

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

# SLOVO

**November/December 2013**  
**vol. 36 no. 10**

- NOVEMBER and DECEMBER EVENTS**
- Board of Trustees**  
November 13, 7 p.m.  
December 11, 7 p.m.
- Family Night**  
November 17, 4 p.m.
- Board of Directors**  
November 21, 7 p.m.  
December 19, 7 p.m.
- Annual Membership Meeting**  
November 22, 7 p.m.
- Pancake Breakfast/ Bake & Craft Sale**  
November 24, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- January Slovo Deadline**  
December 1
- Decorate the Hall**  
December 2, 7 p.m.
- Sokol Children's Holiday Party**, December 6, 7 p.m.
- Family Night Christmas Party**, December 7, 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Sokol Member Party**  
December 8, noon

**Sunday, November 24**  
**9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**HOLIDAY**

**Pancake Breakfast Bake and Craft Sale**

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

\$7.00 adult; \$5.00 children under 9  
Family of four (two adults and two children) \$22.00

Pre-order koláče baked in our Sokol kitchen.  
Pre-orders \$10/dozen  
Apricot, Cream Cheese, Poppy Seed or Prune  
952-941-0426

Additional baked goods for sale for Thanksgiving and December Holidays.

Exquisite handcrafts for gift giving.

Join us and bring a food shelf item for the West 7th neighborhood.

**NO reservations needed**  
**public welcome**

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

**Sunday**  
**December 8**

**SOKOL**

**Members' Holiday Party and Dinner!**

12 p.m. hors d'oeuvres  
12:30 p.m. dinner  
**\$10.00 per person**

**Reservations by December 1**  
**651-290-0542**

After Dinner Program:

- Czech/Slovak Children's Theatre Performance
- Recognition of out-going officers and committee positions
- Introduction of newly-elected and continuing 2014 officers and committee positions

C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota • C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan Street

**Sokol Children's Holiday Party**

**Friday**  
**December 6**  
**7 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

Performances by:  
Sokol Minnesota Mladá Skupina  
Taneční Mládež,  
and the Taneční Teen Dancers  
Directed by Louise Wessinger  
Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics  
Directed by Alisa Hollibush

Participants of the program need to arrive by 6:30p.m. Reception to follow program.

Public Welcome

Special visit from St. Nicholas (Svatý Mikuláš), the Angel (Anděl), and the Devil (Čert).



**Czech and Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota  
2013  
Board of Directors**

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Women's Physical Director

Megan Cahill,

Men's Physical Director

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Jyni Koschak

**Telephone: 651-290-0542**

Past issues of *Slovo* and Sokol Minnesota's calendar of events are available online at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

**Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Denis Novak  
Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters**

This November/December issue of *Slovo* is the last of 2013. It's my remaining chance to write about the flurry of holidays that end our year. This two-month season brings us a big mixture of religious, national, and Czech celebrations.

Going back into my memories of the 1940s, the season actually started with Halloween. It was not the big trick-or-treat event it became when my children were young. Czech farm kids went to small parties, usually sponsored by church or fraternal groups. It was the townies who went for treats and tipped over outhouses as tricks. Yes, dear reader, there were still some outhouses in the 40s. Mother did not approve of the "wild" part of Halloween and made sure we also went to church to pray for the dead.

Thanksgiving was, and still is, a favorite holiday for me. I recall enormous meals at my Trnka grandparents where Grandpa Tom insisted on Grandma Catherine cooking more food than we could possibly eat. No one was to be hungry. I look forward to the feast at my niece Diane's again this year. It is the biggest family event of our year.

In early December we have a number of saints' days that still generate a little celebration. St. Lucia is honored in some Swedish communities. St. Barbara is known to bring a small toy to Slavic children, and St. Nicholas is remembered in various ways. In Czech farm country, St. Nicholas not only knew if you were naughty or nice, he came to check if the records were correct. This Saint was not the jolly old elf we sing about today. He was a tall and usually stern bishop in full regalia of miter and robes. He was Svatý Mikuláš!

My memory of a visit to our farm by an elaborate "Mikuláš" group is still very sharp. On that December 6, snow covered the ground. The group of six, all dressed in appropriate costumes, arrived in a sleigh pulled by a team of two horses and lit by kerosene lanterns. Two teamsters, dressed in big sheepskin coats and hats drove the team. Also in the sleigh were the three main characters: Svatý Mikuláš dressed in bishop's robes and carrying his staff; an Angel all in white robes carrying a record book; and disguised in red and black, a Devil with whip and chains. A peddler completed the cast. The Saint, along with the Angel and Devil, entered the house where he required us to account for our behavior in the past year and demonstrate that we knew our prayers. Our parents had the chance to put in a good word for us or point out some flaws that needed work. The Angel recorded all good deeds in his book while the Devil pleaded to be allowed to whip those who misbehaved. The Saint encouraged us to do better and gave us a small gift of candy.

Out by the sleigh Dad had a drink with the drivers and paid the peddler a few dollars for an enormous pair of women's underpants, said to be a Christmas gift for Mother, that never made it into the house. It was a clever means of collecting payment for the performance without breaking character. The crew got back in the sleigh and went off to the next farm, where the performance was repeated and the underpants were sold again.

This year our Sokol Holiday Dinner returns to the C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, December 8. As I recall, a snowstorm kept me from last year's party. I can't promise good weather, but I can assure you we are planning for a festive afternoon with good food and fellowship. I encourage you to attend. Reservations are required by December 1. Call 651-290-0542. *Nazdar!*

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

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko

Honorary Czech Consul: open

Past Honorary Czech Consuls: Josef Mestenhauser and Robert Vanasek

Sunshine Committee: Marlene Hinshaw

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson

Kitchen Coordinator: Jean Hall

Website: Craig Johnson

Volunteer Coordinator: open

Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Joe Landsberger

Event Monitor: Ken Wyberg

*Slovo* newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks

**Addresses:** President: [president@sokolmn.org](mailto:president@sokolmn.org) | Directors: [board@sokolmn.org](mailto:board@sokolmn.org) | Education and Language programs: [education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org) | Events: [events@sokolmn.org](mailto:events@sokolmn.org) | Finance and Fund Raising: [finance@sokolmn.org](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org) | Fitness Programming: [fitness@sokolmn.org](mailto:fitness@sokolmn.org) | Folk Dancing: [folkdancing@sokolmn.org](mailto:folkdancing@sokolmn.org) | Membership: [membership@sokolmn.org](mailto:membership@sokolmn.org) | Newsletter: [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org) | Planning: [planning@sokolmn.org](mailto:planning@sokolmn.org) | Publications: [publications@sokolmn.org](mailto:publications@sokolmn.org) | Trustees: [trustees@sokolmn.org](mailto:trustees@sokolmn.org) | Webmaster: [webmaster@sokolmn.org](mailto:webmaster@sokolmn.org)

## ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING November 22, 7 p.m., C.S.P.S. Hall

At our annual meeting on November 22, we will **elect our 2014 Board of Directors**. This is one of the most important meetings of the year. Please plan to attend. Look for the list of candidates on our website <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)> by November 20.

