

UPCOMING EVENTS May 2015

Festival of Nations
April 30 – May 3

June Slovo Deadline
May 1

Sokol Minnesota Singers
May 5 and 19, 10 a.m.

Board of Trustees
May 6, 7 p.m.

Garage Sale
May 13 drop-off
May 14 – 15

Members' Featured Friday
May 15, 7 p.m.

Family Morning
May 16, 10 a.m.

Board of Directors
May 21, 7 p.m.

Czech That Film Festival

Four acclaimed Czech films
Guest: Director Jiří Mádľ

at MSP Film Society
St. Anthony Main, Minneapolis
4th week of June

Complete Details: June/July Slovo



Sokol Minnesota GARAGE



Antiques, collectibles, books, clothing, and domestic treasures.

Thursday, May 14, noon - 7 p.m.

Friday, May 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Spring cleaning is right around the corner, so bag up those no longer needed treasures and donate them to our annual sale.

Unfortunately we are unable to take:
mattresses, bikes, electronics, and large furniture.

Drop off donations

Wednesday, May 13, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

To arrange for early drop off: 651-290-0542

We need to have everything in boxes with lids that close. We must be able to stack the boxes. Our storage space is very limited. No big bags, please.

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Event chairs: Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102 - www.sokolmn.org

May 15 Featured Friday Sokol Members' Meeting

Meet the Queens! Have you ever wondered what goes into making the Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Queen Pageant? Actually, a lot! Former Queens Anne Smisek Jans (1999-2000), Sokol member, and Ashley Vlasak Zimanske (2003-2004) will tell us all about the fun, the excitement, the friendships, and the many hours of dedication and detailed work, as well as the importance of the visibility given to our Czech and Slovak heritages by the Pageant committee, the new queen and her court. The newly crowned Queen Elizabeth Kaliska (from St. Paul) and Princess Madison Jerde (Golden Valley) will perform their talent. Elizabeth will play her *pišťalka* (Slovak shepherd's flute) and Madison will sing *Over the Rainbow* both in English and Czech.

Potluck Supper at 7 p.m. with Meeting and Program at 7:30 p.m.

A-F: main course or entrée

G-K: breads or chips/dip/appetizers

L-N: salads or vegetables or fruit

O-Z: dessert

Donation jar for pop, bottled water, and beer.

Sokol provides coffee and tap water, plus paper products. Members are welcome to bring a guest.

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

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Judy Aubrecht

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

Past issues of *Slovo* and
Hall Calendar of events:

www.sokolmn.org

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters

By Judy Aubrecht

Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp With summer quickly approaching, it is time for us to start thinking about the 18th Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Louise Wessinger and I have been co-directors for all of the past years. The dates for the camp are June 15 to 19, 2015. Camp was scheduled one week later this year so that all children would be finished with school and so that the "Chill the Hall" air conditioning project might be finished.

Campers must be between 7 years (and have finished first grade) and 14 years old. Campers who are accompanied to camp by a volunteer attend at a reduced rate. Volunteers may act as small group leaders, assist with crafts and cooking lessons, read legends and folktales to the campers, or be involved in other activities. Junior leaders are usually 15 to 19 years old, and are often young people who have also been campers. Parent or other adult volunteers are often relatives of campers or people who like to share their ethnic knowledge and skills. Visiting cousins or grandparents from other states have arranged to join relatives and all come to camp together. Having multiple generations come together to share the cultural experience with each other is what makes our camp different from most day camps. My neighbor who has volunteered tells everyone that "it is the sweetest camp."

The Sokol philosophy of "A sound mind in a sound body" is followed throughout the week. Louise has worked as a teacher and uses her teaching skills to organize the camp day so that activities flow smoothly. Daily camp activities include a rotation of four activities during the morning. Small groups participate in a language class where campers learn beginning skills, including counting, colors, body parts, seasons, and months of the year. Campers sing the Czech and Slovak national anthems as well as favorite folk songs. Ethnic cooking class includes active participation with preparing and mixing ingredients. Campers peel carrots, dice onions, mince garlic, and later taste the stew, soup, or dumplings that they helped to make. Craft time is a highlight. Everyone gets a chance to exercise and do tumbling during gymnastics. Favorite gym activities include parachute games and a jumping castle. Campers learn folk dances, a calisthenics drill, and play lively games after lunch, like the tag game "Czechs and Slovaks." Sometimes a guest speaker comes to share a special experience. Choice time is an afternoon favorite time. Campers get to sign up for two preferred classes, such as Lego castle building, puppets, Miss Poppyseed activities, and special crafts. Some years, all campers work together to stage a play of the well-known Czech folktale "Marushka and the Month Brothers." There is much excitement on the final afternoon of camp when the camp program takes place. Guests, including younger and older siblings and parents, arrive to watch campers sing, dance, and perform before they say good-bye and "See you next year!" to their camp friends.

We hope you will consider enrolling a camper in our day camp this year and volunteering at camp, if you are available. Registration materials can be downloaded at <www.sokolmn.org/culturecamp>. All registration materials are due by June 1 to ensure that each camper has materials and small groups are formed. *Nazdar!*

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

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko Honorary Czech Consul Designate: Marit Lee Kucera

Past Honorary Czech Consul: Robert Vanasek

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Kitchen Coordinator: open

Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson

Sunshine Committee: open

Website: Joe Landsberger

Volunteer Coordinator: open

Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik

Slovo newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks, Deb Ziskovsky, Mary Kucera

E-Addresses: President: president@sokolmn.org | Board of Directors: board@sokolmn.org |

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Dr. Josef Mestenhauser: June 23, 1925 – March 14, 2015

By Christy Banks

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota sadly notes the loss of our dear friend Dr. Josef Mestenhauser, who died on Saturday, March 14, at the age of 89 in the presence of his family.

