



Czech

Slovak

Sokol Minnesota



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

SLOVO

November / December 2010
vol. 33 no. 10

Svaty Mikulas Once Again at Sokol Hall - Children's Christmas Party December 4, 6:30 p.m.

Contributed by Louise Wessinger

All good Sokol children will look forward to meeting Svaty Mikulas and his anděl, to tell him how good they have been all year, and maybe receive a treat. However, the playful Cert or Devil will also be there to give rotten vegetables and coal to those children who have not been good or helpful. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with all the fun and surprises beginning at 7 p.m. All young and young-at-heart are welcome to join the Sokol gymnasts and children's dance groups the Mlada Skupina, Tanecni Mladez and Tanecni Teens for a program showcasing their talents, which will precede the good saint's visit. The evening will conclude with treats for one and all. A freewill donation will be accepted at the door. Questions: Louise Wessinger at 651-452-6240.

Upcoming Events

January Slovo Deadline

December 1

Board of Trustees

November 10

Board of Directors

November 11

Family Sunday

November 14
4:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting

November 19
7 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast

November 21
9:30 a.m.

Children's Christmas Party

December 3
7 p.m.

Membership Christmas Party

December 5
3:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees

December 8

Board of Directors

December 9

Senior Singers

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Prostna

1st & 3rd
Mondays 6 p.m.

Sokol Members' Christmas Party!

Fun and Food!

Sunday, December 5

3:30 p.m. - \$10

Reception and Dinner

You are invited to bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Program

Induction of 2011 Board of Directors

Membership Awards

Special Music

Reservations by November 29

651-290-0542

events@sokolmn.org

CSPS Hall in St. Paul

383 Michigan at West 7th

HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 21

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

French toast, pancakes, fruit cup, sausage, juice, milk, coffee

NO reservations needed

\$6.50/adults

\$4.50/children under 9

\$20/ family of four

BAKE SALE

Delicious pies, cakes, pastries for your Thanksgiving table.

Sokol bakers are invited to bake up a storm. Everyone loves homemade baked goods!

CRAFTS SALE

Exquisite handcrafts for gift giving.

Reserve your table now. Vendors may reserve a 10' table by calling Louise Wessinger: 651-452-6240 or email louisewessinger@msn.com

There are only 12 tables at this event, so hurry to reserve your spot. Some half tables may also be available.

**Volunteers needed in the kitchen, for serving, and setup/takedown
call: 651-290-0542**



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2010 Board of Directors

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

President Komentář/President's Note

By Joe Landsberger

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters

I write this last column with a certain degree of satisfaction in the changes we have brought about during my two terms as president. Here's a review:

1. We began by digitizing the Slovo and expanding its international reach, and migrating content to our Website.
2. We built on annual grants from the Czech Government to successfully apply for city, state, and federal grants for \$212,000 over four years. We have completed the first phase of installing a fire protection sprinkling system in our basement.
3. Through a grant we created a computerized office, transformed out of a storeroom. We also applied current technology toward digitizing our records, sending out event postcards for all our events, establishing spreadsheets of thousands of addresses for mailing labels, and most recently creating large format posters and signage.
4. In our public relations efforts we have had interviews posted on Radio Prague, WCCO, MPR, and Public Access Television in Saint Paul, plus twice-yearly email broadcasts of press releases, and frequent articles in the Highland Villager and West End Community Reporter.
5. We had a very successful Sokol 125th Anniversary celebration, with a personal highlight, the *Dvořak Aria Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém/Ode to the Moon*. As part of that celebration we co-sponsored, with our neighborhood council the West 7th Fort Road Federation, the commemorative "Community Gate Project" (a sculptural installation celebrating Czech Slovak West End immigrants), the history Gateway to a New World, and the building of our beloved puppets Jarda and Jitka.
6. We continued our history of quality Sokol performances, including the premier of *The Last Cyclist* with the Lex-Ham Community Theater. We also produced two fundraising Mystery Dinner Theaters. With neighboring artists and academics, we reorganized, documented, and re-hung our valuable backdrops.
7. We rekindled our participation in the West Seventh Business Association and the West 7th Community Center. We hosted the West End Arts performance revue and a neighborhood Harvest Festival, as well as initiatives such as the West End Enhancement Group, Healthy West 7th, and West End Gardeners.
8. We hosted tours and dinners for historic societies and their personnel, including the Minnesota Association of Museums, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the Ramsey County Historical Society.
9. We ramped up projects to document, inventory, and preserve our precious historic assets, whether records, photographs, or memorabilia. We also attended a conservation workshop hosted by the Immigration History Research Center. We developed a database of our collection of Czech plays 1880–1930 and conserved half of our large meeting room founder portraits. Through a grant we also published a Historic Structures Report that is the foundation of all our grants.
10. Membership reached all-time highs.
11. Our board, committees, and volunteers achieved so much with so little.

