UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS

November Slovo articles due
October 1

Czech Slovak Cultural Center 30th Anniversary of Freedom Event
October 12, 10 a.m.

Family Night—Everyone is welcome!
October 13, 4 p.m.

Czech Roast Pork Dinner Reservation Deadline
October 14

Koláče baking for the Roast Pork Dinner
October 16, 8 a.m.

Czech Roast Pork Dinner
October 20, 12:30 p.m.

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Czech Roast Pork Dinner
Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, October 20, 12:30 p.m.

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

$18 adult, $9 child under 9

Prepaid reservations required by October 14
To reserve call: 651-290-0542
Limited reserved seating.
Pre-paid takeout available by reservation.
C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

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Dance Performance by the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers
www.tancuj.org

The Sokol Gift Shop will be open
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Greetings to all my Sokol brothers and sisters!

The Sokol Camp Booya is behind us, as is the 75th Anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising Memorial Weekend. The Slovak National Uprising event at your C.S.P.S. Hall was witness to a coordinated program of the local Slavic organizations, including the Czech Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, Rusin Society, National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library, and your Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Our own Mark Dillon and Johnny Palka were instrumental in organizing this event. For those of you were able attend either of these two August events, I hope you had as enjoyable a time as I did.

Where did the summer go? It already feels like fall, and that leads us into our busy fall season. Sokol was represented at Taco Days in Scandia on September 7 by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Our 30th annual Czech & Slovak Festival was September 15. I hope you all had a great time. On October 20, we have our annual Czech Roast Pork Dinner.

The Sokol and Czech language classes (thanks to Blanka Brichta, Barbara Carlsonova, and Pat Slaber) have begun in the newly updated first floor meeting room. Thanks to Ed Hamernik for getting the air conditioning working again, and thank you all to who assisted in painting the room; it looks great! Please take time to look at the new digs.

The boys and girls gymnastics classes, under the auspices of Jason Brozovich and Mary Cahill, have started. The Taneční Mládež and Taneční Teens, under the loving hands of Louise Wessinger, have started practices and already had another wonderful performance at the Czech and Slovak Festival. The Česká a Slovenská Škola Twin Cities (Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities) will also have started by the time you read this.

Repairs are continuing in the Hall's basement, with support beams installed under the outside sidewalk. We hope that we can start soon the structural repairs on other areas identified as high priority by the board of trustees, including the bar area, and remodel that space as needed. We are also working on getting a plan of attack for air conditioning in the kitchen space. Thank you all for being patient and helping support your Hall for future generations.

As part of that financial support, you have the opportunity to celebrate Don Haselbauer’s 70th Birthday. Don’s parents Frank and Florence, and others, were stalwart members who were instrumental in helping save this hall in the 1970’s for you, me, and future generations. To honor this family and Don, we are asking that you donate to the Legacy Fund in support of the Hall. An anonymous donor will be matching funds up to the first $7,000.

We will have a slate of officers for November’s board meeting. If you are interested in serving in any way, please contact a nominating committee member.

I am looking someone other than Jake Jacobson or myself to receive it!

Nazdar!

Sokol Minnesota welcomes new Members

By Norm Petrik

Rolf and Renata Schultz from Minneapolis were accepted as members of Sokol Minnesota at the August 15 Board of Directors meeting. They have interests in cultural events, cooking, and crafts, and their children are involved in dance, culture camp, and other events. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Going away this winter?

Forwarding your mail? Do not forget about the Slovo! We mail at bulk mail rates. The post office does not forward bulk mail. We pay an added 50 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!

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs for children, teens, and adults. Information on our programs, calendar of events, membership, C.S.P.S. Hall rentals, and gift shop, plus E-Addresses for our board, program directors, volunteer staff, and the Czech Honorary Consul, as well as Slovo past issues, are available at www.sokolmn.org or www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota
Sokol Camp Booya Picnic
*Scott and Kari Muyres, booya picnic co-chairs*

August 11, 2019, was a great day to enjoy a bowl of *booya* at the Sokol camp in beautiful Pine City! The weather cooperated, the *booya* was delicious, and the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers were festive. Because of our volunteers, the picnic was a huge success. Thank you to all volunteers! The raffle winners this year were: $100: Marjorie Thayer; $50 and $25: Irene Maghrak; and $25: Molly Chandler.

