



Slovak Sokol Minnesota

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

SLOVO

February 2010 vol. 33 no. 2

Slovak Honorary Consulate Opens in Minnesota



Delegation at the installation of Donald Pafko as Honorary Slovak Consul for Minnesota (l-r): Radomir Bohac, Fedor Roll, Peter Petian, Katarina Storfer, Donald Pafko, Ambassador Burian, Igor Pokojny, Jake Slegers

On December 9th, 10th and 11th a delegation from the Slovak government visited Minnesota and its purpose was twofold: Inauguration of Donald Pafko as Honorary Slovak Consul for Minnesota and business and economic networking with the Minnesota business community.

The delegation was led by Slovak Ambassador to the United States Peter Burian and included Mr. Radomir Bohac, Director General for Economic Cooperation and Development Aid Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic; Mr. Igor Pokojny, Consul General, General Consulate of the Slovak Republic in New York; Mr. Vit Koziak, Second Secretary, Economic Office, Slovak Embassy

to the US; Mr. Peter Petian, Head of the Commercial and Economic Section in New York, Slovak Embassy to the US; Ms. Karin Jassova, Director, Department of Strategic Investments, Slovak Ministry of Economy, Slovakia; Ms. Andrea Chovancova, Director, Foreign Direct Investments Section, Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency in Slovakia; Mr. Jake Slegers, Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia; and Mr. Fedor Roll, Head of the Consular and EU JHA Section, Embassy of the Slovak Republic to the US.

Please see *Consulate*, page 4

- Sokol MN Events Calendar:
- Free concert**
7 pm Feb 5
page 7
- Slovo deadline**
Feb 10
page 11
- Sokol MN Board Meeting**
7 p.m Feb 11
- Family Fun Night**
4:30 pm
Feb 21
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- Membership Meeting**
7 pm Feb 26
Page 6
- Prostna practice**
1st & 3rd
Mondays
6 p.m.

Sokol MN's Šibřinky February 12 rescheduled for a
Free Concert Friday February 5, 7 p.m.
Podkrkonošský Band
A city band from Jablonec nad Jizerou, Czech Republic
 with the Minnesota State Band
C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall

See page 5 for details!



Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota
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President Komentář/President's Note

By Joe Landsberger

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters

Welcome to our digital world! This is an article of how we have built on our past and changed these last few years.

Let's start with our Website! Since the festival in Highland Park in the year 2000, Jim Robasse has dedicated his time and talents to creating and updating our Website. The Internet Archives (web.archive.org) shows that Jim started our Website to promote the year 2000 Festival at Highland Park with the Web address or domain, redrival.com/highlandpark, and transformed into our current domain at www.sokolmn.org in March 23, 2001. Thanks to Jim we also have this intuitive domain or Website address! Often when I send Jim an email about a change or update, the next hour/day I see the results posted for all the world to see! Now if you do an Internet search, you not only find our current events and classes, but also links of interest, photos of the past, public documents, and even an archive of the last three years of Slovos! In 2009, our Website was viewed by 11,942 visitors accessing 27,842 Webpages, about the same as 2008. Thank you Jim for creating our presence in the world.

So also the Slovo! Somme of you now receive it via your email in color: so do up to 1,000 email addresses throughout the world on special occasions. Of course everyone has email! ;-) Well, we know that some of you do not and we will continue to send the black and white edition of the *Slovo* via the post. Production of the Slovo is now almost completely digitized. This has been a process of several years, picking up where our dedicated members Sharon and Ken Wyberg worked so many years. Currently we get articles and photos via email, which are then sent to our editor, Cinnamon Whaley. She in turn consolidates and organizes all the text into one file, and then edits it. One interesting feature is that she can then, with a simple sequence, compare the number of words for each issue to see if there is too much or too little content. In a parallel effort, she also processes the graphics and pictures that make our newsletter so interesting. Once edited, the composite file is sent for layout. I am currently performing this task, picking up on several years' wonderful work of Teresa Pojar. (This position is open and we use Adobe InDesign). Teresa also researched and designed our Sokol logo and her contributions will be missed. But her beautiful smile can still be found in the dance group! Thank you Teresa and Cinnamon, and to all who contribute to making our Slovo one of the best newsletters in the Sokol world. (See page 11 for Slovo challenges ahead, and how you can contribute!)

We work in a digitized office--either at the hall (or in our homes).

