

UPCOMING EVENTS September 2014

**October Slovo
Deadline** September 1

Sokol Minnesota Singers
September 2 and 16, 10 a.m.

Board of Trustees
September 10, 7 p. m.

Czech-Slovak Festival
Sunday, September 14,
11 a.m.– 5 p.m.

Board of Directors
September 18, 7 p.m.

**Featured Friday
Members' Meeting**
September 26, 7 p.m.
(See page 3 for details.)

25th annual CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL



September 14, 2014 • 11a.m. - 5p.m.

*Ethnic food and beverages,
vendors, dance performances,
live music, silent auction,
children's games, singing,
folk dress exhibit,
drawings, and more!*



C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

*Hosted by
Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota.
Free Admission.
Public Welcome.
www.sokolmn.org*

Czech and Slovak Festival Returns to C.S.P.S. Hall

By Jyni Koschak and Louise Wessinger

Sokol Minnesota celebrates its 25th annual Czech and Slovak Festival with a return to the C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, September 14, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with programming and food both inside and outside.

Admission is free and facilities are accessible.

Two stages offer continuous entertainment. The program begins at noon with a parade and flag ceremony, followed by performances and presentations highlighting our Czech, Slovak, and Moravian cultures and our on-going Sokol activities.

Traditional specialties on the menu include Bohemian stew with dumplings, *Szegedin* Pork with potato dumplings, *halušky* (pork, cabbage, and dumpling hot dish), *vomáčka* (white gravy soup), *jitrnice* (sausage), and hot dogs. Vegetarian options are available, plus wine and Czech beer. The Sweet Shoppe tempts visitors with *koláče* (filled pastry), Linzer cookies, *perníčky* (decorated gingerbread), gelato, and cream horns.

The festival features vendors with unique craft and ethnic items, *koláče*-eating contests for children and adults, and information booths hosted by cultural organizations. A knowledgeable volunteer is available to help locate your family's town of origin on a map of the old country. The beautifully-preserved meeting room on the Hall's third-floor is open for viewing, and the first-floor classroom features a colorful *kroje* (folk dress) exhibit. For children, there are a variety of games, a puppet show, and a raffle. Katherine Eckstrom, a *Český* Terrier breeder will be on hand with a pair of her handsome dogs. A silent auction raises money for the Hall's maintenance and improvement.

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

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Megan Cahill,

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Jyni Koschak

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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

The planning meetings for the 25th Annual Czech and Slovak Day Festival, Sunday, September 14, began last fall. Twenty-five years of celebrating at our fall festival offers us a time to look back at how the celebration got started, remember highlights and complications from previous festivals, and to plan a special event to honor this 25-year milestone.

The festival began in 1989 as a fundraiser to donate money to a hospital in Czechoslovakia. Long-time members Mary Jo and Jim Chlebeczek included a stop at the hospital when they took a trip to Czechoslovakia. Because of the monetary support, hospital workers felt a close connection to our Sokol Minnesota organization. The Chlebeczeks were given a full tour of the hospital and Mary Jo, who worked for many years as a registered nurse, reported "We were treated like royalty! The people were so appreciative of Sokol Minnesota's donations and showed us what the funds had been used for to improve the hospital." After eight years, it was agreed that the income produced by the festival would be used for the needs of Sokol Minnesota. At that time, members felt that the funds raised at the festival were needed by our organization. The special incentive at the time was a \$50,000 matching grant, which included a time limit, to build a new entrance and elevator for the Hall. People who attended the festival over the years remember beautiful fall days at Highland Park and try to forget the recent year when it poured rain for the entire afternoon. One year, the park was not available and the festival was moved to the C.S.P.S. Hall for several years. The International Institute of Minnesota, near the Minnesota State Fairgrounds was the most recent site of the festival. Each site had advantages and drawbacks.

When my two daughters were younger, they danced for about 10 years with the *Taneční Mládež* and teen dance groups. In addition to dancing, they looked forward to wearing their *kroje* to the festival, greeting guests and passing out programs, participating in the flag ceremony, watching adult singers and dancers, playing children's games, and eating favorite ethnic foods. Both girls learned at a young age that the Sokol way is a balance: there is a need to volunteer and to offer service and also there is an opportunity to visit with friends and enjoy the events of the day. Over the years, the festival has also given the opportunity to see many generations celebrate their heritage together. While many other events are targeted to certain age groups, it is special to have a time when grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends can all enjoy a day together.

Many committee and sub-committee meetings were held for this festival, items like the menu, how to best advertise, and what entertainment would make the day especially memorable. After much discussion of alternative venues, it was decided to again host the festival at the C.S.P.S. Hall. This location anchors the event in our West Seventh Street neighborhood and allows for more memories to be created at the Hall.

