

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

SLOVO

**March 2013
vol. 36 no. 3**

UPCOMING March 2013 EVENTS

April Slovo Deadline
March 1

Flavors of Slovakia
March 3, 12:30 p.m.
Reservations

Board of Trustees
March 13, 7 p.m.

Family Night
March 17, 4:30 p.m.

Board of Directors
March 21, 7 p.m.

**Pancake Breakfast
Bake and Craft Sale**
March 24,
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Šibřinky
April 6, 6 - 11 p.m.

Senior Singers
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Gymnastics
Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

FLAVORS of SLOVAKIA DINNER



**PUBLIC
WELCOME**

Sunday, March 3, 12:30p.m.

\$16.00 adults, \$8.00 child under 9



**LIMITED
SEATING**

This year our traditional Slovakian dinner includes:
holubky/cabbage rolls, zelená fazuška s kôprom/dilled green beans,
zavraná cvikla/pickled beets, pirohy/filled dumplings, halušky s kapustou/dumplings and cabbage,
caraway rye bread, dessert, and coffee. The cash bar has plenty of good beer on tap.

For reservations call: 952-941-0426

Prepaid reservations are required by February 26.

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

Spring Breakfast Bake and Crafts Sale



**Sunday
March 24**

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Donated
bake goods
wanted!**

All-you-can-eat pancakes and French toast,
fruit cup, sausage, juice, milk, and coffee.

\$7.00 Adult; \$5.00 child under 9

Family of four \$22.00
(two adults and two children)

Public Welcome! NO reservations needed

Get special baked items, including koláče, for your Easter Table.

To pre-order koláče, call: 952-941-0426

Variety of exquisite hand-crafted items available for sale.

To reserve a vendor table, call: 651-426-2826

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

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



**Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota
2013
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Past issues of *Slovo* and Sokol
Minnesota's calendar of events are
available online at
<www.sokolmn.org>

***Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes* By Denis Novak**
Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters

Easter is coming early this year. It's a movable feast calculated to be the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox so it can vary quite a bit. Current articles I read on the Internet relate that the Easter season is still a major holiday season in the Czech Republic. That seems strange to me, since the Czech Republic is one of the most secular countries in Europe and the communist years wiped out much of the Christian meaning of the holiday.

Growing up in New Prague, we kept the Lenten and Easter season following church rules and practices. Fish, fasting, and church services remain in my memory. Fish were never a problem. Dad loved to fish and was good at it. We had fresh fish on other days in addition to Friday. Often the fish were bullheads, which my family all loved. I still do enjoy this "wily Bohemian bass," but it's not often on the menu. Catfish is almost an acceptable substitute.

The church services were sometimes a problem. For my last four years of grade school, I was what we now call an altar server. We were altar boys then. No girls allowed. We were called to assist at a lot of the season's extra services. Then, midnight mass was at midnight and the blessing of new fire at dawn was at dawn. I am thankful that liturgical reform has given us relief from those hours.

One of Sokol's popular events is set for the Sunday before Easter, usually called Palm Sunday. I don't know how this "custom" started, but many churches and societies now hold a breakfast on that Sunday. On Sunday, March 24, we will host a tasty pancake, French toast and sausage breakfast, and also a bake sale and craft tables. The event runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

March 17 brings Saint Patrick's Day. It may be the biggest, most raucous event celebrated in downtown Saint Paul every year. The pubs are too loud for me, but I do love the music and dancing at Landmark Center.

*Irish or not, Catholic or not,
we all dance a gleeful jig
on his joyous feast day.*

Nazdar!

Honorary Consuls, plus Sokol Committee Chairs (not seated on the BOD)

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko Honorary Czech Consul: Robert Vanasek

Past Honorary Czech Consul: Josef Mestenhauer

Sunshine Committee: Marlene Hinshaw Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. Jacobson Kitchen Coordinator: Jean Hall

Website: Craig Johnson Volunteer Coordinator: open

Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Joe Landsberger

Slovo: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks, Jeanette Pafko

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2013 Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors: Front row, L-R: Joyce Tesarek, Board of Budget and Finance; Mary Cahill, Women's Physical Director; Denis Novak, President; Judy Aubrecht, Member at Large; Norman Petrik, Membership Director and Sergeant-at-Arms. Back row, L-R: Don Haselbauer, Treasurer; Jean Draheim, Education Director; Chuck Draheim, Board of Trustees, Chair; Doreen McKenney, Second Vice President; Tom Aubrecht, Financial Secretary; Ed Hamernik, First Vice President. Missing: Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary; Gary Novak, Member at Large; Steve Shimer, Gambling Manager; Megan Cahill, Men's Physical Director; Jyni Koschak, Publicity Director.

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 Organization. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Year 2013 dues for members joining after June 30 are reduced.

Membership applications: www.sokolmn.org or by request from Norm Petrik (612-822-6147). Please send your completed membership application and check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Attn: Membership, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: The *Slovo* is published ten times/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 April 2013 issue is March 1.** Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and layout editor; Jeanette Pafko, labels; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, Norm Petrik,

Jitka Sebek, and Joan Sedlacek, advisors. Photograph for this issue provided by M. L. Kucera and Joyce Tesarek. This March 2013 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after March 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 (February 15 for April issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (March 1 for April issue).