One challenge that lies ahead is to use our new office at the hall. Through a cultural STAR Grant from the City of St. Paul we were able to convert an under-utilized storeroom into an office with the latest computer equipment and access to the Internet. Gradually it is also being used! Under the leadership of Marit Lee Kucera, our publicity director, it now holds the master and versions of our Calendar of Events Postcard. Believe it or not the master is sent via the Internet to a publisher in California for printing—very economical! With the help of our Financial Secretary, Jeanette Pafko, our database of nearly 1,500 addresses is updated and sorted for labeling. A big job. Thank you Marit and Jeanette.

Please see *President*, page 3

President, continued from page 2

A digitized version of our Sokol calendar, currently with Google, is a new venture and experiment. Our First Vice President, Ed Hamernik, is experimenting with and organizing our online and Website calendar, and soon members and visitors to our Website will be conveniently able to see what events, internal and external, are held at the hall. Another new venture is using our computer system's wireless access. Our new Recording Secretary, Megan Cahill, will be using this at directors' meetings to keep our minutes. Thank you Ed and Megan for working on these tasks.

One new fund raising venture happened at the end of 2009. Our Finance Committee, under Chair Joyce Tesarek, joined 3,433 Minnesota non-profit organizations on "Give to the Max Day" on November 17. Several foundations matched donor grants up to a total \$500,000, and Sokol Minnesota was one. Twelve of our donors gave \$1,410 which was tax-deductible and matched with \$56.99. The total raised for all organizations was \$14 million, and there were no administrative fees deducted! This effort was made to encourage online donations. Typically 4.75% of a donor's gift amount would be used to pay for credit card processing fees, however GiveMN is covering these fees for online donating to all non-profits so there are no deductions for the convenience of online donating: please see <http://www.givemn.org>. Thanks to Joyce and please help Sokol with your donations: so much work needs to be done to keep our building safe and programs viable. While we have had much good fortune with grants, our member donations are not keeping up with need.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, send your email to publicrelations@sokolmn.org. This email comes directly to me as president, and you will get a response within a day. Thank you, and

Nazdar! Joe Landsberger

Finance Committee (Thank you for your donations!)

By Jay Fonkert, Finance Committee Recording Secretary

Sokol Minnesota acknowledges all donations as they are received. They are listed in two categories, Building Fund (also matching grant requirements) and General Operating Fund. Programs within each are not listed. Amounts are reported in five categories: under \$100, \$100-\$499, \$500-999, \$1,000-\$4,999, and \$5,000 or more. If you are interested in committing to an annual pledge, contact Joyce Tesarek, Chair, Finance Committee, 612-822-6147 joyce@sokolmn.org

Building Fund

\$500-999- Joe Landsberger (Annual Pledge thru GiveMN.org);

\$100-499, Ed Hamernik (Annual Pledge thru GiveMN.org), Joan Sedlacek (thru GiveMN.org), Jay Fonkert (annual Pledge);

Under \$100 – Josef Ruzicka, Azi Zeman, Dolores Kokes Speidel, Elizabeth Tisel, Don & Katie Haselbauer (Bob Vanyo's 80th Birthday), Anonymous (3 thru GiveMN.org),

General Fund

\$100-499: Tomas Pieter (thru GiveMN.org), Georgiana Dolejsi (in memory of Bessie and Al Smolik); Miro and Shirley Verner.

Under \$100: Andrew and Becca Hine (thru GiveMN.org), Kevin Hurbanis (thru GiveMN.org), Lucille Maghrak (in appreciation for Sokol MN thru GiveMN.org), Anne Neubauer; Doris Moravetz, anonymous (thru GiveMN.org), Georgiana Dolejsi (in memory of George Swoboda), Kathleen Philip, Ken and Sharon Wyberg.

From Jeanette Pafko, Financial Secretary

Have you renewed your membership in Sokol?

Membership extends from January through December 2010. Please pay your dues as soon as possible if you wish to continue to receive our Slovo newsletter. This is a free publication to you with your membership in our unit and provides you with all current events and activities that are happening in the Czech & Slovak communities. Any questions? You may contact Financial Secretary Jeanette Pafko at 952-831-1440 or by email at Pafkova@aol.com. Thank you!

Slovo January corrections! *We welcome all and regret the errors.*

Thanks to Georgiana Dolejsi, we correct names in Wally Schovanec's remembrances: Mrs. *Cirkl*, Mrs. *Svanhauser*, *Karleen Chott Sheppard*. The convertible is a *Škodovka*, and the devil is a *čert*. The first line of her song *Jingle Bells/Rolničky, rolničky* is *zvonek zvoní jenom táta ztich*. Its second verse was researched from Websites.

