

UPCOMING EVENTS

March Slovo Deadline
February 1

Board of Directors Retreat
February 4, 8:30 a.m.

Board of Trustees
February 8, 7 p.m.

Film: *Limonádový Joe*
February 19, 7 p.m.

SOKOL MINNESOTA PRESENTS
Accidental Hero
Performance by
Patrick Dewane
February 24, 7 p.m.

Flavors of Slovakia Dinner
Sunday, March 5, 12:30 p.m.
Please reserve and prepay
by February 27
Call 651-290-0542

Šibřinky Dance and Supper
April 1, 4 - 10 p.m.



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2017 Leadership

Front Row: Member at Large: Markéta Resong, First Vice President: Denis Novak, Women's Physical Director: Mary Cahill, Recording Secretary: Denise Stibal, Board of Budget and Finance Chair: Joyce Tesarek, Corresponding Secretary: Elizabeth Kaliska, President: Judy Aubrecht, Second Vice President: Edward Hamernik, Publicity Director: Jyni Koschak, Men's Physical Director: Jason Brozovich.

Back Row: Member at Large: Steve Ernest, Board of Trustees: Gary Zweber, Membership Director: Norman Petrik, Financial Secretary: Tom Aubrecht, Treasurer: Don Haselbauer, Educational Director: Jean Draheim. Missing: Sergeant at Arms: Michael Sebek, Board of Trustees Temporary Chair: Dan Bednar.

SOKOL MINNESOTA PRESENTS: Friday, February 24, 7 p.m. *The Accidental Hero* Performed by Patrick Dewane

By Bea Flaming

Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota along with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota present a true story about freedom, war, and the inescapable question: "Who am I?"

The performance takes place at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 24, at the C.S.P.S. Hall in Saint Paul. It is open to the public. A freewill donation basket will be at the door.

The Accidental Hero is a multi-media, 90 minute one-man show about a WWII American officer who miraculously liberates the Czech villages of his grandparents. It's a true story, written and performed by his grandson, Patrick Dewane.

For more information, check out this website < www.accidentalhero.net/>. DVDs of the performance will be available for purchase.

Dr. Daniel Freeman, University of Minnesota lecturer, will moderate the discussion following the performance.

Please R.S.V.P. to <education@sokolmn.org> A reservation is not required, but will assist with set-up and refreshment preparations.



**Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota
2017 BOD
(Board of Directors)**

President

Judy Aubrecht

First Vice President

Denis Novak

Second Vice President

Ed Hamernik

Recording Secretary

Denise Stibal

Corresponding Secretary

Elizabeth Kaliska

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Markéta Resong

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and Finance**

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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

As 2017 gets started, I would like to thank outgoing Board of Directors members Arlene Hamernik and Cindy Coulter for their service to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota over the last several years. Arlene was our corresponding secretary, who faithfully sent thank-you letters to many of us for our donations to Sokol Minnesota, both monetary and in-kind. As recording secretary, Cindy has taken excellent minutes for the monthly Board of Directors meetings. Both Cindy and Arlene also contributed their ideas and opinions about how to make Sokol Minnesota work more smoothly. Their thoughtful, kind, and enthusiastic work will be missed. Elizabeth Kaliska is our new corresponding secretary; Arlene is mentoring her in order to ensure a smooth transition. We are pleased that Denise Stibal has agreed to become our new recording secretary. BOD members look forward to getting to know Elizabeth and Denise better.

The members of Sokol Minnesota's Board of Directors work hard to provide vision and direction for our organization. Each February, the group meets for a Saturday retreat, where past successes are reviewed and future needs are defined. The retreat is a great way to get to know the members of the board, and reflect on important decisions for the upcoming year. Goals for 2017 include organizing the new "Sokol Minnesota Presents" (formerly known as "Featured Fridays") and other presentations that will take place this year. Other goals include finishing a new membership brochure, completing necessary building repairs, enhancing rentals, developing new sources for fundraising and grant writing requests, supporting existing programs, and enhancing membership activities.

A key goal for 2017 is getting ready for this year's national *American Sokol XXIV Slet and Festival* in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from June 22 to 25. *Sokol* in Czech means falcon, which is the Sokol organization's symbol; a *slet* is a gathering of Sokol units. Members from *Sokols* around the country attend this national event, which is held every four years. You are invited to participate. Classes to learn the calisthenic drill will begin soon at the C.S.P.S. Hall. *Sokol* members learn different parts of the drill at their own gyms and then assemble at the national *slet* to put together a mass performance as part of the closing ceremony of the *slet* and festival. It is truly inspiring! There are also gymnastic competitions, a dance, and a banquet, as well as more casual sports activities like volleyball and bowling. *Slets* are exciting events where people meet members from other Sokol units and enjoy a friendly weekend. Discounted reservations can be made now at the Clarion Hotel South in Cedar Rapids <www.clarioncr.com>, which is the center for the national *slet* activities.