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

Change of address or for problems with *Slovo* 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 this newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know. After one returned issue, we will hold all future issues until you notify us.** We pay 46¢ for each returned issue.

Email us: slovo@sokolmn.org, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. *Thank you!*

Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director



President **Denis Novak** congratulated **Alena Youngberg** and **Martina Gurgel** when they were installed into Sokol Minnesota membership in January.

At the January 25 Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota membership meeting, three new members were accepted into membership. Ann Marie Seifert, Inver Grove Heights, is interested in cooking, film, language, history, music, dinners, and festivals. Alena Youngberg, Apple Valley, has two children, ages 11 and 8; her interests are film, music, and festivals. Martina Gurgel, Inver Grove Heights, with two children, ages 6 and 14, is interested in film, dances, and festivals; plus she has Facebook expertise. Both Alena and Martina are "Czech Moms." Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

MEMBER NEWS: • **Georgiana Dolejsi** will be 95 on March 14. Happy birthday, Georgiana!

• Minnehaha Animal Hospital, 4809 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, owned by long-time Sokol member Dr. **Joyce Tesarek**, was chosen as Richfield's Favorite Veterinary Hospital by the Sun Newspaper's Readers' Choice contest.

• We mourn the passing of **Walter Vincent "Wally" Schovanec**, on February 1, 2013, in Boise, Idaho.

Education and Meeting Program News

By Jean Draheim, Education Director

The spring 2013 session of Czech and Slovak language classes starts the week of March 11 and continues through the week of April 29. Please have your registration to Jean by Friday, March 8: 651-426-2826, or email: <education@sokolmn.org>.

Beginning Czech: Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Intermediate Czech: Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Conversational Czech: Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Slovak: Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Membership Meeting, Friday, April 26, 7 p.m.

Katherine Eckstrom will talk about her award-winning **Cesky Terrier dogs**. You will not want to miss this change to hear Katherine's fascinating story and meet at least one (maybe two) of her beautiful dogs. Read full details in the April issue.

4 March 2013 *Slovo*

HISTORICAL GEMS found in the pages of old Slovos are from the archives of Joan Sedlacek. Originally published in September 1981, this article is the first in a series of three parts.

Staré pověsti české Old Czech Legends

Editor's Note; With this issue, the Slovo begins to print an original translation by Hana Matousek of the famed Czech author, Alois Jirásek's work, Staré pověsti české (Old Czech Legends). The introduction to this well-known Czech literary work follows.

Come and listen to the stories of the times long bygone! Listen, everyone, to how our forefathers set foot for the first time on our lands, lands they took into their hearts from the first sight, to how the lush green banks of the beautiful rivers Vltava, Labe, and others became their homeland.

Listen to what is left and preserved from legends of dark-age generations who worshiped their gods in shadowy groves, sacrificed to water springs in quiet valleys, to the lakes, rivers, and the blessed, living fire.

Let us imagine those first times and years long bygone, the face of that part of the earth before our race set a foot in it. There were no towns or villages, only a few scattered settlements of earlier inhabitants speaking an unfamiliar language. The soil, largely untouched, was wilderness all around — plains, mountains, and valleys. Great, dark forests stretched from borderland mountains miles and miles deep into lower lands and, even there, they were dark and majestic with bright, lush clearings and meadows overgrown with waving, thick, high grasses. Forests, full of deceptive marshes and magic, stagnant ponds which reflected ageless, stately giants above them, were enlivened only by the shrieks of birds and fowl.

Rare was a human footprint in those parts, but plenty of game, which, free and yet un hunted, multiplied with excessive abundance. Fastidious bear enjoyed honeycombs from hollow trees; wild bore plowed loose, fragrant soil; fox and wild cat squeezed their way through dense undergrowth. The roar of enormous, dark bison resounded from the distance, and lynx, lurking from the thick branch above, moved swiftly. A carefree stag with his group of hinds ran about. Large herds of deer moved here and there on pasture. Wolves tracked and followed their prey in the woods and open lands.

High above in the sunny air over the summit floated the great king eagle. On the rocky peaks and in the high tree tops nested flocks of varied predators — falcon, osprey, hawk, and different species of owl.

The streams, rivers, and lakes swarmed with fish. The otter, residing in the shade of the old willow, had a perpetual good catch and the beavers, undisturbed, build their ingenious structures. In the sound of the wind and in the soft murmur of the trees, the creeks rumbled, the rivers roared down from the hills, and, in their white, sandy bottoms, grains of pure gold shined. The depths of the earth were locked; no one attacked them yet to release their precious treasures.

Embraced all around by buoyant strength and wealth, the land waited only for industrious people to exploit her invaluable gifts. And people came, cultivated this land by laborious hard work, blessed this land by their sweat and blood, which again they shed on numerous battlefields, defending their homeland and their mother tongue.

From maternal Slavic regions came our forefathers led by the wise, brave, and stately leader named Čech.



A

Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics

by Mary Cahill,
Women's Physical
Director

Gymnastics has always been a core element of the Sokol philosophy: a strong body and a strong mind. Our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota girl gymnasts practice twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Our gymnasts acquire confidence, poise, and athletic competence in our gymnastic program.