The 2020 *booya* picnic will feature many of the same attractions and foods. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, August 9th 2020. We hope to see you there to celebrate the 90th annual booya picnic. Again, thank you to our volunteers for making this year one of the most successful picnic fundraisers!

30th Annual Czech and Slovak Festival: Another Great Event!
*Joyce Tesarek, Festival Chair*

There was something for everyone at our 30th Annual Czech & Slovak Festival on Sunday, September 15.

We will have a full article (including photos) of our 30th Annual Czech & Slovak Festival, held Sunday, September 15, in our November Slovo. Be sure to check it out! This issue, I just want to do a shout out to the Festival team leaders and thank them and all the volunteers (who will be listed in the next *Slovo*). Without their hours of planning and work, the festival would not happen.

Louise Wessinger chaired the program team. The day began with the flag ceremony. Performances and presentations highlighting our Czech, Moravian, and Slovak cultures followed. There was a lively mix of music and dance, and our Sokol gymnasts demonstrated their tumbling skills. Blanka Brichta prepared fascinating exhibits. Jitka Sebek organized the entertainment for the kids and she made sure there were a variety of games to keep them happy.

Jean Draheim lined up our vendors, with their unique craft and ethnic items for sale, and the information booths hosted by cultural organizations. Doreen McKenney presented the items in our first floor Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop. Treasures and deals were available at our silent auction, led by Glynis Grostephan.

Once again, Rad Rasmussen, Marketa Resong, and Alena Youngberg led the kitchen and grill crew and provided the crowds with traditional specialties. Cinnamon Whaley directed the Sweet Shoppe team, and Ed Hamernik and Dan Bednar made sure there was plenty of Czech beer and beverages.

Building Work Continues  *By Joyce Tesarek*

In March of 2019, Sokol Minnesota applied for and received a Gateway to the Future grant from our parent organization, American Sokol. The $1,000 grant helped cover the cost of a structural analysis for our C.S.P.S. Hall. We hired A.M. Structural Engineering, who had done a previous evaluation in 2003. We now have an evaluation of our structural needs and a priority list of issues to address. We have begun work on the most serious of the structural issues. Beneath the Michigan Street sidewalk there is a tunnel that formerly served as an access to the basement. The steel beams supporting the area are severely deteriorated. New steel beams with CMU columns are being added below each of the deteriorated beams. Structural Improvements are in process under the Michigan Street sidewalk. There are three additional recommended structural projects which we will do as finances allow. As always, your tax-deductible donations to the Legacy Fund are appreciated and they will be put to good use to keep our Hall in good repair.
Trip with a Meaning
by Thomas Sebek

It was a beautiful June morning when my parents and I began our hike up to the Pravčická brána (Pravčice Archway) through the dense and rugged forest on the border of the Czech Republic and Germany. We had decided to cross half of the Czech Republic from my grandparents' house in Hřensko to be able to explore and learn about the České Švýcarsko (Bohemian Switzerland) region of the country and to see in person where my paternal grandfather had escaped the country 68 years ago.

We started the day by looking through the small village of Hřensko, which straddles the Edmundova Soutěška Creek, a tributary of the Elbe River. The village offered fun outdoor activities, such as hiking and gondola tours of the cliff-side creek, and was filled with small houses decorated with beautiful woodcarvings and designs. As we hiked up to the archway, we thought about what it would have been like to have to cross this terrain at daybreak in a suit and with a briefcase, as my grandpa had done. After two hours of hiking, we made it to the beautiful lookout under the 85-foot long archway (Bohemian Switzerland) region of the country and to see in person where my grandpa had done. After two hours of hiking, we made it to the beautiful lookout under the 85-foot long archway at the top of the mountainside. I had never been to this northern region of the Czech Republic before, but once I saw the view from the lookout point, as my mom ordered us some Kofola (a carbonated soft drink with less sugar but more caffeine than the two leading products here), I appreciated fully the natural beauty of this Czech region. A three-story mountain lodge was built into the rock face next to the archway in 1826 for the royal family, yet even though the building was built with traditional Bavarian woodwork and architecture, it still appeared out of place because of its size. Nevertheless, it was beautiful to look through and admire, and it added a touch of history of the days of noble rule in the area.

