

Annual Roast Pork Dinner

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota will serve its popular Czech Roast Pork Dinner on Sunday, October 26, at the CSPS Hall, 283 Michigan Street (at the corner of W. 7th St.). Reservations are being accepted for two seatings: 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Admission is \$15 for adults and \$7 for children 8 and under. Pre-paid reservations are required. Send checks payable to "Sokol Minnesota" to: Pork Dinner, Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Write "Pork Dinner" on the memo line of your check and clearly indicate which seating you wish to attend.

This Fall favorite features pečená vepřová svicka (roast pork), kynuté knedliky (bread dumplings), kysané zelí (sauerkraut) and other ethnic goodies. Ray Vanyo and Nancy Imbrone are lending their talents to the Sokol kitchen, with help from many Sokol kitchen volunteers.

Krásné Dárky (Beautiful Gifts), the Sokol gift shop, will be open from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. It is not too early to start thinking about those special holiday gifts for friends and relatives. Doreen McKenney, long-time Sokol member and shop manager, stocks Czech glass ornaments, straw weavings, jewelry, music tapes and CDs, plus dolls, t-shirts, glassware and fine crystal. Plan to spend extra time when you come for the dinner to visit Krásné Dárky.

If you would like to help in advance to make the dumplings (what a great opportunity to learn how to make this beloved Czech specialty from our own Sokol kitchen experts!) and the dessert or to serve the dinner on the 26th, please contact: events@sokolmn.org.

Full information about the Pork Dinner, Sokol Gift Shop and other opportunities are available at the Sokol Minnesota website www.sokolmn.org

Upcoming Events

24 October,
7:30 pm
Sokol
Membership
Meeting

26 October,
12:30 & 2:30
Roast Pork
& Dumpling
Dinner

1 November,
7 pm
Mystery
Dinner
Theatre
benefit for
Sokol Cedar
Rapids

15 November,
7 pm
West End
Harvest
Dance

23 November,
10-2 pm
Pancake
Breakfast
with Craft &
Bake Sale

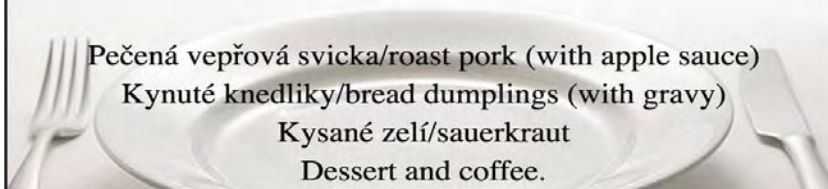


Annual Sokol event!

Czech Roast Pork Dinner

Sunday, October 26; seatings: 12:30 and 2:30

\$15 adult; \$7 child under 9



Pečená vepřová svicka/roast pork (with apple sauce)

Kynuté knedliky/bread dumplings (with gravy)

Kysané zelí/sauerkraut

Dessert and coffee.

Reserve your place
with check to:

Pork Dinner/
Sokol Minnesota
(specify seating time)
383 Michigan Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Memo your check:
Pork Dinner
with seating time

And for that special gift or treasure

Krásné Dárky/Beautiful Gifts

Visit our Sokol gift shop before or after the dinner

11 a.m. -3 p.m.

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President Komentář/President's Note

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters

There are places and spaces I've never been to in our hall, and each week a new opportunity arises to explore. And rise we did! The week of the Republican Convention, I distracted myself from all the commotion with a request from the architects who are developing a Historic Structures Report (HSR) for us. The HSR



Looking out West 7th Street from above our 3rd level mezzanine, we see the Schmidt Brewery.



Above our theater looking east out Western Ave, Ken Wyberg, and architects Bob Mack and Rita Goodrich

will give us a document against which we can evaluate and prioritize projects necessary to keep our hall in good shape and up to current standards. The Report was funded by a \$5,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. When completed in April, we will make copies available at the Hall for review, and also place it on our website.