I recently had the opportunity to eat at the new *Pajarito* restaurant. The Mexican-themed décor enhances the menu, which includes interesting tacos, freshly-made chips, and a tasty guacamole that was popular even with people who admitted that they usually do not like avocados. Small plates were passed and shared, which gave the group a sample taste of many different dishes and created a festive atmosphere. I tried the tamarind punch, which was very sweet; others in my group enjoyed beers and upscale cocktails. *Pajarito* has been getting excellent reviews in local papers. I hope that you, too, will have a chance to try the menu and to help to get the new business off to a great start! *Nazdar!*



Joyce Tesarek from Sokol Minnesota congratulated Steve Hesse (L) and his *Pajarito* partner Tyge Nelson (R) when the restaurant opened in late December in Sokol's C.S.P.S. building on the corner of West 7th and Michigan Street.

Sokol Minnesota Membership Campaign

By Tom Aubrecht, Financial Secretary

Current Members: If you missed the December 31, 2016, deadline for renewing your membership for 2017, please renew your membership by February 28, 2017, in order to continue receiving your copy of the *Slovo* newsletter and to maintain your membership.

If you have changed any of your contact information, please email <membership@sokolmn.org>

2017 Dues Rates: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017. Individual \$50.00; Couple \$90.00; Senior* \$40.00; Senior Couple* \$80.00 (*one over 65). There is a \$5 one-time registration fee for new members.

New Members: Please print the membership application on <SokolMN.org>.

You may pay your new or renewing membership dues via PayPal through <SokolMN.org> or you may send a check payable to *Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota* to

**Membership
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
2106 Berkeley Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105**

Thank you to all current and prospective Sokol Minnesota members. Your support of the activities of Sokol Minnesota is vital. Our website at <SokolMN.org> has up-to-date information on all our planned activities.

We hope you will join us!

#GivingTuesday raises \$2,050 for Sokol Minnesota

By Joyce Tesarek, Finance Chair

Sokol member Martina Gurgel, who co-administrates the Facebook page for the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities with Jitka Sebek, heard about a fundraising opportunity on Facebook. She passed the information to Sokol's Facebook administrator Sue Martin, who also quickly put out an event page for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

The fundraiser #GivingTuesday (or as we also called it "Raising Money for Good") was open to non-profit organizations. Donations could be matched up to \$1,000 total by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Each donation was matched as it came in until the maximum Gates Foundation total was reached. Our page quickly reached \$1,000, thanks to Martina's and Sue's quick action! With the Gates Foundation match, and an anonymous match from a Sokol donor, \$2,050 was donated to the Hall. Special thanks to all who participated!

Donors: \$10: Martina Gurgel, Lenka Hester, Tom Washa.
\$20: Livi Martin, Karen K. Paylor, Markéta Resong.
\$23, Michaela Giancarlo Kotek. \$25: Dáša Rosenthal.
\$30: Zuzana Bracknell. \$50: Blanka Brichta, Jana Jeřábková Castillon, Martin Dvořák, Igor Nestrašil, Louise Wessinger.
\$82: Sterba Stevee. \$100: Dave and Sue Martin, Richard Sargent, James Vculek. \$250: Don Prohaska.

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 130th year in 2017.

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 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!**



Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors By Elizabeth Kaliska, 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: Geneva Adams, Lillian Bednar, Coleen Gengler, Roger Green, Vera Hawkinson, Kevin Hurbanis, Vince Jirik, Darla Kolb, Pamela Kotval, Robert Kostichka, Karen Machlica, Michaela Makarianova-Wentz, Robert and Susan Marabella, Josephine Parvey, Ted Skluzacek, Georgiana Sobola, Claudia Tuma, Rose Vesely, Sara Votruba, Dan Washick, Louise Wessinger, Mrs. Josef Zeman.

\$100 - \$499: George Chlebecek for *Slovo*, Kay Edquist, Winona Havir, George Hoffman, Al and Libby Imbrone, Alton and Marie Krikava, Pamela Langworthy, Elsie Roepke, Tom and Penny Tesarek, Joan Sedlacek, Michael Wolesky and Susan Lindoo.

\$500 - \$999: Tom and Judy Aubrecht, Cynthia Coulter.

\$1,000 - \$4,999: Dave and Sue Martin.

Legacy Fund: under \$99: Markéta Resong.
\$100 - \$499: George Chlebecek, Ken and Ann Janda, Darlene Sitko.

\$500 - \$999: Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities.
\$1,000 - \$4,999: Joseph Dolejsi in memory of Joe and Tillie Dolejsi and Jay Dolejsi.

Adopt a Step: \$100 - \$499: Hana Matousek.

\$500 - \$999: Ed and Arlene Hamernik.

Gymnastic Classes: \$100 - \$499: George Chlebecek, Ken and Ann Janda.

\$500 - \$999: Kent and Marlene Hinshaw in appreciation of the Cahill Family and Jason Brozovich for their years serving our Sokol Gymnastics program.

\$1,000 - \$4,999: Joan Sedlacek for gymnastics equipment.

In-kind donation: Joan Sedlacek for items donated throughout the year.

