The Twin Cities Horn Club Concert and Saint Hubert’s Day Dinner scheduled for November 3 has been cancelled.
Prezidentův komentář/President’s Notes  By Judy Aubrecht

Pozdrav bratři a sestry / Greetings Brothers and Sisters

The 28th annual Czech and Slovak Fall Festival received high praise. Many attendees exclaimed that it was the best they had ever attended! The festival, which took place on Sunday, September 24, featured exciting performances by a variety of dancers, bands, singers, and entertainers. On that record-setting 90º day, the grill, sweet shoppe, and bar were so popular that items were completely sold out well before closing time. The efforts of the many volunteers, led by chairperson Joyce Tesarek, were much appreciated. The guests were eager to attend future events at the C.S.P.S. Hall to get to know more about their heritage. Having both outdoor and indoor performance stages made things even more interesting. On such a hot day, people were very happy to be able to eat their dinners at tables and to listen to the bands in air-conditioned comfort in the main hall.

The Sokol Minnesota Annual Meeting takes place at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Friday, November 17, beginning at 7 p.m. All current Sokol Minnesota members are invited to attend the meeting and vote for officers for current open positions. Refreshments will be provided after the meeting.

The Fall Pancake Breakfast and Bake/Craft Sale is on Sunday, November 19, beginning at 9 a.m. at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Koláče can be pre-ordered for easy pick-up at 651-290-0524.

Included in this edition of the Slovo is a fundraising request to match the $85,000 City of Saint Paul STAR grant that was awarded for repairs to the roof, parapet caps, and tuck pointing the wall bricks which are deteriorating. As soon as we can raise matching funds, we can request the STAR grant money. Sokol Minnesota’s last major fundraising project was in 2010, when we needed to match the Partners in Preservation grant for the air conditioning project. Thank you very much for your past donations. Please consider making a generous donation to this new fundraising project! Nazdar!

C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

In order to complete repairs to our roof and brickwork, we need your help! All donations are 100% tax deductible and will help match the $85,000 City of Saint Paul STAR grant. Let’s get the Hall in shape to celebrate 2018: our 131st anniversary and the centenary of the birth of Czechoslovakia. Thank you!

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ______________________ State, Zip: ______________
Phone: ________________________________ Email: __________________________

To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the C.S.P.S. Hall, I make a tax-deductible donation of $ ____________________________

I would like my gift designated: □ in memory or □ in honor of: ____________________________

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>

Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-822-6147 or <finance@sokolmn.org> Thank you!
Dear Sokol Minnesota members and friends of the C.S.P.S. Hall,

Exciting programs, events, and classes happen almost every day at our C.S.P.S. Hall. You may have attended a dinner, movie night, lecture, or concert at the Hall or taken gymnastics, dancing, language, or cooking classes. In 2018, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia. We want the Hall ready to host commemorative events in 2018, as well as our regular programs, but we need to invest in critical maintenance and improvements.

In recent years, we've made significant building improvements to the C.S.P.S. Hall, including the fire suppression system, the much-needed air conditioning, and the recent replacement of the 1919 fire escape. Your generous support helped accomplish these projects.

The Hall needs extensive parapet and roof surface repairs, plus brick tuckpointing. A STAR grant from the City of Saint Paul for more than $85,000 for the first phase of this work requires matching money. We greatly need your help to generate that match.

When the old fire escape was removed two years ago, we had to replace the shed covering the steps into the basement due to water damage and other problems. We had to remove the security fence, enclosing the fire escape and shed, to bring in equipment needed to level the space. Sokol Minnesota received a $500 micro-grant from the West 7th Business Association to start the fence replacement project.

C.S.P.S. Hall needs you to donate to our Legacy Fund. The total cost for the proposed projects is nearly $300,000. This is a lot of money for our small organization and our supporting community to raise. Let's first work together to raise the $85,000 match for the STAR grant and then work on the $130,000 balance. We can do it with your help.

You could join together as a family to make a tax-deductible legacy gift in memory or in honor of a loved one. Or select a specific project to fund. How about a roof in their honor? A stately parapet? A square yard of tuckpointed bricks? Or even a fence gate?

Kindly give generously to help match the $85,000 STAR grant. Your donation insures the future of our beloved C.S.P.S. Hall for classes, dinners, events, and activities.

Please make donations and pledges to Sokol Minnesota Legacy Fund. Donate online at <www.Sokolmn.org> or mail your check to 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102.

For questions on stock transfers or to include the Hall in estate planning, contact Joyce Tesarek, Legacy Building Fund Chair, at 612-822-6147 or finance@sokolmn.org

We genuinely thank you for your support of the Sokol Minnesota Legacy Fund.

Sincerely,

Judy Aubrecht, President
Joyce Tesarek, Finance Committee Chair
Annual Meeting
and Board of Directors Election,
Friday, November 17, 7 p.m.
The annual meeting of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is November 17 at 7 p.m. at C.S.P.S. Hall.
Please plan to attend the meeting.
The bylaws state members must be present to vote.
There will be an election of officers and board members for 2018. Several positions are up for election in the rotation process. Finance Committee and Charitable Gaming Committee also need additional members.
Please consider joining Sokol Minnesota’s leadership. If you would like to run for an office or if you know someone who would like work on the BOD, but is too shy to offer, but would accept a position, please contact Louise at <louisewessinger@msn.com> or 651-452-6240 or Joyce at <joycedvm@aol.com> or 612-822-6147.

