

## THANKS to all the VOLUNTEERS at the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual FESTIVAL of NATIONS

*Ahoj! We had really great volunteers again this year. Sokol Minnesota truly needs to thank them all for their hard work. I especially want to thank the chairs: Joyce Tesarek and Mary Cahill (Café), Doreen McKenney (Bazaar), and Louise Wessinger (Dancers). All our wonderful, loyal volunteers – from members to friends and families – are so essential to making this event a success. Thank You!* From Jean Hall, Czech and Slovak FON Chair Person

**Culture Exhibit:** Don Andrle, Pat Andrle, Katie Aubrecht, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Katie Byrne Cuffey, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Jean Hall (Culture Booth and our FON chair), Nikki Khan, Bob Kosticka, Robert Jacobson, Deb Makousky, Paul Makousky, Norm Petrik, and Thomas Yanta.

**Bazaar:** Mark Bigaouette, Betty Erlandsen, M.L. Kucera, Danita Larson, Doris McKenney, Doreen McKenney (chair), Terry Pulkrabek, Joan Sedlacek, and Dan Washick.

**Café:** Don Andrle, Rosemary Baisden, Mary Elizabeth Berglund, Julie Bohn, Jason Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, Mary Cahill (chair), Megan Cahill, George Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Shannon Duffy, Arlene Hamernik, Cheri Johnson, Darla Kolb, Betsy Lien, Greg Lundin, Hana Matousek, Ann Miller, Ryan Miller, Shane Miller, James Narr, Matthew Narr, Patrick Nau, Carol O'Brien, Norm Petrik, Teresa Pojar, Radmila Rasmussen, Elizabeth Rheume, Vicki Rosenthal, Joan Sedlacek, Terry Shima, Ted Skluzacek, Joyce Tesarek (chair), Penny Tesarek, Tom Tesarek, Elizabeth Vangh, Paula Vukonich, Cinnamon Whaley, Jenny Ziemer, and Mary Kay Ziemer.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

August Slovo  
Deadline July 1

Board of Trustees  
June 13 and July 11

Board of Directors  
June 14 and  
July 12, 7 p.m.

Membership Meeting  
No meetings in June  
or July.  
Next meeting:  
August 24, 7 p.m.

Sokol Camp Booya  
August 12, Pine City  
noon- 5 p.m.

Enjoy a  
great summer!



*Two Czech high school exchange students visited the Czech and Slovak Bazaar booth at the Festival of Nations. They felt right at home! Barbora Hubáčková (from Zlín/ASSE program; this year in Saint Cloud) and Vojtěch Jirásek (Praha/CETUSA program; this year in Gaylord) stand with Terry Pulkrabek (L) and Betty Erlandsen (R) who every year volunteer one or more days in our Bazaar booth.*

*Look for more FoN pictures in the August Slovo.*

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Past issues of *Slovo* and Sokol Minnesota's calendar of events are available online at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

**Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes** By Ed Hamernik

*Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters*

Winter and spring have been busy at Sokol Minnesota's CSPS Hall with the many events that we hosted or in which we participated. We had two formal dinners, the Mardi Gras concert, the *Šibrinky* Dance, Spring Breakfast/Bake Sale with crafters tables, the 2-day Garage Sale, and 4 days at the Festival of Nations (where we had an ethnic food booth, culture booth, and gift shop, besides having children, teen, and adult folk dancers on stage). Can you imagine how many hours of volunteer effort went into the preparation and running of these events? **Many!** And we are very grateful to all the Sokol members and friends that pitched in to help make all of these events very successful. Thank You.

And while all of the above was taking place, the Hall was home to approximately 45 gymnastics sessions, 72 language class sessions, 56 ethnic folk dance sessions, 16 Senior singing sessions, 10 *Prostna* sessions, 9 private rentals, 5 each member and BOD meetings, baking classes, more than 20 committee meetings, and several meetings of companion organizations. This has all taken place in the 5 months since January 1, 2012. It is quite amazing to see how much our Hall is used and the number of people that benefit. What a great asset it is to the members and community.

This year, the worldwide Sokol movement is celebrating its 150th Anniversary. Over the years, Sokol survived many challenges. It was banned four times by regimes that controlled the Czech and Slovak lands. Considering the banned periods, American Sokol would be the oldest continuing Sokol organization in the world. To commemorate the anniversary, the Czech government has issued a 200 Kc coin and a postage stamp. The highpoint of the celebration will be the All-Sokol *Slet* in Prague from June 30 to July 6. Sokol Minnesota will participate in the *Slet*.

Mark your calendar for Booya at the Sokol Camp in August and the Czech and Slovak Festival on September 16 at the International Center on Como Avenue in Saint Paul. The festival's new location offers many opportunities to make this a great event. Hope to see many of you there. *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](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org). **The deadline for the August 2012 issue is July 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, and Jitka Sebek, advisors. *Slovo* ads are designed by Doreen McKenney. Photographs for this issue were provided by Katie Cuffey, Lisa Hollibush, M. L. Kucera, Gary Novak, and Joyce Tesarek. This June/July 2012 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after June 30.

