

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Slovo Deadline
Wednesday, March 1

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

Škola Family Night
Sunday, March 12, 4-7 p.m.

Board of Directors
Thursday, March 16, 7 p.m.

SOKOL PRESENTS
Keeping our Cultural Traditions Alive
with a Minnesota State Arts Board representative
Friday, March 24, 7 p.m.

Šibřinky Dance and Supper
Saturday, April 1, 4-10 p.m.
(See page 8)

Spring Pancake Breakfast with Bake and Craft Sales
Sunday, April 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

FLAVORS of SLOVAKIA DINNER

Sunday March 5



Reserved Seating
12:30 p.m.

\$16.00 adults
\$8.00 child under 9

Dinner includes:

Cabbage roll (*plnená kapusta*), dilled green beans (*kôprová zelená fazuľka*),
pickled beets (*nakladaná repa*), filled dumplings (*pirohy*),
dumplings with cabbage (*halušky s kapustou*),
caraway rye bread (*rascový ražný chlieb*), dessert, and coffee.
Plenty of good beer and wine at the bar, by donation.

Pre-paid reservations are required by February 28

Call: 651-290-0542 for reservations

LIMITED SEATING

Prepaid takeout is also available by reservation

PUBLIC WELCOME

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

www.sokolmn.org

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

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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

Did you know that over the past five years, a small group of our dedicated Sokol Minnesota cooks has met almost every month to develop a new Sokol Minnesota cookbook? Our 1979 Sokol Minnesota cookbook, much loved by our members, has been out of print for several years. The new cookbook will have only ethnic Czech and Slovak recipes (not Americanized family favorites like sloppy Joes or seven-layer salad). It will include the favorite ethnic recipes from the old red Sokol cookbook. A number of recipes have been tested and sampled. Many of the traditional recipes have interesting history and background information, which the committee found as it researched the recipes and ingredients. The cookbook is expected to cost \$24.95, plus sales tax. Mail order will be accepted, with a minimal shipping charge. Pre-sales will be taken at the Spring Pancake Breakfast on April 9. You will want to get a book for yourself and others to give away. A special thanks to our hard-working volunteer committee: Pamela Kotval, chair, Katherine (Roushar) Jorgenson, Doreen McKenney, and many others.

Over the years, there have been many discussions about how the American Sokol Organization (ASO) benefits our local units. When you pay your annual Sokol membership dues, your money also goes to pay the national and district Sokol organizations. This money funds items like training gymnastic instructors every summer, organizing events such as the upcoming national *slet* in Cedar Rapids this June, and offering conferences to expose Sokol members to new ideas to keep units interesting and up-to-date. Sokol Minnesota's non-profit status derives from association with ASO; this status is essential for applying for grants from a variety of groups, and it also reduces our property tax. A new benefit to the local units are competitive grants directly from ASO. Sokol Minnesota has been the fortunate recipient of a matching ASO grant for our fire escape project.

Every year, the Board of Directors reviews the current dues rate for membership dues and evaluates what is a reasonable amount for members to pay. Because our own membership rates are low, there is an on-going need for members to actively participate in fundraising activities to keep our local unit moving forward. Just like at home, there are needs for building repairs and improvements. The Board of Trustees has identified its top ten building improvement priorities for 2017. The top ten priorities include capping broken roof parapets, tuck pointing of the mortar between the bricks of the building, sump pump improvements, replacing the basement stairs, adding a sound system to attract more rentals, and indoor painting. Volunteers will complete some of these projects, which will require time and materials. Other projects will need competitive bids and professional labor. Please consider donating to Sokol Minnesota to help with building repairs and improvements.

The deadline for reservations is February 28 for the **Flavors of Slovakia** ethnic dinner on March 5. The menu includes *pirohy*, dumplings, and cabbage rolls. **SOKOL PRESENTS** has invited a representative from the Minnesota State Arts Board to talk about keeping our cultural traditions alive. This interesting presentation takes place on Friday, March 24, 7 p.m., at the C.S.P.S. Hall. The **Šibřinky Dance and Supper** takes place from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on April 1. This is a festive event that is enjoyed by all ages.

