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

UPCOMING EVENTS

November Slovo Deadline
Sunday, October 1

Board of Trustees
Wednesday, October 11, 7 p.m.

Board of Directors
Thursday, October 19, 7 p.m.

Czech Roast Pork Dinner
October 22, 12:30 p.m.

Czech Roast Pork Dinner
Sunday, October 22, 12:30 p.m.

$18/adult; $9/child under 9

Pre-paid takeout available by reservation

Menu: Roast pork, raised-bread dumplings, sauerkraut, rye bread, dessert, and coffee. Cash bar.

Limited reserved seating

For reservations call: 651-290-0542

www.sokolmn.org

The Twin Cities Horn Club
and Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

jointly invite you to the C.S.P.S. Hall to celebrate Saint Hubert's Day. Saint Hubert is the patron saint of hunting and the musical horn.

Friday, November 3, 2017, from 6 - 9 p.m.

Fee: 525 per person, includes appetizers, dinner, and musical program.

6:00 Appetizers and socializing. Cash bar.
6:30 Dinner: Hunter's stew (Zvěřinové ragú) with mashed potatoes (tramborové kaše), rye bread (žitný chléb), shopska salad (šopský salát), ethnic desserts, and coffee.
7:30 Entertainment: Twin Cities Horn Club musicians.
8:30 Good night! (dobrou noc!)

Reservations are limited. Reserve and order your tickets today by contacting Eventbrite.

https://sthubertfeast.eventbrite.com

Going away this winter? Forwarding your mail?
Don't forget about the Slovo!

We mail at bulk mail rates.
The post office does not forward bulk mail. We pay an added 49 cents (or more) each time the post office returns an issue.
Let us know your winter address, or ask us to hold an issue (or two or more) for you.
We think our volunteers produce a great newsletter. We want to be sure you receive it!
Prezidentův komentář/President’s Notes  By Judy Aubrecht

Pozdrav bratři a sestry / Greetings Brothers and Sisters

On Friday, November 3, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and the Twin Cities Horn Club will jointly hold an event celebrating Saint Hubert’s Day. The festivities will consist of appetizers and a social hour, an ethnic dinner, and performances by the Twin Cities Horn Club musicians at the C.S.P.S. Hall from 6 to 9 p.m. Because Saint Hubert is the patron saint of both hunting and the musical horn, the menu will include a tasty hunter’s stew with mashed potatoes, accompanied by shopska salad (diced and salted chopped vegetables), rye bread, ethnic desserts, and coffee. The Hall can accommodate 150 guests for this exciting event, which is expected to sell out. We would love for at least half of the guests to be Sokol Minnesota members and friends! The ticket cost is $25 per person, which includes appetizers, dinner, musical program, and the reservation-processing fee. Order your tickets today at <https://sthubertfeast.eventbrite.com>

Led by Board of Trustees member, Gary Zweber, a crew of Sokol Minnesota volunteers recently spent several days cleaning, spackling, taping woodwork, and painting the main hall at the C.S.P.S. Hall. The new color, seashell, is somewhat lighter than the previous paint color. The windows of the hall were also cleaned, both inside and outside. Parts of the kitchen were scrubbed, including the convection oven, which needed much de-greaser after heavy use. The Hall now is ready for the many programs that take place there each month.

Regular programming at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota includes gymnastics lessons and dance practice, as well as lessons for children at Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities. We have several levels of adult Czech language classes. The Senior Singers meet every other Tuesday morning. A potluck dinner, children’s activities, and many conversations in Czech and Slovak take place during Family Night, one Sunday per month. The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers practice on Monday nights, as does the Saint Paul Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble. Sokol Minnesota committee meetings, including the Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees, the finance committee, the planning committee, and the charitable gaming board, each take place once per month. Fall is a good time to enroll in classes, or volunteer to participate in a programming activity. Please see the Sokol Minnesota website for more information <www.sokolmn.org>

If you have not attended the Czech Roast Pork Dinner in the past, you may like to invite a guest and make a reservation. The dinner will be held 12:30 p.m., Sunday, October 22. It is a good way to enjoy a harvest dinner and meet someone new! Nazdar!

August Board of Directors Meeting
By Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary

The Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on August 17 at 7 p.m. Our new Sergeant at Arms, Glynis Grostephan, was introduced and welcomed by the Board. A motion passed to host the Twin Cities Horn Club to celebrate Saint Hubert’s Day on November 3. Ed Hamernik reported on the shed project, and a motion to move forward was approved. Membership director, Norm Petrik, reported that we have six new members. Joyce Tesarek reported on grants, along with a motion to approve an appraisal for our building. Jyni Koschak, Publicity Director, reported on postcards for future events and plans for 2018 events.