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

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member 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

For problems with subscriptions, please contact us if you missed an issue or received notice of payment due when a payment has already been made. **If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. If you wish to have the newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know.** You can email us: [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org), phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

## Gymnastics 2011 - 2012 Season Recap By Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Instructors

This was another great year for our Sokol Minnesota gymnastics program. Returning head instructor Lisa Hollibush was joined by second-year instructors Madeline Moser, Ellen Sutton, and Shelby LaBonne; and first-year instructor Jayne Pobanz. All five of



those instructors are graduates of National Sokol Instructor Courses, and all five have been active Sokol gym class participants for years and currently or previously competed with their high school gymnastics teams. Rounding out the Sokol-trained instructors was returning Hamline University sophomore Courtney Benson, an elite gymnast who competes for Hamline University's gymnastics team. Courtney is a national all-American B-team member on floor and vault; she is nationally ranked all-around in Division 1. She chooses to compete Division 3 with Hamline so she can focus primarily on academics; she is pursuing a double major in Finance and Economics. Courtney is from Winona, Minnesota, where she taught gymnastics, competed for her high school, and was a state-level champion. As a Hamline University gymnastics competitor, she was one of two who made it to national competition, and from there was named to all-American teams.

In addition to the fun and skill development that occurred during the regular gymnastics classes, 14 girls put extra time into practices and training for the annual Western District Competition, which was held April 27-29 at Sokol Cedar Rapids, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This year, 13 competitors

from Sokol Minnesota attended the competition, where they competed against competitors from Sokols in Crete, Cedar Rapids, Omaha, and South Omaha. The results were fabulous! Minnesota competitors earned a second place in Junior Girls Levels 3, 4, and 5, and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places in Junior Girls Level 5, and a first-place team trophy

in Junior Girls Level 5. In addition, there was a substantial number of ribbons earned by our gymnasts in the younger competitor groups, including a first place on bars for first-year competitor Helena Lume, a 7-year-old who outscored about 30 competitors in her Level 2 division with a superb bar routine.

Sokol Minnesota was well represented in the two calisthenics (cal) performed. All coaches joined the juniors for the junior/senior cal performance; Sokol gym class member Maggie, a non-competitor, joined her older sister and the other small girl competitors in performing their cal.

All of our competitors and staff instructors were wonderful ambassadors from our Sokol unit. The competitions are a great way to promote friendships within the "Sokol family," both here in Minnesota and among the various Sokol units in the Western District. The new goal is Sokol Omaha for the 2013 Western District Competition.

We thank Sokol Minnesota for its support of the gym program and look forward to strengthening and expanding programs in the 2012-2013 class year.

### Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors By Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary

Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates your donations supporting Sokol programs and the refurbishing of our CSPS Hall. We are again using the categories that the general membership voted upon several years ago to list donations amounts: under \$100, \$100 - \$499, \$500 - \$999, \$1,000 - \$4,999, and \$5,000+.

#### *In Memory of Robert Vanyo:*

**General Fund:** Under \$100: James and Mary Jo Chlebeczek, Mildred Grealish, Robert Kostichka, Anne Neubauer, Richard and Linda Nicoli, Donald and Jeanette Pafko, Richard and Sandra Saliny, Charles and Louise Wessinger, Ken and Sharon Wyberg. \$100 - \$499: Donald and Katie Haselbauer, Norm Petrik and Joyce Tesarek.

**Legacy Fund:** Under \$100: Georgiana Dolejsi, Dennis and Mary Cahill, George Chlebeczek, Ralph and Mary Halbert, Ed and Arlene Hamernik, Marit Lee Kucera, Joan Sedlacek.

**Elevator Fund:** Under \$100: Elsie Roepke.  
\$100 - \$499: Susan and Steven Fritze.

**Other Donations:** Under \$100:

**Gymnastics and Slovo:** J. H. Fonkert.

**General Fund:** Jan Gadzo; U.S. Bancorp Foundation matched Sokol donation given by Doris Moravetz.

**A sincere thank you for in-kind donations:** Andrej's European Pastry (Jan Gadzo, owner): Potica Rolls. Betty Kotval: handcrafted items (lap robes, aprons, dressed bunny dolls, plush teddy bear, doll with complete outfit, and yarn wall decoration) which were for sale at the Spring Pancake, Bake, and Craft Sale to aid the Legacy Fund.

## Czech Couple Revisits CSPS Hall

By Denis Novak, First Vice President

Once again, the charming Czech couple Lucie Šilerová and Martin Pešl visited Minnesota and our music and theater archive project in the CSPS Hall. Lucie and Martin live in Brno in the Czech Republic. Brno is the second-largest city in the country with many colleges and universities.

Lucie is a Ph.D. candidate at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno. Her research first focused on two areas, orchestras and symphonic music, with the goals of describing how they work in the Czech Republic and developing and applying new management methods. Her research has expanded into a third topic, historical research into the traditions of music and theater as carried on by Czech communities established outside of the Czech Republic. She has an Ing. Degree (equivalent to a master's degree in a technical field) from the University of Economics in Prague and teaches Music Management at Janáček Academy.

Martin is an M.D. and works as a cardiology fellow in the International Clinical Research Center of the Saint Anne Hospital, where he is also a junior researcher. Additionally, he has an academic appointment at the Faculty of Medicine at Masaryk University. He is working on his Ph.D. doing cardiac stem cell research in a large ICRC project. At the end of March, Martin participated in an American College of Cardiology meeting in Chicago and a Young Investigators Research Symposium at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

In the 2010-2011 academic year, Lucie prepared and received a small "specific research" grant from Janáček Academy to continue her work in Minnesota. This third visit was to continue interviews with the Sokol community. In addition, Lucie made a very generous contribution of



*Denis Novak, Lucie Šilerová, and Frank Trnka proudly wearing CSPS Hall 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary shirts.*

archival-quality boxes and folders for use in our music and theater projects. According to her grant rules, the goods had to be Czech-made. Since the cost of shipping 30 kilos of cardboard would have been more than their \$500, Lucie used her suitcase, as well as Martin's, to carry the archival materials to us.