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.
$100 - $499: Norm Petrik and Joyce Tesarek in memory of Don Pafko.
$100 - $499: Georgiana Soboda.
Gymnastics Classes: under $99: Jim and Mary Jo Chlebecek in memory of Don Pafko.
General Fund: $295  Legacy Fund: $130
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. See <smile.amazon.com>

New Members
By Norm Petrik, Membership Director
At the September 21 Board of Directors meeting, three people were accepted to membership at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota: one couple, Monika Lopašovská and Luboš Polniš, from Montgomery, with interests in cultural events, cooking, crafts, and children’s cultural camp; as well as Gloria Olson, from Falcon Heights, with interest in Slovak language, cooking, and various events.
At the October 19 Board of Directors meeting, two couples were accepted as members: Terry and Dave Gilbertstadt, Saint Paul, with interests in cultural events, music, and festivals; and Chad Holliday and Chloe Rizzo, Saint Paul, with interests in language, cooking, and history/genealogy. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Czech Slovak Century
Celebrations in 2018
Celebrate 100/50/25 with Czechs and Slovaks around the world in 2018.
❤ 100 years since the formation of Czechoslovakia
❤ 50 years since the Prague Spring reform movement
❤ 25 years since the creation of the two separate nations of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic
Thanks to web designer Kevin Hurbani from CGSI (Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International) and Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota, there is a website calendar listing all events, large and small, that pertain to Czech and/or Slovak culture, heritage, music, dance, art, lectures, cinema, athletics, or business in our four upper Midwest states.

<www.CzechSlovakCentury.org>
Minnesota Scholar Mark Neuzil Teaching in Prague

By Vanda Kofroňová, Praha Correspondent

I met Mark Neuzil in April 2013 at St. Thomas University in Saint Paul when I was part of a Rotarian-sponsored journalist program for Czechs and Slovaks. Mark was the one who kindly guided us through Tommie Media Campus. With his students, he showed us how young reporters in Minnesota are prepared for their future jobs. In fact, I still drink from the mug I received that day.

I was excited when I learned he was coming to Prague. He is a Fulbright scholar at Charles University this autumn, teaching journalism ethics and history.

Back home, he is a professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism at the University of St. Thomas, a 10,000-student comprehensive university in Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA. He is the author, co-author, or editor of seven books. His freelance journalism has been awarded top honors by the Minnesota chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and the national Society of Environmental Journalists, where he served two terms on its board of directors.

He has written from Cuba, Armenia, the United Kingdom, Kyrgyzstan, Italy, and Costa Rica. We can hope he will now write from Prague.

Mark is accompanied by his wife Amy Kuebelbeck, who is also a freelance reporter specializing in medical topics. It is not the first time in Prague for either of them. However, it is their first long-term stay. They will spend the whole fall semester in Prague. Christmas included. They are already preparing themselves for having a carp in a bathtub!

It was great to meet both Mark and Amy in Prague. Welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 17 - 19, the 12th Annual Harvest Jam Acoustic Music Experience, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center is a sponsor of the screening of Banjo Romantika, a film documentary of Czech musicians who play their own unique style of bluegrass music. Held at the Minneapolis Marriott West Hotel in Saint Louis Park. The Malina Brothers from the Czech Republic will headline on Saturday evening, as well as play a 30-minute set on Friday night and a gospel set on Sunday morning. For ticket details: 800-635-3037 or <www.minnesotalbluegrass.org>


Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics 2017-2018

SESSION II STARTS NOVEMBER 27

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.

For more information: 651-290-0542 or fitness@sokolmn.org

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.
With great teamwork, the Sokol Board of Trustees, Sokol members, and friends put up the tents early Sunday morning, September 24. Sokol President Judy Aubrecht, Sokol Financial Secretary Tom Aubrecht, and Chair of the Festival Joyce Tesarek (also Board of Budget and Finance Chair). Flag ceremony led by Chuck Draheim. Cheryl Nelson Theuninck (L) watched as Mark Pafko received flowers in honor of his father Donald Pafko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, who passed away suddenly on September 9 (see pages 12-14). Jason Brozovich set up trash boxes near the Beer Garden. Sokol Singers, led by Don Haselbauer on accordion. Official Festival Hosts Pat (L) and Don (R) Andrle welcomed John Topic (center). Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen Bailey Gare, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic M. L. Kucera, Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Princess Mary Carson. Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Band: Dawn Bulera, Jason Brozovich, and John Topic. Flag Bearers: Dawn Bulera and Chuck Draheim (American flag), Sandy Prochaska and Rick Palma (Czech), Lara Ciganko and Paul Knuth (Slovak), Teresa Pojar and Richard Sargent (Minnesota), Judy and Tom Aubrecht (American Sokol), Courtney Benson and Jason Brozovich (Sokol Minnesota).
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota hosted the 28th annual Czech and Slovak Festival on September 24 at C.S.P.S. Hall.

Our guests and volunteers voted this festival our very best yet! First and foremost, the festival is a chance to enjoy and celebrate our heritage, but it also is an important fundraiser for our historic C.S.P.S. Hall. Treasurer Don Haselbauer reported income of $15,234.83 with a profit of $9,670.18. Since the event was free to attend, the success is a tribute to the outstanding food, bakery, beer, gift shop, kids’ games, and silent auction sales. All our hard-working volunteers were instrumental to our success.

Thanks to all our volunteers, especially our area leaders. Also a huge thanks to all our guests! Děkují!

