



Czech  
Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota

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

# SLOVO

October 2014  
vol. 37 no. 9

**UPCOMING EVENTS  
OCTOBER 2014**

November/December  
*Slovo* Deadline October 1

Sokol Minnesota Singers  
October 7 and 21, 10 a.m.

Board of Trustees  
October 8, 7 p.m.

Board of Directors  
October 16, 7 p.m.

Domažlice Bagpipe Band  
October 19, 1:30 p.m.

Sokol Minnesota - CGSI  
Joint Dinner/Dance  
October 24, 6:30 p.m.

Roast Pork Dinner  
November 2, 12:30 p.m.

Fall 2014 Sokol  
Events Postcards  
are at the Hall.  
Take a few  
to give to friends.

## Sunday October 19 1:30 p.m.

Performance by  
**Domažlice Bagpipe Band**

C.S.P.S.Hall  
**Domažlická  
dudácká  
Muzika**

Food  
and beer  
available for sale

Public  
welcome  
limited seating

To order tickets call: 952-941-0426  
Presale tickets: (cut off Oct. 12)

- Adult - \$20.00
- Student 16 and over - \$15.00  
(valid student ID required)
- Youth 6-15 - \$10.00
- Child 5 and under free  
(with a paid adult admission)

Ticket sales at the door add \$5.00  
to the above presale prices.

C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

## Dinner and Dance

Hosted by  
Czech and Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota  
and  
Czechoslovak Genealogical  
Society International

### Friday, October 24

**Doors open for dinner  
and bar at 6:30 p.m.**

Goulash with bread dumplings, salad,  
coffee and water.

A la carte: hot dogs and desserts;  
cash bar: Czech beer and pop

### **Jerry Kadlec Trio Band 7:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.**

Guest performance by  
the St. Paul Czech and Slovak folk dancers

**Pre-sale dinner and dance \$18.00**

**Pre-sale dance only \$10.00**

**At the door dinner and dance \$22.00**

**At the door dance only \$12.00**

**Pre-sale reservations by Oct. 15  
contact: 952-941-0426**

C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)



**Czech and Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota  
2014 Board of Directors**

**President**

Judy Aubrecht

**First Vice President**

Megan Cahill

**Second Vice President**

Doreen McKenney

**Recording Secretary**

Cindy Coulter

**Corresponding Secretary**

Arlene Hamernik

**Treasurer**

Don Haselbauer

**Financial Secretary**

Tom Aubrecht

**Sergeant at Arms**

Denis Novak

**Members at Large**

Jason Brozovich  
Marketa Palkova Resong

**Membership Director**

Norm Petrik

**Board of Budget and Finance**

Joyce Tesarek, Chair

**Educational Director**

Jean Draheim

**Board of Instructors**

Mary Cahill,

Women's Physical Director

Megan Cahill,

Men's Physical Director

**Publicity Director**

Jyni Koschak

**Board of Trustees**

Chuck Draheim, Chair

**Gambling Manager**

Ed Hamernik

**Telephone: 651-290-0542**

Past issues of *Slovo* and Sokol Minnesota's calendar of events are available online at

**www.sokolmn.org**

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

I am excited to announce that Sokol Minnesota is hosting *Domažlická dudácká muzika*, or Domažlice Bagpipe Band, at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, October 19, at 1:30 p.m. The Domažlice Bagpipe Band has been performing for over 15 years. Its mission is to perform original folk music from the Chodsko region of Western Bohemia. The group has collected folk songs and music from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Jindřich Jindřich was a key folk culture revivalist who inspired the band's musical arrangements. One of the band's primary instruments is the *dudy*, or *pukl*, which is a Czech bagpipe that is pumped under the player's arm. The award-winning band members have studied at academies of music. The band has traveled extensively in Europe as well as in Japan and the United States, including St. Paul, Minnesota. People who attended the previous concert some years ago at our Hall still comment about the exciting, well-attended program.

The group plays music that represents many aspects of how the Chod people lived in years gone by. Songs about work, love, and drinking are featured. Humorous stories and jokes, or *poudačky*, will also be included in the performance, which will be narrated in English. The audience will also get to hear instrumental songs that are played on traditional folk instruments. Mike Cwach, who currently lives in the Czech Republic and whose extended family lives in South Dakota, is joining the Domažlice Bagpipe Band on this tour. Mike has played his *dudy* several times at our Sokol Minnesota Czech and Slovak Festivals. He recently completed a doctorate degree; his 800-page dissertation focused on Czech bagpipes.

I hope that many of our Sokol members and neighbors, plus anyone interested in Czech folk music, can come to the Hall to hear the Domažlice Bagpipe Band. Only 165 tickets will be sold. Please call (952-941-0426) now to buy your ticket to attend this fascinating program. *Nazdar!*

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

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko      Honorary Czech Consul nominee: Marit Lee Kucera

Past Honorary Czech Consuls: Josef Mestenhauser and Robert Vanasek

Sunshine Committee: open

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson

Kitchen Coordinator: open

Website: Craig Johnson, Joe Landsberger

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, Deb Ziskovsky

**E-Addresses:** President: president@sokolmn.org | Board of Directors: board@sokolmn.org |

Education/Language Programs: education@sokolmn.org | Events: events@sokolmn.org |

Czech/Slovak Festival: festival@sokolmn.org | Finance/Fund Raising/Legacy Fund: finance@

sokolmn.org | Fitness Programming: fitness@sokolmn.org | Folk Dancing: folkdancing@

sokolmn.org | Gift Shop: giftshop@sokolmn.org | Hall Rental: hallrental@sokolmn.org | Housekeeping:

housekeeping@sokolmn.org | Membership: membership@sokolmn.org | Newsletter:

slovo@sokolmn.org | Planning: planning@sokolmn.org | Publicity: publicity@sokolmn.org |

Public Relations: publicrelations@sokolmn.org | Social Media: socialmedia@sokolmn.org |

Treasurer: treasurer@sokolmn.org | Board of Trustees: trustees@sokolmn.org | Webmaster:

webmaster@sokolmn.org

## Rusyns Fascinate at August Featured Friday Meeting By Mary Cahill

Sokol Minnesota was pleased to welcome guest speaker Karen Varian who presented on the topic of Rusyn history and culture at our August 20 Featured Friday and membership meeting. Karen spoke about the history of the Rusyns, the countries where they have resided, the language and religions of the Rusyns, and their immigration to the United States, where they settled primarily in Pennsylvania.