Lucie and Martin spent an afternoon with me during which some 200 scripts were transferred from common paper bags and boxes into the new archival boxes. We talked at length about Czech theater and music in Saint Paul and the smaller Czech communities in Minnesota. Our collection of some 70 programs from plays done in the years 1902 to 1939 were of great interest to Lucie and she took photos of them all.

Frank Trnka brought Lucie to the pancake breakfast on April 1. Martin was at the symposium in Rochester that morning. I introduced Lucie to the group at breakfast, explained her work with us, and officially declared Lucie and Martin to be Friends of the CSPS Hall. We presented her with our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary T-shirts as a token of our appreciation.

## CSPS Building Renovation

Status By Gary Novak,  
Construction Project Manager

We received approval from Mark Chavez, Historical Architect for the History and National Register Programs, Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska, to install a rooftop air conditioner unit on the second-floor

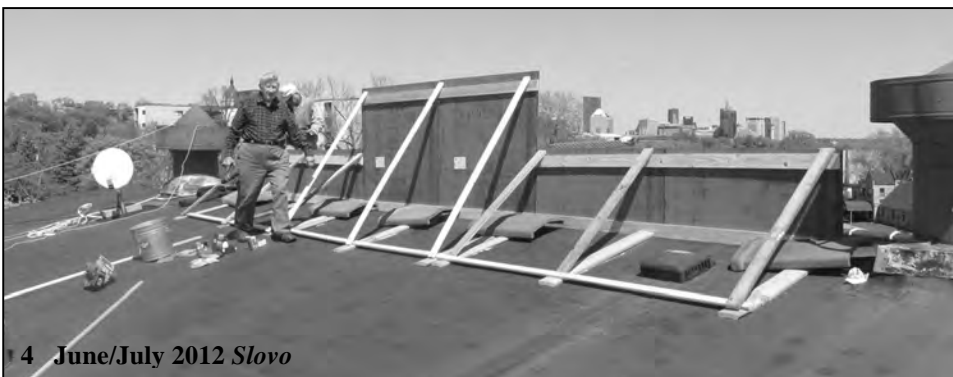
roof. With our National Registry status, we must comply with strict standards guiding any building changes.

Good news: no more sewer smell in the elevator. The new steam-heat piping system and the basement plumbing renovation are done. Our wonderful old historical building and the blue limestone floor made the job more challenging. In the basement, we now

have a groundwater sump pump, a laundry sink, a sewer pipe in the floor for a rest room, and deeper groundwater floor drains. We have a plan to de-water and clean the historical basement floor. Our next project is the fire sprinkler system and air conditioning for the upper floors.

The Sokol Project Planning Task Force members are committee chair Joe Landsberger; Ed Hamernik, president, Sokol Minnesota; Chuck Draheim, chair, Board of Trustees; Joyce Tesarek, chair, Finance Committee; and Gary Novak, designer and construction project manager.

*Ken Wyberg and Ed Hamernik building a simulated HVAC rooftop unit to show the potential visual impact of the proposed air conditioner project. Notice the downtown Saint Paul skyline in the background.*



## A Princess Finds Her Czech

### Roots

By Mary  
Kate  
Gross



“The doing is almost more important than the outcome.”

This was my motto as I participated in the 2012 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant. I received the Princess title, as well as the *Kroj* and Talent Awards.

With the pageant behind me now, I can look forward with excitement to the upcoming year’s activities. I also can sit back and reflect on what an amazing journey I have had.

It seems that I have always known about the pageant. When my sister ran in 2006, it planted a seed in my mind about one day participating myself. I completed the application and began preparing for the pageant, which itself includes a private interview with the judges, a talent presentation, making my own Czech or Slovak *kroj* (folk dress), and an on-stage interview.

Completing my family tree was part of the application. I get my Czech heritage from my mother and I grew up in New Prague. The application process was a wonderful opportunity for me to sit down with my grandpa, Marvin Wondra, and take a journey through my heritage. (My late grandma was Mary Petricka Wondra.) Stories about the lives of each family member began to emerge. Before, the names listed in my genealogy were just names. Now, I look at the names knowing how they met their spouses, what types of jobs they had, or what farms they grew up on. My grandpa’s brother Alvin and his wife also shared their memories of my ancestors, giving me a different perspective, since they remembered things my grandpa hadn’t or remembered things a little differently.

Knowing that my family originated in Bohemia helped me decide how to

design my *kroj*. Each region has very distinct characteristics associated with their dress, and learning what to and what not to include was very important. My *kroj* was an Americanized version, since I used fabrics and trim bought in the United States. As my *kroj* came together, I began to talk about what it looked like, and others started sharing descriptions of their own *kroje* with me. I loved seeing the handiwork in the designs, as well as how certain colors and headpieces varied among age as well as region. I was very proud of the way my *kroj* turned out; it will be a keepsake for years to come.

