

Let the good times roll/Laissez les bons temps roulez!
Mardi Gras with Butch Thompson Comes to the CSPS Hall on February 19

By Joe Landsberger



In celebration of our CSPS Hall's 125th anniversary, Sokol members and West End neighbors come together for a Mardi Gras Tea Dance/*Thé Dansant*, special Cajun-style food (jambalaya and jalapeño corn bread) and drink, and a general good time on the Sunday before Fat Tuesday, on February 19, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the CSPS Hall. The traditional pre-Lenten celebration includes a masquerade ball and classic parade. Noted jazz musician Butch Thompson and his Hiawatha Jazz Band perform from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The sweetness and buoyant rhythm of New Orleans music took hold of Butch Thompson's life at an early age and hasn't let go. These roots are deep, and he has played his personal style of traditional jazz and ragtime worldwide.

Thompson, a clarinetist and a pianist, was a member of the Hall Brothers New Orleans Jazz Band from 1966 to 1991 at the Emporium of Jazz in Mendota. The group was nationally known for its presentation of authentic New Orleans-style music. The band was included in the Minnesota Historical Society's 2008 "MN150" exhibit of 150 significant people, organizations, and ideas from the state's first 150 years.

Butch Thompson's Hiawatha Jazz Band for our Mardi Gras celebration includes Butch Thompson on piano, Charlie DeVore on cornet, Tony Balluf on clarinet, Bill Evans on trombone, Bob Andrews on bass, and sitting in on banjo, Dick Parker.

This is the first of several special events for the CSPS Hall's 125th anniversary. It is primarily the West End neighbors of our beloved CSPS Hall who organized this Tea Dance so that Sokol members can attend and just enjoy themselves (i.e. not have to work!). We hope you can join us for this unique event in the life of our West End cultural corridor.

We expect the event to sell out. Contact Joe Landsberger at <jfl@studygs.net> or 651-297-9000 for more information and to order your pre-paid \$20 tickets.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March Slovo
Deadline February 1
- Board of Trustees
February 8
- Board of Directors
February 9, 7 p.m.
- Family Sunday
February 12, 4:30 p.m.
- Mardi Gras Tea Dance
February 19, 1 - 6 p.m.
Ticketed Event
- Membership Meeting
February 24, 7 p.m.
- Šibřinky Dance
March 3, 7 - 11 p.m.
Ticketed Event
- Flavors of Slovakia
March 11, 12:30 p.m.
Reservation Required
- Senior Singers
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
- Gymnastics
Tuesdays, 6 p.m. and
6:45 p.m.
- Prostná, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
1st and 3rd Mondays



Šibřinky
Sokol Costume Dance
(costumes optional)

Saturday, March 3

*Dance to old tyme music
by the
Cathy Erickson Band
7 - 11 p.m*

Ethnic food available starting at 6 p.m. - Cash bar
\$10.00 at the door or \$8.00 prepaid ticket

Contact Louise at 651-452-6240
for prepaid ticket sales by March 1
3704 Denmark Avenue Eagan, MN 55123
Now accepting credit cards

Folkdance performance from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
by Taneční Mládež Dancers

Intermission performance
by the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers

Event chairs are Ed Hamernik and Louise Wessinger
C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul

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Past issues of *Slovo* and
Sokol Minnesota's calendar
of events are available online
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Prezidentův Komentář/President's Notes By Ed Hamernik

Pozdrav a Šťastný nový rok (Greetings and Happy New Year)

The year of celebration for the 125th Anniversary of our historic CSPA Hall has begun. On February 19, Butch Thompson, the popular Jazz performer, will honor us with a Mardi Gras Tea Dance. I invite everyone to attend and recommend that you make advance reservations, since space is limited. Come join in the fun! This is a fundraising event for our CSPA Hall to assist with the preservation/renovation efforts that are already well under way. We appreciate your support.

The events for this year will have special emphasis on the CSPA Hall's 125th Anniversary. The Board of Directors and committees are finalizing plans, but the success of any event depends upon many volunteer hours. We encourage you to become involved at any level in our Sokol events. Please make your interests known by contacting a Board member, emailing: <events@sokolmn.org>, or leaving a message on the CSPA Hall phone: 651-290-0542. Every member has unique skills and ideas that are needed for our success.