Congratulations, and happy holidays - Na Zdar

Publications Committee

The *Slovo* is published by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership. The deadline for the January 2011 issue is December 1. *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; Julie Tomáška, layout editor; J. H. Fonkert and Marit Lee Kucera, interim co-managing editors; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Norm Petrik, Mary Cahill, Jeanette Pafko, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, advisors. Photographs for this issue also provided by Jeanette Pafko, M.L. Kucera, Jean Draheim, Mary Cahill, and Lida M. Verner. The November/December issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after December 1. The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send suggestions, articles, and pictures digitally to: slovo@sokolmn.org.

We are instituting a new system for maintaining our paid subscription list. Please include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address with your new or renewal non-member subscription. Make out your check to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. For problems with subscriptions, please contact us via e-mail: slovo@sokolmn.org; phone: 651-290-0542; or write to Slovo (address below). *Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-membership renewals are \$15 as of October 1; please send to: Sokol Minnesota Slovo Subscriptions/Renewals

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Visit us at: www.sokolmn.org

Membership Report

Contributed by Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the September 17 membership meeting, two people were accepted into Sokol membership: Michael Talbot, from Minneapolis, who expressed interest in language, cooking, history/genealogy, and events; and Charity Straszheim from St. Anthony, who expressed interest in language, dances and various events. Charity was at the meeting and said she had recently returned from two weeks in the Czech Republic where she taught English language to students. She has signed up for beginning Czech at Sokol. She was inducted into membership and received the welcome hug! Welcome to Sokol Minnesota! We have various ongoing events, and membership meetings are usually the 4th Friday of the month at 7 p.m.

Education Updates

Contributed by Jean Draheim, Education Chair

Sokol Minnesota will be offering a kolache baking class on Saturday, November 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the CSPS Hall. Taught by Hana Matousek and assisted by some of our experienced Sokol cooks, the class will cover making dough from scratch and several different forms of kolache.

The fee for this "make and take" class is \$25.00 for Sokol members and \$35.00 for non-members. (If a second Sokol member from a household wishes to take the class, the cost will be \$20 for the second person.) You will be given a list of cooking utensils to bring when you register and send payment for the class. All baking supplies are covered in the class fee. Come and learn how to make this wonderful,

versatile pastry. They make a great addition to holiday desserts, family gatherings, and even wedding receptions.

We will be singing with Sister Georgiana Dolejsi one-half hour before our membership meetings. Come and make your voice heard in Sokol, Slovak, and Czech song!

Remember to send your Family History stories to Brother Chuck Draheim. He will be compiling them and organizing a presentation of those that members are willing to share.

If you have any question about any of these programs, please call Education Director Jean Draheim at: 651-426-2826.

Gymnastics and Fitness Classes

Contributed by Mary Cahill

Looking for a way to increase your flexibility, balance, and possibly defy gravity while having fun and meeting new friends? Check out Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics. Try a class and see what you think. Fall classes for children and girls have begun; however, there are still limited openings. We'd love to have you join us. Come and be part of the fun in a safe and welcoming environment.

For those of you who are less interested in defying gravity, but would like a low impact all-muscle group workout, check out the adult prostna group, which will start November 15, Monday night, at 6 p.m. This callisthenic class is FREE to Sokol members! For more information, call Sokol MN at 651-290-0542 or visit us at <<http://www.sokol.mn.org>>.

\$150,000 Matching Grant!!!

