

**UPCOMING EVENTS
NOVEMBER 2016**

December Slovo Deadline
November 1

Board of Trustees
November 9, 7 p.m.

Škola Family Night
November 13, 4 - 7 p.m.

Board of Directors
November 17, 7 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting
November 18, 7 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast and Craft Show
November 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sokol Children's Holiday Party
December 2, 7 - 9 p.m.

Czech Straw Christmas Ornament Class

November 26, 10 a.m. - noon
Please register by November 18.
You can access the registration form online from the language page at sokolmn.org or email: education@sokolmn.org



Sunday, November 20

HOLIDAY Pancake Breakfast

No reservations. Public welcome.



Craft and Bake Sale
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

French toast, pancakes, fruit cup, sausage, juice, milk, and coffee.
\$7.00 adult; \$5.00 children under 9.
\$22.00 family of four (two adults and two children).

Bake goods for your Thanksgiving table (pre-order koláče 651-290-0542).
Exquisite handcrafts for gift giving (vendor table rental 651-433-2008).

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

Sokol Children's Holiday Party

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

**Friday
December 2
7 p.m.**



Sokol friends and families are invited to a special program of song and dance by the Taneční Mládež and Taneční Teens.

Activities for the whole family with a visit from Svatý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas), anděl (angel), and čert (devil).
Ethnic holiday goodies for sale.

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



Board of Directors Election
at the Annual Membership Meeting on November 18, 7 p.m.
See President's Notes on page 2 and Slate of Officers on page 6

**Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota
2016 BOD
(Board of Directors)**

President

Judy Aubrecht

First Vice President

Denis Novak

Second Vice President

Ed Hamernik

Recording Secretary

Cindy Coulter

Corresponding Secretary

Arlene Hamernik

Treasurer

Don Haselbauer

Financial Secretary

Tom Aubrecht

Sergeant at Arms

Michael Sebek

Members at Large

Steve Ernest
Marketa Resong

Membership Director

Norm Petrik

**Board of Budget
and Finance**

Joyce Tesarek, Chair

Educational Director

Jean Draheim

Board of Instructors

Mary Cahill,

Women's Physical Director

Jason Brozovich,

Men's Physical Director

Publicity Director

Jyni Koschak

Board of Trustees

Dan Bednar,
Temporary Chair

Gaming Manager

Ed Hamernik, Chair

Telephone: 651-290-0542

Past issues of *Slovo* and
Hall Calendar of events:
www.sokolmn.org

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Judy Aubrecht

Pozdrav bratři a sestry / Greetings Brothers and Sisters

Our Sokol Minnesota Annual Membership Meeting takes place on Friday, November 18, 2016, at 7 p.m. at the C.S.P.S. Hall. This is an important meeting for our Sokol Minnesota members, because it includes reports from the heads of various committees regarding the events and upcoming plans for the year. You will hear about such things as future classes, special activities, building needs and improvements, the financial status of our group, fundraising, and membership information. In addition, all members can vote at the meeting for the slate of officers for the Board of Directors for the coming year. For continuity, about half of the Board of Directors is elected each year. Following the business meeting, there is a social hour with refreshments. I hope to see you at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Our Fall Pancake Breakfast with bake sale and holiday craft sale is November 20, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No reservations are needed. You can preorder *koláče* at 651-290-0542. Reserve a craft table at 651-433-2008.

Soon, you will receive your annual Sokol Minnesota membership renewal letter. Please return your membership form and payment promptly, so that a second reminder letter need not be sent to you. For various reasons, about 9% of our members decide not to renew their memberships by the March deadline set by the American Sokol Organization (ASO). It is helpful to let the membership committee know that a renewal will not take place, in order to avoid extra letter or telephone contacts. There are typically stragglers who send in their renewal forms after the March deadline. These late memberships are not included in the annual count of members reported to ASO, which determines how many delegates can be sent to national events from our Sokol Minnesota unit. I urge you to return our membership materials promptly so that everyone can be included in the ASO count.

Our annual Sokol Holiday Party for adults will take place at our C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, January 8, 2017, beginning at 4 p.m. The cost for the dinner is \$12.00, which includes a main dish, salad, bread, and drink ticket. No reservations are needed. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. This party is a great way to get to know other Sokol members and to enjoy a tasty dinner. You may even win a door prize!

Carpentry, window replacements, and electrical work have all begun in Pajarito, the new restaurant on the first floor of the C.S.P.S. Hall. The owners, Steve Hesse and Tyge Nelson, are eager to have a new look for their Mexican restaurant; they can hardly wait to begin serving their food specialties and drinks. Opening day for Pajarito will be here soon! We will keep you posted. *Nazdar!*

**Sokol Children's
Holiday Party
Friday Evening**

December 2 at 7 p.m.

Inviting all Sokol Friends and Families to bring their children and grandchildren to the Sokol Children's Holiday Party on Friday evening, December 2, at 7 p.m.

The Hall will be decorated for the holidays and the *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční* Teens will have a special program of song and dance in keeping with the season.

