

UPCOMING EVENTS

April Slovo Deadline
March 1, 2018

Board of Directors Retreat
March 3, 9 a.m.

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

Board of Trustees
March 14, 7 p.m.

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

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

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

Rising Star Sokol Minnesota: Courtney Benson

By Mary Cahill with photos by Cory Ryan

This article appeared on the front cover of the American Sokol national magazine, February 2018

Courtney Benson, current head women's coach and instructor with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, was not born into nor married into Sokol Minnesota. Rather, we were fortunate to find Courtney, and we are thrilled that we did. She has embraced Sokol Minnesota's philosophy and is an outstanding ambassador for our community.



As a high-energy child, Courtney's parents sought an outlet for her energy and enrolled her in dance classes. Courtney, however, needed more of a challenge. She had a friend from dance that also participated in gymnastics. Through her friend's recommendation, she started at KidSport gymnastics when she was six years old, taking to the sport immediately. She grew up competing at meets across Minnesota as part of the MAGA program. By seventh

grade, she transitioned to her hometown high school gymnastics team in Winona, Minnesota, and contributed as a varsity all-around competitor. In her final years of high school, she competed USAG as a Level 10 competitor; but her involvement in the sport did not end there.

Although she would have qualified as a Division 1 (D1) gymnast, she opted to compete on Hamline University's gymnastics team. She didn't want a sport she loved to feel like a job through the additional rigor that often comes with a scholarship. She also wanted to focus on her studies, including any internship possibilities that would require missing practice. She had known the Hamline gymnastics coach for years through his connection to KidSport. There were numerous gymnastic highlights during her four years at Hamline. Courtney started every meet in every event (competing all-around, all the time!); qualified for D3 nationals in all four events, all four years; was named to the 1st All American Team on vault, beam, and floor on several different occasions; and ultimately won a National Championship Title on floor in her junior year. She stayed true to her reasons for attending Hamline. As a result, she received the D3 Outstanding Senior award and was recognized by the NCAA as one of the Top 30 candidates for Woman of the Year, both of which focus on academics, service, and leadership (in addition to athletics). Much like Courtney found Hamline through her coach at KidSport, Sokol Minnesota found Courtney through her coach at Hamline. We were very much in need of coaches to revamp our gymnastics program. We struck gold.

Courtney coached at Sokol Minnesota throughout her four years at Hamline. Since her graduation, she has assumed the role as head women's coach and instructor. Not only has Courtney taken on more and more responsibility for the gymnastics program, she has

continued on page 15

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes

Pozdrav bratři a sestry / Greetings Brothers and Sisters

After a dark, icy, and cold winter, we look forward to the beginning of daylight savings time on Sunday, March 11, and the official arrival of spring on Tuesday, March 20. At the C.S.P.S. Hall, March brings several popular events. If you like cabbage rolls, *pirohy* (filled dumplings), and *halušky s kyslou kapustou* (a rich dish including small dumplings, shredded cabbage, and bacon), you will want to make a reservation (651-290-0542) for the **Flavors of Slovakia dinner on Sunday, March 4, at 12:30 p.m.**

Our next ever-popular **Pancake Breakfast with Craft and Bake Sales** takes place on Sunday, March 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No reservations are needed. You can come when it is convenient for your schedule, although the early bird gets the worm for interesting crafts and special baked goods. *Koláče* can be pre-ordered for your Easter, or other special events, by calling 651-290-0542. By pre-ordering, you can make sure that you get the flavors of filling that you most enjoy. Fillings include poppy seed, cream cheese, raspberry, apricot, and prune.

Gordy Prochaska's *Little Fisherman's Band* will play at the **Šibřinky dance on April 7**. The event begins at 4 p.m., with dancing at 5:15 p.m. by the *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens*. Ethnic foods will be for sale. When the band takes a break, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers will perform.

Sponsored by Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, scholar **Kevin J. McNamara presents his book, *Dreams of a Great, Small Nation*, on Saturday, April 7, 6 p.m., at Minnesota Genealogy Center**, 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights. Admission is \$7; refreshments served. The book is about the thousands of Czech and Slovak soldiers who coalesced under the guidance of Tomáš Masaryk as a fighting force for the Allies during World War I. Their extraordinary service and vision to resist oppression contributed greatly to the postwar formation of the independent nation of Czechoslovakia. McNamara appears for a book-signing event at Common Good Books, 32 South Snelling, Saint Paul, on Sunday, April 8, 1 p.m.

You will want to save the date of **Sunday, April 15, 2 p.m.**, at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Our own Sokol Minnesota member, **Kenneth Janda, talks about his book, *The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire*.**

It is about Emperor Franz Josef and Ken's wife's grandfather, Samuel Mozolák, the peasant. Ken will offer a special price for his book. A portion of the sales of his book will be donated to Sokol Minnesota.

As you can see, there are diverse activities to look forward to this spring at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Many of you donated to our Legacy fund, which has raised over \$12,000 out of the \$86,000 needed to match the City of Saint Paul's STAR grant. Thank you for your contributions. Future building improvements will allow us to continue to provide exciting events, without worries about water leaks and crumbling mortar.

Nazdar!

2 March 2018 *Slovo*

By Judy Aubrecht

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

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

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



The 2018 Festival of Nations will be held at the Saint Paul RiverCentre May 3 - 6

This year's festival theme is *Cultural Traditions Then and Now*. The festival features dancing, exhibits, food, music, and shopping representing countries from around the world.

Come see lively dance performances by our adult, children, and teen folk dancers, sample delicious ethnic dishes in the Café, and visit the Culture Exhibit Booth featuring historical currency.

**Volunteers are needed
in the Café and Culture Exhibit Booths.**
If you Volunteer with us at the Festival of Nations,
you will get a **FREE** admission ticket!

To volunteer for a shift in the cafe or exhibit,
you can sign up on our website
www.sokolmn.org
or call general chair Joyce at 612-822-6147

Spring Breakfast

Craft and Bake Sale

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, March 25

9 a.m. - 1p.m.