It was a very informative presentation and it was interesting to see how much Czechs and Slovaks have in common with the Rusyn culture and how the Rusyn people are neighbors to so many Eastern European countries. Of particular interest was Karen's sharing of where all the Eastern European nationalities originally came from: an area that is present-day Poland, Ukraine, and Slovakia. After the program, all enjoyed light refreshments and looking through the books that Karen brought covering all things Rusyn.

Karen is an active member of the local Rusyns Association, is co-president of Friends of the Immigration History Research Center and Archives, and is a recent retiree of the Slovak Lipa Dancers, and an active volunteer for the Rusyn Culture Booth at the Festival of Nations.

## Membership Updates By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the August 21 Board of Directors meeting, Courtney Benson was accepted into membership in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Courtney, who currently lives in Winona, is our lead gymnastics instructor; during the coming year she will live in the Twin Cities. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota! Our next membership event is Friday, October 24, 7 p.m

## Dinner/Dance at October 24 Meeting

Sokol Minnesota and the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) are co-sponsoring a dinner/dance on Friday evening, October 24, at the Hall. Join us for an evening of polka and waltz dancing from 7:30 to 10 p.m. to the music of *The Jerry Kadlec Trio*. There is an optional dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. and refreshments will be available for sale during the dance. Plan to join us for this special event, which is on our regularly scheduled meeting night. (See the ad on page 1 for more information.)

**Presale reservations by October 15: 952-941-0426**

## SING ALONG with the SOKOL SINGERS FIRST and THIRD TUESDAYS

The Sokol Minnesota Singers need additional voices to carry on an important part of our Czech and Slovak culture: singing and remembering our folk songs. You do not need to know the language; most of us don't. Those who do, help the rest of us with pronunciation. No doubt you're already familiar with some of the melodies from childhood. If not, they're short, simple, and easy to remember. None of us are professional singers. We just like to sing and don't want to lose our heritage. You do not even have to be Czech or Slovak to sing with us. All you need is a desire to sing. Don Haselbauer is our director. We meet at 10 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of most months at the Hall. Come, join us! Your heart will rejoice.

### Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

**Renewals:** Individual **\$50**; Couple **\$90**. Senior **\$40** (over age 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years); Senior couple **\$80**.

**New memberships:** Individual **\$55**; Couple **\$95**. 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. Dues are reduced for members joining after June 30.

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 November/December 2014 issue is October 1.**

Member 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, mailing production; Joan Sedlacek, mailing; with Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, and Jitka Sebek, advisors. Photographs for this issue provided by Don Pafko, Frank Trnka, and Deb Ziskovsky.

This October 2014 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after October 31.

*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 (September 15 for November/December issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (October 1 for November/December issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through October 2015.) Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new/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.

Extra copies of *Slovo* are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts.

Please contact us with a **change of address**, for problems with *Slovo* subscriptions, 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 hold all future issues until you notify us. We pay 49¢ 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!*

**October 2014 *Slovo* 3**

## Those Roads Less Traveled Needed (and Received) the Kindness of Strangers

By Frank Trnka, Director, Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble

August 2014 was my third long trip to the Czech Republic, but my first where a major portion of the trip was not part of an organized tour. For a number of years, it has been a dream of mine to attend the bagpipe festivals in Domažlice and Strakonice and also to participate in a two-day workshop on the Czech bagpipe (*dudy*) before the Domažlice festival. Another *dudy* player, Sue Underwood, and her husband Eric Placek, from Nebraska joined me for the Strakonice festival. We three traveled together by rental car the week after, doing some exploring and shopping for the Czech museum in Wilber, Nebraska. During the ten days between the two festivals, I stayed with friends in Brno, as well as visited distant relatives in Veselí nad Lužnicí and the surrounding Blata area.



(Above L-R) At the *Harmoniky* shop in Ondřejov u Prahy, <[www.akordeoncentrum.cz/eindex.htm](http://www.akordeoncentrum.cz/eindex.htm)>, Frank Trnka played the *Koucký's' vozembouch* (stump fiddle), Sue Underwood and the shop owner's son Jiří Koucký (named for his father) played accordions.

(Right) Josef Kuneš, from *Domažlická dudácká muzika*, was the master teacher on the second day of the *dudy* workshop in Domažlice.

The great challenge was getting between the various locations using a combination of buses and trains. I have very limited Czech, a tiny bit of German, (but a good background in French, which seemed to be useless in the Czech Republic). On my 2009 trip I had taken a train and a bus, solo. For this trip, I had researched ahead of time the <<http://jizdnirady.idnes.cz>> website, which has train and bus schedules in English. I knew it was possible to make connections and get where I needed to go. But transfers were necessary, from bus to bus, or from train to bus. This was where things got complicated and where my story begins.

The trip from the Praha airport to Domažlice involved three buses. I managed, with some help in Plzeň, to locate the bus to Domažlice. I didn't

realize there was more than one bus stop in Domažlice. Instead of getting off two blocks from my pension, I got off at a bus stop far from the center of town; I wasn't sure what direction to go. It was a long, hot walk to the city center, where a street vendor and a couple of students pointed me in the general direction. I found the pension, but the door was locked and no one answered the bell. There was a phone number to call, but I didn't have a cell phone, only an iPad that worked only when I had a Wi-Fi connection. Eventually, a housekeeper showed up and called the owner. There was some confusion about my arrival date, but they agreed to get a room ready for me. This was all negotiated with very few words and some hand gestures on my part. Luckily the housekeeper let me into the room to use the toilet and to get a drink of water while she was getting the room ready, as she saw how sweaty and stressed I was.