I hope that you will bring your extended family and friends to the 25th Annual Czech and Slovak Festival to make some of your own memories. Please come and listen to the string quartet, try to whistle first at the *koláče*-eating contest, or win a raffle for a special torte. *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: open

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, Deb Ziskovsky, Mary Kucera

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:

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Social Media: socialmedia@sokolmn.org | Treasurer: treasurer@sokolmn.org |

Board of Trustees: trustees@sokolmn.org | Webmaster: webmaster@sokolmn.org

Education and Meeting Program News

By Jean Draheim

If you would like more information about any of these events or if you would like to have your information included on our interests lists, please contact Education Director Jean Draheim at 651-426-2826, or by email at <education@sokolmn.org>.

Language Classes

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota extends our best wishes to Czech language instructor Jakub Dajc as he and his family embark on new adventures. Jakub has been an instructor for many years and his expertise and caring instruction will be missed.

The education committee is in the process of seeking and hiring new Czech language instructors. If you are fluent in Czech and would be interested in finding out more about the classroom positions available, please contact Jean: <education@sokolmn.org>.

Sokol is pleased to welcome back Slovak language instructor Barbara Carlson. She will again be teaching all levels of Slovak language instruction.

The fall session of language classes is scheduled to begin the week of September 29. Arrangements and schedules are still pending, so please check the <www.sokolmn.org> web site for information or contact Jean: <education@sokolmn.org>.

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> 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>. **The deadline for the October 2014 issue is September 1.**

Member Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; Marit Lee Kucera, managing editor; Mary Kucera, production; 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 Chuck Draheim, Marit Lee Kucera, Gary Novak, Joan Sedlacek, and Deb Ziskovsky.

Upcoming Featured Friday Events - 7 p.m.

September 26: Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and the fall of communism with the film, *Václav Havel, Prague – Castle*. After the film, we will have a discussion by a panel of members of the '48, '68, and '89 generations who lived in Czechoslovakia before, during, and after this important historical era.

October 24: Sokol Minnesota and the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) are co-sponsoring a dance on Friday evening at the Hall. Join us for an evening of music and dancing to the music of *The Jerry Kadlec Trio*. There will be an optional dinner before the dance and refreshments will be available for sale. See the ad on page 12 for more information.

November 21: Join fellow Sokol members at the annual meeting of our unit. The past year will be reviewed, highlights for the coming year will be presented, and the election of Board of Directors members will take place. As always, join us for treats and conversation after the meeting.

There will not be a Featured Friday in December.

Have a joyous holiday season!

If you have questions about Featured Friday events, please contact Jean Draheim at: <education@sokolmn.org> or 651-426-2826.

This September 2014 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after September 30.

Slovo accepts business card-size ads (3.5"x2"), paid in advance: one-time insertion \$25; 3 consecutive issues: \$65; 10 consecutive issues: \$175. Ad reservation deadline is 6 weeks before publication (July 15 for September issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (September 1 for October 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 for 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>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Thank you!

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News from the Board of Trustees (BOT)

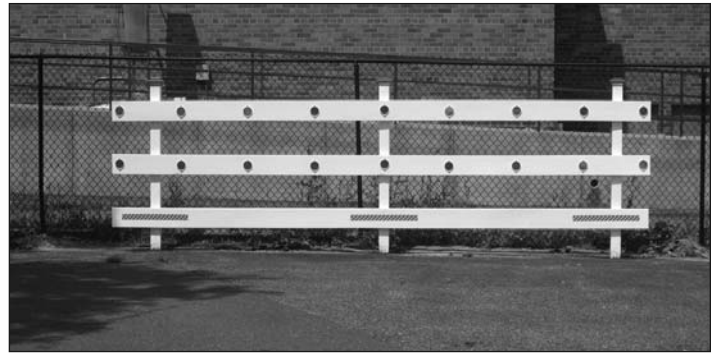
By Chuck Draheim

It is finished! The BOT finally got a spell of good weather and the time to complete the barricade on the north end of the Hall parking lot on August 2.

The new barricade, started in April, has been painted and equipped with multiple reflectors and solar-powered post caps. The old barricade had been damaged beyond repair and was more of a hazard and an eyesore than an asset.

We would like to find a Sokol member who is willing and able to paint a decorative panel that says *Vitáme Vás*. The idea is to insert this panel between the top two rails of the barricade. If you would like to do this work, please contact Chuck Draheim: <trustees@sokolmn.org>.

We were also able to realign the concrete barriers on the west side of the parking lot. Over the years these barriers had been knocked out of alignment by snowplows and other vehicles.



New two-foot-long stakes were added that should help keep the barriers in place. The old stakes were only one foot long and did not have much holding power.

Members participating in this work day were Chuck Draheim, Dennis Cahill, Terry Shima, Dan Bednar, Jake Jacobson, and Jason Brozovich.

