

UPCOMING EVENTS

May Slovo Deadline
April 1, 2018

Sokol Senior Singers
Tuesdays, April 3 and 17,
10 a.m.

Šibřinky
Saturday, April 7, 4 - 10 p.m.

Board of Trustees
April 11, 7 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting
April 19, 7 p.m.

Škola Family Night
Sunday, April 22,
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Band Blast
Saturday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.

Festival of Nations
May 3 - 6, Saint Paul
RiverCentre

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
Presents

Šibřinky

CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 7

Come for Dinner! Stay for the Dance!

Dinner 4 - 7 p.m. \$7.00

Pork cutlet (vepřový řízek), potato salad, pickled beets, and bread

Cash Bar
Czech Beer

Dance \$12.00/door
6 - 10p.m.

Public
Welcome

Hot Dogs,
Desserts,
and Snacks
for Sale

Music by
Gordy Prochaska's
"Little Fisherman Band"

Masked Ball,
Costumes
and Folk Dress
Encouraged

5 p.m.
Performance
by the Taneční Mládež
and Teen Dancers;
Intermission
Performance
by the St. Paul Czech
and Slovak
Folk Dancers

Polka Old Tyme Big Band

383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul
Minnesota
55102

www.sokolmn.org

\$10.00
Advance Dance
Admission
by April 1
Check to: Sokol MN
Mail c/o Louise
3704 Denmark Ave
Eagan, MN 55123
651-452-6240

2018 Czech Slovak Century commemorates 1918, 1968, and 1993
visit CzechSlovakCentury.org



Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes

By Judy Aubrecht

Vážení členové Sokola a přátelé / Dear Sokol members and friends,

Did you know that every four years our sponsoring group, the American Sokol Organization (ASO), has a convention? This year the ASO convention will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from April 26 to 29. The number of delegates that a unit can send to the convention is based on the number of members that are enrolled in that unit. With close to 300 members, Sokol Minnesota is sending three elected or appointed delegates. Delegates attend meetings to discuss current issues in the organization, elect the executive board, and decide on new bylaws, as well as attend dinners and events to get to know other Sokol members from around the country. A portion of the Sokol Minnesota dues that you, as a member, pay each year goes to the ASO to help pay for the expenses of conventions and other national events. This year, Sokol Minnesota members Ann Janda and M. L. Kucera are delegates. Another member had planned to attend, but work and other responsibilities made it impossible to get away. Joan Sedlacek attends the convention as the Western District Educational Director and also representing Board of Instructors (BOI). In addition, Ken Janda attends as a delegate for another Western District unit. We are excited to hear the delegates' reports when they return. We appreciate their willingness to attend the convention.

Many exciting events are upcoming. **Šibřinky on April 7** begins at 4 p.m. with ethnic foods for sale. *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens* dance at 5:15 p.m. Gordy Prochaska's *Little Fisherman's Band* plays 6 to 10 p.m. When the band takes breaks, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers perform.

The same weekend of the ASO convention, the **Band Blast fundraiser on April 28** takes place at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Volunteers are already busy getting food and the cultural exhibit ready for the **Festival of Nations at the Saint Paul RiverCentre in downtown Saint Paul from May 3 to May 6.**

Two outstanding authors have local presentations in April. Kevin J. McNamara presents his book, *Dreams of a Great, Small Nation on Saturday evening, April 7*, at the Minnesota Genealogy Society (MGS) library, 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights. McNamara also appears at Common Good Books, 32 Snelling Avenue South, Saint Paul, the following day at 1 p.m., April 8, for a book-signing event. Sokol Minnesota member and BOD Publicity co-director Ken Janda presents his newest book, *The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire, on Sunday, April 15, 2 p.m.*, at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Congratulations again to Courtney Benson, who was featured in the February 2018 American Sokol publication, including having her picture on the front page! The article written by Sokol Minnesota Women's Physical Director Mary Cahill was reprinted in our March *Slovo*. Courtney deserves the praises for her gymnastic skills, her efforts as head coach for Sokol Minnesota's women's gymnastics program, and for her endeavors to expand our gymnastics program. Mary Cahill also deserves kudos for her decades of devotion to our gymnastics program.

Please continue to consider making a donation so that we can reach the \$86,000 match needed to receive the City of Saint Paul's STAR grant for essential tuck pointing and roof and parapet repairs. Thank you to all of the generous donors who have already contributed to this fundraising campaign! *Nazdar!*

Saint Paul West 7th Achievement Award



On February 22, West 7th Business Association President Kent Peterson presented Sokol Minnesota with an



Achievement Award for improvements made to the north side of the the Hall. The award was received by Judy Aubrecht, Sokol Minnesota President, and Ed Hamernik, Sokol Vice President/Project Manager of the Improvements, along with John Yust, Architect. Sokol Minnesota also received a micro-grant from W7BA towards fence replacement.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2018 BOD (Board of Directors)

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Denis Novak

Second Vice President

Ed Hamernik

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

Past issues of *Slovo* and Hall Calendar of Events:
www.sokolmn.org

FESTIVAL of NATIONS®

A Celebration of ...

