

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sokol Children's  
Holiday Party**  
December 8, 7-9 p.m.

**Škola Family Mikuláš**  
December 9, 4 p.m.

**February Slovo Deadline**  
January 2, 2018

**Membership Holiday Party**  
January 7, 2018, 4 p.m.

**Board of Trustees**  
December 13 &  
January 10, 2018, 7 p.m.

**Board of Directors**  
January 18, 2018, 7 p.m.

**15th Annual Candlelight  
Roast Duck Dinner**  
January 20, 2018, 5 p.m.

**Art Exhibit: Glass and  
Sumi-e Painting**  
January 21, 1-4 p.m.

# 15th Annual Roast Duck Dinner

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

## Saturday, January 20, 2018

5:00 p.m. \$23.00 per person

Limited seating

Prepaid reservations are required by January 14

To reserve call: 952-941-0426

Soup, 1/2 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 starting at 4:15 p.m..

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

[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

## Art Exhibit and Silent Auction Fundraisers for \$85,000 Matching STAR Grant

Organized by Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities

**Art Exhibit of works by Chad Holliday**, world-renowned American glass artist and Fulbright scholar to the Czech Republic, and **Simona Němcová**, Czech-born award-winning sumi-e painter (Japanese black ink painting).

**Open to the public** on Sunday, January 21, 1- 4 p.m., C.S.P.S. Hall. Suggested donation \$10. <[chadhollidayglass.com](http://chadhollidayglass.com)> and <[limidus.wordpress.com](http://limidus.wordpress.com)>

**Roast Duck Dinner patrons** view this Art Exhibit free on Saturday evening, January 20.

**Silent Auction:** Inspired by the Czech illustrator Adolf Záborský, Simona Němcová, led seven members of the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities to design 17.5" square center table mats (see photo on page 2) for the Roast Duck Dinner Silent Auction on January 20 at C.S.P.S. Hall. **Online bidding** is now open < <https://tinyurl.com/MeadowsForSokolHall>>

## Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes

By Judy Aubrecht

### Pozdrav bratři a sestry / Greetings Brothers and Sisters

It has been an exciting year for Sokol Minnesota. Did you know that there are currently 297 members in our Sokol Minnesota unit? There were so many students in the Beginners Czech Language Class this fall that the class needed to be divided into two sections. There are 52 dancers in the *Taneční Mládež* children's dance group; this includes nine pre-school and kindergarten dancers, 23 grade school-aged dancers, and 20 teen dancers. The children's gymnastics program is so popular that there is a waiting list for some sections. The C.S.P.S. Hall is a busy, vibrant place for learning and socializing.

After numerous consultations with the City of Saint Paul, a new fire escape was installed last spring. A new shed was installed below the fire escape; it protects the basement stairs from exposure to weather elements, and provides an interior passage and storage area. New concrete walkways around the shed will help with efficient movement and water run-off, and prevent weeds and volunteer trees from growing. New fencing will help with privacy, security, and safety. The shed also benefits the popular and successful Pajarito restaurant that rents the Seventh Street side of the first floor.

Sokol Minnesota was recently awarded an \$85,000 STAR Grant from the City of Saint Paul for the urgently needed tuckpointing of the exterior walls of the building, roof repair work, and repair of roof parapets to keep moisture out of the walls of the building. This is a matching grant, which means that Sokol Minnesota needs to raise \$85,000 before the STAR grant can be used. A new Legacy Campaign is underway to try to raise the matching money. Your generous donation will be much appreciated!

Volunteers are at the heart of Sokol Minnesota. Many thanks to the numerous volunteers who help at a Sokol Minnesota events, or add to the success of our organization in other ways. The hard work of Sokol Minnesota board and committees members is also very much appreciated.

Members will soon receive their annual membership renewal notices. Please return your renewal materials quickly to avoid the need to send reminder notices. Consider adding an additional donation with your dues to support Sokol programs. Thank you for your membership and support.

2018 will be a special year in several ways for Sokol Minnesota. It will be the 100th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia, the 50th anniversary of the Prague Spring in 1968, and the 25th anniversary of the formation of the two nations of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. A CZ-SK 2018 committee, which includes representatives of many different organizations, plans to commemorate these milestones.

Please visit the website which lists information about the many special events throughout 2018 <[www.CzechSlovakCentury.org](http://www.CzechSlovakCentury.org)>

Our annual Membership Holiday Party takes place at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, January 7, 2018, beginning at 4:00 p.m. This is a great way to enjoy a holiday event and meet others, especially if you are new to Sokol Minnesota.

