



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

SLOVO

December 2019/January 2020
vol. 42 no. 11

UPCOMING NOVEMBER EVENTS

Czech/Slovak Century meeting

December 5, 7 p.m.

Children's Holiday Party

December 6, 7 p.m.

Board of Directors meeting

December 19, 7 p.m.

Members and Volunteers Holiday Party Dinner Reservations

Due by December 27

Call: 651-290-0542

Literary Ventures

December 28, 10 a.m. to Noon

February Slovo articles due

January 1

Members and Volunteers Holiday Party

January 5, 12:30 p.m.

Board of Directors meeting

January 16, 7 p.m.

Roast Duck Dinner Reservations

Due by January 24

Call: 952-941-0426

Literary Ventures

January 25, 10 a.m. to noon

Valdislav Blaha Guitar Concert

January 26, 2 p.m.

17th Annual

Roast Duck Dinner

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Saturday

February 1, 2020

5:30 p.m.

\$23 per person

Limited seating

*Prepaid reservations are required
by January 25, 2019*

To reserve call: 952-941-0426

*Soup, 1/2 roast duck, potato dumplings,
gravy, sweet and sour red cabbage,
applesauce, caraway rye bread, coffee, and dessert.*

*Beer, wine, and pop will be available for sale
starting at 4:45 p.m.*

C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul

Prezidentův komentář/

Pozdravuji mé bratry a sestry,

Fall is here and winter is around the corner. I am looking forward to the upcoming snow so that I can try out my new Otso Voytek bike. The last week of October I used my bike successfully in a new experience up north. Every fall I head north along the Gunflint trail to grouse hunt. I decided I would combine the two---and bike hunt for grouse. After checking with the DNR online, I saw it as a new opportunity. I almost backed out, thinking I should not attempt this, as I am not a great shot, let alone while biking. As you can see in the attached photo, I was successful. I learned some lessons:

1. Always check that the gun's safety is on.
2. Do not strap a loaded 20 gauge over your neck—it will make your neck sore.
3. Stop before shooting (and take off the safety).
4. Keep peddling in mud puddles.

Extrapolating some of these lessons to Sokol and life in general, I challenge you to try something new. Challenge yourself to stay active. Keep moving through life's puddles--no matter their depth. At my curling match today, one of my teammates said that I am close to the last two stages of life—'active retirement' and 'sedentary retirement'. Many of you are not yet at the stage of my life circumstances. My mother taught me that, while alive, you need to be active, do things you love, and leave your mark on something or someone. Have you left your mark?? Remember, it's never too late.

The C.S.P.S. Hall is looking good after recent completion of the bar area structural work and remodeling.



Tools for the "bike hunt"

The annual children's Christmas party is Friday, December 6. We will again have visits from Svatý Mikuláš (Saint Nicholas), an *anděl* (angel), and that *čert* (devil).

Our annual volunteer and membership holiday party is Sunday, January 5. Mark your calendar and plan to come!

I plan to attend the annual Roast Duck Dinner on Saturday, February 1. How about you?



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2019 BOD (Board of Directors)

President
Dave Stepan

First Vice President
Ed Hamernik

Second Vice President
Jean Draheim

Recording Secretary
Denise Stibal

Corresponding Secretary
Glynis Grostephan

Treasurer
Don Haselbauer

Financial Secretary
Steve Ernest

Sergeant at Arms
Tom Aubrecht

Members at Large
Markéta Resong
Blanka Brichta

Membership Director
Norm Petrik

Board of Budget and Finance
Joyce Tesarek, Chair

Educational Director
Patricia Slaber

Publicity Director
Judy Aubrecht

Board of Instructors
Mary Cahill,
Women's Physical Director
Jason Brozovich,
Men's Physical Director

Board of Trustees
Dan Bednar

Gaming Manager
Ed Hamernik, Chair

Telephone: 651-290-0542



Follow us on
Instagram!
@sokolminnesota

Correction to October Slovo Sokol Camp Booya Raffle Winners on page 3:
\$100: Irene Thayer. \$50 and \$25: Marjorie Maghrak.
Correct as previously reported: \$25: Molly Chandler.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs for children, teens, and adults. Information on our programs, calendar of events, membership, C.S.P.S. Hall rentals, and gift shop, plus E-Addresses for our board, program directors, volunteer staff, and the Czech Honorary Consul, as well as *Slovo* past issues, are available at www.sokolmn.org or www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

