



vol. 41 no. 2

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March *Slovo* Deadline February 1, 2018

Board of Trustees February 15, 7 p.m.

Board of Directors February 16, 7 p.m.

Work Day February 24, 9 a.m. - noon

Insights: Fulbright Scholar at Charles University and Preview Exhibit: History of Currency in the Czech Lands February 25, 2 p.m

Flavors of Slovakia March 4, 12:30 p.m. Please reserve and pre-pay by February 23. Call 651-290-0542.

Pancake Breakfast with Craft and Bake Sales March 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.





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

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55122 www.sokolmn.org

### **C.S.P.S. Hall Renovation Updates**

By Joyce Tesarek

After months of heroic efforts by Ed Hamernik, Sokol Minnesota finished the construction of our shed addition. The City of Saint Paul inspector approved it on November 22. The fire escape replacement project removed the stairs and the original north side shed, which supported the old fire escape stairs (Right). The new shed encloses the basement access stairway for Pajarito restaurant and also provides an enclosed walkway to the new fire escape stairs (Below right). An attractive fence surrounds the site.







(L-R) Isaac Stensland, Saint Paul building inspector; Whitey Carlson, building contractor with Pelco Construction; and Ed Hamernik, Sokol's project coordinator, at the final inspection of the project on November 22, 2017.

## Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes

**By Judy Aubrecht** 

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

When you receive emails from Sokol Minnesota telling about upcoming events, you may have wondered who organized these emails. Jyni Koschak, our Publicity Director for the past five years, used Mail Chimp to send you the updates. She also sent out press releases and other publicity-related information. Jyni has decided to step down from the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors. Thank you, Jyni, for your years of dedicated service. Ken and Ann Janda, who have much experience with publicity, have agreed to become the new Publicity Directors. Welcome to the Board of Directors, Ken and Ann.

Richard Sargent and Dave Stepan have joined the Sokol Finance Committee, which reviews planned expenditures and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors. They both have business backgrounds and are eager to share their knowledge and experience. We are very fortunate to have strong leadership teams in our organization.

In the past months, we have had an increase in requests to rent the C.S.P.S. Hall for private parties, memorial services, and receptions. These rentals contribute to the financial stability of our organization. Prospective renters send emails about wanting to hold their wedding reception in an historic and affordable place, or remember attending an event at the hall in years past and would now like to have their own event here. Did you know that members who have at least five years of membership qualify for a discounted rate for hall rentals? Several arrangements have been tried over the past years to provide event services to prospective customers. These efforts have partially worked, but require much volunteer time for monitoring events. After years of discussion, Sokol Minnesota has hired Dawn Bulera, as our part-time event coordinator, to manage rentals. We are starting slowly and hope that this program will grow over the coming months. Contact <events@sokolmn.org> for more information.

Members and friends have been very generous with donations to the Sokol Minnesota Legacy Fund. Donations are essential for us to receive the matching \$86,000 STAR grant from the City of Saint Paul for tuck pointing, parapet, and roof repairs. Additional donations are needed and much appreciated! Thank you!

Our Board of Trustees, which makes sure that the hall is in proper condition, has scheduled a **Work Day** to make the Hall shine on **Saturday, February 24 from 9 a.m. to noon**. This is a great time to meet other members and friends, while doing activities like cleaning the kitchen, sorting out closets, making light repairs, and doing outdoor yard work when the weather permits. Sokol Minnesota has a cleaning service that comes twice a week to do general cleaning. But several times per year our Sokol volunteers get together to do extra cleaning and simple repairs. Please come and lend a hand! For information, call 651-290-0542.

Planning is underway for activities that will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovakia, the 50th anniversary of the Prague Spring, and the 25th anniversary of the formation of the two nations of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. There are many exciting events planned throughout 2018. Sokol Minnesota will host weekend afternoon events including art, films, discussions, and guest speakers. A gala party will take place on October 13, at the C.S.P.S. Hall to commemorate these important events in Czech and Slovak history. *Nazdar!* 

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Membership By Tom Aubrecht, Financial Secretary

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!

**Current Members:** The due date of December 31, 2017, for renewing your 2018 membership has passed. If you have not already renewed, please renew your membership by February 28 in order to maintain your membership and continue receiving your copy of the *Slovo* newsletter. If you have changed any of your contact information, please email your changes to <membership@sokolmn.org>

Prospective Members: Please print the membership application at <sokolmn.org>

**2018 Dues Rates:** Annual membership to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's runs from January 1 to December 31. There is a one-time \$5 fee for new members. Individual \$50.00 • Couple \$90.00 • Senior (over 65) \$40.00 • Senior Couple \$80.00

You may pay your membership dues via PayPal through <sokolmn.org> or you may send a check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, mail to

Membership, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 2106 Berkeley Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105

### Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

2018 BOD (Board of Directors)

> **President** Judy Aubrecht

First Vice President Denis Novak

Second Vice President Ed Hamernik

Recording Secretary Denise Stibal

**Corresponding Secretary** Glynis Grostephan

> **Treasurer** Don Haselbauer

Financial Secretary Tom Aubrecht

Sergeant at Arms Elizabeth Kaliska

Members at Large Steve Ernest Markéta Resong

Membership Director Norm Petrik

**Board of Budget and Finance** Joyce Tesarek, Chair

**Educational Director** Jean Draheim

**Board of Instructors** 

Mary Cahill, Women's Physical Director Jason Brozovich, Men's Physical Director

> Publicity Directors Ken and Ann Janda

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

## Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors By Glynis Grostephan, Corresponding Secretary

