Czech Roast Pork Dinner

October 24

Pick-up 10a-2p

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

Please place your Curbside reservation by contacting:
email: food@sokolmn.org or call/text: 952-941-0426

*PREPAID ORDERS Must be Received by October 18

Curbside

CZECH ROAST PORK DINNER

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Roast pork, raised bread dumplings, sauerkraut, rye bread, applesauce, and dessert $20

Payment

*Orders must be prepaid and received by October 18 via:
PayPal: www.sokolmn.org/curbside-cuisine/order-selection/
or check: payable and mailed to Sokol Minnesota(address above)
Fall is slipping away and I am ready for an extended autumn. The daylight is slipping away and so is the time available to finish those projects started earlier this year, or maybe to get those late summer projects started. Our family freezer is full of our garden strawberries and raspberries just waiting to be turned into something delicious. I have on my list to pickle some okurky (cucumbers) and perhaps make a batch of šałamáda (pickled vegetable salad). How about you?

Our annual meeting will be Friday, November 20 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to ‘virtually’ attend (check the November Slovo for the method). One agenda item will be updated and clarified Sokol Minnesota bylaws that better reflect our current structure and procedures. If you as a member have an agenda item you believe needs to be discussed, please contact me. I can be reached at president@sokolmn.org. I would like to be as transparent as possible with our members about the current state of our organization.

You will see an article on page 4 regarding work done recently on the outside canopy. I am inadequate in saying how much I appreciated the volunteers from the dance group who came at the last minute to assist in this effort. Rick Palma fashioned a frame that made the canopy nearly new again to keep us out of the elements. These smaller but important projects, done by members and volunteers, save us hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars. When we have the talent to do it ourselves, why shouldn’t we (for projects not requiring a current trade license)? Many thanks to Rick, Board of Trustees Chair Bob Kotek, Scott Lindner, Lucy Rose, and John Topic.

If any of you are interested in volunteering around the C.S.P.S. Hall, please let me know and I will be happy to get you on the list of volunteers. Since there is limited activity at the Hall, we are taking this time to improve the building so it will look as new as a 133-year-old building can look.

I know there are many of you volunteering behind the scenes, including our chefs who make the best Czech or Slovak food! I was hoping for some králik na smetaně (rabbit in cream sauce), but I will have to wait a bit longer. Thank you to our committee chairs and those who volunteer on committees. Thank you, Tom Aubrecht and all of the Slovo volunteers, for the effort you put forth every month in putting out this newsletter. I hope no one else needs a reminder to get their article in on time. Thanks for reminding me!

I hope you have viewed our Virtual Open House at www.sokolmn.org/sokol-video. Thanks to all who participated, and special thanks goes to Richard Sargent who pulled it all together. I hope you will see even more e-communication in the future. Please follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota/. Miša Giancarlo Kotek is our Facebook administrator; thank you, Miša! For those who are Instagram users, follow @sokolminnesota. Thank you, Doreen McKenney, for keeping it up and running!

I am trying my best to create a new normal in these abnormal times. I appreciate things more, like spending time with my wife and daughters, trying to eat healthier (now that I have a registered dietician in the family), and getting outside more often for exercise. What is your new normal? Whatever it is, keep it balanced and healthy.

I wish you a healthy podzim (autumn)! Nazdar!
**Member News**

**Carissa Skrivanek Marries Dylan Freeland**  
By Mary Cahill

Carissa Skrivanek, Sokol Minnesota member and gymnastics instructor, married Dylan Freeland on Saturday, August 29, at Headlands International Dark Sky Park on the shore of Lake Michigan in Mackinaw City, Michigan. The ceremony was officiated by sister of the bride and former Sokol gymnastics instructor, Teresa (Skrivanek) Tanke. The reception included a Cajun-themed menu as a nod to Dylan's five years living in New Orleans (where he received a Master's in Public Health at Tulane) and music by Dylan's cousin's jazz band. A few songs on an accordion were also featured, prompting Carissa's uncle, Edward Skrivanek, to dance a traditional Czech dance with the her. Carissa was grateful for her Taneční Mládež dance lessons with Sokol Minnesota Dance Director Louise Wessinger, which helped her keep up!

