



Slovak Sokol Minnesota



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

SLOVO

JANUARY 2012
vol. 35 no. 1

Partners in Preservation Program Brings Funds for Air Conditioning to CSPS Hall

By Joe Landsberger

Mid-November brought the news that the Partners in Preservation program awarded Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota \$80,000 to support installation of air conditioning in the CSPS Hall. American Express sponsored the one million dollar PIP project. What a great gift for our Hall. Air conditioning will add so much to the CSPS Hall. Thank you, PIP! Indeed, it is a Happy New Year!



As you read in the last issue of Slovo, CSPS claimed 9% of the popular vote for a third place finish. Our CSPS Hall competed for funding against 25 other historic sites in the Twin Cities, all nominated by The National Trust for Historical Preservation, with Facebook voting. At first we were unsure of our chances, since we didn't even have a Facebook site. We formed a committee, consisting of Sue Martin, Katie Byrne Cuffey, Cinnamon Whaley, Joyce Tesarek, and myself, as chair, and got to work.

Sue took the lead developing content for our Facebook presence. She scoured past Slovos for 25 interesting tidbits that were posted each day as reminders for our supporters to vote. Content was one thing; getting votes was another. But succeed, we did! We recruited near and far. Our West End neighbors stepped up. The Czech and Slovak "moms" stepped up. Friends of friends stepped up. We reached out to other Sokols here in the United States and around the world. The Czech Republic accounted for more votes than any country outside of the U.S. We estimated that only about one-third of Sokol Minnesota members had access to Facebook; yet we received votes from more than 2,400 other Facebook "friends." Awesome!

Everyone's support will keep Sokol Minnesota and the CSPS Hall thriving for another 125 years. The committee deeply appreciates those "partners" who voted for us, as well as all who continue to work for and contribute to our national historic site. Thank you! Nazdar!



Members of the Partners in Preservation team visited the CSPS Sokol Hall on September 19. (L-R) Virgil McDill, Communications Manager, National Trust; Royce Yeater, Midwest Director, National Trust; Terry Richey, Chief Marketing Officer, National Trust; Tim McClimon, President, American Express Foundation; Christine Rhee, Manager, American Express Foundation; Joe Landsberger, Chair, Project Planning Task Force,

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Photographer: Christine Morris, Program Officer, National Trust.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February *Slovo* Deadline
January 1

Board of Trustees
January 11

Board of Directors
January 12, 7 p.m.

Sokol Camp Annual Meeting
January 13, 7 p.m.

Duck Dinner
January 21, 5 p.m.
Make Reservations

Czech/Slovak Soup Class, January 26
(see page 4)

Membership Meeting
January 27, 7 p.m.
Soup Supper, 6 p.m.
(see page 3)

Senior Singers
Tuesdays 10 a.m.

Gymnastics
Tuesdays, 6 p.m. and
6:45 p.m.

9th Annual Duck Dinner

Saturday, January 21, 2012

\$22.00 per person



Dinner includes:

Soup, 1/2 roast duck, potato dumplings, gravy, sweet and sour red cabbage, apple sauce, caraway rye bread, coffee and dessert. Beer and pop will be available for sale.

Prepaid reservations are required by January 16. Call Doreen for reservations 952-941-0426

Send your check to: 4154 Arbor Lane - Eagan, MN 55122.

Make check payable to Sokol Minnesota.

CSPS Sokol Hall 383 Michigan Street - Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102



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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 Notes By Ed Hamernik

Pozdrav/Greetings! We begin 2012 with much anticipation, as the New Year kicks off the 125th Anniversary celebration of our CSPS Hall. Our facility was recognized as a true historic gem in the Metropolitan area this past fall when it was selected as one of 25 sites to compete in the Partners in Preservation program; we were one of only 16 sites selected for major funding. The Board of Directors (BOD) is scheduling several special events, expanding on our regular festivities. Our first special celebration is the Sokol Minnesota Mardi Gras Tea Dance, featuring Butch Thompson, on February 19. Mark your calendars to hear this jazz piano artist perform.

Mailed inside this January *Slovo* is our 2012 Spring Events Calendar postcard. Save it as a reminder, so that you do not miss any upcoming Sokol events.

Congratulations to our newly elected and re-elected BOD members. We have a talented and dedicated group to lead our organization. A special welcome to those in new leadership roles: Katie Bryne Cuffey, Recording Secretary; Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary; Scott Finley, Board of Trustees; Don Haselbauer, Sargent-at-Arms; and Cheryl Nelson, delegate to Western District of American Sokol. We look forward to working with you. A special thank you to Jay Fonkert and Jeanette Pafko, who each served part of the past year as Corresponding Secretary, but resigned for health and personal reasons. We wish them the best for the coming year.

