UPCOMING EVENTS
August 2015

September Slovo Deadline
August 1

Sokol Minnesota Singers
August 4 & 18, 10 a.m.

Sokol Camp Booya Picnic
August 9, Noon - 5 p.m.

Board of Trustees
August 8, 7 p.m.

Board of Directors
August 20, 7 p.m.

Wine Tasting
August 21, 6 p.m.

Czech and Slovak Festival
September 27, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities
Czech and Slovak Fall Festival
September 27
- gather silent auction items
- bake koláče • put out signs
- help set up and take down tents and tables • sell tickets
- cover a shift in a booth
- and much more.

Contact Joyce: 612-822-6147

Booya Picnic is August 9  By Kari and Scott Muyres, Sokol Booya Co-Chairs
Summer is finally here! Now is the time to start imagining how that first zesty spoonful of Booya will taste in your mouth, the gentle summer breeze flowing in your hair, and the catchy rhythm of the concertina forcing a tap in your toe. August 9 is fast approaching for the 85th annual Booya Picnic hosted at the historic Sokol Camp in Pine City, Minnesota. This year we will have an additional kettle of Booya, along with a pre-sale to guarantee your order. If you happened to miss out on the pre-order, please contact either Kari or Scott at <skdlmuyres@yahoo.com> or call 763-226-0313.

The day will be fun-filled and promises something for everyone! Come rain or shine.

12:00 noon: welcome/opening address.
Food and beverage sales, pull tabs, and General Store are open to the public.
12:30: Live Bingo
2:00: Children’s field games and adult /teen bag toss tournament
3:30: Live performance of the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers
3:30: Bulk booya on sale to public
4:15: Adult relay races
4:45: Raffle drawing/silent auction ends

If you have new, unused prizes for bingo or gently used household items for the Country Store, please contact Pat Andrle: 651-484-6360.

Interested in sharing your elbow grease to help with set-up or tear down?
Contact Scott Muyres: 612-387-9274, Kari Muyres: 763-226-0313, or Don Andrle: 651-484-6360. Thank you!

Wine Tasting at C.S.P.S. Hall August 21  By Cheryl Nelson
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center (C.S.C.C.) of Minnesota co-host a Wine Tasting event on Friday, August 21, at 6 p.m. at C.S.P.S. Hall. The wine tasting highlights wines of Central Europe. This is the first in a series of wine tastings focused on different countries in Central Europe. Our kick-off wine tasting discussion begins with wines of Austria and why they are a great starting point for our discussion on Central European wines. We will also have some wines from Moravia, Hungary, and Croatia, along with suggested food and wine pairings for all of the wines tasted. There will be two flights of wine with three samples each along with appetizers. Cost is $30 per person.

Our host Jason Kallsen is a well-known Twin Cities area wine expert and lecturer. His wine tastings are fun, educational, and entertaining. Jason has been educating the Twin Cities about wine since 1998 through his business Twin Cities Wine Education. Learn more about him at <www.twincitieswine.com>.

Reservations and $30 per person payment must be made by August 15.
C.S.C.C. is taking reservations online through its website: <www.cs-center.org>.

Joyce Tesarek, Renata Ticha, and Cheryl Nelson, all members of both Sokol Minnesota and C.S.C.C., are coordinating the Wine Tasting.

Please join us for this unique and fun event.
Our Summertime offers us a chance to do some different things, including, for me, leading others and meeting a movie director.

Louise Wessinger and I were fortunate to have the assistance of four young women and four young men as volunteer junior leaders at the 18th annual Czech and Slovak Children’s Cultural Day Camp at the C.S.P.S. Hall, June 15-19. The junior leaders were ages 15 to 18. Some had been campers themselves for a number of years, some were encouraged by their families to volunteer, and others perhaps saw an opportunity to assist while accumulating volunteer hours for school or other programs. All eight junior leaders were enthusiastic and helpful, even when, for some, a request was outside their past experiences. “I have never danced in my life. Do I have to?” The campers enjoyed having these older students to guide them. One day, all of the young men had to be gone; the campers noticed and inquired, “Where are the boys today?”

