

CSPS Hall Finished Third in PIP Campaign By Joyce Tesarek

We are pleased to announce that the CSPS Sokol Hall claimed 9% of the popular vote, for a third place finish in a field of 25, in the Partners in Preservation campaign in the Facebook voting sponsored by American Express. We had tough competition. The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis, received 19% and American Swedish Institute, also in Minneapolis, garnered 16%. The PIP advisory committee, chaired by the mayors of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, will announce how the remaining grant funds are to be distributed on November 9. Although CSPS Sokol Hall did not come in first, we still hope to receive funds to help finance improvements to the second floor of CSPS Hall.

It was a great honor, in the first place, to be selected to compete by The National Trust as one of 25 historic buildings in the Twin Cities. We were true underdogs, competing against much better known sites, such as the Basilica of Saint Mary, Fitzgerald Theater, Fort Snelling Post, and Minnehaha Park. As Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman said in the public announcement of the PIP program on September 20, the competing sites are significant not just for the historic brick and mortar character of their structures, but also for the impact the buildings have had on the lives of the people who love them. He spoke fondly of his time as a gymnast at the Hall and his daughter's time as gymnast and instructor. Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak spoke of his grandfather's ties to the Czechoslovak neighborhood and CSPS hall.

If we do receive funds, our first priorities are to add air conditioning and improve accessibility to the stage so that we can expand programming in the summer months, as well as to provide a better quality experience for participants and audiences alike. If you are interested in contributing to these and other projects for our 125th anniversary next year (2012), please contact Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147 or <Joyce@SokolMn.org>. Complete details will follow in January 2012 *Slovo*.

Our Big Facebook Début By Joe Landsberger, Project Planning Task Force Chair

Sokol brothers, sisters, and neighbors, as well as all their friends and acquaintances, even supportive strangers, in units and locales across the country and around the world, participated in the Partners in Preservation (PIP) \$1 million grant competition, and voted for CSPS Sokol Hall. We have to wait until mid-November to learn if we have been awarded funds. Congratulations to the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, which garnered the most votes.

The only "venue" for this competition was Facebook. The challenge for Sokol Minnesota was to initiate and develop our meager presence on Facebook, connect to other Facebook users, and promote our message. First, we gathered a Facebook-savvy team: Joe Landsberger, Joyce Tesarek, Sue Martin, and Katie Byrne Cuffey. As chair, I led the way both as Sokol Webmaster and as a heavy user of social media with my educational website Study Guides and Strategies <www.studygs.net>.

Joyce, Sue, and Katie jumped at the chance to use Facebook in this PIP program: Joyce for her expanding professional life as a Minneapolis veterinarian; Sue for her dancing in the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers as well as her work creating and reproducing *kroje*; and Katie, recently returned from eight years in the Czech Republic, for her extensive network of friends and former students via Facebook. So the team got busy! We brainstormed what connections we could make, not only through Facebook but also email and organizations. The list grew; we identified over 40 compatible organizations and constituencies with individuals who might take the time each day to vote for CSPS Sokol Hall to help us secure funds for stage renovation and air conditioning. Sue poured through almost five years of back issues of *Slovo*s on our Sokol website. She developed 25 interesting trivia that were in turn sent to our contacts as reminders to vote. We had no idea what numbers our Sokol connections could produce. Going into this project, we might have been inexperienced, but we were on a dedicated mission.

We were amazed at how many people came forward! Before long, we were in fourth place with 8% of the vote; soon we rose to third place with 9%. The top vote getters with much larger memberships, paid staff, lawn signs, and radio announcements, amassed double our votes. But we pressed on! Barborka Karlsonova (Slovak) and Jitka Sebek (Czech) translated our voting request. *(Continued on page 8, column 1)*

UPCOMING EVENTS

January *Slovo*
Deadline December 1

Board of Trustees
November 9
December 7

Board of Directors
November 10, 7 p.m.
December 8, 7 p.m.

Family Events Sunday
November 13, 4:30 p.m.

Annual Sokol
Membership Meeting
November 18, 7 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast/
Bake & Craft Sales
November 20
9:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Sokol Children's
Holiday Party
December 2, 7:00 p.m.

Sokol Members'
Christmas Party
December 4, 3:30 p.m.

Roast Duck Dinner
January 21, 2012, 5 p.m.

Senior Singers
Tuesdays 10 a.m.

Gymnastics
Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m.

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Sokol Minnesota
2011
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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 Notes By Ed Hamernik

Pozdrav/Greetings!

It is hard to believe that this is the last issue of the *Slovo* for year 2011. As we approach the end of the year, my thanks go out to the many people and BOD members who have helped to keep Sokol Minnesota strong. The countless hours by the many devoted members add up to yield successful events, noted Czech and Slovak heritage and culture displays, continued upgrade of our historic facility, and a recognized member of our community. As an independent organization, we will need to continue the work we've been doing, but also must work towards increasing our membership and bringing new, valuable benefits to our members and community. An active, growing membership is a sign of a vital organization that will prosper for years to come.

Sokol Minnesota is blessed by the many unique talents and skills of its members. The recent dialogue by John Cicha was just outstanding. His experience in the Navy during World War II is a treasure, and to hear him tell about the POW camps and being transported from island to island is sobering and heart-wrenching. John and his fellow servicemen are truly heroes; their sacrifices and suffering certainly deserve a heartfelt "thank you" and much appreciation. John is part of an elite group that is shrinking; we are fortunate to have heard him at our September membership meeting.

I want to invite all members to our Annual Meeting on November 18 at which we will consider Bylaws changes and elect officers. Check the events list on the front page and mark your calendar. I hope to see many of you at these important and fun events!

Even though this maybe a bit early, I wish you *Veselé Vánoce a šťastný Nový rok!* (Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!) *Nazdar!*

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: The *Slovo* is published ten times per year by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership.