Last but not least, a special thanks to the returning BOD members, all the members who served on boards and committees, and all the volunteers that helped at events and cleanup days. We very much appreciate your work to make our dinners, breakfasts, bake sales, and other events successful. I also want to thank the many friends of members and of Sokol Minnesota who supported us this past year, especially those that voted on Facebook in the Partners in Preservation campaign. Again, we would not have been so successful without your votes and support.

January is also the beginning of a new membership year. Leah Rieckens, Financial Secretary, has been busy this past month mailing membership renewal letters. (Please remember to send back your membership renewals promptly.) We value and appreciate every membership in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. You keep our organization strong.

Coming soon is the Candle Light Duck Dinner on Saturday, January 21. I hope to see many of you there for that elegant dinner. *Nazdar!*

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: The *Slovo* is published ten times per year by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership.

The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send suggestions, articles, and pictures digitally to: slovo@sokolmn.org. **The deadline for the February 2012 issue is January 1.** *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing and also layout editor; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, J. Fonkert, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, Jeanette Pafko, Norm Petrik, and Cinnamon Whaley, advisors. Photographs for this issue were provided by Jean Draheim, M. L. Kucera, Joe Landsberger, Joyce Tesarek, and Cinnamon Whaley. This January 2012 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after January 31.

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 (January 15 for March issue) with ad and payment due by copy deadline (February 1 for March 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 will 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

2012 Sokol Memberships now Due By Leah Rieckens

It is time to renew your commitment to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. 2012 will be an exciting year as we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of our historic CSPS Hall with many events and festivities. Join us for this significant year in our history!

The current dues schedule is: \$45 per Individual, \$80 per Couple. Senior rates are: \$35 per Individual, \$70 per Couple (seniors are those who are over 65 years of age and have been a member of Sokol for at least 5 years). **Please pay your annual dues by January 31** in order to continue to receive your copy of the *Slovo* newsletter and to maintain your membership. We appreciate receiving your renewal before the end of January; it saves us the additional postage and printing costs of sending out reminder notices.

Please make checks payable to **Czech & Slovak Sokol Minnesota** and put "2012 Membership" on the memo line. Or you can pay by credit card. Remember, donations to Sokol Minnesota are tax deductible, so feel free to include a year-end donation with your membership renewal. We are very grateful for our member support!

Renewal forms and 2012 dues (along with any donations) should be mailed to: Leah Sticha Rieckens, Sokol MN Financial Secretary, 330 - 6th Street South, Stillwater, MN 55082

Should you choose not to renew your membership, please let us know, so we can remove you from our lists. We do our best to keep accurate records. If you believe there is a mistake on your renewal form or if you did not receive your form, please contact us and we will be happy to correct our records. Leah's email is <czechingin@gmail.com>, or you can leave a phone message at the CSPS Hall.

Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At our October 28 membership meeting, Sokol Minnesota accepted one couple and four single members into membership. Evan and Kari Hovorka from Plymouth have four children. They expressed interest in cooking, genealogy, history, music, dances, dinners, and festivals. Barbara Douvier of Woodbury has interest in language, history, gymnastics, films, music, dances, and dinners. Helen Andreasen, from Hastings, is interested in cooking, dinners, and festivals. Marcia Novak from Plymouth has interest in cooking, genealogy, films, music, dances, and dinners. Jason Brozovich from Chanhassen interests include cooking, language, gymnastics, music, dinners, and festivals. Jason attended the meeting and was inducted into Sokol Minnesota. He received the welcome hug from Georgiana Dolejsi to complete the induction. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

In November, Sokol Minnesota accepted two new members. Andrew Kozak is from Minneapolis, with interests in music, dance, and gymnastics. Katrina Byrne Cuffey, Saint Paul, has interests in cooking, history, gymnastics, films, music, dances, and festivals. When Katrina was 15, she spent five months in Prague as an exchange student. Nine years later, after she had finished college, she went back to Prague to teach English; she stayed for eight years, living with Czechs and learning to speak Czech very well. She returned to the U.S. when she married Joel, an American currently in a graduate school program at the University of Minnesota. She found Sokol Minnesota through our website; her adopted Czech family was pleased to know that she would continue her Czech connections by joining Sokol. She already has been active helping at the Fall Festival in Highland Park and working on the Partners in Preservation committee. In November, she was elected as Recording Secretary to the Board of Directors. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

SPECIAL! Photos from 2011 Sokol Children's Holiday Party and Sokol Members' Christmas Party are online at



2011 Membership Longevity Awards: (L-R) Edward Hamerik (president), Jean Hall, and Robert J. Kostichka were present at the Sokol Members' Christmas Party, on December 4 to receive certificates.

