

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

- UPCOMING
MAY 2013
EVENTS**
- June/July Slovo
Deadline**
May 1
- Festival of Nations**
May 2 – 5
- Board of Trustees**
May 8, 7 p.m.
- Board of Directors**
May 16, 7 p.m.
- Senior Singers**
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
Timber Hills Senior
Community
(see page 4)
- Gymnastics**
Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

**Volunteering gets you free admission
to the largest multi-cultural event in Minnesota.**



THINK GLOBAL. DISCOVER LOCAL.

Festival of Nations®

MAY 3-5

SAINT PAUL RIVERCENTRE • FESTIVALOFNATIONS.COM

Czech and Slovak Cafe serving: koláče (kolache), kremrole (cream horn), jaternice (sausage), vepřový karbanátek (pork burger), smažený sýr (fried cheese), kapustové halušky (bacon, cabbage and dumpling hot dish), obložené chlebičky (open faced sandwich), párek v rohlíku (hot dog in a bun), limonáda a káva (lemonade and coffee).

Czech and Slovak Exhibit theme: *Children, Our Past and Our Future.*

Czech and Slovak Dance Performances:

Children: Saturday: 11 a.m.

Teens: Friday: noon and 2 p.m., Saturday: 1 p.m.

Czech and Slovak Adult Dancers: Friday: 5, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Saturday: 2:30, 4, and 6 p.m., Sunday: noon and 1:30 p.m.

Czech Musicians

Friday: 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday: 5 and 9 p.m. Sunday: 1, 2, and 4 p.m.

- Cafe chairs
Dawn Bulera
and Joyce Tesarek
- Exhibit chair
Martina Gurgel
- Children and Teens
Program
Louise Wessinger
- General Chair
Doreen McKenney
952-941-0426

**Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota
2013
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Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Denis Novak

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters

As I write this column, the calendar says that spring came a week ago. I look out over my yard and it seems that Mother Nature has not gotten the message. There is plenty of ice and snow left everywhere. Spring in Minnesota is a time of early disappointment, mixed with a great deal of hope. Our ancestors must have had the same emotions. An old Czech folk saying goes: *In March we huddle by the stove, in April we are still there, in May we hike in green orchards.*

When I was young, spring was the time the new chicks came. They arrived by mail, and we had to pick them up at the post office. Since every farmer's chicks arrived at about the same time, there were dozens of the special perforated boxes loaded with baby chicks stacked in the main room. The peeping sound of one chick is not very loud, but I will never forget the sound of hundreds of chicks all peeping at once.

When I was young, spring was the time Grandpa plowed the garden. No roto-tiller then. Only Grandpa, the horse, and a walking plow. They turned over the soil for the huge gardens my Grandmothers and Mom planted and harvested each year.

When I was young, spring was the time to hike along the creek. My friend Phil and I would stuff some wieners and bread into a backpack, along with a few *koláče* if Mom had some baked, and we'd set off for a day exploring. Our hikes often involved working on a Boy Scout project, but mainly we simply enjoyed the year's new life along the creek and the fun of cooking a simple meal in the spring air.

I do not think of *koláče* as being a spring thing. I like to eat them at any time of year and sometimes I even bake some. For me, it's a lot of work. Nearly two years ago, I attended a class at the Hall on baking these tasty pastry treats and it did improve my efforts baking them at home. Mary Jo Chlebecek will be the lead instructor at another *koláče* class on Saturday, May 11. I love the promise of her class: Old World Taste, New World Methods. This may be just the class I need. Join us, if you can. Registration is required. Sign up early!

As spring nears its end, *Czech and Slovak Culture Day Camp* for children ages 7 to 14 will return to the Hall. This weeklong event starts June 10 and features cooking, gym, crafts, and language each day. Songs, stories, history, and a lot of other fun activities are also planned. Read for details on page 3 in this issue.

Nazdar!

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

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko Honorary Czech Consul: Robert Vanasek

Past Honorary Czech Consul: Josef Mestenhauser

Sunshine Committee: Marlene Hinshaw

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. Jacobson

Kitchen Coordinator: Jean Hall

Website: Craig Johnson

Volunteer Coordinator: open

Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Joe Landsberger

Slovo: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks

Addresses: President: president@sokolmn.org | Directors: board@sokolmn.org | Education and Language programs: education@sokolmn.org | Events:

events@sokolmn.org | Finance and Fund Raising: finance@sokolmn.org | Fitness

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16th Annual Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp: June 10 to 14, 2013

By Judy Aubrecht, co-director

The cultural day camp is back! The sixteenth annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp will take place at the C.S.P.S. Hall from June 10 – 14, 2013. Camp is for children who have finished first grade and are ages 7 to 14. Camp was not held last summer because many of the adult volunteers were on a trip to the Czech and Slovak Republics. Campers arrive at 8:50 a.m. and leave at 3 p.m. An extended day can be prearranged until 4 p.m. Relatives often volunteer at camp, which creates a wonderful atmosphere because campers may spend the week with cousins, grandparents, or other relatives. With so many generations together at camp, everyone has an enriched experience.