Before the camp started, Louise and I made a list of regular and extra jobs that the junior leaders could do during the week, which included organizing camp materials, leading an afternoon small group, developing a treasure hunt for the campers, and weeding garden areas outside the Hall. By the middle of the first morning, most of the jobs were already completed. Louise and I were challenged to add to the list. During the week there was time for an in-depth conversation about how to apply to colleges, how to cross stitch, and quick advice for the best way to wash dishes and sharpen knives, for junior leaders with little experience in those areas.

Camp is a place for all of us to connect with the Czech and Slovak heritage, as well as an opportunity for people of all ages to make friends, share common interests, and expand ourselves with new opportunities. When Louise and I hear campers, junior leaders, and adult volunteers say “I’ll be back next year,” we know that the camp has been a success.

Five Czech films were screened at the Film Society of Minneapolis/St. Paul, June 24-28. I saw the film Pojedeme k moři (To See the Sea) which included a special appearance by Jiří Mádl, the film’s screenwriter and director. The film followed two inquisitive eleven-year-old boys as they discovered more about their lives through making a film with new cameras. There was a lively question and answer session after the show with the director. Later some of us enjoyed a fine summer evening on a lovely nearby St. Antony Main restaurant patio, where we were fortunate to meet Jiří Mádl, who is just as engaging in a small group as he was in front of a large audience.

Please mark your calendars for Sokol Minnesota’s Camp Association Booya Picnic in Pine City, Minnesota, on August 9 from noon to 5 p.m. A new feature this year is that you can pre-order booya, to ensure that you will be able to take some home.

To order, call Scott at 763-226-0313. Nazdar!

Central European Wine Tasting
August 21, 6 p.m. • $30 includes wine and appetizers
Reservations: www.cs-center.org
Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors
By Arlene Hamernik, Corresponding Secretary

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

**General Fund**
Up to $99: Don and Katie Haselbauer in memory of Jim Hillier.

**Legacy Fund**
Up to $99: Kathryn S. Lorence, Joan Sedlacek.
$100 - $499: Darlene Sitko, Rose Vessely.
$3,000: Minnesota Sokol Camp Association (check presented by Ron Andrl at May Members Meeting).
$10,000: Paul Imbrone's donation was matched by Macy's/Bloomingdale's.

In-Kind Donations
Joan Sedlacek, kitchen insert pans, plants for outside planter.

- Legacy Fund total: $13,280
- General Fund Total: $25

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**Membership Updates**
By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the May 15 membership meeting, Elizabeth Kaliska from Saint Paul was accepted as a member in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. She was present at the meeting and was installed by Membership Director Norm Petrik. She has interests in cooking, history, language, dances, dinners, festivals, films, music, and theater. She is the newly-crowned Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Queen, and at our membership meeting she played both the **pišťalka** and a **fujara** (Slovak shepherd’s flutes).

At the June 18 Board of Directors meeting, Theresa Schousek from Houlton, Wisconsin, was accepted as a member in Sokol Minnesota. She has two children who attended the children’s Cultural Day Camp this summer, and she expressed interest in cooking, genealogy, history, dinners, festivals, films, literature, music, and theater. Her children have interests in gymnastics and language.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

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**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.sokolmn.org> or by request from Norm Petrik (612-822-6147). Please send your completed membership application and check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Attn: Membership 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

**Slovo gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are $15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through May 2016.) 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, MN 55102.

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

**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 September 2015 issue is August 1.**
This August 2015 issue of Slovo will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by mid-August: <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 (August15 for October issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (September 1 for October issue).
Consular Corps College Chancellor Meeting in Chicago
By Don Pačko

In April, the chancellors of the Consular Corps College met in Chicago, Illinois, to plan the curriculum for the next Consular Corps College in Washington, D.C. The Chancellors spent two days putting together an educational curriculum that will benefit attendees of the Consular Corps College in mid-November. Don Pačko, Honorary Slovak Consul and Sokol Minnesota member, is a chancellor of the Consular Corps College and was instrumental in planning for the November training session. All of the Consuls General from various countries, who are stationed in Chicago, were invited to a luncheon hosted by the chancellors. Over 35 Consuls General and chancellors attended this reception and luncheon. Don Pačko (on right) had the honor of being seated with the Czech Consul General Bohák Lízek (on left).