French toast, pancakes,
fruit cup, sausage,
juice, milk, and coffee.

\$7.00 adult; \$5.00
children under 9.
\$22.00 family of four
(two adults and two children).

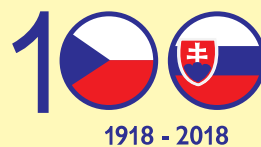
Public welcome.

Exquisite handcrafts (vendor table rental 651-433-2008).

Baked goods for your Easter table (pre-order koláče 651-290-0542).

C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 | www.sokolmn.org

2018 Czech Slovak Century commemorates 1918, 1968, and 1993
visit CzechSlovakCentury.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:** Jean and Chuck Draheim, Joseph Gall (in memory of Mary Ann Liska Gall), Arlene and Ed Hamernik (for north addition to C.S.P.S. Hall in honor of Sokol Minnesota event cooks), Judith Metcalf, Jan Roers.

In memory of Al Imbrone: Arlene and Ed Hamernik, Elsie Roepke.

In memory of Doris McKenney: Shannon Duffy, Arlene and Ed Hamernik, Valeria Kuisle, Louise and Charles Wessinger.

\$100 - \$499: Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, M. L. Kucera (in honor of authors Ken Janda and John Palka), Marjorie Norling, Cheryl Nelson Theuninck, Anonymous (in memory of Jerry and Rose Roch).

\$500 - \$999: Susan and Steven Fritze (in memory of Bobbie Gross).

GENERAL FUND:

\$1000 - \$4999: Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik.

GYMNASTIC CLASSES:

\$100 - \$499: Mary and Dennis Cahill (in memory of Doris McKenney).

SLOVO: under \$99: Anonymous

Legacy Fund: \$1,679; General Fund: \$1,000

Gymnastics: \$100; Slovo: \$20

TOTAL: \$2,799

C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

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



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

Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-822-6147 or <finance@sokolmn.org> *Thank you!*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the C.S.P.S. Hall, I make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

I would like my gift designated: in memory or in honor of:

Make checks payable to **Sokol Minnesota**

Write **Legacy Fund** in the memo line

Mail to **C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund**

Attn: Treasurer

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Or donate online: www.sokolmn.org

With apologies, donations omitted in previous issues of Slovo: **LEGACY FUND:** In memory of Shirley Verner: **under \$99:** Joy Berg, Marj and Bob Bergstrom, Linda and Bruce Elsenpeter, Lois Elsenpeter, Gloria and John Ivers, Jean and Arnie Kunde, E. Doug Larson, Marilyn and Al Larson, Lorraine and Wayne Olson, Scandia Hair Design, Bonnie and Bart Wylie.

CHILDREN'S DANCE GROUP/TANEČNÍ MLÁDEŽ: In memory of Shirley Verner: **under \$99:** Dave Cammack, Lenka Hester, Jake Jacobson, Jan Knopfler, Jyni Koschak.

Highlights: January BOD Meeting

By Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary

Dennis Novak, Second Vice President, called the January Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors meeting to order on January 18, 2018. The annual Board of Directors retreat has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 3.

BOD welcomed new board members Ann and Ken Janda as publicity directors. Dawn Bulera began her duties as hall manager, coordinating and booking events for C.S.P.S. Hall.

The building requires some exterior projects, which include painting the outside stairs and replacing four windows.

Glynis Grostephan stated that Sokol received \$16,086 in donations in December. Most importantly, she reported that thank you letters have been sent to everyone that made a donation in 2017.

We have one new member, Jean Keogh, from Montgomery. Membership renewals for 2018 are currently at 70%.

Jean Draheim reported that winter language classes have begun. The board will look at adding summer class offerings including cooking, crafts, etc. Also suggested was purchasing a white board for the classroom.

Welcome New Member

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors on February 15, a couple and four individuals were accepted as members of Sokol Minnesota: Mark and Joan Mishek, Saint Paul, have interests in cultural events, music, history, and genealogy; Pierre Carrier, Saint Paul, has interests in cultural events, music, language, and gymnastics for children; Greg Gaides, Roseville, has interests in cultural events, music, theater, dinners, dances, history, festivals, and cooking; Andy Johnson, Golden Valley, has interests in cultural events, dinners, history, festivals, and cooking; and Jitka Sebek, leader of Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

March 2 is the Feast of St. Agnes of Bohemia

The daughter of King Ottokar of Bohemia, Agnes gained renown for starting a hospital for Prague's lepers and paupers, as well as founding new religious orders to provide the hospital's care. As Abbess, she worked at the side of the nuns and friars in the everyday ministering to the patients. She died on March 2, 1282, and soon was venerated. It was often said that the Czech lands would not be well until Agnes becomes a saint. Pope John Paul II canonized her on November 12, 1989. A few days later on November 17, the Velvet Revolution started. She became a symbol of the Velvet Revolution.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
Presents

Šibřinky

CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 7

Come for Dinner! Stay for the Dance!

Dinner 4 - 7 p.m. \$7.00

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

Cash Bar
Czech Beer

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

Public
Welcome

Hot Dogs,
Desserts,
and Snacks
for Sale

Music by
Gordy Prochaska's
"Little Fisherman Band"

Masked Ball,
Costumes
and Folk Dress
Encouraged

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

☉ Polka ☉ Old Tyme ☉ Big Band

383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul
Minnesota
55102

www.sokolmn.org

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

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



Šibřinky Takes to the Dance Floor on April 7 By Louise Wessinger

Start looking for your dancing shoes now! Sokol Minnesota's popular *Šibřinky* dance returns on Saturday, April 7, to our historic C.S.P.S. Hall. Doors will open at 4 p.m. Cooks Hana Matousek and Marketa Resong, will offer a delicious dinner of pork cutlet, potato salad, pickled beets, and bread for \$7. Hot dogs and desserts will also be available, as will Czech beer and an assortment of wines.