2019 Roast Pork Dinner By Joan Sedlacek and Joyce Tesarek, co-chairs



Pat Andrle, Colin, Anna, Emma, Mary Cahill, and Judy Aubrecht



Dominik serving pork dinners

Tom Aubrecht, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Bobbi Jo Chandler, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Roger Green, Dave Grostephan, Glynis Grostephan, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Anna Hester, Lenka Hester, Ann Janda, Ken Janda, Bob Kotek, Míša Kotek, Lloyd Krocak, Marit Lee Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Val Norman, Richard Sargent, Joan Sedlacek, Dave Stepan, Denise Stibal, Joyce Tesarek, and Louise Wessinger.

On Sunday, October 20, 131 hungry diners enjoyed a delicious dinner of roast pork, dumplings and gravy, sauerkraut, caraway rye bread, and dessert. Of course, some had a glass of Czechvar beer! Again this year, our bread dumplings were made by our sister unit, Sokol Cedar Rapids' women, together with Joan Sedlacek, who brought them back with her. Our door prize of a beautiful handcrafted glass pumpkin (to go with the fall and Halloween season), was donated and

made by Jim Chlebecek of Rhode Island, son of Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek, and won by Ed Hamernik. This successful fundraiser earned \$2,263.

To add color and energy to the event, Sokol President Dave Stepan and Honorary Czech Consul, Marit Lee Kucera welcomed our guests, who were entertained by Louise Wessinger and these Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers: Jason and Megan Brozovich, Pam Langworthy and Richard Sargent, Teresa Pojar and John Topic, Sandy Prochaska and Rick Palma, and Dave and Darnell Stepan.

Especially fun was having some new volunteers on our Pork Dinner team, including teens Emma, Dominik, and Colin, as well as Jan Knudtson, Austin Palma, Tereza Treanor, and Kathy Weese. Also helping again this year were Don Andrle, Pat Andrle, Judy Aubrecht,



Ed Hamernik, Mary Jo Chlebecek, and Dave Stepan.



Glass pumpkin door prize

Sokol Membership Party

Sunday, January 5, 2020

Arrive 12:30 p.m. Lunch 1 p.m.



Sokol members and volunteers are invited to the C.S.P.S. Hall, for festivities, food, and fun. Please bring an appetizer to share!

Reservations are required by December 27, 2019 | 651-290-0542



Thirty years of democracy in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic was a good reason for a party, and the 30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution Commemoration Event on November 17 at the C.S.P.S. Hall had it all. (1) SloVCzech with the Velvet Band performing protest songs. (2) Creative cake with much other delicious food for a potluck dinner. (3) Banners and the Berlin Wall. (4) Lots of building fun for the children. (5) Photos from Karel Cudlín. (6) A new library ribbon cutting ceremony. (7) Theatre play by Jan Snížek. (8) Shout out of Thank You! to Petr Bachan. (9) Surprise appearance of a Trabant. (10) Red star piñata. (11) Home built border gate. (12) Flag waving, dancing, singing, a bit of crying, much remembering, a documentary viewing, and feeling thankful.

The event was sponsored by the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, the Czech & Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic, and Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

4 December 2019/January 2020 *Slovo*



Kathy Jorgenson and Pam Kotval

Successful Koláče Class

Dobrou chut'! In November, adult education sponsored a *koláče* make and take class. Instructors Kathy Roushar Jorgenson and Pamela Kotval demonstrated and then supervised while we made the traditional yeast dough, filled the pastries with homemade filling, and baked the delicacies. While the dough was rising, we had lessons in Czech spelling and definitions for what we call kolache in English: *koláč* vs. *koláče* vs. *koláček* vs. *koláčky*; and the regional differences of *kolače* in the Czech republic: *kolače* vs. *buchty* vs. *šátečky*.

The class was fun and tasty and many thanks go to Pam and Kathy for making this possible.

Is there anything Czech or Slovak that you want to learn about? Or teach? Cooking, polka dancing, craft art, etc.? Contact Pat Slaber at education@sokolmn.org with your ideas.



Action Shot



Pam Kotval, Ken Mowll, and Rich Green



Kathy Weese and Deb Ziskovsky



Kolače!