We will also have some activities for the whole family, as well as, a special visit from *Svatý Mikuláš*, *anděl*, and *čert* (St. Nicholas, the Angel, and the Devil).

There will also be ethnic holiday goodies for you to buy to take home for your family. Please join us for this magical evening.

Questions can be directed to Louise Wessinger at 651-452-6240.

Informal Czech Conversation Group- Do you want to practice your Czech? All ages and levels of Czech language welcome. Meet others who have traveled, studied, lived, or grew up in the Czech Republic. Monthly meetings are every third Saturday of the month, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Our next sessions are on November 19 and December 17. We meet at Kramarczuk's, located on 215 East Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis.

7th Annual European Christmas Event will be held on Sunday, December 4 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Park Ballroom on 300 Lexington Avenue South, New Prague. The arts and crafts fair will feature over 25 vendors, as well as baked specialties and kids' activities. The coronation of the Czech Heritage Jr. Royalty kicks off the event at 11 a.m. Stay for the day and be delighted by continuous stage entertainment including the *Lipa* Slovak Folk Dancers, directed by Sokol member Donald Pafko; *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers, under the direction of Sokol members Deb and Arnie Ziskovsky; the New Prague Czech Singers; and the *Viděki* Hungarian Folk Dancers. The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota royalty will perform their talent presentations. The Ballroom sells food, including pork and dumplings. Please bring a non-perishable food item for a local food shelf. This free event is made possible with a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. For more information about the event, see <www.CzechHeritageClub.com> or visit the European Christmas Event on Facebook.

Sokol Minnesota and C.S.P.S. Hall Donations

By Joyce Tesarek, Finance Chair

As you plan for your year-end giving, please add Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and the C.S.P.S. Hall to your list of important organizations to fund.

We are proud of our historic Hall and the stewardship we have provided for over 129 years. Besides being a neighborhood landmark, C.S.P.S. Hall serves as the home for Sokol's many programs, language and craft/cooking classes, dinners, gymnastic and dance classes, and our Senior Singers. The Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, and the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers all use the hall. It is also used by Girl Scouts and the surrounding neighborhood for their meetings and events. We also provide an office for the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, our own Sokol member Marit Lee Kucera.

We are pleased that the air-conditioning is now complete. We still have temporary scaffolding for our fire escape which needs to be replaced with permanent stairs. The parapets need to be resealed and tuckpointing done.

It takes many helpers and serious financial support to maintain the Hall. There are many ways you can donate:

- Give to the Max Day is November 17. We are a listed nonprofit organization with <GiveMN.org>, which provides an easy way to make many donations at one time, but it deducts a 6.9% fee from your donation. If possible, donate directly online at our website <www.sokolmn.org>.

- Fill out the attached donation form and send with a check to the Hall.

If you have questions or would like to be a sustaining member with a monthly donation, contact Joyce at 612-822-6147 or donate online.

Brewnost: On October 7, Joan Sedlacek, His Excellency Mr. Petr Gandalovič, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States of America, and Marit Lee Kucera attended Brewnost, the fundraiser that attracts close to 1000 people annually at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



Joan was also in Cedar Rapids to pickup the dumplings for Sokol Minnesota's Czech Roast Pork Dinner, held on October 23 at C.S.P.S. Hall. Marit was in Cedar Rapids to attend the annual meeting of Czech Honorary Consuls in the United States. The Ambassador led the conference, held at the Museum and attended by 16 of the 22 current Czech honorary consuls, plus the Ambassador, the new Deputy Chief of Mission, Zdeněk Bernánek, and other embassy staff; the three Consul Generals in the United States: Martin Dvořák in New York, Bořek Lizec in Chicago, and Pavol Šepeřák in Los Angeles; and from Prague, Miloslav Stašek, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Vít Korselt, Director of the Americas Department.

Annual Membership Meeting

November 18
7 p.m.

Election of
the Board
of Directors!

14th Annual Roast Duck Dinner

January 21, 2017, at the C.S.P.S. Hall

\$23 per person

Beer, wine, and pop will be available for sale

Call 952-941-0426 to reserve your dinner by January 14, 2017, as there is limited seating

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: under \$99: Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities.

In memory of **Ralph MacHolda:** Steven and Patricia Schreiber.

In memory of **Lou Pavlicek:** Tom and Judy Aubrecht, Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik.

\$100 - \$499: In memory of **Lou Pavlicek:** William and Patricia Jaeger.

Legacy Fund: under \$99: John McGowan.

\$100 - \$499: In memory of **Adelaide Aubrecht Adams:** Penelop Zastro.

In memory of **Lou Pavlicek:** Mrs. Josef Zeman.

In memory of **Anne Neubauer:** \$570: from friends and family sent in by her son, Paul; Mrs. Josef Zeman.

General Fund: \$15: Phyllis Vosejpka (kitchen).

General Fund: \$312 **Legacy Fund:** \$820

C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

We ask for your support for renovations to C.S.P.S. Hall as we celebrate the Hall's 129th year in 2016.

Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-822-6147 or <finance@sokolmn.org> *Thank you!*



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**
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!*

27th Annual Czech and Slovak Fall Festival Highlights By Joyce Tesarek and Louise Wessinger

On September 25, amazing teams of C.S.P.S. Hall volunteers presented the 27th Czech and Slovak Fall Festival. What a superb, successful festival it was! Sokol Minnesota realized \$9,547 from this major annual fundraiser.

The outdoor program kicked off with demonstrations by our Sokol Gymnasts under the direction of Courtney Benson and Jason Brozovich with instructors Siri S., Erica M., Isabelle C., Charlotte M. with performers Ella P.; Lydia, Kylie, and Emory S.; Mitchell and Jas G.; Lily C.; Fiona O-D., Zoe H.

Louise Wessinger as program chair put together an authentic and captivating program. Scott Hinshaw kept the sound system humming. Emcee David Stepan began with the presentation of the American, Czech, and Slovak national flags. Flag ceremony coordinator was Chuck Draheim. Soloist Corbin Jerde sang the American national anthem. The Sokol Singers and Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Ambassadors led the Czech and Slovak anthems.

Denis Novak, First Vice President of Sokol Minnesota, welcomed our guests. Don Pafko as Slovak Honorary Consul greeted the crowd. Alexa Turgeon, Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota 2016-2017, read a message from Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic (who was in Chicago at the American Sokol Administrative Conference, see page 12).

The Sokol Singers led everyone in several lively Czech and Slovak folk songs: Ken Janda, Spokesperson, Don Haselbauer, Director, with Jim and Mary Jo Chlebecek, Martina Gurgel, Ann Janda, Bob Kosticek, Pam Langworthy, Anne Leland, Norm Petrik, Richard Sargent, Renata Scholtz, Renata Ticha, John Topic, Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky.

Queen Alexa Turgeon and her Princess Autumn Gare represented the Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant 2016-2017 by performing their talents. Elizabeth Kaliska, former Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota 2015-2016, played several Slovak folk instruments, including the *fujara*.

Over 40 young dancers from Sokol's *Taneční Mládež* and the *Taneční Teens* group delighted the crowd: Louise Wessinger, Director, with Faith and Andrea Atcheson, Anna and Izzy Bracknell, Adela and Petra Bragg, Isabela Carlson, Isabel and Lucien Espinosa, Ellen Ferry, Kristina Gurgel, Keely Kluzak, Juna and Leo Krikava, Everett Paylor, Adela and Liliana Peterson, Sylvia Pulkrabek, Matthew Resong, Sara Rosenthal, Sofia Scholtz, Sally Sebek, Isabella Spiess, Elisa, Everett and Erik Swartz, Sophia Wenberg, Elizabeth Wentz, Benedict, Greta and Bridget Fanta, Elsa Youngberg. Assistants: Michaela Wentz, Romana Pulkrabek, Lenka Hester.

Festival guest Dr. Peter Tlapák from the Czech Republic led a short stretching exercise break.

Domáci Czech Folk Dancers performed several beautiful dances: Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky, Directors, with Caitlyn Gare, Marissa Gare, Melanie LaBrun, Kailey Mach, Mikayla Marek, Megan Marek, Anna Novak, Natalie Novak, Kristin Siebsen, Lizzie Trnka. Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Ambassadors talked about their *kroje* and their experiences as representatives from Minnesota Czech Country: Caitlyn, Marissa, Mikayla.

Children enjoyed a variety of Kids' Games, everything from a large bouncy castle, oversized bubbles, Minute to Win It games, and of course, face painting and prizes.

The Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities gave a presentation about the Saturday school programs; students demonstrated

their Czech language skills by answering questions from their teachers, Lenka Bragg and Romana Pulkrabek.

Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers of Minneapolis, under the direction of Don Pafko, had a lively group of authentic dances that thrilled the crowd: Kyle Bachmayer, Michaela Bachmayer, Aelia Baudouin, Lara Ciganko, Emily Film, Roman Fiam, Vladia Gregorski, Paul Knuth, Sylvia Magana, Kanon Nakajima.

The St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers closed the folk dance program. This group has practiced at C.S.P.S. Hall since its founding in 1962. After performing their Czech, Moravian, and Slovak dances, dancers invited the audience to join them to learn a few dances: Louise Wessinger, Director, with Dave Stepan, plus Diane Bell and Scott Hinshaw, Dawn Bulera and Chuck Draheim, Jason Brozovich and Megan Cahill, Robert Jacobson and Jyni Koschak, Dave Cammack and Lenka Hester, Richard Sargent and Pam Langworthy, David and Sue Martin, Teresa Polar and John Topic.

Unfortunately, it began to drizzle just as SlovCzech began to set up instruments at 4 p.m., so the group was unable to play. We thank the band's generosity in supporting the Hall with music for over a decade: Petr Bachan, Director, Lubor Manolov, Jozef Klobusnik, Emily Judge-Becker, Svea Drentlaw, Andrew Tiano.