General Fund: \$3,610 Gymnastics: \$2,369.39

Legacy Fund: \$4,143 (includes Adopt A Step: \$600 and

Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities: \$908) Total: \$10,122.39

Informal Czech Conversation Group

By Jan Knudtson

Would you like to practice your Czech? All ages and levels of Czech language are welcome. Meet others who have lived, studied, or grown up in the Czech Republic! Meetings are held every third Saturday of the month, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. We meet at Kramarczuk's, 215 East Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414.

January 21, February 18, March 18, April 8 (due to the Easter holiday, the group will meet the second Saturday of April), and May 20.

MEMBERSHIP Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the November 17, 2016, Board of Directors' meeting three persons were accepted to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota membership: one couple, **Alexander Ivaskovic** and **Amy Patella** from Woodbury, with interests in cooking, gymnastics, history, language, films and music, and **Stacey Bulera** from Lakeland, with interests in gymnastics, language, and dance. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

In Memoriam

longtime Sokol Minnesota member

Kent Hinshaw

passed away
Sunday, January 15, 2017
at the age of 85.

The family is planning
a celebration of his life
in early spring.

Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant Seeks 2017 Contestants

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant is looking for young women of Czech, Slovak, or Moravian heritage to compete for the state title. The 28th annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant will be held on April 8 at the American Legion Club in Montgomery.

The competition is for women between 16 and 26 years of age. The pageant winners receive cash awards, crowns, and a year of memorable appearances throughout the state of Minnesota. 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. The application deadline is March 1.

For more information and a registration form, contact Lorraine David at 507-364-9370 or 507-364-5384, Ashley Zimanske at 952-201-4107, or <missczechslovakmn@hotmail.com>. The pageant information can also be found on the official pageant website at <missczechslovakmnpageant.org>

The reigning 2016-2017 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen is Alexa Turgeon of Lonsdale, daughter of Chris and Rebecca Turgeon. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Princess and Miss Congeniality is Autumn Gare, daughter of Joshua and Linda Gare of Montgomery.

2016 Fall Pancake Breakfast with Bake and Craft Sales

By Ed Hamernik and Jason Brozovich

November 20 was a beautiful fall day and many people joined us at the Hall for our semi-annual breakfast/bake sale/craft sale. We appreciate all who came and made this event another success for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.



donated by Judy Aubrecht, Cindy Coulter, Bob Kostichka, Pam Kotval, Hana Matousek, Denise Stibal, and Joyce Tesarek. Sales of *koláče* and donated goods was \$1,285.75.

In keeping with our pancake breakfast tradition, we served pancakes (the best in Saint Paul!), French toast, sausages, and a fruit cup. Orange juice and coffee were also available, as were pancake "seconds" and even "thirds"!

Pancake volunteers included Jason Brozovich, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, Cindy Coulter, Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Anna Hester, Bob Kostichka, Denis Novak, Joan Sedlacek, Cinnamon Whaley, Rosemary Whaley-Baisden, and our local



Girl Scout Troop 55398. We served over 130 hungry individuals!

There were 10 craft vendors selling fiber arts, imports and collectibles, canned/fermented vegetables, baked goods, and jewelry. This fall's vendors included Marilyn Gomez, Deanna Miller, Sharon and Vicki Dunsmore, Hana Matousek*, Louise Wessinger*/Sokol Events, Anne Kueny, Markéta Resong*, Ludmila Pálková, and Jean Draheim*. (* Sokol members). Sokol Minnesota made \$1,943.60 on this event. Thanks to everyone!!!

Our famous Sokol Minnesota *koláče* highlighted our bake sale. Our bakers, led by Doreen McKenney, included Judy Albrecht, Jean Draheim, Katie Haselbauer, Joyce Tesarek, and Joan Sedlacek. The many phoned-in pre-orders were popular and helpful to the sales workers, who included Cindy Coulter (on left in photo below), Jean Hall, Ed Hamernik, Elizabeth Kaliska, M. L. Kucera, and Mary Mulherin. A variety of delightful baked goods was



Slovak Honorary Consul Don Pafko elected Vice President Minnesota Consular Corps



At the November meeting the Minnesota Consular Corps appointed Honorary Slovak Consul and Sokol member Don Pafko as Vice President. Slovak Consul Pafko was previously Secretary/Treasurer of the Minnesota Consular Corps.

As Vice President, Honorary Consul Pafko is responsible for assisting the President, networking with all honorary consuls in Minnesota, and is in line to move up to President of the Consular Corps. The Minnesota Consular Corps meets eight times per year at the Minneapolis Club in downtown Minneapolis. At each meeting, distinguished speakers are brought in to address the honorary consuls. Speakers include politicians, business leaders, and government officials.

