

**UPCOMING EVENTS  
MAY 2014**

June/July Slovo Deadline  
May 1

Festival of Nations  
May 1 - 4

Sokol Minnesota Singers  
May 6 and May 20, 10 a.m.

Board of Trustees  
May 14, 7 p.m.

Board of Directors  
May 15, 7 p.m.

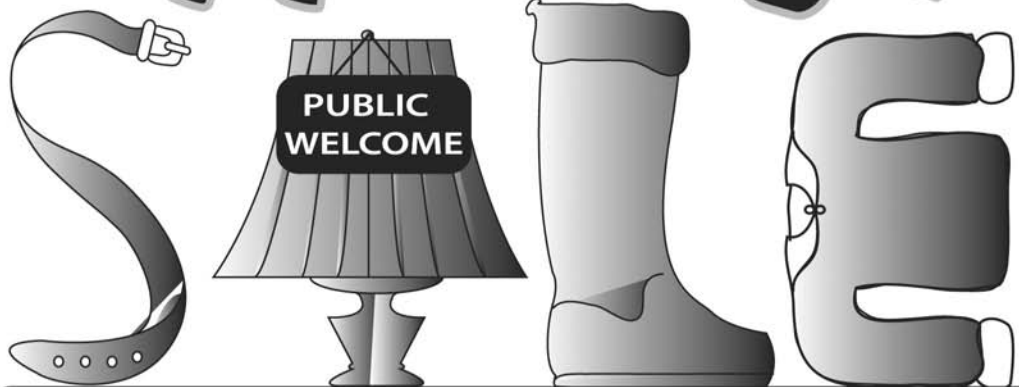
Garage Sale  
May 15 and May 16  
Drop-off: May 14

Membership Meeting  
May 16, 7 p.m.

Family Night  
May 17, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

**CANCELLED:** Minnesota  
Regional Dinner Dance,  
May 18

## Sokol Minnesota GARAGE



**Antiques, collectibles, books, clothing, and domestic treasures.**

**Thursday, May 15, noon - 7 p.m.**

**Friday, May 16, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Spring cleaning is right around the corner, so pack up those no-longer-needed treasures and donate them to our annual sale.

*Unfortunately we are unable to take:  
mattresses, bikes, electronics, and large furniture.*

**Drop off donations**

**Wednesday, May 14, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

**To arrange early drop off: 952-941-0426**

We need to have everything in boxes with lids that close. We must be able to stack the boxes. Our storage space is very limited. No big bags, please.

***Thank you for donating your old treasures!***

**Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota**

*Event chairs: Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney*

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102 - [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

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Minnesota  
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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 Judy Aubrecht**

**Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters**

I recently attended a Sokol meeting on the first floor at the C.S.P.S Hall. Upstairs, a private retirement party was taking place. While waiting for the elevator, a relative of the guest of honor told about how the retiree had planned his party with much care and looked forward to seeing all of the guests at his special event. Just the night before, a Latvian singing group had invited people to an international folk costume event (at another location) to join them for an evening of singing at the C.S.P.S. Hall. A woman who attended the Scandinavian Ball at our Hall this winter commented to me, "I had such a good time at the Scandinavian Ball. I am so glad that the Hall is there." All of these comments impressed upon me even further that the C.S.P.S Hall is important to many different people and groups, for a variety of reasons. The people who use the Hall span the ages from tot gymnastics, to Daisy Girls Scouts from the West 7<sup>th</sup> Street neighborhood, to the Senior Sokol singers. As a volunteer-run organization, balancing the use among Sokol events, ethnic group activities, and private rentals of the Hall is challenging, as is maintaining the building so that it is ready for the next group.

After all of the cold weather and snow days for our school children this year, plans for the 17<sup>th</sup> Children's Cultural Day Camp needed to be flexible. Some school districts have extended the school year, which means that some children will only be able to attend camp for a few days. The 2014 camp will be held from Monday, June 9, to Friday, June 14, from 8:50 a.m. to 3 p.m. The age of campers is from 7 to 14 years old. If your camper needs to attend for a shortened week, please contact Louise Wessinger, co-director, at 651-452-6240, and a plan can be worked out. The theme for camp this year is from the 1940's children's book "Happy Times in Czechoslovakia." The focus is on seasonal ethnic customs and celebrations. A highlight is getting ready for the Ride of the Kings. There are many opportunities for adult volunteers at camp, including helping with the cooking, crafts, or puppet plays. Grandparents frequently volunteer and accompany their grandchildren to camp to share their common ethnic heritage and to build lifelong memories.

We are sorry to announce that the Minnesota Regional Dinner Rendezvous at the C.S.P.S Hall for Sunday, May 18, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. has been cancelled.