UPCOMING EVENTS

30th Annual Dožínky® Festival & Car Cruise is Friday and Saturday, September 19 – 20 in New Prague. For the Czech Harvest Festival, Main Street is closed to traffic and transformed into an open-air market with vendor booths lining the sidewalks and a beer garden featuring authentic Czech beer. You can sample tasty treats including traditional Czech dishes. Food booths and events open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fall festivals in the Czech Republic are celebrated annually to give thanks for the bountiful harvest. Similarly, New Prague 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.

Both children and adults enjoy the special events planned for the day, including many demonstrators and entertainers. Ethnic bands on separate stages keep the crowd tapping their feet non-stop. Be sure to stop by the Czech Village featuring Czech dancers and singers and shop the vendors of authentic Czech merchandise. Admission to the festival and most activities is free. Come Friday evening to the Annual Classic Car Cruise on Main Street. See <<http://www.newprague.com>> for more information.

The annual meeting of the American Sokol Western District is Saturday, September 27, in Cedar Rapids. Allison Gerber, Cedar Rapids, is president of Western District. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. with a tour of the Veterans Memorial Building on May Island (re-opened in April 2014, after six years of renovations from damage in the 2008 flood). We will then go to the Double Tree Hotel to take a look at their facilities and what they have to offer. After lunch, the delegates and attendees go to the Sokol Cedar Rapids Gym, 5200 18th Avenue S.W. (319-362-1632) to hold the regular Western District annual meeting, which includes the election of officers. Joyce Tesarek, Norm Petrik, Jason Brozovich, and Joan Sedlacek (alternate) are delegates from Sokol Minnesota.

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Also participating as part of BOI (Board of Instructors) are Megan Cahill as Men's Physical Director and Mary Cahill as Women's Physical Director. Anyone interested in attending the Western District annual meeting should contact Mary Cahill: 651-738-9470. All Sokol members are welcome to attend. Western District will need help from many volunteers to produce the 2017 slet.

Druhá Tráva returns from their home in Czech Republic to the United States mid-September through early November. They begin their tour with a concert presented by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 19, at Armatage Elementary Auditorium in Minneapolis, 56th Street and Penn Avenue South. The following day they are at Crossings at Carnegie in Zumbrota and on Sunday at a house concert in Duluth. Check out their website for details on these and other midwest concerts during their tour: <www.druhatrava.com>

Sokol Gaming Operation

By Ed Hamernik, Gaming Committee Chair

In light of the recent Compliance Review by the Minnesota Gambling Control Board, Sokol has reorganized their gaming operation. Ed Hamernik has assumed the non-salaried Gaming Manager's position doing operation oversight and liaison with state and auditing organizations. Employees are Steve Shimer, assistant manager, handling site management and the computerized reporting and Joan Sedlacek, game auditor and also assists with bank deposits. Currently Judy Aubrecht and Joyce Tesarek are also committee members along with Ken Wyberg as gaming resource person. Other interested members are welcomed. Thanks to Ken for helping us with this transition. Our current operation location is Keenan's 620 Club across 7th Street from Sokol. Stop in and say "Hello" to Bill and his staff and try your luck if you are so inclined.

continued from page 1...

Czech and Slovak Festival Returns to C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, September 14

Festival Volunteers Needed

Your help is needed to make our festival a success! Tasks range from distributing flyers, set-up, serving, selling, clean-up, and more. Enjoy fun and fellowship while supporting Sokol. For more information contact Joyce at 612-822-6147.

Everyone Can Help With Festival Publicity

Good turnout is another key ingredient for our success. If you are unable to assist in other ways, please be sure to promote the festival by telling others about it and emailing/posting/distributing flyers. For more information call, 651-225-1285. Thank you!

Donate to the Silent Auction

Sokol is now accepting items valued at \$10 or more for the silent auction. Contact <ginalawyer2004@yahoo.com> to arrange donation.

"Všude dobře, doma nejlépe."

Translation:

Everywhere is fine, at home it's best.

Program Preview

On the indoor stage, the Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble plays traditional melodies featuring the Czech *dudy* (bagpipe); the children of our *Česká Škola* (Czech School) perform, in Czech, a drama portraying a familiar folk tale; the *Lakes String Quartet* plays selections by Josef Suk and Antonín Dvořák; author Jarša Cervenka reads from his new book, *Celebrated Navigation*; Professor David Milne demonstrates Slovak folk instruments, including the shepherd's *fujara*; and Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota, Corbin Jerde, Princess Heather Vikla, and Miss Congeniality, Melissa Bastyr, give a short presentation.

The outdoor stage rocks the neighborhood with music, dance, and more. The *Taneční Mladež* and *Taneční Teens* are among the first to dance; the Sokol Senior Singers get our toes tapping to traditional melodies and encourage all to sing along; Sokol gymnasts demonstrate some exciting tumbling; the popular *SlovCzech Band* plays traditional and newer melodies so the audience can get out on the dance floor (dance instruction is provided); guest performers include the *Lipa Slovak Dancers* from Minneapolis and the *Domáci* children and teen dancers from New Prague; and the *Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers* close the program, as is their tradition. For a full schedule check <www.sokolmn.org>.