Support Sokol Minnesota and the C.S.P.S. Hall

By Joyce Tesarek, Sokol Minnesota Finance Chair

As we look back on 2019, we must all congratulate ourselves on our continued and impressive support for our historic C.S.P.S. Hall and for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. The Hall has served the Czech and Slovak communities for over 130 years and we know that it could not endure without the time, care, and financial support of our many supporters. Likewise, Sokol Minnesota could not provide all of the classes, dinners, dances, and cultural activities without the contributions of numerous people. Let's look back on some of our accomplishments for the year.

We matched our 2017 Saint Paul STAR grant of \$85,979, which is a remarkable accomplishment, and completed essential roof and masonry repairs. Yet there are additional significant maintenance needs. With the help of a grant from the Czech Republic, we remodeled and refurnished our classroom.

We continued to offer quality language,

cooking, folk dance, and gymnastics classes, culture camp, ethnic dinners, festivals, and various cultural programs at affordable rates.

Through our support and management of internationally renowned filmmaker Al Milgrom's Minnesota State Arts Board Legacy Grant, we facilitated him to complete and premier his documentary "Singin' in the Grain--a Minnesota Czech Story".

Our *Slovo* newsletter, with the assistance of a new team of volunteers, and our website and Facebook page kept readers informed. This year we added Instagram.

We continued to welcome and host friends and neighbors, new immigrants, other ethnic organizations, foreign dignitaries, and the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities.

In order to continue offering the many and varied programs and events at the Hall, and to maintain the building, Sokol Minnesota needs your financial support. Because all donations up to \$7,000 made by December 31, 2019, will be matched by an anonymous donor in honor of long-time member Donald Haselbauer's 70th birthday, this is a great time for donating.

Donations given "in memory of" or "in

honor of" make a great gift and will be welcome and will be acknowledged in the *Slovo*. 100% of your tax-deductible contribution or pledge will go to support Sokol activities and the Hall. If you have a company match, or would like information on legacy giving or becoming a monthly Sustaining Member, contact Joyce Tesarek, Fundraising Chair, at 612-822-6147 or fundraising@SokolMN.org. Checks can be sent to Sokol Minnesota at 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102, or donate securely online at SokolMN.org.

Sokol Minnesota relies on our volunteers. Do you have talents or time you would like to share? We welcome you to join our committees or teams, or help prepare or serve at a dinner or event. We always need helpers with cleaning and repairing our Hall. Want to help? Meet great people, learn new things, and have fun. Join us! Call 651-290-0542 or email us at finance@sokolmn.org.

Thank you for your past contributions to Sokol Minnesota and the Hall, and for your future support.

Summer Language Program in the Czech Republic

by Pat Slaber

Join us on January 12 for more information!

Through Charles University, there are several programs available to study the Czech language in the Czech Republic. Over the years, Sokol Minnesota has been fortunate to have several of its members attend the one-month summer program. It is an intense but fun program. There are daily language lessons, field trips to castles, cultural lessons in music and dancing, films, and much more. About sixty people are selected from all over the world. I attended the program in 2012 and I still keep in contact with many of the friends I made.

This past summer, Sokol members Allyson Grym and Austin Palma attended. On Sunday, January 12, they will share highlights of their study abroad in Poděbrady, Czech Republic. In addition, they will explain how you, too, can apply for the program. Please join us in the Sokol classroom if you have an interest in applying, or just want to hear about their experience. For the time, check www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/

ASO Library and Archives are going Online

American Sokol has a significant collection of books, flags, posters, sheet music, photos, letters, Slet memorabilia, and other historical artifacts. The American Sokol Library and Archives have been in existence since June 1976. The collection is being digitized and it is searchable and browsable. To view items that have been posted, visit <https://americansokol.pastperfectonline.com> Sue Bares, National Educational Director of American Sokol, provided this update in *The Journal of CSA Fraternal Life*, September 2019. For her full article, see <https://csalife.com/doc/journal/September.pdf?v=71>

Vladislav Bláha Guitar Concert on January 26 By Bea Flaming

The Czech & Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the Minnesota Guitar Society will present a concert by Vladislav Bláha on Sunday, January 26, at 2 p.m.

The concert will take place at the C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul.

Bláha studied at the Brno Conservatoire; the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar, Germany; and received the Doctor of Arts degree from the Academy of Music in Bratislava, Slovakia. He also earned "docent of guitar" from Janacek Academy of Music in Brno, Czech Republic, where he presently teaches, as well as being professor of guitar at Conservatoire of Brno. He is president of the Czech Classical Guitar Society, and chairman of the International Guitar Festival and Courses in Brno.

