

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June Slovo Deadline**  
Monday, May 1

**Festival of Nations**  
May 4-7 (See page 6)

**Board of Trustees**  
Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m.

**Dumpling Class**  
Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m.  
(see page 6)

**Board of Directors**  
Thursday, May 18, 7 p.m.

**SOKOL PRESENTS**  
Friday, May 19, 7 p.m.  
(see page 7)

## 2017 Festival of Nations Saint Paul RiverCentre, downtown Saint Paul *Rituals and Celebrations* May 4 - 7



Culture  
Exhibit Booth



Dance  
Performances



Café  
Ethnic Foods

### Folk Dancers Perform on the Main Stage (M) and Atrium (A)

#### *Taneční Sokol Teen Dancers Perform:*

Friday, May 5 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (M) and Saturday, May 6 at 2 p.m. (M)

#### *Taneční Mládež Sokol Children's Dancers Perform:*

Saturday, May 6 at 12 p.m. (M)

#### *Lipa Slovak Dancers Perform:*

Friday, May 5 at 6 p.m. (M) and Saturday, May 6 at 1:30 (A) and 3 p.m. (M)

#### *St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers:*

Saturday, May 6 at 5 and 7 p.m. (M) and Sunday, May 7 at 12 (A) and 4 p.m. (M)

#### *Czech Musicians SlovCzech Perform:*

Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and evening, and Sunday afternoon (A) or Café

**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota General Chair Joyce: 612-822-6147**

Event Hours and Tickets: [www.festivalofnations.com](http://www.festivalofnations.com)



## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

### 2017 BOD (Board of Directors)

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Judy Aubrecht

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Denis Novak

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#### Publicity Director

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Arnie Ziskovsky

#### Gaming Manager

Ed Hamernik, Chair

Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

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

## Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Judy Aubrecht

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

Several years ago, the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's Board of Trustees identified the rear fire escape at the C.S.P.S. Hall as a severe problem and prioritized it as an important project. However, efforts and fundraising had already been directed toward the air conditioning project, as well as for the Hall's fire suppression system. In early April last year, the rear fire escape, dated 1919, failed an inspection by the City of Saint Paul. This occurred just days before the visit of Czech dignitaries, including the prime minister. A rented fire escape was temporarily installed to maintain the large group certificate of occupancy, with the hope that a new fire escape would soon replace it.

After extensive planning and consultation, the replacement fire escape design was recently selected and approved. L.I.W., Inc., of Ramsey, Minnesota, was selected to fabricate and install the new stairs. The City of Saint Paul issued a construction permit for the installation of the new fire escape in March.

Several additional items were resolved during the design process. A structural engineer analyzed and identified where the stairs needed to attach to the building and also determined where proper supports needed to be installed. The preferred stair treads were on back order, and a different tread was selected and approved. A separate permit was required for constructing a shed over the basement steps, which is also used by our new restaurant tenant, Pajarito. Selected to clear the site, Pelco Construction of White Bear Lake will pour the concrete footings and re-build the shed over the basement steps.

Locating and coordinating the workers and determining the installation schedule also took considerable effort. Throughout the design and scheduling process, Ed Hamernik, our Sokol Minnesota second vice president, and John Yust, the architect who designed our elevator and the new fire escape, have worked hard to coordinate this project.

Project funding is progressing with generous and much appreciated donations by Sokol members, friends, and Sokol Minnesota Charitable Gaming operations. Two American Sokol grants, both coordinated by Joyce Tesarek, Sokol Minnesota Finance Chair, helped our funding cause.

The Board of Trustees has prioritized major additional building projects for 2017. The next repair project will be to repair or replace the parapets on the roof of the building and additional tuck-pointing of the building walls. Cracked parapets allow water to seep into the walls of the building, which can cause major damage. The tuck-pointing will replace damaged or worn out mortar and bricks. Bids have been obtained. A large matching grant for this work was applied for through the City of Saint Paul. This matching grant will require significant fundraising to match the potential grant. We appreciate your continued generosity to maintain our beloved C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall. *Nazdar!*

## 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: Anonymous in support of *Slovo*, **Doris** and **Doreen McKenney** in memory of **Kent Hinshaw** in support of the kitchen.

Over \$500: **Don** and **Katie Haselbauer** in honor of **Joan Sedlacek**, **H. Kathleen O'Neill** in memory of **Anna Delastrada O'Neill**.

