

## UPCOMING SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**October Slovo  
Deadline**  
September 1

**Board of Trustees**  
September 11, 7 p.m.

**Sokol Fall Festival**  
September 15  
International Institute  
of Minnesota,  
1964 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul

**Board of Directors**  
September 19, 7 p.m.

**Family Night**  
September 22, 4 p.m.

## Czech and Slovak Festival: Fun Afternoon for the Whole Family! By Jyni Koschak and Cheryl Nelson Theuninck

The strains of folk melodies greet you, and your toes can't help tapping. The aroma of *jitrnice* wafts enticingly from the grill. Your attention is caught by someone passing with a glass of golden *Staropramen* just as the youngster holding your hand spots the children's games and tugs you onward. You smile, knowing you've come to the right place. There's something for everyone at Sokol Minnesota's annual Czech and Slovak Festival.

**The 24th Czech and Slovak Festival is Sunday, September 15, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,** at the International Institute of Minnesota. The Institute is located at 1694 Como Avenue, Saint Paul, across the street from the south side of the State Fairgrounds. The festival takes place both inside the building and in the shaded courtyard; the facilities are fully accessible. Admission is free and the public is cordially invited to join us. Please invite your friends!

Traditional food specialties include *halušky* (potato dumpling, cabbage and pork dish), *chlebičky* (traditional Czech and Slovak open-faced sandwiches), *jitrnice* (Czech sausage), and of course *koláče*. We're delighted to offer *Staropramen*, a favorite Czech beer, as the perfect accompaniment to the food. Wine and soft drinks are also available.

Two performance stages present musical groups and dancers, including SlovCzech Trio, St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble, *Taneční Mládež* (children's dance group), *Taneční* Teen Dancers, and the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. The Festival also includes puppet shows and a variety of games for children; information booths hosted by cultural organizations; and vendors displaying an array of unique craft and ethnic items for sale. The always-popular silent auction raises money for maintenance and improvement of the C.S.P.S. Hall.

For the complete menu, performance schedule, vendor lineup, sponsor list, and more, visit [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org). To volunteer, donate an auction item, or for more information, call [612-822-6147](tel:612-822-6147) or email [events@sokolmn.org](mailto:events@sokolmn.org).

### **Help support the Czech and Slovak Festival:**

**Purchase an ad:** With a business card-sized ad in the Festival program, you can support Sokol Minnesota and reach more than 350 festival attendees. Ads are \$25 each.

**Well-Wishers Messages:** At \$1 a line, this is a terrific way to send greetings to friends and fellow Sokol members, celebrate special occasions, or remember in memorial those we've lost.

**Sponsor the Festival:** You can gain exposure for your business, organization, or group while contributing to Sokol Minnesota's largest fundraiser of the year. We have many levels of sponsorship, with various benefits associated with each level.

**Donate an item for the Silent Auction:** Gift certificates, items specific to your business, or items with a Czech or Slovak connection are all welcome. We respectfully would like to ask for items that have a value of \$10 or greater for the auction. Donors are listed and the merchandise you give is on display during the event. Your tax-deductible contribution helps Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota restore and renovate the C.S.P.S. Hall, on the National Registry of Historic Sites. Contact us at [czechslovakfestival@yahoo.com](mailto:czechslovakfestival@yahoo.com) to arrange for your ad, well-wisher message, sponsorship, or silent auction item. The deadline is Monday, September 2.

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Sokol Minnesota**

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

**Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes** By Denis Novak

**Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters**

I started my August article with "Summer at last!" But now it seems much too soon to be saying that autumn is just around the corner. We are fortunate in Minnesota that autumn is arguably our finest season. It's not only the bright and crisp weather and the beauty of nature as the greens of summer change to many shades of red, brown, and gold. It is a time for relief from labor and for the joy and satisfaction of a job well done.

As I think back on how farming was done when I was a boy, I have come to realize it was a lot of hard, dirty, physical work for Dad and men like him. Worry was also part of farming. Will the fields dry out soon enough to get planting done on time? The growing season in Minnesota is limited. Will it rain enough to keep the grain growing? Will it be sunny and dry so the hay will not spoil? Will a first hard frost come too early? Farming was always a gamble and hard work could do only a little to change the odds.

As our harvest season moved along we got the last crop of hay into the barn loft. We picked the ripe corn, by hand in our case. The oats had been cut, bundled, and carefully piled into huge stacks. What remained was to thresh the oats. For you nonfarm folks, that is to separate the grains (seeds) from the stalks (straw). This was a task a family could not do alone. Much more manpower and machinery was needed. It was an event that signaled for me the end of the harvest.

You could hear the threshing machine, pulled along by a huge steam tractor, move from farm to farm as it approached. On our appointed day the threshing machine, now powered by the steam tractor, was set up in a position to be fed oat bundles from the stacks. Men from neighboring farms came to help. From one end of the machine, grain flowed down into sacks and from the huge tube on the other end straw blew into a pile. By the end of the day all the grain was stored away. Four or five meals had been eaten by the workers, and the threshing machine had moved on. The harvest was complete.

Harvest festivals grew out of the common experience of "getting the harvest in." Old festivals from Europe were often transplanted along with the immigrant population hence the multitude of ethnic fall celebrations: October Fests, Kolacky Days, *Česky* Days, Czechfest, *Dožínky*, the Veseli Ho-Down, and ubiquitous parish festivals. It is unfortunate that many events are losing both their ethnic roots and the spirit of thanksgiving for nature's bounty.

