

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

UPCOMING NOVEMBER EVENTS

December *Slovo* articles due
November 1

Koláče Class: Bake and Take
November 9, 12:30 to 4:30p.m.
Registration form: sokolmn.org
Classes tab

Koláče Reservation Deadline
November 15
Pick up at Pancake Breakfast
Call: 651-290-0542

Family Afternoon
All are welcome!
30th Anniversary
of the Velvet Revolution
November 17, 1 to 5 p.m.

**Sokol Baking for Pancake
Breakfast**
November 20, 8 a.m.

Board of Directors 6 p.m.
**Annual Membership Meeting
including election of Officers**
7 p.m.
November 22

Literary Ventures
November 23, 10 a.m.

**Pancake Breakfast with
Koláče and Craft Sale**
November 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join Us at the C.S.P.S. Hall for the

HOLIDAY



Pancake Breakfast

Koláče and Craft Sale

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, November 24, 2019
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).

Pre-order *koláče* by November 17, 651-290-0542

Craft table rental: 651-433-2008



No
reservations

Public
welcome

Prezidentův komentář/

President's Notes by Dave Stepan

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It seems like I just catch my breath and I am two steps behind. Perhaps I should not have joined two curling teams and a bowling league, besides my regular Monday night dance practice with the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers?

We all exhaled when the 30th Annual Czech & Slovak Festival on September 15 turned out to be a gorgeous day attended by hundreds of people. I cannot thank all of you enough, especially Chair Joyce Tesarek and Entertainment Chair Louise Wessinger, for your work organizing the Festival.

Thank you, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, for coordinating the visit of Czech author/illustrator Renáta Fučíková at the C.S.P.S. Hall on September 29. She presented a program on several of her numerous books. Thanks to all of you who took the time to show our guest some of what the Twin Cities has to offer. For more information on the author, teacher, illustrator, dancer, and *dudy* player, visit www.renatafucikova.cz

Slovak and Czech language classes, gymnastic classes, and children and teen dance practices are in full bloom, which is exciting to see. Thank you, teachers and instructors.

By the time you read this, the Czech Roast Pork Dinner on October 20 will only be a pleasant gastronomic and social memory. Again, chairperson Joyce

Tesarek--*děkujeme!* We will also have celebrated a visit to the C.S.P.S. Hall by Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago Jaroslav Kantůrek, and Tomáš Trnka, Head of Czech Trade and Economic Section/Chicago, and Czech photographer Karel Cudlín. Their visit was coordinated by Czech Honorary Consul Marit Lee Kucera.

If you have not caught the Al Milgrom movie *Singin' in the Grain --a Minnesota Czech Story*, you have another opportunity at Metro State University Saint Paul campus' Founders Hall on November 2 at 1:30. This screening is free to Sokol Minnesota members and affiliated groups. The Czech & Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota is sponsoring Czech guitarist Luke Sommer on November 10 at the Hall.

Mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, November 17, when the Hall will be the location of a 30th Anniversary Commemoration of the Velvet Revolution, sponsored by the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Sokol Minnesota, Czech & Slovak Cultural Center, and the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, M.L. Kucera.

Our annual membership meeting is Friday, November 22. The Board of Directors meets from 6 to 7 p.m. and the Annual Meeting is 7 to 9 p.m. I challenge you to come and partake in what I hope to be a pleasant evening. At the annual meeting, we will have election of officers and a short agenda, followed by light snacks, some singing, and games. I

hope that you are proud of the C.S.P.S. Hall, home to your Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.



Projects that we are looking at include the bar, the grand staircase front door, and our boiler/furnace, which needs some careful attention. We are working on making sure that the boiler lasts another year, but it has seen better days and its replacement will be high on the Board of Trustees' list of projects. Classroom remodel: thanks to volunteers under Blanka Brichta and Pat Slaber's guidance, this room has become a much more useful and professional-looking space. Most of the basement structural repair projects are wrapping up--Let me know if you want a tour! As members of our historic organization, we are just caretakers of our truly unique building.

Sokol Minnesota now has an Instagram account, @SokolMinnesota, thanks to Blanka Brichta and Doreen McKenney. For those of you who want to follow our activities on Instagram; ask your kids or grandkids if you are not sure how to use it. I'm not a 'helicopter' parent, but I do follow my daughters on Instagram. I am now following Sokol Minnesota on Instagram as well, as are 66 others; this number continues to grow.