Doreen McKenney designed our printed program, which was financed by ads featured in the program. Cheryl Nelson Theuninck solicited the ads. Thanks to our sponsors: Andrej’s European Pastry, Jan Gadzo; Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota; Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International; Czech and Slovak Heritage Tours, Mark Bigauette; Czech Tours, Hana Matousek; Domácí Czech Folk Dancers and also Hometown Holidays, Domaci, Inc.; Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic, M. L. Kucera; the late Honorary Slovak Consul, Don Pafko; Jean Draheim; Lípa Slovak Folk Dancers; MetroTek.MN; Muddy Paws Cheesecake; Minnehaha Animal Hospital and Pet Doctors, Dr. Joyce Tesarek; Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers; and Western Fraternal Life Association.

Publicity: The efforts of Sokol Publicity Director, Jyni Koschak, along with our social media stars, Sue Martin and Martina Gurgel, as well as our Slovo staff, brought out our largest crowd ever.

Hosts Don and Pat Andrle, dressed in kroje, welcomed and informed our volunteers and guests.

Steve Ernest and Denise Stibal with their ticket team masterfully handled selling the thousands of tickets.

Food: Our kitchen leaders Markéta Resong, Hana Matousek, and Rad Rasmussen prepared authentic segedinský guláš and chicken paprůš. Outdoors at the grill, Jason Brozovich, along with Mike Rasmussen, led the team serving jitrnice (Czech sausage), homemade Czech burgers, hot dogs, and the ever popular Slovak halušky (cabbage, bacon, and dumpling hot dish).

Thanks to Cynthia Forster of Sausage By Cynthia who donated all the jitrnice.

By midafternoon Cinnamon Whaley’s team in the Sweet Shoppe sold out all the koláče, baked goods, and perníčky (traditional decorated gingerbread cookies, created by several members from the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities).

Bar and beverage tent crew, led by Ed Hamemik and Dan Bednar, served the crowd cold Czechvar beer, wine, and soft drinks.

Silent auction: Glynis Grostephan organized and led the successful silent auction, bringing in $2,120. We want to thank all our donors.

Business donors: Café Latté, Chicago’s Taste Authority, Crayola Experience in the Mall of America, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop, O’Gara’s Bar and Grill, the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic M.L. Kucera, Kowalski’s Market, Mississippi Market, Natural Foods Co-Op, Olive Garden, Pajartic Restaurant, Pizza Luce, Punch Pizza, Root Salon, Run N Fun, Sea Turtle Conservation Project, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Theatre Unbound, The Wellness Center, Tom Reid’s Hockey City Pub, and Yoerg’s Beer. Please support these businesses with your patronage.

Individual donors: Judy Aubrecht, Dan Bednar, Judith Benton, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Katherine Eckstrom, Michaela Giancarlo Kotek, Yana and Lubor Manalov, Doreen McKenney, Judy Metcalf, Doris Moravetz, Ellen and Eileen Navrina, Mark Neuzil, Mike Norman, Denis Novak, Norm Petrlik, Renee Reed, Jitka Sebek, Steve Shimer, Denise Stibal, Joyce Tesarek, Renáta Tichá, and Kris Wessinger.

Sokol Minnesota gifted $500 from the drawing for 12 Czech crystal wine glasses. Our lucky winner was Phyllis Doman!

Program team leader Louise Wessinger provided our guests with an authentic and entertaining program. We thank all of the Sokol Minnesota members, as well as our associated groups, for providing entertainment. Very special thanks goes to our guest royalty, musicians, and dancers who graced our stages with their talent. They enhanced our programs and made the day extra enjoyable for all our attendees.

Logistics and Flag Ceremony: Chuck Draheim

Flag Bearers: Dawn Bulera and Chuck Draheim (American flag), Rick Palma and Sandy Prochaska (Czech), Paul Knuth and Lara Ciganko (Slovak, Richard Sargent and Teresa Pojar (Minnesota), Tom and Judy Aubrecht (American Sokol), Jason Brozovich and Courtney Benson (Sokol Minnesota).

Emcee: David Stepan

Welcome greeters: Judy Aubrecht, Sokol President; Marit Lee Kucera, Czech Honorary Consul; and Cheryl Nelson Theuninck read a tribute in honor of Slovak Honorary Consul Donald Paško (who passed away just two weeks prior on September 9). Members of the Sokol Minnesota Taneční Mládež Dancers presented flowers from Sokol Minnesota to Mark Paško in memory of his father, Don Paško.

National Anthem: Don Haselbauer, Director, led the Sokol Czech and Slovak Singers: Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Bob Kostichka, Pam Langsworth, Norm Petrlik, Richard Sargent, John Topic, Arnie Ziskovsky, and Deb Ziskovsky.


Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger, Director; with Dawn Bulera and Chuck Draheim, Jason Brozovich and Megan Cahill, Robert Jacobson and Jyni Koschak, Lenka Hester, Richard Sargent and Pam Langworthy, David and Sue Martin, Teresa Pojar and John Topic, Judy and James Metcalf, Michaela Wentz and Tony, Sandy Prohaska and Richard Palma, Tom and Judy Aubrecht, Bobbie Jo Chandler, and Dave Stepan.

Sokol Minnesota Gymnasts: Jason Brozovich and Courtney Benson, Directors; Matt Schussler, Coach; Mitchell, Emery, Kylie, Lydia, Anna, Isabelle, Lily, Charlotte, Claire, Ella, Zoe, and Amari.