Twenty-seven composers from 16 countries have dedicated works to him (N.Koshkin: Usher Waltz, J.Morel, J.W.Duarte, F.Kleynjans, C.Cardosso, M.Tesar, A.Tucapsky, M.Stedron, M. Linnemann, etc). He performed the world premieres of works by important composers, such as Leo Brouwer, Stěpán Rak, Václav Kučera, and others.

Music Opinion Magazine in England described Vladislav as one of the finest Czech guitarists. He is the only Czech guitarist to have given recitals at both Carnegie Hall in New York and at the Royal Festival Hall in England. Bláha has given concerts in prestigious halls of 45 different countries across Europe, Asia, and Latin America, as well as the U.S.A. He is the winner of four international guitar competitions: Volos, Esztergom, Kutna Hora, and Markneukirchen, and received the "medale bronze" in the Radio France Competition in Paris.

He has recorded seven solo CD's and another six CD's as a soloist with other musicians, along with radio and television recordings in several countries.

Please join us for an afternoon of fine music performed by Vlada!



The Resurrection of a Nation film on the revival of the Carpatho-Rusyns

The Rusin Association of Minnesota is sponsoring a special showing of the documentary film *The Resurrection of a Nation* on the revival of the Carpatho-Rusyns in relationship to the 1989 Velvet Revolution in the former Czechoslovakia. The film is co-produced by Maria Silvestri and John Righetti, who will be present to answer questions.

Saturday, December 7 at Saint Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Parish Center, 1701 5th Street NE, Minneapolis
2:00 - Registration

2:30 - Film showing and a discussion with the co-producers, followed by a reception with beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert.

Free and open to the public. rusinmn.org

Lukáš Sommer performs at C.S.P.S. Hall By Bea Flaming

Czech guitar virtuoso Lukáš Sommer performed at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, November 10. The attendees were amazed by his unique, original style and enjoyed the concert thoroughly. The concert was sponsored by the Czech & Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, the Minnesota Guitar Society, and Sokol Minnesota.

Sommer was born in 1984 in České Budějovice, Czech Republic, and he is a leading personality in the current generation of young composers. He bases his works on the tradition of the European school of composition, which he enriches with elements of nontraditional composing techniques. He enjoys going beyond the borders of classical music and includes ethnic, jazz, and other types. He focuses on chamber music, often writing on commission for noted artists. His orchestral compositions have been performed with great success both in the Czech Republic and abroad. In recent years he has received a number of awards for his compositions.



L to R: Marit Lee Kucera, Jan Knudtson, Bea Flaming, Lučás Sommer, Pam Langworthy, Richard Sargent, Al Milgrom,

A distinctive branch of Sommer's work is his guitar recitals, which he has presented on many Czech and international stages since 2012. The compositions are often inspired by specific places, by contemporary poets, or his personal life. Sommer is

passionate about guitars of all kinds, for which he travels to different countries, and his compositions are often written for specific instruments from the workshops of relatively unknown guitar makers. Because of his ability to switch genres, he is frequently invited to participate in improvisational projects with theatre, pantomime, or music-therapy elements. He embraces the mood of his audience and his programs create an integrated experience set in that certain place and time, often using improvisation and dialogue with the audience.

In 2019, the Barenreiter publishing house published his textbook "I want to be a guitar player". The book is based on an open approach and the student's creativity. Students can finish the author's pieces of music by adding their own ending, rhythm, or melody.

This year, Sommer debuted at the Kennedy Center of Performing Arts in Washington. In May, 2020, he will perform a recital in New York City's Carnegie Hall. We hope we will see him performing again in Minnesota in the future!

Czech and Slovak Language Classes

Winter Classes start the week of January 6, 2020.

Why might you want to study Czech or Slovak? Are you planning a trip to the homeland and you want to order a beer? Did you marry into the family and want to be able to understand what your mother-in-law is really saying about you? Do you want to surprise *babička* (grandma) by learning a few words? Already know some Czech or Slovak, but want to improve? Whatever the reason, we have a class to meet your needs.

Classes meet weekly for twelve weeks at the C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 West Michigan Street, Saint Paul.

