

UPCOMING EVENTS

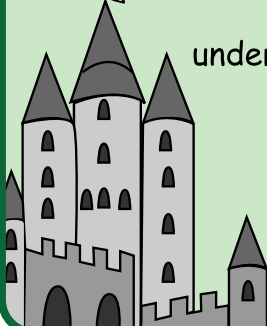
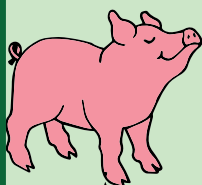
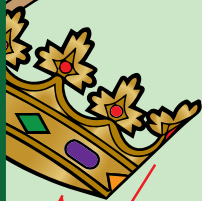
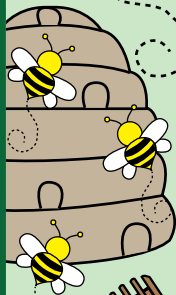
Children's Cultural Day Camp
June 11 - June 16

Board of Trustees
June 14 and July 12, 7 p.m.

Board of Directors
June 15 and July 20, 7 p.m.

August Slovo Deadline
Saturday, July 1

Sokol Camp Picnic
Sunday, August 13
Noon - 5 p.m.
(see page 2)



20th Annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp

C.S.P.S. Hall from June 12 to 16
from 8:50 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Campers and family potluck kick off featuring a pollinator puppet show. Sunday, June 11. Details at registration.

Revised camp theme:
Czech and Slovak Twists
Children seven to fourteen years of age.

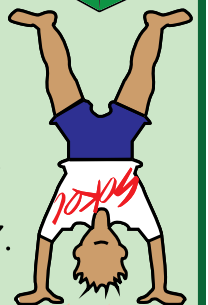
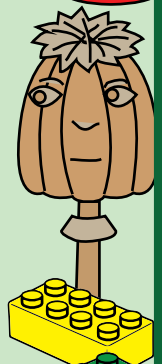
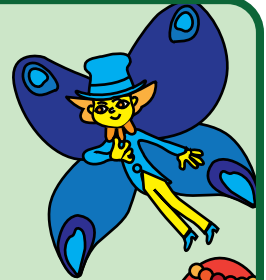
Older teens are invited to be junior leaders.
A fun way to get volunteer hours.

Parents, grandparents, or family friends can volunteer at the camp, which allows the camper to attend at a reduced rate.

The camp includes ethnic crafts, food, singing, games, folk dancing, language, and gymnastics classes.

Registration ends on June 5.
Register at the Sokol Minnesota website
<www.sokolmn.org>
under Classes, click on Culture Camp 2017.

Contact Louise Wessinger
with any questions
at 651-452-6240.
See you at camp!



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

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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

Have you seen the new C.S.P.S. Hall fire escape? Installed in April, it is a sturdy, safe construction that enhances our building's safety. The fire escape was a major fundraising project that required the assistance of individual donors, Sokol members, as well as grants from other groups. Additional fundraising activities, like the Battle of the Bands, which was organized by the parents of the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, was a fun way to encourage many of us to become further involved with supporting the fire escape project.

The C.S.P.S. Hall was built in 1887, with a significant expansion of the third floor meeting room added in 1919. The Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Building Sites. In 2010, a grant was received from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to fund a Historic Structures Report. The Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees have used the report to identify which major improvement projects need to be supported. This has helped implement a system that ranks each project based on urgency, severity for health and safety, priority, and cost. Did you know that in the past five years, there have been six C.S.P.S. Hall building projects that in total have cost over \$534,000? These projects have been guided by Sokol Minnesota's Project Planning Task Force, led by Ed Hamernik. Projects include the installation of the air conditioning system (2012 - 2016), installation of a fire suppression system (2012 - 2013), heating and furnace upgrades (2012 - 2013), small kitchen upgrades (2012 - 2014), project planning architectural services (2013 - 2014), and the north egress stairway/fire escape (2016 - 2017). For a non-profit group with an average of 275 members, it is remarkable that so many improvements have been recently completed.

