was informed of the death of **Lawrence (Larry) Laznovsky**, 65, who died on March 26 in Ennis, Texas. Many members of our Sokol unit knew and worked with Larry on *slet* organization and ASO issues. Larry, American Sokol President from 2000 to 2010, held top-level offices in many national and international Czech organizations. He was known as a dedicated leader, with an open mind and progressive ideas. Losing a person of Larry's caliber is a real blow to Sokols everywhere.

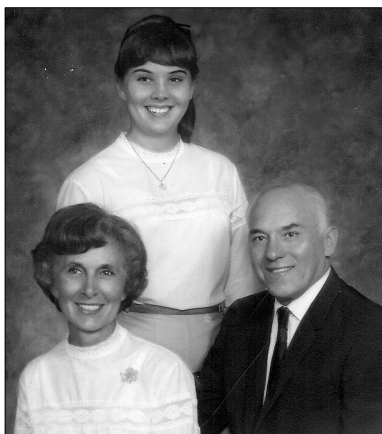
Member Profile: Lorene Sedlacek

100 years old and 55 years a Sokol member By Joan Sedlacek

Lorene was born, as one card says, a long, long, long time ago. March 17, 1911, to be exact. She is the only child of John and Anna Ahlf. Lorene's father first built a house on the back of his lot on Niles Avenue in the Highland Park neighborhood of Saint Paul. In 1918 he began a new house. He dug the basement by hand. He would loosen the ground with a pick, and Lorene and her mother would pick the rocks the next day. Then John would shovel the loose dirt and pick the hard ground again. One rock was too big to dig out. It is still in the basement, in a corner, covered by whitewash. Lorene didn't mind picking rocks, but she hated picking potato bugs in the garden. She would go out with a can of kerosene, pick the potato bugs, and drop them in the can.

The Ahlfs were fortunate. They had a well-built house. Many people who lived in the woods west of them had only tarpaper shacks. They must have been very cold during the long Minnesota winters. A dairy operated where the golf course is now. One winter night, a woman pounded on the Ahlfs' door, crying that a man had fallen in the path and couldn't get up. When Lorene's father went to help, they found a cow lying in the path. One neighbor had gone to the State Fair grounds, bought a cow, and walked her home. That cow lived in the backyard with the chickens.

Lorene went to Randolph Heights Grade School. She met Fern Lewis in the fourth grade; they have been friends for 90 years. They were among the first school patrols. They still enjoy talking about neighbors, parties, boyfriends, and the adventures they shared. In 1925, they went to Central High School. Each day they had a nickel to spend; they could ride the streetcar to school or they could buy mashed potatoes and gravy for lunch. They didn't want to be seen carrying a bag lunch so they walked to school and back home. Lorene attended Sunday School and church at Calvary Lutheran starting when she was seven years old. She has been a faithful member, teaching Sunday School and running the nursery for many years. After a short time in college, Lorene started work at Webb Publishing, doing many jobs. She worked for five years for \$.25 an hour and didn't always work a full week.



Lorene, Joan, and Fred in October 1969

Lorene, of German heritage, was active in the Turners. (Sokol and Turner share similar goals; the Turner movement was founded in Germany in 1811 by Fredrich Ludwig Jahn, who perfected a system of physical education in public outdoor gymnasiums.) Many Saint Paul Sokols also gymed at Turners; when the Sokols went back to the CSPS Hall, Lorene went too. Because she was not Czech, Lorene could not become a Sokol member. In those days, one had to be Czech to become a Sokol member. After she married Fred Sedlacek, she became eligible for membership. She has been a faithful member now for 55 years.

Fred Sedlacek was a member of Sokol Berwyn in Illinois. He participated in the 1938 *slet* in Prague. He met and became friends with the Sokols from Saint Paul. The Smoliks invited him to Saint Paul for *Šibřinky* and the Winter Carnival. Fred and Lorene met at the CSPS Hall and began their long-distance courtship. Fred served in Italy during WWII; Lorene worked at Northwest Airlines and then at the Ford Plant. They were married in 1947. Fred transferred to the Saint Paul Post Office and Lorene went back to Webb Publishing. They moved into the house they built in 1952, the year their daughter Joan was born. Lorene went back to Webb when Joan was eight. Fred died of cancer late in 1969. Lorene and Joan traveled to 48 states and across Canada to attend Sokol *slets* and visit friends. Lorene was always a walker, going five miles almost every day. At age 89, the walk took ninety minutes, thirty minutes longer than before. A fall and then dementia ended the long walks. Advancing dementia has ended travel. Lorene enjoys eating at a buffet every night. She still gets to church and the Hall. Lorene had a most wonderful 100th birthday party. Her lifelong friend Fern was there, as were many friends. Her goal of living to be 100 has been achieved!