Putting the Report on our website will make it a living document that can be updated as we complete project, so that members and others can track our progress. This is valuable



Looking south above the CSPS Hall, the High Bridge underscores the horizon.

because foundations appreciate that we have a track record of how we are caring for our treasured national trust. For example, one of the documents that we discovered in our archives was a list of all our construction projects between 1930 and 1968. Joyce Tesarek, Finance Committee Chair, developed a similar, more recent listing for our successful grant applications!

So, back to my rising exploration. Bob Mack and Rita Goodrich are architects with the firm of MacDonald and Mack Architects. For their last site visit, Bob and Rita wanted to survey the condition of our two attics and the roof of the CSPS Hall to assess their condition. The attics are accessed through trap doors, one above the stage, and one above the mezzanine level stairwell. Access to the roof is through the latter. So, with the assistance of Ken Wyberg, up we went: four explorers venturing rarely visited small, dark spaces. With a few twists and turns, and un-graceful pulls and tugs and rolls, we were able to see the structure of our roof. And its views! The photos on this page document our exploration.



Joists and rafters and insulation above the hall stage. If you look closely at the top right, you see the cord that connects to the wood block and pulley system for the "disco ball"!

Nazdar!

Joe Landsberger, President

American Sokol looks for Success Stories

By Norm Petrik, Men's Physical Director

The new American Sokol Executive Director, Greg Harris, is asking for Sokol success stories that can be used to publicize what Sokol does. He would like to know:

- Is there something you learned from Sokol that has affected you or your life?
- Is there an instructor that was a positive influence?
- Did you make a difference in a child's life?
- Did you make a difference in an adult's life?
- How has Sokol made a difference in your life?
- What Sokol event was a most fun to you?
- How many friends have you made in Sokol?



Send your stories to Greg at execdir@american-sokol.org, along with your name and Sokol unit name.

Help Wanted:

Upon the election of Jay Fonkert as President of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, and now retiring editor of the *Slovo*, Sokol Minnesota looking for volunteers to assist developing issues with articles and editing. Position is ideal for a member who has continuous access to email! (Few meetings necessary.) Send inquiries to publicrelations@sokolmn.org or call Joe Landsberger, 651 297 9000.

Jay was installed as President September 20. The Minnesota Genealogical Society is a nonprofit organization devoted to helping Minnesotans and others with Minnesota connections to research their family history. For the past year, Jay has also served as First Vice-President, responsible for programming and education. We wish him well in his new position!

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes 15 New Members

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At its September meeting, Sokol Minnesota accepted 15 new members, including four couples and seven individual memberships.

Phillip Pearsall and Carol Marysyla of Stillwater have two children, one of which attended Sokol's children's Culture Camp. They are interested in learning about Slovak culture.

Glenn Cox and Becci Dawson-Cox of Stillwater have three adult children, including who is the current Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota.

Martha and Richard Stolarik are brother and sister from Edina. They are interested in Slovak culture and daytime events at Sokol.

Tobias and Maria Turon are from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Tobias is interested in cooking and various Sokol events, and was born in Slovakia.

Steven Parker of Clinton, Iowa, is a nephew of long-time member Doris McKenney.

John Carpenter of Annandale expresses interest in language classes and ethnic dinners.

Justin Rehtzigel of St Paul is interested in language and cooking classes, as well as events at the Hall.

Cheryl Mosevich of Plymouth has Czech parents and is interested in dances and dinners.

Leah Sticha of Stillwater is a member of the Czech-Slovak Dance group and is interested in language and cooking classes. She is a former Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota.

Charles Draheim of White Bear Lake has been active at the Sokol Camp in Pine City, and is active in local theater. He produced the stage presentations for Sokol's 125th Anniversary.

Mary Esch of St. Paul, is a long time resident of the West End. She is also coordinator of West End Arts (WEA). WEA is comprised of artists, neighbors, and friends organized to promote and foster arts in the West End. Sokol Minnesota was a sponsoring organization of WEA.

Three new members were formally inducted at the August membership meeting. They were Tobias Turon, Charles Draheim and Cinnamon Whaley of Minneapolis. Each made the Sokol membership pledge and received a special welcome. All new members may be inducted when they come to their first meeting.