With the support of Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Sokol Minnesota has been approved for a federal government appropriation of \$150,000! This is a matching grant, so we need your help NOW. With the end of the tax year rapidly approaching, this is the perfect time to consider helping the CSPS Hall Legacy Campaign with a generous donation.

Have you had special times at the Hall such as enjoying a class, event or activity, meeting great people, or admiring the beautiful and historic hall and its treasures? Do you enjoy reading the Slovo? We need our historic CSPS Hall to make these happen. We need money to repair and renovate our 125-year old historic Hall. Fire protection, furnace and central air,

elevator to the third floor mezzanine/meeting area and more are all on the lists of must-dos. With your help we WILL do them.

Donations given "in memory of" or "in honor of" would make a great gift and would be welcome and acknowledged in the *Slovo*. One hundred percent of your tax-deductible contribution or pledge will go to Hall restoration. If you have a company match, or would like information on legacy giving, contact Joyce Tesarek, Legacy Building Fund Chair, 612-822-6147 or joyce@sokolmn.org. Make checks to Sokol Minnesota Legacy Campaign and mail to 383 Michigan St, Paul, MN 55102.

News from the Board of Trustees

The BOT will be holding a fall clean-up day on Saturday, October 30 from 8 a.m. until approximately noon (or until the planned work is finished). Our current project list includes cleaning up the ramp area, raking leaves and picking up debris in the parking lot. This is not just a BOT work day; all Sokol members are invited, and encouraged, to lend a hand.

Sokol Minnesota wishes to recognize Jim Robasse for over ten years of diligent work as our Webmaster. Jim gave Sokol its "sokolmn" website identity and faithfully updated its website through the years.

He was also proactive in working with other Czech and Slovak organizations.

Thank you, Jim.

An Evening to Remember

Contributed by Jean Draheim



Lida M. Verner, Candlelightdreams, Copyright 2010, Used by permission.

Friday, September 24, 2010, was an evening to remember. For the first time in many years, two Sokol members got married. Jean (Verner) Draheim and Chuck Draheim, pictured here with Jean's parents, Mir and Shirley Verner, were married at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel. The reception followed at our own historic CSPA Hall, which was elegantly decorated with red and white roses, candles, and white tablecloths.

The Hall has been a part of the Verner family's lives for four generations. When planning the wedding, the CSPA Hall was the one and only choice for the reception site. Jean's paternal grandparents met at the Hall. All four of her grandparents were friends through Sokol organizations. Jean's parents, brother and sister-in-law, aunt, and extended family have held their wedding receptions at the CSPA Hall. The fourth generation, Jean's nieces and nephews, brought life to the evening by dancing and helping guests who weren't familiar with the Hall.

Jean and Chuck included traditions from all three of their ethnic backgrounds. Chuck's German side was honored by the bride and groom toasting each other with a Nuremberg Cup. His Norwegian side was well represented by a lovely Kransekake, Viking figurines, and a cake knife and server. Jean's Czech background was honored with 40 dozen kolache (baked by Sokol friends that morning), a large wedding kolach, a capping ceremony and the clipping of feathers on Chuck's hat, and friends from the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers performing "The Bohemian National Polka." Jean and Chuck gave all the guests rosemary-infused, hand-made soaps. Rosemary at a Czech wedding is a symbol of fidelity and friendship. Family and friends danced to a live band (friends of the couple) and ate wedding treats well into the night. Jean and Chuck went home that evening with sore feet, but happy, full hearts. They were able to share traditions that were important to them with some of the people who were important to them.

American Sokol Western District Annual Meeting Recap

Contributed by Mary Cahill, Physical Director

Delegates from Sokols Minnesota, Cedar Rapids, Crete, Omaha, and South Omaha gathered the weekend of September 11 and 12 at Sokol Omaha for the annual Board of Instructors (BOI) and General Business meetings. Attending on behalf of Sokol Minnesota were Joyce Tesarek, Norm Petrik, and Mary Cahill. The purpose of the annual meeting is to conduct business relevant to the operation and function of the Western District (one of six regional districts of Sokol units in the United States), and provide collective input to American Sokol, the national face of Sokol, on its operation and function as the chartering organization for all American Sokol units. Gary Masek of Sokol Omaha was re-elected Western District President.