A huge thank you to John and Susie Smisek for the spectacular vintage Czech pottery display in our first floor classroom. Anne (Smisek) and Andy Jans, with their children Clayton, Alenka, and Wyatt, set up the display and answered questions during the Festival.

This event was made possible by the hardworking teams of volunteers and team leaders, with Joyce Tesarek as General Chair, who wishes to thank everyone!

Thanks to all our super volunteers: Olga Andish, Don Andrle, Pat Andrle, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Dan Bednar, Mark Bigaouette, Katarina Bila, Zuzana Bracknell, Lenka and Kyle Bragg, Jason Brozovich, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Barbara Carlson, Angelo Carvale, Jana Castillon and Katka, George Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Cindy Coulter, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Shannon Duffy, Steve Ernest, Olga and Mario Espinosa with Isabel, Sandy Fritzen, Caitlyn Gare, Marissa Gare, Eva Giese with Nicole and Nathalie, Colleen Gengler, Martina Gurgel with Kristina, Jean Hall, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Scott Hinshaw, Colleen Hoppe-Kluzak, Jen Iverson, Robert (Jake) Jacobson, Ken Jandra, Ann Jandra, Anne (Smisek) and Andy Jans with Clayton and Alenka and Wyatt, Madison Jerde, Elizabeth Kaliska, Darla Kolb, Jyni Koschak, Bob Kostichka, Pam Kotval, Lloyd Krocak, Ann Leland, Kevin Lundeen, Kailey Mach, Lorey Mach, Megan Marek, Mikayla Marek, Sue Martin, Hana Matousek, Melissa Maxa, Doreen McKenney, Doris McKenney, Denis Novak, Don Pafko, Karolina Peterson, Ross Peterson, Norm Petrik, Teresa Pojar, Romana Pulkrabek, Ryan Pulkrabek with Sylvia, Rad (Radmila) Rasmussen, Marketa Resong, Gina Roers-Liemandt, Jan Roers, Mike Roers, Dagmar Rosenthal, Richard Sargent, Renata Scholtz, Jitka Sebek with Sally, Joan Sedlacek, Steve Shimer, Dave Stepan, Amanda Tesarek, Cheri Tesarek, Joyce Tesarek, Cheryl Nelson Theuninck, John Topic, Adriana Wenberg, Michaela Wentz, Chuck Wessinger, Louise Wessinger, Cinnamon Whaley, Rosemary Whaley Baisden, Alena Youngberg with Elsa, Arnie Ziskovsky, Deb Ziskovsky. Rhonie Waldron and Girl Scouts Alisa, Caylie, Lauren.

Enjoy four pages of Czech-Slovak Festival pictures!



1. Sokol Singers, led by Don Haselbauer. 2. 2016-2017 Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Queen Alexa Turgeon and Princess Autumn Gare performed their pageant talents. 3. Elizabeth Kaliska played her Slovak instruments with Scott Hinshaw, sound engineer, in the background. 4. Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International members Chuck and Mary Romportl from Hopkins with Ann Smisek Jans talking about her parents' (Susie and John Smisek) collection of vintage Czech pottery. 5. Flag ceremony lineup, led by Chuck Draheim, Dawn Bulera, Don Pafko, Jake Jacobson, Joan Sedlacek, and Jason Brozovich. 6. Volunteers Mary Jo Chlebecek, Chuck Draheim, Dawn Bulera, Jake Jacobson, Jim Chlebecek. 7. Don Hasselbauer on his accordion. 8. Flags at C.S.P.S. Hall: Minnesota, United States of America, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic. 9. At the busy beer tent, Lloyd Krocak, Mike Roers, and Dan Bednar served *Staropramen* Czech beer. 10. Czech and Slovak Cultural Center tent with Don Pafko, Renata Ticha, and Cheryl Nelson Theuninck. 11. On behalf of Sokol Minnesota, Vice President Denis Novak officially welcomed everyone to the Festival.

Bringing in a crowd of old friends and new faces, the public relations and social media collaborators were Jyni Koschak, Sue Martin, Martina Gurgel, and the Slovo staff. Jan Roers designed the festival program, which was financed by sponsor ads solicited by Cheryl Nelson Theuninck.

Program Advertisers: • Andrej's European Pastry, Jan Gadzo, 218-254-2520 • Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, <cs-center.org> • Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, <www.cgsi.org> • Czech and Slovak Heritage Tours, Mark Bigaouette, <CSTour@visi.com> • Czech Tours, Hana Matousek, 952-440-4289 • Draheim Carpentry, Inc., 651-433-2008 • Domáci Czech Folk Dancers, 952-652-2677 • Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Minneapolis, M. L. Kucera, 651-238-0447 • Honorary Slovak Consul, Don Pafko, 952-831-1440 • Jean Draheim, 651-210-0401 • Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers, 952-831-1440 • MetroTek.MN • Muddy Paws Cheesecake, 763-545-7161 • Dr. Joyce Tesarek, Minnehaha Animal Hospital, 612-825-4427 and Pet Doctors, 612-607-0044 • St. Paul Czech & Slovak Folk Dancers, <tancuj.org> • Western Fraternal Life Association, <wflains.org>.