Morning camp activities include cultural-themed crafts, gymnastics, Czech language instruction, and ethnic cooking. Decorating pots, swinging from rings, balancing on a beam, learning to say “*Dobry den*,” cracking eggs, and peeling carrots are among the activities for a typical morning. Singing Czech and Slovak songs with correct pronunciation, learning a calisthenics drill, and lively ethnic dancing lead up to lunch time. During the afternoon, campers enjoy team games, like Czechs and Slovaks, before a special guest arrives. Guests may include the reigning Minnesota Czech queen, musical performances, and speakers. Choice time is very popular with campers because children can focus on a special interest such as Lego castle building, sewing, preparing a play or puppet show, or adventures and surprises.

It costs \$90 for full 5-day session for children or grandchildren of Sokol Minnesota members. \$125 for full

5-day session for non-Sokol members. One child may attend camp for \$35 for the full 5-day session with each adult who volunteers for each day of the session. Limited scholarships may be available. Limited after camp care may be available until 4:00, for an additional fee.

Older youth between the ages of 15 and 20 are encouraged to volunteer at camp as Junior Leaders. They will assist the group leaders, directors, or special guests with activities during the week.

Registration information is available at <www.sokolmn.org>. Please register now to get ready for an exciting week at camp. Don't miss your chance to attend! If you have any questions, call Louise Wessinger: 651-452-6240.

You Are Invited to Volunteer

Volunteering is fun! Our organization is loaded with talent and expertise. We'd like to know what you can share by volunteering. Your reward is getting to know other Sokol members and making new friends. Now is a great time to get involved with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. We are waiting to hear from you.

● Festival of Nations on May 2 - 5:

- general chair Doreen McKenney at 952-941-0426
- café chairs Dawn Bulera and
Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147
- exhibit chair Martina Gurgel at 651-340-4767.

● Children's Culture Day Camp on June 10 - 14:

Louise at 651-452-6240.

● Czech and Slovak Fall Festival on September 15:

Joyce at 612-822-6147

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: The *Slovo* is published ten times/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 2013 issue is May 1. Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and layout editor; Pamela Kotval, labels; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Jeanette Pafko, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, and Joan Sedlacek, advisors. Photograph for this issue provided by Martina Gurgel, M. L. Kucera, Gary Novak, Jitka Sebek, and Joyce Tesarek. This May 2013 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after May 30.

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 (April 15 for June/July issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (May 1 for June/July issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** (10 issues) are \$15 per year. (Rate is good through May 2014.) Please include name, address, phone number, and email with your new or renewing non-member subscription. Make your check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; send to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *Slovo* Subscriptions/Renewals, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Change of address or for problems with *Slovo* subscriptions, please contact us if you missed an issue or received notice of payment due when a payment has already been made. **If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. If you wish to have this newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know. After one returned issue, we will hold all future issues until you notify us.** We pay 55¢ for each returned issue.

Email us: <slovo@sokolmn.org>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

2013 Czech & Slovak Festival on September 15 Needs *YOU* on its All-Star Volunteer Team

For the 2013 Czech and Slovak Festival on Sunday, September 15, to become a reality, we need you to step forward and volunteer. Join the best team of volunteers in Minnesota! The event again this year will take place at the wonderful facilities of the International Institute on Como Avenue in Saint Paul. *Sokol Minnesota urgently needs your help!*

Sokol is looking for fresh faces and new ideas to enhance one of our most important annual fundraising events. The Festival raises money not only for our beloved and historic C.S.P.S. Hall, but also to fund the many activities of our Sokol unit. It gives the general public the opportunity to enjoy our Slovak and Czech cultures through dance, food, music, history, and crafts. We want to show off the best of our proud Czech and Slovak nationalities. With your help to produce this year's Festival, we will succeed!

Several committees already have a coordinator, but committee co-chairs are ideal as the workload is shared and the ideas are doubled. Don't be shy! Here is a your opportunity to have input in planning and producing our Festival. We are looking for Sokol members (and friends) to help direct the numerous and varied Festival activities.

General Chair: Joyce Tesarek and **(co-chair wanted)**
Food Services Coordinators: **(2 to 3 people)**
Entertainment: Louise Wessinger and **(co-chair wanted)**
Printed Program Handout: **(1 person)**
Volunteer Coordination: **(2 to 3 people)**
Children's Activities: **(2 to 3 people)**
Story Tellers, Puppet Theater, and Games
Event (Corporate) Sponsors: Cheryl Nelson and
(co-chair wanted)

Beverage Sales: Ed Hamernik and **(co-chair wanted)**
Banners and Signage: Ed Hamernik and **(co-chair wanted)**
Vendors: Jean Draheim and **(co-chair wanted)**
Ticket Sales (food/beer): M.L. Kucera and Christy Banks
Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek
Silent Auction: Gina Roers and Jan Roers
Gelato: Ed and Arlene Hamernik
Grounds Coordination/Set-Up: Chuck Draheim
Publicity: Jyni Koschak and Sue Martin

One of the bonuses of becoming involved in this event is getting to know your Sokol Brothers and Sisters. Whether you help before the day by assisting with cooking, baking, or transporting materials to the International Institute, or volunteering for an activity shift on the day of the event, you are contributing to the success of our Festival.

Please contact Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147 or <events@sokolmn.org> to volunteer for our team or to get more information.

Sokol Minnesota would like to have all activities chairs and committee leaders in place by June 1. Our goal is to make the 2013 Czech and Slovak Festival the best yet! Thank you for joining the All-Star Sokol Volunteer Team.

Member News By Marlene Hinshaw

Georgiana Dolejsi, our 95-year-old wonder, is back on her piano stool and ready to go. Practice sessions for the Czech/Slovak Singers resumed Tuesday, April 9, at 10 a.m. Practice sessions now are held at Timber Hills Senior Community, 6307 Burnham Circle, Inver Grove Heights. This is a new location. For directions please call Marlene at 651-340-8619.