Now & Then:

Exploring Historical &
Contemporary Cultural Traditions

2018 May 3 - 6
Saint Paul RiverCentre
A World of Cultures in One Place



Come see lively folk dance performances on the Main Stage (M) and Atrium (A)!

Children: Saturday 11 a.m. (M)

Teens: Friday 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (M), Saturday 1p.m. (M)

Adults: Saturday 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. (M), and Sunday 11 a.m. (A), 3 p.m., and 4 p.m (M)

Sample delicious Czech and Slovak ethnic dishes in the Café: hot dogs (*párky*); pork burgers (*vepřový karbanátek s houskou*); sausage (*jitrnice*); open-faced sandwiches (*chlebíčky*): potato salad, liver pâté, and radish; dumpling/bacon/cabbage hotdish (*halušky*); fresh homemade sauerkraut (*zelí*); fried cheese sticks (*vyprážený syr*); cream roll (*kremrole*); Linzer cookies; kolache (*koláče*): apricot, cream cheese, poppy seed, prune, and raspberry.

Czech and Slovak Cultural Exhibit Booth: *Historic Currency*

Volunteers are needed in the Café!

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

To volunteer for a shift in the Café, you can sign up on our website
www.sokolmn.org or call Dawn **317-409-1095**

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Glynis Grostephan, Corresponding Secretary

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

LEGACY FUND (includes matching Saint Paul STAR Grant donations): In memory of **Barbara Schaumburg Rich**: Under \$99: **Marit Lee Kucera**. In memory of **Doris McKenney**: Under \$99: **Arlene and Ed Hamernik**.

In memory of **Al Imbrone**: Under \$99: **Pat and Don Andrie, Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Mary and Dennis Cahill, Mary Jo and James Chlebeczek, Marlene Hinshaw, Jake Jacobson, Marit Lee Kucera**, Minnesota Sokol Camp Association, **Joan Sedlacek, Louise and Chuck Wessinger, Sharon and Ken Wyberg**. \$100 - \$499: **Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik**.

GENERAL FUND:

Under \$99: **Joseph Kocab**, Cleveland District Alliance of Czech Catholics. \$100 - \$499: **Marlene Hinshaw, Milan Sebek**, and an anonymous donation through Give MN.

In memory of **Ed Hamernik's** sister, **Betty Mary Hamernik Baukol**. Under \$99: **Arlene and Ed Hamernik**.

In memory of **Barbara Schaumburg Rich**: Under \$99: **Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Linda and Rich Nicoli, Joan Sedlacek, Louise and Chuck Wessinger**. \$100 - \$499: **Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik**.

In memory of **Doris McKenney**: \$100 - \$499: **Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik**.

SLOVO: under \$99: Minnesota Sokol Camp Association.

Legacy Fund: \$676; General Fund: \$995;

Slovo: \$50 TOTAL: \$ 1,721

C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

In order to complete repairs to our roof and brickwork, we need your help! All donations are 100% tax deductible and will help match the \$85,000 City of Saint Paul STAR grant.



Let's get the Hall in shape to commemorate 2018: our 131st anniversary and the centenary of the birth of Czechoslovakia.

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

Welcome New Member

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the March 3 Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors meeting, Matt Merrit, spouse of member Carissa Skivanek, was accepted to membership.
Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Highlights: February BOD Meeting

By Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary

The Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on February 15 at 7 p.m. President Judy Aubrecht requested an alternate delegate to the ASO convention; Glynis Grostephan expressed an interest in serving as an alternate.

We will plant a *Tree of Freedom*, with the location to be determined; however, it most likely will be on the C.S.P.S. Hall property.

Planning for a Czech Slovak Century celebration on October 13 is underway, with a suggestion to change the name to *Slavnost*, to indicate a less formal celebration than a gala.

Ed Hamernik reported that replacement window bids were obtained, with a plan ready for the next Board of Trustees Meeting. Joyce Tesarek reported on budget, finance, STAR Grants, and an in-process grant from the government of the Czech Republic. Additional square footage was added to the rent calculation for the restaurant tenant to include the new shed and access.

Standing in for Don Haselbauer, Joyce also submitted the treasurer's report. Norm Petrik reported on four new memberships, which the board approved.