Sokol Minnesota will hold its 24<sup>th</sup> annual Czech and Slovak Festival on September 15 at the International Institute at 1694 Como Avenue in Saint Paul. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features folk music, ethnic dances, and traditional food along with craft and information booths. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon. *Nazdar!*

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

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko      Honorary Czech Consul: open

Past Honorary Czech Consuls: Josef Mestenhauser and Robert Vanasek

Sunshine Committee: Marlene Hinshaw

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson

Kitchen Coordinator: Jean Hall

Website: Craig Johnson

Volunteer Coordinator: open

Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Joe Landsberger      Event Monitor: Ken

Wyberg

*Slovo* newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks

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

## Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the July 18 Sokol Board of Directors meeting, one couple, Jan and Mike Roers of Wadena, Minnesota, were accepted into membership in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. They have two adult daughters, Jennifer and Gina. Sokol member Gina held her wedding party at C.S.P.S. Hall on August 17. Jan is the sister of longtime Sokol member Joyce Tesarek. Our next membership meeting is November 22. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

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## Gymnastics Classes Resume in September

By Mary Cahill, Board of Instructors

Gymnastics classes resume the week of September 9. For more information visit our website at [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org), email <[fitness@sokolmn.org](mailto:fitness@sokolmn.org)> or call 651-290-0542. We are looking forward to seeing our returning students and also to welcoming new students into our Sokol family.

## Education News

By Jean Draheim, Educational Director

The Czech language classes, lead by Jakub Dajc, start the week of September 30 and continue for eight weeks through November 20. Classes meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The beginning class is on Mondays, the conversational class meets on Tuesdays, and the intermediate class meets on Wednesdays.

If you have taken Slovak language classes in the past and want to continue, or if you are interested in learning Slovak, please contact Jean Draheim for more information. All language classes are held in the first floor classroom of the C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul.

Watch the *Slovo* and our website <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)> for information on more cooking classes, *kroje* identification and preservation, leather belt crafting classes, embroidery, and our continuing Family History Project. For more information about any of these events or to be included on our interests' lists, please contact Education Director Jean Draheim at 651-426-2826, or by email at <[education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org)>.

### Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

**Renewals:** Individual **\$45**; Couple **\$80**. Senior **\$35** (over age 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years); Senior couple **\$70**.

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

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Year 2013 dues for members joining after June 30 are reduced.

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 October 2013 issue is September 1.** Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and production editor; Pamela Kotval, labels; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, and Joan Sedlacek, advisors. Photographs for this issue provided by M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, and Joyce Tesarek. This September 2013 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after September 30.

**If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail rates. If you wish to have this newsletter suspended during the time you are away or if you wish to have it sent to**

**your out-of-town residence, please let us know. After one returned issue, we will hold all future issues until you notify us.** We pay 46¢ to 66¢ for each returned issue

For a change of address or for problems with *Slovo* subscriptions, please contact us if you missed an issue or received notice of payment due when a payment has already been made.

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

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

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues) This rate is good through September 2014). Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new or renewing non-member subscription. Make your check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; send to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *Slovo* Subscriptions/Renewals, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

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## Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics Instructor Receives American Sokol Merit Award By Mary Cahill

Graduating high school senior Ellen Sutton is the recipient of a \$500 American Sokol Merit Award. Ellen is one of four recipients, who were selected from a national pool of applicants by the National Education Committee and approved by the American Sokol District Educational Directors and the American Sokol Executive Board. Recipients must attend either a two- or four-year accredited college full time. The award is non-renewable.

Ellen has been a participant in Sokol Minnesota gymnastics for many years, has attended Instructor School, many Western District *Slety*, and taught in our program throughout high school. She has actively promoted Sokol by recruiting several friends into the gym classes, has been a motivating instructor, and has been a dependable presence in the gym.

Congratulations to Ellen on her selection as an award recipient, and many thanks to American Sokol for its sponsorship of the merit awards. Ellen will attend Mankato State University and pursue a degree in nursing. We are proud of Ellen and appreciate the positive impact she has had on our Sokol gymnasts, some of whom will be our future Sokol instructors.

## 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.

**Legacy Fund: \$100- \$499: Darlene Sitko.** \$1000 - \$4999: **Rob and Barb Schaller.**

**In memory of Dr. Joel Locketz: General Fund: under \$100: Richard and Sandra Saliny.**

**In Memory of Jeanette Pafko: General Fund: under \$100: Thomas and Judith Aubrecht, Dennis and Mary Cahill, George Chlebeczek, Elsie Roepke, Charles and Louise Wessinger.** \$100 - \$499: **Joan Sedlacek.**

**Legacy Fund: under \$100: James and Mary Jo Chlebeczek, Ed and Arlene Hamernik.**

Undisclosed: **Marit Lee Kucera.**

**In Memory of Georgiana Dolejsi: Legacy Fund: \$100 - \$499: Richard Buzicky, Bessie O'Neill, Tom Pallo.**

*Donations for this reporting period are \$330 to General Fund and \$1,770 to Legacy Fund for a total of \$2,100*

# Czech Roast Pork Dinner

## Sunday, October 27, 2013

Dinner includes:

Roast pork, raised-bread dumplings, sauerkraut, caraway rye bread, applesauce, dessert, and coffee.

