

Slovak



Sokol Minnesota

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

**SLOVO**  
 December 2009 vol. 32 no. 10



### McCollum Announces \$150,000 for Historic Landmark in St. Paul's West End

C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall to receive \$150,000 Federal Funding for safety upgrades

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) announced the C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall of Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan will receive \$150,000 in federal funding for safety upgrades as a result of President Obama signing the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill into law last week. The hall, which is a designated historical site, has served as a community and program center of Czech and Slovak immigrants in St. Paul's West Seventh Street neighborhoods since 1879. The funds will come from the Save America's Treasures Account of the National Park Service.

The Department of the Interior and Environment Appropriations conference report that Congress passed, and President Obama signed, funds the cleanup of dangerous toxic waste sites, reduces air and water pollution, encourages energy efficiency, promotes the development of renewable clean energy sources, and supports the arts, humanities and historical preservation. The new law, P.L. 111-88, was enacted on October 30, 2009. For more information, please contact Cleve Mesidor, (202) 225-6631 or cleve.mesidor@mail.house.gov

The building contains the oldest national hall and theater in Minnesota and remains the oldest Czech-Slovak hall in the United States. "The Sokol Hall is a St. Paul treasure that has served our community for over a century. I want to make sure these federal dollars are available to this important historic building so it will be protected for future generations to enjoy," said Congresswoman McCollum.

*continued on page 3*

#### Upcoming Events

**Silver & Gemstone Class:**

Thursday, December 3rd, 7-9 pm

**Sv. Mikulas Party for Children:**

Friday, December 4, 7 pm

**Adult Sokol Christmas Party:**

Sunday, December 6th (call 651-290-0542 for reservations)

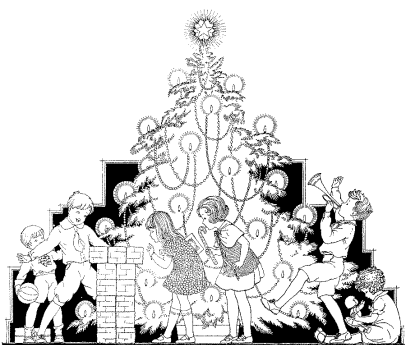
**Zazvorniky Slovak Ginger Cookie Class:**

Wednesday December 9, 6-8:30 pm

**January Slovo Deadline:** December 10

**Vanočka Christmas Bread with raisins and nuts Class:**

Wednesday December 16, 6-8:30 pm



### Den Svatého Mikoláše St. Nicholas Day

#### Children's Christmas Party

Friday, December 4, 7 p.m.

*Everyone welcome!* doors open at 6:30 p.m.

*Featuring:*

- Taneční Mládež/children's folk dancers
- Sokol Youth Gymnasts
- Visits from sv. Mikoláš, Anđel and Čert
- Refreshments

### Sokol Members Christmas Party

Sunday, December 6; \$10

3:30 p.m.

Reception and dinner

You are invited to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Program: Induction of Board of Directors, awards, performance by Frank Trnka



**Czech and Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota  
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## President Komentář/President's Note

By Joe Landsberger

*Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings brothers and sisters*



Transitions. What a little word for such a big concept. For the past few months our Nominating Committee has been working hard to fill board positions. By now, our November membership meeting has approved their work. In October I travelled to Chicago for the American Sokol Organization's Presidents' and Board of Governors Meeting. More transitions. The state of American Sokol and its units is not rosy. It is not just financial in these troubled times, but rather one of establishing a philosophical and organizational identity that is relevant to the 21st Century.

As I reflect upon our successes of the past few years, I am quite pleased that we have continued the good work of Sokol Minnesota's Presidents and Boards of Directors of years past. My first challenge three years ago was to "digitize" our Slovo. Now we distribute our Slovo around the world via email, and receive many compliments. The archives have benefited from Denis Novak, our Second Vice President organizing our historic collection of plays and Frank Trnka our folk music collection.

Partnerships for the rest of our collection dating back to 1869 are in progress, but at least we now have it roughly organized and "shelved". Of note is that we conserved many of our historical portraits.

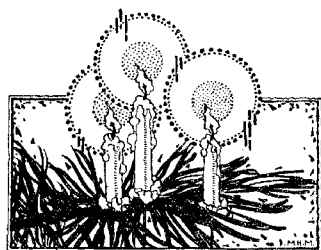
This summer we also completed a Historic Structures Report with the noted firm of MacDonald and Mack. This will serve us as a necessary step in securing more grants, though we have already been quite successful. With support from the City of St. Paul, we included computers in the new office on the mezzanine level. The City of St. Paul, the Minnesota Historical Society, the National Trust, and the Czech Government have been quite generous, recently enabling completion of the first phase of installing a fire protection system in August. Kudos to our Congresswoman Betty McCollum for facilitating a U.S. Department of the Interior grant of \$150,000. (See page 1) In three years our membership has grown from 280 to 350!

Our sister units in American Sokol look to these and other accomplishments with envy. Many have declining membership and precarious finances. However, Sokol MN is also in a state of re-invention. Our October reserves have declined from \$121,311 a year ago to \$32,105 due to a number of "emergencies" and unfunded projects though one City grant is forthcoming of \$22,000, and "receivables" due of \$20,000.