Taneční Mládež and *Taneční Teens* perform at 5:15 p.m. At 6 p.m., Gordy Prochaska and the *Little Fisherman Band* start the music rolling for all of us to get out on the dance floor. During the band intermission, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers perform.

Pre-paid tickets for the dance are \$10 until April 1. Send checks (made to Sokol Minnesota) to Louise Wessinger at 3704 Denmark Avenue, Eagan, Minnesota 55123. *Šibřinky* tickets are \$12 at the door the evening of the dance.

The origin of *Šibřinky* dates back to 1865. Sokol Prague decided to hold a costume ball. Looking for an appropriate name for the event, they found the Czech word *šibřinky*, which meant to jest or clown around. They named their event *Šibřinky* to indicate that it would be an evening of fun and surprises!

The invitations read (in English here): *thgindim ta gnidne YKNIRBIS 5681 yraurbef 52 lokos eugarp fo llah eht ni kcolc 'o 7 ta gnitrats*. Some guests were very upset; they thought the invitation was in Turkish or Hungarian. Others laughed when they realized the invitation must be read backwards from right to left. The night of the event, guards with torches were in front of the Sokol Hall. Guests emerged from their carriages greeted by an imposing bear! The hall was awl with masked dancers. The event was a huge success. The tradition continues even to this day in many American Sokol units.

You are encouraged to wear your *kroj* or another masquerade costume. Come for supper, and stay for the dance!

Band Blast Fundraiser on April 28 By Blanka Brichta

Yes, we are upping the ante!

Mark your calendars now for the second annual and even bigger, better musical fundraiser Band Blast, sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities. The evening kicks off at 7:30 p.m., April 28, Saturday, at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Bring your family, bring your friends! Come and hear amazing local bands as we help to raise money for the hall roof and exterior repair fund.

Who are the bands, you ask?

There will be something for every age and every taste. Last year's favorite

Rocket Appliances opens the evening with their Americana set. Followed by **The Houdeks** playing an eclectic mix of gypsy-swing and waltzes. Next in the line up is **Boiled in Lead**, rock/world-music band, founded in 1983, based in Minneapolis. You will quickly hear for yourself why they are called the most important folk-rock band to appear since the 1970s! **Brass Messengers**, a Minneapolis/Saint Paul sprawling fun factory of ten musicians close the evening with a gusto that is theirs alone, playing anything that fits into twisted brass tubing from inspired originals and sing-a-longs to covers from around the

globe. Truly, a joyful noise!

Again this year Christopher Yeager is emcee for the evening; not to mention, he'll also teach us a dance or two.

There is more! Sing-a-longs, raffle, trivia, surprise door prizes, and contests for young and old.

Of course, there are refreshments available for purchase, plus a cash bar (naturally)! A \$10 admission donation is suggested.

Join us on April 28 for a night of fun.

Let's raise the roof.

Let's fundraise for the roof!

Be a part of Twin Cities' history!

Upcoming Events

March 11, Sunday, 1:30 - 3 p.m., Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble live at Waldmann Brewery and Wurstery, 445 Smith Avenue North, Saint Paul 55102. Enjoy great beer and food. Sunday Brunch comes with live music on original Czech folk instruments in this historic 1850's saloon. The original limestone building was built by band leader Frank Trnka's great-great-grandfather, Jacob Amos, in 1857.

March 17, Saturday, 6 - 8:30 p.m., Annual Ethnic Dinner at Sons of Norway Kristiania Lodge #1-47 (Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2124 Viola Road Northeast, Rochester, Minnesota 55906) features Czech Republic. M. L. Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, emcees the program, "Get to Know the Czech Republic Today through History, Customs, and Folk Dance," including 1918-2018 centennial events, the international Sokol movement and Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech folk costumes, and Czech folk dancing. Speakers are Joan Sedlacek and Louise Wessinger. The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers perform in authentic *kroje*. The Norwegians are encouraged to wear their *bunader* (national costumes). Program starts at 7 p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m., \$13. The typical Czech dinner has roast pork, potato dumplings with gravy, sauerkraut,

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apple strudel, and more. For reservations: emaie44@gmail.com

March 18, Bechyn Winter Card Party, 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.

March 31 deadline Photo Competition, Czech-American? Zoom In! The Embassy of the Czech Republic, Washington, D.C., welcomes Czech-American individuals, schools, businesses, and organizations from around the United States to submit ONE photo of what it means to be Czech-American to them in order to join in the 2018 celebrations of 100 years of Czech independence. Please put "Photo Competition" in the subject line and include a one sentence description of the photo's Czech-American inspiration, heritage, and pride as well as the location of where the photo was taken. Please include your first and last name and contact information for each individual, school, business, or organization. Send to czechembassypr@gmail.com High resolution photos preferably in JPG format. Complete information: <http://www.czechindependence.org/home-page/photo-competition-czech-american-zoom-in/> >



New Floral Wreathes and Headbands

By Louise Wessinger

In many parts of both the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, it is customary for unmarried women to wear a band of flowers in their hair when they are dressed in *kroj*. It signals their single status to potential suitors; a cap signifies that you are married.

In our Czech and Slovak dance groups in the United States, almost all the female dancers wear flowers with their *kroj*, as it is very difficult to keep an elaborate cap on your head while performing lively folk dances.

Led by Doreen McKenney and Jean Hall, an energetic group of volunteers refreshed and made new wreathes and headbands for our folk dancers on Saturday, January 27. The floral artists included Jyni Koschak, Blythe Ikeda, Emily Krikava, Lenka Hester, Matt Bulera Weathers, Michaela Giancarlo Kotek, Pam Langworthy, and Sandy Prochaska. Volunteers came supplied with glue guns and scissors. Sokol Minnesota purchased the flowers, wire, floral tape, and headband blanks. Jean Hall also donated flowers. Many thanks to all of you and especially to Doreen and Jean for leading the event.