Please come and enjoy our upcoming programs. *Nazdar!*

**Heart Bombs
for our
C.S.P.S. Hall**

At the annual retreat on February 4, members of the Board of Directors created Heart Bombs for our beloved C.S.P.S. Hall (see pages 9, 11, 12)

(Front L-R) Judy Aubrecht, Elizabeth Kaliska, Mary Cahill, Ed Hamernik, Joyce Tesarek, Jean Draheim.



(Back) Steve Ernest, Jyni Koschak, Norm Petrik, Denis Novak, Arnie Ziskovsky, Tom Aubrecht.

Memorial Service for Sokol Member

Kent Hinshaw

Saturday, March 25, 1 p.m

C.S.P.S. Hall

Memorials preferred to Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics

The January Board of Directors Meeting

By Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary

The Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors met on January 19, 2017. We have many exciting things happening this year. Prior to the meeting, Wendy Waszut-Barrett, Ph.D., presented her research on options for renovations to the stage at the C.S.P.S. Hall, which is showing some wear after many years of use. Wendy will research the possibility of obtaining a grant to help with funding. No course of action has been decided.

We have two new board members: Denise Stibal as Recording Secretary and Elisabeth Kaliska as Corresponding Secretary. The Board holds its annual retreat on February 4, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the C.S.P.S. Hall. We are working to update our brochure to attract more rental opportunities for the Hall.

Next year is the 100th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia. A committee will be formed including members from Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, and possibly residents of Czech communities in Minnesota. We want 2018 to be full of opportunities to celebrate our heritage!

There was discussion regarding building renovation projects. Ed Hamernik is working to have the new fire escape installed, plus other projects. Building a new shed, repairing the parapets, and tuckpointing are on our priority list. The boiler has been repaired. Our new restaurant tenant *Pajarito* is popular and doing very well.

The next Board of Directors meeting is March 16 at 7 p.m.

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: Joyce Ehmke

\$100 - \$499: Marlene Hinshaw, and Thomas Tesarek

In Memory of Kent Hinshaw: under \$99:

Don and Katie Haselbauer

Legacy Fund: \$100 - \$499:

Darlene Sitko, Cheryl Nelson Theuninck

In Memory of Ludmila, Frank, and Miro Verner:

\$100 - \$499: Jaroslav Verner

In Memory of Kent Hinshaw for Gymnastic Classes:

Under \$99: Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rask, Chuck and Louise

Wessinger, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Rogers, Lorraine Rogers,

Dan Washick, Charles Wright

\$100 - \$499: M. L. Kucera, Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik

General Fund: \$335

Legacy Fund: \$460

Gymnastics Classes: \$280

Total: \$1,075

2017 Slet and Festival: June 22-25

Location: Cedar Rapids, Iowa, *City of Five Seasons*

Why is Cedar Rapids called the *City of Five Seasons*?

The idea was first presented to the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce in 1975. It expands on the belief that life is the sum of all the seasons. If we allow ourselves time to enjoy the things most important to us, then life is rich and full. In Cedar Rapids, there is enough time... time to enjoy the seasons as they pass. Extra time, precious time. A fifth season.

In 1993, the Chamber of Commerce received donations to erect a 60-foot tall stainless steel monument known as *The Tree of Five Seasons*. Located near the Cedar River in downtown Cedar Rapids, it was dedicated to the city on May 18, 1996. *The Tree*, a popular emblem of the city, is frequently used as a logo on city vehicles, street signs, uniforms, and other regional materials. The city of Cedar Rapids has kindly given American Sokol permission to use this logo in conjunction with our *slet*.

XXIV Slet and Festival Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 22 • Calisthenics and Marching Competition

• Opening Ceremonies • Evening Social

All at *Scottish Rite Temple* <www.CRScottishRite.org>

Friday, June 23 • Day: Volleyball and Fitness Challenge

at *Iowa Sports Center* <www.iasportscenter.com>

• Evening: Slet Banquet and First Annual Sokol Awards

Presentation at *National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library* <www.ncsml.org>

Saturday, June 24 • Day: Gymnastics Competitions

at *Sokol Cedar Rapids* <www.sokolcr.com>

• Evening: Victory Dance at *Clarion Hotel* (host hotel)

<www.clarioncr.com>

Sunday, June 25 • Slet Program and Closing Ceremony

at *Kingston Stadium*

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 Language School Deadline is March 15

By Milana Ličková, Deputy Head
of Mission, Consulate of the
Czech Republic, Chicago

Every year there are several opportunities to receive a scholarship for a four-week course in the Czech language for Czechs living abroad and their descendants, for a two-week course for teachers of the Czech language, and also scholarships for one or two semesters at Czech universities. The deadline to apply is March 15. All the information (including the instruction on how to apply) can be found at <www.mzv.cz/chicago/en/culture_events/education/learn_czech_in_the_czech_republic/czech_language_courses_and_studies_in.html>

Several members of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota have participated in the language school in Dobruška. Many won scholarships.