The Czech and Slovak festival is a fun-filled afternoon, and even passers-by become Czech, Slovak, or Moravian for the day. Come early, stay late, and bring your friends and family!



Dinner and Dance Public Welcome

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: 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



Sunday, October 19

Food and beer available for sale Public welcome limited seating

1:30 p.m.
C.S.P.S. Hall
performance by the
Domažlice bagpipe band

**Domažlická
dudácká
muzika**

To order tickets call:
952-941-0426

www.sokolmn.org 383 Michigan St. Saint Paul, MN

Pre-sale tickets: (cut off Oct. 1)

- 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)

Tickets sales at the door:

- Adult - \$25.00
- Student 16 and over - \$20.00 (valid student ID required)
- Youth 6-15 - \$15.00
- Child 5 and under free (with a paid adult admission)

Puppets on Parade By Doreen McKenney

Sokol Minnesota's giant puppets Jitka and Jarda celebrate their 10th anniversary this year, and what better way than to take a road trip to Wilson, Kansas, also known as the Czech capitol of Kansas, to appear at the Kansas Czech Queen Pageant held at the After Harvest Czech Festival that ran from July 24 – 26.



In 2012, Lynn Kasper, the director of the pageant, drove to York, Nebraska, to see the puppets and make plans to have them at the Wilson festival. This year, Lynn received a grant from the Czech Embassy to bring the puppets to Kansas. With the enticing theme of their 2014 festival being "*where the road ends and the party begins*," how could we resist?

Doris McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, and I headed south with the puppets for the three-day event, which concludes every year on the last Saturday in July. As I was driving, I wondered again how this could possibly be an "after-harvest" festival, as the summer was still young and Lake Superior became free of ice only in June. As we drove further south, it became clear when I saw that the landscape was cleared of crops. Yes, we were in Kansas and the fields had all been harvested already.

We and the puppets were given lodging in a charming, newly-renovated former grade school that was built in 1916. We comfortably dozed in a second-grade classroom while the puppets napped on the floor of a hospitality room. Meals had been planned in advance, allowing us to visit with the local people, from having lunch with the children at the Czech school; dinner at the senior center; lunch with the 2013 National queen and the 2014 queen candidates; jitenice, pork, bread dumplings, and koláče at the church; and a fried chicken meal after the polka mass.

Joan served as the guest judge for the princess pageant before we met Lynn Kasper and her family to share a barbeque meal under the beer tent accompanied by live music. Being teased by the Kansans for our northern "MinneSoda" accents was all in fun, as everyone from Wilson was very hospitable.

Wilson had an active Sokol unit until 1992. In 2009, a fire from an adjacent auto repair shop destroyed the Historic Czech Opera House, leaving just the shell of the limestone walls where the Sokols had once met. Recently installed in a park near the opera house is the World's Largest Czech Egg. The concrete egg, which weighs 2.5 tons and is 22 feet long and 15 feet wide, is now being painted under the direction of a local art teacher.

Lynn arranged for local volunteers to man the puppets and toss to onlookers the candy that Joan and I donated for the parade. As the puppets walked past the Judges' platform, the M.C. announced that the day before the heat index had been 125 degrees with wind gusts of 24 mph. At 9:30 in the morning it had already heated up to 103 degrees and the wind had slowed to 5 mph. After the parade, the puppets were on display for pictures, and we met people from all over the country, including a couple from an Oklahoma Czech group who drove up to see the puppets in person in hopes of having them appear at their festival in October 2015.

Before we headed home, Lynn and her husband John stopped by to let us know the Judges' decision. The puppets had won grand first runner-up, another honor for Jitka and Jarda that will be added to their scrapbook.

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Jitka and Jarda, were "born" in the summer of 2004, through a grant from the West 7th Fort Road Federation.

The puppets were commissioned as part of the Community Gate Project, headed by Joe Landsberger, celebrating the contribution of Czech and Slovak immigrants in the Bohemian Hill Neighborhood since the 1870s. The pair requires six people plus a director to operate and have walked in parades at many Midwestern Czech festivals.

Laurie Witzkowski from the *In The Heart of The Beast Puppet and Mask Theater* was commissioned to work with volunteers from Sokol to create the two puppets. With 300 pounds of clay, the molds for two heads and a set of women's hands were sculptured. More clay was added to the woman's hands, and eventually, the man's hands took shape. The next step was to apply 10 layers of cornstarch-based *papier mache* to each of the sculptured pieces, alternating newspaper and paper bags. Each layer needed to dry for 24 hours. After the last layer dried, the *papier mache* was lifted off the clay molds and the forms were then painted. Painting the pair gave them life and character, as well as the desire to name them. The thickness and durability of the *papier mache* allowed drilling through the forms so they could be attached to a frame of wood and PVC pipe. The frame needed to be sturdy and lightweight at the same time.