Living Stipulations, Omaha-Bohemian Style

By J. H. Fonkert

As I was poking around the Czech and Slovak section of the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library, I stumbled across a notebook crammed with local history from the Sokol neighborhood of South Omaha, Nebraska.

A fat three-ringed binder is filled with articles about Brown Park, local merchants, Narodni Sin (National Hall, which became the South Omaha Sokol Hall), lodges, school, churches, bands and orchestras, sports and more. A large heritage-rich section of the notebook has short histories of many South Omaha Bohemian families. To name just a few: Benak, Bosanek, Galder, Jakes, Kaderabek, Pavoucek, Novak, Rytch, and Swoboda.

This is not all serious, don't smile history! Steven G. Potach contributed a humorous manuscript found among the papers of his father Eugene Potach (1931-1994), who grew up in Omaha's Brown Park neighborhood. The author and date of the manuscript are unknown, but the younger Potach said that his father had a lively sense of humor and would surely have enjoyed the satire poking fun at the "renowned frugality and particular ethnic tastes" of his people. Steven Potach says a very similar piece circulated in Chicago's Czech community in the past.

Titled "Bohemian Creed (of our Mothers and Fathers)," the piece includes some funny, and even touching "living stipulations." For example:

1. Work hard. Make money. Don't go high-hat. Live in the old neighborhood.
3. Do not use the living room.
7. Should have a car, 10 years old in perfect condition with not more than 3,000 miles.
9. Do not remove car from garage except on Sunday.
11. Camouflage all houby-hunting equipment from neighbors.
13. Wash your feet by stamping the sauerkraut.
15. Use only one towel a day.



It all sounds like good advice to me. In fact, I suspect that the thrifty Scandinavians of Lake Wobegon would not terribly disagree, although they might not understand why they should keep their houby hunting secret.

The "Standard Diet" also sounds pretty good.

Sunday: Knedlicky and Zeli

Monday: Reheat leftovers with rye bread and kmin (caraway).

Tuesday: Goulash and rye bread (or lung or heart stew with sauerkraut or garlic soup).

Wednesday: Kidney stew

Thursday: Jathernice or Jelita with lentil soup

Friday: Plum dumplings with cinnamon or poppy seed

Saturday: Boiled beef with dill, horseradish or tomato gravy.

Well, it mostly sounds good. I'm not so sure about some of those stews!

There's more, including several "important incidentals" like: "Wife must have cold home brew for father at all times and must be unquestionably obedient, thrifty and lovable."

I think we now know the gender of the author. Some of the humor might be a bit less than completely politically correct these days, but this satirical piece reminds us that our ancestors lived hard lives, but also had a sense of humor.

It's amazing what you will find browsing library shelves – especially genealogy library shelves. Incidentally, this particular volume is in the collection of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society, International, which houses its collection at the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library in South St. Paul. If you want to dig deeper, look for Sokol South Omaha Local History Project: A Documentary Collection, published 2004, catalog no. US NE 079 Sok.

My living stipulation for you: "Honor your family history; do your genealogy, and don't give away your secret houby-hunting location."

Song of the Month

Submitted by
Georgiana Dolejsi



Tom Cat (Já mám domu kocoura)



The image displays a musical score for the song 'Tom Cat' (Já mám domu kocoura). It features piano accompaniment and vocal lines in both Czech and English. The score is arranged in two columns. The left column contains the piano accompaniment and the first vocal line. The right column contains the second vocal line and the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The copyright information at the bottom left reads 'Copyright 2012 by E.J. Jan. 1513 W. 180. St. Chicago, Ill.' and the publisher information at the bottom right reads 'Tom Cat, D.J.'.

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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO
5604 Morgan Ave So.
Minneapolis, MN 55419

or email inquiries to publicrelations@sokolmn.org

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\$15 and \$25 for one eighth and one quarter page prepared commercial ads, respectively. Discount rates for recurring ads are available.