(L-R) Secretary/Treasurer Teresa Palacios Olson, Honorary Consul of Chile; President Britt Ardakani, Vice Consul of Norway; and Vice President Don Pafko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic

Carpathian Festival on February 19 at Landmark Center, Saint Paul

February 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., marks the return to the Landmark Center of the Carpathian Festival honoring the Central and Eastern European cultures of the Carpathian Mountains. The Festival is sponsored by Ethnic Dance Theatre and the Landmark Center. There will be sights, sounds, and smells from 10 different cultures: Polish, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, Carpatho-Rusyn, Ukrainian, Jewish, Romanian, Roma, and Serbian. The cultures will be represented by their Honorary Consuls, including Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera, and information tables about the ethnic organizations.

Folk dance and folk music performances, dance teaching, puppet shows, folk tale re-enactments, films, and interesting cultural presentations will be scattered throughout the day, while vendors and artisans display their wares and their talents on the main floor.

A crafts area for children features hands-on projects. Everyone can have a picture taken in front of a backdrop of the Carpathian Mountains that they can download free off Facebook after the event. The Artistic Director of Ethnic Dance Theatre leads regularly scheduled tours of the cultural display of authentic costumes. There is something for everyone! Admission \$6 adults, \$4 children, under 6 free.

Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota and Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota present the Czech film *Limonádový Joe* also known as *The Horse Opera*.

Sunday, February 19, 7 p.m.

Come and join us for a screening and discussion of this unforgettable classic Czech musical comedy from 1964, directed by Oldřich Lipský.

The film, set in Stetson City, Arizona, in 1885, is a charming parody of the American western.

This event is free!

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

The 2017 Czech Heritage Junior Royalty



The 2017 Czech Heritage Junior Royalty was chosen during the European Christmas Event at the Park Ballroom in New Prague on Sunday, December 4. (Front L-R) Little Ambassadors Ashlyn Simon, Ruby Nassal, Kristin Siebsen, Ambassador Sylvia Lemke, Little Ambassadors Melanie LeBrun and Aria Beaudin; (Back L-R) organizer Deb Ziskovsky, Czech Honorary Consul Marit Lee Kucera, and organizer Arnie Ziskovsky. Photo: Patrick Fisher, New Prague Times

The Ziskovskys are Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota members and also the Directors of both the Czech Heritage Junior Royalty and the *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers of the New Prague area. As organizers of the European Christmas Event, they include the Junior Royalty Coronation and many European-style folk dance groups. The *Lipa* Slovak Folk Dancers, directed by Slovak Honorary Consul and Sokol Minnesota member Don Pafko, were part of the entertainment.

Starting in 2017 the event will have a new name: *Hometown Holidays: Celebrating European Traditions*. Mark your calendar to visit New Prague on the first Sunday of December 2017 for this great event.

Czech and Slovak Films coming in April 2017

Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival *Wasteland*, 8-hour Czech TV series.

***The Teacher*, Slovak-language film by prolific Czech director-writer duo, Jan Hřebejk and Petr Jarchovský.**

More details in the March *Slovo*.

Members Enjoyed Holiday Party, Sunday, January 8, at C.S.P.S. Hall



Music: Don Haselbauer tickled the keys for the pre-dinner entertainment.

The annual holiday party for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota members on January 8 had food and fun aplenty with many door prizes and even more bingo prizes! Members provided appetizers and desserts. Markéta Resong prepared superb *goulas* and dumplings. Also for dinner were the ever-favorite *hakušky a kapusta* (cabbage and dumplings) and fresh rye bread. Czech *Staropramen* beer was the beverage of choice.

Judy and Tom Aubrecht organized the festive event. Don Haselbauer played the piano for the music entertainment during the social hour before the meal. Denis Novak with assistance from Judy Aubrecht called only winning numbers for bingo for which Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik provided the Bingo cards and colorful tiles.



Bingo! Judy Aubrecht helped Denis Novak call out the numbers.

Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, and M. L. Kucera donated door prizes. Winners were Tom Albrecht, Jason Brozovich, Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Steve Ernest, Jean Hall, Katie Haselbauer, Bob Kostichka, Kathy Kostichka, Jyni Koschak, Lloyd Krocak, Kevin Lundeen, Denis Novak, Markéta Resong, Denise Stibal, Joan Sedlacek, and Shirley Verner.

Bingo prizes came from Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, Joan Sedlacek, and Joyce Tesarek. Katie Haselbauer, who was the first to Bingo, stood up and gave a cheerleader's shout. Then it was off to the races for the many other prizes. Everyone was eager to win something and nearly everyone did; there were even multiple-time winners: Tom Aubrecht, Jason Brozovich, Jim Chlebecek, Jean Draheim, Steve Ernest, Jean Hall, Arlene Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Bob Kostichka, Kathy Kostichka, Jyni Koschak, Pamela Kotvald, M.L. Kucera, Val Kusile, Denis Novak, Norm Petrik, Joan Sedlacek, Denise Stibal, Joyce Tesarek, Sharon Wyberg.

