



*Providing fitness and community  
for individuals and families  
through physical, educational,  
cultural, and social programs*



# SLOVO

December 2018 / January 2019  
vol. 42 no. 1

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February Slovo Deadline**  
January 1

**Sokol Singers**  
December 4, 10 a.m.  
January 15, 2019, 10 a.m.

**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
December 12, 7 p.m.  
January 9, 2019, 7 p.m.

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
December 20, 7 p.m.  
January 17, 2019, 7 p.m.

**Member and Volunteer  
Appreciation Party - Free!**  
January 6, 2019, 12:30 p.m.

**16th Annual Candlelight  
Roast Duck Dinner**  
January 26, 2019, 5 p.m.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**BAND BLAST  
Sokol Fundraiser**  
April 27 at 7 p.m. Saturday  
New bands, silent auction,  
door prizes, homemade *guláš*

# 16th Annual Roast Duck Dinner

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

**Saturday  
January 26, 2019**

**5 p.m. - \$23.00 per person**

**Limited seating  
Prepaid reservations  
are required by January 14  
To reserve call: 952-941-0426**

Soup, 1/2 roast duck, potato dumplings, gravy,  
sweet and sour red cabbage,  
applesauce, caraway rye bread, coffee, and dessert.  
Beer, wine, and pop will be available  
for sale starting at 4:15 p.m..

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

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

**Free Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Membership and Volunteer Holiday Party  
January 6, 2019, 12:30 p.m. Reservations by December 29: 651-290-0542**

## **Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes**

**By Judy Aubrecht**

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

It has been my honor to serve as the president of Sokol Minnesota for the past five years, from 2014 to 2018. The Sokol Minnesota by-laws have term limits and I have reached the end of my term. I sincerely appreciate all of the support, kind words, and assistance that I have received over these five years from Sokol Minnesota members, the Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors, dedicated committees, program directors, and teachers. Working together toward common goals has enriched our organization and has led to continuing to maintain and enhance our beloved C.S.P.S. Hall and to the carrying on of successful programming to foster "a sound mind and a sound body."

In looking back to 2014, there were many building-related needs on which to focus and numerous planning meetings. *The Glockenspiel Restaurant* was closing and another renter was needed for the first-floor space. By July of 2014, a new lease was signed with head chefs Steve Hesse and Tyge Nelson, who were eager to start their own restaurant. Major renovations and upgrades were completed and the much-acclaimed *Pajarito* opened the following year. At the same time, the much-anticipated air conditioning project for the C.S.P.S. Hall was underway. Because of the age of the building and the desire to use existing ventilation pipes, the project was complicated and took many months to complete. Having an air conditioning system has increased the use of the building over the summer months and smiles from the brides who scheduled their wedding reception during this season. While the air conditioning project was nearing completion, a notification was received from the City of Saint Paul inspection's department reporting the 1919 fire escape did not pass inspection and the building would need to be closed for safety reasons. Creative planning was used after the existing fire escape was removed, to install a temporary fire escape. Eventually, an architecturally sound, sturdy, and attractive fire escape was installed. A new shed was built to provide a secure access to the building's basement and extra storage space for the restaurant. All of these projects were exceptionally costly and Sokol Minnesota's members and friends of the C.S.P.S. Hall continued to be very generous with their financial support for the needs of the building.

During all of this construction, on-going programming continued at the Hall. Folk dancing classes, gymnastics lessons, Czech and Slovak language classes, and the Senior Singers all continued. Educational programs, including cooking and craft classes, the children's Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities, and the Children's Cultural Day Camp took place. Events, including the annual Czech and Slovak Fall Festival, ethnic dinners and dances, pancake breakfasts and craft sales were held and much enjoyed by members and friends. Special outings were organized, including a 2016 trip for over 50 children, teens, and adults to the Ordway Theater to see the Minnesota Opera perform *Rusalka* by Antonín Dvořák. A special treat for this outing was a backstage tour and the chance to walk on the creative stage set to see how the "river" moved during the show.

A definite highlight during the past five years was the memorable visit of Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka. This elegant and exciting day included lively programming and honored guests. As usual, our Sokol Minnesota volunteers and friends worked hard to make this a highly successful day. Another highlight was the recent *Slavnost* on October 13, celebrating and remembering the past 100 years since the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

Beginning in 2019, I will continue to serve on the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors as publicity director. This position will be something new for me and there is much to learn from Sokol Minnesota members who have offered to share their skills in this area.

Looking ahead, you will want to visit the Czech Christmas display in the Music Room at the American Swedish Institute, in South Minneapolis, during the holiday season. Through our Czech Honorary Consul, Czechs received a special invitation to display our Czech Christmas traditions. The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers performed December 2 at 4 p.m. *Taneční Mládež* will perform on December 16 at 2 p.m.

The Membership Holiday Party, for members and volunteers, will take place on January 6, 2019, beginning at 12:30 p.m. A luncheon will be served and holiday activities will take place. New members are especially encouraged to come. Reservations by December 29 are required for this free event as seating is limited. Call 651-290-0542.

If you are planning any end-of-the-year donations, please be sure to include Sokol Minnesota in your giving plan. We continue to need support for the City of Saint Paul's STAR matching grant. Czechs and Slovaks love a bargain and what can be better than having every dollar that you contribute be directly matched by this grant, up to \$86,000!

With much appreciation for your support over the past five years, I wish you:

*Veselé Vánoce a šťastný nový rok! Nazdar!*

**2 December 2018 / January 2019 Slovo**

## **Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota**

### **2019 BOD (Board of Directors)**

#### **President**

Dave Stepan

#### **First Vice President**

Ed Hamernik

#### **Second Vice President**

Jean Draheim

#### **Recording Secretary**

Denise Stibal

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Glynis Grostephan

#### **Treasurer**

Don Haselbauer

#### **Financial Secretary**

Steve Ernest

#### **Sergeant at Arms**

Tom Aubrecht

#### **Members at Large**

Markéta Resong

Julia Welter

#### **Membership Director**

Norm Petrik

#### **Board of Budget and Finance**

Joyce Tesarek, Chair

#### **Educational Director**

Patricia Slaber

#### **Publicity Director**

Judy Aubrecht

#### **Board of Instructors**

Mary Cahill,

Women's Physical Director

Jason Brozovich,

Men's Physical Director

#### **Board of Trustees**

Dan Bednar

#### **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)

## Double Your Contribution to the Hall!

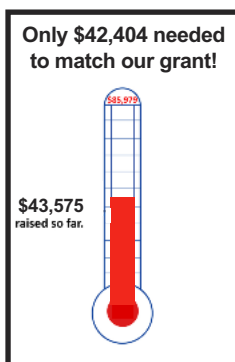
By Joyce Tesarek

As you plan your year-end giving, please consider a contribution to the C.S.P.S. Hall Building Fund. Every dollar is 100% tax-deductible, goes 100% to support the building projects, and is 100% matched by our Saint Paul STAR Grant. We thank you for all your past support and hope for your continued support now and in the future. Together we make things happen!

Donate at our website <www.Sokolmn.org> or send a check (made out to Sokol Minnesota) to 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

Call Joyce at 612-822-6147 with questions or for information on adding Sokol in your estate planning.

*Thank you for your support!*



## Board of Directors October Meeting Highlights

By Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary

Sokol Minnesota held its monthly meeting on October 18. Assistant Gaming Manager Steve Shimer reported for Gaming Manager Ed Hamernik. Keenan's Bar will shortly be adding electronic pull tabs and bingo; however, they will continue paper pull tab sales. The Minnesota Gambling Control Board gave Sokol Minnesota's Gaming Operations a 2018 rating of 4 out of 5 stars.

The Membership Holiday Party is Sunday, January 6, with games, food, and door prizes.

