



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



SLAVNOST

It's a Party!
We call it *Slavnost!*

Saturday, October 13, 7-11 p.m.

Once-in-a-Lifetime Czech and Slovak Centennial Party at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall

This year Czechs and Slovaks commemorate 100 years since the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918, remember 50 years since the Prague Spring reform movement in 1968, and celebrate 25 years since the creation of the two separate nations of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic in Central Europe in 1993.

Celebrations are taking place locally, all across this country, in the home countries, and around the whole world wherever Czechs and Slovaks live.

Our own Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota hosts a big party (we call it Slavnost) to honor these important historical anniversaries of the last century on October 13.

Starting at 7 p.m. with **Czech and Slovak appetizers** and finishing, later in the evening, with **favorite desserts**, our party also features imported **Czech wine and beer**. The evening includes **special exhibits**, *History of Czech and Slovak Currency from 1918 to Present*, as well as a display of the 23 *MiniSalon Art Boxes* created by the campers at the Sokol Cultural Camp in June.

The current 2018-2019 Minnesota Czech-Slovak **Pageant Royalty**, in their most beautiful *kroje*, are greeters and hostesses. Lisa Butcher from Minnesota Opera performs *Song to the Moon* from Antonín Dvořák's opera *Rusalka*. Joe Chvala, well-known Twin Cities dancer/choreographer, who had Czech grandparents, performs a **contemporary dance duet** celebrating immigrant roots. St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers perform two of their **favorite folk dances**. We have **proclamations** to read. **Seven Sokol members** are being recognized for their devotion and service to Sokol Minnesota.

All evening, partygoers can also enjoy **FUNDraising games**, organized by Glynis Grostephan. A small, but significant Czech-Slovak themed **silent auction** (including a few bottles of great Czech wines) runs 7-9 p.m. We have **door prize drawings all evening**. Your admission comes with one door prize ticket. Get an extra ticket with your "100" button.

Precisely at 9 p.m., there will be a **Surprise Happening**. This secret will not be divulged in advance. We want our guests not only to enjoy the evening with great food, fine entertainment, and lively music, but also have the delight of being totally surprised!!!!

There will be more music with dancing with music until 11 p.m. by **SlovCzech**, led by Petr Bachan. This well-known ensemble plays great folk melodies and lyrics blended with contemporary Rock music. Western Fraternal Life Association is generously sponsoring SlovCzech.

Sokol members can buy tickets for \$25 until October 12, non-members pay \$35.

Everyone pays \$35 at the door on Saturday, October 13.

Order online at < <http://www.sokolmn.org/upcoming-events/> > with Paypal or mail your check to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan, Saint Paul 55102.

Sokol President Judy Aubrecht chairs this event, with help from representatives from Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, and the Czech Honorary Consul. Also participating in year-long centennial planning meetings have been Rusin Association of Minnesota, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, and Czech Country Minnesota.

Czechs and Slovaks love to sing, dance, and know how to have a good time.

Join us on October 13 at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall for this Centennial party!

It's a party! We call it Slavnost!

You won't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November Slovo Deadline
October 1, 2018

Sokol Singers
October 2 and 16, 10 a.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting
October 10, 7 p.m.

Slavnost, the Sokol Celebration for 1918-2018
October 13, 7- 11 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting
October 18, 7 p.m.

Czech Roast Pork Dinner
October 21, 12:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATES!

Kroje Style Show
November 11, 11 a.m.

Sokol Annual Meeting
November 16, 7 p.m.

Holiday Pancake Breakfast
November 18, 9 a.m.

Going away this winter?
Forwarding your mail?
Don't forget about the Slovo!

Let us know your winter address, or ask us to hold an issue (or two or more) for you. We want to be sure you see it!
sokol@slovomn.org

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes

By Judy Aubrecht

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

After months of planning, our Sokol Minnesota's *Slavnost* celebration is nearly here. **Slavnost, Sokol Minnesota's Czech and Slovak centennial celebration party will be held at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Saturday, October 13, from 7 to 11 p.m.** The event will honor the founding of Czechoslovakia 100 years ago, remember the Prague Spring reform movement 50 years ago, and celebrate the founding of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic 25 years ago. The event begins with a social hour, which includes appetizers. A program will feature honored guests and recognitions, followed by music and dancing to SloV Czech, as well as several fundraising games. A dessert table, Moravian wine, and a commemorative Czech beer will be available. Wear your *kroj*, if you like! Those wearing their 100-year celebration pin will receive an extra ticket to win a door prize. There is still time to order tickets to the party. \$25 for Sokol members until October 12. At the door, \$35. Everyone welcome! Non-members, \$35. Use PayPal at < <http://www.sokolmn.org/upcoming-events/>>

The annual **Czech Roast Pork Dinner will be held at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, October 21,** at 12:30 p.m. This traditional feast celebrates harvest time. It offers friends and family a chance to gather together and enjoy a traditional ethnic dinner. The menu features roast pork with sauerkraut, bread dumplings, gravy, rye bread, dessert, and coffee, plus another chance to win a door prize. Last year, a lucky guest was thrilled to win a bottle of Moravian *šampaňské* (champagne.) Catch a preview of a few folk costumes in the ***Kroje Style Show, coming November 11.*** Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers will perform two of their favorite Czech dances.

On **Saturday, October 27, at 7:30 p.m., the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra, together with the Sonomento Choral Ensemble,** will present Eugen Suchoň's *Psalm of the Sub-Carpathian Land* (1938), George Enescu's *Romanian Rhapsody No. 1*, and Zoltán Kodály's *Háry János*. The concert will take place at Ives Auditorium, 11411 Masonic Home Drive, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437. The cost for tickets is \$15/person. This centennial celebration of the First Czechoslovak Republic will include a multimedia presentation. Eugen Suchoň (September 25, 1908 – August 5, 1993) was one of the most important Slovak composers of the 20th century. His family was of Hungarian background, and his parents were musicians. Eugen Suchoň studied, and later taught, music theory at the Academy of Music in Bratislava and Bratislava University. His cantata, *The Psalm of the Sub-Carpathian Land*, was composed in the Slovak national style, and it includes folksong arrangements and chromaticism. Learn more about the concert at <kenwoodsymphonyorchestra.org>

In the past year, about half of the matching funds needed to secure the **City of Saint Paul's STAR Grant** have been raised. The remaining matching money must be raised by July 2019 to qualify for the full \$86,000 grant. The grant will be used for roof and masonry repairs, including brick tuck pointing. Please continue to be generous and help us to qualify for the full STAR grant. *Nazdar!*

SLAVNOST SLAVNOST
SLAVNOST **SLAVNOST**
OCTOBER 13, 7-11 p.m.

**Have fun playing games and raising money
for Sokol Minnesota all at the same time!**

Play one (or more) of these FUNdraising Games

Are You as Smart as a Czech or Slovak?

Quarter in a Shot Glass

Ball in a Carp

Spin It to Win It

Prizes include candy, gift cards, Christmas pickles,
custom T-shirts, and other exciting items!



