

**Food and Dance highlight Sokol Fall**

Sokol Minnesota's CSPA Hall is abuzz with activity this Fall. The fun kicks off with our Members' Potluck at the September 28 monthly membership meeting. Try your luck at the potluck at 6:30 p.m., and stay around for a little business and a bunch of good fellowship at 7:30 p.m.

Things get musical on October 13 with Sokol's Harvest Dance at the CSPA Hall. The popular Dale Pexa band will entertain from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Czech food, sausages beer and other treats will be available.

The fun continues with the annual Czech Roast Pork Dinner, October 28 at the Hall. This is a high-demand event, with reservations required. No walk-ins! So, pick up the phone and call 612-869-3502 or 651-777-3660 for reservations. Please specify your preferred seating: 12:30 or 2:30. The meal features roast pork, bread dumplings, sauerkraut and other goodies. The Krásné Dárky, the Sokol Gift Shop will be open during the evening.



**October 13th**  
**\$10 Admittance Fee**  
Doors open at 6p -  
Children under 16 Free  
if accompanied by a paid Adult

**Dance to live music by  
the Dale Pexa Band  
from 6:30-10:30p**

Czech food, sausages, hot dogs, popcorn  
kolace, beer and beverages will be  
available for Sale from 6-9p  
For more information- [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)  
Norm and Joyce 612.822.6147

- Upcoming Events**
- Sept 28 Membership Meeting & Potluck
  - Oct Mondays in Czech, Moravian & Slovak Folkdance Intro Classes
  - Oct 4 Peter Sís book discussion
  - Oct 4 Dumpling Class 1
  - Oct 11 Havel Symposium
  - Oct 13 Harvest Dance
  - Oct 25 Dumpling Class 2
  - Oct 26 Membership Meeting
  - Oct 28 Pork Dinner

**Czech Roast Pork Dinner**

**Sunday**

**October • 28th • 2007**



**\$15 Adult / \$7 Child (age 9 and under)**

**Pre-Paid Order Prices: \$13 Adult / \$6 (age 9 and under)**

Roast Pork raised  
bread dumplings  
gravy, sauer kraut  
rye bread  
apple sauce  
dessert and coffee  
Beer and pop will be available for sale

**New for 2007**

Save \$2 per adult dinner (\$1 for child) by reserving and pre-paying by October 21. Call and make your reservation and be sure to mention that you will be pre-paying. Mail your non-refundable check with reservation information noted in the memo to: Czech & Slovak Sokol MN, 383 Michigan Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102, Attn: Pork Dinner. Remember, checks must be received by October 21st in order to receive the discount.

The Czech and Slovak Gift Shop will be OPEN From 11am - 3pm

**For all Reservations Call by October 24th**

**(no walk-ins)**

**612 - 869 - 3502 or 651 - 777 - 3660**

**1st seating - 12:30**

**2nd seating 2:30**



**Czech and Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota  
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## President Komentář/President's Note

By Joe Landsberger

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters!

“My passion will be stewardship of our history, our building, our mission.” That is a line from my first presidential letter. This issue, history comes to the fore: Rosemary Loss Bodien, who lives in Washington State, is organizing a memorial for her father October 14 (see notice in this issue). She was going through the family photo albums, and asked if we would be interested in reproducing them in our Slovo? Would we!

She then sent me fifteen great photos from 1930 and 1931. Was I impressed! I queried our publications committee if it would be a good idea and so it seems, and we begin the series in this issue. Nancy Imbrone, who is editor of the national publication, also asked if she could use some of the photos in the national Sokol newsletter. So now Sokol Minnesota will have a marked presence on the national level. Hooray! Maybe other units will begin to contribute also.

As I was reflecting on “images” of Sokol past, one thought kept recurring: as I learn of Sokol members who live distant, or even who have passed, I often wonder what roles they played in building our community? Then American Sokol sent me guidelines on conducting services at a wake for Sokol members. Besides procedures (positioning flags, music, uniforms, etc.), this was interesting in the type of information to include, which also could guide us on information for memorials for our Slovo. Items include condolences, when joined Sokol, competition and merit awards, teaching, offices held, years of adult membership. In addition, they encourage leaving the departed/concluding services with a hearty “Tři Krát Sokolský Nazdar” to be answered with “Zdar! Zdar! Zdar!”

It is too late for this issue to research this for recently departed members, but I encouraged Rosie Loss Bodien to write about her father. And hopefully in issues to come I will be able to acknowledge and cheer others who have built our community, and their families. And if you have historic photos from our hall or camp, I would like to invite you to contact me to arrange for scanning and returning them to you. This will not compromise their condition and will be great fun!

Nazdar

Bro. Joe



## West End Arts Council in Formation

The first, exploratory meeting of the West End Arts Council will take place Wednesday, October 3 at 7 p.m. hosted by Sokol Minnesota at the CSPA Hall. The West 7th/Fort Road Federation-District 9 Community Council passed a motion supporting development of the Council at its annual convention. The Sokol Board of Directors supported exploring this effort at its April Meeting, and scheduled this first meeting at its August meeting.