Over the years, Dr. Mestenhauser furthered the causes not just of Czechs and Slovaks locally but also that of the land of his birth, Czechoslovakia; of his second homeland, the United States of America; and that of international education and understanding. He was a strong proponent of Václav Havel's principles regarding civil society. We count ourselves fortunate to have known him and to have shared his fellowship in Sokol.

Dr. Mestenhauser was born in Vrchlábí, Czechoslovakia, in the Sudetenland, on June 23, 1925, to a family long active in Sokol. He attended Charles University in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in the Faculty of Law, from 1945 to 1948, at which time he was forced to flee when the communists took power. He was awarded his doctorate from that institution honorarily in 1990 after the Velvet Revolution saw the return of democracy. In 1949 Dr. Mestenhauser came to the United States to complete his education, and in 1960 he was awarded a Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Minnesota. He served the university over the years in many capacities, most recently as Distinguished



International Emeritus Professor in the Department of Educational Policy and Administration.

While the university remained his base, he also taught, lectured, and published prolifically in academia both in the United States and abroad. Over the years he was given many honors for his work, including the Jan Masaryk Silver Medal, which the Czech Republic awarded him in 2005. From 1998 to 2008, Dr. Mestenhauser served as the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota. During this period he was often to be found at his consul's office in the C.S.P.S. Hall. He was particularly committed to his mission to promote cultural exchange between the Czech and Slovak Republics and the United States, and he faithfully attended Sokol events and events of the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, an organization he founded. It is not too much to say that Dr. Mestenhauser's work benefitted thousands of people throughout the world.

Dr. Mestenhauser is survived by his wife Patricia, daughters Patricia Bergh and Anne Bentley, son Josef P. Mestenhauser, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. A private memorial service has been held, and a public memorial is planned later in the year at the University of Minnesota to celebrate his legacy.

To read more: <www.cehd.umn.edu/Connect/2015/Mestenhauser>

Christy Banks, Slovo copy editor, assisted with copy editing and production of Dr. Mestenhauser's book *Shifting Landscapes in Central Europe* (2013).

News from the Board of Trustees (BOT) By Chuck Draheim, BOT Chair

Workdays: Everyone is welcome to join in the workdays at C.S.P.S. Hall on June 13, August 8, and October 10. Please email the BOT at <trustees@sokolmn.org> to indicate that you would like to help. *Thank you.*

Recycling: Sokol Minnesota now recycles. Since March, we have a special recycling dumpster alongside our regular trash container. Posters near each recycling container inside the Hall indicate what may and may not be recycled. *Thank you!*

Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

Renewals: Individual \$50; Couple \$90.

Senior \$40 (over age 65); Senior couple \$80.

New memberships: Individual \$55; Couple \$95.

This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol Organization. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Dues are reduced for members joining after June 30.

Membership applications: <www.sokolmn.org> or by request from Norm Petrik (612-822-6147). Please send your completed membership application and check to

**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Attn: Membership
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102**

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

Make your check to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Send to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *Slovo* Subscriptions, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Extra copies of *Slovo* are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts.

Please contact us for a **change of address**, for problems with *Slovo* subscriptions, if you missed an issue, or if you received notice of payment due when a payment has already been made.

If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. If you wish to have this newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know. After one returned issue, we hold all future issues until you notify us. We pay 49¢ for each returned issue.

Email us: <slovo@sokolmn.org>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. *Thank you!*
Member Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor; Mary Kucera, production assistant; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Joyce Tesarek and Martina Gurgel, photographers; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, mailing production; Joan Sedlacek, mailing; with Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, Pam Snopl, advisors. Photographs for this issue provided by Martina Gurgel, M.L. Kucera, and Joyce Tesarek.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: The *Slovo* is published ten times per year by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership. The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to <slovo@sokolmn.org>. **The deadline for the June/July 2015 issue is May 1.**

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

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

2015 Flavors of Slovakia Dinner

By Joyce Tesarek, Event Co-Chair

At our Flavors of Slovakia dinner on Sunday, March 8, over 150 happy diners enjoyed a delicious Slovak dinner featuring cabbage rolls, *halušky*, *pirohy*, green beans, beets, rye bread, and chef Hana Matousek's famous apple squares. Not only was this dinner a chance to share our ethnic heritage, it was also a successful fundraiser for our Sokol Minnesota unit, clearing \$1,632.

Honorary Slovak Consul Don Pafko welcomed the dinner guests and introduced Marit Lee Kucera as the Honorary Consul Designate of the Czech Republic. Don also provided strolling accordion music.



Sokol Minnesota member Dr. John Palka (left) talked about the music of the national anthem of Slovakia. John is author of *My Slovakia, My Family*, the biography of 300 years of the Hodža and Pálka families in Slovakia. John signed copies of his book after his talk.

Special thanks to the diners and especially to all the volunteers whose efforts made the dinner possible.

Dinner coordinators:

Mary Cahill and Joyce Tesarek. Kitchen team: Hana Matousek, Marketa Resong, Joan Sedlacek, and Doreen McKenney. Program: Arlene Hamernik, Denis Novak, Honorary Slovak Consul Don Pafko, and Dr. John Palka.

Sokols and friends who volunteered for everything from table setters, servers, and the ticket table to bartenders and clean up: Don Andrie, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Darlene Baker, Jim Baker, Bobby Jo Chandler, George Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Cindy Coulter, Jean Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Lloyd Krocak, Marit Lee Kucera, Jake Jacobson, Joe

Landsberger, Norm Petrik, Steve Shimer, Shirley Verner, Arnie Ziskovsky, Deb Ziskovsky, and special volunteers from Girl Scout Brownie Troop 55398, led by Rhonie Waldron.

Marlene Hinshaw won the door prize, donated by Doreen McKenney. The ceramic vase is from the spa town of Piestany, Slovakia. The vase is placed in mineral water from the spa and over time the minerals coat the vase to give it unique rust colors.