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

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

Highlights from the Board of Directors

August Meeting By Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary

The Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on August 16 at 7 p.m. The annual Membership Meeting will be Friday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hall.

The upcoming January holiday party was discussed, and a motion was approved to make this a no-charge appreciation event for Sokol Minnesota members and volunteers.

Our recycling grant has been approved, and compostable materials have been ordered for the Czech and Slovak Fall Festival.

A new desktop and laptop computer have been purchased, with a motion approved for an additional laptop for the Gift Shop to help facilitate credit card purchases. Also \$100 was donated to *Czech that Film*.

Norm Petrik reported our current membership is 277.

Jean Draheim stated that the bobbin lace classes will be held at the Hall October 14 and 28, 1-4 p.m., also November 2-3, beginning at 9 a.m. sponsored by the Minnesota Lace Society.

Joyce Tesarek reported that the 2019 STAR and Czech Republic grants are in progress. Joyce also was appointed manager for Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity, which is required for our contract process.

A new freezer has been installed in the kitchen, which will be very useful for events. The board inspected the parking lot area to find a suitable location for planting a new Linden tree purchased by the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities.

Jason Brozovich reported that we've had many inquiries for gymnastics, and a new brochure will soon be available.

Grant and Fundraising Updates

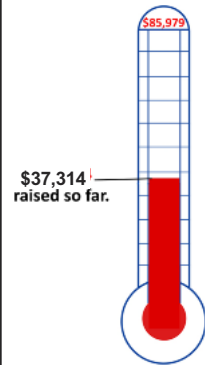
By Joyce Tesarek

Thanks to the continuing care and support of so many of you, our historic C.S.P.S. Hall, built in 1883, still looks good. To help fund our current projects, including the roof and masonry repairs, we were awarded a Saint Paul STAR Grant for \$85,979 from the Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants Program. This is a matching grant, and to access these funds, we need to match \$85,979 by July 2019.

We have raised \$37,314. Only \$48,665 to go! Please help!

If you would like to donate, go to our website at www.sokolmn.org or send a check, using the Legacy Fund donation form below. Thank you!

Only \$48,665 needed to match our grant!



Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Glynis Grostephan, Corresponding Secretary

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

LEGACY FUND (includes matching Saint Paul STAR Grant donations):

Under \$99: Romelle Vanek Ferris in honor of Jitka Sebek, Carol Richter.

\$100 - \$499: Charles Kalvoda in memory of Johnny Kalvoda, Ruth Rajacich, Georgiana Sobota.

GENERAL FUND:

In memory of George Chlebeczek: **\$100 - \$499:** Jacqueline Regan.

LINDEN TREE PLAQUE:

\$100 - \$499: Mark Glen Dillon, Marit Lee Kucera, John Palka, Yvonne Palka.

Legacy Fund: \$500 General Fund: \$100

Linden Tree Plaque: \$ 400 TOTAL: \$1,000

Welcome New Members

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the August 20 Board of Directors meeting, seven new members were accepted to members in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. **Jasper McCroskey**, Saint Paul, with interests in cultural events, films, dances, language, and festivals; **Owen Connolly**, Saint Paul, with interests in various events, and history/genealogy; **Sam and Kristi Simmons**, Rochester, with interests in language, cooking, and history/genealogy; **Jay and Sally Lieberman**, Minneapolis; and **Michael Trittipio**, Minneapolis, with interests in language. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!



Czech Roast Pork Dinner

Sunday, October 21, 12:30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now. Go to sokolmn.org

C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND



In order to complete repairs to our roof and brickwork, we need your help! All donations are 100% tax deductible and will help match the \$85,979 City of Saint Paul STAR grant.

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

Make checks payable to **Sokol Minnesota**

Write **Legacy Fund** in the memo line

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

Attn: Treasurer

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Or donate online: www.sokolmn.org

(Right) Sokol members and Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities friends gathered under the marquee at the St. Anthony Main theatre after the August 26, early Sunday afternoon screening of *A Prominent Patient* (*Masaryk*). Nearly 400 cinema patrons saw the seven films the last weekend in August. (Kneeling L-R) Marshall Toman, Jake Jacobson. (Standing) M.L. Kucera, Jitka Sebek, Eva Giese, Daniela Thacker, Silvia Purdy, Blanka Brichta, Nancy Blume, Alena Youngberg, Petra Riedel, Lenka Hester, Jana Castillon.

A Movie Night By Jitka Sebek

If you had a chance to watch just one, would you prefer a Slovak, Czech, U.S., or French movie? Based on your answer, I could guess where you are from (unless you are trying to learn French). Do you page through newspapers for announcements of the newest movies, books, or what bands or sport teams will play near you? Does it matter to you if all of those venues represent your culture?

On my return to Minnesota from the Czech Republic, I always buy a new Czech book as I enjoy reading in my native language about matters typical for my countrymen. It is a treat for me. The next treats await me here in Minnesota: the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival each April and *Czech That Film!* in August. Al Milgrom founded the first film festival in Minnesota in 1981; Al himself would eagerly await us behind the theater door asking, "Did you like the movie, did you?" "Very much, Al. Thank you!"

Czech that Film! is a newer festival created seven years ago by Consulates General of the Czech Republic. These films are shown in 19 cities in the United States and screened locally by the Minneapolis-St. Paul Film Society, and sponsored here by our own Twin Cities Czech and Slovak community, Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, and Czech Honorary Consul Marit Lee Kucera, who always welcomes the local audience before each screening. Both festivals screen Czech and Slovak films that expose us to our own cultures, deepen the knowledge of our own history, and bring us together especially after a long summer.

This August, I was happy to hear Czech words spoken among the audience in the darkened theatre after watching *A Prominent Patient*, the new movie about Jan Masaryk, son of T. G. Masaryk, the founder of Czechoslovakia. We were then happy to share some historical comments with members of our families and thoughts of realization how much we have in common, how much a homeland's history shapes us and makes us a unique group. We were also taken away by the new angle of the political and diplomatic meetings in 1938 and 1939 in pre-war Czechoslovakia portrayed in this much-awarded movie; we are still learning.

It is truly easy to guess what movie I am going to prefer; I will choose a Czech one, and you now understand why. If you feel curious to watch *A Prominent Patient* (and feel Czech enough!), please know that we hope to have another screening of this movie in the near future. You will be invited! *A Prominent Patient* won twelve Czech Lions, including the Czech Lion for Best Film.



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics 2018-2019

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

Next set starts November 26

For more information

fitness@sokolmn.org

651-290-0542

Slovo is Looking for a New Production Team

Help create a New Look for Slovo starting with the February 2019 issue.

The *Slovo* team that has been in place for several years is passing on the baton. New horizons await, as the new team carries on the century-plus Sokol traditions. Be part of the team that gives *Slovo* a New Look!

Do you have some experience...or have always wanted to try your hand... with writing, copy editing, page layouts, and publishing a newsletter for a great organization? Give us a shout!

Slovo also needs a new caregiver for the mailing lists.

We work in Xcel and Word. Biggest qualification: accurate typing.