5 Years (joined in 2006): Lydia Jaros Akradi, Jennifer F. Aubrecht, Edward Hamernik, Jan Knudtson, Robert J. Kostichka, Rosemarie Paul, Vern Paul, Dolores (Dottie) Kokes Speidel, Wendy Sutton. 10 Years (joined in 2001): Kate Aubrecht, Joyce M. Ehmke, Anne Jans, Patricia Wolesky. 15 Years (joined in 1996): Mark Andrie, Colin Clancy, Julie Clancy, Renae Faunce, Jean Marie Hall, Kent Hinshaw, Kari Muires, W. Scott Muires. 20 Years (joined in 1991): Cecilie Gaziano, Medard Kaisershot, Doreen McKenney, Edward Vrchota. 25 Years (joined in 1986): Geraldine Dooley, Steven Fritze, Susan Fritze. 35 Years (joined in 1976): Joan L. Sedlacek - Honorary Member. 55 Years (joined in 1956): George Chlebecek - Honorary Member

Meeting Program News By Jean Draheim

January 27 Souper Sokol Supper will start at 6 p.m. Come early and have some of the soup that members made in class the day before. Free-will donation.



February 24: Clebečky with Beer. Come to a membership meeting not to be soon forgotten! *Clebečky* (open-faced sandwiches) will be served. Plus we will sample beer styles from the Czech Republic and neighboring countries, as well as their American-

brewed style counterparts. Certified beer judges, Ryan Beck-Buysse and member Cinnamon Whaley (seen here at the Bosteels Brewery, Buggenhout, Belgium) will speak about European beer styles and brewing traditions and how they have influenced American brewing over the last 100 years. Free-will donation.

Spring 2012 meeting presentations will be Finding Your Ancestors Online, March 23; Czech and Slovak folk dancing with "audience participation," April 27; and "My Grandmother's Trunk," stories of Sokol member Louise Wessinger's grandmother's immigration to America, May 18.

Thank You! to the loyal members who donated treats for the monthly membership meetings in 2011. January: Norm Petrik and Joyce Tesarek; February: Marlene Hinshaw and Georgiana Dolejsi; March: Mary Cahill and Megan Cahill; April: Shirl Verner and Jean Draheim; May: Norm Petrik, Joyce Tesarek, and Mark Bigaouette; August: Doreen McKenney and Doris McKenney; September: BobbieJo Chandler, Sue Marabella, Marlene Hinshaw, MaryJo Chlebecek, Libby Imbrone, and Jean Hall; October: Mary Cahill and Megan Cahill; November: Judy Aubrecht and Louise Wessinger; December: Jean Hall and Pamela Kotval coordinated the members Christmas Party.

SAVE! COLLECT! BOX UP All Your Unused and
Unneeded (*gently used*) Treasures. Bring to Sokol
Garage Sale on April 11, Wednesday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Prostna – We are Back in Step! By Mary Cahill

Prostna, a group calisthenics that is low impact and choreographed to promote general fitness for all ages, will resume for adults of all ages beginning in January. Participants will learn the senior II *prostna* that will be performed at the Prague *Slet* in July 2012. Doreen McKenney is the lead instructor.

The only January session will be Friday, January 20, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the CSPS Hall. Additional sessions will be the 1st and 3rd Mondays, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., beginning February 6 at the CSPS Hall. *Prostna* is free to members. All that is required to participate is a pair of tennis shoes, comfortable clothing, and a willingness to learn a choreographed routine (yes, there is some mental as well as physical work involved). It is a great way to stretch, sneak in some exercise, and socialize with other Sokol members. For more information, contact Mary at 651-738-9470.

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary

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

Building/Legacy Fund: Dennis and Mary Cahill, \$250, (Legacy Pledge); The Czech Heritage Club, New Prague, MN, \$300; Georgiana Dolejsi, \$200; Jean Marie Hall, \$300 (Legacy Pledge); Marit Lee Kucera (Legacy Pledge); Joe Landsberger, \$1,000 (Legacy Pledge); Susan and David Martin, \$3,000; Ted and Judith Schieffer; James and Mary Stepan; Frank Trnka.

General Fund: Joseph Kocab; James and Mary Jo Chlebecek, \$275 (for hardware and emblems used on the cupboards).