Our formal membership renewal effort for the year 2012 is completed. If you have not returned your renewal form and check, please do so. We have enjoyed an increasing membership in the past few years. A thriving organization needs a strong and growing member base to support it.

Even though our fall and a portion of the winter have been mild, we appreciate the CSPA Hall's renovated heating system, now without leaks or other problems. This is one important step in the rebuilding effort to preserve our historic hall. Plans continue to be developed and formalized. The grants that were received these past years have been very helpful, but there is much more to be done. Any support in the form of donations is very much appreciated.

Hope to see many of you enjoying the Butch Thompson Concert and Tea Dance on February 19 and swinging at the Šibřinky Dance on March 3. Also join us at the special membership meeting on February 24 to learn more about beer. *Nazdar!*

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The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send suggestions, articles, and pictures digitally to: slovo@sokolmn.org. **The deadline for the March 2012 issue is February 1.** *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and layout editor; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, Jeanette Pafko, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, and Cinnamon Whaley, advisors. Photograph for this issue was provided by Butch Thompson. Ads are designed by Doreen McKenney. This February 2012 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after February 29.

Slovo accepts business card-size ads (3.5"x2"), paid in advance. Single insertion \$25; 3 consecutive issues: \$65; 10 consecutive issues: \$175. Ad reservation deadline is 6 weeks before publication (February 15 for April issue) with ad and payment due by copy deadline (March 1 for April issue).



For problems with subscriptions, please contact us if you missed an issue or received notice of payment due when a payment had already been made. **SNOWBIRDS: If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office does not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail; it is returned to us. We pay 45¢ for each returned copy. If you wish to have the newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know.** Email us at <slovo@sokolmn.org>, phone us at 651-290-0542, or write us at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

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

THE Spring Shopping Event is Sokol's Minnesota's own Garage Sale
Save the Dates: April 12 and 13

Let your unused and no-longer needed (gently used) treasures become someone else's bargains.

Drop off: Wednesday, April 11, 10 - 5

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors By Arlene Hamernik

Sokol Minnesota thanks the generous donors who support Sokol programs and rehabilitation of the CSPS Hall. (The *Slovo* withholds names and/or amount of donations when requested and does not print amounts less than \$100.)

In memory of Joseph, Jay, and Tillie Dolejsi: Joseph and Kaye Dolejsi, \$1,000 (Legacy/Building Fund).

In memory of Tillie Dolejsi: Joan Sedlacek. **General Fund:** anonymous, \$100 (in honor of Marit Lee Kucera); Robert M. Frame; Marcia Novak.

Legacy/Building Fund: Ruth Ahrens; Marilyn Becker; George Chlebeck, \$1,500; Kay Edquist \$100; Joyce Ehmke; Roger and Nancy Green, \$100; Darla Kolb; Kathleen Krisko; Pamela Langworthy and Richard Sargent; Hana Matousek; Bessie O'Neill; Gary Novak, \$105; JoAnn Parvey; Frank Petruska; Darlene Sitko; Ted Skluzacek; Sara Vortuba.

Sokol Receives \$2,500 Grant from Allina By Joe Landsberger

On December 16, 2011, Allina Hospitals and Clinics awarded Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota a \$2,500

grant for fitness programming. Heather Peterson, Director of Community Engagement of Allina's East Metro Region, wrote: "Allina recognizes the important role organizations such as yours serve in providing exercise and wellness programs in our community. Thank you for the very important work you all do. It is an honor for us at Allina to support an organization as important as Sokol Minnesota."

With this grant, Sokol Minnesota can allocate funding for a community outreach coordinator and fitness trainer to build on our 129 years of fitness programming for all ages, all skill levels, and all abilities. Sokol's philosophy is "a sound mind in a sound body." Our gymnastics program for ages two through high school largely serves neighborhood children in three groups: Tumbling for Tots, beginning gymnastics, and intermediate gymnastics. A Monday evening adult program of low-impact callisthenic routines (*Prostná*) is also offered.

