



21st Annual Czech and Slovak Festival Celebrate with us!

Sokol Minnesota's annual Czech and Slovak Festival returns to the Highland Park Pavilion September 19 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our colorful festival features Czech and Slovak food, costumed dancers, the Zuhrah Shrine Band and our own Sokol Singers.

The Food

This year's menu features a wonderful selection of authentic Czech and Slovak tasty recipes, prepared under Ray Vanyo's guidance. We'll be treated to Slovak *halušky s kapustou* (dumplings with sauerkraut), *holubky* (cabbage rolls), potato or cheese *pirohy* (dumplings), Czech *žebírka* (pork ribs), *kurací paprikáš s knedlíkem* (chicken paprika with dumplings), and Bohemian *Jitrnice* (sausage). Our version of this wonderful regional pork sausage comes from Montgomery, Minnesota, where it is made with pearl barley.

Katie Haselbauer will again serve Czech open-faced, made-to-order sandwiches, *obložené chlebíčky*, made with cold cuts, eggs, cheese, or mayonnaise-based salads, such as ham, pea, or potato. And, booya is back! Made from the years-tested Sokol Camp recipe, booya will be sold in individual servings and in bulk. Our Sweet Shop returns, as does our wonderful selections of *kolache* (pastries)! The beverage selection will include wine, Czech beer, and specially brewed root beer!

The Program

The festival program reflects centuries of traditions. We'll start with recordings of the beautiful folksongs brought over from the old country, including many sung by our own Sokol Minnesota Senior Singers. Under the direction of Georgiana Dolejsi, they work hard to share not only beautiful melodies, but also the correct pronunciation and spirit of all the songs.

The formal program begins at 11:30 a.m. with the Zuhrah Shrine Band. Formed in 1905, it is



Jitka and Jarda on their drive to Highland Park Pavilion for the Festival

part of the National Shrine organization that provides \$1.5 million per day in support of orthopedic and burns needs of children. Their motto is "we play today so that kids can walk tomorrow." Musical selections include middle European marches and our Czech, Slovak and American anthems after the presentation of the national flags.

After a welcome from our President, Joe Landsberger, a new program feature reflects Sokol's message of a healthy mind in a healthy body. The adult exercise group will perform a *prostna* that they performed last year in Fort Worth, Texas, and again this summer in Spillville, Iowa. A *prostna* is a callisthenic drill, performed at *slets* (Sokol gatherings, literally of falcons). The first slet in Prague in 1882 celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Sokol organization, and slets continue to this day.

What is music without dance? Our Sokol Minnesota children's and adult dance groups will perform under the direction of Louise Wessinger. The dancers will perform in three age groups. The *Mlada Skupina* (young group) love to sing and dance.

Upcoming Events

October Slovo Deadline
September 1

Board of Trustees
September 8

Board of Directors
September 9

Membership Meeting
September 17
7 p.m.

Fall Festival at Highland Park
September 19
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Czech and Slovak Lecture Series
September 25
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Mystery Dinner
October 10
5:30 p.m.

Senior Singers
Tuesdays
10 a.m.

Prostna
1st & 3rd
Mondays
6 p.m.

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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>

President Komentář/President's Note

By Joe Landsberger

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters.

A new, exciting season of Sokol events is upon us! Enjoy the Fall 2010 Calendar of Events postcard inserted into this issue of *Slovo*. What fun! Aside from donations, these make our programming possible.

What *really* makes our programming possible is all the hidden volunteer hours. It all begins with the Board of Directors, supported by the various committees. Look to the left side of my column, do you see yourself in the list? Do you see yourself supporting those listed? I hope so!

Have you seen changes in Sokol in the past several years? Many members have brought 21st century skills to build upon our several centuries of history. Much more will be needed in terms of volunteers, the skills they can contribute, and donations. Whether this revitalization process continues will depend on you.

I hope to see you at our Czech and Slovak Festival, Sunday, September 21st. Maybe even before, as we prepare for it? This year we are making a concerted effort to invite our neighbors in St. Paul to experience and learn about Sokol - and to have a good time doing it. Join me in welcoming them.

Last issue our festival ad said "*Mám skvělý nápad! - I've got a great idea!*" I extend the invitation to phone or email me, not only about the festival, but also about Sokol, its future, and what skills you can contribute. Phone 651-297-9000 or email me at president@sokolmn.org

Nazdar

Publications Committee

The *Slovo* is published 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 deadline for the October 2010 issue is September 1.** *Slovo* staff: Cinnamon Whaley, copy editor; Julie Tomáška, layout editor; J. H. Fonkert and Marit Lee Kucera, interim co-managing editors; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Norm Petrik, Mary Cahill, Jeanette Pafko, Jean Verner, Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, advisors; Hana Matousek and Milan Tomáška; language experts. The September issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after October 1.