Sokol Minnesota

Thanks Donors

By J. H. Fonkert, Corresponding Secretary

Sokol Minnesota thanks generous donors who support Sokol programs and rehabilitation of the CSPS Hall. (The *Slovo* withholds names or amount of donations when requested. We do not print amounts less than \$100.)

Recent donations to the **CSPS Hall Legacy Fund** include:

Terry Shima, \$300 pledge

Honoring Lorene Sedlacek's 100th birthday:

Jeanette and Donald Pafko, \$100,

Karen E. Bauer

Other financial contributions include:

Joseph A. Kocob, Slovo

In memory of Jack Grealish:

Mildred Grealish

Ken and Sharon Wyberg

Mary Jo and James Chlebecek

Norman Petrik and Joyce Tesarek

Elsie Roepke

Several Sokol members and friends made **in-kind donations** to help reduce costs of Sokol Minnesota events:

Jean Hall, kitchen supplies

Danita Larson, items for display in Czech and Slovak booth at Festival of Nations

Doreen McKenney, food ingredients for Sokol Duck Dinner and Sokol Slovak Dinner, and baking supplies for Easter Bread-making Class

Jeanette Pafko, dessert and door prizes for Sokol Slovak Dinner

Joan Sedlacek, food ingredients for Sokol Duck Dinner and Sokol Slovak Dinner

Joyce Tesarek, food ingredients for Sokol Slovak Dinner

After the 2008 Flood: The Czech/Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is preparing to move the rebuilt museum building atop its newly completed parking ramp foundation. The building has been expanded by 30,000 square feet. Building movers prepared 200-foot iron beams to support the building during the move. One hundred air jacks raised the building six feet. On April 26, they moved the museum building into the street. They expected about 2,000 people to show up for the move. The building will stay in the street during Houby Days, May 13, 14, and 15. If all goes well, they'll slip the building onto its foundation Saturday, May 21. You can follow the progress by going to www.NCSML.org with a link to live web cameras. It's fascinating! (M. Hinshaw)

Czech Immigration and Settlement in Steele County, Minnesota

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

Come and learn about the Czech settlers of Steele County at the next CGSI Quarterly Meeting, May 21 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Owatonna. The Bohemian immigrants started arriving in the mid-1850s, bringing with them their religious beliefs and traditions. One of the early communities of Bohemian settlers was Litomysl, located about 10 miles southeast of Owatonna in Steele County. The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, known today as Holy Trinity Catholic Church, was one of the early churches founded by the settlers.

Lodges were also part of Czech life and tradition. They were important social gathering places for the immigrants to celebrate life's events and to keep alive their rich heritage, in addition to the insurance provisions available.

At the meeting, Mike Wolesky and Steve Wencil will present their research. Mike Wolesky, a third-generation Czech-American raised in Steele County, recently completed a book titled *We Lack for Nothing Now: Czech Settlement in Steele County, Minnesota*. Steve Wencil, a lifelong resident of Steele County, reads and speaks Czech. He has contributed articles to *Naše Rodina*, our quarterly publication, as well as contributed monographs on local Czech history to the Owatonna library.

Join us on May 21 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Litomysl, 9946 SE 24th Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060 (80 miles south of the Twin Cities) for this interesting and informative program. Check out our sales tables and enjoy the opportunity to network with others who have similar interests.

Schedule: 12:30 p.m. Registration.

1:00 p.m. History of Czech Immigration to Steele County by Mike Wolesky.

2:15 p.m. Refreshment break, networking, and sales table.

2:45 p.m. History of Lodges in Steele County by Steve Wencil.

For more information/questions, contact Kathy Jorgenson at 952-474 2689 or <krjorgenson@comcast.net>

Sokol Camp is Ready for Summer Renters

By Jean Draheim

Sokol Camp is open and ready to be your summer vacation destination. Camp offers boating, fishing, swimming, lounging, resting, and relaxation. Several golf courses and parks are near Pine City, just 1½ hours north of the Twin Cities. Sokol Camp makes a great starting point for day trips to Duluth, the Hinkley Fire Museum or Casino, and western Wisconsin.

Camp has a main lodge with 10 rooms of varying sizes and indoor plumbing, a detached one-room cabin with cold water and cooking facilities, and plenty of space to camp in tents or trailers.