**Program: presentation by the Rotary International team that spent May in Czech Republic and Slovakia.** Team Leader was Rob Howard with team members Ann Meier, Deb Most, Tricia Mensing, and Jamie Hopkins. This five-member team from Minnesota and Wisconsin learned firsthand about the similarities and the differences of the cultures of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and the United States during its month-long tour, May 10 to June 8. Visiting team members met, talked, and lived with Rotarians and their families in a warm spirit of friendship and hospitality with the purpose of learning about another country, absorbing vocational and cultural opportunities, and serving as ambassadors of goodwill for Rotary and their own country. Sokol Minnesota is very fortunate to have the group share its experiences at our Annual Meeting.

### Singing! Costumes! Love at Risk!

#### It's Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*

Join other Sokol members on Saturday, November 23, for the 7:30 p.m. performance by the University of Minnesota Opera Theatre of Bedřich Smetana's beloved opera *The Bartered Bride* (*Prodaná Nevěsta*) at the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$5 students and children. Two-for-one tickets are available for University of Minnesota faculty, alumni, retirees, and staff. Buy your own tickets and then meet other Sokol members in the lobby at 7 p.m.!

This 3-act comic opera, with a libretto by Karel Sabina, is set in a Bohemian village during its spring festival. The opera tells the

story of the triumph of true love when it is threatened by an arranged marriage. *The Bartered Bride* made a major contribution to the development of Czech music. After the premiere of its final version in 1870, it became successful throughout the world.

Other performances of *The Bartered Bride* are Thursday, November 21, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 24, 1:30 p.m.

For more information, to buy tickets, or to find out also about the April production of Leoš Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, call 612-624-2345 or go to <<https://music.umn.edu/ensembles/opera>>

### Education News By Jean Draheim

**Craft Corner Class: *Hedgehogs and Snowflakes*:** Thursday, December 5, 6:30 p.m. in the second-floor dining room. Both the hedgehog (popular in Czech and Slovak folklore) and the beaded snowflake make fine holiday decorations. \$10 fee covers the cost of the materials. Registration due by November 25. Send the registration form on our website <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)> to Jean Draheim. The registration code for this class is: hedgehog13.

**Holiday Cookie Bake:** Our own Sokol cooks lead a class teaching Czech and Slovak cookie baking, just in time for your holiday enjoyment, on Saturday, December 21, 9 a.m. and continues into the afternoon, depending on how long it takes to bake the cookies. Everyone takes home samples of all the cookies made that day. Bring beverages and a lunch. The class is limited to 10 students. \$20 materials fee. Register by December 11. Registration code: holcook13. Send the registration form (<[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)>) to Jean Draheim.

**Winter 2014 Session Language Classes** begin the week of January 6 and continue for eight weeks. See the class schedule information and the registration form at <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)>.

If you have any questions about classes, contact Jean Draheim at 651-426-2826 or by email at <[education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org)>.

### 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.

Membership applications: <[www.sokolmn.org](http://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

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

The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to <[slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)>. **The deadline for the January 2014 issue is December 1, 2013.**

Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and production editor; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, and Joan Sedlacek, advisors. Photograph for this issue provided by Jyni

Koschak, M. L. Kucera, Marketa Resong, Jitka Sebek, and Joyce Tesarek. This November/December 2013 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). (Rate is good through November 2014.) 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 a **change of address** or for problems with *Slovo* 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. After one returned issue, we will hold all future issues until you notify us.**

We pay 46¢ for each returned issue. Email us: <[slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. *Thank you!*

## Meet Our Gymnastics Instructors

By Mary Cahill, Women's Physical Director

Gymnastics classes are underway and our skilled and enthusiastic staff has a great year planned for the gymnasts. Returning as lead instructor is Alisa Hollibush, who has been with Sokol Minnesota for many years, originally as a youth gymnast, and now as an instructor for over 10 years. She has trained with and taught at Circus Juventas and is a graduate of an American Sokol Instructor course. Alisa recently completed certification in Child Development and is continuing her education to pursue teaching licensure.

Madeline Moser returns for her third year as an instructor; Jayne Pobanz for her second year. Both have been a part of Sokol Minnesota as youth gymnasts and attended American Sokol Instructors courses. Madeline, a junior at Highland Park High School, competes in high school diving as well as gymnastics. Jayne, a sophomore at Central High School, is a competitive high school volleyball player. Jason Brozovich is back for his second year, where he is working to re-establish our boys' gymnastics program and has six devoted boys enrolled. Jason is a former Division 1 gymnast. He is an active Sokol Minnesota member and Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancer. Alice O'Brien, Siri Schroeder, and Erica Meyers are longtime Sokol Minnesota gymnasts and competitors who have begun their first year as instructors. Alice and Siri are freshman at Central High School; Erica is a freshman at Highland Park High School. All three have had Sokol instructor training. Siri was an assistant last year with the tots class. Erica is a high school cross country runner and already this fall has had impressive time results in meets.

Back with us for her fourth year of instructing is Courtney Benson. Courtney is a senior at Hamline University with a double major in Finance and Economics. She is a four-year member of the Hamline gymnastics team. She is a three-time national all-



Back (L-R): Alice O'Brien, Jayne Pobanz, Erica Meyers, Siri Schroeder. Front (L-R): Courtney Benson, Alisa Hollibush, Jason Brozovich, Summer Haag. Not pictured: Madeline Moser

around qualifier, ultimately receiving a national championship title. Additionally, she has been named to the All-American National Team for floor, beam, and vault. Courtney has practiced gymnastics for 15 years, has coached in her home town of Winona, Minnesota, for six years, and has been with Spirit Gymnastics at Hamline University for four years.

Joining the instructor team this year is Summer Haag, a junior at Hamline University, majoring in biology and plans to be a veterinarian. She is a three-year member of Hamline University's gymnastics team, recently named co-captain. She is also an accomplished gymnast, receiving awards such as hardest worker. Summer has practiced gymnastics for 16 years and has coached for several years in her hometown of Rochester, Minnesota.

You are invited to stop by to observe a class on Monday or Tuesday evening to see Sokol instructors and gymnasts in action.

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## Western District Annual Meeting

By Mary Cahill

Sokol Minnesota members Joyce Tesarek, Norm Petrik, and Mary Cahill met with representatives from other Western District Sokol Units (Cedar Rapids, Omaha, South Omaha, Sokolice Crete) at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on Saturday, September 21, to discuss Sokol activities involving both the Western District and American Sokol.

