



Czech

Slovak

Sokol Minnesota



SLOVO

November 2008 vol. 31 no. 9

Breakfast * Bake Sale * Crafts

Sunday, November 23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join your friends for a stack of hot cakes and a mug of steaming coffee at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's popular fall pancake breakfast. All-you-can-eat pancakes are offered with two sausages, with juice, milk or coffee. \$6 adults, \$4 for children under nine. \$15 is the family-friendly price for a family of four.



The bake sale offers delicious pies, cakes, and pastries just in time for your bountiful Thanksgiving table. (We welcome baked goods from Sokol members' kitchens!)

The craft sale will start your holiday shopping early featuring crafts by Sokol members and neighborhood crafters. Chat with the friendly artisans and learn more about their wares. (Reserve a craft table for \$25: contact events@sokolmn.org, or call 651 290 0542)

Our own Sokol gift shop, *Krásné Dárky/Beautiful Gifts*, will be open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. You will be sure to find special holiday gifts from the Czech Republic and Slovakia to give to your friends and relatives: Czech glass ornaments, straw weavings, garnet jewelry, music tapes and CDs, plus dolls, books, t-shirts, glassware and fine crystal.

Upcoming Events

1 November,
7 pm
Mystery
Dinner Theatre
benefit for
Sokol Cedar
Rapids

15 November,
7 pm
West End
Harvest Dance

21 November,
6:30 pm
Membership
Meeting and
Potluck

23 November,
10-2 pm
Pancake
Breakfast with
Craft & Bake
Sale

West End Harvest Festival

*featuring the West End's own
music by the Rhinestone Diplomats
comedy by Three Guys Minus One*

Celebrate!

Developments

- Fire Station 1/10
- Schmidt Brewery
- Mississippi Market
- W 7th Business Association
- Palace Outdoor Hockey Rink
- Shaller Family Shalom Campus
- W 7th Cmty Ctr Senior Homemaking
- United Family Practice Health Care Clinic

Renovations

- Bills TV
- Pilney Building
- Corner Marking
- Forepaugh's Restaurant
- Hinding Heating & Air Conditioning

New Businesses

- Tease Salon
- Highgrove Credit Union
- Chicago Taste Authority
- Supatra Thai Restaurant
- Davita Highland Park Dialysis

Anniversaries

- Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 125th
- Mancini's Char House 60th
- United Dentist 35th

Transitions

- Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic
- Community Reporter Editor

Events

- 19th Czech Slovak Sokol Festival
- 1st West End Harvest Festival
- 1st Federation West End Arts Exhibition
- 1st Federation West End Iron Pour
- 1st Federation West End Garden Tour



*The festivities
begin at 7 p.m.
\$10 at the door*

*Saturday, November 15
CSPS Hall, 2nd floor theater
383 Michigan at West 7th Streets*

*Proceeds benefit fire protection
for the historic CSPS Hall*



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2008 Board of Directors

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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
SLOVO Published 10 times yearly
by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota,
a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan
Street, St. Paul, MN 55102

President Komentář/President's Note

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters

How can you help Sokol Minnesota?

As I write, we are in the midst of our "busy" time. Each fall, and spring, the volunteers of Sokol Minnesota are busy organizing events that have two main purposes: support our mission of providing "fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural and social programs" as well as raise money to continue the organization and provide good stewardship for our historic hall.

Of course, we have running events daily each week: Education under the leadership of Louise Wessinger, has a full complement of language and cooking classes. The gymnastics/fitness classes is going strong under the Board of Instructors Women's Physical Director Alisa Hollibush, and the Tuesday morning folk singing under Georgiana Dolesji. As regards our history, Denis Novak is compiling information on our theater collection, Frank Trnka our music collection, and Joan Sedlacek our organizational documents going back more than 130 years! The trustees care for the physical structure, including our stage that is the oldest in Minnesota. And yes, we have a fund raising committee in these challenging times. Of course, dedicated contributors make this Slovo the special newsletter that it is.

It seems also every other, and sometimes every week, we have a special event. This year the Czech-Slovak Festival was a huge success, as was the reception for the installation of the new Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic, Bob Vanasek. In October we co-hosted the reception for Drs. Martin and Zora Butora of Slovakia with the CSCC, and served the annual Czech Roast Pork Dinner. On November 1 the fund-raiser for flood relief for our sister unit Sokol Cedar Rapids takes place, and on November 15 we host organizations of the West End to celebrate what a wonderful year it was along West 7th Street. December features the children's and adult Christmas parties, and hold Saturday, December 20 for a special Christmas display and presentation on antique Czech Christmas ornaments.