We strive to tie into existing neighborhood organizations that have complementary missions, facilities, or programs related to fitness and health to serve more fully the West 7th and its neighboring communities. These include Allina, as well as the West 7th Community Center, Salvation Army, United Health Care Residency, senior centers and residences, local schools, and service agencies.

The new, part-time, limited term (approximately 6 months) position has three objectives: 1) contact local related organizations to explore partnerships in programming based upon the Sokol program; 2) develop one additional daytime fitness program that would serve a specifically targeted population, such as seniors, minority and/or low income youth, or persons with disabilities; 3) hire a trainer in the tots program Tuesday afternoons and assistant trainer in the Tuesday/Thursday evening gymnastics. Qualified individuals should send an inquiry to <fitness@sokolmn.org>.

Support CSPS Legacy Fund

Grants have funded several of the renovations of our CSPS Hall, but many of these grants also must be matched.

We ask for your support to insure that upcoming projects can be completed during CSPS Sokol Hall's 125th Anniversary Celebration in 2012. Please consider a tax-deductible donation. Contact Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147 or <Joyce@sokolmn.org> to discuss volunteer or donation opportunities.



LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the CSPS Hall, I will make a tax deductible

- single donation of \$ _____
 5-year pledge of \$ _____ per year for total of \$ _____
 Please send me information about ways to include the Legacy Fund in my/our will/estate plans.

I would like my gift designated

- in memory or in honor of:

- Please list my name in *Slovo* newsletter
 List amount Don't list amount
 Don't list name or amount

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**. Write **Legacy Fund** in the memo line.

Please charge my gift to

- Visa Discover Mastercard
 AmericanExpress

Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____

Mail to **CSPS Hall Legacy Building Fund**
383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Sokol Minnesota

Annual Memberships

Renewals: Individual **\$45**; Couple **\$80**. Senior **\$35** (over age 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years); Senior couple **\$70**.
 New memberships: Individual **\$50**; Couple **\$85**. This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Year 2012 dues for members joining after June 30 are reduced. 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.

Václav Havel: Neither Playwright nor Dissident

By Josef A. Mestenhauer

I wanted to write something about Václav Havel (1936-2011) and his passing in December that would be different than the meager coverage that the media provided. Media have a tendency to explain people by shortcuts, finding a label that everybody recognizes and then placing a person into a box with that label. For Václav Havel, who disliked being labeled a playwright turned dissident, these categories are insufficient and inaccurate.



The problem is not only one of scale but also of historical significance and meanings. Theater has had a special significance in the Czech and Slovak history because it is associated with the national awakening that may have saved the Czech language from extinction. Anybody who is associated with this tradition is writing not just for entertainment, but for a cause of solidifying national consciousness. The theater's prestige touched nearly everybody, and people started creating an entire network of voluntary theater clubs and traveling puppet groups that still exist today and that neither the Nazis nor the communists could control. Being a dissident is relatively common, with many examples from individual countries such as Burma, China, India, Ukraine, and many others. In contrast to these dissidents, Havel was a global dissident who challenged the entire Soviet empire that ruled almost half of the world based on turning everybody into one type of a socialist personality in order to gain compliance through fear and to punish those who do not fit this model.

Havel's work touched not only the literary elites but also common citizens everywhere, as evidenced by the extraordinary outpouring of sympathy from all over the world that his death occasioned. An example of his sensitivity to common human problems is the performance of one of his plays, which was first translated into German and produced in Berlin. Organizers conducted exit-interviews and were surprised that the most common response to the play was, "This is amazing. He is not even a German but understands our bureaucracy so well."

Havel was certainly a playwright of some distinction and a dissident of unprecedented courage, both with global outreach, but he was much more than that. All of these qualities cannot be understood when they are used analytically, one at a time, because they all converged into one consistent and holistic personality. Still, with this caveat in mind, it is well to suggest several of his other qualities. Havel was a philosopher of great distinction; his writings, papers, and speeches about society, religion, family, democracy, dictatorships, statecraft, and civil society fill eight huge volumes of "collected works." He drew heavily on other Czech

