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

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2015 - January 2016

February Slovo Deadline
January 1

Sokol Children’s Holiday Party
December 4, 3:30 p.m.

Czech Honorary Consul Installation
December 5, 10 a.m. - noon

Family Night Holiday Party
December 5, 3:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees
December 9, January 13, 7 p.m.

Board of Directors
December 17, January 21, 7 p.m.

Sokol Members’ Party
January 3, 3 p.m.

Sokol Minnesota Singers
January 5 and 19, 10 a.m.

Membership Meeting
January 22, 7 p.m.

13th Annual Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner
January 23, 5 p.m.

Family Night
January 24, 4 p.m.

The volunteer staff of the Slovo wishes everyone Veselé vánoce a šťastný nový rok!

Sokoł Children’s Holiday Party
Friday, December 4
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Performance by Sokol Minnesota Boys and Girls Gymnastics Program

Participants of the program need to arrive by 6:30 p.m.
Reception to follow the program.

Children’s and teens’ dance director and instructor, Louise Wessinger.

Men’s physical director, Megan Cahill; Boys’ instructor, Jason Brozovich;

Women’s physical director, Mary Cahill; Girls’ instructor, Courtney Benson;

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

Special visit from St. Nicholas (Svaty Mikuláš), the Angel (Andel), and the Devil (Cerť).

13th Annual Roast Duck Dinner
Saturday
January 23, 2016
5:00 p.m. – $22.00 per person

Prepaid reservations are required by January 19.
To reserve call: 952-941-0426

Soup, 12 roast duck, potato dumplings, gravy, sweet and sour red cabbage, applesauce, caraway rye bread, coffee, and dessert.
Beer, wine, and pop will be available for sale.

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

Sokol Membership Party
Sunday
January 3, 2016
3 p.m.

Reservations by December 20
651-290-0542
$10.00 per person

Lasagna, salad, bread, coffee and beverages. Bring hors d’oeuvres or dessert to share!
President's Notes By Judy Aubrecht

Svatý Václav (St. Stephen’s Day) mostly from the Christmas Carol “Good King Wenceslaus” (Bohemia’s king and patron saint, Svatý Václav). To Czechs and Slovaks, December 26 is “The Second Christmas Day.” In the past, children, school groups, and the poor went door-to-door singing carols and receiving holiday cheer in thanks. Today, people relax at home.

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

Presidents: Robert Vanasek
Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney
Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson
Kitchen Coordinator: open
Website: Joe Landsberger
Volunteer Coordinator: open
Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Dan Bednar, Ed Hamernik, Joan Sedlacek
Slovo newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks, Deb Ziskovsky, Mary Kucera

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

Americans know Sv. Štěpán (St. Stephen’s Day) mostly from the Christmas Carol “Good King Wenceslaus” (Bohemia’s king and patron saint, Svatý Václav). To Czechs and Slovaks, December 26 is “The Second Christmas Day.” In the past, children, school groups, and the poor went door-to-door singing carols and receiving holiday cheer in thanks. Today, people relax at home.
As you plan your year-end giving, please add Sokol Minnesota to your list of important organizations to support

By Joyce Tesarek

With the help of our generous supporters, this past year Sokol has been able to maintain our historic Hall and complete installation of a fire protection system. Central air conditioning should be complete by year-end.

We hope that you had a chance to enjoy a delicious Duck, Roast Pork, or Slovak dinner, attend a class (gym, language, dance, cooking), sing with the Senior Singers (open to all ages!), and gather with family and friends. Maybe you enjoyed shopping at the Gift Shop or the bazaars and bake sales after a tasty plate of pancakes and French toast. And hundreds of you gathered at the Hall to volunteer or attend our annual Fall Festival in late September, where we shared our culture and traditions with the community. Even if you aren’t here to enjoy these events, our Slovo newsletter keeps us all informed on what’s happening. We also are pleased to provide an office for the newly installed Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota, our own Marit Lee Kucera. Sokol Minnesota also provides space for use by Girl Scouts and the others in the neighborhood for meetings and events.

It takes many helpers and serious financial support to continue Sokol’s 125+ years as stewards of the Hall, and to continue to provide all the activities that are important to us and the community. Here are two ways you can donate:
- online at our website <www.sokolmn.org>
- fill out this donations form and send with a check to the Hall.

If you have questions or would like to be a sustaining member, contact Joyce at 612-822-6147 or email <finance@sokolmn.org>.