The arts include studio, performance, graphics, and culture, both professional and amateur. Sokol could use several representatives on this task force. Our arts neighbors would welcome getting to know us better. For more information see [www.fortroadfederation.org/arts](http://www.fortroadfederation.org/arts), or please contact Joe Landsberger at 651-297-9000 or email to: [jfl@studygs.net](mailto:jfl@studygs.net)

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO

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

## Learn to cook dumplings!

Dumpling cooking classes are back by popular demand! Any “dumppy” can learn to cook dumplings with the help of our expert Sokol dumpling cooks.

Classes are on Thursdays beginning October 4. All classes are at the CSPS Hall on 2nd floor. Each class is limited to 10 student cooks. Fees vary. To register, call Louise at 651-452-6240, or see the Sokol Minnesota web site [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) Pre-registration is required. Send payment with registration.

### Fruit Dumplings (Ovocný Knedlíky)

Instructor: Marcella Bigaouette

Thursday Oct. 4, 6:00-8:30 PM

Fee: \$15 for Sokol Members; \$18 for non-members.

Cooks should bring an apron, mixing bowl, and container.

## Bake and Take for the Holidays

A special two-part holiday baking series will feature traditional ginger cookies and the famous Czech Christmas bread. Students can register for one or both classes by calling Louise at 651-452-6240, or see the Sokol Minnesota website [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) Each class has a limit of 10 students.

### Zazvorniky/Slovak Ginger Cookies

Instructor: Kevin Hurbanis

Wednesday Dec. 5, 6:00-8:30 PM

Fee: \$12 for Sokol Members; \$15 for non-members)

Cooks should bring their own aprons, rolling pins, and containers for their cookies.

## Learn the Language!

Sokol Minnesota’s highly popular Czech language classes are back. Classes begin September 24. Advanced Registration is required. For information or registration, call Louise Wessinger at 651-452-6240.

*No Slovak classes are being offered at this time. However, if you are interested, please call call Robin Anderson at 763-300-3782.*

**CZECH BEGINNER** (2 classes Mondays or Wednesdays)

Instructor: John Topic

Mondays 6:00-7:30 p.m., CSPS (Sokol) Hall

8 weeks beginning September 24

*or* Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 p.m., CSPS (Sokol) Hall

8 weeks beginning September 26

Fee: \$50 for Sokol members; \$64 for non-members

Text: *Cestina Hrou*, plus cassettes (\$55);

Workbook (\$40)

### Raised Bread Dumplings

(Kinuty Chlebový Knedlíky)

Instructor: Hana Matousek

Thursday Oct. 25-6:00-8:30 PM

Fee: \$12 for Sokol Members; \$15 for non-members.

Cooks should bring an apron, large mixing, and spoon.

### Potato Dumplings (Bramborový Knedlíky)

Instructor: Doreen McKenney

Thursday Nov. 1-6:00-8:30PM

Fee: \$12 for Sokol Members; \$15 for non-members.

Cooks should bring an apron, mixing bowl, and spoon.

### Get ready for Gulaš!

A special “Gulaš with Extras!” class will be offered by a special guest teacher from the Czech Republic Thursday, November 15, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the CSPS Hall. Cooks should bring an apron and large container.

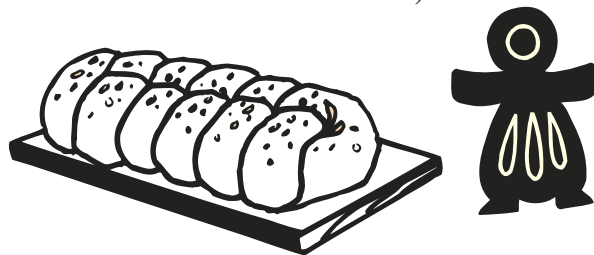
### Vánočka/Christmas Bread with raisins and nuts

Instructors: Hana Matousek

Wednesday Dec. 12, 6:00 to 8:30 PM

Fee: \$18 for Sokol Members; \$20 for non-members)

Cooks should bring their own apron, mixing bowl, large spoon, bread board or baking sheet.(you will take Vánočka to bake at home)



### CZECH ADVANCED BEGINNER

Instructor: Blanka Brichta

(Doreen McKenney, coordinator)

Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 p.m., CSPS (Sokol) Hall

8 weeks beginning September 26

Fee: \$50.00 for Sokol Members; \$65 for non-members

Czech Language Text/Workbook continues as before.

### CZECH INTERMEDIATE

Instructor: Jitka Sebek

(Norm Petrik, coordinator)

Tuesdays 7:00-8:30 p.m., CSPS (Sokol) Hall

8 weeks beginning September 25

Fee: \$50 for Sokol Members; \$65 for non-members

Czech Language Text/Workbook continues as before.