The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send suggestions, articles, and pictures digitally to: slovo@sokolmn.org. **The deadline for the January 2012 issue is December 1.** *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; seeking volunteer for layout editor (M. L. Kucera, acting up); J. H. Fonkert and M. L. Kucera, interim co-managing editors; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Norm Petrik, Mary Cahill, Jeanette Pafko, Jean Draheim, Cinnamon Whaley, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, advisors. Photographs for this issue were provided by Chuck Draheim, Joe Landsberger, M. L. Kucera, Norm Petrik, and Joyce Tesarek. This November/December 2011 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website in December.

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 (November 15 for January issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (December 1 for January issue).

For problems with subscriptions, please contact us if you missed an issue or received notice of payment due, when a payment had already been made. **SNOWBIRDS:** If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office does not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail; it is returned to us. We pay 44¢ for each returned copy. If you wish to have the newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know.

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

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



Volunteer Positions available at Sokol Minnesota:

- Webmaster
- *Slovo* Layout Editor
- Publicity Director (Board of Directors position)

For information: Jay Fonkert at 651-735-8630 or jfonkert@aol.com

CSPS Hall Legacy Fund Campaign Update By Joyce Tesarek

In 2012, we will celebrate the CSPS Hall's 125th Anniversary. To prepare, Sokol Minnesota's Board of Trustees (BOT) compiled a list of must-do projects to bring the Hall into shape for its next 125 years. These are major capital projects for the Hall's safety and integrity, and for Sokol Minnesota's financial stability.

Several projects are completed: the auditorium wood flooring warped by a radiator pipe leak has been repaired and the entire second floor was refinished. We remodeled a storage room into an office to house computer equipment that we also can use to store and consolidate our records. Several other projects are underway:

- We have hired Miller Dunwiddie Architects to develop a long-term plan for future Hall renovations, so each individual project will fit into the long-term plan.
- We are installing a sprinkler system to protect our Hall. We are saddened and concerned by the recent losses due to fire of two national halls in our metro area: the Swedish Gustavus Adolphus Hall (1924) burned down in 2004, the Danish Dania Hall (1886) burned in 2000, as well as the historic Wilson Czech Opera Hall (Sokol 1901) in Wilson, Kansas, burned in 2009.
- We are replacing antiquated steam pipes that have cost the Hall more than \$60,000 to repair in the last five years.



These projects are funded and are being overseen by BOT and the CSPS Hall Planning Task Force. All work has been done in compliance with strict government guidelines for our building's status as an historic structure on the National Register.



These projects are expensive. Since the start of our campaign, we have been fortunate to have the support of several funding organizations that helped make our projects possible. We are grateful to all these organizations for their assistance. These grants have required matching contributions from Sokol Minnesota.

- Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation for our Historic Structures Report, \$5,000.
- Saint Paul Star Grants, \$42,400 for fire protection and office, and \$20,000 for the architect study.
- Minnesota Historical Society State Grants-in-Aid program, \$13,000 .
- Minnesota Historical and Legacy Grants, \$12,000 for an HVAC study and \$5,000 for the floor repair.
- Save America's Treasures grant program, \$150,000.

We have had many generous individual donors, as well, who have helped us match these grants in order for us to move ahead with the projects. An enormous *thank you* to all who have contributed! In addition to their financial generosity, our members and friends donate time and talents. Sokol Minnesota is made up of volunteers; we have no paid staff. Our rewards come in learning new things, creating and participating in events we enjoy, and making important life-long friends. All talents are welcome and needed, from cleaning to editing to cooking to finance.

Since 2007, we have also received grants totaling \$22,000 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. These funds have been especially helpful because they do not require matching funds from us.

An exciting addition to our project list is to repaint the main hall. As one of the 25 sites chosen for Partners in Preservation, we received 100 gallons of paint donated by Valspar Paint. This generous donation will make us look our best.

Next on the list of must-dos are installation of air conditioning and replacement of the basement sanitary sewer piping. At some future date when funds allow, we plan to extend the elevator to the third floor mezzanine to allow general access to our historic meeting room and archives.

we have relied heavily on our grants to fund previous projects. If we are successful, we may receive additional grants, but these also must be matched. Now we need to ask for your support to insure that the next projects can be completed for CSPS Sokol Hall's 125th Anniversary Celebration in 2012. Please consider a tax-deductible donation.



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

LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

single donation of \$ _____

5-year pledge of \$ _____ per year
for total of \$ _____

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

I would like my gift designated in memory or in honor of:

 Please list my name in *Slovo* newsletter

List amount Don't list amount

Don't list name or amount

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**.

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

Please charge my gift to Visa Discover

Mastercard American Express

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to **CSPS Hall Legacy Building Fund**
383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Highlights of Annual Western District Sokol Meeting

By Mary Cahill

Sokol Minnesota representatives Norm Petrik, Joyce Tesarek, and Mary Cahill joined representatives from Sokols Omaha, South Omaha, Cedar Rapids, and Crete at the annual Western District meeting, held on September 10 and 11 at Sokol Omaha. Sokol Wilbur was not represented.

While Sokol units across the United States are incorporated as independent units, each is also part of a regional "district." Sokol units within the districts (Western, Central, Eastern, Southern) meet and collaborate with each other on various activities. Western District units meet for many reasons; the primary ones include planning for the annual Western District *Slet*, sharing thoughts about and providing feedback on

American Sokol activities, promoting joint participation in skills training events, sharing information and ideas about increasing participation in gymnastics classes, expanding unit membership, and fostering friendships between Sokol members beyond local units.

Several decisions were made at the September meeting:

- the 2012 Western District *Slet* (Exhibition) will be April 28 and 29 at Sokol Cedar Rapids.
- Central District Sokol units will be invited to participate in the Western District *Slet* as competitors.
- Western District will volunteer to be a "tester" for the junior/senior young adult calisthenics routine that will be used in American Sokol's 2013 National *Slet* in Milwaukee.

Changes in Western District leadership

positions were also approved. Allison Gerber of Sokol Cedar Rapids was elected to the office of Western District President. Allison has capably served as Western District Director of Men and Women for several years.