The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes reader submitted news about Sokol Minnesota and Slovak- and Czech-related subjects. Send articles and pictures digitally to: slovo@sokolmn.org. *Slovo* gift and non-member subscriptions are \$12 for 10 issues per year. We are changing the way we manage *Slovo* subscriptions. Please send all correspondence regarding your subscription, including renewals and questions, to:

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383 Michigan Street,
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Or email us at slovo@sokolmn.org, or call 651-290-0542.

Visit us at: www.sokolmn.org

Tumbling for Tots - Pre-schoolers Get Their Own Class

The Sokol Minnesota gymnastics program has plans in motion for a new gymnastics program designed especially for pre-schoolers. "Tumbling for Tots" will serve kids ages 2-4. The class is scheduled from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays beginning October 5 and ending November 23.

This class is the perfect first step on the road toward life-long fitness. Youngsters will practice following basic directions in a safe, supportive environment. Pre-registration is necessary to ensure a small class size. A parent must be present for all classes. For registration or more information, email fitness@sokolmn.org or call: 651-297-9000.

Czech and Slovak Festival - Continued from page 1

The grade school-age children, *Taneční Mládež* (Dancing Youth) tackle more difficult steps and sequences, and the *Taneční* Teens enjoy dances that challenge their abilities. This year the boys in the group created a dance using stilts, and the girls countered with a dance using haying rakes (rabe) from Bohemia.

The St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers are looking forward to their 50th Anniversary in 2012 with a project called *50 for 50*, as in 50 dances for 50 years. They will perform a trio of dances presented earlier this year at the Festival of Nations demonstrating the Czech passion for music and dance. In addition, Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota, Debbie Jindra of Montgomery, will perform a Moravian folkdance used in her competition.

As last year, we conclude with a concertina folk music jam at the end of the program! All musicians are invited to bring your accordions and concertinas and join the fun. Enjoy a beer and lend your voice to the singing. Last year Steve Bratka from Texas, and Frank Shima and John Cica from the Twin Cities, led us through a rousing songfest.

Vendors and Exhibits

Craft vendor booths will include Sokol Minnesota's *Krásné Dárky* (Beautiful gifts) gift shop with special items, t-shirts, and books, including the *Sokol Minnesota Cookbook*, and our songbook and tapes of *Sokol Minnesota Sings* including Sokol marching, folk, and patriotic songs in Czech, Slovak, and English.

Sr. Anita Smisek, an avid singer and collector of Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak folksongs and music, will also be selling her CDs and sheet music. Sr. Anita says that if you want to know a culture, you must experience its music! Informational community kiosks will include the Czech-Slovak Genealogical Society International and a *Healthy West 7th* display by United Family Medicine's community clinic program.

Join us and celebrate 150 years of Czech and Slovak presence in the West End! Come to the Highland Park Pavilion. The pavilion, which seats 200, gives protection from rain, but has wide-open views to the park. Additional outdoor seating and a childrens' play area are nearby.



1. *Taneční Mládež* children dancers with Louise Wessinger. 2. George Chlebecek, Ed Hamernik and Rich Saliny serve up the sausage. 3. Friendly, tasty Booya service: l-r: Steve Shimer, Darla Kolb, Jan Knudtson, Teresa Pojar.

Making That Homeland Connection

By Ginger Simek, President, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

Recently, two CGSI members e-mailed to let us know they had each just returned from very successful family research trips to the Czech Republic. The next logical step after gathering substantial genealogical information and identifying your ancestral town is often to actually go and visit.

Both of our members' successful family trips started with asking questions and collecting family information. In both cases, they got help from a professional Czech genealogy researcher who added to and verified family information. In general, the archives in the Czech Republic do not accept requests for family research. The advantage of using professional researchers is that they know the holdings of the various archives, are familiar with the many possible languages used in the records, and can interpret and translate the information for you. They may also make contacts in your ancestral

village prior to your arrival and act as a guide for your visit.

It is an amazing experience to visit these places and imagine what life must have been like when your family lived there. For some, the family home and church where daily life took place may still be standing. New family relationships may be discovered, or the village history may reveal circumstances that impacted the family situation. Others may not be as fortunate; the village may no longer exist due to war, political changes, or other major events. Nevertheless, there is still the desire to see the place and the land that one's family came from.