We received a proclamation from the City of Saint Paul for Czech and Slovak Day, honoring Sokol Minnesota.

Norm Petrik reported three new membership applications were received, which brings our total membership to 287.

Educational Director, Jean Draheim, reported that language classes are going well, with 25 students in Czech language classes and six in Slovak language class. The bobbin lace classes have begun meeting every other Sunday.

Joyce Tesarek reported our profit for the annual Czech and Slovak Festival on September 16 at \$5,972. Thank you to everyone for your participation!

## 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):

Under \$99: **Mary Jo** and **Jim Chlebeczek** in memory of **Val Kuisle**.

\$100 - \$499: **M. L. Kucera** in memory of **Val Kuisle, John Palka, Terry Shima**.

\$500 - \$999: **Penny** and **Tom Tesarek**.

\$1000 - \$4999: **Anita** and **John McKeown** in memory of **Albert Imbrone, Sr., Carolyn Sorensen** through the Clifford C. and Virginia G. Sorensen Charitable Trust, **Eileen** and **Ellen Vavrina**.

**GENERAL FUND:** Under \$99: **M. L. Kucera** in honor of **Megan (Cahill)** and **Jason Brozovich's** wedding on October 5.

\$100 - \$499: **M. L. Kucera** to support Sokol expenses for Czech Christmas

at the American Swedish Institute including the props created by **Doreen McKenney; Marjorie Norling; Yvonne Palka; Susan Tietjen** in honor of twin sons from the Czech Republic.

\$1000 - \$4999: **Sue** and **Dave Martin**.

In memory of **Val Kuisle:** Under \$99: **Pat** and **Don Andrie, Judy** and **Tom Aubrecht** and **Family, Diane Bell, Jean** and **Chuck Draheim, Barbara Fonkert, Katie** and **Don Haselbauer, Libby Imbrone, Debbie** and **Bruce Kitt, Pam Kotval, Bob Kosticka, Pam Langworthy, Sue Marabella, Hana Matousek, Linda** and **Rich Nicoli, Lorraine Olson, Elsie Roepke, Richard Sargent, Sally Skrlin, John Topic, Jane** and **Herbert Tripple, Pattie** and **Jerry Welander, Louise** and **Chuck Wessinger, Sharon** and **Ken Wyberg**.

\$100 - \$499: **Raymond Brozovich, Roberta Chandler, Marlene Hinshaw, Joyce Tesarek** and **Norm Petrik**.

**GYMNASTICS:** Under \$99: **Arlene** and **Ed Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek** in memory of **Val Kuisle**.

\$100 \$499: **Mary** and **Dennis Cahill** in memory of **Val Kuisle, Carissa Skrivanek** for gymnastics conditioning.

\$1000 - \$4999: Anonymous (2).

**SLOVO:** Under \$99: **Romelle Vanek Ferris**.

**Legacy Fund: \$4,975 General Fund: \$4,710**

**Gymnastics: \$1,430 Slovo: \$20**

**TOTAL: \$11,035**

*(Sincere apologies to Georgiana Sobola for spelling her name incorrectly in the October 2018 Slovo.)*

### 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 \$85,979 City of Saint Paul STAR grant.

Let's get the Hall in shape as we 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**

## 2019 Sokol Minnesota Membership

Thank you to all current and prospective Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota members. Your support of the activities of Sokol Minnesota is vital. Our website <sokolmn.org> has up-to-date information on our planned activities. We hope you will join us!

**Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31.**

**Current Members:** The December 31, 2018, due date for renewing your membership for 2019 is fast approaching. Please renew your membership by the end of the year to maintain your membership, continue receiving the Slovo newsletter, and avoid the expense of sending renewal reminders.

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

**New Members:** Please print the membership application at <sokolmn.org> and send it to the address below.

**2019 dues rates:** \_\_\_ Individual \$50 \_\_\_ Couple \$90  
\_\_\_ Senior Individual\* \$40 \_\_\_ Senior Couple\* \$80  
(\*one over 65)

There is a \$5 one-time fee for new members.

You may pay your membership dues:

via PayPal through <Sokolmn.org>

or send a check

(payable: *Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota*)

To: **Membership**

**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota**

**383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102**

## Sokol Minnesota Membership Five-Year Milestones in 2017

By Tom Aubrecht

At the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting on November 16, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota recognized these members for their years of membership. Congratulations to each and every one of you!

**5 Years (joined in 2013):** Joe Gindele, John Gindele, Martina Gurgel, Markéta Resong, Jan Roers, Mike Roers, Beverly A. (Clancy) Sutherland, Alena Youngberg

**10 Years (joined in 2008):** Dawn Bulera, Charles Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Lenka Hester, Vince Jirik, Ken Kadlec, Karen Machlica, Steven Elias Morse, Katrina Nelson, Charles Rusnacko, Audrey Spiess, Frank Trnka, Robert Vanasek

**15 Years (joined in 2003):** James G. Chlebecek, Jr., William E. Jech, Lloyd F. Krocak, Susan Lindoo, David Martin, Susan Martin, Nancy L. Siewart, David M. Sladek, Toni Marie Trutna, Michael Wolesky

**20 Years (joined in 1998):** Georgiana Sobola

**25 Years (joined in 1993):** Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Nancy Green, Sharon Shonka, Daniel A. Washick

**30 Years (joined in 1988):** Bryan Wyberg

**35 Years (joined in 1983):** Judith (Kalash) Benton, Richard Verner

**40 Years (joined in 1978):** Linda Nicoli

**45 Years (joined in 1973):** Roberta Chandler

**50 Years (joined in 1968):** Pat Andrlé, Ann Andrlé, Ron Andrlé, Donald Haselbauer

**65 Years (joined in 1953):** Mary Jo Chlebecek

## In Memory of Valeria Kuisle By Mary Cahill

Val was a proud Sokol Minnesota member for more than 50 years. She passed away on September 20, 2018, at the age of 94 years. Family legend has it that she was born in a house just a few blocks from the C.S.P.S. Hall. Her roots are well-connected to the Czech immigrant community, often referred to as Little Bohemia in the West 7th neighborhood. She also brought her three daughters into Sokol Minnesota while they were young children, introducing them to the special community of people and activities that Sokol Minnesota is all about.

Stories from Val about her teen and young adult years revealed that she had several female friends that were life-long friends from her Sokol Minnesota community. She participated in gym classes while growing up, attended an instructor school, and helped in the gym program in her younger years. Val loved to be with people and participate in outings and celebrations of any kind. It was important for her to be a contributor. Her family helps with preparing the mailing of Sokol's *Slovo* newsletter, and Val was a regular part of the mailing party for many years, up until a few months before her death. Her assignment was to put the 551 zip code labels on the newsletters. Despite her increasing cognitive decline, she was still amazingly able to notice labels that didn't have all the information on them, detect duplicate labels, find the newsletters that had not been completely tabbed, and remind us that quality control was at stake.

Val loved to sing and dance and participated as long as she could in her beloved Czech and Slovak Singing group. She participated in the Senior's Marching group when it was still active, and attended Sokol Minnesota's *Šibřinky* dances annually, and as recently as two years ago, in her early 90's, danced the polka with her grandchildren. Undoubtedly the physical fitness that Sokol Minnesota promoted was key to her vitality and outstanding sense of balance in her advanced age.

Val was a familiar face at Sokol Minnesota. She had a smile that lit up the room. As one of the few remaining members of her generation, she will be missed, but she will also be remembered along with those who have passed before her. *Nazdar, Val!*



Four generations: (Right to Left) Val Kuisle (First), Mary Cahill (Second), Colleen (Third) and her son (Fourth Generation). (2017)

## MEMBER NEWS

### Czech Family Visit By Marcia Oltrogge

**Ed Hamernik**, along with his daughter, Marcia Oltrogge, and granddaughter, Alaina Oltrogge, recently visited his family in the Czech Republic. Ed's mother, Aloisie Dvorakova, emigrated in 1916 from the Humpolec area (about 100 kilometers southeast of Prague). She left behind two brothers and a stepsister whose families still live in the region.