However, I started this column with transitions. This is philosophical in that it reflects the purpose and validity of our existence. I have one year left (2010) of my presidency and get to go off the board, but not committees after that—for a nice break and return to my educational profession! However, my goal for this year will be to partner with Mary Cahill and Alisa Hollibush to rejuvenate our fitness programs according to the very relevant philosophy of Miroslav Tyrš and Jindřich Fügner. Currently our hall is not used during the day on weekdays except for our senior singers, and there are many possibilities for new programs. For

example, tots, after school programs, boys/men, and seniors programs. Hopefully these will help pay the rent, and more importantly keep Sokol MN relevant for the years to come.

*Nazdar*



Betty McCollum continued from page 1

The federal funds will make it possible for Sokol Minnesota to pay for historically appropriate safety improvements, including installing fire sprinklers on the top two floors and enhancing the accessibility of its first floor. The first phase of fire protection, bringing in water from the street and “sprinkling” the basement was completed in August, 2009. This first phase was funded by grants from the City of St. Paul, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Czech Government, as well as Sokol members. The City of St. Paul has also designated \$18,000 Capital STAR funding Phase II for 2010.



Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) announced \$150,000 in federal funding to complete the C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall fire protection sprinkling system project. To send your appreciation to Betty for her work on our behalf, mail to:

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4), 1714 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515

Joe Landsberger, President of Sokol Minnesota said, “Sokol Minnesota is deeply honored by the efforts of Congresswoman Betty McCollum to contribute to the preservation of the C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall, and validate its efforts to restore, renovate and refurbish its national treasure. We are pressed by the loss to fire and demolition of national halls throughout the United States, including 25 of our own, and even our very first. The descendants of early Czech and Slovak immigrants as well as neighbors and citizens of St. Paul, Minnesota and the US have drawn inspiration from the Sokol philosophy of physical, cultural and intellectual fitness. With our history on the same property for over 130 years, we are honored and empowered by this grant to continue responsible stewardship of our history and our building, and grow our programs that a safe and functional facility will make possible.”

Several notable national halls have recently been lost to fire. On November 6, 2009 the historic Wilson Czech Opera Hall and House of Memories Museum, built by the “Sokol Club” in 1901 in Wilson, Kansas was destroyed by fire. (ed: please see article on Page 7). The Wilson Sokol Club was organized and chartered in 1895, and disbanded in 1980. On February 28, 2000 Dania Hall, built in 1886 by Danish immigrants in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis, was lost to a devastating fire. On December 31, 2008 the Gustavus II Adolphus Hall, built by Swedish immigrants in 1924 at 1626 E. Lake St. was demolished nearly four years after its fire.

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## From the Sokol MN Archives

*Slavonic Encyclopedia, edited by Joseph S. Roucek, Ph.D., University of Bridgeport, Copyright 1949, by The Philosophical Library, Inc. New York, New York, p. 1241*

*The entry on “Sokol”*

“Sometimes Sokol gymnastics contrasted to America’s sport activities and it may readily be seen that certain differences between athletic aims of both countries. The driving power behind America’s sport endeavor is the effort to reach the highest mark in a given task, to break a record and to get a medal or a ribbon; this feat naturally involves concentrated attention to one particular activity consuming, in the process a great deal of energy. In contrast, the Sokol perform an entire series of physical exercises, including those on apparatus; this, catering to every part of the body and exacting in an equal measure the participation of every mental and physical faculty. There is also a difference between the sports and the gymnastics of Czechoslovakia and the United States in regard to the number of individuals taking part. This consideration may be best illustrated by contrasting any football game to a mass display. Whereas in the former, only a comparative few play the game, in the latter thousands participate in the exercises; there are few spectators at these monstrous displays. Thus, the ultimate goal of Sokol gymnastics is the cooperation and benefit of all.”



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Slovo gift subscriptions and non-membership renewals: \$12 Sokol MN SLOVO, 5604 Morgan Ave So., Mpls, MN 55419

Visit us at:  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

# Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Language Programs

Education Chair Jean Verner 651-426-2826/sokolmn.org



## Slovak Language Class---Beginner Level (Session 2)

Instructor: Barborka Carlsonova

Thursday Evenings 7:00-8:30 PM CSPPS (Sokol) Hall

8 weeks January 7 - Feb 25, 2010

Fee: \$60.00 (Sokol members) \$75.00 (non-members)

Slovak (Slovak for You) text, workbook & phrase book (Approx. \$65.00)

## Czech Language Class---Beginner Level (Session 2)

Instructor: John Topic

Monday Evenings 6:00-7:30 PM CSPPS (Sokol) Hall

8 weeks January 4 - Feb 22, 2010

Fee: \$60.00(Sokol Members) \$75.00 (non-members)

*Cestina Hrou* Text plus cassettes/Workbook (Approx. \$115)

## Czech Language Class---Advanced Beginner (Session 2)

Instructor: Jakub Dajc

Wednesday Evenings 7:00-8:30 PM CSPPS (Sokol) Hall

8 weeks January 6-February 24, 2010

Fee: \$60.00 (Sokol Members) \$75.00 (non-members)

*Cestina Hrou* Text /Workbook continues as before

## NEW! Czech Language for Travelers

Instructor: Blanka Brichta

Wednesday Evenings 7:00-8:30 PM CSPPS (Sokol Hall)

8 weeks February 3-March 24, 2010

Fee: \$60.00 (Sokol Members) \$75.00 (non-members)

No text will be used for this course

## Czech Language Class - Conversational Level

Instructor: Jakub Dajc (Norm Petrik Coordinator)