Dance always has been important to me, so I choose to do my oration about dance. I needed to know my facts, and the more information the better. I read books and watched movies on Czech and Slovak dance, went to watch the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak dancers perform, and met with the teachers. My presentation explored the general meaning of dance, what dance means to me, and what dance may have meant to one of my great-great-grandmothers growing up during the 1800s. The audience joined me in discussing when and where the dances were performed, as well as the style of costumes worn. Finally, I talked about a dance known as the Czech National *Beseda*. Enlisting everyone’s dancing and singing skills, I invited the audience to stand up and perform the last portion of the Czech National *Beseda*, *Šla Nanyňka do zeli*. Accompaniment music could not include vocals, so I had had my grandpa teach me how to sing *Šla Nanyňka do zeli* in Czech. I’ll cherish that experience forever. Together, we broke down each word and worked on the correct pronunciation. Looking back, I was very glad I chose to do an oration. I had some unique experiences, learned so much, and met some very wonderful people along the way.

In order to better understand Czech culture, I read tourist and culture books, as well as a book about the Velvet Revolution. As word of my participation spread, I found acquaintances offering me their own

stories of traveling to the Czech Republic and Slovakia or about cherished traditions. One person even copied a book chapter about Czechs in Minnesota for me, thinking that I would be interested.

I will admit it was scary to compete all by myself in something other than a sport. However, I didn’t want to regret not trying and later wish I had known more about my heritage and family. So, I decided to act before it was too late. We take life for granted, and honestly, it’s easy to take learning about our heritage and family for granted, too. There aren’t enough words to describe my journey in the past few months. I urge any young girl aged 16 through 26 who has the slightest bit of interest to run. The crown at the end is really just a cherry on the top of the experience.

For more information about the Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant, you can visit the following website: <http://www.missczechslovakminpageant.org/>

### ...Interesting Asides

**The Czech Legion** as mentioned in Dr. Josef Mestenhauser’s column on page 8 is the subject of an article, “The Long Retreat: the Czech Legion, the Russian Civil War, and One Family’s Reluctant Emigration,” in the March/April 2012 issue (vol. 55, no.2, pp.28-35) of *Russian Life*. During a recent trip to the Russian Museum in south Minneapolis, one of our intrepid *Slovo* editors noticed this title on the magazine’s cover and *had* to purchase (\$6.50) it to read about this independent Czech Army on Russian soil in 1918. 40,000 Czech and Slovak soldiers filled 65 trains. It is a fascinating story filled with hardship, valor, and betrayal.

<[www.czechevents.net](http://www.czechevents.net)> claims to be the most updated, inclusive and comprehensive listing of Czech and Slovak cultural events in North America.

## ***Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948***

**Book Review By Libby Imbrone**

This new book by Madeleine Albright is a fascinating blend of family history and an historical account of the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. Albright, who served as Secretary of State (1997-2001) during the Clinton Administration, says this book grew out of her reaction to the surprise revelation by the press in 1997 of her family's Jewish heritage and her desire to understand this history.

When she was two years old, her family fled Czechoslovakia. This was just ten days before the Nazi invasion in 1939. Josef Korbel, her father, was a Czech diplomat stationed in Belgrade as a press attaché and recently had been ordered back to Czechoslovakia. Thousands of people were attempting to flee; Czechoslovak President Beneš had already left for London. Once in England, Korbel broadcast for the BBC. In 1945, after his return to Czechoslovakia, Josef Korbel was appointed Ambassador to Yugoslavia.

Recently interviewed on *Morning Joe* (on MSNBC), Albright stated that her own view of the world was shaped by the betrayal of Czechoslovakia when the major powers at Munich did not stand up for the injustice to Czechoslovakia. A frequent topic for Albright is the "Munich Syndrome," the thought that aggression appeased becomes aggression repeated. So very many deals were made before Munich to appease "the Beast" Hitler in the hope that he would not attack. At that time, Czechoslovakia was the only functioning democracy in Central Europe. (Czech Women had the right to vote before women in the United States.) So its abandonment was doubly a tragedy.

Interestingly, the grandfather of Mika Brzezinski, co-anchor of the *Morning Joe* program, was Tadeusz Brzeziński, a Polish diplomat to Germany from 1931 to 1935. The Brzezinski family came to London as exiles also, including Mika's father Zbigniew Brzezinski, who served under President Carter as National Security Advisor (1977-1981) and who also had been Albright's professor at Columbia University. In exile in England, the two families became well acquainted. Mika's mother, Emilie Beneš, a sculptress, who married Zbigniew, was the grandniece of former President Eduard Beneš of Czechoslovakia.

Currently, Madeleine Albright teaches a course entitled "National Security Toolbox" at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. When asked what lesson may have been learned from international conflicts, she replies that if we take action, we need to have an exit strategy. She strongly believes that we need to teach U.S. history more effectively so our children have a better understanding of our country's principles.

A close friend of Natalie Bell, my granddaughter, had the opportunity to purchase a Publisher's Review copy of Albright's new book with the intent of gifting it to me. When *Prague Winter* is available at bookstores, get a copy. You may even see Madeleine Albright at a book signing and get your own autographed copy.

**6 June/July 2012 Slovo**

## **Dance Group Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Trip to Czech Republic and Slovakia**

**By Richard Sargent and Pam Langworthy**

On June 18, many of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers start a two-week tour of the Czech Republic and Slovakia to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of our dance group. The focus of the tour, led by Mark Bigaouette, is to increase our appreciation of Czech and Slovak culture, and to add to our performance repertoire by learning dances from local dance groups. Here are a few planned highlights from our tour.