A highlight of the trip was visiting with five first cousins. Ed's Czech, spoken at home many years ago and practiced more recently in Czech language classes at the C.S.P.S. Hall, helped him learn more about his mother and her early life in the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the time. Cousin Jarmila, now deceased, came to the United States in 1969; during her visit, she rode in a car for the first time in her life.



This photo was taken in front of the school that Ed's mother attended from 1905 - 1910 in the small village of Čejov. The relatives in the photo, young and old, also went to this school. It still serves the village for grades 1-5.

First row: Cousin Jan, Cousin Ludmila, and Ed Hamernik. Second row: Karel, husband of Ludmila; Honza, great-grandson of cousin Jarmila (deceased); Pepe, grandson of Jarmila; Lenka, granddaughter of Jarmila. Third row: Eliška and Bohouš, both great-grandchildren of Jarmila. Eliška attended this school last year. She's currently in 6th grade at the school in Humpolec.

### Welcome New Members

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the November Board of Directors meeting on November 15, two new members were accepted to Sokol Minnesota: Sally and Jay Lieberman from Minneapolis, with interests in cultural events, literature, music, theater, dinners, language and history. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

### Slovo seeks a New Production Team

Help create *Slovo* starting with the February 2019 issue.

Do you have experience in journalism, copy editing, page layout?

You can help publish a newsletter for our great organization.

**Slovo also needs a new caregiver for the mailing lists.**

Work in Xcel and Word. Biggest qualification: accurate typing.

You do not need to live in the Twin Cities.

Contact [Slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:Slovo@sokolmn.org) or [President@sokolmn.org](mailto:President@sokolmn.org)

### Congratulations By Arlene Hamernik

**Congratulations to Megan (Cahill) and Jason Brozovich**, who were married on October 5, 2018. As a child, Megan enjoyed dancing with Sokol Minnesota's youth groups. She and Jason both dance with the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Jason reestablished the boys gymnastic classes and is the Men's Physical Director. Together they have been co-chairs for several years for the pancake breakfasts held twice a year. May the coming years be filled with love, laughter, and happiness.

**Happy Anniversary to Don and Pat Andrlé** who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 26, 2018. They met at the C.S.P.S. Hall, where they were involved with the Czech and Slovak Folk Dance group and danced with them for 50 years. Their wedding took place in Pat's hometown church, Holy Trinity Lutheran, New Prague, Minnesota. May your golden years be filled with joyous memories.

**Congratulations to Mark and Rachel Andrlé**, whose daughter Maddie Andrlé made the Blaine High School varsity hockey team as a 9th grader.

### Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics 2018-2019

Sokol Gymnastics provides a safe and fun learning environment, all while challenging the children to master exciting new skills. Our program boasts small class sizes, allowing each gymnast plenty of individual attention. Moreover, our program is designed to accommodate a variety of ages (4-17 years) across all abilities from beginner to intermediate all the way up to advanced and competition. Our program is led by experienced and qualified instructors.

Next set starts February 18

[fitness@sokolmn.org](mailto:fitness@sokolmn.org) 651-290-0542



**2018-2019 Gymnastics Beam:** Isabelle (junior instructor), Anna, Norah. **Floor:** Lily, Ella (junior instructor), Zoe (junior instructor), Claire (junior instructor). **Not pictured:** Other junior instructor Theresa. **Other instructors:** Matt Schussler and Carissa Skrivaneck. **Lead instructors:** Jason Brozovich and Courtney Benson.



# Delicious Annual Roast Pork Dinner on October 21

By Co-chairs Joyce Tesarek, Joan Sedlacek, and Doreen McKenney



Above Top: Preparing take-outs in the kitchen: Katie Haselbauer, Mary Cahill, and Jean Hall with Bobbi Jo Chandler behind.

Above: Bread Dumplings waiting to be steamed

Below Left: Ken Janda handled after-sales

Below Middle: Jason Brozovich and Chuck Draheim at the bar.

Below Right: Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek served apple koláč for dessert. Don Haselbauer, standing.

The ever-appreciative audience at our annual Roast Pork Dinner on Sunday, October 21, enjoyed another great meal of delicious roast pork, dumplings and gravy, sauerkraut, caraway rye bread, and apple koláč. And of course, a glass of Czech beer!

Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek prepared the dinner. Joan went all the way to Sokol Cedar Rapids to help make, then transport, our delicious bread dumplings. Emcee Denis Novak, Sokol President Judy Aubrecht, and Honorary Czech Consul Marit Lee Kucera welcomed our guests.

Louise Wessinger and the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers with Tom and Judy Aubrecht, Jason and Megan Brozovich, Teresa Pojar and John Topic, Sandy Prochaska and Rick Palma were the entertainment. We also had a preview of the upcoming *Kroje* Style Show on November 11.

Thanks to all our volunteers who made this event possible: Don Andrlé, Pat Andrlé, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Wendy Bednar, Jason Brozovich, Megan Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, Mary Cahill, Bobbi Jo Chandler, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Jean Hall, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Ann Janda, Ken Janda, Marit Lee Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Val Norman, Denis Novak, Chris Palma, Rick Palma, Norm Petrik, Teresa Pojar, Sandy Prochaska, Richard Sargent, Joan Sedlacek, Joyce Tesarek, John Topic, Julia Welter, Louise Wessinger.

Thanks to all the dinner guests who made this event a social and financial success. Sokol Minnesota is pleased that \$2,814 was raised at this dinner.



Ann Janda, server.





1. Beaded Bonnet from Ratiškovice, Moravia. 2. Patterned leather shoes from Haná region, Moravia. 3. Backs of women's kroje from Haná, Moravia; Domažlice and Southwest Bohemia; and Kyjov, Moravia. 4. Sophia admired Elsa's Moravian kroj. 5. Katarína Bílá in Slovak Kroj with Adriana Wenberg in Bohemian kroj. 6. Co-chair Louise Wessinger chatted with Radmila Rasmussen and Alena Youngberg both in South Moravian kroje. 7. Silent Auction items ready for bids. 8. Sally Sebek, in Bohemian kroj, helps her mom Jitka tie her waistband in a kroj from Krakovany, Slovakia. 9. Sofia Scholtz in Moravian kroj adjusts her mother Renata's headband in Tábor kroj. 10. Colleen Cahill wearing Haná region kroj and Megan Brozovich wearing Kyjov kroj adjust Dawn Bulera's vest of her Domažlice kroj. 11. Beautiful kroje displayed from the collection of Joan Sedlacek. 12. Bridal bow from the headdress of a Kyjov bride.

# Kroje Style Show Honors 100 years on the 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month

By Co-chairs Doreen McKenney and Louise Wessinger



A capacity crowd of 82 guests was treated to a fun and inspiring event on Sunday, November 11. The program, which was sponsored by Czech and

Theatre. Don not only emceed but gave a wonderful presentation on the history of dress in Europe. Don narrated the descriptions for the 58 live models wearing ethnic *kroje*. He also showed us

Slovak Sokol Minnesota, the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, and the Ethnic Dance Theatre (EDT), began at 11 a.m. to honor the peace treaty that ended World War 1. The treaty was signed on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. The treaty also created several new and independent nations including Czechoslovakia. The toast also honored the traditional end of the harvest, the feast of St. Martin who is the patron saint of winemakers, and the tasting of the new wine. At 11 a.m., Co-chair Louise Wessinger introduced our emcee and presenter for the day, Don LaCourse, artistic director of Ethnic Dance Theatre. At precisely 11:11 a.m., Don led the traditional toast *Na zdraví* (cheers). Following the toast, several wonderful canapés accompanied the red and white Moravian wines.