We continued our trip by driving north, crossing the German border, to the town of Königstein. When we drove past the roadside border station, we noticed that it was completely unmanned and we were able to drive right by; this was quite different from the border crossing experience under Communism. The small town of Königstein was enjoyable to walk around in the evening, as we went to see the town’s Lutheran church and pastor’s house; the pastor played a key role in my grandpa's escape. Königstein had a great small town feeling, with its narrow cobblestone streets.

When we drove back across the border to the hotel we had booked for the night, we talked about how we were happy that we were able to visit this beautiful area, but most importantly to see where my grandpa risked a daring 18 kilometer walk to provide himself with a life of possibilities and opportunities that were taken from him in a country he had always called home.

Language Corner  By Blanka Brichta

Fall means returning to school for many, but did you know that the Czech word for school is škola, and that škola comes from Greek word σχολή, which means rest. The structure of the education system in the Czech Republic is not that much different from that of the United States, but let me share with you a few interesting distinctions.

What is called in the United States 'high school' is called in the Czech Republic střední škola. Střední škola literally translates to English as middle school, but in Czech it refers to a secondary level education, grades 10-13. Also, a general type of high school is in Czech called gymnázium. Gymnázium comes from Greek word gymnasium, meaning a training ground.

The highest education level, tertiary level in the Czech Republic, is called vysoká škola. Vysoká škola literally translates to English as high school, but it means university/college level education.

Confusing? Examine this: If somebody tells you in Czech that he/she chodí na gymnázium, then it means that he/she is attending high school, not that he/she goes to gym.

Neither need you be perplexed by a middle-schooler who is sporting a beard. He could be a 13th grader, almost 20 years old.

When you read in Czech that a cardiologist has vysokoškolské vzdělání, it does not mean that you can practice medicine in the Czech Republic with a high school diploma. It means you have a university level education. Or a university level rest.

Wins State Fair Grand Prize at Age Twelve
by Ken Janda

Benjamin Milne, grandson of Sokol members Ann and Ken Janda, won a Blue Ribbon and a Grand Prize at the 2019 Minnesota State Fair for making a viola, a stringed instrument somewhat larger than a violin. He won the Blue Ribbon in the "3-Dimensional Projects" category of the Education/Individual Exhibits competition, grades 4-6, and then tied for the Grand Prize, grade 6. His viola, made at age eleven, was Ben's 2018 Christmas present for his mother, Susan Janda, who plays viola for the Minnesota Opera.

Under the supervision of luthier William Bartruff, Ben made his first instrument, a violin, at age ten. Susan, who also performs with her Four Voices String Quartet, has played both his violin and his viola professionally. Now at age twelve, Ben is making his second violin at Bartruff's third-floor studio on the corner of 7th and Walnut streets in Saint Paul. He hopes to sell this one.
Madeleine Albright offers a fascinating and insightful read in her latest book, *Fascism: A Warning*, not the depressing venture one might expect from the title. It is a compelling combination of information on the topic, informed by her service as U.S. Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001, and her personal family experiences first fleeing the Nazis and later the communists in Czechoslovakia.

In the first chapter, the author shares reflections on fascism from her Georgetown University students. Albright’s own opinion is, “To my mind, a fascist is someone who identifies strongly with and claims to speak for a whole nation or group, is unconcerned with the rights of others, and is willing to use whatever means are necessary—including violence—to achieve his or her goals.” In *Fascism: A Warning*, Albright is not so interested in drawing lines to label fascists, dictators, and bullies, but rather delivering a cautionary warning about types of power mongers, how fascism succeeds, and how countries slide step-by-step into authoritarian situations. She shares brief synopses about a number of twentieth-century rulers in Europe, the Mediterranean, and North Eurasia. These include many we’re familiar with, such as Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler, Francisco Franco, Slobodan Milošević, Hugo Chávez, Juan Perón, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Joseph Stalin, Vladimir Putin, Milos Zeman, Kim Jong-un, Joseph McCarthy, and Donald Trump, among others. Notably, Trump borrowed the term to “drain the swamp” that was first used by Mussolini when he fired more than 35,000 civil servants … and actually drained the swamp south of Rome.