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 24**

For reservations call: 952 - 941 - 0426

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)

Dear Sokol Minnesota Friends,  
Your outpouring of love and support for our mom, Georgiana Dolejsi, has been overwhelming since her death on May 31. We so appreciate all the kind words and donations made in her honor.

Sokol was such a big part of her life. A special thank you goes to Joan Sedlacek for writing the wonderful article about Mom in the August 2013 *Slovo*.

With love,  
George's daughters,  
Bobbie, Patty, and Susie



*The Sokol gift shop now has more Slovak pottery for sale. It was purchased from Barb and Rob Schaller, using some of the funds of their recent \$1,000 donation. Barb, who is Slovak, is the Slovak egg decorator at the Festival of Nations. She is also many-times-over a blue-ribbon winner at the Minnesota State Fair; Barb's jam recipes are marketed by Gedney, with her picture appearing on Gedney's State Fair Jam varieties.*

### **Why Support The C.S.P.S. Hall? By Joyce Tesarek, Fundraising Chair**

Anyone following our fundraising campaign knows we have been soliciting funds for a series of projects to celebrate the C.S.P.S. Hall's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2012) and to get the Hall in shape for its next 125 years. We have raised money for new steam and sewer pipes, installation of a sprinkler/fire protection system (both projects have been completed), and now we are fundraising for installation of central air conditioning.

You know *what* we want the money for, but *why* should we care about saving the Hall? *Why* support C.S.P.S.?

The Hall was built in 1887 as a place for the new Czech and Slovak immigrants to meet and share their language and culture. After World War II, during the 40 years that the Czechoslovak borders were closed under communism, the Hall was the place where these cultures were continued and preserved. Today the traditions continue as new Czech and Slovak families consider the Hall as a place where they can gather to share their language and culture with each other and with us.

Did you know:

- The C.S.P.S. Hall and Sokol Minnesota are valuable cultural and historic resources of the State of Minnesota. C.S.P.S. Hall is the oldest, longest-serving, continuous-use national hall of Czechs and Slovaks in the United States, and the oldest and longest-serving national hall in Minnesota. In addition, we believe it to be the oldest continuous-use theatre in our state. A true Minnesota landmark, the Hall was placed on the Register of the National Historic Trust in 1977.

- Notable Hall visitors include Antonín Dvořák, composer (1892); Czechoslovak Presidents Tomáš G. Masaryk (1918) and Václav Havel (2001). Numerous Czech and Slovak ambassadors and diplomats, musicians, and artists continue to visit.

- The Hall is a center for the Czech and Slovak communities. Sokol Minnesota bases its programs out of the Hall, either independently or in conjunction with compatible organizations. These have included ethnic dinners and dances; cooking, language, travel and craft classes; historical lectures; book club; music performances; film series; and art exhibits. Folk dance classes are available for youth, teens, and adults. Gymnastics/fitness programs have continued since the Hall was built.

- As a neighborhood resource, we open the Hall for use by groups such as the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, ethnic dance groups (Ethnic Dance Theater, Irish, German, and Norwegian), neighborhood arts group and community councils; even a local Girl Scout troop. We subsidize a secure office for the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic. The public is encouraged to attend all programs, and there are no ethnic/national requirements for membership.

- Sokol Minnesota as an organization has defied the trend of dissolving national/ethnic/cultural organizations, and in 2007 the number of members (320) exceeded any in its 125-year history, and continues strong. The C.S.P.S. Hall has an impressive past and an even more vital present and future. You can be a part of this by supporting C.S.P.S. Hall events as a volunteer, attendee, and with your financial gifts as well. To contribute, use the donation form in this *Slovo*. Thank you for your support!

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

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



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

#### **LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the C.S.P.S. Hall, I make a tax deductible

single donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5-year pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

per year for total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information about ways to include the Legacy Fund in my/our will/estate plans.

I would like my gift designated:

in memory or  in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

List my name in the *Slovo* newsletter

List amount  Don't list amount

Don't list name or amount

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**.

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

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# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

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

**383 Michigan Street**

**Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102**

# Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovič visits Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Petr Gandalovič, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States of America, visited Minneapolis and Saint Paul on July 30 and July 31. Robert E. Vanasek, recently retired Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota, hosted the social hour and dinner on Tuesday, July 30, for the Ambassador at Joseph's Grill in Saint Paul for the members (and their spouses or guests) of the Boards of Directors for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota; and the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, as



*ABOVE L-R: Donald Pafko (2009 to present), Honorary Slovak Consul; Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Czech Consul candidate; Robert E. Vanasek (2008-2013) and Dr. Josef Mestenhauser (1999-2008), retired Honorary Czech Consuls; and Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovič (2011 to present).*



*LEFT UPPER: Černín Palace Medal Recipients: Milan Sebek (2009), Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky (2010), Joyce Tesarek (2006), and Libuse Imbrone (2007) with Ambassador Gandalovič and recently retired Honorary Consul Vanasek.*