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

LEGACY FUND (includes matching Saint Paul STAR Grant donations): Under \$99: Clarence Bina, Blanka Brichta, Barbora Carlson, Joyce Ehmke, Stephen Ernest, Stanley Gabriel, Linda Havir, Vince Jirik, Darla Kolb, Robert Kostichka, Michaela and Robert Kotek, Valeria Kuisle, Sue and Bob Marabella (in memory of Don Pafko), Hana Matousek, Kari and Scott Muyers, Terry Narr, Denis Novak, Josephine Parvey, Sara Votruba Pogi, Ryan Pulkrabek, Joan Sedlacek, Darlene Sitko, Ted Skluzacek, Pamela Snopl, Philothea Sweet, Roger Wencl, Louise and Chuck Wessinger.

In memory of **Bobbie Gross: Louise** and **Chuck Wessinger**. In memory of **Doris McKenney: Marjorie** and **Eugene Aksamit**, **Pat** and **Don Andrle**, **Judy** and **Tom Aubrecht**.

In memory of Shirley Verner: Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Audrey and Jerry Brings, Mary and Dennis Cahill, Angela Caldwell, George Chlebecek, Charlotte and David Ellison, Louise and Richard Gilson, Glynis Grostephan, Arlene and Ed Hamernik, Janice Jacobson, Mary and Ivan Krizan, Marit Lee Kucera, Valeria Kuisle, Joyce Miller, Jodi and Jim Saliny, Kay Sandeen, Karen and Kenneth Sogge, Edith Timm, Louise and Chuck Wessinger.

\$100 - \$499: Lillian Bednar, Megan Cahill and Jason Brozovich, George Chlebecek, Geraldine Dooley, Joseph Gall, Colleen Gengler, Win Havir, George Hoffman, Charles Kalvoda (in memory of Johnny Kalvoda), Pamela Langworthy and Richard Sargent, Ken Mowll, Marjorie Norling, Yvonne Palka, Amy Patella and Alexander Ivaskovic, Terrence Pulkrabek, Elsie Roepke, Thomas Tesarek, Michaela Wentz, Michael Wolesky, Penelope Zastro (in memory of Adelaide Aubrecht Adams).

In memory of Shirley Verner: Marcella and John Alton, Pat and Don Andrle, Kaye Carlson, Katie and Don Haselbauer, Barbara Rose, Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik.

In memory of **Doris McKenney**: Katie and **Don Haselbauer**, Marit Lee Kucera, Joan Sedlacek.

**\$500 - \$999: Judy** and **Tom Aubrecht, Cynthia Coulter, Marie** and **Alton Krikava**, **Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers**, **Denise Stibal, Daniel Washick** (in memory of his ancestors).

\$1,000 - \$4,999: Mary Jo and James Chlebecek, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Katie and Don Haselbauer, Ann and Ken Janda.

**GENERAL FUND: \$500 - \$999: Medtronic** in recognition of **Donald Haselbauer's** volunteer hours.

CHILDREN'S DANCE GROUP/Taneční Mládež: under \$99: Kathleen Phillip.

In memory of Shirley Verner: Erin and Richard Gross, Long Lake Association of Washington County, Teresa Pojar, Dorothy Sladek, Sandra and Richard Saliny, Denise Stibal, Sharon and Ken Wyberg. \$100 - \$499: Jason Brozovich and Megan Cahill, Marlene Hinshaw.

CULTURE CAMP: under \$99: Doris and Doreen McKenney (in memory of Shirley Verner).

GYMNASTIC CLASSES: under \$99: Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek (in memory of Shirley Verner).

\$100 - \$499: George Chlebecek.

SLOVO: \$100 - \$499: George Chlebecek.

Legacy Fund: \$14,616, General Fund: \$500, *Slovo*: \$100 Gymnastics: \$325, Culture Camp: \$20, Children's Dance: \$525 TOTAL: \$16,086

**IN-KIND DONATIONS: To Gymnastics: Lawrence Callanan** (first aid kit), **Susan Mitchell** (leotards).

**To Sokol Minnesota: Betty** and **Jack Anfinson** (glass dishes for resale), **Joan Sedlacek** (various items), **Denise Stibal** (ethnic items for resale).

With apologies, donations omitted in previous issues of Slovo: General Fund: under \$99: Marlene Hinshaw (in memory of Charlotte Januschka), Marit Lee Kucera (in memory of Kent Hinshaw).

Gymnastics Classes: under \$99: Val Kuisle (in memory of Kent Hinshaw).

Taneční Mládež: **\$100 - \$499**: Kay Edquist (in honor of Louise Wessinger's 70th birthday).

### 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: $\Box$ in memory or $\Box$ in honor of:	
Make checks payable to <b>Sokol Minnesota</b> Write <i>Legacy Fund</i> 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 Board of Directors meeting on January 19, Jean Keogh from Montgomery with interests in language, cooking, and history was accepted as a member of Sokol Minnesota! Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

## Highlights from the November Board of Directors Meeting By Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary

The Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors met on Thursday, November 16, 2017, at 7 p.m. President Judy Aubrecht reported that Sokol ordered 12 heavy-duty round tables, plus cart, to enhance our event space. Dawn Bulera was interviewed as an event coordinator, with duties to start in January 2018, further approval pending from the Board of Trustees.

