

Slovak
Sokol Minnesota



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

SLOVO

November/December 2012
vol. 35 no. 10

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Directors

November 8, 7 p.m.
December 13, 7 p.m.

Board of Trustees

November 14, 7 p.m.
December 12, 7 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting:

November 16, 7 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast/Bake & Craft Sale:

November 18,
9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Decorate Hall

November 26, 6 p.m.

January Slovo

Deadline: December 1

Sokol Children's Holiday Party:

December 7, 7 p.m.

Family Night:

December 8,
3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

125th C.S.P.S.

Anniversary Dinner

December 9, 1:30 p.m.

Senior Singers

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Gymnastics

Tuesdays, 6 p.m.



Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, November 18

9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

\$6.50 adult; \$4.50 children under 9

Featuring:

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

Bake Sale

Delicious pastries for your Thanksgiving table.

Craft Sale

Vendors offering a variety of exquisite handcrafts for gift giving.

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan Street at West 7th, Saint Paul

PUBLIC WELCOME

Event Chairs: Ed Hamernik - breakfast and Doreen McKenney - bake sale



**Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota
2012
Board of Directors**

President

Ed Hamernik

First Vice President

Denis Novak

Second Vice President

Doreen McKenney

Recording Secretary

Katie Byrne Cuffey

Corresponding Secretary

Arlene Hamernik

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Jean Draheim

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Mary Cahill,

Women's Physical Director
and Men's Physical Director

Board of Trustees

Chuck Draheim, Chair

Publicity Director

Megan Cahill

Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Ed Hamernik

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters

The printing of the November/December issue of the *Slovo* brings year 2012 to a close. This has been another busy, event-packed year. As noted in past articles, this has been a year of celebrations: 150 years since the Sokol movement began, 130 years since Sokol Minnesota organized, 50 years since the SPCS Dancers organized, and 125 years since the Historic C.S.P.S. Hall was built. At this time, I think the anniversary of the Hall is of primary importance as well as the significance we have placed on the restoration and improvement projects completed or currently under way and planned. On December 9, the Anniversary Dinner will highlight the importance of the Hall to our members, friends, and community.

We could not have a successful year if it were not for the many dedicated volunteers, both members and friends, who have helped to keep Sokol Minnesota strong this past year. As a volunteer organization, we need to continue to work but also strive to increase our membership and to develop new programs and benefits for our members and community.

Mark the events listed on page 1 on your calendar. I hope to see many of you at these important and fun events. Don't pass up an opportunity to volunteer at any event. Many hands make light work of the biggest project, and we have some big events/projects.

I want to invite all members to our Annual Meeting on Friday, November 16, since we will elect officers and board members. We will install these newly-elected members at this meeting also, since our C.S.P.S. Hall Anniversary Dinner will replace our December membership meeting. Mark your calendar for this important meeting.

With the election of officers, this will be my final President's Note. I'd like to thank the membership for the opportunity to serve and for the support and cooperation you all provided. This position in any organization has its challenges but also many rewards. My best to those who are elected.

This may be a bit early, but since this is the last *Slovo* issue of 2012, my best wishes to everyone. *Veselé Vánoce a šťastný Nový rok* (Merry Christmas and Happy New Year).
Nazdar!



Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

Renewals: Individual \$45; Couple \$80.

Senior \$35 (over age 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years); Senior couple \$70.

New memberships: Individual \$50; Couple \$85. This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol Organization.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. **Watch for your renewal letter in the mail soon.**

Year 2013 dues for members joining after June 30 are reduced.

Membership applications: <www.sokolmn.org>
or by request from Norm Petrik (612-822-6147).

Please send your completed membership application and check to
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Attn: Membership,
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Education News

By Jean Draheim, Education Director

For more information about these classes or to have your contact information included on the interest lists, please contact Education Director Jean Draheim: 651-426-2826, or email: <education@sokolmn.org>.