Kudos to all the Sokol volunteer teams: Steve Ernest managed our ticket sales. He masterfully handled getting all the shifts covered, as well as selling thousands of tickets (exactly 11,608!). Volunteers and guests were welcomed by greeters: Don and Pat Andriele, Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek. Treasurer Don Haselbauer handled finances. Chuck Draheim's setup and takedown team braved early morning and late afternoon rains to get the tents and tables ready and then packed them up the end of the day. Kudos to all those who stayed until the very end to help close, including our Board of Trustees. Led by Marketa Resong, Hana Matousek, and Rad Rasmussen, the amazing kitchen team produced authentic *Segedinský guláš*, *kulajda* soup (dill, mushroom, egg, potato), and chicken *paprikáš*. Joan Sedlacek and Doreen McKenney created our ever-popular *halušky a kapusta* (cabbage, spaetzle, bacon). These foods always draw crowds! At our outdoor grill, Jason Brozovich with the support of grillmasters George Chlebecek and Arnie Ziskovsky treated the crowd to Marketa Resong's authentic Moravian pork patties. *Jitrnice*, hot dogs, and soup completely sold out.

Beer, especially Czech beer, draws crowds! Ed Hamernik and Dan Bednar set up our two bars, staffed by beverage experts. As usual, the *Staropramen* beer was a crowd pleaser!

With Cindy Coulter as lead volunteer in our Sweet Shoppe, we had beautifully decorated packaged *perníčky* ginger cookies contributed by Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities families, bakery items from Jan Roers and Jen Iverson, cream horns/*kremrole*, almost 200 dozen *koláče* from our Sokol

bakers, and giant *koláče* decorated by Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek.

Jean Hall, Steve Shimer, and Gina Roers Liemandt organized the Silent Auction, with income of over \$1,600. Gina, who flew from Chicago specifically to help with the Silent Auction, set up a system for efficiently collecting credit card payments for tickets, the Gift Shop, and the silent auction. Generous Silent Auction donors included Tom and Judy Albrecht, Betty Anfinson, Mark Bigaouette, John Bedard for Ribbon Gifts, Fleur de Lis, Kay Goers, Jean Hall, Jennifer Iverson, Jackie Krammer at Classic Homeopathy, Marit Lee Kucera, Joe Landsberger, Mississippi Market Coop, Jan Roers, Gina Roers-Liemandt, Root Salon, Run N Fun, Joan Sedlacek, Rod Sykora, Joyce Tesarek for Pet Doctors and Minnehaha Animal Hospital, Nick and Kris Wessinger, Chuck and Louise Wessinger, plus many others.

Doreen McKenney with Joan Sedlacek hosted a packed Sokol Gift Shop and listed sales of over \$900.

Informational Booths and Vendors: Jean Draheim organized the vendors and information booths, helping to create an enjoyable experience for our volunteers, members, visitors, vendors, and exhibitors.

Informational Booths: • Czech and Slovak Cultural Center provided translations and sold books: Renata Ticha, Cheryl Nelson Theuninck, Don Pafko. • Sokol Minnesota offered membership and class information. Norm Petrik, with help from Mary Cahill, handed out membership applications, past *Slovo* issues, and event cards. • Western Fraternal Life (WFL): information and door prizes by Lodge Orel No. 69 in Saint Paul, Lodge Cesky Lev No. 10 in Minneapolis: Carol Loss, Kathy Richardson, Richard Saliny, Joan Sedlacek, Richard Yapp. Other WFL lodges represented were Hopkins No. 11 and Zare Zapadu No. 44 in Hayward, Minnesota. Six lucky children, who had to be present, were each the lucky recipient of a \$25 gift certificate.

Vendors: • Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International: books, imports, t-shirts. • Jean Draheim: hand-crafted wire/crystal/stone jewelry. • Sharon Dunsmore: Czech pottery and jewelry. • Colleen Gengler: book: *Under Minnesota Skies*. • Cathy Mackiewicz, Bone Lake Meadows Apiary: honey and bee's wax items. • Mary Moen: When I'm Not Knitting: felted wool items, ornaments, pins. • Marketa Resong and Ludmila Palkova: jams, pickled veggies, bread. • Chef Ron Procenko: Real Good Provisions: herb blends.

Lastly, but not least, we also want to thank all who attended and helped to make our Czech and Slovak Festival a great success. We'll see you next September with another memorable festival!

Plan to Attend: Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Election, November 18, 7 p.m.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Director officers are elected on a rotating schedule. The Bylaws state members must be present to vote. Nominating committee: Joyce Tesarek, Judy Aubrecht, and Louise Wessinger.