Congratulations to **Libby and Al Imbrone**, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 11. I hear Libby has a badly-sprained ankle. Too much celebrating? These two snowbirds will fly back to us in May.

Our favorite veterinarian/entrepreneur, **Joyce Tesarek Petrik**, was featured in the article, *Business Booster Rocket*, in the March 17 edition of the Saint Paul *Pioneer Press*. Joyce applied and was accepted with 15 other small businesses into the Growth Accelerator Grant Program, sponsored by the city of Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management. The program matched her with a Marketing Specialist and grad student to help her promote her new clinic, Pet Doctors Animal Clinic at Nicollet and Franklin, south of downtown Minneapolis. You go, girl! We wish you every success.

In December, **Steve Fritzie** retired. In March, he and **Suzie**, went with a group from the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity to Costa Rica to help build foundations for homes. They labored for a week in 95° weather digging 30 post holes (earthquake area) and then filling them with concrete. They leveled the earth for drain fields. They dug out and built

foundations. They filled 300 wheelbarrows with hard clay. Because they were in a remote mountain area, they only had hand tools to work with. The Costa Ricans worked side by side with them and were very supportive. Asked if they would do it again, Suzie replied, "Yes, we're already making plans. ... Now that our lives have slowed down a bit, we feel it's time to give back." Now, that's the Sokol Spirit!

Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the March 21 BOD meeting, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota accepted one new member: Janell Fredericks of Eagan. Janell has three children: Avery, age 8, and Chloe and Tina, ages 6. She expressed interest in gymnastics. She was not present at the meeting. Our next membership meeting will be August 23. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Our Long-Awaited Sprinkler Project Is Complete and In Service By Joyce Tesarek

Installation of the new sprinkler system is now complete; the system has been tested and approved by the City Fire Inspector. Our C.S.P.S. Hall now has a state-of-the-art fire protection system! Special thanks to Gary Novak, project director, who spent countless hours overseeing the project. Special thanks also to past-president Joe Landsberger, who initiated the campaign for the fire suppression system; Joe set the wheels in motion and followed up with the City of Saint Paul to bring the project to fruition. Thanks also to the City of Saint Paul for its generous Star Grant awards. Last, but not least, Sokol Minnesota's Project Planning Task



Force members (L-R) Joyce Tesarek, Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Joe Landsberger, and Gary Novak want to thank all our Sokol Minnesota members and friends whose donations made this project possible. *Thank you, everyone!*

Summary of the February Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting By Ed and Arlene Hamernik

President Denis Novak shared an update on Czech and Slovak activities for Euro-American Celebration, May 1 through 9. The events include performances by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers and the Lipa Slovak dancers, as well as a reading of a children's book by the Czech Slovak Moms group. Dr. Josef Mestenhauer, past honorary Czech consul, and the honorary Slovak and Czech consuls, Donald Pafko and Robert Vanasek, will speak.

Correction: In the February *Slovo*, the meeting summary should have stated that Teresa Pojar designed the Sokol business cards.

Culture camp will be held at the Hall from June 10 – 14 with registration starting now. Campers are from ages 7 to 14. Junior leaders are 15 to 20 years of age.

The sprinkler system is complete and ready to be brought on line. The air conditioning work is beginning. The National Trust has approved the change in scope for the Partners in Preservation grant and extended the timelines for completion of Phase I of air conditioner installation.

Treasurer's report shows balance in accounts of \$125,798. Finance is reviewing ledger entries of donations for all of 2008 through March 2013 to verify what funds are available for projects. Cost estimates to complete Phase I of the air conditioning project were reviewed and summarized. Comparing this cost summary with preliminary Legacy Fund totals, plus grants (PIP and others) awarded to Sokol, indicate we have funds available to complete Phase I of the air conditioning project.

Edits to the Quick Book's program are finished; they will clarify and simplify reading the profit and loss for events.

Board of Trustees (BOT) reported that the annual fire inspection for Certificate of Occupancy was done on February 27, by the Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections. The only major deficiency cited was the fire escape on the north end of the building. BOT will have a drawing prepared to show the inspector at the re-inspection on March 28. The minor deficiencies that were noted include electrical deficiencies that will be addressed by BOT member and licensed electrician Dan Bednar: the

fire extinguisher and occupancy placard issues will be handled by Chuck Draheim.

The BOT is making progress on the sump drainage issue. BOT is awaiting a proposal from one of the contractors who responded to the bid request.

A workday is scheduled for April 20. Planned are additional trench cleaning in the basement and removal of more trees in the parking lot area. Funds were requested to rent a dumpster to dispose of the trees, and \$350 was approved.

Discussion was held regarding replacement of the unstable basement stairs from the first floor to the basement. Up to \$750 was approved for the cost of materials plus a building permit. An additional day of custodian coverage per week was approved.

Women's and Men's Physical Directors report that Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, Norm Petrik, and Jason Brozovich will attend the Western District Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. A request for \$50 was approved for a trophy donation to the Western District *Slet* to be held on April 27.