Handstands and handstand position are integral to gymnastics skills across all apparatus. Proper body alignment and balance are key skills to master. Gymnasts work every class to improve

their handstand position. For example, handstands move from the floor mats to the beam. Instructor Maddy and gymnast Helena on the mat (A). Instructor Courtney and gymnast Lucy on the wedge (B). Gymnast Alice starts out practicing her handstand on the low beam (C) and as she perfects her control and gains confidence, moves to practicing on the high beam (D). Gymnast Siri and instructor Maddy use skills acquired from practicing handstands as they prepare for a 360-degree turn on the high beam (straight and tight body while in turning position and balance to remain on the beam (E).



C



D



B



E

Slovak and Czech Genealogy via Utah

By J. H. Fonkert

The shortest route to Slovak and Czech genealogy resources passes through the world's largest genealogy library in Salt Lake City, Utah. If you're looking for *guláš* and Czech beer, board a plane to Prague, but if you're searching for family history, take a free online trip to The Family History Library's genealogy website: <www.familysearch.org>. FamilySearch is a genealogy research service sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints free to the public. You will find three kinds of help at FamilySearch.

First, you can search the Family History Library card catalog by clicking on the "Catalog" tab near the top of the website's front page. You can search by family name and place name, as well as subject, keyword, title, or author. For example, you can do a search for a particular locale, such as Pilsen. When you type in "Pilsen" and click on "search," you will receive a list of record categories. In this case, the list will indicate that the library has five microfilm publications of church records, covering various years from 1809 to 1915. Beware: often there is more than one town of the same name. When you type the name of the town you are searching for, you will get a drop-down menu listing several choices; make sure to select the town in the right region. Once you find what you want, you can register and borrow a microfilm copy to be delivered either to the Minnesota Historical Society Library (www.mnhs.org) or an LDS Family History Center near you.

Alternatively, you can search for library holdings pertaining to a family name. A search for "Picha" returns more than 10,000 records. Narrowing the search for a Frank Picha in Minnesota yields a more manageable 60 results.

Second, you can search a vast database of indexed or digitized records. These may include marriage records, census records, church records or more. At the bottom of the FamilySearch homepage, you will see a world map and, next to it, a list of regions in which you can browse records. To find Czech or Slovak records, click on "Continental Europe." Then, scroll down the next page to find records from the Czech or Slovak Republics. Examples of what you will find include:

- Slovakia 1890 census
 - Slovakian church and synagogue books, 1592-1910
 - Czech Republic census, 1843-1921
 - Czech Republic birth and baptisms, 1637-1889
 - Southern Bohemia Trebon church archive records, 1650-1900
- This collection of indexes and digital images is a work in progress; FamilySearch adds new records monthly. And, the records viewable on the Internet are yet a small percentage of the records available on microfilm.

Third, go back to the top of the FamilySearch homepage and click on "Learn." Here you will find primers and a variety of genealogy research topics. You can search for help in the FamilySearch "Wiki," a kind of self-help encyclopedia of "how-to" help from researchers around the world. For example, if you search in the Wiki for "Czech Census," you will find an informative article about historical Czech censuses. After you have explored the Wiki, click on "Research Courses." This label is a bit misleading, because you will find dozens of short videos about many kinds of family history research. The collection includes nine videos about Czech research, but at this moment none for Slovak research.

J. H. Fonkert is a board-certified genealogist and former Sokol Minnesota president and board member. He has no Czech or Slovak ancestry, but wishes he did.

Gaming Update By Steve Shimer, Gaming Manager

As reported in the January *Slovo*, I was appointed gaming manager upon the retirement of Ken Wyberg. I appreciate his willingness to work with me in the transition as I start my new role. Ken remains chairman of the Sokol Gaming Committee. Other members are Ed Hamernik and Joan Sedlacek. We need at least two more members. Consider joining this committee.

Sokol currently conducts charitable gaming in two Saint Paul locations. Keenan's Bar, located across West 7th Street from the C.S.P.S. Hall, sells pull-tabs from a machine. Keenan's also has great hamburgers, cooked by the owner.

Hot Rods Bar, at University and Snelling Avenues, has a pull-tab booth staffed by two employees. Sokol conducts meat raffles at Hot Rods every Sunday at 4:30 p.m. For \$1 you have a chance to win a package of meat valued at \$25. We also play 12 games of bingo every Friday night starting at 6:30 p.m. The winners get 75% of the sales; the more people who play, the more you can win. Stop by and play bingo! I've called bingo for almost two years now; I'd enjoy seeing a few Sokol faces in the crowd.

We can use some other help with the gaming program. I will be putting out calls for volunteers as the months go on. We need some back-up bingo callers, since there are a few times a

6 March13 Slovo

year when I am unable to be there on a Friday night. We also need volunteers to help handle the gaming proceeds. The Minnesota Gambling Control Board requires that more than one person process the gaming funds. By law, the gaming manager is not allowed to do this. We need someone who can commit about one hour twice a week to make the bank deposits. This is a paid position. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or interest you have in the gaming program: or call 651-224-4034 or email: <highgrove@comcast.net>.