Tuesday Evenngs 7:00-8:30 PM CSPPS (Sokol) Hall

8 weeks January 5-February 23, 2010

Fee: \$60.00 (Sokol members) \$75.00 (non-members)

Czech Language Text/Workbook continues as before

*NOTE: Registration required for all above classes.*

*Use registration blank found at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) with your payment.*

*A minimum of six paid students & a maximum of ten will be required for each class.*

# Cooking and Jewelry Instruction at the CSPPS (Sokol) Hall

Education Chair Louise Wessinger: 651-452-6240/sokolmn.org

## Silver & Gemstone Jewelry Class

By instructor Jules Mohr

Thursday, December 3rd, 2009 7:00-9:00 PM

Class Fees: \$10 (Sokol members) \$15 (non-members)

Materials will be chosen & purchased from the instructor the night of the class. You will leave with a quality piece of silver & gemstone jewelry.

If you have your own non-grooved jewelry (flat, chain, and round-nosed) pliers, please bring them to class. Jules will have some to use available that night. She will also be selling a tool kit for jewelry making and her own jewelry designs at the pancake breakfast and the night of the class.

*Registration is required. Use registration blank found at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) with your payment. If you have any questions or to register by phone call Jean Verner at 651-210-0401.*

## Bake and Take for the Holidays (limit 10 cooks/class)

### Zazvorniky/Slovak Ginger Cookies

Instructors: Kevin Hurbanis & the Sokol Cooks

Wednesday Dec. 9, 2009 - 6:00-8:30 PM

Fee: \$15.00(Sokol members) \$18.00(non-members)

Cooks should bring their own apron, large bowl, mixing spoon, rolling pin, breadboard and containers for their cookies. Each cook will make about 2 dozen cookies.

### Vanočka/Christmas Bread with Raisins and Nuts

Instructors: Hana Matousek & the Sokol Cooks

Wednesday Dec. 16, 2009 - 6:00 to 8:30 PM

Fee: \$18.00 (Sokol members) \$20.00 (non-members)

Cooks should bring their own apron, mixing bowl, large spoon, bread board or baking sheet. Please note: you will take your Vanočka home to bake.

*Registration is required for cooking classes. Use registration blank found at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) with your payment. For further information please call Louise at 651-452-6240.*

## Not using those holiday decorations anymore?

Box them up and bring them to the hall for the

Spring Garage Sale!

Now accepting boxes with lids (no bags please)

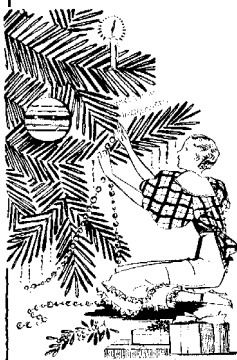
Mark your box "Sokol Garage Sale" and drop off at:

C.S.P.S.Sokol Hall • 1st Floor •

383 Michigan, St. Paul

Sale: April 15-16

*No electronics, bicycles, large furniture, or mattresses*



## DUES REMINDER

It's time for dues again. The 2010 dues are due January 1st. You will be receiving a notice in the mail.

Please pay your dues as soon as possible. If your name, address, or phone number has changed, please be sure to note that on your form along with your check. If you no longer wish to be a member of our Sokol unit, please send a note stating so. You may contact Financial Secretary Janette Pafko at 952-831-1440 or by email at [Pafkova@aol.com](mailto:Pafkova@aol.com).

## Let's do a Prostna for Spillville!

St. Wenceslaus Church in Spillville, Iowa, will celebrate its 150th anniversary over Labor Day Weekend 2010. A parade, concerts, ethnic dinners, games, arts and crafts are among the activities being planned for September 3, 4, 5 to honor the oldest surviving Czech Catholic Church in America.

Sokol Minnesota will participate with our young gymnasts performing. The St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers, led by Louise Wessinger, will dance. Historical documents from our Sokol Minnesota archives will be on display.

Other Sokol Minnesota members have the opportunity to participate by joining a calisthenics' group to perform a prostna (calisthenic drill) similar to what our Minnesota group learned for the Slet (the gathering of Sokol members) in Ft. Worth last summer. We would like to start practice in January, first and third Mondays (more if needed) of each month until we have our cal (routine) perfected. The senior cal that Doreen McKenney, a veteran of many Slets in U.S. and Czech Republic, taught last year was not difficult to learn or physically difficult to do; it provided great fun and camaraderie. Here's your chance to enjoy one of the core principals of Sokol, exercise! Join us on January 4, 6 p.m. Mary Cahill (651-738-9470) or Marit Lee Kucera (651-222-2483) look forward to your participation. No experience necessary, all ages welcome!



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## ***When the Walls Came Tumbling Down ---Berlin and Prague 1989 Remembered***

**Oak St. Cinema Weekend Dec. 4-6**

Two of the key momentous events in world history, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Czech "Velvet Revolution" of November 1989, will be celebrated with weekend film screenings at Oak St. Cinema Friday through Sunday, Dec. 4-6.

Three signature films recalling the moment that reversed Europe's Cold War destiny, "Goodbye, Lenin" from Germany and "Citizen Havel" and "Cozy Dens" from Czech Republic, will be unreeled on the big screen. A rare Czech screen "delicacy," the famous 1933 "Ecstasy", starring Hedy Lamarr, in a restored print, will also be shown.