The 15th Annual Candlelight Duck Dinner is on Saturday, January 20, 2018, at 5 p.m. There will be a special display of glass art and sumi-e painting, plus the chance to bid on nine hand-painted center table mats created by Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities. Seating is limited, so be sure to make your prepaid reservation soon: 952-941-0426.

*Nazdar!*



Hand-painted center table mats by  
(L-R) Jitka Sebek, Blanka Brichta, Stanislava Damašková,  
Heda Klobušníková. Not pictured: Simona Němcová,  
Blanka Cleveland, Lenka Hester, Alena Youngberg

### In Memorium: Charlotte (Wangensteen) Januschka

By Marlene Hinshaw

Charlotte Januschka, age 88, passed away October 4, 2017. She was an active, devoted, and very generous member of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota until health issues intervened. When younger, Charlotte performed in a National Sokol Slet in Chicago. For many years, she sang with our Minnesota Sokol Singers. Charlotte was delightful, fun, spunky, and creative. We loved being in her presence. We hold many precious memories of our dear sister Charlotte. Three daughters, two sons, several grandchildren, many other family members, plus many friends, including her Sokol friends, survive her. She was buried at St. Anne's Cemetery in LeSueur, Minnesota.

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

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Past issues of *Slovo* and  
Hall Calendar of Events:

[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

## Highlights from the October Board of Directors Meeting

By Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary

The Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors held its monthly meeting October 19 at 7 p.m. The Saint Hubert's Day festivities with the Twin Cities Horn Club were canceled due to lack of pre-sale tickets.

Ed Hamernik reported on our exterior construction projects; he noted the fence and shed should be completed by late October. Membership Director Norm Petrik reported that we have four new members, bringing our total membership to 297. Joyce Tesarek reported that our Minnesota Legacy Grant was not approved, but we still need to match approximately \$85,000 to obtain a STAR grant for exterior building maintenance and repair.

Jean Draheim reported 19 students in Beginning Czech, four students in Advanced Czech, and three students in the Slovak language class.

The 28th Annual Czech and Slovak Fall Festival had a net profit of \$9,670. Next year's date is set for September 16, 2018.

Jyni Koshak, Publicity Director, led a discussion on our new logo. We reviewed various designs, with ideas being submitted to the designer for changes.

## Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

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

**General Fund: under \$99: James and Mary Jo Chlebecek** for gymnastics in memory of **Charlotte Januschka; Mrs. Joseph Zeman** for dancers

**\$100 - \$499: Joan Sedlacek** to cover the cost of the dumplings for the Czech Roast Pork Dinner; **Taneční Mládež Dancers** in honor of **Louise Wessinger's 70th birthday**

**Over \$1,000: Dave and Sue Martin Legacy Fund Matching for STAR Grant: Under \$99: Phyllis Vosejпка** in memory of **Shirley Verner; Mrs. Joseph Zeman**

**\$100 - \$499: Glynis Grostephan \$500 - \$999: Mary and Marit Lee Kucera;** Anonymous in memory of **Don Pafko.**

**Over \$1,000: Joan Sedlacek; Carolyn J. Sorensen.**

**General Fund: \$3,325  
Legacy Fund: \$9,415**

## Welcome New Members By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the November Board of Directors meeting, two new members were accepted to Sokol Minnesota: Andrea Winghart and Wendy Bednar are both from Saint Paul, with interests in genealogy, history, language, dinners, literature, music, theater, and volunteer opportunities. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

According to Tom Aubrecht, Financial Secretary, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota has 297 active members as of November 16. We are proud to be one of the largest units in the American Sokol organization.

## Goal of our 2018 Legacy Fund Campaign is to Match \$85,000 STAR Grant

By Joyce Tesarek, Chair of Finance Committee

The C.S.P.S. Hall is currently in need of extensive roof parapet and surface repairs, as well as outside wall tuck pointing. A \$85,000 STAR Grant from the City of Saint Paul requires a matching sum to be raised in order to finance the project. We greatly appreciate your generous help.

When the old fire escape was removed, the shed that covered the steps into the basement was also replaced due to water damage and other problems. The security fence that enclosed the fire escape and shed area had to be removed to bring in equipment to level the space. Sokol Minnesota received a \$500 micro-grant from the West 7th Business Association to get the fence replacement project started.