Gaming has an important role in helping Sokol meet its financial needs, in addition to supporting Saint Paul youth sporting activities.

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Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Arlene Hamernik,
Corresponding Secretary

Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates your donations supporting Sokol programs and the refurbishing of our historic C.S.P.S. Hall. Donations are listed under the following categories: under \$100; \$100-\$499; \$500-\$999; \$1000-\$4999; \$5000+, and undisclosed.

General Fund: under \$100: **Daniel Bednar; Eugene and Arlene Courneya; George Hoffman; Janice Jacobson; Rosanne Kostelecky; Martin Kubik; Walter Schovanec; Irene Thayer.** \$100 - \$499: **Cynthia Coulter; JoAnn Wanous Parvey.**

Legacy Fund: under \$100: **Minnesota Sokol Camp Association; Kent and Marlene Hinshaw** in memory of **Rudolph (Rudy) Schovanec; Barbora and Daren Carlson.**

Undisclosed: **Josephine Parvey.**

Legacy Fund/Air Conditioning: in memory of **Mir Verner:** under \$100: **Tom and Judy Aubrecht; Teresa Boylan; Ralph and Beverly Baker; Gerald and Audrey Brings; Megan Cahill and Jason Brozovick; Michael Callas; George Chlebecek; James and Mary Jo Chlebecek; Marie Cravens; Georgiana Dolejsi; Roger Gillette and Elaine Johnson; Mildred Grealish; Richard and Erin Gross; Ralph and Mary Halbert; Ed and Arlene Hamernik; Don and Katie Haselbauer; Eileen Hawkinson; Joan Honsa; Janice Jacobson; Edwin and Nancy Kanis; Mary Kodada; Darla Kolb; Robert Kostichka; Pamela Kotval; Marit Lee Kucera; Valeria Kuisle; Ivan and Mary Krizan; Doris, Danita Larson and Doris and Doreen McKenney; Douglas and Catherine Larson; Dave and Sue Martin; Michael and Cindy Machus; Ray and Joyce Miller; Scott and Kari Muires;**

Elsie Roepke; Richard and Sandra Saliny; Genevieve Schnaith; Joan Sedlacek;; Terry Shima; Steven Shimer; Edith Timm; Phyllis Vosejпка; Charles and Louise Wessinger; White Bear Lake Lions Club; Barton and Bonita Wylie.
\$100 - \$499: **Donald and Patricia Andrle; John and Judith Benton; Dennis and Mary Cahill; James and Patricia Dolejsi; Joseph and Kaye Dolejsi; Steven and Susan Fritze; Kent and Marlene Hinshaw; Gerald Nelson; Karleen Sheppard; Norman Petrik and Joyce Tesarek; Mary Tesarek; Thomas and Penny Tesarek; Mrs. Joseph Zeman.**
Undisclosed: **Jaroslav and Lois Verner.**

Slovo: under \$100: **Jim and Mary Jo Chlebecek; Minnesota Sokol Camp Association; J. R. Pokorny.**

Thanks again to all our donors!

Your Legacy Dollars at Work!

By Joyce Tesarek, Finance Chair

To honor our C.S.P.S. Hall's 125th anniversary in 2012, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's Board of Directors five years ago approved and prioritized a list of repairs and renovations, plus the Board initiated a Legacy/Building Campaign to finance the projects. The first project on the list was to remove and replace our antiquated steam heating pipes and basement sewer.

In the past few years, pipe repairs had cost over \$60,000. Not only will C.S.P.S. Hall be more energy efficient, but also we will be spared frequent costly repairs on old pipes! As part of the sewer repair project, a sump pump was installed to take out the ground water that seeps into the basement. We now have a much drier basement floor that allows for safe equipment/supply storage. Including earlier repairs, the steam pipe replacement total was \$125,415; the cost for sewer work was \$21,985. This project was funded completely with private donations and a grant from the Department of Interior's Save America's Treasures.

Under the able guidance of volunteer Gary Novak and the C.S.P.S. Hall Planning Committee, the current project, the fire protection sprinkler system,

should be completed in March. *Here are some of the elaborate controls and gauges needed to turn on the large water valves if a sprinkler head is overheated. This is a first-class system. Impressive? Exciting? Yes, indeed, for Hall preservation.*

The original C.S.P.S. Hall, built in 1879, burned five years later. Many historic halls have burned down: the Danish Dania Hall (1886), Minneapolis, burned in 2000; the Swedish Gustavus Adolphus Hall (1924), Minneapolis, burned in 2004. On November 6, 2009, the Wilson (Kansas) Czech Opera House (1901) and Opera House Museum was completely destroyed by fire; it contained Wilson Sokol Lodge artifacts and gymnasium. With the high risk of fire to older buildings, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota decided a sprinkling system was a necessity. The cost of this project will total \$90,700.

Minnesota Sokols are proud that C.S.P.S. Hall is the longest-serving, continuous-use Czech and Slovak hall in the United States, as well as the longest-serving national hall and theater in Minnesota; it is included on the National Register of Historic Properties.