Sokol Minnesota Planning for the Future By Joe Landsberger

Funded by a City of Saint Paul Capital STAR matching grant of \$20,000, Sokol's Project Planning Task Force has retained the firm of Miller Dunwiddie Architecture and its principal, Chuck Liddy, FAIA, to plan for the C.S.P.S. Hall's next 126 years. While that may sound ambitious, the Task Force (past presidents Joyce Tesarek, Ed Hamernik, and Joe Landsberger; Trustee Chair Chuck Draheim, Project Manager Gary Novak, with President Denis Novak, ex officio) in the past year has overseen the upgrade to our heating and plumbing systems, installation of a fire suppression sprinkling system, and, now in progress, the completion of the air conditioning system. While these Legacy projects have been ambitious, we recognize that it is time now to plan for current and future uses of our beloved historic Hall. Under the guidance of the architecture firm's professionals, we will survey the stakeholders and principle users of the hall, compile responses into a common document, sort out what emerges, and develop the plan. Sounds simple!

Of course, this cannot be done without Sokol members. In the next months, you as committees and members will have the opportunity to reflect not only on how you have used and currently use the hall, but also how you envision your committees' and programs' needs in the future. Chuck Liddy's firm has provided us with a series of questions that we have adapted for you to consider. More information and scheduling will be forthcoming, but we want to begin the process. Thank you for all you have done to make our Hall a welcoming and functional space going forward. If you have any process questions, you are welcome to contact any member of the Project Planning Task Force at <planning@sokolmn.org>.

1. What is your program or committee under consideration?
2. What space(s) do you currently use? What are its rough dimensions? How is it divided?
3. How do you see your program evolving in the years ahead?
What factors impact its growth, decrease, or even consolidation with others?
Who are the intended beneficiaries? How does budget affect its operation? How does membership affect its operation?
Who is the intended audience? Who can be the intended audience?
4. What are the time periods you use the hall?
This includes not only the hours and days, but also the frequency, calendar months, etc.
5. What are the "finishes" that are appropriate for each space?
These include floor, wall and counter surfaces; also
6. What are specific acoustical requirements?
For example, audiences, disabilities, age ranges, etc. What adjacent spaces impact these?
7. What space requirements are needed related to equipment and/or furniture and/or storage needs? Fixed and/or mobile?
8. What mechanical needs are impacted?
For example, air temperature, communications equipment, plumbing, lighting, etc.
9. How is accessibility impacted?
Elevator, restrooms, plumbing in general, shelving, privacy and security, etc.
10. Additional concerns, questions, etc.

Successful Spring Pancake Breakfast

By Ed Hamernik and Doreen McKenney

A sincere "Thanks" to all who helped at the Sunday Pancake Breakfast with Bake Sale and Craft Tables on March 24. The total profit for this event was \$1,924.54.

We had a wonderful crew, from the early shift with Rosemary Baisden, Ted Schieffer, and Robert (Jake) Jacobson, who helped Arlene and Ed Hamernik get started, all the way through Kathy Jorgenson, Gale Thomsen, and Pam Kotval, who stayed to help put the last clean dish away. Rounding out the crew were Tom and Judy Aubrecht, Jason Brozovich, Mary



Steve Shimer. The breakfast served 167 guests, netting \$897.

We were pleased to have members of the Girl Scout Daisy Troop helping. Caylie and Alisia were accompanied by their leaders Paula Maxson and Rhonie Waldron, plus parent volunteers Eryn Ekegren, Allie Faughender, and Mary Szondy.

Baked goods yielded a profit of \$676.54. Donating baked goods were Mary Jo Chlebeczek, Arlene Hamernik, Bob Kosticha, Danita Larson, Hana Matousek and the Czech and Slovak Moms, who made *mazanec*. Joan Sedlacek and Doreen McKenney baked 52 dozen *koláčes* which quickly sold out. Jean Draheim coordinated vendor table rentals, which brought in \$300. Legacy table sales were \$51. Gift shop table netted \$178.90. Appreciation goes to Christy Banks, Mary Jo Chlebeczek, Marit Lee Kucera, and Louise Wessinger for assisting at those two fundraiser tables.



Cahill, Megan Cahill, Jim and Mary Jo Chlebeczek, Chuck Draheim, Shannon Duffy, Darla Kolb, Bob Kostichka, Terry Pulkrabek and Betty Erlandson, Lois and Roger Meichak, and

Terry Pulkrabek and Phyllis Vosejka enjoyed a visit with Mr. Rabbit.

NOTES OF INTEREST for *Slovo* Readers

Euro-American Celebration. From May 1 - 9, at various locations around the Twin Cities, European cultures are being celebrated with a variety of programs such as the European-Minnesota aerospace connection, a discussion on free trade today in Europe, a soccer tournament and barbeque, European wine tasting, and story time for children. For more Celebration details:

<<http://www.afmsp.org/Events/EuroAmericanCelebration/tabid/774/Default.aspx>>

May 1, Wednesday, 4 – 8 p.m., **Meet the European Union Opening Reception** at Nicollet Island Pavilion. Speakers include Honorary Slovak Consul Don Pafko. Dance groups include Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers and Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers. Free.

May 5, Sunday, 2 - 3:45 p.m., **European Story Time**, Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand, Saint Paul. Czech & Slovak Moms reading at 2:45 p.m. Free.

May 8, Wednesday, 6 p.m., Silvia Magana, from the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, will speak on Košice, Slovakia, one of the two 2013 European Capitals of Culture (along with Marseille, France), at the Germanic-American Institute, 301 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul. Free.