4 May 2015 *Slovo*



Marlene and Kent Hinshaw



As they had done years ago, the Elasky siblings, Richard, Barbara, Andy, and Donna, thought it would be fun to gather and reminisce as siblings at the Flavors of Slovakia Dinner. Honorary Slovak Consul Pafko and the Elaskys grew up together in a Slovak community and in the Slovak church in south Minneapolis. As neighbors, they went to school together and had parents and grandparents who were friends as well. The Elasky and Pafko grandparents emigrated from the village of Vazec in what is now the Slovak Republic. (Back L to R) Andy Elasky, David Nelson, Richard Elasky, Honorary Slovak Consul Don Pafko. (Front L to R) Connie Elasky, Donna (Elasky) Bakkum, Barbara (Elasky) Nelson, Marjorie Elasky.

Gymnastics' Rising Star

Jason Brozovich was named Rising Star in an article, written by Mary Cahill, for the March/April 2015 *American Sokol* magazine, page 11. "Jason is truly a Rising Star. He represents the future of Sokol. Sokol Minnesota is proud of and appreciates all that he contributes to Sokol!" Jason is reviving our long-dormant Boy's Gymnastics classes. Kudos to Jason for this honor! Sokol Minnesota congratulates Jason!



Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the March 19 Board of Directors meeting, Diane Clark from Fargo, North Dakota, was accepted as a member in Sokol Minnesota. She expressed interests in many of the classes and events we sponsor. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

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Young Sokols Fly High at Cedar Rapids Slet

By Dan Rannells,
Western District President

This year's Western District *Slet* (gymnastics competition) was held at Sokol Cedar Rapids on April 18. Each Sokol *Slet* offers an opportunity for the participants to demonstrate the skills they have developed and honed over the past year of Sokol activities. This display of teamwork, perseverance, and good sportsmanship is always a special event. *Slet* is a time for us as a District to celebrate and be thankful.

Our district is fortunate. We have dedicated instructors leading our gymnastics programs, enthusiastic gymnasts striving to improve, passionate Sokol members who understand the importance of our programs, and devoted parents giving us the opportunity to instruct their children. It is this special combination that has made Sokol successful for the past 150 years, and we cannot flourish without each of these components working together.

I would like to thank each of you for the role you play in helping to make Sokol a success. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you! *Nazdar!*



For three months our Sokol Minnesota gymnasts prepared for the District *Slet* in Cedar Rapids, held on April 18. Courtney Benson, head Girls Gymnastic Instructor, has worked with 14 competitors, some of whom are pictured here. On beam left to right: Anna N., Babette L., Lily C., standing left to right: Chloe M., Helena L., Avery F., in splits, Lucia M. The next *Slovo* will detail how our Sokol Minnesota competitors placed.

Chill the Hall

Help Air-Condition the Historic C.S.P.S. Hall!

Only
\$2,262
needed to
finish the
project!

\$237,018 raised so far, from donations and a grant!

Work Completed

- Architectural study/drawings
- Roof reinforced
- AC unit purchased
- AC unit installed on roof

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.

General Fund: \$100 - \$499:

Norm Petrik and Joyce Tesarek in memory of **Dr. Josef Mestenhauer**.

General Fund: \$5000+: **Don Haselbauer**, matching funds from the **Medtronic Foundation** for his stock donation.

General Fund: To offset the Sokol donation to the **Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival** (April 9-26): **Stephen Ernst, Ed and Arlene Hamernik, Albert and Libby Imbrone, Marit Lee Kucera, St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, Norm Petrik and Joyce Tesarek, Cinnamon Whaley, Louise Wessinger.**

Legacy Fund: under \$100: **Eric and Kay**

Edquist, Vera Fullerton, Karen Machlica, Denis McMahan, Georgiana Sobola, Dolores Speidel in memory of **Dr. Josef Mestenhauer, Irene Thayer, Louise Wessinger.**

Legacy Fund: \$100 - \$499: **Penelope Adams Zastrow** in memory of **Adelaid Aubrecht Adams, Ron and Ann Andrie, Diane Bell, Dennis and Mary Cahill, Geraldine Dooley, Kathy Ferry** in honor of **Louise Wessinger** for her work with the children and teen dancers, **Dr. Josef Gindele, Roger Green, Sandra Haines, Joseph Kocab** in memory of **Czech Catholic Union Members of St. Paul, Marit Lee Kucera** in memory of **Dr. Josef Mestenhauer, Valeria Kuisle, Clarice Nyberg, Darlene Sitko, Bob Vanasek** in memory of **Norm Sladek, WFLA Hopkins Lodge 11.**

Legacy Fund: \$500 - \$999: **Cindy Coulter, George Chlebeck.**

Legacy Fund: \$1000 - \$4999: **Carolyn Sorenson.**

Legacy Fund: \$10,000: **Paul Imbrone** in recognition of **Albert and Libuse Rybnicek Imbrone** for their dedication to Czech history and traditions.

• **General Fund: \$8,037.23** • **Legacy Fund: \$15,835**

C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

We ask for your support of renovations to C.S.P.S. Hall as we celebrate the Hall's 128th year in 2015. Help us **Chill the Hall**. Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-822-6147 or <finance@sokolmn.org>



Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the C.S.P.S. Hall, I make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

I would like my gift designated: in memory or

in honor of: _____

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**
Write **Legacy Fund** in the memo line
Mail to **C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund**

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
Or donate online www.sokolmn.org *Thank You!*

Spring Pancake Breakfast By Megan Cahill, Event Co-Chair

At our annual **Spring Pancake Breakfast with Bake and Craft Sales** on March 29, over 180 people enjoyed pancakes, French toast, fruit cup of sliced fresh strawberries, cantaloupe, and red grapes, plus juice, milk, and coffee. We used 17 loaves of bread for the French toast. We made a profit of \$2,375.