### Introductory Folk Dance Lessons

The St. Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers are offering introductory Czech and Slovak dances lessons for beginners in October. Five weeks of classes are set for Mondays from 6:30–7:30 p.m., beginning October 1. Come alone or bring a partner. To register, call Louise at 651-452-6240.



## Song of the Month

## Ty Jsi Moje První Láska (You are My First Love)

Submitted by  
Georgiana Dolejsi  
From "Pejme Piseň  
Dokola" No 2  
Praha 1972



— prv-ní lás - ku si brát. — Ty jsi  
d G g' g' g' C

— ja - ká už se — ne - ro - dí, — s ta - ko -  
mo - je — prv - ní lás - ka, — co ti mám víc —  
G g' g' C g' g' C g' g' F f f F F f f f C g' g' C g' g'

vou se — pro nic za nic — při mě -  
— po - ví - dat. — Hm, hm, hm, — hm, hm,  
F f f F f f C g' g' G g' g'

siě - ku — ne - cho - dí! — Až nám pan fa - ráf  
hm, — tak - hle var - ha - ny nám bu - dou  
C g' g' C g' g' F f f F G gm gm C g' g'

ru - cesvá - že, — var - ha - ny — bu - dou  
hm, — ty jsi mo - je — prv - ní lás - ka, —  
C g' g' F f f f C g' g' g' F f f f C g' g'

hrát, — to - hle hned kaž - dý ne - do - ka - že —  
— co ti mám víc — po - ví - dat. —  
F f f f G gm gm C g' g' F f om

## Donations

Corresponding Secretary Jean Hall reports the following donations since May 1. Sokol policy is only report monetary amounts for donations over \$100. For other donations, only names of donors are reported. All donations are to the general fund, unless otherwise indicated. Total donations for May–August were **\$1,637**.

### In Memory of Don Factor:

Janet Factor and family, \$500  
Al and Libby Imbrone  
Hana Matousek and Lloyd Krocak  
Dennis and Mary Cahill  
Marlene and Kent Hinshaw  
Charlotte Januschka  
Bob Vanyo  
Ken and Sharon Wyberg  
Jim and Mary Jo Chlebecek  
George Chlebecek  
Georgianna Dolejsi  
Don and Doris McKenney  
Norm and Joyce Petrik  
Louise Wessinger  
Al and Dorothy Sladek

### In memory of Tom Bulera:

George Chlebecek  
Jim and Mary Jo Chlebecek  
Georgiana Dolejsi

### In memory of Marie Vox:

Georgiana Dolejsi

### In memory of Ladislav Loss:

Georgiana Dolejsi  
Tillie Dolejsi (elevator)  
Evelyn Holman  
Jan Klasinski  
Louise Wessinger  
Ken and Sharon Wyberg  
Anne Neubauer (windows)  
Miro and Shirley Verner  
Elsie Reopke (elevator)  
John and Mildred Grealish (camp)  
Paul Neubauer  
Rosemary Bodein, \$100  
Louise Cameron, \$100

### In memory of Bertha Loss:

Tillie Dolejsi (elevator)  
Georgiana Dolejsi (elevator)  
Anne Neubauer (windows)

### In memory of Joe Libra:

Georgianna Dolejsi (elevator)

### For Greta Helm:

Nancy Siewert (culture)

### Other:

John Palka  
Tom Tesarek

### In memory of Verona Vrchota:

Ken and Sharon Wyberg

### In honor of Jim & Mary Jo

### Chlebeck's 50th anniversary:

James and Marlys Liska

### In honor of Miro & Shirly

### Verner's 50th anniversary:

Mary Tesarek

*Thank You!*

## An Ethnic Journey through our Heartland

Story and photo by Mark Bigaouette

Another month, another trip. This time Marcy, my mom, and I started off by attending the Czech Festival in Wilson, Kansas.

Wilson is a town of 900 people in the west-central part of Kansas. The old buildings are made of stone, including the old round stone jail (see photo). Wilson's Czech festival includes a parade, ethnic meals, polka mass, dancing, and ice cream social. I spoke at the annual Kansas state Czech meeting about our Minnesota Czech activities. It's not a great festival, but is an interesting place, and the people treated us very well.

Wilson is struggling to keep its Czech heritage alive. Life is hard in this part of the plains. Children have to move away to find good jobs. They have an old CSPS, WFLA, and SOKOL hall they call the opera house. It is not in the best of shape. It was once the heart of the Czech community, though few people today speak Czech. We need to help support our struggling ethnic communities to keep them alive. I plan to return to Wilson, Kansas every now and then.

Next we traveled to Kansas City, where I spoke to the Kansas City Czech and Slovak Club. Both the Slovak and Czech honorary consuls attended the meeting. The club is about half Czech and half Slovak, with about 130 members. The current President is of Slovak background. About thirty people attended this quickly organized meeting at a pizza parlor. (I guess a Slovak went to Kansas City via Italy?) They were interested in genealogy, but most questions were about Slovak and Czech history – which is wonderful, as it's the key to understanding our past.