At the screening of the 2003 Oscar-nominated "Goodbye, Lenin", a souvenir piece of the Berlin Wall will be raffled off. In the high-spirited German comedy, set in 1990, to protect his fragile mother from a fatal shock after a long coma, a young man must keep her from learning that her beloved nation of East Germany as she knew it has disappeared.

The 2008 "Citizen Havel" follows dramatist/ dissident Vaclav Havel in his key role in the 1989 liberation of his nation from the communist yoke and his post-'89 career as first president of the Czech Republic. The black comedy, "Cozy Dens" ("Pelisky", 1999), is a seriously funny look at pre-1968 Prague before the Russian invasion in the story of two families of different political camps (pro-communist, anti-communist) in a typical housing block, recalling the sad humor of Milos Forman and the "Prague Spring" films.

The Hedy Lamarr vehicle, directed by Gustav Machaty (1901-1963) has become scandalously famous for the Lamarr nude scenes (reputed to be the first in international cinema.) This restored (B&W) version from the Czech Film Archive owes its temporary, limited U.S. screening more to the rediscovery and appreciation of director Machaty and his early sound era, flowing, avantgarde style than to the young, ravishing Viennese actress (Hedy Kiessler) (1913-2000), who later became the celebrated Hollywood beauty.

Local scholars are scheduled to introduce the "political" films. The Minnesota Czech Cultural Society is part sponsor for the series.

Screening times:

*Goodbye Lenin* (in German, Eng. subtitles) Fri., Dec., 4 at 7 pm.; Sat., Sun. 9:30 pm

*Cozy Dens* (in Czech; Eng. subtitles) Fri., Dec.4; at 9:30pm; Sat., Sun. at 7:15 pm

*Citizen Havel* (English) Sat., Dec.5, 3 pm; Sun. 5:15pm

*Ecstasy* (Czech; Eng. subtitles) Sat., Dec.5, 5:15 pm; Sun., 3 pm

*All Films to screen at the Oak Street Cinema, located on the corner of Oak St. SE and Washington Ave. S. just off the University of Minnesota's east bank campus, 309 Oak St SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Tickets are \$7 general admission, \$6 student/senior and \$5 for members. To stay up-dated on film show times and special screenings check the Oak's Hotline 612.331.3134 or website [www.mnfilmarts.org](http://www.mnfilmarts.org).*

## Part II - Slovak Surnames: What They Can Tell A Family Historian

By Milán Šišmiš (continued from November SLOVO)

Dr. Milán Šišmiš organized the Genealogical and Heraldic Club at Matica Slovenská, a cultural and scientific organization located in Martin, Slovak Republic.

The following excerpts come from an article originally published in the Dec. 1996 issue of *Naše rodina*. with the permission of the CGSI editor and submitted for publication in SLOVO by Ginger Simek, President, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International.

The supply of Slovakian surnames was influenced by the ongoing proximity of native Slavs – later Slovaks and Hungarians, contact with surrounding ethnic groups or forming nations (Czechs, Moravians, Polish, Ruthenians and Ukrainians in the east) and by great migration. In the 13th-14th centuries large groups of Germans settled in several regions of Slovakia and they brought their own surnames to their new homeland (in some Germanic countries surnames were established sooner than in the other European countries). Further changes and imports of surnames accompanied the Valachian colonization (14-15th centuries) and Serbian and Croatian immigration (16th-17th centuries). Also the Slovak migration to the Hungarian Lowlands, (now in Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Romania) in the 17th and 18th centuries and to Russia, America and West-European countries in the 19th and 20th centuries. The reserve of Slovakian surnames was enriched to some extent also by names brought to the country by members of other nationalities - Italians, Russians, French, Bulgarians, and in recent years, by Vietnamese.

From the names themselves in rare cases we are able to define locality, period and special circumstances of their creation. In the majority of cases however, we can do this only approximately. The basic classification of names can be done even without prior special preparation. But naturally, the better genealogist knows the native development and the more thorough his/her linguistic education is, the more precise the analysis will be. Let's mention just several characteristics which will enable us to do the basis classification of Slovakian surnames.

The first thing, which we usually notice is the (original) language. Thanks to it the territorial or ethnic background "stands out" in many Slovak surnames in America as well as in Europe. Over the course of its development our ancestor's surnames could be translated or modified in spelling, therefore without doing careful research we cannot be sure of his/her ethnic origins. Especially in the ethnically heterogeneous communities and regions the changes were very frequent. That's why research in this respect may sometimes be very difficult and in many cases unsuccessful. The language of names very often reflects not so much the ethnicity of a person, as the ethnicity of his or her neighbors.

There is just one group of surnames which frequently reflects the ethnic background of the family ancestor – surnames derived from ethnic names (Slovák, Tóth, Nemeč, Polák, Rusnák, Chorvát, Horváth, etc.). They tell us very clearly that the bearer of such a name settled individually in a community of different ethnicity. According to the language of this name we can also guess the nationality of his neighbors (for example Tóth could be a Slovak settled among Hungarians, because Tóth is the Hungarian word for a Slovak). In some cases we are even able to guess the period of such a surname creation and thus also the period of the ancestor's settling in Upper Hungary. For example the surnames designating Croats (Horváth, Chorváth, etc., by the way at present the most frequent surname in Bratislava) very often appeared in the 16th and 17th centuries during the mass immigration of Croats in the northern part of Hungary.