Outgoing president Gary Masek, Sokol Omaha, has served tirelessly in the capacity of Western District President for many years, and as American Sokol Vice President for several years. Gary has retired and moved to Missouri, where he plans to refocus his time on other interests, but remain active in Sokol. Theresa Vernon, Sokolice Crete, was elected as Western District Director of Men and Women. Like Gary and Allison, Theresa is a lifelong Sokol member and brings great experience and enthusiasm to her new position. Western District is a strong regional presence within American Sokol and Sokol Minnesota is well represented within the region.

HOLIDAY

Pancake Breakfast Sunday, November 20 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Featuring:
French toast, pancakes, fruit cup,
sausage, juice, milk, and coffee

NO Reservations needed

\$6.50 adult; \$4.50 children under 9
\$20.00 family - of - four

Bake Sale

Delicious pastries for your Thanksgiving table. Sokol members are invited to volunteer and donate bake goods, as everyone loves homemade treats.

Crafts Sale

Exquisite handcrafts for gift giving

Event Chairs; Ed Hamernik - breakfast; Doreen McKenney - bake sale
Louise Wessinger - vendor table reservations, call: 651-452-6240

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Public Welcome

Sokol Members' Christmas Party!

Reception and Dinner
Sunday, December 4

5 p.m. - \$10.00

Program

Introduction of 2012 Board of Directors
Membership Awards
Dinner to Follow

Reservations by November 23
Make check payable to Sokol Minnesota
651-290-0542

events@sokolmn.org

CSPS SOKOL Hall

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul

Sokol Minnesota's Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation will be updated at the 2011 Annual Meeting November 18, 7 p.m.

By Judy Aubrecht

Sokol Minnesota is applying to the City of Saint Paul for a real property exemption because of our non-profit status as a purely public charity. A 2010 change in Minnesota State law may make us eligible for a property tax exemption.

To assist with this process, our Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors retained Jennifer L. Urban, Esq., with the Urban Law Group in Edina, Minnesota, to review our Sokol Minnesota Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. The review indicated that, to accurately reflect Sokol Minnesota's operating status, several key changes were needed in our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation before the property tax exemption application is submitted. The changes include:

1. Articles of Incorporation
Sokol Minnesota's 2002 Articles of Incorporation need clarification on some critical policies and procedures that are crucial for changing our tax filing status with the City of Saint Paul. The Articles of Incorporation did not make it clear that Sokol Minnesota operates as a purely public charity, as opposed to a membership organization.

2. Bylaws:
A. Membership Meetings
Add "The Membership shall meet at least quarterly."

B. The Relationship of Sokol Minnesota to the American Sokol Organization (ASO)
Information about Sokol Minnesota's relationship to the American Sokol Organization has been moved from the Bylaws to the Articles of Incorporation. Clearly identifying this relationship in the Articles of Incorporation is important because Sokol Minnesota operates under the American Sokol Organization's 501 (c)3 tax exemption for nonprofit groups.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our annual meeting on November 18, 2011, at 7 p.m. at the CSPS Hall. In addition to voting for Board of Director officers and voting on the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation changes, you can visit with Sokol members and learn the latest news about our organization.

Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At its membership meeting on September 23, Sokol Minnesota accepted one couple and one single member into membership. Silvia and Omar Magana of north Minneapolis expressed interest in films, music, dances, dinners, and festivals.

William Havyer of Rochester expressed interest in cooking, language and genealogy classes, and gymnastics. He has two young children. He came to the Czech Slovak Festival on September 18, and turned in his application then. His children were not present at the meeting, but we welcome them to Sokol Minnesota!

Special Programs for our Membership Meetings

By Jean Draheim

We have had two wonderful programs this fall: Peter Vodenka spoke about his escape from communist Czechoslovakia and John Cicha related his experience as a prisoner of war during World War II.

We are looking forward to 2012's Membership Meeting Programs. The January 27 meeting includes a shared dinner. Following the meeting, our Soup-er Sokol cooks will talk about making traditional Czech and Slovak soups.

The February program features beer. March brings a talk about finding ancestors on line. A Festival of Nations preview in April showcases dance. The May 18th meeting presents "My Grandmother's Trunk," the story of Louise Wessinger's grandmother's journey to America.

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Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

Watch for your 2012 membership renewal letters in the mail soon.

Renewals: Individual **\$45**; Couple **\$80**
Senior **\$35** (*over age 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years*); Senior couple **\$70**

New membership dues are Individual **\$50**; Couple **\$85**. This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee for registration with our national organization, American Sokol. Year 2011 dues for members joining after June 30 are \$25, individual; \$42.50, couple. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

Membership applications are available at www.Sokolmn.org or by request from Norm Petrik at 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.

Sokol Salutations

By Jean Draheim

Recently, several of our newer members asked about some of the Sokol Membership Meeting protocols, specifically the way long-time members greet each other and the farewell at the end of the meeting. The following excerpts are taken from the book *Sokol and The Sokol Idea*, prepared by the Educational Committee of American Sokol Organization.

HOW DO MEMBERS ADDRESS EACH OTHER? Among themselves and during their meeting they address each other "brother" or "sister." In Czech they use the intimate *ty*, never *vy*.

WHAT IS THE SOKOL GREETING? The Sokol greeting is *Nazdar!* This is usually interpreted as "On to victory" or "On towards success!"

After more research, I found that the Sokol word *Nazdar!* has been incorporated into the Czech language. A current Czech dictionary defines *nazdar* as *ahoj* ("ahoy" in English), which is an informal greeting or farewell. When the president says a hearty *Nazdar!*, the proper member response is to say *Zdar!* *Zdar* is defined as "success" in a 1963 edition of an English-Czech Dictionary.

For other interesting information on How Czechs Greet Each Other: http://old.radio.cz/en/html/living_pozdravy.html

Trustees By Chuck Draheim

What an exciting year it has been at the CSPS Hall!

As a contribution to the Legacy Building Campaign, Jim and Mary Jo Chlebecek donated funds to purchase new cabinets to store large pots and pans, bowls, and other kitchen and pantry items. It is wonderful for the Sokol cooks to have an organized place for everything! Brian Mondor of Out of the Woods Precision Woodworking designed the cabinets. Thanks to the Chlebeceks, the Mondors, and all who helped plan the project.