At one time there were eleven Sokol units in Minnesota: Denham, Foley, Hopkins, Hutchinson, Meadowlands, Minneapolis, Montgomery, New Prague, Owatonna, Pine City, and Saint Paul. Many units had their own buildings, but not all. Our Sokol unit in Saint Paul remains the only Sokol unit left in Minnesota. This

makes our home, our C.S.P.S. Hall, all the more important to preserve. With your help, we are diligently working to restore, renovate, and refurbish the Hall.

Our next project is central air. Everyone awaits the coming of A.C. to C.S.P.S. Hall! With your continued generous support, we hope to make this happen this summer. If you would like to make a donation, please go to our website at <sokolmn.org> to donate online. You may designate your donation in someone's honor or memory. All donations are tax deductible. 100% of all current donations to the Legacy Fund will go to pay for central air installation. Contact Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147 with any questions.

Frank Miroslav “Mir” Verner, February 7, 1931 – December 24, 2013

Frank Miroslav “Mir” Verner was born to František Verner and Ludmila (Litka) Dolejsi Verner on February 7, 1931, at Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



He attended schools in Saint Paul, graduating from Monroe High School in 1949. Upon graduation from high school, he began his studies at the University of Minnesota. His college education was briefly interrupted for service in the United States Army. After his tour of duty, he returned to the University of Minnesota where he completed a five-year program in Mechanical Engineering.

Graduation night brought many changes to Mir’s life. He proposed to Shirley on the corner of Church Street and University Avenue on their way from his graduation ceremony. Mir and Shirley were destined to be together, almost from birth. Mir’s parents, longtime friends of Shirley’s parents, were visiting Shirley’s mother at Swedish Hospital following Shirley’s birth. Mir’s mother, Litka, commented that “Now we have a bride for little Miro.” The rest is history.

On February 23, 1957, Mir married the love of his life and lifelong friend, Shirley Jean Andrlé. Their union was

blessed with two children, Jean Marie and Richard Jay. The ensuing 55 years of marriage were filled with thousands of happy moments for Mir and Shirley.

As an active member of Sokol for 62 years, he served on many boards and committees of the organization including the Board of Trustees and the Charitable Gaming Committee. As a young Sokol, he was active in the Sokol gymnastics programs, as were his father, brother, and sister.

Mir was active in many social, cultural, and special interest groups. If it involved wood, wheels, water, or wings, he was interested in it. He was a longtime member of the Saint Paul Sail and Power Squadron, recently receiving his 50-year membership award. Mir was also active in the Saint Croix Valley RC Flying Club, the Minnesota Wood Turners Association, and Univestors.

Mir loved the great outdoors and enjoyed spending time at the Minnesota Sokol Camp and his lake property in Pine City. For nearly 40 years, Mir and Shirley made their home on 40 acres of wooded property in Marine on St. Croix.

Mir is survived by his wife Shirley, daughter Jean and Chuck Draheim, and son Rick and Mary Kate (Boylan) and their children, Frances, Thomas, Patrick, and Nora Verner.

Thank You, Sokol Minnesota

*Brothers and Sisters in Sokol,
you are like family. The
outpouring of help and
support you offered has been
in keeping with the highest
principles of the organization.*

*We could not have gotten
through this without you.
Sokol was an integral part of
Mir’s life and he loved the
people in it as much as
you loved him.*

*We have received
approximately \$3,000 in
memorial gifts, from Sokols
and others, that are being
directed to the Legacy Fund
to help pay for the installation
of the new air conditioning
system in the C.S.P.S. Hall.
This was a favorite project of
Mir’s, and it was his wish that
any memorials be used
in this manner.*

*The last words that Jean and
Chuck heard from Mir were
“Thank everyone who
helped.” From Mir’s lips to
your ears, Thank You.*

The family of Mir Verner

The Story behind *Toward a New Life* (V nový život)

By Chuck Draheim with assistance from Jean Draheim and Joan Sedlacek

Many months ago, as Jean and I were discussing Mir’s funeral plans with Mir and Shirley, he indicated that he wanted only three pieces of music played at his funeral: the national anthems of both the United States of America and the Czech Republic and *Toward a New Life* (V nový život) by Josef Suk. Mir was truly proud of the land of his birth, the land of his ancestors, and his long association with Sokol.

In preparation for the celebration on January 5, 2013, of Mir’s life, I located a performance of *Toward a New Life* from the final night the 2012 BBC Proms concert series in London. Much to my surprise, I heard lyrics, something I had never known existed. As I listened to the vocals in Czech, subtitles in English began to appear on the screen. The words brought tears to my eyes! I highly recommend viewing this truly stirring performance of *V Nový Život*:

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rruD198FwAUV>>.

These are the words, transcribed from the broadcast to the best of my ability:

Toward a New Life (V nový život)

A bright flame blazes from Blanik

To the dark forest, to the peaceful fields around.

To the open fields, the beloved lands around Blanik.

The beacon flares into life, waking a young falcon

Burn brightly, beacon, flood the plains and fields with light

The time has come. Arise, young falcon. Arise!