Kroje Me a River By Louise Wessinger

It all started with Babe Vanyo. Babe and her husband, Bob, had 11 children, who danced in *kroje* (folk dress) made by Babe and other family members. When I started the *Taneční Mládež*, the children's Czech and Slovak dance group in 1990, some of the children did not have *kroj*. Hearing that, Babe went through her closets; she sent a huge black plastic bag full of children's *kroje* to our dance practice with her daughter Therese Linsheid. That donation was the start of Sokol Minnesota's *Kroje* Closet. Over the years, there have been so many generous donations and handy seamstresses. We now have well over 100 *kroje* in various sizes and from various regions of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

Since 1990, over 200 children have been part of the *Taneční Mládež* group. Some of the children have their own *kroj*, but most of the children borrow *kroje* from our *Kroj* Closet. When the a child grows out of one *kroj*, we will have a larger one waiting for her/him. For many years, all the *kroje* were kept at my home, but the complete sets are now in a room on the first floor of the C.S.P.S. Hall.

After our Sokol Czech and Slovak Festival last fall, all the *kroje* were turned in to be repaired, cleaned, and re-labeled. This was a huge task. Through the help of volunteers, everyone was dressed in time for the children's holiday party last December. Special thanks to all these volunteers, including Judy Aubrecht, Jean Draheim, Kay Edquist, Katie Haselbauer, Dawn Bulera, Doreen McKenney, and Jean Hall. Thank you, ladies, for all your help! We welcome others to join our crew, as we still have many more *kroje* to refresh and complete. Since many of these helpers had children who danced years ago, we have fun renewing friendships.

We meet at various times at the hall to sew, re-label, and iron. If you would be able to help, please contact Louise: <louisewessinger@msn.com> or 651-452-6240.

April 15 Author Talk: *The Emperor and the Peasant*

By Kenneth Janda

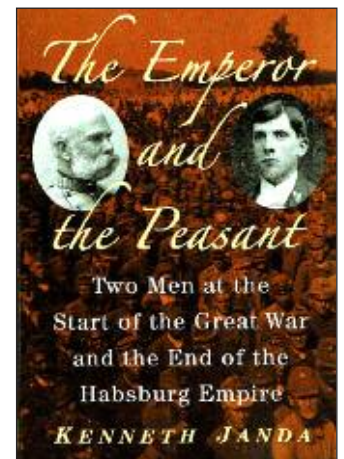
My grandparents, the Jandas and the Ringls, emigrated to the United States from Bohemia before 1900. Eventually, I will write their story, but it will not be as interesting as the one I wrote about the Mozolaks, my wife Ann's Slovak family. Their story appears in my new book, *The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire*. The emperor is Austria Hungary's Franz Josef; the peasant is my wife's grandfather, Samuel Mozolak.

The emperor started the war to avenge the assassination of his nephew Archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28, 1914, shelling Serbia on July 28. The Slovak peasant was one among millions of Franz Joseph's subjects who fought the war for him.

The book relates the history of World War I in terms of the distended, decaying, yet fascinating Austro-Hungarian Empire. Whereas most books on World War I concentrate on the Western Front, *The Emperor and the Peasant* focuses on the several fronts in the war's Eastern Theater. It also discusses Slovak and Czech emigration to the United States and the immigrants' contributions to our country.

I will talk about my book at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m. The book will be available for sale at a reduced price, with a portion of the proceeds going to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Those who cannot wait until then can buy it for list price through Amazon, but friends of Sokol Minnesota can order it online for one-third less through either the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (<www.cgis.org/store/item/310775>) or the National Czech and Slovak Museum (<www.ncsml.org/product/emperor-peasant/>).

April issue of *Slovo* will carry a review of Janda's book by Mark Dillon who wrote "A Well-Told Tale of Two Men at the Crossroads of History" for the February 2018 issue of the *Polish-American Journal*.



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

BAND BLAST

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

Something
for
every one!

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

Performances by

Brass Messengers

Boiled in Lead

Rocket Appliances

The Houdeks

Local
folk and rock
bands

Suggested
\$10
admission
donation

Proceeds
to match
STAR grant
for roof and
wall repairs

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

2018 Czech Slovak Century commemorates 1918, 1968, and 1993



visit CzechSlovakCentury.org

Roast Duck Dinner 2018 Broke Attendance Record By Doreen McKenney



Left: At the Bar: Chuck Draheim and Don Haselbauer. Right: Plating food: Hana Matousek (with Joan Sedlacek and Doreen McKenney partially hidden), Mary Cahill, and Judy Aubrecht filled the plates held by Steve Shimer, server in white shirt and black apron.

Sokol Minnesota served the 15th annual Roast Duck Dinner on a rare mild January evening to a crowd of 112 guests. Well before the food was plated and ready for serving, there were many volunteers who started preparing weeks in advance by ordering beverages, shopping for ingredients, posting on social media and the website, advertising in the *Slovo*, taking reservations, bringing in the mail, cooking, and arranging for the art exhibit and silent auction. Many thanks to all the volunteers who pitched into to make the dinner a success. The net total for the Duck Dinner was \$1,631.76

Volunteers: Sharon Amann, Pat and Don Andrl, Judy and



Tom Aubrecht, Wendy Bednar, Blanka Brichta, Mary and Dennis Cahill, Jean and Chuck Draheim, Martina Gurgel, Arlene and Ed Hamernik, Katie and Don Haselbauer, Lenka Hester, Michaela Kotek, Marit Lee Kucera, Mary Kucera, Pam Langworthy, Hana Matousek, Doreen McKenney (co-chair), Richard Sargent, Jitka Sebek, Joan Sedlacek



After cutting open the vacuum-packed sealed pouches, ten half-ducks, not touching, are laid on each large baking sheet before roasting.

(co-chair), Steve Shimer, Amanda Tesarek, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, and Cinnamon Whaley.