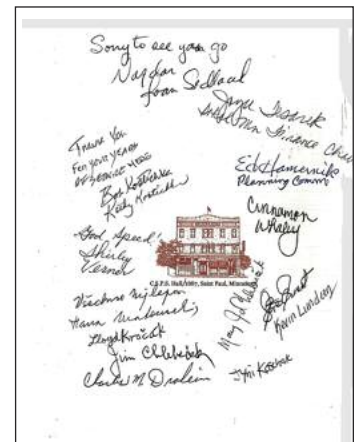
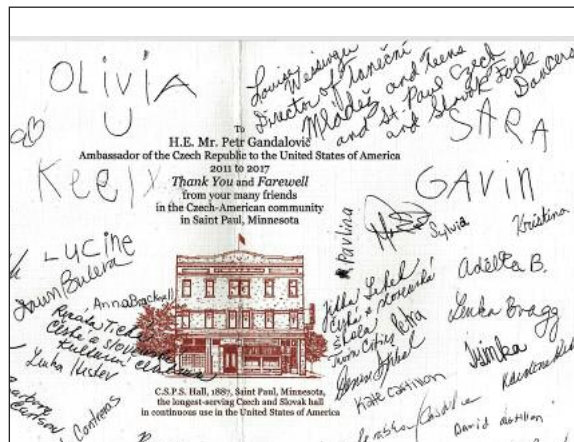


Art: Mary Cahill viewed the hand-painted sumi-e cards which were part of the silent auction fundraiser at the Roast Duck Dinner on January 21. Alena Youngberg explained this special fundraiser, sponsored by Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, to the Sokol members at the Holiday Party.

Members enjoyed meeting and welcoming new members Alexander Ivaskovic and Amy Patella and their two young sons.

Thanks to everyone for a great party!

Card of Thanks Sent to Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovič



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota sent this card of thanks to Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovič for his years of service as Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States. Minnesota was fortunate to have him visit several times during his time in Washington, D.C., mid-2011 to early 2017. Thanks to all the members and friends, including many children, of Sokol Minnesota who signed the card.

Sokol Children's Holiday Party

By Louise Wessinger

The magic of the holiday season filled the hall on Friday evening, December 2, 2016, as the Sokol children and teen dance groups performed for family and friends. The evening began with the children on the stage presenting posters representing many of the Czech and Slovak holiday traditions. Next, the children and teens were joined by the Sokol Singers and Czech & Slovak School moms to sing several of our favorite *koledy* (carols). Teen dancer Elisa Swartz accompanied them on piano, Dawn Bulera on violin.



After singing, both the children and teen dancers left the stage to perform several of their dances on the main floor for the crowd. Everyone was impressed by how much our new dancers have learned in such a short time and also how polished our teens have become.

After the dance performances, the whole crowd got up together to do *Šla Nanyňka do zelí* ("Annie in the Cabbage Patch"). All the children gathered near the front of the stage to do our traditional echo pantomime about *svatý Mikuláš* (Saint Nicholas). Then, just by singing *Silent Night*, the children got



three special visitors to appear, *svatý Mikuláš* (Don Andrlé), *anděl* (Pat Andrlé) and *čert* (Dave Štepan). The children were delighted to sign the *Book of Good Children* and to receive a goodie bag from *svatý Mikuláš*. The *čert* (devil) tried to entice the children with offers of wilted vegetables, but most preferred to stay on *svatý Mikuláš's* good side!



Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities St. Nicholas Party, Saturday, December 3 By Martina Gurgel



(Left) There is always a play each year at the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities' St. Nicholas party. The children practiced their lines in Czech with teachers Lenka Bragg and Romana Pulkrabek from September through December. Pictured is a funny scene from a dentist's office during the final rehearsal.

(Lower left) Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities families enjoyed their annual St. Nicolas feast; everyone contributed to a huge potluck meal.

(Below) At the end of the evening, *anděl* (angel), *svatý Mikuláš* (St. Nicholas), and *čert* (devil) called the name of each child to come forward to receive a gift from *Sv. Mikuláš* and his helper *anděl*. *Sv. Mikuláš* praised each child for good behavior and often suggested where improvements could be made. *Čert* did his best to distract the children and haul them away in his burlap sack, but he never succeeded.



2016 Holiday Season with the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers By Louise Wessinger

The holiday season is always busy for the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Starting off the celebrations is the Ukrainian American Community Center (UACC) event called *Christmas Around the World*.

It is held the Sunday after Thanksgiving at the Ukrainian Hall in northeast Minneapolis. It is one of our favorite performances of the year because we get to dance on UACC's beautiful stage, and also because we see so many of our other folk dance friends.

This year we also danced outside (yes, I said outside!) for the *European Christmas Market* at Saint Paul's Union Depot on Saturday, December 3. It was really cold, but the dancing warmed us up, as well as the crowd that was watching. Hopefully, they will have heaters for us next year!

For many years our group has danced in the town hall at The Landing in Shakopee for *Folkways for the Holidays*. Even with the first big snowfall of the year, we had a good-sized crowd to watch our performances. The old wooden floor makes it a fun place to dance. I'm afraid we stomped so hard that one of the globes on the wall lights fell off and broke!

We look forward to the *Carpathian Festival* sponsored by Ethnic Dance Theatre held at the Landmark Center on Sunday, February 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. It promises to be a great day with dance and music performances, food and craft vendors, and children's activities. (See more details on page 5.)