BOT sponsored workdays in January, April, and October. In January, the BOT cleaned and organized the first floor ramp storage area. In April, we did another round of cleaning and organizing in the basement



storage area. We found enough junk to fill this 10-cubic-yard dumpster!

Our final workday for 2011 was October 8; we cleaned and prepared the Hall for the Partners in Preservation Open House the next day. The BOT extends a hearty *thank you* to all who participated in our workdays.

On behalf of the entire BOT, I would like to thank all who worked tirelessly to secure a portion of the Partners in Preservation funds for CSPS Sokol Hall. Kudos to Sokol for its third place finish. We await word about the final distribution of funds in November.

Late August we began preparations for the refinishing and repair of the second floor auditorium floor. Our flooring contractor, Generations Hardwood Flooring, LLC, did an excellent job of bringing our old flooring back to new condition. With proper care, cleaning, and annual maintenance, the floor will look beautiful for many years to come. This work was partially funded by a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society and supplemented by funds from the Legacy Building Fund.

Plans for the upcoming year are equally as exciting. The BOT, BOD, Board of Budget and Finance, and the Long Range Planning Committee are working hard to secure additional funding for the other projects.

Know someone who would like to receive our Spring 2012 Calendar of Events postcard? Send name and address to <slovo@sokolmn.org>

The BOD has commissioned Miller Dunwiddie to make suggestions on how Sokol can better utilize its facility. Plans will be finalized for the final phase of the fire protection system and installation of air conditioning. The air conditioning will enable Sokol to generate additional rental income during the summer, which traditionally has been a slow time for rentals. Sokol also will look at ways to better utilize our basement space by researching how to capture and remove ground water that seeps into the space. Further plans call for removing and replacing large portions of our aged and sub-standard sanitary sewer system. This will eliminate the frequent sewer back-ups and put an end to the foul odor that emanates from the basement and migrates to the upper floors.

Best wishes from the BOT for a safe, happy, and prosperous 2012. *Nazdar!*

Education Updates

By Jean Draheim

The Education Committee will meet in November to plan classes for the first half of 2012. Watch the *Slovo*, Sokol Minnesota website, and our Facebook page for class announcements. If you have ideas for classes, free-to-members events, or membership meeting programs, please contact Jean Draheim at 651-426-2826 or <education@sokolmn.org>

Cooking Classes: *Vánočka*, the braided Christmas bread class is back by popular demand. Start out the holiday season with a morning of traditional Czech and Slovak baking. This “bake and take” class will cover making the dough from scratch, braiding and forming the loaves, and baking. The class will be held Saturday, November 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Registration by November 21, 2011.) This class will fill quickly. Get more information and your registration form on line at <www.sokolmn.org>. If you do not have Internet access, please call Jean.

Language Classes will resume the first week of January. Information and registration forms will be posted on the Sokol Minnesota website.

Most classes require a minimum of six students and are limited to 10 students. Registrations must be made by the specified date and sent to Jean Draheim,

Minnesota 55110. If not enough students register, classes may be canceled.

Free-to-Members Event is our *Soup-er Sokol* cooking event on January 26, 2012. Members will have the opportunity to learn about Czech and Slovak soups and help make the soups to be served before the January 27 Members Meeting. A small donation will be collected Friday from those who wish to join us for the *Soup-er Sokol Supper*. Registration is by January 23, 2012, so we can order sufficient supplies. Contact Jean Draheim or mail a registration form found on the Sokol Minnesota web site.

Sokol Minnesota Thanks

Donors By Arlene Hamernik

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

In memory of Frank Loss, Elevator Fund:
Elsie M. Roepke

In memory of Tillie Dolejsi:
Ray Vanyo, \$500

In memory of Lorene Sedlacek:
Bessie Delastrada O’Neill
Rad Cesley Lev No 10, \$285
Mary and Dennis Cahill, \$100

Legacy Fund Donations:
Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, \$1,500
Czech Moms, proceeds from cookie sales
Bessie Delastrada O’Neill, \$100
Wally Schovanec, \$100

Well Wishers:
Annie C. Neubauer
Kent and Marlene Hinshaw
E.P. Holman
Anonymous, \$100

2nd Annual European Christmas Boutique & Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Coronation

Sunday, December 4, 2011
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

American Legion Park Ballroom
300 Lexington Avenue South
New Prague, Minnesota

Arts/Crafts/European Imports
Bake Sale
Stage Entertainment
Bike Drawing & More
Lunch & Beverages Available

The CSPS Hall received a visit in September from a family and a University of Minnesota State Capital research project. All were involved with exploring the family of Jan Račač, Rachač, or Rockart.



L-R: Julia Kierstine with cousins David Riehle and Jim Danneker in an interview on her family's Czech heritage with University of Minnesota researchers John Sieloff and Randy Croce.

As reported in the September 2011 *Slovo*, "Jan Račač (1849-1936) was born in Mazic, Bohemia, and built his house at 309 Harrison Avenue. His son John Rockart (1872-1951) was born there and is listed with Cass Gilbert as architect of the United States Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C. He also worked with Gilbert on the Minnesota State Capital. Jan's father, Jan, Sr., was employed at the State Capital Building as a carpenter."

Through this University of Minnesota research project on workers at the State Capital, Julia Kierstine, a spinto soprano opera singer from California, learned about her mother's father and grandfather, and also her Czech heritage via West 7th Street in Saint Paul. Her great-grandfather, Jan Račač or Rachač (both spellings are listed in our records) was the number "75" portrait on our CSPS founders picture; he is seen about ten years older in another photo. Rachač Sr. (his later preferred spelling) was a finish carpenter; Julia has several pieces that he carved. Interestingly, the details of one piece in particular reflect trim found in the Minnesota governor's office in the State Capital.

Julia traveled to Minnesota to visit our CSPS Hall and to be interviewed by Randy Croce who is leading the research project on behalf of the University. His assistant, John Sieloff, who has delved deeply into the Rachač family history, is collaborating with Sokol archivists on our genealogical research.