I know it re-energizes me to hear these family success stories. When are you going to get started on yours? CGSI has many resources to help get you started. Visit our website <www.cgisi.org>.

Sokol Says "Thank You" to Donors

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota thanks members and friends who have made contributions to support our programs and our historic CSPA Hall. All donations are credited to the general fund, unless otherwise noted.

\$100-\$500

Bessie O'Neill

Less than \$100

Barbara and Michale Kellett

Catherine and Donald Haselbauer, memorial to Marcy Bigaouette

A. James and Shannon Hanzel

A donation reported in the last issue under Brad Narr's name should have been attributed to Brad and Terry Narr. We apologize for the mistake.

Donations received by the Corresponding Secretary after July 25 will be acknowledged in the next issue of *The Slovo*.

Submitted by J. H. Fonkert, Corresponding Secretary

Czech Auto as Art as observed by Marit Lee Kucera

It is worth a trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts just to see the Tatra T87 on display in the *Modernist Design, 1881-1940* exhibit. The sleek silver model in Gallery 379 was designed in 1936, and manufactured in 1948 by Ringhoffer-Tatra-Werke AG in what is now Kopřivnice, Moravia, Czech Republic.

You are in for a real treat when you see this car. When I visited in late July, I walked around and around this superbly designed art work in wonderment and Czech pride. Admission to MIA is free. Read all about the car in the January 2008 archived edition of *Slovo* by visiting our website at <www.sokolmn.org>. Learn more about Tatras at <www.tatraworld.nl/>.



Tatra T87. Source: Wikipedia Commons.

Member News Update

Contributed by Marlene Hinshaw



Helen Vanek Lander

Our oldest Sokol member is Helen Vanek Lander. Helen, who has been a Sokol member for 75 years, celebrated her 100th birthday August 22. Her cousin, Georgiana Dolejsi (their grandmothers were sisters), reports that Helen has an uncanny memory for family history.

As a Sokol gymnast, Helen performed in many programs, competitions, and slets. She worked for the U.S. Forest Service and her passion was horseback riding; she spent many vacations on a ranch in the Wild West. Unfortunately for us, Helen followed her son to Texas and now resides at Ashton Park Care Center, 210 Gulf Freeway, Texas City Texas, 77591. She would love to hear from her old friends. I feel deprived because I've never had a chance to meet Helen. She sounds like my kind of gal. Dear Sister Helen: **Members of**

Sokol MN wish you a happy 100th year. Stay well! We salute you with a Sokol NAZDAR!

Today, and in future *Slovo* issues, I'll be introducing our young members. I'm beginning with Kate and Jenny Aubrecht, who have been active in Sokol since they were youngsters. They both performed with *Taneční Mládež* Children's Dancers. Kate recently returned from a year of teaching English and bible study in Prague. Kate prepared herself by taking Czech language classes from Sokol instructor, Jakub Dajc. Jenny and partner James Metcalf just became new members of the adult St. Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers.

Kate will return to Hamline University this fall to work on a Master's Degree in Education. Jenny is a spring graduate of the University of Minnesota with a double major in English and dance. We're proud of their achievements and happy to have them in our unit.

Stay well! Drink pivo! Enjoy each day!



Georgiana Dolejsi's Senior Singers delight the crowd

Song of the Month

Contributed by Georgiana Dolejsi

It was noted in the May issue of the *Slovo* that we would include the translation of the Prune Song in the June/July issue. Unfortunately, we forgot. Please enjoy the translation and comments by Sokol Sister Karleen Sheppard. Thanks to Sister Georgiana Dolejsi for forwarding Karleen's comments to the *Slovo* committee.

Švestková Alej / Prune Song

In our village on the main road,
plum trees grow – oh, yes!
Anca and I looked after the plums, and ate them.
It was so nice.

We always sat next to each other,
we gazed at the stars and at each other!
and now alone, by myself, I think about all this,
and how I wish I were near you.