We proceeded to St. Louis where we were hosted by Deb Zeman, past president of CSA. She showed us around the old Czech community near downtown, though needless to say the Czechs now live in the suburbs. The area did go downhill, after all it was founded in the 1840's. It is currently undergoing a marked revival with much new construction, and now is a very trendy place to live. The area is currently being populated by people from Bosnia, most of which are of the Muslim faith.

Deb took us on a private tour of the Czech-American center of St. Louis, a large 1950's building that replaced the original Bohemian National Hall torn down to make room for a freeway. It's huge – they can, and do serve 1,000 people at ethnic dinners. It's in very good shape.

Deb took us to the old Italian neighborhood for dinner, as they have no Czech or Slovak restaurant in the area ( Kansas City has none either). The next day we had a private tour of the first Czech Catholic church in America, founded in 1854. The original church and much of the Czech community was destroyed by a tornado in the 1870's. It now has a small membership, and the priest also serves at the nearby Hungarian Catholic church. The beautiful stained glass windows were made in Bohemia, and the church is in pretty

good shape. I noticed a Slovak flag in the front of the church. Father told me when they closed the nearby Slovak church, they brought the flag to the Czech church. I said that was nice, and he said it was doubly so because it was a Lutheran church. I then asked him what happened to those Slovak people, he said "I don't know, they were Protestant!"

We now back-tracked to Nebraska and the Wilber Czech Festival, the largest in the country we are told. Friday CGSI ( the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Intl ) brought part of it's library collection down to the Wilber Library for a special research opportunity. It was an outstanding success, and packed full of people all day.

Mom and I spent most of the day viewing the sites. Saturday we

arrived early to set up the travelogue and the kroj display at the Wilber Sokol hall. I also dropped off five pictures I took in the Czech Republic in May at the festival art show – I won two ribbons. It was an extremely busy day with many friends, past tour members, and people viewing the kroj.

After the National Miss Czech/Slovak USA Pageant, and its pretty young ladies, we attended the one and only Czech Historical Pageant in the U. S. A number of Sokol MN members attended the festival along with our huge puppets (which cause quite a stir!). Miss Czech-Slovak USA 2007-2008 was won by Miss Nebraska. Miss Minnesota was 1st runner-up. It was a bit hot, but this really the mother of all ethnic festivals. If you can only go to one festival - this is the one! It's always the first full weekend of August.



Old Stone Jail in Wilson, Kansas  
photo by Mark Bigaouette

## Sokol in the life of a member: Ladd Loss

by Rosie Loss Bodien

History is reflected in the lives and contributions of individuals, and for Sokol Minnesota those of its long-standing members. With the passing of its oldest member, Ladd Loss, we can take the time to review the many associations, friendships, and occasions that marked his life.

Ladd was an active Sokol gymnast starting in the late 1920s. His father, Alois Ladd, joined CSPS in Antwerp, Ohio. Two years later, June 24, 1909, Ladd was born to Alois and Frances in St. Paul. Like many Sokols, the Loss family lived near the hall at 427 St. Clair Avenue. While Alois was active in the lodge activities, Ladd and his siblings (Amelia, Alois Jr., Florian, Frank, George, Anne) took part in Sokol activities.

The family would spend their summer vacations at the Sokol Camp on Pine Lake. There were fish to be caught, besides swimming and boating while visiting with the other families. There are pictures of Ladd's family at Sokol Camp on Cross Lake during the summer of 1930, the year that Ladd received his accounting degree from the University of Minnesota by going to night classes. Thus, he started his career as an accountant with the federal government, later on in 1939 became a special agent for the Internal Revenue Department.

In May, 1931, the St. Paul Sokol gymnasts went to Cadott, Wisconsin, to help this new unit with their program. There Ladd met his future wife, Lydia Straka. In the book *The Czech Americans* by Stephanie Sakson-Ford, on page 93, there is a picture of ten St. Paul Sokol gymnasts in formation, including Ladd on parallel bars, in Cadott. Ladd and Lydia were married in St. Paul on September 5, 1936. That year, Ladd also qualified and participated in the married men's Sokol team competition at the Northwestern Gymnastic Festival in the St. Paul Hippodrome.

In 1946, Ladd survived the Hotel LaSalle fire in Chicago while attending a training session. Sixty other people died. Luckily, Ladd had asked to be moved from the fourth floor (where the fire started) to the eighth floor, thinking it would be quieter. His family saw a picture of him right after the fire in the newspaper, sitting with a blanket around him. That's how Lydia knew Ladd was ok.

The Sokol community continued to be a part of Ladd and Lydia's life. There were Saturday gymnastic classes, plus the many cultural activities to be enjoyed. Lasting friendships were made that continued even after Ladd and Lydia moved to Washington State to be near two of their daughters in 1970. They made trips back to St. Paul timed around Sokol cultural activities. Ladd loved the singing and dancing.