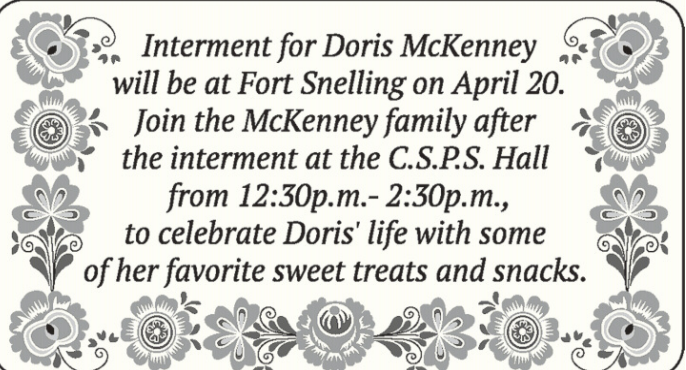
Glynis Grostephan reported on recent donations, as well as the application for a recycling grant with funds to be used for tableware for the hall and possibly for a new dishwasher.

Ken and Ann Janda reported on publicity. Sokol will receive an award from the West 7th Business Association on February 22. Ideas for pictures to be used to promote the C.S.P.S. Hall on Facebook were discussed to make the rental space appealing. Michaela (Míša) Giancarlo Kotek, in charge of our Sokol Facebook page, shared ideas for postings, advertising, etc.

Ed Hamernik reported for the Board of Trustees that Wi-Fi is now installed downstairs and available for classroom use. A workday will be scheduled, date to be determined.

The Annual Board Retreat is March 3, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., with topics for the year to be discussed.

The next regular board meeting is Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m.



Interment for Doris McKenney
will be at Fort Snelling on April 20.
Join the McKenney family after
the interment at the C.S.P.S. Hall
from 12:30p.m.- 2:30p.m.,
to celebrate Doris' life with some
of her favorite sweet treats and snacks.



Regions Hospital Cafeteria, Saint Paul, featured Czechoslovakian cuisine the week of February 26, as part of “Taste of Regions”

Cook Petr Hoffmann, Czechoslovak born, put all his Czech heart into preparing a week of delicious Czech meals. With different specials each day, choices ranged from chicken schnitzel, cold potato salad, Savoy cabbage (with cream), and fried cheese to beef roulade, *vomáčka* soup, home-made pork sausage with onions and peppers, turkey breast with almond dressing and roasted plums, roasted pork shoulder seasoned with caraway seeds and garlic, chicken paprika, *spaetzle*, beef short ribs with wild mushrooms, barley risotto, and many steamed or roasted vegetables. This display, at the entrance to the cafeteria, was put together by Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities with special help from Louise Wessinger, Martina Gurgel, and Petr Hoffmann.

2018 Annual Minnesota Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Mark your calendars!

The 2018 Sokol Minnesota booya picnic is Sunday, August 12,
12 - 5 p.m. at the historic Sokol camp!

19201 Woodland Acres, Pine City, Minnesota 55063

You can be sure there will be no snow then, but wasn't our main lodge beautiful on a sunny, snowy day in February!

Be it rain or shine, the picnic will be a fun-filled day complete with live entertainment, Czech and Slovak folk dancers, homemade cabbage rolls, *jitrnice*, *koláče*, and of course, booya!

Come early and stay late! We hope to see you there!

We are always looking for helpers!

To volunteer, please contact Kari or Scott Muyres at 763-226-0313

By Kari and Scott Muyres, Co-Chairs



Commemorative Medal and Poster Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Pittsburgh Agreement, May 31, 1918

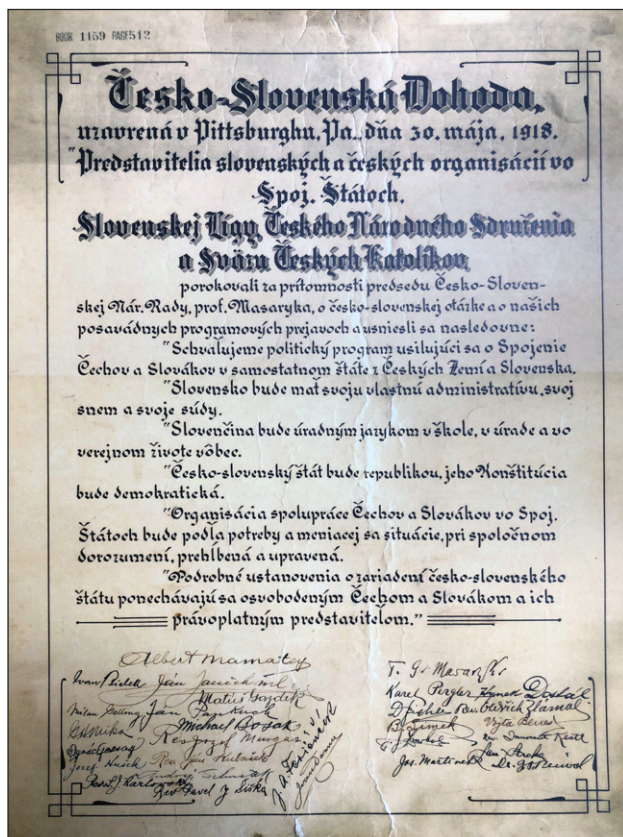
The signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement on May 31, 1918, stated the intent of members of Czech and Slovak expatriate communities in the United States to create an independent Czechoslovakia at the end of World War I. The visit to Pittsburgh by Professor Tomáš Garrigue

Masaryk was the catalyst for the drafting and signing of the memorandum of understanding agreement. Masaryk later became the first President of Czechoslovakia. Leaders of local and national Slovak and Czech fraternal organizations also signed the agreement.