The sewing process of the puppets' *kroje* took place on several sewing machines. The skirt and apron was hand-painted by Doreen McKenney to give the effect of embroidery, which would have been hand-sewn on an original *kroj*. The puppets were completed after nearly 400 hours of work by Laurie Witzkowski (sculptor, painter, seamstress), Doreen McKenney (sculptor, painter, seamstress), Doris McKenney, Libby Imbrone (seamstress), Joan Sedlacek, and Louise Wessinger (seamstress), with additional volunteers helping with the *papier mache* layering.

Jitka and Jarda made their debut at the 2004 High Bridge Gate dedication. Their walk through the neighborhood ended when they arrived at the Czech and Slovak Festival at the C.S.P.S. Hall that September.

Air Conditioning in Hall Awaits Ductwork

By Joyce Tesarek

Our Board of Directors put air conditioning installation on hold while we continue fundraising. This is a shame, because we are losing numerous rentals which help pay our C.S.P.S. Hall expenses and introduce more people to our beautiful and historic building.

We have made great progress to date. We raised over \$112,000 to reinforce the roof, purchase, and install the air conditioning unit on the roof. We applied for and received approval from the historic organizations that monitor and protect the historic integrity of our building, which is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The next phase is ductwork, which includes upgrading existing ducts, connecting inside and outside duct work, running a refrigeration pipe, and buying materials. Estimated cost: \$60,000.

All donations are welcome, but if we could have 20 donors who would make a \$3,000 donation in memory of a loved one, in honor of activities at the Hall, or to support a historic West 7th treasure, we could move ahead with installation now.

We already have one \$3,000 donor. Will you be the next? Of course, any amount will be welcome.

All donations are tax deductible and can be made online at <www.sokolmn.org> or using the form in this *Slovo*.

For more information, call Joyce at 612-822-6147 or email <finance@sokolmn.org>.



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 honor of **Sharon and Ken Wyberg's** 50th Wedding Anniversary.*

*\$100 – \$499: **Joseph A. Kocab**, in memory of **his parents**.*

*Legacy Fund: \$100 – \$499: **Don and Sherry Greicar**, in memory of their uncle, **John R. Cicha; Darlene Sitko**.*

*In-Kind Donations: **Nancy Siewert**, donated many beautiful household items. **Louise Wessinger**, large coffee maker, silent auction items, headset microphone for the T.M Dancers.*

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 127th year in 2014. Contact Joyce Tesarek: 612-822-6147 or <finance@sokolmn.org> to discuss your tax-deductible donation. Thank you!



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**

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Domáci Folk Dancers Celebrate 15 Years

By Deb and Arnie Ziskovsky

For the past 15 years, the Domáci Czech Folk Dancers have been promoting and sharing their talents of traditional Czech folk dances, performing at ethnic events, nursing homes, and celebrations in general. You may have seen them in Montgomery at Kolacky Days or in New Prague at the Dožínky Fall festival. They have traveled throughout southern Minnesota, performing at the C.S.P.S. Hall in Saint Paul, Sokol Camp in Pine City, as well as the communities of Bechyn, Myrtle, Albert Lea, and Watertown. Performance opportunities have also brought them to Protovin, Iowa, for the annual Masopust Celebration and to the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids for the Hoby (Mushroom) Days festival and the Grand Opening of the new museum.

Beginning in 1999 with six enthusiastic adult couples, Domáci first performed publicly in the Dožínky parade. They had not yet acquired matching folk dress, nor did they have a float, so they proudly carried a banner displaying their name, which means “Hometown Czech Folk Dancers.” During the next eight months, the group selected a Czech region whose folk costumes, or kroje, would be replicated. Assisted by fellow folk dancer Don Pafko, they practiced a repertoire with enough dances for a half-hour long performance. Pafko, who is the current Slovak Honorary Consul, trained through an apprentice program held in the Czech and Slovak Republics.

The group’s first performance was for a benefit dinner at the American Legion Hall in Montgomery. From there they helped support the Minnesota Czech Country bike trail fundraiser, performed at Hilltop Hall in the play Destination Montgomery, and at many other events.

The children’s group started with two students in 2003 through a Community Ed class teaching Czech dancing, singing, costumes, and food. By the end of the summer there were nine students, and the Children’s Group formed and performed at Kolacky Days that July.

This group does more than perform for the community. The original directors, Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky, teach their dancers the language and practice singing in Czech. They teach the young dancers, as well as their parents, about holiday traditions and the history of the folk costumes.