MEMORIALS: In memory of Tillie Dolejsi: George Chlebecek; James and Mary Jo Chlebecek, \$100; Joyce Degidio; Georgiana Dolejsi, \$100; Joe and Kay Dolejsi; Charles and Jean Draheim; Robert and Carol Ferris, \$150; John and Therese Fitch; Steven and Susan Fritze, \$150; Bruce and Rebecca Granowski; Millie Grealish; Edward and Barbara Gross; Ed and Arlene Hamernik; Donald and Catherine Haselbauer; Kent and Marlene Hinshaw; Al and Libby Imbrone; Janice Jacobson; William and Patricia Buzicky-Jaeger, \$100 (Building/Legacy Fund); Robert Kostichka; James and Betty Lundquist; Jileen Marquardt; Brian and Jodi Mondor; Bradley and Terry Narr, \$100; Anne Neubauer; Norman Petrik and Joyce Tesarek, \$100; Mary Tesarek, \$100; Thomas and Penny Tesarek, \$100; Les and Diane Rankin; Marie Reno; Barry and Christa Rittberg, \$100; Elsie Roepke; Richard and Sandra Saliny; Norman and Theresa Sladek; Smolik Family, \$100; Mir and Shirley Verner, \$100; Ken and Sharon Wyberg.

In memory of Parents, Dr. George Furda and Petronila

Furdova: Dr. Ivan Furda (Legacy Fund).

In memory of Lorene Sedlacek: Bill and Pat Buzicky-Jaeger (Building/Legacy Fund).

In memory of Shirley Kellgren: Georgiana Dolejsi (Legacy Fund).

In memory of John and Tillie Peterka: Jean M. Hall.

In memory of Mother, Zdenka (Jane) Machacek Kisch: Frank, Toni, and Marie Kisch, \$500

In memory of Gloria Pallo: Tom Pallo, \$100 (Legacy Fund).

January 2012 Education News By Jean Draheim

Czech and Slovak language classes resume the week of January 9. If you have taken either Czech or Slovak in the past, know a smattering of the languages, or are a new student, we welcome you! Each class is limited to ten students; mail your registration today.

The Education Committee will offer several Free-to-Members classes in the next few months. Any Sokol member is welcome to join the class. If you want to bring a non-Sokol member, there will be a small materials fee.

Embroidery class: Sunday, January 15 and 29. Make a panel of the poppy motif that is popular on Moravian *kroje*. 651-426-2826.

Czech/Slovak soup class: Thursday, January 26. Learn about traditional soups and prepare several for our members' meeting on January 27. 651-426-2826.

Clebečky class: Thursday, February 23. Learn the techniques and tricks to make these tasty, festive open-faced sandwiches. The class will prepare *Clebečky* for the February 24 members' meeting, which will feature a program and sampling of beer. 651-426-2826.



Mary Frances Yanta made these vánočka in our November Christmas Bread baking class. She received a scholarship, donated by Doreen McKenney, to attend the class. If you are interested in donating a scholarship to further Czech and Slovak folk traditions, please contact Education Director Jean Draheim.

Read the *Slovo* or check our website <www.sokolmn.org> to learn more about our classes, including cooking (cream horns, *koláče*, *kuba*, fruit

dumplings), *kroje* preservation, leather belt crafting, photography for travelers, and our continuing Family History Project. For more information or if you want your contact information included on the interest lists, contact Education Director Jean Draheim: 651-426-2826 or education@sokolmn.org.

News from the Board of Trustees (BOT)

By Chuck Draheim

We welcome Scott Finley to the Board of Trustees. Scott joins Chuck Draheim, Don Haselbauer, Dennis Cahill, Scott Hinshaw, Lloyd Krocak, and Terry Shima on the 2012 BOT. He replaces Jean Hall. We thank Jean for her work on the BOT.

The next year promises to be a busy one for the Board of Trustees and Sokol Minnesota in general. Plans will be developed to install air conditioning in the Hall thanks to the \$80,000 grant received from American Express and Partners In Preservation. Work also will proceed on the installation of the fire protection system and repairing/replacing part of the sanitary sewer system in the basement.

The BOT wishes to thank Joyce Tesarek and Joe Landsberger for writing the grants that helped secure funds for many of the projects at the Hall.

As always, questions, comments, or concerns may be directed to <trustees@sokolmn.org>.