Past Participants from Minnesota are

- 2000 Louise Wessinger
- 2001 Ann Smisek Jans and Mike Cwach
- 2003 Colleen Cahill
- 2005 Norm Petrik
- 2006 Doreen McKenney
- 2007 Jan Knudtson
- 2008 Paula Vukonich and
Pam Langworthy
- 2009 Kathy Jorgensen, Frank Trnka,
and Kate Aubrecht
- 2012 Christina Banks and Pat Slaber

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.

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

The American Sokol Board of Instructors
Sfet question for 2017 is:

“What is Cedar Rapids’ fifth season?”

The answer is “time to enjoy.” See page 3.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the January 19, 2017, Board of Directors meeting, four individuals and one couple were accepted to membership in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota: Sarah Horecka Sleeted from Owatonna, with interests in culture camp, dance, language, and genealogy; Paul Layer from Bloomington, with interests in language, history, dinners, and dances; Diane Rivera (Piras) from Danbury, Wisconsin, with interests in language, history, dinners, and dance; Gary Zweber from Plymouth, with interests in finance and kitchen; and Brad and Terry Narr from Rochester. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!



The 2017 Festival of Nations runs from May 4 - 7.

The festival features dancing, exhibits, food, music, and shopping representing countries from around the world.

Again this year the Czechs and Slovaks will be well represented.

Come see lively dance performances by our adult, children, and teen folk dancers, sample delicious ethnic dishes in the Café, and visit the Culture Exhibit Booth, this year featuring the festival theme of “Rituals and Celebrations”.

Volunteers are needed in the Café and Culture Exhibit Booth.

If you Volunteer with us at the Festival of Nations,
you will get a free admission ticket!

Café Co-Chairs: Jason Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, and Joyce Tesarek.

Children and Teen Dancers Chair: Louise Wessinger.

Culture Exhibit Booth Chair: Doreen McKenney.

To volunteer call: 651-290-0542



Café

Dance Performances

Culture Exhibit Booth

www.sokolmn.org

Sumi-e Fundraiser for the Fire Escape Stairs

By Martina Gurgel and Jitka Sebek

Do you remember the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities' first large fundraiser two years ago? You might still have that creatively decorated tissue box house on your kitchen counter. Last year, perhaps you added a decorated flowerpot. This year our organization progressed to a true artist's creativity and talent.

Simona Němcová, born in Ústí nad Labem, Czech Republic, graduated with a medical degree from the Faculty of Medicine Charles University in Prague in 1987. Simona, who has lived in Minnesota since 1993, has been creating art in various media for many years. A few years ago, silk painting inspired her and this interest led her to the traditional Japanese technique of Sumi-e painting. She discovered Sumi-e in 2004 in a class at the Edina Art Center. She is an active member of the Sumi-e group, Ming Chiao Chapter of Minnesota, and a member of the Sumi-e Society of America. Subsequent trips to Japan led her to a new hybrid art style inspired by calligraphy and traditional Japanese paintings. The main characteristics of her art are expressing emotional change, the simplistic capture of a moment, or natural beauty. She collaborates at shows in Minnesota, and she also exhibits with the Sumi-e Society of America. She has had regular shows at various locations in Europe; her work has received several awards.

During the 2016 year-end holidays, Simona painted Castle Vyšehrad, Mount Říp, and Brada Church in black and gold ink on imported Czech handmade paper. These three large paintings then became the basis for the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities fundraising efforts. She invited parents from the school to spend several art-filled evenings with her, during which they created 36 unique greeting cards, reflecting the motifs of the three large paintings. All of the cards were painted with large brushes on rice paper. Despite our doubts, Simona convinced us with a smile to seek the inner artist in each of us. We each found that inner artist, plus she then rewarded our focused drawing with a very enjoyable meditative session.