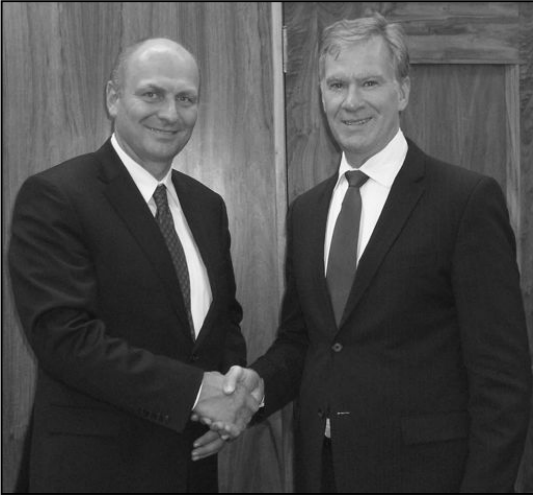
*LEFT LOWER: Ambassador Petr Gandalovič, Marit Lee Kucera, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, and Robert Vanasek, all with Czech surnames. Rybak and Vanasek share New Prague as hometown. The Ambassador exchanged books with both mayors; he presented a scarf to the lieutenant governor.*



*BELOW: Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Yvonne Prettner Solon with Ambassador Gandalovič. Flags of the United States, Czech Republic, and Minnesota were on the conference table and on the tall standing flagpoles by the fireplace in the reception hall of the Lieutenant Governor.*



well as Černín Palace Medal Recipients. Thirty-nine people attended the dinner; most guests chose the Minnesota favorite of walleye and wild rice medley with dried cranberry and pecan butter sauce for their entree. The other generously plated diner choices were lemon-thyme chicken or sliced roast beef. After opening remarks by Honorary Consul Vanasek, the presidents of the three organizations gave overviews of the missions and programs of their



*LEFT: Ambassador Gandalovič with Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman. Mayor Coleman participated in the Sokol gymnastic program as a youth; he recalled going to competitions in Cedar Rapids and Omaha.*

*BELOW: Ambassador Gandalovič tried on one of the men's hats in the Sokol Minnesota dance kroje collection, as Anne Smisek Jans (L) looked on while Louise Wessinger (R) spoke about kroje, dance, education, and culture.*

*BELOW RIGHT: Ambassador Gandalovič listened as Ed Hamernik explained recent renovations of C.S.P.S. Hall.*



groups: Denis Novak for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; Renata Ticha for Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota; and Katherine Jorgenson for Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International.

Ambassador Gandalovič emphasized his desire to have a Czech language school here in Minnesota, from which students could be certified in the Czech language, starting with young primary students.

He also affirmed the many ways that Minnesota and the Czech Republic are connected through past and present immigration, education, industry, technology, and culture. The Ambassador introduced Marit Lee Kucera as the candidate to succeed Mr. Vanasek as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

The next day, Bob Vanasek escorted the Ambassador to meet with Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, Lieutenant Governor Yvonne Prettner Solon, and medical research scientists at the University of Minnesota, including Dr. Jakub Tolar, director of Stem Cell Institute, Dr. Paul G. Quie, Dr. Dan S. Kaufman, and also Sokol Minnesota member Dr. Josef Mestenhauser, who was instrumental in securing the Proshok-Fullbright Scholarship in the mid-1980s for the University of Minnesota Medical School. At each of the meetings, the Ambassador thanked Bob Vanasek for his five years of service as Honorary Consul, and then introduced Marit Lee Kucera as the next Honorary Consul for this region.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota had the honor of an early-afternoon visit by the Ambassador to C.S.P.S. Hall. Joan Sedlacek raised the outdoor flags (United States, Czech Republic, and Slovak Republic) for this very special occasion. Joyce Tesarek arranged a quick lunch which included good Czech *Staropramen* beer, before the actual tour of the building. Joe Landsberger spoke about our history and the display of artifacts, pictures, and books on the third floor. Jason Brozovich explained our gymnastic program, which is over 125 years old. Louise Wessinger showed the *kroje* collection and talked about our many cultural and educational programs. Due to a strict time schedule, Ed Hamernik's inspection of the new sprinkler system and other infrastructure improvements in the basement was unfortunately cut from the tour. Ed presented the briefest of overviews of our maintenance, renovations, and restoration. Other Sokols who helped at the tour were Christy Banks, Anne Smisek Jans, Denis Novak, and Don Pafko (Honorary Slovak Consul).



The Ambassador later reported to Bob Vanasek that he was very pleased with his visit to Minnesota. All at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota can take pride and share in the great honor of Ambassador Gandalovič's visit.

Special thanks goes to all who helped prepare C.S.P.S. Hall for Ambassador Petr Gandalovič's visit. Pulling weeds, scrubbing bathrooms, washing and ironing all the curtains, mopping floors, degreasing kitchen walls, sweeping the parking lot, you name it, this crew did it, with great Sokol spirit and pride: Judy Aubrecht, Diane Bell, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Cindy Coulter, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Scott Hinshaw, Robert "Jake" Jacobson, Joe Landsberger, Sue Martin, Doreen McKenney, Denis Novak, Norm Petrik, Joan Sedlacek, Terry Shima, Steve Shimer, Joyce Tesarek, and Louise Wessinger.

## Was Your Family in the News? By J. H. Fonkert, C.G.

If your Slovak or Czech ancestors came to North America in the late 1800s or later, there is a good chance they made news. Historic newspapers are one of the best sources for learning more about your family's life in the decades after immigration.

Especially in small towns, newspapers were a bit like today's social media. People read newspapers for community gossip and news. Typically, a small town newspaper printed news gathered by correspondents in all the neighboring towns. The news included births, weddings, anniversaries, business dealing, church activities, and yes, obituaries.

I teach my genealogy students that they can find four kinds of news about their ancestors' lives in newspapers.

**Social and community news.** You will find accounts of births, weddings, birthday and anniversary parties, church picnics, houseguests, school news, family-business dealings, and more.

