

Czech

Slovak
Sokol Minnesota

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

SLOVO

May 2012
vol. 35 no. 5

Czechs and Paychecks: May 8 Panel at CSPS Hall

Hear the voices and stories of Czech workers and their families from the West 7th neighborhood of Saint Paul in *Untold Stories: Czechs and Paychecks*, on Tuesday, May 8, at 7 p.m., at the CSPS Hall. Panelists include acclaimed author Patricia Hampl; labor historians Dave Riehle (of the Valesh and Prochaska families) and John Sieloff discussing John Rachac, a carpenter on the Minnesota State Capitol building project; Marlene (Skarda) Hinshaw, with memories of her father working at the Omaha Railroad shops on Randolph Street; and David Christopherson (of the Skok family, including an early Sokol president), recalling Bohemian West Seventh Street. Former Sokol MN president Joe Landsberger will moderate the panel on the families. More information on *Untold Stories* at http://www.thefriends.org/programs/annual_events/untold.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

June/July Slovo
Deadline May 1

Festival of Nations
May 3 - 6

History Panel
Untold Stories
May 8, 7 p.m.

Board of Trustees
May 9

Board of Directors
May 10, 7 p.m.

Member Work Day
May 12, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Membership Meeting
May 18, 7 p.m.

Senior Singers
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

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

May Membership Meeting to include Pub-Style Trivia Night

Along with the business meeting at our May 18 Membership Meeting at 7 p.m., we will have three or four rounds of pub-style Trivia Night with questions about Czech and Slovak history, culture, and geography, such as: *What two figures typically accompany Svaty Mikulas (St. Nicholas) when he makes his rounds visiting children on the evening of December 5th?* Katie Byrne Cuffey is organizing this special entertainment. We hope to award a prize or two also! Don't miss it! This May membership meeting will be the last until August 24. We do not have membership meetings in June or July.

Since 1932 Sokol Minnesota has been celebrating
Czech and Slovak culture at the Festival of Nations for 80 years!

VOLUNTEERING gets you free admission

May 3-6
Saint Paul
RiverCentre



Café Call Mary: 651-738-9470

Culture Booth

Call Jean: 763-753-4104

Bazaar

Call Doreen: 952-941-0426

Kroj (ethnic costume)
provided to wear while volunteering

The Festival of Nations is presented by the International Institute of Minnesota.

It is the largest and longest running multicultural festival in Minnesota, celebrating cultural diversity with food, music, demonstrations, and exhibits.



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2012
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Past issues of *Slovo* and
Sokol Minnesota's calendar
of events are available online
at www.sokolmn.org

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Ed Hamernik

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters

My first thought, as I begin this note, is the importance in remembering and honoring Robert Vanyo with his passing away. Bob was a very devoted and staunch worker for Sokol Minnesota. He had many years of service, joining Sokol in 1949, which makes him a 63-year member. He served as president for a number of years, as well as in other positions; he was a great supporter of Sokol events. Bob's friendly personality and gracious greetings will be missed.

The Project Planning Committee has received a very positive response from the National Park Service and the state Historic Architects. The fire protection sprinkling system has been approved and there are only a few questions on the air conditioning equipment installation. The upgrade of the sewer system and installation of a sump and pump brought a surprise. When a few bricks from the floor were removed, a solid rock base was uncovered. So instead of using more conventional tools to dig the sump and lower the trench, we now must use jackhammers and carbide bit core drills. The work will be completed but not without extra effort and cost. Again, we appreciate all the effort by Gary Novak, project manager, and Joe Landsberger for corresponding with governmental and granting agencies to satisfy those requirements.

A reminder to all about upcoming events. We are privileged to host a panel on Early Czech Workers and their Families in the West 7th Neighborhood on May 8 (see page 1). Hope to see many of you there. *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 *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send suggestions, articles, and pictures digitally to slovo@sokolmn.org. **The deadline for the June/July 2012 issue is May 1.** *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and layout editor; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, Jeanette Pafko, Norm Petrik, and Jitka Sebek, advisors. *Slovo* ads are designed by Doreen McKenney. Photographs for this issue were provided by Chuck Draheim, Marit Lee Kucera, Ann Vanyo Miller, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, and Cinnamon Whaley. This May 2012 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after May 31.

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

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

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

Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships: Renewals: Individual **\$45**; Couple **\$80**. Senior **\$35** (*over age 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years*); Senior couple **\$70**. New memberships: Individual **\$50**; Couple **\$85**. This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Year 2012 dues for members joining after June 30 are reduced. Membership applications: www.sokolmn.org or by request from Norm Petrik (612-822-6147). Please send your completed membership application and check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Attn: Membership, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102.

Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, New-Member Coordinator

At the March 23 meeting, 17 people were accepted into membership in Sokol Minnesota: 2 couples and 13 single memberships. Nine new members are parents of gymnasts, with other interests as follows: Julie Seiler (Saint Paul) is interested in festivals; Mary Rosario (West Saint Paul) is interested in cooking, music, and festivals; Lisa Weicht (Saint Paul) is interested in festivals; Paul Makousky from Woodbury is interested in genealogy, history, dances, and festivals; Gail Foote, Abra Gillman, Jean Murtaugh, Charles Matson Lume, and Sue Moser, all from Saint Paul. The four other single memberships are Elisa Warhol (Saint Paul), who is interested in cooking, language, genealogy, history, film, music, dances, dinners, and festivals; Cathy Erickson (Middle River, Minnesota) who is interested in cooking, genealogy, history, music, dances, and festivals; Marketa Resong (Cottage Grove), who has interests in cooking, language, film, music, dances, dinners and festivals; and Donald Hodgdon (Eden Prairie), with interests in cooking, history, film, music, dances, dinners, and festivals. The two couples were Rose Vanyo and John Klukas, who have interest in cooking, language, genealogy, history, film, dances, festivals, and gymnastics; and Jan and Jean Gadzo (Chisholm), who have interest in film, music, dances, dinners, and festivals.

John Klukas, Rose Vanyo, and Donald Hodgdon (L-R) were present at the meeting; they were installed, and received a



hug of welcome from long-time member Georgiana Dolejsi! Welcome to Sokol Minnesota! Our next membership meeting is May 18 at 7 p.m.

Spring Breakfast and Bake/Crafts Sale By Doreen McKenney

Our annual Spring Breakfast with bake and craft sales on Palm Sunday, April 1, drew 155 people for pancakes and French Toast. Sokol Minnesota netted over \$1,500 on the proceeds from the breakfast, the bake sale, and vendor fees.

Bakers made 70-dozen *koláče* (prune, poppy seed, and apricot) and nine raspberry/cream cheese braids on Friday, March 30. Led by Doreen McKenney, the loyal Sokol bakers were MaryJo Chlebeczek, Jean Draheim, Danita McKenney Larson, Doris McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, and Louise Wessinger.

Baked goods donations came from Andrej's European Pastry, MaryJo Chlebeczek, Georgiana Dolejsi, Arlene

Hamernik, Danita McKenney Larson, Sharon Liska, Sokol Minnesota kitchen bakers, and the *kremrole* class.

Volunteers who flapped jacks and cooked French Toast, fried sausages, cut fruit, set tables, wrapped silverware in napkins, served coffee, offered seconds, bussed tables, scrubbed burners, sold baked goods, washed dishes, wiped tables, stacked chairs, put away the tables, and staffed the Legacy table included Doreen McKenney (chair), Jason Brozevich, Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, MaryJo Chlebeczek, Chuck Draheim, Shannon Duffy, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Kathy Jorgenson (in charge of the kitchen), Darla Kolb, Marit Lee Kucera, Bob Kosticka, Gene Kubes, Sharon Liska, Gale Thomsen, Joan Sedlacek, and Louise Wessinger. The teen dance group and their parents assisted in table set-up for the vendors on Saturday, after the group's dance practice. Special thanks to Pamela Kotval's mother, Betty Kotval from Monticello, who made new aprons and sweet bunny dolls just for Easter, which were sold at the Legacy Fund table.

Jean Draheim was in charge of the 12 vendors. There was a wide variety of handcrafted jewelry, fabric crafts, cards, and folk arts, plus baking and homemade candy. The crafts people reported that business was good; they look forward to coming to the fall pancake breakfast in November.

Education Program News By Jean Draheim

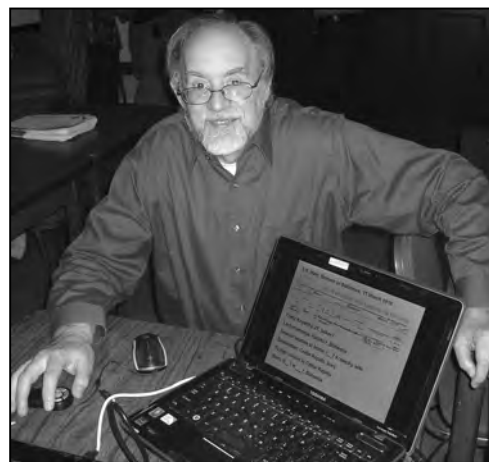
If you would like more information about any of our events or want to have your contact information included on the interest lists, please contact Education Director Jean Draheim: 651-426-2826, or <education@sokolmn.org>.

Language classes will resume in September. Watch the website for information: <www.sokolmn.org>

J. H. Fonkert: *Finding Your Ancestors Online*

At the March 23 Membership Meeting, J. H. Fonkert spoke about *Finding Your Ancestors Online*. He showed us the information he was able to gather in only three hours of online research on the Franz Kopecky family that lived in the West End of Saint Paul, near CPCS Hall.

J.H. Fonkert is a director, Association of Professional Genealogists; member, Genealogical Speakers Guild; and member, International Society of Family History Writers and Editors.



Remembering Bob Vanyo 1929 - 2012

By Ann Vanyo Miller, Daughter

Robert John Vanyo, son of Frank and Pauline (Mydlar) Vanyo, was born on December 4, 1929, in Warren, Minnesota, on the family farm. He passed away at his home in Saint Paul on March 11, 2012. Robert spent his early years working on the family's farms until he was about 12 years old. We've heard various versions of how much he got paid from working at his uncle's farm, but we know it was somewhere between \$12 to \$14 for four months of summer work. One day while working in the field, he saw a terrible storm rolling in. By the time he got out of the field and on the main road, he saw the violent tornado nearing. His only option was to hit the ditch. Amazingly enough, his life was spared. The neighbor's house was not so lucky.