### Generous Czech hospitality enhanced with help from a dictionary

The next morning, I retraced some of the previous day's bus journey to get back to Stod, where I picked up a new bagpipe and left my old one for repair with Lubomir Jungbauer. I had his address and a "Google map" route for walking. I walked to his house with no problem. Although this visit was a business transaction, I was shown generous Czech hospitality. Marie Jungbauer served five different pastries, as well as a full tray of *chlebičky* for my 10 a.m. appointment. I wanted to taste everything, but there was no way I could eat that much. Plus I was there to try out the new bagpipe and also to communicate without a common language about the repairs needed on my old bagpipe. Marie Jungbauer and I used a small Czech-English dictionary to point to words, so that one would know what the other was trying to say. I was able to explain what Minnesota is like and about my grandchildren.

The bagpipe workshop was the next day in Domažlice. I had located the building already, so I knew where I needed to be. I was the only non-Czech attending and they were a little flustered about my lack of Czech.



We were divided up into two groups. I was not sure if I had been placed with the beginners or the advanced attendees. Most of the people my age were in the other class, while the younger folks were in my class. My group decided that I should be the first to play for the master teacher. I used the new bagpipe that I had picked up the day before, but I had practiced only a few minutes on it. The air bag and position of the finger holes were different from my old pipes; I had difficulty getting a good tone and covering the holes. But I had something I could play from memory.

The class format was what I considered a master class. We each had to play for the master; then he commented and made suggestions on how to improve. He had a lot to say after I played, but all in Czech. Fortunately for me the mother of one of the younger students was able to translate some of what he was saying; she mentored me for the two days of the workshop. Once the young people began to play and sing, I realized I was in the advanced class. They were pretty amazing. The star student who was 18 had been playing since he was 7. He was very honored to have been asked to play at the Strakonice festival later in August.

I survived my two days of classes, plus I learned a lot. I played not only my solo at the concluding performance, but also the group numbers, which 13 *dudy* players played together. Thirteen is more than triple the number of *dudy* players in the whole United States. That was a big thrill for me!



Konrádyho dudácká muzika just before the opening performance of the Domažlice festival. Second and third from left were teachers: Vlastimil Konrády, the beginners' class teacher, and Václav Švik, my master teacher on the first day of the workshop. Forth and sixth are famous, revered pipers: Antonín Konrády, the patriarch of Domažlice pipers, and Zdeněk Bláha, collector of much of the Chodsko dudy folk music.

### **You can get there from here, but not easily**

The other really intense travel day was getting from Brno to Rabi, the small town 30 minutes from Strakonice where Sue Underwood, Eric Placek, and I stayed. The hotel in Strakonice, where we had made reservations a year in advance, had gone out of business; we scrambled in early June to find other accommodations. Strakonice was four more stops on the same train I had taken to visit the relatives in Veselí nad Lužnicí.

(By this point in my travels, I kept a copy of the full itinerary; I knew the village names and how many stops before I was to get off. Too often the names were missing at the stops, so I needed to count stops to make sure to get off at the right one.)

From Strakonice, there was a bus to Rabi. The train arrived a little late, but not too much. The bus depot was right across the street from the train station. I just needed to figure out which platform the Rabi bus was leaving from. The bus depot across the street from the Strakonice train station was not being used, but the street was full of buses. I showed someone who looked official my itinerary. I lugged my two suitcases into the bus he indicated and off we went. In the back of my mind, I thought that perhaps I should have found the bus with the number (on my written itinerary) that I knew was the bus to Rabi, but the bus I was on was, at least, going in the same direction. I figured I could wait at the last stop and get the right bus when it went by.

As I feared, the bus took me only half way to Rabi. There were four buses making this trip. I showed each of the drivers the bus number I wanted and the stops that bus was supposed to make, which included the town we were in. They were all older and non-English speaking and seemed impatient with my stupidity. I still felt that the correct bus would arrive soon, but the drivers insisted otherwise. By then it was 6 p.m. Other than the bus drivers, the town was completely shut down for the evening.

The bus drivers finally decided there was a local train to a small town about two kilometers (1.2 miles) from Rabi; then I could walk the rest of the way. One of the drivers led me to a spot at the train platform where I should wait for the train. About ten feet away a family who looked like they might be Rom and a rather punk Czech youth were drinking and smoking together. The bus driver asked if any of them spoke English. The Czech youth indicated he knew some German, but no English. They seemed rather amused by my predicament and puzzled as to why I was traveling alone when I didn't speak the language. I felt very vulnerable, to say the least. I wondered at what point I was going to be robbed. The Czech youth asked if I wanted a beer, which I politely declined. I tried to focus on deep breathing and not to panic!

### **“Kindness of strangers” moment**

After I had waited about 30 minutes for the promised train, the Czech youth went into the train station and came back with a printout showing the departure time of the train and the arrival time at the village where I needed to get off. I was surprised at his kindness. The train was not due for another 45 minutes; I realized I could sit down on a bench and didn't need to keep standing. There was a bar in the train station that sold food, but I was too tense to think about eating. Finally the train arrived. I confirmed with the conductor that this train was going to the stop I needed. Before the train departed, another dreadlocked Czech youth who knew some English came on the train; his friend had sent him to see if I was okay or if I needed any further help. We agreed that I was going to be okay now; I thanked him, as well as his friend outside. I realized I had completely misjudged the whole group based on stereotypes and the fears I had from feeling so vulnerable. This was truly a “kindness of strangers” moment!