COOKING: Vánočka (Christmas bread) Back by popular demand! **Saturday, December 1**, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Start the holiday baking season out with a morning of traditional Czech and Slovak baking. *Vánočka* is a braided sweet bread that is made during the Christmas holidays. This "bake and take" class covers making dough from scratch, braiding and forming the loaves, and baking. Instructors are our own Sokol cooks. Fee: Sokol member: \$25; non-member: \$35. (Second Sokol member from the household: \$20.) Class size limited to 10. You will receive a list of equipment to bring when you register.

Registration is required and must be made by **November 24**. The class meets in the kitchen/dining room, second floor, C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street at West Seventh, Saint Paul.

Registration Form is available online. Send the form and your payment (check to Sokol Minnesota) to Jean Draheim, 4044 Cranbrook Drive, White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110 or call 651-426-2826.

LANGUAGE: January brings us to the winter session of the Czech and Slovak language classes. The Slovak class is held Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. under the instruction of Barborka Carlsonova. Classes start on January 10 and continue for eight weeks through February 28, 2013.

The Czech classes, led by Jakub Dajc, start the week of January 7 and continue for eight weeks through the week of February 25, 2013. The classes meet from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The beginning class is on Monday, the conversational class meets on Tuesdays, and the intermediate class meets on Wednesdays.

All language classes are held in the first-floor classroom of the C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul.

Check the *Slovo* and our website (www.sokolmn.org) for information on upcoming cooking classes (*koláče* and *kuba*, fruit dumplings) as well as *kroje* preservation, craft classes, and our continuing Family History Project.

Membership Updates By Norm Petrik, New-Member Coordinator

At the September 28 membership meeting, two new members were accepted into membership. Stacy Haselman lives in Minneapolis, and has interests in cooking, music, dances, dinners, and festivals; she is the daughter of Sue Marabella, who was present at the meeting. Karen Fleischhacker lives in Blaine, and has interests in cooking, language, genealogy, history, films, dances, dinners, and festivals; she is taking the Slovak language class. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota! Our next membership meeting will be November 16 at 7 p.m.

Upcoming Membership Meeting Programs By Jean Draheim

November 16: Annual Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota membership meeting with election and installation of 2013 officers and the Board of Directors. At the deadline for this issue, the nominating committee still was finalizing the list of candidates. After November 9, check our website www.sokolmn.org for the list of officer and BOD candidates.

No membership meeting in December. Plan to attend the 125th C.S.P.S. Anniversary dinner on December 9 (see page 7).

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 2013 issue is December 1.** Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and layout editor; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, Jeanette Pafko, Norm Petrik, and Jitka Sebek, advisors. Ads are designed by Doreen McKenney. Photographs for this issue were provided by Joyce Tesarek and Phyllis Vosejпка. This November/December 2012 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after November 30.

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

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member 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: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
Slovo Subscriptions/Renewals, 383
Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

For problems with subscriptions, please contact us if you missed an issue or received notice of payment due when a payment has already been made. **If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. If you wish to have this newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know.** You can email us: <slovo@sokolmn.org>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

Sokol Children's Holiday Party!

Friday, December 7
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Performances by:

Sokol Minnesota Mlada Skupina, Taneční Mladez and the Taneční Teen Dancers

Directed by Louise Wessinger

Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics
Directed by Alisa Hollibush

Reception following the program

Special visit from:

St. Nicholas (Svatý Mikuláš)

the Angel (anděl)

and the Devil (čert)



Art work by Josef Lada

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota • 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors By Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary

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

Legacy Fund: \$1000-\$4999: Joe Landsberger completes his pledge;

Undisclosed: **Georgiana Sobola.**

General Fund: Under \$100: Gregory and Kathy Malecha

Please make a generous year-end 125th Anniversary donation to the C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund. Donations are tax deductible and 100% of your donation will go to the Hall's restoration. Donations can now be made online at www.sokolmn.org

Czechs Consuls Hold Annual Meeting in Chicago

By Robert Vanasek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic

On October 22, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, Petr Gandalovič, hosted the annual Honorary Consuls and Consuls General meeting in Chicago. I attended the meeting along with colleagues from across the country. We had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Industry and Trade, Martin Kuba. He outlined efforts on the part of the Ministry to expand trade opportunities between Czech and U.S. companies. We also discussed the development of a consular offices network led by the Honorary Consuls. The concept foresees the formation of a working team at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the creation of an information resource for Honorary Consulates on the internet, with a separate chapter on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.