On May 31, 2018, Honorary Slovak Consul Joe Senko and Honorary Czech Consul Carol Hochman, both of Pittsburgh, spearhead the 100th anniversary celebration in Pittsburgh, which includes government officials from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, as well as local Pennsylvania officials.

A special commemorative limited edition 2.25” medal has been struck for this centennial event. The medal and wooden stand are \$35, plus \$5 shipping/handling.

A replica poster (11” x 17”) of the Pittsburgh Agreement sells for \$10. Contact Honorary Slovak Consul Joe Senko: <jtsenko@aol.com> or 412-956-6000.



2018 Flavors of Slovakia Dinner on March 4 By Joyce Tesarek, Co-Chair



Kitchen volunteers: Dawn Bulera, Mary Cahill, Judy Aubrecht, Joan Sedlacek (in back), Sue Goodspeed, Roberta Chandler (in back), Hana Matousek.

One of the favorite annual dinners is the Flavors of Slovakia Dinner, featuring dumpling, bacon, cabbage hotdish (*halušky*) made by Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek, as well as cabbage rolls, potato and cheese *pirohy*, pickled beets, dilled green beans, delicious caraway rye bread, and our freshly baked *koláče*.



Plating desserts: Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek.

Of course, there was *Czechvar* beer to round out the meal. We sold 136 meals, including take-outs. We made \$1,748.73 for Sokol Minnesota programs and the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Special thanks to our program team: Emcee Denis Novak introduced Sokol Minnesota President Judy Aubrecht, who welcomed our guests and announced upcoming Sokol Minnesota events. Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, Marit Lee Kucera, spoke of the exciting events planned for our 2018 Czech Slovak Century activities. Mark

Dillon talked about the significance of 2018 as a milestone for the Slovak Republic, as well as some Slovak-specific activities planned for this year. Closing the program with their colorful *kroje* and lively music were the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers: Lara Ciganko, Krissy Chepp, Andelia Dhami, Paul Knuth, and Silvia Magana. Flavors of Slovakia co-chairs were Joyce Tesarek, Joan Sedlacek, and Dawn Bulera.



Chatting before the *Lipa* Slovak Folk Dancers performance: Joyce Tesarek, Andelia Dhami, Lara Ciganko, Paul Knuth, Krissy Chepp, Silvia Magana, and Cheryl Nelson.

Special thanks to all our volunteers: Don Andrlle, Pat Andrlle, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Wendy Bednar, Dawn Bulera, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, Carolyn Cahill, Roberta Chandler, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Mark Dillon, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Sue Goodspeed, Roger Green, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Ann Janda, Ken Janda, Marit Lee Kucera, Pam Langworthy, Hana Matousek, Doreen McKenney, Aidan Neher, Cheryl Nelson Theuninck, Denis Novak, Rachel Olson, Norm Petrik, Jerry Robers, Richard Sargent, Joan Sedlacek, Amanda Tesarek, Joyce Tesarek, Penny Tesarek, and Louise Wessinger.



Koláče were made ahead of time for the Slovak dinner: Jerry Robers, Penny Tesarek, and Don Haselbauer.

What I enjoy most about our dinners is spending time with long-time friends, but I also find it exciting to share our Sokol event with new people who have new



Flavors of Slovakia Dinner guests enjoyed the performance by the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers.

energy and ideas. Sokol Minnesota always welcomes new guests to our dinners.

Plus we are always grateful for new volunteers to help with all parts of the events. Be sure to mark March 10, 2019, for our next Flavors of Slovakia Dinner.



Aidan Neher and Rachel Olson.

Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities and Sokol Minnesota Present
Second annual music-friendly FUNDRAISER

BAND BLAST

Saturday | April 28 | 7:30p.m.

Something
for
every one!

- Raffle
- Door prizes
- Trivia
- Sing-a-long
- Dancing
- Cash bar
- Food and desserts for sale

Performances by

Brass Messengers

Boiled in Lead

Rocket Appliances

The Houdeks

Local
folk and rock
bands

Suggested
\$10
admission
donation

Proceeds
to match
STAR grant
for roof and
wall repairs

C.S.P.S Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN www.sokolmn.org

2018 Czech Slovak Century commemorates 1918, 1968, and 1993



visit CzechSlovakCentury.org

1918 - 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7-December 31: *The War Train that Shaped a Nation*, National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This multimedia exhibit tells the story of Czech and Slovak Legion and the amazing account of their trek via rail across Siberia during World War I. The NCSML partnered with Cedar Rapids high school students to create both a virtual reality bakery train car and a physical replica of another train car right inside the exhibit.