The train finally took off, stopped, picked up some passengers, but came back to where we had started! I tried not to panic. Not too long after, we arrived at the village where I needed to get off. I was not sure which direction to start walking the two kilometers to Rabi. Fortunately there were two employees finishing their shifts at the train station. One even knew a little English; I had the phone number for the pension in Rabi, which he called. The train people didn't think it was a good idea for me to walk with my two suitcases. They asked if I was interested in getting a taxi. At that point I would gladly have paid \$100 to go those two kilometers and be settled for the night. I readily agreed to take a taxi.

I was told to wait outside and a taxi would arrive in five minutes. Soon a van pulled up. The driver was from the pension. He said there was no taxi, so he came to get me. As we drove on a series of winding roads, I realized I would never have found the place if I had walked. A few minutes later, we were at the pension. I finally started to unwind from my three-hour adrenalin rush. I asked about a restaurant and was pointed in the direction of the town center. I should have asked if any of the restaurants were open. The town seemed shut down for the night. I found a pub where I could get a beer, but no food. I lived on “liquid bread” until breakfast the next morning.

These stories are from only three of the thirty days I was in the Czech Republic; my other 27 days were filled with music, dancing, good food, castles, art, folk costumes, and wonderful scenery, but finding my way without a common language was certainly a memorable part of the trip. Some people seemed annoyed that I didn't understand the help they were trying to give me in Czech or German, but with the help of street vendors, bus drivers, students, passersby, a young student's mom, and even punk teens, I was able to navigate to a place of communicating where we understood each other enough to get me where I needed to go.

# Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Fall Symposium

## Friday, October 24, and Saturday, October 25

**Friday, October 24:** C.S.P.S. Hall, the home of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul.

**Koláče Workshop:** 9 a.m.–noon. Instruction and demonstration of *koláče* baking with samples for tasting and taking home. The dough is prepared in advance. Fillings: poppy seed, prune, apricot, and cheese. Minimum of 8 participants; maximum: 12.

**Historic St. Paul City Tour:** 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Guided by local architectural historian Jim Sazevich, tour the historic sites of the Czech and German-Bohemian roots in Minnesota's Capital City.

**C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall Dinner and Polka Dance:** 6:30–10 p.m. Soak in the atmosphere of this historic hall, enjoy a hearty meal, and then dance the night away to polkas and waltzes played by the Jerry Kadlec Trio. During intermission, Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers perform folk dances in their colorful *kroje* (folk dress).

**Library Help at CGSI Library:** 1–5 p.m., 1185 Concord Street North, South St. Paul. The CGSI Library is open for those wishing to do research. If possible, notify us in advance of the family name, location, and what you want to accomplish; we may be able to do pre-work to make your time more productive. Send information to: <education@cgsi.org>

**Saturday, October 25, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Symposium and Annual Member Meeting.** Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1185 Concord St. N., South Saint Paul. Choose from eight (two tracks of four) presentations on Czech and Slovak culture, history, and genealogy topics given by professional speakers at the Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS) Library. Morning coffee and koláče will be provided, as well as lunch and a variety of beverages.

**1A) Gaining Historical Context for Your Ancestors,** John Sabol, Auditorium, 9–10 a.m. Genealogy is more than collecting ancestors' names, documenting records, and organizing them into charts. Learn to reconstruct the environment in which the ancestors lived, the social network through which they moved, and even some of the little known events of their lives.

**1B) Time Bridge: Rusyns and Slovaks in 20th Century,** Michal Razus, 4th Floor Board Room, 9–10 a.m. Culture, lifestyle and work depicted in photography, theater, and architecture. Live from Presov, Slovakia, this presentation includes many images collected by the speaker.

**2A) Guide to Locating and Interpreting Czech Birth, Marriage and Death Records,** Al Kranz, Suzette Steppe, and Kathy Jorgenson, Auditorium: 10:30–11:45 a.m. Many Czech vital records have been digitized and are available online. Learn to locate the archive for your village or town and access the records. An extensive list of helpful websites will be provided.

**2B) Our Ancestors before and during World War I,** Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, 4th Floor Board Room, 10:30–11:45 a.m. What were the living conditions for our ancestors during the years leading up to World War I? How did this pivotal event accelerate their passionate fight for independence? Learn about the role played by Czechs and Slovaks in America that paved the way for the eventual establishment of Czechoslovakia.

**3A) German-Bohemians, Who are these People? History, Culture and Immigration to the United States,** Wade Olsen,

Auditorium, 1–2 p.m. Look at German-Bohemian history: who they were and where they lived in Bohemia. In the mid-19th century there were many reasons to leave their homeland; discuss some of the main factors in this momentous decision. Explore the paths they took and outline the places they settled. Many often followed others from their homeland villages; look at some of the communities they formed in the United States. Look at this chain migration and identify opportunities to find clues as to where your ancestor originated.

**3B) Interpreting Slovak Birth, Marriage, Death and Census Records,** John Sabol, 4th Floor Board Room, 1–2 p.m. What can you expect to find researching Slovak vital records from the 19th century and beyond? Test your language skills. Be ready for some surprises. If you already know your ancestral village, this is the next big step.

**4A) A Time of Passage: History of the Czechs and Slovaks, 1781–1918,** Steve Potach, Auditorium, 2:20–3:20 p.m. Survey of this period of dramatic transformation of the Czech and Slovak homelands, an era that formed the historical backdrop for our ancestors' emigration to America.

Understanding history can enhance genealogical research, and can "bring our ancestors back to life." Topics covered include Joseph II's reforms in the Czech lands, the rise of Czech and Slovak nationalism, economic, social, cultural and political developments in the Czech and Slovak homelands, ethnic conflicts in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and emigration.

**4B) How to Overcome Brick Walls in Slovak Research,** Lisa Alzo, 4th Floor Board Room, 2:20–3:20 p.m. Tracing Slovak ancestry can be challenging. Sorting out surnames, trying to identify ancestral hometowns, and deciphering old country records to connect families are a few of the obstacles often encountered along the way. Through sample case studies, this webinar demonstrates lesser-utilized research tactics. Discuss repositories and key resources used to locate information about Slovak ancestors.