(Front L-R) Pam Langworthy/Richard Sargent, Lenka Hester/David Cammack, Louise Wessinger/Dave Stepan, Teresa Pojar/John Topic. (Back) Robert Jacobson/Jyni Koschak, Tom and Judy Aubrecht, Emma Martin/James Metcalf, Dave and Sue Martin.

Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers will also perform 8 p.m. at Sokol's annual *Šibřinky* Dance and Supper on April 1, 4 - 10 p.m.

Moravian Dance Teacher Jaroslav Švach Coming to C.S.P.S. Hall By Louise Wessinger

The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers and Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota will have a special guest teacher from Břeclav, Moravia, Czech Republic, from February 17 to March 1. His name is Jaroslav Švach, and he is a friend of Sokol member Markéta Pálková Resong. He is an expert folk dance instructor who has led many folklore groups in the Czech Republic, as well as being a performance judge at folklore festivals. He is especially expert at men's "show off" steps called *verbuňk*. He will teach new choreographies to the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, as well as to the children and teen folk dancers.

In addition, Jaroslav will offer three special open classes to the public at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Wednesday, February 22 from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Sunday, February 26 from 1 - 4 p.m., and Wednesday, March 1 from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Open classes include dances from both the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Poland. Dancers of all levels are invited to attend.

The cost is \$5 per person, payable at the door.

For further information, please go to <SokolMN.org> or call Louise Wessinger at 651-452-6240.

The Play: *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* Coming to the Twin Cities. Let's all go!

Last May at C.S.P.S. Hall, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities produced *Broučci*, the classic 1876 Czech children's story. The imprisoned Jewish children performed it in the Terezín concentration camp (36 miles northeast of Prague) in 1943.

In October 2001, Libby Imbrone, on behalf of Sokol Minnesota and in cooperation with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, organized a month-long art show in the first floor classroom with literary works and prints of the artwork from the children at Terezín. Based on the book *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* by Hana Volavková (1904-1985), the exhibit was well attended. (See *Slovo*, September 2001, Vol. 24, No. 7)

8 February 2017 *Slovo*

This spring, Northern Starz Children's Theatre (February 23 to March 5 performances) in Ramsey, Minnesota, is producing *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, a one-act play by Celeste Raspanti. Northern Starz has partnered with Sabes Jewish Community Center (February 16 to 19 performances) in Minneapolis, and The White Bear Center for the Arts (March 10 to 11 performances), plus Temple Israel, Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas "Transfer of Memory," and playwright Celeste Raspanti, to give its young cast the ability not just to perform, but also to learn the history behind events surrounding the holocaust and the hope that survived.

Over 15,000 Jewish children passed through Terezín, but only about one hundred were still alive when Terezín was liberated at the end of WWII. The play centers around the real-life story of Raja, one of the children who survived Terezín. Although Raja's story is permeated with loss and anguish, it is also infused with love and hope.

For more information: <northernstarz.org/i-never-saw-another-butterfly-performances> Join a group from Sokol Minnesota on March 11 for the 3 p.m. matinee performance at the White Bear Center for the Arts.

Contact <president@sokolmn.org> by February 20 to order your tickets. Ticket prices: \$10 for adults (18+); \$7 students and seniors (55+).

Frank Phillip Trnka Celebrated his 100th Birthday at the Sokol Hall on November 26

By Frank R. Trnka

Sokol member Frank Robert Trnka decided C.S.P.S. Hall would be an ideal location to celebrate his father's 100th birthday. This was an opportunity to bring together some distant relatives who do not see each other often.

His father, Frank Phillip Trnka, grew up in the West 7th neighborhood. His father's Czech roots go back to New Prague, Minnesota, where his great-grandparents J. Matěj and Marie (Toman) Hanzl, and Matěj and Rozálie (Malecha) Trnka, settled in 1853 and 1862 respectively. His grandparents married in New Prague, but eventually moved to Saint Paul. Aunt Amelia (Jelinek) Trnka is in one of the old photos (from 1907) on the third floor of the hall.

Frank Phillip's mother's German roots in Minnesota also include the West 7th neighborhood. Great-grandfather, Jacob Amos, was a stone mason responsible for building several of the old limestone buildings that still stand in the West 7th neighborhood. One of them, the Stone Saloon at 445 North Smith Avenue, built in 1857, is being lovingly restored by Tom Schroeder to its original function as a German lager saloon.

Koláče came from the Sokol bakers, Katie and Don Haselbauer prepared *chlebíčky*, plus we served Czech beer and Moravian wine.

Frank R. Trnka's band, the *Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble*, provided entertainment. Sokol member Dawn Bulera, violinist in the band, is a second cousin twice removed of Frank R. Trnka's father. Sokol member Denis Novak is a second cousin once removed. So it was a very Czech event at a very Czech location.

Distant relatives gathered to celebrate Frank P. Trnka's 100th birthday (seated in front).