All paintings and greeting cards were displayed at the Sokol Minnesota's 14th Annual Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner on Saturday, January 21, to complement the culinary art of that delicious meal. The Sumi-e fundraiser added \$657 to the fire escape stairs fund. One painting adorns the office of our Honorary Czech Consul, another hangs in a private living room, and the third is now enjoyed by Judy and Tom Aubrecht as a wedding anniversary gift to each other.

Congratulations and thank you to Simona, to the school's parents and friends for their enthusiasm and creativity, and to the incredible generosity of all of you who supported our 2017 fundraiser.

Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Film Festival

April 13-29

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, the Honorary Czech Consul M.L. Kucera, and Honorary Slovak Consul Don Pafko are proud sponsors of the Czech and Slovak films this year.

For the upcoming 2017 Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Film Festival, the Film Society of Minneapolis-Saint Paul has secured the highly rated Czech TV series *Wasteland*, which had recent film festival screenings in both Toronto and Palm Springs.

MSPIFF has also invited the Czech and Slovak film, *The Teacher*. The Czech director-writer duo Jan Hřebejk and Petr Jarchovský (*Divided We Fall*) have created this Slovak-language dramedy, which examines the terrifying power wielded by the local Communist party leader in her job as a schoolteacher in Bratislava during the 1980s. Humor combines with irony to expose this self-aggrandizing teacher as an unscrupulous villain. *Slovo* will list screening times in our April issue.



Susan

Smoluchowski (center), executive director of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Film Society, spoke about the upcoming 36th annual Minneapolis-Saint Paul Film Society's International Film Festival at the January 18 meeting of the Minnesota Consular Corps. Susan is seen here with M. L. Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, and Donald Pafko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic.

MSPIFF screens over 200 foreign films at its annual festival, plus brings in directors and actors. International films offer windows into the worlds of other cultures. In addition to screening Czech and Slovak films annually in conjunction with MSPIFF, the Film Society will present for the third time this summer *Czech that Film!* (Watch upcoming issues of *Slovo* for details.)



Another Successful Candlelight Duck Dinner at C.S.P.S. Hall

By Doreen McKenney

Joan Sedlacek and Doreen McKenney co-chaired and cooked the 14th Annual Roast Duck Dinner on January 21, serving 90 guests. Upon request, we cooked extra servings of popular sides, selling out the 500 additional potato dumplings, as well as all the extra sweet and sour red cabbage.

We missed some of the regular guests who were unable to attend because they were under the weather; however, that is never a problem. All the pre-paid dinners were packaged up and sent home with family and friends, so those absent diners could enjoy eating duck the next day resting at home.



Above: Standing (L-R) Tom Aubrecht and Pat Andrlé helped Jean Hall serve soup to Marlene Olsen, Mary Novak, and Denis Novak.

Left: Amanda Tesarek and Anna Hester carried plates laden with half a duck, sweet and sour red cabbage with bacon, bread dumplings, and apple sauce.

Below: Sokol Minnesota President Judy Aubrecht presented the door prize to George Levy, who won a bottle of Czech champagne, donated by Honorary Czech Consul Marit Lee Kucera.



Many thanks to the following volunteers in roles of publicity, treasurer, set up, tending bar to plating, serving, and cleaning up: Don Andrlé, Pat Andrlé, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Martina Gurgel, Jean Hall, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Lenka Hester, Anna Hester, Pamela Kotval, Marit Lee Kucera, Sue Martin, Jitka Sebek, Steve Shimer, Amanda Tesarek, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, and Cinnamon Whaley. The Duck Dinner raised \$1,375 for Sokol Minnesota's General Fund.

Celebrating Czech Culture: Sokol Minnesota is a Resource to Enhance Czech Heritage



Family and friends of Japhet (Jeff) Kalach from Big Lake threw a party for him on January 15. He will be 90 later this year. Jeff has always cherished the Czech heritage of his father who came from Czechoslovakia a century ago.

The family hired the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, led by Louise Wessinger, to perform. Sokol Minnesota member Hana Matousek baked *koláče*. Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera sent a special letter of celebration.