Follow the epic journey of these soldiers as they overcome extreme challenges. <www.ncsml.org/exhibits/guts-and-glory/> <<https://youtu.be/fL-LXRIsbKE>> Kevin J. McNamara, author of *Dreams of a Great Small Nation*, speaks at the opening on **April 6**.

April 12-18, Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival, St. Anthony Main Theatre, Minneapolis (see page 11 for listings).



The special commemorative magnet for the 2018 Minnesota Pageant.



April 14, 29th Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant, American Legion Club, Montgomery, Minnesota, 5 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. pageant with reception and dance. Get tickets (\$19 for ethnic dinner, pageant, and dance) from Jerry or Lorraine David at 507-364-9370 or at Montgomery Oil Company, Montgomery. The pageant website is <www.missczechslovakmnpageant.org>

May 3, Thursday, 7 p.m., Patricia Hampl talks about her new book, *The Art of a Wasted Day*, at Scott County Library in Prior Lake. Hampl wrote *A Romantic Education* (1981), in which she explored her Czech heritage and talked about Joseph Mestenhauser and his family. She is an American memoirist, writer, lecturer, and educator. A three-time Minnesota Book Award winner, she teaches in the MFA program at the University of Minnesota/Minneapolis and is one of the founding members of the Loft Literary Center.

May 3-6, Festival of Nations! Sign up to volunteer at the Café on our website <www.sokolmn.org>, or call Dawn at 317-409-1095. All volunteers get a free ticket. Come early and enjoy the Festival!

May 5, Saturday, noon to 6 p.m., První Máj/May Day in Montgomery, Minnesota. The second annual May Day celebration at Heritage Park, located just behind Edina Realty on the corner of Vine Avenue and First/Main Street. The first ribbon dance happens around 2:30 p.m., right after the May Pole has been raised. Plenty of food and entertainment for all!

May 13, Sunday, 1- 3 p.m., C.S.P.S. Hall, Panel Discussion: "Czech influences on writers and musicians," Moderated by Patrick Dewane, playwright and actor (*Accidental Hero*), with Patricia Hampl, author (*Art of the Wasted Day*, new book due out in April 2018); Daniel Freeman, author (*Mozart in Prague*); and Jordan Sramek, founder and artistic director of Twin Cities choral group the Rose Ensemble. Plus signing of books and CDs. It's Mothers' Day!!! Special Czech refreshments for all who attend!

August 24- 26, Czech that Film!, St. Anthony Main Theatre, Minneapolis. <Mspfilm.org> Watch future issues of Slovo for the full schedule.

Commemorate 2018!

- ♥ 100th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia
- ♥ 50th anniversary of the Prague Spring reform movement
- ♥ 25th anniversary of the formation of the two independent nations of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic



POLITICAL EXTREMISM IN A HISTORICAL CONTEXT by John Palka

Extreme nationalism has been surging around the world. The countries of Central Europe have not been immune to this trend. Austria, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia have all seen retrogressive steps harking back to the Communist era and even fresh echoes of Nazism. For this reason, I was heartened by the announcement of a series of seminars aimed primarily at teachers of history and civics in middle schools and gymnasias and also their older students. These seminars address issues of contemporary extremism in the context of Slovak history and of the work of leading Slovak political figures of earlier years.

The first manifestation of extremism brought into focus was the Holocaust. The mission of the seminar was to show why events like the Holocaust must never be repeated. The presenters at the seminar included both distinguished scholars and leading educators. Documentary videos were shown. Nationwide essay competitions were also part of the program.

The first historical figure to be considered was my own

grandfather, Milan Hodža, prime minister of Czechoslovakia during the period 1935-1938. I received information about these seminars from Miroslav Pekník, director of the Institute of Political Science of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. He has been the chief force behind the Days of Milan Hodža, the annual celebrations held for the past fifteen years by the Slovak government to honor my grandfather.



For examining the Holocaust and the contributions of Milan Hodža, Dr. Pekník secured the cooperation of the Slovak National Museum, the Museum of Jewish Culture, the National Institute of Education, the University of Constantine the Philosopher, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic. An impressive array indeed!

This seminar series is a powerful effort to challenge a younger generation to think about the relevance of its own national history to the present day.

Photos of the series' launch showed a large classroom filled mostly with young people. I see this effort as a model of effective education for an engaged citizenry, a prerequisite to a vibrant democracy.