Consulate, continued from page 1

The delegation arrived in Minneapolis on Wednesday, December 9th and all members of the delegation stayed at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. An informal planning session was held that evening to outline the next two days of events. On Thursday morning, December 10th the delegation traveled to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. A meeting was held with Commissioner Dan McElroy at which time the delegation discussed business interfacing between the Minnesota business community and the business community in the Slovak Republic. Commissioner McElroy presented the delegation with some of the various investment opportunities and economic developments that are taking place in our state.

We then departed for the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul for a tour of the Capitol building. We were able to see the legislative meeting room and were explained how the legislative process is implemented. Following the tour, the Lt.

Governor Carol Molnau, met with the delegation and had further discussions regarding cooperation between the Slovak Republic and Minnesota.

Following the visit at the State Capitol we traveled to the University of Minnesota where a luncheon was held at the Coffman Memorial Union Campus Club. Various staff and faculty of the University were in attendance, and once again, discussion took place regarding cooperation between Minnesota and the Slovak Republic.

Thursday evening a gala reception was held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at which time the Honorary Slovak Consulate for Minnesota was officially opened and Donald Pafko was appointed and presented with papers signaling his appointment as Honorary Consul. Several speakers made a presentation at this gala including the Slovak Ambassador, Mr. Radomir Bohac, Mr. Dan McElroy and Ms. Lydia Stassart, President of the Minnesota Consular Corps. Master of Ceremony for the event was Mark Pafko, son of Honorary Consul Donald Pafko. The ceremony was opened with the singing of the American and Slovak National Anthems and we were honored to have Ms. Georgiana Dolejsi accompanying us on the piano. The final speaker was Honorary Consul Pafko who indicated his goals and hopes as he begins his duties, and he assured Ambassador Burian that he will endeavor to justify the honor that has been given to him.

Friday morning the delegation attended a business breakfast hosted by the law firm of Gray Plant Mooty and took place in the IDS building. In attendance were approximately twenty leaders of the Minnesota Business community who heard presentations from the members of the delegation regarding the many opportunities available for doing business in Slovakia.

The final event was a luncheon hosted by the Ambassador to which various members of the business community were invited and this provided one last opportunity for the delegation to network with business leaders.

Following the luncheon several members of the delegation left Minneapolis to either return to Slovakia, Washington, D.C., and/or New York City. The delegation received a very warm welcome in Minnesota and were very pleased with the business contacts that were made.

If you wish to reach the Slovak Honorary Consul, Don Pafko can be contacted at dpafkoskconsul@aol.com or 952-831-1440.



On December 10, 2009 his Excellency Peter Burian, Slovak Ambassador to the United States, presented credentials to newly installed Honorary Slovak Consul for Minnesota, Don Pafko.

Slovak Surnames: What They Can Tell A Family Historian--Part III

By Milan Šišmiš (continued from December SLOVO)

Editor's note: Dr. Milan Šišmiš organized the Genealogical and Heraldic Club at *Matica Slovenská*, a cultural and scientific organization located in Martin, Slovak Republic. The following excerpts come from an article originally published in the Dec. 1996 issue of *Naše rodina* with the permission of the CGSI editor and submitted for publication in SLOVO by Ginger Simek, President, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International. A copy of the December 1996 issue of *Naše rodina* may be ordered from the CGSI website, www.cgisi.org or by writing to CGSI, PO Box 16225, St. Paul MN 55116-0225. The cost is \$5.00 which includes shipping.

A large group of surnames were derived from the first names of men, and to a lesser extent, women. They are identified among the oldest surnames and were created in all social and ethnic communities over many centuries, even if later they were dominated by other types of surnames. As an example we can mention the “common” names *Jančo* and *Janoška*, (from Ján-John), *Štefanec* (from Štefan-Stephen), *Michalko* (from Michal-Michael), *Ďuriška* (form of Juraj-George), or the names of the old noble families *Balaša* (from *Baláz*-Blasius), *Detrich*, *Meško* (derived from old, almost extinct first names). These surnames bear information about the ancestor's name from which the surname is derived. Sometimes we are able to identify this person and to make the connection with the family tree (especially when the family was nobility). However, in many cases it will remain isolated, especially when the surname was created before its recording in the sources.

In Slovakia surnames are frequently derived from localities. Similarly they originated in all the social and ethnic communities. The oldest ones were created among the nobility. Names such as *Kubíni*, *Ostrolúcky*, *Sentiváni*, *Divéky*, etc., were usually derived from small, sometimes later destroyed locations. They often refer to an ancient origin of the family or its ennoblement before the 15th -16th centuries.