Around 1942, the family moved to the Cities. His parents bought the home located at 364 Goodhue Street in Saint Paul. He attended Saint Stanislaus and Saint James Catholic grade school and graduated from Monroe High School, class of '48. He was a member of the Monroe H.S. gymnastics and wrestling team.

As a young man, his parents kept him actively involved in the many activities at the CSPS Hall. As members of Sokol Minnesota, he was a member of Sokol Gymnastics and the Saint Paul Czechoslovakian Folk Dancing group. His ethnic ties grew stronger throughout his life. He continued to stay actively involved in the gymnastics program, folk dancing group, Czech Singing Group, and the ethnic dinners. He also was active in the Sokol Camp Association. Throughout the years he held many titles such as President of Sokol Minnesota, Director of Men's Sokol Minnesota, Educational Director, CSPS Hall Manager, Member at Large, Special Police Officer, Head Cook, and Booya Inspector.

He was a courageous soldier in the United States Army, serving from 1951-1953 in the Korean War. He received 2 Bronze Camp Stars and a United Nations Service Medal. Dad said that he was a member of Love Company, 9th Infantry. He talked about the U.S. prisoner-of-war camp on the island of Koje-do, off the southern coast of South Korea. He told many stories about various combat missions. He had some significant skills that he shared with his brothers-in-arms such as the ability to build a foxhole that withheld the weight of a tank; he also made his own sights for his rifles. As I read through information about the Korean War between 1951-1953, I am amazed at the courage that all of these soldiers demonstrated. Dad told us about loading up the truck to head up to the front lines to help the troops at the Battle of Pork Chop Hill. He was on the truck and they were about to leave. It was at that moment that he was removed from the truck by his commanding officer. His discharge papers came in and he was going home. Later he heard that the majority of the soldiers that fought on the hill did not survive.

4 May 2012 Slovo

Bob Vanyo stirred many a pot of Booya. The Sokol Camp Association is now seeking a well-qualified, meticulous potato peeler and Booya Inspector!

Back at home, he capitalized on the G.I. Bill by enrolling in coursework to become a pharmacist. He then changed his path and enrolled in Globe Business College where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He became a meticulous accountant.

In 1955, he married his "Babe." He was always a farm boy at heart, and he loved gardening. You could say that Bob planted a lot of seed! They bought their home and raised their 11 children in the 2-bedroom, 1-bath bungalow at 446 Bay Street. Dad took us on many adventures! We traveled across the country in that 15-passenger van. We visited his family in Spokane and Olympia, Washington, and Cleveland, Ohio. We went to Mount Rainier, the Continental Divide, the Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Glacier National Park, Sedona Mountains, Bryce Canyon, and Thunder Bay Canada. We essentially traveled everywhere south to Texas and west to the Pacific Ocean. It wasn't uncommon for Dad to pack us up and Explore Minnesota!

In that 15-passenger van, we didn't limit our excursions to our immediate family. Our extended family traveled with us on many of our Folk Dancing performances. The "adults" took nearly annual trips to the Milwaukee Folk Festival. This doesn't even touch the family weekends, when we weren't performing, that we spent at our cabin on the Saint Croix. I'm certain that all of us kids sucked up our fair share of that water learning how to swim. When Dad pulled up in the yard, we all piled out of that van and wanted to run right down to the river. We no sooner began making the mad dash did Dad stop us in our tracks. We needed to help unload the van, open up the shutters, and pick up sticks. Then we could get our suits on and go swimming. Dad would supervise and Bert and Rich would have to cut the grass. Then, Dad came down to toss us through the air and watch us compete when we would swim out to the buoy. At least once a year we would head up to



Pine City to help get the Sokol camp ready for the Booya. Dad worked in the Booya shed getting the kettles ready and the shed cleaned up for the annual event.

When all the work was done, Dad would take us fishing or go swimming.

As the years passed, we all grew older, but some things never changed.

Dad still had a van, he still took us places, we still went to church and said our prayers, and we still went to CSPA hall to dance, sing, march along the black line, spend time with

The Vanyo family sent these kind words of gratitude to Sokol Minnesota: Sokol was Dad's Life! Oh, how he loved it and lived it! Thank you so much for all the memories! Nazdar! ♥The Vanyo Family

friends and family and help out with the pork roast dinner. He instilled lasting memories! He will be greatly missed.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife Cecilia ("Babe"); parents Frank and Pauline; and brother Joseph. He is survived by children Roberta (Greg) Chandler, Cecilia Yingling, Susan (Thomas) Seefeld, Robert Jr. (Patricia), Therese (Donn) Linscheid, Mary Kaye (Jeff) Armstrong, Nora (Frank) Mersch, Richard (Toni), Elizabeth (Jeff) Blanks, Ann (Scott) Miller, and Raymond; 18 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters Ione (Hubert) Gonsorowski, Leo, Frank Jr. (Jewel), Lorraine (Wayne) Olson, Pauline (James) Fisher; many nieces and nephews. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend; and an active member of his parish and Sokol Minnesota.