Among Albright’s main concerns are democracy and the role of the United States in the world. Albright remains optimistic but worries about what she calls “the assault on democratic values that has gathered strength in many countries abroad and that is dividing America at home.” She wrote, “Today, democracy is being weakened by lies that come in waves and pound our senses the way a beach is assaulted by the surf.” Regarding the standing of the United States, “As secretary of state, I was proud to join presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton in calling the United States ‘the indispensable nation’. I worry today that the country is, by its own choice, becoming less admired and less relevant in shaping world affairs.” Although Albright conceived the idea for this book before Trump’s election, she expresses her concern about him, who she calls “the first anti-democratic president in modern U.S. history. The book ends with a set of questions for us to ask about prospective leaders to discern what they believe is worthwhile for us to hear.

Prior to serving as U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright held positions on Capitol Hill, on the National Security Council, and as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. This is her sixth book.

Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. Literary Ventures is cosponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the Office of the Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic. For more information, go to www.cs-center.org or contact gwen@cs-center.org.

Join Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures members to discuss *The Velvet Revolution: Czechoslovakia, 1988-1991* by Bernard Wheaton and Zdeněk Kavan on Saturday, October 26, 10 a.m. to noon, in the first-floor classroom at the C.S.P.S. Hall.
Koláče Make and Take Class

Each of our grandmothers had her own koláče recipe, and naturally there are as many recipes as there are grandmothers. Learn about the history of koláče and many variations using a basic soft yeast dough. This is a hands-on class; you will make, bake, and take home approximately 2 dozen koláče. Registration includes a copy of Koláče: Bohemian Soul Food, a traditional recipes booklet.

When: Saturday, November 9, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Where: C.S.P.S. Hall’s Kitchen and Dining Room
Who: Our instructors are Sokol members and home economists Katherine Roushar Jorgenson and Pamela Kotval.
What: After your registration is confirmed, you will receive a list of utensils and equipment to bring to class. All recipe ingredients are provided.
Coffee is provided; bring a beverage as preferred.

Cost: Sokol member: $25. Non-member, $30. Find the registration forms online at www.sokolmn.org, under the “Classes” tab.
Class limit is 10 students, so register soon!
Questions: Contact Pat Slaber at education@sokolmn.org

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Glynis Grostephan

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates your donations supporting Sokol programs and the maintenance of our historic C.S.P.S. Hall.

LEGACY FUND:
Under $99: Carol Richter.
   In memory of Ron Andre: Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek.
   In honor of Arlene and Ed Hamernik’s 60th wedding anniversary:
   Glynis and David Grostephan, M.L. Kucera.
   In memory of Wally Oliva: Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek.
   In memory of Jaroslav Verner: Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek, Robert Cossaboom.
   In memory of Dan Washick: Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek, M.L. Kucera.

$100 - $499: Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota.
   In memory of Jaroslav Verner: Katherine and Ludvik Svoboda.

GENERAL FUND:
Under $99: Maryann Tumasmith.
   In honor of Linda Nicoli’s 70th birthday: Katie and Don Haselbauer.
$500 -$999: In memory of Jaroslav Verner: Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik.

IN-KIND DONATIONS:
Blanka Bricta and Lenka Hester (feather brushes from the Czech Republic).