You do not need to live in the Twin Cities.

Contact: Slovo@sokolmn.org or President@sokolmn.org



As part of the continuing celebrations in this the centennial year of the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918, Slovo is proud to present highlights from the lectures given by three Sokol Minnesota members at the conference on The Rebirth of Europe at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, D.C., June 1-2, 2018

Charles J. Vopička & The Konopiště Spy

By Anna Cooková, Owner and Founder of CzechTalk, Inc., President of Wisconsin Czechs, Inc., and Independent Scholar

Two childhood friends from the small village of Dolní Hbity, south of Prague, had world wide impact and played their part in the rebirth of Europe.

Charles J. Vopička was a Czech immigrant who settled in Chicago. Though he was born and grew up under Austro-Hungarian rule, his professors instilled in him a nationalism and a desire for an independent Czechoslovakia. His parents wished for him to become an attorney or a priest, but he told them, “I believe that I can make more of a difference in this world if I go into business.”

Although he was the president and co-founder of Atlas Brewing Company in Chicago, he also had ties with well-known Bohemian politicians: Charles Jonáš, Anton Čermák, and Adolph Sabath, to name a few. At the appointment of Woodrow Wilson, Vopička became an American minister to Romania, Bulgaria, and Serbia. He served from 1913 to 1920, and wrote about his time there in a book called *Secrets of the Balkans, Seven Years of a Diplomatist's Life in the Storm Centre of Europe*.

In this book, Vopička recalled, “My reception in Prague was glorious, and aroused in me most intense emotion. And this feeling was shared by all who welcomed me, for aside from their respect for my official position and the welcome to be accorded the representative of a country known to be the champion of liberty and justice, was the realization that one of their own blood had been sent to them.”

Secrets of the Balkans was published in English in 1921. It was later published in Czech in 1926, and more recently in Romanian in 2012.

Using the motto “No Monkey Business,” certainly a play on his surname meaning “little monkey,” he became a pillar for peace. He advocated for the humane treatment of prisoners, was instrumental in the creation of the federally funded American Red Cross, and sought economic development and education for citizens. He received four medals for his service, one from Serbia, one from Romania, and two from Czechoslovakia, all of which he is pictured as wearing in the 1933 Chicago World's Fair book.

When he died, his remains were taken for visitation to Plzeňský Sokol in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago, where hundreds of people representing many countries from around the world came to pay their respects before he was laid to rest at Bohemian National Cemetery. He had spent his fortunes in aid to humanity and to his homeland. He was not unlike Charles Jonáš (Vopička's brother-in-law's father-in-law) who was laid to rest in Prague's Olšany cemetery with the inscription: “I have a single wish, to be laid to rest in the dear Czech soil for which I so ardently longed and for which I sacrificed everything.” Yet, his gravestone in Bohemian National Cemetery is quite humble, and one would never suspect such a history by visiting his resting place.

The Konopiště Spy is a nickname for a someone who was just a laborer at Konopiště Castle. Vopička referred to a reliable source and though not a spy at all, circumstances, common sense, and a desire for an ally in Serbia for independent Czech and Slovak lands compelled this spy to pay a visit to the head of Serbian Intelligence due to a secret treaty that he had uncovered between Germany and Austria-Hungary. Yet, what made Vopička privy to such details, while living so far away at his post in Romania?

The Konopiště Castle is only about 60 kilometers from Vopička's hometown, where Vopička's father had been a mayor and had built the school. Turns out that Vopička and the Konopiště Spy were childhood friends from their small village, Dolní Hbity, situated south of Prague in the Central Bohemian region.



Kosovo at the time was the furthest away from Austria-Hungary while still under Serbian protection. A great-grandson of Vopička's was able to connect with the Konopiště Spy's great-grandson, living in Kosovo, in 2012, and confirmed the backstory that led to the shot heard 'round the world on June 28, 1914. It was Serbia that had received the spotlight and the blame, as it was found to have been a government-sanctioned hit. Vopička remained certain that it was not Serbia that was the aggressor, but Austria. *Secrets of the Balkans* sheds more light on the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sofia and also on the beginning of the rebirth of Europe!

The research for this article was funded by all who have taken, and are taking, Czech Language & Culture Lessons via Skype or have had their old letters and journals translated from Czech to English by CzechTalk, LLC. To contact the author, email <annacookova@gmail.com> or call 715-651-7044.

Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors seeks a new Publicity Director

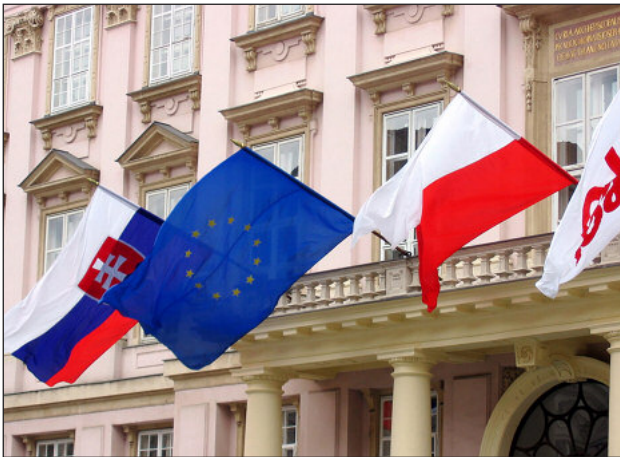
This volunteer job puts you in the center of the action at Sokol Minnesota. Develop and implement plans to promote our Sokol events, activities, and functions, from dinners to concerts, from festivals to speakers, from gymnastics to folk dancing.

Work with other dedicated members who are proud to share their Czech and Slovak heritages and cultures.

Please email: membership@sokolmn.org or call Joyce at 612-232-2993 if you are interested in this position.

From National Identity to European Integration: A History of Ideas By John Palka

If you stroll through the old part of Bratislava, you will most likely walk past the Primatial Palace. On most days during the summer, you will see several flags flying from the portico: the flag of the Slovak Republic, the flag of the European Union, the flag of the city of Bratislava, and finally the flag of Bratislava's great summer music festival.



It's the first two flags I want to draw your attention to. In my experience, whenever you see the flag of Slovakia, you also see the flag of the European Union, whether at the Slovak embassy in Washington, D.C., or in the heart of Bratislava, or at virtually any public event. Isn't this remarkable? Slovakia, a small nation that spent a thousand years defending itself from assimilation by larger neighbors and is now finally an independent state, is flying the flag of the European Union whenever it flies its own flag!

This is no accident. Rather, it is a consequence of the evolution of ideas about nationhood and about Europe. I see the Rebirth of Europe, to which our conference is devoted, as an important way station in the *intellectual evolution from the struggle for national identity to European integration*.

In 1918, Woodrow Wilson took the concept of national identity for granted when he formulated his Fourteen Points, and especially the famous Tenth Point referring to Austria-Hungary: *The people of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development*. However, this concept has a history.

Johann Gottfried von Herder (1744–1803), the German philosopher, is generally credited with having been the first in Europe to develop the concept of nation, *Volk* in his

terminology. He saw national attributes as being shaped by ancestral history and physical environment; being expressed through language, literature, religion, arts, customs, and folklore; and inherited across generations.