Sokol Minnesota hosted the celebration at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Co-chair Doreen McKenney planned the marvelous food and wine combinations, as well as producing the artwork for the show. Canapés were a date spread on pita crackers with prosciutto ham, mini quiche, a chicken, almond and cranberry salad with mozzarella cheese on a spinach tortilla roll up, baked mini peppers filled with sautéed onions and bacon topped with cheese, sour cream and garlic, olive spread on rye flat bread, and peach cobbler for dessert. Joan Sedlacek was able to obtain special Czech wine with the *Alphonse Mucha* labels from her Sokol friend, who is a wine broker in Chicago. Helping prepare, serve, and clean-up that day were Doreen, Joan, Wendy Bednar, Diane Bell, Jean Hall, Kari Hall and Izzy, Don and Katie Haselbauer, and Steve Shimer. Jean Draheim checked in our guests.

Setup and cleanup crew included Jason Brozovich, Teresa Pojar, Lucy Rose, John Topic, Michael Topic, and Paula Vukonich. Joan set up a wonderful display from her collection of ethnic *kroje*. Doreen lent her mother Doris' antique Plzeň *kroj* to adorn the stage. Chuck Draheim, Rick Palma, and Richard Sargent made the stage and technical equipment work well.

Silent Auction raised \$707 dollars thanks to many donations from Diane Bell, Judy Metcalf, Mary Olson, Louise Wessinger, and Sokol Minnesota. Louise Wessinger and Judy Aubrecht set up the Silent Auction and Christy Banks supervised it.

A huge and heartfelt thanks to Don LaCourse and Ethnic Dance

how complicated it was to dress in a bridal folk dress from the South Moravian village of Ratiškovice. One of the EDT dancers, Tiffany Senkow, assisted by Kathryn Korshak, demonstrated by starting in a camisole and mini-slip to a beautiful bride in many layers of finery.

Our very special thanks to our models, who were presented by Louise Wessinger. From Bohemia: Dawn Bulera, Paula Vukonich, Richard Sargent, Sandy Prochaska, Ashley Zimanske, Hailey Domonske, Sally Sebek, Anne and Alenka Jans, Mary Carson, Jyni Koschak, Michelle Vlasak, Rick Palma, Teresa Pojar, Liz Rheume, Diane Bell, Pam

Langworthy, Renata and Sofia Scholtz, Meghan Domonske, Renee LaCourse, Adriana and Sophia Wenberg. From Moravia: Tiffany Senkow, Kostya Korshak, Megan Brozovich, James Metcalf, Colleen Kluzak with Seanna and Keely, Louise Loss Cameron, Chuck Draheim, Kate Aubrecht, Alena Youngberg, Jerry Pojar, Radmila Rasmussen, Matthew Resong, Michaela Wentz, Mary Yanta, Savanna Shultz, Elsa Youngberg, Colleen Cahill, Tom and Judy Aubrecht. From Silesia: Olivia Simon.

From Slovakia: Bobbie Jo Chandler, John Topic, Anne and Alenka Jans, Katarína Bílá with Olivia and Kamila, Jitka Sebek, Elisa Swartz, Jarek Luiken, Alina Jambor, Rachel Haines, Julian Harris, Kathryn Korshak, Blythe Ikeda, Lucy Rose, Lenka Hester. From Ruthenia: Paula Vukonich.

Another thank you to all those who allowed their folk dress to be modeled by others: Jason Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, Jean Draheim, EDT, Anne Jans, Jyni Koschak, Teresa Pojar, Markéta Pálková Resong, Sokol Minnesota, Dave Stepan, Karen Varian, Paula Vukonich, and Louise Wessinger. Special thanks to Renee LaCourse who helped female models dress in *kroj*, some for the very first time.

A big thank you to the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers who performed two dances in the program and especially to James Metcalf, who performed a *Slovácko verbuňk* solo (Recruiting Dance) from Moravia.

It took many people to make this an unforgettable afternoon. Thank you to all who shared their photos from that day. Martina Gurgel created these beautiful photo collages.







1. Sisters Mary Rheaume and Teresa Pojar toast the new wine harvest. 2. Program emcee Don LaCourse helped EDT dancer Tiffany Senkow into a Kyjov area *kroj*, so guests could see all the layers involved. 3. Finally, Don helped her adjust her married ladies cap. On the stage behind them is an antique Plzeň *kroj* often worn by the late Doris McKenney. 4. Kate Aubrecht posed with her parents Judy and Tom who are wearing *kroje* from Valašsko area of Moravia. 5. Group photo (of most of the models) at the end of the show took our breath away. 6. EDT Dancers Kostyra Koschak and Tiffany Senkow in beautiful *kroje* from Ratiškovice, Moravia. 7. EDT artistic director Don LaCourse gave a presentation about how clothing developed in Europe through the ages. 8. Co-chair Louise Wessinger introduced the program. 9. EDT and St. Paul dancer James Metcalf performed *Valašský verbuřik* (Recruiting Dance). 10. Models appeared on the runway in small groups of three or four: here Blata region, Bohemia *kroje* modeled by Anne Jans and her daughter Alenka and Miss Czech Slovak Princess Mary Carson. 11. Relaxing after their turns on stage: Meghan Domonske, Ashley Zimanske, and Miss Czech Slovak Second Princess Michelle Vlasak. 12. Seanna, wearing Moravian *kroj*, with James Metcalf behind her, leaving the stage area.



# Slavnost! Sokol Minnesota Celebrates the Centennial of Czechoslovakia **SLAVNOST...What a Great Party it Was!!!!**

Sokol Minnesota's celebrated the Czechoslovak Centennial on Saturday, October 13 at C.S.P.S. Hall with an exciting party; we called it *Slavnost*. It was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime Sokol party.

The party began with a Social Hour for over 120 guests. Chef Hana Matousek created an array of out-of-this-world delicious appetizers, assisted by Markéta Resong, Radmila Rasmussen, and Ken Janda. We served Czech wine, Czech beer, and *Století pivo*, which is a special Czech-style lager brewed by Montgomery Brewing Company for the 1918-2018 Centennial.

David Stepan was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening program, which included welcomes by Judy Aubrecht, Sokol Minnesota President, and Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Sokol Minnesota Singers led the singing of the anthems of the United States of America, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic. Elizabeth B. Kautz, Mayor of the City of Burnsville and Trustee and Past President of the United

Fred Simon, Czech Country Minnesota's *Czech 100 Celebration*; Suzette Steppe, President, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International; Renáta Tichá, President, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota; Karen Varian, President, Rusin Association of Minnesota; and Louise Wessinger, Director of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Also attending *Slavnost* was Gabrielle Gerbaud, Executive Director of the Minnesota Trade Office and Chief Protocol Officer for the State of Minnesota, with her husband Andy Johnson, a Sokol member.

The first performance of the evening was *Summer Waltz*, a contemporary dance duet celebrating immigrant roots, by acclaimed Twin Cities dancer/choreographer Joe Chvala, (who is of Czech heritage,) with Karla Grotting, a teaching specialist with the Barbara Barker School of Dance at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Soprano Lisa Butcher sang a stunning rendition of *Song to the Moon* from Antonín Dvořák's opera *Rusalka*, with Lawrence Henry as her piano accompanist. Applause was long, effusive, and heartfelt. Next were Sokol's favorite Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers performing *Furiant* (Czech) and *Išla Marina Tancuj* (Slovak), directed by Louise Wessinger and danced by Dave Stepan, Pam Langworthy and Richard Sargent, Teresa Pojar and John Topic, Lenka Hester and Dave Cammack, Megan and Jason Brozovich. All the *Slavnost* guests sang *Happy Birthday* to Al Milgrom for his upcoming 96th birthday.