We may wish we could take a break from working on major improvement projects for our Hall. However, work is needed for tuckpointing of deteriorated mortar joints, as well as roof repairs to the parapet caps along the edges of the building, sheet metal flashing and chimney repairs, and sealing doors and windows. This work has been delayed to the point where there exists concern about water seeping into the walls of the building and causing serious damage, especially if ice freezes in the walls. The estimated cost for this project is close to \$250,000. There will be additional costs if tuckpointing is also completed for the foundation. Several grants have already been submitted to seek funding for this project, and another major grant can be applied for by August 1, 2017. If grant money is approved, matching funds will need to be raised in order to receive the grant money. Thank you for your past donations and please consider making a generous donation to the Sokol Minnesota Legacy Fund in 2017. *Nazdar!*

Czech that Film! at MSP Film Society, Minneapolis, in August

Tiger Theory (*Teorie tygra*, 2016), The Noon Day Witch (*Polednice*, 2016),
The Snake Brothers (*Kobry a užovky*, 2015), The Devil's Mistress (*Lida Baarová*, 2016),
The Teacher (*Učitelka*, 2016), I, Olga Hepnarova (*Já, Olga Hepnarová*, 2016),
Intimate Lighting (*Intimní osvětlení*, 1965),
Little from the Fish Shop (*Malá z rybárny*, 2015)

For exact screening times and dates:

check August *Slovo* or MSP Film Society webpage: <www.mspfilm.org>

87th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic in Pine City

Filled with feasting, entertainment, and fellowship

Sunday, August 13, from 12 noon until 5 p.m.

Featuring the *Best Booya in Pine County*, you won't want to miss this event!

All Sokol members and the general public are welcome to attend.

You can reunite with Sokol family and friends while enjoying a bowl of booya, a plate of *halušky*, or a side of cabbage rolls, as the concertina plays in the background.

If you're interested in volunteering, whether to help serve food or using some muscle to move tables, please call or text Kari and Scott Muyres, Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Co-chairs at 763-226-0313.

As a bonus, refreshments will be provided for volunteers!

**Our historic Sokol Camp is located at
19201 Woodland Acres, Pine City, Minnesota 55063**

XXIV Slet & Festival in Cedar Rapids

Practice for the senior calisthenics, *prostna*, began in early May at C.S.P.S. Hall. Our Minnesota Sokol unit performs with hundreds of other American Sokols in Cedar Rapids on June 25, at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids at the XXIV Slet & Festival, June 22 to 25.



Back L-R: Joan Sedlacek, Jason Brozovich, Mary Cahill. (Front) Joyce Tesarek, Norm Petrik, Louise Wessinger. Also participating: Dawn Bulera, Jean Hall, Marit Lee Kucera, and Hana Matousek. Sokol Minnesota has 13 girls and 3 boys gymnasts competing, plus a Men's Tag Team with Jason Brozovich and Matt Schussler from Minnesota plus Kevin Sindelair from Cedar Rapids. Each of the men

will do two events in the six-event competition.

Everything you want to know about the Slet in Cedar Rapids: See <www.american-sokol.org> <www.american-sokol.org/board-of-instructors>

Welcome New Members

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the May 18 Board of Directors meeting, one couple, Michaela and Robert Kotek from Burnsville were accepted into membership at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. They have two children, Dominik, and Emma. They lived in the Czech Republic for the past three years. Michaela was a Sokol member prior to living in Czech Republic and the children were in children's folk dance group. Welcome back to Sokol Minnesota!

Highlights from the Minutes of the April Board of Directors Meeting

By Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary

The Sokol Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on April 20 at 7 p.m. Ed Hamernik reported that our fire escape stairs are finally done, except for painting. We also need to do something with the shed behind the building. Our next major building project is tuckpointing and parapet work, and a grant application has been submitted to STAR for \$150,000. Pajarito is having a Cinco de Mayo festival on May 5, and it requested to borrow some of our tables. We have five new members, as reported by Norm Petrik. Jean Draheim reported that flowers were delivered to Don Pafko, who is recovering nicely from surgery. Flowers were also delivered to the Hall for Kent Hinshaw's memorial service and to Shirley Verner during her hospital stay. Our new membership brochure is ready; 750 copies were printed. We have a dumpling class scheduled for May 13 and another SOKOL PRESENTS on May 19, featuring a discussion on Lidice by Joan Sedlacek. The Festival of Nations is coming up the first weekend in May. Mary Cahill reported the gymnasts are preparing for an informal competition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on April 15; *prostna* starts in May for *slet* in June. Ed reported that our gaming revenue for the first quarter was \$8,852. We also received a \$3,000 grant from American Sokol. We celebrated Judy Aubrecht's birthday with treats; the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Elizabeth Kaliska, Corresponding Secretary

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

General Fund: under \$99:

Donald and Catherine Haselbauer (in honor of **Louise Wessinger's** birthday), **Doris and Doreen McKenney, Roger Wencil**

Legacy Fund: \$100 - \$499:

Doreen Sitko, Terry Shima

General Fund: \$140 Legacy Fund: \$550
Total: \$690

Donation listing omitted in May:

General Fund: Over \$500: **Meghan and Aaron Eberhart** in honor of **Joan Sedlacek**

Silent Auction Donations Wanted for Czech and Slovak Fall Festival, September 24

Sunday, September 24, is our 27th Annual Czech and Slovak Fall Festival. We will offer items and gift certificates to bid on and win. When you are doing your spring cleaning and downsizing, please save items that could be used for the silent auction.