In these surnames the name of original or of later donated property of the family is often seen. Names of this kind created in other social communities (*Súčanský*, *Trenčianský*, *Lipták*) refer to the local or territorial origin of the ancestor as well as to his migration from the particular locality or area (*Súčanský* from *Súča* or *Sučany*, *Trenčianský* from *Trenčín* or the county of *Trenčín*, *Lipták* from the region of *Liptov*). Such names can often be found among descendants of the Hungarian Slovaks from the Lowlands. They were created during the migration in the 17th and 18th centuries. In the 19th century names of this kind also appeared among the Jews, derived mainly from large European cities-“Wiener”, “Hamburger”. Sometimes they had the same names as well known Hungarian noble families.

Another large group consists of surnames derived from occupations (*Kováč*, *Mlynár*, *Minárik*, *Švec*, *Szabó*, *Schmidt*, etc). These were created in the milieu of towns and villages, usually appeared in later centuries and reflect the family ancestor's occupation (it did not have to be a hereditary one at all!). In the modern period we are able to follow their progress.

There are also other groups of surnames reflecting an ancestor's disposition, mental or physical qualities, etc. They may be very interesting from the linguistic point of view, curious, but not very helpful to a genealogist. On the contrary sometimes only hard genealogical research can help to interpret them. And finally there is a large group of surnames for which the origin or contents (even after meticulous linguistic as well as genealogical research) remains and will remain without clear explanation. This is not, however, the primary aim of genealogical or family historical research. The basic analysis of a surname can lead a genealogist towards further research.



From the Sokol archives

Contestants sought for Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant

Young women between 16 and 26 years are invited to compete for the state title! The 21st annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant will be held on April 10 at the American Legion Club in Montgomery. Pageant winners receive cash awards, crowns, memorable appearances throughout Minnesota and compete in the National Miss Czech Slovak US Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska. Application deadline is March 1. For those wishing to attend, an ethnic dinner begins the Minnesota event at 5 p.m. followed by the pageant at 7. For more information, contact Lorraine David, 507 364 5384 or davidsdiner@hotmail.com

Protivin, IA *Masopust Celebration!* Saturday, February 13

Masopust, which translates to “good-bye to meat”, is a Czech-Style Mardi Gras. The Community Center in Protivin, Iowa will host its *Masopust* Saturday, February 13, 2010, from 1 to 8 p.m. with a full Czech meal at 5:00pm. Festivities include live music by Malek’s Fisherman Band; traditional *Masopust* opening ceremony; dancing; complete Czech meal; costume recognition; special Czech skit (in English); snacks; door prizes; live auction; silent auction; cash beverage bar and a very good time for everyone. Attendance is by advance ticket only: Steven Klimesh – 563-562-3594. A warm invitation is extended to everyone. *Vitáme Vás/Welcome!!!*

Montgomery, MN *Masopust Celebration!* Sunday, February 14

A *Masopust Celebration* will be held at the American Legion Hall in Montgomery, MN on Sunday, February 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Event includes crowning of the new *Masopust* King, dance and music by the Novotny Trio, authentic Czech skit and the Domaci Children Dancers! The silent auction includes many items from the Czech Republic. Admission \$7 for adults, \$3 children 6 – 12 and children under 6 free. Come in costume and receive \$1.00 off admission. For more information call 507.364.5577 or 612.756.2839

Duchnovich Day Celebration, Saturday, February 6

Presented by the Rusin Association

This year’s annual *Duchnovich Day Celebration* will take place at St. Mary’s Orthodox Cathedral School Building, 17th and 5th Street N.E., Minneapolis and features a presentation (\$5.00) at 3:30 p.m. on Eastern European Folk Dress by Helene Cincebeaux. Helene and her mother have been collecting folk art and folk dress from Slovakia and the Czech Republic for the past 38 years. Social hour is at 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. and entertainment is by Lipa Dancers and Carpathy Children’s Ensemble. Advanced reservations are required for the Rusin Dinner of pork roast, *machanka*, *haluski*. Dinner: \$20.00/members, \$25.00/non-members, Children 12 and under \$10.00.

Mark Wansa reads from his novel

The Linden and the Oak

7:30pm Thursday, February 4, Magers & Quinn Booksellers, 3038 Hennepin Ave S., Minneapolis

The Linden and the Oak is the epic story of two families and an ill-fated romance set against three very different backdrops: the impoverished, although occasionally idyllic, Carpatho-Rusin peasant existence in Eastern Europe in the early 20th century; the horrific slaughter on the Eastern Front during World War I; and, finally, the voyage to a new life in ‘Ameryka.’ This event is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Rusin Association.