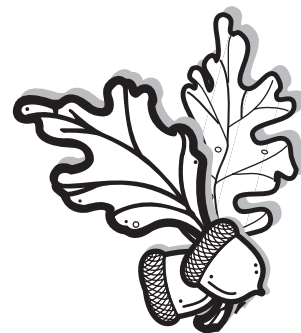
Perhaps you now have time and energy to share to help out? Are you new to Sokol Minnesota? Volunteers are needed to support these committees and events, and provide good stewardship of our historic hall. And it is a great way to get to know members, and what Sokol stands for. But you don't have to join a standing committee to help! Each event has its own chair and set of volunteers, and a well-established and beneficial set of procedures developed over the years. You even learn how to make all those special Czech and Slovak dishes with interesting names and spellings for our dinners.

Donations, of course, are welcome in these trying economic times. As the end of the year approaches, and you consider your gifts, please consider Sokol Minnesota. You can make charitable financial donations, or even those of stock, to our tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Call Joyce Tesarek, Finance Committee Chair, at 612 822 6147 for more information. There is even a building fund that will welcome your assistance!

If you would like to participate in these activities, or have ideas for new ones, contact me at 651 297 9000 or jfl@sokolmn.org. There is a special (and fun!) place for you in Sokol, and I will help you find it.

Nazdar!

Joe Landsberger, President



Come to the November 21 Membership Meeting and Potluck!

By Joe Landsberger, President

Sokol members and guests are invited to our November Membership Meeting beginning with a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 21. (Sokol membership is at the highest in its 125-year history!) The fun continues at 7 p.m. when we elect Sokol officers for the coming year. This slate will be presented by the Nominating Committee of Jeanette Pafko, Louise Wessinger, and Jeff Martinka.

After the election, brief reports will include Finance (Joyce Tesarek), Treasurer (Tom Aubrecht), Gaming (Ken Wyberg), Education (Louise Wessinger), Board of Instructors (Alisa Hollibush), Trustees (Judy Aubrecht), and Membership (Norm Petrik). Come and enjoy a little early Thanksgiving feast, learn the latest news, and enjoy a little Sokol fellowship. Nazdar!

September 26 Membership Meeting

By Jeanette Pafko, Acting Secretary

Georgiana Dolejsi led fourteen members with the Czech & Slovak National Anthems and acting Financial Secretary Jeanette Pafko reported current membership of 328 with 147 men and 181 women. Norm Petrik gave the membership report (below) and Ken Wyberg, the Gambling Report. President Landsberger informed members that the induction reception for the Czech Ambassador, Robert Vanacek Honorary Czech Consul was a success due in large part by the leadership of Libby Imbrone and Phyllis Vosejпка, with about 180 people in attendance. A brief discussion was held with regard to the Festival held September 21st. Everyone felt that it was well attended, the food was delicious and Norm Petrik extended a thank you to all the wonderful volunteers for the rapid set up and take down. Dennis Novak gave a lively narrative of what is going to occur at the Mystery Dinner to be held on November 1st. Everyone was encouraged to attend this new and novel event for Sokol in support of our sister unit, Sokol Cedar Rapids. Sokol Cedar Rapids hall was totally destroyed by the floods of early spring, and they are exploring options for their programs.

Sokol Minnesota Membership report

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the September 26th meeting fourteen new members were accepted. Jerry Parupsky, St Paul, Marie Nelson Hudson, Wisconsin, Bernard Shimek St Paul, expressed interest in history and genealogy. Rosemary Baisten was accepted; her daughter Cinamon Whaley was accepted in August! Robin Anderson, Maple Grove, expressed interest in language and singing and is learning Slovak. Robin and Rosemary were inducted at our September Meeting, and received their welcome hug from Georgiana Dolejsi. Peggy Thomsen, Andrea and John Marboe, and Sara Birkeland are neighbors of the hall in the West End and have children in gymnastics. Five people joined Sokol around our Czech Slovak Festival: Cynthia McArthur, St Paul, has an interest in language;