The C.S.P.S. Hall needs your help with a donation to our Legacy Fund. The total cost for the above building projects will be nearly \$300,000, which is a lot of money for our small organization and our supporting community. We will begin by working together to raise the \$85,000 match for the STAR Grant, then work on the balance of \$130,000.

Donations and pledges should be made to Sokol Minnesota Legacy Fund. For questions on stock transfers, or to include the Hall in estate planning, contact Joyce Tesarek, Legacy Building Fund Chair, at 612-822-6147 or [finance@sokolmn.org](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org).

Thank you for your support for the Sokol Minnesota Legacy Fund.

### C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

In order to complete repairs to our roof and brickwork, we need your help! All donations are 100% tax deductible and will help match the \$85,000 City of Saint Paul STAR grant. Let's get the Hall in shape to commemorate 2018: our 131st anniversary and the centenary of the birth of Czechoslovakia. *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 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>](http://www.sokolmn.org)

Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation:

612-822-6147 or [<finance@sokolmn.org>](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org) Thank you!

## Sokol Minnesota Membership Five-Year Milestones in 2017

By Tom Aubrecht

At the 2017 Annual Membership Meeting on November 17, Sokol Minnesota recognized the members for their years of membership. *Congratulations and thank you to each of you!*

**5 Years** (joined in 2012): John Adan, Dan Bednar, Barbara Carlson, Stan Chromy, Violet Chromy, Jan Gadzo, George Hoffman, Gwen Willems

**10 Years** (joined in 2007): Cynthia Coulter, Pamela Kotval, Ken McCormick, Maxine McCormick, Judy Metcalf, Denis Novak, John Palka, JoAnn Wanous Parvey, Richard Sargent, Thomas Stefan Schroeder, Penny Tesarek, Tom Tesarek, Cheryl Nelson Theuninck, Mike Theuninck, Paula Vukonich, James Yanta

**15 Years** (joined in 2002): Diane Cina, Pamela Langworthy, Gary Novak

**20 Years** (joined in 1997): Molly Chandler

**25 Years** (joined in 1992): Al Imbrone, Norm Petrik, Ted Skluzacek

**30 Years** (joined in 1987): Dave Stepan

**35 Years** (joined in 1982): Lillian Bednar, Carole Gonsowski, Elsie Roepke, Ken Wyberg, Sharon Wyberg

**40 Years** (joined in 1977): Lorraine Olson, Joyce Tesarek

**50 Years** (joined in 1967): Sue Marabella

**55 Years** (joined in 1962): Dorothy Kucera, Gary Pavlicek

**65 Years** (joined in 1952): Jim Chlebecek, Vera Hawkinson, Evelyn Holman



## Czech Slovak Century Events in 2018

Commemorating 100/50/25 with Czechs and Slovaks around the world in 2018

- ♥ 100 years since the formation of Czechoslovakia
- ♥ 50 years since the Prague Spring reform movement
- ♥ 25 years since the creation of the two separate nations of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic

On November 12 at Sokol Hall in Saint Paul, Czech and Slovak organizations met to discuss events for the Czech Slovak Century in 2018. (Sitting L-R) Jean Draheim, Sokol Minnesota; Louise Wessinger, Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers and Sokol Minnesota; Suzette Steppe, Czechoslovak Genealogy Society International (CGSI); Mark Dillon, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center (CSCC); Karen Varian, Rusin Association. (Standing) John Palka, scholar and Slovak book author; Blanka Brichta, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities; M.L. Kucera, Czech Honorary Consul; Marshall Toman, scholar UW-River Falls; Renáta Tichá, CSCC; Kevin Hurbanis, CGSI and website architect; Jan Knutdson, CSCC.

The website calendar lists events, large and small, that pertain to Czech and/or Slovak culture, heritage, music, dance, art, lectures, cinema, athletics, or business in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and western Wisconsin. Check the website often, as new items are added frequently.

Please submit your events to the online calendar  
<[www.CzechSlovakCentury.org](http://www.CzechSlovakCentury.org)>



Receiving certificates for Czech and Slovak Sokol membership at the annual meeting from Tom Albrecht, Financial Secretary (far right) were (L - R) Denis Novak (10 years), Sue Marabella (50), Dave Stepan (30), Joyce Tesarek (40), Norm Petrik (25), Ken Wyberg (35), and Richard Sargent (10).