Sadly, we saw in September the passing of four stalwart Sokols: Carole Gonsowski, Vera Hawkinson, Betty Hubal, and Hana Matousek. Our conversations honoring these individuals will keep their memory alive.

Nazdar!

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

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

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



Successful 30th Czech & Slovak Festival

By Joyce Tesarek, Festival Chair, and Team Leaders

We did it again! For the 30th year, Sokol Minnesota hosted a successful Czech & Slovak Festival at our historic C.S.P.S. Hall. As always, we shared our heritage, enjoyed performances, ate and drank, volunteered with friends, old and new, and raised important funds for our Hall.

Every area contributed, and Treasurer Don Haselbauer reported a net income of \$7,275. With no cover charge to the public, all of this income came from the wonderful food, beer, gift shop, kids' games, sponsors, and silent auction sales enjoyed by the crowd. All of our hard-working volunteers contributed to our success, but special kudos to our area leaders (see October *Slovo*, and in bold below). Thanks to all of our volunteers and guests!

Again, the food was fantastic- authentic *Segedinský guláš* (goulash) and chicken *paprikáš*, *jitrnice* (sausage), pork burgers, hot dogs, and the ever-popular *halušky a kapusta* (dumpling, cabbage, and bacon hot dish). This year we added a vegetable salad for the vegetarians and vegans in our crowd. Czech beer and cold beverages, tasty desserts and koláče, and Coldstone ice cream rounded out the menu. Special thanks to Martina Gurgel and helpers from the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities for the lovely *perníčky* (decorated gingerbread cookies) and sweets, and Jan Roers and Cinnamon Whaley for their donated treats.

For this Festival, we had two special exhibits on loan from National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The third floor featured the *Leaving Czechoslovakia* exhibit. Visitors could read and hear pre-recorded stories of 20th-century immigrants who fled communist Czechoslovakia, as well as see several personal artifacts of Sokol members on display. Visitors also had a chance to place a pin on a map of then Czechoslovakia to show where their ancestors are from. As the festival progressed, the map (*continued on pg. 4*)

Czech & Slovak Festival: 1. Sokol Minnesota gymnast. 2. Alena Youngberg and Miša Kotek. 3. Markéta Resong. 4. Sokol Minnesota gymnasts. 5. Exhibit *Sokol Through the Years* on loan from the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML). 6. Jan Roers, Festival Chair Joyce Tesarek, Terry Narr, Brad Narr. 7. *Koláče!* 8. Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Band. 9. *Perníčky*. 10. Silent Auction Donors. 11. Exhibit *Leaving Czechoslovakia* from NCSML.

Slovak Instructor Needed for Winter Semester

Sokol Minnesota is seeking a Slovak language instructor for the winter semester, beginning in January 2020. The course is a 12-week session and includes students of varying levels of Slovak language ability, from beginner to intermediate. Class size ranges from 6 to 10 students. The class is currently on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 pm and it is a 90-minute class. This is a paid position. Contact Pat Slaber at education@sokolmn.org if interested or for more information.

(continued from pg. 3) filled out nicely and the final result showed that in our Czech and Slovak community we have ties to all corners of the Czech and Slovak lands. The third-floor experience would not be complete without a few lighthearted games such as trying to recognize typical Czech or Slovak objects placed into a large bag by just feeling them (for example, an Easter ratchet). It proved to be much harder than one would think! And once again, for the smallest of visitors, we had a Children's Czech Cartoon Corner, where this year we showed a popular, slapstick animation of Pat a Mat.

The first-floor exhibit *Sokol Through the Years* paid homage to the creation of Sokol, which started in the mid-19th century in Prague and soon afterwards came to the United States. The exhibit recounted perilous times throughout Czechoslovak history when Sokol was banned by various oppressive governments, the development of *spartakiáda* (gymnastic events) during communist years, and how a nation of immigrants across the ocean used Sokol to help build strong American communities. In addition, the exhibit also featured several objects from our local Sokol archives, arranged by Joan Sedlacek.

Another fine Silent Auction earned over \$1,600. Many individuals and businesses donated to make this a success. Silent Auction Business Donations: Breadsmith, Cafe Latte, Cheesecake Factory, Crayola Experience, Fly Over America, Honorable Consulate of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, R. Jelinek Midwest, Leeann Chin, Leitner's Garden Center, Mall of America, Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Renaissance Festival, Minnesota Vikings, Mississippi Market, Museum of Russian Art, the Pajarito restaurant, Park Tavern, Saint Paul Saints Baseball, Stages Theatre Company, and TOPGOLF.