States Conference of Mayors, read and presented a Proclamation to Sokol President Judy Aubrecht, who in turn read a Proclamation from Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton. Introduced as *Slavnost's* Honored Guests were Czech-Slovak Minnesota Royalty: Queen Heather Vikla, First Princess Mary Carson, Second Princess/Miss Congeniality Michelle Vlasak;



The program was timed perfectly for the 9 p.m. surprise appearance of the Saint Paul Winter Carnival Royalty, who came up the front stairs in full regalia and received the warmest of welcomes. King Boreas LXXXII Tom Leonard of the House of Fury Motors and Aurora, Queen of Snows, Jilla Nadimi of the House of Party Time Liquors lead the royal entourage. They sang, danced, hooped, and hollered to the delight of everyone at *Slavnost*. The Royalty gave special recognition medals and proclamations (written in rhyme) to long-time Sokol members Libby Imbrone, Hana Matousek, and Denis Novak. Mary Jo Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek, and



Marlene Hinshaw were unable to attend that evening, but received their proclamations and medals at the annual Czech Roast Pork Dinner a week later.

Live music and dancing to SloVCzech,

sponsored by Western Fraternal Life Association, kept everyone on their feet until *Slavnost* ended at 11 p.m. SloVCzech members included Petr Bachan, Director, with Svea Drentlaw, Sara Jeddelloh, Emily Judge Becker, Dave Drentlaw, and Jozef Klobušník.

The late-evening Dessert Table, created by Hana Matousek with help from Markéta Resong and Rad Rasmussen, was everyone's vision of dessert heaven with a vast array of confections and a special "100" anniversary castle cake.

All evening there were FUNdraising games and a silent

auction of Czech/Slovak Art and Collectibles, organized by Glynis Grostephan, plus Take-Your-Picture at the Prague Castle, an 8'x8' canvas panel, generously lent by Theodore J. Polashek, President, Chicagoland Czech American Community Center.

Many generous businesses and individuals (several provided more than one) donated financial support, silent auction items, and games prizes: Cheesecake Factory, Chicago's Taste Authority, Czech Country Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Dickey's BBQ Pit, Glynis Grostephan, M.L. Kucera, Hi-Lo Diner, Leeann Chin, Leitner's Garden Center, Mel-O-Glaze Bakery and Donut Shop, Joanne Miller, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-Op, Museum of Russian Art, New French Bakery, Oxendale's Market, Pajarito, Parlour Bar, Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club, R. Jelinek original Czech distilleries, Rusin Association of Minnesota, Karen Varian, Louise Wessinger, and the Western Fraternal Life Association.

Special Exhibits on the Third Floor, organized by Blanka Brichta, included *History of Czech and Slovak Currency from 1918 to Present* lent by Lenka Mišíková of Prague; *MiniSalon* of art boxes by 23 Sokol children from 2018 Sokol Cultural Day Camp/Doreen McKenney, curator; hand-made Czech bobbin lace from Dagmar Beckel-Machyčková; and the book *History of the Brave Czech Nation*.

Door prize winners included Bryan Bergh, Chuck Draheim, Mark Dillon, Jean Draheim, Mary Carson (grand door prize



1. Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz presented a Proclamation to Sokol President Judy Aubrecht. 2. Contemporary dancers Karla Grotting and Joe Chvala performed *Summer Waltz*. 3. Pianist Lawrence Henry with Soprano Lisa Butcher. 4. Silent auction favorite: gift basket from R. Jelinek, original Czech distilleries. 5. The Silent Auction table saw Anita and John McKeown bidding high with encouragement from Christy Banks and Anna Overbo; Winter Carnival Royalty in the background. 6. Rad Rasmussen with one of the delicious food trays. 7. Choosing which delicious appetizer to try was a difficult task. 8. M. L. Kucera and Judy Aubrecht took a photo break at the Prague Castle during set-up. 9. Hana Matousek with her 100th-anniversary castle cake. 10. Sokol members Hana Matousek, Libby Imbrone and Denis Novak were knighted by the Saint Paul Winter Carnival Royalty. 11. On October 21, Marlene Hinshaw, Mary Jo Chlebecek, and Jim Chlebecek received their Winter Carnival Royalty Proclamations and Medals from M. L. Kucera (second left) and Judy Aubrecht (right).

of 16" flat *kolač* made by Hana Matousek), David Grostephan, Joli Grostephan-Brancato, Libby Imbrone, Jan Košťál, Virgil Johnson, Katrina Nelson, Fred Simon, Kristi Simons, Deb Vlasak, Karen Varian, David Vikla, Kelly Vikla, and Gary Zweber.

Sokol President Judy Aubrecht chaired *Slavnost*, with help from Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera and Sokol members Blanka Brichta, Glynis Grostephan, Hana Matousek, Cheryl Nelson, Jitka Sebek, and Denise Stibal. Participating in the year-long centennial planning meetings also were representatives from Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Czech Country Minnesota, Czech Honorary Consulate, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, Domáci, Inc., Rusin Association of Minnesota, and the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.

Thanks also to all our other volunteers and assistants (not already listed): Tom Aubrecht, Christy Banks, Matt Weathers Bulera, Mark Dillon, Dave Grostephan, Heidi Grostephan, Joli Grostephan-Brancato, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Lloyd Krocak, Pam Langworthy, Jen Latour, Denis Novak, Anna Overbo. Richard Sargent, Fred Simon, Denise Stibal, Chuck Wessinger, Gary Zweber, other *Slavnost* guest volunteers, and Saturday morning teen folk dancers.

**Appetizers:** Egg Roladen/*Vaječná roláda* • Open-faced Sandwich/*Chlebičky* • Herring Salad/*Slanečkový salát* • Head Cheese/*Tlačenka*  
 • Horseradish Hors d'oeuvre/*Křenový předkrm*  
 • Salmon Hors d'oeuvre/*Lososový předkrm*  
 • Tuna Hors d'oeuvre/*Tuňákový předkrm*  
 • Sauerkraut Balls/*Kuličky s kyselým zelím*  
 • Peppers, Onion, Tomato and Sausage Hors d'oeuvre/*Předkrm s parikami, cubulí, rajčaty*  
 • Meatloaf with Bacon/*Sekaná se slaninou* • Ham, Cheese, and Broccoli Quiche/*Slaný koláč se šunkou, sýrem a brokolici* • Mini Pork Schnitzels/*Vepřové řízečky* • Pork and Cabbage Sliders/*Vepřové a houbové jezdce* • Pork and Mushroom Sliders/*Vepřové a houbové jezdce*  
**Desserts:** Lemon Cake/*Citrónové řezy* • Cream Puffs/*Krémové věnečky* • Rum Balls/*Rumové kuličky* • *Slavnost Cake/ Slavnostní dort* • Punch Cake/*Punčové řezy* • Small Cottage Cheese Kolacky/*Tvarohové koláčky* • Poppy Seed Kolache/*Makové koláče* • Apricot Kolache/*Meruňkové koláče* • Prune Kolache/*Švestkové koláče* • Raspberry Kolache/*Malinové koláče* • Cream Cheese Kolache/*Tvarohové koláče* • Carrot Cake/*Mrkvový koláč* • Apple Strudel/*Jablečný štrůdl* • Linzer Cookies/*Linecké cukroví* • Cherry Strudel/*Třešňový štrůdl*

Everyone present agreed that *Slavnost* was a sensational party and one to remember fondly for years to come.



**Poetic Proclamations from the Winter Carnival Royalty to Sokol Minnesota Honorees**

**Jim Chlebecek**

Czar of *Slavnost* and Viceroy of Vocal  
 A national award-winning gymnast, a local  
 You've been involved for so long  
 Playing violin, singing song  
 Forever you'll be one of the best parts of Sokol

**Mary Jo Chlebecek**

Baroness of *Bublanina* and Czarina of *Slavnost*  
 You bring merriment to Sokol and are one of the most  
 Delightful singers and cooking teachers around  
 A Sokol gymnast who could flip yourself up off the ground!