## Contestants Sought for Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant

By Lorraine David, Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant Committee

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant is looking for young women of Czech, Bohemian, Moravian, or Slovak heritage to compete for the 2018-2019 state title. The 29th annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant will be held on April 14 at the American Legion Club in Montgomery, Minnesota.

The competition is for women between the ages of 16 and 26. The pageant winners receive cash awards and crowns, plus a year of memorable appearances throughout the state of Minnesota. This unique pageant focuses on the heritage of the Czech, Slovak, or Moravian candidates. The new Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota queen travels to the National Miss Czech Slovak US Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska, in early August.

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant Committee extends a warm welcome to all interested contestants, parents, and family members. The application deadline is March 1,

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2018. For information and a registration form contact Lorraine David at 507-364-9370 or 507-364-5384, Ashley Zimanske at 952-201-4107, or email <[davidsdiner@hotmail.com](mailto:davidsdiner@hotmail.com)> or <[missczechslovakmn@hotmail.com](mailto:missczechslovakmn@hotmail.com)> The pageant website is <[www.missczechslovakmnpageant.org](http://www.missczechslovakmnpageant.org)>

The reigning Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen is Bailey Gare of Montgomery and the Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Princess is Mary Carson of Lonsdale.

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant will feature ethnic foods served at 5 p.m. with the pageant beginning at 7 p.m. A reception and dance will follow the coronation.

Tickets (\$19 for dinner, pageant, and dance) are available from Jerry or Lorraine David at 507-364-9370 or at Montgomery Oil Company.

## 2017 Roast Pork Dinner By Co-Chairs Joyce Tesarek, Dawn Bulera, and Joan Sedlacek

Over a hundred happy diners enjoyed delicious roast pork, dumplings and gravy, sauerkraut, and apple dessert at our annual Roast Pork Dinner on Sunday, October 22. A glass of Czechvar beer, of course, enhanced this dinner! Emcee Denis Novak, Sokol President Judy Aubrecht, and Honorary Czech Consul Marit Lee Kucera welcomed our guests. Entertainment came from 14-year-old Colton Tupy on the concertina with Arnie Ziskovsky on drums. Jim Chlebecek, Jr., hand-crafted a beautiful glass bowl especially for our door prize. This year's winner was a delighted Nels Knutzen, a regular guest at all our dinners and breakfasts. Doreen McKenney staffed the gift shop, which sold \$253. Total profits of \$1,949 will help match our \$85,000 STAR Grant for the C.S.P.S. Hall roof and masonry repairs.

Special thanks to the chefs, Dawn Bulera and Joan Sedlacek. For the third year,



Set-up team (most pictured above): Wendy Bednar, Dawn Bulera with Joseph, Julian, and Yazmine, Jason Brozovich, Romana Pulkrabek and Sylvia, Jitka Sebek and Sally, Joan Sedlacek, Bryan Swartz and Everett, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, Alena Youngberg and Elsa.



our sister unit at Sokol Cedar Rapids, Iowa, made the dumplings. Joan hand-delivered them from Cedar Rapids to Saint Paul. Thank you to Bobbi Jo Chandler, who stayed from start to finish washing dishes. Additional thanks to all our volunteers who make this event possible.

Bakers/event day volunteers: Don Andrie, Pat Andrie, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Wendy Bednar, Dawn Bulera, Colleen Cahill, Megan Cahill, Bobbi Jo Chandler, George Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek Sr., Mary Jo Chlebecek, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Sue Goodspeed, Jean Hall, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Lloyd Krocak, Marit Lee Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Denis Novak, Norm Petrik, Joan Sedlacek, Steve Shimer, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, Arnie Ziskovsky.

Arnie Ziskovsky (fourth generation all Czech from Webster) on the drums and 14-year-old Colton Tupy (fifth generation all Czech from New Prague) on the concertina provided the musical entertainment with polkas, Czech songs sung in Czech, and old time favorites. Arnie, Colton and his parents, Chris and Tim Tupy, were dinner guests of Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera.



Nels Knutzen won the Door Prize. (L to R) Denis Novak, Judy Aubrecht, Mary Jo Chlebecek, and Nels Knutzen with 6-year-old Elizabeth from Slovakia who drew the winning ticket for the hand blown glass bowl, created and donated by Jim Chlebecek, Jr.

## 12th Annual Harvest Jam Acoustic Music Experience Featured Czech Musicians

Czech and Slovak Cultural Center sponsored the screening of *Banjo Romantika*, a film documentary of Czech musicians who play their own unique style of bluegrass music, on November 18, at the three-day 12th Annual Harvest Jam Acoustic Music Experience, at the Minneapolis Marriott West Hotel in Saint Louis Park.