The Western District's annual competition and exhibition (Slet) will be held April 8-10, 2011, hosted by Sokol South Omaha. The BOI voted to add a new event this year to the Slet's program, Team Gym. This event will expand the gymnastics offerings in each of the WD's units to include gymnastic students who may not want to compete in the traditional artistic events (vault, uneven bars, beam, floor, parallel bars, high bar, rings, pommel horse), but who would nonetheless want to attend a Slet and perform in a Team Gym number. The great thing about Team Gym is that the rule requirements are simple and the gymnasts get to create their own number to music they select. We are excited at Sokol Minnesota about this addition because we have creative kids and instructors. We are confident we can showcase our local talent very effectively via a Team Gym event.

Information about successes and challenges in our home units was shared, with an expectation that we can learn

from each other about best practices and potential pitfalls. Ideas were exchanged about how units raise funds, conduct and expand programming, solve problems, and contribute to local community vis-à-vis civic participation. In addition, the camaraderie created through the in-person annual and semi-annual meetings brings intangible and immeasurable benefit with respect to furthering the Sokol's credo of "A strong mind in a strong body." The National Development Conference will be in Cleveland, October 16-17. After that meeting, we will get information about the upcoming U.S.A. Slet. Look for future updates on American Sokol events in which Sokol Minnesota can participate. The next National Slet in Cleveland will be June 29-July 2, 2011. The 2012 Worldwide Slet will be held in Prague July 1-7.



At the annual meeting of the Western District of American Sokol in Omaha on September 11-12, there were delegates present from Sokol Minnesota, Sokol South Omaha, Sokol Omaha, Sokol Cedar Rapids, and Sokol Crete. Joyce Tesarek (second from left), Norm Petrik (third from right, back row), and Mary Cahill (fourth from right, front row, dark t-shirt) represented Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

In Our Own Backyard

Contributed by Ginger Simek, President, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International - <www.cgsi.org>

Do you know there is a great genealogical resource and research center right in our own backyard? The Minnesota Genealogical Society maintains an extensive collection of family research materials, including books on a variety of family history topics; maps, both old and current; family histories; church baptism, marriage, and burial records on microfilm; city directories; cemetery records; ship passenger lists; language aids; gazetteers; and much more. Over a dozen ethnic genealogical societies and groups are part of or affiliated with the research center. Their ethnic collections are available for use. The research center is equipped with wireless Internet service; its computers provide access to Ancestry, Heritage Quest, and Family Origins.

The library and research center is located on the second floor, Suite 218, at 1185 Concord Street North, in South Saint Paul. It is less than four miles from the intersection of I-494 and Concord Street and less than five miles from downtown Saint Paul. It is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. CGSI provides staffing for the library on the first Saturday of the month from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and on the second Thursday evening of the month from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. If you have an interest in your Czech and Slovak family history, you should check it out!

Slovak President Visits U.N. In New York

Contributed by Donald Pafko, Honorary Consul for the Slovak Republic



Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic (left) with Slovak Consul Donald Pafko.

During the third week of September, the President of the Slovak Republic, Ivan Gasparovic, visited New York to attend sessions at the United Nations. While at the United Nations, President Gasparovic also attended the General Assembly meeting. During his visit, a reception for the President was held at the home of the Slovak Ambassador to the United Nations, Milos Koterec. In attendance at this reception were many politicians, Slovak emissaries, and diplomats, as well as Honorary Consuls of Slovakia in the U.S. The reception was hosted by the Ambassador to the U.N., Mr. Koterec, as well as the Slovak Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Peter Burian. During the reception, President Gasparovic conducted a private audience with the Slovak Honorary Consuls, of which I am one of twelve. Spouses of the Consuls were also invited to this private audience, so my wife Jeanette was able to attend. During this private audience with the President, he discussed many issues including Slovak/Hungarian relations, dual citizenship, economy, and other issues of interest to the Honorary Consuls. We were all impressed with the President's candor, his grasp of the issues, and his political acumen.

As a finale to his visit, the President attended a Slovak festival in New Jersey. This festival is a gala event which is held annually. Many Honorary Consuls as well as Slovak delegates accompanied the President to New Jersey. It was an honor to have President Gasparovic visit the U.S., and we will be equally honored in November when Prime Minister Iveta Radicova is scheduled to visit Washington, D.C., and the Slovak Embassy. Prime Minister Radicova is the first woman to be elected as Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic.