SOKOL MEMBER NEWS

Sokol Minnesota members Judy (Neil) Metcalf, Oakdale, and Joe (Tamara Amon) Stodola, St. Paul, lost their father Joseph J. Stodola, age 86, on June 2. Joseph Stodola was very proud of his Czech heritage. He loved going to the Sokol camp picnic for the booya and to watch the dancing. Joseph J. and his wife Beverley, who survives him, were Sokol members for several years. Three other children, 13 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren survive him.

Sokol Members Bea Flaming, Hana Matousek, and Marit Lee Kucera went to Chicago for Prague Days in mid-June to help Chicago and Prague celebrate 25 years as sister cities. Special events included concerts, gallery openings, films, a Gala dinner with Czech diplomats and Czech-American celebrities, and the chance to see Chicago-land Sokols. Hana and Marit also toured the Bohemian National Cemetery, founded in 1877, on the northside of Chicago.

My Ten Minutes of Fame in a Documentary Film
By Denise Stíbal
As the Food Editor of the German Bohemian Heritage Society (GBHS) newsletter, I was selected to prepare the “Food” section for the Documentary of the German Bohemians filmed this past spring. The “German Bohemians” are German-speaking natives whose homeland was in the present-day Czech Republic and part of Germany. Many of the villages were destroyed and many of the citizens were relocated after WWII. With my ancestry being half “true Czech” and half “German-Bohemian,” I can attest to the fact that the food of both countries is very similar. We both enjoy sauerkraut, pork, and dumplings. The main difference is in pastries and desserts. You won’t find koláče or much made with poppy seeds in Germany. German desserts have more spice cookies and tortes, plus cheesecakes made in the old days with homemade cottage cheese.

Dan Hoisinger, the creator and filmmaker, asked me for three dishes. I chose pork hocks and sauerkraut, bread dumplings with horseradish gravy, and Smearkuchen (German Cheesecake). The first two dishes can be found in both Czech and German cookbooks, but the latter is truly German. Smearkuchen has a soft dough crust and is filled with cottage cheese, cream, eggs, and prunes sprinkled with cinnamon and sugar. As Dan told me, “It brought tears to the eyes” of many he interviewed when asked about their favorite foods from childhood.

Our documentary premiered on May 16 at the GBHS Spring Dinner in New Ulm, Minnesota. The nearly two-hour video featured music, farming, crafts, religion, and memories of “growing up.” Many fascinating stories were told. Of course, I was anxious for the “Food” section to appear. I didn’t know what would be included. Six hours of cooking and preparation was condensed into ten minutes with only the Smearkuchen demonstration featured. Everyone’s favorite memories of family usually include huge dinners and “special” dishes. I was honored to be part of a piece of our Bohemian-German history being recorded for posterity. For more information, visit the website <www.germanbohemianheritagesociety.com>
The Best Ways to See Prague
By Vanda Kofroňová, Columnist from Prague

“Could you rent a car for us?” Mary asked me one week before she came to visit Prague. Mary is a friend of mine from the Twin Cities. Her question was understandable. Public transport does not really work well in Minnesota, does it? And it is very easy to park a car in parking garages that are all over the place. This is far from true in Prague.

Not only are there traffic jams in the city center every day, but finding a place to park often is a very difficult task. Narrow streets just do not offer enough room, and centuries-old houses do not have spaces very suitable for parking. Therefore it is much better to use trams, buses, or the underground. You can even use a little boat to cross the river Vltava in the center or take the funicular that goes up the Petřín hill (these two means of transport are, of course, used most often by tourists).

Prices of tickets are higher than in some other European cities; for a one-hour journey you will pay almost two dollars. Still, it is cheaper than gas, which is more than two dollars per liter these days. Public transportation stations are clean and the time plan is also quite convenient. Night trams can take you home from almost any party no matter how late or early it is.

There are a few disadvantages, of course. Most of the people who rarely use public transport in Prague say that some of their fellow travelers do not use deodorants in the summer. I know that sound terrible, but most of the time you will not have any troubles in public transport.

As I do not want to end this article on a pessimistic note, I will underline one more great thing about Prague public transport. As it goes through the old part of the city, you can use it as a sightseeing tour. I sometimes take a longer route than necessary, just to see how beautiful this city is.

Have a great summer!

UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

Czech Heritage Festival, August 9, Bechyn, Minnesota, (10 miles north of Redwood Falls). Polka Mass at 10 a.m. Roast Pork Dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Afternoon outdoor entertainment and music by the Wendinger Band, Malek Fishermen Band, Bechyn Czech Folk Dancers, and Sleepy Eye Area Concertina Club. Plenty of activities for young and old alike. Free admission. Info: <www.CzechFest.com>

Rusalka, Dvořák’s Lyrical Opera, January 31, 2016. Buy your group-priced tickets by September 15. The Minnesota Opera last performed Antonín Dvořák’s opera Rusalka in 2008 at the Ordway Center. A Sokol Minnesota group attended and enjoyed a wonderful evening. Sokol Minnesota is again making arrangements for group-priced tickets to see Rusalka on Sunday, January 31, 2016, 2 p.m. (Sports fans will be relieved that the opera takes place one week before the Super Bowl.)

Two Czech Glass Artists Make Midwest Connection
By Marcia Hamernik Oltrogge

Petr Novotný and Jiří Pačinek, famous glass artists in the Czech Republic, are now using locally-made American torches in their work. They attended the International Art Glass show in San Jose, California, in early June and visited the Premier Industries booth staffed by Craig Hamernik, son of Sokol members Ed and Arlene Hamernik. (Ed and Craig are part-owners of Premier Industries.) Before the artists left the booth, they each purchased a torch and tips to use as they teach glass art classes.

Mr. Novotný is a world-famous designer and glass artist. He is in demand for training master glass makers from the United States, Japan, and other countries. He is one of two owners of Ajeto, an art school established in 1993 at Lindava in the Czech Republic. Experts list him among the top three world-class personalities in the field of glass. Mr. Novotný has collaborated with well-known glass artist Dale Chihuly. Visit <ajetoglass.com/en/> to see his fascinating designs. Jiří Pačinek teaches glass art classes in Czech Republic, Turkey, and other countries. In his studio in Lindava, he has created glass for many world-known artists and designers and pieces for museums around the world. He is most known for his intricate and imaginative human and animal-inspired sculptures as well as vases, plates, and bowls.

It has been said that Mr. Pačinek is one of the best glass artists in the world. See <pacinekglass.com> to see his unique and interesting work.

Plan to attend the pre-opera program at 1 p.m. on the second floor of the Ordway Center; learn details about the opera and hear musical highlights, sung by very skilled opera students. Rusalka is sung in Czech, with English translations projected above the stage. The price for a group ticket in the balcony: $63, gallery: $43, and partial view gallery: $23. See <www.mnopera.org> for the seating chart. The group-priced tickets can be at any price, as long as we sell at least ten tickets.

Rusalka was a beautiful Czech water nymph who fell in love with a prince. She agreed to sacrifice her voice in return for the chance to enter into his human world. But betrayal condemned her to eternal solitude. Dvořák mixed the mortal and the mythical with beautiful folk melodies and luminous arias, including Rusalka’s heartbreaking Song to the Moon.

To reserve your group-priced ticket for Rusalka, please send your check, made out to Sokol MN, Rusalka Group Tickets, Sokol MN, 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, MN 55102, no later than September 15, 2015.
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota’s
Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp, June 15-19, 2015
Česko-stovenský tábor Sokola Minnesota, 15-19 červen 2015
Exploring Heritage and Folklore: Our 18th Annual Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp
By Louise Wessinger and Judy Aubrecht, Co-Directors

“\'I had so much fun!’ was the comment made by many at the end of camp party on Friday, June 19. After a week of learning about Czech and Slovak folklore, including stories, folk dress (kroje), songs, dance, cooking, language, crafts and gymnastics, campers were packing up their binders and saying, ‘See you next year’ to many new friends. Seventeen campers ages 9 through 14 were part of the 18th annual Sokol Culture Camp week. Among the group were many familiar faces, but also seven new faces. Three campers from Appleton, Wisconsin, stayed with their grandmother in a Bloomington hotel so they could attend camp together. One of our returning campers told his Mom, ‘I wish Czech and Slovak camp was two weeks instead of just one!’”