The Sunshine Committee sent congratulatory cards to Jennifer Albrecht for the completion of her Ph.D., and to Joan Sedlacek for receiving the Sokol Distinguished Service Award at the 2017 Sokol Slet in Cedar Rapids in June.

There was some discussion regarding privacy issues in regards to publishing children’s last names in print and on social media. Glynis will obtain an “Opt Out” form for us to review and distribute to parents of the students involved in our children’s activities.
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
Gymnastics 2017-2018
Sokol Gymnastics provides a safe and fun learning environment, all while challenging your child to master exciting new skills. Our program boasts small class sizes, allowing each gymnast plenty of individual attention. Moreover, our program is designed to accommodate a variety of ages across all abilities from beginner to intermediate all the way up to advanced and competition.
Our program is led by experienced and qualified instructors.

SESSION II STARTS NOVEMBER 27
For more information
fitness@sokolmn.org
651-290-0542

UPCOMING EVENTS of INTEREST
October 1, Sunday, Saint John’s Byzantine Catholic Church
Fall Festival begins after Sunday liturgy, 2215 Third Street
Northeast, Minneapolis. <stjohnsminneapolis.webs.com>

October 7, Saturday, 10:30 a.m., DNA for Beginners:
Unraveling the Secrets of Your Heritage, Rusin Association
presents an introduction to the concepts of DNA inheritance
and a primer on interpreting <Ancestry.com> DNA and
GEDmatch results. Saint Mary’s Orthodox Cathedral – Parish
Center, 1701 Fifth Street Northeast, Minneapolis.
<www.stmarysoca.org>

October 17 to 21, Tuesday to Saturday, 16th Czechoslovak
Genealogical Society International Genealogical/Cultural
Conference, Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Conference theme is Industry and
Our Immigrant Ancestors. <www.cgsievents.com>


Sokol Minnesota
Thanks Donors
By Elizabeth Kaliska, Corresponding Secretary
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates your
donations supporting Sokol programs and the refurbishing of
our historic C.S.P.S. Hall.
General Fund: under $99:
Don and Katie Haselbauer in memory of James Fisher;
Steve Mello in honor of the Slovczech Band
Legacy Fund: under $99:
Arlene Drabek in memory of Florence and Albert Drabek
$100-499: Georgiana Sobola
General Fund: $60 Legacy Fund: $110
Sokol also received $14.90 from Amazon Smile Foundation
Thanks to all Sokol members and friends who use Amazon Smile Foundation,
which donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable
organization selected by the customer. <smile.amazon.com>

Donation listing omitted in May: General Fund: Over $500:
Meghan and Aaron Eberhart in honor of Joan Sedlacek

C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND
We ask for your support for renovations
to C.S.P.S. Hall as we celebrate
the Hall’s 130th year in 2017.
Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your
tax-deductible donation: 612-822-6147
or <finance@sokolmn.org> Thank you!

Make checks payable to Sokol Minnesota
Write Legacy Fund in the memo line
Mail to C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund
Attn: Treasurer
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
Or donate online: www.sokolmn.org Thank You!

Pine City Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Recap
By Kari and Scott Muyres,
Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Co-Chairpersons
On Sunday, August 13, the 87th Annual Sokol Camp Booya
Picnic was held despite the clouds and rain. Nearly 300
folks came from near and far to taste the booya and enjoy
the live entertainment by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak
Dancers, along with live guitar music from Dave Carlson.
Thank you dancers and Dave for providing our picnic guests
with your talents!
We would also like to extend a big thank you to the Sokol
Minnesota brothers and sisters who volunteered to prepare
the food, to serve the guests, and to set-up and clean-up.
We couldn't host this beloved event without you! Nazdar!

Please save the date, Sunday, August 12, 2018,
for the 88th annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic!

October 2017 Slovo 3
On Wednesday, August 30, details for Expo 2023, a part of the Bureau of International Expositions, were presented in Bloomington, Minnesota, to members of the Minnesota Diplomatic Community, Honorary Consuls, and Minnesota Business Leaders. Host and Master of Ceremonies was former Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie.

Minnesota is vying with two other cities (Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Łódź, Poland) to host the World Expo in 2023. Minnesota’s chosen theme is Healthy People, Healthy Planet. The Expo will help facilitate new partnerships to energize local and national efforts to achieve global goals for a healthier planet. The decision will be made in November in Paris by a vote of members of the bureau of International Expositions governing the World’s Fair participation. This would be the first expo to take place in the United States in four decades.

St. Cyril’s Church Festival

By Don Pafko

On Sunday, August 20, Saint Cyril Slovak Catholic Church hosted its annual church festival. Activities at this year’s festival included bingo, a cakewalk, children’s games, and plenty of ethnic foods. Each year, the featured performers are the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers.