Czech Classes

- Beginning Czech (A1)**, Monday evenings at 5:30 p.m., beginning January 6
- Beginning Czech (A2)**, Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m., beginning January 8
- Intermediate Czech (B1)**, Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning January 8
- Advanced Czech (B2)**, Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning January 7

Instructor for A1, A2, and B1: Blanka Brichta

Instructor for B2: Renata Tichá

Slovak Class

Beginning Slovak (A2), Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m., beginning January 9

Instructor for Slovak: Silvia Purdy

Class Fee: \$120 (Sokol members) \$145 (non-members)

Class fees do not include books, which are additional.

For more information, visit www.sokolmn.org or email education@sokolmn.org

Sokol Minnesota Membership Five-Year Milestones in 2019

By Steve Ernest

At the 2019 Annual Membership Meeting in November, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota recognized these members for their years of membership. Congratulations, and thank you for your commitment to the Sokol community!

5 years (joined in 2014): Courtney Benson, Nancy Blume, Stephanie Callanan, Steve Ernest, Bob Kostichka, Mary Kucera, Karolina Peterson, Lewis Peterson, Carolyn Sorenson, Cinnamon Whaley, Olga Wiegel

10 years (joined in 2009): Geneva Adams, Christina Banks, Zuzana Bracknell, Lenka Bragg, Ann Janda, Ken Janda, Christine Maghrak, Michaela Makarianova Wentz, Jim Nelson, Sara Votruba Pogi, Irene Carol Thayer

15 years (joined in 2004): Tim Curtis, Kevin Hurbanis, Kathy Roushar Jorgenson, Darla Kolb, Doris Moravetz, Teresa Pojar, Marvin Smisek, Bryan Swartz

20 years (joined in 1999): Dennis Cahill, Kay Hromadka Edquist, Milan Sebek, Juliana Slavik

25 years (joined in 1994): Marcia Dworshak

30 years (joined in 1989): Marlene Hinshaw

35 years (joined in 1984): Roger Green, James Kohout, Philothea Sweet

40 years (joined in 1979): Hana Matoushek (in memoriam)

45 years (joined in 1974): Mary Cahill, Catherine Haselbauer

55 years (joined in 1964): Robert Marabella, Louise Wessinger

65 years (joined in 1954): Richard Saliny

Betty Hubal Obituary

Betty Hubal, age 95, of Woodbury, went to be with our Lord Jesus Christ September 10, 2019, surrounded by family and friends. Preceded in death by husband and love of her life, Victor J Hubal Jr.; infant son, Todd Hubal; and half-siblings, Everett Bailey, Lois Short and Dick Bodene. Survived by children James (Joanne), Richard (fiancée, Rita Weaver), Robert, Heather (Stephen) Ruggero; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Lucille Burke; cousin, Roger Larson; and nieces and nephews.



Betty was a frequent volunteer at Sokol events. Victor was a past president of Sokol Minnesota.

A Prayer Warrior, she was filled with a love for the Lord at an early age. Gifted with a musical voice, she shared her talent at various churches around Saint Paul. She was an employee of the Saint Paul Pioneer Press. She owned and operated "The Weed Factory" floral business with her friend Donna Furey, which blessed homes, businesses, and events with personalized floral beauty for decades. Betty was an artist, family cheerleader, and friend loved by many. Special thanks to everyone who helped Betty beautifully cross the finish line, you all were "her little darlings" and you all made ALL the difference.

8 December 2019/January 2020 *Slovo*

Highlights of the October Board of Directors Meeting By Denise Stibal

The October 17 BOD meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Birthday wishes were robustly sung to Ed Hamernik, Dave Stepan, and Denise Stibal.

President Dave Stepan reported that one of the trees next to the building needs to be removed and he will also follow up on sidewalk repair on Western Avenue.

An online vote for an honorarium of \$100 was approved for author Renata Fučíková for her visit to Sokol.

Jean Draheim reported on the Hall calendar and encouraged communication in order for her to keep the events current.

Duties of the Board Members were discussed to prepare for the Annual Meeting on Nov. 22.

A Pop Up Gift Shop will be set up on November 30, to coordinate with "Small Business Saturday".

Ed Hamernik reported on Gaming and proposed that \$12,000 be transferred from Gaming to the General Fund, which was approved.

Glynis Grostephan reported donations in October of \$405 to the General Fund and \$1,600 profit at the Fall Festival Silent Auction.

Judy Aubrecht showed a "Front Page" photo of the Fall Festival dancers in the Highland Villager.

Al Milgrom sent a thank you to Sokol Minnesota for facilitating the \$10,000 grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board for his film "Singing in the Grain". A free appreciation screening is set for November 2 at Metro State University.