During the mornings, campers attended four activities. Sokol instructor Siri Schroeder provided gymnastic instruction. Crafts, designed by Doreen McKenney, included an ethnic cottage, a little person dressed in folk dress, and a map puzzle of the Czech and Slovak areas. Assisting with crafts were Sharon Liska, Jean Draheim, and Martina Gurgel (also camp photographer). Czech language instructor Lenka Bragg helped children learn many Czech basics. Judy Aubrecht organized daily cooking lessons with campers making sauerkraut, large kolo kolác, halušky, boršč, and three kinds of chlebičky (open-faced sandwiches). Helpers were Katherine Pacovsky and Arlene Vonek. Despite foot surgery, Louise Wessinger, was able to teach singing and dancing, with her cousin Don Haselbauer on piano. Joan Sedlacek, who provided the seven wall-length folklore and folk hero wall hangings, was helpful in all areas of camp.

Each day honored an area of the Czech and Slovak Republics. Special guests highlighted stories that are part of each area’s history. Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Czech Consul Designate, gave several geographical facts comparing the Czech Republic and Minnesota. She paraphrased the folk tale about the water sprite that lives under the Charles Bridge in Prague. She also showed the newly published book, This is Prague, by Michaela Kukovičová and Olga Černá. Greta Helmel honored her Moravian background by modeling a kroj (folk dress) from Moravia. On Slovakia day, our guest was Elizabeth Kaliska, Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota, who played Slovak wooden folk instruments, the fujara and písťalka. Princess Madison Jerde read several stories about Jánosík, the Slovak Robin Hood, and sang Over the Rainbow in English and Czech. Honorary Slovak Consul Don Pafo stopped by for a visit and to wish us well. Karen Varian, of the Carpatho-Rusyn Association, talked about the Rusyn people and read one of their most popular folk tales. We’d like to give a huge “thank you” to all our special guests.

Our junior leaders always make camp week more fun. This year we were lucky to have eight junior leaders, many of whom are former campers: Joanna Carman, Matt Duncan, Hailey Greschner, Katya Gurgel, Greta Helmel, Tyler Liska, Nolan Rohde, and Simon Wicks. Thank you for keeping camp clean, organized, and fun!

Thanks to Sokol Minnesota and all of our volunteers who provide this opportunity for our children to experience their Czech and Slovak heritage and make new friends.

We hope to see you all again next year.

BOOK REVIEW: Two Young Innocents Have an Adventure By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.
The fine craftsmanship of one of my favorite expatriate Czech authors, Zdena Salivarová, shines through in Darkness. For the most part, little of Salivarová’s writing is available in English. She devoted much of her energy to running 68 Publishers, a publishing house for Czech literature that she and her husband, the author Josef Škvorecký, started in Toronto after they left Czechoslovakia in 1969.

In this easy-to-read novella in English, Salivarová tells the story of two vulnerable young Czechoslovakian women who visit Russia to perform with a theater group. The actions and lessons are universal ones that could be set anywhere. The author opens with a Shakespearean quotation from As You Like It, “Here come a very strange pair of beasts which in all tongues are called fools.” By the end of this story, the two main characters realize they’ve been real fools. The protagonist, Vera, and her friend, Kristyna, accept the invitation of two men to visit their dacha in the countryside. Kristyna, more naive than Vera and seeking an adventure, says, “It’ll be an experience. Remember like we promised ourselves that we’d try everything here,” she was wheedling again, “And not just the official rot.” Vera realized, “The truth was that we were all fed up with things official. Mass excursions to museums, galleries and places of historical interest, where everybody crowds behind the guide, all the while dying for it to be over already. And group discussions about the eternal friendship between our two countries.”

The two women get more than they bargained for when it is clear that the smooth-talking men are not interested in talking about Russian literature. Vera tries to get the fable-writer Sergei to explain why he writes unsuccessful satires about animals instead of stories about people, which she thinks would be easier for him to write and for readers to understand. The men are more interested in plying Vera and Kristyna with vodka and taking advantage of them. In the middle of the night, Vera hatches an escape plan and talks Kristyna into leaving with her. The two walk for miles in the snowy countryside. As Vera says, “Better to ruin your shoes than lose your virtue.” Finally they catch a ride with a young woman driving a large truck to the construction site in Leningrad where she works. The driver chats with Vera and Kristyna and yeans wistfully for the “pretty things” that she’s heard are for sale in Prague.