At the Board of Instructors (BOI) meeting, topics included reflections on the 2013 Western District competition hosted by Sokol Omaha and the 2013 American Sokol Sports Festival at Milwaukee, preparations for the 2014 Western District Competition at Sokolice Crete on April 11 and 12, 2014, and the election of BOI officers. Theresa Vernon, Sokolice Crete, was re-elected as Western District Men's and Women's Physical Director.

After the BOI concluded its business, the general Western District meeting was convened. Other delegates joined the BOI representatives, and the main topics of discussion shifted to matters involving American Sokol (AS). The AS National Conference will be in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 24-27, 2014. Information about the conference has been sent to Unit Presidents. Units are to send suggested changes to AS bylaws to AS by November 30. Proposed bylaw changes and finance information will be sent to Units one month prior to the Convention. Western District President Allison Gerber will send names of members

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from each Sokol Unit as participants on temporary committees that will begin work soon on matters to be discussed and decided at the Convention. The number of delegates from each Sokol Unit to the Convention is based on membership count at an identified point in time, and submission of those delegates' names to AS is to occur by the end of this calendar year. Joyce Tesarek will represent Sokol Minnesota and the Western District on the AS Membership Committee in its preparations for the AS Convention. Sokol Minnesota's nominating committee will identify candidates for delegates to the AS Convention; Sokol Minnesota will vote on these candidates as well as on our Unit's Board of Directors at our annual meeting on November 22.

American Sokol President Tom Pajer listened attentively at our business meeting, responded to questions, and gave a short presentation on his vision of American Sokol moving into the future. He updated us on the new AS Operations Advisor position, now staffed by long time Sokol member Mary Cushing. The Advisor will develop standards for a model Sokol Unit. Ms. Cushing will visit all Sokol Units in the United States; Sokol Minnesota anticipates her visit on November 5 or 6. The Operations Advisor will provide reasonable assistance to Units to help implement new program ideas and increase Unit membership. We ended the day enjoying a delicious BBQ fundraising dinner that Sokol Cedar Rapids held, spending time with Western District meeting attendees, and saying hello to long-time Sokol Cedar Rapids members who helped with the dinner.

## September 19, 2013, Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting By Cindy Coulter, Recording Secretary

For three years Attorney Jennifer Urban has worked on property tax relief for Sokol Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Revenue Review Board recently determined that Sokol Minnesota will receive a reduction in its property taxes because it qualifies as a purely public charitable institution. Consequently, Sokol Minnesota gains a 2013 tax exemption (payable in 2014) on the building portions used for our mission (58%) while the portions used for The Glockenspiel Restaurant (48%) remains taxable.

Sokol Minnesota's Partners in Preservation (PIP) grant deadline was re-extended from August 31 to November 1 for Phase I completion of the air conditioning installation. Second floor air conditioning installation is underway with roof strengthening rods and wood rafters on order and the quitter rooftop unit design completed. James Steel Construction awaits building permit approval from the Saint Paul Historical group. Funding is still needed to complete the rooftop air conditioning installation. Sokol Minnesota will submit a final report to PIP on November 30.

The Board of Trustees is working diligently to replace the fire escape on C.S.P.S. building's north end. The goal is to complete the work "by the time the snow flies." A unique window on C.S.P.S. Hall's third floor unfortunately suffered glass breakage; Miller-Dunwiddie Architectural Firm is assisting Sokol Minnesota to find a replacement window.

Miller-Dunwiddie drafted a comprehensive market analysis report that takes into consideration inputs by the Sokol Minnesota community, recognizes urgent maintenance issues (e.g. parapet and chimney caps, tuck-pointing on original brick walls), and recommends future improvements based on financial availability. Miller-Dunwiddie strongly believes that the Hall is a desirable facility for event rentals and recommends that Sokol Minnesota consider increasing the event rental rate. The BOD approved an increase for 2014 Hall event rentals.

A gaming consultant is working with the Gaming Committee to improve its records. We now have three new gaming ticket-selling employees, with a potential to hire one or two more.

Gymnastic classes began on September 9. Engineering reported that the damaged bars could be made safe for use one more year. Western District's Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 21 at Sokol Cedar Rapids, which will be an opportunity to sort out gymnastic events and clinics. American Sokol President Tom Pajer will be in attendance, as well as Sokol Minnesota representatives Mary Cahill, Norm Petrik, and Joyce Tesarek.

The Kitchen Committee will post a wish list in *Slovo* of kitchen items that would enhance Hall rentals. The BOD was lucky to sample delicious homemade plum butter, *povidla*, which was made to be sold as a fundraiser for Sokol Minnesota. Czech language classes have begun; interest in Slovak language classes also has been noted. Other 2013 classes scheduled are: October 19 strudel-baking class, December 5 ornament craft class, and December 21 holiday cookie baking. Several educational classes for 2014 are under consideration including: bobbin lace, weaving, tatting, apron painting, embroidery, *koláče*, and *zelničky*.

Festival of Nations (FON) director Steve Heckler has a new position at the Union Depot in Saint Paul. Sokol Minnesota has enjoyed working with Steve; we hope to stay in touch with him. We also look forward to working with FON's new director Linda DeRoode in the near future.

Sokol Minnesota's online calendar is an excellent communication tool informing members of Hall availability and upcoming events. If members would like to schedule or update an online calendar posting, please contact master calendar scheduler Pam Kotval at <pakotval@msn.com> or 952-944-0745 so she can keep our online calendar up-to-date and keep us on track! *Thank you!*

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*Many Minnesota Sokol members generously sent contributions to aid the relief effort in West, Texas. (See June/July 2013 issue, page 1, for our original story). Slovo recently received this update from Mary Beth Dulock.*

### Update on Sokol West Gym and Hall

Since the explosion on April 17, 2013, both of the Sokol buildings have been demolished. With the help of another nonprofit organization, the demolition was paid for. This helped us out greatly (financially). They also paid for the clean up and haul off. We are in the process of working on a set of plans for the gym and hall. There are a lot of decisions that need to be made.

As for our gymnastic classes, we continued to practice at a local covered pavilion. This has been a challenge, but we have made it work. Some local SPJST lodges donated a flex floor for us to use to tumble on. We participated in *Slet* which was held by Sokol KHB – Ennis. Ennis volunteered to host *Slet* since we were not able to use our facilities. West was supposed to host *Slet* this year. We have also performed at our annual Westfest festival, which was held Labor Day weekend. We also sold funnel cakes, fries, and tea at our booth to help with our rebuilding.

We started back up with gymnastics on September 11. We are still at the local covered pavilion until a building becomes available. We hope this comes soon.