Silent Auction Individual Donors: Judy Aubrecht, Judith Benton, Patricia Bergh, Arlene and Ed Hamernik, Katie and Don Haselbauer, Bob Kostichka, Míša and Bob Kotek, Denis Novak, Jitka Sebek,

Joan Sedlacek, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, and Cinnamon Whaley.

Jitka Sebek and team made sure the kids had lots to do, too. The festival is like a fair to all children: music, laughter, sweets, and lots of fun and friends abound. That was true especially in the Kids' Games Land, with a giant bouncy castle and slide, with a wading pool nearby, and many games strategically needing water supply. Everyone felt refreshed after squirting cold water at ping-pong balls, rubber ducks and, yes, laughing friends. Children's happy faces were framed by wet hair, and their cheeks or arms were skillfully decorated with painted lizards or shiny temporary tattoos. The prize boxes generously offered colorful treats to take home, or an inspiration to go play again and again.

Guests at the festival were able to shop our vendor tents. The vendors were: Ludmila Palkova and Markéta Resong, baked and canned goods; Doreen McKenney, original folk-art cards, tee-shirts, and imports; Aneta Janouskova, original photos and jewelry; Amy Kowalzek, salves, honey, and bee products; and Jean and Chuck Draheim, original jewelry, wood carvings, and Nordic imports.

A special thanks to all those who helped before, during, and after the festival: (leadership team in bold):

Denisa Acs with Adam, Don Andrlle, Pat Andrlle, **Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Dan Bednar**, Diane Bell, Mark Bigaouette, **Blanka Brichta**, Jason Brozovich, Megan Cahill Brozovich, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Jana Castillon with Katka and David, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Lucas DeBono, **Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim**, Shannon Duffy, Peg Endres, Olga Espinoza with Isabel, **Steve Ernest**, Stana Gerlach with Filip, Eva Giese with Nicole and Natálka, Roger Green, Dave Grostephan, **Glynis Grostephan**, Heidi Grostephan, **Martina Gurgel**, Jean Hall, Arlene Hamernik, **Ed Hamernik**, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Jen Iverson, Robert (Jake) Jacobson, Ken Janda, Ann Janda, Darla Kolb, Jyni Koschak, Košťál family, Bob Kostichka, Bob Kotek, Dominik

Kotek, **Míša Kotek**, Pam Kotval, Lloyd Krocak, **Marit Lee Kucera**, Pam Langworthy, Ann Leland, Marko family, **Doreen McKenney**, Kari Muyres, Leah Muyres, Scott Muyres, Brad Narr, Terry Narr, **Cheryl Nelson**, Denis Novak, Gary Novak, Becky Olson, Rachel Olson, Anna Overbo, Austin Palma, Ross Peterson, **Norm Petrik**, Teresa Pojar, Rad Rasmussen, **Markéta Resong**, Gina Roers-Liemandt, Jan Roers, Lucy Rose, Dagmar Rosenthal with Thomas, Richard Sargent, **Jitka Sebek** with Sally, **Joan Sedlacek**, Terry Shima, Fred Simon, Brittany Stepan, Darnell Stepan, **Dave Stepan**, Michelle Stepan, Denise Stibal, Teen Folk Dancers and families, Amanda Tesarek, Cheri Tesarek, John Tesarek, **Joyce Tesarek**, Penny Tesarek, John Topic, Michael Topic, Tereza Treanor, Markéta Uhlířová with Adam, Olga, Adriana Wenberg, Michaela Wentz, **Louise Wessinger**, Cinnamon Whaley, Alena Youngberg with Elsa, Gary Zweber.

Again, we want to thank all of you who attended and helped make this event a success. It was a great day for our Czech and Slovak community, friends, and the West 7th Street area. We look forward to next year's festival--save September 27, 2020 on your calendar!



Small Business Saturday

The Sokol gift shop will be open
November 30 | 10a.m. - 3p.m.

@czech_cards

Czech cards
Czech coloring books
Scandinavian cards
Custom cards and more



doreenlouise@aol.com

2019 Festival Entertainment Participants

By Louise Wessinger, Festival Entertainment Chair

We would like to thank all of the Sokol Minnesota members and groups, along with the associated groups who practice or have activities at our C.S.P.S. Hall, for providing wonderful entertainment to the audiences at our festival. Thank you to all of the persons and groups below who participated in this year's event.