A Well-Told Tale of Two Men at the Crossroads of History

***The Emperor and the Peasant:
Two Men at the Start of the Great War
and the End of the Habsburg Empire*
by Kenneth Janda**

This review appeared in Minnesota Voice Column, republished with permission of the *Polish-American Journal* from the Journal's February 2018 edition. See <www.polanjournal.com>

Many Polish-Americans know that Point #13 of Woodrow Wilson's 14 Points of Peace address, delivered to Congress 100 years ago last month, called for the rebirth of an independent Poland. In the same speech, Slovaks and Czechs got support with the less direct and vague Point #10, which said only that the "people of Austria-Hungary" should be "accorded the freest opportunity for autonomous development."

In his new non-fiction book *The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire*, retired Northwestern University political science professor Kenneth Janda of Roseville, Minnesota, chronicles the tragic prelude to freedom in Slovakia. It's a compelling, highly readable World War I research narrative told through of world lens of the aged Austria-Hungarian Emperor Franz Jozef and Samuel Mozolak, Janda's grandfather-in-law from the Slovak village of Krajné, which is south and west of Zakopane on the southern side of the Tatras.

For Polish-Americans whose 3rd or 4th generation ancestral roots are from Austria-Hungarian province of Galicia, Janda's work is especially noteworthy because it provides timely regional context, meaning and insight into the experience of a generation of conscripted men who stayed behind in Europe while thousands of their peers in what is now Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic boarded steamships from Hamburg and Bremen to America, never to return.

Mozolak also made the transatlantic journey in 1902, but then returned in 1906 and again in May 1914 so that his U.S.-born children could be raised in Slovak traditions, Janda writes. The timing of the second visit could not have been worse as the consequences of an assassin's bullets in Sarajevo sparked continent-wide war. Conscripted into a Hungarian Honved unit of the Austria-

Hungarian army, Janda tells the story of how Mozolak gave his life in June 1918 on the Italian front. I found Janda's thoughtful, well-researched perspective fascinating at multiple levels, in part because my own maternal great-grandfather, Michael, emigrated from the Slovak village of Kúty, which is a short train ride to the southeast in 1892. His brother, Konstantin, would die in the autumn of 1914 near Sanok Poland during the Austria-Hungarian 1st Army, V Corps' response to Russia's invasion of Galicia. At the same time, my Polish fraternal grandfather's cousin was also conscripted in a Lviv-based Austrian-Hungarian unit. Wounded by a Russian saber around the same time in 1914, he would become a prisoner of war, and get shipped off to Moscow, and then a farm labor camp in Omsk.

Janda skillfully blends seldom-seen economic data, political analysis and scholarly research to produce a unique volume. I like how he discusses the overall body of work in American literature and film that over the past century has informed, and in many ways, misinformed Americans about the Eastern Front. If all one knows about World War I is from PBS-*American Experience's The Great War*, Hemingway's novel *A Farewell to Arms*, or the novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*, this is the book to read.

From a Polish perspective, the Hapsburg monarchy prior to 1914 was generally viewed as the lesser of three evils in a land partitioned since the 1790s -- an incompetent, sclerotic bureaucracy whose policies generated hardship, much loss of life and frustration. However, Habsburg rule was still seen as not as biased and heavy handed as Imperial Germany's Kulturkampf or as brutal and outwardly oppressive as everyday life in the Russian partition.

Janda takes Franz Josef's 1848 to 1916 autocratic rule to task, discussing the royal family's history, political tensions within the Dual Monarchy (Austria and Hungary), Franz Josef's personality and effects of his directives. Family deaths related to politics apparently created a bitter old man, including the 1892 assassination of Franz Josef's wife, Empress Sisi, by an Italian anarchist and the 1867 execution of his younger brother, Maximilian, by the Mexican government. (Maximilian became

Emperor of Mexico in July 1863, the same month as the Battle of Gettysburg in the U.S. He was later deposed in a revolution led by Benito Juárez).

Franz Josef was oblivious to the war and suffering that his decisions created. Hundreds of thousands of his troops died under the command of the bombastic Field Marshal Conrad Von Hotzendorf, whom Franz Josef's successor Karl I would fire in 1917. One fact that leaps out from Janda's bar charts is that the Austrian-Hungarian Army suffered a 90% casualty rate -- killed, wounded and missing -- the highest rate of any army in the First World War.

With poor rail links to the battlefield, weak food and supply chains, outdated rifles and ill-fitting uniforms, soldiers were forced to march 20 miles a day on foot with 65 pound packs. In autumn 1914, they were exhausted by the time they met the invading Russians in southeastern Poland and what is today western Ukraine. Relief would not come until the Germans pushed the Russians out in May 1915 in the Gorlice-Tarnow Offensive, the same week as the sinking of SS Luisitania. Then the campaign moved to the Italian Alps for men like Janda's Mozolak.