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, 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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Installation of the new Honorary Consul Robert Vanasek & Celebration of retiring Honorary Consul Josef Mestenhauer

The installation of the new Honorary Consul, Robert Vanasek, took place on Friday, September 19 with a celebration of the contributions of Joe Mestenhauer to the Czech Republic, to education, and to our Sokol unit. Contributing to the program were the Czech Ambassador to the United States, his Excellency Ambassador Petr Kolar (Washington D.C.), the Honorable Consul General Marek Skolil (Chicago), Consul Ivana Klanova (Chicago), Chief John M. Harrington (St. Paul Police Department), President Carol Engebretson Byrne (Minnesota International Center), President John Moravec, (Czech and Slovak Culture Center of Minnesota) and President Joe Landsberger (Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota) as host. Landsberger presented Mestenhauer with a plaque honoring his contributions, then each of the guests presented their remarks. Ambassador Kolar then installed Vanasek as Honorary Consul which was met with great enthusiasm in the

audience. Libby Imbrone and Phyllis Vosejпка spent many hours organizing the flawless, elegant reception, supported by a cast of well-dressed Sokols! Of course our beautiful historic 2nd level stage was the scene of the presentations, supplemented with the staged historical presentation of our history on the mezzanine level. Pianist Frank Trnka entertained before and after, and our guests were most impressed with the evening.



A Weekend of Celebrations

In the days leading up to a very successful weekend of events, there were many Sokols who contributed long hours and much work to making the two events a roaring success.



Annual Czech Slovak Festival

Our Czech Slovak Festival proves that many cooks make the broth better, and we celebrate their efforts! The first tribute goes to Doreen McKenney and Joyce Tesarek for chairing the festival. How smoothly it ran! Lack of space prevents us from recognizing all our contributors (it reads like the membership list!), so let's at least recognize committee chairs!

Louise Wessinger and Dave Stepan, program ; Ed Hamernik and Kathy Jorganson kitchen and bar with jitrnice and grill provided by Deuchland Meats; Marit Lee Kucera, publicity; Scott Hinshaw, sound; Jean Hall and Mary Cahill, children's games; Steve Shimer, silent auction; Marlene Hinshaw, permits and rentals; Jeanette Pafko and Tom Aubrecht, finances; Norm Petrik, membership & Sokol activities; Ralph McHolda, electrical; Ken Wyberg, bingo; Dennis Cahill, Ray and Bert Vanyo were set up and tents (and take-down!); Lori Vosejпка sang the national anthem and the SlovCzech Trio performed music from the Czech and Slovak Republics; Georgiana Dolejsi led the Senior Singers; Allisa Hollibush, Sokol gymnasts, Anne Jans, kroje exhibit; Tom and Penny Tesarek were the Mondo jugglers; Greg Loss, Western Bohemian Fraternal Assn (ZCBI) bike raffle, Joe Landsberger and Joan Sedlacek, historic exhibit.

Thank you all for supporting Sokol Minnesota!



Editor's Note: This is the third and final installment of Paula Vukonich's account of her family heritage travels in the Czech Republic. Sokol Minnesota thanks Paula for her beautiful and heartfelt narrative, and encourages other members to contribute articles describing their Czech, Moravian or Slovak heritage travel in both Europe and America.

Backroads of Bohemia

By Paula Pojar Vukonich

The last part of our heritage tour began with a quick tour of České Budějovice, birthplace of Budweiser beer. During the years under German rule the town was called Budweiss. Many larger towns had tall columnar monuments in their town squares. Our guide said they were “plague pillars”, erected in thanks for being spared from the disease, or as a plea for mercy.

We proceeded on to Hluboká nad Vltavou. Hluboká castle is situated on a high bluff overlooking the town and the Vltava River. It is the classic fairytale castle of pure white with crenellated towers, formal rose gardens, clipped hedges and a filigree wrought iron conservatory with rounded glass panels lapped like shingles.

Nearby was Dobřejuvice, birthplace of our maternal great grandfather Václav Plojhar. This was the beautiful country the emigrants were so sad to leave. It was easy to understand their feelings. A cluster of red-roofed cottages nestled protectively in a shallow valley as two rounded hillsides folded together. Small apple orchards grew at the top of the valley and a country road rolled out of the lower end toward the village of Hosin.