Darkness was one of three novellas chosen from a pool of 269 to win the Quarterly West Novella Competition. “The novella can be defined as a fictional narrative too long for magazines to publish, too short for publication as an individual book,” wrote Gordon Weaver, then English professor at Oklahoma State University and one of the readers of the submissions.

Gwen coordinates the Literary Ventures, the Czech and Slovak book discussion group now on summer break until September. For more information: <www.cs-center.org> or contact <gwen@cs-center.org>.

Donate to the Czech-Slovak Fall Festival’s Silent Auction
Sokol is now accepting items valued at $10 or more for the silent auction.
Contact: ginalawyer2004@yahoo.com to arrange donations

August 2015 Slovo
The Czech-Slovak Café Booth at the 2015 Festival of Nations, April 30 - May 3, in downtown St. Paul was a great success, giving many opportunities for community, fun, and profit. We made triple our usual batches of halušky (dumplings, cabbage, and bacon); 200 dozen prune, apricot, poppy seed, raspberry, and cream cheese koláče; many dozen chlebíčky (open-faced sandwiches); and sold lots of jitrnice, pork patties, fried cheese, and more. Our chefs, cooks, and servers alike had great fun. We raised almost $3,000!

Co-chairs were Jason Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, Mary Cahill, and Joyce Tesarek. Food prep and event volunteers included Don Andrle, Judy Aubrecht, Kate Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Darlene Baker, Jim Baker, Julie Bohn, Colleen Cahill, Megan Cahill, Barbara Carlson, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Cynthia Coulter, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Shannon Duffy, Peg Endres, Mary Kate Gross, Martina Gurgel, Jean Hall, Kari Jean Hall, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Gretchen Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Don Haselbauer, Megan Haselbauer, Jackie Hawes, Carol Horak, Genna Howie, Jake Jacobson, Ann Janda, Ken Janda, Elizabeth Kaliska, Darla Kolb, Jyni Koschak, Bob Kostichka, Ivana Kovan, Kathy Krisko, Lloyd Kroacak, Al Kugler, Joe Landsberger, Pam Langworthy, John Liemandt, Sharon Liska, Lucie Mannheimová, Courtney Marek, Dave Martin, Sue Martin, Hana Matousek, Doreen McKenney, Doris McKenney, April Murphy and Jasmine, Kari Muyres, James Narr, Pat Nau, Norm Petrik, Teresa Pohar, Marketa Resong, Gina Roers Liemandt, Richard Sargent, Jitka Sebek and Thomas, Joan Sedlacek, Terry Shima, Ted Skluzacek, Dave Stepan, Penny Tesarek, Tom Tesarek, John Topic, Claudia Tuma, Dave Wanless, Louise Wessinger, Mary Yanta, Alena Youngberg, Arnie Ziskovsky, and Deb Ziskovsky.

This year the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers presented the Furiant, which was choreographed for their group by František Bonus, a folk dance expert teacher, on a visit to St. Paul in 1987. At one time, the Furiant was the national dance of Bohemia. The group learned the second dance, from the Valasskian area of Moravia, from Jan Pumpr and Jitka Bounošová in 2012. The last dance was a revival of an energetic dance from Slovakia that was last performed by the group in 2001.
Performers this year were Don and Pat Andrle, Tom and Judy Aubrecht, Diane Bell and Scott Hinshaw, Dawn Bulera and Chuck Draheim, Jason Brozovich and Megan Cahill, Dave Cammack and Lenka Hester, Bobbie Jo Chandler, Don and Katie Haselbauer, Robert Jacobson and Jyni Koschak, Al Kugler and Judy Metcalf, Pam Langworthy and Richard Sargent, Dave and Sue Martin, Emma Martin and James Metcalf, Teresa Pojar and John Topic, Dave Stepan and Louise Wessinger.

The Sokol Minnesota Taneční Mládež Folk Dancers made their 25th appearance at the Festival of Nations. They performed two dances, Boleslav, Boleslav and Tancuj, which were choreographed for the group by director Louise Wessinger. Dancing this year were Faith Atcheson, Andrea Atcheson, Elise Black, Anna Bracknell, Izzy Bracknell, Adela Bragg, Petra Bragg, Isabella Carlson, Isabel Espinosa, Kristina Gurgel, Marius Morse, Everett Paylor, Adela Peterson, Sylvia Pulkabek, Sally Sebek, Isabella Spiess, Everett Swarz, Eva Swartz, Elizabeth Wentz, and Elsa Youngberg.