greats such as Masaryk, the Čapek brothers, and Patočka, whose philosophies he used to develop his own intellectual positions. He was also a statesman of high class. To label him as a politician is totally inadequate. He stood above the issues but also appreciated a variety of positions. During his first term as President, he invited a number of prominent and common people from all segments of Czech and Slovak society to his summer residence in Láň for dinner and a discussion of contemporary problems and social issues. Rumors had it that the food was not the attraction of these Friday dinners, but rather the sophistication of views and the sharing of perspectives that showed Havel as not only a skilled moderator but also as a highly knowledgeable person who prepared carefully for these events. An example of his statesmanship was the first international trip he took after his election was to Slovakia to re-establish ties and restore trust and respect. He had no formal training in social sciences such as history, political science, or psychology, yet he was a first class social scientist. Suffice it to cite his work on the "power of the powerless," one of his most quoted works, which shows an extraordinary grasp of the dynamics of living under a totalitarian regime. In one passage he analyzed the past by confronting everybody in the former Czechoslovakia with the statement that "we were all complicit in installing the regime" and that it was time to learn from the mistakes in order to look forward to the future. His ratings after the publication of that article went down, as he expected.

Havel was a diplomat of a global stature who understood the nature of international relations, the role of small nations in it, and the need to create a global system of security. One of his most courageous diplomatic acts was to apologize publically to the Germans who were forcefully expelled from Czechoslovakia often under brutal conditions and treatment, knowing that his ratings of support would also dip substantially. It was under his leadership that his associate, Alexander Vondra, well known to us when he was the Czech Ambassador to the United States, crafted an extraordinary document of understanding with the German Federal Government that put the issue to rest.

That Havel was a global leader is beyond doubt. He made a substantial impact on European efforts at unification and supported NATO as the most effective instrument of global security. He was fiercely pro-American and supported every measure that the U.S. was promoting on the world scene. He was a thoughtful historian who understood the deep ties between the Czechs and Slovaks and the West. "Returning to the West" was his slogan that reflected his strong views about where the Czechs and Slovaks belong, thus rejecting the common myth, advocated by many including former President Beneš, that Czechoslovakia was a bridge between the East and the West. The metaphor of the bridge proved to be a disaster for the people. Although few gave Havel credit for being an economist, he became a strong advocate of a free enterprise system while rejecting what he termed the "cowboy capitalism" that was evident in post-socialist Czechoslovakia.

Above all these roles stood one of his defining characteristics: his advocacy of human rights and his promotion of civil society. He took a stand against such regimes as Castro's and the Burmese military, and spoke on the subject of oppression each time he had a chance. He organized the "World Forum" of outstanding world leaders that included other famous dissidents such as the Dalai Lama. Havel invited the Dalai Lama to his summer residence in the *hrádeček* near Trutnov a week before his passing. Speculations circulated in Prague media that he was seeking spiritual guidance for his final trip – indeed, that was Havel's signature character: to prepare carefully everything he did.

Did Havel make mistakes? Indeed; he was neither saint nor superman. One of his biggest mistakes was that he ignored his own health. Already when he visited us in the Twin Cities his health was highly precarious, and we were required to furnish an ambulance, staffed with medical specialists, that followed Havel within short reach wherever he went. From that point onward, he lived on borrowed time. His second major mistake was that he underestimated the arrogance and persistence of the communists. He assumed that after the dissemination of information about the atrocities that they committed and the damage that they caused to life, liberty, and property, they would just fade away. That has not happened; to this date, they accept full responsibility for the communist era and look forward to the time when socialism returns.

Many of us political refugees value Havel for another reason. When it appeared that the people of Czechoslovakia willingly supported the regime, joined the communist party in large numbers, and worked enthusiastically to produce goods (mostly for the Soviets), many of us did not know how to explain the paradox of how people raised on Masaryk could embrace Stalinism. Havel exposed the true nature of the communist system and the enormous propaganda machine and regimentation that sustained it. Havel made us proud to be Czechs and Slovaks again.

In the last two centuries, a small nation has produced and given to the world two outstanding persons, Masaryk and Havel. The world responded with acclaim and embraced them as their own. Too bad that these men's receptions were more enthusiastic outside of Czechoslovakia than it was at home. After Havel's death, the Czech people made amends by making him into an icon, designating him as the foremost of the three most important people in the Czech history (the other two being Charles IV and Masaryk) and enshrining him as the beacon that enlightens the building of the civil society whose realization he did not live to see, but whose foundation he created. In these respects, Havel's legacy is of enduring value.