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"Celebration Tour": Sept. 19-30; Book by May 18

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2012 Sokol Camp Annual Meeting By Jean Draheim

The annual Minnesota Sokol Camp Association meeting is set for 7 p.m., Friday, January 13, at the CSPS Hall. The agenda includes the election of board members, various committee reports covering the finances and rental of the Camp, and a re-cap of the Sokol Camp Booya Picnic last August.

What is this "Sokol Camp," you ask? It is probably 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. The camp includes a main lodge, stationary and floating docks for swimming and fishing, and lots of trees and lakeshore.

Sokol members can 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.

Member News: Send your news to Marlene Hinshaw <Marle5421@aol.com>

Sokol wishes the best to member Dottie Speidel, who moved in November to Santa Cruz, California, to be closer to her family. One Sokol friend in the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center reading group describes her as "a woman of firm opinions; not at all shy in stating her position when others disagreed. I loved having her in the book group." Dottie will be missed!

**The Czech and Slovak Cultural Center reading group meets one Saturday morning each month at the CSPS Hall to discuss Czech and Slovak books in translation. Past selections have included authors such as Čapek and Kafka. New members are always welcome! The group's schedule is posted on the Cultural Center website: <www.cs-center.org>.*

January 14 Interest Meeting for Miss Czech-Slovak 2012 By Louise Wessinger

A lunch meeting is scheduled at the CSPS Hall for noon, Saturday, January 14, for all young ladies who might be interested in competing for the title of Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota this year or in the near future. Candidates should be ages 16-26 at the time of the competition, and have some Czech, Moravian, or Slovak ancestry. Interested young women can meet with Anne Smisek Jans (507-362-45980) and Ashley Vlasak (952-201-4107) to learn about the pageant. The 2012 pageant will be held Saturday, April 14. Please call Anne or Ashley to tell them you are coming so that they can have a lunch for you!

Repairs to Community Gate Installation By Joe Landsberger

The City of Saint Paul Neighborhood STAR Year-Round program announced a \$3,000 grant for repairing the Community Gate commemorative art installation in the North High Bridge Park. In April 2011, neighbors were dismayed to find that someone vandalized the sculpture, not once, but twice on successive weekends. The installation was created in 2004 by West Side artist Craig David to celebrate the many accomplishments of Czech and Slovak immigrants who settled in the West End since the 1860s.

The vandals chained one of the upright eight-foot curbstones in the installation and pulled it down, probably with a truck. The curbstones, each weighing 1,200 to 1,500 pounds, were hand-hewn from granite blocks in the 1880s and 1890s, and were used to line Saint Paul streets. Each of the 13 curbstones has a four-foot footing with steel pins that hold it in place. *For a history of the Gate Project visit <http://fortroadfederation.org/highbridge/gateproject.htm>*

In the second act of vandalism, the gate was broken from its ornate frame. Saint Paul City Councilman Dave Thune sponsored the funding; Joe Landsberger presented background information to the Community STAR Board hearing. For more information or to volunteer toward maintaining this lovely tribute to early Czech and Slovak immigrants, contact Joe at 651-297-9000 or <jfl@studygs.net>.

Sokol's Planning Task Force Vets Renovations By Joe Landsberger

A group of historians and architects from the Minnesota Historical Society and the National Park Service toured the CSPS Hall in October to advise Sokol Minnesota on heating system upgrades and fire protection systems for the Hall. The group will sign off on all renovation projects to ensure that improvements funded through Sokol's \$150,000 grant from the federal Saving America's Treasures program are compatible with the Hall's designation as a National Historic Landmark.

The advisors include Dena Sandford, architectural historian, and Mark Chavez, historical architect (both for the National Park Service's regional office in Omaha), and Natascha Weiner, historical architect for the Minnesota Historical Society. Representing Sokol Minnesota were Ed Hamernik, president, and Joe Landsberger, chair, Project Planning Task Force. The tour concluded with lunch at The Glockenspiel, the fine restaurant housed on the Hall's first floor.

Sokol Children's Holiday Party By Louise Wessinger

It didn't snow for the first time in five years, so all the Sokol families were able to make it to the CSPS Hall for our annual children's party on December 2. The evening began with a warm welcome by Sokol President Ed Hamernik. Sokol's ethnic children's dance groups took the floor to welcome the holiday season with some lively dances. The teen dancers followed the youngest children *Mladá Skupina* and *Taneční Mládež*. Four dancers in each group had their first performances; they were treated to their own round of applause. The Sokol gymnasts demonstrated their impressive tumbling skills. Both groups performed together in what has become a traditional "Candy Cane" medley. Special guests, *Svatý Mikuláš*, *Anděl*, and *Cert* arrived to visit the children and present them with goodie bags. The children signed the "Good Book" to promise good behavior for the coming year. *(Check our website for pictures <www.sokolmn.org>)*

Busy Moms By Jitka Sebek

As a fundraiser for the CSPS Hall, the Czech and Slovak Moms Group baked and sold holiday breads, *vánočka* and *makovka*.