The bright falcon takes flight from Blanik

Out to the forests and plains goes the call of the falcon

To the open countryside, to the heart of each young warrior

Hear the trumpet! Arise, children of the nation

Join us, all you prepared to guard our homeland

You are all she has, the only sons the motherland can count on

To protect his mother, a son must have honor and love

Into battle for her, arise flock of falcons

Into battle, my nation, may the truth of the Lord be victorious

With the star of ages in the distance, may Bohemia shine out for humanity

This is why Master Jan gave his life, why Amos labored, and Masaryk struggled

May the flame of their truth set your hearts alight again

Into battle for her, arise flock of falcons

The bright falcon takes flight from Blanik

Out of the forests and the plains goes the call of the falcon

To our homeland, to the heart of each warrior

In the peaceful fields around the young falcon finds his voice

Fly! Carry the tidings to all the towns, villages, and fields

Wake the whole land, carry the message to all, bright falcon

This message of the loyal guards from Blanik

To our homeland, to the heart of each warrior

Carry the tidings to all the towns, villages, and fields

Wake the whole land, proclaim it to all

Hear the trumpet! Join us in the struggle

Fires blaze, beacons flare, our hills and mountains thunder

Into battle, in the name of the Lord

When I was researching this piece of music, Sokol Minnesota member Joan Sedlacek recalled an article that was first published in the *Los Angeles Bulletin*, January-February, 1984, and then in the *American Sokol*, June 1984, about the history of *Toward a New Life*. She graciously provided a copy of the article, which is reprinted here.

Toward A New Life (V nový život)

With the approaching [1984] Olympic Games in Los Angeles, it is worth remembering that in 1932 the Czechoslovak Olympic Committee submitted a work by the composer Josef Suk (January 4, 1874 – May 29, 1935) for the musical Olympic competition. The work received the second prize – the first prize was not awarded.

The composition has an interesting history. In 1919 Suk decided to write a military march, so that his teenage son "could march to the sound of his dad's march," in case he volunteered for the new Czechoslovak army then engaged in the conflict with Hungary in Slovakia. He composed a draft in one day and put it aside as he lacked a text. A year later a competition to create a march for the upcoming VIIth Sokol Festival caught his attention. Suk revised and finished the march, submitted it in a piano 4-hand form under a pseudonym, and won the first prize, though the jury had some reservation because of its rather symphonic conception. After some further modifications Suk played this Sokol March for the first time for President T. G. Masaryk, during a visit at the Drtina family. He asked the poet Machar to write a text to the march, but Machar declined. A

piano version of the march was published in 1921, with the title Toward a New Life. The composer later added the opus number 35c, thus connecting it with his Meditation on the Chorale "St. Venceslas" (op35a, 1914) and the Legend of Dead Victors (op 35b, 1919) written to honor the Czech legionaries fallen during WW I.

However, Suk still continued to search for a text to his march. In 1930 the poet Petr Kricka consented to undertake this difficult task of creating lyrics to existing music. The final version of the march Toward a New Life was then first performed in Prague on December 3, 1931, with the Czech Philharmonic and the choir "Smetana." Yet, the march became most popular in various less exacting arrangements, e.g., for a band, piano 2-hands, or a small orchestra. The translations of the poem into English by Pavel Selver and into French by Gaston Milliot were available by the time the march was played in Los Angeles (1932). Because of the stirring music and the patriotic theme, the march had been often been characterized as a Czechoslovak "Marseillaise."

ZEF

Other interesting facts for our Slovo readers:

- The cottage at our Sokol Camp in Pine City is named the Suk Cottage in honor of the composer
- Josef Suk was Antonin Dvorak's son-in-law. Dvorak visited C.S.P.S. Hall in 1893.
- After winning the 1919 march music competition for the 1920 Slet in Prague, this march has been part of the impressive entrance music for participants at succeeding Sokol Slets.
- During World War II, the fanfare opened the radio broadcasts produced by the exiled Czech government in England.

(<http://www.apimusic.org/pdf/resources/resources155.pdf>).

- The work has been known by several titles since it was composed. When it was first written in 1919 the title was *New Life*

(<http://www.apimusic.org/pdf/resources/resources155.pdf>).

IMSLP Petrucci Music Library, lists the title as *V nový život Slavnostní pochod Sokolský* or *Towards a New Life, Festive Sokol March*.

([http://imslp.org/wiki/Towards_a_New_Life,_Op._35c_\(Suk,_Josef\)](http://imslp.org/wiki/Towards_a_New_Life,_Op._35c_(Suk,_Josef))).

Other sources list it as *Toward a New Life*.

- Either "toward" or "towards" is grammatically correct, but "toward" is preferred in American English

(<http://grammarist.com/spelling/toward-towards>).

- *Slovo* has chosen to use "toward."
- Sokol is the Czech word for falcon.

- We did not find references that the lyrics refer to the Sokol organization specifically, but it would be easy to infer that.

- The legend of the Knights of Blanik is in the book *Old Czech Legends* by Alois Jirásek (ISBN 1 85680 020 0, Library of Congress Card Catalog No: 91-72160).

Literary Reviews of Czech and Slovak Books By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

How I Came to Know Fish. Ota Pavel, with translation by Jindriska Badal and Robert McDowell. New York: New Directions, 1990, 150 pp. This book is available through libraries and used-book stores.