It will be a long process but we will make it. Thank you to all who have donated. We greatly appreciate it. *Nazdar!*

Thank you, Mary Beth Dulock, Secretary Sokol West

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### ...NEWS...NOTES...UPCOMING EVENTS...

**A Last Dance was held to say goodbye to Bohemian Hall** in Ford Dodge, Iowa, on August 10, at the Fort Dodge Eagles Ballroom. When the Hall burned down on August 3, 2012, the historic center of the local Czech community was lost. Many at the dance shared their memories of growing up at the Hall, their weddings there, and, of course, the many dances when the community gathered. The remains of the building have been bulldozed, but the Hall and all it meant are still remembered. *Information:* Fort Dodge Messenger, August 22, 2013. Submitted by Sokol Minnesota member Charles Rusnacko.

**All about Koláče!** New York Times on October 9 featured *The Kolache: Czech-Tex Road Food*. Montgomery, Minnesota, received mention as the Kolacky Capital of the world. "Czech" out: <[www.nytimes.com/2013/10/09/dining/the-kolache-czech-texan-or-all-american-all-three.html?pagewanted=2&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/09/dining/the-kolache-czech-texan-or-all-american-all-three.html?pagewanted=2&_r=0)>.

**Free Concert: Hamline University Orchestra performs symphonic compositions inspired by Central European folk dances**, including Dvořák and Smetana (Czech and Slovak dances). Local ethnic folk dancers in authentic costumes will illustrate the rhythms and styles of the music. **December 7**, 2 p.m. Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University, Saint Paul.

**Czech Heritage Club's European Christmas Event. December 8**, 11a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Park Ballroom, 300 Lexington Avenue South, New Prague. Vendors, food, crowning of Czech Heritage Junior Royalty, entertainment, demonstrations, and more.

## 2013 Czech-Slovak Festival: A Great Success!

By Jyni Koschak with help from  
Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger,  
and M.L. Kucera

The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Czech and Slovak Festival, held September 15 at the International Institute of Minnesota in Saint Paul, was pronounced a “great success” by Festival Chair Joyce Tesarek. “We had good weather, excellent entertainment, great crowds, cold Czech beer, and delicious food.”

As we have each year since 1989, Sokol members and friends worked together to create an ethnic-themed afternoon for the entire family, featuring traditional food, vendors, and a variety of entertainment. The result, besides good fellowship and an enjoyable event, was a profit of \$4,731.

The Czech and Slovak Festival involved months of advance planning and preparation; days cooking and baking often in temperatures over 90°; hours loading, hauling, and on-site set up (not to mention speedy, expert tear-down and clean up), all accomplished by volunteers. “I want to thank every one of the committee chairs and their helpers, plus the program, entertainment, and activities folks for making this Festival possible,” said Tesarek

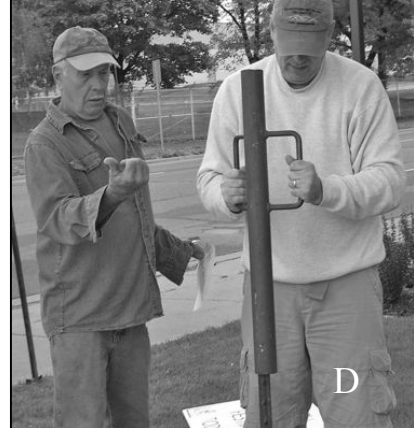
**PHOTOS:** A. Leah Sticha Rieckens sang the national anthem, with M.C. David Stepan behind her. L-R Don Hasselbauer, accordionist, the Flag Color Guard: Chuck Draheim, Don Andrle, Jason Brozovich, Teresa Pojar, Megan Cahill, Louise Wessinger.

B. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Taneční Mládež. C. Teens Dancers led by Louise Wessinger, director.

D. Lloyd Krocak and Denis Cahill helped with early-morning set up the Festival

E. Czech and Slovak Moms made *chlebičky*: Ludmila Palkova, Martina Gurgel, Marketa Resong. Joe Landsberger is in the background.

F. Senior Singers and Friends sang Czech and Slovak favorites: L-R: Arnie Ziskovsky, Denis Novak, Libby Imbrone, Bob Kostichka, Val Kuisle (seated), Norm Petrik, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Deb Ziskovsky, Marlene Hinshaw, Jim Chlebecek, Kent Hinshaw, Pam Langworthy, Richard Sargent, with Don Haselbauer on the accordion.



D

G. Silent Auction garnered much interest and many bidders.

H. Ring-toss was a favorite kids' games.

I. We salute SPPD Office Peter Bydzovsky, who retires soon. He has provided security for Sokol events for over a decade.

J. Denis Novak, Sokol Minnesota president, with Gary Novak who sold *chlebičky* from his portable wanderer's sales tray.



A

**Volunteers (\* designates Committee Chairs):** Don Andrle, Pat Andrle, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Rosemary Baisden, Christy Banks\*, Dan Bednar\*, Lenka Bragg\* with Adela and Petra, Jason Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, Jana Castillon with Katka, George Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek, MaryJo Chlebecek, Cindy Coulter\*, Barb Douvier, Chuck Draheim\*, Jean Draheim\*, Shannon Duffy, Aaron Eberhart, Jake Eishen, Olga Espinosa with Lucien and Isabel, Andrej Gadzo,



B



C

Michaela Giancarlo\* with Emma and Dominik, Joe Gindele, Martina Gurgel with Kristina, Jean Hall, Arlene Hamernik\*, Ed Hamernik\*, Ben Haselbauer, Don Haselbauer, Gretchen Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer\*, Meghan Haselbauer, Sara Haselbauer, Marlene Hinshaw, Scott Hinshaw\*, Avery Hoogenakker, Jennifer Iverson, Robert

(Jake) Jacobson, Jan Knudtson, Darla Kolb, Jyni Koschak\*, Bob Kostichka, Pam Kotval, Lloyd Krocak, Marit Lee Kucera\*, Joe Landsberger, John Liemandt, Sharon Liska, Ralph MacHolda, Doreen McKenney\*, Doris McKenney, Dave Martin, Sue Martin, Hana Matousek\*, Doris Moravetz, Steve Morse, Kari Muyres and Scott Muiyres with Dylan, Pat Nau, Cheryl Nelson\*, Gary Novak, Ludmila Palkova, Michael Peterka, Ross Peterson, Norm Petrik\*,

Teresa Pojar, Romana Pulkrabek\* with Sylvie, Mike Rasmussen, Pavlina Rasmussen, Rad Rasmussen\*, Marketa Resong\*, Barbara Rich, Kathy Rich-ardson, Jan Roers\*, Gina Roers Liemandt\*, Rich Saliny, Jitka Sebek



E

with Sally, Joan Sedlacek, Ann Seifert, Terry Shima, Dave Stepan, Amy Strickland, Joyce Tesarek\*, Penny Tesarek, Tom Tesarek, Gale Thompson, Dan Washick, Michaela Makarianova-Wentz\* with Elizabeth, Chuck Wessinger, Louise Wessinger\*, Cindy Whalen, Cinnamon Whaley\*, Jim Yanta, Alena Youngberg with Elsa.