Herder was also one of the first to recognize the enormous importance of language in defining national identity. In Herder's own words:

Has a people anything dearer than the speech of its fathers? In its speech resides its whole thought-domain, its tradition, history, religion, and basis of life, all its heart and soul. To deprive a people of its speech is to deprive it of its one eternal good ...

Finally, Herder had an exalted view of Slavdom, predicting that the Slavic

nations would one day be the real power in Europe. Herder and his thought exerted a powerful influence on young Slav intellectuals. This soon manifested as a movement called *Pan-Slavism*.

During the time of the Habsburg Monarchy, two of the important expositors of *Pan-Slavism* were the Czech, František Palacký (1798–1875), and the Slovak, Pavel Josef Šafárik (1795–1861). In addition to scholarly work, including two books on the history of Czech literature which they wrote together, they led the organization of the great First Slav Congress held in Prague in 1848.

1848 was the year when revolutions flared all over Europe, directed against the ruling powers and clamoring for social justice. The Congress in Prague was different, however. It was focused on the Slavic world. The official delegates numbered 340. They included Croats, Czechs, Dalmatians, Moravians, Poles, Rusyns, Serbs, Silesians, Slovaks, and Slovenes. The Congress was divided into three working sections on a regional basis: (1) Poles, Ukrainians, and smaller Slavic groups in northern Europe with 61 delegates; (2) Czechs and Slovaks with 237 delegates, led by Šafárik; and (3) South Slavs with 42 delegates. Each section took up the issues that were most important to it, so that the range of conversations and proposals was very wide.

At the end of the Congress, a summary Manifesto was drafted by Palacký and signed by all delegates. Here is one of

its major statements:

... We have proposed to the Austrian Emperor, under whose constitutional rule the majority of us live, that the imperial State be converted into a federation of nations all enjoying equal rights ...

If Wilson had been looking for a historical foundation on which to base his famous Tenth Point, he could hardly have done better than these words written more than sixty years earlier by Palacký, summarizing the aspirations of the First Slav Congress!

Intellectuals in Austria-Hungary continued to explore reorganizing the monarchy so that their own nations would gain fair treatment. The most completely developed proposal was probably that of the Romanian scholar and political leader, Aurel Popovici (1863–1917), presented in 1906 in his book *Vereinigte Staaten von Gross-Österreich* (*The United States of Greater Austria*).

Like many proposals made earlier, Popovici's envisioned loyalty to the House of Habsburg, a parliament in which nations would be represented as *nations*, and a substantial degree of autonomy for each state expressed through a state legislature with significant powers. Probably his greatest contribution was a detailed map (on page 7) of the proposed "United States," carefully adhering to national (ethnic) lines.

Note that the German-populated areas of Bohemia (Deutsch-Böhmen) and of Moravia (Deutsch-Mähren) were recognized as separate states, while a number of other areas with a dense German population were recognized as enclaves with lesser autonomy than these states had.

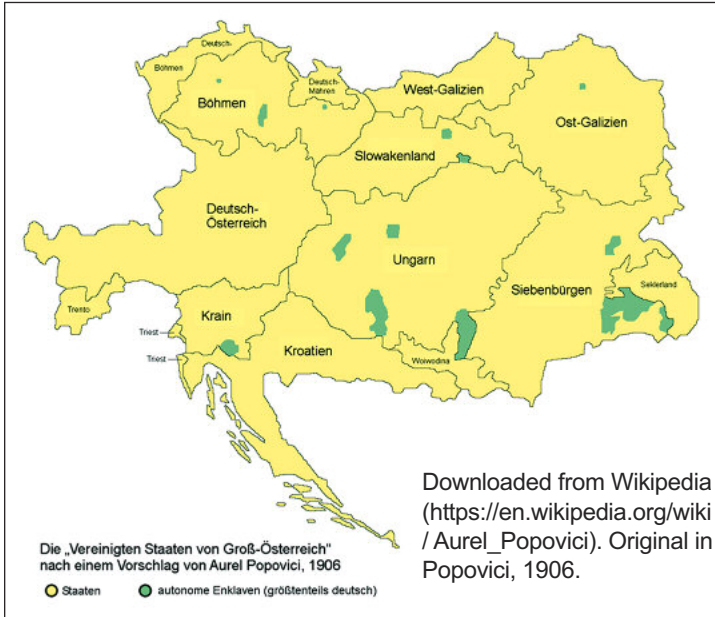
The last heir to the Habsburg throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was very interested in such proposals, primarily as a means for reducing the relative power of the Magyars within Austria-Hungary. He gathered around himself a think-tank to advise him on how he might implement a federal structure once he ascended to the throne. This group of advisers came to be known as the Belvedere Circle, after Franz Ferdinand's palace in Vienna.

Among the members of the Belvedere Circle were Popovici and my own grandfather, Milan Hodža (1878–1944), who was very knowledgeable about political affairs in the Kingdom of Hungary. During the period of the Belvedere Circle, Hodža served in the

Hungarian parliament representing an electoral district located in today's Serbia. He later played a role in the establishment of Czechoslovakia, and ultimately became the new country's prime minister, the only Slovak to hold this position during the First Republic. He held office during the turbulent years of 1935–1938.

of organizing Europe to stand up to Russian expansionism. 1926 saw the first Congress of the Pan-European Union with 2,000 delegates in attendance. Coudenhove-Kalergi was elected president of the Union, a position he held from 1926 until his death in 1972.

His vision for a united Europe was heavily influenced by the work of Aurel Popovici. He tried hard to enlist the support of major European political leaders. Many notable intellectuals were enthusiastic, including Thomas Mann and Albert Einstein. He and my grandfather Hodža carried on an active correspondence and many of their ideas were in close alignment.



The activities of the Belvedere Circle, however, came to naught. On June 28, 1914, the archduke and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo, and within weeks Europe was plunged into World War I.

After the war, restructuring took a very different turn. Ideas for reorganizing Austria-Hungary were applied to Europe as a whole. One important development was the Pan-Europa Movement, not well known in the United States today, but generally recognized as the principal intellectual predecessor of the European Union. The dominant figure behind the Pan-Europa Movement was Count Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi (1894–1972). The count's background was extraordinary. His father was an Austrian diplomat who spoke sixteen languages. His mother was Japanese. The Coudenhoves were a wealthy Flemish family who fled to Austria during the French Revolution. The Kalergis were a wealthy Greek family with roots traceable to Byzantine royalty. At least five other European nationalities were in Coudenhove-Kalergi's family tree.

Coudenhove-Kalergi was a great supporter of Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points. In 1922, he co-founded the Pan-European Union with the goal

Coudenhove-Kalergi proposed Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* as the anthem of Europe, and the idea was widely adopted. Today the *Ode to Joy* is the anthem of the European Union. The term United States of Europe started to come into use.

After World War II, European leaders moved toward integration in measured steps. Winston Churchill delivered a celebrated speech in 1946 in which he honored Coudenhove-Kalergi and the Pan-European Union and carried forward their vision.