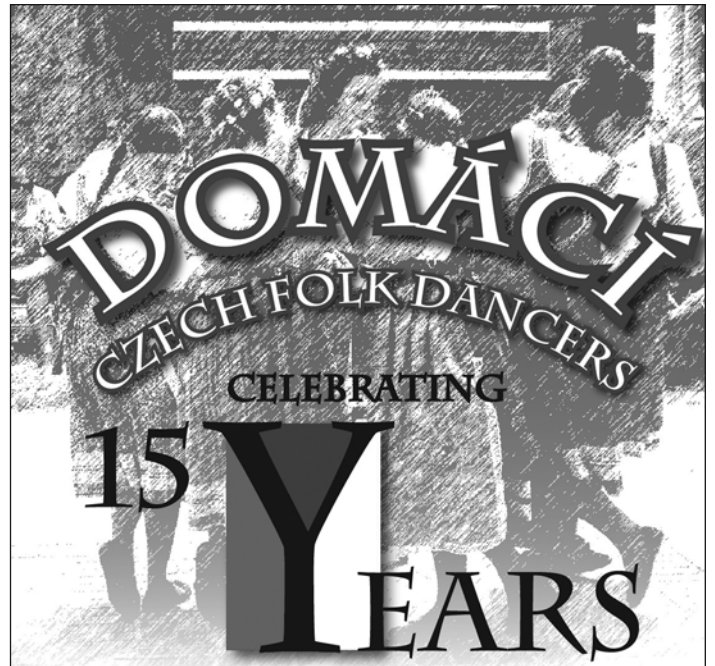
The Ziskovskys’ credentials for leading a folk-dance group are their involvement and experience of being dancers themselves. Both were members of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, Deb for 20 years and Arnie for 14 years. They have traveled to the Czech Republic seven times, attending multiple dance camps to learn the traditional choreography and the importance of the different folk regions of the country.

The Ziskovskys, as well as the dance-group members, pride themselves in presenting authentic choreography in authentic replicated folk costumes, performed to music using traditional regional instruments. This combination accurately promotes the traditions of their Czech ancestors.

The group created three Junior Directors positions that are filled by their own dancers, looking to them for assistance in teaching and ideas. These are Michaela Goettl and Olivia Lemke, who are 9-year members, and Tatum Kubes who is a 7-year member. Another adult director, Leah Baker, has also been added for assistance with promotion including overseeing their Facebook updates.

The Directors of the Group would like to thank everyone who has supported them in the past, whether financially, through promotion, or by giving the opportunity to perform. A huge “Thank You” is given to the parents of the dancers, for taking their time to get their dancer to practices and performances as needed.

The Domáci Czech Folk Dancers offer a Community Ed class each spring and are open to new members any time. Upcoming performances this year are Sokol Minnesota Czech and Slovak Festival, September 14; Dožínky Fall Festival, September 20; and the 5th Annual European Christmas Event on December 7.



15 Year logo created Junior Directors, designed by Suel Printing.

Mozart Continues to Fascinate Us

By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

Mozart in Prague. Daniel E. Freeman. Minneapolis: Bearclaw Publishers, 2013, 334 pp. Available for sale online.

Daniel E. Freeman is a musicologist, University of Minnesota teacher, and long-time friend of the Czech and Slovak community in Minnesota. He is also considered the leading authority born outside the Czech lands on the musical culture of eighteenth-century Prague.

Freeman's new book is full of fascinating details about Mozart's life and music, as well as pertinent politics, history, geography, and architecture, yet it is accessible to a broad audience including the lay reader, a condition of his research grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The author offers us impeccable scholarship, citing multiple sources (such as travelogues, reviews, letters, and Prague Post articles) and including numerous quotations that let this reader feel that she was coming to the same conclusions about contested facts as did Freeman.

Great attention is given to Mozart's operas *Don Giovanni* and *La clemenza di Tito*, as well as the Prague Symphony and other works written for Prague. *Don Giovanni*, considered to be Mozart's greatest opera and by many to be the greatest opera ever written, is still performed today in the Estates' Theater (then called the National Theater), where it premiered in 1787. It tells of an odious man who tries to seduce a young, betrothed noblewoman, kills her father in a duel, and eventually is dragged down to hell by spirits. According to Freeman, it was "the most popular opera that had ever been performed in the city up to that time."

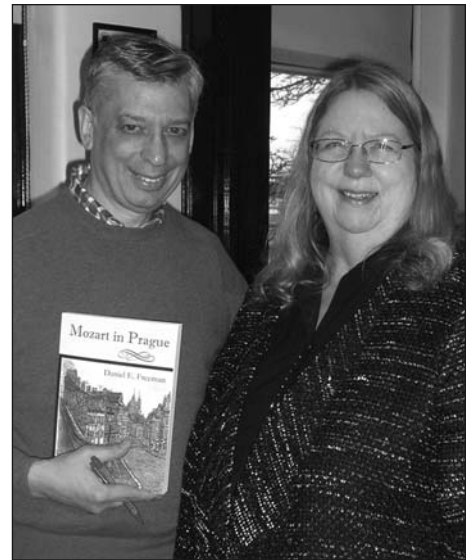
Thanks to musical patronage, Mozart spent three extended visits to Prague totaling about three months, all resulting "in the composition of masterpieces," at a time when it "was a city of plentiful diversions, delicious food, and beautiful scenery." Because of mandatory music education, Prague also offered "an intense cultivation of the art of music by all social classes," which was ironic considering that Mozart had never spent a day in school. With their musical knowledge, Prague musicians and citizens were receptive to the technical challenges of Mozart's compositions, which Emperor Joseph II said had "exceedingly many notes," rather than "too many notes" as stated in Forman's movie *Amadeus*.