**Legacy Fund:** under \$99: **Jerry Sjansky**

**Gymnastic Classes** in memory of **Kent Hinshaw:**

Under \$99: **Debbie La Chapelle**, **George Chlebecek**, **Jim** and **Mary Jo Chlebecek**, **Marjory Christensen**, **Jean** and **Chuck Draheim**, **Shannon Duffy**, **Linda** and **Wally Le Francis**, **Joanne Freidlund**, **Jean Hall**, **Ed** and **Arlene Hamernik**, **Mary K. Hollenkamp**, **Robert Jacobson**, **Suzi Johnson**, **Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Kolb**, **Valeria Kuisle**, **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kostichka**, **Mr. and Mrs. John McKeown**, **Mr. and Mrs. James McCoy**, **Kendra Nielson**, **Daniel** and **Maureen Siltberg**, **Nancy Smolik** and **J. Kellgren**, **Shirley Verner**, **Phyllis Vosejpkka**, **Arnie** and **Debra Ziskovsky**

\$100 - \$499: **Diane Bell**, **Dennis** and **Mary Cahill**, **Mike** and **Delise Conroy**, **Mr. and Mrs. Albert Imbrone**.

**General Fund: \$2,060**

**Legacy Fund: \$25**

**Gymnastics Classes: \$1,370**

**Total: \$3,455**

## Highlights from the Board of Directors

### Meeting By Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary

The Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors met on March 16. Prior to the meeting, Joan Sedlacek approached the board with a proposal to borrow artifacts to bring to the Cedar Rapids *slet*. She will send pictures to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, and if they express interest, she will deliver them in time for the event.

Joyce Tesarek presented the Finance Committee report for year-end 2016. The committee will review the budget for 2017 at the next meeting.

Ed Hamernik from the Building Committee reported that the new stairs will be installed before April 30. Painting inside the Hall is scheduled for August 2017.

Jean Draheim reported that we had 77 people in attendance for the performance by Patrick Dewane of "The Accidental Hero" on March 3. Patrick has agreed to return in 2018 for a fundraising performance.

Our next building project is to repair the parapet caps and tuck pointing the bricks as needed. We have received a bid for this work of \$237,448. Two American Sokol grants, both coordinated by Joyce Tesarek, Sokol Minnesota Finance Chair, helped our funding cause.

Events included *koláče* baking in preparation for both the Pancake Breakfast and the Festival of Nations.

The national *slet* in June is in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. If you want to attend, please book your reservation soon.

## Czech Passport Renewals Made Easier

Czech citizens now may opt to collect their new biometric passports at an Honorary Consulate, according to Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Minneapolis. This means only one trip to Chicago (New York, Los Angeles, or Washington) to renew a Czech passport.

Application for the new biometric passport of the Czech Republic must be submitted in person at the Embassy (Washington, D.C.) or at a Consulate General of the Czech Republic (Chicago, New York City, or Los Angeles); not at an Honorary Consulate. Physical personal appearance is necessary to collect the fingerprints.

At the time of submitting the application, the person is required to choose the office where the issued passport will be collected. The passport can be collected in person at 1) a municipal authority in the Czech Republic, 2) an Embassy or Consulate General of the Czech Republic, or 3) an Honorary Consulate in the United States authorized to handle biometric passports by the supervising post.

If the applicant chooses to collect the new passport at an Honorary Consulate, he/she must provide, at the time of application, two USPS Priority Mail Express Flat Rate Envelopes prepaid for \$22.95 each.

For further information, contact the Consulate General in Chicago: <consulate\_chicago@mzv.cz>

For Schengen visas, long-term visas, residency, CzechPoint: +1-312-861-1037 ext. 113

For Czech citizenship, Czech vital registry records: +1-312-861-1037 ext. 107

For travel documents of the Czech Republic, legalization (signatures, copies of documents): +1-312-861-1037 ext. 108

For consular cases regarding Czech citizens: +1-312-861-1037 ext.106

## Welcome New Members

### By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the March 16 Board of Directors meeting, two people were accepted to membership at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Linda Havir from Minneapolis has interests in events, history, genealogy, and dance. Girma Feyissa from Woodbury has interests in history, language, festivals, film, and literature.

At the Sokol Board of Directors meeting on April 20, five new members were accepted to Sokol Minnesota. Patrick Dewane from Edina; Denise Wickiser from Saint Paul has interests in gymnastics, history, dinners, festivals, films, and theater; Roger Wencil from Owatonna has interests in language, cooking, events, and history; Matthew Schussler from Saint Paul has interest in gymnastics; and Abra Gillman from Saint Paul has interests in cooking, gymnastics, and festivals. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

## Be the Dumpling of your Mother's Eye

Join us for a dumpling-making class, just in time for Mother's Day! Learn how to make raised bread dumplings from our own Hana Matousek on Saturday, May 13. We will meet in the dining room of the C.S.P.S. Hall at 10 a.m.

The fee is \$15 for Sokol members and \$20 for non-members. The fee includes materials and a light lunch. We hope to see you there! To reserve your place in the class, please contact Jean at [education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org) or call 651-433-2008.

## Fundraising By Joyce Tesarek

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is grateful to our parent organization, American Sokol, for awarding us a \$3,000 grant to apply towards our new fire escape installation. After much effort and work, particularly on the part of Ed Hamernik from our planning committee, the stairway installation should be completed this month. There is still time if you would like to donate to this project. Donate online at [SokolMN.org](http://SokolMN.org) or send a check to the C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan, Saint Paul, 55102.