Part 2: In honor of the 125th Anniversary of CSPA Hall, we are publishing articles of historical interest. This is reprinted from the commemorative booklet *Centennial CSPA Hall History 1887-1987*

CSPA HALL HISTORY: ANOTHER HALL AT THIS LOCATION

THE REASON FOR THE PRESENT CSPA HALL EXISTING AS IT DOES TODAY MAY BE FOUND IN THIS REPRINT TAKEN FROM AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS 25 MAY, 1886.

Work For The Fire Department

The hall at the corner of West Seventh and Von Minden streets, owned by the CSPA Bohemian Society, was partially destroyed by fire yesterday (May 25, 1886) morning. The loss on the building is estimated at \$800, and on the contents \$500. The building was insured for \$1,400 and the contents for \$800. The fire is supposed to be of incendiary origin, as no one had been in the hall since Saturday night. The society intends to rebuild a brick structure.

(Note: Part of the present Michigan Avenue was once known as Von Minden.)

CSPA Chronology:

1879 - Property purchased
(Lodge Czech No. 12 CSPA)

1886 - Contract let - August
General Contractor: William J. Gronewal
Architect: Emil W. Ulrici
Estimated cost: \$10,000

1887 - First building permit taken - March

1887 - Construction completed - September

1917 - Major remodeling begun
Reconstruction of Second Floor and addition of Third Floor
Architect; Raymond P. Paulecka

1918 - Remodeling completed

1976 - Hall nominated for inclusion in National Register of Historic Places

1977 - Hall entered in National Register of Historic Places - February

1978 - Hall purchased from CSA by Sokol Minnesota (formerly known as Saint Paul Sokol Gymnastic Society) - August

1978 - Hall voted a Heritage Preservation Site by the Saint Paul City Council

1980 - Restoration of Hall began - July
Architect: John Larson
Contractor: Recon Construction

1987 - Restoration continues

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Sokolíci Drama Group Presented *Brémští muzikanti* By Lenka Bragg

Czech and Slovak children in the Sokol children's dance group presented the play *Brémští muzikanti* (*The Musicians of Bremen*) in Czech at the Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant in Montgomery on April 14. *Sokolíci*, Little Sokols, performed after the 5 p.m. dinner and before the 7 p.m. pageant. Thirteen children ages 6-10 participated in the play. They worked since January to memorize lines in Czech and act out the story. They are the sons and daughters of the Czech and Slovak moms from the Mom's Club.

Mom's Club started a few years ago with a group of stay-at-home Czech and Slovak moms who shared the same upbringing and were hoping to pass the language and cultural customs onto their children. They met weekly in a home where the children played while the moms surrounded them with the Czech and Slovak languages. As the children grew, so did their moms' desires to expose them to the cultural traditions of their homelands. So they started celebrating Easter and Saint Nicolas together as a group with the same traditions that were so dear to them growing up. The idea to write a cookbook to pass down to the children was born; the children got to participate in weekly cooking and tasting of meals.

As time went on, the children started school and the moms were graciously accepted by the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota family to start meeting at the CSPS Hall. The weekly Mom's Club meetings turned into monthly meetings for Czech and Slovak families in hopes of continuing to expose the children to the languages and customs of the cultures. The moms wanted to teach their children games that they played growing up, crafts they made, and stories and fairy tales from books they read as children.

As stories were read in the native languages, there was an idea to act them out with puppets. The group started using the Sokol Minnesota puppet stage and puppets to perform various fairy tales. It was great to see how the stories came to life, how well received they were by the audiences, and how much the children were able to gain from them linguistically and culturally.

Once the children started to read in English, their moms saw the potential of drama to get their children to learn to read in Czech/Slovak. In order to get their children more actively involved in drama productions, a drama club was started. The group was able to make use of the beautiful Sokol Minnesota stage complete with incredible background sets to put everything together and come alive.

Encouraged by their children's excitement to participate and share their gift of language, the moms are hoping to incorporate more music as well as more contemporary plays in the future. They hope that some day the children will be inspired to help write theatrical scripts for well-known Czech/Slovak stories. Aware of the impact drama has had in the history of the nation, the Czech and Slovak moms look forward to seeing the positive effects of drama on their children, as well as their audiences.



Several of the Czech and Slovak children, in costume, posed on stage at CSPS Hall on April 7 after their performance of Brémští muzikanti for the Family Easter Saturday.

Czech Family's History Documented in Article by Joe Landsberger

My colleague in genealogical research, John Sieloff, has written a well-documented extensive history of the Czech Ročač/Rochač/Rockart family who were finishing carpenters on projects such as the J. J. Hill mansion on Summit Avenue, the Minnesota State Capital, Woolworth Building in New York City, and the United States Supreme Court building. It will be published this spring in *Ramsey County History*, the award-winning quarterly magazine published by the Ramsey County Historical Society. Sieloff is one of the panelists for *Untold Stories: Czechs and Paychecks*, on Tuesday, May 8, at 7 p.m., at CSPS Hall.