Dobřejuvice, Czech Republic

Two Plojhar families still live in Dobřejuvice, and are presumed to be related. Our guide called ahead to arrange for our visit. With the help of our splendid interpreter, we had memorable visits with our relatives, one of whom was 97 years old. We also found house #19 and #13 where our great grandfather was born and our ancestors lived. Dobřejuvice had a small chapel, but the Hosin church was where the family members were married and baptized. The church of St. Peter and Paul stood on a bluff above a lake in a wide valley.

The deacon came to show us the church. The present church was built in the late 1800's after our ancestors were already

gone, but the original small church was kept intact and attached to the new church as a chapel wing.

The original small church is Romanesque, dating back to the 1100's. Its simple plaster walls and arched ceiling are covered with primitive paintings depicting several saints and angels. A magnificent and very old porcelain statue of the “Pieta” remained in the chapel. The original baptismal font was kept in a covered alcove off the side door.



Romanesque Chapel, Hosin



Baptismal font, Hosin

Now it was our turn to say goodbye to Dobřejuvice. We got back on the road headed for Malešice, birthplace of our paternal great-grandmother. We found house #18 as listed on her baptismal certificate and were taking pictures when a young lady came out to the courtyard door to ask why. When we explained, she invited us into the courtyard. The house, buildings and courtyard walls were old and crumbling, but the lady and her husband were working on restoring it. It was exciting to see the interior of the courtyard unchanged since our ancestor's time. We gave the homeowner pictures of our great grandmother, copies of the baptismal certificate and family tree. She was thrilled because she was interested in the house history.

The cemetery on the outskirts of Malešice was beautifully maintained, and filled with flowers. The cemetery offered an eerie view, with a large statue of the Sacred Heart in the foreground, tombstones in the middle and the towers of the Temelin nuclear power plant in the distance.

Our final destination was the village of Tešínov near Protivin, which was the home of maternal ancestors that later lived in Protivin, Iowa. We found the Kostka house #22, newly renovated and modernized, on a narrow side street on the edge of town. The houses on this street were all connected with courtyards between them. Large wooden doors, decoratively painted, provided access to the courtyards.

Across the road a field had been sectioned off for garden plots for the homeowners on the street, and everyone had a garden or fruit trees. We talked to a cute old couple in their 80's, who were working in their garden and came over to meet us. They told us the owners of house #22 only came on weekends and during the summer. The elderly couple apologized for their appearance, and said that if they knew we were coming, they would have put in their teeth!

Our heritage tour ended here. It had been a very special experience, embracing the past, discovering the present and coming home.

Solve a Mystery and Help Cedar Rapids Sokol

Good will and intrigue will envelope guests this November when Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota hosts a Mystery Dinner to raise funds for Sokol Cedar Rapids, whose building sustained heavy damage during the historic Iowa floods in June.

The historic CSPA Hall will be the crime scene November 1 for a Mystery Dinner Theater presentation, complete with an audience-interactive mystery.

A spine-tingling mystery will more than arouse suspicions as it reveals dastardly detail after detail in the CSPA Hall second floor ball room, 383 Michigan Street, at West 7th, in Saint Paul. Dinner guests will be seated at the Captain's Table aboard a 1920's luxury cruise ship and help solve a staged mystery. Dinner guests are encouraged to wear 1920s costumes.

Of course, it's not all hard criminal investigation; guests will also enjoy fabulous food, good wine and Czech beer. Tickets are \$50, of which \$25 is tax deductible. Reservations required at 651-290-0542 or by emailing events@sokolmn.org. Send checks made out to "Sokol Minnesota" to Mystery Dinner, Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55102. Please write "mystery dinner" on the memo line of your check.

No one will want to miss this great onboard interactive who-done-it! Have a fabulous time, and help support the Sokol Brothers and Sisters in Cedar Rapids reclaim their flood-damaged building!

SOKOL MINNESOTA PRESENTS
"DRESS TO KILL"

An interactive who-done-it
where you sleuth out the killer(s)

**A flood relief fundraiser for
Sokol Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

The scene:
aboard the
SS Ethelred,
the Captain's Dinner
the last night at sea

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
7 - 9 P.M.
CSPA HALL
383 MICHIGAN ST, ST. PAUL

Got the Acting Bug?