A Czechoslovak Centennial Gala committee meeting will be held in December, for the October 13, 2018, Gala.

Our fence and shed project is complete. The next project will include roof and window repairs. Joyce Tesarek reported on the Legacy Grant, which could be resubmitted with architectural plans and multiple bids for the project. We received \$915 on Give to the Max Day contributions. A letter is going out to members asking for year-end charitable contributions. We have one new member, Andrea Winghart, from Saint Paul, bringing our total to 299 members.

Jason Brozovich reported that gymnastics program is going well. Jyni Koschak, Publicity Director, will send out an e-blast on upcoming events. We continued to review a revised logo, with ideas being resubmitted to the designer, Doreen McKenney. Glynis Grostephan and Elizabeth Kaliska will trade positions, with Glynis being the Corresponding Secretary, and Elizabeth assuming the role of Sergeant-at-Arms. Our next Board of Directors' meeting is Thursday, January 18 at 7 p.m.

## 2018 Annual Minnesota Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

**By Co-Chairs Scott and Kari Muyres** Mark your calendars! Don't miss the 2018 Sokol Minnesota booya picnic at the historic Sokol camp in August.

When: Sunday, August, 12 - 5 p.m.

Where: Sokol Camp, 19201 Woodland Acres, Pine City, Minnesota 55063

Rain or shine, the picnic is a fun-filled day complete with live entertainment, Czech and Slovak folk dancers, homemade cabbage rolls, *jiternice*, *koláče*, and of course, *booya*! Come early and stay late!

We are always looking for helpers. If interested in volunteering, please contact

Kari or Scott Muyres at 763-226-0313. We hope to see you there!

## Shout Out for a Great Pancake Breakfast on November 19

We served 217 breakfasts (196 adult and 21 children) on November 19, 2017. This was one of our best attended breakfasts in several years. At the pancake breakfast in April, we served close to 120 individuals. Thanks to all who helped



View from the balcony: happy eaters and busy shoppers.

make this a whopper of a success. Kitchen volunteers: Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Chuck Draheim. Ed Hamernik, Arlene Hamernik, Anna Hester, Bob Kostichka, Denis Novak. Joyce Tesarek, Joan Sedlacek,

Cinnamon Whaley, Rosemary Whaley-Baisden, Teresa Pojar, Julie Bohn, Rachel Olson, and Girl Scout Troop 55398 with co-chairs, Jason Brozovich and Megan Cahill.

Bake sale volunteers: Mary Jo Chlebecek, Roger Green, Marlene Hinshaw, Jean Hall (chair), and Arlene Hamernik. Donated baked goods: Marcia Oltrogge, Arlene Hamernik, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Bob Kostichka, Hana Matousek, and Jean Hall. Thanks to all those who set up for the event. Bake sales total: \$1,095.

The vendors offered a wide variety of items: Gail Jensen, jewelry; Aneta Janduskova, photography and jewelry; Donna Syrovatka, wood crafts; Debra LaValle, knit



Just waiting to hand over a plate of pancakes or French toast: (L-R) Chuck Draheim at the grill with Julie Bohn and Teresa Pojar.

and crochet blankets; Marilyn Gomez, knit towels and sweaters; Deanna Miller, fabric arts; Markéta Resong, edibles; Hana Matousek, baked goods; Jean



Draheim, jewelry; Shirley Verner Trust, hand-thrown pottery; Doreen

McKenney, Czech greeting cards, books, and plaques; Louise Wessinger, coloring books; and Willows Coffee, coffee beans.

We are always looking for artist and crafters to join our sales. If you are interested, contact Jean at <education@sokolmn.org>

See you on March 25 for our Spring Pancake Breakfast, with co-chairs Megan Cahill and Jason Brozovich again flipping jacks. Don't miss the Craft and Bake Sales. Pre-order *koláče*: 651-290-0542.

## 1918-2018 Czech and Slovak Century by M.L.Kucera, Honorary Czech Consul

At the annual conclave in October 2016 of Czech Honorary Consuls in the United States, Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovič urged all his H.C.s to plan special events in their states for 2018, to mark 100 years since the formation of Czechoslovakia. 2018 also commemorates 50 years since the Prague Spring and 25 years since formation of the two nations of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

As Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota, I conceived the idea of an online calendar for these four upper Midwest States to lists all events, large and small, that pertain to Czech and/or Slovak culture, heritage, music, dance, art, lectures, cinema, athletics, or business. The calendar also includes events in western Wisconsin, which is so closely connected to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Kevin Hurbanis, vice president of Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) created the website with the online calendar **<CzechSlovakCentury.org>** 





Anyone can submit calendar listings, with the easy-to-use SUBMIT AN EVENT form. Kevin trained several administrators to directly upload events from their organizations, including Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, Minnesota Rusin Association, the tri-cities of Montgomery, New Prague, and Lonsdale (also known as Czech Country Minnesota), and National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, plus others.