Slate nominated for 2017 Board of Directors:

President: Judy Aubrecht*

First Vice President: Denis Novak*

Corresponding Secretary: Pending Nomination Acceptance

Financial (Membership) Secretary: Tom Aubrecht*

Member at Large 1: Marketa Resong*

Educational Director: Jean Draheim*

Woman's Physical Director: Mary Cahill*

Board of Trustees (3-year terms): 1. Terry Shima*
2. Lloyd Krocak* 3. Pending Nomination Acceptance

Board of Gaming: (five-members board, three-year terms, no term limits): 1. Joan Sedlacek* 2. Ken Wyberg*

Board of Budget and Finance (aka Finance Committee; 2-year term): 1. Deb Ziskovsky* 2. Ken Wyberg*

Delegates and Alternates to the Western District Meetings: (Mary Cahill** and Jason Brozovich are automatic delegates as Women's and Men's Physical Directors) 1. Courtney Benson* 2. Joan Sedlacek* ** 3. Norm Petrik* 4. Joyce Tesarek* 5. Marit Lee Kucera*

*incumbents **Western District Officers



1. Men's Physical Director Jason Brozovich helped a Sokol gymnast with a back flip. 2. Women's Gymnastic Director Courtney Benson assisted a gymnast. 3. Jason spotted for a member of the boys' team. 4. Ticket Tent with Bob Kostichka, Steve Ernest, and Kevin Linden. 5. In the Sweet Shoppe, Madison Jerde helped a young *Taneční Mládež* Folk Dancer and Diane Bell. 6. Cindy Coulter, head of the Sweet Shoppe (second from left), had help from Caitlyn, Marissa, Mikayla and Megan from *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers and Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Ambassadors. 7. Al Milgrom with his photographer Orrin Or interviewed Chuck Draheim for Al's ongoing Czechs in Minnesota project. 8. Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) booth provided references and information. 9. At the Grill, Colleen Hoppe-Kluzak and daughter were served by Pam Kotval and Jason Brozovich. 10. Girl Scouts Alisia and Lauren helped Adriana Wenberg and her daughter at the Sweet Shoppe. 11. *Perníčky* and giant *koláče* at the Sweet Shoppe. 12. Jitka Sebek admired the t-shirts at the CGSI booth.



1. Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers led by Don Pafko. 2. Sokol's *Taneční* Teens Folk Dancers. 3. Sokol's *Taneční Mládež* Folk Dancers, both groups led by Louise Wessinger. 4. *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers and Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Ambassadors, with Deb and Arnie Ziskovsky, Directors. 5. Guest Dancers from New Prague, *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers. 6. *Taneční Mládež* and Teen Folk Dancers, gathered before performing, Director Louise Wessinger (center) gave last minute instructions. 7. *Taneční Mládež*. 8. Olga Espinosa and Lenka Bragg at the Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities. 9. Lenka Bragg (left) and Romana Pulkrabek (far right) quizzed students from the Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities.



1. Festival kitchen volunteers were always smiling because everyone loved the food: Alena Youngberg, Dawn Bulera, and Rad Rasmussen. 2. Dave Stepan handed out the *kolačé* for the *Kolačé* Eating Contest, including visiting queens were the Kolacky Days Royalty from Montgomery along with the Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Royalty Alexa and Autumn. 3. Katarina Bila decorated the face of her husband Martin Marko as “advertising” for her skills as a face painter. 4. Serious bidders at the Silent Auction. 5. Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers (SPCSFD), with director Louise Wessinger (center) and her dance partner Dave Stepan. 6. Members of the audience joined SPCSFD for a couple dances. 7. Bouncy Castle was very popular with the children; the girl flew in the air just before she went down the slide. 8. Lenka Hester and Richard Sargent of SPCSFD. 9. Romana Pulkrabek supervised Plinko, one of many games enjoyed by the children. 10. At another game for the kids, this young man kept his eye on the ball! 11. *Staropramen* Czech beer for all at the end of the Festival (after all the tents were done, tables put away, all the dishes washed, floors mopped, and the parking lot swept clean): (L-R) Norm Petrik, Joan Sedlacek, Rad Rasmussen, Marketa Resong, John Topic, Alena Youngberg. (Front) Joyce Tesarak, General Chair of the Festival, and Mary Cahill.

Czechs Celebrate the 700th Birthday of Charles IV

By Vanda Kofroňová, columnist from Prague

Charles IV (1316 – 1378), King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor, was one of the most important people in Czech history. This anniversary of his birthday is being commemorated all around the country this year. Let me tell you a few basic facts about this fascinating man.

He was very well-educated and fluent in five languages. His successes include, among other things: Charles University, Prague New Town, the stone bridge over the Vltava River (known as Charles Bridge), and Karlštejn Castle. Thanks to his numerous marriages (a total of four wives), he added a good chunk of territory to the Czech crown.

However, life was not always nice to him. Because of the complicated relationship between his parents (King John of Luxembourg and Queen Elizabeth of Bohemia), as a little boy, he was imprisoned by his own father and without his mother for three years. Charles was then sent to France and Italy in order to gain some experience. He was only 16 years old when he was lucky enough to avoid eating poisoned food served to him in Pavia, Italy.