**Marlene Hinshaw**

Princess of Pulltabs and Queen of Cash  
 You travel to Mitch's and Hot Rod's to pick up the stash  
 Sokol charitable gaming runs smoothly because of you  
 With the Czech and Slovak Singer you also sing too

**Libby Imbrone**

Czarina of Sokol-Minnesota and Princess of Public Relations  
 You represent the best of both the Czech and U.S. nations  
 An organizer of major Civil Society events  
 Even including visits of former Czech Presidents

**Hana Matousek**

Marquessa of Moravia, Czarina of *Slavnost*  
 Let's raise our glasses, for a royal Sokol toast  
 Thanks for feeding everyone well at the C.S.P.S. Hall  
 The best Moravian and Bohemian Czech foods  
 in the city of St. Paul

**Denis Novak**

Baron of the Board of Directors, a Czech and Slovak leader  
 Your dramatic talents include a mystery dinner theater  
 You always make sure that here on 7th Street West  
 The C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall delights both members and guests



1. Dave Stepan, Master of Ceremonies. 2. Klondike Kate 2018 Natalia Hemmingway led her Queen and Four Winds Princesses in song and dance. 3. John Topic, Libby Imbrone, and the whole crowd had a blast! 4. The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.



*Sokol Minnesota Members  
and Volunteers Appreciation  
Free Holiday Luncheon Party*

*Sunday, January 6, 2019  
12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.*

*Reservations are Limited and Required.  
Call 651-290-0542 to Reserve  
by December 29, 2018*

*Enjoy a festive afternoon, meet the new 2018 Sokol members,  
2019 Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors,  
and the the Sokol Minnesota Winter Carnival knights  
Honor member presentations  
for outstanding volunteer service to Sokol Minnesota*

*Guests are asked to bring hors d'oeuvres or dessert to share*

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



# Czech 100 Celebration in Czech Country Minnesota, October 27-28



Bořek Lizec, Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago, and his wife Kateřina Lizcová Kulhánková spent the centennial weekend of October 27 and 28 at the *Czech 100 Celebration in Czech Country Minnesota*. Kateřina, an avid photographer, graciously accepted Slovo's invitation to share some of her photos of the weekend. Enjoy these photos on this page taken by Kateřina in Montgomery, Lonsdale, Veseli, and New Prague. 1. Store window in Montgomery with the "100" logo. 2. At the Rustic Farmer in Montgomery: M. L. Kucera, Honorary Czech Consul; Heather Vikla, Czech-Slovak Minnesota Queen; Michelle Vlasak, Second Princess/Congeniality; Zach Tuma, Masopust King; Mary Carson, First Princess; Bořek Lizec. 3. Deb (far right) and Arnie (far left) Ziskovsky with the Consul General, Kateřina, *Domáci* Folk Dancers, and Junior Royalty in front of the Prague Castle 8' canvas at the Parish Activity Center, St. Wenceslaus Church, New Prague. 4. Hana Matousek showed Fred Simon the two large 16" flat "100" koláče she baked for door prizes.

**Czech 100 Celebration on October 27 and 28 was the successful culmination of 18-months of community-wide cooperation in Czech County Minnesota.** This celebration of the Czechoslovak centennial on the last weekend of October had wide support from mayors, city councils, chambers of commerce, businesses, festivals, and many citizen volunteers. A Czech lager-style *Století pivo* (century beer) was created especially by the Montgomery Brewing Company.



Many Sokol Minnesota members were involved: Julie Bifano, Vi Chromy, Anne Jans, Jean Keogh, M. L. Kucera, Fred Simon, Arnie Ziskovsky, and Deb Ziskovsky. The choir for the October 28 Czech Mass included Sokol Singers Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Don Haselbauer, Marlene Hinshaw, Ann Janda, Ken Janda, Pam Langworthy, Hana Matousek, and Richard Sargent. Sokol members also included vendors Stan Chromy, Ken Janda, Doreen McKenney, John Palka, Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky/*Domáci, Inc.*, and the Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop; Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera had an information table; Diane Bell was



(continued from page 14)

**5.** Poppyseed *koláče* with Czech flags at the Rustic Farmer. **6.** Czech flags on the family plots of Bohemian immigrants at the Czech National Cemetery, New Prague. **7.** Consul General Lizec with former Czech Honorary Consul Bob Vanasek, who was in charge of helping people find their immigrant ancestors at Czech National Cemetery, New Prague. **8.** New Prague Mayor Chuck Nickolay, former Montgomery Mayor Jean Keogh, Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera, Kateřina Lizcová Kulhánková, and Consul General Bořek Lizec beside the official car, with Czech flag and “100” Czech Slovak Century magnetic signs, that visited the four communities, sometimes also known as the Bohemian Triangle. **9.** “100” cake commemorated the Centennial of Czechoslovakia, 1918-2018. **10.** Budějovice, named after the famous southern Czech city, was one of the earliest Bohemian settlements in Minnesota; it later became Montgomery when the railroad was built two miles to the west. **11.** Consul General Lizec and Mayor Nickolay stood in the New Prague city portal, which flies the Czech flag. **12.** Father John Lapensky described Most Holy Trinity Church in Veseli to the Consul General and Honorary Consul.

one of the door prize winners, plus many other Sokols participated in the two-days of events as volunteers or guests.



**1.** Fred Simon, George Mikiska, and Chuck Nickolay (New Prague Mayor) helped to place flags on over 400 family plots of Czech immigrants at the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Cemetery in New Prague. Over 1,700 flags decorated immigrant graves in the 12 cemeteries in Czech Country Minnesota. Fred's Czech heritage includes the Musil family. **2.** Czech Bishop Peter Esterka, who said Mass in Czech on Sunday, October 28, at St. Wenceslaus Church, was joined afterwards by Czech Heritage Junior Royalty 2018 and directors Deb and Arnie Ziskovsky. **3.** Sunday's activities took place at St. Wenceslaus Church and Parish Activity Center. **4.** Consul General Lizec greeted the children at the Czech Children's Culture Camp at the historic Hilltop Hall in Montgomery on Saturday, October 27, sponsored by the Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota board; Anne Jans, holds one of the lesson pages. Other Sokols helping: Heather Vikla, Louise Wessinger, and Ashley Zimanske. **5.** Book display at the Montgomery Library for the Czechoslovak Centennial.





## A Czech Christmas at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis

A Czech Christmas is part of the 2018 Christmas display at the American Swedish Institute (ASI), 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, through January 13. To help Czechs celebrate this centennial year of 2018, ASI invited Czechs to decorate the Music Room in the Turnblad mansion. Doreen McKenney designed the rooms with decorating help and artifact loans from Joan Sedlacek, Alena Youngberg, and M. L. Kucera.