We must build a kind of United States of Europe ... Much work, Ladies and Gentlemen, has been done upon this task by the exertions of the Pan-European Union which owes so much to Count Coudenhove-Kalergi and which commanded the services of the famous French patriot and statesman Aristide Briand ...

The thinking of Briand to which Churchill is referring is articulated in a memorandum that Briand prepared for the League of Nations back in 1930,

proposing the establishment of a United States of Europe.

The first concrete step toward post-war European integration was the European Coal and Steel Community, formally established in 1951. In 1957, the Treaty of Rome established the European Economic Community. Its opening words make clear that it was intended as a step toward greater integration at a later time:

... determined to lay the foundations of an ever-closer union among the peoples of Europe ...

In 1985, the EEC adopted the flag that we now recognize as the flag of the European Union, as well as the *Ode to Joy* as its anthem. More and more member states were added, until in 1993, when the EEC was transformed into the European Union, there were 12. Today 28 states are members of the European Union.

Europe is now living through turbulent times, but scenes like the one in this last photograph give me hope for the future. Again, you see the Slovak national flag and the all-European flag of the European Union being flown together. They are being carried by children at the head of the opening procession at the greatest of Slovakia's annual folk festivals, held in Východná, just a few miles from my father's home town of Liptovský Mikuláš. The Slovak flag representing national identity and the flag of the European Union representing integration are being carried forward together by the young generation. There is no conflict between those ideas. May this vision become a lasting reality!



John Palka, author of *My Slovakia, My Family* (2012), is a retired professor of biology, University of Washington, with several academic awards.

World War I Treaties: Joys and Tears By Kenneth Janda

Most people know that the 1919 Versailles Treaty ended World War I with Germany. They may not know about other treaties negotiated in Paris, and signed in surrounding environments, that ended the war with Germany's major ally, Austria-Hungary. Here's a summary of how these treaties affected the shape of Europe.

The Treaty of Versailles (1919), see Figure 1, cost Germany 11% of its population and 13% of its territory, including the losses of Alsace-Lorraine to France and the port city of Danzig to Poland, along with a corridor to the sea that divided Germany into two parts. Poland, which over centuries had been partitioned away by Russians, Prussians, and the Habsburgs, was recreated by the Versailles Treaty.



Figure 1: Germany's Territorial Losses

The Treaty of Saint-Germain (1919) ended war with Austria, and recognized Hungary as a separate country. As shown in Figure 2, Austria lost 77% of its pre-war population, and 72% of its pre-war territory. Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia (1) became the Czech part of Czechoslovakia. Galicia (2) went to Poland; South Tyrol (3) to Italy; and Slovenia (4) to Yugoslavia.

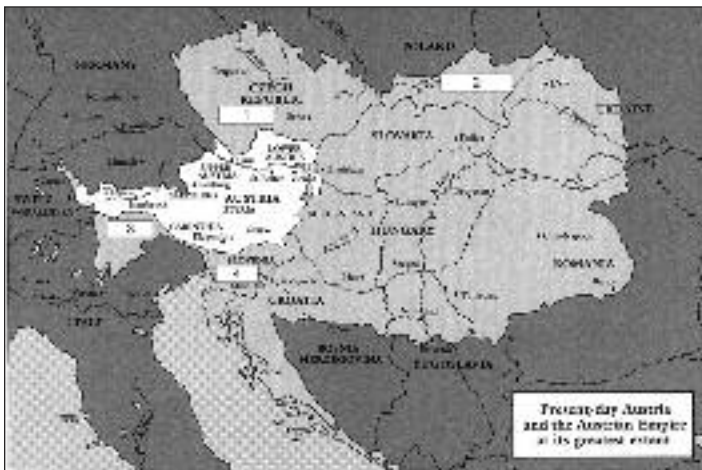


Figure 2: Austria's Territorial Losses

The Treaty of Trianon (1920), see Figure 3, dismembered Hungary, stripping away 71% of its territory and 64% of its population. The portion going to the new Czech-Slovakia was formed from Slovak and Rusyn (Ruthenia) lands, formerly in Hungary. Transylvania went to Romania, and lands to the south went to what later became Yugoslavia.



Figure 3: Hungary's Territorial Losses

Ken Janda is Payson S. Wild Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. He wrote *The Emperor and the Peasant, Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire* (2018).

Bobbin Lace Classes at C.S.P.S. Hall

Sokol Minnesota and the Minnesota Lace Society are offering two bobbin lace classes this fall. The first will be a two-part beginning class on October 14 and 28. It will teach basic stitches and prepare you to attend the weekend *Spania Dolina* class on November 3 and 4. Tell your friends. There is limited space, so sign up soon!

Sundays, October 14 and 28, 1 - 4 p.m. Introduction to Bobbin Lace:

This two-session class is for beginning lace makers. The basic stitches will be covered. Fee: \$15. (The basics class may have an equipment rental fee if students do not have their own pillow.) To register, call Jean at: 651-433-2008 or email <education@sokolmn.org>

Friday, November 2, 7 - 9 p.m. Bobbin Lace Presentation by Dagmar Beckel-Machyckova

Saturday and Sunday, November 3 and 4, starting at 9 a.m. *Spania Dolina* (Slovak folk lace) for beginner to advanced lace makers. Instructor: Dagmar Beckel-Machyckova. Explore one of many traditional Slovakian laces made with colored threads. The ground will be familiar to those used to working torchon but with added flare and an extra kick of color. This is a great opportunity to get out your bolster pillow and practice; block pillows are welcome as well. Students new to *Spania Dolina* can progress through four basic patterns of this yard lace or choose to do only one as an embellishment for their clothing, tablecloth, or scarf. Students who previously have worked in *Spania Dolina* will be challenged by more complicated designs.

Prerequisites: Students must have mastered their basic bobbin lace skills: cloth stitch, half stitch, whole stitch. Fee: \$35. Deadline to register is October 10; students need to indicate whether they have a pillow and bobbins of their own. If not, there will be a small equipment rental fee.

To register contact Minnesota Lace Society member Lynn Fumuso at fumulace@gmail.com

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library's Museum Store is now on Facebook!
<[facebook.com/ncsmlmuseumstore](https://www.facebook.com/ncsmlmuseumstore)>

Sunday
November 11
11a.m. - 2 p.m.
Kroje Style Show

Presented by
Czech and Slovak Saint Paul Folk Dancers,
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota,
and Ethnic Dance Theatre

Serving: Czech wine and canapés; Coffee and dessert.
Non-alcoholic beverage available.

Modeling: Bohemian, Moravian, Ruthenian,
and Slovakian Folk Dress (*Kroje*).

\$16 per person. Limited seating.

Prepaid reservations are required
by November 4
To reserve call: 952-941-0426

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



2018 Annual Minnesota Sokol Camp *Booya* Picnic

By Scott and Kari Muyres, Co-Chairpersons

This year marked the 88th annual Sokol Camp *Booya* picnic! The day was a success despite the hot, humid weather. We'd like to extend a big thank you to all of the volunteers who made the journey north, despite the weather and the pesky road construction on the interstate highway. We appreciate your time and talents greatly!