The Malina Brothers from the Czech Republic headlined the jam. CSCC members joined the musicians for a photo: (L-R): Lee Bidgood (movie co-producer), Tony Trischka (influential American modern banjoists and mentor to Luboš Malina), Bea Flaming\*, Luboš Malina, Jan Knudtson, Pavel Peroutka, Marit Lee Kucera\*, Pepa Malina, Pavel Malina, Renáta Tichá\*, Mark Dillon.



Sokol members\* seen at the Jam also included: Blanka Brichta, Penny Tesarek, Don and Rose Prohaska. Also attending was a student in Blanka's Czech language class, Richard Smith.

# Victor Cordella: The Architect Who Helped Minnesota Slovaks Express a Faith Heritage

By Mark Dillon, member of the Czech and Slovak Culture Center (CSCC) and Polish American Cultural Institute in Minnesota (PACIM)

Exactly a century after Slovak-Americans dedicated the Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Minneapolis, the talents of the church's architect have been brought to life. On September 30, Geoffrey Gyrisco, a Wisconsin historian, presented *An Architect For All -The Untold Story of Victor Cordella* at Holy Cross Church in Minneapolis. Both churches are among the 22 that the Krakow-born son of an Italian sculptor and a Polish artist created between 1903 and 1930 across Minnesota and northern Wisconsin. Many of Cordella's works were for Polish parishes. However, he had a unique talent for quietly reaching across ethnicities, helping the Slovaks, Ruthenians, Ukrainians, Silesians, and Russians each design churches to reflect their distinct traditions of Roman, Greek, Byzantine, and Orthodox Catholicism.

At Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, the task was to build a new church to replace one destroyed by fire on Third Street in Minneapolis in 1911. The goal was to give expression to an emerging Slovak national identity, one that would not be fully realized until much later. Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church is the oldest Slovak-founded parish in the United States, first

incorporated in 1891. Little is known about how Cordella received the commission. However, by 1917, he was one of Minnesota's foremost church architects. His was not an easy career path, census records suggest. Cordella immigrated to Minnesota in 1893, and despite formal architectural training in Krakow and L'viv, he listed his occupation in the 1895 Minnesota census as artist/painter.



In the late 1890s, Cordella worked at several architectural firms before setting up his own shop with Christopher Boehme. Among these companies were the studio of Cass Gilbert, the architect of New York's Woolworth building, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Minnesota State Capitol.

Cordella shared Gilbert's belief that architecture should draw from classical forms and history to express ideals. Gyrisco, a Syriac Orthodox Catholic,

discussed how Cordella got his first big solo break designing Saint Mary's Orthodox Cathedral in 1903.

Still in partnership with Boehme, Cordella also did commercial work in Minneapolis, designing the Midwest Brewing Co. tavern in 1907 that later was redeveloped into Nye's Polonaise and the Turnblad Mansion, now known as the American Swedish Institute. However, Cordella gave up the bar design scene when he broke up with Boehme.

At Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, Cordella used Renaissance and Baroque themes for the church's copper-domed spire and setback Corinthian pillars in the church's main interior. These elements were the architect's signature design features.

In fact, Saint Francis Xavier Church in Buffalo, Minnesota, a Cordella-designed structure, has an almost identical columned spire, but with different trim and beige brick rather than the red brick at Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church. It was also constructed in 1917 for a parish with many folks of Silesian heritage.

For the most part, Cordella stayed out of the spotlight, and only a few churches survive that confirm his role. During the Great Depression, he became a laborer to make ends meet. He died in 1937 in relative obscurity, residing with his wife Minnie Beckwith at a 1,305 square foot stucco home along Bassett Creek in Minneapolis.

## 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](http://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 Czech Consul: Marit Lee Kucera Past Honorary Czech Consul: Robert Vanasek

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson Kitchen Coordinator: open Volunteer Coordinator: open

Sunshine Committee: Arlene Hamernik Website: Cinnamon Whaley Facebook: Michaela Giancarlo Kotek

Hall Contacts: Dan Bednar, Ed Hamernik, Joan Sedlacek *Taneční Mládež* 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, Gary Zweber

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*That Alluring Land: Slovak Stories* by Timrava (Božena Slančíková), edited and translated by Norma L. Rudinsky. Pittsburgh and London: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1992, 324 pages. Available in libraries and bookstores. German-Bohemian Artists in America by Julie L'Enfant. Afton, MN: Afton Historical Society Press, 2002, 204 pages, 200 color and b/w illustrations. Available in libraries, bookstores, and the Gág House in New Ulm.