We begin with a tour of Kutná Hora, 40 miles east of Prague. The next day, it's on to Letohrad for a tour of the city museum with *kroje* (traditional costumes) collection and the Vamberk Lace Museum. Then we depart for lovely Litomyšl, with a walking tour of the historic town, chateau, local Smetana museum, and the *Černá Hora pivovar*, which has brewed beer since 1298. The following day, we attend the Moravian Red Scarf workshop and visit a small village where we will learn folk songs and crafts. That evening is the opening program of the 67th International Strážnice Folklore Festival. On Sunday, there is a church service at the pilgrimage Basilica of Velehrad, and also a Moravian folk pottery workshop.

The full-day excursion to Slovakia includes a tour of historic Bratislava, its charming capital. A visit to Mrs. Krcmarovar, a painter of watercolors with folk motifs, precedes a stop in Slavonice and arrival in České Budějovice. An extensive walking tour and dinner in wonderful Český Krumlov concludes that evening. In Pisek, we visit the Dvorana Dance Center, and learn to make traditional Bohemian sweets, homemade soup, and bread. In Kojakovice, we see a carp-scale decoration demonstration, and in the evening, a dance group from Sevetin performs and then dances with us. On the way to Prague the next day, we visit a folk artist and the castle of Karlstein.

In Prague, there is a dinner cruise on the Vltava River, going under the famous Charles Bridge. We also visit Prague Castle and district, Lesser Town, Old Town, and historic Vyšehrad. Many of us have tickets to attend the *Bartered Bride*, an opera by Czech composer Bedřich Smetana. Thanks to Frank Trnka and Sue and Dave Martin, some of us already have viewed a video of this opera in Czech and are looking forward to seeing it live.

After the tour, several of us plan to stay on in Prague to march in the parade of the Sokol *Slet* commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Sokol Movement. We expect this to be a very exciting and emotional experience for all of us.

If you cannot make it to the 2012 *Slet* in Prague this summer, take a look at some great YouTube videos:

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&feature=endscreen&v=nrxtx9tcp40>>

Also, here's a link to an interesting website about an exhibit of historical *Slet* posters that opened in Brno in late May:

<<http://150let.tjsokolbrno1.cz/sletsokolskychplakatu/>>

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

### SLOVCZECH Performances This Summer

Music is in the air this summer! SLOVCZECH is a group of local musicians who play modern-sounding folk rock that's heavily influenced by the work of Central European bands Cechomor, Dikanda, and Kroke. In May, you may have seen their performance at the Festival of Nations. They will perform in Minneapolis' Minnehaha Park on Thursday, July 5, at 7 p.m. and at Bryant Square Park on Thursday, August 2, at 6:30 p.m. If you love Czech/Slovak folk music that's been lightly spiced with a local touch, you won't want to miss these concerts. Be there!

### Grand Re-opening Celebrations in Cedar Rapids By Jean Draheim

*Mlada Skupina, Taneční Mládež, Taneční Teens*, and the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers are invited to dance at the National Museum re-opening celebration.

The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is re-opening July 14 and 15, 2012. After the devastating floods of June 2008, the museum employees and volunteers have been painstakingly cleaning, restoring, and preserving the documents and artifacts that could be saved from the muck, mud, and water. The building has been cleaned, refurbished, and moved away from the river and the dangers of future flooding.

The "Grand Opening, Grand Designs" weekend, complete with entertainment and activities, plus food and beverages, celebrates the move of the building to its new site and its long-awaited opening. The festivities coincide with the opening of a stunning Alphonse Mucha exhibit, *Alphonse Mucha: Inspirations of Art Nouveau*.

Czech and Slovak groups from all over the country plan to share their talents of singing, dancing, playing music, and performing puppet shows. The three youth folk dance groups sponsored by Sokol Minnesota, as well as the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, are participants in the Parade of States Pageant. They perform the afternoon of Saturday, July 14.

Come and enjoy the weekend honoring all the hard work and the successful return of the National Czech and Slovak Museum.

### Coach Bus Trip to Cedar Rapids, July 13-15

New Prague Czech Heritage Club will host a two-night, coach bus trip to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library Grand Opening, July 13-15. You must register by June 28. For complete information, call 952-758-1734 or visit <ce.isd721.org>.

### Montgomery, Minnesota Kolacky Days, July 27 -29

## The Archives of the Slovak Republic

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

Two main levels of archives are of major interest for family researchers. At the top level are the State Archives (formerly called Regional Archives) and the Branch Archives (formerly called District Archives). The State Archives contain the *matriky* (church records) of baptisms, marriages, and deaths. They also contain tax records, deeds, and nobility records.

The smaller Branch Archives contain such information as passport applications, letters requesting permission to emigrate, certain land records, marriage contracts with a register of the bride's dowry, school records, town records, related government records, and the town chronicle (history of events from the town/village).

The archive system is divided into three geographical divisions of the country; Western, Middle, and Eastern. Located in the Western Slovak Republic are two State Archives, one in Bratislava and one in Nitra. There are ten Branch Archives in the western region located in various larger cities. There are two State Archives in the Middle Slovak Republic in the cities of Banská Bystrica and Bytča. Thirteen Branch Archives belong to this area. For the Eastern Slovak Republic there are three State Archives located in Košice, Levoča, and Prešov. There are also thirteen Branch Archives for the eastern region.