Ota Pavel's stories, some originally published in a Czech version of *Field and Stream*, are much more than fish tales. Told in an informal, conversational style with humor and drama, these coming-of-age stories portray details of the author's childhood, including a fascination with fishing, a loving family, and his father's career exploits, during the First Republic, the Nazi Protectorate, and communist domination.

Ota's father excelled at his two great passions, business and fishing. A world sales champion for Electrolux, he considered the best trip to be one that combined fishing with selling refrigerators and vacuum cleaners. When business was good, he bought the premier status symbol, an American Buick. A disastrous driver himself, he hired a chauffeur to drive the family on Sunday fishing trips.

The characters in Ota's life included carp, perch, bream, pike, trout, and eels, as well as people. Pavel tells of learning to fish from ferryman "Uncle" Karel Prosek, who "knew so much about fish that he was probably born in the Berounka River like a water sprite and tumbled into Luh on the waters of a flood." Pavel writes lyrically of Prosek's art of fishing: "I imagined rows of theatre seats along the shore in which gentlemen in English checked plus fours and ladies in pink crinolines sat sighing and applauding as each fish was caught."

The son of a Jewish father and a Christian mother, Pavel describes enticing and cruel aspects of nature in Central Bohemia as a counterpoint to the increasing harm of German occupation. "We heard Lidice shrieking from over the hill," he writes. His mother would return weeping from forced labor in the Lidice fields, which held the bodies of Nazi victims. Ota's father and two older brothers were sent to concentration camps, leaving him with much responsibility for feeding himself and his mother. In a Svejek-style twist, shortly

before deportation, knowing the Nazis would confiscate the carp in his pond, Ota's father stole his own fish so his wife and son could exchange them for food from local merchants and farmers.

The epilogue begins: "I went mad at the winter Olympics in Innsbruck. My brain got cloudy, as if a fog from the Alps had enveloped it. ... I climbed the hills above Innsbruck and torched a farm building. I was convinced that only a brilliant bonfire could burn off that fog." Later that year (1966), Pavel was diagnosed with what is known today as bipolar disorder and began a series of stays in psychiatric institutions, during which he wrote these stories. He died "of mysterious causes" on March 31, 1973, at the age of 42.

This translation helps to introduce Pavel to readers in the United States, and these stories show why the prolific author is so popular in Czechoslovakia.

Gwen is the coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. Information: <http://www.cs-center.org/wp/category/programs/literary_ventures/> or <gwen@cs-center.org>

YOU ARE INVITED TO BE A SOKOL VOLUNTEER

Sokol Minnesota has a long tradition of volunteering, for over 125 years! We depend upon our volunteers. They are the life blood to preserving our Czech and Slovak heritage. The best part: volunteering is fun! You are sure to find out something interesting about a fellow Sokol member even with a short conversation. You might find out that the person sitting across the table from you used to be your childhood neighbor, as Jake Jacobson and Doreen McKenney discovered as they bagged bread in preparation for our most recent duck dinner. Our organization is loaded with talent and expertise. We'd like to know what skills and interests you have to share with our unit. Call us! Now is a great time to get involved!

- **Slovak dinner:** Joyce: 612-822-6147
- **Pancake breakfast/bake and craft sales:** Ed and Arlene: 763-571-6091
- **Šibřinky:** Louise: 651-452-6240

10 March 2013 Slovo

- **Garage sale:** Doreen: 952-941-0426
- **Festival of Nations:**
 - Cafe:** Joyce: 612-822-6147
 - Culture booth:** Doreen: 952-941-0426
- **Gaming:** Steve : 651-224-4034 (see p. 6)
- **Slovo:** Marit: 651-222-2483. Volunteer to maintain mailing lists/labels.
- **Volunteer Coordinator** for our Sokol unit. Are you outgoing? Friendly? Like to call or email? (You don't even need to leave home.) This might be *the* volunteer job for you! Call Louise: 651-452-6240.

Festival of Nations: May 2-5 Volunteer and Attend the Festival for FREE! It's Fun at FON!

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota offers its members and friends the opportunity to help in the café and culture exhibit at the 2013 Festival of Nations. Volunteers receive an admission ticket, ethnic attire to wear while volunteering, and on-the-job instructions. Best of all, you get to work with a fun group of people. Your ticket is for the full day, so arrive early or stay

late; enjoy all the Festival has to offer.

The café needs a crew of people to take customers' orders, help prepare the orders, and fill the orders. Consider recruiting a friend to volunteer with you. To sign up for a shift in the café, please call Joyce at 612-822-6147.

To volunteer at the Czech and Slovak culture exhibit, contact General Chair Doreen at 952-941-0426.

The Sokol Minnesota children and teen dancers, directed by Louise Wessinger also participate in FON. The dance performance schedule is on the FON website: <www.festivalofnations.com>.

The Festival of Nations®, a program of the International Institute of Minnesota, is held at the RiverCentre in downtown Saint Paul. This family-friendly event is open to all ages, with over 90 ethnic groups participating in costume, 35 different ethnic food Cafés, over 50 cultural exhibitors, fun shopping at the ethnic bazaar, and over 100 colorful dancers and lively musicians.