Box the items, label them "Silent Auction," and drop them off at the Hall. All donations are tax deductible.

We are looking for volunteers to join the Silent Auction team to help find items, as well as to coordinate, to set up, and to staff the event.

If you have questions or would like to help, please call Joyce at 612-822-6147 or email Festival@SokolMN.org

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!*



Czech and Slovak Families Celebrated Easter at Sokol Hall on Saturday, April 22

- A. Barbara Schaller, guest artist, demonstrated her Slovak-style Easter eggs, with original and Carpatho-Rusin motifs.
- B. Egg Decorating: melted colored wax (crayon) was put onto a blown-egg shell with unique applicator tool (pencil with a common sewing pin stuck into the eraser).
- C. Easter whip/switch: *pomlázka* is made from braided pussy willow or here in Minnesota, red-twigged dogwood branches. This custom dates to pagan times; it deals with springtime and fertility. The boys go carolling on Easter Monday; they chase the girls and symbolically (gently, we hope) whip them on the legs. In return, the girls give decorated eggs to the boys.
- D. *Velikonoční beránek*, the very special Easter lamb cake, is made in a two-piece metal form, which requires careful greasing and flouring, so that the cake comes out of the mold with all its details. The lamb here is decorated with frosting (lots of it!).

They Settled Little Bohemia, and All are Welcome to Visit

By Joe Landsberger

Reprinted with permission by the author from May 2017 Community Reporter.

The 10th annual West End Neighbors Garden Tour will take place this year on Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. This year we are featuring the history of the yards and gardens of Little Bohemia. This neighborhood was originally populated with Czech and Slovak immigrants dating back to September 8, 1860, with the arrival of Michael Karták, reputed to be the first Czech to arrive in Saint Paul via the Upper Landing. He settled there when there were six other families on the flats (that were later to become Little Italy), but soon moved up to the neighborhood at 60 Goodhue near the current C.S.P.S. Hall, next to the German community around Assumption Church.

The majority of Czechs often referred to themselves as Bohemians, including my mother's family of Dvořáks, and often built their own homes when they weren't working. By 1880, there were about 300 of these families according to Kartak's 1885 account and research by Karleen Chott Sheppard.

Several prominent immigrants included Antonin Jurka, 16 Douglas Street, who taught music and German at Humboldt High School and relocated to New York to become the Executive Secretary of the Čech Benevolent Society. His daughter, Blanche Yurka, briefly sang with the Metropolitan Opera and later became a stage and screen actress including starring roles in "A Tale of Two Cities" (1935), "The Song of Bernadette" (1943), and "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" (1944).

Jan Rachač/Račač (1849-1936) was born in Mazic, Bohemia, and apprenticed as a carpenter. His family arrived in the United States in 1863 and lived at 309 Harrison. Račač joined Carpenters' Union Local 87 and worked on the building of the Minnesota State Capital, including finish carpentry in the governor's office. His son, John Rockart, worked as an architect his whole life, especially with Cass Gilbert who sent him to

study two years at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. Upon his return, he was assigned to oversee work on the Minnesota State Capitol in Saint Paul. Rockart's role in the Gilbert firm evolved into what would be akin to a modern day role of managing architect. For the next 30 years, he was deeply involved with managing many of Gilbert's major projects including the Fine Arts Building and Festival Hall in Saint Louis and the Woolworth Building in New York City. His last project with the firm was the United States Supreme Court Building that he completed with Cass Gilbert, Jr., upon the death of Gilbert, Sr.

These are a few of the stories you will find in the West End Neighbors' Garden Tour guide for the Little Bohemia neighborhood. The first half of the guide book details the yards and gardens of these neighbors who tend gardens and yards much like their immigrant forebears, as well as Pleasant Place at the head of Little Bohemia Bike Trail. The second half of the book elaborates the rich history not only of those early Bohemian communities, but also of their organizations (Sokol 1882) and

institutions such as C.S.P.S. Hall, 1887; Holm and Olson Garden Center, 1890's; Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church, 1872; and three Jefferson Schools (the first, 1858-1923, was the second school in the City of Saint Paul). Upon its completion in 1923, the second Jefferson School hosted the first Statewide PTA meeting.

All are welcome to celebrate with us our 10th annual garden tour and plant sale, as well as enjoy Dawn Pape's puppet show on pollinators at C.S.P.S. Hall, 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. Meet Mason, a boy who is afraid of bees, and discover how he conquers his fear. He feels like a superhero on a mission to save bees after he meets a talking mason bee. Yes, a bee sharing his own name!