Sokol *koláče* bakers baked 66 dozen. Most were sold through pre-orders. Baking team: Jean Draheim, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, and Shirley Verner. Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek donated ingredients for baking *koláče*. Arlene Hamernik took the presale orders. Cream horn crew: Jason Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, Mary Cahill, Al Kugler, and Joyce Tesarek.



Serving pancakes are Colleen Cahill and Chung Hyun Cho to Dawn Bulera and other guests.

In addition to the *koláče* at the bakery table, we also sold home-baked goods (butter horn dinner rolls, Easter bread, almond Kringle, *koláče* slices, carmel popcorn, cupcakes, cranberry nut bread, peanut butter cookies, white chocolate bunny candies,



Sharon Liska, Jim and George Chlebecek

and more) donated by Mary Jo Chlebecek, Arlene Hamernik, Bob Kostichka, Sharon Liska, Hana Matousek, Marketa Resong, Joyce Tesarek, Phyllis Vosepka, and Louise Wessinger. Czech and Slovak school families donated clay ornaments, hand-sewn bird and tulip planter ornaments, decorated Easter and spring *perníky* (gingerbread cookies in the shapes of bunnies and flowers), decorated eggs, and homemade sauerkraut. The Bake Sale was organized by Doreen McKenney. Bakery selling crew: George Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek, Marit Lee Kucera, Sharon Liska, and Doreen McKenney.

A true sign of spring came from Jyni Koschak who donated pussy willow bouquets from her garden. Pussy willows are a traditional item in the Czech and Slovak Republics during Easter (read Vanda Kašová, page 9). They brought happy tears to a gal who remembered having them in her yard as a child.

Volunteers in the kitchen: Jason Brozovich and Megan Cahill, co-chairs, with Mary Cahill, Colleen Cahill, Chung Hyun Cho, Chuck Draheim, Jean Hall, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Bob Kostichka, Denis Novak, Arnie Ziskovsky, Deb Ziskovsky, and Girl Scout Troop 55398 led by Rhonie Waldron.

The Craft Sale, organized by Jean Draheim, offered unique Easter, Mother's Day, and graduation gifts. We had 12 vendors, five new and seven returning favorites. There was knitting, crocheting, jewelry, felted items, scarves, books, homemade soap, home decorations, plus a Slovak egg decorator who also created ethnic designs on battery-operated candles. Another new vendor sold imported Czech and Slovak jewelry, glass, and china. A neighborhood chiropractor offered back evaluations and mini-massages.

How do people hear about our events?

Here's a great story. Joe Landsberger, a past Sokol Minnesota president, maintains the monthly calendar of events for the West 7th Federation e-newsletter. A new Federation member Jeremy Sammons and his wife Lacie read about our pancake breakfast and decided to attend. Sokol Minnesota is proud to be part of the West End community. We are always ready to welcome new faces to events at our 1887 C.S.P.S. Hall. The Sammons now have friends at Sokol and Sokol has new supporters of our events. They will now receive our twice-yearly Events Postcard. We hope to see them again soon at a Sokol Minnesota event.

Thank you to all who volunteered, to all who contributed, and to all who came!

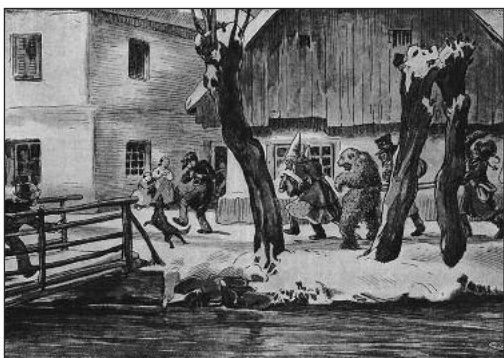


Donations from the Czech and Slovak school families

Czechs have celebrated the *Masopust* festival for hundreds of years, its origins were lost in pagan times, but now it's a pre-Lenten season of merrymaking. From January 6 (*Den tři králů*) until Ash Wednesday (*Popeleční středa*), the people in the Czech Republic, as often as possible, hold *zabijačky* (feasts, usually featuring pork) and party. The season finally ends in traditional parades of masked characters going from house to house, where they are welcomed with food and drink. The parades most often end in the pub, where the party continues all night.

Many different masks, the symbolism for most is long forgotten, are worn in the parades. There is always a bear. Devils, chimney sweeps, an old hag with a basket, and cow herders are common choices, while animals often include goats, dogs, sheep, pigs, chickens, and a horse that collects doughnuts from bystanders in his feedbag.

A monster with a mare's head called the *Rychtář* scares little children and threatens girls if they admit to spinning thread on days they shouldn't. *Bruna*, a terrifying horned monster, is trailed by a strange cast of masked characters.



In some regions, dancers carry wooden swords as part of an ancient sword dance celebrating the sun. Elsewhere the parade includes a mock wedding procession or perhaps carolers. Also included in the festival are old-fashioned wooden noise-makers of various sizes, which make a loud racket when waved. Some noisemakers are barrel-sized and are pushed along the parade on wheels. All in all, it's a wonderfully festive way to shorten the dark days of winter!



Winter Revelry at *Masopust*

By Deb Ziskovsky

The *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers performed at the 9th annual *Masopust* Celebration on Saturday, February 7, at the Expo in Cresco, Iowa.

The Czech Heritage Partnership of Protivin, Iowa, hosted this annual celebration. The dancers also performed an original *Masopust* skit, which is a condensed version of what a *Masopust* celebration would be like in the Czech Republic. It is a short carnival-style dancing procession that showcases masked folklore characters. The literal translation of *masopust* means to "let go of meat." Traditionally this celebration, which takes place before the beginning of the Lenten season, spans three to five days.