**15 minutes of fame (or ill-fame).** Your ancestors may have made the news for something they did. Think awards and honors, volunteer work, military service, accidents, petty crimes (or worse).

**Current events.** What was going on? What were your ancestors worried about? Was there war? Drought and grasshoppers? Blizzards or tornadoes? Political controversies?

**Lifestyles.** What movies were playing when Grandma was in high school? How much did a pound of ground chuck cost? How much was that winter coat at Sears?

Many old newspapers are available on microfilm in libraries and archives. The Minnesota Historical Society has an excellent collection of Minnesota newspapers. Free digital images of some papers are available at a site called Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>), a service of the Library of Congress.

The Chronicling America site also offers a complete directory of every known published newspaper in the United States, as well as information on where to find microfilm for your newspaper of interest.

Online digital images of a smaller number of newspapers are accessible at several fee-based websites, including Ancestry.com, GenealogyBank.com, Newspapers.com, and NewspaperArchives.com. If your Czech ancestors settled in Iowa or Nebraska, your best bet will be NewspaperArchive.com. You can find quite a bit of information during free trial subscriptions offered by some of these sites.

If news of your family was fit to print, you have a good chance of finding it. The events may be mundane or dramatic and the news happy or sad, but knowing the stories will bring your family history to life.

*J. H. Fonkert is a board-certified genealogist and former Sokol Minnesota president and board member. Although he has no Czech or Slovak ancestry, he wishes he did.*

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## SOKOL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sokol Minnesota is loaded with talent and expertise. We'd like to know what you can share by volunteering. Your reward is getting to know other Sokol members and making new friends. There has never been a better time to become involved with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Call soon! Call now!

**Czech and Slovak Festival on September 15** needs lots of volunteers: food, children's activities, beverage sales, set-up/take-down, entertainment, banners and signs, to name a few. Contact: <events@sokolmn.org> or 612-722-3430 (Katie).

**Slovo** wants a **mailing lists manager**. You: knowledge of Excel spreadsheet and possess good attention to detail. Easy, at-home task (2-3 hours/month). Contact: slovo@sokolmn.org

**Pork Dinner on October 27** is looking for table setters, cook's helpers, servers, coffee servers, bar tenders, cleaners, dish washers, set-up/take down, more. 612-822-6147 (Joyce)

**Sokol Volunteer Coordinator.** Work with the best group of volunteers in the state. Contact: Events@sokolmn.org

**Gaming Committee** needs two more members.

Help with **Friday Night Bingo** this fall.

Contact: Steve at <highgrove@comcast.net> or 651-224-3034

**Publicity Team wants help** sending press releases by email or posting events in online calendar or delivering event flyers. Do you have graphics or database skills? 651-225-1285 (Jyni).

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## The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Immigration History Research Center and Archives

is Saturday, November 2, 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church (Terrace Hall), 3450 Irving Avenue South in Minneapolis. The cost for the dinner and program is \$30 per person. Advance reservations are required. The theme of this year's program is "Celebrating our Ethnic Histories." The featured speaker is IHRC Director, Dr. Erika Lee whose topic is the current IHRC project entitled "Immigrant Stories," an interactive digital storytelling project that documents and archives the experiences of contemporary immigrants and refugees and connects them to the United States' rich history of immigration. Three pilot videos from this project will be shown. The banquet evening also includes an international buffet provided by Kafe 421, a display of posters depicting the history of various ethnic communities, a short tour of Saint Mary's, and the Klezmerim Band, providing entertainment during the social hour. Raffle prizes include a variety of ethnic restaurant certificates and other items. Raffle tickets are \$5 each and will be sold at the door. Proceeds benefit upcoming IHRC/A 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary projects. The evening culminates with the drawing of door prizes. Send your advance reservation by October 25 with a check payable to Friends of the IHRC to: Friends of the IHRC, 311 Andersen Library, 222 - 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455.



## **Yorkville Twins: Hilarious Adventures Growing Up in New York City, 1944–1962** By Joseph G. Gindele and John F. Gindele

Enjoy this second excerpt from the memoir of twin brothers (and new Sokol Minnesota members) Joseph and John Gindele, who grew up on the rough streets of Yorkville on Manhattan's ethnic Upper East Side over 60 years ago. This is their story: what the city was like then, how it changed, and how two kids from immigrant parents became Robbinsdale, Minnesota, schoolteachers. Whereas this is not a story of Minnesota immigrants, it is similar to that of many immigrants here. This humorous and endearing collection of stories involves immigrants, survival, growing up, coming of age, and learning what it is to be an American. *Yorkville Twins* is a Finalist winner in the prestigious 2012 Midwest Book Awards, coming in second in the Social Science category. Kudos to Joe and John for this award. You can meet Joe and John in their booth at the Czech and Slovak Festival on September 15 (see page 1). Chat with them, swap stories, and buy their great book.