Since the 1870's the Czech and Slovak community along West Seventh has had a wonderful tradition of producing events in our historic theater, oldest in the State of Minnesota. If you want to recapture a bit of that old-time feeling, and be an actor (or suspect!) in the Mystery Dinner, please call Denis Novak at 651-459-9404. Some roles are still available. You need some ability to improvise, but there are almost no lines to memorize!



Join the cooks!

Would you like to learn how our Czech and Slovak cooks make koláče (pastries), chlebíčky (sandwiches), and halušky (dumplings)? Hands-on experiences and training that conveys the benefit of generations of Sokol cooks takes place before each fund-raising dinner we serve. It is also a great way to be involved in Sokol. If you are interested, our next dinner features a Czech menu of pečená vepřová svicka/roast pork (with apple sauce); kynuté knedliky/bread dumplings (with gravy); kysané zelí/sauerkraut; dessert and coffee. Call 651 290 0542 or email events@sokolmn.org to join us!

Gym Classes Resume September 9

Looking for some fun? A way to meet new friends? Want to test your strength and flexibility, and perhaps view the world from a new vantage point - like upside down on the uneven bars or 3 feet above everyone on the balance beam? Then, check out Sokol Minnesota gymnastics classes. Limited space remains. Call Lisa at 651-221-9955 for more information.

Fall Language Programs 2008

Education Chair Louise 651-452-6240/sokolmn.org

Slovak Language Class---Beginner Level

Instructor: Barborka Carlsonova
 Thursday Evenings 7:00-8:30 PM CSPS (Sokol) Hall
 8 weeks beginning October 2
 Fee: \$55.00 (Sokol members) \$70.00 (non-members)
 Text purchase will be discussed in class.

Czech Language Class---Beginner Level (2 classes offered)

Instructor: Jakub Dajc
 Mondays 7:00-8:30 PM or
 Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 PM CSPS (Sokol) Hall
 8 weeks beginning September 29 or October 1
 Fee: \$55.00 (Sokol Members) \$70.00 (Non-Members)
Cestina Hrou Text plus cassettes (\$60)/Workbook (\$45)

Czech Language Class--Advanced Beginner Level

Instructor: Blanka Brichta
 Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 PM CSPS (Sokol) Hall
 8 weeks beginning October 1
 Fee: \$55.00 (Sokol Members) \$70.00 (Non-Members)
Cestina Hrou Text /Workbook continues as before

Czech Language Class---Intermediate/ Conversational Level

Instructor: Jitka Sebek (Norm Petrik Coordinator)
 Tuesdays 7:00-8:30 PM CSPS (Sokol) Hall
 8 weeks beginning September 30
 Fee:\$55.00 (Sokol Members) \$70.00 (Non-Members)
 Czech Language Text/Workbook continues as before

Slovak Language Interest Group

Please call Robin Anderson at 763-300-3782

NOTE: REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL ABOVE CLASSES

USE REGISTRATION BLANK WITH PAYMENT www.sokolmn.org

A minimum of 6 paid students and a maximum of 10 will be required for each class.

Education classes are also available in cooking, crafts, hand arts etc. Watch Slovo and check the website for future offerings.



Czech & Slovak Sokol Minnesota Education Classes Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State/Province: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Work Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Sokol Member Non-member

Class Name(s) _____

Fee(s): 1____ 2____ 3____ Total \$ ____

Please do not include other fees in the same check. Please do not send cash.
 Send your check payable to Sokol Minnesota, and mail along with this form to:

Louise Wessinger
 3704 Denmark Ave
 Eagan, MN 55123

On change and education

By Dr. Josef Mestenhauer

I always wanted to write one of these columns on education. Education is the field in which I have spent my entire career. Despite my lifelong work in education, I find it deals with such conceptual and theoretical issues – memory, knowledge production and utilization, for example -- that I worried that such a column would put most people to sleep.