With Russia out of the war after the November 1917 revolution, and Italy not doing all that well at that time against the Austrian-Hungarian Army, the U.S. Congress would declare war on Austria-Hungary on Dec. 7, 1917 with only one dissenting vote. Neither Franz Josef nor Mozolak would live to see the newly created republic of Czechoslovakia that emerged less than a year later.

Ken Janda talks about his book at the C.S.P.S. Hall, Sunday, April 15, 2 p.m.

The book will be available for sale at a reduced price, with a portion of the proceeds going to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

Friends of Sokol Minnesota can order it online for one-third less through either the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (<www.cgsl.org/store/item/310775>) or the National Czech and Slovak Museum (<www.ncsml.org/product/emperor-peasant/>).

Homecoming by Joseph Wechsberg. Alfred A. Knopf: New York. 1946. 118 pages. Available in libraries and used bookstores.

Born in 1907 in Mährisch Ostrau, now Ostrava, Czech Republic, Joseph Wechsberg became a broadly accomplished author, musician, lawyer, and gourmet. His collection in the Library of Congress includes 15,000 items of correspondence, drafts of articles and books, notes, clippings, photographs, and other papers. His biography is full of interesting gems, such as owning a Stradivarius and being a co-founder of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Wechsberg's father died in the First World War when he was seven. The next year he took up the violin, later attending the Vienna State Academy of Music before becoming a concert violinist. By his mid-twenties, Wechsberg changed careers, earning a degree in 1930 and working in law. He trained in the Czech Army officers' candidate school and commanded a machine gun company on the Polish frontier in 1938. Later that year, his government sent him to the United States as Secretary of the Parliamentary Commission to discuss the Sudeten crisis. When war broke out, Wechsberg and his wife were stranded, and they requested asylum. He taught himself English, his fourth language, and worked as a writer.

In 1943, he was drafted into the U.S. Army; a posting to Europe gave him the opportunity to visit Czechoslovakia after WWII. In *Homecoming*, Wechsberg tells the personal and touching story of his quest to find his wife's relatives in his hometown. Of the thirty books Wechsberg wrote about European politics, music, and food, this is one of his best. It's a short, exceptional first-hand look at his particular pursuits, and the devastation of the war on individuals and Europe. Much of his travel was in gutted trains with homeward-bound Russian soldiers.

Although his family home and childhood synagogue were destroyed, he did find his in-laws, who were living in squalor and rubble in their home. The author learned that only 80 of

8,000 Jews of his hometown had survived, with very few names recorded in the "book of the living." He also found that many old friends had collaborated with the enemy.

Wechsberg wrote that at the end of the trip, "It was good to know that I was going back to America. To me America wasn't a wishful dream, as to most people here.... I had paid the admissions fee. It was comforting to look at the brass buttons with the US on my uniform."

Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. For more information, go to www.cs-center.org or contact gwen@cs-center.org

Join Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures members to discuss *The Emperor and the Peasant* by Kenneth Janda on Saturday, April 21, 10-noon, in the first-floor classroom at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

AUTHOR EVENTS sponsored by Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota

April 7, 6 p.m., Kevin J. McNamara, *Dreams of a Great Small Nation*, Admission \$7. Minnesota Genealogy Center, 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights 55120

April 8: Book Signing, Sunday, 11 a.m. Free event at Common Good Books, 32 South Snelling, Saint Paul

Literary Ventures sponsored by CSCC meets monthly on the third Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon, C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan, Saint Paul. cs-center.org/programs/literary-ventures/

May 19: HHhH by Laurent Binet. German title is *HHhH: Himmlers Hirn heisst Heydrich* which translates "Himmler's Brain is Called Heydrich."

May 19: Literary Ventures Annual Talk, 1:00 p.m., second floor, C.S.P.S. Hall, with refreshments: John Palka, author of *My Slovakia, My Family: One Family's Role in the Birth of a Nation*. Annual Talk Topic: *The Czech and Slovak Marriage: What the Partners Brought to the Union*.

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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37th Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival April 12-28

MSPIFF brings exciting films by both emerging and veteran filmmakers to the Twin Cities, April 12 to 28, presenting over 250 new films, representing over 70 countries. The staff of the Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul scours international film festivals to bring a unique slate of award-winning, critically-acclaimed films that otherwise would never be screened here. One of the longest-running film festivals in the country and the largest film event in the Midwest, MSPIFF draws an attendance of 50,000 annually.

Tickets: \$14 General Public, \$11 Film Society Members, \$8 Youth under 25 and Students with IDs. **Sokol Minnesota members please use code SOKOL18 to get the Film Society partner rate of \$12.** St. Anthony Main Theatre, Minneapolis.