Sokol Minnesota is proud to be part of the many special Czech and Slovak commemorations in 2018. The online calendar at **CzechSlovakCentury.org** lists events throughout the upper Midwest.

Doreen McKenney from Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota created the graphics for a logo (above) with the Czech flag and the Slovak flag in the zeros of 100. Even though I am the Czech Honorary Consul, I felt it important to include both Czechs and Slovaks in the logo, since this year is the centennial of Czechoslovakia. Before he passed away last September, the Slovak Honorary Consul Don Pafko and I were working together to promote special 2018 events.

Future issues of *Slovo* will contain details about special Sokol Minnesota events, as well as highlights from other organizations and venues. *Slovo* also plans articles about history and places in Czechoslovakia.

**Sunday, February 25, 2 p.m., C.S.P.S. Hall: Mark Neuzil** on the University of St. Thomas faculty talks about his recent experiences and insights as a Fulbright Scholar during fall 2017 at Charles University in Prague where he taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the Ethics and History of Journalism.

Also preview **the History of Currency in the Czech Lands**, based on the original People and Money exhibit at the Czech National Bank in Prague last year. Copies of that exhibit's artifacts were generously granted to us by the Czech National Bank itself. See printed reproductions of the very first Czechoslovakian banknotes. See the full exhibit in the fall at C.S.P.S. Hall. Sponsor of these two events are Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities and Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. \$10 suggested donation to attend both the talk and the preview. **See page 11 for more Upcoming Events** 

### Czech and Slovak Cultural Center



Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota (CSCC) held its annual Board of Directors meeting on January 13 in Saint Paul: Clockwise from left: Treasurer Bea Flaming, Secretary Joyce Tesarek, Mark Dillon, Jan Knudtson, President Renáta Tichá, Vice President Cheryl Nelson, Vice Pesident Andrej Gadzo, Czech Honorary Consul Marit Lee Kucera, Gwen Willems, and Andy Kozak. Information: <cs-center.org> Literary Ventures sponsored by Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, meets monthly on third Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon, C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul. Info: <cs-center.org/programs/ literary-ventures/>

**February 17:** *Dreams of a Great Small Nation* by Kevin J. McNamara. **March 17:** *Popism: The Warhol Sixties* by Andy Warhol and Pat Hackett. **April 21:** *The Emperor and the Peasant* by Kenneth Janda.

**May 19:** *HHhH* by Laurent Binet. German title is *HHhH: Himmlers Hirn hesisst 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.* 

Kevin J. McNamara, *Dreams of a Great Small Nation* Author Event sponsored by CSCC, April 7, 6:30 p.m. location to be announced

**Book Signing, Sunday, April 8,** 11 a.m. Common Good Books, 32 South Snelling, Saint Paul

### **Member News**

#### Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

participated in the grand opening of the new Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS) building in Mendota Heights on January 13. Sixteen affiliates, interest groups, and branches of MGS had information tables, including favorite ethnic treats. CGSI Publicity Chair Pamela Peltier, Ken Janda, Ann Janda,



Honorary Czech Consul M.L. Kucera, CGSI Vice President Kevin Hurbanis, and CGSI President Suzette Steppe. Jandas and Kucera are both CGSI and Sokol members. See Jandas' article on page 8. An affiliate MGS member, **CGSI staffs the library the first Saturday of each month, 1 - 4 p.m.**, 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100, Mendota Heights 55120. Info: <cgsi.org>



Students took a short break during the **Sokol Minnesota Slovak Language Class** on November 28, 2017. (L-R) Ed Andrajack, Barbora Carlson (instructor), Elizabeth McVey, and Courtney Baluch. Info: <sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/language-classes/>

### We Remember our Sokol Sisters and Brother

**In Memoriam: Shirley Jean (Andrle) Verner** passed away peacefully at home on August 17, 2017. She was born to Bohush (Ed) and Zdenka (Millie) Andrle on January 17, 1933, in Minneapolis. Shirley married the love of her life and



lifelong friend, Frank Miroslav Verner on February 23, 1957. Their 55 years of marriage were filled with thousands of happy moments. Their union was

blessed with two children, Jean Marie and Richard Jay.

A graduate of Minneapolis North High School and the University of Minnesota, Shirley spent her career as an educator in the Robbinsdale School District, as well as with Saint Paul Public Schools, where she taught kindergarten and firstgrade children.

An active member of Sokol Minneapolis and Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota for nearly 70 years, Shirley held several leadership positions including Education Director and chairperson of the first Long Range Planning Committee. Shirley always enjoyed participating in Sokol Minnesota activities and attended many events, including Šibřinky, the annual Czech and Slovak Fall Festival, numerous pancake breakfasts, the frequent dinners at the C.S.P.S. Hall, and the practices and performances of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. In addition to her activities in the local Sokol units, Shirley and her husband Mir were head counselors, and reintroduced a residential Kids' Week program at the Minnesota Sokol Camp in Pine City. Upon her retirement as head counselor, Shirley and her daughter Jean prepared meals for hungry campers in the camp kitchen. Shirley and Mir were active participants in the Sokol Camp Booya Picnic.

Her social life was not confined to Czech and Slovak events. She enjoyed participating, along with Jean and Chuck, in dinners and social events at the Synnove-Nordkap, the Sons of Norway lodge in Saint Paul.