Our Czech display includes:

- Fishmonger watches as a boy chooses a carp from the barrel for his Christmas dinner
- Christmas Market with hand-made gifts and sweets
- On the eve (December 5) of Saint Nicholas Day, the

Bishop (*Svatý Mikuláš*), the Angel (*anděl*), and the Devil (*čert*) visit children. The Bishop talks to each child; the Angel rewards good children with a treat while the chain-rattling Devil stands by to put naughty children in his sack and take them back to hell with him. But not to worry, the Angel steps in to protect all the children • Tree is decorated with mouth-blown, hand-painted Czech Christmas ornaments, both traditional and contemporary designs and colors

- Cobalt blue cut lead crystal centerpiece bowl (on loan: National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa)
- Czech flag: white, red, and blue
- Clear queen lace cut lead crystal vase (on loan:

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa) • Pedestal bowl and small vase of queen lace cut lead crystal with gold overlay and raised hand-painted porcelain flowers

- Czech-mined pyrope garnet jewelry
- Contemporary purple hand-cut lead crystal plate and vase with thistle pattern
- Cut glass beads
- Czechoslovak Nativity (*Betlém*) with the villagers in traditional Czech and Slovak folk dress (*kroje*)
- Music by the Czech composer Antonín Dvořák, who visited St. Paul in 1893
- Czech Advent Calendar
- Map of the Czech Republic
- On St. Barbara's (*Sv. Barbora*) Day, December 4, a branch cut from a fruit tree (*barborka*) is placed



1. Sokol Minnesota's *čert* (devil) costume, with a new mask by Doreen McKenney. 2. Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Royalty: First Princess Mary Carson, Second Princess/Miss Congeniality Michelle Vlasak, and Queen Heather Vikla with *Svatý Mikuláš* (Bishop) and *anděl* (angel) in the Music Room at the American Swedish Institute. 3. Part of the Czechoslovak Nativity (*Betlém*), lent for the exhibit by Joan Sedlacek. 4. Fishmonger, carp in a barrel, and market stalls created by Doreen McKenney. 5. St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Band performed on November 10: John Topic, Dawn Bulera, Frank Trnka, and Jason Brozovich.



in water and set indoors with hopes for blossoms by Christmas • Christmas table with array of desserts, including the braided sweet Christmas bread (*vánočka*) and many varieties of cookies, fruits, and nuts. • Small boats fashioned from walnut shells with a lit candle float in a dish of water: a traditional Christmas fortune-telling game • Christmas tree with simple, yet elegant decorations handmade from natural materials. Traditionally, the tree is not seen by the children until after the evening meal, by which time the Christ Child (*Ježíšek*) has arrived and left gifts, such as wooden toys and marionettes. • Tapestry Panels: Four Seasons by Alphonse Mucha, Czech artist known best for his Art Nouveau illustrations • Czechoslovak Pirken Hammer porcelain tea set from the 1930s with Czechoslovak linen placemat and napkins • Tall hand-painted Czech ceramic jug.

*Year of the Handmade* includes work by contemporary artists with Czech heritage: • Ornaments: Marj Kopecek Nejd, well-known traditional Czech-American artist from Iowa, designed these 2016, 2017, and 2018 glass ornaments with traditional Czech designs for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. • Hand Blown and Cut Glass Bowl: Contemporary glass artists Czech-heritage American Renee and (her 100% Norwegian-American husband) James Engebretson from Wisconsin. • Enamel Jewelry: Minnesota jeweler Emily Chesick meticulously utilizes the ancient metalworking technique of cloisonné, in which colorful powdered glass is fused to a metal backing. • Bobbin Lace: Czech-born Dagmar Beckel-Machyčková, living in Wisconsin, works with bobbin lace, breaking traditional boundaries to create contemporary pieces.

On November 27, Libby Imbrone, who visited ASI with her daughter Anita and son-in-law John McKeown, emailed *Slovo*, “Thanks especially to the contemporary artists and also the Sokol volunteers, including our Honorary Consul Marit Kucera. We are represented by Czech Christmas in the Music Room at ASI this year. We can be so happy and pleased by the work they created. Plan to have lunch, truly healthy and light and gourmet, and very tasty caraway rye bread, cardamom bread pudding. Please assure people there is adequate parking. Also a wheelchair was offered to me, which was great; they set aside my walker in the meantime. Thank you again to our creative Czech artists.”

Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble and *Domáci* Folk Dancers performed on November 10, opening day. During the Julmarknad/Christmas Market on December 2, SlovCzech and Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers performed. *Taneční Mládež* dance on December 16 at 2 p.m.

In ASI’s Fika Restaurant, look for *koláč*. You and your family and friends have until January 13 to visit the Czech Christmas display at the American Swedish Institute. Don’t miss it! <[www.asimn.org](http://www.asimn.org)>

**The display of Minisalon art boxes was both at the Czech-Slovak Festival on September 16 and at Slavnost on October 13.**

The teen group picked up their awards on October 20: Anna, Kristina, Petra, M. L. Kucera (Honorary Czech Consul), Adela, Louise Wessinger (Culture Camp Co-Director), and Julian. Doreen McKenney curated the project, created during Culture Camp in June.



## Czech and Slovak Lacemaking Classes November 2-4

Clicking of the bobbins filled the Sokol class room on November 3 and 4. Nancy Wellington commented, “One of the wonderful things about this class was that there were students of all ranges of experience, from new lacemakers to some with many years of lacemaking. We all had a wonderful time and learned a lot! I’m especially glad that we from the Minnesota Lace Society and members of Sokol were able to join forces.”



Seated: Linda Hunt, Jyni Koschak\*, Diane Noris, Anne Stepan. Standing: Instructor Dagmar Beckel-Machyčková, Ellen Healy, Jean Draheim,\* Luana Clark, Renee Schroeder, Heda, and Nancy Wellington. \*Sokol members.

One lace maker estimated that it takes her about one hour to make 1” of 1.5”- wide lace. At \$15/hour that is \$540 a yard. It is no wonder that lace-making by hand is no longer a viable profession.

Imagine what it would cost to make 15” wide lace (usually made in 2” to 3” wide bands, sewn together) for a blouse sleeve for a *kroj*. Lacemaking is definitely a labor of love. Thanks to Dagmar for a wonderful lacemaking weekend!

Bobbin lace is made on a "pillow" that functions as a large pincushion. Different types of pillows are used in different regions, as seen on the table (left): insulation foam board covered with fabric; cookie pillows (rounded circles); movable foam block pillow; large bolster pillow, probably stuffed with packed sawdust or chopped straw, common in central Europe; roller pillow, common in northern Europe, best for continuous edgings. The bobbins also vary by region; seen here are bobbins from Spain, Belgium, United States, and Slovenia.



After her lecture on Friday night, Czech-educated lace instructor Dagmar Beckel-Machyčková (left) admired the Lace-In event at C.S.P.S. Hall, with many local bobbin lace makers displaying their talents and showing off their work.

**BOOK REVIEW**

By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

**Falling in Love with Prague**

*A Romantic Education* by Patricia Hampl. W. W. Norton & Company: New York. Re-issued in 1999 with an extensive new afterword; originally published 1981 by Houghton Mifflin. 352 pages. Available at libraries and bookstores.

When Patricia Hampl wrote about her Czech heritage in an early poem, she thought that was the last she'd be writing about the subject. But she has often returned to it. After publishing two books of poetry, Hampl released her first memoir, *A Romantic Education*, which is about her Czech heritage. This book and subsequent works, including her latest memoir, *The Art of the Wasted Day*, established her as an influential figure in the rise of autobiographical writing in the past thirty years. The Los Angeles Times dubbed her "the queen of memoir."

She writes, "Memoir is not what happened (if we're lucky, that's the best journalism). It is what has happened over time, in the mind, in the life as it attends to these tantalizing, dismaying, broken bits of life history. Such personal writing is, as the essay is, 'an attempt.' It is a try at the truth. The truth of a self in the world."

*A Romantic Education* describes her childhood in the Czechoslovak-American West Seventh Street area of Saint Paul, which was also fueled by trips to Czechoslovakia in 1975, 1977, and 1978. Her immigrant grandmother had a large impact on Hampl, who felt the urge to visit Prague after her grandmother's death.