Sokol Says "Thank You" to Donors

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota thanks members and friends who have made contributions to support our programs and our historic C.S.P.S. Hall. All donations are credited to the general fund, unless otherwise noted.

Norm Petrik and Joyce Tesarek

\$5,000.00 - 2010 Board pledge for the Capital Campaign

Joe Landsberger

\$500 - 2010 Board pledge for the Capital Campaign

Marit Lee Kucera

Amount private - 2010 Board Pledge for the Capital Campaign

Kaye Goers

In-kind donation of a Queen size quilt to be raffled off at the Minnesota Czech Roast Pork Dinner October 24.

Additional Capital Campaign contributions amounting to \$3,290 have been received through our Legacy Fund appeal in the October Slovo. Donations received by the Corresponding Secretary after September 30 will be acknowledged in the next issue of the *Slovo*.

2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES INFORMATION - Jeanette Pafko, Financial Secretary and Norm Petrik, Membership Chair

At the American Sokol annual convention on April 22-25 in Omaha, Nebraska, a vote was taken to increase the membership dues we pay to the American Sokol Organization. The American Sokol organization located in Chicago is our parent organization and we receive our 501(c)(3) charitable contribution license through them, along with our gymnastic programs. The dues we pay to them were increased as of September 2010. However, we will not raise our own unit dues until our January 1 renewal date in 2011. Our dues are based on the calendar year January through December 31.

The 2011 dues are as follows: Individual \$45.00; Couple \$80.00; Senior \$35 (over 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years); and Senior couple \$70.00. Renewal notices will be sent out in December.

21st Annual Czech and Slovak Festival, September 19, Highland Park Pavilion, Saint Paul



With Gratitude! Czech Slovak Festival 2010 - Contributed by Joe Landsberger, Festival Chair

Sokol Minnesota wishes to salute all who made this festival a successful event! Thank you! • Ray Vanyo and the Vanyo Family, as well as Hana Matousek, for their family recipes • Volunteer Chair Joyce Tesarek and all the volunteers who work (and play!) • The Highland Park staff, booth sponsors, and West End businesses (especially Vine Park for the keg of root beer) • Program Chair Louise Wessinger and all those who have contributed to our entertaining program • Doreen McKenney and the volunteer bakers, as well as Cinnamon Whaley's Sweet Shop volunteers • Lodges Ceskylev #10 and Orel #69 of the Fraternal Life Association for their donations of three bikes and helmets for the free drawing • Kaye Goers for her beautiful queen-size quilt "Bohemian Treasures" for this year's raffle. One small donation, one precious project of fire protection!



1. Ted Schieffer, 2. Penny Tesarek trying on a Kroj, 3. Afternoon Kolache baking crew: Marlene Hinshaw, Joyce Tesarek, Jean Hall, Pam Kotval, Katie Haselbauer; back row: Doreen McKenney, Norm Petrik, Jean Draheim, Doris McKenney, Georgiana Dolejsi, Gale Thomsen, Louise Wessinger, 4. Don Pafko, Honorary Consul for the Slovak Republic, 5. Bob Kostichka and Norm Petrik at the Sokol membership table, 6. Ticket Sellers (left): Miro Verner, Jeanette Pafko, Steve Shimer, Marlene and Kent Hinshaw, Bob Kostichka and Norm Petrik at the Sokol membership table, 7. Folk dancers: Frank Trnka and Jason Brozovich, 8. Kamila and Emilie Cleveland with Emily Bolles selling Pernicky cookies, 9. Joyce Tesarek with Congresswoman Betty McCollum, 10. Bob Vanasek, Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic.

2010 Faces of Sokol: Through the camera lens of *Slovo* photographer Joyce Tesarek



1. September: Spillville, Iowa, St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, 2. February Band Concert: Czech City Band on stage with The Minnesota State Band and the Star of the North Band seated below, 3. January Duck Dinner: Phyllis Vosejпка, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Mary Halbert, Kent and Marlene Hinshaw, 4. April American Sokol Organization Convention, Omaha, Western District attendees. Sokol Minnesota delegation (standing from left): Denis Novak (2nd), Joyce Tesarek (4th), Joe Landsberger (5th), Norm Petrik (7th), 5. January Duck Dinner: Megan Cahill and Don Andrlle, 6. May Festival of Nations: St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers 7. May Dance Reunion: Sokol Children's Folk Dancers.