(L-R front) Lara Ciganko, Kristen Chepp; (L-R back) Vladia Gregorski, Don Pafko, Paul Knuth, Ashley Rozmarin.
Seven members of the Domáci Czech Folk Dancers, directed by Sokol members Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky, won third place in their age category in the talent show at the 56th Annual National Wilber Czech Festival, August 4-6, in Wilber, Nebraska. This festival is the home of the Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant. Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Bailey Gare won the Grand Talent Award with her vocal solo. Madeline Hecker from Oklahoma is the 2017-2018 Miss Czech Slovak US Queen.

The dancers, competing against 12 competitors in their age category, performed Odzemok, a tradition Moravian dance. This was the only Czech dance done in the entire show. Other acts included piano soloists, vocalists, lyrical dancing, and gymnastics. The roots of Odzemok trace back to the 15th century. Mainly danced by shepherds and peasants, it reflects the dancers’ skill and ability to improvise. Often danced with a special ax, valaška, it gives the dancers an opportunity to use a large range of movements. It is an exacting dance, demanding good physical training. Usually done by advanced male dancers; women with athletic levels of strength, flexibility, and coordination also can participate.

The girls also rode in the Wilber festival parade as two units representing Minnesota, both as the Domáci Czech Folk Dancers and as the Czech Heritage Junior Royalty. Dancer Kristin Siebsen represented Minnesota as the 2017 Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Little Ambassador. Group Directors Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky and the dancers’ families accompanied the performers to Wilber.

Little Ambassador Kristin Siebsen and her family traveled to West, Texas, for the Westfest Czech & Polka Festival over Labor Day weekend. She rode in the parade and was able to visit with Czech-Slovak Royalty, as well as meeting representatives from Moravia, Czech Republic.
Planning Continues for the Czech Slovak Century Celebrations in 2018

“Czech Country Minnesota” is moving forward with its plans in 2018 to commemorate the sovereignty of Czechs and Slovaks. 100/50/25 celebrates 100 years since the birth of Czechoslovakia in 1918, 50 years since the Prague Spring reform movement, and 25 years since the formation of the two independent nations of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. The group had its second meeting at the historic Hilltop Hall in Montgomery on September 12. “Czech Country Minnesota” activities planned for the last weekend of October 2018 include tastes of Czech and Slovak food, a battle of the bands competition, cemetery tours to honor immigrants, a Sunday Czech Mass, and genealogy displays.

There is now an online calendar which lists all events, large and small, that pertain to Czech and/or Slovak culture, heritage, music, dance, art, lectures, cinema, athletics, or business in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and western Wisconsin. Check the website often, new events are added regularly.

Download a form from the website to submit your event at <CzechSlovakCentury.org>

Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

Renewals: Individual $50; Couple $90. Senior $40 (over age 65); 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.sokolm.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

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

Honorary Consul: Marit Lee Kucera  Past Honorary Consul: Robert Vanasek
Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney  Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson  Kitchen Coordinator: open
Sunshine Committee: Arlene Hamernik  Website: Cinnamon Whaley  Volunteer Coordinator: open
Hall Contacts: Dan Bednar, Ed Hamernik, Joan Sedlacek  Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger
Slovo newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Madison Jerde, Deb Ziskovsky, Mary Kucera
Board of Trustees: Dan Bednar, Dennis Cahill, Jake Jacobson, Lloyd Krocek, Terry Shima, Arnie Ziskovsky, Gary Zweber

E-Addresses: • President: president@sokolm.org • Board of Directors: board@sokolm.org • Education/Language Programs: education@sokolm.org • Events: events@sokolm.org • Czech/Slovak Festival: festival@sokolm.org • Finance/Fundraising/Legacy Fund: finance@sokolm.org • Fitness Programming: fitness@sokolm.org • Folk Dancing: folkdancing@sokolm.org • Gaming: gaming@sokolm.org • Gift Shop: giftshop@sokolm.org • Hall Rentals: rentals@sokolm.org • Hall Contacts: hallcontacts@sokolm.org • Housekeeping: housekeeping@sokolm.org • Membership: membership@sokolm.org • Newsletter: slovo@sokolm.org • Planning: planning@sokolm.org • Publicity: publicity@sokolm.org • Public Relations: publicrelations@sokolm.org • Treasurer: treasurer@sokolm.org • Board of Trustees: trustees@sokolm.org • Webmaster: webmaster@sokolm.org

6 October 2017 Slovo
My interest in the Czech-American writer, Jan Novák, was first piqued when I read Miloš Forman’s memoir *Turnaround* (1994), which Americanized Czech filmmaker Forman coauthored with Novák. *Commies, Crooks, Gypsies, Spooks & Poets: Thirteen Books of Prague in the Year of the Great Lice Epidemic*, which I’ll call *Commies* for short, offers vivid accounts of daily life during a year (July 1992 to July 1993) when Novák, his wife, and two children visited Czechoslovakia. Novák was born in 1953, and raised in Kolín, a small town outside Prague, until 1969, when his family fled one day before his father’s substantial embezzlement became public. After living in an Austrian refugee camp for nearly a year, they emigrated to the Czech-American community of Cicero, Illinois. As he stated in *Commies*, “I didn’t know I was leaving the old country for good, never said goodbye to the place, and still had a scar on my heart from it—moving to Prague was going to give me a chance to see if some of the scar tissue couldn’t be reattached to something there.”