The Tribute to Miloš Forman film festival on October 5 and 6 at the Saint Anthony Main Theater in Minneapolis was a success, with many positive comments by attendees. Thanks to the Minnesota Czech and Slovak Cultural Center and The Film Society of Minneapolis for making this celebration possible.

The Hills are Alive With (Czech) Music By Phyllis Vosejpka



Jaroslav Rynda and Phyllis Vosejpka in the town square of České Budějovice

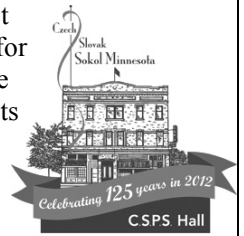
I recently returned from a European trip where I attended the performance by the Berkshire Festival Chorus in Mondsee and Salzburg, Austria. My daughter, Lori, was a member of the sixty-five voice choir that performed in the Mondsee Cathedral where the *Sound of Music* wedding scene was filmed. The group also sang at the Cathedral in Salzburg at a Catholic Holy Mass.

Lori and I also visited with Rynda relatives (my mother's maiden name) in České Budějovice. We toured the village of Bošilec where some of the Kříha relatives (my maiden name) still

reside and saw where my grandfather, Matt Kříha, was born and baptized. The Kříha family plot in the church cemetery is still maintained by some of the family. Along with thousands of tourists we spent a few days in Prague, and had a truly wonderful experience.

Support CSPS Legacy Fund

Grants have funded several of the renovations of our CSPS Hall, but many of these grants also must be matched. We ask for your support to insure that upcoming projects can be completed during CSPS 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: _____

List my name in the *Slovo* newsletter

List amount Don't list amount

Don't list name or amount

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN.**

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

Please charge my gift to

Visa Discover Mastercard

AmericanExpress

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to:

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

SONG OF THE MONTH by Georgiana Dolejsi: *Jiřiny* (Dahlia)

The song this month is about dahlias, which Georgiana thinks is especially appropriate for autumn.

2. *Já jsem tu muziku slyšel hrát, neodolal jsem a šel jsem tancovat.*

): V kole se točila švarná dívčina, měla modré oči, jméno Jiřina :)

3. *Já jsem si tu dívku namluvil, domu z hospody jsem ji vyprovodil.*

): Měsíček nám sVltil jasně na cestu a ja jsem si myslel, že mám nevěstu. :(

1. In the fall when dahlias bloom,
I go around alone, alone and by myself.
In the tavern below, music was playing,
And everyone hurries there with his girl.

2. I heard the music playing,
I couldn't resist, and I danced.
In the dance circle a lovely girl was twirling,
She had blue eyes, her name was Jiřina.

3. I courted this girl,
I escorted her from the dance hall.
The moon shone down on our path,
I took her for my bride.

Jiřiny

Na pod-zim když kve — tou ji - ři - ny, —

cho - dí - vám tak sám, — tak sám a je - di -

ný. — V do - lej - ší hos - po — dě

hra - je mu - zi - ka, — kaž - dy se svou

mi — lou, hned tam pos - pí - chá. —

Calling all Sokol Bakers!

Please donate home-baked pies, cookies, & breads
Slovak, Czech, and American favorites welcome!

If possible, please deliver your baked treats to the Hall
on Saturday morning, November 17

Pancake Breakfast with Bake/Craft Sales
Sunday, November 18, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Thank you for supporting Sokol Minnesota!