Much to our delight, the *booya* sold out early. The crowds were well-entertained by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers, as well as folk singers, Dave and Julie Carlson, and the Chmielewski Funtime Band. We look forward to next year's picnic, which will take place on Sunday, August 11, 2019!

Congratulations to the raffle winners, **Elise McKenney** (\$100), **Arnold Ziskovsky** (\$50), **Tom Mach** (\$25) and **Terry Narr** (\$25).

MEMBER NEWS



Above: Pat Andrie with Kai and Renae Andrie Faunce set up the Country Store.

Right top: lead cooks Marge Taylor and Bobbi Jo Chandler.

Right middle: Head Booya chef Ray Vanyo with son, Samuel.

Right Bottom: Historic Sokol camp, built 1926 by our members!



The Western District of American Sokol Met in Des Moines on September 8.

(L-R) Shelley Cairns, Treasurer and Financial Secretary, Sokol Cedar Rapids; Mary Cahill, Men's Physical Director, Sokol Minnesota; Allison Gerber, President, Sokol Cedar Rapids; Theresa Vernon, Women's Physical Director, Sokol Crete; Barb Seefus, Recording Secretary, Sokol Omaha; Brad Hess, Vice President, Sokol Cedar Rapids. Not pictured, Joan Sedlacek, Sokol Minnesota, Education Director and Historian.

The Western District includes Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Sokol Cedar Rapids, Sokol Crete, Sokol Omaha, Sokol South Omaha, and Sokol Wilber.



Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities purchased and planted a new Linden tree (*Tilia cordata*) near the southwest corner of the Sokol Minnesota parking lot. (Left) On September 15, John Gerlach and Martin Marko planted the tree, spread mulch, and filled the water bag. On September 16, Joan Sedlacek, Jitka Sebek, Judy Aubrecht, and M.L. Kucera spoke at the dedication at the C&S Festival. (Right) The tree was festooned with red, white, and blue ribbon and paper Linden leaves with well wishes from the school children and the donors of the cast metal wall plaque: Mark Dillon, M.L. Kucera, John Palka, and Yvonne Palka. This new Linden joins another Linden tree, planted in 1981 at C.S.P.S.Hall.



This Linden Tree of Liberty, planted in autumn 2018, honors a century of perseverance by Czech and Slovaks to build freedom in our homelands and worldwide.



Sokol Minnesota member Kathy Jorgenson has the raincoats of raincoats!

A field of huge bright red poppies decorates one side of her reversible raincoat by Lindi; the other side is solid red. Kathy purchased the coat in Red Wing at Vestiges, owned by her cousin Karen Stodola.

Poppies, a favorite flower of Czechs and Slovaks, are a popular motif. Czech Republic is an important producer of poppy seeds. We all love our poppy seed koláče!

Did you know that the poppies grown for seeds have white flowers, not red? This poppy field photo (left) was taken this past summer along Highway 11 in northeastern Czech Republic.



Czechs and Slovaks on their Difficult Road to Peace and Independence, an educational exhibit on World War 1 military history of the regions that became Czechoslovakia in 1918, was exhibited at Buttonwood Art Space in Kansas City, September 7 to 28. Authors are Gabriella Dudeková Kováčová, the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, and Tomáš Kykal the Military History Institute of Prague. Speakers at the opening included Dr. Kováčová and also Terézia Filipejová, Cultural and Public Diplomacy Counselor, Embassy of the Slovak Republic, Washington, D.C.

Over 200 guests attended the opening, including (L-R) M.L. Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota; Sharon Valasek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Kansas and Missouri; Dr Judith K. Vogelsang, Honorary Consul of Croatia in Kansas City; Ross Marine, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to the Midwest. Not pictured: Dr. Míla Šašková–Pierce, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Nebraska.

(Left) Panel 9 of 21. Our Honorary Czech Consul Kucera hopes we can get this exhibit to come to Minnesota.





More CzechSlovakCentury Events in Minnesota

Commemorative Concert Celebrates Founding of Czechoslovakia on October 27

Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center, Ives Auditorium, 11411 Masonic Home Drive, Bloomington

By Anne Cheney, President of Kenwood Symphony Orchestra

For many people, October 27 is just another day. But for those with roots in Czechoslovakia, it records that moment in history when, 100 years ago to the day, American-style democracy was planted in Europe. October 28, 1918, was the proclamation of the multi-national democratic state known as Czechoslovakia.

From the beginning, the leaders of the Czech and Slovak immigrants in America were instrumental in the development of the new nation; they later were joined by the leadership of the Carpatho-Rusyn immigrant community.

To commemorate this centennial event, these communities come together again in a grand symphonic production that represents all three peoples. The cantata, *Psalm of the Subcarpathian Land*, will be performed for the first time in North America on October 27, at 7:30 p.m. by the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra and MacPhail's Sonoments at the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center, Ives Auditorium, 11411 Masonic Home Drive, Bloomington, with conductor, Yuri Ivan.

Projections of archival hand-colored photographs from Slovakia and Subcarpathian Ruthenia taken in the 1920s by Rudolf Hulka, Czech civil servant, will accompany the music.

The cantata is by the Slovak composer Eugen Suchoň with lyrics adapted from a poem written by the Czech poet Jaroslav Zatloukal. The piece itself musically portrays Subcarpathia, the region of Czechoslovakia that was inhabited by the Carpatho-Rusyns. While the cantata is about these ancestral lands, both the music and the lyrics go beyond mere geography to foreshadow the horrors of World War II, its aftermath, and ultimate message of hope.

In addition to cantata, other pieces featured in the concert include works by Romanian composer George Enescu, and Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly.

Prior to the concert, a discussion will be led at 6 p.m. by Dr. Paul Robert Magocsi, chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto and president of the Carpatho-Rusyn Research Center of Vermont, concerning the context of *The Psalm* within the historic creation of Czechoslovakia

and its meaning in world history. A reception will follow the concert.

The Minneapolis area is a fitting location for this national performance. "This area has sizable settlements of all three of these peoples, Czechs, Slovaks, and Carpatho-Rusyns," said Karen Varian, president of the Rusin Association of Minnesota.

Tickets are \$15/person, and can be purchased at <www.masonicheritagecenter.org/events>

The concert is sponsored by the John & Helen Timo Foundation of Pittsburgh, a foundation dedicated to supporting and promoting Carpatho-Rusyn cultural activity, and is co-sponsored in part by the Greek Catholic Union and the Rusin Association of Minnesota.

Czech Christmas at the American Swedish Institute November 10 and January 12

The renowned American Swedish Institute (ASI) in Minneapolis has invited Czechs to be part of its Christmas celebration, which annually includes the Nordic countries of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland plus one invited country. To help Czechs celebrate this centennial year of 2018, ASI invited Czechs to decorate the Music Room in ASI's Turnblad mansion. The invitation came from the president of ASI, Bruce Karstad, who is also Honorary Consul General of Sweden, to Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Czech Consul.