Judy Aubrecht reported on the rental committee, with a meeting set in November prior to the Annual Meeting, along with suggested changes to the Website to make it more user-friendly for potential rental inquiries.

Mary Cahill and Jason Brozovich reported on the gymnastics classes, which are going very well.

A discussion on the Bylaws was introduced and it was agreed that a committee will review the document.

The next BOD meeting will be Friday, November 22, at 6 p.m., prior to the Annual Meeting at 7 p.m.

2020 Sokol Minnesota Membership

Thank You, Sokol Minnesota members, for being part of our community! Your membership dollars not only support activities at our historic C.S.P.S. Hall but also connect us with national and international Sokol programs. Your participation in our events and activities, in person or in spirit, is invaluable.

Sokol membership is for the calendar year, meaning renewal time is coming up soon! Renewal letters are sent right after Thanksgiving. Please renew your membership by December 31 to continue your support, maintain your active membership, receive the Slovo newsletter, and avoid the added expense of having additional renewal letters sent.

Member renewal rates for 2020 are:
\$50 per individual; \$90 per couple
Renewal rates for members over age 65:
\$40 per individual; \$80 per couple

Would you like to join us?

Rates for new members, or those with a break in membership, are \$55 per individual; \$95 per couple. New/returning rates for those over age 65 are \$45 per individual; \$85 per couple.

Send checks made out to *Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota* to:
Membership, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102
Online: see sokolmn.org/membership or
e-mail membership@sokolmn.org for information.

The Anatomy of Two Biographies: Emperor Franz Jozef and Peasant Samuel Mozolak

Ken Janda will present a brown-bag lecture, "The Anatomy of Two Biographies: Emperor Franz Jozef and Peasant Samuel Mozolak," on Wednesday, December 4, at 11:15 a.m. at 120 Blegen Hall, under the auspices of the University of Minnesota's Center for Austrian Studies.

While based on his book, *The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire*, Ken's presentation will not describe the book's content, but rather its construction.

Sokol Minnesota welcomes new Members

By Norm Petrik

At the October Board of Directors meeting, two new members were accepted: Julie Kim from Saint Paul and Michaela Intepe-Bunova from Burnsville. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Glynis Grostephan

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

LEGACY FUND:

Under \$99: **Mary and Dennis Cahill, Stephen Ernest, Charles Rusnacko, Jr.** in honor of **Don Haselbauer's** 70th Birthday.

\$100 - \$499: **Patricia Hampl.**

\$500 - \$4,999: **Arlene and Ed Hamernik.** Anonymous (1) in memory of **Hana Matousek.**

GENERAL FUND:

In-kind donation of glass pumpkin by **James G. Chlebecek.**

Under \$99: **Judy Metcalf. Jean and Chuck Draheim, Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik, Susan and Reid Volkman, Louise and Chuck Wessinger, Sharon and Ken Wyberg** in memory of **Carole Gonsowski. Mary and Dennis Cahill, Roberta and Gregory Chandler, Jean and Chuck Draheim, Arlene and Ed Hamernik, Pamela Kotval, Robert Kostichka, Louise and Chuck Wessinger, Sharon and Ken Wyberg** in memory of **Hana Matousek.**

\$100 - \$499: **Katie and Don Haselbauer** in memory of **Carole Gonsowski. Blanka Brichta, Katie and Don Marlene Hinshaw, Radmila Rasmussen** in memory of **Hana Matousek. Katie and Don Haselbauer** in memory of **Vera Hawkinson.**

\$500 - \$999: **Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik** in memory of **Hana Matousek.**

\$1000 - \$4,999: **Sue and Dave Martin.**

Subtotals:

Legacy Fund: \$1,770

General Fund: \$3,100

Total: \$4,870

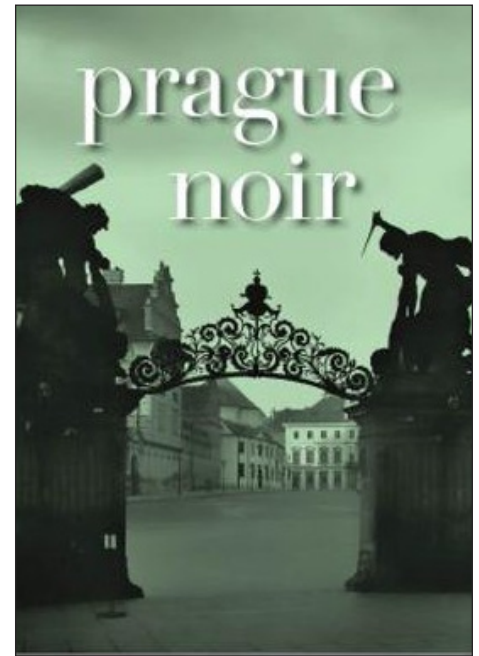
Prague Noir edited by Pavel Mandys and translated by Miriam Margala. Akashic Books: Brooklyn, New York, English edition, 2018; Czech edition, 2016. 288 pages. Available at libraries and bookstores.

BOOK REVIEW

Who Done It in Prague? *By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.*

Prague Noir, a collection of fourteen stories, is considered one of the most successful in a long series of noir books based in various cities. I found there is even one called *Twin Cities Noir*. So what is noir? *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* defines noir as "crime fiction featuring hard-boiled cynical characters and bleak sleazy settings."

Not surprisingly, the Prague stories vary in how closely aligned they are to that definition. The dilemma for authors was, as Pavel Mandys wrote in the introduction, "How to write noir in a city where, until 1990, the profession of private detective had not existed? Where the censors insisted on portraying police in the media and literature in a positive light? Where freelance organized crime had not existed, but where the largest criminal group was the secret police?" He extends the concept of noir to be a "characterization of literary works containing elements of crime, danger, threat—or where central characters find themselves in critical life situations."



Walmart.com

Thus the Prague stories vary in types, structures, and quality, and are hit and miss, but if you love mysteries like I do, you'll find stories to enjoy reading and critiquing in this collection. Overall I found the tales to be smooth reading, which could be due to the quality of the original writing in Czech or enhanced by the translations by Miriam Margala. The English edition was launched in December 2018 at the Globe English-language bookstore in Prague.

The *Prague Noir* stories were written on invitation from Mandys, who chose mainstream authors whose previous work hints at mystery and who are well regarded. In the back of the book, he includes author biographies that list their other publications, making it easy for readers to pursue more writing from any author whose noir tale they liked.

Mandys divided the book into four sections: Sharp Lads, Magical Prague, Shadows of the Past, and In Jeopardy. These divisions are probably not needed and sometimes inaccurate. For example, one of the "Magical" Prague stories was more about a religiously blessed token, and I expect all mystery stories involve jeopardy.

One of my favorite *Prague Noir* tales, "All the Old Disguises" by Markéta Pilátová, is about an elderly man invited to meet with the grandson of his former business partner and lover who was killed during WWII, despite the protagonist spending a lot of money to get him out of a concentration camp. The grandson wants to talk about getting reparations for their business building that was taken by the former communist government. The protagonist is suspicious of the young man wanting to cash in on the older man's investment, but when the surprising ending takes place, we're left to wonder if actions were justified or based on paranoia.

Another of the stories, "The Dead Girl from a Haunted House" by Jiří W. Procházka, is based in a carnival where an ex-cop detective is hired to investigate the death of the owner's daughter, who was killed in an excruciating way. This story is structured much as a typical mystery, with almost everyone in the carnival cast being under suspicion and hostile to the detective.

Each of the stories is based in a particular neighborhood, which can be especially fun for those readers who have visited Prague. "Disappearances on the Bridge", by Miloš Urban, makes good use of the locale. In it, while a computer technician is giving a seminar to the police on the latest surveillance equipment that will allow them to watch for criminal activity on the Charles Bridge, they see a woman disappear off the bridge, and the investigation ensues.

Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. Literary Ventures is cosponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the Office of the Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic. For more information, go to www.cs-center.org or contact gwen@cs-center.org.

Join the Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures book club members to discuss *Gauntlet: Five Friends, 20,000 Enemy Troop* by Barbara Masin on Saturday, December 28, and to read aloud plays by Milan Rúfus on Saturday, January 25; both are 10 a.m. – noon, first-floor classroom, C.S.P.S. Hall.

Czech Honorary Consul News

(Right) At the 17th Genealogical/Cultural Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, October 17-19, sponsored by the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, the three Honorary Consuls of the Czech Republic for the American Midwest met with Jan Kubišta, Deputy Consul General/Chicago: Miluše Šašková-Pierce/Lincoln, Sharon Valasek/Kansas City, and Marit Lee Kucera/Minneapolis.