Karleen writes: *I should mention a couple of things about "Švestková Alej." I've always heard people refer to it as a "prune" song, but that is absolutely wrong. The song is about fruit growing on trees, and those aren't prunes, they're plums, they don't become prunes until they're dried. Also, translating "alej" as "alley" is bad, because people think of an alley as a grimy place with garages. The plum trees in the song are growing along a road, and translating "alej" into "lane" sounds much better. And, too, the plums were not "rolling," as it is sometimes translated, which sounds goofy. "Valet" also means to lie around or lay about, not just to roll.*

Death By Kolacky

WELCOME TO The CSPA HALL
(Above Picha's Saloon at West 7th and Michigan)
to
HONOR THE FRUIT FILLED BOHEMIAN BUN
OCTOBER 1929 KOLACH FEST

Greetings to all. Mrs. Sylvia Bush, Chairwomen of Sokol's social committee, will be presiding when you come to visit the historic CSPA hall. She's happy to be hosting Kolach Fest, a West 7th community celebration. Vaclav Picha will provide food from his saloon. Sally Bennett will be there to help spread the "good spirits." And, gossip columnist, Evelyn Heaberlin, is all excited too – parties like these yield great tidbits for the old column.

WARNING

We are advised that members of two rival gangs will attend the festivities, but as long as everybody follows the O'Connor rules – and Detective Thomas Brown (big Tom) will be there in person to watch over the party – so everything should be fine. However, "Aunt Mary" Hruska is unhappy because one of her boys just got knocked off. Are people suggesting that "Cap" Doyle of the Fitzgerald gang had something to do with this untimely death? Boss Charlie Fitzgerald says this is all a pack of lies promoted to sell newspapers. We'll just have to hope that these two keep a safe distance from one another. We know Sig Bush will keep his distance--he's a bit of a snob.

A WORD TO THE WISE

Ladies, will your baking win the Best Kolach contest? You could be crowned the Poppy Seed Queen.
For the hungry gentlemen we will again hold the speed-eating contest.
How fast can you devour a serving of kolacky?

So, does the prospect of light-hearted competition, a good dinner and some "near" beer in a charming ethnic setting cheer you up? It sounds good to me! Perhaps it will dispel that "feeling of foreboding" that the Depression has set upon many of us. Hope for the best, but if anything unpleasant should happen...say, murder, for instance, you may be asked to help.
Can't have everybody carted off to the police station after all.

Written, Produced and Directed by Denis Novak (Yes, he acts too.)

October 10, 2010. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.. Mystery begins promptly at 6 p.m.
Costumes of the 1920s and 30s encouraged.

Price is \$40 per person, or \$200 for a table of six for your own gang.

Reservations by October 4. Call Denis at 651-456-9404

Check to: Sokol Minnesota. Mail to: 10-10-10 Dinner,
Denis A. Novak, 8876 Greene Ave. S., Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Fighting for Your Rights as Consumers - Czech Style

By Josef A. Mestenhauser



Josef Mestenhauser

The European Commission conducted research recently about consumer behavior regarding returning unwanted or defective merchandise. Czechs are no different from other Europeans in complaining about, or returning merchandise. About ten percent of all European purchases fall into this category. There are two major differences, however. On the

positive side, Czechs appear to be more satisfied with the process of returning such merchandise than most other Europeans, and think that merchants are well aware of the legal provisions regarding protection of consumers. Slovaks rank first and Czech right after them in the degree of satisfaction. Czechs unfortunately rank second to last (just a bit ahead of the Greeks) in surrendering their rights in case the merchant refuses to accept the returned articles or hear out the complaints. Almost three quarters of Czechs drop any action – almost double the percentage for other European nations. The best “fighters” for consumer rights are the Dutch and the Belgians.

The question arises why this is so. The commentaries in the Czech press suggest that the system is too complex with too many agencies and channels available for remedies. Here is a list of agencies with jurisdiction regarding this matter: The Ministries of Industries and Commerce; Finance; Justice; Education; and even Interior. In addition, the financial institutions have some responsibility for

consumer protection, for example, the National Bank, The Office of Commercial Inspector, Office for the Protection of Privacy of Data, Office of the Protection of Commercial Competition, and even the Council of Czech Television and Radio.

As result of this research, a number of initiatives have already been taken to streamline the channels through which remedies can be obtained. Changes are being discussed also with several important NGO's and the banks.

Another reason that I believe is a major cause of passivity and apathy is the communist past. My own research suggests that this is a factor because for forty-plus years people had no rights, the system was always right, seeking rights was punishable and the only remedy was to bottle up resentment and withdraw into a silent resignation that reinforced the apathy. The evidence for this opinion is visible every day in letters to editors and reactions of people on the street, in the pubs, and on the streetcars.

Even after twenty years it still is difficult for people to speak objectively and openly about the communist era. I call that collective amnesia – and it is consistent with research conducted in this country.

NOTE TO READERS:

This is my last column for the *Slovo*. I will not be able to write a column for the October issue because I will be traveling in the Czech Republic. Upon my return, my columns will appear only on the web sites of Sokol Minnesota <www.sokolmn.org> and the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center <www.cs-center.org>.