Jeff Kalach is pictured here with two of his 20-plus great-grandchildren and surrounded by folk dancers: (L-R) Jake Jacobson, Jyni Koschak, Dave Stepan, Teresa Pojar, Jeff and great-granddaughters, Jason Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, John Topic, and Louise Wessinger.

Battle of the Bands at C.S.P.S. Hall. on April 29 By Blanka Brichta and Steve Bartman

Mark your calendars now for an epic, monstrous first annual Battle of the Bands contest, sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, and Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities. The competition kicks off at 7:30 p.m., April 29, at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Bring a helmet!

Be sure to see/hear/dance to these amazing show bands, each generously offering both their time and talent to astound the crowd

as well as to raise money for the C.S.P.S. Hall Fire Escape Fund. Who are these musical warriors, you ask? Organizers from Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities guarantee there will be something for every age and every musical taste. *SlovCzech* bang out great folk rock tunes. *Rocket Appliances* are Americana experts. *James Loney and Lolo's Ghost* are purveyors of smooth, smooth rock and R&B. And still more bands are expected to join this Battle of the Bands. Stay tuned!

Each of our contestant bands will perform a strong 30 to 40 minute set, aiming to gain the crowd's favor and votes and to emerge Champions of the Battle. Vote with your cheers *AND* your wallets! At the conclusion of the night, the band with the highest contribution total will be declared the winner, all proceeds to go towards construction of our new fire escape steps.

But there's more! While the music plays, everyone can also play Beer Trivia, participate in a silent auction of great items, join in sing-alongs, or even learn a new line dance

led by Christopher Yeager. Surprise door prizes and contests for young and old.

And of course refreshments are available for purchase, from full dinners to pastries fresh from our kitchen. Plus a cash bar (naturally)!

Bring your family! Bring your friends! Bring your boss (if you dare!).

Join us on Saturday, April 29, for a fundraising night of fun, friendly competition, and perhaps some

music new to your tastes.

Be a part of Twin Cities history! Showtime is 7:30 p.m. sharp.

Bring those dancing shoes and be at the C.S.P.S. Hall ready to hear some great professional musicians battle for ultimate bragging rights!

A \$10 admission donation is suggested.

**IT WILL BE MONUMENTAL!
DON'T MISS IT!!**

Be a part of Twin Cities history!

Battle of the Bands

First annual friendly competition

Presented by Sokol Minnesota, CSCC, and Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities

- Folk rock
- Americana
- R & B

Saturday, April 29
7:30 p.m.
C.S.P.S. Hall
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN

On Stage Featured Bands:
SlovCzech
Rocket Appliances
James Loney and Lolo's Ghost
Negotiating with an exciting fourth band! Stay tuned!

Suggested \$10 admission donation
Proceeds go towards construction of the C.S.P.S. Hall fire escape

- Something for every one
- Line dancing • Silent auction
- Door prizes • Beer trivia
- Sing-a-long • Cash bar
- Food and Desserts for sale

Šibřinky Celebration
By Ed Hamernik

Put on your dancing shoes and join in the fun at Sokol Minnesota's annual Šibřinky dance and supper on April 1. For your dancing and listening pleasure, Gordy Prochaska's *Little Fisherman Band* will play your favorite old time waltzes, polkas, Big Band sounds, and the likes of Benny Goodman and Whoopee John. Gordy's eight-member band will play from 6 to 10 p.m., so unpack your favorite folk dress or masked-ball costume, and come dance away the evening of April Fools.

Enjoy a Czech supper of *vepřový řízek* (pork cutlet), potato salad, pickled beets, and bread, served from 4 to 6:30 p.m. for \$7. Hot dogs, desserts, and snacks are available until 8 p.m. Cash bar features Czech beer, wine, soda, coffee, and water.

Entertainment begins at 5 p.m. with a performance by the *Taneční Mládež* and Teen Dancers, followed at 8:00 p.m. by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, directed by Louise Wessinger.

Dance admission is \$12 at the door, or \$10 advance sale until March 25.

Make checks out to: Sokol Minnesota. Please send advance payment to Louise Wessinger, 3740 Denmark Avenue, Eagan, MN 55123.

Public is welcome, invite friends, and make your reservations early.