We also invite you to contribute items for a local food shelf.

The tour is free to all, and the guide book/history is only available the day of the tour at two locations: the Federation offices and the plant sale at 974 7th Street West and at Banfil Office Court parking at 555 7th Street West.

The original article in Community Reporter included a photo of Founders, Rád Čech č. XII C.S.P.S. from Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

Czech
Slovak
Sokol Minnesota
In the Neighborhood Since 1882

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

- Czech and Slovak imports
- Education classes
- Ethnic dinners
- Girls and boys ethnic dance classes
- Girls and boys gymnastics classes
- Hall rental space available
hallrentals@sokolmn.org
- Office: Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic

www.sokolmn.org

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota ad in the 2017 West End Neighbors Garden Tour guide book.

Sokol Minnesota at the Western District Competition on April 15 in Cedar Rapids

By Courtney Benson

The Western District Competition is an annual gymnastics meet where all Sokols in the Western District gather to showcase their talent, including not only Sokol Minnesota, but also the Sokols from Omaha, South Omaha, Crete (Nebraska), and Cedar Rapids.

Hosted by Sokol Cedar Rapids, this year's meet on April 15 was held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It was a great learning experience for all competitors. In a sense, we were able to envision the national meet, which will also be held starting on June 24. Not to forget mentioning, Cedar Rapids is the location for the National Instructors School on June 25-July 9, 2017. Three of our Sokol Minnesota competitors will attend.

The Western District Competition was very much a team effort. Sokol Minnesota brought ten female competitors and three male competitors to the meet. The competition was the first time in many years that Minnesota had male competitors. Traveling with the competitors were their families, and of course, their coaches. Sokol Minnesota brought four coaches, including Jason (Men's Head Instructor), Courtney (Girls Head Instructor), Alice, and Carissa. Mary Cahill (Women's Physical Director) was also there to ensure things ran smoothly and even served as a judge along with Carissa. Lastly, Joan Sedlacek was there to watch and attend the Western District meeting.

Unlike a traditional meet, the judges provided feedback to the competitors on an individual basis, with the goal being to better prepare for the national meet. Each competitor received a notecard with this information following the meet. All competitors benefited from hearing the individualized feedback, both on what went well and what went not-so-well. For the female competitors, specifically, we took our first practice day back in Saint Paul to talk through the feedback. We created goals to address any problem areas. We are well on our way to improving; we are excited to showcase our talent this time at the national meet.

Special thanks to all involved in the Western District Competition, especially gymnasts, parents, coaches, other Sokol units, and Sokol Cedar Rapids.

Pancake Breakfast with Bake and Craft Sales Recap

By Jason Brozovich

Over 120 people were served breakfast on April 9 at our biannual Pancake Breakfast with Bake and Crafts Sales, spring 2017 edition! Sausages and fruit cups accompanied French toast and all-you-can-eat pancakes. Coffee, juice, and milk helped wash everything down. Overall, it was a successful event! A special thanks to co-chairs Jason Brozovich and Megan Cahill, as well as all the volunteers, from ticket takers to kitchen staff and everyone in between. Breakfast volunteers included Colleen Cahill, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Ed Hamernik, Bob Kostichka, Denis Novak, Joyce Tesarek, Amanda Tesarek, Joan Sedlacek, Cinnamon Whaley, Rosemary Whaley-Baisden, and Girl Scout Troop 55398.

Breakfast guests also were able to browse the many vendor tables. Vendors coordinated by Jean Draheim, included Ludmilla Pálková and her mother also named Ludmilla who sold home-made baked and canned goods; Deanna Miller offered knitted and crocheted items; Cathy Mackiewicz from Bone Lake Meadows Apiary featured honey and bee-related personal care products and candles, as well as t-shirts; Lois Claeson sold Czech glass and glass overlay; Doreen McKenney offered cards, coloring books, and magnets. Louise Wessinger sold items from our own Sokol Minnesota gift shop. The featured items at the bake sale table were the Sokol Minnesota *kolačé*, fresh baked for the occasion. Other bake sale items were donated by Judy Aubrecht, Mary Jo Chlebeczek, Bob Kosticka, Sharon Liska, Joyce Tesarek, and Louise Wessinger. Volunteers selling the baked goods included Jean Hall, Chair, with Mary Jo Chlebeczek, Roger Green, Arlene Hamernik, Marlene Hinshaw, and Sharon Liska. Sales from the bake sale table totaled \$781.

To all the volunteers who helped make this event happen, we truly appreciate your time, talent, and hard work. See you at our fall pancake breakfast on November 19!