Ladd passed away June 16 in Kirkland, Washington. His daughters and their families gathered in Kirkland on June 23 to celebrate his life. On October 14, there will be a memorial celebration of Ladd's life at the CSPS Hall in St. Paul at 2:30 PM.

### Ladd Loss Memorial

*You are invited to join the family of Ladd Loss to celebrate his life at the CSPS Hall, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, October 14. Refreshments will follow. Ladd started coming to this hall when he was about 15 years old. It is fitting that we say our good-byes to him here 83 years later.*

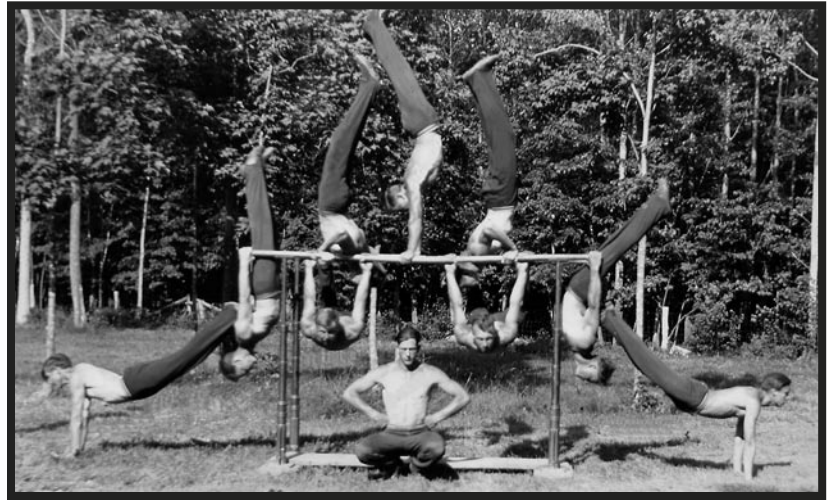






# Sokol Memories

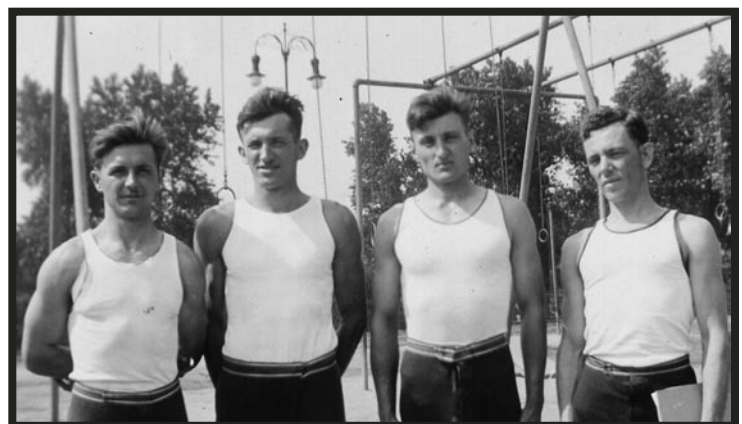
photos from the Loss family collection



Sokol Course, July 11, 1931  
left to right, Zatociu, Loss, Verner (top), Buresh (bottom), Příklad (top),  
Muska (bottom), Roch, Schubat, unidentified, Karosek



Vlasta Hanover and Anne Loss  
Neubauer, circa 1931, at the Sokol Camp



left to right, Ben Fisher, Jerry Roch, Hank Jensen, Lad Loss  
- June 22, 1933

*Editors note: We have invited Josef Mestenhauser to write a regular column in the Slovo, sharing news and insights gathered in his role as Honorary Consul representing the Czech government. This is Mr. Mestenhauser's first column.*

## What is the Honorary Consulate?

By Josef Mestenhauser



Josef Mestenhauser

People often ask what the Honorary Consul does and how one becomes one.

The term “Honorary Consul” has been known since Roman times, when it acquired the connotation of “substitute” consul. The Honorary Consul was a citizen of the city-state, or country, where he lived – usually a prominent or well-known person – who

had close ties with another city-state or country. He voluntarily helped expatriates from the foreign city-state who were living “abroad” in his host city-state.

This “diplomatic” function carried over into modern times, first during the Congress of Vienna in 1815 that re-organized European affairs and regulated diplomatic relations after the defeat of Napoleon. In 1961, a Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations (VCDR) standardized diplomatic relations and defined various diplomatic functions and ranks. Czechoslovakia signed the treaty on 31. March 1964.

The institution of Honorary Consul is a legal paradox: the Consul is a representative of the country that nominated him, but is not an agent of the foreign government in the same way as an ambassador. Thus, the Czech government nominated me to be Honorary Consul, but I am not an agent of the Czech government.

I am also not an official of the Czech government. My function is “honorary,” unpaid and voluntary. I perform my activities alone, have no staff, and receive no reimbursement for expenses connected with this office. For these reasons I am most grateful to Sokol for providing and furnishing my office in the CSPA/Sokol Hall.