The Rusin Association is an organization devoted to the promotion of the cultural heritage of the Carpatho-Rusin (also known as Rusyn, Rusnak) people whose homeland is Northeast Slovakia, Western Ukraine and Southeast Poland. The organization plans and/or participates in educational workshops, lectures, and seminars, sponsor tours of the homeland, and local cultural festivities such as the Festival of Nations. It publishes the newsletter “Trembita”. Visit them online at mnrusinassociation.homestead.com

Carpatho-Rusyns are one of four distinct, though related, East Slavic ethnic groups--Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, and Rusyns. Their homeland straddles the borders of present-day Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary.

For all Rusin Association events:
<http://mnrusinassociation.homestead.com/Events.html>



Family night on Sunday, January 10 featured the Slavic celebration of *Tři Králové* or Three Kings. Here Antonin Kostal models a crown he made for the occasion. Some children's crowns had the traditional inscription for the new year "20 K+M+B 10" giving the names for the kings and our new year.

learn about census records, vital records, citizenship records and immigration records, and get tips for finding them on the Internet. The first class will focus on your ancestors' lives in America; the second class will show you how to follow your ancestors back to the old country, with an emphasis on Czech and Slovak heritage.

For more information or registration information for all classes call Education Director, Jean Verner at 651-426-2826 or email her at sokolmnedu@aol.com.

February 21 Family Fun Night

Bring your family and come and join us for our fourth family fun night at Sokol Hall on Sunday, February 21. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, the Mom's club, and West 7th Street neighbors invite you to join us from 4:30 to 6:30 PM for a potluck supper, games and singing, Sokol tumbling and a family craft project. Our theme will be the *Masopust* and the traditional carnival-type pre-Lenten celebration. Each family is asked to register with one of the chairpersons or respond to the online evite: Olga & Mario Splichal-Espinosa at 651-293-3999 or silverrays@yahoo.com or Louise Wessinger at 651-452-6240 or louisewessinger@msn.com by Wed. Feb. 17th. When you register please leave your name, phone number, number attending, ages of children, and what you will bring for the potluck (appetizer, entrée, salad, side dish, or dessert). Paper products, milk, lemonade, water, and coffee and materials for the craft will be provided. A \$10 donation per family who are not members of Sokol or C.S.C.C., members will be asked for a \$5 per family donation at the door. Volunteers will be needed at 4:00 to set-up and at 6:30 to clean-up—let the chairs know if you can help.

February 26 Membership Meeting

New Year's Resolution: Start your Family History

You won't want to miss the February 26 Member Meeting! After a quick meeting to cover unit business, Sokol member Jay Fonkert will give a short talk explaining how to get started researching your family history. He'll show what you can find in old records and where to get help tracing your ancestry. Jay will also tell you about two "Beginning Genealogy" classes being offered at the CSPS Sokol Hall in March.

Education Committee classes

Tuesdays, March 16 and 30

**Family History for beginners:
Tracing Your Ancestors from
America to the Old Country**

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

C.S.P.S. Hall 2nd floor dining room

Instructor: Jay Fonkert;

Cost: \$10.00 member \$12.00 non-member

This two-part class will give you the basics for tracing your ancestors. You will



About the instructor: Jay Fonkert is a board-certified genealogist, genealogical educator and writer. A member of Czech and Slovak Minnesota, he is President of the Minnesota Genealogical Society and a director of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Events

*Sokol MN's Šibřinky February 12 rescheduled
with the opportunity to present the*

Podkrkonošský Band

a Czech City Band
Friday, February 5,
7:00 p.m.
CSPS Sokol Hall
Free entry
Light menu and
cash bar
from 5:30 p.m.



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota welcomes the Podkrkonošský Band from *Jablonec nad Jižerou*, Czech Republic, to the C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall for a free performance on Friday, February 5, at 7:00 pm. This Czech city band hosted members of the Minnesota State Band during its tour of Eastern Europe in 1992 and are now on a reciprocal musical tour. The band, which has been performing for over 21 years, is proud to share its Czech heritage and traditional music. Mark your calendars and join us for a unique evening of good music and fun.

Members of the Minnesota State Band will also join Podkrkonošský Band for several numbers of the concert. The Minnesota State Band, the Official Band of the State of Minnesota, has been in existence since 1898. The band is the only remaining State Band in the United States. While at one time the band received funding from the State of Minnesota, it is now operated as a non-profit organization with an all-volunteer membership. The Minnesota State Band is one of the few community bands anywhere that regularly travels internationally. The Band has represented the State of Minnesota on six International Goodwill Tours since 1986. While international travel is important, the band sees its primary mission as providing high quality music to the residents of Minnesota.