The *Domáci* Dancers shared the stage with Malek's Fisherman Band, which played a variety of music for dancing and listening. Along with the entertainment, the day's activities included a silent auction and a live auction, ending with an ethnic meal.

The *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers performed the same combination of skit and dances in Minnesota the following Sunday at the 15th Annual *Masopust* at the American Legion Hall in Montgomery. From the New Prague/Montgomery area, Sokol members Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky direct the *Domáci* Dancers, organized in 1999. The Ziskovskys have directed this Old World skit at the Montgomery celebration annually since 1999. They were inspired after seeing a *Masopust* performance during a visit to the Czech Republic.

Save the Date!

85th Annual Booya Picnic on August 9

We look forward to seeing you there!

By Kari and Scott Muyres, Booya Picnic Co-Chairs

The snow has melted, the sun is shining, and the water on area lakes is open. Our attention can finally turn to the spring and summer seasons. It's not long until the 85th annual Booya Picnic! Mark your calendars now for Sunday, August 9, from noon until 5 p.m., for what will be a memorable picnic hosted at the

historic Sokol Camp, 19201 Woodland Acres Pine City, Minnesota. This year we will feature live music, extra kids' games, and most importantly, more Booya! That's right, this year, we will be featuring a pre-sale on Booya to ensure that there's plenty to go around! Details and additional information will be available as the date draws nearer.

In the meantime, as you wrap-up your spring cleaning and organizing, remember to contact Pat Andrlé to donate those gently-used household items for the Country Store (651-484-6360).

As always, we welcome your suggestions and comments to really make this 85th picnic one to remember!

Pre-order your Booya Details next month

Members' Meeting *Featured Friday March 27 Show-and-Tell: Czech and Slovak Keepsakes*

Top row (L-R) Marit Lee Kucera displayed blueprinted fabrics purchased in 2013 in Strážnice, a small city famous for its folk festivals, located in Hodonín District, South Moravian Region of the Czech Republic. The Joch workshop, founded in 1906, is again in family hands, after the

fall of the communist regime. Matrixes carved in pearwood are used to manually print a resist on the fabric to create repeated patterns, then the fabric is dyed. Repeated indigo dye baths determine the intensity of the blue color. The fabrics and the workmanship are exquisite.

Shirley Verner holds a crucifix from the family in Czechoslovakia of her father-in-law, Frank (František) Verner; it was hidden under a bed during communist times; it was brought to the United States in the 1970s. **Jean (Verner) Draheim** displayed a wedding cap from her



grandfather Frank's village, Mladá. The cap has two lace-trimmed tails, which are tied together to symbolize two families coming together to form one new family. This cap is late 20th century. Jean used this cap at her wedding reception during the traditional capping ceremony conducted by "the women of the village," her aunt Pat Andrlé and many Sokol friends.

Norm Petrik holds a picture of a trip he made with his son Dan in the early 1990s to Borovany, C.R., to see the family farm. The family originally had a grain mill, but during communist times, the metal from the mill was confiscated to build a dam on a nearby river to create a lake so that communist party members could waterski.

Lydia Jaros Akradi shows off a garnet ring that originally belonged to her grandmother who gave it to her sister when the grandmother and family escaped Czechoslovakia in 1945 and came to the United States in 1949. The ring went from the grandmother's sister to her daughter, who then gave it to Lydia. Lydia was the first-born of her generation in the United States; she connected with her Czech relatives and has visited every year since 2005.

Row 2: Jyni Koschak holds a wide hand-embroidered Rusyn (Slovakian) belt for an apron and a CD of traditional Rusyn music.

Denis Novak has his Grandmother Mary Sticha Novak's poppy seed and coffee

grinder. He remembers as a child cutting off the top of poppy seedpods and pouring the tiny seeds into the grinder. His grandmother was the first child of his family born in this country on March 3, 1887.

In the 1970s while a student in Europe, **Joyce Tesarek** decided to visit relatives in Czechoslovakia. Her mother had emigrated as a child; Joyce knew the town and the names, but not how to contact the relatives. The letter from her mom saying she would be visiting had not arrived yet; but her visit was a happy and wonderful surprise. Joyce made the "mistake" of admiring this cranberry cut-glass vase, which was a small version of one her grandmother had back in Minnesota; Joyce was instantly given the vase. It remains a special treasure for Joyce.

Denise Stibal, guest, bought her beautiful scarf in 2009 on a trip to Czech Republic, sponsored by the German Bohemian Society of New Ulm.

Row 3: Val Kuisle is very proud of her doll with *kroj* that she purchased in the late 1980s on a European trip that included a few days in Czechoslovakia. The story is that only the doll's *kroj* was for sale, but Val knew it would be very hard to find that same-sized doll once she got back home to Minnesota. The shop wanted to make the sale, so it included the doll with the *kroj*. With Val are her daughter **Mary Cahill** (directly behind Val) and her twin

granddaughters, **Megan Cahill** (next to Val in front) and **Colleen Cahill** (standing next to her mother, Mary).

Chuck Draheim holds a *valaška* or shepherd's ax that originally belonged to Frank (František) Verner, grandfather of his wife, Jean.

On a trip to Prague in 1996 with the Sokol Minnesota Explorer Scouts, **Mary Cahill** went to the Charles Bridge very early one morning to buy this hand-colored print from one of the bridge artists. Yes, she did avoid the crowd of tourists! This is a favorite view of St. Vitus Cathedral, the *Hrad*, Old Town, and the famous Charles Bridge, which dates to the 14th Century, with its many soot-darkened statues.

Row 4: Megan Cahill and Jason Brozovich went to the Czech Republic in 2012 with the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. The artist invited them to her home, where they bought this beautiful watercolor of folk dancers.

Ed Hamernik showed pictures of the ships and manifests from his parents' entry to Ellis Island (1906 and 1916). His father settled near Flom in northwestern Minnesota. On a trip in 1992, Ed met over 40 relatives, most on his mother's side near Humpolec. Czech relatives on his father's side, near Strizov, were delighted to learn that the Hamernik name is thriving and several-generations strong in the United States.