A map or auto atlas can be helpful to locate in which geographical area your ancestor's home town is located. Letters and requests may be sent directly to the State or Branch archive if you have the location. If you are unsure of the geographical area your request can be sent to: Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Križkova 7, 811 04 Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

Requests for information on events after 1900 need to be sent to the Slovak Republic Embassy in Washington, D.C. See our CGSI website <www.cgsi.org> under Archive Listing for archive contact information and request for information forms.

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## Waiting for Godot: Czechoslovakia, 1948

By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser,  
Distinguished International

Professor Emeritus, University  
of Minnesota Department of  
Educational, Policy and  
Administration, Comparative  
and International Development  
Education

Honorary Consul of the Czech  
Republic (1999-2009)



*Slovo* readers are aware of my fondness for metaphors, so they will not be surprised that I found one for this article in the delightful play by Samuel Becket entitled *Waiting for Godot*. In the play, four desperados are waiting for Godot to help them fix their problems instead of solving them by themselves. Only Godot never came. There was no Godot. This metaphor fits the situation in Czechoslovakia only loosely, but is similar in that the non-communist parties staked all their hopes on winning the elections scheduled for May 1948 and focused exclusive attention on removing the communists from power and pushing them into a minority through parliamentary procedures. Their mindset, based on democratic ideas, also blinded them to the possibility of a communist coup d'état.

This article will show just how unprepared the non-communist leaders were in facing the onslaught of the militia and many other illegal actions. I also want to show that it is difficult to prepare for something that is completely unprecedented. The British Envoy had reportedly warned several non-communist parties of the imminent coup d'état and asked them a pointed question: "Are you prepared?" In response, he received resounding assurances of their preparedness. Unfortunately, later events surprised everybody, including the communists. The democrat's way of thinking did not prepare them for treachery, misrepresentation, constant new demands, shows of force, intimidation, false arrests, assassination attempts, raids of party headquarters, and daily barrage of lies, the means the communists used. When exposed, they learned to hide these means, while the democratic parties continued to wait for Godot.

One might be tempted to begin the analysis of the communist take-over by going back to Lenin, Stalin, the Great Purges in Russia in the 1930s, and, later, the lies told at Yalta and Potsdam to Western leaders. There were, in fact, a number of occurrences that presaged Soviet enmity. For example, when the Czechoslovak Legion, the volunteer army fighting with the Entente in WWI, neared Yekaterinburg on its way to Vladivostok, Lenin assumed that this Legion intended to free the Czar imprisoned there. Lenin personally ordered the killing of the Czar's entire family. Similarly, Stalin never forgot nor forgave that this same Legion came from the first country at war with his new regime. Interestingly, Beneš recalled that this was the first topic Stalin mentioned when they met in 1943.

When I described the activities of the Soviet paratroopers, I did not tell the entire story. They carried with them information identifying the former Legionnaires, many of whom were later exterminated. Such was Stalin's unforgiving revenge. I list these antecedents only to underscore the monumental mistake of not recognizing that Soviet ideology continued to be based on a search for world domination. Suffice it to cite the takeover of Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Belarus, Rumania, Poland, Rumania and Moldova. Gorbachev later acknowledged that the "Pax Sovietica" was the biggest mistake the USSR committed and warned the west not to pursue a similar "Pax Americana," for neither approach could be successful.

I will limit myself to the antecedents of the Soviets' path to dominance specific to Czechoslovakia. The first immediate step was in persuading Beneš to sign a treaty of mutual cooperation in 1943, which he did despite warnings from the allied governments. This treaty opened the door to the Soviet Union and closed several doors to the Western powers. The treaty was based on the first set of lies that the USSR promulgated: that it had no intention of interfering with the independence and sovereignty of Czechoslovakia. To the Soviets, the treaty was also an admission that Czechoslovakia would be safely in the post-war "Soviet sphere of influence." Even as the treaty was being signed, the Soviets were dispatching their airborne forces into Czechoslovakia (as I explained in an earlier article).

The next step was the London-based Czechoslovak Government in Exile's decision to return to Czechoslovakia by way of Moscow, based on false promises of mutual cooperation, in order to present a unified government. From what we know, the London group was unprepared to face the communist's demands, their unwillingness to compromise, and their constant pressing to extract advantages for the "socialist block." As result, the communists got everything they wanted: the post of the prime minister, and those of the ministers of information, education, interior, and agriculture; they gained agreement to have Rusinia (Podkarpadská Rus), which in 1919 had elected to become part of Czechoslovakia, ceded to the USSR; and to eliminate several important pre-war political parties on the grounds that they were "fascist." Also imposed on the country was the so-called National Front, supposedly intended to facilitate agreement on important issues, but in fact, it forced conformity. All these instruments were essential in empowering communist plans for a complete takeover later. Beneš's government must not have realized that they essentially signed their own and their country's death sentences. What else should they have done? They faced two major uncertainties: would the Western powers or the USSR occupy Czechoslovakia first, and would these Western powers truly allow the country to fall into the Soviet sphere?

Part Two of Dr. Mestenhauser's article will appear in the *August Slovo*. Editor's note: This article originally appeared on the CSCC website <[cs-center.org](http://cs-center.org)>.



## 150 Memories Greeting from the Western District for the XV<sup>th</sup> All-Sokol Slet in Prague

By Joan Sedlacek

ASO is compiling a 150 Memories DVD to present to Czech Sokols as our gift to them as they celebrate 150 Years of Sokol in Prague in July. This is Western District's contribution to the DVD.