Sokol welcomes Slovak Ambassador

On Saturday, October 11, Sokol members welcomed two distinguished visiting scholars participating in a week long series of lectures in a program that evolved from the Vaclav Havel Civil Society Symposium. Dr. Martin Butora, honorary president of the Institute for Public Affairs, Bratislava, Slovakia and his wife, Dr. Zora Butorova, a resident scholar at the institute, were deeply involved in the 1989 Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia and the creation of the Slovak Republic in 1993. Dr. Butora was the Slovak Ambassador to the U.S. from 1999 to 2003. Pictured above (l-r) are Sokol members Don and Jeanette Pafko, Zora and Martin Butora. The Czech and Slovak Culture Center co-sponsored the reception with Jitka Sebek in the lead.

Lenka Hester, Bloomington expressed interest in dance and culture camp and has two children; Mary Bolles, Mendota Heights and Karen Machlica, Maplewood expressed interest in genealogy and dinners. Robert Vanasek, New Prague is our new Honorary Consul and expresses interest in language and cooking. Bernard Shimek and Claire Press were also reinstated. Welcome all new Sokol members! Please come to our membership meetings, and other activities.

Sokol Minnesota extends its sympathies to the family of Sokol member Michele E. "Mike" LaPointe, age 66, of White Bear Township. Mike was a 14-year Sokol member and died October 12.

Back from the Old Countries

by Mark and Marcy Bigaouette

Back from the old countries...tired and broke, after almost a month.

Our fall tourist historic tour of 16 days included both Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Afterwards we rented a car and drove all over the Czech Republic for a another week.

What a eye opening experience! No more borders at all. You can drive anywhere in Central Europe, and cross the borders at will since all the border posts seem to have been abandoned. The Slovaks seem to be taking better advantage of this new situation since we saw quite a few Slovak trucks and cars in the Czech Republic, but few Czech ones in Slovakia.

A few weeks before, when the Czech currency "crown" hit a all time high value, the Czech people flooded across the borders to Germany to buy all sorts of items which were cheaper in Germany than in the Czech Republic. I about fell over when they told me that! For almost the last 20 years it was the Germans who went on shopping trips to the Czech Republic to buy the cheaper items. Currently prices seem about the same in both countries.

In Slovakia everything now is listed in two prices, Slovak Crowns and European Euros. Slovakia will join the Euro money system on the first of January, 2009. The Czech Republic is another story. While the Czech crown keeps gaining in value on the Euro, they seem



A village church in Pelhrimov, east of Tabor



Do they celebrate Halloween in Moravia?

to be in no hurry to join the Euro money system. This is having another effect on the Czech economy since it was just announced that the largest Czech crystal company, the glass-making group Bohemia Crystalex and Porcela Plus, filed for bankruptcy. While thousands of people will lose their jobs, the locals say crystal will be imported from

China! Many other places are in deep trouble, as costs of production are quite expensive now.

Every village has new homes, or ones being built. There are tons of large cars, BMW's, Range Rovers, Mercedes Gas costs over \$9.00 a gallon! There are crazy drivers too. My friends tell me the big game is to ride the bumper of the car in front of you. They like to race up to you, and drive just a couple



From a kroj wedding fashion show in Uherske Hradiste, central Moravia

of feet behind your vehicle, even if there is no possible way to pass. It is very nerve racking, and dangerous - even huge semi-trucks do it.

A Czech couple I know just received a new Mercedes and BMW they ordered from America because they are cheaper, almost half price. It's like the whole country hit the jackpot.

It's wonderful to see them doing so well. Our friends and family told us, after watching the melt down of the US financial system, that we should stay, as life in the Czech and Slovak Republics is

better. About 20 years ago they were poor as church mice. How times have changed...

I heard an announcement that Prague is the 3rd most expensive city in the European Union now, after London and Paris, and midrange hotels cost almost \$200 a night. It is cheaper outside of Prague, but expect to pay a minimum of \$70 a night. The cost for meals, and beer is about the same as in the States. The rest costs double or more than it did just a few years ago.

It's still a great place to visit, the beer was great, the food is getting better and better, and people love it when you can speak some Czech or Slovak. They kept asking my mother Marcie in what part of Bohemia she lived in??? When she told them in Minnesota, they about fell over. Everyone complemented her on her very good Czech...

I expect she will float down to earth sometime soon?