Great Nights of Czech Easter

By **Vanda Kašová**, Columnist from Prague

When is whipping girls and women not only legal, but also welcomed? On Easter Monday! According to an old Czech tradition, pussy willow twigs bring health and youth. Every year, therefore, boys make *pomlázky*, braided whips from the twigs. In groups boys then go through their village in the morning and whip every girl that they find. Although this is supposed to be symbolic, some boys are not gentle at all. Girls who are afraid of them usually hide themselves in the house or at least put a pillow into their trousers so that it covers their bottom to protect it. After being whipped, girls have presents for the boys: decorated eggs (*kraslice*). Usually hand-painted eggs (or decorated with beeswax, straw, watercolors, and stickers or onion peels) are the most recognizable symbol of Czech Easter. Those that are sold in the markets at this time are really beautiful pieces of traditional art. But the eggs are not what makes this fest so interesting for young guys. In addition to eggs, they also receive a shot of alcohol. You can imagine how they look like at noon when they finish their little trip around the village. Maybe it is also because we call Easter *Velikonoce*. In translation it means "Great Nights." Once an American friend of my husband went to the village where my parents-in-law live to celebrate Easter. I have to admit that he was shocked. But he enjoyed it a lot and every year he regrets when he cannot visit.

What has almost disappeared for us is the religious aspect of the Easter celebration. Those connotations were suppressed under the communist regime.

Some traditional dishes are served at Easter time. My favorite is *mazanec*. I found a recipe for you in English: www.expat.cz/prague



Vanda Kašová, our correspondent from Prague with her husband, Tomas Kofron, and their daughter Anita, born on February 16, 2015. Vanda has been our special reporter since her trip to Minnesota on a Rotary International exchange in April 2013.

Mazanec

1/2 kg flour (*polohrubá*) = 3 1/2 - 4 cups
120 g melted butter = 1/2 cup
100 g sugar = 3/4 cup • 3 egg yolks
1 cube (42g) fresh yeast = 1 pkg. dry yeast
2 dcl lukewarm milk = 3/4 cup • pinch of salt = 1 t
30 g sliced almonds = 2 T • 40 g raisins = 3 T
vanilla = 1 t • lemon peel/zest = 1 t • rum = 2 T
slivered almonds for sprinkling • egg whites

Make the *kvásek* (yeast mixture) from half of the lukewarm milk, one teaspoon of sugar, and crumbled yeast. In a separate bowl, beat the butter with sugar, egg yolks, vanilla, lemon peel, salt, a little bit of rum. Slowly add the leavened yeast mixture and the rest of the milk. Little by little start adding flour, almonds, and raisins. Knead the dough with a wooden spoon until bubbles are made. Cover it with a dishtowel, place on a warm place and let it rise for 1 hour. Shape into one or two loaves and place on a greased baking sheet. Brush with whisked egg whites and sprinkle with slivered almonds. Bake at 180 C (350F) for about 10 minutes, then lower the temperature to 100 C (212F) and bake for another 30 minutes (the total amount depends on the size of the loaves).

This is Part Five of an ongoing series in our Slovo to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and the fall of communism (November 17, 1989). Hana Matousek, a '68er, shares the second part of her story.

If you are a '48er/'68er/'89er and would like to share you experience, you are welcome to send it (600-800 words) to slovo@sokolmn.org

Život v komunismu / Life under Communism - Part 2 By Hana Matousek

People's lives in Czechoslovakia under the new Communist government changed dramatically and fundamentally in the 1950s. The economy, weakened by the war years, was forcibly changed into a new system. The Kosice government program in 1945 set out to lay the foundations for economic recovery of the country and, to liquidate postwar cash chaos, it included a new monetary policy, the *first* monetary reform.

The postwar shift of political power toward the left created the foundation for the nationalization of banks and also the centralization of directive management of the economy. Later, the coup in 1948 accelerated centralization of banking. Now in the 1950s, the reforms adopted in 1945 were proclaimed imperfect, on the grounds that "the speculators hampered the development of socialism!"

In June 1953, quite unexpected by the population and in cooperation with Soviet "advisors," the *second* monetary reform was announced. This, in Czech, was called *devalvace*, the devaluation of money. But the main reason was to reduce the purchasing power of the population, destroy the black market, and, most importantly, to solve the high internal debt of the state.

Citizens could exchange 300 *koruny české* in a ratio of 5:1; their other cash and cash of all employers were exchanged in a ratio of 50:1. For example, let's say that one loaf of bread cost 3 *koruny*, you could buy 100 loaves for 300 *koruny*; after the devaluation at 5:1 the same loaf for regular citizens was 60 *koruny* and for employers was 150 *koruny*! The median wage at that time was only around 800 *koruny* a month.

About \$80 billion were nullified. Deposits in saving accounts were decimated.

Hence, by a wide sweep of the pen, as we say, instead of "taking from the rich to give to the poor," the communists brought everyone in the country to their knees financially and the country's economy into chaos and stagnation.

This act had, of course, international consequences. The fact that monetary reform was carried out without the knowledge of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank was a flagrant violation of the fundamental duties of its members, in particular the obligation to submit and discuss information about new

monetary measures. Therefore, in 1954 Czechoslovakia lost its membership in these institutions.

Officially, at home this step was interpreted as a voluntary secession. I did not intend to go into such detail, but this was a very important event at that time, when the socialist state was being established. Suddenly, even the people friendly to the new ideas were alarmed. They questioned the right of the government to do such a thing. When your purse is attacked, you pay attention. Everyone knew of someone who was taken away to jail. Everyone knew of someone who fled to the West, since thousands and thousands were leaving.