Death by Kolacky: Sokol's very own interactive murder mystery dinner theatre

Contributed by Marit Lee Kucera



The cast: Back: Denis Novak (Vaclav Picha), Frank Trnka (Sigmund Bush), Leland Mann (Jess "Cap" Doyle), J.H. Fonkert (Detective Tom Brown), Dawn Bulera (Sally Bennett). Front: LaVina Erickson (Aunt Mary Hruska), Louise Wessinger (Sylvia Bush), Marit Lee Kucera (Evelyn Haerberlin).

the finest Czech cuisine for the guests, who sat on the edges of their chairs as clue-giving insults, bullets, facts, gossip, and outright lies flew around the Hall.



Our world-class chef Hana Matousek and niece Alena Youngberg.

Kudos and thanks to all involved. *Death by Kolacky*, was written, directed, and co-produced by Denis Novak. Co-producer/steward: Joe Landsberger, stage floor manager: Jean Draheim; Set up/down: Mary Cahill, Dennis Cahill; Decor/kitchen maid: Joan Sedlacek; Kolache bakers: Doreen McKenney with her mother Doris, sister Danita and nephew Quint Larson; Wait staff and kitchen help: Jean Hall, Christian Hall, Jiri Hruska, Jyni Koschak, Jeannie Krebs, Lloyd Krochak, Steve Shimer, Leah Sticha, Cinnamon Whaley, Alena Youngberg.

Many in the audience came dressed in gangland 20's fashions. We also feted three birthdays, all non-Sokols who chose to celebrate their special day at our action-packed who-dun-it! If running out of our Prohibition-era "near-beer" was any sign of the evening's success, we done good. The local authorities closed down the beer tap well before the dinner ended.

The gala the 1929 Kolach Fest brought fine food and high drama to the Czech and Slovak Sokol Hall on 10-10-10.

Those wonderful Bohemian Buns, a.k.a. kolache, were honored with a competition among the best bakers in town. Georgiana Dolejsi was crowned Poppy Seed Queen. The kolache speed-eating contest was cut short when Jess "Cap" Doyle, the Irishman who won last year's contest, fell from his stool, clutching his throat. Doc Tesarek, a veterinarian by trade, tended to Doyle, and later pronounced him dead. It turns out, Doyle was poisoned before he was halfway through his second prune kolach. Who done this dastardly deed?

All the guests at this sold-out Sokol fundraiser had a great time trying to solve the crime that unfolded when the West 7th Bohemian "family" and local Irish gang butted heads. Hana Matousek and her daughter Radmila Rasmussen created the



Joyce Tesarek (Doc Tesarek) attended to the stricken Leland Mann (Jess "Cap" Doyle); standing: Denis Novak (Picha), J.H. Fonkert (Lt. Tom Brown) who said, "Doc, if you can treat cows and dogs since you're a vet, you can treat this Irish gangster."

WANTED: Webmaster

Sokol Minnesota seeks a volunteer to serve on its Publications Committee as a hands-on Webmaster. Experience with Website development and design software (FrontPage, Dreamweaver, CSS, etc.); some Photoshop or imaging applications. Any additional online experience is a plus (Facebook, LinkedIn, Flash, digitalized music, video, etc.). Duties include monthly updates to the Website, plus development of features yet unrealized and unknown! Some training available in Sokol Minnesota's office (PC-based). Reply to publications@sokolmn.org

Fall Fare Chili Feed to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Contributed by Nichole Armstrong

Family and friends of Babe Vanyo are sponsoring a Fall Fare Chili Feed to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society on Sunday, November 7, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at CSPS Hall. There will be chili, chili dogs, chicken noodle soup, and beer, plus a bake sale and silent auction.