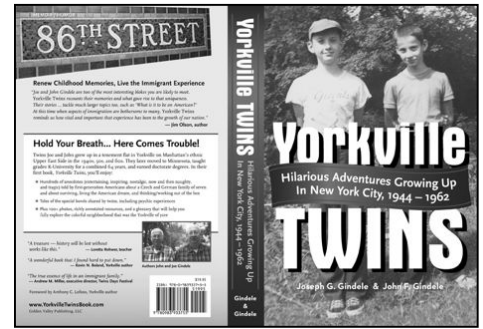
*A Slice of Life:* Eastern Europeans eat lots of pork, dumplings, sauerkraut, red cabbage, and noodles. We grew up on this (we didn't know how lucky we were at the time). Mom made her own noodles from scratch, with flour and eggs. These tasted better and were always less expensive than those in the store. Remember, she had to feed five children, Dad, and herself; she learned to stretch the food dollar as far as it would go. On Saturday mornings, upon awakening, we found 16" diameter rounds of flat noodle dough, like very thin rolled-out pizza crusts, drying on linen towels, positioned all over the apartment on the backs and arms of sofas and chairs. When they dried, Mom cut them into strips for soup.

Freshly-made noodles have a remarkable flavor. Mom made chicken *paprikasch* with *omáčka* spooned over noodles and chicken. To die for! (We didn't realize how good we had it then.) Sometimes we enjoyed eating cooked noodles fried in butter with bits of smoked ham or dried mushrooms. Mom called this *šunka fleky* and *houby fleky*, respectively. Mom made *livance* (crepe suzettes), which we especially enjoyed. On Friday evenings the family dinner always included cod fish cakes, extended with lots of breading, of course, and spaghetti. We almost never ate meat on Fridays, not that we were particularly religious. Mom bought cod or meat, and we clamped a hand grinder to the tabletop or chair seat to grate it up. Then other ingredients were added to extend the fish or meat and they were made into fish patties or meatballs.

When Mom was in her 50s, she decided to become a U.S. citizen. She studied the materials intently and when she went before the judge, one of the questions he asked her was, "What flies over the White House?" She thought and thought silently to herself, got nervous and frustrated, and thought silently some more, thinking, "Vhat dha hell, vhat flies ova Vhite House?" Then she firmly proclaimed, "Pigeons!" The judge laughed, hit the gavel, and granted her full citizenship. He had expected her answer to be "the American flag." In fact, Mom *had* a large wooden placard of the American flag at home. It hung for decades on the wall next to her bed. She was very proud of it; it was an inspiration to her.

We remember when brother Tom had his wedding reception in the blue room of the Bohemian National Hall (321-325 East 73rd Street, New York). Mom often brought her children there to see plays spoken in Czech. We didn't understand the Czech language, but we sure loved eating the twisted, salted bread sticks loaded with caraway seeds and playing hide and seek. Sometimes we even snuck a sip of *pivo*. Mom *never* knew. (Or did she?)

At Sokol Hall (420 East 71st Street, New York) there was a dance party with prizes given away. John won a free *hoška*, a loaf of European twist bread, while Joe won a bottle of Three Feathers whiskey. We were 12 years old and ecstatic. Those in charge of the prizes didn't want to give Joe the bottle, but our family "protested" that this was won fairly. After all, this is America! Joe got the gift that was accepted by Dad, and the Gindele family walked home with heads held high to celebrate.



Back and front covers of the book.

Mom sent care packages to relatives in Czechoslovakia. We helped stuff 10 to 15 pillowcases with clothing, sneaking in bags of coffee and other non-perishable food items. Joe, being heavier than John, was designated to sit on each stuffed bag, compressing it, while Mom sewed it shut. She used a special lavender non-smearing permanent-ink pencil to write names and addresses on the cloth. She got the tip of the pencil to "print" by frequently touching it to her moist tongue. Sometimes we took turns with her. Then the purple-tongued brigade of three hauled the packages off to the post office for shipping. During World War II, regular postal mail sent between the U.S. and Europe was delivered to the post office unsealed, ready to be read and censored by government officials.

Even though the Gindele family was poor, we kids didn't know it. At one time Joe asked Mom, "Are we rich or are we poor?" She answered, "Vhee nut rich, but vhee nut poor, needa." That answer seemed to satisfy Joe. She further said, "No madder vhat you do, you mhurst dhink of oders foist." Mom was like that. She liked people and people liked her.

Well, we children might have been poor in *things*, but we were rich in *love* and *values*. Our parents' work ethics were strong. After all, our parents were very grateful to have the opportunity to live and work in America, truly a land of opportunity for them. It meant telling the truth and treating others as you wanted to be treated. These values were instilled within us from an early age.

You can contact the Yorkville Twins at Golden Valley Publishing, LLC  
8014 Olson Memorial Highway #243  
Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427  
<[www.YorkvilleTwinsBook.com](http://www.YorkvilleTwinsBook.com)>  
[info@YorkvilleTwinsBook.com](mailto:info@YorkvilleTwinsBook.com)

## July Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting

By Cindy Coulter, Recording Secretary

Funded by grants from the Saint Paul Capital STAR and National Trust Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interior grants, the Miller-Dunwiddie Architecture firm met with Sokol stakeholders in July to discuss potential C.S.P.S. Hall upgrades. The architects scheduled another meeting with Sokol stakeholders on August 8 to garner further understanding of Sokol's use of the facility and facility upgrades that would benefit the Sokol community.

Waste removal improvements are underway at the C.S.P.S. Hall including garbage collection on Mondays rather than Wednesdays to help rid the trash generated during busy weekend events. Walters Recycling and Refuse has provided a lock on the dumpster enclosure gate that will help reduce the surprising amount of extraneous waste that has been showing-up. In preparing to go "green," Sokol Minnesota members may soon see recycling bins that will hold all recyclables at a minimal cost to Sokol Minnesota.