Sokol Minnesota will offer an inexpensive limited-menu supper before the concert starting at 5:30 p.m. Come and enjoy a traditional Czech sausage (*jiternice*) with sauerkraut and caraway rye bread or a brat or hot dog with a side of potato salad (traditional Czech holiday dish) or chips. There will be a cash bar. Members of the Minnesota State Band will serve a complimentary desert with coffee after the concert.

This concert is free and open to the public, although donations are welcome to defray the cost of the event. Join us early, enjoy a light supper, and get a chance to mingle with the Czech musicians, Minnesota State Band members, and your Sokol friends and neighbors at C.S.P.S. Hall.

The city of *Jablonec nad Jižerou*, with a population of 2,000, is about 95 km (60 miles) north east of Prague, almost directly east of *Liberec* and very close to the Polish border. Surrounded by the Giant Mountains the city is in a valley on the Jižerou River and is named for its many apple orchards. It attracts many winter sports enthusiasts. It also hosts summer music festivals. The city had its origins as a 14th century parish village attached to an estate. In 1898 Emperor Franz Josef I promoted the village to a township. It acquired its present name in 1916. In 1971 it was promoted to a city. You can learn more in English translation at: <http://www.jablonec-krkonose.cz/>

Don't forget our on-going gathering of items for our garage sale April 15/16

Zimní radovánky polárních medvědů

“To ví kozel, ne a ne
Suchou vrbu postavít
Hlava Klouže po ledě
V prackách nemám žádný cit.”

“Bodejt hlava! Výmluvy!
Kamaráde, nech to, nech!
Vis, Michael, čím to je
Těžiště máš v Kalhotěch!”

Ed Note: From Sokol's archives, *Svět Zvírat* was published in Prague, 1919 as a children's book by B Koci, illustrated by L Lada, with accompanying verses by Petr Kricka. The Czech text has been corrected from January's issue.



Dětský koutek/ Children's corner

Translation with help from
Jitka Šebek and Christy Banks;
compiled by Joe Landsberger

The polar bears' winter frolic

“Even a goat knows you
cannot plant a dry willow,
but skates with his head,
since his paws have no feeling.”

“Just so, it's your head
my friend, that's just it
You see, Michael-bear, I get it!
Your center of gravity is in your pants!”



Song of the Month by Georgiana Dolejsi

This Slovak folksong, *Ja ked' sa Janoško*, translated as “When the time arrived”

is taken from *Memories of Czechoslovakia* by H. A. Schimmerling. You can hear a live and lively (wild!) version by *Creole NRW* (a Slovak Creole band?) on *MySpace Movies* at <http://vids.myspace.com/>

Sokol Camp Annual Meeting for the year 2010

by Jean Verner, Education Chair

Coffee and baked goods... what a way to start a meeting! That was what greeted the people who attended the annual Minnesota Sokol Camp Association meeting held Friday, January 8th at the CSPS Hall. Business conducted included: the election of board members, various committee reports covering the finances and rental of the facility, and re-cap of the Sokol Camp Booya Picnic.

What is this “Sokol Camp”, you ask? It is the “best kept secret” benefit of membership in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Located just an hour north of the Twin Cities, Sokol Camp is on the eastern shore of Cross Lake, just outside of Pine City. There is a main lodge, a stationary and floating docks for swimming and fishing, and lots of trees and lakeshore. Anyone who is a Sokol member may make reservations to rent one or more of the ten rooms at Camp. Reservations are available from the end of April through the end of September.

This summer promises to be a special one at Sokol Camp! Circle Sunday, August 15th on your calendar as we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Booya Picnic, our annual fun(d) raising event. There will be music, dancing, bingo, and food...lots of food! The event chairs have promised to have all of the old favorites ~ booya, cabbage rolls, meatloaf sandwiches, kolach and...you guessed it...beer ~ and a few new surprises. Be watching the Slovo for more information.

To make reservations or to get more information about camp, call Jean at 651-426-2826 or 651-210-0401. You can also email her at sokolmnedu@aol.com. She'll be happy to answer any questions you may have about camp. Think warm thoughts and start planning your summer vacation at Sokol Camp!

JA, KEĎ SA JANOŠKO

Zvolna Moravská s Kopanic

Salski - a Silesian dumpling: It's all in the Details!

by Cinnamon Whaley

2 cups mashed potatoes
1/2 cup farina (cream of wheat/malt o meal)
1 cup flour
2 or 3 eggs
1/2 tsp butter

Mix and roll out and cut into 2x2 spirals.
Drop into boiling water and when they rise they are done (about 15 minutes).
Serve with melted butter and poppy seed.