Two things that are happening concurrently have encouraged me to attempt it, anyway. The first is the persistent emphasis during this American election campaign on change. The other is a new effort in the Czech Republic to reform higher education, including the ages old and prestigious Charles University. I am connecting these themes to indicate how difficult it is to change things that have been deeply entrenched in peoples' minds and encoded in their brains. The connection it offers both promise and threat.

It used to be that our societies were driven first by natural resources and agriculture. That is what I learned as a young student in courses on geopolitics. Then, came an emphasis on industry and production, in turn replaced by emphasis on production of services. These changes came subtly, but very rapidly – just in my own lifetime. Each required many adjustments. But, these have never been as complex as what we are facing presently. Now, we are yet in another era that is driven by knowledge and innovation.

When the Cold War ended, the entire world opened, and with it came a flood of new ideas, access to new countries, new cultures and new approaches to life. When new ideas come, they require processing in our minds, but the brain may not be used to such an avalanche – often a tsunami. As one Harvard scholar argues, this places new demands on our cognitive resources, and we have trouble dealing with them.

What this means to our educational system is that it must teach – and students must learn – many more things than in the past. Students must connect these different pieces of knowledge (and this requires new integrative skills), and that they must be able to use this knowledge to produce new knowledge. All of this must be seen from a global perspective, because knowledge is produced everywhere and we cannot afford to miss knowledge being created outside our home country or region.

The Czech higher education system is now facing a double whammy of change. The first challenge is to catch up on the new knowledge from which the country was isolated by a half century of totalitarian rule. The second

is to undo the intense brainwashing by communism that a colleague of mine called “intellectual genocide”. Although several educational reforms have already taken place, they have affected mostly the primary and secondary schools, leaving universities structured and organized in the traditional Humboldtian format: elitist, fragmented by faculties, isolated linguistically, governed clumsily and lacking resources and decision-making potential.

I recall that, when the Cultural Revolution ended in China, the Chinese government realized that its educational system was completely devastated. The Chinese nation did not know what was lost, needing to be made-up. It decided to send some 5,000 of its most promising young teachers all over the world to learn just that. Now, only thirty years later, China wants to make sure, that by 2020, the top ten universities of the world will be Chinese. An enterprising scholar in Shanghai decided to test this decision by studying (each year) the top 2,000 universities world-wide to see how the Chinese universities stack up. Surprisingly, of the top 100 universities around the world, 59 are American universities. The University of Minnesota has advanced on that list from 29th to 27th this year. Eastern and Central European universities, including Charles University, rank among the lower 200th places.

To remedy this situation, a group of Czech scholars and experts just published a White Book calling for a massive public debate to consider curriculum reform, interdisciplinary teaching and learning, governance and finance reform, more open admissions and improved financial aid. The group also calls for a much closer collaboration between government, industry and commerce.

This is a big agenda – in which I am somewhat involved. And speaking of change, there is, of course, an enormous opposition to it. So if you want to study change and how to bring it about, look at the Czech Republic where foresighted people are trying to ride the wave of trends for the benefit of the country.

Knowledge and innovation society means more than marketable specialized skills. It also requires an ability to compete globally. We must maintain our position as world leaders, and to do so we must know a lot more about this world and its parts.

In a small way, our own organizations are attempting – or should be attempting - to help educate people – and ourselves – about the part of the world with which we have an intimate connection: Central Europe. I would like to urge my readers to support the efforts we will be undertaking to educate the public about its international responsibilities.



Sokol Cedar Rapids Flood Relief Sokol Minnesota Fund-raiser



Current pictures from Sokol Cedar Rapids remind us of a building under construction, not one that was celebrating 100 years this summer.

Near everything in Sokol Cedar Rapids was lost to this summer's flood. The centennial celebration was cancelled.

Now the members are making critical decisions on their future.

On November 1, Sokol Minnesota will hold a "Mystery Dinner" fund raiser for flood relief for our sister unit, Sokol Cedar Rapids. You'll enjoy a delicious ship-board dinner, entertainment by Sokol members, and solve a murder mystery. In the theme of Halloween weekend you'll even be able to dress 1920's style!

We'll have fun for a good cause. Join us! See page 9 for details.



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