The Mondo Jugglers: Tom and Penny Tesarek.

Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities: Lenka Bragg and Romana Pulkrabek

Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Band: Dawn Bulera, Jason Brozovich, and John Topic (Frank Trnka, Director).
2. Sweet Shoppe: Gentleman bought koláče with help from Jan Roers, Cinnamon Whaley, and Rosemary Whaley-Baisden.
4. Everyone loved the Silent Auction.
5. Rhondi Waldron, behind her Girl Scouts helped with grill food sales, along with Teresa Pojar (L), Julie Bifano and Pam Langworthy (R).
7. Glynnis Grostephan chaired the Silent Auction.
8. Silent Auction items included the book, Canoes, a Natural History in North America, co-authored by new member, Mark Neuzil.
10. Gary Zweber tended bar in the dining room upstairs.
11. Christy Banks wrote myriad sales slips in the Sokol Gift Shop.
12. The cooks never stopped smiling: Alena Youngberg, Mary Cahill, Markéta Resong, Rad Rasmussen.
13. In the first-floor classroom stood the decorated horse representing the Ride of the Kings (Jízda králů), handmade by Doreen McKenney. Visitors also viewed documentaries.

8 November 2017 Slovo
Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota
Organization: Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen Bailey Gare, soloist; Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Princess Mary Carson, flutist.

Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers from Minneapolis: Lara Cigancko, Kristen Chepp, Karen Doten, Emily Flaimova, Kathryn Gallagher, Katarina Grajcarova, Vladia Gregorski, Paul Knuth, Silvia Magana, Brenda Rogers, and Peter Vilim.

Czech Heritage Junior Royalty and the Domácí Czech Folk Dancers of New Prague: Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky, Directors; Ambassador Sylvia Lemke; Little Ambassadors Aria Beaudin, Kristin Siebsen, and Ruby Nazzal.


Ethnic Dance Theatre of Minnesota: Donald LaCourse, Artistic Director, and his sister Renee, from EDT provided a lovely Bohemian Waltz and Mazurka, followed by a Rusyn suite danced by eight members of their ensemble.

Tapestry Folkdance Centre: Blanka Bricta and Jan Morse, Dance Instructors, provided lessons in the air-conditioned gym during the afternoon band breaks. The audience learned two dances Zemer Arik, a traditional Jewish wedding dance, and also a Roma circle-dance from the eastern Slovakia region.

George Palma’s Concertina Band: from Brownton, Minnesota, set toes a-tapping and folks a-dancing in the gym during two music sets.

SlovCzech Band: Petr Bachan, Director, brought the party to a great last hour as everyone celebrated a wonderful and successful festival!

Information tables: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota: Norm Petrik and Tom Aubrecht handed out membership brochures, issues of the Slovo, and event postcards at the Sokol membership table.

Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota: Renáta Tichá, Cheryl Nelson Theuninck, and Jan Knudston.

Western Fraternal Life Association: Lodge Orelo no. 69 and Lodge Cesky Lev no. 10 awarded (3) $50 Target gift certificates. Carol Loss drew the winners’ names: Sienna LoPeso (age 6), Ben Grindheim (age 8), and Madison Lunders (age 13).

Polish American Cultural Institute (PACIM): Cecelia and Mark Dillon and Paul Rog from PACIM, first time at our C-S Festival, had information about upcoming events.

Children’s Activities: Jitka Sebek and crew from Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities made sure the kids had lots to do. The children spent endless time joyfully in the inflatable castle, scored a painted face or a temporary tattoo, played games for irresistible prizes (donated by generous parents), participated in juggling gigs, or crafted greeting cards with a Czech and Slovak touch.

Blanka Bricta created interactive and digital presentations, a new concept featured at this year’s festival. Attendees had an opportunity not only to be spectators, but also to become participants. At the Trivia Corner, everybody tested his/her knowledge of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. It was very popular, especially with young teens! Lenka Brag and Denis Acs, with many children, manned this table, making it fun and engaging for all.

The Map Display Station drew many people to find the towns of their ancestors. Dita Martinez patiently volunteered assistance to those who needed to locate a particular village. Throughout the afternoon, it was incredible to listen as many people shared their personal stories about how and when their ancestors immigrated to Minnesota. The stories were both unexpected and very touching!

Thomas Sebek volunteered at the “3D Virtual Reality Walk though Prague;” he diligently and patiently helped all interested people to download the correct app on their phone and to set them up with the goggles for the 3D walk. All of the interactive activities were very well-received, and people had fun.

Ride of the Kings Display: In the first floor classroom stood a life-size decorated horse, handmade, by Doreen McKenney, of the Ride of Kings (Jízda králií). Several short documentaries about that tradition were screened, including a current celebration from the village of Vlcnov, as well as a documentary from a celebration in 1946. It was interesting to see what has changed, and yet how the traditional way still is preserved. These documentaries were followed by videos: “Short History of the Czech Republic,” “Map of the Czech Republic,” “Review of Slovakia,” “Old Prague Legends - The Orloj Story,” and “How to Make Koláče.” Both the horse display and the screenings were well-attended. Our volunteers were Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek, Shannon Krenik, and Pavel Šulc.

See page 16 for a list of all the volunteers.


Willows Coffee donated coffee from their farm in Costa Rica, offered cups of cold brew, and sold bags of coffee. Anna Cookova, of CzechTalk, LLC, offered translations and children’s activities.