Important Dates and Events:

April 30, Sokol Camp opens

June 17-23, Private rental. Reservations are not available.

August 14, Sunday, 81st Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic, Noon to 5 p.m. There will be great food, bongo, cultural

dance performances by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, kiddy games, and old-time music. Come and spend the day with friends, old and new.

September 25, Sunday, Sokol Camp closes for the 2011 season.

Room Rental Rates: *Weekly* (seven nights): Members \$160-\$195. Non-members \$195-\$230. *Daily:* Members \$25-\$30. Non-members \$30-\$35.

Campgrounds: *Overnight* campers, trailers, or tents: \$5/person/night. Children under 10 are free. No RV hook-ups are permitted. *Grounds Use:* Members \$10/family/ day. Non-members: \$15/family/day. Persons using the grounds for the day have bathroom and kitchen privileges.

Rental is open to all Sokol members. Use is by reservation only. To make a reservation or request more information, call Jean Draheim at 651-426-2826 or 651-210-0401.

SONG OF THE MONTH By Georgiana Dolejsi

KDYŽ JARO ZAŤUKÁ was taken from the songbook *Rějme Písň Dokola, Praha, 1972.*

English Translation: When spring comes knocking.

Hudba J. Jankovec - Slova Mottl, Neuberger

KDYŽ JA - RO ZA-ŤU-KÁ, tu - ky,
tu - ky, tůk, ku - kač - ka
za-ku-ká ku - ky, ku - ky, kůk.
Vy - pu - ťf o - ře - ťf,
kaž - dý si za-hře-ťf, tá - ta, má - ma,
kluk, je ta-dy ja - ro, tůk, tůk, tůk.

1948 and Today: Lessons to Remember

By Josef A. Mestenhauer

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



You may not read this article until May, but I am writing it on March 19. That date is significant for me because it is St. Joseph's Day (don't let the Irish tell you that St. Patrick's Day is more important!). But it is also the day in 1948 when I escaped from Czechoslovakia. St.

Joseph must have guarded my escape through mud, slush, and sleet, crawling on all fours, while nearby the communist militia was drunk—celebrating St. Joseph's Day.

I have had several experiences recently, each separate, but when put together they all had important connections. Not long before my name day, I attended the meeting of the Vaclav Havel Civil Society Symposium at which we debated the meaning of what is "civil." We mourned that our contemporary society has suffered a decline in civility, and recommitted ourselves through the Symposium to find ways of restoring it in human relationships and in organizational life, especially in economics, politics, and ecology. Then, two days later, I received a document, which one of our mutual friends wrote for his daughters so that they would understand what happened in that fateful February in 1948 in Prague that not only installed a brutal communist regime, but also exposed the failure of leadership of the non-communist parties as well as the passivity of the public. In this manuscript, our friend described how people went about their daily "business as usual" and did not have a clue that a major coup was taking place that would affect them for the next half century. Later that day, I finished reading a book entitled "Civility," in which the author Steven Carter identified rules that should govern a true civil society as the foundation of the whole of Western civilization.

Noticing the common theme among these experiences reveals the important issues that otherwise would be missed if we see things separately, one at a time, which is the way most people tend to think. Using this integrated approach, different perspectives of the problem of incivility occurred to me. The first is that civil society is not just for the Czechs and Slovaks to restore after having lost it, but that it needs to be constantly cultivated and promoted here in our own society as well.

The second perspective is personal. When I escaped, I lost virtually everything: family, education, friends, and a future career either in politics or diplomacy. But what I and all my exiled friends never lost were our ideals and faith in democracy and freedom. The American people gave us the opportunity to pursue what we had lost and we have given in return our trust, loyalty, gratitude, and appreciation. The third perspective has to do with the failed leadership that underscores the great need for good leadership, especially in these difficult times. Leadership includes not just the people who "lead," but the many who are engaged and actively participate in a meaningful way in important public issues.

This brings up the fourth perspective, namely that freedom also allows many to become "freeloaders," people who seek benefits and entitlements but do not accept responsibility for the functioning and stability of the larger society. The final perspective flows from all the preceding ones, namely that trust among individuals and in organizations is the common denominator of a free and civil society. Most people do not appreciate that democracy depends on people trusting each other in interpersonal relations, in civic life, in the economy, and in politics. I just saw a commercial on TV in which a law firm was promoting itself on the ground that people cannot trust the system and need attorneys to protect them.

Each of my points raises many questions. Maybe we all need to stop and think about the meaning of a civil society, and then act to promote it. Civil society is not just to satisfy the needs and interests of the insiders of our civic associations. It begins where these needs and interests end and the needs of the larger society begin.