Novák became a writer both in English and Czech of novels and nonfiction, a playwright (*Bohemian Heaven and Alaska*), a screenwriter (co-author of Miloš Forman’s film *Valmont*), and a documentary filmmaker (*Citizen Václav Havel Goes on Vacation*). In addition to competing for the prize for longest book title with *Commies, Crooks, Gypsies, Spooks & Poets: Thirteen Books of Prague in the Year of the Great Lice Epidemic*, he won the Carl Sandburg Award and the Magnesia Litera Award.

*Commies* is not a memoir, autobiography, or history, but a collection of short vignettes about the Czech psyche in the early 1990s, a short period after the fall of communism and during the split of the country into the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. The author thought of himself as a zapisovatel, someone who makes observations about people around him (Radio Praha interview, February 2, 2009). He found Prague full of pickpockets, drug addicts, rabid soccer fans, expats, returning Czech émigrés, real estate sharpies, and communist-style administrators and businesspersons.

I consider some of the book’s passages interesting, some fascinating, some nothing new, some boring, most needing a good edit and proofread, but in all of them, Novák gave us a smooth read that is often insightful and humorous.

One of the best vignettes is about Novák’s attempts to buy a new cheap Škoda since “we figured that by having the same wheels as the other people in Prague, we could better partake in their existential experience.” But it turned out that the communist-style unmotivated production timelines meant no new Škoda Favorit models were available for half a year. He ended up buying a used car in his hometown from a provincial crook and wheeler-dealer.

Novák was on a quest to learn how his and his wife’s birthplace had changed and, ultimately, to find out where home was. He took a highly critical view of both the United States and Czechoslovakia, but after a year he considered it time to leave his birthplace. Novák has since been back to Prague, teaching at the film school FAMU, so perhaps he has discovered he has two homes.

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>.

Join Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures on October 21, 10 a.m.-noon, in the first-floor classroom at the C.S.P.S. Hall, for a discussion of *That Alluring Land: Slovak Stories* by Božena Slančíková Timrava.

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**BOOK REVIEW**

**Jan Novák Goes Home Again**

*By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.*


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**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>.

**The deadline for the November 2017 issue is October 1.**

This issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by October 31: <www.sokolmn.org>

*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, with ad and payment due by copy deadline.

*Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals are $15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through October 2018.) 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, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 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 if you 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¢ or more for each returned issue.

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

Member Volunteers *Slovo* staff: Madison Jerde, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor; Mary Kucera, production assistant; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Martina Gurgel and Joyce Tesarek, photographers; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, mailing production; Joan Sedlacek, mailing; with Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrlik, Jillka Sebek, advisors. Photographs: Martina Gurgel, Jean Keogh, M.L. Kucera, Don Paiko, Joyce Tesarek, Frank Trnka, Louise Wessinger, Deb Ziskovsky, Heather Vikla. Mailing volunteers for September *Slovo* and Fall 2017 Events Postcard: Christy Banks, Jason Brozovich, Megan Cahill, Mary Cahill, Colleen Cahill and Henry, Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, M.L. Kucera, Val Kusile.

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October 2017 *Slovo* 7
Sokol Minnesota 2017 Events

Czech Roast Pork Dinner
Sunday, October 22, 12:30 p.m.
Traditional menu: roast pork, raised-bread dumplings, sauerkraut, dessert, and coffee. Cash beer and wine bar.
$18 adult, $9 child under 9.
Pre-paid reservations by October 16: 651-290-0542.

Saint Hubert’s Day Celebration
Friday, November 3, 6 - 9 p.m.
Dinner with music performances by Twin Cities Horn Club
$25. Reservations: <https://sthubertfeast.eventbrite.com>

Pancake Breakfast/Holiday Craft and Bake Sale
November 19, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
$7 adult; $5 child under 9; $22 family of four.
No reservations needed.

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota
Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org

Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, November 19

French toast, pancakes, fruit cup, sausage, juice, milk, and coffee.
$7 adult; $5 children under 9; $22 family of four (two adults and two children).
Public welcome. No reservations.

Bake goods for your Thanksgiving table (pre-order koláče 651-290-0542)
Exquisite handcrafts for gift giving (vendor table rental 651-433-2008)

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