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.sokolmn.org) *Thank You!*





**Šibřinky on April 1 at C.S.P.S. Hall with dancing and a special 70th Birthday for Louise Wessinger**

1. Louise Wessinger received gifts from the *Taneční Mládež* folk dancers. 2. and 3. St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.
4. Jason Brozovich (L) and Megan Cahill (R) helped her grandmother Val Kuisle enjoy a dance. 5. Michaela Wentz and Louise Wessinger.
6. The floral birthday cake centerpiece covered with pale violet roses and pink cushion daisies, topped with seven candles for seven decades, surrounded by seventy "70" flags on gumdrops and seventy "Happy Birthday Louise 70" paper flowers, designed by Doreen McKenney. 7. Our 10' puppets Jitka and Jarďa watched the festivities from the balcony. 8. The (edible) birthday cake, with the paper flowers and a poster. 9. *Taneční Mládež*. 10. *Taneční Teens*. 11. *Taneční Mládež*. 12. Ed Hamernik filled many a glass with Czechvar beer. 13. Our fabulous Czech cooks: Alena Youngberg, Rad Rasmussen, Ludmila Palková, and Markéta Resong. 14. Masked for Šibřinky, Judy Aubrecht and M. L. Kucera at the ticket table. 15. *Taneční Teens*.

## Šibřinky 2017 on April 1

By Louise Wessinger

The C.S.P.S. Hall wasn't filled with the traditional tomfoolery on April Fool's Day; instead, our annual *Šibřinky* turned the day into a fun-filled event attended by people of all ages. The youngest, little Henry Cahill Cho, was just barely over seven months old. The oldest likely was Henry's great-grandmother, Val Kuisle, age 92. Regardless of their age, everyone had a great time. Our wonderful Sokol Minnesota cooks, Markéta Resong, Ludmila Palková, Rad Rasmussen, and Alena Youngberg, sold out of their delicious pork cutlet with potato salad dinners before the band began playing! Tom Aubrecht and Joyce Tesarek sold food tickets. Assisting with filling orders for more *pivo* were Ed Hamernik, Katie Haselbauer, Chuck Draheim, and Tom Aubrecht. The C.S.P.S. Hall now serves the Czech beer *Czechvar*, produced by the Budvar-Budweiser in the Czech Republic.

On that beautiful warm evening, soda, juice, and water were popular especially with the younger attendees.

Greeting guests were ticket sellers Judy and Kate Aubrecht. Doreen McKenney designed the tickets. At 5:00 p.m., the *Taneční Mládež* children and the *Taneční* Teens presented a half-hour program, which concluded by inviting guests to join them in a floor-pounding version of *Šla Nanyňka do zeli*.

Then, it was time for Gordy Prochaska and the Little Fisherman Band. The eight-piece orchestra had guests dancing all evening. The band led dancers through not only polkas and waltzes, but also foxtrots and sambas. Enthusiastic youngsters from the children's group led a long conga line around the dance floor and even out through the dining room and bar area.

The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers gave a preview performance of their 2017 Festival of Nations program. They received roaring approval from the

crowd. They also invited the audience to join them for their last few dances. It was a wonderful evening.

Door prize winners were Linda Nicoli, Don Andrle, Gail M., and Bob Kostichka.

The event was well attended, with ticket sales of \$924, food sales of \$866, and beverage sales of \$557, for a total sale of \$2,347, which made for a successful *Šibřinky*.

Special thanks to co-chairs: Markéta Resong, Ed Hamernik, and Louise Wessinger. Additional thanks to the set-up crew: Chuck Draheim, Robert Jacobson, Jyni Koschak and her granddaughter Faith, Sue Martin, Richard Sargent, Dave Stepan, and John Topic. The cleaning crew that put the tables and chairs away: Dave Cammack, Lenka and Anna Hester, Debra, Chloe, Marius, and Steve Morse, Linda Nicoli, Norm Petrik, Joyce Tesarek, Louise and Chuck Wessinger. Many thanks to all...and anybody we might have missed.



At Cultural Day Camp in 2014 Louise presented her Trunk Show about her Czech ancestors coming to Minnesota from Bohemia.

## A Big Huge Thank You By Louise Messenger

## A Big Huge Thank You By Louise Wessinger

Wow! What a birthday party during *Šibřinky* on April 1! After reading the April *Slovo* articles written by Judy Aubrecht and Michaela Wentz, I thought I must have died (just kidding)! I was so honored by the beautiful articles they wrote. I was amazed at what Judy remembered from our past conversations and projects together, especially from our 20 years of co-directing the Cultural Day Camp. I have gotten to know Michaela through her help with the children's dance group. I am so grateful to them both, not only for their kind words, but also their friendship and their devotion to Sokol Minnesota and our children.