Thank you for your interest, attendance, and support!

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 February 2015 issue is January 1.

This December 2015/January 2016 issue of Slovo will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by mid-December: <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 (January 15 for March issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (February 1 for March issue).

Slovo gift subscriptions and non-member renewals are $15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through January 2017.) 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, St. Paul, MN 55102.

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

Please contact us for a change of address, for problems with Slovo subscriptions, if you missed an issue, or if you received notice of payment due when a payment has already been made.
2016 CZECH and SLOVAK SOKOL MINNESOTA MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all current Sokol Minnesota members and welcome to all prospective members! Your support of the activities of Sokol Minnesota is vital. Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

Current Members: December 31, 2015, is the Due Date for renewing your membership. Please renew your membership before the Due Date in order to maintain your membership and to continue receiving our Slovo newsletter.

If you have changed your address or email address, please inform us: <membership@sokolmn.org> or call 651-290-0542.

New Members: Please print and send to the address below the membership application: <sokolmn.org/membership>

2016 Dues Rates:

Renewals: Individual $50; Couple $90.
Senior $40 (over age 65); Senior couple $80.

There is an additional $5 one-time fee for new members.

This includes a one-time registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol Organization.

Please pay your membership dues by credit card via PayPal through <sokolmn.org> or send a check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota to:

Membership, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota,
2106 Berkeley Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105.
Děkuji!

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: $100 - $499: Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities (Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities)

For 2016, the Czech Republic Foreign Ministry Department has awarded Sokol Minnesota a grant of 20,000 CZK ($820) to support our work maintaining the Hall.
We are very grateful for this recognition and gift.

Legacy Fund: $100 - $499: Darlene Sitko

In-Kind Donations: James Chlebecek, hand-blown glass pumpkin used as a door prize at the Pork Dinner on October 25;
Kathy Haley, three cupboards used for storage;
Doreen McKenney, supplies for baking koláče for the Pork Dinner; Alena Youngberg, a Moravian vest donated to the Kroje Closet which is used by the Taneční Mládež Folk Dancers and teen dancers.

General Fund: $1,045 Legacy Fund: $100

Kolik jazyků znáš, tolikrát jsi člověkem

“The more languages you know, the greater your humanity” or “you have as many lives as the number of languages you speak”

Original quote from the German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, translated by and a favorite of Tomáš Masaryk.

Broučci (The Fireflies)

By Lenka Bragg

Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities (Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities) is excited to announce the reconstruction of the children's play Broučci (The Fireflies) as it was performed in Terezín concentration camp during World War II.

Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities' children together with Taneční Mládež (Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's children's folk dance group) and many others from the Czech community will participate in this project. Broučci is a classic Czech children's book by Jan Karafiát published in 1876. While the play was originally performed under dire circumstances, the theme is one of hope. Like fireflies bringing light into the world and expectantly awaiting the spring to come, the original performance brought a sense of enlightenment, joy, and hope for better times to come to the Jewish occupants at Terezín.

In our reconstruction of the play, we will build on this metaphor of hope since the Czech and Slovak nations experienced “spring” after forty dark years of communism; we extend the metaphor to bring awareness to the thousands of unwanted migrants flooding Europe in the present time as they await their “spring” to come.

There are other themes we intend to bring forth through the play’s four acts. When the main character Brouček, a little firefly, disobeys his parents, he breaks a wing. Even though the family is disappointed in his disobedience, they love him and do all they can to nurse him back to health. In another act, Brouček experiences what it is like to be different and unaccepted. His family once again guides him to figure out who he is. In the final act, life ends for the fireflies but it is transformed into great beauty in the cycle of life.

These themes will be interwoven throughout the play through Czechoslovak folk songs, dance, movement, and some spoken language.

The play’s text, rehearsals and performance itself will be conducted under the direction of Judith Brin Ingber, an internationally known dance historian and a local dancer and choreographer who has done extensive research on the archival documentation of the play in Terezín and has given lectures on the subject.