As Sokol expanded in America, districts were formed to provide more local support for the units. Over the years, the Northern (1932-1940) and the Southwestern (1932-1940) districts merged with the Western District. It grew to 62 units in eight states.

In 2012, the remaining units are:  
 Sokol Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1873  
 Sokol Omaha, Nebraska, 1882  
 Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 1882  
 Sokol Wilber, Nebraska, 1882  
 Sokol Crete, Nebraska, 1883  
 Sokol South Omaha, Nebraska, 1888  
 Sokolice Libuse, Crete, Nebraska, 1912

Our Western District has remained true to the Sokol ideals. We have physical education classes, exhibitions, instructor's courses, and Slets. Our members have participated in national and international Slets. We also have cultural day camps, adult and children's dance groups, dinners, dances, member's parties, language classes, lectures, concerts, plays, newsletters, and cooking, baking and cultural activity classes.

Each unit owns a Hall. Four are on the National Register of Historic Sites:

Sokol Minnesota/CSPS Hall, built in 1887  
 Sokol Cedar Rapids, built in 1908  
 Sokol Omaha, built in 1926  
 Sokol Wilber, built in 1930.

Sokol Crete, built in 1915, is on the Nebraska Registry.

We have a vast range of ages, education, economics and personalities, but we come together and stand stronger in Sokol.

We honor all the Sokol sisters and brothers who have contributed to a glorious 150 years and look forward to the next 150 years.



Left top: Sokol Cedar Rapids  
 Left bottom: Sokol Wilber  
 Above: Sokol South Omaha  
 Below: Sokol Omaha  
 Right top: Sokol Minnesota  
 Right bottom: Sokol Crete



**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](http://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.

## SONG OF THE MONTH

by Georgiana Dolejsi

I chose this song to commemorate the 2012 XVth All-Sokol Slet in Prague in July. It comes from *American Sokol Sings*, Educational Committee ASO, 1974.

### Hoj, vzhůru pestrý sokole

Ahoy, upward all you Sokols  
ahoy, upward and on your guard;  
above the highest mountain top,  
fly with all your might.

On and on, higher and higher  
to the edges of the clouds  
until you can see from mountain to mountain  
the entire Czech land!  
until you can see from mountain to mountain  
the entire Czech land!

HOJ, VZHŮRU PESTRÝ SOKOLE

Rázně Jos. V. Sládek

Ho-j, vzhů-ru pe-strý So-ko-le, hoj vzhů-ru na svou straž;  
nad nej-vy-šší hor vr-cho-le, o, l-é, co sí-ly máš! Jen  
dál, jen dál, jen výš a výš, až nad o-bla-ky le-tem;  
až od hor k ho-rám u-vi-díš ti ce-lou če-skou zem  
ce-lou če-skou zem.

In Czech, the word *sokol* means falcon. The words in this song apply not only to birds, but also to the upward striving of people.



**Czechs and Paychecks:** Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota co-hosted a panel discussion, *Untold Stories Labor History: Czechs and Paychecks*, with the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library (FSPPL) on May 8 at the CSPS Hall. The theme of the 13th annual Program was immigrant-working families of Saint Paul's West End. Presenters (*with families they spoke about*) L-R: labor historian David Riehle (*Frank Valesh, Jacob Prochaska, and Emil Hayek*), Sokol member Marlene Skarda Hinshaw (*her father*), author Patrica Hampl (*her grandparents, father, and uncle*), archivist and Sokol volunteer John Sielaff (*John Rachač*), FSPPL Programming Coordinator Alayne Hopkins, panel moderator Joe Landsberger, and West End neighbor David Christopherson (*Frank Skok*). Hopkins reported that the venue was the most inspiring of any and that many in the diverse audience of nearly 150 attendees praised the program. Riehle paid tribute to Hinshaw's presentation. "Her reminiscence about her father was the icing on the cake, supplemented by her discussion of the value of unions." (Look for Marlene's recollections in a future *Slovo*.)

**Sokol Outreach:** Joe Landsberger, one of Sokol Minnesota's archivists, continued Sokol's organizational outreach with a presentation in the historic

mezzanine-level Meeting Room on the CSPS Hall's history and resident organizations. On April 11, 40 members of the Women's Organization of the Minnesota Historical Society followed a luncheon at the Glockenspiel with his talk.

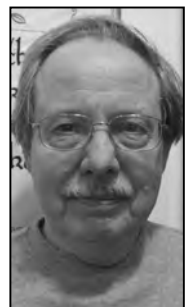
On April 18, 50 members of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota launched its West End Pub Crawl with a similar lecture. The Pub Crawl covered Keenan's Bar and Grill (the old 620 Club), Chris & Rob's Chicago's Taste Authority (with its railroad car ambience), and concluded at the Glockenspiel

## Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik,  
New-Member Coordinator

At the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Membership Meeting on April 27, George Hoffman, from Saint Paul, was accepted into membership. He is interested in Slovak language, films, history, genealogy, and dinners. George was present at the meeting and was installed. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota, George!

Our next Membership Meeting is August 24 at 7 p.m.