When he came back to Bohemia, he soon realized his father John of Luxembourg (who was a great fighter, but a miserable caretaker) had sold most of his castles, while the rest were in disrepair. He wrote in his memoirs that he didn't have a place to stay, so he had to sleep in the citizens' houses. He also complained about not finding any of his beloved ones, as his mother had passed away three years earlier in 1330. Step-by-step, Charles gained the castles back and consolidated the kingdom. His father, who was still a Bohemian king at the time, as well as the nobility of the other Bohemian countries, became afraid of Charles's ascent to power. The danger from outside, especially from the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, finally brought father and son back together.

In 1346, both Charles and his father set out together to help a French king in one of the great battles of French-British War near Crécy. They were defeated. Charles was saved by his companions, and forced to escape. John, who was blind already, is believed to have chosen the death of a warrior. He asked his knights to lead him to the worst part of the battle, where he shouted, "In the name of God, a Bohemian king will never leave the battlefield."

In that moment, Charles became king. His first duty was to organize his father's funeral. The great time of the Bohemian kingdom was about to take place.

To be continued ... I will tell you more about that in the next issue of the Slovo.

Former *Taneční Mládež* Dancer Performed with the Ethnic Dance Theatre

By Louise Wessinger

At the age of four, Oakdale native James Metcalf began performing with Sokol's *Taneční Mládež* Dancers and continued with the group for 14 years. James is son of Sokol Minnesota member Judy Metcalf. After high school graduation, he attended the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. Since then, he has become an active member of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Last year, he was invited to join the Ethnic Dance Theatre. He was a performer in EDT's production called "Grasslands" at Concordia University in Saint Paul on November 4 to 6. We are very proud of James; we were happy to support him and our friends at the Ethnic Dance Theatre. Several members of Sokol Minnesota attended performances.

"Grasslands" was a journey through the temperate grasslands of the world. The program featured works such as Posavska Zetva, depicting a harvest scene from the Croatian region of Posavina; a suite of dances from the plains of Thrace (southeastern Balkan region); and additional choreographies such as Bailes Norteños from Chihuahua in Mexico, El Cuando from Argentina, and Myangad from Mongolia.

The EDT Orchestra presented musical sets from Romania and Ireland. Mila Vocal Ensemble, the Saint Paul-based guest chorus, contributed choral sets from Croatia, Ukraine, and Bulgaria.

Dancers affiliated with Sokol Minnesota will take part for the second year in the Carpathian Festival, sponsored by EDT, at the Landmark Center, Saint Paul, on February 19, 2017.

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

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

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko	Honorary Czech Consul: Marit Lee Kucera	Past Honorary Czech Consul: Robert Vanasek
Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney	Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson	Kitchen Coordinator: open
Sunshine Committee: open	Website: Cinnamon Whaley	Volunteer Coordinator: open
Hall Contacts: Dan Bednar, Ed Hamernik, Joan Sedlacek	<i>Taneční Mládež</i> and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger	

Slovo newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Madison Jerde, Deb Ziskovsky, Mary Kucera

Board of Trustees: Dan Bednar, Dennis Cahill, Jake Jacobson, Lloyd Krocak, Terry Shima, Arnie Ziskovsky

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 Rentals: rentals@sokolmn.org ▪ Hall Contacts: hallcontacts@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

Absurdist Life in 1970s Czechoslovakia

BOOK REVIEW By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

My Merry Mornings: Stories from Prague. Ivan Klíma, translated by George Theiner. Lucerne, Switzerland: Reich Publishing, 1983, in Czech. London and New York: Readers International, Inc., 1985, in English, 154 pages. Libraries and used book stores.

Ivan Klíma is one of my favorite Czech authors. He's a warm, engaging person whom I had the opportunity to meet at a talk he gave in Prague in 2011 that was arranged by my dear friend, the late Dr. Josef Mestenhauer. *My Merry Mornings*, a winner by Klíma, is a collection of seven seemingly autobiographical short stories organized around the days of the week. Klíma's clear writing, wry humor, and empathy for people make the stories at times delightful, funny, sad, and moving. George Theiner's translation is excellent.

Klíma is an intellectual who chose to live in Czechoslovakia under communism. In his bittersweet "Tuesday Morning: A Sentimental Story," the main character, Mirek, encounters a woman who had briefly, but intensely, been his lover 20 years earlier in Prague, before she left the country and married an American. Mirek explains the rationale for why some like himself intentionally chose to not leave their homeland:

"I could have repeated that it was because this was my country. Because here I have several friends whom I need just as they need me. And because people here speak the same language as I do. Because I'd like to go on being a writer, and to be a writer means also to stick up for people whose fate is not a matter of indifference to me. At least to speak up for those who perhaps are less able to do so than I am, to give expression to their desire for freedom and a more dignified existence. All this I can do here, where I grew up, where I became part of whatever is happening and can therefore understand it, at least to some extent."

Another highlight of this collection is "A Christmas Conspiracy Story." In the style of *Good Soldier Švejk*, it describes a whole nest of conspirators lying, stealing, and generally taking advantage of one another, and the customers who are buying carp during the holiday season.