**The Silent Auction** made \$1,196 for restoration of

the C.S.P.S. Hall. We thank all our generous donors. **Individuals:** Mark Bigaouette, Katherine Eckstrom, Jean Hall, Katie Haselbauer, Marit Lee Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Natalie Nowytski, Marketa Palkova, Jan Roers, Jitka Sebek, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, Joe Zwack. **Businesses:** Chris and Rob's Chicago's Taste Authority, Czech and Slovak Heritage Tours, Czech Heritage Club, DeGidio's, Ethnic Dance Theatre, Karma, Minnehaha Animal Hospital/Pet Doctors Animal Clinic, The Minnesota Twins, Root Salon, Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop, Summit Brewing Co., Supatra Thai, Tavern on Grand, Theater Latte Da, Tom Reid's Hockey City Pub, Yorkville Twins/Joseph and John Gindele.



Topic, Louise Wessinger/David Stepan.

**Emcee:** David Stepan.

**Flag Color Guard:** Don Andrie, Jason Brozovich, Megan Cahill, Chuck Draheim, Teresa Pojar, Louise Wessinger.

**Folk Song Sing-Along:** Marlene Hinshaw, organizer.

**Games for Children:** Andrea Atcheson, Jana Castillion, Olga Espinosa, Michaela Giancarlo, Lenka Hester, Steve Morse, Romana Pulkrabek, Jitka Sebek, Michaela Wentz, Mary Yanta.

**Miss Czech Slovak Organization:** Anne Smisek Jans, Rachel Kuzma, Makayla Skluzacek.

**Mondo Jugglers:** Tom Tesarek, Penny Tesarek.

**Musicians: Accordionists:** Don Haselbauer, Al Kugler. **St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble:** Frank Trnka, director, Judy Aubrecht, Dawn Bulera, Dave Martin, Sue Martin.

**Puppet Shows:** Lenka Bragg with Adela and Petra.



**Soloist:** Leah Sticha Rieckens.

**Speakers:** Dr. Josef Mestenhauer, retired Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic; Denis Novak, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota president; Donald Pafko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic

**Vendors:** Andrej's European Pastry, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Doreen McKenney, Ethnic Dance



Theatre, Jean Draheim Designs, John and Joseph Gindele/The Yorkville Twins, Miss Czech/Slovak Minnesota Pageant, Mohr Creations, Sokol Gift Shop.

**Winners: Koláče Eating Contest** (eat one koláč and whistle): Children, ages 5–12: Dominik Giancarlo; Adults, ages 13 and up: Michaela Wentz (second year in a row!). **WFLA Bikes Drawing:** Adela Bragg, Henry Yanta.

Finally, we thank everyone who attended and who brought friends and family. You, too, made the festival a success!

*Note: By the end of the Festival wrap-up meeting on October 1, committee members were excitedly brainstorming for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual festival. Official planning begins in January; new volunteers are welcome.*



**Dancers: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Taneční Mládež and Teens:** Louise Wessinger, director, Andrea and Faith Atcheson, Anna and Izzy Bracknell, Adela and Petra Bragg, Isabel Espinosa, Ellen Ferry, Natalie and Nicole Giese, Kristina Gurgel, Anna and Lenka Hester, Elizabeth Mansfield, James and Jessica Metcalf, Chloe and Marius Morse, Sylvia Pulkrabek, Sally Sebek, Elisa, Eva and Everett Swartz, Elizabeth and Michaela Wentz, Benedict, Greta, Henry, and Mary Yanta, Elsa Youngberg. **Domáci Czech Folk Dancers:** Deb and Arnie Ziskovsky, directors, Michaela Goettl, Olivia and Sylvia Lemke, Kailey and Korey Mach, Anna Novak, Lauren Reiland, Katrina and Kaylee Reeder, Madeline Svoboda, Grace Tumasmith. **Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers:** Don Pafko, director, Lynn Barnes, Lara Ciganko, Paul Knuth, Sylvia



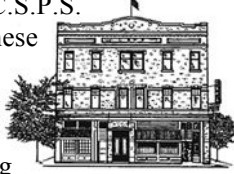
Magana, Karen Varian. **St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers:** Louise Wessinger, program director, Pat/Don Andrie, Judy/Tom Aubrecht, Diane Bell/Scott Hinshaw, Dawn Bulera/Chuck Draheim,

Megan Cahill/Jason Brozovich, Katie/Don Haselbauer, Jyni Koschak/Robert Jacobson, Jan Knudtson/James Metcalf, Pam Langworthy/Frank Trnka, Sue/Dave Martin, Teresa Pojar/John

## C.S.P.S. Legacy Fund

Grants have funded several of the renovations of our C.S.P.S. Hall, but many of these grants also must be matched. We ask for your support to insure that upcoming projects can be completed as C.S.P.S. Hall celebrates its 126<sup>th</sup> year in 2013. Please consider a tax-deductible donation. *Thank you!*

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



### LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the C.S.P.S. Hall, I 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 of  in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

List my name in the *Slovo* newsletter

List amount  Don't list amount

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Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**.

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

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**C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund**

**383 Michigan Street**

**Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102**

## Why Support Sokol Minnesota By Joyce Tesarek, Fundraising Chair

As you plan for your year-end charitable giving, please consider a donation to Sokol Minnesota. We've written much about our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary Legacy Campaign and the reasons to support the C.S.P.S. Hall renovation. Your contributions to the building fund have been generous. But we also have funding needs for Sokol Minnesota as an organization. Operating expenses for running the building, printing and mailing *Slovo* newsletter, and running all our programming were \$125,802 in 2012. Our utilities alone run over \$1,200 a month. We count on generous year-end contributions to help with these expenses. Why should you support Sokol Minnesota and make sure this organization continues to be available to us all?

- For 126 years, Sokol has been the place to learn about and experience Czech and Slovak culture and traditions through classes, concerts, lectures, and ethnic dinners.

- Sokol has youth gymnastics classes and dance groups for all ages (youth, teen, and adult). All classes focus on having fun, personal satisfaction, and growth, not only on competing and winning.

- Sokol provides opportunities to be a leader; plan an event, join a committee, serve on the Board of Directors or Board of Trustees. New ideas are welcome!

- Chance to meet visiting guests, artists, and dignitaries from the Slovak and Czech Republics. Sokol hosted Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovič in July.

- There are lots of ways to get involved and learn new things: bake *koláče*, set up for an event, be a server at a dinner, join a hall cleanup day, prune trees, help with the website or newsletter, volunteer in the office. Everyone's talents are welcome!