CZECH AND SLOVAK FAMILY EVENTS

Potluck Meal and Family Activities
for children of all ages

Sunday, November 11, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Svatý Mikuláš

Saturday, December 8, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Pre-order **koláče** -- baked in our own sokol kitchen --

for Thanksgiving or December Holidays: 952-941-0426

\$10/dozen: Prune, Poppy Seed, Apricot, or Cream Cheese

You can pick them up on

Sunday, November 18, 9 a.m. 1:30 p.m. at the Pancake Breakfast & Craft/Bake Sale

Check out the other fine baked goods also. Plus great crafts to buy for gift giving.

1887

2012

Join Us!

125th C.S.P.S. Hall Anniversary Dinner

What

C.S.P.S. Hall - 383 Michigan St

Where

Sunday, December 9, 1:30 p.m.

When

Pre-paid reservations
by November 21

\$20.00 per person for food and fun!

651-290-0542

RSVP

Do not need to be a member to attend!

Now accepting major credit cards

Update from “The Gym”

By Mary Cahill, Men’s and Women’s Physical Director

The Boys Are Back!

After a couple of decades of no boys-only classes, we now have a **Beginning Boys Gymnastics Class!** We have several graduates of our tots program who wanted to continue gymnastics, but not with the girls. Locating a qualified male instructor was a challenge, and fortunately for Sokol Minnesota, Unit member and Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Dancer Jason Brozovich agreed to work with the class on an interim basis. Russ Goodman, retired Men’s Director of Minnesota Turner’s, has agreed to mentor Jason (on a time-limited basis) in the development of the class. Jason is a former D1 gymnastics recruit, and Russ recently retired from individual competition (Russ is in his 70s!) Both men bring a lot of experience and enthusiasm to the gym. The eight participants are enjoying classes. Sokol Minnesota will need to acquire some additional equipment, but for now we can work on tumbling, rings, and vault.

Teen Fitness in the Works

Nicole King, a certified personal trainer working with Sokol Minnesota as a result of a small grant from Allina Health Care, has developed a “**Teen Bootcamp**” class which began mid-October. The class challenges teens with exercises that combine strength, cardio flexibility, and balance all in one energetic workout. This class is available to teens in the community for a nominal fee, and free to Sokol gymnasts who are current with their class fees!

Save These Dates

The American Sokol 2013 Sports Festival (AKA *Slet*) will take place **June 25 to June 30, 2013**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Let’s see if we can get a sizable Minnesota contingent to perform the Senior Cal at the Festival. Look for more information about learning the “cal” or *prostna* in a future *Slovo* issue.

Western District Annual Meeting in September

Joyce Tesarek, Norm Petrik, and Mary Cahill were at the Sokol South Omaha unit on September 8 and 9 to meet with other Sokol leadership from Units within the District. Delegates were present from units in Omaha, South Omaha, Cedar Rapids, Crete, and Minnesota. Numerous decisions are made at the annual meeting related to such things as the

Western District *Slet* and its content/activities, positions on American Sokol policy/programming, and election of officers to represent the District on the American Sokol Board of Governors. These meetings also serve as a forum to exchange ideas and to build relationships within our extended Sokol family.

The First Bohemian Tax Cadaster (Part II)

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

In 1654, the First Bohemian Tax Cadaster, or more officially, the *Berni Rula*, was done for Bohemia only, and did not include all of Bohemia. In the September issue of *Slovo*, the information recorded was detailed. What follows is a description of how to search for and access this information.

Fortunately, there is a two-volume alphabetical name index so you can search under your family surname. It lists surname, given name, region, source of information (volume, page, municipality (community), judicial district, and sovereignty (estate, farmstead, church property, nobility, freeholder). There is also a companion English guide providing the translation of the column headings, tables, and charts. Once you have found your family surname, you can search in the volume indicated. If you have some background information on the possible region or area in which the family lived, it will help you narrow the best choices of regions to search; the ones having a greater potential for being your family. If your family name is a common one such as *Dvořák*, it is more of a challenge.