První máj: Czech May Pole Raised in Montgomery on May 7

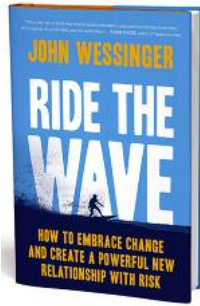
Over 275 people watched a traditional Czech May Pole go up in Montgomery on Sunday, May 7. The top several feet of branches of the 53' spruce tree, 31 years old, remain to blow in the wind over the next several months. The lower trunk was shaved and smoothed to a shine. A circular wreath of flowers and streamers also hangs high. At not quite halfway up the pole, 16 ribbons were affixed around the pole for the traditional ribbon dance. Sixteen participants create unique woven patterns with the long ribbons. The dancers, half closer to the pole, intertwined their ribbons, as they slowly moved around the pole, to create a colorful web; then they reversed directions to unwind the ribbons. In the second part of the dance, the ribbons were intertwined around the pole itself, as seen in the picture here (lower left).

Two Czech foreign exchange high school students attended. Eliška Korbová, from Most-Vtelno, is staying with the Mach family in LeCenter. Zuzka Vostřelová, from Ústí nad Labem, is staying with the McLellan family in New Prague. Sokol Minnesota member Arnie Ziskovsky played drums with several members of the New Prague Area Concertina Club. Authentic Czech food included *kuřečí paprikás* (chicken paprika) served over bread dumplings, *párek v rohlíku* (hotdogs), *jaternice* (liver sausage), several flavors of *koláče*, poppyseed *buchta* (a closed *koláč*), and apple strudel, with *pivo* (beer) imported from the Czech Republic.



Several Sokol Minnesota members attended; plus several people from Czech Country Minnesota talked about joining Sokol Minnesota. We gladly welcome new members.

SOKOL MINNESOTA MEMBER NEWS



Minnesota Princess; Josh Gare; and Bob Tuma. (Middle) Marit Lee Kucera, Czech Honorary Consul; Heather Vikla, 2014-15 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Princess; Ronna Trnka; and Claudia Tuma. (Front) Deb and Arnie Ziskovsky, founders. Other board members are Don Pafko, Slovak Honorary Consul; Rebecca Enrooth, 2013-13 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen; and Junior Directors Lizzie Trnka, Kailey Mach, and Connor Raduenz.

New author John Wessinger and Kate Doman, his fiancé, will marry August 19. John Wessinger, son of Sokol Minnesota member Louise Wessinger and her husband Chuck, publishes his first book this June. The book, called *Ride the Wave*, is for organizations, business leaders, and anyone looking for a new process to overcome personal and professional challenges.

Ride the Wave is a tactical and inspirational take on how to overcome the new sales and marketing challenges faced by business leaders today. John also offers workshops and seminars through his business solutions company, Lateralus Solutions. He can be reached at johnwessinger@lateralussolutions.com

Workplace Wellness Award Given to Sokol Member Dave Stepan By Louise Wessinger



Congratulations to Sokol Minnesota member Dave Stepan as the countywide winner of the 2017 Hennepin County Employee Recognition Program - Workplace Wellness Award. Dave receives this award on June 27 at the Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis in recognition of the way he models healthy practices in his own life, as well as promotes health and wellness within his workplace. He won the award over 32 other nominees in his department alone. Dave rides his bike to work almost every day, no matter what the weather. He eats healthy snacks. He takes the stairs and encourages co-workers to do the same, as he offers to walk with them. He often goes to yoga, kettlebell, or aerobic workouts over lunch, and invites co-workers to come along.

As a member of the active living committee for ten years, he has encouraged the use of standing desks, plus design changes that make steps more obvious for moving from floor to floor. Dave also encourages co-workers to participate in county sponsored fitness challenges, including preparing for and participating in the Hennepin Hustle 5K race. While exercise is the primary focus of the 5K, employee engagement and general well-being are strong secondary outcomes. This can be seen in employee participation from five runners in 2012 to 597 runners in 2016.

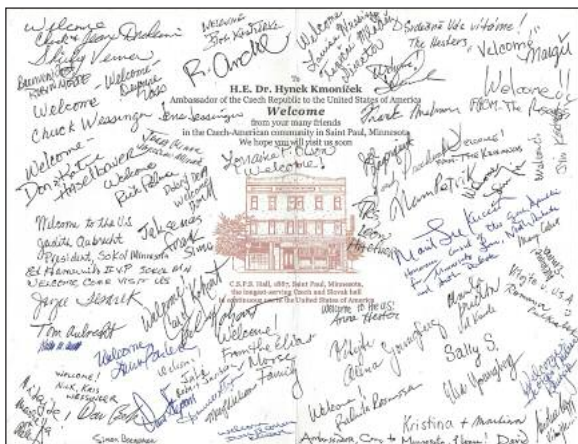
Dave not only lives a healthy lifestyle himself, but he also encourages it in others. We are so proud of you, Dave! You definitely demonstrate the Sokol tenet of a healthy mind in a healthy body! Many of you know Dave as a long-time member of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers and as the frequent emcee of our Czech and Slovak Festival each September.