The play performance will take place on Sunday afternoon, May 15, 2016. Save the date. See you there!
Do you know what typical Czechs do on Christmas Eve? We watch TV! And do you know what we watch? Fairytales! Every year Czech TV stations produce new ones, but we love our classics. The most famous one is Tři oříšky pro Popelku (Three Wishes for Cinderella) made in 1973. But forget about pumpkin or rats. This is a Czech version. In our version, a poor orphan named Cinderella has a cruel stepmother and stepsister. When they go to a ball held by the royal family, they force her to sort ash and peas that they mixed just to give her something to do when they are gone. What they do not know is that Cinderella has powerful friends, the pigeons who help her with this annoying work. The other important secret of Cinderella is that she owns three hazelnuts that happen to be magical. When one of them accidentally falls, it reveals a beautiful dress hidden inside. In the first hazelnut there is a hunting dress. Wearing this she meets the prince in the forest. She charms him by her shooting skills. The other hazelnut has a dress ideal for a ball inside. In this dress she sneaks into the castle, pretending to be a foreign princess, and she dances with the prince, who falls in love with her on a first sight. (All this is watched by jealous relatives of Cinderella.) When she disappears it is not because of the pumpkin carriage, but because the prince did not recognize her from the forest. In that moment she loses her shoe, due to which she is a few hours later recognized and married to the prince, living happily ever after. The last hazelnut obviously contains a wedding dress.

Even though I have seen the movie at least 30 times, this is a part of Christmas tradition and it would not be complete without watching it. Of course, not only this film. During the long winter eves and cold winter days, I will try to see as many fairytales as possible. There is never enough charm in our lives. When was the last time you saw or read such a story? Why not try watching a Czech fairytale this year? Take care, and I am looking forward to writing for you in 2016.

On October 15, the University of Minnesota “M” club announced a 14-member group of inductees to its Hall of Fame class. Sokol Minnesota member Olga Šplíchalová Espinosa is one of the honored athletes. Already a member of the U of M Aquatics Hall of Fame, Olga earned seven All American titles during her time at the University, including five individual honors. She captured three Big Ten titles during her college career, winning both the 500 free and 1650 free in 1996 and repeating as 500 champion in 1997. During her college years, she lived with Sharon and the late Dennis Shonka, also Sokol members. Olga, a native of Znojmo, Moravia, was an 11-year member of the Czech National team competing in the 1992 and 1996 Olympics. Olga is married to Mario Espinosa and has two children, Isabel and Lucien, who dance with the Videki Hungarian Folk. Elizabeth Kaliska, the 2015-2016 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen and a Sokol Minnesota member, along with David Milne will present and demonstrate the fujiara, a traditional Slovak wind instrument. For more information on this event: <www.CzechHeritageClub.com> or call Deb: 952-652-2677.
Roast Pork Dinner Was A Great Success!  By Mary Cahill and Joyce Tesarek, Co-chairs

The 2015 Roast Pork Dinner on Sunday, October 15, was a great success with 165 happy diners. We had an income of $2,721. Special thanks to chefs Hana Matousek and Marketa Resong, and to Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek for leading the koláče baking team. This year our bread dumplings were made by the women of our sister Unit, Sokol Cedar Rapids.

Our volunteer team also included Don Andrle, Pat Andrle, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Rosemary Baisden, Jason Brozovich, Mary Cahill, Dennis Cahill, Megan Cahill, Bobbi Jo Chandler, George Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Cindy Coulter, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Sandy Fritzen, Jean Hall, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Elizabeth Kaliska, Pam Kotval, Sue Martin, Doris McKenney, Denis Novak, Norm Petrik, Gina Roers-Liemandt, Ann Siefert, Joyce Tesarek, Shirley Verner, and Rhonie Waldron with Girl Scout Troop #553998.

Left: Pam Kotval and Hana Matousek prepared take-out dinners.

Below left: Ed Hamernik and 2016 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen Elizabeth Kaliska greeted our guests.

Below right: Rosemary Whaley-Baisden directed two of our Girl Scouts on parsley prep.

25th Anniversary of German Unity and the Fall of Communism

25 Years German Unity: Christa Tiefenbacher-Hudson, Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany (MN), hosted a celebration for the 25th Anniversary of German Unity on October 3, at the Germanic American Institute, Saint Paul. Attending the celebration of unity were (L-R) Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul Designate of the Czech Republic (MN, IA, ND, SD), Csilla Grauzer Honorary Consul of Hungary (MN), Christa Tiefenbacker- Hudson, and Timea Takács, Consular Assistant to the Honorary Consulate of Hungary (MN).