Our little family, the shop now in strange hands, was coping with changes. Every day I ran to my yellow school on the far side of the river, where we kids did not care about the adult problems. We learned to write properly, every letter its perfect distance from the next, the same size, the same slant. Only we had to say a goodbye to our *katecheta* (catechist), the priest who came to teach Catechism twice a week to our class.

When the monetary reform came, some people cried in the streets. My mother also cried, when we had asked her why she gave us so much money just to go to buy bread and rolls in our bakery. And the lady in the bakery was also crying.

But in 1952 we had a happy event too, when my sister was born. At that time my mother was 32, young and beautiful and I remember how happy she looked when walking with the baby carriage in the street. I suppose at that time she still felt somewhat secure because of the "bloomers trick" (see March *Slovo*, page 11), for surely the value of gold had multiplied a hundred fold in times like that.

My brother and I were part of a large group of neighboring kids who played outside, and play we did. Cowboys and Indians, police and robbers, and on and on, until all the mothers called us home at dusk. Then we had a supper of maybe a slab of rye bread with butter and some soup, and we were happy.

At first we liked our new baby in the house. It was small and cute, and grandma was there also to help mom. Grandma made us all kinds of our favorite foods:

plum dumplings with cinnamon crumble, bread pudding, crepes, and noodles with poppy seeds. Later on, though, as the baby got bigger and Grandma was not there anymore, we kids were called to duty, and we did not like the baby that much anymore. She was too little to play with and was in the way otherwise. You cannot run with a baby carriage very well, so there were some orders given, but not received without a struggle.

In warm weather, our neighborhood moms came out of their houses with chairs to sit outside to watch the kids and to visit. They did not discuss politics or the big issues, but they knew what had happened to whom in town, and they discussed those things in somewhat lower voices and even whispering their criticisms of current events. I knew that, because sometimes I overheard mother telling such things to father. He told her just to be careful about being too vocal because someone even among the neighbors could be an informant.

But nothing bad came out of these small gatherings of neighbors even though there were a couple of fathers whom we knew had joined the Communist party, including my classmate's father who worked for the railroad. But he was forgiven by all because he had a large family with seven children and he just wanted to earn more money to feed them.

A tragedy struck this family right before Christmas one year. Their mother and one young sister were killed in a train crash as they were coming home from Christmas shopping in Brno. She had known where to buy warm clothes cheaply for her family.

The whole neighborhood was shocked and hard times or not, everyone pulled together. The former clothes merchant gathered up some of the remains of his supplies and he gave a large bundle to the family. The women brought them enough cooked and baked foods for an army, and people donated toys for the kids and even money. I knew that because, as always, I overheard Father telling Mother what supplies to take to them and gave her some money for them too. All of a sudden, my friend Dáša found herself, the oldest daughter in the family, responsible for her siblings at the age of 7.

Hana's article will conclude in a future issue of Slovo.

Running in Three by Echenoz: *Big Blondes, Piano, and Running*. Jean Echenoz. New York and London: The New Press, 2014, 88 pp. Available in bookstores and libraries.

BOOK REVIEW: Going the Distance

By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

Running in Three, one of the greatest novels by French writer and Prix Goncourt-winner Jean Echenoz, is a fictionalized portrait of renowned Czech runner Emil Zatopek. Detailed and well researched, Echenoz's writing and Linda Coverdale's translation make this story an engaging and smooth read in English. We come to know and care for the humble Zatopek, an extraordinarily talented athlete whose life was buffeted about by the political, economic, and social realities of authoritarian regimes.

Zatopek was born in Kopřivnice in 1922 and at age 16 began work in the Bat'a shoe factory in Zlín. There he did repetitive manual labor, breathed polluted air, and was fined for the slightest imperfections in his work. Studying chemistry got him a better position brewing cellulose in a freezing shed packed with large containers of acid. When the Nazis took over Czechoslovakia and cut off funding for laboratory research, Zatopek was back to factory work. He was not generally fond of sports then, but the occupiers held mandatory athletic events. At Zatopek's first race, one that pitted well-equipped German contestants against raggedy young Czechs, he placed second. He came to increasingly enjoy running, put in long practice sessions on his own, and won more races.

After the Nazis exited and the Russians occupied Czechoslovakia, Zatopek was called up for military service, continued his running, and set new records. With an awkward gait, flailing arms, and wincing face, he appeared to be in pain when running, but got faster and earned more fame. As Echenoz wrote, "His style has not reached perfection and perhaps never will, but Emil knows he hasn't time to bother with that: it would waste too many hours better spent on increasing his strength and endurance."

First he raced in Zlín, Prague, and Brno. Then Oslo, Berlin, Hanover, and London, where in 1948 he won the first Olympic

gold medal in track and field for Czechoslovakia and increased his status as a national hero. He joined the Communist Party and raced in other huge Communist rallies in East Berlin, Budapest, Bucharest, Warsaw, and the Crimea.

At the age of 30, Zapotek won three gold medals at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. By the end of that year, he held every world running record from the 10,000 meter to the marathon, and in 1954 added the 5,000-meter world record, according to the book *Lore of Running*. During his career, he set 18 world records.

When the Warsaw Pact forces invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968, Zatopek condemned the invasion. Once again, he had no control over his life. The consequences were swift. He was fired from his ministry post, expelled from the Party, cashiered from the army, denied the right to live in Prague, and assigned to work in a uranium mine. Years later, he was pardoned and allowed to live with his wife in Prague, where the friendly couple welcomed international athletes whom Zapotek had befriended at competitions. He died in 2000.

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

Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures in May

Join us Saturday, May 23, 10:00 a.m.-noon, at the C.S.P.S. Hall to discuss the book *An Un-American Childhood* by Ann Kimmage.

The War with the Newts at Park Square Theatre on May 24

You are invited to join Literary Ventures book club members at the show's performance on Sunday, May 24, at 2 p.m., and to discuss it over refreshments following the performance.