*Šibřinky* attendees heard the Aubrecht family version of Happy Birthday to the tune of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" sung to me by the children and *Šibřinky* guests, Louise's dance partner, Dave Stepan, led the rendition. Marit Lee Kucera had a floral birthday cake made as a centerpiece for the dessert table; paper flowers surrounded the cake and

accentuated by little "70" flags mounted on gumdrops. There were mini-cupcakes for the children and a big sheet cake for the adults. Thanks to all who helped make my 70th birthday so special!

I received very generous gift cards from the *Taneční Mládež* children, the *Taneční* Teens, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, and Sokol members and friends. My husband of almost 44 years has been so understanding of the time I devote to the dance groups; we plan to use these gift cards for something special for us. I also received over 70 cards, as well as flowers from several people, and a beautiful glass vase from the children. There were also several donations given to Sokol Minnesota's *Taneční Mládež* children and the *Taneční* Teens that will help us purchase an iPad and speaker system for our performances.

To all of you who helped with this special birthday, I am very grateful. To all those who have helped and encouraged me over the years to pursue ideas that I had, thank you for assisting me in making visions become realities. It is together that we make our future with our children.



### 2017 Flavors of Slovakia Dinner on March 4

1. Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers led by Honorary Consul of Slovakia Don Pafko.
2. Before the dinner started, volunteers filled the breadbaskets, made coffee, and plated dessert.
3. Dawn Bulera, Cinnamon Whaley, Jean Hall, and Mary Cahill plated dinners.
4. Mary Jo and Jim Chlebeczek served dessert to guests, John Bruggeman and Sue Swenson.
5. Al Milgrom filmed part of the dinner for an upcoming movie.
6. Don Andrie and Lloyd Krocak tended bar.
7. Jim Chlebeczek plated apple crisp.
8. Colleen Tabaika and Mary Jo Chlebeczek filled breadbaskets with individually bagged slices of rye bread from Cecil's Bakery.
9. Dawn Bulera spooned (real!) whipped cream on the apple crisp.
10. Rosemary Whaley-Baisden pieced parsley.
11. Deb Ziskovsky, Denise Stibal, and Anne Janda tended coffee.

## 2017 Flavors of Slovakia

### Dinner By Joyce Tesarek

Our successful Flavors of Slovakia dinner on March 4 served 147 diners. We earned \$1,940 for Sokol Minnesota and our C.S.P.S. Hall.

Honorary Slovak Consul Don Pafko not only welcomed the diners, but also added wonderful atmosphere with his strolling concertina music. A special thank you to Don for his music and his colorful *Lipa* dancers.

The food was exceptional! Joan Sedlacek and Doreen McKenney made especially good *halušky* and enough for hearty post-sales to the eager diners. Dawn Bulera's homemade apple dessert with real whipped cream got raves, too. The entire meal was well-prepared and served. Stephanie Kolbas-Rugg was the lucky winner of the door prize of two tickets to *Sibřinky*. Emcee Denis Novak introduced Sokol President Judy Aubrecht, and Honorary Czech Consul Marit Lee Kucera.

We extend a most sincere thank you to our volunteers who made this event possible: Don Andrlle, Pat Andrlle, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Dawn Bulera, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Jean Hall, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Ann Janda, Ken Janda, Lloyd Krocak, Marit Lee Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Denis Novak, Don Pafko, Joan Sedlacek, Denise Stibal, Colleen Tabaika, Ron Tabaika, Joyce Tesarek, Cinnamon Whaley, Rosemary Whaley-Baisden, Deb Ziskovsky. Our volunteers reported that they enjoyed helping, then visiting with each other and our guests.

*Lipa* Slovak Folk Dancers created a perfect finale to a great event when they performed two Slovak dances: Aelia Baudouin, Kristin Chepp, Vladia Gregorski, Sylvia Magana, and Don Pafko, Lipa Director.

SOKOL PRESENTS

### Friday, May 19, 7 p.m. Remembering Lidice: 75 Years Later

Presentation by Joan Sedlacek

June 10 marks 75 years since the destruction of Lidice and the people who suffered this horrific Nazi atrocity.

We will remember the 340+ innocent victims who were massacred from this small Czech village.

## Festival of Nations 2017 By Joyce Tesarek

The 2017 Festival of Nations comes to the Saint Paul RiverCentre on May 4-7. The festival features food, music and dance, shopping, and exhibits representing countries from around the world. See lively dance performances by adult and children folk dancers, sample delicious ethnic dishes in the Cafés, and visit the Culture Exhibit Booths.

To represent this year's Festival theme of *Ceremonies and Rituals*, the Czech and Slovak Culture Booth features a must-see life-sized costumed horse and rider representing *The Ride of the Kings*, designed and created by Doreen McKenney.

Volunteers are needed to help in our Café and our Culture booth. If you volunteer with us at the Festival of Nations, you get a free admission ticket! To volunteer for a shift in the Culture Booth call the Hall at 651-290-0542. For the Café, you can sign up on our website: <[www.Sokolmn.org](http://www.Sokolmn.org)> or call Joyce at 612-822-6147.