Rachel Kuzma is Miss Congeniality 2012

Rachel Kuzma, the Sokol-sponsored contestant for the Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant on April 14, won the 2012 Miss Congeniality Award. She will be part of the Honor Court for the year. She will ride in parades and represent the pageant at festivals and events throughout the Midwest. Rachel, from Mankato, is one of our *Taneční* Teen dancers. Congratulations, Rachel!



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CSPA Hall Anniversary!**

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Sokol's website in navy blue on the back.
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Sokol Minnesota 125th T-Shirts, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

Stamp Collecting By Marit Lee Kucera

On a bright Saturday morning in late March, your intrepid managing editor dropped by CSPA Hall to meet some of the Czech and Slovak Moms. They were busy decorating *perníčky*, while their children were practicing folk dancing with Louise Wessinger. It was fascinating to watch the preciseness of the fine lines of the designs created with the colored icing (powdered sugar, egg white, and food coloring in a small zip-top plastic bag with a hole in one corner). Fascinated as I was by the designs and the skill, as well as the aromatic ginger cookie itself, I actually went to talk with the Moms about stamps.

This year Sokol celebrates 150 years since its founding in Prague in 1862. There is a special Czech Republic stamp to commemorate this event. We have not yet actually seen one of these 14Kč stamps, which were issued in February, but we hope to have one in our hands soon. And then we will show it off to all our *Slovo* readers. In the meantime, we want to share with you some wonderful Czech and Slovak (and Czechoslovakian) stamps, ranging from historical and commemorative to cultural, artistic, and even humorous.



Jitka Sebek introduced me to more than half a dozen Moms. The Moms brought stamps from letters they have received over the past few years. These beautiful stamps are truly impressive. Many

of the Moms had stamp collections as children. Whereas their stamp books remain at home in the Czech and Slovak Republics, they remain extremely proud of the postage stamps from their home countries.

Stamp collecting, as a multi-generational hobby, was popular both among adults and kids in the pre-Velvet Revolution days because the stamps were bright and colorful (in comparison to many drab things in Communist Czechoslovakia); they were obtainable at a reasonable price (and money was hard to come by in 1970s and 1980s for kids); often, multiples could be purchased in small packets; and they served as status symbols. Many of the Moms, as girls, had pen pals in other (communist) countries and exchanged stamps. Once the Wall came down, the whole world opened to these young stamp collectors, and their collections burgeoned. But soon the status of stamp collecting waned as items from the West became available; new interests were created, and new status symbols emerged. However, many people still continue avidly to collect stamps.

Jitka recalled, “Despite the limited resources and knowledge we had under the communist government, there

were many young people, who thanks to parents, grandparents, and other passionate (almost obsessed) collectors, had a great deal of knowledge about stamps. I knew countries from around the whole globe thanks to beautiful and exotically illustrated stamps. I

knew about the most wanted stamp, the Blue Mauritius. There were clubs with members exchanging stamps and spending endless hours tending their collections in heavy albums with frail-looking protective sheets between pages full of art, the stamps.”



The Moms had other collections as kids, including postcards (which one Mom seriously continues to collect); paper napkins which were pretty as well as cheap to acquire; and colorful plastic C-shaped rings called *céčka*, originally used as links in doorway hangings, which became like trading cards for Czechoslovak children in the mid-1980s, setting off *céčková horečka* (*céčka* fever).

The U.S.-based International Society for Czechoslovak Philately was formed in 1939 in New York City; it remains a vibrant organization today. Its focus is to trace the ways in which Czech and Slovak cultures are represented by the images on the postage stamps. The society publishes an award-winning journal, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. The society’s website <<http://www.csphilately.net/>> has a wealth of historical information and articles in English.

Martina Gurgel, one of the Moms, provided these Czech websites for more information on Czech stamps. Even though these websites are in Czech, everyone can enjoy the beautiful images of the stamps.

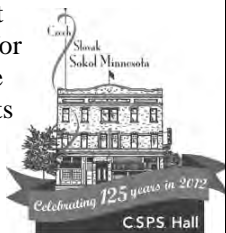
<<http://www.ceskaposta.cz/cz/filatelie/znamky/prehled/default.php>> publishes images of every stamp; just click individual years and enjoy.

<<http://www.informace-scf.cz/>> gives information about Czechoslovakia as a founding member in 1926 of an international philatelic organization.

<<http://www.ceskaposta.cz/cz/filatelie/znamky/anketa-onejkrasnejsi-znamku-id331/>> has annual contests to nominate the best CZ stamp.

Support CSPA Legacy Fund

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



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

LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

single donation of \$ _____

5-year pledge of \$ _____

per year for total of \$ _____

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

I would like my gift designated

in memory of or in honor of: _____

Please list my name in *Slovo* newsletter

List amount Don't list amount

Don't list name or amount

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**.

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

Please charge my gift to

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Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to:

CSPA Hall Legacy/Building Fund
383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Help Match Our Grants!