This volume of six pieces of short fiction by Božena Slančíková, who went by the pen name of Timrava, is a rare first-hand depiction of village life in early twentieth-century Slovakia. Timrava was born in 1867 in Polichno, then Upper Hungary and a part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, but now Slovakia. Two castes predominated, the landed gentry and the peasant class.

*That Alluring Land: Slovak Stories* by Timrava exemplifies her main themes of male-female relationships and marriage, family politics, immigration, social and economic constrictions, village gossip, and the impact of World War I. Although Timrava has strong female characters who bristle against middle-class society, her stories frequently end sadly, as peoples' dreams die.

The novella *Great War Heroes* starts with avid nationalist enthusiasm for war against Russians and Serbs. Timrava describes the horrible cost to the village, "... each day brought new fears, doubts, and rumors that someone else had fallen in battle. This one was mutilated, that one was torn apart by a shell, another had his head blown off, others their hand or foot torn apart. There was no end to the weeping, lamentation, wailing."

One of the most successful stories, *That Alluring Land*, is another portrait of individual lives swamped by great events. Inflated tales of life in the new country bolstered the attraction of immigration to the United States, leading emigres to believe that "they pay good wages in America... In Libová, too, a lot of men went to America, and they sent their money back. The village is rich now. They're building houses like palaces—one fancier than the other." Later, Jano Fazul'a's letter to his mother in Slovakia describes what he and his friends

encountered, "It's very difficult here, very hard. True, we get three dollars a day, but we work by the open furnace where the iron ore is melted. Just the two of us—old Ďuro Ĥankel' didn't last there even two days and had to quit. Now he's working by the train, hauling coal in a wheelbarrow."

*No Joy at All* is a compact, focused examination of one of Timrava's favorite themes: thwarted attraction and love, more effectively told than *The Assistant Teacher* and *Battle* on the same themes. Zuzana Bosá and Jano Grúnik loved each other in their youth, but married others for money. Twenty-three years later, their spouses are dead, they flirt with reuniting, but social conventions require they stay with their families. At the end, Zuzana "still had to shed a flood of tears, mourning for the last time her vain love and the happiness they had thrown away first because of wealth and now because they had to."

The sixth piece in this collection, *The Ĥapák Clan*, tells the unhappy interactions of a dysfunctional family of fifteen living together in one house.

Timrava was a renowned exponent of the late literary realism style in Slovak literature, awarded the title of National Artist in 1947. She lived in small villages throughout her life, attended local schools for two years, and was then taught by her father. Timrava worked for ten years as a kindergarten teacher. An unmarried woman, she struggled financially and moved often between relatives. She died in Lučenec in 1951.

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 on December 16,** 10:00 a.m.-noon, in the first-floor classroom at the C.S.P.S. Hall, for a book discussion of *Homecoming* and *The Voices: Prague 1968* by Joseph Wechsberg.

**January 20,** 10:00 a.m.-noon, in the first-floor classroom at the C.S.P.S. Hall, for a reading by book club members of a play from *Performing Captivity, Performing Escape: Cabarets and Plays from the Terezin/Theresienstadt Ghetto* edited by Lisa Peschel.

**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 Feb. 2018 issue is January 2.**

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

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

**Sokol Children's Holiday Party**  
Friday, December 8, 2017, 7 p.m.

**Škola Family Mikuláš**  
Sunday, December 9, 2017, 4 p.m.

**Membership Holiday Party**  
January 7, 2018, 4 p.m. Festivity, food, and fun. \$10/person  
Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share!

**15th Annual Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner**  
January 20, 2018, 5 p.m. Limited seating, \$23 per person.

**Art Exhibit of Glass and Sumi-e Painting**  
Sunday, January 21, 2018, 1-4 p.m., \$10 suggested donation.  
Fundraiser for matching STAR Grant.

[www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](http://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)  
Check for event updates: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)



**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* December 2017 / January 2018**

# Sokol Children's Holiday Party

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota



**Friday  
December 8  
7p.m.**



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

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

*Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota*

# *Membership Holiday Party*

*Sunday, January 7, 2018*

*Dinner 4:00 p.m.*

*\$10.00 per person  
includes a drink ticket*

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

*C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan Street*

*No reservations are needed*