Sponsored by Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities, the Silent Auction of nine hand-painted square tablemats added \$305 to Sokol's Legacy Fund. Painters: Simona Němcová, instructor, with Blanka Brichta, Blanka Cleveland, Stáňa Gerlach, Lenka Hester, Heda Klobušníková, Jitka Sebek, and Alena Youngberg. The lucky bidders: Nichole Downing, Michaela Giancarlo-Kotek, Marit Lee Kucera, Igor Nestršil, Linda Petruška, Evelina Ravina, Richard Sargent, Simona Tolarová. Dinner guests enjoyed the special exhibit of sumi-e paintings by Simona Němcová and blown glass by Chad Holliday.

The paintings and glass were on display also on Sunday, January 21, for Family Night.



Above top: Half a roast duck and potato dumplings covered with gravy, plus sweet and sour red cabbage with bacon, and apple sauce. Above: The new round dining tables made their debut at the dinner.



Glass sculptures by Chad Holliday



My Grandfathers, the Legion Fighters

By Hana Matousek

My homeland, the Czech Republic, was established in 1918, at the end of four long years of a brutal struggle on the battlefields of Europe. The Habsburg monarchy's empire was breaking up. Most of the small nations within the monarchy took advantage of Austria's difficult situation at the end of this war, and they moved to establish their own new republics.

Since the mid-nineteenth century, there had been a conscious effort for national identity within the monarchy. It was a decades-long struggle, as most of the seasoned nationalists were born, studied, and worked under Austria's Habsburg domination. The official language in the schools and most government institutions was German. Only the universities were divided into two faculties, the German and the native. There were 10 other ethnic nationalities under the Viennese government at that time.

On June 28, 1914, the Crown Prince Franz Ferdinand d'Este and his wife, Duchess Sophie, were on an official state visit in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo. As their entourage proceeded through the city streets, shots were fired. Both the Archduke and the Duchess were assassinated. This action by a group of six men from the nationalist group, *Mlada Bosna*, was the event which eventually ignited the World War I.

Hundreds of thousands of young men living in the Austro-Hungarian Empire went to war, including both of my Moravian grandfathers. The Moravian Grandpa Antonín was by then a married, 26-year-old man with a child. My other Moravian Grandpa František was just a young boy, not yet of military age, but close.

Antonín went to fight for Kaiser Franz Josef in an Austrian uniform to the Russia's east front with Czech and Slovak regiments, which formed several Czech-Slovak divisions.

As the war progressed, the political situation inside Russia changed, and it reflected on the population. After some time, both sides acquired huge losses, as

well as many prisoners of war. Under Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk's agreement with the Russian government, the Czech and Slovak prisoners of war could join a group called the *Družina*, which later formed the Czech-Slovak legions, the *Legie*.

Masaryk and all of his fellow nationalists worked intensively

throughout the war years. They used diplomatic channels, and their personal contacts with Allied governments, to bring the issue of independence for Czech and Slovak people to fruition. They had established a Czech National Council earlier in Paris. In Kiev in late April 1917, a Russian branch of CNC with Masaryk as its leader was created.

Masaryk correctly judged the political situation in Russia after the czar's

abdication on March 2, 1917. By May 1917, he was on his way to Russia under an alias. His main goal was to form an independent army, and that is what he accomplished. Our men had heard about a new Czech military group formed from the Czech and Slovak prisoners of war. The Legion groups formed not only in Russia, but also as the word spread around to all the battlefronts in France and Italy.

Now, back to my Grandpa Antonín. At first, he fought in an Austrian uniform with the Kaiser's army. Then later, after joining with the new Legions, he fought with the Russian army against Austria. As that country disintegrated into civil war after the Czar Nikolai II family's assassination, the Russian army became fragmented; the situation for our Legionnaires got difficult. The order came to organize all the smaller units into a cohesive army. It meant fighting the Germans all the way to unite with the main Legion group. As the German offensive pushed on, the Legion men fought alongside the Russians against the Germans; while at the same time they strived to reach their Legion meeting point, which was a little east of Kiev, Ukraine.



Grandpa Antonín (1884-1962), far right, seated next to Grandma Marie who is holding their first grandson, with Antonín's mother (1860-1959) on the far left, along with their favorite dog Rex. Photo dated May 1, 1943.

Masaryk made an agreement with the Allies: if they helped him to get his men out of Russia, he would have them fight with Allied forces on the Western Front. However, it proved impossible for the *Legie* to go west, where there were still Germans and Austrians fighting with Russians. The decision was made to go east, through Siberia all the way to Vladivostok. There was no way to move any kind of supplies to Russia for our Legionnaires, no arms, food, vehicles or any other transport. Despite Masaryk's strenuous diplomatic efforts, the Allied High Command had conflicting views on the situation, and the Legionnaires were practically on their own. They had to get to Vladivostok, where help and transport back to Europe and France were waiting. The Czechs are an inventive people, and they appropriated Russian railroads as their way out. The men fought for locomotives, transport cars, weapons, a little food, and clothing. Almost miraculously, they acquired and connected eighty trains, filled with arms, arsenal, horses and soldiers, and east they went.

Luckily, my Grandpa Antonín was among those on the east heading trains in March 1918. Unluckily, unknown to him and his comrades at that time, he was going to spend almost two more years fighting for the chance to go home. By this time, he had been away from home for almost four years.

In 1918, the Czech-Slovak Legionnaires fought in Siberia. Many units, due to circumstances, were fighting even after the war ended. Finally, after much negotiating, the Allies began to withdraw from the east in January 1920. The last ship carrying United States troops left Vladivostok in April. Then, the transports of Legionnaires commenced in June 1920. It took many ships to transport 56,000 soldiers and some 11,000 civilians back to Europe.

By the time my Grandpa Antonín made it back home, it was 1921. It had taken him almost a full year to circumnavigate the globe to get back to a changed Europe, to his village, to his family, to his new republic with a new president, T. G. Masaryk.

Grandpa František, my other Legionnaire, was fighting on the Italian front, but that will be another story.

Hana wishes to acknowledge that she used Kevin J. McNamara's book Dreams of a Great Small Nation as guidance and source for details.