SUB-TOTALS:
Legacy Fund: $ 660
General Fund: $ 612
TOTAL: $1,272

Hall Classroom Upgrades

By Blanka Bricta

Over the summer, with the support of a grant from the Czech Republic, much work was done to upgrade the C.S.P.S. Hall’s first floor classroom. We purchased new tables, chairs, and storage cabinets, and gave the room a fresh coat of paint. We also obtained several bookcases to hold our many donated books of Czech and Slovak literature. The official opening of our library will be on November 17, 2019, during the 30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution celebration. We thank the Board of Directors for their support and the team of volunteers for their labor of love: Blanka Bricta, David Hartman, Eric Hester, Ken Mowl, Pat Slaber, and Gary Zweber. Next time you visit the Hall, stop by to Czech (or Slovak) it out for yourself!
In the spirit of cooperation, support, and good will that was initiated by our local Czech and Slovak organizations to celebrate the centennial of the creation of Czechoslovakia in 2018, two honorary consuls and four Minnesota organizations were awarded the Fifteenth Annual Prize of Milan Hodža, which is issued annually under the name of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic. The awards were presented on August 25 at C.S.P.S. Hall in Saint Paul as part of the 75th Anniversary Slovak National Uprising Memorial Weekend. (L-R) Renáta Tichá, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota (CSCC); Kevin Hurbanis, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society international (CGSI); Mark Paľko, accepting in memoriam for his father, the late Don Paľko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic for Minnesota, 2009-2017; John Palka, presenter and grandson of Milan Hodža, Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia, 1935-1938; Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota; Karen Varian, Rusin Association of Minnesota; David Stepan, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

Left: Marit holds her award, printed on handmade paper, and signed on 22 June 2019 by Peter Pellegrini, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, and Miroslav Pekník, President of the Organizational Committee of the Hodža Prize and Director of the Institute of Political Science of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Yvonne Palka prepared folders made of archival mounting board for preserving the award certificates. The folders feature the Slovak crest on the cover. Marit stands in front of interpretive panels from the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Guts and Glory tells the story of the Czechoslovak Legions of the First World War.

Right: A banner listing all the sponsors stood on the stage at C.S.P.S. Hall next to the flags of the United States, Slovakia, and the Carpatho-Rusyns.

Photo credits: Victoria Bowes-Phelps and Pat Slaber

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul
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Slovo Publication Information and 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. Phone: 651-290-0542. Sokol Minnesota members receive the Slovo with their membership. A subscription to the Slovo is available for $15 annually. For a subscription, please include name, address, phone number, email address and a $15 check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and mail to Slovo at the above address. The Slovo staff welcomes submissions. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to slovo@sokolmn.org. The copy deadline for each issue is the first day of the prior month. Advertising in the Slovo is available. Please email slovo@sokolmn.org for information on due dates and rates. Moving or temporarily away: Please notify us via email or USPS mail of your change of address to make sure you continue to receive the Slovo. The Slovo is bulk mailed and non-deliverable copies are not forwarded or held by the Post Office. Non-delivered copies are returned to Sokol Minnesota and they are billed to us at the first class mail rate. For this reason, we will not send additional issues until we have a current, correct mailing address on record for you. Member volunteer Slovo staff: Co-Managing Editors (interim): Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, and Joyce Tesarek. Copy Editor: Tom Aubrecht. Production Layout Managers: Amanda Tesarek and Lucas DeBono. Regular Contributors: Glynis Grostephan, M.L. Kucera, Dave Stepan, Denise Stibal, Norm Petrik, and Jean Draheim. Photographers: Martina Gurgel and Joyce Tesarek. Collages: Martina Gurgel. Sokol Minnesota Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney. Mailing List: Penny Tesarek. Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek. Advisors: Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, M.L. Kucera, Norm Petrik, and Additional contributors this issue: Blanka Brichta, Bea Flaming, Ken Janda, Kari and Scott Muyres, Thomas Sebek, Pat Slaber, Joyce Tesarek, Gwen Willems. Additional photographers this issue: Jitka Sebek, Susan Janda, Kari and Scott Muyres, August mailing: Mary Cahill, Joan Sedlacek
EVENTS AT C.S.P.S. HALL
ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!
Sokol Minnesota November Events

Koláče baking class
Saturday, November 9, 9:30 a.m.
To register email: education@sokolmn.org

Family Afternoon--Everyone is welcome!
30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution event
Sunday, November 17, 1 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting
Election of Officers and Directors
Friday, November 22, 7 p.m.

Fall Pancake Breakfast with Koláče and Craft Sale
Sunday, November 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Call: 651-290-0542 to reserve your koláče by Nov. 15

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota
Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org

Join Us at the C.S.P.S. Hall for the

Holiday Pancake Breakfast
Koláče and Craft Sale

Sunday, November 24, 2019
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Public welcome
No reservations

French toast, pancakes, fruit cup, sausage, juice, milk, and coffee.
$8 adult, $6 children under 9, $26 family of four (two adults and two children).

Pre-order koláče by November 17
651-290-0542
Craft table rental: 651-433-2008

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