Babe Vanyo was a strong supporter of the Sokol organization, helping in any way she could at many events. She and all of her family have volunteered and participated in events and groups such as dance, gymnastics, and singing. Babe and her husband Bob have been involved with the Sokol and the CSPS Hall for decades, and it was only fitting that her family hold this event there. We hope to see all of our Sokol friends at this fundraising event.

Contact Nichole Armstrong (Babe's granddaughter) at 651-235-1806 or nichole.armstrong@gmail.com for any donations to the silent auction or bake sale.

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PROSTNA Back in Step! Callisthenic routines, a.k.a. prostna to Sokols, are back with an entirely new set of drills starting November 15. Prostnas are routines performed at the closing ceremony of a gymnastic competition (slet). Join your friends! Make new friends! First and Third Mondays, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Whether or not you go to the 2011 Slet in Cleveland, have fun and keep your body healthy at the same time! This is Sokol at its best!

Song of the Month

Contributed by Georgiana Dolejsi

19. NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN

Maestoso
1. Na-ro-dil se Kristus Pán, vesel-me se, z rů-že kvítek
vykvet nám, ra-duj-me se. Z ži-vo-ta čis-té - ho,
z ro-du krá-lov - ské - ho, nám, nám na-ro-dil se,



Narodil se Kristus Pán,
veselme se,
z růže kvítek vykvet nám,
radujme se.

Z života čistého, z rodu
královského,
Nám, nám, narodil se.

Jenž prorokován jest,
veselme se,
ten na svět poslán jest,
radujme se.
Z života...

Člověčenství naše,
veselme se,
ráčil vzít bůh na se,
radujme se.
Z života...

Goliáš oloupen,
veselme se,
člověk jest vykoupen,
radujme se.
Z života...

Jesus Christ was born
Let's celebrate
Rose is blooming, let's celebrate
From pure life, of the royal
family,
For us, for us, he was born.

Which is prophesied,
Let's celebrate
That is sent to the world
Let's celebrate
From his life...

Humanity ours,
Let's celebrate
God designed to take on thee
Let's celebrate
From his life...

Goliáš is robbed,
Let's celebrate
Person is forgiven
Let's celebrate
From his life...

Lecture Series: Shifting Landscapes: Examining the past, present, and future of the Czech & Slovak Republics

The Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development, in collaboration with the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, will host the third and final presentation of the fall 2010 lecture series.

The series will include: "Shifting Landscapes: Examining the past, present, and future of the Czech and Slovak Republics" on November 13 (9 a.m. to noon) with Kenneth Scoug, Retired U.S. Diplomat assigned to U.S. Embassy in Prague, "Prague Spring events of 1968: The Human Face that Got Bloodied." Room 1-149, Carlson School of Management, 321- 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis.

Series moderators are Dr. Josef Mestenhauser, Dr. John Moravec, and Allyn Johnson. Information: John Moravec at moravec@umn.edu

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December 3, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
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Will we ever know?

By Josef A. Mestenhauser



Josef Mestenhauser

Editor's note: This is an abbreviated version of an article appearing on the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center website <<http://www.cs-center.org/wp/>>.

Will we ever know what happened the fateful night of March 9, 1948? The question is, "Was Jan Masaryk murdered that night or did he commit suicide by jumping out of the window of the Cernin Palace?"

I had always assumed that the answer was obvious: he was murdered by the Soviets because he became inconvenient to the revolutionary regime the Communists installed in February of that year. This explanation was seemingly confirmed by an inquiry (the fourth since 1948) conducted from 2001 to 2004 which concluded that Masaryk was indeed murdered. Although there was no evidence by whom and by how, all indications were clear that this was likely done on the direction of the Soviet Union and its secret services. Yet the Russian government refused to open its archives to the Czech investigators, further reinforcing the idea that these archives are hiding the secret of Masaryk's death.

Today, I am no longer sure that it was murder. Not after reading the third edition of a book written by Pavel Kosatik and Michal Kolar entitled "*Jan Masaryk – pravdivy pribeh*" ("Jan Masaryk: a true happening"). This edition includes some of the newest information available, together with the two authors' reflections on the four inquiries that they consider inconclusive and sloppy.

The original edition was a well-researched biography of this man's public as well as private life, spanning two world wars, and in general portraying Masaryk as very complex due to his relationship with his parents and from growing up in exile.