(L-R): Edita Mansfield, Alena Youngberg, Marketa Palkova, Romana Pulkrabek, Lenka Bragg, Deborah Elias, Michaela Anderson, and Olga Espinoza with the bowl of vánočka and makovka batter.

Our Mom's Club demonstrated its mettle by undertaking a baking project as a fundraiser. The first challenge was to contact all of the Moms, get commitments within a couple of days to purchase all the ingredients, and come to the CSPS Hall to bake. The great Sokol kitchen was an essential ingredient for success. Now came the best part - everyone getting there on time, working hard, taking a goulash break, baking 60 pieces (such a huge sack of flour luckily exists!) of *vánočka* and *makovka* and finishing by scrubbing the floor.

It took 20 Moms from 7:30 in the morning until 7:00 in the evening to complete this sweet marathon. We passed the test with an A+ and a poppy seed grin. The group had fun and the breads were delicious!

Memories of October: The Lasting Curse of

Munich By Josef A. Mestenhauer

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

The first half of this article appeared in the November/December 2011 issue of Slovo. The article left off by posing the many "what if" questions that arise when considering the potential consequences if Czechoslovakia had chosen to resist Hitler militarily.



The facts as we do know them today suggest that Czechoslovakia may not have been well prepared for a war and might not have survived the onslaught of the German military for more than a few weeks, as the Polish army did later at great human and material costs. Beneš often complained that, although he had many generals, he felt that he did not have a single real leader among them. The annexation of Austria created a different defensive situation; the Czechoslovak fortifications did not count on the possibility of a German invasion from the south. To resist the German demands would have required either active support or at least neutrality on the part of Poland to secure the northern flank. Although Benes made repeated efforts, Pilsudski continued to reject them and aggressively demanded the annexation of the "Tesin" area to Poland. The Little Entente alliance among Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Yugoslavia was directed against potential aggression on the part of Hungary, not Germany.

The internal political situation in Czechoslovakia was not very clear either. For example, the agrarian party and the Slovak nationalists held secret talks with Nazi officials. The military, initially firmly against accepting the Munich terms, later was divided on its estimates of the country's defenses. Some recognized that the defenses were inadequate, that they lacked anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, and that some fortifications remained unfinished. There is no evidence that Stalin would have entered the war on Czechoslovakia's side either. The two countries shared no common borders. As subsequent events indicated, the Russian army was equally unprepared to fight. The mutual assistance treaty that existed with Czechoslovakia would bind Stalin only if France also satisfied her treaty obligations. Although Czechoslovakia brought her case to the League of Nations, which determined that Germany was the aggressor, it remained unclear what countries would continue to support her.

The only fact that is well established is that Munich had given Hitler 1,213 airplanes, 2,253 light and heavy artillery, 500 anti-aircraft guns, 2,000 anti-tank guns, 800 tanks, 600,000 rifles, 57,000 machine guns, 115,000 pistols, and over one million rounds of ammunition – all for the use of the German army in subsequent military expansions against the powers that gave Hitler these gifts. Beneš was motivated in part to accept capitulation to avoid a useless bloodbath (although the bloodbath did happen anyway during the subsequent occupation).

There is also evidence, apparently known to some of the Sudeten German Nazis, that Hitler, in anticipation of eventual war, had commissioned a study in 1927 about post-war solutions to the Czechoslovak "problem." The one accepted, "Plan Gruen," was ultimately used in the Nurnberg trials as evidence against Nazi war criminals. This plan proposed to eliminate one-third of the non-German population along with the Jews, while another third would be resettled in Eastern Europe as agricultural workers for the Reich. The final third would stay only through promising allegiance to Hitler, possessing needed skills and muscle power, and by meeting the physical requirements thought to indicate membership in an "Arian" race.

It is questionable how well political leaders can predict the consequences of their decisions. This question goes beyond Munich. Studies suggest that people's capacity to predict the future is greatly limited; nonetheless, people do make assumptions about future consequences, as we know even from our own most recent history. In the case of Munich, Beneš anticipated correctly that Hitler would continue his aggression, leading eventually to a world war including the Soviet Union, that the war would be won largely by the Western powers, but that it would bring the Soviets into Central Europe, and that Czechoslovakia would be restored. He also foresaw the Soviet Union's international prominence, but thought that her experiences would lead it to become more democratic, less intent on expansionism, and more concerned with rebuilding and modernizing itself than with interfering with its neighbors.