Bone Lake Meadows Apiary sold their honey and bee related products.

Ludmila Pálková sold her homemade pickles, jams, and baked goods.

Toni Brendel of Slovak American Touches had a wide variety of Czech and Slovak imports including glassware, jewelry, and several books that she has authored. Jean Draheim presented handcrafted jewelry, using Czech glass and crystal as well as natural stones.

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International offered books, clothing, music, and maps, as well as other imported goods from the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Ethnic Dance Theatre offered information and tickets for upcoming dance concerts.

Our Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop, specially organized by Doreen McKenney for the Festival, sold everything from cookbooks, straw ornaments, t-shirts with clever Czech idioms, and cards to Bohemian glass and moldavite jewelry. Katie Haselbauer with assistance from Christy Banks and Marit Lee Kucera staffed the gift shop. With so many items to admire and acquire, shoppers lingered and asked questions! The shop volunteers offered a first introduction to Sokol, the C.S.P.S. Hall, and all the Czech/Slovak gift items to many first-time festival guests. The gift shop sold $1,200.50 during this 6-hour festival.

Special salute goes to Chuck Draheim, our Board of Trustees, and all the volunteers who set up and took down all the tents, booths, tables, and chairs. What a remarkable job by those who started early Saturday morning and stayed to close on Sunday evening. What tremendous efforts for a tremendous festival! It was a great day for our Czech and Slovak community, Sokol members and friends, and the West 7th Street area neighbors.

Celebrate in 2018!

❤ 100th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia
❤ 50th anniversary of the Prague Spring reform movement
❤ 25th anniversary of the formation of the two independent nations of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic

November 2017 Slovo 9
1. Czech and Slovak Cultural Center: Renáta Tichá, Jan Knudtson, Cheryl Nelson Theuninck. 2. Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International. 3. Mondo Jugglers Penny and Tom Tesarek with four brave young people who watched wood pins fly by. 4. Katarína Bílá painted hands. 5. Sokol Gymnasts. 6. PACIM (Polish American Council in Minnesota): Mark Dillon, board secretary and PolAm editor, with Paul Rog, PACIM board member and president emeritus. 7. Jitka Sebek in charge of Kids Events and Games with Katarína Bílá and daughter. 8. Vendor Ludmila Pálková sold homemade pickles, jams, and baked goods. 9. Dave Stepan ran the Kolacky Eating Contest, and like last year, the winners ran of before we recorded their names. 10. Children watched the puppet show (13) with pure delight. 11. Western Fraternal Life booth: Sandy Saliny (lodge 10), Richard Saliny (lodge 10), Carol Loss (lodge 69). 12. The WFL (Lodge Orel no. 69) members Carol Loss and Kathy Richardson, with Louise Wessinger holding the basket, drew for gift certificates; winners were Sienna LoPeso, Madison Lunders, and Ben Grindheim. 13. The Puppet Show, staged by Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, main hall, as seen from the balcony by our giant puppets, Jitka and Jarda.

10 November 2017 Slovo
1. Domáci Czech Folk Dancers of New Prague  
2. Dave Stepan presented flowers from Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers to Louise Wessinger upon her retirement from dancing. 
5. Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers. 
7. Carpathy Children’s Folk Dance Ensemble. 
8. Sokol Minnesota Taneční Teen Folk Dancers. 
11. Graduating seniors in Sokol Minnesota Taneční Teen Folk Dancers are the high jumpers on the far right: Andrea and Ellen. 
13. Dancing to SlovCzech Band at the end of the Festival. 
14. Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers invited the audience to join them in learning two dances. Everyone had a great time!

Save the date for the 29th annual Czech and Slovak Festival: September 16, 2018
Many of you will probably never know how much Don Pafko enjoyed serving the Slovak community in Minnesota and working with Slovak nationals both here and abroad. His passion for his heritage showed each and every time he took the stage with the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers, a group he proudly founded. He was looking forward to his performance at the Czech and Slovak Festival at the C.S.P.S. Hall this fall. I know this because I found the kroj he planned to wear neatly arranged on his bed for the coming appearance. I have fond memories of both my parents’ participation in all the numerous activities through the years. I always knew that if my mother wasn’t home, she could probably be found at the C.S.P.S. Hall. I want to thank the membership and all the affiliated groups for their kind thoughts, memorials, and expressions of sympathy on the loss of my father.  

Mark Pafko, son

Don Pafko was a very special Sokol Minnesota friend, and I will miss him dearly. I envied his devotion to the organization, his fondness of his heritage, and his professional attitude to all he did. He had a strong desire to get others involved, and was willing to step back and assist them. I was relatively new to Sokol Minnesota when I was elected president, and I frequently used Don as resource and guide to the organization’s operation. Don was very proud to be Honorary Consul to the Slovak Republic. From all indications, he was respectfully received by all and performed the duties exceptionally well. I feel truly honored and blessed to have had this relationship with Don, a great individual.  

Ed Hamernik, Second Vice President, Sokol Minnesota

Don Pafko was instrumental in getting our Domáci Dancers started. To reciprocate, we performed the duties exceptionally well. I feel truly honored and blessed to have had this relationship with Don, a great individual.  