Postscript: Havel may have been disappointed, but I am outright angry that he did not receive the Nobel Prize for Peace. I do not know what the Nobel committee was thinking in bypassing him. J.A.M.

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

Minnesotans Send Condolences to the Family of President Václav Havel By Bob Vanasek

Several dozen Minnesotans signed a Book of Condolences in honor of former Czech President Václav Havel, who died on December 18, 2011. Offering condolences included Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives Kurt Zellars, Majority Leader Matt Dean, and members of Minnesota's Consular Corps. Czech Honorary Consul Robert Vanasek sent the Book to the Czech government. It will be given to Havel's family along with other condolence books from around the world.

In honor of President Havel, the storefront window at the CSPA Hall in Saint Paul was decorated with several artifacts from his visit here several years ago. Joan Sedlacek organized the memorial display.

He gave Czech Americans a day to remember ...of course his death brings tears to my eyes Remembrances by Libby Imbrone

May he rest in peace...we have our own memories of meeting Václav Havel...for several years the negotiations by the committee from Saint Thomas, House of Hope Presbyterian Church, and Macalester College "teetered" on the worry that at the last minute he would become ill... On April 26, 1999, Václav Havel finally arrived on the MSP Air National Guard tarmac. I took his hand in both of mine and babbled something in Czech...I was there with Joe Mestenhauser and then-Czech Foreign Minister Palouš (later Czech Ambassador to the United States and still later Czech Ambassador to the United Nations, whom we entertained at the CSPA Hall so many times he said he was embarrassed. But we loved Palouš and the feeling was returned. We gave him the organ that had been donated to us (but we could not use); he had the Press Secretary from the Czech Embassy drive up with two aides and a van to take it back for the Embassy...he was such a musician)...So the children and adults danced for President Havel and paní Dagmar Havlová. ...The Seniors sang and we gave him much pleasure on his visit to Minnesota...At the reception all the Czechs smiled, showing the poppy seed from authentic koláče made by Jim Felger, a Czech...Miro Verner drove 70 miles to Hinckley that morning to get them... We Czechs were willing to put ourselves out to show our best...As Joe, Palouš, and I waited in the terminal lobby, Governor Jesse Ventura strode in wearing a tweed sport jacket, open-collar shirt, and blue jeans (I did not approve!). Havel later spent time with the governor and seemed to admire his overturn of politics-as-usual in Minnesota... We had to promise to hold a Václav Havel Civil Society Symposium for each of the three following years. It still continues but not quite the same...Macalester eventually dropped out. We had to fit in the intellectual expatriates and Czech National organizations...Remember the breakfast hosted in our Hall? All those charming Czech political notables! I see Petr Pithart is still active...wonderful personality ... Certainly Saint Peter greeted Václav Havel warmly for his bravery against evil...To die during the Holy Season of Christmas is special.

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February Education News By Jean Draheim

If you would like more information about classes or membership meetings (or want to have your contact information included on our interest lists), contact Education Director Jean Draheim: 651-426-2826, or email: <education@sokolmn.org>. Watch upcoming Slovos and our website (<www.sokolmn.org>) for information on more cooking classes (koláče, černý kuba, ovocné knedlíky), kroje preservation, photography for travelers, and our continuing Family History Project

“Bake and Take” Cream Horns: Saturday, February 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the kitchen/dining room, second floor, CSPS Hall. Learn to make dough from scratch, roll the dough onto forms, and bake the pastry, plus fill the horns with a cream mixture. Instructors are our own Sokol cooks led by Georgiana Dolejsi. Cost: Sokol member: \$15.00; non-member: \$20.00 (Second Sokol member from the household: \$10.00.) When you register, you will receive a list of equipment to bring. Registration is required by February 1. Class size limited to 10.

Chlebičky (Open-faced party sandwiches): Thursday, February 23, 2012, starting at 6:30 p.m., in the kitchen/dining room, second floor, CSPS Hall. You have a party in your pantry! Easy to make, with infinite combinations, these tasty treats make perfect appetizers or party food. Learn the basics; then you can go home and experiment to your heart's content. We will make several varieties to be served during the February Sokol meeting the next evening. (We will have a tasting after the class!) Cost: Sokol members: free; non-members: \$10.00. Class is open to anyone age 11 and older. Registration is required by February 20. Class size is limited to 10 people.