## Sokol Camp 2017 Season is Here By Julie Andrlle

The 2017 rental season for our beloved Sokol Camp on beautiful Cross Lake in Pine City, Minnesota, is now underway. Our annual Sokol Camp opening was on Saturday, April 22, when volunteers prepared the camp for the rental season.

Sokol Camp is a great summer vacation destination that offers boating, fishing, swimming, lounging, resting, and relaxation. Several golf courses and parks are nearby. There is a main lodge with indoor plumbing and ten rooms for rent at very reasonable rates. There is also plenty of space to camp in tents or trailers (sorry, no hook-ups available). Your family will love it!

Just 1½ hours north of the Twin Cities, Sokol Camp makes a great starting point for day trips to Duluth, Grand Casino Hinckley, Hinckley Fire Museum, or western Wisconsin. Robinson Park in downtown Pine City is home to the "Art in the Park" concert series every Friday evening throughout the summer.

Room Rental Rates: Weekly (seven nights) Members: \$160 - \$195. Non-members: \$195 - \$230. Nightly: Members: \$25 - \$30. Non-members: \$30 - \$35.

Campgrounds: Overnight campers, trailers or tents: \$10/person per night. Children under 10 are free. RV hook-ups are not permitted.

Grounds use: Members \$10/family per day. Non-members \$15/family per day. Persons using the grounds for the day have bathroom and kitchen privileges.

Rental is open to all Sokol members. There are private rentals available. Use is by reservation only. To make a reservation or request additional information, call Margaret Taylor at 612-481-7114 (cell) 651-340-0689 (home) or email [Taylor.Margaret@cheerful.com](mailto:Taylor.Margaret@cheerful.com).

On Sunday, October 1, Sokol Camp closes for the 2017 season. Any help that day is greatly appreciated!

### Special Request:

Seeking for display: any historical pictures of Sokol Camp.

Please include the names of the people in the photo, dates, and any details.

Send photos to [juliecolin123@gmail.com](mailto:juliecolin123@gmail.com)

## 87th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

By Kari and Scott Muyres, Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Co-chairs

Filled with feasting, entertainment, and fellowship,  
the 87th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic in Pine City  
will be 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 763-226-0313. As a bonus incentive, refreshments will be provided for volunteers!

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

## Keeping a Heritage Language Alive in Minnesota: The Case of the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities

by Jitka Sebek

*“Tenemos las mejores enchiladas. Ven a visitarnos. Todo para la comunidad.”*\* What used to be Czech announcements in shop windows are now advertisements in Spanish. Where Czechs lived for most of the twentieth century are now well-established communities from Central America. It was March, time for spring break, but Renáta Tichá, President of the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, and I were not strolling down Cancún beaches. We were wrapped in our coats, gloves, and scarves, and squinting into the sunshine in Cicero, Illinois. Despite the Latino storefront signs, our long weekend was filled with Czech language, culture, and food.

Czech and Slovak organizations exist everywhere, and it is always mutually beneficial to exchange anecdotes and ideas for teaching the two heritage languages to our children. Throughout the years of the existence of our Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, we have developed close bonds with teachers in Texas, North Carolina, and California. However, we primarily know the teachers in Chicago, and it was time to pay a visit to their T. G. Masaryk Czech School. It houses classrooms, guest rooms, and even a garden while serving 30 students from the community.

Renáta and I represent a group of devoted teachers who come to the C.S.P.S. Hall each week to teach Czech and Slovak as native and non-native languages. With close ties to our home countries and with the support of academic research results, we focus on teaching our heritage languages in order to prepare our students for the Seal of Biliteracy that will prove multiple-language proficiency and multicultural knowledge.

On that Saturday, from the school near Cermak Street, we took the 'L' train to downtown Chicago. We spent the afternoon with Czech Consul



Jitka Sebek and Renáta Tichá (third and fourth from left) with Tomáš Trnka, Milana Ličková, and Bořek Lizec at the Czech Consulate in Chicago.

Even though it was one week before St. Patrick's day, all Chicagoans were ready to party. You cannot see it here in this black and white photo, but Consul Trnka is wearing bright green slacks.

That evening we accepted an invitation to see a Czech movie and to meet one of the lead actresses. We felt proud of our own successful efforts to present Czech and Slovak movies to the Twin Cities audience, through the Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival in April and *Czech that Film!* in August. Exposure to new Czech and Slovak movies not only helps our community keep up with ever-changing languages, but also reconnects us to current societal issues in both countries.