Arnie and I spent a lot of time with Don and his late wife, Jeanette. They were our good friends and a source of support in our mutual promotion of the heritage. We were all active in Sokol. As members of the decoration committee, we spent hours at their house making wall décor and dance props. And we can’t forget the hours spent dancing in their basement as members of the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers! Don was instrumental in getting our Domáci Dancers started. To reciprocate, we helped him to get the Lipa Dancers off the ground. Earlier this year, Don accepted our invitation to be on our Domáci Advisory Board.  

We took road trips presenting information about national folk costumes (kroje). The Pafkos presented Slovak; we, the Czech. We took it seriously, visiting the University of Minnesota Library and translating many books on kroj in order to have accurate information. We presented close to home at Sokol Minnesota, Bechyn Czechfest (Minnesota), and Chicago, but also flew to San Diego and New York.  

They were mentors in showing us what it meant to network and to be ambassadors of our heritage. I can honestly say that we would not be doing what we do today, if it were not for both Don and Jeanette.  

Deb and Arnie Ziskovsky, Directors, Domáci Czech Folk Dancers

Don Pafko was the Honorary Consul for the Slovak Republic and was on the Board of Directors for the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota. Don brought his passion for Slovak culture to our work by bringing cultural events to the Twin Cities. The Board will miss him and will find ways to honor his passion in our future activities.  

Czech and Slovak Cultural Center (CSCC), Board of Directors

I first met Don in late 1980s as part of a Slovak language class, when my mother was relearning her first language. Don and I quickly realized that our grandparents came from the same town in Slovakia, that we each had a parent who was born and lived on the Bohemian River Flats in Minneapolis, and that our families had been friends for generations. Don suggested that I get involved in the Slovak community. Even all those years ago, he was a proud advocate for Slovaks, Slovak Americans, and the Slovak culture. That passion grew stronger throughout his life. I am involved in the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center and Sokol Minnesota because of Don and his lovely wife Jeanette. I will treasure those memories forever.  

Cheryl Nelson Theuninck, CSCC colleague with Slovak heritage

Don Pafko was a friend of mine and a stalwart colleague in the Slovak Diplomatic Corps in the United States. I first met Don through his work with the Lipa Dancers, but it was not until 2008 when he was appointed Honorary Consul for Slovakia in Minnesota that I really shared common experiences with Don. He and I had common roots. His family was from the north central part of Slovakia, near the village of Važec, about 35 kilometers from one of my ancestral villages, Bobrovec. I also have Minnesota roots. I recall a good-spirited debate with Don, comparing the rugged weather of Duluth to the tropical climate of the Twin Cities. Don was a Green Beret and a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne; my father was a World War II paratrooper in the 11th Airborne.  

Don and Jeanette were inseparable. Together, they connected all things Slovak with Minnesotans of all ethnic origins. Don’s enduring legacy is his popular and successful (and indefatigable) work with the Lipa Dancers, his real pride and joy. He also spent years working with his many friends at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, promoting friendship and culture from Slovakia, Moravia, and Bohemia. His proud and successful work on behalf of the Slovak people, and the memories he made, as well as his loyalty and good humor, will live on. We express our heartfelt condolences to his son, Mark and bid a bittersweet farewell to a real friend. Do videnia, Don.  

Greg Fasing, Honorary Consul for Slovakia to Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming
Jeanette and Don Pafko in Slovak kroje for a folk dancers’ performance at the Duluth Folk Fair in 1998.

I first met Don Pafko and his son Mark when Don attended his first annual meeting in 2010 of the United States Slovak Honorary Consuls in Washington, D.C. They were a great father and son team. Don was excited to assume the role of Slovak Honorary Consul to the state of Minnesota.

Another fond memory of Don, Jeanette, and Mark was at the installation of Rosemary Wisnosky, the Slovak Honorary Consul to the State of Illinois in May 2012. Then President of the Slovak Republic, Ivan Gašparovič, who was in Chicago for a NATO Summit, participated in the installation ceremony. The day before, my wife Barbara and I had a great time with the Pafkos at a Czech and Slovak museum, enjoying lunch, evening cocktails, and a few good laughs.

Then in July 2012, Barbara and I participated with Don and Jeanette in the rededication ceremonies of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids. Don, Cecilia Rokusek (Slovak Honorary Consul to the State of Florida), and I had the privilege to raise the Slovak Republic national flag. Don and Jeanette performed with their Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers. Jeanette was a true partner and supporter of Don in all things Slovak.

Ross P. Marine, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to the Midwest USA (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska)

Three things come immediately to mind when I reminisce about Don. The first is that Don would often end one of his wonderful stories with “What do ya do?” The thing is, Don didn’t stop with the question, he did “do.” However, he was strategic about what he undertook. Whatever he did, it was always done well. He had high standards, willingly took a leadership role, and gave generously of his time and talents to the things he championed.

Second, Don thought the world of his wife, Jeanette, and their son, Mark. In every conversation, my husband, Dennis, and I had with Don, he spoke proudly and lovingly of both. He touted Jeanette’s top-notch organizational skills, Mark’s writing and literary talents, and their mutual appreciation of Slovak friends, culture, and travel.

Last, Don loved dessert! I could always count on Don to be up for dessert and coffee, which meant (as someone with a sweet tooth) I, too, could indulge. Then the stories and laughs would continue just a bit longer over that last cup of coffee.

His presence will be missed; however, his legacy lives on in the work he did for the many things he believed in.