Look for Part III in the February 2010 SLOVO. A copy of the December 1996 issue of *Naše rodina* in which the complete article appeared may be ordered from the CGSI website, [www.cgisi.org](http://www.cgisi.org) or by writing to CGSI, PO Box 16225, St. Paul MN 55116-0225. The cost is \$5.00 which includes shipping.

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### January Family Fun Night

Bring your family and come and join us for our third family fun night at Sokol Hall on Sunday, January 10, 2010. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, the Mom's club, and West 7th Street neighbors invite you to join us from 4:30 to 6:30 PM for a potluck supper, games and singing, and a family craft project. Our theme will be the New Year and the traditional "3 Kings" celebration. Each family is asked to register with one of the chairpersons or respond to the online evite. You can reach chairpersons Olga & Mario Splichal-Espinosa at 651-293-3999 or [silverrays@yahoo.com](mailto:silverrays@yahoo.com) or Louise Wessinger at 651-452-6240 or [louisewessinger@msn.com](mailto:louisewessinger@msn.com). Please register by Wed Jan 6th. When you register please leave your name, phone number, number attending, ages of children, and what you will bring for the potluck (appetizer, entrée, salad, side dish, or dessert). Paper products, milk, lemonade, water, and coffee and materials for the craft will be provided. A \$10 donation per family who are not members of Sokol or CSCC, members will be asked for a \$5 per family donation at the door. Volunteers will be needed at 4:00 to set-up and at 6:30 to clean-up— let the chairs know if you can help.



## Wilson Czech Opera House, Other Buildings, Destroyed In Wilson, Kansas Fire

From press releases and Websites including <http://www.lasr.net/leisure/kansas/ellsworth/wilson/att1.htm>, <http://www.kwch.com/global/story.asp?s=11456033>, <http://www.byways.org/explore/byways/12859/places/58374/>

The Wilson Czech Opera House, Wilson, Kansas along with a row of historic buildings were destroyed in a fire on Friday, November 06, 2009. The fire started around 2:30 Friday morning in a garage, and spread through the complex that included a doctor's office and an American Legion Hall. In 1967, Wilson was granted the Charter to be called "The Czech Capital of Kansas" and the restoration committee increased the museum from one to five rooms. The renovations did not include a fire protection sprinkling system.



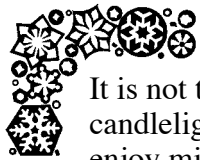
Another historic Sokol Hall lost to fire is the Wilson Czech Opera House, Wilson Kansas. It is the building on the left.

The Wilson Czech Opera House was built in 1901 using the native Post Rock Limestone. A gymnasium was later added to support SOKOL Lodge Gymnastics, and was also a Czech Lodge where the lodge hangings bedecked the walls. The "House of Memories" Museum, located in the basement and gymnasium, honored early American settlers as well as Wilson's heritage and history. The upstairs ballroom was used for stage plays, festivals, queen pageants, wedding celebrations, dances, Christmas programs and dinner theaters. The gymnasium and dining area were used to serve authentic Czech meals for festivals and tours. Not only were Czech items on display, but also brought to life are memories of the early day settlers, of other nationalities, German, French, English, Dutch, Italian and others.

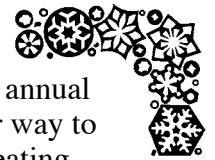
"As you enter the museum, there usually is some type of polka or lively music softly playing. There on the walls begins a history of old pictures, depicting the beginning of Wilson. Pictures of the first businesses, stagecoach station, railroad station, grocery stores, dry goods, hotels, banks, doctor's offices, hardware and implement stores, livery stables, flour mills, granary, and water towers. The "side-sod-buster" plow that broke the ground to bring the first railroad into Kansas in 1865 is on display along with hand carved items of native stone, pencil holders, name plates, souvenirs from the Czech Republic, hand painted eggs, handmade dolls and toys, and more. There is a beautiful mannequin to greet your eyes that is suited with an authentic Kroji costume, and a Lovely lady with parasol made of lovely bobbin lace, Paličkování.

"The House of Memories is just that. It helps us to educate, cultivate the minds, teach of the heritage that is ours in our great land, and inform our visitors from foreign lands as well as others about America, by giving us items to help remember our history. It was opened to preserve those things that are dear and near to our lives. The staff of the House of Memories are one hundred percent volunteers and it is open to the public by appointment tours and walk-ins, to groups, clubs, or whoever else stumbles in. All are welcome and admission is by donation. Czech meals can be served by reservation for 25 or more people, for a nominal fee."

The tragic loss of this cultural artifact is one of many: over two dozen halls that have served Sokols have now been lost to fire and demolition, including Sokol Minnesota's first from 1879, a school house moved onto our property at 383 Michigan, with a stage added shortly after. It burned five years later.



### Duck Dinner - January 23, 2010



It is not too early to think beyond the upcoming holidays to the end of January for the 7th annual candlelight pork dinner. Make your reservations early for this popular dinner! What better way to enjoy mid-winter than with friends and neighbors in the warm glow of candlelight while eating delicious food at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall.

Cost is \$22 per person.

Reservations are required and must be received by January 18th

Call Doreen for more information: 952-941-0426



Send checks to Czech and Slovak Sokol MN, 383 Michigan, St. Paul 55102, to arrive no later than January 18. Dinner is at 5 p.m. on January 23rd in the grand second-floor auditorium of the landmark C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul. Included in the dinner: half a duck, potato dumplings and gravy, sweet and sour red cabbage, apple sauce, caraway rye bread, dessert, and coffee, with a cash bar.