In her spare time, she enjoyed many hobbies, including pottery making, painting, sewing, and creative writing. Shirley and Mir took many fall trips to the North Shore, as well as trips to Europe, Scandinavia, and all around the United States and Canada.

One of her greatest joys was sitting in her kitchen or on her deck, watching the wildlife around her home in Marine-on-Saint-Croix that she and her Mir planned and built together.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents and husband. She is survived by her children Jean Draheim (Charles) and Richard Verner (Mary Kate Boylan), grandchildren Frances, Patrick, Thomas, and Nora Verner, brothers Ronald (Ann) and Donald (Patricia), nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, extended family, fellow teachers, and friends. In Memoriam: Doris (Richtarik) McKenney Doris was born July 24, 1926, in a Czech farm community near Wilber, Nebraska. She moved to Washington, D.C., straight out of high school to work for the federal

government. She transferred to Fort Snelling, where she met and married Don McKenney. In 1964, the McKenney family purchased a cottage on Cross Lake. Hearing Czech



being spoken by the neighbors, Doris soon found that the large brown cabin next door, where she heard that familiar family language from childhood, was called Sokol Camp. And there began on Cross Lake lifelong friendships with Sokol sisters and brothers.

Doris was always on the move with Don, Dana, Danita, and Doreen traveling, hosting theme parties, volunteering in her community, gardening, and sharing her artistic talent. The only time you ever saw Doris a bit upset is when someone told her to sit down and rest. Being proud of her Czech heritage, Sokol Minnesota became her second home. As an active

### **Member News**



*Domácí* Czech Folk Dancers performed at Hometown Holidays, December 3, at the New Prague Park Ballroom. *Domácí* Directors Deb Ziskovsky (far left) and Arnie Ziskovksy with Czech Honorary Consul Marit Lee Kucera (far right). Info: <domaci-inc.org>



**Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Coronation** at Hometown Holidays, December 3, at the New Prague Park Ballroom. (Back) Arnie Ziskovsky, Czech Honorary Consul Marit Lee Kucera, *Domácí* Ambassador Natalee Korbitz (15), and Deb Ziskovsky. (Front) Junior Ambassadors: Hailey Dunkel (13) and Kayla Kubinski (10). Missing: Marissa Gare (14). The Ziskovskys are the founders of *Domácí*. Info: <domaci-inc.org>

Sokol member, she loved hosting spring fling parties and harvest dances with cochair Dorothy Sladek, chairing the Festival of Nations bazaar booth with daughter Doreen, bagging *kolaće*, co-chairing the Czech and Slovak Fall Fest, participating in many *slet* competitions, decorating the front window, planting flowers in the window boxes, taking the gift shop on the road with Joan Sedlacek, and staying to the end of an event with Don to clean up. She will be remembered and missed for her genuine hugs, infectious smile, and her kind eyes full of love for everyone.

Doris passed away peacefully at home on Christmas Eve surrounded by family as the radio in the background was playing "I'll Be Home For Christmas." *Milujeme Tě. Běž s Bohem.* We love you. Go with God.

You are invited to join the McKenney family for dessert and stories at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Friday, April 20, from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

#### In Memoriam: Barbara (Bobbie)

**Buzicky Gross** passed away at home in Brookings, Oregon, on November 13, 2017, after a four-year battle with metastatic breast cancer. Bom November 4.



1946, in Saint Paul to Georgiana and Al Buzicky, Bobbie was active in Sokol Minnesota during her youth, attending gym classes weekly, competing in slets as a teen, and participating in Kids' Week as a camper at Sokol Camp. Bobbie married Ed Gross in 1968, and his employment with the U.S. Forest Service took them to West Virginia, Alaska, and Oregon, locations where there were no Sokol units. Bobbie subscribed to the *Slovo* so that she could keep up on what was happening at Sokol Minnesota. She loved her Czech heritage and could bake *koláče* that rivaled Georgiana's!

She is survived by her husband Ed, two sons Tristan (Tatyana) and Andy (Jennie), and grandson Elliot, plus two sisters Patty (Bill) Jaeger and Susie (Steve) Fritze, as well as numerous other relatives and friends. Memorials may be sent to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

**In Memoriam: Albert Imbrone,** Sokol Minnesota member since 1992, passed away peacefully on January 2, 2018, at age 96. Al was born February 28, 1921, in Saint Paul. He grew up in the close-knit Romanian community surrounding St. Mary's Orthodox Church, just north of the state capitol. Al is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Libuse Rybnicek Imbrone (Libby), daughters Anita (John) McKeown and Diane Bell, sons Paul, Peter (Jill), and Albert, Jr., plus four grandchildren, one great-grandson, one sister, nieces, and nephews.

Al served honorably while on active duty with the United States Navy during World War II (1942-1946) in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters and in the Active Navy Reserve from 1946-1979. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Navy Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), and the Navy Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA), and Commander of George Grui American Legion Post 572. He retired from the United States Postal S



States Postal Service in 1980.

Al was active in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, where he joined the senior group in exercise and singing. He spoke Romanian, but sang in Czech! He also served on the Sokol gaming board.

He was fiercely devoted to God, Country, and Family. His family will miss his jokes, his sense of humor, and his "Never Give Up the Ship" spirit. Interment with Military Honors was at Fort Snelling National Cemetery on January 11.