See you at the Hall with your dancing shoes on! Stay until the end and have a chance to win a great door prize. The drawing is after the last dance!



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
Presents

Šibřinky

CELEBRATION

April 1
Come for Supper! Stay for the Dance!

Supper \$7.00
4 - 6:30 p.m.
Pork cutlet (*vepřový řízek*), potato salad, pickled beets, and bread

Dance \$12.00/door
6 - 10 p.m.
Music by
Gordy Prochaska's
"Little Fisherman Band"
☉ Polka ☉ Old Tyme ☉ Big Band

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 p.m. Performance by the <i>Taneční Mládež</i> and Teen Dancers | Cash Bar Czech Beer | Public Welcome | \$10.00 Advance Dance Admission by March 25 Mail to Louise |
| 8 p.m. Performance by the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers | Hot Dogs, Desserts, and Snacks for Sale | Masked Ball, Costumes and Folk Dress Encouraged | 3704 Denmark Ave Eagan, MN 55123 651-452-6240 Checks to: Sokol MN |

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 • www.sokolmn.org

What:
87th Annual
Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

When:
Sunday, August 13, noon to 5 p.m.

Where:
Historic Sokol Camp
19201 Woodland Acres, Pine City

Who:
All Sokol members
and the general public are welcome

87th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

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

Nazdar! We send warm greetings to all our Sokol Minnesota brothers and sisters as we move into the spring season. This time of year so many of us are already busy planning ahead. Remember to mark your calendars for the 87th Annual Sokol Camp *Booya* Picnic to be held on Sunday, August 13, from 12 noon until 5 p.m.

This year's picnic again features much of the same entertainment, food, and fellowship as before, and of course "The Best *Booya* in Pine County"! It's an event you and the family will not want to miss! What a great event to reunite with Sokol friends and family members, while enjoying a bowl of *booya*, a plate of *halušky*, or cabbage rolls as the concertina plays in the backdrop.

As always, we are looking for volunteers, whether it's serving food with a smile or using some muscle to move tables and chairs. Refreshments provided for our hard-working volunteers! Please call or text 763-226-0313 if you are available to help. Thank you!

Taking Care of Those Treasured Garments By Chuck Draheim

At SOKOL PRESENTS on January 27, fifteen Sokol Minnesota members and guests received an education about taking care of their treasured garments from Duane Schumann of Treasured Garment Restoration, a division of Saint Croix Cleaners. Treasured Garment Restoration is the preferred cleaner for many local arts and historical organizations, including the Minnesota Opera, the Guthrie Theatre, and the Minnesota Historical Society.

Duane is a nationally-recognized expert in the cleaning and restoration of vintage and historic textiles. One of his more notable projects included the cleaning and restoration of banners and other fabric articles for the Minnesota Twins in preparation for the 2014 Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

Duane first came on the Sokol and Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers' radar in 2009 when I contacted the Minnesota Historical Society seeking a

referral to a cleaner that could safely clean my father-in-law's vintage kroj. The immediate response from the MHS was Treasured Garment Restoration.

During his presentation, Duane discussed the effects of age, improper storage and cleaning of textiles, and the steps he takes when preparing an item for restoration and cleaning. In many cases, he will test each element of a garment (each fabric and thread, in the case of embroidered pieces) for color fastness before beginning the restoration process. All items are cleaned by hand, one at a time, to ensure the best possible outcome.

Duane showed before-and-after photos of garments, as well as other items that Treasured Garment Restoration cleaned and/or restored over the years. Several attendees brought in items for Duane to examine and offer his advice about cleaning or storage. My wife Jean and I brought in several items that Duane has

restored and cleaned for us over the past few years as examples of the variety and quality of work that Duane can do.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Duane fielded questions from the



audience followed by a brief social time for guests to discuss the presentation with each other.

For additional information on Treasured Garment Restoration, please visit <treasuredgarmentrestoration.com>



St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble Performs on March 26 in Montgomery

The St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble, comprised of Sokol members Frank Trnka, *dudy* (Czech bagpipe); Jason Brozovich, *dudy* and *fanfnoch*; Dawn Bulera, violin; John Topic, vocals, *vozembouch*, and *hrábě*, are guest performers at the Hilltop Happenings Variety Show on Sunday, March 26, beginning at 4 p.m.