The project has found another Czech family, Shetka, who had a plumbing business where Cooper's Grocery now stands across Michigan Street from the Hall. Thomas Shetka, Sr., was hired as the "day fireman," responsible for the heating plant and the shoveling of coal during the day at the J. J. Hill mansion. He lived at 461 Harrison.

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

The ending of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) in Bohemia opened the way for the re-establishment of order. The war originally started as a religious conflict between Protestant and Catholic proponents but widened into political power struggles that involved most of the European continent and caused economic and social destruction.

One of the first steps taken to access the post-war situation in Bohemia was a religious census called the *Soupis poddaných podle víry z roku 1651* (1651 Register of Subjects According to their Religion). A Patent, or royal edict, was issued by the Governors of Bohemia in February of 1651 which required each feudal lord to complete a standardized form for all subjects living on his estate including subjects, overlords, manorial officials, citizens of towns belonging to the crown or to the nobility, and freemen. Soldiers and clergy were excluded. The aim of the victorious Hapsburg monarchy was re-Catholicization and re-establishment of local parish churches after some determination could be made of the current conditions.

The standard form or register was arranged in columns. Each family or household was recorded listing name, social status (subject or free), age, and the religious affiliation of each individual. The head of the family or household was listed first, followed by family members. Servants and farm help were included if they were part of the household. If the religious affiliation was other than Catholic, a notation was made if there was a possibility of that person becoming Catholic. The end of the register included a statement on the condition of the specific estate and of the local church administration. Generally, these statements were descriptions of destroyed villages, churches, devastated croplands, and the poor living conditions of the people. The registers were combined by region into volumes.

Some comments are worth noting related to the surnames, occupations, and the recording of ages. Surnames were not universal in 1651 but were in the process of being established. Thus, capital letters were not always used. Instead of an actual name, a person could be recorded by their occupation, a nickname, or by a combination of a given name and what they did for a living. The

occupations listed in the different regions and towns provide information on the presence of skilled tradesmen, services available, or point to the conclusion that farming was the main focus. The ages listed may not be accurate and children may or may not have been registered. Some areas listed all the children and others listed only those above 10 or 12.

The *Soupis* is not complete for all of Bohemia; some regions are missing and some regions were only partially finished. It can be a worthwhile resource if you can find your family, since it places them in a particular location in 1651. All available volumes that have been published are part of the CGSI library collection at the Minnesota Genealogical Society's Research Center, 1185 Concord Street North, Suite 218, South Saint Paul, Minnesota.

The library is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Library admission is free to MGS, branch, and affiliate members. For non-members there is a \$10 fee. Phone: 651-455-9057

Sources:
Matusikova, Lenka and Ogilvie, Olive; *Bohemia after the Thirty Years War: Historical Sources Deposited in the National Archives in Prague*, and Pazderova, Alena; *The 1651 Register of Subjects According to their Religion (Soupis poddaných podle víry)*, *Naše rodina*, Volume 18, Number 1, March 2006.

Sisel, Wayne and Aksamit, Gene; *Genealogical Sources from the 17th Century*, CGSI Quarterly Meeting, April 1, 2006.

FAMILY EVENT SUNDAY
November 13, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Potluck Meal & Family Activities
Registration: 612-384-1604 or 612-724-5464

Svatý Mikuláš, Sat., December 3, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Wentz, and Martina Gurgel from the Czech and Slovak Moms Club tirelessly mobilized the Czech and Slovak voters. *West 7th Cool Kids* (the Facebook site for the West End, our Hall's Saint Paul) also rose to the occasion. After the United States, The Czech Republic sent the most votes, more than Sweden for the second place American Swedish Institute! Study Guides patrons sent their votes from Viet Nam, the Philippines, Egypt, and around the world! Literally thousands of emails, postings, and events on Facebook and "tweets" encouraged votes for CSPS. Our friendly dancers and their fellow national groups, plus relatives, all brought CSPS up to third place. Even our senior singers without computers took flyers and passed on information about the voting procedure.

Partners in Preservation initially told us that no matter the funding outcome, each of the past six years' historic sites benefited from participation in the program. This was largely due to the sites refining their message of preservation and promoting it to a larger audience. We hope the same for our beloved historic CSPS Hall and for Sokol. We've written often about our projects (see Joyce Tesarek's article on page 3 for details). Our capital campaign has huge challenges for our 125th anniversary. We hope you will join us as a partner in CSPS preservation for another 125 years!



On September 19, members of the Partners in Preservation team visited the CSPS Sokol Hall (L-R) Virgil McDill, Communications Manager, National Trust; Royce Yeater, Midwest Director, National Trust; Terry Richey, Chief Marketing Officer, National Trust; Tim McClimon, President, American Express Foundation; Christine Rhee, Manager, American Express Foundation; Joe Landsberger, Chair, Project Planning Task Force, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Photographer: Christine Morris, Program Officer, National Trust.

By Don Haselbauer with contributions from Louise Wessinger

Even the constant drizzle of a cool September day did not dampen the spirits of those who attended the Czech and Slovak Festival at the Highland Park Pavilion, Saint Paul, on Sunday, September 18.

Vendors: Vendors put up tents outside the pavilion to sell their wares. They came from far away as did Dean and Diane Heimann from Elkhorn, Nebraska, and from nearby as did the Two Czech Chicks, Jean Draheim and Doreen McKenney, Sokol members. Thanks to vendor co-chairs Louise Wessinger and Jean Draheim.



The team that make 150 gallons of booya: Arlene Hamernik, Jim Chlebecek, George Chlebecek, Pamela Kotval, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Georgiana Dolejsi, John Liska, Rich Saliny, Sharon Wyberg, Cheryl Nelson, Katie Byrne Cuffey, Sharon Liska.

Food and Drink: The booya shack with adjacent beer garden and grill area were busy despite the rearranging we had to do with the grill due to the rain. Pilsner and Summit beers and 1919 Root Beer were on tap, plus other assorted beverages were available. Thanks to head booya cooks Ken and Sharon Wyberg, the many vegetable choppers



and meat carvers on Saturday, and the assistant cooks on Sunday. All reports were that the booya was excellent.