If you are thinking of thinning out your closets and cupboards this spring, please box up your unneeded items and bring them to the C. S.P.S. Hall on Wednesday, May 14, between 10 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The annual Sokol Garage Sale will take place on May 15 and 16 (see page 1 for details). Please plan to come. Special treasures may be waiting for you there. *Nazdar!*

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

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko

Honorary Czech Consul: open

Past Honorary Czech Consuls: Josef Mestenhauer and Robert Vanasek

Sunshine Committee: Marlene Hinshaw

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson

Kitchen Coordinator: open

Website: Craig Johnson

Volunteer Coordinator: open

Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Joe Landsberger

Event Monitor: Ken Wyberg

*Slovo* newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks, Deb Ziskovsky

**E-Addresses:** President: president@sokolmn.org | Board of Directors: board@sokolmn.org | Education/Language Programs: education@sokolmn.org | Events: events@sokolmn.org | Czech/Slovak Festival: Festival@sokolmn.org | Finance/Fund Raising/Legacy Fund: finance@sokolmn.org | Fitness Programming: fitness@sokolmn.org | Folk Dancing: folkdancing@sokolmn.org | Gift Shop: giftshop@sokolmn.org | Hall Rental: hallrental@sokolmn.org | Membership: membership@sokolmn.org | Newsletter: slovo@sokolmn.org | Planning: planning@sokolmn.org | Publicity: publicity@sokolmn.org | Public Relations: publicrelations@sokolmn.org | Social Media: socialmedia@sokolmn.org | Treasurer: treasurer@sokolmn.org | Board of Trustees: trustees@sokolmn.org | Webmaster: webmaster@sokolmn.org

## 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:** \$100 - \$499: **Michaela (Giancarlo) and Robert Kotek.**

**In honor of John Cicha's 96th Birthday on April 9:** group donation from **Carol Baron, Mary Baron, Doug Cicha, John L. Cicha, and Barb Katzmark.**

\$500 - \$999: **Tom and Judy Aubrecht.**

**Legacy Fund:** \$100 - \$499: **Darlene Sitko.**

### In-Kind Donations:

Items for the Gift Shop: **Liz Delay.**

Food items sold at Šibřinky: **Alena Youngberg.**

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## Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the March 20 Board of Directors meeting, four people were accepted as members into Sokol Minnesota: Renata Ticha, New Brighton; Craig Johnson, Saint Paul; Sharon Buzicky, Hudson, Wisconsin; and Carolyn Sorensen, Saint Paul, all shared interests in cooking and various events.

We are proud to report that Renata Ticha and Craig Johnson both joined Sokol Minnesota online, using Paypal. Members can renew their membership and also now join at our website: <<http://www.sokolmn.org/membership.htm>>

Accepted by the BOD in a March email vote was Stephanie Callanan, Saint Paul, who has two children, with interest in gymnastics and festivals. At the March 28 meeting, we accepted two new members: Jane Wright, Saint Paul, a



*Three new members were present at their first membership meeting on March 28: Norm Petrik (left) inducts Shawn Rounds, Lyda Morehouse and their son Jason Rounds, from Saint Paul, and Carolyn Sorensen, also from Saint Paul, into Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.*

"gymnastics Mom," she has interests in gymnastics; and Corbin Jerde, Golden Valley. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Our next membership meeting is Friday, May 16 (see page 4).

**NEWS FLASH:** new member **Corbin Jerde was crowned 2014-2015 Miss Czech and Slovak Minnesota on April 12.** See full details in the June/July *Slovo*. Congratulations, Corbin!

## 25<sup>th</sup> Czech-Slovak Festival on September 14

On Sunday, September 14, Sokol Minnesota hosts its 25<sup>th</sup> annual Czech and Slovak Festival at our own C.S.P.S. Hall. We invite all members, friends, and neighbors to help us plan this anniversary festival: <[festival@sokolmn.org](mailto:festival@sokolmn.org)> or call Joyce Tesarek: 612-822-6147. We want to make this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event extra special with new ideas and lots of new energy to celebrate our Czech and Slovak heritages. Help us make this Sokol Minnesota fundraiser the best yet and the most fun ever!

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### Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

**Renewals:** Individual **\$50**; Couple **\$90**. Senior **\$40** (*over age 65 and member of Sokol for 5 years*); Senior couple **\$80**.

**New memberships:** Individual **\$55**; Couple **\$95**. 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. Dues are reduced for members joining after June 30.

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

**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 news, articles, and pictures digitally to <[slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)>. **The deadline for the June 2014 issue is May 1, 2014.**

Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and production editor; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, mailing production; Joan Sedlacek, mailing; with Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, and Jitka Sebek, advisors. Photographs for this issue provided by Chuck Draheim, Martina

Gurgle, M.L.Kucera, Sue Martin, Don Pafko, Joyce Tesarek, and Deb Ziskovsky. This May 2014 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after May 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 (April 15 for June/July issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (May 1 for June/July issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through May 2015.) Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new/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.

Extra copies of *Slovo* are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts.

Please contact us for a **change of address**, for problems with *Slovo* subscriptions, 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 hold all future issues until you notify us.** We pay 49¢ for each returned issue.

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. *Thank you!*

## Featured Friday Meetings By Jean Draheim

After a long and snowy winter, we have arrived at a well-deserved green and warm spring. What better way to celebrate than by joining fellow Sokol members and their families and friends at a Featured Friday potluck picnic and beer tasting?

**May 16, 7 p.m.** Come rain or shine, join Sokol members at the C.S.P.S. Hall for an **evening of food and fun**. Please bring a dish to share and your own beverages. Hot dogs or brats will be available for purchase. Sokol provides plates and eating utensils. Following the picnic and brief Sokol Minnesota announcements, Cinnamon Whaley and Ryan Beck-Buysse, both BJCP (Beer Judge Certification Program) judges, lead us through a **beer tasting**. Cinnamon said, "We'll do some Czech and also American Pilsners, a few Bavarian beers, and maybe a few Belgians since they're in the relative area, but are completely different from the other regions." Ryan has been brewing beer for 10 years and Cinnamon assists.