See you there!

## **Kuba with Gravy** *Contributed by Charles Kuba*

*Editor's note: I was thrilled to receive Charles letter and recipe. If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send to Sokol MN, 383 Michigan, St. Paul 55102 or to slovo@sokolmn.org.*

According to my grandmother, Albie Kuba (1900-1978), "Kuba" was first made by my great grandfather who (she said) was a cook for royalty in Bratislava. Evidently he was a little arrogant because he named the dish after himself.

The family immigrated to Chicago and started a dance hall, named Kuba's Hall, at 31st and Central Park. We have a picture of my grandmother waiting tables there when she was about nine years old. Below is a copy of the original recipe, which my grandmother translated from an old, worn card that was written in the Czech Language. You hardly ever find the gravy recipe included but "Granny Kuba" absolutely insisted it was part and parcel to the Kuba. As a side note, she was a member of Sokol in Chicago when I was a kid growing up there.

### **Original Kuba Recipe**

1 C barley grits  
2 C. dried mushrooms  
2 cloves garlic, mashed  
2 Tsp salt  
Butter

Boil barley grits in 6 cups water for half an hour. Stir to avoid burning. Boil mushrooms in four cups water for half an hour. Add garlic and salt. Strain and reserve liquid. Chop mushrooms. Add one cup liquid and chopped mushrooms to barley. Grease large pan with butter, pour in barley mixture, spot with butter, and bake one hour in 350° F oven.

### **Gravy**

2 C. beef broth  
Handful dry mushrooms  
10 TBS butter  
10 TBS flour  
Salt and pepper  
1 tsp sugar  
2 tsp vinegar

Put mushrooms in small pot, cover with water and cook 20 minutes. Set aside in liquid

Melt butter in fry pan over low heat, add flour slowly while mixing and stir until light brown.

Remove from heat and slowly add some broth. Mix over heat (it will look funny). Keep stirring and it will thicken. Pour into pot on heat. Add more broth and cook until nice and thick.

Add mushrooms with only 4 TBS of liquid. Then add salt, pepper, sugar, and vinegar. Mix and serve with the Kuba.

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## **Finance Committee (Thank you for your donations!)**

*By Jeanette Pafko, Finance Recording Secretary*

Sokol acknowledges all donations as they are received. They are listed in two categories, Building Fund and General Operating Fund although programs within each are not listed. Amounts are now grouped in five categories: under \$100, \$100-\$499, \$500-999, \$1000-\$4999, and \$5000+.

Elevator Fund – In memory of Florence Haselbauer – Under \$100 – Elsie Roepke  
In memory of Dick Liska – Under \$100 – Georgiana Dolejsi & Elsie Roepke

Kitchen Fund – In memory of Dick Liska – Under \$100 – Doris & Doreen McKenney

General Fund – In memory of Cody Hanzel – Under \$100 – A. James Hanzel  
In memory of Dick Liska – Ken & Sharon Wyberg

Building Fund (We used these funds to match our grant requirements)

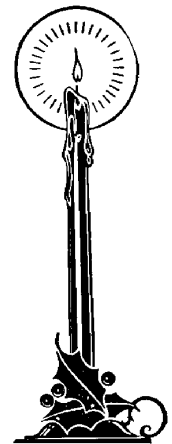
In memory of Florence Haselbauer

\$100-\$499 – Georgiana Dolejsi, Steve & Susan Fritze, Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik

Under \$100 – Dennis & Mary Cahill, Jim & MaryJo Chlebecek, George Chlebecek, John Cicha, Charles Draheim, Tom & Charlene Dunaski, James & Roberta Flescher, Mary Jean Garvie, Nicolas & Dina Gibis, Mildred Grealish, Edward & Barbara Gross, Jerry Haselbauer, Kent & Marlene Hinshaw, Richard & Janet Jacka, Charlotte Januschka, Bob & Judy Jensen, Mary Kodada, Marge Kolar, Robert Kostichka, Valeria Kuisle, Leonard & Michaela Leitner, Randy & Cindy Mattson, Doris McKenney, Anne Neubauer, Richard & Sandra Saliny, Bill & Joyce Schmidt, Joan Sedlacek, Jody Seidel, Bob & MaryAnn Shoberg, Joyce Tesarek & Norm Petrik, Robert Vanyo, Mir & Shirley Verner, Phyllis Vosejпка, Charles & Louise Wessinger, Jessica Whalen, Ken & Sharon Wyberg and Margaret Zalesky

In memory of Dick Liska – Under \$100 – Jim & Barb French and Rich & Sandy Saliny

Building Fund - \$1500 – Czech & Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota







## Song of the Month

*Hajej, nynej,  
Ježíšku /  
Jesus, Jesus,  
Baby Dear*

This is a traditional Czech folk

song that has served both as a Christmas carol and a lullaby or cradle song for well over 400 years. A once popular translation by the editors of the *Oxford Book of Carols* (1928) with lines such as “Little Jesus...do not stir / We will lend a coat of fur” is far removed from the original Czech. *Hajej, nynej, Ježíšku* probably accompanied cradle-rocking, a medieval custom which began in Germany and spread through much of Europe. An English recording by Julie Andrews was popular in the 1960’s.