Booya chairs Ken and Sharon Wyberg.

The grill area served *jiternice*, brats, hot dogs, and pork-on-a-stick, while in the kitchen volunteers were busy serving booya, *halusky* and open-faced sandwiches. The sweet shop served *koláče*, strudels, and cookies. Thanks to Katie Haselbauer for chairing the food area, Cinnamon Whaley for chairing the sweet shop, and all the volunteers who manned the food and drink areas

Program: Inside the pavilion a jam-packed program, directed by Louise Wessinger, began with the traditional singing of the American, Czech, and Slovak anthems led by our Sokol Minnesota Singers. The singers also sang an array of folk tunes in Slovak and Czech. Our Sokol gymnasts presented a wonderful tumbling program to show off their gymnastic skills. Then it was the young folk dancers of *Mlada Skupina* and *Tanečni Mládež* who brightened the day with their enthusiastic dancing and bright smiles.

Mondo jugglers (and also Sokol members) Tom and Penny Tesarek got our attention with their skills, including passing Indian climbs by a line of volunteers and juggling batons of fire. (continued on page 9)

9th Annual Candlelight
Roast Duck Dinner
 Saturday, January 21, 5p.m.

Dinner includes:
 Soup, 1/2 roast duck, potato dumplings, gravy,
 sweet and sour red cabbage, apple sauce,
 caraway rye bread, coffee and dessert.
 Beer and pop will be available for sale.

\$22.00 per person

Prepaid reservations are required by January 16
 Call Doreen for reservations 952-941-0426
 Send your check to: 4154 Arbor Lane - Eagan, MN 55122
 Make check payable to Sokol Minnesota.

CSPS Sokol Hall 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Czech-Slovak Festival *continued*

Left: The children dancers wait patiently to perform.

Right: Queen Makayla Sluzacek and family brave the storm to attend.

The *Taneční* Teen dancers took the floor next, presenting several dances that showed their growing skill in doing complicated routines. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota, Makayla Skluzacek, played a *Dvořák* piece on her saxophone and her princess, Becky Horak, sang. Record numbers of contestants competed for both the children's and adult *koláče* -eating contests. Master of Ceremonies David Stepan crowned new champions in both categories. Closing the official program, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk



Dancers, offered a colorful and energetic program of Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak dances. The SlovCzech Trio had the crowd up and dancing to their authentic folk music. It was a perfect ending to a day filled with a wonderful spirit of heritage and friendship.



Left: Wet, but still smiling, Judy Aubrecht, Doris Moravetz, and Steve Shimer sell tickets to Denis Novak and Jim Nelson.

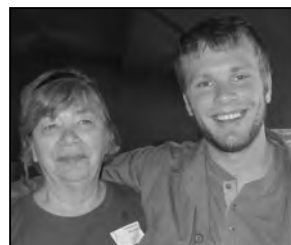
Right: Thomas and his mother Jitka Sebek offer homemade perníčky.

Below: (L-R) Don and Katie Haselbauer with Joyce Tesarek (co-chairs); also: Gretchen Haselbauer, Michael Paterka. Bottom row: Meghan Haselbauer and cousin Jackie Paul.



Children's Activities: There were six carnival-type games for the children. There was also a coloring station with five different coloring projects. Special thanks to Bob Marabella and his balloons, which were enjoyed by all. There were plans for a "back stage" outside the pavilion with puppet shows, plus juggling and tumbling lessons. Unfortunately the rain forced the cancellation of the "back stage" area. Thanks to the parents of the children's dance group and their families who coordinated the children's activities along with Louise Wessinger.

Pre-Festival Activities: A group of volunteers under the direction of Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek were busy the week before the festival making *halusky* and baking *koláče* for sale during the festival. Thanks to Doreen and Joan and all the volunteers who helped. Thanks to Ed Hamernik who coordinated the placement of signs advertising the Festival and to Joe Landsburger who contacted businesses along West 7th Street and provided posters for the Festival.



Above: Bobbi Jo Chandler and Chuck Draheim perform for the crowd.

Left: Jean Hall and her son Christian, former Teen Dancer, recently back from a tour of military duty in Iraq.

I want to thank everyone involved with the Festival for all the hard work and generous donation of time. To all those who worked on the ticket sales, booya, food and beverage sales, vendor coordination, children's activities, entertainers, and equipment haulers a big **THANK YOU!**

Special thanks to my co-chair Joyce Tesarek, who works tirelessly for our organization. We couldn't have done it without her efforts and guidance.

The Lasting Curse of Munich

By Josef A. Mestenhauser

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



October is a fateful month for a small country in the heart of Europe that others wanted to conquer. Czechoslovakia was born in October and twenty years later, it died in October. The corpse still gets resurrected each time one needs a metaphor for treachery, broken treaty obligations, bullying of democracies by dictators, incompetent foreign policy decisions, and the power plays of big powers at the expense of the small countries. Czechoslovakia died in 1938 when the German army occupied the so-called Sudetenland and took one third of the country, 34% of its population, 58% of its mining industry, 60% of its textile industry, and 53% of its paper industries. Even more importantly, the occupation undermined the country's somewhat tender morale that was still recovering from rule by the Hapsburg monarchy, eradicated what trust people had among themselves and with their institutions, and destroyed faith in agreements and hope for future. It also strengthened fatalism, a survivor mentality, scapegoating, black marketing, and corruption. Munich also fed the Czechs with a constant diet of inferiority in comparison to the superior German "race."

Moreover, Chamberlain's compromise at Munich was a precursor and cause of things to come: the subsequent annexation by Germany of what remained of Czechoslovakia that resulted in the imprisonment in concentration camps of more than 360,000 people, 260,000 of whom perished, and the liquidation of two entire villages. Sadly, among those imprisoned, tortured, and killed were some of the most prominent and promising social, political, intellectual, and economic leaders, a circumstance that proved fateful after the war when the communists were the only group that had its leadership intact.