Negotiating for the Return of

Czechoslovak Gold

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)

Editor's note: This article originally appeared on the CSCC website <cs-center.org>. The source of information used in this article is a recent book by Stanislav Motl, *Kam zmizel zlatý poklad republiky* (Where Did The Gold Treasure of the Republic Disappear?). Motl is a well-known journalist who has produced several TV programs on this subject. Part 3 of this series of articles appeared in the February issue of the Slovo.

Let's recap what happened to the Czechoslovak gold after 1938. The first loss was payment to the Nazis for the Czechoslovak property annexed in the Sudeten land. According to the Nazis, the property now belonged to the Reich, and if the Czechs wanted it back they had to pay for it. What a classic case of illogic we have here! Then, the Nazis persuaded the British to release to the Reichsbank about 24 tons of Czechoslovak gold that was being held for them in a Swiss bank. The rest was scattered in various banks around Europe.

After the war, the Patton army discovered in a deep salt mine in Germany a sizeable amount of gold and gold coins, some of which belonged to Czechoslovakia, especially the gold coins. Initially, Czechoslovakia got back 6 tons of gold, as if it was a down payment from the gold seized from the mine, and awaited additional compensation for its claim of some 48 tons of gold, as well as additional reparations for the damage done by the war to the country and its economy. It should be noted that many other countries, including the Netherlands, France, Poland, Greece, Belgium, and even Switzerland, received much larger sums in gold and jewelry, not to mention reparations that Czechoslovakia never did receive. Her reparation claims are still valid, but unlikely to be honored.

The issue of reparations was important, because that was the source from which the Czechoslovak Republic was to pay for the loan that the British had advanced after Munich. All these funds and gold were subject to a governing Tri-partite commission composed of Britain, France, and the United States, with the U.S. playing the dominant role. Though agreement of the commission was required, Czechoslovakia had to negotiate separately with all three countries. The French agreed to Czech claims. However, negotiations with the British and the United States were difficult. It should be noted that by that time, Czechoslovakia had fallen to communist rule, rejected the Marshall plan, and was suspected of supporting

countries that waged hostile campaigns against Western powers.

The British insisted on repayment of the prior loans as a precondition to returning the gold, and kept increasing the amounts they insisted Czechoslovakia owed. These sums included payments to the Czechoslovak government in exile, cost of the Czech military units (including the famous units of the air force), pre-war unpaid credits of British corporations and individuals, and compensation for property of British subjects that was confiscated or nationalized in 1945 and 1948.

These latter claims came primarily from the Jewish people; newspapers were full of ads urging people to make their claims. It was reported that many such claims were questionable or outright fraudulent. It took until 1982 to reach an agreement by which the British lowered their claims, cut out interest on loans, and reduced the original claim by half. Czechoslovakia paid the loans first, and finally received 18 tons of gold in 1982.

Negotiations with the United States were no less complex. The Czechoslovak mission that was sent to Washington to negotiate the return of Czechoslovak gold in U.S. possession resigned upon its arrival. Key commission members applied for exile, and turned over to the U.S. government all of their documents, including position papers instructing the mission on their negotiations with the Americans. The remaining members of the mission returned to Czechoslovakia, at which point the matter was at a standstill.

The issue of Czechoslovak gold was revived in 1972 when Congress began an emotional debate as to whether this gold should be returned or confiscated outright. Issues included not only confiscated Jewish property, but also unpaid pre-war debts. To complicate things, expelled Sudeten Germans appealed to the U.S. president to earmark some \$300 million as compensation. One unique complication was how to handle the purchase of modern steelmaking machinery for which Czechoslovakia had already paid in full, but which was prevented from being delivered in Hamburg and was later sold to Argentina for half the price.

Eventually, an agreement was negotiated by which Czechoslovakia would first pay its debts, after which the United States would release dollars owed to Czechoslovakia. The claims of the Sudeten Germans was not acted upon at that time and were eventually settled—but not until after the end of the communist rule. The person responsible for the settlement of the Sudeten German claims and for the creation of future relations with Germany was Alexander Vondra, the former Czech Ambassador to the United States, who became the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. (Minnesotans may remember him for his multiple visits here and for arranging the visit of President Havel.) Actually, the Sudeten German issue may be dead, but it is far from buried. It re-emerges periodically as it did during the just-concluded Czech presidential elections.

This article continues in the April issue of the Slovo.

Šibřinky

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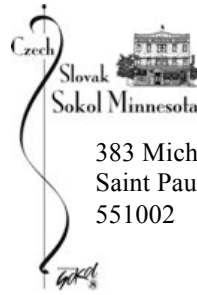
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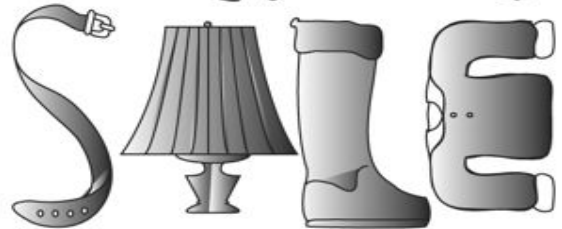
Sokol Garage Sale, April 11-12

Drop off: Wednesday, April 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook: www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

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