**CGSI Annual Member Meeting,** Auditorium, 3:30–4:30 p.m. Reports on CGSI's activities during the past year and election of officers.

**More information:** Leave a message (651) 964-2322; your call will be returned. Register online at <www.cgsi.org>  
Symposium Fee...\$35. Non-Member Symposium Fee...\$45  
Koláče Workshop...\$25. Historic St. Paul City Tour...\$40.  
Dinner and Dance tickets: 952-941-0426. Discounted pre-sale by 10/15 Dinner/Dance: \$18 or pre-sale Dance only: \$10.

**MASTER**  
**TAILORS & CLEANERS**

*"Keeping You in Stitches Since 1913"*

916 MAINSTREET HOPKINS, MINNESOTA 55343 • 952-938-8052

## Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary

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

### General Fund:

Under \$100: **Elsie Roepke** in memory of **John Cicha**.  
\$100 - \$499: **Darlene Sitko**.

### Legacy Fund:

\$1000 - \$4999: **Eileen and Ellen Vavrina**.

### Czech and Slovak Festival Silent Auction:

\$500 - \$999: **Eileen and Ellen Vavrina**.

### In support of Havel Films at Trylon Microcinema:

\$100 - \$499: anonymous.

### Legacy Fund in Memory of John Cicha:

Under \$100: **Donald and Catherine Haselbauer, Libuse and Al Imbrone, Valeria Kuisle, Shirley Verner, Louise and Charles Wessinger, Ken and Sharon Wyberg**.  
\$100 - \$499: **Donald and Patricia Andriele**.

### Gym Equipment:

Under \$100: **Jim and Mary Jo Chlebeck**

## C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

We ask for your support of the renovations to C.S.P.S. Hall as we celebrate the Hall's 127<sup>th</sup> year in 2014. Contact Joyce Tesarek: 612-822-6147 or <finance@sokolmn.org> to discuss your tax-deductible donation.



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

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the C.S.P.S. Hall, I make a tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**. Write **Legacy Fund** in the memo line. Mail to: **C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund**  
**383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102**

Or donate online: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org).

*Thank you!*

*Someone Named Eva* by **Joan M. Wolf**.  
New York: **Clarion Books, 2007, 208 pp.**  
Available in libraries and bookstores.

## A Young Girl's Struggle for Identity

By **Gwen Willems, Ph.D.**

Teaching young adults about the Holocaust can be challenging, but Minnesota teacher and author Joan M. Wolf deftly handle it. Her novel, *Someone Named Eva*, offers the moving story of an 11-year-old non-Jewish girl named Milada who is taken from her family during the Nazi invasion of Lidice in June 1942. Although written for students in grades 5-9, the story is also compelling for adults, and leaves readers interested in learning more about the *Lebensborn* "Germanisation" program and Lidice. Descriptions of Milada's relationships with family members, friends, and schoolmates intensify the absorbing, powerful plot.

Because of her blonde hair, light-colored eyes, and other features deemed Aryan by the Nazis, Milada is chosen for a *Lebensborn* school for girls in Poland, where she is renamed Eva and for two years is taught German and how to be a "proper German girl" who will later be sent out into the world to fulfill her duties as a German wife and mother. During the indoctrination, she loses her facility with the Czech language, submerges most memories of her earlier life, and is repeatedly told

lies. As Eva noted, "Almost everyone had stopped asking Fräulein Krüger or the other guards about their parents. The story was always the same. We were orphans from Allied air raids. Or we had become too expensive for our families."

A year before the end of the war, Eva is adopted into a family consisting of a Nazi officer who is the commandant of the Ravensbrück women's camp, his wife, and their son and daughter.

In her new life, a maid, butler, chauffeur, groundskeeper, and cook serve her. Toward the end of the year, as the Allies are approaching, the servants are released, money and food becomes scarce, the commandant and his son go into hiding, and his wife, daughter, and Eva hide for weeks in the bomb shelter in the basement.

Throughout her ordeals, she stays connected to her past through the garnet pin that her Babichka gave her before they left Lidice. She often recalls Babichka's words, "Remember who you are, Milada. Remember where you are from. Always." Touching the star-shaped pin reminds her of grandmother's advice, "No matter where you are, if you see the North Star, you can find your way. Even if you're lost. It will always be there to help you find your way home."

Wolf, whose great-grandmother was born in Czechoslovakia, did research in 2004 for this fascinating, page-turner book by visiting Lidice, the Lidice Memorial, and four survivors of the Nazi attack there. Even though Wolf had written most of her fictional story by then, she found the experiences of one of the survivors to be very similar to Milada's.

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

PROVERB: *Kdo rychle dává, dvakrát dává* Whoever gives quickly, gives twice.

## National Queen Pageant at 53<sup>rd</sup> Wilber Czech Festival

By Deb Ziskovsky

Wilber, Nebraska, once again delivered an amazing weekend for visitors and participants to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Czech Festival on August 1-3. Wilber's population is 1,855 (2010), but during this festival weekend, it can grow to 40,000.

I have attended the festival several times, but never experienced the 'behind the scenes' activities of the Miss Czech Slovak Pageant U.S., one of the highlights of the weekend. Having been involved in Czech dancing many years and recently starting our own Junior Royalty program in southern Minnesota, I was particularly interested in the pageant activities.

This year I had the pleasure to travel with a former schoolmate, Irene (Shimota) Jindra from Montgomery. Irene's daughter, Debbie (Jindra) Koslowski, was the hostess for the candidates and one of five committee members of this year's pageant. Debbie represented Minnesota in 2010, winning the title of First Runner Up, as well as the Sokol Talent Award. Since retiring her title, she has been an active committee member. Her responsibility as hostess was to be available to the candidates for any questions; whether on an activity for the day or needing assistance with their *kroj* (national costume). Debbie also was the stage manager; making sure all stage props were ready, water was available, and coordinating talent practices for each candidate to run through at least twice before presenting it live to the Pageant audience.