The Munich conference—at which representatives of England, France, Germany and Italy participated—"sold" the country to Hitler. That is, however, only part of the story. The other part is that the Czechoslovak President Beneš and the government accepted the terms of the agreement and capitulated without resistance, despite having a well trained and equipped army of one million soldiers and fortifications along the German border. What did this mean?

"Munich" has become part of the global vocabulary, associated with appeasement and treachery. Its memory lingers on to this day, seventy-three years later, not only in the former Czechoslovakia but everywhere, including in the U.S. People have collective memories that, according to one scholar, are the result of previous generations' memory of past events. These memories can often be so vital that it is almost as though the person recalling them actually experienced the original events.

For Czechoslovakia, other damages followed Munich. Six months later, Hitler occupied what was left of the Czech-Slovak Republic, and when the country was further dismembered by Slovakia declaring her independence, Czechoslovakia's neighbors, Hungary and Poland, also grabbed pieces of her territory.

It is no wonder, then, that many people in the Czech and Slovak Republics continue to play the "what would have happened if..." game that historians often encourage, on the assumption that it leads to a better understanding of history's lessons. Psychologists call this behavior "counter-intuitive thinking" because these hypothetical occurrences did not happen and need to be somehow fitted into a

some attention because it raises many questions to this day, even for the U.S. Many people in the former Czechoslovakia still blame President Roosevelt for a second "sellout" of Czechoslovakia at Yalta, this time to Stalin, blaming the "West" not just for the entire period of the oppressive Nazi dictatorship but also for the subsequent communist dictatorships that killed the intellectual elites and destroyed property until the end of communism in 1989.

These events are relatively well known; however, the questions that the memory of Munich raises deserves added attention. Munich is part of a global vocabulary, and the purpose of this article is to examine a few of these questions and offer some tentative perspectives.

The first question that comes to mind is: how it is possible that intelligent people like England's Chamberlain and Prime Minister Daladier of France, permitted themselves to be so grossly fooled by Hitler's assertion that Germans living in Czechoslovakia were oppressed and that Hitler could be trusted with not having any further geopolitical ambitions (this despite the fact that he had re-armed Germany in violation of existing treaties, occupied the Saarland, and had annexed Austria). In reality, Germans in Czechoslovakia did have many rights, their own university, political parties, representation in the parliament, schools with German language as the "mother" tongue, more newspapers than the Czechs had, and a rich cultural life.

What had gone wrong in Czechoslovakia that led 78% of its German citizens to vote in 1938's municipal elections for the Nazi-connected Henlein party and to subsequently applaud widely the county's annexation to Germany? Part of the problem was the same phenomenon I am describing, namely that of mindsets about history. Both ethnic Czechs and Germans considered their own group to be Czechoslovakia's original population and the other group to be the intruder. These mindsets collided repeatedly, especially at the creation of Czechoslovakia in 1918, when Germans actually attempted to secede and join Austria, prevented only by Czechoslovak military intervention. Later, the Henlein party, on instructions from the Nazi party, developed its own armed branch (organized along the lines of Nazi SA units), which undertook many acts of sabotage and violence against the Czech authorities. Relationships between different ethnic groups should have been mutual and reciprocal, and should have required that both groups accept responsibilities for their coexistence. That did not happen despite the efforts of many people on either side.

A related question in our examination of the meaning of "Munich" is whether Czechoslovakia was negligent in instituting policies to assure the loyalty of the German population. Undoubtedly so, in part; the agricultural reform favored Czechs, and subsequent efforts to resettle Czech officials in the Sudetenland only exasperated the tensions. While official policy favored integration, unofficially the "Czechness" was evident everywhere and irritated the Germans who viewed it as the one-way assimilation of the Germans into Czechoslovakia. On the other hand, most Germans refused to learn Czech, while most Czechs spoke both languages – German was taught from grade one of elementary schools – and Czechs were not welcome to settle in the border areas. My father, as a superintendent of Czech schools in a predominantly German area, was unable to find larger housing for our family after I was born and he also could not find suitable office space because Czechs were not welcome as renters. His entire office and our family had to be relocated by his Ministry to a friendlier city. It was not uncommon to see signs hanging in many Sudeten businesses stating, "Czechs, Jews, and dogs not allowed."

The next question is the "What if" question. There are more "what ifs" than I can deal with: should Czechoslovakia have stood up to

have leveled Prague? Was Hitler bluffing? Would the German military have opposed Hitler's plans, as was indicated in some of the testimonies at the Nurnberg trials? Was Poland willing to declare neutrality instead of pressing its territorial claims against Czechoslovakia, thus destabilizing her flank? Would Rumania and Yugoslavia, members of the small *entente* with Czechoslovakia, have stood by her? If so, how? And how much? Would Germans who served in the Czechoslovak army have fought Germans from Germany? Would Czechoslovakia's stand have prevented the Second World War? Was Slovakia going to secede anyway? Was Stalin really committed to helping Czechoslovakia but prevented from doing so only because neither Poland nor Rumania would allow transit of Soviet forces? Was Beneš right to think that Soviet help

really well prepared militarily to resist Germany? Could a more active role by the U.S. have prevented Munich and its aftermath? Would a firm stand have eventually forced France and Great Britain to side with Czechoslovakia, or was it true that for these powers Nazism was preferable to communism?

There is evidence that many of these questions and many others did enter the minds of various leaders involved in the debates, and that their strategic thinking produced a variety of answers, demonstrating the exquisite difficulties of making foreign policy decisions in complex, dynamic, and emotional situations.

(Part II of Dr. Mestenhauser's article will appear in the January Slovo).

SONG OF THE MONTH By Georgiana Dolejsi with historical notes by Libby (Libuse) Imbrone

Ta naše písnička česká appears on page 13 of our *Sokol Songbook*. Georgiana gives this short English translation.

Our Czech song is so pretty, like pearls on a stand.
Just like a flower in the meadow, our song grew and developed.
If we should lose this "Flower," nothing in life will remain.
And if our songs perish, all we cherish would then be in vain.