The tune for the carol has a close resemblance to that of another traditional lullaby, ‘Twinkle, twinkle, little star’! To listen to a recording by Kati Szvorák & Monarchia Zenekar on the Internet see <http://us.dada.net/player/?id=18531185&m=play>

1. Ha - jej, ny - nej, Je - žíš - ku, Je - žíš - ku, Pu - čí - me ti - ko - žíš - ku.  
 1. Je - su, Je - su, ba - by - dear, ba - by - dear, We will rock your cra - dle - here.

Bu - de - me tě ko - lí - ba - ti, A - bys - moh' li - bě po - spa - ti,  
 We will rock you, rock you, rock you; Gent - ly - slum - ber - as we - rock you;

10 Ha - jej, ny - nej, Je - žíš - ku, Pu - čí - me ti - ko - žíš - ku.  
 Je - su, Je - su, do not - fear: We - who love - you - will - be - near.

## Membership Report

*Contributed by Norm Petrik,  
Membership Director*

At the October 23rd Membership meeting three new members were accepted into membership in Sokol Minnesota, all single members: Marlene Kiester of Eagan, with interests in language, cooking, and history; Rebecca Ruddy of Eagan, with interests in language, cooking and various events; and Robert Jacobson with interest in dance. Robert was present at the meeting and said he has been taking dance lessons with the Czech-Slovak dancers, which is how he came to be interested in Sokol. He was installed into membership and received the usual welcome hug from Georgiana Dolejsi!

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota, our next membership meeting will be the Adult Christmas party on Sunday, December 6th with future membership meetings on the 4th Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Watch the Slovo for this information and other Sokol events.

## CONNECTIONS and INTERCONNECTIONS

### Sokol Minnesota Members in the Community

*Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is proud of its many members and their involvement in a wide range of organizations and events in many communities from local, city, and state to national and the world.*

*This new Slovo series highlights our members and their community involvements and achievements. Please accept this invitation to send articles for this Slovo series to the editor.*

### Sokol Minnesota and CSCC

*Written by Marit Lee Kucera, Jeanette Pakfo,  
and Joyce Tesarek*

Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota held its annual meeting at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall on Sunday, November 8. Sokol Minnesota members also on the Board of CSCC include Josef Mestenhauser, Milán Šebek, Joyce Tesarek, Bea Flaming, Barbara Williams, Honorary Czech Consul Robert Vanasek, and Honorary Slovak Consul Donald Pakfo.

Many of the reports and remarks at this annual meeting were given by those who hold memberships in both CSCC and our own Sokol Minnesota, showing the close ties between our two groups.

*continued on page 11*



*Honorary Czech Consul Robert Vanasek presents Milán Šebek with the Czernin (Černín) Palace Memorial Bronze Medal.*

## Milán Šebek Awarded Prestigious Černín Palace Award

The *Honorární Konzulát České Republiky* (Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic), on behalf of His Excellency Petr Kolář, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic in the United States of America awarded Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota member Milán Šebek the Czernin (Černín) Palace Memorial Bronze Medal and Diploma for his “great and significant contribution to the progress of Czech-American relations.” The award was presented by Robert Vanasek, Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic, on Sunday, November 8 at the annual meeting of the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota at C.S.P.S. Hall. Šebek joins the select cadre of past honorees: members of our Sokol Minnesota unit are Dr. Norman Sladek (2005), Dr. Joyce Tesarek (2006), Libby Imbrone (2007), and Georgiana Dolejsi (2008); Dr. Kent Wilson from House of Hope Presbyterian Church was also a 2008 recipient.

The Czernin (Černín) Palace Award is specifically directed at Czech-American relations for achievement on behalf of the Czech Republic. Former Ambassador Palouš initiated this award, made on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs; it is named for the Czernin Palace where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is located in Prague. The award is made on the basis of nominations from Honorary Consuls and Honorary Consuls General who are entitled to make one nomination each year. Ambassador Petr Kolář approved the nomination made jointly by Josef Mestenhauser, former Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, and the current Honorary Consul, Robert Vanasek.

Mr. Milán Šebek is one the most successful businessman of Czech background in Minnesota. During his career, he was the International Manager of the MTS Systems Corporation. Until his retirement, he was an active member of the SVU (*Společnost pro Vědy a Umění*) and involved himself in many activities designed to counter the communist influence on his country of origin.

Immediately after the Velvet Revolution, Milán was a key person in creating a new organization that started working immediately to provide support, knowledge, and supplies to people in the then-Czechoslovakia. The organization was called the Czechoslovak Center of Minnesota, but went out of existence after the visit to the Twin Cities of President Václav Havel. President Havel appealed to the Czech and Slovak residents here to help strengthen their home country’s traditions and to involve themselves in the life of the country. Milán Šebek joined other individuals and organizations in forming a new organization. The Czech and Slovak Culture Center was designed specifically for the purpose of cooperating with all other groups in creating a concerted and unified approach to the culture, politics, history, language, literature, and current events of the Czech Republic. He first became the vice president, then was president for three years, and has continued as a member of the board of directors. He innovated many programs. Milán provided active leadership to SVU, to the visit of President Havel, and to three Czech Ambassadors to the U.S. (Vondra, Palouš and Kolář). During Milán’s leadership, the organization produced some of its best programs, such a lecture series and a major conference on commercial opportunities. He served on the executive committee of the Václav Havel Symposium for Civil Society, a consortium of St. Thomas University, House of Hope Presbyterian Church, and the Czech and Slovak community. Presently he manages the grant from the Czech government to CSCC, as well as promoting the programs and providing intellectual leadership.