Due to a fire-escape deficiency citation by the Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections in February, the Board of Trustees is reviewing designs and cost estimates to repair or replace the stairs. An extension to the August remediation date was requested to ensure compliance. As of July 9, State of Minnesota controls health inspections for the City of Saint Paul. Sokol Minnesota is subject to an additional fee to cover the increased costs incurred by this takeover.

In upholding Sokol Minnesota's fitness mission, the BOD approved monies for five individuals (Mary Cahill, Lisa Hollibush, Siri Schroeder, Alice O'Brien, Amy Foote) to attend the American Sokol Western District Coaches/Instructor Clinic at Sokol South Omaha on July 26 – 28. Monies were also allotted to purchase the newly published U.S. Gymnastics Association women's routines used in Sokol competitions. All or a portion of the monies will be reimbursed to Sokol Minnesota from the Western District Special Assessment Fund in September.

Language classes begin the week of September 30 with Czech instructor Jakub Dajc. We are seeking a Slovak instructor to fill the void during Barborka Carlsonova's 2013-2014 sabbatical. We are developing the curriculums for the cooking and craft classes scheduled to begin in October.

Possible kitchen enhancements include new flatware and coffee pots. There are new rental agreements for use of the C.S.P.S. Hall and our kitchen. We continue to seek grant opportunities in efforts to capture future income.

The Fall 2013 Calendar of Events postcard is an overview of Sokol Minnesota's upcoming events, September through December. The date set for volunteers to insert the postcard into the September *Slovo* is at August 21 mailing party, as well as labeling nearly 1,000 cards to send to friends and neighbors of our Sokol unit.

Event chair volunteers are still needed for the Pancake Breakfast on November 24 and the Membership Holiday Dinner on December 8. Mary Cahill and Joyce Tesarek are

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volunteer chairs for the Roast Pork Dinner October 27. Event planners for the approaching September 15 Czech/Slovak Fall Festival met again on July 29.

## NEWS and NOTES of Interest to Slovo Readers

**Rusyn Folk Music in Concert on Saturday, September 14.** Maria Macoskova and Beata Begeniova-Fedorouk, acclaimed Carpatho-Rusyn Folk Singers from Eastern Slovakia, perform in concert at Edison High School, 700 22nd Avenue North East, in Minneapolis on Saturday, September 14 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20, or \$15 for seniors and students. For more information: <[www.rusynprojects.org](http://www.rusynprojects.org)> or call 1-888-71TICKETS.

**Dožínky® on September 21.** In the Czech Republic, annual festivals and celebrations give thanks for the bountiful harvest. Similarly New Prague, Minnesota, honors its agricultural roots with the Parade of Farm Pride at noon with a line-up of antique and modern farm equipment, cars, bands, and horse-drawn units. Dožínky®, a Czech Harvest Festival patterned after the "Old Country" original, is Saturday, September 21, in New Prague. Main Street is transformed into an open-air market with vendor booths lining the sidewalks and a beer garden featuring authentic Czech beer. Food booths sell tasty treats including traditional Czech dishes. Events open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. Traffic on Main Street is closed, making your strolling safer and visiting more pleasant.

**No, it's not a Škoda!** If you've never seen a vintage, made-in-Czechoslovakia automobile, here's your chance! As part of its permanent exhibition, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts has on display a mint condition 1948 Tatra T-87 Four-Door Sedan. The Tatra, the original design of which dates back to 1936, is a sleek piece of lovely engineering that makes today's cars look pedestrian by comparison. This Tatra features an aerodynamic design and a fog light (known as the "Cyclops") that was often used for early-morning drives in the mountains of Czechoslovakia. Although they might not have been functional on hot, sunny days, the car also features leather seats. If you needed cooling off, your Tatra's 75-horsepower V-8 engine could easily attain speeds up to 100 miles per hour. Try to stop by to see it, but don't even think of making an offer on it. It's not for sale!

Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2400 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404  
(888) MIA ARTS (642-2787)

## Slovak Shepherd Flute: *Fujara*

Did you know? ...the *Fujara* is a five-foot-long flute used by Slovak shepherds. It is renowned internationally for its rich, haunting voice that once soothed both the lonely shepherds and their flocks. Made from branches of elder, maple, or locust trees hollowed out by hand, it takes up to one month to carve a good *Fujara*. The three-holed *Fujara* is played in the standing position, held close to the body.

## ***Life and Many Deaths in the Protektorat Boehmen und Maehren\****

***March 1939 – June 1945***

**By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser,  
Distinguished International  
Professor Emeritus, University of  
Minnesota, Department of  
Educational Policy and  
Administration, Comparative  
and International Development Education**

**Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic (1999-2009)**

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



### ***Part 2. The Darkest Is Yet to Come***

After the Nazis solidified their rule in Czechoslovakia in late 1939, events moved very rapidly. In April 1940, Hitler invaded Denmark and Norway, followed in May by the “Blitzkrieg” during which his armies, which now included many Czechoslovak tanks, waged war with Belgium, Luxemburg, and France. The fall of France further unified the Germans in a nationalistic frenzy and plunged the Czechs collectively into a massive depression. They practiced what the journalist Ferdinand Peroutka later called an “apolitical politics,” namely a slowdown of work, calling in sick, and a host of other forms of passive resistance short of provoking further repression. Nonetheless, a rift developed between the Czechoslovak government in London and the main underground organization, UVOD in the Protectorate. London urged the underground towards an active resistance that would more substantively hurt the German military and industrial machine, while the underground pressured the London group to develop plans for the complete expulsion of all Germans after the anticipated defeat of Germany.