On Friday, Student Day at the Festival of Nations, the Taneční Teens performed two of their favorite dances, a Slovak woman’s dance from the Hron Valley and then a Czech dance called The Butcher’s Dance. On Saturday during the teen hour, they presented three other dances that honored our beautiful Slovak and Czech heritage. Dancing with the teen group were Andrea Atcheson, Faith Atcheson, Ellen Ferry, Anna Hester, Lenka Hester, Chloe Morse, Michelle Stepan, Emma Stodola, Maddie Stodola, Elisa Swartz, Isabella Spiess, and helping to fill our group were alums Jessica Metcalf and Brittany Stepan.

Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers, led by Don Pafko, director, included Lynn Barnes, Amanda Chmiel, Lara Ciganko, Emily Fiam, Roman Fiam, Paul Knuth, Sylvia Magana, David Schader, and Baska Schaderova.

International Arts was the theme for the 2015 festival. Cheryl Nelson and Renata Ticha created and designed the Czech-Slovak Cultural Booth. As volunteer co-chairs, they had help from Stephanie Black, Blanka Brichta, Barbara Carlson, Martina Gurgel, Jake Jacobson, Lydia Jaros Akradi, Marit Lee Kucera, Pam Langworthy, Romana Pulkabek, Richard Sargent, Michael Sebek, Jim Sturm, and Deb Ziskovsky, plus the daughters of Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities members Zuzana Bracknell, Martina Gurgel, Romana Pulkabek, Jitka Sebek, and Alena Youngberg.
Many years ago Doris McKenney and Dorothy Sladek came up with a great idea to take discarded treasures and turn them into money for the upkeep of the C.S.P.S. Hall. This was the beginning of the annual Sokol garage sales. The goal was to keep the prices low enough for the neighborhood friends and make a profit at the same time.

Several years ago, Doris and Dorothy gave up the reins to Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney. During Marit and Doreen’s run as co-chairs, many faithful, loyal volunteers have returned every year to help sort and set up the donated items, sell, and then pack-up while having a great time doing it.

The small dining room was set up with collectibles, much like an antique shop. In the main hall, tables were neatly filled with everything from housewares, jewelry, linens, clothes, toys, and books: a typical garage sale, but indoors.

On opening day dealers took a number as they lined up outdoors before the noon start time. The hall then filled with shoppers looking for that perfect find. Many treasures found new homes! It was also a great social time for neighborhood locals and long-time Sokol members who shared a story or two about their grandparents’ or their own wedding reception at the Hall or their favorite band that they would dance to “up at the Hall.”

The morning half-off sale and the afternoon $5 bag sale brought customers back again on the second day. Količe and coffee were for sale to eat and drink while they shopped.

When the two-day sale came to an end, we found other great charity groups to help pack up and take away the remaining items that had not sold. Every item was given a second and third chance to find a purpose at a new home. Saint Mark Lutheran Church and St. Vincent DePaul in the neighborhood, plus the Bloomington Police Department received this year’s unsold items.

Marit will soon be involved with her new position as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic and Doreen has a personal commitment, so the two are unable to chair the 2016 Sokol Garage Sale. However, they both are more than willing to help. Please consider co-chairing next year’s sale. You too can have as much fun as Marit and Doreen have had organizing this fundraiser for Sokol Minnesota. Contact a board member or the Hall to carry on this Sokol tradition: 651-290-0542. Sokol Minnesota had a profit of over $2,100! We are so proud. All the hard work was worth it!

Sokol Garage Sale 2015: A Great Success  By Doreen McKenney

SEEKING SINGERS

The Sokol Minnesota Singers need additional voices to carry on an important part of our Czech and Slovak culture: singing and remembering our folk songs. Don Haselbauer is our director. We meet at the Hall at 10 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of most months. Come, join us! 651-290-0542 Your heart will rejoice.
To See the Sea is a film shot from the perspective of an 11-year-old Czech boy, Tomáš, and his Croatian friend Haris. Tomáš has dreams of becoming a filmmaker and sets out to use his new camera to shoot his first film. It is centered on the people in his life: his parents, grandmother, Haris, a school crush, as well as filming his experiences on his football team. The boys fill their days with football and playing outdoors, shooting film with their cameras and editing effects into their films. Through Tomáš’s filming, he finds that his work-at-home father regularly leaves the house during the day, yet denies doing so. The film turns to solving this mystery.