The exhibit runs for two months, opening November 10. Our Czech room at the magnificent mansion will showcase a Czech Christmas with trees, lights, decorations, crafts, fairy tales, magic, and a market that includes Christmas carp in a tub. Creating the Czech Christmas room are Sokol members: Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, Alena Youngberg, and M. L. Kucera.

You definitely want to mark your calendar to visit the American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis between November 10 and January 12. <www.asimn.org>

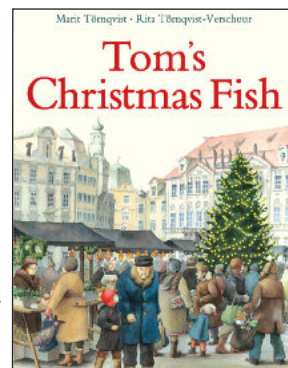
Vánoční kapr 🐟 Julkarpen 🐟 The Christmas Carp

The American Swedish Institute (ASI) brings a beloved Czech holiday ritual to a special holiday exhibit. Well known by Czechs is the story of buying a live carp from a fish monger on a street in Prague a few days before Christmas and letting it swim in the bathtub, until it is time for the Christmas feast. In this story, Tom even gives his carp a name (*Peppo*), plays with it, and comes to truly love it as a pet. Herein lies a huge dilemma. Great decisions need to be made. Does *Peppo* make it to the Christmas platter? Exhibit opens November 10.

The American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis takes this favorite Czech story, originally written in Swedish, first available in English almost 30 years ago, and turns it into a special exhibit for children and families this Christmas 2018. Those of us with Czech heritage are privileged to be part of the ASI Christmas in 2018.

• Originally published in Swedish under the title *Julkarpen* (1989) by Rita Törnqvist-Verschuur (author) and her daughter Marit Törnqvist (illustrator).

• First published in English (1990) as *The Christmas Carp*.



• Back in print in English (2015) with the new title, *Tom and the Christmas Fish*.

The story is delightful; the illustrations are heartwarming and endearing. <www.asimn.org>



Czech Country Minnesota Invites You to Join its 100 Anniversary Celebration of the Creation of Czechoslovakia

Saturday October 27 Events

- Children's Culture Camp (language, cooking, and singing) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Arts & Heritage Center, 206 First Street, Montgomery, Minnesota.
- Information on Czech Immigrant Graves for 12 area cemeteries in Montgomery, New Prague, Lonsdale, and Veseli, plus information on several area Church Tours at the Arts & Heritage Center in Montgomery. Cemetery assistance will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Czech meals available at the Montgomery Brewing Company, 306 2nd Street NW, sponsored by the Czech-Slovak Minnesota Pageant Board.

Sunday October 28 Events

- Czech Mass at 1 p.m. officiated by Czech Bishop Peter Esterka at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, New Prague.
- Taste of Czech and Slovak available in the Church Cafeteria following Mass.
- Battle of four Czech Bands from 2 to 6 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center (PAC) at St. Wenceslaus.
- Dignitaries include Bořek Lizec, Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago; Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic; Mayors of New Prague, Lonsdale, and Montgomery.
- Czech Folk Dancing by *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers and singing by New Prague Czech Singers.
- Special Czech Beer (*Stoleti Pivo*) brewed by the Montgomery Brewing Company.
- Drawings for both adult and children.
- Children's Activities.
- Traveling Exhibit, *Leaving Czechoslovakia*, from National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- Souvenir Booklets will be available for purchase at the Arts & Heritage Center, Montgomery, on Saturday and at St. Wenceslaus Parish Activity Center, New Prague, on Sunday.
- **Vendors:** *Domáci* Inc.; Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; Kenneth Janda, author *The Emperor and the Peasant*, Czech Heritage Club; First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association; Czech-Slovak Minnesota Pageant; Honorary Consul Marit Lee Kucera; Stanley Chromy; John Palka, author, *My Slovakia, My Family*.
- **Sponsors:** Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech Heritage Club, *Domáci* Folk Dancers and Czech Heritage Junior Royalty, Hilltop Hall (John Grimm),

KCHK Radio, Kevin Hubanis (Website Architect), Lakeside Supper Club (George Kukacka), Lonsdale Chamber of Commerce, Marit Lee Kucera (Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic), Masopust Committee (Montgomery), Minnesota Valley Electric Trust (Operation Round Up), Montgomery Area Community Club, Montgomery Arts & Heritage Center, Montgomery Brewing Company, Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery Knights of Columbus Council #1573, Montgomery Lions, New Prague Chamber of Commerce, R. Jelinek Midwest, Rustic Farmer (Julie Bifano), Suel Printing/Montgomery Messenger, Western Fraternal Life Association.



1918 - 2018

Join us for Czech 100 Celebration

Saturday, October 27

Cemetery Tours 10:00-3:00
Start at Montgomery Arts & Heritage Center

Children's Culture Camp 9:00-3:00
Montgomery Arts & Heritage Center

Czech Meals at Montgomery Brewing Co.

Sunday, October 28

Czech Mass at St. Wenceslaus 1:00

Taste of Czech and Slovak following Mass

Battle of the Bands 2:00-6:00 in the PAC

Czech Folk Dancing and Singing

Children's Activities

Stoleti Pivo brewed by Montgomery Brewing Co.
and Much More!

"This activity is funded in part, by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council with an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State's general fund"

Czech Heritage Club, Domaci Folk Dancers and Czech Heritage Junior Royalty, Frandsen Bank & Trust, Hilltop Hall, KCHK Radio, Kevin Hubanis, Lakeside Supper Club, Lonsdale Chamber of Commerce, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic Marit Lee Kucera, Masopust Committee, MVEC Trust-Operation Round Up, Montgomery Area Community Club, Montgomery Arts & Heritage Center, Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery Knights of Columbus Council #1573, Montgomery Lions, New Prague Chamber of Commerce, R. Jelinek Midwest, Rustic Farmer

BOOK REVIEW

By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

The Assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the SS “Butcher of Prague”

HHhH: Himmler's Brain is Called Heydrich by Laurent Binet, translated by Sam Taylor. Farrar, Straus & Giroux: New York. English edition 2010. Originally published in French in 2009. 327 pages. Available at libraries and bookstores.

Decades later, even my American father-in-law was haunted by the destruction of the town of Lidice; he asked me questions about it. As a U.S. Army soldier based in Germany in 1948, he visited Czechoslovakia when it was being handed over to the Russians. He heard the stories of a Czech town on June 10, 1942, where Nazis shot the men and boys, sent the women and children to a likely death in a concentration camp, and obliterated the town in retaliation for Reinhard Heydrich's assassination two weeks earlier.

Hitler “decided to vent all his frustrations on Lidice, so the village will serve as a means of catharsis and as a symbol of his avenging rage,” wrote Binet. “But he has committed a serious error. It is so long since Hitler and his colleagues lost touch with reality that they do not anticipate the worldwide repercussions that will be provoked by news of the village's destruction.”