**June and July** There are **no Featured Friday membership meetings**. Enjoy summer and the great outdoors!

**August 22** Ever wonder who the **Rusyns** are and why we haven't heard much about them? **Karen Varian**, president of the Rusyn Association of Minnesota, will speak about this eastern Slavic ethnic group; many Rusyns live in Slovakia.

**September 26** Sokol commemorates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary both of the Velvet Revolution and the Fall of Communism, with the film *Václav Havel, Prague - Castle (Václav Havel, Praha - Hrad)*, by Czech documentary director Petr Jančárek, 2009, 57 minutes, in Czech with English subtitles. This film is provided courtesy of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C. <[http://www.mzv.cz/washington/en/culture\\_events/culture/vaclav\\_havel\\_prague\\_castle.html](http://www.mzv.cz/washington/en/culture_events/culture/vaclav_havel_prague_castle.html)>

**October 24** To be announced.

**November 21** Sokol Minnesota's annual membership meeting and election of board members.

**December 7** Our December meeting moves to a Sunday afternoon to celebrate Sokol's holiday party.

Sokol always has the coffee pot on after the meetings. We would like members to volunteer to "host for the evening" by bringing treats and setting up the goodies for the social time. We would like two or three folks to sign up for each Featured Friday. To volunteer, please contact Jean Draheim, program coordinator, at <[education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org)> or 651-426-2826.

As always, members are encouraged to bring family members and friends to our events. See you at the next Featured Friday!

Contact Education Director Jean Draheim: 651-426-2826 or email: <[education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org)> for more information on meeting programs, events, or classes or to join one of our interests' lists.

## Mardi Gras III: Fun for All

Mardi Gras III was a colorful, jivin' affair on Sunday March 2, at C.S.P.S. Hall. Southside Aces from Minneapolis provided great New Orleans-style jazz for dancing.

There were beads, masks, and face painting, to go along with the delicious Cajun food: jambalaya, spicy red beans, rice, and cornbread. Mississippi Market donated the sweets. Czech and Slovak Moms provided beautifully decorated *perníčky*.



(Above): Face painting by Jens Werner was popular with more than half the Mardi Gras revelers. Joe Landsberger, as chair of the gala, was among the first to be painted. (Left): Southside Aces trombone player Steve Sandberg led the band as it sashayed through the Hall, leading the Second Line of revelers. Several Twin Cities musicians came just to hear the Aces play.



Thanks to all the Sokol members, friends, and neighbors who volunteered: Tom Aubrecht, Mary Bishop, Julie Borgerding, Cindy Coulter, Joanna Craighead, Jean Draheim, Chuck Draheim, Paula Faughender, Martina Gurgel, Jean Hall, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Craig Johnson, Marit Lee Kucera, Gina Roers Liemandt, John Liemandt, Hana Matousek, Betty Moran, Denis Novak,

Gary Novak, Mary Ann Novak, Norm Petrik, Kent Petterson, Joan Sedlacek, Steve Shimer, Joyce Tesarek, Darren Tobolt, Wendy Underwood, Louise Wessinger, and all the Czech and Slovak Moms and Dads. Martin Mikus and Karen Boileau won the door prizes: Slovak dinner tickets and a Czech glass vase.



(Above) Cindy Coulter (left forefront) and Mary Ann Novak sold perníčky and sweets to David Downing and Ann Jarda. (Below): Bartender Darren Toboldt with Denis Novak and Norm Petrik; all wore colorful beads.



## Šibřinky Celebration 2014

By Ed Hamernik and Louise Wessinger, Co-Chairs

This year for our annual Šibřinky Ball on March 22, we had the good fortune of fine weather and a large happy crowd that made for a wonderful, successful evening. Thanks to everyone that joined us for our spring celebration, and we hope you enjoyed the party as much as we enjoyed having you there.

We began the event at an earlier hour this year. At 4 p.m. the bar opened and food was available to purchase. The menu



included a Czech meal of *řízek* (fried breaded pork), potato salad or mashed potatoes/gravy, pickled beets, bread, and dessert; we also had hot dogs for the youngsters. The children (*Taneční Mládež*) (left photo) and teen (*Taneční Teens*) (above right) dancers provided great entertainment during the dinner hour.

At 6 p.m. the dancing began, featuring great “old tyme” live music by the Cathy Erickson Band. Thanks to the band for traveling the nearly 300 miles to entertain us. Cathy has a fondness for us at Sokol Minnesota, because she too has Czech roots. Her grandmother was born in Prague in 1891 and came to U.S.A. in 1910.

At intermission, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers performed. Afterwards they helped teach some in the crowd the polka and the mazurka. The dance floor was full and many stayed through “Good night, Irene” at 10 p.m.



We had almost 100 paid dance guests plus many others came for the meal (80 meals served). Sokol's profit for the event was \$789 total; after expenses: \$377 from food, \$180 bar, \$209 admission, and \$23 from donated items that were sold. The door prize winners were Karma T., Mary Ann Novak, Kate Watson, Katherine Oxford, and Mary Jo Chlebeck.

Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Princess Victoria Soukup from Montgomery, Minnesota, attended. (See photo page 6.)

We needed many volunteers to staff this event, co-chaired by Ed Hamernik and Louise Wessinger. Special thanks to Hana Matousek for coordinating the food and kitchen crew: Shannon Duffy, Darla Kolb, Rad Rasmusson, Marketa Resong, Joan Sedlacek, and Alena Youngberg. Other volunteers: Don Andrie, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Dan Bednar, Jim Chlebeck, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Robert Jacobson, Jan Knudtson, Lloyd Krocak, Norm Petrik, Joyce Tesarek, and Shirley Verner.