#### Summer Language Course in Dobruška, Czech Republic

The Czech government offers its four-week Czech language course in Dobruška again this summer. There are scholarships, paid by the Czech government. The online application is due by March 15, 2018.

Several Sokol Minnesota members have attended the language school and all have high praises for it.

http://www.dzs.cz/cz/programpodpory-ceskeho-kulturnihodedictvi-v-zahranici/kurz-cestiny/

## CGSI 2017 Conference in Pittsburgh

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International held its 16th Genealogical/ Cultural Conference on October 17 -21, 2017, in the Hyatt Regency Hotel at the Pittsburgh Airport. Over 400 people from across the United States, Canada, and Europe attended. We were among nearly 30 Minnesotans, including other Sokol Minnesota members.

The first two days of the conference consisted of social events. Participants could choose from three bus tours:



(1) Pittsburgh's Industry of Our Immigrants, (2) Slovak Historic Tour, and (3) Rusyn Tour. We took the Rusyn Tour, which provided an intimate look at the still vibrant Rusyn community in Pittsburgh. We visited Rusyn neighborhoods and churches, including one attended by Andy Warhol (1928-1987) and his family. The second day ended with a World War II Slovak Film Festival. The last three days of the conference included 75-minute presentations on different topics with Czech, Slovak, or Rusyn themes. Three examples were "Unlocking the Secrets of



the Czech Parish Archives," "The American Slovaks and the Start of the Great War," and

"The Quest for Rusyn Identity among Carpatho-Rusyns." The conference organizers effectively fit

50 presentations into just three days by scheduling four talks simultaneously in different meeting rooms, twice each morning and twice each afternoon.

Often torn between presentations at competing times, we split up to attend our

choices and then told each other what we learned. While the presentations varied in quality, each talk was worth attending. Evenings offered special events, such as networking sessions centered around regions of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

By Ken and Ann Janda

Social events were held the last two nights. Friday evening's dinner featured a parade of *kroje*, organized and led by (left) Helene Cincebeaux, editor of *Slovakia*, and followed by a lively musical performance by two Bratislava artists. The Saturday dinner's highlight was scores of accomplished dancers of

all ages from the *Slavjane* Folk Ensemble and the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Ensemble.

CGSI conferences are biennial. The next



one, in 2019, is in Lincoln, Nebraska, which is only 430 miles from Saint Paul. See you there!



#### January 15, 2018

#### Dear Sokol Minnesota,

My name is Donna Preston. My husband Bill and I own the home at 16 Douglas Street, Saint Paul, built in 1886 for Antonín Jurka, a founding member of the C.S.P.S. Hall. He was instrumental in the successful settlement of immigrants to the area and also the very first music professor in the Saint Paul School District.



His daughter Blanche Yurka (she changed the spelling), 1887-1974, was born in the home. A celebrated actress, she debuted in 1906 on Broadway; her many movie roles in the 1930s and 1940s included the film *A Tale of Two Cities* (1935). Blanche Yurka wrote *Bohemian Girl*, her autobiography in 1970; she describes her fondness for the home, as well as other details and pictures. We are happy to share the book with anyone who may be interested.

I wanted to let you know that the home is currently listed for sale, and we would be delighted if someone with an appreciation for the history and significance became the new owner. We rescued the house from demolition in 2007 and renovated it to Saint Paul codes. The list price is currently \$165,000 which is a good price for a four-bedroom home.

The house needs new roof shingles and some exterior painting, but overall it is structurally and mechanically sound. If you or anyone you know is interested in viewing the home, please contact <Ricardo.Gonzales@cbburnet.com>

Best wishes to Sokol Minnesota from Donna and Bill Preston

## of the

### Sokol Member Presented Major Slovak Award By John Palka

On January 1 of this year, Slovakia's press was dominated by articles relating to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Slovak Republic as a state separate from the Czech Republic. The shared state of Czechoslovakia was established a hundred years ago in the aftermath of World War I and was long regarded as a model democracy. The Iron Curtain, that held Czechoslovakia under the totalitarian thumb of the Soviet Union after the end of World War II, was shattered in 1989. This was the Velvet Revolution. On January 1, 1993, Czechoslovakia ceased to exist when the separation of Czechoslovakia into two independent states became a reality. This was the Velvet Divorce.

The wisdom of the Velvet Divorce continues to be a matter of contention, but both the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic are thriving. They are good neighbors to one another, including organizing shared centennial events to honor the establishment of Czechoslovakia. Slovakia, however, is

particularly focused on its own independence. One of the actions taken by the government of Slovakia to celebrate this historically central step has been to award certificates of merit to selected Slovak expatriates around the world. The ministry of foreign affairs invited each country in which Slovakia has strong diplomatic representation to nominate individuals to receive special recognition for their professional accomplishments and contributions they have made to the relations of Slovakia to their new homeland.

The award ceremony was January 12 in New York City at the residence of the permanent Slovak representative to the United Nations. H. E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, presented the awards.

Here are capsule accounts of the four American honorees. George Sipko, an information technology pioneer, founded Koger, a large corporation that supplies complex software to the financial industry, both in the United States and internationally. He also established a foundation in support of the technical education of Slovak students, particularly within Slovakia itself.