Svátek čarodějnic/Festival of the Witches. The night of April 30 – May 1 in the Czech Republic is the ancient festival of *pálení čarodějnic* ("burning of witches") or just *čarodějnice* ("the witches"), known in other countries as Walpurgis Night or Beltane. It was believed that witches met at the Witches Sabbath and that fires provided protective light against these malevolent forces. On this day, the end of winter is symbolized by the burning of rag and straw witches, or just broomsticks, on bonfires around the country. In some parts of Bohemia, a *májka* (maypole) of fir or pine is decorated with ribbons and wreaths and after the celebration is burned. Even today, Czechs still like to celebrate the festival with food and drink outdoors around a roaring fire.

Folklore for A Snowy Spring. An old Czech story says that three men went fishing on a sunny spring day, but the weather changed and the temperature fell below freezing and the three men froze solid. Friends brought them home, where their wise housekeeper Žofie took care of them until they recovered. Ever since, though, they were called the *zmzlí muži*, the frozen men. (The moral? Don't plant your garden until after May 15!) Coincidentally, the feasts of the Three Frozen Kings, the *tři ledoví králové*, are in early May: Sv. Pankrác on May 12, Sv. Bonifác is May 13, and Sv. Servác is May 14. And May 15 is the feast of Sv. Žofie.

The Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota hosts another interesting Skype lecture in May (date to be announced, consult the CSCC website <cs-center.org> for the exact Saturday), 10 a.m. – noon at City Bella Community Room, 6600 Lyndale Avenue South, Richfield. Dr. Martin Palous, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to the United States and Ambassador to the United Nation will speak about foreign relations of the Czech Republic, with a special emphasis on European integrative approaches, as well as relations with the

United States. Ambassador Palous has visited Minnesota several times; he was responsible for the establishment of the Honorary Consulate here in 1999.

Support C.S.P.S. Legacy Fund

Grants have funded several of the renovations of our C.S.P.S.

Hall, but many of these grants also must be matched. We ask for your support to insure that upcoming



projects can be completed as C.S.P.S. Hall celebrates its 126th year in 2013. Please consider a tax-deductible donation. *Thank you!*

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 C.S.P.S. Hall, I make a tax deductible

single donation of \$ _____

5-year pledge of \$ _____

per year for total of \$ _____

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

I would like my gift designated:

in memory or in honor of: _____

List my name in the *Slovo* newsletter

List amount 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

Visa Discover Mastercard

AmericanExpress

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to:

C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund

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2013 Garage Sale Benefits Sokol Minnesota

The weather outside was not delightful, but inside the Hall, the workers and shoppers at the Annual Sokol Garage Sale, April 10 - 11, were oblivious to the snow, rain, ice, and sleet outside (and we had them all this year). Our volunteers always have a good time digging through other people's old and no-longer-used treasures, sorting, and arranging them for our eager customers. At the opening bell at noon on Thursday, we had our usual crowd of collectible dealers eager to check out this year's assortment. Customers were delighted when we started the \$3 Bag Sale promptly at 10 a.m. on Friday. The nasty wintery mix may have discouraged a few from driving to the Hall with their donations on Wednesday, and a few others from the joy of taking home bargains on Thursday and Friday, but still our 2013 Garage Sale fundraiser netted \$1,057.

Thanks to our volunteers: Sharon Liska, Ann Seifert, Arlene Hamernik, Louise Wessinger, Daniel Washick, Joyce Tesarek, Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek, George Chlebecek, Marlene and Kent Hinshaw, Gale Thomsen, Joan Delacek, Steve Shimer, Joy Peterson, Jake Jacobson, Alisa Hollibush, Chad Wuori, Katie Haselbauer, Ross Peterson, Joe Landsberger, Jean and Chuck Draheim, Phil Hamer, and co-chairs Doreen McKenney and Marit Lee Kucera.

Thanks for all the donations from Sharon Liska, Pam Kotval, Ann Seifert, Joy Peterson, Louise Wessinger, Judith



Kalash Benton, Ron Tabaika, Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek, Marlene Hinshaw, Steve Shimer, Joe Landsberger, Doreen McKenney, Danita Larson, Marit Lee Kucera, Gale Thomsen, Joan Sedlacek, Lloyd Korcak, Hana Matousek, Joyce Tesarek, Shirl Verner, Jean and Chuck Draheim, Tom Ferguson, and several more members and friends of Sokol Minnesota who missed signing our Donation Registry.

Our remainders were given to St. Mark Lutheran Church, our neighbor at 550 West 7th (whose Spring Rummage Sale is May 16 - 18); Alley Shoppe in Arlington Heights, Saint Paul, which has provided free clothing and household items to eligible families in Ramsey County since 1970; and the Twin Cities Metro Salvation Army.



Czech and Slovak Moms Continue the Traditions

Left: Baking *mazanec* for the Spring Bake Sale: Hana Matousek, Michaela Anderson, Michaela Wentz, and Denisa Acs.

Below left: The children memorize long lines in Czech to perform on the historic stage at C.S.P.S. Hall; they are continuing the long tradition of producing live theater in Czech and Slovak on our "gem" of a stage. The parents are very proud of their children who enjoy both practicing and performing the plays.

Below right: Traditional Easter activities at Family Night on Easter Saturday, April 20: beeswax-decorated Easter eggs and in the background, branch braiding to make Easter whips.