The book is divided into three sections. The first is about the author's childhood, her Czech-American grandmother whose potent center was food, and the neighborhood F. Scott Fitzgerald also illuminated. The second section is a rumination on beauty. The third and longest is based on her first three trips to communist-era Prague, her long walks, and the people she befriends. Originally expecting to seek out her ancestors' villages and relatives, the author found something richer. As Hampl wrote, "The country itself becomes the lost ancestry and, one finds, the country is eloquent. Its long story,

**Patricia Hampl: A Huge Success.** At the annual talk of the Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures, more than fifty enthusiastic attendees heard Patricia Hampl on Sunday, October 28, at the Ramsey County–Roseville Library. She made thoughtful remarks, read passages from her poetry and prose books about her Czech connections, and signed books. Hampl said the essential American story is about the immigrant story more than the pioneer story.

its history, satisfy the instinct for kinship in a way that the discovery of a distant cousin could not. For it is really the longing for a lost culture that sends Americans on these pilgrimages."

The book is a beautiful read, all the richer the more you know about Czech culture and history and if you have visited Czech lands. She talks about so many sites that visitors to Prague cherish, such as the Charles Bridge, Old Town, the Prague Castle, the Municipal House, the Slavia coffee shop, and the Estates Theater where Mozart premiered Don Giovanni.

Hampl has received much recognition, including multiple *New York Times* Notable Book Awards. In addition, she was granted fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, Bush Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Ingram Merrill Foundation, the Djerassi Foundation, and others. In 1990, she was awarded a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship.

She is Regents Professor and McKnight Distinguished Professor at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, where she taught her final semester this fall in the MFA program of the English Department before retiring. The prolific author has written ten poetry and prose books and edited three.

Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group, which is cosponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the office of the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic. <[www.cs-center.org](http://www.cs-center.org)> or contact <[gwen@cs-center.org](mailto:gwen@cs-center.org)>.

**Join Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures members to discuss *The Little Town Where Time Stood Still* by Bohumil Hrabal on Saturday, December 8, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and to read poetry selections from *Paper Shoes* by Pavel Šrut on January 12, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Both events will be held in the first-floor classroom at the C.S.P.S. Hall.**

**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 Czech Consul: Marit Lee Kucera Past Honorary Czech Consul: Robert Vanasek

Board of Trustees: Dan Bednar, Dennis Cahill, Jake Jacobson, Bib Kotek, Lloyd Krocak, Terry Shima, Gary Zweber

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*Taneční Mládež* and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger *Slovo* newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Madison Jerde, Deb Ziskovsky

**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) ▪ Children's 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) ▪ 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)



**Remarks made by Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera on the occasion of the Czech 100 Celebration, October 28, 2018, in New Prague. Similar remarks were made for Slavnost on October 13 at C.S.P.S. Hall in Saint Paul.**

As Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, I extend a warm welcome to everyone. Today, October 28, is the actual 100th anniversary of the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

Many of you yesterday visited one or more of the 12 cemeteries, here in Czech Country Minnesota, to celebrate our forefathers and foremothers.

In their honor, we placed 1700 flags on the family plots of immigrants.

Czechs and Slovaks have much to celebrate. The creation of the sovereign state of Czechoslovakia in 1918 achieved a centuries-old dream and goal.

Twenty-five years ago, in 1993, the thousand-year dream of its own separate nation was realized by the Slovaks. For the Czechs, it had been only 400 years.

This extraordinary, peaceful movement known as the Velvet Divorce produced the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Both countries have prospered and their peoples remain very close friends.

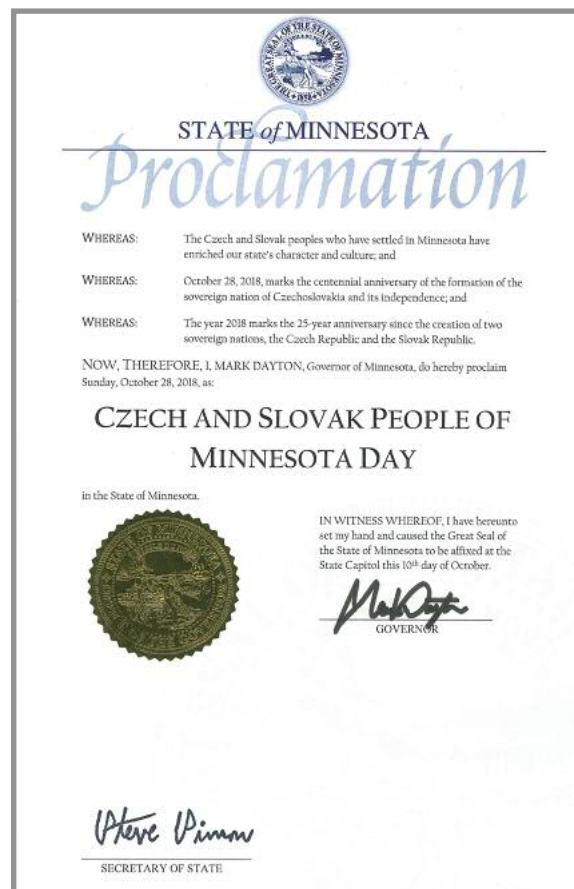
We have here today, both those who were born in these two Central European nations and also those whose grandparents, and even great-great-grandparents came from areas that are popularly known today as Slovakia and Czechia. Not just Bohemians, Moravians, and Slovaks, but also Carpatho-Rusyns, Romas, Silesians, Magyars, and several other ethnic groups.

While there is much to celebrate, there is also much we need to remember, to respect, and never to forget.

- 80 years ago, in 1938, the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia and the horrors of WWII followed.
- 70 years ago, in 1948, the communists took over.
- 50 years ago, the 1968 Prague Spring reform movement brought great hope, but it was quickly squelched by the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. For the next 20 years, life became even harsher in Czechoslovakia.

Today we are here to reflect, to remember, to recognize, to honor and to commemorate, but mostly we are here today to Celebrate together the wonderful homelands of which we are so proud.

Let us give a cheer for the Centennial of Czechoslovakia! Hip Hip Hurray!!



Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton's proclamation on October 28, 2018.

**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 February issue is January 2.**

This issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by December 15: <[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, with ad and payment due by copy deadline.

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

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After one returned issue, we hold all future issues until you notify us. We pay 55¢ or more for each returned issue.

Email: <[slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto: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, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, advisors. Photos: Kate Aubrecht, Diane Bell, Courtney Benson, Dawn Bulera, Kateřina Lizcová Kulhánková, Andrea Kubinski, M. L. Kucera, Sandy Prochaska, Jitka Sebek, Ronna Trnka, Michelle Vlasak, Jeffrey Wenberg. Collages: Martina Gurgel. Photo credits inadvertently omitted in November issue: Jana Castillon and Joyce Tesarek. November Mailing Party: Colleen Cahill, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, M.L.Kucera, Joan Sedlacek, Joanne Sipe.

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

**Membership and Volunteer Holiday Party**

January 6, 2019, 12:30 p.m.

Festivity, food, and fun. Free!

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share!

Reservations by December 29: 651-290-0542

**16th Annual Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner**

January 26, 2019, 5 p.m.

Menu: soup, half a roast duck, potato dumplings,  
sweet and sour red cabbage, and dessert.

Limited seating. \$23/person. Cash bar.

Reservations by January 14: 952-941-0426

[www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](http://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)

Check for event updates: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

CZECH AND SLOVAK



383 Michigan Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102  
651-290-0542

**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO December 2018 / January 2019**

**Sokol Children's Holiday Party**

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Friday, December 7  
7p.m.

Sokol friends and families  
are invited to a special program  
of song and dance by  
the Taneční Mládež and Taneční Teens,  
Louise Wessinger, Director

Activities for the whole family with a visit from  
Svatý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas), anděl (angel), and čert (devil).  
Sokol Czech and Slovak Singers performance,  
Don Haselbauer, Director

Ethnic  
holiday  
goodies  
for sale

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



Veselé Vánoce  
a  
šťastný  
nový rok!



From  
the  
Volunteer  
Slovo Staff  
at  
Czech  
and  
Slovak  
Sokol  
Minnesota

MERRY  
Christmas  
and  
HAPPY  
New Year