Leather Belt-Making: Sunday, March 4. These traditional belts are worn with Moravian and Slovak men's kroje. The time and fee is yet to be decided. If you are interested, please contact Jean Draheim by February 24.

Membership Meetings: 4th Fridays, 7 p.m.

February 24: pivo! (beer) – learn all about it with Sokol member Cinnamon Whaley and Ryan Beck-Buysse, plus an extra treat, *Chlebičky*. Free will donation.

March 23: finding your ancestors online.

April 27: Czech and Slovak folk dancing with “audience participation.”

May 18: “My Grandmother’s Trunk,” stories of Sokol member Louise Wessinger’s grandmother’s immigration to America.

MEMBER NEWS: Former Member Passes Away

Bob Bastyr, age 68, Mendota Heights, Minnesota, died on January 8, 2012: Bob was men's physical director for Sokol and taught the boys' classes for many years. He and his wife Jill were long-time Sokol members. Bob was also an active member of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Both he and Jill were group directors. He was a member of the 133rd Security Police Squadron, Minnesota Air National Guard, and a Minnesota OSHA retiree.

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SONG OF THE MONTH By Georgiana Dolejsi

The American “sweetheart” song (1910) was a whim of mine to sing in the Czech language. With the help of John, my late husband, the Czech words materialized. The toast: *Živijo* (to live) appropriately followed. Translated it means to live many years. Versions vary such as: together, in good health, on happiness, etc. Unfortunately I do not have the original source of *Živijo*. Both of these songs can be found in our songbook, *Sokol Minnesota Sings*.

NECH MĚ VOLAT "SWÍTHÁRT"
(Let Me Call You Sweetheart)

Nech mě volat "swíthárt" já tě miluju,
Septej mě, má milá, že mě ráda máš.
Nech tu lásku svířit ve tvé věrné oči,
Nech mě volat "swíthárt" já tě milujil.

ŽIVIJO (Valček 3)

Ži-vi-jo, Ži-vi-jo, Ži-vi-jo, Ži-vi-jo! Mno-ga lje-ta.
mno-ga lje-ta, mno-ga lje-ta Ži-vi-jo, mno-ga lje-ta
Ži-vi-jo, Ži-vi-jo, Ži-vi-jo, Ži-vi-jo!

Overhead Projector Needed

By Louise Wessinger

Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp and the Sokol Children's Holiday party for many years have relied on an overhead projector to display words to songs for group singing rather than handing out pieces of papers with printed words. Alas, at the children's party this year the projector tumbled off its stand and met its demise! It had been previously damaged and was being held together with a giant paperclip! The overhead technology is old. Many schools and businesses are getting rid of these projectors, but for our needs it is still very useful. I ask our *Slovo* readers to check around at their work or school to see if anyone has one they would like to donate to us. We would be very grateful. If you have any questions, please contact louisewessinger@msn.com or 651-452-6240.



LOGO for 125th Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's commemorative logo to celebrate the 125th anniversary of CSPA Hall was designed by member Teresa Pojer.

The Lands They Left: A Look at the Societies which Bohemian, Moravian, Slovak, and German Emigrants Left in the 19th Century

By Ginger Simek, President, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International <www.cgisi.org>

Have you wondered why your ancestors chose to leave their homelands for an uncertain future in a new land? This is the topic of the CGSI Quarterly Program on February 11. The Habsburg lands were going through major economic, demographic, social, and cultural transformations. Traditional feudal social patterns were still widespread in the countryside, while population growth and early industrialization put new economic pressures on both countryside and the rapidly growing towns. At the same time, the Habsburg state, which had been rapidly modernizing under the enlightened monarchs of the later 18th century, was eager to industrialize but struggled with the consequences of urbanization and education.