When I was sent this recipe for Silesian dumplings I was a little intimidated as I've heard that dumplings can be rather hard to master but thought there wasn't anything to lose in trying. I packed up the ingredients and went to my friend Kyra's house; she also has an interest in keeping historic recipes alive. We debated what "2 x 2 spirals" might be but after reviewing other recipes online decided that rolling into small tubes and cutting in to 2 x 2 sections would suffice. It got more complicated - the recipe gives the ingredients list but doesn't explain in what order to cook or combine the ingredients. Does the recipe call for 1/2 cup cooked or uncooked farina? (ed: *uncooked!*) How do we know if we should use two or three eggs? Do we cool the cooked ingredients before adding the egg? We don't want to cook the eggs!

We prepared 1/2 cup uncooked farina (about 2 cups prepared) and mixed this with the mashed potatoes. We let this cool for 15 minutes before mixing in the flour and three eggs. Our mixture was still very much like porridge so we put it in the refrigerator for about 20 minutes to try to let it set up but it didn't work. We put it in the microwave for 5 minutes to try to burn off some of the moisture and that did not work either. We put it back into a sauce pan and cooked it for another 10 minutes. This helped but we were still far from a dough. We started a large pan of boiling water and put tablespoon sized bits of the mixture in to the boiling water. Bringing it back to the recipe, we left them boiling for 15 minutes. At the end of 15 minutes we tried extracting the dumplings but they fell apart. From beginning to end this experiment took about three hours and at this point, we threw in the towel for the evening. Maybe we weren't supposed to cook the farina, maybe we should have used two eggs, or maybe our cooling and reheating caused issues. We had a good time in the kitchen together, and that's what matters in the end. If you have feedback on what might have gone wrong, please send to publications@mnslovo.org, I'd love to hear from you!

At the Czech & Slovak Movies! Fireman's Ball

(Not rated by the NPAA) by Cinnamon Whaley

The Czech movies from the 60's that I've watched have been quite strange and this one ranks right up there (if you recall "Who Wants to Kill Jessie?" and "Lemonade Joe"). While the description tells about hijinks at the fireman's ball, the movie spends a good deal of it's short 73 minutes centered on the "beauty contest" that a number of the firemen put together. Choosing the girls from the crowd of drinking party-goers, marching them around a closed-door office for their own amusement and wondering why they didn't require all the girls have swimsuits when one comes in late after she ran home to get her own. When the women shy away from going on to the stage, mayhem breaks out as men of all ages pull women of all ages out into the spotlight. Another main theme of the film is the silent auction from which items go missing. The lights are lowered and people are requested to return the items; I'll let you guess how many things were left after that.

This film does not satirize the firemen per se, it picks on them as examples of the bungled bureaucracy of the time. The film was released for three weeks and then banned in communist Czechoslovakia for this reason. It may be one that does not translate well to a skipped generation half a world away. Indeed reading other reviews, many Czechs found this movie quite funny and indicative of the times. I appreciate the films of this time period, that show us a different world. If you are close to that time and place you'd likely enjoy this movie very much. Be it unfortunate or not, I cannot relate.





Dr. Josef Mestenhauser

I want to dedicate this piece to the retiring chairman of the Vaclav Havel Symposium for Civil Society, Dr. Kent Wilson. He was one of a very few persistent people who wanted to get President Havel invited to the Twin Cities, and succeeded against many odds. These people in the House of Hope Presbyterian Church organized a carefully planned and executed unlikely coalition of St. Thomas University, Macalester College and the House of Hope church. President Havel was then receiving literally hundreds of invitations each day and was restrained to accept these fancy offers of honorary doctorates and other prizes by the sheer magnitude of invitations. In addition, the Czech Parliament wanted a sitting, not traveling, President. That this coalition succeeded was primarily due to Dr. Wilson and his exceptionally gentle yet efficient leadership. He presided over this committee and essentially saved the program when Macalester College pulled out after Havel's visit. His steady leadership resulted in a re-evaluation of the program that became more than a single lecture. Our readers will recall Havel's visit, and some of the subsequent speakers who included Madeleine Albright, Martin Palous and Martin Butora.

Early this week we gave a farewell recognition dinner to honor Dr. Wilson who incidentally also received the Cernin Palace Award from the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, Dr. Petr Kolar recently. Every member of the executive committee gave touching testimonials to Dr. Wilson. But a surprising thing happened when virtually everybody, including Dr. Wilson, gave testimonials also to the Czech and Slovak Republics.