The next morning found us back on the 'L' train, and feeling like mass transportation pros as we wished for more light rail lines back home in the Twin Cities. Our stop was the historic Palmer House with its frescoed



Renáta Tichá (left) and Jitka Sebek (right) visited the Media Room of the T.G. Masaryk Czech School with the head teacher Klára Moldová. Posters remind students of their rich past; directly behind is a photo of Anton J. Cermak, the Czech mayor of Chicago.

lobby and opulently draped windows. Our laptops and presenters' tags ready, we were part of *The Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages*. Eagerly entering a display area filled with textbooks and computer programs booths for language teachers, we soon realized that the conference was dominated by a handful of well-established foreign languages. A fine presentation on college Spanish classes for bilingual students with a focus on culture and communication echoed our efforts to achieve both goals in our native languages in the Twin Cities. However, one of our aims in attending was to expose attendees to languages other than the dominant five (Spanish, French, German, Russian, and Chinese).

In our presentation, we summarized the history of the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, the solid collaboration with other organizations under the C.S.P.S.'s roof, and the benefits of knowing a heritage language. We laid out our vision and future goals for our school: to support our heritage language literacy, to achieve a higher level of proficiency resulting in broader employability, and to broaden intercultural awareness. We strive to give back to our own ethnic community and keep the connection between the United States and the European Union active. We know that other small local ethnicities share together with us the same goals. At the conference, we enjoyed a dialogue with representatives of a Greek school.

That evening, as the plane climbed away from Midway Airport we felt included, valued as language professionals, and with a renewed zeal to continue building our school. Our students must be prepared for the 21st century when being bilingual and possessing a deep understanding of a heritage language is starting to be a fully-supported American norm. It's never too late to join us!

\* translation: "We have the best enchiladas. Come visit us. Everything for the community."



## Sokol Minnesota Member News



Over 200 people attended the **St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble** performance on March 26 at the Hilltop Happenings Variety Show in Montgomery. It was a standing-room only crowd that turned out to listen to traditional South Bohemian bagpipe music on Czech-made instruments. Frank Trnka, Director, *dudy* (Czech bagpipe); Jason Brozovich, *dudy* and *fanfnoch*; Dawn Bulera, violin; John Topic, vocals, *vozembouch*, and *hrábě*,



**Emma Martin and Eric LaPlant** are engaged. Emma dances with the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Her parents, Dave and Sue Martin of Burnsville, also dance with the group. Eric's parents are Tim and Marie LaPlant of Maple Grove. Emma is an alum of *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens Sokol Folk Dancers*.

**Dan Washick** was extra lucky at the annual dinner for St. Mark Lutheran Church at DiGideo's on West 7th in Saint Paul on March 12. Dan won 4 of 19 door prizes.

**At the mailing party for the April 2017 Slovo, four generations of one family** helped to label, sort, count, and box up the issue for mailing.

Four generations: (Right to Left) Val Kuisle (First), Mary Cahill (Second), Colleen (Third) and her son (Fourth).



Meghan and Aaron Eberhart (center) with her parents Don and Katie Haselbauer.

**Meghan Haselbauer married Aaron Eberhart at C.S.P.S. Hall on February 17.** They chose this date because it is halfway between Aaron's birthday on January 17 and Meghan's on March 17. They chose C.S.P.S. Hall because Meghan's grandparents, Frank and Florence Haselbauer met at the Hall and celebrated their 50th and 60th Wedding Anniversaries there. Meghan carried a picture of her grandparents in her wedding bouquet. The C.S.P.S. Hall is where her parents, Don and Katie, are tireless volunteers extraordinaire for Sokol Minnesota. The C.S.P.S. Hall is also where her Aunt Louise Wessinger taught Czech dances to the Haselbauer children. Witnesses were the couple's younger siblings, Gretchen Haselbauer and Christan Eberhart. The flower girls were the Grandmothers who walked in with their decorated walkers. A Czech Blessing was read by Meghan's brother Ben.

### Czech Blessing

May you always have  
Kolaches,  
May you sing  
When things are dark,  
May you polka with abandon  
May sweet music  
Fill your heart

May the fruit of all your labors  
Keep your mind and body strong,  
May you raise a glass  
To honor days to come  
And days long gone.  
May you know

That time brings roses,  
May your laughter fill the hall,  
May the good Lord  
Bless and keep you  
And bring joy to one and all.

Meghan and Aaron proudly proclaimed, "We were so glad to celebrate our wedding with family at the Czech Hall! A very special thank you to Joan Sedlacek for making the day so wonderful."

The couple lives in Madelia, Minnesota, on a farm just south of Mankato, where Aaron farms corn, soy beans, and pigs. They are excited to continue to build their hop fields this spring. Meghan teaches technology in Edina.

On March 13, **Livi Martin, Sue and Dave Martin's younger daughter**, began an Americorp posting on the outskirts of Reno, Nevada, as an environmental education and camp coordinator for the Great Basin Institute. If you're in the area, stop by and see her at the Galena Creek Visitors' Center on Mt. Rose Highway. Livi's passion for Czech and Slovak Folk Dancing started in the third grade when she joined *Taneční Mládež*; she is responsible for her whole family dancing. Livi hummed dance music on the drive across country with her mother, Sue, to her new job.