While nominated by foreign government, an Honorary Consul may not use the title, nor perform the many functions without specific approval of the “host country.” In the United State, that approval comes from the Department of State. The host country – the United States – gives such approval based on the recognition that it is in the national interest of the host country to have officials within its jurisdiction who can assist the nationals of the foreign countries.

Consequently I have two diplomatic ID's – one Czech and

one American. From the perspective of the Czechoslovak Republic, the functions of Honorary Consuls were re-instituted and codified after 1989. It appointed immediately some 30 Honorary Consuls, but they were disbanded when the Czechoslovak Republic split into Czech and Slovak Republics, but most were re-instituted under the Czech Republic.

The Czech government feels that Honorary Consuls double the diplomatic representation of the Czech government, which is very advantageous for small countries with limited resources with which to organize “formal” Consulates and other agencies. Honorary Consuls authorize documents, issue emergency passports, and assist citizens who need help due to loss of documents, arrests, victimization by crime, detentions, health problems, or death – in short, the entire gamut of problems that a visitor to another country may encounter.

By international law, local agencies are required to inform the Honorary Consul about any incidents involving Czech nationals. Unfortunately this requirement is not well known or familiar to many agencies in Minnesota. In addition, the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic is expected to promote Czech business, trade and tourism and in general maintain friendly relations between the two countries. This includes support to Czech ethnic organizations (krajanských spolků), such as Sokol Minnesota and the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center.

Major emphasis for me has been to promote cultural and educational relations as well as to perform typical consular functions. As Honorary Consul, my territory covers Minnesota, Iowa, and North and South Dakota. I continue to maintain good relations with other international organizations, such as the Minnesota Trade Office, the Minnesota International Center, other ethnic organizations (such as the German, Hungarian, Rumanian etc), and other Honorary and permanent Consular Offices in Minnesota.

There are about 30 such offices in the Twin Cities. They are organized into the Minnesota Consular Corps. I enjoy working together with many of these organizations and co-sponsoring some activities with them. Among these activities is the prestigious Vaclav Havel Symposium for Civil Society, a consortium of the University of St. Thomas, the House of Hope Presbyterian Church, and the Czech and Slovak community. I report and am accountable for my activities to the Consul General in Chicago, Dr. Marek Skolil and the Consul, Ms. Katerina Kulhankova.

Incidentally, the former Czechoslovakia had an Honorary Consulate here in Minnesota in the person of a prominent physician, Dr. Proshok. He and his wife, the daughter of a well-known Czech woman writer Gabriela Preisová, did an outstanding job promoting Czechoslovakia, supporting the government in exile, and after 1948 supporting many refugees.



## Sokol Minnesota News

By Marlene Hinshaw

Where to begin? On Saturday, my grandson Jesse and I went to view the wreckage of the I-35W bridge. The scene was shocking. We were touched by the hand made memorials and written sentiments attached to the fence surrounding the site. Like most citizens, I've never given much thought to our nation's infrastructure. It's always been great! I'm proud of my country's "know how." But, looking at the wreckage made me realize that although we have great control over materials, no man-made structure is fool-proof. Now, I'm a little less trusting; a little less secure and a heap more aware.

Ray Vanyo's first (as chairman) Sokol Camp Picnic in Pine City was a huge success. Everything was perfect: the weather, booya, games and entertainment. Bob's sister, Ann, was the booya-maker this year. Check out her biceps. Thanks to all the workers who made such a pleasant day for so many folks. Attending was our dear Florence Haselbauer. As always, Flossie brightened our day with her beautiful smile.

Congratulations to Bob Marabella! On August 13th, he received the WCCO Good Neighbor Award for his volunteerism. For 21 years, Bob has volunteered as Booyameister for the Sokol Camp Picnic. He served on the Sokol Camp Board of Directors for five years. Bob has volunteered at Sokol MN for many years, doing whatever needs to be done.

For 18 years, Bob was an organ donation speaker for the American Red Cross. He has donated 13 gallons of blood and still counting. He has provided many hours of counseling at the Crisis Connection Phone Center. For many years Bob has modeled clothes at the Easter Seals Vintage Style Shows. And ladies: Bob is also a tap dancer. Talk about your all around guy! And... Here's wishing Bob and Sue a Happy 40th Anniversary on September 23.

I'm sad to inform you of Verona Vrchota's death on August 21. Verona died peacefully, at home, surrounded by family. She was an inspiration to all with her positive spirit and good works. Verona was a role model for many

of us. She was in control of her life. She did not let cancer define her. We send our sympathy to husband Ed and their family.

It has come to my attention that Helen Lander of Dickenson, Texas is our oldest (97) Sokol member. Helen keeps in touch with her Sokol mates here in Minnesota. Cheers to you Helen!

Rosanne Kostelecky closed her hair salon and moved to Phoenix. We enjoyed working with her at Sokol events. We shared good times and many laughs. We'll miss you, Rosie!