Mary Cahill, Board of Instructors Sokol Minnesota

As an active member of the Minnesota Consular Corps, Donald Pafko supported and attended many activities planned for its members. He served as Secretary/Treasurer, and again later as part of the executive team, when he assumed the position of Vice President in 2016. As Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to Minnesota, Don worked to strengthen the ties between the Slovak Republic and the United States, while also increasing the partnership in trade, business, and travel between the two countries.

He was the founder and director of the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers, which actively represent the culture and heritage of the Slovak Republic. His dedication and commitment toward his country, colleagues, and friends will be deeply missed.

Britt Ardikani and Teresa Palacios Olson, Minnesota Consular Corps Executive Board

The Consular Corps College lost a colleague, great friend, and supporter on September 9. Stalwart, earnest, generous, and committed, the honorable Donald Pafko was devoted to his two countries and peoples. He was an exemplary Honorary Consul and a valued Consular Corps College Chancellor. He believed strongly in the CCC, its mission, and the training it provides.

Don joined the Consular Corps College and attended his first CCC Symposium in 2012. What struck so many of the CCC attendees was his passion for his sending nation and the Slovak people, plus his deep commitment to his duties as an Honorary Consul. Don understood the value of networking and sharing information and best practices. Within a year of joining the CCC, the Board of Chancellors elected him a Chancellor. Over the next five years, he spread the word, got many of the Minnesota Consular Corps members to join the CCC, and helped to realize the CCC’s growth and evolution. As one of the original Leadership Circle Donors, he was also a great financial supporter.

In ways large and small, behind the scenes and as a leader, Don Pafko gave so much of himself to the Slovak Republic, to the people he loved and represented, and also to the Consular Corps College he valued and served. Knowing and working with Don Pafko was a privilege and a pleasure. The CCC is grateful for all he did as an esteemed member and Chancellor. Don will be greatly missed by all.

Katherine H. Moss, Director General, The Consular Corps College, Washington, D.C.

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When I had family from Slovakia visiting the United States in 2015, I contacted Don to find out what they should know if they ran into problems entering or traveling through the country. Don was very helpful over the phone, so I invited him to dinner to meet the group of six. He arrived with gifts for everybody, and made them feel welcome, especially my great-aunt, who up until that trip, had never been on a vacation. He arranged a private performance of the Lipa Folk Dancers the following day, where again everyone felt welcome and had a memorable time. After three weeks of visiting the U.S., I asked my family what had surprised them most. Their answer was easy: they figured they would not see, hear, or taste things familiar to them, but Don made sure for the first couple of days in this country, that was not the case. He helped make their trip truly unforgettable.

Kevin Hurbanis, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) First Vice-President

Don Pafka was a true gentleman who generously gave his time and considerable talents toward serving others. His love for all things Slovak permeated his life. He was held in high esteem by his peers in the Minnesota Consular Corps community. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Bob Vanasek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, 2009-2013

Don Pafka set very high standards with his dedication, leadership skills, creativity, discipline, and love of his Slovak heritage. My connection as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic to Don as Honorary Consul of Slovakia for Minnesota was unique and in many ways extraordinary. He took me under his wings of diplomatic experience. We consulted and supported each other. He was looking forward to helping Slovaks and Czechs worldwide celebrate a century of independence in 2018. He will be with us in spirit. I honor and remember him for all he accomplished.

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota since 2015

I met Don and Jeanette Pafka in the late 1980s and we became instant friends. Both were outgoing and energetic people, as well as active volunteers. Jeanette’s death was a great loss to our Sokol family. Now Don too will be missed, not just by his Sokol brothers and sisters, but also by the greater Slovak and Czech community.

What I found most special about Don was how he would greet me with a warm smile and big hug. He had gentle humor and great interest in other people. Over lunch he always would ask how mutual friends and I were doing and fill me in on his family and friends. He was passionate about his Slovak heritage and was a tireless volunteer. As a Sokol member, he was past president, he served on many boards and committees, and he volunteered at our events. He especially loved to greet guests and play folk tunes on his accordion at our Sokol dinners. He was a founding member of the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center. As Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, he was proud to represent Slovakia and to travel and work with important dignitaries. He preserved and promoted culture as past president of the Friends of the Immigration History Research Center and Ethnic Dance Theater. Don was founder and dancer with his beloved Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers. He will be sorely missed by many.

Joyce Tesarek, Chair, Sokol Board of Budget and Finance

Don Pafka was a proud man, as witnessed by his straight back, squared shoulders, and head held high. At the core of his pride was his Slovak heritage. His wife Jeanette said she knew he was Slovak after their first couple of dates. Don was proud of his service in the U.S. Army Special Forces, although he did not talk about it. After attending numerous dance camps, Don and Jeanette started the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers in 2000.

Don continued leading, teaching, and dancing until the end. He and Jeanette were very proud of the dance group and their performances. The dance group also gave them the opportunity to mentor the members, most of whom came from Slovakia. Don and Jeanette laughed with them, cried with them, and gave unending love and support. Jeanette embraced Don’s pride and interest wholeheartedly. They worked together tirelessly to promote Slovak heritage. After a lifetime of hard work and accomplishments, their greatest love and pride was always their son, Mark.

Joan Sedlacek, Sokol Minnesota

Julie L’Enfant’s book, The Gág Family: German-Bohemian Artists in America, focuses on the Anton Gág family, with special attention to Anton and his daughter Wanda. Settling in New Ulm in 1879, the family blended European and American traditions of family and artistry.