Nazis called Heydrich “HHhH,” short for the German “Himmler's *Hirn heist* Heydrich,” which translates as “Himmler's brain is called Heydrich.” This book examines what the author calls “one of the greatest acts of resistance in human history,” the assassination in May 1942 of Heydrich, Nazi interim protector of Bohemia and Moravia. He appeared the Aryan ideal, tall and blond. Heydrich was nicknamed the “Butcher of Prague” for his cruelty. He organized the Kristallnacht pogrom in November 1938, formed the Einsatzgruppen death squads in September 1939, and guided the January 1942 Wannsee Conference that led to the extermination of European Jews.

This telling benefits greatly from the author's long obsession with the assassination. He accumulated extensive knowledge

about it, visited the church on Resslova Street in Prague where the partisans hid, and gathered obscure information from an exhibition in Prague.

HHhH is structured as a meta-novel, emphasizing and drawing attention to its own construction and storytelling style. Binet's book has super-short chapters, with the French author going back and forth between historical facts, an anecdotal memoir of his exploration of Heydrich's assassination, the recriminations that followed, and Czech resistance to the Nazis. This creative book structure elicited an unusual range of reactions among our book-club readers, who strongly liked or disliked the style. I personally found it riveting, an interesting way to tell important history about a gruesome set of deaths. It earned Binet the Prix Goncourt du Premier Roman in 2010. It was masterfully translated by Sam Taylor for English readers.

Binet details Heydrich's rise to power, the planning and execution of his assassination, and some of the reprisals that followed. A team of partisans were recruited in England for the operation, which was to take place along the street that Heydrich was driven every day to his office in Prague Castle. They parachuted in from an R.A.F. plane and spent months preparing. Two took the lead, Jozef Gabčík, a Slovak, and Jan Kubiš, a Czech. On May 27, 1942, Gabčík stepped out into the street and shot his British-made Sten machine gun, which failed. Kubiš then threw a bomb, which hit the open Mercedes-Benz near the rear wheel. Heydrich was injured, expected to live, but infection led to his death eight days later. Gabčík, Kubiš, and other resisters hid in the church crypt. Someone informed on them, and the resisters were either killed or committed suicide.

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>.

Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures members discuss *A Romantic Education* by Patricia Hampl on Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., first-floor classroom, C.S.P.S. Hall.

Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

Renewals: Individual \$50; Couple \$90. Senior \$40 (over age 65); Senior couple \$80. **New memberships:** Individual \$55; Couple \$95.

This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol Organization. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Dues are reduced for members joining after June 30.

Membership applications: <www.sokolmn.org> 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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Já píší vám, co mohu více *

By Jitka Sebek

All of us heard at school from our history or language teachers about letters of well-known people that are published as books and available to us to get a glimpse of their personal life. Czech students read excerpts from letters of Jan Hus or Comenius encouraging public to be just and hopeful, letters from Milada Horáková or Václav Havel after their Communist wrongful convictions, or personal letters by Franz Kafka. We let the written words inspire us, encourage us, and reflect upon ourselves as we discover the timelessness of the messages.

Many such correspondences were humbly meant only for personal purposes and sent to only one addressee to inform about daily matters, sender's health, thoughts, and opinions. As plain and simple as it sounds, this kind of a letter can become quite important when it describes living conditions in a country with an opposite government to ours, when it names relatives we have not met, when it is dated 1882, or when it reveals new information that helps with the puzzle of completing a family tree. If we add the fact that some letters might be written in a different language by our ancestors, we get a true gem. Yes, among people who are members of Sokol Minnesota or seek help within the organization are amateur detectives who have found old family letters written in Czech or Slovak, in beautiful cursive and containing very fine, imaginary threads to recipient's family past. The thrill of finding out is contagious and makes us agree to participate in the translating quest for the couple of letters might be the only keepsake of our great-great grandmother or a distant second cousin.



Rommele Vaněk-Ferris looked over the 1882 letter she found among old family letters. In appreciation for Jitka Sebek translating the letter, Rommele made a donation to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's Legacy Fund.

but maybe we have somewhere in the basement closet a shoe box full of old letters or postcards, which we plan someday to go through, read, and weed down to a handful of keepers. They will help us remember our family. But, wait! You have no letters? Maybe it is time to write one and then to look forward to a reply in a white envelope with a pretty stamp for you to tear open the envelope, open and read the letter, and smile.

* *I am writing to you, what more can I do* from Tatiana's letter to Oněgin by A. S. Puškin

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 November 2018 issue is October 1.

This issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by October 30: <www.sokolmn.org>

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

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383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102.
Extra copies of *Slovo* are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts.



Sokol Minnesota
has a new logo!

Designed by
Doreen McKenney

Coming in the November Issue:

- Pictures from Czech & Slovak Festival
- Pictures from Slavnost

Mark your calendars!

Patricia Hampl presents the annual Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures talk at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 28, at the Ramsey County Library-Roseville, 2180 Hamline Avenue North, Roseville. The library is cosponsoring the event. <www.facebook.com/Czech-Slovak-Cultural-Center-of-Minnesota-2055058361480637> for the latest details.

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 50¢ 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, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, advisors.
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September mailing party (270+ *Slovo*s and 1000+ Fall Events Postcard): Jason Brozovich, Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, Colleen Cahill and son, Marit Lee Kucera, Joan Sedlacek, Deb Ziskovsky.



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

Centennial Celebration: Slavnost
C.S.P.S. Hall • Saturday, October 13, 7-11 p.m.
• Awards • Recognitions • Surprise!
• Music • Dancing • FUNdraising Games
• Appetizers and Desserts • Czech Wine and Beer

Czech Roast Pork Dinner,
Sunday, October 21, 12:30 p.m.
Traditional menu: roast pork, raised-bread dumplings, sauerkraut,
dessert, and coffee. Cash beer and wine bar.
Folk Dance Performance and preview of *Kroje* Style Show

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Annual Meeting
Friday, November 16, 7 p.m.
Election of officers. Refreshments.

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



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

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* October 2018

**Czech
Roast Pork
Dinner**

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
Sunday, October 21, 12:30 p.m.

Menu: Roast pork, raised-bread dumplings,
sauerkraut, rye bread, dessert, and coffee.
Beer and wine cash bar.

\$18/adult, \$9/child under 9

Prepaid reservations
required by October 16

To reserve call: 651-290-0542



Limited
reserved
seating

Performance
by Saint Paul Czech
and Slovak Folk Dancers.
Kroje Style Show Preview.

Pre-paid
takeout
available
by reservation

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

www.sokolmn.org



Join Us at the C.S.P.S. Hall for the
HOLIDAY
**Pancake
Breakfast**
Koláče and Craft Sale
Sunday, November 18
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

French toast, pancakes, fruit cup, sausage, juice, milk, and coffee.
\$8 adult; \$6 children under 9.
\$26 family of four (two adults and two children).

Variety of exquisite
hand-crafted
items for sale.
Rent vendor table:
651-433-2008

Public welcome
No reservations



Koláče for your
Holiday table.
Pre-order koláče
by November 12
651-290-0542

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