Sokol Minnesota's Card Welcomed Czech Ambassador Hynek Kmoníček to the United States

Hynek Kmoníček, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to the United States, who arrived in mid-March, presented his credentials to President Donald Trump at the White House on April 24.

Before coming to Washington, Ambassador

Kmoníček worked as the Director of the Foreign Affairs Department in the Office of the President of the Czech Republic in Prague for four years. His diplomatic career spans more than two decades. He also has served as the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Australia, India, and the United Nations in New York, plus several other diplomatic positions.





Battle of the Bands Rocked as a Super C.S.P.S. Hall Fundraiser on April 29

1. Jitka Sebek and Blanka Brichta, event organizers, eyed one of the door prizes, a bottle of *Kofola* (Czech cola, which along with *Liberta*, a yellow soda pop like Fanta®), considered the premium soft drink during the communist era and is still manufactured today. 2. SlovCzech band. 3. Christopher Yaeger, Twin Cities dance educator, choreographer and performer, was emcee. 4. Rocket Appliances band won the 2017 Battle of the Bands. 5. Andrew Bartelson, drummer, accepted the Best Band prize on behalf of Rocket Appliances. 6. During intermissions, Christopher Yaeger taught line dances. 7. Markéta Resong and her mother Ludmilla Pálková, visiting from the Czech Republic, prepared and served the two delicious *guláze*. 8. Chuck Draheim served *pivo* (Czech beer) from the bar. 9. Tom Albrecht sold food tickets. 10. Lenka Hester with Colin and Anna staffed the admission (by donation) table. 11. Silent Auction table had over 30 baskets. 12. Silent Auction assistants Christy Banks and M. L. Kucera aided and abetted Czech language students Nancy Blume and Cynthia McArthur to raise their bids. 13. Lolos Ghost band. The table on the floor below the stage held three buckets, one for each band, to collect dollar bills (or Fives or Tens). The bucket with the most money determined which band “won” the Battle of the Bands.

Everyone Won at Battle of the Bands

"I am going to another Seal of Biliteracy workshop!" That announcement only drew yawns from my family, perhaps a "see ya later." But hearing "Blanka invited me to a bar crawl to check out a lot of bands!" raised eyebrows. Blanka Brichta, one of our Czech language teachers at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and an organizer of *The Fireflies (Broučci)* theatrical production in 2016, spearheaded the new idea of bringing 21st century bands to the 19th century stage of the C.S.P.S. Hall for the first Battle of the Bands on April 29. Three bands agreed to donate their performances as part of a multifaceted evening dedicated to raising money for the C.S.P.S. fire-escape fund. After three months of complex preparations from staffing, advertising, and neighborhood outreach to food and beverage planning and much more, we gathered on the last Saturday in April to witness and enjoy the Battle of the Bands, to choose a victor, and to have more fun than should be legal.

The large crowd welcomed back SloVczech (European folk rock) and was curious about Rocket Appliances (Americana) and Lolos Ghost (R&B). All three bands impressed us with professional musicianship from their first songs. They played for dancers young and old, who enthusiastically showed their appreciation for both traditional and modern dance steps. Concurrently, we hosted a Beer Trivia Contest (which generated a lot of interest!), two line dances with lessons, food choices between paprika *guláš* or *Szegedin guláš* (two pork goulashes with tomatoes or sauerkraut) and between Czech beer or wine. Furious bidding took place on the many gift baskets in the silent auction: Minnesota Orchestra and ballet tickets, Montgomery *Koláčky* Days tickets, imported wine, cognac and coffee, gourmet treats for pets and their owners, Czech t-shirts, and many more. Guests rotated between the dining tables, the bar, the auction tables, and then back for more dancing and listening to our wonderful musical performers. The energy and happiness levels were palpable; everyone went home exhausted, yet delighted that the event had come off so well.

How well? Throughout the night, band-voting buckets filled with dollar bills as the Battle of the Bands raged. At the end of voting (counting the amount in each bucket) came this announcement: "The winner is Rocket Appliances!" But truly, all three bands were winners to us. Their efforts helped us raise \$2,753 (after expenses), thanks to admission donations (\$759), Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (\$350), bar and kitchen sales (\$907) the silent auction (\$843), and band voting (\$302.50). This total far exceeded our hopes from three months ago.