Films from the Czech Republic

BAREFOOT (PO STRNIŠTI BOS): Set during the waning years of WWII, this nostalgic coming-of-age story follows eight-year-old Eda who relocates with his family from Prague to the small village of Slavonice. It's the father-son Svěrák's best film since the Oscar-winning *Kolya* (1996). Directed by Jan Svěrák. Czech Republic, Slovakia, Denmark. 2017. Czech with English subtitles. 111 minutes. **Tuesday, April 24, 7:10 p.m.**

THE QUARTETTE (KVARTETO): A string quartet discovers there may be more to practice than music in Miroslav Krobet's dramedy feature. Set in the Czech Republic in a quiet town, the collective of musicians find that the complicated notes of love, sex, and attraction aren't as easily translated from the page to life. Directed by Miroslav Krobet. Czech Republic. 2017. Czech with English subtitles. 93 minutes. **Tuesday, April 17, 7:15 p.m. and Thursday, April 26, 4:30 p.m.**

Co-Production Film with the Czech Republic and Slovakia

SPOOR (POKOT): A genre-bending, ecologically-minded thriller. The protagonist leads audiences through a landscape in which the beauty of nature and human friendship are mixed with mud, corruption, cruelty, stupidity, and blood. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Agnieszka Holland with Kasia Adamik. Poland, Germany, Czech Republic, Sweden, Slovakia. 2017.

English, Polish with English subtitles. 128 minutes.

Sunday, April 15, 9:55 p.m.; Thursday, April 19, 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28, 7:05 p.m.

The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul is a dynamic non-profit that is dedicated to fostering a knowledgeable and vibrant appreciation of the art of film and its power to inform and transform individuals and communities. The generous MSPIFF supporters of Czech and Slovak cinema include Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities, CzechSlovakCentury 1918-2018, Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago, Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Minneapolis.

The Film Society brings *Czech that Film!* to Minneapolis, August 24-26, including *Barefoot (Po strništi bos)*. <mspfilm.org>

Wanted: Midwesterners with Czech Heritage to Participate in a Study of Czech Folk Costumes

Eric French, doctoral student in the Apparel, Merchandising, and Design Program at Iowa State University in Ames, is looking for participants with Czech ancestry in the Upper Midwest (Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin) to help her 1) examine the role that *kroje* (folk costumes) play in the lives of individuals. 2) Explore meanings of *kroje* in late-generation Czech immigrants. 3) Discover how folk costume traditions have been sustained and passed along from one generation to the next. Eligibility: Ages 18 and older, live in the Upper Midwest States, have Czech ancestry, have participated in activities wearing *kroje* at least once. Participate by completing an audio-recorded interview about your Czech heritage and wearing *kroje*; (optional) share/discuss photos of yourself in *kroje*; possible follow-up interview. 1-4 hours total time. If you are interested, please contact Erin by the end of April, when interviews are expected to be completed: efrench@iastate.edu

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: The *Slovo* is published ten times per year by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership.

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

The deadline for the May 2018 issue is April 1.

This issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by April 30: <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, with ad and payment due by copy deadline.

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through April 2019.) 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, Minnesota 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¢ or more for each returned issue.

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

Member Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Marit Lee Kucera, managing editor; Madison Jerde, copy 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, Ann Janda, Ken Janda, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, advisors.

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March *Slovo* mailing party volunteers: Jason Brozovich, Colleen Cahill and son, Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, Val Kuisle, Joan Sedlacek, Deb Ziskovsky.

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

Šibřinky • Saturday, April 7, 4 - 10 p.m.
Dinner at 4 - 7pm, dance from 6 - 10 p.m.
Gordy Prochaska's *Little Fisherman Band*.

\$12 at the door, \$10 advance ticket (make check to Sokol MN,
send by April 1: c/o 3704 Denmark Avenue, Eagan, MN 55123)

Band Blast • Saturday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.
Featuring local folk and rock bands. Dance, trivia, raffle.
Fundraiser for C.S.P.S. Hall roof and exterior wall repairs.
\$10 suggested admission. Cash bar and refreshments.

Festival of Nations • May 3 - 6, Saint Paul RiverCentre
Enjoy food and culture from around the world.
Visit our Czech and Slovak Café and Exhibit Booth.
Enjoy our children, teen, and adult folk dancers on stage.

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota
Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* April 2018

**21st Annual Children's
Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp**

C.S.P.S. Hall from June 18 to 22 | 8:50 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Theme:   years of Czech and Slovak history
1918 - 2018

Activities will include ethnic crafts, food, singing, games, folk dancing, language, and gymnastics classes. Children seven to fourteen years of age.

Parents, grandparents, or family friends can volunteer at the camp, which allows the camper to attend at a reduced rate. Older teens are invited to be junior leaders.

Registration ends on June 1.

Register at the Sokol Minnesota website < www.sokolmn.org >
under **Classes**, click on **Culture Camp 2018**.

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