- Sokol maintains our historic Hall as a West 7<sup>th</sup> landmark; it is a meeting place for events and to share with the community.

- The best thing about Sokol Minnesota is the great people you meet, the friends you make, and the community. We had over 100 volunteers organizing, preparing, setting up, and running our 2013 Czech and Slovak Festival in September. We all volunteered because it was fun!

All donations to Sokol are tax-deductible. Donate using the form or contribute online at our website <www.sokolmn.org>. We also accept stock transfers and have information on including Sokol Minnesota as a legacy recipient in your will. Contact Joyce at 612-822-6147 with any questions.

## The Prague Story Today

By Vanda Kašová, Columnist from Prague

A skull covered in canvas, lying on a red and gold pillow, is decorated with a crown with huge blue stones. Around it stands a group of men in red and white robes: the Catholic priests. The scene is solemn and silent. The ceremony is watched by thousands of people, many of them dressed up in suits. It is not a view from the Middle Ages. This is what one would have seen on the last weekend of September in Stará Boleslav, a small city close to Prague. The skull used to be placed on the neck of Czech national patron Prince Václav. It was a festive day that commemorates one of the most important persons in Czech history.

A first-time participant might be surprised. Even more, if he knew that the Czechs are among the most atheistic people of the world and, what's more, they are proud about it. At least they say so. But more and more they look for spirituality in their lives these days; Czechs are looking back to their history and traditions in search for the deeper sense of life.

But the skull celebrated in the street is not the only thing that would surprise tourists. They would be surprised when they went to a restaurant to eat a Saturday lunch. What would surprise them would be the price. One 11% beer for \$2, a meal for \$7. Eating out is very cheap in Czech Republic. Maybe that is why people under 30 cannot (usually) cook, but also why cooking has become a passion for middle-class youth as something exotic and cool.

And the trip would continue with more surprises. It was only a few weeks ago when I guided the editor of this newsletter, Marit, in Prague. Every now and then we stopped to take a picture. Of what was she taking pictures? Pavement and doors! Doors, at least in the old parts of Czech cities, are often masterpieces of art with sculptured flowers and animals. The pavements are not one piece of asphalt as in the U.S.A. They are made from black and white cobbles set in geometric shapes.



I had never thought about how beautiful the streets and sidewalks are until I walked on them with Marit. And this is what surprised me in Prague. It can surprise even those who have

walked her pavements for dozens of years.



## **Christmas in Bohemia 100 years ago... from John and Joe Gindele's award-winning memoir *Yorkville Twins: Hilarious Adventures Growing Up In New York City, 1944-1962***

*Here is another excerpt from the memoir of twin brothers (and new Sokol Minnesota members) Joseph and John Gindele, who grew up on the rough streets of Yorkville on Manhattan's ethnic Upper East Side over 60 years ago. This is their story: what the city was like then, how it changed, and how two kids from immigrant parents became Robbinsdale, Minnesota, school teachers. This humorous, endearing collection of stories involves immigrants, survival, growing up, coming of age, and learning what it is to be an American. Even though this is not a Minnesota story, it is similar to that of many immigrants here in Minnesota, and well worth reading. The book was 2012 Midwest Book Awards Finalist, coming in second in the Social Science category.*

The Gindele family always had a Christmas tree in our Manhattan brownstone apartment, sometimes two. We purchased the trees by Thanksgiving. We hung chocolate ornaments on some of its branches. Sometimes during the night, especially when we lived on the ground floor, mice found the low-hanging ones and chewed on Santa's feet. Much evidence was found the next morning.

We usually didn't get rid of the tree until February in order to get the most out of it. Because it was so dry, the needles would fall off if it were dragged down the five flights of stairs of our 420 apartment building. Who would want to sweep all of that up? Joe was the designated sentry who went down to the street, directing away pedestrian traffic. When the all-clear signal was given, John shoved the tree out of our fifth-story front room window; watching and hearing it crash to the ground. (It was lucky that the rickety

window itself did not grab onto the tree and join it in its descent.) When the tree landed, most of the needles immediately fell off the branches.

A week or two after Christmas, the neighborhood kids gathered up all the dried, discarded trees and dragged them near a fire hydrant, since cars were not allowed to park there. The trees were set ablaze. A roaring rapid thunderbolt was heard as flames violently and quickly shot up over 20 feet high. Occasionally, people got concerned that the gas tank of the car closest to the hydrant would explode. Never happened! We didn't need to attract any more cops into the neighborhood, that's for sure.

We were blessed as kids. We usually got a toy or two and some clothes. That was a lot more than Mom got, judging from how she described her childhood Christmases to 8-year-old granddaughter Julie in 1977.

*When I was a little girl in Pole, Czechoslovakia, I lived in a little house in a small farming village. In fact, my house number was 4. We were the 4<sup>th</sup> house built in the village. There were eight other houses in our village.*

*We got our Christmas presents a week or two before Christmas on St. Nicholas Day. We usually got stockings to wear or an orange to eat and cookies. If we were bad, we got coal in our stockings.*

*My father would chop down an evergreen tree in the woods. He would cut a hole in a log and stick the bottom of the tree into it. We decorated the tree with all kinds of cookies and candies and real candles on the outer edges. We put an angel on top. On the heavier, lower branches on the tree, we hung little apples and walnuts.*

*My father made figures of shepherds and lambs out of noodle dough. My mother baked the dough and we put the figures under the tree.*

*On Christmas Eve, at 6 p.m., we would sit down to dinner and eat carp and cooked barley and mushrooms, koláče, apple strudel with rum, and coffee or tea. (The carp was freshly caught and we kept it in our washtub for a few days before we killed and ate it.) At midnight we went to Mass in the larger neighboring town of Kadov, three kilometers (1.8 miles) away. Of course, we had no electricity at that time, so we burned candles and used a kerosene lamp for light. On Christmas morning, we went to church again. The next day, we got an apple or orange as a present.*

*The village shepherd, who took care of all the sheep, would walk from house to house and blow a horn. The people gave him cakes and sometimes money.*

*So you see, Christmas was different from today with so many presents exchanged. And we didn't have such tree ornaments as you have. But it was lovely, just as it is for you.*

SPECIAL for November/December *Slovo* readers (good through December 31, 2013). FREE shipping (save \$4.00) in the Continental U.S. if ordered with check or money-order via U.S. Mail. Send \$19.95 payable to Golden Valley Publishing, LLC. If shipped to a Minnesota address, add \$1.45 tax (total: \$21.40).