The book attracted my immediate attention because I met Jan Masaryk and because I received the prestigious Jan Masaryk Silver Medal award. After reading the book in one sitting, I re-read it again, looking for inconsistencies, inaccuracies or omissions – none of which I found. The authors are both highly-accomplished, prize-winning historians. They offer no conclusions about Masaryk's death, short of suggesting that the evidence is still lacking. They do suggest trends in Masaryk's upbringing and personality that point to a troubled mind, to a person who spoke often of suicide and who had two faces: one public, supporting close cooperation with the communists, and the other private, expressing distrust in the communists, dismay with his own actions, and despair with the decay of character among his own people. The book also shows Jan Masaryk's deep commitment to democracy and to Christian morality, although he did not always live up to the expectations of his strict, but loving, family. He drank, smoked, and womanized. However, it was his simple humanity that many people loved him for.

His critics hold that Masaryk lacked courage, that he did things to gain the approval of people around him, and that because of this he could not accept responsibility for his own actions, always finding a way to blame someone else. Most often he did so through his fear that Germany was the main enemy that gave him – as well as his mentor, Eduard Benes – the excuse to align himself with the USSR. Or else Masaryk blamed his indecision on his deep loyalty to Benes.

His relationship to Benes may have ended the day before he died. He visited Benes, ostensibly to seek advice about whether or not to resign the cabinet. A second-hand account of that meeting claims that Benes refused to give Masaryk any advice because he did not wish to be responsible for Masaryk's choice. The meeting ended abruptly in less than half an hour, Masaryk returning to his office where he worked on a speech for the following day and approved his next-day's schedule. A light was reportedly on in his apartment at midnight, which would have been very unusual for him. The next morning his body was found beneath the window of his private apartment in the Cernin Palace.

The story of Jan Masaryk's death is obviously larger than knowing who may have killed him and why or whether he took his own life. The larger story is what might have been, had he resigned along with the non-communist members of the cabinet, thus triggering immediate new elections. The books' authors hypothesize that the communists would have lost control of the government, but that the coup would have happened regardless. The Soviet Union still had its armed forces in Czechoslovakia, leaving the situation ripe for a bloody civil war. The only difference that Masaryk's determined course of action may have made would have been to deny the communists the argument of legitimacy through a peaceful government change-over.

I will return to this story next month, with an analysis of the four inquiries and with speculations about their accuracies and credibility. Most people who may have known Masaryk's fate are no longer alive, dying naturally or themselves having been murdered or vanished under suspicious circumstances. We may never know for sure. Now, after reading this book I am no longer certain that Masaryk was murdered.

What is clear to me, however, is that the story of Jan Masaryk is not just his own story, but the story of the people of a troubled country subject to too many internal and external forces that they did not know how to take responsibility for confronting. Thus, they solved their problems by compartmentalizing their thinking and actions neatly into one private and one public personality—Jan Masaryk.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER EVENTS AT CSPS HALL

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Sunday, November 21, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
\$6.50 adult, \$4.50 children under 9
\$20 family of four



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Minneapolis Bohemian Flats

Contributed by Don Pafko

According to local newspapers and TV stations, the bridge debris from the I-35 collapse is going to be removed from a Minneapolis Park Area, commonly referred to as "Bohemian Flats." The bridge collapsed on August 1, 2007, and the debris has been stored there since that date.

This area has always been referred to as the "Flats" by those who lived there and/or had relatives who lived there. The "Flats" have been occupied by several different nationalities but was primarily occupied by people from Slovakia from the period 1904 to 1934. The last Slovak resident was evicted in October 1934 and the site was then used to store coal that was unloaded from barges on the river. The majority of Slovak people who lived in this area were from the region of Slovakia called Liptov which is located in northern Slovakia, and most of those individuals were from a village called Vazec.

The "Flats" belongs to the Minneapolis Park Board and it is hoped that once the bridge debris is removed that by next summer it will look as it did prior to August 1, 2007. To commemorate the "Flats" as well as the Slovaks who lived there, a plaque was erected adjacent to Andersen Library on the West Bank Campus of the University of Minnesota. This plaque contains narrative regarding the area as well as original pictures. I encourage you to view this plaque that was paid for by the University of Minnesota.

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