To See the Sea is filled with the realities of an 11-year-old’s life, sometimes light-hearted and funny and sometimes dark. Director and screenwriter Jiří Mádl was in attendance at the screening of To See the Sea at the Czech That Film! festival on June 25, and he said that he considers this to be a family movie, as anyone from 11 years old into old age can enjoy it. There are parts that are probably more meaningful to children closer to the age of the boys in the film and there are also parts that give adults a laugh for different reasons than children. There were many touching moments in To See the Sea that are unexpected and have depth that can be reflected upon long after the film is over. If you have the opportunity to see To See the Sea, it is not to be missed!

Czech Film Director Jiří Mádl Visited Minnesota in June

Czech actor/director/screen writer Jiří Mádl came to Minnesota as part of the five-film Czech That Film! festival at the Film Society of Minneapolis-Saint Paul, June 24 to June 28. His stay was short, only 33 hours, but he received a warm welcome and had many Minnesota (better than Nice) experiences. He was surprised by how many people (besides the Sokols he met) who proudly claimed Czech heritage.

Petra Antošová Riedel, Jiří Mádl, and Markéta Resong

Petra Antošová Riedel, Markéta Resong, and Marit Lee Kucera met him at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport just before midnight, June 24. Jiří enjoyed a two-night home-stay in the Crocus Hill neighborhood of Saint Paul, not far from C.S.P.S. Hall. He took a leisurely early morning walk along well-known Grand Avenue. Then the pace picked up.

June 25, first stop: tour of Ordway Center of the Performing Arts in downtown Saint Paul by James Rocco, vice president of programming/producing artistic director. Jiří and James discussed their common interests in acting, screen writing, and directing.

Second stop: Wild rice soup and walleye chowder for lunch at Café Minnesota, Minnesota History Center, Saint Paul.

Next: Visit to the iconic Minnehaha Falls to discuss film with two local film experts, Michael Bliss and Bob Cowgill both of whom teach film, respectively at Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, Virginia) and Augsburg College (Minneapolis). Blanka Brichta, one of Sokol’s Czech language instructors, also joined the group.

Then: Walker Art Center tour by Sheryl Mousley, senior curator of films/video programs, of the film department and museum exhibits.

Next: Special guest of the Film Society of Minneapolis-Saint Paul, escorted by Susan Smoluchowski, executive director, Jiří’s brief visit to Minnesota was filled with Minnesota ideas, legends, foods, landmarks, and hospitality. We look forward to his next film and, perhaps, another visit! Jiří also attended Czech That Film! screenings in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Seattle, Washington, on this trip to the United States.

At the conclusion of the film series, Jesse Bishop commented, “We are very pleased with the turnout and enthusiasm behind the inaugural year of hosting the Czech That Film! program. It was a privilege to present these truly extraordinary films to our Minnesota audiences. The reactions that we’ve heard have been so positive that we have already committed to bringing the next Czech That Film! program to our screen in 2016.

Our thanks to everyone in the Minnesota Czech and Slovak community for their attendance, to the official community partners for their support, and a special thanks to Minnesota’s Honorary Czech Consul Designate Marit Lee Kucera for hosting our guest filmmaker Jiří Mádl, and being a champion for Czech/Slovak arts and culture in our region!”
ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!
Sokol Minnesota 2015 Events

Minnesota Sokol Camp Booya
August 9, noon - 5 p.m. ● Cross Lake, Pine City
Fun-filled day for the entire family

August Featured Friday
Wine Tasting Event ● August 21 ● Friday, 6 p.m.

25th Czech and Slovak Festival
September 27 ● 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Music, Dancing, Singing, Silent Auction, Kids Games, Vendors, Czech/Slovak food and beer

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

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO August 2015

26th annual CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL

September 27, 2015 • 11a.m. - 5p.m.

Ethnic food and beverages, vendors, dance performances, live music, silent auction, children’s games, singing, drawings, and more!
Accessible facilities.

C.S.P.S. Hall
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.
Free Admission.
Public Welcome.
www.sokolmn.org