**Part 3: In honor of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CSPS Hall, we are reprinting articles from the gold-covered commemorative booklet Centennial CSPS Hall History 1887-1987**

**Present History And Restoration**

The St. Paul Sokol Gymnastic Society purchased the Hall from the CSA (Czecho-Slovak Society of America) a fraternal insurance lodge. Sokol had rented the hall since its existence and by mutual agreement and a nominal purchase price took possession of the CSPS Hall on August 25, 1978. The Saint Paul Sokol Gymnastic Society, to reflect the larger area from which its members came, voted to change their name to Sokol Minnesota on August 25, 1978.

After the Hall received historic status, restoration began. Architect John Larson was hired to make plans for the building. Work started July 1980 with restoring the storefronts and the 381 Michigan store to their original appearance. The basement was cleaned out and floor joist stabilized to the bearing wall. Rocon Construction were the general contractors. This phase also included new electric service for the building. Many members lent their skills to cleaning and painting the ceilings and walls of the 381 store.

The two lots west of the Hall were purchased for parking lot. New security fencing was installed around the rear of the property. After various rentals for short periods, and vacancy for some time, the Hmong Enterprises rented for a period of a year. When they moved, an opportunity for a restaurant arose. More space for a kitchen for the restaurant was required. Through the efforts of some members donating their time, the back room of 385 Michigan was developed into a restaurant kitchen.

New insulated windows with weather stripping were installed on the second and third floor by the Beisel Company in February 1983. In August of 1983, insulation was blown into the ceiling between the second floor of the 381 store for soundproofing. Insulation and ventilation was also added to the cocklofts of the second and third floors.

Carpeting was laid on the third floor meeting room and the stairway to the meeting room. The ornamental high chairs were re-glued and re-upholstered. All the captain's chairs were re-glued, stained and varnished. The desks tops were covered with vinyl. This third floor is not only used for meetings but many of the ethnic possessions of CSA and ZCBJ as well as Sokol are here.

Probably the most significant and noticeable part of the program was the tuck pointing and painting of the exterior brick of the building. One thousand bricks were replaced and 110 gallons of red paint mixed with cement was blown onto the exterior wall's with 3000 pounds of hydraulic pressure. The work was done by the Historical Building Restoration Corporation with Dale Zoerb as director.

During the winter of 1985, a new steam boiler was installed and new controls were updated for more efficiency of the heating system. During this time, the old roofs of the second and third floors were torn off and new roofs put on.

One of the last projects was new insulated front doors to the Hall with panic bars. Also a new fire exit door to the second floor fire escape was installed. City inspectors also required that we put new panic bars on the restaurant doors. The fluorescent lights on the third floor were removed, the wiring updated and the original hanging globes replaced. Painting, maintenance, and cleaning have been done pretty much by Sokol members to save money.

Financing for the projects was provided by the Czechoslovak community, fund raising events, donations by Sokol members and friends, donations by Czech and Slovak lodges, a matching grant from the Minnesota Historical Society, a low interest loan from the Economic Development of the City of Saint Paul, and a loan from the Cherokee Bank. The CSA (Czechoslovak Society of America) donated funds to restore the CSPS sign on the front of the building. The city of Saint Paul requires that the building retains its original name.

Special thanks to all who made this work of Restoration possible.

*And now 25 years later, on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CSPS Hall, we again ask members, families, and friends for your generous support to continue our efforts to preserve our wonderful CSPS Hall. Thank you.*

**Support CSPS Legacy Fund**

Grants have funded several of the renovations of our CSPC 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 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**

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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  
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- 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  
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

## ATTEND and VOLUNTEER! SOKOL MINNESOTA EVENTS

### *82nd Sokol Camp Booya and Picnic*

**Sunday, August 12, noon – 5 p.m., Pine City**

We'd like your pictures and stories about Sokol Camp. Maybe your parents or grandparents went to the camp for a vacation, the Booya, or Instructors courses. Please share your photos and stories. Send copies with your contact information to Ann Miller, 707 - 170<sup>th</sup> Ave, Somerset WI 54025 or <millervanyo@somtel.net>

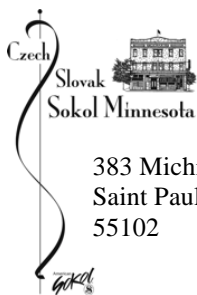
### *Czech/Slovak Festival*

**Sunday, September 16, 11 - 4 p.m.**

**International Institute, 1694 Como, Saint Paul**

**Check the calendar for updates: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**

**Visit Sokol Minnesota: [www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](http://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)**



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### **Our Sokol Minnesota Website Needs YOU!**

The publicity committee is searching for an individual to assist with the management of the Sokol Minnesota website. Some knowledge of website management preferred, but not required. Content for the website will be provided to the individual to place on the site.

Approximate time commitment is 5 hours/month.

If interested, or if you know someone who may be interested, please contact Megan Cahill at 651-324-7784.

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* June/July 2012



### **80<sup>th</sup> FESTIVAL of NATIONS**

*The Czech and Slovak Culture Booth featured past Slets with pictures and callisthenic equipment.*

*L: Katie Cuffey and Robert Jacobson chat with Olga from the Ukrainian booth.*



*Above R: Jean Hall (back right),*

*Czech and Slovak FON Chair Person, in her 2009 Fort Worth Slet prostna outfit explained the equipment to two Wisconsin students and their mother.*

*L: Tom Aubrecht stamped passports.*

*R: Doris McKenney was invited to a VIP recognition party, along with FON sponsors, presented by the International Institute on Friday night.*

***More Festival of Nations pictures in the August Slovo.***