## EVENTS/NEWS/NOTES of INTEREST...

**Kenwood Symphony Orchestra** performs **Dvorak Symphony No. 9 From The New World and Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf**, Saturday, **May 17**, 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, 5435 11th Avenue South, Minneapolis. Free to the public. <<http://www.kenwoodsymphonyorchestra.org/index.cfm?pageID=3>>

**The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution to display a bust of Václav Havel** in the House wing of the U.S. Capitol. The bust will honor former Czech President Havel's life and legacy. The resolution was authored by California Representative Ed Royce, chairman of House Foreign Affairs Committee, with the support of the American Friends of the Czech Republic, McGuireWoods LLP, and the Vaclav Havel Library Foundation. For the resolution's full text: <<http://beta.congress.gov/113/bills/hres506/BILLS-113hres506ih.pdf>>

In addition to screening **Václav Havel, Prague – Castle** at our September 26 meeting to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and the End of Communism, Sokol Minnesota is working with Czech and Slovak Culture Center to bring to the Twin Cities films in a series titled *The Play's the Thing: Václav Havel, Art and Politics*. The Embassy of the Czech Republic has the rights to screen these films for non-commercial use; therefore, the films must be admission free. Watch for full details.



## CZECH TOURS 2014

**June 16 - 30: Heritage Tour...\$2,965**

**September 1 - 15: Bohemia Tour...\$2,985**

*Includes airfare from Minneapolis, welcome and farewell dinners with music, land transportation by motor coach, hotels, breakfasts, sightseeing (some entrance fees), fully escorted by Hana (20+ years experience).*

For more information, contact:  
**Hana Matousek at CZECH TOURS**

•952-440-4289 •CzechTours@aol.com

## Festival of Nations May 1-4

Czechs and Slovaks again play a big part at the Festival of Nations, as they have every year since 1932, selling ethnic favorites at a café booth, folk dancing, and highlighting Czech and Slovak culture in an exhibit booth. Ninety cultures are represented at this year's Festival, May 1-4, at the RiverCenter in downtown Saint Paul. You can still get a free ticket by volunteering a shift. Call Doreen: 952-941-0426.

The theme of this year's festival is *Peace Among the People*. Doreen McKenney, exhibit booth designer as well as the general Czech and Slovak festival chair, was inspired by a photo of Dave Martin, standing inside the heart-shaped memorial to Václav Havel when the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers toured the Czech and Slovak Republics in the summer of 2012. Be sure to visit the Culture Exhibits to see Doreen's wonderful rendition of the Havel Heart in the Czech and Slovak booth. It stands 30" high and weighs only 20 pounds. (We promise a picture in the June/July *Slovo*.)



Two Czech artists, Lukáš Gavlovský and Roman Švejda, collected the remnants of tens of thousands of candles lit in memory of former Czech president Václav Havel after he died on December 18, 2011, at age 75. With a blowtorch, the artists created a huge 7-foot high wax heart, weighing over 5,000 pounds. Havel often used a heart to symbolize his message that "truth and love should prevail over lies and hatred." He ended his signature with a heart. A neon heart shone from Prague Castle when he left office in 2003. The wax heart sculpture memorial was originally displayed outside the National Theatre in Prague, later in Litomyšl, and then at Grabštejn Castle in northern Bohemia.

Sue Martin, who took this picture, suggests three references for those who are interested to know more about Havel's Heart:

<<http://www.radio.cz/en/section/curraffrs/a-heart-from-melted-candles-an-unusual-memorial-for-late-czech-president-vaclav-havel>>  
<<http://rt.com/art-and-culture/heart-havel-sculpture-czech-412/>>  
<[http://video.idnes.cz/?idVideo=V120121\\_131440\\_tv-zpravy\\_jda](http://video.idnes.cz/?idVideo=V120121_131440_tv-zpravy_jda)>

Vanda Kašová, Slovo's columnist from Prague, wrote in early April that the heart spent this past winter in the cellar of Uherské Ostroh Castle (Uherské Hradiště District, Zlín Region). In April it went to Luhačovice (a spa town, also in the Zlín Region). For over two years now, visitors have continued to pay homage. As long as visitors are interested in viewing the heart sculpture, it will be kept on display.

<[http://zlin.idnes.cz/v-zamku-v-uherskem-ostrohu-je-voskova-socha-srdce-pro-vaclava-havla-1fw-zlin-zpravy.aspx?c=A131218\\_2013294\\_zlin-zpravy\\_ppr](http://zlin.idnes.cz/v-zamku-v-uherskem-ostrohu-je-voskova-socha-srdce-pro-vaclava-havla-1fw-zlin-zpravy.aspx?c=A131218_2013294_zlin-zpravy_ppr)>

**Czech and Slovak folk dancing groups** all perform on the World Stage (except as noted). Hourly time slots are shared with other groups, except for Atrium performances.

**Taneční Mládež:** Saturday: thirteenth group at noon session

**Taneční Teens:** Friday: second group at both noon and 2 p.m. sessions

Saturday: seventh group at 1 p.m. session.

Louise Wessinger directs the Sokol Minnesota *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens*.

**Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers** (Louise Wessinger, leader)

Saturday: first group at 4 p.m., third group at 8 p.m.

Sunday: first group at 4 p.m.

**Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers** (Don Pafko, leader)

Friday: 6:30 p.m.

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.

Atrium: Friday: 7:30 p.m.

**Ethnic Dance Theatre** performs Slovak dances

Friday: in time slots that begin at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m.

**The Czech and Slovak Café** (food booth #2) serves these favorites: *jitrnice* (Czech sausage), *párky* (hot dog), *vepřový sendvič* (pork patty sandwich), *chlebičky* (open-faced sandwich), *vyprážený syř* (fried cheese sticks), *halušky* (pork and cabbage casserole), *kremrole* (cream horn), *koláče* (fruit filled pastry), *káva* (gourmet coffee), *limonáda* (lemonade), and water. Café chairs are Dawn Bulera, Jason Brozavich, and Joyce Tesarek.

## C.S.P.S. Hall Hosts Many Meetings and Activities



(Above) **WFLA Lodge Oreel #69** meets regularly at C.S.P.C. Hall. At the April 8 meeting were (L-R) Carol Loss, Gregg Loss, Rick Yapp, Kathy Richardson, and Pat Carlson-Rukavina (also a Sokol member). WFLA sponsors the bike raffles at our Czech and Slovak Festivals. Don't miss the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Festival on September 14.

(Left) **Visiting Royalty.** Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Princess Victoria Soukup (center back) from Montgomery, Minnesota, joined three members of our own Taneční dancers for a photo at Šibřinky on March 22.

## Czech and Slovak Moms Welcome Spring By Jitka Sebek

March 16 was a nice day; it was a sunny day, a Sunday, and a day that became greener with every minute, as it drew nearer to the holiday so dear to Saint Paul inhabitants (St. Patrick's Day). But wait, we can't let the Irish leprechauns unleash their plethora of mischief yet. Has not West Seventh Street heard Czech and Slovak throughout its many years of existence; wasn't there something besides mended shoes and a cocked hat? Yes, there was. There was the commotion of driving to and from the Festival of Nations' dance reviews. There was also the waft of cooking cabbage and bacon floating from the busy kitchen area into the main room of the Hall, warming the hearts of all the Slovaks, while they dreamt about the High Tatras and Danubian Lowland. Yes, it was the day of the annual Flavors of Slovakia dinner, which started serving at 12:30 p.m.

In mid-afternoon, festivity decorations were swiftly changed, the stage prepared, and Family Night was ready to offer another play in Czech performed by our Czech and Slovak children. These children, who are being raised to be multilingual and multicultural, take our breaths away with every new performance, presented so naturally and wholeheartedly. Our children enjoy the camaraderie (*as seen in their smiles in this picture below*) that expands their horizons with every new play, language class, and crafting project. You are welcome to join them!



The friendship is as keen among the parents. How else could someone decide to surprise the rest of us with a wedding? Yes, the Sokol Hall witnessed a

beautiful couple in *kroj* sharing their love and now a Czech name when Michaela (Míša) Giancarlo wed Robert J. Kotek on March 16. Almost by magic, all kinds of the sincerely-expressed hospitality came into the Hall, not only wedding cakes, *perníky* and *chlebíčky*, but also the horse collar, plate-shards-sweeping and soup-sharing customs, as well as polka dancing, games, gifts, and well-wishes. Who will be next? There surely must have been an Irish rainbow near the Sokol Hall on that unforgettable Sunday.

Wedding traditions in the Czech and Slovak Republics are rich and varied. On a recent Saturday morning, while their children danced in *Taneční Mládež*, the Moms engaged in a lively discussion about regional differences and the possible origins of some of the wedding customs.... Martina Gurgel reminded us that it always starts with wedding announcements hand-delivered by the bride-to-be; her mom baked with friends for two days the tiniest *koláče* with different fillings to be put in paper baskets with one square *koláč* for the girl in each family. ...Olga Espinosa and Markéta Resong, both from Moravia, fondly recalled an array of customs initiated by groups of friends: singing to the groom about losing his "freedom,"

bringing a present and inviting him to a place where dinner and drinks are served and music plays all night long for happy dancers. ...Some level of challenge is involved in a wine-selecting custom done by the groom for his upcoming wedding. First he tastes the most recent wines, then some different wines, including aged wines .... The groom comes to the bride's parents and asks for their blessings, for which a kneeling stool is made and used... Why aren't there weddings in May? Ivana Kovářová very quietly

*It is a tradition at Czech weddings that after the waiter welcomes the newlyweds to the wedding reception, he offers a toast and then drops a plate making sure it breaks into many pieces. The couple is handed a household broom to clean up the broken shards in order to show others how they will share household chores. Míša and Robert Kotek smiled at each other as together they swept up all the broken pieces at their reception.*



reminded us of a somber adage that nobody questions even today; then she quickly pointed to the joyous custom of "closing:" a group pulls a string across a road or a church door and lets out only those who pay. Since not all neighbors and coworkers can come to the wedding reception, these make sure to attend the wedding ceremony and are generously treated with wine or liquors. ...Romana Pulkrabek surprised us that in her region, the custom is for the newly-married husband to carry his wife over a different kind of a string: one decorated with silverware, wooden spoons, and ladles. ...Eva Giese beautifully trimmed a horse collar that our recent groom received as one of the many reminders of the only love he has now for all eternity.... Yes, he might lose his wife briefly during a wedding dinner, Zuzana Bracknell told us, but he must look for her and usually finds her in a pub where the groom is expected to pay the bill. ...A wedding is a joyous community event with even more traditions, many of which we don't even know the roots. ...Don't forget, added Alena Youngberg, ending the discussion, that with different ethnic and religious groups throughout the country's history, we have a nice mix of wedding customs, but as long as the bride helps with sweeping the plate shards, the groom carries her over a threshold, and both have a toast with everyone, the couple will live happily ever after.