These two volumes are part of the CGSI library collection housed at the MGS Library Research Center, Suite 218, at 1185 North Concord Street, South Saint Paul, Minnesota 55075. To see which regions are available go to www.cgsi.org >Library>Books & Resources. Under **Title**, select Contains and key in *Berni rula*. Under **Category**, select Foreign. The library 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.

MASTER TAILORS & CLEANERS

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**3RD EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS
BOUTIQUE AND CZECH HERITAGE
JUNIOR ROYALTY CORONATION**

Sunday ❖ December 2 ❖ 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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

❖ *Arts/Crafts/European Imports* ❖ *Bake Sale*
❖ *Stage Entertainment* ❖ *Bike Drawing and more*
❖ *Lunch and Beverages available for sale*

10th Annual

Roast Duck Dinner

Saturday

January 26, 2013

5:00 p.m.

\$22.00 per person

Dinner includes:

Soup,

1/2 roast duck,

potato dumplings,

gravy, sweet and sour red cabbage,

applesauce, caraway rye bread,

coffee, and dessert.

Beer and pop will be available for sale.

Prepaid reservations are required by January 21: 952-941-0426

Send your check payable to: Sokol Minnesota

C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan Street

St. Paul, Minnesota

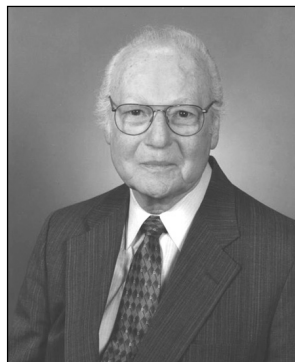
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Hosted by
Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota

An Incredible Journey of the Czechoslovak Gold Treasury

By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser,
Distinguished International

Professor Emeritus, University
of Minnesota Department of
Educational, Policy and
Administration, Comparative
and International Development
Education



Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic (1999-2009)

The source of information used in this article is a recent book by Stanislav Motl, Kam zmizel zlatý poklad republiky (Where Did The Gold Treasury of the Republic Disappear?). Motl is a well-known journalist who has produced several TV programs about this matter.

May I ask you how much gold you own? How much it is worth in the current economy in which the value of gold keeps rising? Do you think that it's conceivable that the government, citing an economic crisis, would ask citizens to contribute gold to the national treasury to underpin the value of its currency? That is exactly what happened in the newly-born Czechoslovakia after World War I.

The country, impoverished by World War I and burdened with a large amount of inflated Austrian currency, had only 12 tons of gold left over from the Austrian-Hungarian Bank. The Czech government asked citizens to donate gold. Czechoslovaks responded enthusiastically to the appeal and donated their gold wedding rings, pendants, watches, and the rims from their eyeglasses. Some 3.3 tons of pure gold, 94,000 gold coins, and tons of other jewelry were collected. When the minister of finance initiated this campaign in 1919, he also withdrew 80% of the inflated currency from circulation and borrowed money to save the economy. An additional campaign urged the citizens to "work hard and save." By 1926, Czechoslovakia had repaid all loans. By 1938, the country had accumulated 96 tons of gold, which explains why the Great Depression did not hit Czechoslovakia as hard as it did other countries. It needs to be mentioned that upon its return home from Russia after the first World War, members of the Czechoslovak Legion donated even their golden medals earned for bravery. The Legion also brought czarist gold coins and other gold that it earned from its enterprises in Russia during the long wait before members could return home – some as late as 1921. The Legion owned its own bank, whose holdings it brought back in boxes. More about that later.

What happened to this store of gold when the Nazis occupied the former Czechoslovakia, when World War II erupted, when liberation finally came, when reparations were being discussed, and when the communists took over? Czechoslovak gold was taken on an incredible journey that

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lasted 44 years, crossing oceans and visiting prime ministers, ambassadors, and generals. It lived in many places, from central bank vaults in Belgium, France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, to the United States, as well as in a German salt mine some 180 meters underground. It met with the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia, the independent Slovak Republic and its National Uprising, Jewish gold, the Sudeten German issue, and the Vatican. You can imagine how tiring and energy-consuming this strange journey was. No wonder that the gold lost a lot of its weight in the process. The treasure of more than 96 tons of gold dipped down to a mere 24 tons when it was finally returned to Czechoslovakia in 1982, to the communist government.