When the coalition started, very few people knew much about these two countries. But in the process of organizing the annual symposium, learned to respect the exceptionally rich heritage of these countries and the contribution that they make to global affairs. Virtually everybody started reading up about these countries, perked up when they were in the news, and in general learned a great deal about them – with respect and admiration for the virtues, for the determination and for the suffering under three dictatorships.

I was originally delegated to this committee by the SVU (Czechoslovak Society for Arts and Sciences) – a group we organized back in the 50's to provide a counterpart to the communist dominated Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. After the visit of President Havel I was asked to stay, and later was joined by Don Pafko and Robert Vanasek as representing the Czech and Slovak community. We all understood that the symposium was not an ethnic organization and that Havel is a global personality whose voice and writings resonate around the world.

The dinner party had a special meaning for me, and should for all of us, that the Czech and Slovak Republics, though very small countries – fill a large space in the minds of people. This should serve as an example of the kinds of people we should all be striving to reach through our programs, and that we should cultivate them despite the fact that they are not from Czech or Slovak ethnic background. I wish you, readers, could have heard these testimonials.

And this story reminds me of a brief note I received from your Slovo editor after my last article. She suggested that I devote one of these articles to specific ways members could identify resources how they can educate themselves to the same level of knowledge and sophistication that the Havel committee members have done. I promised to do it in the future.

Publications Committee

The SLOVO is published by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, MN 55102. We welcome your contributions, text and pictures! Send your suggestions/submissions digitally to publications@sokolmn.org, or call 651 290 0542! The deadline for the next issue is February 10.

Past issues at:
www.sokolmn.org

The committee wishes to thank Teresa Pojar for three years' dedicated service to Sokol Minnesota's *Slovo* production, and welcomes Cinnamon Whaley as its new editor.

At the January 14 Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors Meeting, the directors recognized that production of the Slovo is taking its toll on those who work diligently to produce the newsletter ten times a year, and also recognize that more members must contribute time and effort in order to meet its objectives of providing this important communication to its members and subscribers. ***The option will be a reduced publication schedule.***

If you wish to help produce the Slovo, either with articles/features, graphics/photography, design/layout, production, or coordination of its digital presence on the Internet (Website, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, etc.) please email publications@sokolmn.org. We thank you.



Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers Perform for Holiday Celebrations

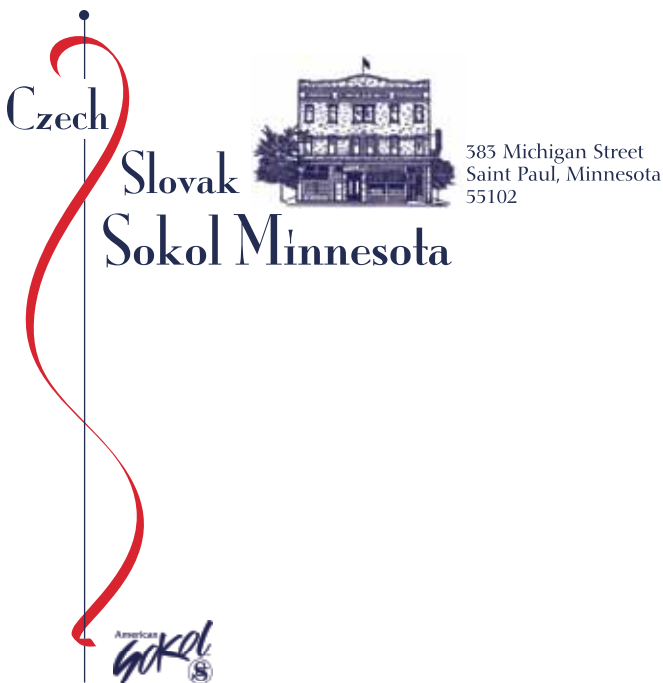
by Chuck Draheim,
St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers

On November 29 the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers performed at the International Holiday Festival held at the Ukrainian Event Center in Minneapolis, under the direction of Louise Wessinger. The annual event also featured dance groups representing Norway, Scotland, Serbia, Greece, Ukraine, Slovakia and Hungary.

The dancers also performed at Murphy's Landing in Scott County on December

13. Over several weekends during the holiday season, The Landing presents programs representing many of the ethnic groups that helped to settle Minnesota. Sue Martin and Louise Wessinger gave brief talks about the various styles of Kroje worn by the dancers. The day was cold but the old school house in which we performed was filled with holiday warmth. Some of our Sokol members, myself included, may remember their days spent in just such an old-fashioned school.

It was at this performance that we said goodbye to Jeff Martinka who is moving on to new adventures in his hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and also to John Topic who with his wife, will be teaching English in Vietnam for the next six months. We will miss them all and look forward to John's return next summer.



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