The Case of the Twelve Sturdy Chairs

By Joe Landsberger and Louise Wessinger

On October 1, Sokol Minnesota was gifted with one dozen sturdy wood folding chairs. The set are of the same vintage, probably the 1920's, and were from the estate of St. Paul's Highland Park resident George Jurgensen who died in January 2008. As his daughter Judy Jurgensen Morhart and her sister were cleaning the chairs, they noticed they were stamped "Made in Czechoslovakia" (sic). Judy and her cousin met Louise Wessinger at a family reunion, and were very impressed with Louise's knowledge of the Czech genealogy of the Hamer/Hammer family. Since her parents so enjoyed their times at the C.S.P.S. Hall, they thought to keep the set together, and donate them to Sokol. They contacted Louise, and our Board of Directors accepted the donation with appreciation. Judy notes that her father was "good at picking things up everywhere" but thinks that they came from a dance hall or theater in Little Falls, her mother's home town. In 1890, the McKinley Tariff required that imported items be labeled with their country of origin. In 1914, the law was revised and the phrase "Made in" was required. Since Czechoslovakia was formed after World War I, and "made in" is clearly present, we know the chairs were imported after 1918, but a search comes up empty for Czech or Slovak manufacturer. But why "Czechoslovakia?"



Looking ahead, upcoming Sokol events

Friday, December 5: Children's Christmas Party with demonstrations of Sokol childrens' gymnasts and folk dancers, and appearance by *Svaty Mikulas* (Saint Nicholas).

Sunday, December 7: Sokol Members' Holiday Party Christmas Party: celebrating the installation of next year's Directors.

Wednesday, December 10: *Perníčky*: *Take and Bake for the holidays*: These tasty Czech Christmas gingerbread cookies are often in shapes like carp(!), cones and straw figures. They were baked in advance but only decorated just days before Christmas. Bring your favorite cookie cutters! Class has a limit of 10 students. Check the Sokol website for information, or contact us at 651 290 0542 or events@sokolmn.org for registration.

Wednesday, December 17: *Vánočka*: *Take and Bake for the holidays*. This braided Christmas bread has raisins, candied fruit and nuts inside. See *Perníčky*, above for registration.

Saturday, December 20: *Antique Czech Ornaments*. Sandee Kelsey will make a special presentation on antique Czech beaded and wire Christmas ornaments.

Saturday, January 26: *Sixth Annual Roast Duck Dinner*, featuring roast duck, potato dumplings, sweet and sour red cabbage, apple sauce, caraway rye bread.

Song of the Month by Georgiana Dolejsi

Karíčku Můj/Dear Karel

Dear Karel, it is your habit, even though we have not seen the priest, to kiss me on my cheek. You know, Karel, you dare to do everything. You are the nicest young man of all, but only when you are asleep.



Hudba J. Poncar - Slova V. Zeman

7

KAR - LÍČ - KU MŮJ, to

F f f f F f C e' F f C f F f C f B b b b

je zvyk tvůj, ješ-tě ne-by-li jsme na fa -

B b F b F f C f F G e' C e' G e' C f

ře, už by jsi mě lí-bal na tvá - ře.

G e' C e' C e' e' F f C f F f F b f C B G

Kar - - líč - ku, vš, ty

F f f f F f C e' F f C f F f C f B b b b

vše - chno smíš, ty jsi nej-hod-něj-ší chla - pec

B b F b F f C f F G e' C e' G e' C f

ze všech chlap - ců, a - le jen když spíš.

G e' C e' G e' C e' F f F f C e' C e' F f C f F f



A Hardy Sokol Get Well!

Best wishes for a successful and speedy recovery to our long time Sokol members Bessie O'Neill of Vancouver Washington, Marlene Hinshaw, Val Kuisle, and Don Anderle!