By Joyce Tesarek

With our ambitious CSPA Hall restoration projects underway, fundraising is critical. Steam pipe replacement and plumbing upgrades are almost completed. Phase 2 of fire protection will begin soon. These projects are expensive! Pipe work will cost over \$128,000; the sprinkler system is another \$75,000. In 2011, we received over \$21,000 in private donations. Several of our grants require a match; the value of a private donation to the CSPA Legacy Fund is doubled. Every dollar contributed is matched by these grants, \$1 becomes \$2 toward CSPA Hall restoration. We need every dollar in our grants to fund our much-needed restoration projects. Please help with a generous donation now! Use the handy CSPA Legacy Fund Donation Form. *Thank you!*

Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary

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

Building/Legacy Fund:

Terry E. Shima, \$300

Daniel Washick, \$100

Elevator Fund: Darlene Sitko

General Fund: Dolores Speidel

We also greatly acknowledge the following special donations:

Czech/Slovak Moms for baking and donating *perníky*, ginger cookies, which were sold at *Šibřinky*

Don and Jeanette Pafko for the two hard-covered books, *Slovakia Traditions Old And New* and *Slovak American Touches*, used as door prizes at the Flavors of Slovakia Dinner

Joan Sedlacek, fee for Recertification Course necessary as Food Manager for the CSPS Hall kitchen

Wendy Waszut-Barrett (Bella Scena, LLC), evaluation and restoration recommendations for stage backdrops and book flats.

Successful April Garage Sale Benefits Sokol Minnesota

Many loyal members and friends donated items and volunteered time to make the 2012 Garage Sale the most successful in years. Eager buyers scooped up great bargains. We raised over \$2,000. A hearty thanks is given to all who participated April 11 - 13!

Chairs Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney had able help during the sale from Christy Banks, Karen Bauer, George Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek, MaryJo Chlebecek, Georgiana Dolejsi, Jean Draheim, Eileen Flint, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Katie Haselbauer, Marlene Hinshaw, Kathy Jorgenson, Joe Landsberger, Danita Larson, Sharon Liska, Hana Matousek, Doris McKenney, Doris Moravetz, Anna Overbo, Joy Peterson, Joan Sedlacek, Ted Schieffer, Steve Shimer, Joyce Tesarek, Dan Washick, and Louise Wessinger,

This year we added three specialty sales areas in the dining room: Czech and Slovak items such as toys, books, language tapes, cornhusk dolls, games, and t-shirts; collectibles, antiques, vintage, and heirlooms; and Legacy Fund with handmade aprons, stuffed toys, and lap robes as well as an Icelandic black long-haired sheepskin. Over \$450 was raised from these three niche sectors.

The remainders were donated to Alley Shoppe, a free store at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church on the East Side of Saint Paul, and to Saint Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church (Walter Wietzke, pastor) on West 7th in our West End neighborhood.



Popular sellers: jeans, for kids and adults, and vintage dresses.

SONG OF THE MONTH by Georgiana Dolejsi

The song that I have chosen this month was written by Karel Hašler (1879-1941), a Czech a songwriter, actor, lyricist, film and theatre director, composer, writer, dramatist, screenwriter, and cabaretier. He died in 1941 at the Mauthausen concentration camp at the hands of the Nazis.

This song is called *Tulák*, which means *Wanderer* or *Hobo*. It was taken from the songbook *Pějme Piseň Dokola*, Praha, 1972. The musical score here is for the refrain; I also have included the words to the first verse.

Tulák

In was summer; the grain was ripening in the fields,
It swayed in the glow of the sun.
In the meadows women were cutting grass,
A rabbit watched them from the woods.
Coming downhill on a dusty road
A young man wandered toward the town
With a walking stick in his hand and his hat tipped to one side,
And he sang as he walked along:

Refrain:

A white road lies before me
The sun shines above me
And I go, free as a bird
Just as contented, just as contented
And I go, free as a bird
And just as contented.

SIL - NI - CE BÍ - LÁ PŘE - DEMNOU,
sú - ní - ško svi - tí ná - de mnou, a já jsem
vol - ný jak ten pták, zrov - na tak,
jak ten pták, a já jsem vol - ný jak ten
pták, šťast - ten tak, ach tak.

Cooking with Cinnamon By Cinnamon Whaley *Dušené hovězí závitky - Beef Rolls*

You may have noticed the lack of meat dishes I try. I also may have mentioned that I live with a vegetarian. But recently staying at a friend's house for the weekend provided a great opportunity to explore the sections of the Czech cookbooks usually left unexplored. I haven't purchased meat in a grocery store for more than a year, so the first adventure was visiting the meat aisle for rump roast. I chose top round beefsteak, as the rump only came in three-pound (\$20) cuts. Cooking four pounds of meat isn't something that a two-person household often does — so goes modern cooking.

We used a Ball canning jar for pounding and Lawry's Seasoning instead of mace. Using the liquid left over in the pan, we made gravy by adding salt, pepper, and flour (whisking in 1/4 cup at a time). We made a horseradish sauce using jarred horseradish and mayo. The beef rolls were definitely meaty! Bacon lends flavor to anything, and this case was no different.