I have heard candidates say they don't have any time to enjoy the festival itself because the Pageant activities and preparation consumes all their time. I now understand why, after experiencing their schedules firsthand. Candidates arrived starting Friday evening, settling into the 1895 Hotel Wilber for the weekend. They need *kroje* to wear throughout the entire weekend, plus the one for the *Kroj* Competition. They also need to have all props, CDs, or instruments for their talent competition. Pageant Director Mary Elizabeth Lackey laid out guidelines and expectations for the weekend with an evening meeting.

Saturday began with breakfast at a community church followed by the Interview Competition. Participants met their Little Sisters, who are young girls from the community who accompany the candidate for the weekend. At noon, the candidates were introduced to the guests of the festival at a bandstand in the middle of the town, along with their Little Sisters and visiting royalty. The candidates then ate a light lunch before the parade. Each candidate rode in a convertible. Even though riding in the parade might sound relaxing, it meant riding in the afternoon sun, many times with temperatures above 95 degrees.

8 October 2014 *Slovo*



**Royalty:** (L-R) Outgoing: Brittany Smisek, Minnesota, Second Runner-Up; Danielle Patzel, Nebraska, First Runner-Up; Anna Hand, Kansas, Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. 2013-14. Newly crowned: Morgan McMichen, Missouri, Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. 2014-15; Christina Gentry, Texas, First Runner-Up; and Elena Peerson, Illinois, Second Runner-Up.

The candidates were driven directly to the stage of the Outdoor Theater after the parade for an opportunity to practice their talent. This theater originally was created specifically for the Miss Czech Slovak Pageant.

Saturday evening's Pageant segment featured the on-stage questions and the *Kroj* Competition. The candidates can replicate, purchase, borrow, rent, or make their own version of *kroj*.

Candidates also need to be professional, friendly and pleasant. This was not always easy with Pageant "nerves" and the hot weather. Although the temperatures this year were cool compared to some years, they could still be expressed in one word, "hot."

After Saturday night's Pageant activities the candidates could relax, having completed two major competitions that day. They ended their day with the annual pizza party at the Hotel. They were able to be themselves, sharing their feelings of relief from getting through the first day. It was fun to share in the girls' excitement, exchanging stories about making *kroj*, and hearing their experiences of finding details about their family's heritage history. Then it was off to bed to be ready for their final day.

Sunday started by attending Mass. In addition to the bandstand introductions and parade as they did the day before, they visited the local care center, where many residents there remembered fondly the days when they attended the festival.

Throughout the weekend, the three Pageant judges could critique the candidates at any time. Don Pafko, Honorary Slovak Consul and Sokol Minnesota member, was one of the judges. Corbin Jerde, also a Sokol member, represented Minnesota.

The final Pageant segment was Sunday evening, when talents were performed. The out-going Queen read her Farewell Address and judges as well as visiting Queens and National Pageant Alumni were introduced. Then came the suspense of waiting for the new Queen to be crowned.

Along with crowning the new Queen and two Runner Up positions, the awards presented included talent, oratory, authentic *kroj*, Americanized *kroj*, heritage, spirit, Sokol award, and Miss Congeniality. After the coronation, everyone headed to Wilber's Sokol Hall for a celebration dance with family and friends.

But for the newly crowned royalty, the weekend wasn't finished yet. Professional photos were taken Monday morning. The new Queen had a short meeting with the Pageant Director, discussing expectations for the upcoming year. Then the last goodbyes were said between the new Royalty and the Pageant Committee. New friendships blossomed and new Facebook friends were "Liked."

I left the Pageant proud to know that there are wonderful young women who are interested in learning about their Czech/Slovak heritage and are very much involved in promoting it.





(Left) Judges for the 2014 Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska, on August 2-3:(L-R) Brenda Beran, a former Miss Czech-Slovak South Dakota; Don Pafko, Honorary Slovak Consul for Minnesota, and Luba DeWitt, from Florida.

(Below): 2014 Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. Pageant contestants.



# Czech Roast Pork Dinner

Sunday, November 2, 2014

Roast pork, raised-bread dumplings,  
sauerkraut, caraway rye bread,  
applesauce, dessert, and coffee.  
Czech Beer, wine and pop  
will be available for sale.



**\$16/adult; \$8/child under 9**

*Limited reserved seating at 12:30 p.m.*

Pre-paid reservations are required by October 30

For reservations call: 651 - 290 - 0542

Pre-paid takeout is also available by reservation

Hosted by  
Czech and Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota

**Public  
Welcome**

C.S.P.S. Hall  
383 Michigan Street  
Saint Paul, MN  
55102

**[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**

## "A Land Flowing with Beer and Sausages" By Vanda Kašová, columnist from Prague

Beer is considered part of the Czech national heritage. This article I dedicate to my dear friends from Minnesota, who came to Prague in September, and to all of you, who are still waiting to buy your ticket. One thing you should not miss is the "liquid bread," as we sometimes call Czech beer. The homeland of Pilsner type of beer is naturally proud about it. You should therefore taste Pilsen, Budweiser Budvar, or Bernard to name some of the most famous. In recent years small local breweries have become also very popular.

When you go out with your friends the expression you use is usually "I am going for one" (*Jdu na jedno*). It is said to be the greatest Czech lie. It is never just one. There are really nice pubs in the city, some of which have beautiful terraces where you can overlook the city. The price of course depends on the place you choose. It can be approximately \$2 (that is what the locals usually pay), but it can be as much as four times more if you choose one of the most expensive places (and it is usually not worth it).