(Left) Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago Jaroslav Kantůrek and Olga Kantůrková came to Saint Paul on Sunday, October 20, with Head of Trade/Economics Section/Chicago Tomáš Trnka, and Czech photographer Karel Cudlín. Sokol Hall hosted a slide presentation of Cudlín's photographs as part of the 30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution (1989), including many iconic



Cudlín images of Václav Havel. Attending the dinner on October 20 to acquaint the Chicago Consulate office with the Twin Cities' Czech and Slovak organizations: Renáta Tichá (Czech and Slovak Cultural Center), Louise Wessinger (Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers and Sokol Minnesota Taneční Mládež and Teens), Olga Kantůrková, Karel Cudlín (Czech photographer), M. L. Kucera (Honorary Czech Consul), Jaroslav Kantůrek (Consul General/Chicago), Tomáš Trnka (Trade and Economics/Chicago), Anne Jans (Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant), Dave Stepan (Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota), and Jitka Sebek (Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities). On Monday, October 21, our Chicago guests visited Dr. Veronika Bachanova, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology, Oncology and Transplantation, the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and Dr. Pavol Šajgalík, Department of Cardiovascular Diseases, Mayo Clinic, Rochester. On Tuesday, October 22, the Minnesota Trade Office sponsored "Opportunities and Challenges for Doing Business in Central Europe" (Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Slovenia, and Romania) with an evening reception at the American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, with artwork on display by Czechs: Karel Cudlín, photography; Simona Nemcová, Sumi-e painting; and Czech-heritage: Kim Crocker, jewelry; Patricia Hampl, author. Thanks to the many Sokol members who attended this reception.



(Left) Marit visited the very fine Czech Museum Center in Houston on October 30 and met the new director, Sandra Samolík. The museum is located in the museum district at 4920 San Jacinto Street, Houston, Texas. <Czechcenter.org>

Photo credits: M. L. Kucera. Spelling Corrections: November Slovo, page 11: Lenka Misíková, Renáta Fučíková



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul

651-238-0447

minneapolis@honorary.mzv.cz OR mlkucera@outlook.com

Slovo Publication Information and 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. Phone: 651-290-0542. Sokol Minnesota members receive the Slovo with their membership. A subscription to the Slovo is available for \$15 annually. For a subscription, please include name, address, phone number, email address and a \$15 check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and mail to Slovo at the above address. The Slovo staff welcomes submissions. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to slovo@sokolmn.org. The copy deadline for each issue is the first day of the prior month. Advertising in the Slovo is available. Please email slovo@sokolmn.org for information on due dates and rates. Moving or temporarily away: Please notify us via email or USPS mail of your change of address to make sure you continue to receive the Slovo. The Slovo is bulk mailed and non-deliverable copies are not forwarded or held by the Post Office. Non-delivered copies are returned to Sokol Minnesota and

they are billed to us at the first-class mail rate. For this reason, we will not send additional issues until we have a current, correct mailing address on record for you. Member volunteer Slovo staff: Co-Managing Editors (interim): Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, and Joyce Tesarek. Copy Editor: Tom Aubrecht. Production Layout Managers: Amanda Tesarek and Lucas DeBono. Regular Contributors: Glynis Grostephan, M.L. Kucera, Dave Stepan, Denise Stibal, Norm Petrik, and Jean Draheim. Photographers: Martina Gurgel and Joyce Tesarek. Collages: Martina Gurgel. Sokol Minnesota Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney. Mailing List: Penny Tesarek. Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek. Advisors: Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, M.L. Kucera, Norm Petrik, and Jitka Sebek. Additional contributors to this issue: Steve Ernest, Bea Flaming, Jitka Sebek, Joan Sedlacek, Pat Slaber, Joyce Tesarek, Gwen Williams. Additional photographers in this issue: Martina Gurgel, Jitka Sebek, and Joyce Tesarek. November mailing: Mary Cahill, Joan Sedlacek.

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

Annual Duck Dinner

Saturday, February 1, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Reservations due by January 24

Call: 952-941-0426

Flavors of Slovakia Dinner •

Sunday March 22, 2020, 12:30 p.m.

Reservations due by March 13

Call: 651-290-0542

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



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

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO. 5744

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO December 2019/January 2020

Sokol Children's Holiday Party

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Join us at 7p.m. at the C.S.P.S. Hall
Friday, December 6, 2019

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

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

Ethnic holiday goodies available for sale