The name Skrivanek means skylark in Czech. Carissa has been a presence at Sokol Minnesota from junior high through senior high school; she taught gymnastics throughout high school. She attended three National American Sokol Instructor Schools and was a featured Rising Star in the American Sokol newsletter in May 2019 (the article was reprinted in the Slovo: www.sokolmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/September-Slovo-Final.pdf (page 5). After four years away for college and 10 years as a translator of Arabic for the Air Force, Carissa went back to school for nursing and returned to Minnesota where she has worked in neuro/surgical and hospice care and taught gymnastics again at Sokol, also serving as our class registrar and Youth Ambassador. Carissa is taking a break from her involvement with the gymnastics program. However, the Freelands look forward to applying for a couple membership at Sokol Minnesota and participating in events as their schedules allow. Congratulations to Carissa and Dylan from your Sokol family!

**WFLA Youth Art Contest Winner**

Juna Krikava won first place and honorable mention for two drawings in the Western Fraternal Life Association Youth Art Contest, as reported in the Fraternal Herald August 15, 2020 issue. Juna is a member of the Taneční Teen dancers. She is the daughter of Sokol Minnesota members Ben and Emily Krikava and the great-granddaughter of Sokol member Alton Krikava.

**Sokol Children’s Holiday Weekend**

By Louise Wessinger

Are you looking forward to December 5 and 6, 2020?

You should be!

During that Svatý Mikuláš (Saint Nickolas) weekend, we will honor the traditions of the holiday season with our Sokol families and young people. COVID-19 has forced us to rethink our usual festivities. Safety is our first concern, so plans are being made that will allow us to celebrate while being safe.

On Saturday, December 5, the Czech and Slovak families will celebrate with activities at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Traditional holiday baked goods, such as vánočka and poppy seed rolls, may also be for sale, with curbside pickup.

If COVID-19 procedures allow, on Sunday, December 6, Sokol Minnesota may offer a one-afternoon Children’s Holiday Mini-Camp. The event would be for all Sokol youngsters, including dancers, gymnasts, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities students, Czech and Slovak Children’s Cultural Day Campers, and volunteers. The camp would feature several crafts, recipes, language, music, puzzles, games, and stories. The camp would be similar to our Children’s Cultural Day Camp, but with a Holiday theme. Attendees would have a chance to see Svatý Mikuláš, along with the čert (Devil) and anděl (Angel), and receive a traditional Holiday treat bag. Enrollment will be limited, so be sure to sign up early. If COVID procedures do not allow an in-person camp, the event would be online with a prior curbside pickup of materials.

Watch next month’s Slovo and sokolmn.org for details on the above events.
C.S.P.S. Hall Canopy Repair

By Dave Stepan

The C.S.P.S. Hall was the site in August for several members of Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers to get together to work on the canopy over the main entrance of the Hall. Dancers included Scott Lindner, Rick Palma, Lucy Rose, Dave Stepan, and John Topić, together with Board of Trustees Chair Bob Kotek. Special thanks also go to Gary Zweber and Gary Novak, who were instrumental in providing the scaffolding for the project.

The awning was in a state of disrepair but not at risk of falling. Water seepage for a number of years caused rust to develop, making the canopy an eyesore if one were to look up. Under the direction of Rick Palma, we removed and replaced the surround of the canopy. We still have some painting to do and additional finishing touches, but the critical work is done.