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ISBN: Softcover, 978-0-9839337-5-5  
**Merry Christmas! Přejeme Vám veselé Vánoce a šťastný nový rok!**

### **Good Time had by all at the August Sokol Camp Picnic and Booya! by Kari Mures**

The weather cooperated on Sunday, August 11, for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sokol Camp Picnic and Booya in Pine City We had a wonderful crowd. The Booya must have been tasty; it sold out by 2:30 p.m. Thanks go to our head chef Ray Vanyo and company. It was so nice to see so many Sokol brothers and sisters and many new faces, too! Everyone enjoyed the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, along with live accordion music and our folk-singer duo. Thanks to all members who helped and contributed to the success of the 2013 Sokol Camp Booya Picnic! *Nazdar!*

## **11th Annual Roast Duck Dinner**

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

**Saturday, January 25, 2014**

**5:00 p.m. - \$22.00 per person**

*Prepaid reservations are required by January 21*

**952-941-0426 - Limited seating**

Hosted by  
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

C.S.P.S. Hall  
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul

***Life And Many Deaths  
in the Protektorat  
Bohmen und Maehren\*  
March 1939 – June 1945***

**By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauer,  
Distinguished International  
Professor Emeritus, University  
of Minnesota Department of  
Educational Policy and  
Administration, Comparative  
and International Development Education  
Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic (1999-2008)**



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

***Part 4 . Summary of the Lasting Impact of Nazi Rule.***

Here are my conclusion of the consequences, the damage, and the impact of the Nazi regime and the subsequent communist takeover on the Czechoslovak people.

**1. The Destruction of Civil Society.** Most voluntary associations, including Sokol, were abolished and their properties dismantled. Travel was greatly limited to single individuals or very small numbers of people traveling in groups. There was, of course, no freedom of information, religion, or assembly, and attempts to obtain other sources of knowledge and information were outlawed. Radios were altered to prevent listening to foreign broadcasts. People depended for information only from official propaganda, on rumors, or on very risky illegal listening of exile radio from London.

**2. Creation of Major Moral and Spiritual Crises.** Conditions of life made it difficult to distinguish between right and wrong, bravery and cowardice. Most people had to constantly rethink their values. Nazis understood that force, intimidation, and threats work; and Czech communists learned the same lessons.

**3. Total Destruction of the Economy.** Czechoslovakia's well-established and balanced economy was integrated into the Nazi economy and war efforts. At the end of the war, few livestock remained, grain had been confiscated, and food rations, as small as they were in comparison with the Germans, could not be filled. Often, food was available only on the black market. As a student in the gymnasium, my typical lunch consisted of an apple and two slices of dark and mushy bread made from potato flour pasted with mustard.

**4. Elimination of Intelligentsia.** Educated leadership had been a principle target of Nazi enforcers. Thousands died in concentration camps. Survivors were tired and ill, and they hoped for normalcy by returning to conditions of the 1930s. No new educated people were being produced because the Nazis had closed and never reopened universities. The same thing happened to many gymnasia designed to develop future generations of leaders. Only the communists succeeded in replenishing their leadership and survived with the help of those returning from exile in Moscow. Under the communist rule, entry to all higher educational institutions was strictly controlled, was subjugated to the needs of the party and content of instruction in all institutions subjected to communist ideological training.

**5. Disruption of Assumptions about The Past, The Present, and The Future.** People use culturally-determined assumptions to compare their present lives with those from the past and with hope, or lack of hope, for the future. Without a sound education,

Czechoslovaks had

difficulty making comparisons accurately; the main point of comparison people remembered was the First Republic. The returning government-in-exile from London also looked back to the First Republic. In contrast, the communists offered an ideologically-determined utopia promising a good life for all. In a highly uncertain atmosphere, people became mired in the past, including the immediate past of injustice, loss, death, and ceaseless anxiety. Such mindsets nurtured their need to seek revenge against Germans for past wrongs. With seemingly universal agreement, Czechs felt that all Germans were bad Germans, and there was no possibility of a common life with them in the restructured Czechoslovakia. Sudeten Germans in particular, more than 80% of whom voted for a "return to the Reich" in the 1938 elections, were blamed for the death of the country.

**6. Reinforcement of Collectivism.** In a collectivistic society individuals are not valued except as members of a group. The Nazi period reinforced this orientation, which already had some hold dating from the Hapsburg period. Under Nazism, Czechs found themselves a psychological minority in their own country, governed by a numerical minority of Germans. As a result, Czechs saw themselves as a group that needed to preserve their endangered culture; they attempted to do so through a variety of means, such as music, theater, literature, and by memorializing of the past. But collectivism found its greatest expression in stereotyping Germans. From its beginning, the major underground organization found it necessary to keep sending messages to the Beneš government in London demanding that postwar settlements include the complete expulsion of all Germans. Beneš also favored such expulsions, but only for those proven to have harmed the Czechoslovak Republic, and accompanied with financial compensation.

Collectivism is a cultural, social, psychological, and political phenomenon that made it possible for the general acceptance of socialism in postwar Czechoslovakia. The Nazi regime was, of course, a primary example of a socialist country. In such circumstances, it was difficult to encourage a free enterprise system and market economy. We see the remnants of this mentality even in the present-day Czech and Slovak Republics.

**7. Emergence of Fatalism.** Related to collectivism is another cultural phenomenon, fatalism: the perceived loss of control over one's life, choices, and hopes for the future. Fatalism breeds anger, hopelessness, helplessness, and envy against those seen as better off; plus it distorts one's reasoning skills, fosters simplistic decisions, and focuses on emotional solutions for problems. Fatalism is difficult to change because it becomes coded in one's brain, where it focuses on an exaggerated unpleasantness of the past. Some social and psychological research suggests those with unpleasant pasts tend to be unhappy and constantly disgruntled.

**8. Damage to Human Relationships.** By far the greatest damage, not often recognized, was to human relationships. Some Czechs became informants; as time passed their numbers increased. Many were informing on other people of free will, others under severe interrogations. This led to bottled-up emotions, lack of trust (often even between parents and children), and anxiety about speaking freely. Even members of underground organizations had to take care because if they were arrested, they knew they would be tortured to identify other members. Democracy depends on trusting relationships and belief in social institutions and government. Measuring levels of trust is difficult because we cannot assess its scope and intensity, nor can we determine it statistically. Once lost, it is exceptionally difficult to restore.

I started this series of articles with the idea that the Nazi period played a very important role in what followed in Czechoslovakia. Scholars suggest that it laid the groundwork for the communist takeover. I go beyond that. Everything I know tells me that Nazism was the cause not only of the loss of democracy in Czechoslovakia, but also of the Cold War, Soviet expansionism, and the division of the world into three kinds of nations: the free world, the socialist world, and the non-aligned world.