Dr. Ján Vilček, a research professor at the New York University School of Medicine, has studied several important components of the immune system; his findings contributed to the development of major medications such as Remicade. He and his wife Marica, an art historian who worked for many years at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, established the Vilček Foundation to "help raise awareness of immigrant contributions in the US and foster appreciation of the arts and sciences." In 2013 President Barack Obama awarded Dr. Vilček the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. *Love and Science* is Dr. Vilček's moving memoir.

I was the fourth awardee. The statement of recognition focused on my academic accomplishments in biology and neuroscience, on my efforts to present a Slovak perspective on history, and on the book that I wrote about my family and its place in Slovak history.



(L-R) Slovak Consul General in New York Ladislava Begeç, President of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic Miroslav Lajčák, John Palka, George Sipko, Marica Vilček and Ján Vilček, and Ambassador to the United Nations of the Slovak Republic Mirohal Mlynár.

This book soon proved to be quite influential. Published in Slovakia in 2010 under the title *Moje Slovensko, moja rodina,* it quickly sold out. Kirk House Press here in Minneapolis published the American edition, *My Slovakia, My Family*, in 2012. It immediately attracted wide interest, with presentations at the Slovak embassy in Washington, D.C., the consulate-general in New York, the embassy in London, and before a number of Slovak and Czech/Slovak organizations including the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International headquartered in Saint Paul.

Following the award presentations and brief responses, Peter Breiner, a prize-winning Slovak musician, thrilled the audience with a concert of pieces for piano, violin, and viola, both from the classical repertoire and his own compositions on Slovak themes. The atmosphere was electric. And it was expecially thrilling for Yvonne and me to have both of our daughters and most of their families present for the occasion. Our oldest granddaughter flew in from London, the youngest from Bozeman, Montana. That made nine of us celebrating together!

Continuing my efforts to offer a perspective on history that includes the Slovak experience, I will present this year's annual lecture of the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota on May 19, 1 p.m., at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall. My title is *The Czech and Slovak Marriage: What the Partners Brought to the Union.* 

You can purchase the book, *My Slovakia*, *My Family*, rom me directly or through my web site, <www.jpalka.com> This web site is also good for browsing; it contains substantial historical and pictorial material about Slovakia. Amazon also sells my book.

#### **Note of Interest**

On Monday, January 1, 2018, Slovak President Andrej Kiska gave a New Year's Address on RTVS. You can read the Address in English at <www.prezident.sk/en>

## Sokol Childrens' Holiday Party By Louise Wessinger

In the darkened Hall on December 8 came the beautiful voices of the Sokol Minnesota Singers singing *Tichá noc* (Silent Night). As they began the carol, the *Taneční Mládež* Sokol Children and Teen Folk Dancers came onto the lighted stage behind them. They all joined together to sing four of our favorite Czech and Slovak *koledy* (Christmas carols). Don Haselbauer, Elisa Swartz, and Juna Krikava on piano, with Dawn Bulera and Ellen Ferry on violin, accompanied the singers.

Then the lights came on and the children and teens performed several Czech and Slovak folk dances. It was a first performance for several of



the children and a final holiday performance for our three senior dancers, Andrea Atcheson, Ellen Ferry, and Mary Yanta. *Podšable* or "under swords," a favorite new dance taught by James Metcalf, is from southeast Moravia and Slovakia.





All of the children rushed to change out of *kroje*, and into their new dance group t-shirts. The t-shirts have the seal of Czechoslovakia with the date 1918 below it. The t-shirts are to honor the 100th anniversary on 2018 of the founding of Czechoslovakia after World War I. While the children were changing, a group of the older children read *The Christmas Carp* by Rita Tornquist. Special thanks to all of our readers. Next on the program was the ever-popular candy cane dance, a medley of Christmas dances performed with plastic candy

canes. Dancers wore the new red or blue 1918 t-shirts.

The best is always saved for last! Our special trio of guests arrived, *svatý Mikuláš* (Saint Nicholas), *anděl* (Angel), and *čert* (Devil). All the children promised to be good for the coming year and were rewarded with a bag of goodies with the choice of an apple or an orange.

Special thanks to all the parents and grandparents who brought treats for the reception, to the Czech and Slovak moms who baked traditional holiday breads that were sold to raise money for Sokol Minnesota, to Dawn Bulera and Glynis Grostephan who helped in the kitchen, as well as to Romana Pulkrabek, Michaela Wentz, Lenka Hester, James Metcalf, Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, Don Andrle, Pat Andrle, Dave Stepan, Pam Langworthy, Martina Gurgel, and Richard Sargent.