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Two Sokol Minnesota Neighbors are Awarded 2020 Community Service Awards

By Judy Aubrecht

Diane Gerth has been a member and long-time friend of Sokol Minnesota. When legal assistance was needed with leases, Diane offered her skills as a retired attorney. Diane has also offered her legal expertise to help other West 7th Street non-profit groups and small businesses make desired changes. The Fort Road Federation recently awarded Diane its 2020 Community Service Award for her ongoing advocacy efforts in the West 7th Street neighborhood. See: https://communityreporter.org/2020-community-service-award-winner-diane-gerth/

The Fort Road Federation awarded a second 2020 Community Service Award winner to Jerry Rothstein. Jerry has served as the editor of the Community Reporter for the last 12 years. Jerry and the Community Reporter have been friends to Sokol Minnesota and other community organizations and businesses. When promotion was needed for upcoming events like the pancake breakfast, Czech Roast Pork Dinner, Flavors of Slovakia Dinner, Czech and Slovak Festival, and Roast Duck Dinner, Jerry gladly added the information to the paper’s kiosk. Feature articles about the Czech and Slovak Children’s Cultural Day Camp and special events have also been included in the paper. Jerry plans to retire in December 2020 and hopes to work on new projects that use the skills he has developed over his lifetime. See: https://communityreporter.org/2020-community-service-award-winner-jerry-rothstein/

Congratulations to Diane and Jerry on their well-deserved awards!

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CGSI Virtual Symposium

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International has a virtual symposium on October 24: Fraternally Yours, The Importance of Sokols and Fraternal Insurance Organizations in Building Czech, Slovak, and Carpatho-Rusyn Community and Identity in America.

Speakers will include executives of leading Czech and Slovak fraternal organizations as well as a presentation by former Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota President Joseph Landsberger on the history of C.S.P.S. Hall.


Go to www.CGSI.org for details and registration.

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Online Virtual Auction

Extraordinary items are needed for Sokol Minnesota’s Online Virtual Auction to be held November 14–19.

If you have suitable donations, please contact Glynis Grostephan at ggrostephan@earthlink.net

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4 October 2020 Slovo
Member News

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Member
By Norm Petrik

At the August Board of Directors meeting, one new member was accepted: Marina Neuzil of Minneapolis, with interests in film, language classes, and cooking classes. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

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.

GENERAL FUND:
Under $99: Maryann Tumasmith.
$100 - $499: Marit Lee Kucera in honor of Doreen McKenney’s artistic work to promote Sokol Minnesota events.
$500 - $999: Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota to thank Sokol Minnesota for working with them.

TOTAL: $792
In 1972, the popular Czechoslovakian playwright Václav Havel adapted *The Beggar’s Opera* from John Gay’s original 1728 play. Gay pilloried the English aristocracy that took advantage of poor, uneducated, alcoholic criminals, while Havel mocked the whole communist system. Havel’s “translation” of the play—actually a total satirical rewriting—was his way to circumvent the Czech government’s ban on his work.

Havel’s rendering had major differences from Gay’s version. Havel wrote 14 scenes (Gay had three acts); used modern colloquial language; and included a different ending and subplots, no music, no beggar character, and police rather than jailers.

Havel’s play pits two criminal corporations against each other—protagonist Captain Macheath and his band of thieves vs. William, wife Elizabeth, and daughter Polly Peachum. Chief of Police Bill Lockit, his wife Mary, daughter Lucy, and their associates are more respectable but just as corrupt. The plot is an absurd combination of love, lying, disloyalty, and treachery, with plenty of spying thrown in. The handsome Macheath, who is married to both Polly and Lucy, is betrayed by an old lover, Jenny, and thrown into jail. Lucy manipulates his release, but he is again conspired against and sent to jail.

The play can be read as either a Kafkaesque comedy about ne’re-do-wells or a wily satirization of communist collectivism, mistrust, and corruption. Although American readers are sure to miss some of the metaphors, many are clear enough to help us recognize the absurdity of communism’s rhetoric and reality. Paul Wilson’s excellent translation makes Havel’s work a smooth read in English.

The book’s introduction by Peter Steiner discusses the premiere of the play on November 1, 1975, in the Prague suburb of Horní Počernice and includes 11 photographs of the playwright, actors, theater, and performance. The fact that 300 people were privately invited to attend led to some of them driving around looking for the obscure theater, without asking directions for fear of the secret police. The show was a great success, so the police, “not believing that they could have been hoodwinked by a bunch of amateur actors,” per Steiner, interrogated some of the theater volunteers and attendees, but found no broken laws. However, the leader of the amateur theater group, Andrej Krob, was removed from his job in June 1976.