The book is a treasure house of information, thanks to Flavia’s unpublished diaries and other family papers, new genealogical findings, Wanda’s autobiography, Growing Pains: Diaries and Drawings for the Years 1908-1917, and 200 reproductions of paintings, drawings, and photographs. The well-documented book includes a Gág family chronology, endnotes, bibliography, and index.

Wanda Gág (1893-1946) is best known today for writing and illustrating children’s books, including Millions of Cats, the oldest American picture book still in print. She is considered a pioneer in the development of the picture book form; she integrated text with pictures while stretching them across a double page. Millions of Cats and The ABC Bunny were awarded Newbery Honors for distinguished children’s books; Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and Nothing at All received Caldecott Honors for children’s book illustration. Many of Wanda Gág’s original manuscripts and illustrations are housed in the Kerlan Collection of Children’s Literature at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. She was also acclaimed for her prints, drawings, watercolors, and oil paintings, many of which can be viewed in museums. Her style of illustration was uniquely dense and complex, using contrasts of light and dark and curved and exaggerated bold lines with expressionistic feelings.

Wanda Gág grew up as the oldest of seven children in an exceptionally creative Bohemian-American family. Less well-known today, but at least as well-accomplished, was her father, Anton Gág, born in Walk (Valcha) in the county of Tachau (Tachov), Bohemia, in 1858, and immigrated with his family in 1873 to the United States, settling first in Saint Paul. Anton, who attended art schools in Chicago and Milwaukee, became an accomplished painter, church decorator, and innovative photographer with his own studio.

Anton shared his love of art, nature, and the countryside with his children, especially Wanda. After studying art in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and New York, Wanda earned her living as a commercial illustrator in her late 20s, selling lithographs, linoleum block prints, watercolors, and drawings in New York. Her Weyhe Gallery shows, published writing, and magazine art gave her an international reputation.

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 November 18, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the first-floor classroom at the C.S.P.S. Hall, for a discussion of Povídky: Short Stories by Czech Women, edited by Nancy Hawker.

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, August 12, 2018
88th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

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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 Volunteer 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 Petrik, Jitka Sebek, advisors. Photographs: Blanka Brichta, Jean Draheim, Martina Gurgel, M.L. Kucera, Vanda Kofroňová, Kari Muyres, Jitka Sebek, Denise Stibal, Livi Martin. October Mailing party volunteers: Jason Brozovich, Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, M.L. Kucera, Val Kusile, Deb Ziskovsky.

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**EVENTS AT C.S.P.S. HALL**
**ATTEND and VOLUNTEER!**

**Sokol Minnesota 2017 Events**

**Sokol Annual Meeting**  
Friday, November 17, 7 p.m. (See page 4)

**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 Children’s Holiday Party**  
Friday, December 8, 7 p.m.

**Škola Family Mikuláš**  
Sunday, December 9, 4 p.m.

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

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**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO November 2017**

**A Huge Salute to all the Great Volunteers**  
**at the 2017 Czech and Slovak Festival on September 24.**

2017 Festival Volunteers (team leaders in bold):  
Robert Acs, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht,  
Rosemary Whaley-Baisden, Darlene Baker, Christy Banks, Dan Bednar, Wendy Bednar, Julie Bifano,  
Mark Bigouette, Katarína Bilá, Zuzana Bracknell, Lenka Bragg, Blanka Brichta, Jason Brozovich,  
Dawn Bulera, Colleen Cahill, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Jana Castillon with Katka and David, Bobbi Jo Chandler, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek,  
Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Shannon Duffy,  
Steve Ernest, Olga Espinoza with Izabel, Eva Giese with Nicole and Natalie, Roger Green, Dave Grostephan,  
Glynis Grostephan, Martina Gurgel with Kristina, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Marlene Hinshaw,  
Scott Hinshaw, Jake Jacobson, Anne Jans, Corbin Jerde, Madison Jerde, Darla Kolb, Jyni Koschak,  
Bob Kosticka, Michaela Giancarlo Kotek and Robert Kotek with Dominick and Emma, Shannon Krenik,  
Lloyd Kroca, Marit Lee Kucera, Pam Langworthy, Zuzana Májková, Martin Marko, Dave Martin, Sue Martin, Dita Martinez, Hana Matousek, Jan Morse,  
Mary Jean Mulherin, Dylan Muyres, Kari Muyres, Leah Muyres, Scott Muyres, Doreen McKenney,  
Brad Narr, Terry Narr, Aidan Neher, Cheryl Nelson, Denis Novak, Becky Olson, Ben Olson, Nick Olson, Rachel Olson, Anna Overbo, Diane Pavelka Palan,  
Ross Peterson, Norm Petrik, Teresa Pobar, Romana Pulkrabek, Mike Rasmussen, Rad Rasmussen,  
Markéta Resong, Janice Roers, Richard Sargent, Renata Scholtz, Jitka Sebek, Thomas Sebek, Joan Sedlacek, Terry Shima, Steve Shimer, Dave Stepan,  
Denise Stibal, Pavel Sulc, Kateřina Svensson, Kari Swartz, Amanda Tesarek, Joyce Tesarek, Renáta Tichá, John Topic, Alexa Turgeon, Rhondi Waldron  
and Girl Scouts Caylie, Mariah, and Kiki, Dan Washick, Adriana Wenberg, Michaela Wentz, Chuck Wessinger,  
Louise Wessinger, Cinnamon Whaley, Ken Wyberg, Alena Youngberg, Arnie Ziskovsky, Deb Ziskovsky, Gary Zweber, and all the program participants.