Healthy West 7th: Neighborhood Research and Meeting By Joe Landsberger

United Family Medicine Clinic and Family Medicine and the Allina Center for Healthcare Innovation will present findings from nearly 200 neighbors of the CSPS Sokol Hall along West 7th Street on Saturday, May 7, 1 - 3 p.m. at the West 7th Community Center. Under the leadership of Katherine Vickery, a resident physician at United Family Medicine, the research project surveyed neighbors, conducted focus groups, and interviewed community leaders. The objective was to develop unique comprehensive community state healthcare for the West End community and to follow up with specific action plans for implementing a healthy West 7th. One of the surprising findings was that life expectancy in West End neighborhoods is about eight years shorter than among suburban populations, mostly attributed to lack of access to, and affordability of, healthcare. The project strictly followed confidentiality rules and guidelines of the National Institute of Health regarding research with human subjects.

Many neighborhood organizations participated, including the West 7th Community Center, Jewish Family Services, West End Business Association, and healthcare providers. Mary Cahill,

Sokol member and Women's/Men's Physical Director, helped to convene, moderate, and also conduct a focus group. Participants answered the following questions: Tell us about yourself: who are you and who are those closest to you? How do you stay healthy? What do you need to become healthier? Where do you go when you need help?

Joe Landsberger co-presented the research project at the Minnesota Academy of Family Practice Research Forum with United Family medical residents on April 2. The reviewers voted it the best resident research presentation; many family-practice physicians made enthusiastic comments about the ideas behind the project.

At the May 7 meeting, neighbors will discuss the summary findings and continue the conversation. All Sokols are welcome to learn about this research and the future direction of building a healthy West 7th environment, and also how Sokol can play a proactive role in programming in the future. For more information, contact Joe Landsberger at 651-297-9000 or <jfl@studygs.net>.

ATTEND, SUPPORT, and VOLUNTEER for SOKOL EVENTS

Festival of Nations at The Saint Paul RiverCentre **Thursday thru Sunday, May 5 - 8**

For more information or to sign up for a shift:
Mary: 651-738-9470 (café) or Doreen: 952-941-0426 (bazaar)

Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp for Children, ages 7 - 14

Monday thru Friday, June 13 - 17

Contact Louise: 651-452-6240

81st Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

Sunday, August 14, noon - 5

Pine City

Czech and Slovak Fall Festival

Sunday, September 18, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Highland Park Pavilion on Montreal Avenue
two blocks north of West 7th Street, Saint Paul

visit www.sokolmn.org for updates of Sokol events



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO May 2011

Annual Conference on Czech and Slovak Culture and History

**By Donald Pafko, Honorary Slovak
Consul**

The annual conference on Czech and Slovak Culture and History was held March 10-12 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, under the sponsorship of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. The conference kicked off with a welcome reception held at the Kosek Building in the Czech Village. Dignitaries who were invited to be presenters at the conference were introduced; Director Gail Naughton welcomed all conference attendees and promised a very interesting and stimulating conference.

The conference officially began Friday morning, March 11. Subjects covered on the first day included a very broad range

such as "Czechoslovakia 1989-1992," "What We Know About Slovakia's Last Two Decades and Why We Should Care," and "The Czech Republic 1993 to 2011." The day concluded with a gala dinner and a presentation entitled "1989-2011 Transitions to Democracy," featuring Slovak Ambassador Peter Burian, former Slovak Ambassador Martin Butora, and Jiri Ellinger, Head of the Political Section, Embassy of the Czech Republic.

Saturday's conference activities opened with a welcome by Gail Naughton, who updated the status of the new National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. Presentations included "Being Hungarian in Slovakia: The Politics of Minority Rights" and "The Collision of Nationalism, Democratization, and Europeanization in Post Socialist Slovakia." The day concluded with a gala dinner reception at the Marriott Hotel. Ambassador Adrian Basora, former U.S.

Ambassador to Prague, presented "The Velvet Revolution 22 Years Later."

This concludes a series of conferences dealing with Czech and Slovak Culture and History. Many thanks to the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library for promoting, organizing, and sponsoring this very informative and productive conference. I look forward to more of such conferences in the future.



L-R: Slovak Ambassador Peter Burian; Gail Naughton, President and CEO of NCSML; Dr. Pavel Cernoch, Czech Representative to the EU in Brussels; Sharon Valasek, Honorary Czech Consul for Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska; Donald Pafko, Honorary Slovak Consul for Minnesota.