Musical patronage "had derived substantially from an economic system that forced peasants by law to perform labor on feudal manors without pay," writes Freeman. Most residents of Bohemia and Moravia in the eighteenth century lived in serfdom, with obligated labor "known as *robota*, a Czech word that is the origin of the English 'robot,'" used to denote a mechanized worker in Karel Čapek's 1920 play, *R.U.R.*

When Mozart died in December 1791 at the age of 36, few came to mourn and his body was unceremoniously dumped in a mass grave in Vienna, but eight days later in Prague 120 musicians and 4,000 additional music-lovers attended a

requiem mass in his honor. It was a compelling testament of appreciation for Mozart and his music in Prague.

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>.



Daniel Freeman and Gwen Willems

Daniel Freeman will speak about his book on Saturday, January 31, 2015, 10 a.m. to noon, City Bella conference room, 6600 Lyndale Avenue South, in Richfield. The talk is sponsored jointly by Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures and the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center.

RECRUITS ARE NEEDED

**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 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.

Call 612-859-8321 for more information.

15 May, 19 June, and 17 July 2014 Board of Directors (BOD) Meetings

By Cindy Coulter, Recording Secretary

May BOD Meeting

Gary Novak, 2013 BOD Member at Large, presented a summary of the outstanding work that is needed to complete the air conditioning installation. The remaining work includes interior and exterior duct work, copper piping installation, electrical power line work, and alarm panel installation. The total estimated cost to completion is \$106,000. Fundraising will be the key to successful project completion. Please take the opportunity to participate-in and support fundraising efforts as we simultaneously preserve and modernize the historic C.S.P.S. Hall, a special gem in the City of Saint Paul. And, we thank you for your continued support!

In May, Midwest Roofing Services evaluated a roof leak primarily leaking through the flashing and cap joints. Kudos go out to Jake Jacobson who reported the leak and to the Board of Trustees who took immediate action. The BOD approved a roof repair expenditure to re-caulk all joints in the flashing around the parapet, install a rubber membrane over the inside corners of the cap stones extending to below the top of the metal flashing, and install batten strips on each of the valleys to secure the loose roofing membrane to the roof deck. The BOD also approved wood floor refinishing expenditure to fix paint lines and recoat, buff, and spot sand the wood floor. The expenses incurred for these repairs totaled \$7,144.

Effective April 2014, the American Sokol Organization raised membership fees for new members from \$5 to \$15. However, the BOD approved that Sokol Minnesota will not change its 2014 membership fee for new members but will cover this \$10 fee for new members through December 2014.

A routine meeting with the Minnesota State Gambling Compliance Specialist to review gaming records was held April 17. The Gaming Committee has been working hard to present its recommendations on gaming oversight and traceability improvements through the use of electronic records.

The talented Domažlice Bagpipe Band from the Czech Republic will perform at C.S.P.S. Hall on October 19. The BOD has approved Pre-Sale Event Ticket and At-the-Door Event Ticket sale prices. A portion of the door proceeds and a \$1,000 honorarium will go to the Domažlice Bagpipe Band.

June BOD Meeting

As Sokol Minnesota closes the old books on past gaming at the Hot Rods Bar and Grill and Keenan's 620 Club, Sokol Minnesota opens new books on gaming at the Keenan's 620 Club only. As a result, the BOD has discussed and approved gaming positions, personnel, and salary. The approved gaming positions and personnel are: Gaming Manager (Ed Hamernik), Gaming Assistant (President of Sokol), Gaming Depositors (Joan Sedlacek and Marlene Hinshaw), Back-Up and Process Monitor (Joyce Tesarek), and Resource Advisor

(Ken Wyberg), Assistant Gaming Manager (Steve Shimer). Assistant Gaming Manager salary is \$10.50 per hour, deposit pickups are paid 44 cents per mile.

Two Sokol Minnesota gymnasts will attend training in Cleveland, Ohio. Sokol Minnesota will cover a portion of their travel expenses, and the Western District will reimburse Sokol Minnesota \$200/person. We wish them safe travels!

Sokol Minnesota currently has 269 active members. "Featured Fridays" planning is underway by Karin Varian (President of the Rusyn Association of Minnesota) who will present August 22 on the Rusyns and by Marit Lee Kucera (Slovo Newsletter), who is organizing a special Velvet Revolution Commemoration scheduled for September 26.