Gay’s original play was adapted several times before Havel rewrote it, including as *The Threepenny Opera* with words by Bertolt Brecht and music by Kurt Weill (1928), a Broadway production called *Beggar’s Holiday* with music by Duke Ellington (1946), and a film *The Beggar’s Opera* with Laurence Olivier playing Macheath (1953).

Czechoslovakia’s most celebrated dissident and a force for international human rights, Havel (1936-2011) first gained popularity as a playwright. He went on to serve as Czechoslovakia’s last president from 1989-1992 and as first president of the Czech Republic from 1993-2003. As a writer, he is also known for his essays, collections of letters, and memoirs.

Gwen is coordinator of the Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures 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

Thanks to Dan Bednar, great volunteer and past chair of Board of Trustees of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, the Honorary Consul now has a mailbox to match Sokol’s. It is a handsome addition outside the entrance at C.S.P.S. Hall, 385 Michigan Street in Saint Paul. (Photo: M. L. Kucera)

The pandemic did not halt New Prague’s annual Dožínky celebration. It morphed into Nožínky with many virtual events, such as Virtual Talent Show and Virtual Kolacky Eating Contest, plus special outdoor activities. The Czech Heritage Club participated in the Nožínky Front Yard Decorating Contest, September 18-20, with the theme “Tapestry of Czech Heritage” in the yard of James Simon, who has a large personal Czech memorabilia collection. His Czech stitchery display included dresser scarves, church altar cloths, dish towels, wall hangings, and pillow cases, which hung on two long clotheslines. His garage doors had two large murals of Prague. Many other items and banners were spread across the lawn and on a table display under a canopy. As Honorary Consul, I supported Nožínky as a Festival Friend.

This embroidery’s translation is “To love and be loved is the greatest happiness in life.” (Photo: James Simon)

Through the connections of Sokol (thank you, Arlene Hamernik) to the Honorary Consul/Minneapolis, the Minnesota mother of an American (working now for 3 years in Czech Republic, injured in a car accident in August) connected directly with Consul General Kantůrek for advice to expedite her journey to Prague to care for her daughter.
To keep us all safe from COVID-19, all our income-generating events are on hold.
If you can help, we would greatly appreciate a donation to Sokol.
Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-822-6147 or email: finance@sokolmn.org Thank you!

Name: ________________________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State, Zip: __________________________
Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

To help refinish the C.S.P.S. Hall floors, 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 Thank You!

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO October 2020

Curbside Koláče, Ornament Class, and Christmas Decor
Join us curbside on November 21 for Koláče and Crafts.
In addition to having delicious homemade koláče by our own Sokol bakers, we will also sell handmade wooden Christmas décor signs and pre-sell kits for the two straw ornament classes.

Online ordering is in the works for Koláče, Straw Ornaments Kits, and Christmas Décor.
All orders must be placed by November 14.
More information online at www.sokolmn.org

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 383 Michigan Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 651-290-0542

Curbside Koláče
Koláče bake sale
November 21 2020
Please place your Curbside reservation by contacting: 651-290-0542
PREPAID ORDERS Must be Received by November 14

Koláče: poppy, apricot, prune, cream cheese, or apple $1

Orders must be prepaid and received by November 14 via:
PayPal: www.sokolmn.org/curbside-cuisine/order-selection/ or check: payable and mailed to Sokol Minnesota (address above)

Order online so you can attend a class.

Veselé Vánoce/Merry Christmas Holiday Decorations
Festive Veselé Vánoce (Merry Christmas) signs and holiday decorations are one of the newest fundraising projects at Sokol Minnesota.

Our Sokol Minnesota Facebook manager, Miša Giancarlo Kotek, has designed decorative signs with a holiday greeting in Czech or English in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors (red and green). The largest background size of the signs is 22” x 10.5” at a price of $30.

To order your sign for pickup, contact Miša at michaelagiancarlo@gmail.com