Milán Šebek has participated in every national congress of SVU, both in this country and in the Czech Republic, at which he presented papers. Similarly, he attended both conferences sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Overseas Czechs, at which he also either presented papers or chaired panel discussions. He is truly an outstanding leader whose selfless activities on behalf of his native country are exemplary of the highest commitment and quality.

*continued on page 11*

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## We’re On Our Way...

But we’re not done yet! Adding our new \$150,000 in federal funding to our earlier grants, we will be able to complete installation of our new fire protection system. Board of Trustees has made updating our heating and plumbing and adding central air conditioning to our main hall our next priority. This will take some serious fundraising but with your help, we will make it happen. Please consider a gift to Sokol MN as you consider year-end charitable giving. If you are 70 ½ or older, this is the last year to make a gift using funds from an IRA with the distribution excluded from federal taxable income. Don’t miss the opportunity to take advantage of this valuable tax benefit. If you have any questions, please call Joyce Tesarek, Finance Chair at 612-822-6147 or email [Joyce@SokolMN.org](mailto:Joyce@SokolMN.org).



*Milán Šebek Awarded Prestigious Černín Palace Award Continued:*

Milán made these remarks when he received the award:

“Bob and all of you with whom I so enjoyed working on our common cause:” The Černín award is a great honor.... I am appreciative, I am honored and I am humbled by your words. None of our accomplishments could have been achieved without many people working together. The Czech and Slovak Cultural Center brings together people of Minnesota who have interest in things Czech and Slovak, or have their roots in the Old Country. ”For me it’s been almost 60 years since the one of the very happy and meaningful dates in my life- the day I landed in New York harbor -- after sailing past the Statue of Liberty. For a young student, a refugee from communism, coming to the United States was a dream and America quickly became my new adopted country. After having finished college, and after the military service, I then landed in Minnesota. Another important event in my life!” I am proud being an American. My Czech roots give me the opportunity, and in fact, obligation to promote an understanding of the rich contributions made by many Czechs and Slovaks over the past generations, to the development of America and in fact, to the western civilization. “To promote the understanding of these contributions is the main roles of the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center as I see it. Working together with my friends to this end has been one of the pleasures of my life. At the same time, we need to recognize that promotion of Czech and Slovak Cultures, and the fellowship that comes from having common roots, is a successful domain of other Czech and Slovak organizations in this country and in Minnesota. And perhaps, I’d suggest, we have an equal obligation to share our common heritage, to support and combine our activities and programming with all these other organizations. In Minnesota, that means first and foremost, SOKOL OF MINNESOTA. The SOKOL ideal is a traditional expression of modern Czech culture, now going back some 150 years. We are fortunate to have a strong Sokol organization here in the Twin Cities and I see working together as one of our basic goals. “Thank you again for proposing me for this recognition today and for sharing it with me. It gives me a chance to reflect on where we came from and where we need to go.”



*Connections and Interconnections Continued:*

Josef Mestenhauser talked about what has changed in the 20 years since the Velvet Revolution. He was proud to announce that a recent study lists the Czech Republic as the most democratic of all the central and east European nations.

Donald Pafko, the newly appointed Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, updated the audience on the Slovak economy.

Sokol Minnesota member Milán Šebek was honored by the Czech Republic with the Černín Palace Award (see page 10) presented by Robert Vanasek, Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic. A reception to honor him, with cake and other refreshments, plus good Czech beer, was arranged by Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik.

The annual meeting concluded with the screening of the film, *Baječná léta pod psa* (The Blissful Years of Lousy Living), which chronicles a Czech family from the years of Soviet domination in the 1950’s through the Velvet Revolution twenty years ago. Dr. Mestenhauser has suggested another showing of this excellent film, with a roundtable discussion afterwards to discuss how totalitarianism has affected the mindset of several generations, even the latest. Plans are being made to view this film, with an accompanying forum, in upcoming months. Watch the Slovo for more information.



On October 26, thirty members of the Alliance of Local History Museums held their annual meeting, luncheon and awards ceremony at the CSPS Sokol Hall. The program included a presentation by Jim Fogerty, Minnesota Historical Society, on oral history projects and tours of Sokol’s historic meeting room.



## Behind the Scenes at our Sokol Hall

Our great C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall is the original multi-purpose room. It is used by dancers, gymnasts, dinner guests, actors, musicians, and meetings, often all within the same week.

Have you ever wondered what happens to those long 11' banquet tables and all the chairs after a dinner on Sunday; they must all disappear before the dancers come to practice on Monday evening. Megan Cahill and Jason Brozovich are seen here unscrewing the metal legs from a table; the legs nestle between two tables, which are layered



high on a rolling dolly. At the same time, Katie Haselbauer stacks folding chairs onto a custom-made chair-dolly. These loaded dollies are stored under the stage. Clever!



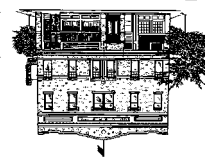
*Note the white shirts, black slacks, and black aprons each is wearing. Just an hour earlier these Sokol Minnesota members were among the servers at our annual Czech roast pork dinner on October 25. The Vanyo family staffed the kitchen, as it does annually, to prepare the delicious pork dinner - over 160 diners attended this year!*



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