His memoirs include an account of sharing these thoughts on the war's likely outcomes with President Roosevelt during the war, including Stalin's promise to respect the autonomy of post-war Czechoslovakia; according to Beneš, Roosevelt completely agreed with his prognostications. Before the war, though, the Czechoslovak president fell for the same bluff as Chamberlain and Daladier – a fact he regretted until his death. After the war, Beneš expected that Czech and Slovak communists would be more reasonable than their Soviet mentors, that the Czechoslovakians were too committed to democracy to give more than nominal support to the communist party, and that the communists themselves would become more a party of "loyal opposition" than the disruptive element they had been before the war. He grossly underestimated the impact that both Munich and the subsequent Nazi occupation made not only on the material lives of people, but especially on their minds, on their reasoning, and on their employment of analytical and critical thinking skills.

This leads me to another question: how can political leaders assess the impact of dramatic events such as wars, occupations, dictatorships, loss of educational opportunities, and severe censorship? Must we assume that afterwards conditions return to normal? Again, these questions go beyond Munich; we see daily evidence of the negative impacts of occupations, wars, and restrictions on people's freedoms around the world. These conditions can affect people differently, not only consciously but subconsciously as well. People acquire these "collective memories" through a process of "implicit learning" that over a period of time become solid cognitive structures that explain their lives and experiences with totalitarian oppressive systems. Established educational systems do not deal well with these cognitive maps because they are not "objective knowledge," as are research and data-based facts.

The consequences of Munich suggest that ultimately, neither military solutions nor diplomacy are effective – not without taking into account the formal and informal learning that people acquire through experience of oppression, deprivation, and disrespect for lives and property. Such learning becomes part of people's mindsets. What, then, is the solution? Since much of what I am describing is the matter of how people think, education appears to be the only solution. People may survive these oppressive periods and move on physically, but not mentally. Future generations often reclaim these "collective" memories and return to act on them. In other words, payment for political sins will come due even decades and centuries later.

I am critical of "what would have happened if" questions that often reinforce the mindsets I find so destructive. We need to find ways not of helping people forget their past, but of learning to live with the effects of that past on their values and mental competencies, to understand the destructive elements of that past, and to focus on skills that help people move beyond, even if it means extra work to make up what has been lost. If this does not happen, people will not be aware of what knowledge they need to recover. If they do not know what possibilities exist, then such possibility does not exist in

Memories continued: their minds. Needed skills include understanding diverse perspectives and viewpoints. Social sciences have advanced substantially, contributing to the learning of ways to enter the minds of others without having to agree with them. There is virtually no country in this world that does not have the same issues and does not carry the same baggage that existed in the pre-Munich Czechoslovakia between the Czechs, Slovaks, German, Poles, and Hungarians.

Instead of playing “what if” games, we should concentrate on some lessons that Munich teaches. One lesson is to learn better how to deal with dictators. Another is to be more understanding of the difficulties of making intelligent foreign policy decisions. As indicated, leaders face such an extraordinary barrage of options that making decisions indeed becomes difficult. This is especially true for the “big powers” that are involved in a global setting unknown to earlier generations that hides many unpredictable risks. These leaders have a special responsibility to understand the consequences that their decisions make on smaller nations. Individual citizens should also learn to appreciate these problems their leaders face, but at the same time should scrutinize the skills of potential leaders to insure that they have the knowledge, skills, and intellectual competency that would help them avoid simplistic solutions based on emotions and hollow slogans. The final lesson is to use all the tools of social sciences to educate people, especially the young, to better understand the forces contributing to conflicts, wars, and occupations – the very same forces that existed at the time of Munich.

Cooking with Cinnamon: Vegetables Škubánky

By Cinnamon Whaley.

Recipe by Mary Stich in *Sokol Minnesota Cookbook*.

6 medium potatoes	4 carrots	
1 cup water	1-1/2 cups sifted flour	1 tsp. salt
1/4 cup butter/margarine	1/2 cup poppy seed	1/2 cup sugar

Cook potatoes and carrots together until tender; drain, saving liquid. Mash until smooth. Measure one cup liquid in which vegetables were cooked, adding water if necessary. Add to mashed vegetables. Add flour and salt. Beat until fluffy. Heat butter/margarine in frying pan. Drop vegetable mixture by spoonful into frying pan. Turn to brown on both sides. Serve hot sprinkled with mixed poppy seed and sugar.