## Czechs Love Walking “Tours” By Vanda Kašová, columnist from Prague

After a week or two into our month-long visit to Minnesota last year, my fellow Czech and Slovak Rotarians and I noticed we were becoming heavier and heavier. It was no surprise to us: we ate a lot during that time, as our hosts wanted to show us the best of American cuisine, and when we traveled it was only by car.

When we asked to go for a walk, our hosts seemed a little surprised, and then they let us walk for a few minutes down the main street – so to be practical, we did a bit of window shopping.

But that was not what we meant. Czechs are really huge fans of walking. We like to go outside for no reason other than

just to take a few steps, to be in the fresh air. Tourist clubs (Americans would more likely call them walking clubs) are one of the few groups that we actually like to join.

The Czech Tourist Klub has a history of more than a hundred years, and the whole country is covered with watchtowers that members helped to build. Members also painted white and red (and green and blue) stripes on trees throughout the country to show the path for those who want to walk. We can walk for dozens of miles and see caves, castles, and mountains in the countryside and never get lost.

Yesterday (and it was a Saturday!) we

woke up at 7 a.m. and travelled an hour by train just to go for an eight-mile-long walk. And we were not alone. This organized and traditional walk, called “The Walk for a Plum *Koláč*” caught the fancy of hundreds of people, both young and old.

What also helps draw walkers to this huge event is that you can buy a beer every now and then along the path. On this hike, we can easily combine many things that we like: beer, walking, sunny days, and friends.

Want to know more about the Czech Tourist Klub? Check out its website at <<http://www.kct.cz/cms/czech-tourist-klub-kct>>

## Flavors of Slovakia Dinner 2014



(Left) *Steam rose from the plates of delicious Slovakian fare. Servers (L-R): Katie Aubrecht, Lucie Mannheimova, and Steve Shimer*

(Right) *Our many happy diners. (Below) Arnie Ziskovsky (left) and John Liemandt served beverages.*



At the 2014 Flavors of Slovakia Dinner early on Sunday afternoon, March 16, we served 140 dinners for a total profit to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota of \$1,652.73.

The delicious traditional Slovakian dinner included a plate piled high with pierogi, a cabbage roll, dilled green beans, pickled beets, dumpling, cabbage/bacon *halušky*, caraway rye bread as well as dessert and coffee.

Leadership Team: Mary Cahill, Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, and Joyce Tesarek. Ed Hamernik introduced Honorary Slovak Consul Don Pafko, who served as official host of the dinner.



Volunteers: Kate Aubrecht, Darlene Baker, Jim Baker, Dan Bednar, George Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Cindy Coulter, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Pam Kotval, Marit Lee Kucera, Joe Landsberger, Gina Roers Liemandt, John Liemandt, Lucie Mannheimova, Denis Novak, Norm Petrik, Steve Shimer, Arnie Ziskovsky, and Deb Ziskovsky.

Thank you to all who helped and to all who came to the dinner for your friendship and support of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

Our ethnic dinners are a great time to enjoy favorite foods and to share our cultural heritage with family and friends. We will see you again soon!

**The Minnesota Regional Dinner Dance, scheduled for Sunday, May 18, has been cancelled.**



## Cool Air Is Almost Here By Joyce Tesarek, Fundraising Chair

Our C.S.P.S. Hall is very close to getting air conditioning for this summer season. The air conditioner is in town and is ready to be hoisted up to the reinforced roof platform. We need \$106,000 to complete the installation of the ductwork in the attic, the connection from the condenser on the ground to the fan unit on the roof, installation of the temperature controller, and do the electrical wiring. When completed, the cool air will allow us to offer summer programs and add three more months of hall availability for rentals to earn income, which will help pay our bills.

Completing the installation is expensive, we know. Be yours a small or a large, all donations will add up to making the Hall cool and comfortable in the summertime. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to help us finish this project before the hot weather starts. Give online at our website [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) or send a check, made out to Sokol Minnesota, along with the donation form in this page.

Thanks to the Planning Committee: Ed Hamernik, Joe Landsberger, Gary Novak, Chuck Draheim, and Joyce Tesarek. Special appreciation goes to Gary Novak for his design and management efforts on this construction project.



## Consular Corps College Plans Curriculum for Fall

From March 6 to 8, the chancellors of the Consular Corps College met in Washington, D.C., to plan the curriculum for this year's honorary consul symposium to be held in November. Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, Donald Pafko, who was appointed a chancellor in January, helped to develop course work for the next consular corps

college. This year's curriculum will include subjects such as diplomatic relations, passport and visa processing, and IRS tax information for honorary consuls. The chancellors are responsible for recruiting qualified professionals to provide instruction on various subjects helpful to honorary consuls. Attending for part of the chancellors meeting was Miroslava Pířová, Director of Consular Affairs for the Slovak Embassy in Washington D.C., seen here with Donald Pafko.