My Merry Mornings was initially published in Czech in 1983 as *samizdat* (underground publications secretly produced and

distributed by dissidents under Soviet rule) and later in English in 1985 by Readers International, Inc., which specialized in making available works by writers from politically repressed countries. Many of the Readers International works had suffered political censorship in their countries of origin, such as South Africa, Nicaragua, Chile, and China, because, as Readers International put it, "the censors everywhere recognize that powerful and honest writing can be -literally- dangerous."

Klíma, who has written numerous short stories, essays, novels, plays, and children's books, has been the best-selling Czech writer in translation. During the more open times under communism, he was a journalist on a popular Czechoslovakian magazine, as well as an editor in a Czech publishing house. From 1964 -1968, he was on staff at *Literární noviny*, the weekly journal of the Writers Union, the most prestigious Czech publication at the time. In May 1969, after the Prague Spring was crushed and many publications, including his weekly, were closed, he took an offer to be a visiting professor at the University of Michigan. In 1970, repression was intensified, and Czechs abroad were refused extensions of their exit permits so Klíma returned home to Prague.

Gwen is coordinator of the *Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group*. For more information, go to <www.cs-center.org> or contact <gwen@cs-center.org>.

Join Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures members to discuss Czech Voices: Stories from Texas in the American Národní Kalendář translated and edited by Clinton Machann and James W. Mendl, Jr., on Saturday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.- noon, at C.S.P.S. Hall. For more information: <cs-center.org>

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Membership Holiday Party

Sunday, January 8, 2017

\$12.00 per person 4:00 p.m. No reservations
includes a drink ticket are needed

Guests are asked to bring hors d'oeuvres or dessert to share.

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 December/January issue is November 1.** This issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by November 30: <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 (December 15 for February issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (January 1 for February issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through December 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, Saint 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.

If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. If you wish to have this newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know.

After one returned issue, we hold all future issues until you notify us. We pay 47¢ for each returned issue.

Email us: <slovo@sokolmn.org>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. *Thank you!*

Member Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Madison Jerde, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor; Mary Kucera, production assistant; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Martina Gurgel and Joyce Tesarek, photographers; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, mailing production; Joan Sedlacek, mailing; with Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, advisors. Photographs: Martina Gurgel, Jyni Koschak, M. L. Kucera, and Joyce Tesarek.

**EVENTS AT C.S.P.S. HALL
ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!
Sokol Minnesota 2016 Events**

Škola Family Night

November 13, 4 - 7 p.m. Potluck supper and family activities.

Annual Membership Meeting

November 18, 7 p.m. Election of Board of Directors

Pancake Breakfast with Bake/Craft Sales

November 20, Sunday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Please donate baked goods!

Pre-order *koláče*: 651-290-0542

Reserve a craft table: 651-433-2008

Sokol Children's Holiday Party

December 2, 7 - 9 p.m. Participants arrive by 6:30 p.m.

Dancers perform. Special visit from Svatý Mikuláš.

Membership Holiday Party

January 8, 2017, 4 p.m. Please bring an appetizer or dessert!

Cost of ticket is \$12, which includes a drink ticket

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* November 2016

American Sokol Administrative Conference in Chicago

Over 50 Sokol members, representing all districts, attended the American Sokol Administrative Conference at Sokol Spirit in Brookfield, Illinois, on September 23 to 25. Conference topics ranged from Direction of the Organization, Sokol Museum to preserve our history, Grant Committee (internal and external grant opportunities), Membership Database, Insurance for Nonprofits, Financial

Transparency for nonprofits, Bylaws, What's New with the Board of Instructors, Communications, Private Gym and the Sokol Program, and Leadership Identification and Development. Sokol Spirit provided excellent hospitality.

Conference participants also had the opportunity to attend the largest Czech folklore presentation in Chicago, the 77th Moravian Day at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, Illinois. Saturday night featured Czech food and beer, a silent auction, and the Vysočinka Band from the Czech Republic. On Sunday afternoon, over 200 participants in Moravian *kroje* folk danced and sang; more fine Czech food ; plus vendors selling Czech glass, Czech candy, and vintage Czech pottery, books, textiles, and jewelry. Visiting bishops and priests from Prague, Los Angeles, Toronto, and Chicago celebrated Holy Mass in Czech on Sunday morning.

Friday night, over 20 Sokols, many wearing dress uniform, attended A Celebration of Czech History at the University of Chicago, sponsored by the



(L-R) H.E. Mr. Lubomír Zaorálek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic; Sharon Valasek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Kansas City; Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Minneapolis; and H.E. Mr. Petr Gandalovič, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States of America.

Consulate of the Czech Republic in Chicago, as part of the Czech National Day Celebration to commemorate the unique role that the University of Chicago played in Czech history and the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918. Guest of honor and speaker was His Excellency Mr. Lubomír Zaorálek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.



Attending the American Sokol Administrative Conference from Western District were Allison Gerber, Cedar Rapids; Buddy Benak, South Omaha; Marit Lee Kucera, Minnesota; Dan Rannells, Omaha; Kay Monzingo, South Omaha; missing: Brad Hess, Cedar Rapids.