Ta naše písnička česká or "That Czech Song of Ours" was voted one of the ten greatest hits of the twentieth century in a poll conducted by Czech Radio in 2000. Every Czech knows the tune; it is an unofficial hymn of the Czech people.

Karel Hašler, singer and songwriter, was born in 1879 in Prague. After a brief acting career at the National Theatre, he became a popular cabaret actor and singer. He wrote and sang songs about the beauties of Prague, as well as songs about social and political issues. He composed some 300 songs. He appeared in a number of films in the 1920s and 1930s. In one film he sang *Ta naše písnička česká*. This song eventually became Hašler's death sentence. After the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, he wrote sarcastic anti-German lyrics to it. A colleague turned him in to the Gestapo; the 62-year-old Hašler died a cruel death in 1941 at the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp in Austria.

In recent years, Hašler's son Tomáš has worked to promote awareness of his father's work. In April 1999, when President Vaclav Havel came to the Twin Cities for the Vaclav Havel Symposium on Civil Society, Tomáš Hasler was one of 100 dignitaries at the breakfast hosted by the Czechoslovak Planning Committee at the CSPS Sokol Hall.

(Libby obtained biographical information on Karel Hašler from <<http://www.radio.cz/en/section/art/singer-and-songwriter-karel-hasler-was-born-125-years-ago>>)

Left: In the Dining Room at CSPS Sokol Hall, we have an embroidery in a frame with words from this song. The embroidery was stitched and given to us by Zdena Vodickova from the Czech Republic. Zdena, a seamstress, made many vests for Sokol Minnesota's volunteers to wear when working at our events. While her mother was alive and lived in Hopkins, Minnesota, Zdena came to visit her almost every other year. When she visited, she came to the Senior Singing gatherings. She became a close friend of Georgiana Dolejsi and Mary and Ivan Krizan, who are still in contact with her.



PÍSNÍČKA ČESKÁ

Moderato Karel Hašler

C G C

Ty naše písničky jsou jak ty perličky na šnůrce

G7 C F

na-vlode-ná. Kolik je krásy v nich, a je to velký hřích,

G7 G G G G

že jsou tak utlačená. Ta naše písnička česká

F C F C

ta je tak hezká, tak hezká, tak jako na louce kytič-

G C G C

ka, vyrostla ta naše písnička. Až se ta

G F C F

písnička ztratí, pak už nic nebudem mít. Jestli nám

C F G7 C

zahyne, všechno s ní uplyne, potom už nebudem žít.

2. Zpívejte lidičky, ty naše písničky,
písničky z Moravy, z Čech,
ta naše písnička, je sice prostičká,
ale je nejhezčí z všech.

The Sokol Children's Holiday Party Ho, Ho, Ho and Don't You Know that Every Year

Sokol Minnesota sponsors a special holiday party for our children. The festivities begin at 7 p.m. on Friday evening, December 2, and feature performances by the children and teen dance groups and the Sokol gymnasts.

The evening also includes a visit by Svatý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas) who in the traditional way arrives with an angel who writes the names of the good children in her special book and a devil who tries to encourage the children to misbehave.

The evening ends with goodies shared by all. Sokol members, family, and friends are encouraged to attend.

ATTEND and VOLUNTEER! SOKOL MINNESOTA EVENTS

Sokol Minnesota Annual Meeting

Friday, November 18, 7 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast with Craft & Bake Sales

Sunday, November 20, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Rent a Craft Table: \$20 members, \$24 non-members

Contact Louise: 651-452-6240 or <louisewessinger@msn.com>

Sokol Children's Holiday Party

Friday, December 2, 7 p.m.

with a special visit from Svatý Mikuláš

Sokol Members' Christmas Party

Sunday, December 4, 5 p.m.

Reception, Membership Awards, Dinner \$10

9th Annual Roast Duck Candlelight Dinner

Saturday, January 21, 2012, 5 p.m. \$22

Check the calendar on our website for updates

<www.sokolmn.org>

Sokol Minnesota is on Facebook

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

Read updates on happenings at CSPS Hall as well as share your Sokol stories and experiences with the online community.

Please contact our Facebook administrator Cinnamon Whaley.



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* Nov/Dec 2011

Czech Consul General Visits Saint Paul

**By Honorary Czech Consul
Robert Vanasek**

Czech Consul General Dana Hunatova made a weekend visit to Saint Paul on October 8 and 9. While in Saint Paul Consul General Hunatova toured the CSPS Sokol Hall during the Sokol Minnesota Open House on Sunday. We gave her a progress report on fund-raising for the CSPS Hall renovation project, including the fact that the Hall was a finalist for part of the \$1 million grant from American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. On Sunday evening, Consul General Hunatova was the guest of honor at a dinner with the boards of directors of Sokol and the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center. She also met with Honorary Czech Consul Robert Vanasek.

Honored Guest at CSPS Hall Open House By Joe Landsberger

On the beautiful fall Sunday afternoon of October 9, Consul General of The Czech Republic (stationed in Chicago) Dana Hunatova helped Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota celebrate its participation in Partners in Preservation. As seen here, she also visited the Community Gate Project in the North High Bridge Park.

Sokol Minnesota's Open House had hourly Welcomes by Consul General Dana Hunatova, Slovak Honorary Consul Don Pafko, and Czech Honorary Consul Bob Vanasek. Our six hand-painted Stage Backdrops were displayed each half hour. Children's and Teen Dancers in *kroje* performed hourly. Frank Shima gave strolling concertina performances four times, and the Puppet Theatre had four showings. Plus there were historic displays and Hall tours. Everyone enjoyed the delicious Sokol kitchen-baked koláče and beer!



The artistic installation by artist Craig David in the North High Bridge Park celebrates the contributions of Czech and Slovak immigrants in the West End neighborhoods of Saint Paul and the CSPS Sokol Hall. The baptismal gate from St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church complements the installation's theme that is based upon Antonín Dvořák's opera Rusalka. Dvořák visited the West End and the CSPS Sokol Hall in 1893. For a history of the Gate Project visit

< <http://fortroadfederation.org/highbridge/gateproject.htm>>