I ask that readers consider these eight points of damage not as separate analytic categories but rather as a set of conditions that worked together in a systematic, dynamic, and holistic fashion to shape Czech and Slovak culture, values, politics, economics, sociology, psychology, and indeed history. Czech and Slovak Republics citizens today may not agree with my ideas here, partly because very few who experienced the Nazi period are still alive, and partly because the people do not understand fully what really hit them under communism. I will devote my next article to that phenomenon.

\*Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia



## Take a Quick Trip around the World

By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

*Mal D'Afrique and Stories from Other Places.* Jarda Cervenka. New York: New Rivers Press, 1995, 144 pp. Available in libraries and used-book stores.

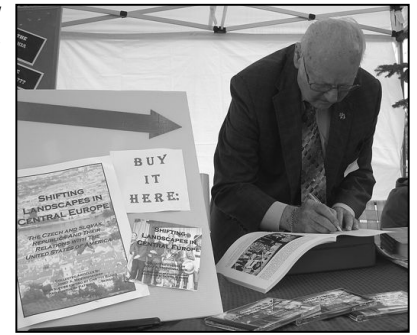
Retired University of Minnesota geneticist Jarda Cervenka has gone on to a prolific second career as a writer. Along with collected stories, his books include *Travels of Missi One*, about his ride down the Mississippi River with his son; *It is Black and White*, photographs with text; *Howls from the Other Side*, a collection of poems and collages; and *Ambush* and *The Ivory Mask*, two novels.

A standout is his first book of stories, *Mal D'Afrique and Stories from Other Places*. Later story collections are *The Revenge of Underwater Man*; *Fausto's Afternoon: Stories of the World*; and *Four Thorns of Kilimanjaro: Stories from Africa*. Although he prefers *Fausto's Afternoon*, Cervenka's first book of stories made him a Minnesota Voices Project winner for its 17 stories based on real events. I remain fond of this debut collection, which is marked by charming, simple storytelling with descriptions of people and places he visited around the world.

The account of a storm's aftermath in the Florida Keys story "Hurricane" is typical of Cervenka's ability to write succinct, evocative sketches. After surviving the storm by concentrating on memories of the woman he loved in Norway four decades ago, he

## Shifting Landscapes in Central Europe

Dr. Mestenhauser signed copies of his book at the Czech and Slovak Festival, September 15.



Dr. Josef Mestenhauser's columns are a familiar feature to regular readers of *Slovo*. We're pleased to announce that a collection of his articles from 2007 to 2013 was recently published. Although *Shifting Landscapes in Central Europe* covers subjects as diverse as the meaning of the honorary consulate, the controversy surrounding the Czech gold, the philosophy behind and the nature of education, and what Dr. Mestenhauser refers to as "the lasting curse of Munich," the significance of the book goes far beyond the issues and ideas inherent in each article. *Shifting Landscapes* provides us with the opportunity to consider the articles not as separate entities but as individual examples of a comprehensive attitude toward what it means to be Czech and, more importantly, what it means to be a citizen of the world. As if that were not enough, the book also deepens our appreciation of the extraordinary sense of history, place, culture, and philosophy behind Dr. Mestenhauser's writing. The book's publication is testimony to the honor that he does in gracing our *Slovo* pages with his always thoughtful, humanistic concerns.

*Shifting Landscapes in Central Europe* is available in book and text CD formats, as well as online. It may be purchased either at the Sokol gift shop or the CSCC website <[cs-center.org](http://cs-center.org)>. Sales are a fundraiser both for Sokol and CSCC.

finds: "Silence ruled the space around them. The only sound came from somewhere in the wreckage. It was the high-pitched buzz of the seven-year cicada calling to all who might have survived the hurricane on Pelican Key. The white head of the old man lifted slowly and turned, his ear searching for the direction of the insect's mating call."

The title story follows a traveler in West Africa who after dealing with dangerous roads, dust, broken phones, street demonstrations, and other downsides of life in that region hears colleagues describe the Canadian woods full of pines and snow, which sounds "like nothing less than paradise." The protagonist leaves Africa to live in a cabin on a quiet, sandy, Canadian river, but ironically yearns for West Africa: "I long to go to Africa again. Africa. I know my malady is incurable, its origin poorly understood. The French call it *Mal D'Afrique*."

Cervenka has received the Richard Sullivan Prize for Fiction, the Frank Kafka Award, and the Blue Jacket Award. Born and educated in Prague, he also has lived in Minnesota, Kenya, Japan, and Nigeria.

His latest book is *Four Thorns of Kilimanjaro* (2012) with stories about a man whose best time in life was during war in Biafra, two young Americans who hitchhike in Kenya, a Peace Corps volunteer who disappears in the Niger River, and many others. Watch for my upcoming review.

Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. For more information, go to <[www.cs-center.org](http://www.cs-center.org)> or contact <[gwen@cs-center.org](mailto:gwen@cs-center.org)>.

**ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!  
SOKOL Minnesota EVENTS**

**Annual Meeting, November 22, 7 p.m.**

Election of Board of Directors

Program: Rotarian team's visit to Czech Republic and Slovakia

**Pancake Breakfast with Bake and Craft Sales**

**November 24, Sunday, 9 a.m. -1:30 p.m.**

Please donate baked goods!

Pre-order *koláče* (\$10 per dozen): 952-941-0426

Reserve a craft table: [events@sokolmn.org](mailto:events@sokolmn.org)

**Sokol Children's Holiday Party**

**December 6, Friday, 7 p.m.**

**Sokol Members Party: meal and entertainment**

**December 8, Sunday noon, \$10**

Check for event updates: **[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](http://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)



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**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* Nov/Dec 2013**

**August  
C.S.P.S.  
Hall  
Visitor:**

Charity D. Tyler,  
Director of  
National Development,  
National Czech and Slovak  
Museum



and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, came to the Twin Cities in mid-August to learn about Czech and Slovak events in Minnesota. She toured C.S.P.S. Hall where she met with (Front L-R) Denis Novak (Sokol Minnesota president), Charity Tyler, Don Pakfo (Honorary Slovak Consul and director of Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers). (Back, with our puppets Jarda and Jitka) M. L. Kucera (*Slovo*), Joan Sedlacek (tour guide and C.S.P.S. Hall historian), Pat Slaber (Czechoslovak Genealogy Society International, ), Jake Jacobson (St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers). Missing: Christy Banks (*Slovo*), Deb and Arnie Ziskovsky (Domáci Czech Folk Dancers).

**A Salute to the Mailing Party Crew** that monthly tabs, labels, and zip code sorts each and every *Slovo* (L-R): Joan Sedlacek (who also takes the mailing trays to the bulk mail station), Val Kuisle, Mary Cahill (crew organizer), and Jason Brozovich. Appreciation also goes to the many other Sokol members and friends who come to mailing parties when they can. **Best Wishes of the Season** to everyone from your *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor, M. L. Kucera, managing/production editors, and Deb Ziskovsky, label lists manager.