Commemorating the Slovak National Awakening By John Palka

If you visit Slovakia's capital, Bratislava, all the guidebooks will send you to the Presidential Palace, the official residence and offices of the president of the Slovak Republic. I took this photograph of the palace in 2006. What you see is a grand structure, completed in 1760, which continues to play an important role in modern Slovakia. You can read about the Presidential Palace here: www.welcometobratislava.eu/grassalkovich-palace-2/.

But it is not the palace I want to write about. Rather, I want to focus on the large square on which the palace fronts and where I was standing when I took the photograph. This square is called *Hodžovo námestie*, *Hodža's Square*. It is one of three squares in Bratislava that commemorate the principal leaders of the great Slovak National Awakening of the 19th century; the other two are *Hurbanovo námestie* and *Štúrovo námestie*. What exactly was the Slovak National Awakening; who were *Hodža*, *Hurban*, and *Štúr*; and why do we care today?



For nearly a thousand years, from 1000 C.E. until 1918, Slovaks lived as a mostly impoverished minority in the northern reaches of the Kingdom of Hungary, under the Tatra Mountains that form the border with Poland. The kingdom was multiethnic, with substantial populations of Slovaks, Croats, Rusyns, Germans, Romanians, and others who collectively constituted over half the population. The rulers were the Magyars, the ethnic Hungarians, but for the most part the ethnicities coexisted amicably.

In the 16th century both the Kingdom of Hungary and the Kingdom of Bohemia became components of the Habsburg Monarchy. The Monarchy was ruled from Vienna; the Viennese court exerted enormous influence not only on the politics of its member states but also on their culture. Both in Hungary and in Bohemia, the language of sophisticated culture gradually became German. In Hungary, Magyar was the local language of government no matter what language the people might speak. Official documents were generally written in two languages, German and Magyar.

In 1848, a pan-European wave of revolts against established power structures reached the Habsburg Monarchy. Seeking to reclaim their national pride, the Magyars rebelled against the Habsburgs. Simultaneously they accelerated the forced imposition of Magyar language and culture on the kingdom's multiple ethnicities, a process that became known as Magyarization. In response, Slovaks in Hungary started to rise up in multiple ways against the Magyars. Over time this struggle became known as the Slovak National Awakening. The Czechs launched a struggle against the Habsburgs for

Czech identity and for use of the Czech language. This is often referred to as the Czech National Revival. Two of the great names associated with the Czech National Revival are Josef Jungmann and František Palacký. The most prominent leaders of the Slovak National Awakening were Ľudovít Štúr, Josef Hurban, and Michal Miloslav Hodža, after whom the squares in Bratislava are named.

The two principal areas in which Slovaks called for reform were the political and the linguistic. Initially Slovaks did not press for political separation from Hungary, but rather for equitable representation in the parliament. The Magyars, however, refused and nationalist fervor mounted. Ultimately, separation became the goal. In 1848 there was a small-scale and unsuccessful armed uprising of Slovaks accompanied by a formal declaration calling for Slovakia to be granted a status within the Habsburg Monarchy that would be independent of Hungary. In a foreshadowing of future developments, this uprising was aided by a contingent of Czech volunteers. Of the three main Slovak leaders, Josef Hurban was probably the most influential on the political/military side.

On the linguistic side, the National Awakening saw the first widespread adoption of a Slovak literary language. Heretofore Slovak intellectuals had written in Czech, German, Magyar, or Latin. In the late 18th century there had been a remarkable push for a Slovak language for learned writing due to Anton Bernolák, a Catholic priest. He singlehandedly compiled a six-volume Slovak-Czech-Magyar-German-Latin dictionary that was published posthumously in Budapest. However, his version of literary Slovak did not find wide acceptance outside the Catholic church and ultimately died out. Half a century later Štúr, Hurban, and Hodža (all Lutherans) tried again, this time successfully. The principal architects of the new language were Štúr and Hodža. A few years after the initial formulation Hodža participated in a major revision of the new standard language. This was known as the Hodža-Hattala reform (Hattala was a Catholic, so this was an ecumenical effort). It was immediately widely accepted and became the basis of the Slovak language of today. It also laid the foundation for the incredible flowering of Slovak prose and poetry of the 19th century, works that are still well known and even revered today.

Of the three greatest Slovak leaders of the Awakening, the one that is closest to my own heart is Michal Miloslav Hodža, and for a simple reason. On my mother's side he was my Hodža great-grandfather's brother. He was also the Lutheran pastor in the town of Liptovský Mikuláš, which was the home of my father's Pálka family since at least the 17th century. Hodža officiated at the wedding of my Pálka great-grandparents.

When you visit Bratislava, you can walk in public spaces that recall the awakening of Slovaks from many, many generations of servitude and their prolonged struggle to maintain their own identity. It is very appropriate that the most prominent leaders of the Slovak National Awakening, Štúr, Hurban, and Hodža, are publicly commemorated in this way.

Member News



The Sokol National Board of Instructors met in Detroit on October 19-22, with representation from all six Sokol Districts, plus two guests from Polish Falcons of America*. Mary Cahill from Sokol Minnesota serves as Western District Men's Physical Director. Seated: Maryann Fiordelis, *Chris Johns, *Christine Puskar, Todd Yatchyshyn. Standing: Chuck Kalat, Jan Kalat, Allison Gerber, Dan Bajek, Cheri Riddle, Joseph Ehrenberger, Mary Cahill, Kathy Barcal, Mary Cushing, Howie Wise, Jan Wise, Rome Milan, and Barb Vondra.

Condolences to Sokol members **Katie** and **Don Haselbauer**. Katie's mother Babrara Elizabeth Schaumburg Rich, age 89, passed way February 8, Saint Paul.

Condolences to Sokol members **Ed** and **Arlene Hamernik**. Ed's sister Betty Mary Hamernik Baukol, age 89, passed away February 20, Moorhead, Minnesota.

Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

Co-Chairs Kari and Scott Muyres

Sunday, August, 12 - 5 p.m.

Sokol Camp, 19201 Woodland Acres
Pine City, Minnesota 55063

A fun-filled day complete with live entertainment, Czech and Slovak folk dancers, homemade cabbage rolls, *jitrnice*, *koláče*, and of course, *booya!*

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!