Jim Chlebeczek had surgery for a brain aneurysm. He went in for a check up on a Thursday, had surgery on Friday, and came home on Saturday! Mary Jo didn't even have time to get frantic. On Sunday, their guests arrived from the Czech Republic. Burning the candle at both ends, are you? We're just so happy Jim made it through such a serious surgery with no side effects.

Ladd Loss died in Kirkland, WA on June 16. Since he lived and worked in St. Paul much of his life, his family is planning a memorial service for him, at the hall, the afternoon of Oct. 14th. Family members, Sokols and friends are invited to attend and share their memories of Ladd. Ladd became a member of Sokol at the age of 14. He died just short of his 98th birthday.

Mary Halbert needs your help. She's heading a project to honor men who worked in the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC). Mary's husband, Ralph, and Alan Garrison are the only Sokol members she knows of who were in the CCC. Perhaps you have/had family members who worked in the CCC, and would like to have them honored. If so, please call Mary at 651-699-8112. This is a fascinating project. The honor is long overdue. Thanks, Mary, for your work to get these men the recognition they deserve.

A gang of us spent two September Saturdays making kolače and booya for the Czech-Slovak Festival September 23. What great fun – and a great way to get acquainted with your heritage. Consider joining us in the fun of work for an upcoming Sokol Minnesota event!

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## Sokol Welcomes New Members

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

Sokol Minnesota accepted eight new members at the August 24th membership meeting.

Claire Press lives in St Paul and is interested in dance, singing and cooking, she is employed in the St Paul School district. She was a Sokol member in New Jersey as a child, which she says was an important part of her life.

JoAnn Parvey lives in Robbinsdale, was raised near Sokol Camp, and is interested in dinners and dances. Her father is Severin Wanous who was involved in Sokol Camp.

Greg and Kathy Palmquist live in Grantsburg Wisconsin. They are interested in dance, gymnastics, culture camp, and language and cooking classes.

Bette and Rod Rosse live in Brooklyn Park, are interested in Czech language classes, history, music and dinners.

Scott and Ann Miller live in Sommerset Wisconsin. Ann is a member of the Vanyo family which counts many long time Sokol members. The Millers are interested in dinners and dances.

Welcome new Sokol members! Please come to the next membership meeting, September 28, for the pot luck at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30. New members will be installed during the meeting.

*Editor's note: Local author Joan M. Wolf recently published a children's historical fiction book was inspired by events that took place in Lidice, Czechoslovakia in 1942. Joan is a third and fourth grade teacher in the Minneapolis area. She received her Master of Fine Arts degree from Hamline University. Joan tells about her book in the following article. For more information about "Someone Named Eva", you may wish to visit the author's web site: [www.joanmwolf.com](http://www.joanmwolf.com)*

## **Lidice: The Story of a Czech Village**

By Joan M. Wolf

I stumbled upon the story of the tiny town of Lidice, Czechoslovakia, while doing research for a writing class. That research would eventually lead to my first young adult novel, *Someone Named Eva*, which traces a fictional character, Milada, as she is taken from Lidice and placed into a Lebensborn camp.

On June 10, 1942, Nazis stormed the small village of Lidice in reprisal for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the assigned "protectorate" of Czechoslovakia. All 500 residents of the town were placed under arrest and told to pack for three days, unaware that they would never return to their town again.

After their arrest, the women and children were separated from the men and brought to the neighboring Czech town of Kladno. In the meantime, 173 Lidice men and teenage boys were shot at a farm on the outskirts of town.

After three days in Kladno, the children were forcibly removed from their mothers. Those Lidice children deemed "suitable," according to Nazi Aryan standards, were placed in Lebensborn camps. Those children not deemed suitable were eventually taken to Poland and gassed. Most of the Lidice children would never see their mothers again.

My story follows Milada as she enters the Lebensborn program, a program created by Himmler, to help populate Germany with Aryan citizens. Part of this program involved the literal kidnapping of non-German children who had Aryan features. Once in this program, children were renamed, taught German, and adopted into German families. Of the tens of thousands of children put into the Lebensborn, most would never be found again.

To complete my research for *Someone Named Eva*, I had the opportunity to travel to the small town of Lidice, where a new town was eventually rebuilt after Nazis razed the original. I was able to meet four survivors of the night of June 10, 1942, two who had survived a stay in Ravensbrück Concentration Camp in Germany, and two who survived the Lebensborn program. I was also able to meet a man whose mother survived the destruction of Lidice.

The story of Lidice provides a haunting look at the incredible capacity human beings have for brutality – and the incredible capacity we have for survival. In the United States, the story of this village is a lesser known story of World War II. My hope, in writing this young adult novel, is that both the story of Lidice and the frightening realities of the Lebensborn program become better known.