The show takes place in the newly restored historic Hilltop Hall, a turn-of-the-twentieth-century concert/dance hall located at 206 First Street North in Montgomery, Minnesota. The Bagpipe Ensemble will play two sets of South Bohemian traditional bagpipe music, using Czech-made instruments.

There will be additional music performed by regulars of the monthly variety show. Pizza and snacks are available for purchase and a free-will donation will be accepted to cover costs of the show.

C.S.P.S. Hall Heart Bombs from February Family Night



Dozens of Heart Bombs Filled the Windows at C.S.P.S. Hall

See page 12 for information on Heart Bombs.



Lidice: A Tragedy of War

By Toni Brendel

Commemorations in June to Mark the 75th Anniversary of Lidice's Annihilation

Almost seventy-five years have passed since the village of Lidice, in what was then Czechoslovakia, was completely annihilated by the Nazis.

Whether the story is well known or not, it continues to be newsworthy each June 10 as Lidice, and other places in the world, commemorate the World War II atrocity.

Why did it happen? One of Hitler's most important generals died of blood poisoning following an assassination attempt. In revenge, without sure evidence of involvement, the village of just over 500 people was chosen as a scapegoat. Hitler proclaimed to the world, "Lidice Shall DIE Forever," and ordered the village buildings obliterated, men over the age of 15 executed, women and children separated and sent to concentration camps. A few small children were given to SS families.

In answer, Dr. Barnett Stross, a General Practitioner of Jewish heritage in Stoke on Trent, United Kingdom, conceived a "Lidice Shall Live!" movement that was quickly embraced by the world. Since many of the Lidice men worked in the nearby Kladno mines, Dr. Stross canvassed the miners in his area. They gave portions of their own incomes to begin fundraising efforts that eventually rebuilt the village.

Many of the Lidice mothers died under horrendous treatment in the camps, some went to gas chambers, as did most of the children. At the war's end,

153 Lidice women returned to find an empty field where their homes had been. After intense searches, only 17 of the 105 Lidice children were returned.

A new village was rebuilt close to the old and the altered land became a lasting memorial to the village and its people. Today, the Czech Ministry of Culture, administers the National Heritage sites of Lidice, and two smaller villages, Ležáky and Lety, which met the same fate at the hands of the Nazis.

In recent years, long after the historic rebuilding of the village, ties between Lidice and Stoke on Trent have been renewed. Alan and Cheryl Gerrard, owners of Theartbay Gallery and Publishers in Stoke on Trent, have worked tirelessly, along with Lidice Memorial staff, to reestablish bonds. Mr. Gerrard has instilled interest and pride in young children by going into schools to teach the history of the Lidice tragedy and the role of citizens in Stoke who played a vital part in rebuilding the village. The Gerrards hold an annual children's art competition with the winners sent to the world renowned International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts in Lidice. Children from over 60 nations have taken part in the competition. Read more on the website: <www.mdvv-lidice.cz/en/>

With encouragement from Mr. Gerrard, a special program is being planned in Prague at Brožík Hall, located in the building which houses the famous

astronomical clock, at the Old Town Hall on Old Town Square, on Thursday, June 8. School children and teachers will take part in the events. There will be commemorative cultural events with musical performances and talks.

Activities in Lidice follow on June 9 to 11. On June 12, there will be a special program at the still-standing Kladno School in Kladno, where the Lidice women and children were taken and where many saw each other for the last time. Since it is the 75th anniversary of the annihilation of the town, organizers hope to get world-wide participation and attention. Lidice wants to be recognized as a symbol of peace and friendship as Dr. Barnett Stross promoted when he helped to establish the rose garden with the name Garden of Peace and Friendship in 1955 in Lidice.

Special Thanks

to Joan Sedlacek, Arnie Ziskovsky, Deb Ziskovsky, and Mary Cahill who prepared over 1450 Sokol Minnesota Spring Events Postcards for mailing on January 26.

They affixed a postal indicia and the address label on each card, then sorted by three-digit zip codes, counted, and boxed the cards for mailing at the bulk mail station in Eagan.