(Back L-R) Robert Amos (first cousin once removed), Clarence Amos (first cousin), Bill Thomas (family friend from Milwaukee), Susan Amos Palmer (second cousin once removed), Frank R. Trnka* (son), Dawn Bulera* (second cousin twice removed), Denis Novak* (second cousin once removed), Connie Miller (second cousin once removed) and Sharon Gladson (former daughter-in-law from Philadelphia). *Sokol Minnesota members.



Photo of his aunt, Amelia (Jelinek) Trnka, from the third floor gallery at the C.S.P.S. Hall.



The Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble performed at the party: Dawn Bulera, Frank Trnka, John Topic, and Jason Brozovich.



Grave marker for Frank P.'s Trnka/Malecha great-grandparents, was newly installed this past fall at the Saint Wenceslaus Cemetery in New Prague, Minnesota. The graves had been unmarked for 120 years.



Perform the *Prostná* with Sokol Minnesota at the American Sokol XXIV Slet and Festival

You are invited to perform with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota at the *Slet* (gathering) of Sokols from across the United States, the Czech Republic, and Canada in a *prostná* (a calisthenics number) in June in Cedar Rapids. Sokol Minnesota will teach the *prostná* with dates and times yet to be determined based on Hall and participant availability. The *prostná* we are teaching is for adults of all ages and all abilities.

The national *Sokol Slet*, which is a gymnastics and sports competition, culminates in a grand performance of the *prostná* on the afternoon of Sunday, June 25, with hundreds of Sokols on the field. It is a spectacular sight! Participation in *prostná* at the *Slet* requires an official American Sokol "parade uniform" that consists of shorts, shirt, white tennis shoes, and white socks. The official uniform white shirt and blue shorts must be ordered by February 1, cost is approximately \$60, prices vary by sizes. Estimated cost of white tennis shoes and white socks, purchased on your own, is about \$45.

For more information on learning the *prostná*, please call Joan Sedlacek: 651-699-8773.
All ages invited.

February 1 is the deadline to order the PARADE UNIFORM for the American Sokol XXIV Slet and Festival in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 22-25.

Of course, you are also encouraged to attend the *Slet* as a spectator for any and all of the wonderful events that will occur over the four-day celebration and competition. No uniform is required for spectators.

Watch the future *Slovos* for more 2017 *Slet* information.

New Members of Sokol Leadership Team



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota welcomes two new members to the Board of Directors and one new Board of Trustees member: (L-R) Elizabeth Kaliska is the new BOD Corresponding Secretary, Gary Zweber is the new BOT member, and Denise Stibal is the new BOD Recording Secretary. Thank you for helping keep our Sokol unit strong.

New Webmaster

Sokol's new webmaster is Cinnamon Whaley, who has done a beautiful job creating a new website for us. Check it out <sokolmn.org>

She wants members to know you can easily check out Sokol Minnesota events at <sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/>



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: Arlene Hamernik Website: Cinnamon Whaley Volunteer Coordinator: open
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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Czech Voices: Stories from Texas in the Amerikán Národní Kalendář. Translated and edited by Clinton Machann and James W. Mendl, Jr. College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 1991, 184 pages. Available in libraries and book stores.

Editors Clinton Machann and James W. Mendl, Jr., selected and translated ten short autobiographical vignettes from Czech immigrants that are enjoyable reads. The sketches were originally among hundreds published between 1880 and 1936 in the Midwestern Czech-language journal, *Amerikán Národní Kalendář*, the most prestigious Czech-language publication in the United States at the time. Although primarily written by older men who immigrated in the mid- to late-1880s and who dealt with similar situations, the pieces chosen by the editors do not duplicate descriptions. As a result, we learn about events from a variety of perspectives and experiences.

The writers were important leaders, adventurers, journalists, and farmers with a lot in common: immigration, land acquisition, poverty, frequent moves, raising families, freethinking, Texas's poor education system, and assimilation, which they tried to balance with retaining some Czech culture and language. They often settled near another Czech farmer or in a small Czech-American community. The first Czech immigrants arrived in Texas about 1850. The number of foreign-born Czechs living in Texas grew to 3,000 by 1890, with more than 15,000 by 1910. Texas Czechs remain one of the state's largest ethnic groups.

As a Northerner, I found the Civil War details especially fascinating. These Czech-American men, many of whom were fleeing conscription in the Austro-Hungarian Army, ironically faced military service in the United States. Jan Horák wrote, "We hated slavery. We came to America so that we could be free, and we wanted everybody to have freedom." The Union Army started with a draft, then used force. "When my time came," Horák stated, "I saw that I couldn't run away, so I went along."

These primary source materials are vivid reading that bring activities to life. As Josef Buňata wrote, "In 1887, I was

vegetating in Boston after being fired from my job as a cigar maker. I had reached Boston after suffering the misfortunes of a Czech-American journalist, having quit as editor of *Dělník Americký*. It had gone well for us in Boston, but a strike broke out, and we lost. As a member of the strike committee, I was not only fired, but my name was also put on a blacklist, and so I had no hope of finding a job..."