The 25th Czech-Slovak Fall Festival, chaired by Joyce Tesarek, is scheduled for Sunday, September 14. Many volunteers are working this summer to determine programming, food menu, and logistics for this event. The Fall Festival programming was initially slated to extend until 7 p.m., but the BOD approved an extension of the programming to 5 p.m. taking into consideration that this Sunday event is followed by a school day or work day Monday for most guests and volunteers.

Preparations are also underway by Doreen McKenney who chairs both the Domažlice Bagpipe Band (October 19) and the CGSI and Sokol Joint Dinner Dance (October 24). Event chairs are needed for the Pork Dinner (October 26), Pancake Breakfast (November 23), and Membership Holiday Party (January 4).

July BOD Meeting

The Board of Trustees continues to be occupied with repairs and upcoming projects. The lavatory faucets have been replaced with commercial units and all second floor toilets have been adjusted to prevent leaks. Further improvements include the installation of emergency lighting in the basement and the identification and labeling of outlets and breakers on all the floors. Projects that are mandated by the city include replacing the fire escape and completing the sump diversion project. Due to water damage caused by a leak near the stage area in February, the cost estimate to restore the historic painted flat scenery has increased by \$5,400 and thus brings the total restoration estimate to \$25,500. A professional restoration report was obtained and submitted to the insurance adjuster who has sent Sokol Minnesota a check in the amount of \$2,900.

Czech language classes are scheduled to begin the week of September 29, but instructor Jakub Dajc may be moving and unavailable to instruct. Slovak language classes will be taught by Barborka Carlsonova. A new cooking class on homemade sauerkraut is being planned for a Saturday and will be taught by Alena Youngberg.

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Pafko and Kucera Judge at Miss Czech-Slovak Wisconsin State Queen Contest

Sokol members Don Pafko, Honorary Slovak Consul, and Marit Lee Kucera, along with Anna Hand (Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. 2013-14 from Kansas), were the judges for the Miss Czech-Slovak Wisconsin State Queen 2014-2015 pageant, held in Phillips, Wisconsin, the second weekend in June. Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota 2014 Corbin Jerde was among the visiting royalty at the Wisconsin pageant.

Every year, the festival in Phillips remembers the village of Lidice which was totally destroyed by the Nazis in 1942; all the men were killed and all the women and children were deported to concentration camps.

Czechs and Slovaks in Phillips built a monument in 1944 which depicts the rebirth of Lidice and the hope for everlasting peace for those who suffered and died as a result of the atrocity.

This year the memorial presentation in Phillips included pictures of the scores of rose bushes donated by over 60 nations to the memorial garden in the rebuilt village of Lidice, located 16 miles northwest of Prague.

Don Pafko, Honorary Slovak Consul, was also one of the judges at the 2014 Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. pageant in Wilber, Nebraska, the first weekend of August. Morgan McMichen from Missouri is the new 2014-2015 Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. Sokol member Corbin Jerde represented Minnesota.



Marit Lee Kucera, Anna Hand, and Don Pafko



Board of Directors Meetings

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Ed Hamernik has submitted an application and it is approved pending taking a 2-day training course and completing the exam. Consequently, Ed resigned from his position as Sergeant at Arms on the BOD. President Judy Aubrecht will appoint his replacement. The BOD expresses gratitude to Ken Wyberg for his time filling-in as Gaming Manager and for his diligence in closing the gaming at Hot Rods Bar and Grill this year.

The BOD job descriptions are being reviewed by the BOD in order to bring them up-to-date. Revisions will be brought to the BOD for final approval.

As we prepare for an action-packed Fall Calendar of Events at Sokol Minnesota, we thank all those who are volunteering their time and talents to make these events fun for all!

**Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution
and the fall of communism**

**September 26, 7 p.m., C.S.P.S. Hall
Film: *Václav Havel, Prague – Castle***

Panel discussion by members of the '48, '68, and '89 generations
who lived in Czechoslovakia before, during and after
these historic dates.

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FALL 2014 EVENTS at C.S.P.S. HALL

Attend AND Volunteer!
Sokol Minnesota Events

Czech and Slovak Festival
September 14

Be an All-Star! Volunteer!
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

Featured Friday Member Meeting
September 26, 7 p.m.

Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Velvet
Revolution and the fall of communism with
the film, *Václav Havel, Prague – Castle*.
Panel discussion to follow.

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO September 2014

Sunday, October 19

Food and beer
available
for
sale

1:30 p.m.

C.S.P.S. Hall
performance by the
Domazlicka bagpipe band

Domazlická
dudácká
Muzika

To order tickets call:
952-941-0426

www.sokolmn.org

383
Michigan St.
Saint Paul, MN

Pre-sale tickets: (cut off Oct. 1)

- 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)

Tickets sales at the door:

- Adult - \$25.00
- Student 16 and over - \$20.00
(valid student ID required)
- Youth 6-15 - \$15.00
- Child 5 and under free
(with a paid adult admission)

Dinner and Dance

Public
Welcome

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: 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