## Twists and Turns: The Story of Sokol

By NCSML Curator Stefanie Kohn

June 3 - December 31, 2017 • Smith Gallery  
• National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

This June, American Sokol is holding the 2017 National *Slet* in Cedar Rapids from June 22 through 25. In honor of the *slet*, the NCSML presents a nimble and invigorating journey into the story of Sokol.

Named for the falcon, Sokol was founded in Prague in 1862 by Miroslav Tyrš and Jindřich Fügner. They believed that a nation must be physically fit, moral, and intelligent to secure its independence and retain it. Indeed, the overriding principal of Sokol is “a sound mind in a sound body.” Gymnastics was the primary physical activity at the Sokol Hall, but lectures, skits and musical entertainment were also offered. Sokol was directly tied to Czech nationalism, and was carefully watched by the Habsburg Empire officials.

The first American Sokol unit was founded in 1865 in St. Louis, Missouri, only three years after the birth of Sokol in Prague. Within a few years, there were Sokols in Chicago, New York, Baltimore, Cedar Rapids, Cleveland, and in many other cities with Czech and Slovak populations. The Sokol provided a sense of community and belonging for immigrants. Like the Sokol in the Old Country, the units in the United States provided organized physical education, primarily in gymnastics, as well as social activities.

The exhibit pays homage to the amazing men and women who made Sokol a part of their lives, containing artifacts, images and stories from Sokol units across the United States. It is truly a communal effort to bring together uniforms, pins, awards, equipment, posters, photographs and video from these different organizations.

Visitors will see how Sokol grew and progressed in this country, and how a nation of immigrants across the ocean used Sokol to build strong American communities. Museum guests will even be able to participate in some fun activities while enjoying the exhibition. Mass calisthenics, anyone? Check your balance on the beam! Create a “human” pyramid!

While Sokol in the United States was overall a positive force,

## 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](http://www.american-sokol.org)>

<[www.american-sokol.org/board-of-instructors](http://www.american-sokol.org/board-of-instructors)>

the exhibit also recounts the perilous times throughout Czechoslovak history when Sokol was banned by various oppressive governments. Because of its pro-nationalist ideals, the Sokol movement in the Czech Lands was banned three times. During World War I, it was feared by the Austro-Hungarian authorities to be a training vehicle for a military that would rise against the Empire. The emphasis on national pride and union was also a threat to the Nazis, and Sokol did indeed become a resistance organization during World War II. After 1948, the communists took over Sokol and replaced the *slet* with a mass synchronized exercise festival called the Spartakiáda. The Spartakiáda was touted by the Party as an “endeavor to build a better future and contribute to world peace.” Since 1990, Sokol in Czech Republic, Slovakia and the United States continues to evolve and grow while remaining true to the principals and ideals of its founders.

Lead sponsor: Western Fraternal Life;

Contributing sponsor: American Sokol LA.

Reprinted with permission from the *Spring 2017 MOST (The Bridge)*, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

### 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 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

**E-Addresses:** ▪ President: [president@sokolmn.org](mailto:president@sokolmn.org) ▪ Board of Directors: [board@sokolmn.org](mailto:board@sokolmn.org) ▪ Education/Language Programs: [education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org) ▪ Events: [events@sokolmn.org](mailto:events@sokolmn.org) ▪ Czech/Slovak Festival: [festival@sokolmn.org](mailto:festival@sokolmn.org) ▪ Finance/Fundraising/ Legacy Fund: [finance@sokolmn.org](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org) ▪ Fitness Programming: [fitness@sokolmn.org](mailto:fitness@sokolmn.org) ▪ Folk Dancing: [folkdancing@sokolmn.org](mailto:folkdancing@sokolmn.org) ▪ Gaming: [gaming@sokolmn.org](mailto:gaming@sokolmn.org) ▪ Gift Shop: [giftshop@sokolmn.org](mailto:giftshop@sokolmn.org) ▪ Hall Rentals: [rentals@sokolmn.org](mailto:rentals@sokolmn.org) ▪ Hall Contacts: [hallcontacts@sokolmn.org](mailto:hallcontacts@sokolmn.org) ▪ Housekeeping: [housekeeping@sokolmn.org](mailto:housekeeping@sokolmn.org) ▪ Membership: [membership@sokolmn.org](mailto:membership@sokolmn.org) ▪ Newsletter: [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org) ▪ Planning: [planning@sokolmn.org](mailto:planning@sokolmn.org) ▪ Publicity: [publicity@sokolmn.org](mailto:publicity@sokolmn.org) ▪ Public Relations: [publicrelations@sokolmn.org](mailto:publicrelations@sokolmn.org) ▪ Treasurer: [treasurer@sokolmn.org](mailto:treasurer@sokolmn.org) ▪ Board of Trustees: [trustees@sokolmn.org](mailto:trustees@sokolmn.org) ▪ Webmaster: [webmaster@sokolmn.org](mailto:webmaster@sokolmn.org)

**BOOK REVIEW** By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.  
**The Life and Times of Josef Škvorecký**

*Headed for the Blues: A Memoir* by Josef Škvorecký. Translated by Káča Poláčková Henley. Hopewell, NJ: Ecco Press, 1997, 148 pages. Available in libraries and book stores.