By now the economy of the Protectorate was almost completely integrated with the Reich, and German nationalism continued to increase. Most Czech managers of companies were replaced by Germans, Nazi control of the government increased, and the Nationality Act of March 1939, which granted Reich citizenship to ethnic Germans in the Protectorate, resulted in many Protectorate Germans (and even some Czechs) to apply for German citizenship. In *Prague in Black*, Bryant consistently distinguishes between different types of Germans: Germans from the Reich, Sudeten Germans, Austrian Germans, and the Protectorate Germans.

Germanization in the Protectorate intensified to the extent that the population of Prague increased by one thousand Reich Germans each month. This situation also led to a rift among various non-Reich German groups that felt themselves overwhelmed by Reich Germans. When Italy entered the war, it joined with Germany in occupying Yugoslavia and Greece and moved to secure parts of North Africa. Hitler was then ready to attack the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, and moved rapidly through the Baltic States and Ukraine into the U.S.S.R.

In September 1941, Hitler removed Neurath and appointed Reinhard Heydrich as Protector in order to more harshly quell rising nationalism and resistance among the Czechs. This became the next turning point. Heydrich was appalled by the thought that half-Czechs might become Germans: “The old ways of making the Czech garbage into Germans must be

abandoned,” he stated and began “scientific” testing programs to determine who had sufficient Aryan characteristics to qualify for German citizenship and who would be deported. By February 1942, Heydrich had executed 5,000 Czechs, dissolved Sokol, initiated strict controls of public gatherings, placed severe restrictions on listening to foreign radio broadcasts, ordered massive arrests and deportations of Jews and Roma, and developed both short-term and long-term plans for the “final Czech solution.” The short-term plans provided the Reich with an essential, capable work force to produce weapons and military equipment. The Protectorate was the major location of the armament industry, and Prague was the last place that was relatively safe from allied bombing attacks, which were becoming increasingly regular, especially after 1941 when the United States entered the war. Heydrich became one of the most powerful persons in the Nazi hierarchy. He was a high-ranking officer in SS, an official in the Race and Land Settlement office, in the Gestapo, and the head of the National Security Agency that routinely spied initially over other Nazi officials and later on everybody. Ruthless and cunning, he had strong ideas not only about the resettlement of Bohemia and Moravia, but the rest of Europe. His plans, approved by Himmler and Hitler, called for expelling some 80% of Poles, 65% of Western Ukrainians, and 75% of Belarusians to Siberia.

Tensions between London and the Czech underground continued to intensify. Nazis depended on the Czech workforce that they coerced by means of larger food rations and free Saturdays, while the London government in exile needed Czechs to increase sabotage and resistance to maintain Allied support. London, impatient with the underground that had been greatly damaged by Nazi suppression, sent a team of assassins who attacked Heydrich on May 27, 1942.

The Nazi reaction to Heydrich’s death left Czechs living in a real hell. Hitler initially ordered execution for 10,000 Czechs, but eventually rescinded the order. Still, more than 1,500 people were executed and another 3,000 sent to concentration camps, from which many did not return. Those sentenced to death included most Sokol leaders, underground organization members, and other intellectuals. The Nazis threatened many more deaths if the assassins were not found by June 18. Some 130,000 young people were drafted for forced labor in Germany. New laws were introduced; the violations of which would be punished by death. These included taking part in anti-Reich activities, falsifying documents, listening to foreign broadcasts, and loaning identification documents to others.

Everyone had to register for new identification papers that included fingerprints. Bryant’s research indicates that these measures were widely applauded by both the Sudeten and Protectorate Germans, who, paradoxically, felt threatened living among the Czechs and demanded ever-stricter measures against them. After Lidice, Czechs endured two more years of constant peril, economic deprivation, and often hunger. Additionally, they had to suffer the demeaning conformity and demoralizing adherence to German rules and ideology. Such a life raised, according to Bryant, uncomfortable questions about “how to differentiate between victims and perpetrators,” “what constituted resistance and collaboration,” who was an informant, and who benefited from black marketing. These moral, behavioral, and social psychological issues will be discussed in the next article.

\*Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia

**ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!  
SOKOL Minnesota FUNDRAISERS**

***Czech and Slovak Festival, September 15***

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
International Institute of Minnesota  
1694 Como Avenue, Saint Paul  
Information: Joyce: 612-822-6147

***Family Fun Activities, September 22***

4 p.m. -6:30 p.m.  
Coordinated by Czech/Slovak Moms  
Potluck supper and family activities for kids of all ages

Check for event updates: **[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**  
Sokol Minnesota on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](http://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)



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REQUESTED**

Our 2013 Fall Calendar of Events Postcard is mailed with this  
September *Slovo* issue. Refer to it often and join us soon at the Hall!

**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* September 2013**

**24<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Czech and Slovak Festival**  
**Sunday**  
**September 15**  
**11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
International Institute of Minnesota  
1694 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul, Minnesota

An afternoon for the whole family!  
Folk music, ethnic dance performances, cuisine and beverages.  
Silent auction and prize drawing.

Craft and information booths.

Free admission. Children's games.

Everyone welcome.  
Fully accessible facilities.  
Located adjacent to the State Fairgrounds on Como Avenue.

[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) 612-822-6147