Let's return to the loss of the Sudetenland, for which Czechoslovakia had to pay 14 tons of gold to purchase its own property, which was now occupied by Germany. Even before the Munich Agreement (September 29, 1938), the Nazi machine dispatched a special commando unit to find the Czechoslovak gold, most of which was deposited in foreign banks; force and deception were needed to get the Czecho-Slovak National Bank to release to the Deutsche Reichsbank another 14 tons of gold in deposit with the British in a Swiss Bank. These commandos plundered until the end of the war, from banks, pawnshops, and individuals. The Nazis especially plundered Jewish property, often aided by Czech employees hoping to secure their gold and treasures for the benefit of the Czech "government" that was allowed to function under Nazi supervision. (The outcome was different, of course, and the Nazis did not allow any of this loot to go to the Czechs. Instead they took it all.) This loot was added to the gold teeth and other gold confiscated from Jewish prisoners, living and dead. The Nazis badly needed war materials that were only available in exchange for gold. When war broke out, the British froze all accounts in Swiss banks, though what happened to the Czech gold deposits elsewhere in Europe is unknown. The British had control of 26 tons of Czech gold and needed it for the same reasons the Germans did, to purchase their war materials. The Czechoslovak Government in Exile sold this gold to the British in exchange for pound sterling to finance its operations and its military forces. The British also advanced a loan to the Czecho-Slovak (post Munich) Republic to help the country recover some of the losses stemming from the annexation of the Sudetenland. Part of the loan was supposed to be a grant, which the Czechs called "guilt money," compensation for Britain's infamous part in the Munich agreement. Incidentally, some reports maintain that the Czechoslovak government and military earned well above the comparable wages and salaries of the British.

The British Exchequer charged the Czechoslovak accounts for everything from military uniforms and weapons to the bombs they dropped on Germany. Bills mounted and eventually became a major source of conflict between the British and the Czechoslovak communist regime.

Czechoslovaks felt aggrieved that they had to pay both for the army that fought for them as well as for the liberation of their own land. I will return in the next issue to these negotiations, not only with the British, but also with the Americans, as well as to the issue of Jewish gold, the Sudeten *Landsmanschaft* claims, the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia, and the rest of the journey that did not end with the return of the gold in 1982.

There are several further questions about the Czechoslovak Gold Treasure. Did the Legion steal the Russian gold? Should Sudeten Germans be compensated for losses? Should Czechoslovakia have received war reparation funds as did Poland? Finally, where is the gold now, how much of it remains, and what happened to the precious golden coins? You will be surprised. Just wait until you hear the rest of the story!

From Joan Sedlacek's collection of old Slovos comes this article from the mimeographed December 17, 1976, Sokol Slovo. It is reprinted here in its original format, with only the Czech words corrected for spelling. Joan, along with Zora Kurka, were initiated as regular members at the December 1, 1976, meeting.

CZECH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS as told by Zora Kurka

The Czechs love Christmas and go all out to celebrate it properly. Christmas preparations usually begin around St. Nicholas Day (Dec. 6) with the baking of *Vánoční cukroví* (Christmas sweets). Every household has their own special goodies which they proudly share with friends and visitors. Part of the Christmas tradition includes visiting friends and celebrating together. The Czech Christmas Mass, *Hej, mistře* by Jan Jakub Ryba is played in churches at this time.