Dear Sokol Brothers & Sisters,

On behalf of the 2008 Sokol Camp Booya & Picnic Committee I would like to thank you for helping to make this year's event one of the most successful ever. We had a beautiful day with abundant sunshine and cool breezes, a perfect day for a booya. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and it shows with our record breaking success of the raffle. This year's raffle winners were Elsie Roepke, David MacHolda, George Chlebeczek, and Ivan Krizan. Congratulations! Thank you to the volunteers who helped provide delicious foods, fun activities, and fond memories to build upon the tradition and togetherness that helps define our Sokol ideals. The booya chefs, Ann & Scott Miller, did an excellent job of cooking up a delicious batch. It always takes a good amount of time to prepare, and we appreciate all of their time and efforts. Bobbie Chandler and Sue Marabella were solid in the kitchen again and produced some more tasty traditional foods that helped to provide for an old time afternoon. Thanks ladies! We have had a great support staff for many years to help with tents, tables and kettle set-up. Brother Bert Vanyo volunteers for the week just to help make the event a success. Many thanks. A special thank you to the Andrle families for continuing to help coordinate numerous tasks and jobs that take much of the summer to complete. Please plan to join us next year for what is sure to be another spectacular event filled with great foods, fun activities, and friendly atmosphere that is sure to be a fond memory for many years to come. Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 9, 2009. I'm sure it will be great!

Sincerely, and NAZDAR!

Raymond Vanyo, Chair; Bobbie Joe Chandler, Co-Chair, Kitchen Manager; Ann & Scott Miller, Booya Chefs; Bert Vanyo, Kettle Tender, Maintenance



Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Traveling Library

By Ginger Simek, CGSI President

On June 28, 2008 the CGSI Traveling Library was at SS Cyril & Methodius Church's community room in Clarkson, Nebraska with more than 80 people using the library. In front are Ken and Betty Stoklasa Kudrna, Westminster, Colorado, formerly of Clarkson. In back, left to right, Ginger Simek, Monica Fisher in kroj, and an unidentified assistant. The Traveling Library is made of approximately sixty key resources which are helpful to those researching their family history. The collection is made up of ship passenger lists, census records, dictionaries & translation aids, gazetteers, maps, and more. CGSI members were on hand to answer questions and assist people in their search. The Traveling Library was taken to the Seattle Symposium in April, Tabor SD and Clarkson NE in June, and Ord NE in July, and New Prague on October 18. Members of CGSI also toured

Sokol Minnesota's historic Meeting Room on October 11. For more information, visit the CGSI website at www.cgsi.org





Dr. Josef Mestenhauser

Readers Reading Readings

By Josef A. Mestenhauser

I want to dedicate this piece to the Literary Ventures program, a joint venture of Czech and Slovak Cultural Center and Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. I was

reminded of the significance of knowing literature on my last two visits to Prague. I usually carry with me a few books from here for my friends who have no access to our literature, and on the way back carry a few books I acquire from well known bookstores and publishers.

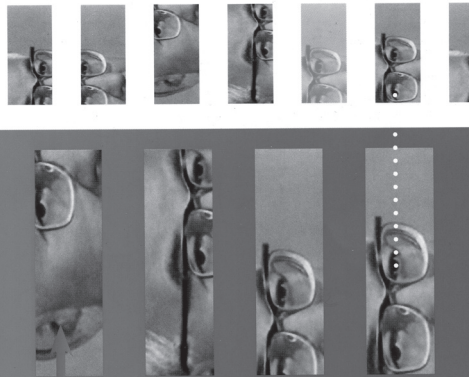
Last year there were more than 33,000 books published in the Czech Republic – testifying to the tremendous thirst for knowledge and literacy.

While many of these publications are not the “bell letters” and are devoted to “how to do things” many are about recent history because people are still trying to find out what happened to them during the last century. This is not the whole story, however. Paradoxically many Czechs do not want to hear or talk especially about their communist past. Yet thanks to a few new organizations, that past is also being revealed. For example, one of the publications is called *Winners and Losers (Vítězové a poražení)*, a collection of in-depth interviews both with victims of communism and prominent communists. One of the authors of this publication came up with another one, *Higher Educational System during the Period of Normalization* that provides an

extremely interesting picture of how the communist regime spied virtually on everybody after the Prague Spring. Some of the new publications are written by émigrés, like the two volume works by Miroslav Fic about the Czechoslovak Legions in Russia. I hope somebody will translate this book that is the best and most comprehensive study that I have seen. Several academics are now also publishing new texts that show familiarity with new knowledge from abroad that people have been isolated from for 45 years. One of the most valuable five volume work has just been published as *Collected Works of Vaclav Havel* that includes his most recent play *Odcházení (Leaving)*. My wife Pat and I were fortunate that friends gave us their tickets to see this play which is sold out all the time and that receives outstanding reviews. What a cultural difference, however, when this play was produced in English translation in London; the Brits gave it at best

a luke warm reception and at worst a negative one. The US premier of this piece will be introduced to New Yorkers soon. We hoped to be able to persuade the Lex Ham theater group to produce it here, but it is an extremely technologically demanding play that will be virtually impossible to bring to any stage here.