I was never good at making meatloaf, but I would make this in place of meatloaf any day. If you enjoy a mouthful of meat, this is a very simple recipe with a rich flavor. I wish I'd thought to buy garlic; sliced garlic between the steak and bacon would have been a great addition. The gravy and the horseradish dip were great with the beef rolls. There is no excuse for not making the gravy given how simple it is to use the existing liquid.

At \$15 a pop (using ingredients above) this dish might be considered a little bit of a treat for two. If you're cooking for more than two, the three-pound rump roast might be a wise choice to purchase!

Recipe: Thoroughly pound four pounds of nice beef (rump is best), cut in 1" thin slices, pound again, sprinkle with salt, ground allspice and mace, spread on each slice of meat a very thin piece of bacon, roll up and fasten with a toothpick. Dip each beef roll in flour. Heat a piece of butter in a skillet, put in the beef rolls, cover, and fry about 10 minutes over a medium heat, turning them once during this time. From one side, pour in enough boiling water to half cover the beef rolls, being careful, however, not to wet them from the top. Cover and stew the beef rolls an hour over slow heat. When done, take out the toothpicks, arrange the beef rolls on a platter, place fried potatoes around them, and pour the gravy over all.



How Did the Communist Coup Happen?

By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauer,
Distinguished International
Professor Emeritus,
University of Minnesota
Department of Educational
Policy and Administration,
Comparative and
International Development
Education

Honorary Consul of the Czech
Republic (1999-2009)

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



The communists did not just gain power overnight. Understanding the context of how this event happened is very important, because it is now so long since it occurred that people might simply forget or ignore this occurrence as no longer relevant, or because the events of the Prague Spring of 1968 have overshadowed the country's own history. Yet there are lessons to learn for the present time.

My understanding of these events is very different from that of most historians and scholars, who attribute the takeover of Central Europe to the Russian policy of expansionism, a long-standing tradition begun under the Czars that gains its credibility as an example of continuity. In contrast, I believe the opposite: that the communists were seeking a complete breach with the past and were motivated by a rigid ideology rather than often-changing "national interests," a theory that dominates the thinking in most social sciences in the West.

Missing from the discourse are the mindsets and mental states of the leaders of both the communist and non-communist side. One of the mindsets held by Western leaders, including Americans, which was based on our orientation towards democracy and pragmatism, was that the devastation of the war would force the USSR to concentrate more on domestic recovery than on continuing expansionist trends of the past. This mindset was strengthened by the fact that the USSR was now accepted into the society of nations; it was assumed that acceptance would end its isolation and thus change its behavior. In Western thought, Soviet expansionist tendencies have been attributed to the prevailing belief that nations pursue their national interests; this view generally ignored communist ideology, which was explained as simply the Russians' justifications for pursuing their national interests.

I studied communism for my Master's thesis as well as my PhD thesis, and I hold the view that Marxism-Leninism and later Stalinism did provide a mental map that the regime followed, with only minor deviation, starting with the Bolshevik revolution in 1917. The dominance of communist ideology was reinforced at all the irregularly-convened congresses of the Party and its Central Committee and by an army of ideologues sitting in the Kremlin. The major parts

of the ideology that is relevant to the world is divided into capitalist and socialist camps, and that the socialist camp's role was to defeat capitalism as a decadent and exploitative regime on the ground that communism was the superior scientific system that promised a utopia without wars, hunger, and human suffering. The struggle was to be difficult and required the socialist camp to use all means, however ruthless, toward its achievement.

Lenin laid out a course of action in his work "What Is To Be Done," describing special strategies and tactics that would allow the socialist camp to use any means to accomplish its objectives. Biographers of Stalin agree that he believed in this ideology and contributed to its further refinement and use. Aware of his own increasing age, Stalin was determined to complete the establishment of socialism within his lifetime. He believed that World War II was a typical "capitalist" war which did not concern the socialist camp, but which would nevertheless provide the opportunity to convert it into a socialist war that would install socialist regimes in the warring countries. This mindset allowed Stalin to lie to Western leaders, including Beneš, about his foul intentions in regards to their countries' independence and sovereignty. From our perspectives, these statements were deceitful untruths, but from the Leninist point of view, they were essential and universal strategies. Stalin may not have thought that he was lying, because his plan was not to engage in direct occupation, but to unleash the local communist parties that the Politburo had secretly organized and long nurtured.

These observations have direct relevance to the events of February 1948. They explain why Stalin strongly opposed Churchill's idea of invading German-occupied Europe through the Balkans, which Stalin wanted to claim as part of his "sphere of influence." At one point, I understood that the Czech and Slovak underground was preparing to assist a possible invasion through the Balkans and was concentrating its own resources in Slovakia, from where it planned to function in case of such an invasion. Sadly, the Western powers gave in and instead staged the invasion on the Western front through France.

As mentioned above, the USSR did not need to remove its military from the important Eastern front to invade countries such as Bulgaria, Greece, and Rumania because the well-organized communist cells in these countries could be counted on to destabilize existing regimes and eventually gain power. Ultimately, plans to "unleash" world revolution not only concerned Europe (where the communists did initiate important revolts), but also were extended to China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and India.