But it is not only beer that you look for if you go out at night. You need to eat something as well. On the menu you can often find a column that says "Something that goes with beer." There you can find beer delicacies you should not miss tasting. One of the most famous and popular is pickled *hermelin* (*hermelin* is a special kind of cheese, similar to French camembert). Usually served with bread, onion, and peppers, it is pickled in oil so it is very soft inside. Another one is *utopenec* (drowned), again pickled but in this case sausage. And we should not forget about one that is a little bit risky. We call it *tatarák*, and it is made from minced raw meat beef mixed with egg yolk, onion, mustard, salt, pepper, and usually Worcestershire or ketchup. Sometimes the cook mixes it for you; sometimes you have to do it yourself. It is delicious, but as I said, you should eat it only when you are sure that the meat is fresh. Are you hungry and thirsty already? For more info with pictures, look at <[eatyourworld.com](http://eatyourworld.com)> And some of the dishes are really easy to make at home. *Dobrou chut!*

---

## What is That You're Drinking? By Cinnamon Whaley

Did you know that Czech Republic consumes more beer per capita than anywhere else in the world? That's a total of more than 40 gallons of beer per year for each person!

Many of us are familiar with Pilsner Urquell. Pilsner Urquell gets its flavor from the combination of two key beer ingredients, water and hops, that are only found naturally in this particular combination near Pilsen, Czech Republic.

The brewing ingredient most associated to the Czech Republic are Saaz hops. Hops are one of the four main ingredients in beer that provide key flavor elements. Saaz hops are not modified to produce or encourage particular flavors like many American varieties are, but are wild and generally low in bitterness and high in aroma. More than four tons of hops are exported from Czech Republic per year. Interestingly, the largest importer is Japan, importing more than 25% of Czech Republic hops in 2012.

The local water is also very important to brewing a good pilsner; the water in this

region of the Czech Republic is soft with low alkalinity. The low alkaline water helps keep the hop bitterness down. In contrast, hard, high alkaline water is often used in porters and stouts, the very darkest of beers.

If you were to have taken a world beer tour one hundred years ago, many of the flavors you would have found would only have been local to specific regions. Today, you can adjust your water profile and order ingredients from your local brewing supply store and create beers from all over the world, right in your kitchen or garage!

As the brewing world expanded during the industrial revolution, a gentleman named Adolphus Busch toured Europe and studied brewing methods. He particularly enjoyed a pilsner he drank in Budweis (České Budějovice). In 1876 Anheuser-Busch released Budweiser to America, based on the beer Adolphus drank in Bohemia, now the Czech Republic. Little did he know that he would begin one of the fiercest trademark wars of the next 140 years.

The last major ruling in 2010 indicates that Anheuser-Busch may not register the name *Budweiser* in the European Union. If you drink Budweiser in Czech Republic, it is a domestic beer brewed in České Budějovice. You will more likely find the American version labeled as "Bud." There are currently more than 40 trademark disputes worldwide between the two breweries, with Czech Budweiser Budvar having won 89 of the 124 dealt cases with the American Budweiser over the course of time.

With the current explosion of small breweries across the world, brew styles are expanding past the traditional methods. While pilsners have historically been known to be light-bodied with a crisp finish, some American breweries are experimenting with India Pale Lagers, which turns the style on its head, combining the heavily-hopped flavor of India Pale Ales with traditional lager brewing techniques. Ballast Point's "Fathom" is an example available to the Twin Cities market, when in season.

---

## UPCOMING EVENT of INTEREST

**The 5th Annual European Christmas Event is Sunday, December 7, 11:00-4:30 p.m.,** at the New Prague Park Ballroom, 300 Lexington Avenue South, New Prague. Fun for the entire family! Enjoy traditional folk dancers and singers, kid's corner, food, over 40 artisans/crafters, door prizes, demonstrations, Junior Royalty coronation, European crafts

and imports, plus featured demonstrator Daniela Mahoney, egg decorator and cultural educator originally from Prague, Czech Republic. The Gift Shop from Sokol Minnesota is participating for the fifth year. The European Christmas Event is hosted by Czech Heritage Club. For more information: <[www.CzechHeritageClub.com](http://www.CzechHeritageClub.com)>

## To Educate or Not To Educate: That Is The Problem

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



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

This article is about education, but in a different way than most people think of it. I was privileged that the University of Minnesota gave me the opportunity to work to further education not only here, but in 28 countries. Experiences I gained convinced me that, if you want to understand a country, study its educational system and the social and cultural forces that formed it. Education reflects all aspects of an entire culture: its organization, content, conflicts, history, participation, and values.

I have been regularly following recent educational developments in the Czech and Slovak Republics. And there are a number of them. The Czech Republic finally discovered that education is a global affair and selected three people to form a special Task Force, reporting directly to the Deputy Minister of Education. I was asked to join this Task Force and am looking forward to yet another new development there that has been long overdue.

My ongoing monitoring of Czech education brought two surprises. One was very pleasant, the other was not. The first, pleasant surprise relates to my earlier activity when I was the Fulbright Professor in the Faculty of Pedagogy in Prague soon after the demise of the communist regime. The then-current dean, Vladimír Kotásek, was chairing a special committee charged with the responsibility to evaluate some 19 projects submitted to the Ministry of Education for Educational Reform. I was a member of this committee, and we members discussed at length whether the educational system needed just a few changes, more significant reform, or perhaps even a complete transformation. One of the proposals was submitted by an organization called NEMES (whether this was an acronym or name I can't determine) that we all favored because it was the most current in educational theory, was student centered, and most importantly, was committed to a democratic process. The committee recommended ideas from this proposal, but nothing came of it. The new independent political parties were barely organized and did not know what problems to deal with first. The Ministry was a hopeless bureaucracy where one official did not know the person next to him or what that person did. I recently discovered that NEMES continued to exist over the years, and that it merged with a large number of other educational associations to form a new one, called SKAG (Standing Conference of Associations in Education). The platform of this new organization, based on what NEMES proposed in 2000, was

accepted in full. If this plan succeeds, the Czech Republic will have one of the best, most progressive, student-centered, and inclusive systems in the world.