I am impressed with how many wrote about serenity and gratitude they felt later in life, despite earlier hardships. Josef L. Lešikar noted, "Now I'm sitting peacefully with my wife in our happy family circle, with my remaining three sons, their wives, and fourteen grandchildren.... I'm glad that I've lived in such a significant era, and I have the hope that, whether today or tomorrow, I will leave the scene of this busy life of mine in peace and contentment."

They had developed philosophies of life, too. "We rented a place for five years and worked hard to deserve the American freedom which we had so yearned for in that rotten Austria," wrote Josef and Terezie Jirásek. "Freedom does not grow on trees but springs from the blood of the nation's liberators and from the callouses of its poor people." Similarly, Jan Horák wrote, "We have our family concerns. What more can I say? It's light during the day and dark at night. It's cold in the winter and hot in the summer. People are always talking a lot of nonsense. I can't complain about anything, and anyway, it wouldn't do any good."

Machann and Mendl include an introduction; helpful notes that correct misremembered and inconsistent details; name and subject indexes; and a bibliography. When *Czech Voices* was released in 1991, Clinton Machann was professor of English at Texas A&M University, and James W. Mendl, Jr., taught in the public schools of Pflugerville, Texas, and also taught Czech at the University of Texas, Austin.

Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. Information: <www.cs-center.org> Contact: <gwen@cs-center.org>.

Join Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures members to discuss *The Linden and the Oak* by Mark Wansa on Saturday, February 18, 10:00 a.m.-noon, at the CSPS Hall.

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 March 2017 issue is February 1.**

This issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by February 28: <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 (February 15 for April issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (March 1 for April issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through February 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: Patrick Dewane, Patrick Fisher, Martina Gurgel, M. L. Kucera, Don Pafko, Joyce Tesarek, Frank R. Trnka.

**EVENTS AT C.S.P.S. HALL
ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!
Sokol Minnesota 2017 Events**

Carpathian Festival

Sunday, February 19, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. (see page 5)
This event is at Landmark Center, downtown Saint Paul

Film: *Limonádový Joe*

The classic Czech musical comedy (1964) (see page 5)
Sunday, February 19, 7 p.m. Free admission

Folk Dance Classes by Expert Czech Instructor

February 22 and 26, March 1 (see page 8)
Call Louise Wessinger: 651-452-6240

Flavors of Slovakia Dinner

Sunday, March 5, 12:30 p.m.
Prepaid reservations by February 27. 651-290-0542
Please volunteer to help!

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* February 2017

Spring 2017 Events at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, MN 55102 • 651-290-0542

Join us!

~♥~ Gift shop open during Sokol events ~♥~

- **Join Sokol Minnesota's *prostná* team!** Learn a fun calisthenics routine for XXIV American Sokol *Slet* and Festival, June 22-25, Cedar Rapids, IA. Practice begins February: fitness@sokolmn.org
- **Family Fun Activities: Sundays, January 15, February 12, March 12, 4 - 7 p.m.; and Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Potluck supper and Czech/Slovak activities for all ages.
- **Flavors of Slovakia: Sunday, March 5, 12:30 p.m.** Cabbage rolls, pirohy, cabbage and dumplings. \$16 adult, \$8 child 9 and under, cash bar. Pre-paid reservations by February 28. 651-290-0542.
- **Šibřinky: Saturday, April 1, 4 - 10 p.m.** Come for supper, stay for the dance! **Supper** 4 - 6:30: pork cutlet, potato salad \$7. **Dance** 6 - 10: Gordy Prochaska's Little Fisherman Band, \$10 advance sale (order by March 26, check to Sokol MN, c/o 3704 Denmark Ave, Eagan MN 55123), \$12 door. **Folk Dance Performances:** Children/Teens: 5 p.m. Adults: 8 p.m. Cash bar and snacks.
- **Pancake Breakfast with Craft and Bake Sales: Sunday, April 9, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** \$7 adult; \$5 child under 9; \$22 family of four. No reservations needed. Pre-order *koláče*: 651-290-0542. Reserve a craft table: 651-433-2008 or education@sokolmn.org
- **Battle of the Bands: Saturday, April 29, 7:30 p.m.** SlovCzech and other local rock bands. Fundraiser for new fire escape steps. \$10 suggested admission. Cash bar and refreshments.
- **Festival of Nations, May 4 - 7, Saint Paul RiverCentre, downtown Saint Paul.** Enjoy Czech and Slovak food and culture; children, teen, and adult folk dancers on stage.
- **Children's Cultural Day Camp: June 12 - 16.** For boys and girls ages 7 to 14. Ethnic cooking, crafts, Czech language, gymnastics, and more. Info: 651-452-6240. Registration: www.sokolmn.org
- **Czech and Slovak Festival: Sunday, September 24, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Live music, folk dancers, vendors, children's games, ethnic food, Czech beer, info booths, silent auction. Free Admission. Accessible facilities. 612-822-6147.



Go to www.sokolmn.org for the latest information on all events. Questions? events@sokolmn.org