For more information about Lidice, you may wish to visit the Lidice Memorial web site:

**[www.lidice-memorial.cz](http://www.lidice-memorial.cz)** (click on the British flag icon for the english version).



## **Czech and Slovak Cultural Events Scheduled**

Award-winning artist Peter Sís will present his memoir, *The Wall: Growing up Behind the Iron Curtain*, at 4:45 p.m., October 4, at the Elmer L. Anderson Library, Room 120, on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota. Sís is a MacArthur Fellow and internationally renowned artist. His art and photographs reflect the harsh realities of a closed society and the inevitable longing for freedom. Free and open to the public, but not suitable for children. Presented by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Sokol Minnesota, the Office of the Czech Honorary Consul and others.

Gail Naughton, President of the National Czech and Slovak Museum, will lecture on "1968: Prague Spring and a Year of Turmoil," at 4:30 p.m., October 16, 385 Mondale Hall at the University of Minnesota Law School. She will preview an exhibit opening November 1 at the Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, the University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center, the Office of the Czech Honorary Consul and others.

## Havel Symposium set for October

This year's Vaclav Havel Symposium for Civil Society will feature University of Nebraska professor Tom Gouttierre and focus on building a civil society in Afghanistan. Gouttierre is Dean of International Studies and Programs at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, and serves as consultant on Afghanistan for CNN.

The Symposium will present two public events. The film *Osama* will be shown 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 9, in the OEC Auditorium at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul.

A lecture entitled "Understanding the Sectarian Divide in Islam" will be presented at 7 p.m., Thursday, October 11, in the OEC Auditorium at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul.

The symposium is presented by a consortium of the University of St. Thomas, House of Hope Presbyterian Church, and Czech and Slovak organization. Previous symposiums featured former president of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel, U. S. United Nations Ambassador Madeleine Albright, and Czech Ambassador to the United States, Martin Palouš.



## Literary Ventures Embarks on New Year

Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures kicked off a new year of reading in September with the book *The Coasts of Bohemia: a Czech History* by Derek Sayer. Literary Ventures invites readers to join monthly book discussions scheduled throughout the year. Except for the opening Peter Sís reading at the University of Minnesota, the group meets on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan Ave. This year's schedule includes:

- Thurs., Oct. 4, 4:45 p.m., Andersen Library Room 120, University of Minnesota West Bank – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Literary Ventures Kick-Off. Peter Sís discusses his new memoir, *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*.
- Sat., Oct. 20 – *Summer in Prague* by Zdena Salivarová
- Sat., Nov. 17 – *To the Castle and Back* by Václav Havel, translated by Paul Wilson
- Sat., Jan. 5 – *Madam Secretary: A Memoir* by Madeleine Albright with Bill Woodward
- Sat., Feb. 16 – *Mendelsohn is on the Roof* by Jiří Weil, translated by Marie Winn
- Sat., Mar. 15 – *Utz* by Bruce Chatwin
- Sat., Apr. 19 – *I Am Snowing: The Confessions of a Woman of Prague* by Pavel Kohout
- Sat., May 17 – *The Labyrinth of the World and The Paradise of the Heart* by John Comenius
- For more information, email [gwen@cs-center.org](mailto:gwen@cs-center.org)

### Czech & Slovak Sokol Minnesota Education Classes Registration Form

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### UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES

November 1 (copy deadline: October 1)

December 1 (copy deadline: November 1)

January 1 (copy deadline: December 1)

Send news and articles to Slovo editor by email to: [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org), or 5604 Morgan Avenue S., Mpls. MN 55419. Whenever possible, please type articles and send as email text or as Word-file attachments.

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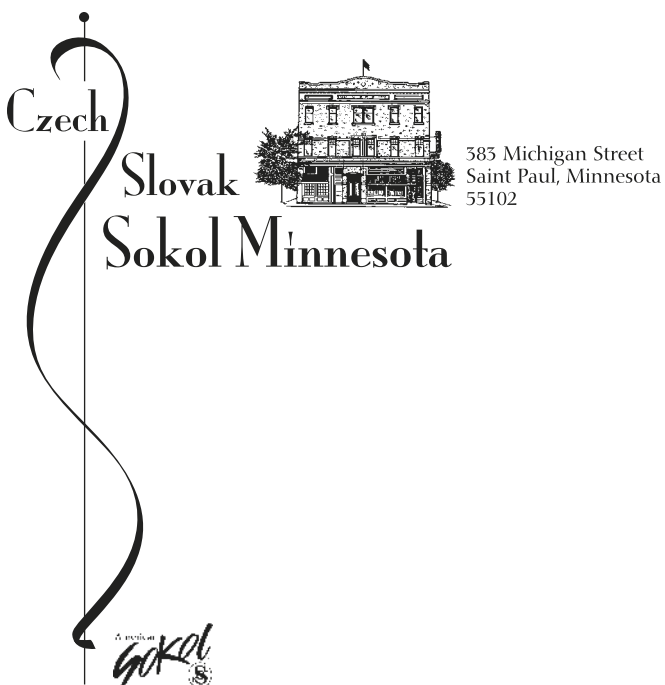
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