The Bakken Trio preformed *Songs My Mother Taught Me* on January 21 at the McPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis. The program included works by Bohuslav Martinů, Leoš Janáček, Antonín Dvořák, and Pavel Hass. Stephani Arado, one of three artistic directors for The Bakken Trio, created this program to honor her mother Marilyn Jindrich Arado, who passed on to Stephanie her love of music, which she learned from her own father and grandfather, both self-taught violinists of Bohemian heritage. Several Sokol members attended the concert as a group, seated in a row of specially reserved seats. L-R: Kenneth Freed, viola; Stephanie Arado, violin; Michael Kim, piano; Sarah Grimes, violin; Joyce Tesarek; Tom Aubrecht; Pitnarry Shin, cello; M. L.Kucera; Judy Aubrecht; Pam Langworthy; and Richard Sargent. Missing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The War Train that Shaped a Nation, National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

This multimedia exhibit tells the story of Czech and Slovak Legions and the amazing account of their trek via rail across Siberia during World War I. The NCSML partnered with Cedar Rapids high school students to create both a virtual reality bakery train car and a physical replica of another train car right inside the exhibit. Follow the epic

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

April 12-18, Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival, St. Anthony Main Theatres, Minneapolis. See April *Slovo* for list of films.

April 14, 29th Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant, American Legion Club, Montgomery, Minnesota,

5 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. pageant with reception and dance. Get tickets (\$19 for ethnic dinner, pageant, and dance) from Jerry or Lorraine David at 507-364-9370 or at Montgomery Oil Company, Montgomery. The pageant website is <www.missczechslovakmnpageant.org>

May 13, Sunday, 1- 3 p.m., C.S.P.S. Hall, Czech Inspirations: Patrick Dewane, playwright/actor (*Accidental Hero*), talks with Patricia Hampl, author (*Art of the Wasted Day*); Daniel Freeman, author (*Mozart in Prague*); and Jordan Sramek, artistic director, Rose Ensemble.



At Masopust (Czech Mardi Gras) in Montgomery on February 11, Fred Simon, M. L. Kucera (Honorary Czech Consul), and Jean Keogh posed with the Czech and Slovak Century logo. Fred and Jean are leaders of the "Czech Country Minnesota" committee from Montgomery, New Prague, Lonsdale, and Veseli. Special events on October 27-28 will commemorate 100 years since the formation of Czechoslovakia, 50 years since the Prague Spring, and 25 years since the creation of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. This picture appeared on page 1 of the *Montgomery Messenger*, February 15. Photo credit Wade Young, the *Montgomery Messenger*.



At the quarterly meeting of Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) on February 17, board members met with Honorary Czech Consul Marit Lee Kucera to show their support for CzechSlovakCentury.org. Back Row: First Vice President Kevin Hurbanis, who developed the website for CzechSlovakCentury.org; Education Chair Jerry Martinek. Front Row: Hospitality Chair Pamela Peltier, President Suzette Steppe, M. L. Kucera, Chairperson of the Board Kathy Jorgenson. Photo credit Ric Peltier.



Carpathian Festival

Carpathian Festival 2018 on February 18, Landmark Center, Saint Paul, celebrated music, dance, crafts, food, and information of the European countries and cultures that lie along the Carpathian Mountain range across Central/ Eastern Europe, including Czechs, Slovaks, Rusyns, and many more. Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera promoted 1918-2018



CzechSlovakCentury events and Czech and Czech-Slovak organizations/events (upper right and upper left photos). Selling their own Czech-inspired crafts were American-Czech designers Doreen McKenney (cards, coloring books, straw ornaments) and Jean Draheim (jewelry). Sokol Gift Shop, organized by Doreen with assistance by Christy Banks, sold Czech-made items from ribbon, books, and flags to pins and dolls. Folk dancers included Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers (top center photo), *Taneční* Teens (lower left), *Taneční Mládež* Children Folk Dancers, *Lipa* Slovak Folk Dancers, and Carpathy Rusyn Children Dancers. The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Honorary Consul, and McKenney tables were a focal point on the middle of the atrium floor (lower right photo taken from the second floor balcony). This was the third year of the Carpathian Festival, produced by Ethnic Dance Theatre (EDT) of Minneapolis and the Landmark. Next year EDT and the Landmark shift their emphasis to the Balkan countries. It's been a festive three years for Czechs and Slovaks! Thank you, EDT and Landmark!

Povídky: Short Stories by Czech Women edited by Nancy Hawker. London and San Francisco: Telegram Books, 2006, 248 pages. Available in libraries and used bookstores.

In her excellent, insightful introduction to *Povídky: Short Stories by Czech Women*, editor Nancy Hawker examines Czech feminism and credits women writers with putting their fingers on "issues that not many men have raised." Her criteria for story selection was not to make an academic statement about Czech literary styles, but to offer stories previously not published in English to entertain and edify an interested readership. Was she successful at that? I found many of the stories interesting, but edification is not always pleasant.

Fourteen authors born 1916 to 1976, including Czech Roma, are represented in this collection of short stories and memoirs. I found several stories especially compelling:

Květa Legátová's beautiful tale *Owlet*, written after the communist regime banished her in the 1960s to rural Moravia, won the State Prize for Literature a year after publication in 2001. Mining engineer, Selda, whose wife abandoned him and their baby daughter, Liza, invites a beautiful disgraced Roma woman, Pavlina, to be his housekeeper. She immediately takes to Liza and cares for her, but Pavlina also abandons them. Liza, the bespectacled owlet, grows into a self-confident young girl who stands up for herself in a terrific ending to the story.

Tera Fabiánová's memoir, *How I Went to School*, recalls her three years at school just before World War II, when at first she was the only Roma child in a Czech classroom. The author wrote this memoir in the Czech Romani language.