From the archives of **Joan Sedlacek**, this **HISTORICAL GEM** was found in the pages of the November 1981 *Slovo*,

Staré pověsti české Old Czech Legends

*Editor's Note: This is the third of three installment of an original translation by Sokol Minnesota member **Hana Matousek** of the famed Czech author, Alois Jirásek's work, Staré pověsti české (Old Czech Legends).*

Part 2 – O Čechovi (About Čech) On the third day, when the sun rose above the tree tops, the leader Čech sent for his brother Lech and the elders. He ordered everyone to gather on a plateau overseeing the region and thus he said, "You all do not need to complain and grumble any more, for we have found the land where we are going to stay and settle! This is the land we all were looking for! I promised that I would lead you to it. This is the promised land, rich in animals, birds and honey, covered with the wealth of nature! Here is the land of your dreams! It does not have a name yet; consider what we should name it."

"After you! Let us name it after your name, 'Čech'." called a white bearded old man, oldest of all the elders. And all the others also began calling, "After you, we will call it after you!"

The delighted leader Čech, moved by his people's unanimous wishes, knelt down and kissed the ground, the new homeland of his kin. Then he rose and stretching his arms toward the open land called out the blessings, "O, welcome holy land, our promised land, keep us healthy and safe, protect us, our children and future generations to infinity!"

Then the leader Čech ignited a large stake at which they sacrificed in thanks for the blessings, and everyone rejoiced in their new homeland — Čechy.

When the land was divided, the hard, toilsome cultivating work began. The people began clearing the woods with axe and fire, digging out the roots for second year plowing and building the grafted, straw covered dwellings on the land they now owned. Each clan formed its own small settlement, houses

surrounded by stables, sheds and barns. Year after year as the new fields were added, the crops grew richer. Wide fields of rye, wheat, barley and oats waved densely in fragrant-filled air, while brighter green belts of flax and hemp grew beside beds of colorful poppy flowers. Year after year, the herds of cattle and livestock grew, their little offspring running all around.

The elected chief administered to all his kin and also their properties. He prayed and sacrificed on behalf of his people, greeted the guests and visitors, judged the angry adversaries, and distributed the work which everyone had plenty of. Women attended to households and children, spun their own cloth, sewed dresses and clothes, vestures, shrouds, women's and men's skirts, cloaks and fur coats.

Men minded the cattle, protected them against the beasts, worked in the fields, hunted the wild animals by chase with their spears or trapped them in snares or pits. Wolves especially they lured, the fatal enemy of their herds. Lively and active were the villages and their surroundings.

Only at noontime everything quieted down, the time of silence when *Polednice* came out, flying in their white garb like light shadows over the fields toward the villages to carry away unattended small children. The time when beautiful forest virgins appeared in white, wreaths in their long, golden hair. Everyone also feared the soporific *Ježinky* who deprived people of their sight. The people were uneasy when passing a shady lake or pool in the forest, where in the dark shadows of the old trees *Vodník* was lurking and where pallid Watermaids in greenish garb enticed people to destruction.

But they were most afraid of Perun, the master of thunder and lightning, the gods' messenger, and other powerful demons. Those they prayed to, bringing them gifts and sacrifices to the water springs, black chickens or pigeons, especially to Veles, for he would bless and protect their cattle from pestilence.

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 Organization. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Year 2013 dues for members joining after June 30 are reduced. Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership.

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

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary

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

Legacy Fund: under \$100: **Bessie O'Neill** (in memory of **Wally Schovanec**); **Delores Speidel** (in memory of **Karleen Sheppard**). \$100 - \$499: **Miloslava Dousa** (payment on 5-year pledge of \$500); **Terry Shima**.

General Fund: under \$100: **Joseph Kocab** (in memory of **Czech Catholic Union members of Saint Paul**).

May 2013 *Slovo* 9

BOOK REVIEW

A Rare Survival By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

If I Had Been a Boy I Would Have Been Shot ... The Story of the Youngest of the Women of Lidice. Jaroslava Skleničková. Prepared for publication by Jana Havlíková and translated by Lucy Doležalová and Tamara Volejníková. Nymburk: VEGA-L Publishers, 2010, 182 pp. Available through the Lidice Memorial.

The title of Skleničková's book tells the gist of her moving story. She was 16 years old when the Nazis destroyed Lidice as part of their retaliation on Czechoslovaks for the assassination of Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich. In Lidice, a village northwest of Prague, all 173 males older than 15 were executed on June 10, 1942. Several men who were not in the village were arrested and executed soon afterwards along with some already under arrest. Several hundred women and about 100 children were deported to concentration camps. A few young children were handed over to elite Nazi SS families for Germanization. The rest of the children were sent to the Chelmno extermination camp where they were gassed to death. Lidice was set on fire, the remains of buildings destroyed, and the ground smoothed over. And beyond Lidice, another estimated 1,300 people were killed.

Because Skleničková was not male or a younger girl, she was allowed to live, sent with other women to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. She did not know the extent of the destruction of her village, including the murder of her father, until after the war.

The book is divided into three sections: Childhood, Prisoner 11788, and the Bitter Smiles of Liberty. The first and last sections place her war-time experiences in a broad context. Skleničková had an almost idyllic childhood with a head-chef father who loved to tell her stories and play practical jokes and a loving mother,

sister, and extended family. Her early life was full of school lessons, Christmas gifts, and friends.