This program examines the cultural and political conditions and changes in our ancestor's homelands, combined with the possibilities of new opportunities, which influenced the spurt of migration, especially to the United States

The speaker is Dr. Diethelm Prowe, the Laird Bell Professor of History Emeritus at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, where he taught European History

for 42 years. He regularly taught a course on the history of Eastern-Central Europe. In the fall of 2000 he directed the Central European Studies Program in Olomouc, Czech Republic, for the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. He also served as the editor of the *German Studies Review* from 2001-2011.

CGSI meeting location on February 11 is 1185 N. Concord Street, South Saint Paul, Minnesota, in the first floor auditorium. Plenty of free parking is available. The 71B bus stops at the front door. Registration starts at 12:30; the program begins at 1:00. Suggested donation: \$5. There will be a sales table and a refreshment break. <www.cgisi.org>

FLAVORS of SLOVAKIA DINNER Sunday, March 11

Reserved Seating at 12:30 p.m.

This year our traditional Slovakian dinner includes: cabbage rolls, dilled green beans, pickled beets, Potato and cheese filled dumplings, dumplings and cabbage, caraway rye bread, dessert, and coffee.
The cash bar has plenty of good beer on tap.

\$15.00 adults, \$7.00 child under 9

Prepaid reservations are required by **March 7**, and seating is limited.

Call Doreen at 952-941-0426 followed by sending your check to 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 payable to Sokol Minnesota.

Prepaid takeout is also available by reservation.

There are many volunteer opportunities to help produce the dinner. If you would like to assist, please call Joyce at 612-822-6147.

Chairs are Mary Cahill, Doreen McKenney and Joyce Tesarek

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

GARAGE



antiques, collectibles, books, clothing, and domestic treasures

Thursday, April 12 - 12 noon - 7 p.m.

Friday, April 13 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Drop off donations Wednesday, April 11 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Arrange early drop off April 2 - 10; call for times 952-941-0426

Event Chairs Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

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

ATTEND and VOLUNTEER! SOKOL MINNESOTA EVENTS

Family Sundays: Activities and Potluck

Sunday, February 12, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Register: 612-384-4604 or 612-724-5464

Butch Thompson's Mardi Gras Tea Dance

Sunday, February 19, 1 - 6 p.m.

Tickets: 651-297-9000

Šibřinky, Sokol Costume Dance

Saturday, March 3, 6 - 11 p.m. Tickets: 651-452-6240

Dance to Cathy Erickson Band from 7 - 11 p.m.

Flavors of Slovakia Dinner

Sunday, March 11, 12:30 p.m. reserved seating

Tickets: 952-941-0426

Garage Sale, Thursday and Friday, April 12 - 13

Set up: Wednesday, April 11, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

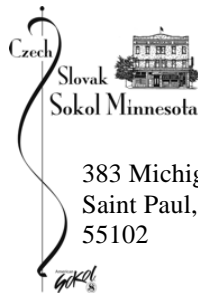
Early drop off: April 2 - 10, call: 952-941-0426

Check the calendar on our website for updates

www.sokolmn.org

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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* February 2012

Jeanette Pafko Receives Prestigious Černin Palace Memorial Award

By Bob Vanasek, Honorary Czech
Consul for Minnesota, Iowa,
North Dakota, and South Dakota

As honorary Czech Consul, I am pleased to announce that Jeanette Pafko has received the Černin Palace Memorial Award from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Czech Republic.

The award is given to individuals or institutions in the United States who contributed greatly and significantly to the progress of Czech-American relations. The award is a bronze medal with the image of the Černin Palace, seat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, in Prague.

The award is made on the basis of nominations from Czech Honorary Consuls who are entitled to make one nomination each year. Honorary Consul Robert Vanasek nominated Jeanette in October, and her nomination was approved by Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovic in early December.

Jeanette Pafko has been a member of the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota for 28 years. She has served the organization in many ways, holding several offices and organizing numerous special events. For 18 years, Jeanette performed with two Czech and Slovak folk dance groups, and had the privilege

of performing for United States President Clinton, Czech President Havel, and Slovak President Kovac. She has conducted seminars, conferences, and workshops on Czech and Slovak folk dress across the United States. She is a current board member and past co-president of the Friends of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota.

In his nomination letter, Vanasek stated that "Jeanette has enthusiastically promoted Czech heritage and traditions for almost 30 years. She has been a tireless volunteer and is held in high esteem by everyone she has worked with."