The republic will need it, as will be seen when I describe the second, unpleasant surprise. It's unfortunate that it took more than a decade to come to this point, but complex reforms, especially those that require total rethinking of a paradigm, often require long incubation periods. The difficulties stem from two sources. One is the international testing of students in mathematics and science (some also in reading), and the other is the result of recent written exams on the recently re-established "Maturity" Exam.

There are two respected international systems of evaluation for students in mathematics and science. One is called PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) sponsored by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, an organization of 34 advanced countries and 31 partner countries. The second one is called TIMMS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study). PISA tests 15-year-olds in mathematics, science, and reading, and in 2012, it tested 510,000 students in 65 countries. TIMMS tests fourth- and eighth-grade students, and in 2012 it tested at least 4,000 fourth-grade students in 52 countries and eighth-grade students in 45 countries.

The 2000 PISA scores for the Czech Republic were 19th in math, 12th in science, and 20th in reading. Slovakia was off the top-ten country list. (By comparison, the United States scored 20th in math and was disqualified in science and reading.) In 2011 Czech Republic dropped to 24th in math, 22nd in science, and 26th in reading. (Again, by comparison, the United States was 36th in math, 28th in science, and 24th in reading).

The decline on the TIMMS scores was equally surprising. In 1995, the Czech Republic scored well, receiving 6th for fourth- and eighth-grade math, 7th for fourth-grade science, but 2nd for eighth-grade science; more recent scores have dropped considerably. Results of scores from 2011 study showed Czech Republic 22nd in math and 8th in science, while Slovakia scored 25th in math and 12th in science. The United States was 9th in fourth-grade math, 7th in fourth-grade science and 10th in eighth-grade math. The study calculated overall averages in which Czech Republic scored 22nd, Slovakia 24th, and the United States 11th.

By far the greatest surprise came most recently when the Ministry of Education announced results of the Maturity Exam for the past academic year. Restoration of this exam (which dates from the first republic) was highly controversial, but a compromise was reached in which mathematics was an optional exam. Students could opt to write the exam in foreign languages. As a result, only 39 percent opted to write the math exam, with drastic results. Twenty-four percent of students failed this part, while 3.6 percent failed in the foreign language and failure in the Czech language was 2.7 percent. The average failure rate was 11 percent. The exam was taken by 87,000 students who came from gymnasias, business, and occupational middle schools, and from industrial internships. What happened, and who is to blame?

That is where "culture" comes in. There has to be somebody to blame; this is the heritage of communist thinking.

## ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER! SOKOL Minnesota 2014 EVENTS

### Domažlická dudácká musika

October 19, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Unique Czech folk music with bagpipe band from Domažlice

Tickets: \$15-\$25. Call 952-941-0426

(see ad on page 1 for presale ticket information)

### Dinner/Dance with Jerry Kadlec Trio

October 24, Friday, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Sokol Minnesota and CGSI

Presale discounted tickets by October 15: 952-941-0426

(see ad on page 1 for presale ticket information)

### Czech Roast Pork Dinner

Sunday, November 2, 12:30 p.m.

Prepaid Reservations: \$16 adult. 651-290-0542

(see ad on page 9 for ticket information)

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

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



383 Michigan Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota  
55102  
651-290-0542

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TWIN CITIES MN  
PERMIT NO. 5744

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* October 2014

### Film Series Commemorates the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution

To celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and end of communism in Czechoslovakia in November 1989, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C., has made available a series of films in a program entitled

#### *The Play's the Thing: Václav Havel, Art and Politics,*

curated by Margaret Parsons, head of the film program at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. □□

The series focuses on Václav Havel, the dissident and imprisoned dramatist who became a world-renowned statesman as the first president of the Czech Republic.

This program is based on the places and people that Havel knew, from the influential Theatre on the Balustrade, where his theatrical career began, to his friendships with filmmakers of the Czech New Wave, and to his political ascendancy in Prague. □□

**The films will be shown free to the public, courtesy of the Czech Embassy,** which has non-commercial rights to the films.

Nine films will be screened in November by **Trylon Microcinema**, 3258 Minnehaha Avenue South, Minneapolis.

<[trylon.org](http://trylon.org)> 612-424-5468. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Czech and Slovak Culture Center are proud to partner with Trylon Microcinema to support the screenings of these films. Both Sokol Minnesota and CSCC will have information tables before each screening. **Please call 651-290-0542 to volunteers to staff the Sokol Minnesota table.**

**November 3-4** (7 p.m. and 9 p.m.): *The Uninvited Guest (Nezvaný host)* □ Vlastimil Venclík, 1969, Czech with subtitles, 22 minutes, and *Every Young Man (Každý mladý muž)* □ Pavel Juráček, 1966, Czech with subtitles, 83 minutes.

**November 10-11** (7 p.m. and 9 p.m.): *The Mist (Mlha)* □ Radúz Činčera, 1966, Czech with subtitles, 28 minutes, and *A Report on Party and Guests (O slavnosti a hostech)* □ Jan Němec, 1968, Czech with subtitles, 71 minutes.

**November 17-18** (7 p.m. and 9 p.m.): *The Heart above the Castle (Srdce nad Hradem)* □ Jan Němec, 2007, Czech with subtitles, 48 minutes, and *Leaving (Odcházení)* □ Václav Havel, 2011, Czech with subtitles, 94 minutes.

**November 24-25** (7 p.m.): three films: *Joseph Kilian aka A Person to Be Supported (Postava k podpírání)* □ Pavel Juráček, 1963, Czech with subtitles, 38 minutes; *Who Is Václav Havel... (Kdo je Václav Havel...)* □ Helena Matiašová, 1977, Czech with subtitles, 11 minutes; and *And the Beggar's Opera Again (A znovu Žebrácká opera)* □ Olga Sommerová, 1996, Czech with subtitles, 60 minutes.