My punch line is that the written word is still extremely important, and that the work that the Literary Ventures group does is to be applauded. They provide the “other coin” to the many readers in the Czech and Slovak Republics who want to know what people read and what that literature means to them.



Greetings and update from the Czech & Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota



By John W Moravec, CSCC President

The CSCC continues to expand mutual understandings between the people of Minnesota and the Czech and Slovak Republics through a wide variety of programs that build relationships, understanding, and knowledge for our members and communities. In September and October of this year, we had the pleasure to sponsor a performance by the Plastic People of the Universe, and co-hosted with Sokol Minnesota receptions for Czech Ambassador Petr Kolar, and Drs. Martin and Zora Butora of Slovakia. Our programs for this year include our literary ventures book club, presentations and discussions, meet-ups, and much more! Please view our calendar of events online at www.cs-center.org

Sokol and the Flood

By Deb Allison, Sokol Cedar Rapids

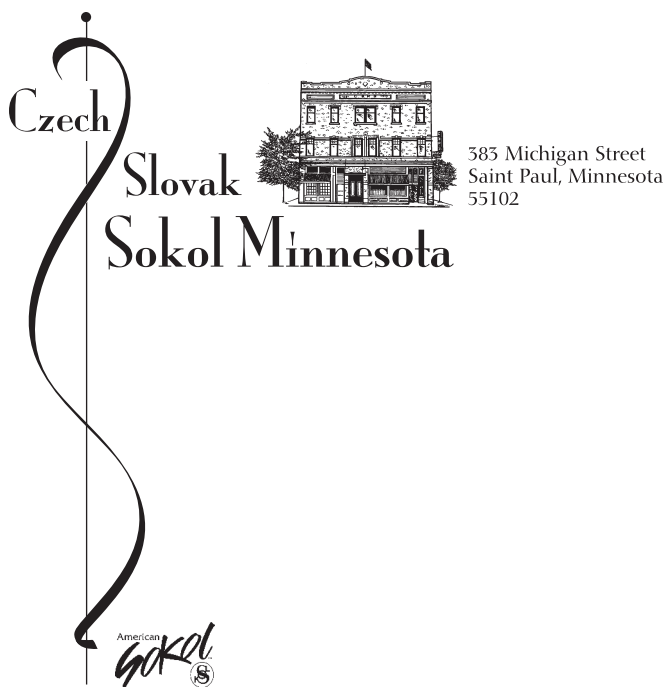
On Monday June 10, 2008 a few of us were down at Sokol Cedar Rapids, sorting archives getting ready for the building's 100th birthday party to be held Saturday June 22nd. Boxes of music, pictures, newsletters, unit meeting notes, BOI meeting notes, routines and competition results, financial reports, certificates, memorabilia from slets: well you get the pictures. They were all looked at and put into groups getting ready to be displayed. This had been an ongoing project for the past 6 months or so. Tables were brought into the gym to hold all our items. We reminisced as we sorted; we planned for the future about the displays we would keep. We were going to turn the "Taylor Shop" into our own museum.

As we were finishing up for the night, talk turned into the rising river. How upstream cities had flooded. We made it through the flood of 1993 with no water entering the building. We felt we were safe. A last minute decision was made to pick things up off the floor and place them on tables, shelves and on chairs. We were thinking maybe we could possibly get a little water on the floor. Boy, were we wrong. No one dreamed the water could get so high.

On Thursday morning, a lot of Cedar Rapidians were sent home from work due to the city needing to shut down all the bridges. Water was now going over them. A flood of epic proportions was hitting Cedar Rapids with all its force. Over 25,000 people were evacuated from their homes...

To be continued...

On November 1, Sokol Minnesota hosts its fund raiser for Sokol Cedar Rapids. The Mystery Dinner Theater, \$50 per ticket, includes dinner, entertainment, and sleuthing the crime(s)! In a tribute to the Halloween weekend: shipboard formal attire is welcome! *We'll have fun for a good cause. Join us!* 651 297 9000



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