Know and Understand the Czech and Slovak Republics and Their Place under the Sun: Lecture Series

Co-Sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center and the University of Minnesota Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Saturday, November 13, 2010

Saturday, January 29, 2011

Saturday, February 26, 2011

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Saturday, April 23, 2011

Place: Carlson School of Management CSOM, 321 19th Ave. So. Room 1-149, Minneapolis, MN 556455

September 25 Program:

9:00 – 10:00

Lecture: Dr. Gary Cohen, Chair, Department of History, University of Minnesota
“The Unpredictable Birth of a Nation. Not the Story your Grandmother Told you.”

10:00 – 11:00

Seminar Discussion

11:00 – 12:00

Documentary film relevant to the topic of the lecture (with English sub-titles)

October 23:

Dr. Winston Chrislock, Professor of History, St. Thomas University

“One Country – Seven Regimes”

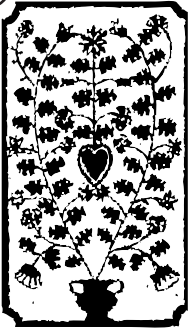
November 13:

Kenneth Scoug, Retired High Ranking US Diplomat

Assigned to US Embassy in Prague during the Prague Spring.

“The Human Face that Got Bloodied”

For information contact moravec@umn.edu; j-mest@umn.edu, or john2023@umn.edu



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January 1930

Czech and Slovak Festival!

Highland Park Pavillion
St. Paul
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

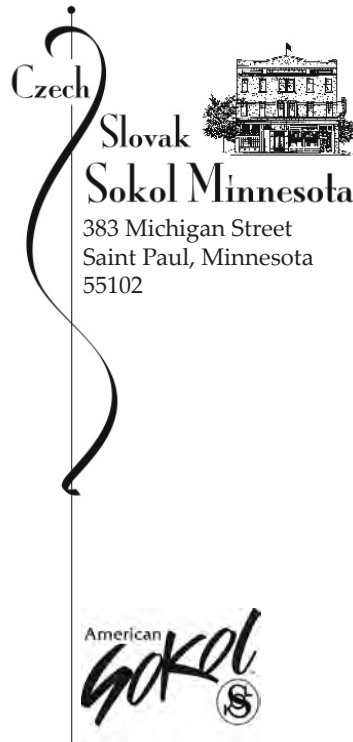
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Zuhrah Shrine Band,
folk songs and dancers,
cuisine and beverages,
Sokol fitness.

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Email: festival@sokolmn.org

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for a great time!



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Slovak and Czech Language Classes Resume in Fall

Sokol Minnesota's popular Slovak and Czech language classes resume this fall. Registration is required for all classes. Registration is easy using the registration form available at <www.sokol.org>. Class size is limited to 10 students; a minimum of six students is required for the class to proceed. All classes meet at the CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan St., St. Paul. For further information, contact Sokol Minnesota Education Chair Jean at 651-426-2826.

Slovak Language Class - Beginner Level (Session 1)

Instructor: Barborka Carlsonova

Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

8 weeks – September 30 through November 18.

Fee: Sokol Minnesota members, \$65; non-members, \$80.

Textbook: *Slovak* (Slovak for You) text, workbook and phrase book (Approx. \$65).

***NEW* Slovak Language Class - Advanced Beginner Level (Session 1)**

Instructor: Barborka Carlsonova

Thursdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

8 weeks – September 30 through November 18.

Fee: Sokol Minnesota members, \$65; non-members, \$80.

Textbook: *Slovak* (Slovak for You) text, workbook and phrase book (Approx. \$65).

Czech Language Class - Beginner Level (Session 1)

Instructor: Jakub Dajc

Mondays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

8 weeks – September 27 through November 15.

Fee: Sokol Minnesota members, \$65; non-members, \$80.

Textbook: *Čeština Hrou*, plus cassettes and workbook (Approx. \$115)

Czech Language Class - Advanced Beginner (Session 1)

Instructor: Jakub Dajc

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

8 weeks – September 29 through November 17.

Fee: Sokol Minnesota members, \$65; non-members, \$80.

Textbook: *Čeština Hrou*, plus cassettes and workbook (continued from Beginner above).

Czech Language Class - Conversational Level (Session 1)

Instructor: Jakub Dajc; coordinator: Norm Petrik

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

8 weeks – September 28 through November 16.

Fee: Sokol Minnesota members, \$65; non-members, \$80.

Text: Czech language text and workbook continues as before.