Similar in-house establishment of the communist party in Czechoslovakia took place as well. To my personal knowledge, Soviet paratroopers landed in Czechoslovakia as early as 1943, presumably to assist the local underground resist the Nazis, but actually to organize communist cells. After the war, these cells became the so-called "national committees" that infiltrated the country's entire power

structure, from the villages to the national scene. As a result, the communist party became the only well-organized force that survived Nazi persecution because they were able to replenish those arrested with new members trained ideologically in the above-mentioned Leninist tactics. Communist leaders in the second, Moscow-based Czechoslovak Government in exile used the same strategy of lying about their intentions, and convinced Beneš and others that they were a democratic political party committed to established principles of governance. Most of our leaders recognized these deceptions too late—after the communists had misused the power of the important Ministries that they had controlled through the Košice agreement (about which I will speak in the next issue) to disrupt all levels of government functions—and then failed to enforce cabinet decisions that would have curbed the communists' illegal activities.

I was very much involved in the political struggle that opposed the communist functionaries of the National Student Association, of the Law Student Association, and of the National Socialist Party. These activities often haunt me even today when I think of how Roosevelt abandoned Czechoslovakia to the Soviet sphere, how impotent and unprepared our democratic leaders were, and how gullible and apathetic was our general public that looked for stability, ignored the dangers, and went about their daily pleasures as if nothing important was happening. They either did not see, or did not want to see, that the USSR already dominated much of the government through the Czechoslovak communists.

In the next issue of the *Slovo*, I will return to the specific events that prepared the communist takeover and will close this discussion by pointing out important implications for us at the present time.

A Visit to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City

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

The Family History Library is a Mecca for genealogists. The CGSI March symposium in Salt Lake City included an orientation to the library, a day of presentations on Czech and Slovak research topics, time to do research at the library, and concluded with a presentation on *The History of LDS Record Acquisition, Past, Present, and Future*. The presentation was given by David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer of FamilySearch and director of FamilySearch's collection development activities. FamilySearch refers to the website <www.FamilySearch.org>, which has a wealth of information useful for everyone from beginners to the more advanced.

If you are without many clues in beginning your family search, the main level of the library is a good place to start. There is a room filled with computers that provide access to various databases. Volunteers are there to answer questions, make suggestions, help with database searches, and to assist with the copying of records whether onto paper or downloading the information to another device. Laptops are permitted. The Family History Book collection is also on the main level.

The second and third levels contain information on the U.S. and Canada; this section is particularly useful if you need to develop more family information before making the leap across the pond. The International Collection occupies Level B1, which includes Europe and the information most useful to those of us researching our Czech and Slovak roots. Again, there are people to assist and direct you, and special research consultants that can help you tackle those brick walls.

You can investigate the FamilySearch Research Wiki for online Czech and Slovak records by going to:

<https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Czech_Republic> or <<https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Slovakia>>

You need to sign up to use the FamilySearch website, but it is free, as is the use of their Family History Library. This Library *really* wants you to make those family connections.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sokol MN Editors:

I noticed that the "Member News Update" contributed by Libby Imbrone has the wrong date for former Czech President Václav Havel's visit to Saint Paul for the Civil Society award.

The date should be April 1999 instead of fall of 2000. There are a couple of nice photographs taken during the events in the CSPS Hall lunchroom area. I was fortunate to attend this historic event with my wife Deb and many of our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International friends.

Regards,

Paul Makousky, Editor of *Naše Rodina*
Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International



Czech Republic stamps honoring Vaclav Havel (from envelopes received by Czech/Slovak Moms, read Stamp Collecting story on page 7).

ATTEND and VOLUNTEER! SOKOL MINNESOTA EVENTS

Festival of Nations

Thursday to Sunday, May 3 - 6
Saint Paul River Centre, downtown Saint Paul

Czechs and Paychecks: Stories of Czech workers and their families from Saint Paul's West 7th neighborhood
Tuesday, May 8, 7 p.m., CSPS Hall

Czech/Slovak Festival

Sunday September 16, 11 - 4 p.m.
International Institute, 1694 Como, Saint Paul

Check the calendar for updates: www.sokolmn.org

Visit Sokol Minnesota: www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota



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Sokol Minnesota Website Needs YOU!

The publicity committee is searching for an individual to assist with the management of the Sokol Minnesota website. Some knowledge of website management preferred, but not required. Content for the website will be provided to the individual to place on the site.

Minimum time commitment of 5 hours/month.

If interested, or if you know someone who may be interested, please contact Megan Cahill at 651-324-7784.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* May 2012



***Kremrole* / Cream Horn Class on March 31**

1. Tools, ingredients, dough, and finished *kremrole*. 2. Our youngest class member concentrated as he rolled the dough on a metal form. 3. Georgiana Dolejsi (right) mixed dough with Deb Ziskovsky. 4. Happy Bakers: MaryJo Chlebecek, Sheree Beam, Deb Ziskovsky, Danna Harris, Pamela Kotval, and Jill Bastyr. Georgiana and MaryJo taught the eager class of seven. Samples from the class were donated to the April 1 bake sale.