## New Middle European Member Joins Minnesota Consular Corps

The inauguration ceremony of Csilla Grauzer

as the Honorary Consul of Hungary and the opening of the Honorary Consulate in Minnesota took place on Saturday, March 29, at Unity Church-Unitarian in Saint Paul. Hungarian Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency György Szapáry, presided and presented the keynote address. Vidéki Dance Group, the Hungarian folk dancers, performed. The reception menu included Hungarian appetizers and pastries. Representing the Czech and Slovak communities were Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Czech Consul candidate (left), and Don Pafko, Honorary Slovak Consul (right) pictured with Ambassador György Szapáry and Csilla Grauzer, new Honorary Hungarian Consul.



## C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

We ask for your support of the renovations to C.S.P.S. Hall as we celebrate its 127<sup>th</sup> year in 2014.

Contact Joyce Tesarek at 612-822-6147 or <Joyce@sokolmn.org> to discuss your tax deductible donation. *Thank you!*



### LEGACY FUND DONATION FORM

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**383 Michigan Street**  
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Or donate online: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

## Culture Day Camp

June 9-13

at C.S.P.S Sokol Hall

Campers participate in language, cooking, crafts, folk dance, and gymnastics with activities based on the book *Happy Times in Czechoslovakia* by Libushka Bartusek.

The activities throughout the week will take children through a year of traditional Moravian celebrations.

Children  
ages  
7-14



8:50 a.m.  
to  
3:00 p.m.

Brochures and registration forms are available at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) or call Louise at 651-452-6240

Co-directors Judy Aubrecht and LouiseWessinger

*Reflections of Prague: Journeys through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.*  
Ivan Margolius. Chichester, England: John Wiley & Sons,  
2006, 330 pp. Available in libraries and book stores.

## **Examining a Life in Communism** By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

*Reflections of Prague* is packed with memoir, political history, family genealogy, reflection, poetry, and architecture. It pulls together Ivan's memories, especially of his father Rudolf Margolius, and recreates conversations about the post-war politics and ideologies of Central Europe.

When Ivan was five years old, his father, a devoted communist and functionary, was convicted and condemned to death as part of the Soviet Union's infamous Slansky show trial in Prague in 1962. Ivan's mother, Heda, told him that his father had died abroad. The author was 14 when he learned the truth. "Ever since then I was trying to learn as many details as I could of what occurred during the 1950s," Ivan said in a 2003 Radio Prague interview. As he later wrote, "In 1990, on my return to Prague after a 24-year absence, I decided to find my father. My life would not be fulfilled or worth continuing until I discovered Rudolf again. I had to make a difficult journey back through the last hundred years to assemble the full story."

Through his writing, Ivan brings alive that history, as well as his mother's and father's. These individuals are no longer just the numbers Ivan described as "the sad statistics of Czechoslovak people affected by the Communist regime from 1948 to 1989: executed, 248; died in custody, 4,500; killed crossing the country's borders, 327; imprisoned, 205,486; emigrated, 170,938."

Instead we see Rudolf as the caring father who took his son on a country ride in their Škoda Tudor 1101 saloon convertible. The author also describes not just Rudolf's torture in prison, but also a respite after the forced confessions, when "Rudolf was allowed to be with Vladimír Clementis for a short time. They recreated Dvořák's *Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104*, whistling the whole score ... with one replicating the solo instrument and the other filling in the orchestral support."

Ivan also gives an insightful political comparison. The political detainees in the Slansky case "felt guilty because their party told them they were guilty, and in their eyes the party was their ideal, their friend and guide and was always right. During Nazism, Gestapo interrogators forced the truth out of prisoners, while during communism, lies and inventions, the complete opposite, were sought. Both regimes aimed at destroying the human spirit to feed the political goals and ambitions of their respective parties. The Nazis and the communists created terror to achieve complete obedience."

Ivan studied architecture in Prague and London and practiced at several architectural firms. He is co-author of many award-winning historical, architectural, and design publications, including *Prague: A Guide to Twentieth-Century Architecture*, *Tatra - The Legacy of Hans Ledwinka*, *Art + Architecture*, *Architects + Engineers = Structures*, and *Czech Inspiration*.

*Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. For more information, go to <www.cs-center.org> or contact <gwen@cs-center.org>.*

## **Art and Life in Modernist Prague: Karel Čapek and his Generation, 1911-1938**

At the April 8 Czech Slovak Culture Center Lecture Series via Skype, Dr. Thomas Ort, Queens College, City University of New York spoke about his new (2013) book. Ort traced the roots of novelist and playwright Čapek's generation to cubist art and turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy. The form of modernism championed by these intellectual writers and artists (including his brother Josef, a painter, who invented the word *robot*) led them closer to liberal political ideals and totally away from the thickets of fascism or communism. Karel Čapek is best known for his science fiction including his novel *War with the Newts* and the play *R.U.R.*, which introduced the word *robot*, but he also wrote many other forms of literature. He was a close friend of Czech political leaders Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and his son Jan, and a member of Masaryk's *Hrad* political network. He died in late 1938, shortly after Czech territory was ceded to Hitler in the Munich agreement, but before the Nazis could imprison him. His brother Josef was arrested immediately after the Nazi invasion in 1939, and died in Bergen-Belsen in 1945 only days before Allies Armies liberated that camp.