Considered a classic of science fiction, Karel Čapek's book is a sociopolitical satire of corruption, profit-first economies, the dangers of pride and nationalism, and a stern warning of our self-destructive nature. Sandbox Theatre is presenting it on the new Boss Stage. If you'd like to be included in our group-ticket purchase (\$20 each, discounted from \$25), contact <gwen@cs-center.org> as soon as possible. **Note:** you must arrange to get checks for payment to Gwen by May 7.

Prague Days in Chicago: June 10-15

Sister Cities celebrates 25 years. Golden Prague Gala, Friday, June 12, 6:30 p.m., University Club of Chicago. Admission: \$175. Black tie. Hosted by the Mayor of Prague, Honorable Adriana Krnáčová. Honoring the Czech history of Chicago. Featuring the swing music of the irresistible *Ondřej Havelka and his Melody Makers Orchestra*. Unveiling the sculpture "Nature," originally created by Alphonse Mucha and recreated recently by his granddaughter Jarmila Mucha Plocková in cooperation with Prague sculptor Peter Nižňanský. Ticket information: <www.praguedayschicago.com/tickets>

History and Visual Arts: Exhibits at the Thalia Hall, Pilsen, Wednesday, June 10 through Friday, July 31.

Music: *Ondřej Havelka and his Melody Makers*, Wednesday, June 10, 8 p.m., Thalia Hall, admission.
Eggnoise, Thursday, June 11, 6:30 p.m., Millennium Park, free.
Prague Rockfest, Saturday, June 13, Cicero Community Park, free.

Visual Arts: "Treasured Legacy," Alphonse Mucha and Jarmila Mucha Plocková, Friday, June 12 to Friday, July 3, Thalia Hall.

Film: *Czech that Film* series, June 14-15, Gene Siskel Film Center.

Dedication of "A Heart for Václav Havel" Sculpture.

Information: <www.praguedayschicago.com>

MOVIE REVIEW by Cinnamon Whaley

Kawasaki's Rose

Kawasaki's Rose (*Kawasakiho růže*, 2013), directed by Jan Hřebejk, centers on patriarch Pavel Josek (Martin Huba), a 1970s dissident who is now a well-known psychiatric professor. The first portion of the film concerns Josek's daughter, Lucie, and a breach of trust between her and her husband. As this breach becomes known, a parallel story concerning Josek's rise in the dissident ranks, and actions that have remained hidden since the 1970s unfold. The culmination sees Josek accept a lifetime achievement award for his accomplishments and contributions to his country, but the recent trials of the family make this night much more somber than it would have been just months before.

The parallel storylines dovetail and center on themes of honesty and forgiveness but also dwell on the length to which people will go to hide truths. The journey this film takes the viewer on deserves reflection. To try to imagine how strong, vocal, or openly involved a person might be, should they have lived through this period of Czech history, is very difficult. What effects would choices made during that time have on the rest of a person's life? I'm sure many would like to think they would attempt to stand for what they believed in, but would they? (This movie is available from Netflix.)

ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!
Sokol Minnesota 2015 Events

Festival of Nations, April 30 to May 3
Saint Paul RiverCenter
Volunteer and Attend Free!
Café: 612-822-6147 and Culture: 651-340-4767

Sokol Garage Sale
May 14: Noon - 7 p.m. • May 15: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Please donate your gently-used items
Drop off: Wednesday, May 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Children's Cultural Day Camp
June 15 to 19 Info: 651-452-6240
www.sokolmn.org/culturecamp

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



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* May 2015

Celebrating 150 Years of Sokol in the United States

During Sokol's sesquicentennial anniversary year in the United States, our *Slovo* is reprinting historical information from the collection of honorary life member Joan Sedlacek. Chicago and Prague celebrate 25 years as Sister Cities this year; Joan includes Chicago this month in her Sokol history. This information is from the *1985 XVI American Sokol Slet Book*.

Falcon: A Sokol Symbol



When our illustrious leader and teacher, Dr Miroslav Tyrš, brought into life his Sokol (Sokol-the falcon, is a bird who, by his swiftness and energy, symbolizes the active, vigorous, strenuous, real Spartan life, which is the ideal of Sokol societies), in Bohemia (Czech Republic), he declared that physical education does not mean to educate the people to physical perfection only, but that it means to educate them also to nobleness; educate them to morality, virile manhood and ideal womanhood, to pure democracy and good citizenship. He maintained that the places where Sokols meet for their physical and mental development and recreation, should be the institutions from which the seed of most ardent patriotism is disseminated among all people and that every Sokol should have "not only strength in his arms, but his country in his heart." These were some of the outstanding principles of Dr Miroslav Tyrš.

Sokol and Sokolice Tabor (Chicagoland, Illinois)

The units of Sokol and Sokolice Tabor are a culmination of many mergers. A history of beginnings, endings, moves and mishaps. Gymnastic Unit Sokol was founded August 19, 1866. In 1868 it merged with Slavonic Linden. After a fire, a new building was completed. In March of 1871, the unit reorganized as Gymnastic Unit Sokol in Chicago. It became a unit of the National Unity Sokol in 1877. On July 6, 1892 it merged with the Bohemian American Sokol and was called Sokol Slavonic Linden. On December 14, 1890, Sokol Tabor was organized and the Women's Auxiliary of Sokol Tabor followed on June 26, 1894. Their building burned and they purchased new land and put up another building. In 1914, Sokol Tabor merged with Sokol Slavonic Linden. In 1915 their building burned. April 17, 1921, Sokol Slavoj merged with Sokol Tabor-Slavanski Lipa and in 1926 Sokol Tabor merged with Sokol Oak Park and moved, for the last time, to their currant home in Berwyn, Illinois.

Nazdar Sokol and Sokolice Tabor!