**Great Sokol teamwork!
Kudos!**

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

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BOOK REVIEW Jaroslav Seifert Wrote Czechoslovakia's Great Poetry By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

The Poetry of Jaroslav Seifert by Jaroslav Seifert.
Translated by Edward Osers and edited by George Gibian.
North Haven, CT: Catbird Press, 1998, 256 pages.
Available in libraries and bookstores.

Writer, poet, and journalist Jaroslav Seifert was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1984 for his "poetry which endowed with freshness, sensuality, and rich inventiveness provides a liberating image of the indomitable spirit and versatility of man."

His evocative, charming poetry is easily accessible, even for those of us who are not especially knowledgeable about poetry. Free copies are available online (<http://www.archipelago.org/vol2-3/seifert1.htm>) in *Archipelago Magazine's* selection of ten poems excerpted from *The Poetry of Jaroslav Seifert*.

Written over the course of Seifert's life, this translated collection of poems may pale compared to the original Czech versions, but benefits from excellent translation by Edward Osers and editing by George Gibian. As *The New York Times* noted, his "work was little known outside of Czechoslovakia, mainly because of the difficulties of translating what he called its 'inner rhythm,'" but is widely available today in English.

Seifert was born in 1901 in Žižkov, a working-class district of Prague. As a journalist, he wrote throughout the 1930s and 1940s for various Prague dailies and periodicals; he was editor-in-chief of the theater monthly, *Nová scéna*. He won state poetry prizes in 1936, 1955, and 1968. The government honored him in 1966 as a National Artist. Prolific, Seifert's had 30 volumes of poetry published.

In his 20s, Seifert was an idealist who was enthused about the Russian Revolution and joined the Communist Party, but broke with it after a trip to the Soviet Union. He came to be seen as a symbol of freedom of expression for oppressed writers. Seifert, who condemned the Soviet invasion of his country in 1968, was one of the signers of Charter 77. His poetry was not political except in terms of expressing love for his country and its values.

Seifert died in 1986 at the age of 84. His poem called "The Plague Column" summed up his life as a writer:

*To all those million verses in the world I've added just a few.
They probably were no wiser than a cricket's chirrup.*

I know. Forgive me. I'm coming to the end.

They were not even the first footmarks in the lunar dust.

If at times they sparkled after all it was not their light. I loved this language . . . But I make no excuse.

I believe that seeking beautiful words is better than killing and murdering.

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 Commies, Crooks, Gypsies, Spooks, and Poets by Jan Novak on March 18, 10 a.m. to noon, at the C.S.P.S. Hall.



**Heart Bombs for C.S.P.S. Hall
from the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.**

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This issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by March 31: <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 (March 15 for May issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (April 1 for May issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through March 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.
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383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.
Extra copies of *Slovo* are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts.

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Email us: <slovo@sokolmn.org>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, 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: Chuck Draheim, Martina Gurgel, M. L. Kucera, Joyce Tesarek, Frank R. Trnka.

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

Flavors of Slovakia Dinner
Sunday, March 5, 12:30 p.m.
\$16 adult, \$8 children 9 and under
Reservations by February 28: 651-290-0542

Family Fun Activities
March 12, 4 - 7 p.m.
Potluck and activities

Šibřinky Dance and Supper
Saturday, April 1, 4 - 10 p.m.
Ethnic food and beer for sale

Spring Pancake Breakfast, Craft and Bake Sale
Sunday, April 9, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
No reservations needed
\$7 adult, \$5 children 9 and under, \$20 for family of four

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota
Check for event updates: **www.sokolmn.org**



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* February 2017

Members Heart Bomb C.S.P.S. Hall

Heart Bombs show love to old buildings, whether they are designated historical sites or other local landmarks. Two young people in Buffalo, New York, developed the concept in February 2013. Since then, the concept has spread nationwide.



Members of Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (C&SSTC) urged the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors to create Heart Bombs at the annual BOD retreat in early February. Other Sokol Minnesota members also created Heart Bombs for our C.S.P.S. Hall, as well as, the adult Czech language classes, folk dancers, and C&SSTC children and parents.



Julia Rocchi, the director of digital content at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C., writes that “heart bombing is the act of showering an older or historic place with tangible expressions of affection and devotion.”

**Our front windows are exploding with hearts of love, thanks to many Sokols!
Thank you for supporting Sokol Minnesota as we preserve and maintain C.S.P.S. Hall.**