Skleničková writes that on June 9, 1942, when the village was surrounded by Germans, "Mummy woke me up about half past three in the morning, holding my clothes in her hands and urging me to get dressed quickly, that we had to go for two days to the school for interrogation." Skleničková, her mother, and sister spent the next three days in a school gymnasium in Kladno before being sent by train to Ravensbrück, not knowing why. She survived the cold, starvation, arduous labor, bugs, and disease with pluck and ingenuity, showing compassion to other hungry prisoners who aided her in turn.

"My arrival in Ravensbrück enabled me to get acquainted with the most varied forms of heroism, selflessness, sacrifice, and solidarity," writes Skleničková. "It was a great school, and indeed the only bonus I had from the concentration camp for my future life." Adjusting to life after the war was difficult, leaving her unsure whom to trust outside of her family. "I lost all my confidence in people after the war, after this experience," she writes. But she triumphed again, going to work and school, building a career, marrying, and raising two children. Today she again lives in Lidice.

This human picture of Lidice is an important addition to the historical overviews, films, fictionalized accounts, poems, and children's books. Skleničková tells us in a straightforward writing style about her horrific concentration-camp experience and shows how it did not keep her from building a happy and productive life.

Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. For additional information, go to http://www.cs-center.org/wp/category/programs/literary_ventures/ or contact Gwen at <gwen@cs-center.org>.

Finding Your Immigrant's Hometown

By J. H. Fonkert, C.G.

An ancestor's home place is perhaps the Holy Grail of family history research. It can be hard, but not impossible to find.

Let us continue tracing Franz Kopecky who landed at Baltimore in May 1910. His wife and children followed a month later, landing at New York. Their passenger arrival records gave clues to their origins in Bohemia. Franz said he had last lived in Hlinsko and that his wife lived in Vitanov. Hard to read, his birthplace was recorded at Horni Kolsh (or Rolsh?). When Anežka (Agnes) arrived, she said she was born in Vitanov.

The key to finding Franz' and Anežka's parents and grandparents in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) is knowing where Franz and Anežka were born and lived. Post-1892 passenger records are among the best sources of information about immigrants' origins, but several other kinds of American records may give clues.

Some of the best are records surrounding death. Death certificates often record a place of birth, but too often only the country of birth. In many cases, the informant for the death certificate (a spouse or child) simply does not know the facts. Obituaries also sometimes name birthplaces, but suffer from the same problems. Occasionally, a gravestone will record the place of birth.

The Minnesota Historical Society offers a free online index of Minnesota death certificates (www.mnhs.org). Frank Kopecky's

1929 death certificate (indexed "Kohecky") states simply that he was born in Bohemia, but yields another piece of treasure: his father was Vincent Kopecky. Modern death certificates also sometimes report the place of a parent's birth. The 1969 certificate for Frank's son, Frank Jr., again states only that his father was born in Czechoslovakia. Death certificates for Frank and Agnes' children Mary and Vincent give no information about the parent's birth place, but identify Agnes' maiden name: Sulc.

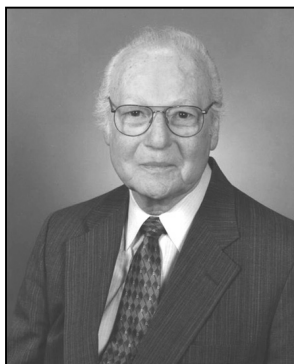
Citizenship records are another good source for home-country birthplaces. Frank Sr.'s citizenship file in Roseau County, Minnesota, includes a copy of the declaration of intention he filed in 1910 in Linn County, Iowa. When asked, he said he was born in Holetin, Bohemia. He said his last residence was Hlinsko, matching the information from the passenger arrival record.

If your ancestor lived in Minnesota, but was not yet a citizen during World War I, he or she might have completed an alien registration form. These two-page questionnaires asked for birthplace, but the registrations for Franz and his son Frank only state "Bohemia." A free index of alien registrations is available at <http://www.mndiscoverycenter.com/research>, and the forms can be viewed on microfilm at the Minnesota Historical Society Library.

J. H. Fonkert is a board-certified genealogist and former Sokol Minnesota president and board member. He has no Czech or Slovak ancestry, but wishes he did.

Where is the Czech Gold Now, and What Can We Learn from its Incredible and Complex Travels?

By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser,
Distinguished International
Professor Emeritus, University
of Minnesota, Department of
Educational Policy and
Administration, Comparative
and International Development
Education
Honorary Consul of the Czech
Republic (1999-2009)



The source of information used in this article is a recent book by Stanislav Motl, Kam zmizel zlatý poklad republiky (Where Did The Gold Treasure of the Republic Disappear?). Motl is a well-known journalist who has produced several TV programs about this subject. Previous installments of this article appeared in the past five issue of the Slovo, November/December 2012 through April 2013. Editor's note: This article originally appeared on the CSCC website <cs-center.org>.

I did not expect that this story about Czech gold would require more than one article. I could have focused only on the gold and left out the context, history, and global connections but I soon realized that I was not dealing just with the gold, but with both world wars, post-war reconstruction, the Russian-Bolshevik revolution, the Czechoslovak Legion, international relations, culture, psychology, politics, economics, diplomacy, ideologies, human nature, and even religions.

When a story is this complex, it is difficult to be precise about each part, such as with the value of the gold itself. Rates change constantly, and the references I used came in the form of U.S. dollars, Swiss francs, and British pounds sterling, making it difficult to sort out the value of the gold and jewelry. We need to understand change continually happens.