Six potatoes were more than I needed for my two-person household. I cut back to two fist-size potatoes and three medium carrots. The instructions said to mash the vegetables; but as I had my beaters out to use later, I thought I'd skip ahead to use them now. Very quickly I learned that carrots, even when cooked, do not beat well. So mashing it was! Since I was preparing fewer vegetables than the recipe called for, I used 1/2 cup water and about 1/3 cup flour. I knew the resulting mixture should not be soupy, nor quite like cookie dough. It was easy to mix in the flour a little at a time to get a good frying consistency.

I made two batches of six *škubánky* fried in butter and had enough mix left to make another six. Each side took about three minutes to brown at medium-high heat. They looked like little *pierogi* but with no dough! I was worried that, with little more than potatoes and carrots in the recipe, the cakes would be bland. I added a good deal of salt and pepper to the mixture before frying, but anything fried in butter tastes wonderful! The carrot flavor didn't come through very strongly, so the end result was basically lovely fried potato cakes. I ate two plain, tried one with poppy seed and sugar, and then went for horseradish sauce! I didn't particularly enjoy the sweet version. With twelve *škubánky*, it was easy to experiment.

This might not be the healthiest way to get your veggies. However, I will make this recipe again, probably paring it down even further, since the flour and water additions are trial and error; I also had quite a bit left over at the end. This recipe is a nice side for any meat dish, sandwich, or soup, as long as you don't fill up on the *škubánky* first!

Hamburg-Port of Emigration By Ginger Simek, President, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International <www.cgsi.org>

Hamburg, Germany, was a major emigration port for many of our East and Central European ancestors. Emigration from Europe was already well underway in the mid-1800s. Reasons for leaving varied, but in general economic and political circumstances in Europe motivated many to seek a better life elsewhere. America was the most popular destination choice.

The Hamburg Amerika Linie, founded in Hamburg in 1847, offered regularly scheduled sailings between Hamburg and New York. By 1867, the fleet was entirely made up of steamships, which provided faster and more reliable transportation. With the rapid increase in emigration in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the dormitories and hostels available in Hamburg became inadequate and overcrowded. Many emigrants did not speak German and had never visited a big city. Those looking to cash in on the population boom sometimes took advantage of the emigrants' inexperience. In 1892, in an attempt to improve conditions, Albert Balin's Hamburg-Amerika Linie constructed accommodations to house emigrants for three to five days before their ship departed. However, these were quickly outgrown, and were replaced with large emigration halls built in stages from 1898 to 1907. The final result was a small "city" with a reception hall, five dormitories, luggage shed, stable, dining hall, church, music hall, hospital, and administration building. During their stay at the hall, emigrants had three meals a day, heat, electric lights, and running water – a first-time luxury for many. The halls closed in 1934 after 34 years of operation.

The emigration experience can be re-lived today through the BallinStadt Emigration Museum that opened in 2007 on the site in Hamburg. This article is based on presentations given at the October CGSI conference in Saint Louis, Missouri, by Rebekka Geitner, a historian at the BallinStadt (www.ballinstadt.net).

SONG of the MONTH Chosen by Georgiana Dolejzi

Music and lyrics of the Czech carol as found at <<http://wintersfun.blogspot.com/2010/09/music-and-lyrics-of-czech-carol.html>>

ROLNIČKY (JINGLE BELLS)

Americká lidová, text Vladimír Dvořák (Doprovod: 4)

Moderato **D**

1. Slá-va, už je sněh, je-dem na sa-ních,
Kou-ka na sy-na, u-ši na-pi-ná...

2. Zvonky dětských let, rozsezvoňte svět!
Těm, co už jsou dospělí, ať je znova pět!
Zvoňte zlehýnka, stač čivilínka:
Vzpomínka jak rolničky v srdci zacinká.

ATTEND and VOLUNTEER! SOKOL MINNESOTA EVENTS

9th Annual Roast Duck Candlelight Dinner

Saturday, January 21, 5 p.m. \$22
Reservations: 952-941-0426

Family Sundays: Activities and Potluck
January 15 and 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

It's not too Early to start Boxing Up your old Treasures
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* January 2012

The Czech and Slovak community in Minnesota joins millions of people around the world in mourning the death on December 18 of philosopher, playwright, and former president Vaclav Havel. He was 75. Havel guided the fledgling Czech Republic in a time of extraordinary change, and he imprinted upon his country both his political and ethical vision. What was said of Abraham Lincoln at the time of his death can be said of Havel: *now he belongs to the ages.*



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