Several days before Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) "serious" preparations begin. A tree is bought and hid in a cool place – waiting to be trimmed on the 24th. Potato salad is made the day before. The carp is also bought the day before. Getting the carp is always great fun. Several days before the 24th great wooden barrels appear around the city with live carp swimming around in them. The prospective buyer points to the fish she wants and the fun begins. College students usually sell the carp and the most difficult part of their job is to catch the carp. Sometimes the carp is taken home alive and put into the bathtub to be killed by the head of the household on the 24th. The night before all hands are busy – wrapping gifts, decorating the house, and making *vanocky* – Christmas bread full of nuts, raisins and candied fruit.

Christmas Eve

Morning – The morning is spent trimming the tree and preparing for the dinner.

The Tree – 1) Children are not allowed to see the tree until *Ježíšek* (Jesus) arrives. 2) Candy is distributed on the tree – this way everyone can "pick" some sweets from the tree. 3) People listen to traditional carols while trimming the tree.

Dinner – 1) The carp is killed and cut into pieces. 2) It is breaded and made ready for cooking – (it is fried, garnished with lemon and parsley).

Afternoon – This is the time for visiting friends,

going to church or stopping by the cemetery to remember loved ones no longer alive. It is a very enjoyable part of Christmas. This is also the time for last minute preparations – the last of the gifts must be wrapped – the tree made ready for view – the Christmas sweets and goodies set out on plates, etc. The gifts are not put under the tree yet – this takes place shortly before dinner, and in great secret. The gifts just seem to appear mysteriously sometime before 6 o'clock.

Christmas Eve Dinner – Traditionally dinner begins exactly at 6 o'clock. Members of the family pray together and the embrace and wish each other a Happy and Joyful Christmas – *Šťastné a veselé vánoce* – then, all at the same time, they sit down to dinner together. Once all are seated no one is allowed to get up until dinner is finished – so the hostess must put all of the food on the table. Sometimes a small coin is placed under each place to symbolize wealth in the coming year. Dinner consists of 1) Fish soup 2) Bread and fried carp 3) Potato Salad 4) Rye Bread, Butter 5) White Wine 6) Christmas bread, sweets and coffee

Children usually beg their parents to take small portions so that the dinner can come quickly to an end. Traditionally, all that is put on one's plate must be eaten before the family can get up together and go to the Christmas tree. When dinner is finished all wish each other a "Merry Christmas" and go to view the tree. Then the presents are distributed. Usually one person opens up his present while the others watch. After all the presents are opened, the family sits around – singing, talking, enjoying each other's company. Some families attend Midnight Mass.

from your 2012 Slovo volunteer staff
Veselé Vánoce a šťastný Nový rok
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!
SOKOL MINNESOTA EVENTS**
at our historic 125-year-old C.S.P.S. Hall

Annual Membership Meeting
Election and Installation of Officers and BOD
Friday, November 16, 7 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast with Craft/Bake Sale
Sunday, November 18, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Please donate baked goods!
Pre-order koláče: 952-941-0426
Reserve a craft table: events@sokolmn.org

Decorate the Hall for the Holidays
Monday, November 26, 6 p.m.

Sokol Children's Holiday Party
Friday, December 7, 7 p.m.

125th C.S.P.S. Hall Anniversary Dinner
Sunday, December 9, 1:30 p.m. \$20
Reservations by November 21: 651-290-0542

Check for event updates: **www.sokolmn.org**

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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* Nov/Dec 2012

The Sokol Children's Holiday Party

Ho, Ho, Ho and Don't You Know that Every Year
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota sponsors a special holiday party for our children. This year the festivities begin at 7 p.m. on Friday evening, December 7, and feature performances by *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens*, the children and teen dance groups, led by Louise Wessinger, and the Sokol gymnasts, led by Alisa Hollibush. The evening also includes a visit by *Svatý Mikuláš* (St. Nicholas) who in the traditional way arrives with *anděl*, an angel who writes the names of the good children in her special book, and *čert*, a devil who tries to encourage the children to misbehave. The evening ends with goodies shared by all. Sokol members, families, and friends are encouraged to attend.

Last year's Svatý Mikuláš received word from anděl that this youngster had been good all year and deserved to be rewarded. And so he was!