The minds of the people in the Czech Republic were polluted and brainwashed by both the Nazi period and subsequent communist dictatorship. The Czech TV program (based on the book cited in this article and that caused so much uproar) presented the western governments' withholding of the Czech gold as an immoral capitalist act that exploited a small defenseless country by making it pay for everything from soldiers' stockings to the bombs dropped on Germany. The book's author could not see that the British simply developed an accounting system by which they tracked all expenditures related to the Czechoslovak government in exile and its armed forces. Some of it was property that the Czechoslovak government obtained from its own resources, such as the international accounts of the Bata company, the Zbrojovka arms company, and the Skoda company. In addition, President Eduard Beneš managed in the last few days of his administration to transfer some financial resources to various Czechoslovak embassies. The government in exile also received income from several patents, such as the one on the famous Czechoslovak machine gun. Contemporary Czechs could not see that accounting systems are based on categories unique to one's own culture, nor could they appreciate that by the time of the Cold War, the Czechoslovak government was under direct control of Moscow, which used its gold to purchase war materials for use against the western powers, a powerful reason for them to deny payment.

The communist system attempted to develop, through its educational system and party discipline, the so-called "socialist personality," very different from the individualistic western concept of identity. In addition to trying to convince Czechs and Slovaks of the evils of free enterprise, communists actually brainwashed people into believing that they had changed everybody into their "ideal type of this socialist personality," e.g. obedient, collectivistic, and enthusiastic about the system. Many people remain scarred even today, as the last presidential elections showed. The communists did not succeed completely; despite their trying to kill the sense of national identity, nationalism was revived when the country split and the public turned inward to think only of their own domestic problems.

Another implication of the gold story is that the ability to predict the future (as in the case of the declining, then catapulting value of gold) is greatly limited. Research indicates that future predictions are not always based on anticipation of future trends but on present understanding and collective memories of the past. And just as we lack the capacity to predict trends, we often do not know how to deal with our past. All of these cost the Czech Republic dearly in lost value of its gold.

This series of articles would not be complete without giving the readers some notion about the damages that World War II and Nazism did to the peoples of Czechoslovakia. The cost was not just to the economy, but to the pride and psycho of the people. For example, the Czechs had to pay an insulting tax for the "administration" of the Protectorate while the Slovaks had to pay the Reich not only for the costs associated with transporting the Jews to concentration camps but also a surcharge of 500 Deutsche Mark for each Jew. Add another cost, the disappearance of the Reich's gold reserves, from which Czechoslovakia was to receive war reparations never obtained. It was obviously stolen by fleeing Nazis in the last months of the war, and deposited in Argentina, Portugal, Turkey, and possibly to other countries or to the pockets of individual Nazis. The Reich gold has never been found, and its theft became known as the most extensive hoist in history. Czech losses were so extensive that even all of the Nazi gold probably would not have been enough to cover them.

In 1946, the respected Czech economist Dr. Leopold Chmela assessed the damages caused by the Nazis at 135.5 billion Czech Crowns (Kč). Additional losses to government finances were estimated at 96.8 billion; to industry some 38.4 billion, to agriculture 44.5 billion, and to transportation 46 billion. Later, when more documentation was available, Dr. Chmela added to these losses the military equipment that helped the Nazis fight their wars, and the personal costs of people who were so handicapped that they depended on government support after the war. The revised grand total was one trillion 300 million Kč.

Is it any wonder that people in Czechoslovakia developed a victim mentality, still blaming the West for Munich because in their view it caused the war, subsequent Nazi occupation, and the resulting rise of communism? What anti-Americanism there is, is certainly traceable to this idea. For me, the ultimate lessons are that we as Americans have a responsibility to restore trust, to regain an accurate understanding of history, and to continue to build new and more lasting friendships between the people of the United States and the Czech and Slovak Republics. We need to do a lot more than we are doing presently, if only because there is a lot more to be done.

ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!
SOKOL Minnesota FUNDRAISERS
for our historic 126-year-old C.S.P.S. Hall

***Festival of Nations*, May 2 - 5**
Saint Paul RiverCenter. Volunteer and Attend Free!
Café: 612-822-6147 and Culture: 651-340-4767

***Children's Culture Camp*, June 10 - 14**
Children ages 7 - 14. (see page 3)
Registration form is online.
Information: Louise: 651-452-9240

***Czech and Slovak Festival*, September 15**
Be an All-Star! Volunteer! (see page 4)
Information: Joyce: 612-822-6147

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



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* MAY 2013

**Czech and Slovak Rotary Group
Visited Sokol Minnesota, April 12**

Minnesota hot dishes, roasted turkey with dressing and gravy, brownies, and root beer floats were a few of the favorite dishes that Sokol members served the six Rotary guests from Czech Republic and Slovakia. After receiving Sokol Minnesota t-shirts, the group sang Czech and Slovak songs; later they danced with our folk dancers. They also toured our third floor Meeting Room and the *kroje* collection.



Back (L-R): Ed Hamernik (Sokol Minnesota vice president), Denis Novak (Sokol Minnesota president), Gordon Backlund (Fridley, Minnesota, Rotary host). Front: Rotary International District 2240 Group Study Exchange 2013 to Minnesota/Wisconsin, April 6 - May 4: Linda Salajková (CR), Martin Barčík (SL), Vanda Kašová (CR), Stanislav Jurík (CR), Ladislav Vonz (CR), Veronika Ševčíková (SL). All six are journalists.