### 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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## **Upcoming Events**

**February 3, Saturday, Duchnovich Day Celebration,** 3-7 p.m., presented by the Rusin Association at Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Parish Center, 1701 5th Street Northeast, Minneapolis, with a social hour, dinner, entertainment, and a screening and discussion with the producers of the film, *Even Tears Were Not Enough*. The annual dinner features Carpatho-Rusyn cuisine: *holupbci* (cabbage rolls), *pirohy* (potato and cheese dumplings), *borscht* (beet soup), salad, *palachinky* (Rusyn-style dessert crepes). (The celebration honors Alexander Duchnovich (1803-1885), a champion of Rusyn language and identity who defended the Rusyn language from Hungarian rule in the nineteenth century.) For more information, and to reserve tickets, please visit <duchnovichdinner.bpt.me>

#### February 11, Sunday, 18th annual Masopust, the

**Czech Margi Gras**, American Legion Post #79, Montgomery, Minnesota, with a costume ball, a silent auction, dancing, and the coronation of the *Masopust* King. Traditional Czech food, including pork and dumplings, available for purchase all day. Tickets: \$5/person, children under age 15: free. <montgomerymn.org/masopust/

#### February 18, Sunday, Carpathian Festival,

12 - 5 p.m., Landmark Center in downtown Saint Paul, sponsored by Ethnic Dance Theatre with folk dancing,

## A Visit from Svatý Mikuláš 2017



At the Czech and Slovak Family Party on December 9, *svatý Mikuláš* (Saint Nicholas) and *anděl* (Angel) greeted and gave gifts to over 60 children and teens; *čert* (Devil) stood nearby with his heavy chains and old bag. Everyone, from children and teens to parents, grandparents, and friends, had a wonderful time at the party, which also included a potluck dinner, songs, music, and crafts.

food, demonstrations, crafts, information booths. Folk dancers from Sokol Minnesota and many other groups will perform. Further information: <ethnicdancetheatre.com>

**March 2, Friday, 8 p.m. Slovak conductor Juraj Valčuha** returns to Minnesota Orchestra in Minneapolis to conduct Rachmaninoff's powerful *Third Piano Concerto* and Debussy's *La Mer*. If interested in a discounted group ticket, please email <br/><br/>brichta.blanka@gmail.com>by February 4 and indicate number of tickets and at what price range (\$65, \$52, \$40, or \$25). Minimum of 10 tickets for the group discount is required. Commitment is binding.

**February 18 and March 18, Bechyn Winter Card Parties,** 1 p.m. Lunch at 4:30 p.m. Saint Mary's Preservation Association of Bechyn, 30278-735th Street, Redwood Falls, Minnesota. Bechyn is located 13 miles south of Olivia or 10 miles north of Redwood Falls. Contact Jeanne Wertish: 320-522-1218. Bechyn Czech Heritage Festival: August 12.

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. The application deadline is March 1. For information and the registration form, contact Lorraine David at 507-364-9370 or 507-364-5384 or <davidsdiner@hotmail.com> or Ashley Zimanske at 952-201-4107 or <missczechslovakmn@hotmail.com> 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>

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This issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by February 28: <www.sokolmn.org>

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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.

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

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

Insights: Fulbright Scholar at Charles University and Preview Exhibit: History of Currency in the Czech Lands February 25, 2 p.m (see page 5)

Flavors of Slovakia • Sunday, March 4, 12:30 p.m. \$16 adult, \$8 child under 9. Cash bar. (see page 1) Prepaid reservations by February 23: 651-290-0542

Pancake Breakfast with Craft and Bake Sales Sunday, March 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (see page 4) Pre-order koláče: 651-290-0542. Reserve craft table: 651-433-2008

Šibřinky • Saturday, April 7, 4 - 10 p.m.
\$7 dinner, 4- 7 p.m. Dance from 6 - 10 p.m.
\$12 at the door, \$10 advance ticket (send check to Sokol MN by April 1: c/o 3704 Denmark Avenue, Eagan, MN 55123)

Band Blast • Saturday, April 28, 7:30 p.m. Music-Friendly Fundraiser for C.S.P.S. Hall repairs \$10 suggested admission donation

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



# Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO February 2018



## Spring 2018 Events at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, MN 55102 | 651-290-0542

Gift shop open during Sokol Minnesota events. Go to www.sokolmn.org for the latest information | Questions? events@sokolmn.org

#### Family Events

Sundays, January 21, February 25, April 22, 4 - 7 p.m. Saturday, March 31, 10 - 2 p.m.

## Potluck supper, family activities for children of all ages.

#### Flavors of Slovakia Sunday, March 4, 12:30 p.m.

Cabbage rolls, *pirohy*, cabbage and dumplings. \$16 adult, \$8 child under 9. Cash bar. *Prepaid reservations by February 23: 651-290-0542* 

#### Pancake Breakfast with Craft and Bake Sales

Sunday, March 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. \$7 adult, \$5 child under 9, \$22/family of four. *Pre-order koláče: 651-290-0542. Reserve craft table: 651-433-2008* 

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

\$7 Dinner: 4 - 7 p.m. Dance: 6 - 10 p.m. Gordy Prochaska's Little Fisherman Band. \$12 at door, \$10 in advance (send check to Sokol MN by April 1, c/o 3704 Denmark Ave., 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 Czech and Slovak food and culture, as well as children, teen, and adult folk dancers on stage.

#### **21st Annual Children's Cultural Day Camp** June 18 - June 22

For boys and girls ages 7 to 14 years. Ethnic crafts, cooking, gymnastics, Czech language, and more. *Register at www.sokolmn.org* 

#### 28th Czech and Slovak Festival Sunday, September 16, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Music, folk dancers, vendors, games, ethnic food, Czech beer, booths, silent auction. Free admission. Accessible facilities. *Volunteer to help: 612-822-6147* 

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Sokol Minnesota is proud to be part of the many special Czech and Slovak commemorations in 2018 Online calendar lists events throughout the upper Midwest at www.CzechSlovakCentury.org