Alexandra Berková's *Mininovel* offers an innocent daughter's-eye take on how her parents got together. It took a while for the satisfying reveal to set in, tipping the reader that the narrator was the couple's not-yet-born daughter.

In Viola Fischerová's funny and touching *The Path to Medium Sinfulness*, written from Swiss exile in the 1970s, a young boy

named Jakub deals with the death of his uncle, Johan, and uncle's dog, Saracen, who died out of longing for Johan. The priest says Saracen has no soul and cannot get to heaven, which shocks Jakub, who asks, "What does God have against dogs when he loves all his people?" Scrawling "God is not the father" under a corner of flooring and spitting cherry stones into the coalscuttle, Jakub turns to a medium degree of sin, thus ensuring that he will join Saracen someday.

Sometimes the book's drawback is distasteful content, such as pornography (Magdaléna Platzová's *Every Civilisation Has Its Heyday*), sexual abuse of children (Svatava Antošová's *Don't Tell Mum*), or rape (Erika Olahova's *A Child*). Other times I found writing styles to be unlikable, as in long rants between two men about card playing (Věra Stiborová's *Spades*) or boring and confusing interactions between a man and a woman (Alena Vostrá's *Elegy*).

Overall, however, the book offers a good selection of short stories by diverse women throughout the last century and a chance for readers to critique that block of writing. Read all of the pieces if you want an overview, but focus on my favorites if you want a pleasant read.

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

Join Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures members to discuss *Popism: The Warhol Sixties* by Andy Warhol and Pat Hackett on Saturday, March 17, 10 a.m. to noon, in the first-floor classroom at C.S.P.S. Hall.

March 19 is St. Joseph's Day (*Den Svatého Josefa*)

Czech annually celebrate this day as a sacred, holy event. The tradition is to serve elaborate meatless meals. Josef is historically one of the most common Czech male first names. Still today Josef is the sixth most used male name in the Czech Republic.

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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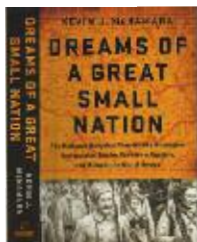
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Author Event sponsored by CSCC



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

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

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/>

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 heisst Heydrich* which translates "Himmler's Brain is Called Heydrich."

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

continued from page 1 **Courtney Benson**

elevated the quality of instruction by sharing her knowledge, technical expertise, and passion for the sport. She has also applied her business skills to expand programming and raise awareness. Furthermore, she believes in the value of mentoring her instructors.

Courtney embraces Sokol gymnastics because Sokol is unique in that it is "about a sense of community, we cultivate a sense of belonging, and offer more than just gymnastics. There are educational and cultural aspects of our organization that add so much more to the overall experience." Sokol is also "much more flexible and adaptable with respect to program participation, welcoming all skill levels and abilities. Our focus is on enjoying time in the gym, learning important life lessons like goal setting, all while building lasting relationships with teammates and coaches. Overall, I think we teach dedication – that hard work pays off – with the hope that our gymnasts apply that same mentality throughout life and succeed as a result."

Courtney, in embracing the Sokol philosophy, has been a big part of building our Sokol Minnesota community. We are proud and excited to have found a rising star who will continue the Sokol tradition.



Courtney was hired directly out of Hamline University and placed into a five-year Talent Acceleration Program at Land O'Lakes corporate headquarters in Arden Hills, Minnesota. The position requires her to rotate every year to a new role within Finance and Accounting, gaining broad exposure to the various business segments, systems, and overall strategies. She is currently completing her fourth rotation as part of the WinField United Financial Planning & Analysis team where she supports the overall financial performance of the international division for seed, crop protection, and plant nutrition products. She will assume a more permanent role at Land O'Lakes upon completion of the program in June 2019. Courtney also is involved on the Hamline School of Business Alumni Board where she chairs the student engagement pillar.

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

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

The deadline for the April 2018 issue is March 1.

This issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by March 31: <www.sokolmn.org>

Slovo accepts business card-size ads (3.5"x2"), paid in advance: one-time insertion \$25; 3 consecutive issues: \$65; 10 consecutive issues: \$175. Ad reservation deadline is 6 weeks before publication, with ad and payment due by copy deadline.

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through March 2018.) Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new/renewing non-member subscription.

Make your check to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Send to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *Slovo* Subscriptions, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Extra copies of *Slovo* are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts. Please contact us for a **change of address**, for problems with

Slovo subscriptions, if you missed an issue, or if you received notice of payment due when a payment has already been made.

If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. If you wish to have this newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know.

After one returned issue, we hold all future issues until you notify us. We pay 49¢ or more for each returned issue.

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

Member Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Marit Lee Kucera, managing editor; Madison Jerde, copy editor; Mary Kucera, production assistant; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Martina Gurgel and Joyce Tesarek, photographers; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, mailing production; Joan Sedlacek, mailing; with Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, Ken Janda, Ann Janda, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, advisors.

Photos: Chuck Draheim, Ken Janda, M.L. Kucera, Hana Matousek, Doreen McKenney, John Palka, Ric Peltier, Cory Ryan, Joyce Tesarek, Michaela Wentz, Louise Wessinger, and Wade Young from the *Montgomery Messenger*.

February mailing party volunteers (*Slovo* and postcards): Jason Brozovich, Colleen Cahill and son, Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, M.L.Kucera, Joan Sedlacek, Carolyn Sorensen, Arnie Ziskovsky.

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

Flavors of Slovakia • Sunday, March 4, 12:30 p.m.
Cabbage rolls, *pirohy*, cabbage and dumplings. Cash bar.

Pancake Breakfast with Craft and Bake Sales

Sunday, March 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (see page 3)

\$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. (see page 5)

\$7 dinner, 4- 7 p.m. Dance from 6 - 10 p.m.

Gordy Prochaska's *Little Fisherman Band*.

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

Band Blast • Saturday, April 28, 7:30 p.m. (see pages 6 and 8)

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* March 2018

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

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

Theme:   years of Czech and Slovak history
1918 - 2018

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

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

Registration ends on June 1.

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

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