*(Above) Attending the Čapek lecture by Dr. Thomas Ort on April 8 were Dr. Josef Mestenhauer, Jan Knudtson, Dr. Renata Ticha, Cheryl Nelson Theuninck, Ann Janda, Dr. Kenneth Janda, and Hana Matousek, plus M.L. Kucera (who took the photo). Dr. Ort's image can be seen on the laptop monitor (lower right) and on the screen.*

**Next CSCC Lecture: Matthias Falter: Politics of Nationalism and Violence Challenging Europe. The Far Right in Central Europe.** Saturday, May 17, 2 p.m., Third Floor Sokol Hall. Sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center and the Center for Austrian Studies. Information: Cheryl Nelson Theuninck <info@cs-center.org> **10 May 2014 Slovo**

### **Literary Ventures Book Discussions:**

10 a.m.-noon, 1st floor, C.S.P.S. Hall.

**Saturday, May 24, 2014: *The Company Car* by C. J. Hribal.** Information: Gwen <gwen@cs-center.org>

## Two Kinds of Czechs: The Ones Who Stayed

### Part 5

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 (1999-2008)



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

**More examples of types of adjustment:** One case I found interesting was a daughter of a distinguished university professor imprisoned under communism who was unable to visit her father after he was arrested. She sent him packages and letters but never received responses. The police repeatedly assured her that her father was well and had received her packages, but threatened that if she continued to inquire, she would be arrested herself. After the Velvet Revolution, she resumed her search only to find that her father had vanished without a trace, a fate common to many. Although she went to a clinic for therapy, she was unable to receive it because she suffered a delayed mourning syndrome and could not stop crying. She had bottled up her emotions in the hope of someday seeing her father again, but essentially broke down in mental pain.

I collected many stories like this and identified elements in them that could be generalized. Another such case involved me personally. One of my students, a very bright and beautiful young lady, appeared in my office with bloodshot eyes from extensive crying and asked me to help her understand what had happened in the 1948 communist coup. After my explanation, I asked why she inquired. She broke down again, charged her parents with not having trusted her and lying to her as she grew up, something she felt must permanently shatter their relationship. I tried to learn more and discovered that her parents had simply been shielding her and themselves from possible trouble with her school, which was notorious for debriefing students about their parents' political views and activities. Nevertheless, she was unable to understand her parents' motivations and forgive them, and she left school as well. This was not only the tragedy of someone who lost the opportunity to have a productive career as a teacher, but it revealed the dogmatic, black and white mindset in which young people were trained.

The next story is the opposite of that extreme, instead celebrating the free spirit of people despite their living under intense pressure to conform to the communist ideology. It is the story of high school students presented with bribes ranging from special fancy camps, trips abroad (only to Eastern European countries, of course), and other special privileges. One colleague of mine who worked in the Academy of Sciences during the Dubček era conducted a study based on a theory of cognitive and moral development. (Coincidentally, one of the primary experts on that field was at the University of Minnesota and had his office next to mine.) The problem was that only members of the Central Committee of the Party

had permission to do this type of research. Nevertheless, she found schoolteachers all over the country willing to help and she came up with some incredible results. Forty-seven percent of Czech students ranked themselves as being independent of outside influence, including by the party. This was indeed an exceptional finding when one considers the efforts made by the regime to control the minds of the young. Unfortunately, Slovak students ranked very much lower, at 17 percent. (Her study was not designed to explain the differences and was never published because she died of cancer prematurely.)

This is not the entire story. My colleague's activities were discovered by the police and she was interrogated severely. Not intimidated and unimpressed by the intelligence of the police interrogators, she lashed back at them, telling them what poor communists they were to not understand that she was studying the development of the socialist personality, so much touted by the regime as its ideological goal. She was "right," of course, because the low scores on her instruments did measure the kind of socialist moral development that produced a docile, dependent, and obedient personality, but the police did not catch on and released her without any further complications.

I have come to the conclusion that half of the people were happy living boxed in psychological isolation, undisturbed as long as they remained quiet and alone. The other half of the people engaged in quiet acts of small sabotage such as frequent absenteeism, stealing supplies from workplaces, resorting to bribery to obtain decent medical attention, duplicating and distributing samizdat literature, and physically retreating from society at every chance. Families would leave for their *chata* (cabin) first on Saturday mornings, then late on Friday afternoons, then on Friday mornings, and finally on Thursday at noon.

So the history of the Czechs who stayed behind represents a different version of my theory of the "reserved power of the Czechs." Discounting the members of the party (perhaps 15 percent of the population), the other Czechs who stayed at home either complied with the regime with mental reservations, complied like Švejk through passive resistance, or else engaged in active resistance. It is a story of subjugation and deprivation, of lies and informants, but it is also a story of the resilient human spirit that helped people survive, fool the system, undermine its foundations, and create the basis for a future life under democracy and freedom.

*Shifting Landscapes in Central Europe: The Czech and Slovak Republics and Their Relations with The United States of America* by Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser, published 2013 in book or CD format. <<http://cs-center.org/publications/books/>>

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Collect • Gather • Clean Out • De-clutter • Donate!  
Support our **Sokol Garage Sale** May 15 – 16  
Drop off: Wednesday, May 14, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Early drop off: 952-941-0426

EARLY DROP OFF: PACK IN BOXES WITH COVERS

**CANCELLED Minnesota Regional  
Dinner Dance, May 18 CANCELLED**

### *Children's Culture Day Camp*

June 9-13, ages 7 to 14

Ethnic cooking and crafts, Czech and Slovak language,  
gymnastics, and more. 651-452-6240  
Registration form: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

Check for event updates: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

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## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* May 2014

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Gymnastics is an overall-conditioning sport for

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- Agility
- Posture



Chuck Draheim, age 61, proves you are never too old to be fit. He climbed the 16.5' pole to the ceiling in 15 seconds. Kudos!