Prolific Czech author Josef Škvorecký wrote more than 40 books, ten short story collections, two novellas, and dozens of essays on politics, literature, and cinema. Škvorecký's memoir, *Headed for the Blues*, focuses on political activities and nationalism at different points in his life. He spent an enjoyable childhood in Kostelec; then he lived through Nazi occupation during his youth and the prolonged communist years in his maturity, before he went into exile. Elements running throughout the narrative and contrasting with Škvorecký's own life are references to his friend Prema, a compliant proletariat for many years under communism. Škvorecký often mentions *fízl* (a pejorative term for an informer for the secret police) and the absurdity of so many killings under communism, "...the Ministry asked them to slow down, the executioners are exhausted, an execution is hard on the nerves, comrades..."

Occasionally the book is a chronological stream of consciousness that is not always appealing, especially when Škvorecký goes on for pages with no paragraph break. This 1997 English edition, translated by Káča Poláčková Henley, was followed in 1998 by one that added 10 stories and listed attributions after the author as "Káča Poláčková Henley with Caleb Crain, Peter Kussi, Paul Wilson, translator." I would love to know the story behind the supplemental assistants and re-publication.

Serious Škvorecký fans can garner details about his life. Helpful translators' notes key the reader to obscure references, such as lines from other authors' books and political incidents.

Škvorecký left Czechoslovakia for exile in Canada after the 1968 Soviet invasion. He and his wife, the talented writer and actor Zdena Salivarová, established Sixty-Eight Publishers, the Czech-language publisher, in Toronto. They were a literary life force for Czech authors including Václav Havel, Ivan Klíma, Milan Kundera, Ludvík Vaculík, and Jaroslav Seifert, publishing communist-banned works. Škvorecký's many honors included a Nobel Prize nomination (1982), *Order of the White Lion* by President Václav Havel (1990), and a *Guggenheim Fellow* and *Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada*. He died at 87 in 2012.

Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. For more information, go to [www.cs-center.org](http://www.cs-center.org)

Join Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures members to discuss *The Oasis: A Memoir of Love and Survival in a Concentration Camp* by Petru Popescu on Saturday, May 20, 10:00 a.m.-noon, at the C.S.P.S. 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](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org).

**The deadline for the June/July 2017 issue is May 1.**

This issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by May 31: [www.sokolmn.org](http://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 (May 15 for August issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (June 1 for August issue).

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

**The 28th Annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant in Montgomery on Saturday, April 8**



(Back L-R) 2017-2018 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen Bailey Gare, 2017 Czech Heritage Ambassador Sylvia Lemke, and 2017-2018 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Princess Mary Carson. Front row: Czech Heritage Junior Ambassadors Melanie Lebrun, Kristin Siebsen, Ashlyn Simon, Ruby Nazzal, and Aria Beaudin. The Czech Heritage Junior Royalty, directed by Sokol members Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky, were the hosts for the reception.

Bailey Gare of Montgomery won the title of Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen 2017-2018. Mary Carson of Lonsdale will reign as Princess 2017-2018. Bailey's talent was a vocal performance, "My Homeland," a skit/vocal solo about her grandmother's journey to America and how difficult it was for her to leave her native country.

Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen 2016-17 Alexa Turgeon and Princess 2016-17 Autumn Gare (sister to the new queen) gave moving farewell addresses.

Among the visiting royalty at this year's pageant was Sokol Minnesota Board Member Elizabeth Kaliska, who reigned as Minnesota Queen 2015-2016. Special guest at the event was the current Miss Czech Slovak U.S. Michaela Steager from Kansas who was one of three judges.

The evening ended with a Royalty Reception Dance with music from the Charlie Sticha Band, a local Minnesota Czech Country area band.

Extra copies of *Slovo* are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts.

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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](mailto: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: Meghan Eberhart, Martina Gurgel, M. L. Kucera, Sue Martin, Doreen McKenney, Jitka Sebek, Joyce Tesarek, and Deb Ziskovsky.

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

**Festival of Nations**

May 4 - 7 Saint Paul RiverCentre.

Volunteers attend for free!

Call to volunteer:

Café: 612-822-6147

Culture: 651-340-4767

**Dumpling Class with Hana Matousek**

Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m.

**SOKOL PRESENTS:**

**Remembering Lidice: 75 Years Later**

Friday, May 19, 7 p.m.

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook:

[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* May 2017**



**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.

2017 Camp Theme:

*A Czech and Slovak Twist on Things*

Children ages of seven to fourteen years old.

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 1.*

Registration materials are available  
at the Sokol Minnesota website <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)>  
under Classes, click on Culture Camp 2017.

Contact Louise Wessinger with any questions  
at 651-452-6240.

*See you at camp!*