Tierenbacher-Hudson stated, “Germany is proud of the humanitarian principles enshrined in its constitution, which provides for the right of the asylum to anyone fleeing political persecution or war. It is a lesson we have learned from the periods of the Nazi dictatorship. Chancellor Merkel has said the refugee crisis is a ‘task for the nation as a whole.’ Only by working together in a spirit of solidarity and in keeping with our shared values of universal civil rights and human dignity, will we, Europe and America, be able to overcome this terrible tragedy.”
**MOVIE REVIEW: Czech Animation Brings *Fantastic Planet* to Life**  
By Cinnamon Whaley

*The Fantastic Planet* (French: *La Planète sauvage*, Czech: *Divoká planeta*, 1973) is a collaborative film between French screenwriters and artists and the Jiří Trnka Studio in Prague, where the animation was created and captured on film. The animation is done in cutout stop motion, where each character, setting, prop, and their movements are created with separate paper cutouts interacting under the camera.

The film is a futuristic glimpse of a race of towering blue humans that have large red eyes and fish-scale ears. They are “Traags” and they keep humans (“Oms”) as tame pets. The story follows Terr, an Om who is kept by a Traag until he is a young man. Over time he is taught the language of Traags and listen to his Traag’s lessons, learning about their history and culture through her headset. Terr eventually runs away to join a wild Om tribe, bringing the headset containing the Traag lessons with him.

The wild Oms are weary of Terr and his headset but he proves that being knowledgeable about the Traags can be beneficial to the Oms. The Traag government continually attempts to exterminate wild Om tribes, but with Terr’s help the Om’s are able to advance their civilization and rise to meet their oppressors.

*Fantastic Planet* is a visually stunning film which took five years to create. Its psychedelic world reminds me of Dali, Edward Gorey, Dr. Seuss, and Brian Froud all wrapped up together in a not-uncommon plot, that is presented in a completely original way. The film is available via Netflix DVD. Even if you’re not a science fiction fan, this short film (70 minutes) is worth watching, if only to appreciate the work the artists put into creating this world.

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**RECRUITS ARE NEEDED**

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.

You do not need to know the language; most of us don’t.

Those who do, help the rest of us with pronunciation. No doubt you’re already familiar with some of the melodies from childhood. If not, they’re short, simple, and easy to remember.

None of us are professional singers. We just like to sing and don’t want to lose our heritage. You do not have to be Czech or Slovak to sing with us.

All you need is a desire to sing. Don Haselbauer is our director.

We meet at 10 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of most months at the Hall.

Come, join us! Your heart will rejoice.

Call 612-859-8321 for more information.

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**Sokol Minnesota’s Donations to 150th Anniversary**

American Sokol celebrated its 150th Anniversary in the United States on November 13 to 15 in Chicago. Sokol Minnesota donated two baskets. The Raffle Basket for the Anniversary Party at the Hilton in Lisle, Illinois, contained an apron, a magnet, a dessert plate, two packages of Czech-themed greeting cards (featuring mushrooms and koláče), two cookbooks (*Quality Czech Mushroom Recipes* and *Czech & Slovak Kolaces & Sweet Treats*). Items were selected from our Sokol Minnesota gift shop, purchased by contributions from Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney.

Sokol Minnesota donated a hand-blown Czech glass vase for the silent auction at the Gala Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday night, November 14, at the Women’s Athletic Club in downtown Chicago.

Representing Sokol Minnesota at this important Sokol anniversary weekend celebration were Mary Cahill, Marit Lee Kucera, and Joan Sedlacek.

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**Slovo Seeks New Copy and Managing Editors**

Christy Banks and Marit Lee Kucera want to pass on their red pens to a new Slovo Team.

*We have committed ourselves for more than five years to making the Slovo the best Sokol newsletter possible.*

*Now it is time for a new Slovo Team.*

Please volunteer for these challenging, but highly rewarding, Sokol Minnesota positions.

**Contact:** slovo@sokolmn.org

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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO December 2015-January 2016

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Czech and Slovak Cultural Center along with WFLA Hopkins Lodge 11, Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities, American Sokol Western District, WFLA Minnesota, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, Domácí Czech Folk Dancers, and Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers are the major sponsors of the

Installation of and Reception for Marit Lee Kucera as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota

December 5, Saturday, 10 a.m. at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul 55102

Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C., will be represented by Jaroslav Zajíček, Deputy Chief of Mission, and Bořek Lizec, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago

If you wish to attend, please R.S.V.P. by November 30 to <installation@sokolmn.org>