A battle usually has just one winner, but with this Battle of the Bands, all were winners:

- All of you who helped organize, promote, and support this fortissimo idea.
- All of you who exchanged *kroje* for jeans and danced a line dance instead of a *mazurka* .
- All of you who worked tirelessly the whole evening.
- All of you who constructed and donated creative, irresistible silent auction baskets and then made sure each found a new home.
- All who played excellent music, entertained us, and created an electrifying atmosphere in our old and beloved Hall.
- All of you who voted on the bands, ate, drank, laughed, and learned, who brought partners and friends, who had fun and supported the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's C.S.P.S. Hall.

By Jitka Sebek, with Blanka Brichta and M.L. Kucera

Supporters and Contributors:

Bands: SloVczech: Petr Bachan, Emily Judge-Becker, Svea Drentlaw, Jozef Klobošník, Lubor Manolov, Andrew Tiano. Rocket Appliances: Brett Anderson, Andrew Bartelson, Dave Hartman, Tony Thomas. Lolos Ghost: James Loney, David Earnest Bennett III, Paul McFarland, Joe Scanland, Colleen O, GR Svenddal.

Master of Ceremonies: Christopher Yeager.

Czech Language Instructors: Blanka Brichta, Renáta Tichá.

Czech Language Students: Christina Banks, Nancy Bloom, Robert Fealy-Layer, Allyson Grym, Randy Carlson Jez, Kathy Jorgenson, Pamela Langworthy, Paul Layer, Cynthia McArthur, Paul Pavek, Richard Sargent, Pat Slaber, Jim Sturm, Tom Washa, Linda Webb.

Food and Bar: Markéta Resong, Ludmilla Pálková, Chuck Draheim.

Poster Design: Doreen McKenney.

Sokol Singers: Ann and Ken Janda, Bob Kostichka, Pam Langworthy, Richard Sargent.

Literary Ventures: Ann and Ken Janda, Pam Langworthy, Richard Sargent.

Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities: Olga Andish, Blanka Brichta, Barbora Carlson, Jana Castillon, Eva Giese, Stanislava and John Gerlach, Martina and Brett Gurgel with daughter Kristina, Lenka Hester with daughter Anna and son Colin, Ludmila Pálková, Dagmar Rosenthal, Markéta Resong, Jitka Sebek, Renáta Scholtz, Michaela Makarianová-Wentz, Alena Youngberg.

Sokol Minnesota: Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Dawn Bulera, Megan Cahill, Jean and Chuck Draheim, Louise Wessinger, Deb Ziskovsky.

Sokol Gymnastics: Jason Brozovich, Mary Cahill.

Silent Auction: Blanka Brichta organized the Silent Auction with sponsorship by students in the Language Program. A total of thirty-one baskets, bags, and envelopes were donated by Board of Directors, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, <www.sokolmn.org>; Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities/Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities; City of Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, 101A First Street North, Montgomery 56069; Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop, open at Sokol events and by appointment; Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International: <www.cgsi.org>; Franke's Bakery, 200 1st Street South, Montgomery 56069; Michelle Hillyard; *Kolacky* Days, Montgomery Area Community Club, 206 1st Street South, Montgomery 56069; Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Minneapolis; Doreen McKenney; Jan Morse; Next Chapter Winery, 16945 320th Street, New Prague 56071; Pizzeria 201, 201 1st Street South, Montgomery 56069; Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers: <www.tancuj.org>; Sokol Minnesota Singers at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; Tapestry Folkdance Center: <tapestryfolkdance.org>; Dr. Joyce Tesarek, Pet Doctors Animal Clinic, 25 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis 55404; Christopher Yeager.

Silent Auction tables assistants: Christina Banks, Blanka Brichta, Marit Lee Kucera, Joyce Tesarek.

Special appreciation to all who donated Silent Auction, plus all the bidders who opened their wallets wide to support Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Six buyers took advantage of Buy-It-Now, which allowed them to walk away with their treasures at a special pre-set price (very close to the actual value) before the Silent Auction officially ended. We were also very proud that bidding on several baskets exceeded the retail values.

Want to do it again next year?

See you at the second Annual Battle of the Bands!



Czechs and Slovaks at Festival of Nations, May 4-7. Saint Paul RiverCentre

1. Junior Royalty from Czech Country Minnesota worked a shift on Friday in the Cultural Booth: (Back, L-R) Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Director (and Sokol member) Deb Ziskovsky, Junior Royalty Ambassador Sylvia Lemke, 2017-2018 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen Bailey Gare, Junior Royalty Little Ambassador Kristin Siebsen. (Front) Junior Royalty Little Ambassadors Aria Beaudin, Ruby Nazzal, and Ashlyn Simon. 2. Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. 3. Don and Pat Andrle stood next to the horse and rider, created by Doreen McKenney, for our *Ride of the Kings* exhibit in the Cultural Booths Exhibit Hall. 4. *Taneční Mládež* Sokol Children's Folk Dancers. 5. *Lipa* Slovak Folk Dancers. 6. *Taneční* Sokol Teen Folk Dancers.

continued on page 11

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	<i>Taneční Mládež</i> and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger	
<i>Slovo</i> 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		

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/Fundraising/ 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



continued from page 10

(See August Slovo for more pictures and the list of the volunteers.)

7. Czech and Slovak Cultural Booth: Betty Erlandson and Terry Pulkrabek stamped many students' passports. 8. Matt Dion and Karen Varian in the Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural Booth. 9. Honorary Consuls: Marit Lee Kucera (Czech) and Don Pafko (Slovak). 10. SlovCzech band performed for a pair of young dancers. **Café:** 11. Darla Kolb behind the case with trays of koláče. 12. Jitka Sebek and Megan Cahill with freshly-made *chlebičky* (open-faced sandwiches). 13. Carved watermelon in the Thai Café. 14. Friday Café staff: Sally, Julian, Matt Bulera Weathers, Penny Tesarek. 15. Joyce Tesarek, General Festival Chair for Czechs and Slovaks, with Jackie Gubash-Mueller, from the Lebanese Café next door, traded food specialties. 16. Cashier Richard Sargent and server Julie Bifano. 17. Pamela Langworthy gave Norm Petrik the list of available koláče flavors. 18. Dawn Bulera and Jason Brozovich (in the doorway), Café Chairs for Czechs and Slovaks.



**2017 Slet and Festival on June 22 to 25
in Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

*Everything you want to know about the Slet
in Cedar Rapids:*

<www.american-sokol.org>
<www.american-sokol.org/board-of-instructors>

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The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to <slovo@sokolmn.org>.

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***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through July 2018.) 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 49¢ 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, M.L. Kucera, Joyce Tesarek, Michaela Makarianová-Wentz, Louise Wessinger, Deb Ziskovsky.

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

Children's Culture Day Camp

June 11 – 16, ages 7 to 14

Ethnic cooking and crafts, Czech and Slovak language, gymnastics,
Info: 651-452-6240. Register by June 5 <www.sokolmn.org>

XXIV Sokol Slet & Festival

June 22 - 25, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
www.american-sokol.org

Minnesota Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

August 13, Noon - 5 p.m. on Cross Lake, Pine City
Fun-filled day for the entire family.

28th Czech and Slovak Festival

Sunday, September 24, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. with folk dancers
live music, gymnasts, children's games, ethnic food, silent auction.
Free admission. Please Volunteer: 651-290-0542

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* June/July 2017

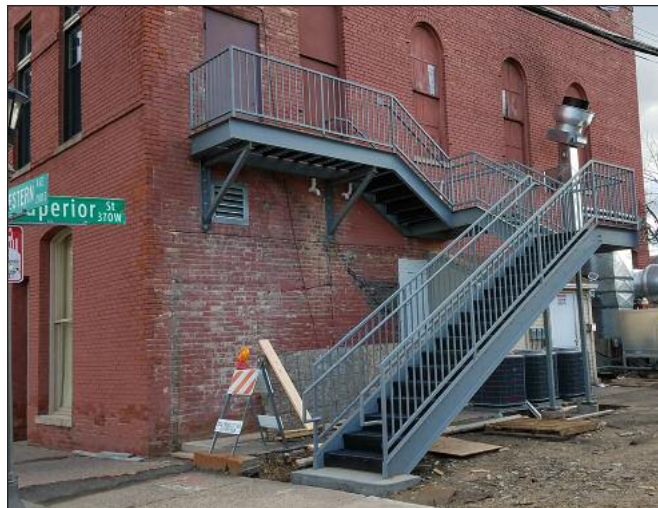
Update: C.S.P.S. Hall's New Emergency Fire Escape Stairs By Joyce Tesarek



Original stairs



Temporary stairs



and the new Replacement stairs

The replacement fire escape stairs are now installed! We have to paint them black to comply with historic guidelines. We also need to rebuild the back shed that was removed with the old stairs. Plans have been drawn. There is still time and need to donate to this fire escape stairs project. Donate online at <SokolMN.org> or send a check, made out to Sokol Minnesota, to the C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund, 383 Michigan, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. *Thank you!*