Technical/Audio: Richard Sargent, Matthew Weathers, Rick Palma, and Sandy Prochaska.

Flag Ceremony: Chuck Draheim, Dawn Bulera, Jason Brozovich, Lucy Rose, Rick Palma, and Joan Sedlacek.

Emcees: David Stepan (outdoors) and Anne Smisek Jans (indoors).

Greeters: Sokol Minnesota President, Dave Stepan; Czech Honorary Consul, Marit Lee Kucera; and Slovak Representative, Cheryl Nelson Theunick.

Soloist for the American Anthem: Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota 2019-2020, Autumn Gare.

Sokol Czech and Slovak Singers led the Czech and Slovak National Anthems and then serenaded the audience with Folk Songs from the Czech and Slovak Republics: **Director Don Haselbauer, Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek**, Martina Gurgel, Ed Hamernik, Marlene Hinshaw, Ken and Ann Janda, Jan Knudtson, Bob Kostichka, Pam Langworthy, Norm Petrik, Sandy Prochaska, Richard Sargent, John Topic, and Michaela Wentz.

Sokol Minnesota Gymnasts: Coaches Carissa Skrivanek, Courtney Benson, Jason Brozovich, and Matt Schussler. Boys: Jas, Mitchell, and Emery. Girls: Amari, Anna, Claire, Ella, Isabelle, Isadora, Kavanaugh, Lily, Norah, Theresa, and Zoe.

Sokol Minnesota Taneční Mládež and Teens: Director Louise Wessinger. Dancers: Adam Acs, Adam and Ema Blal, Tanah and Zephyr Bulera, Adela and Petra Bragg, Benjamin Doyle, Isabel and Lucien Espinosa, Joseph and Yazmine Gerges, Kristina Gurgel, Julian Harris, Anna Hester, Althea and Klara Hoffmann, Nora Holliday, Seanna, Keely, Callista Kluzak, Kaya Koudelka, Juna and Leo Krikava, Marius Elias Morse, Olivia and Kamila Marko, Adela, Liliana, and Adam Peterson, Matthew Resong, Sylvie Rose, Sara Rosenthal, Sofia Scholtz, Everett, Eva, and Erik Swartz, Sophia Wenberg, Elizabeth Wentz, Bridget and Greta Yanta, and Elsa Youngberg. Assistants: Dawn Bulera, Lucy Rose, Lenka Hester, and Michaela Wentz.

(continued on pg. 6)

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:

General:

Under \$99: **Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek** in memory of **Carole Gonsowski**, and **Vera Hawkinson. Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek, Pamela Langworthy, Richard Sargent** In memory of **Hana Matousek. Mary and Dennis Cahill, Marlene Hinshaw** in memory of **Dan Washick.**

In honor of **Don Haselbauer's** 70th Birthday:

Under \$99: **Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek, Glynis Grostephan, Robert Kostichka, Pamela Langworthy, John Palka, Richard Sargent, Dave Stepan, Louise and Chuck Wessinger.**

\$100 - \$499: **Marlene Hinshaw.**

\$500 - \$999: **Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, Joan Sedlacek.**

\$1000 - \$4999: **Ann and Ken Janda.**

GENERAL FUND:

Under \$99: **Arlene and Ed Hamernik, Louise and Chuck Wessinger** in memory of **Dan Washick.**

Patricia Cristie, Richard Palaschak in memory of **Jaroslav Verner.**

Subtotals:

Legacy Fund: \$2,810

General Fund: \$ 140

TOTAL: \$2,950

Sokol Minnesota welcomes new Members

By Norm Petrik

Dáša and Mike Rosenthal from Minneapolis were accepted as members of Sokol Minnesota at the September 19 Board of Directors meeting. They have interests in children's dance and culture camp.

Austin Palma, from Montgomery was also accepted. He has interests in adult cultural events, films, literature, languages, and several other activities.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

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.

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

(continued from pg. 5)

Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers: Program Director Louise Wessinger. Dancers: Dawn Bulera, Megan and Jason Brozovich, Dave Cammack, Chuck Draheim, Lenka Hester, Stefan Heyn, Robert Jacobson, Richard Sargent and Pam Langworthy, Judy Metcalf, and James Metcalf, Sandy Prochaska and Richard Palma, Teresa Pojar, Lucy Rose, Brittany Stepan, Dave and Darnell Stepan, John Topic, Michael Topic, and Michaela Wentz.

Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Band: **Director Frank Trnka, Jason Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, and John Topic.**

Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities: **Director Jitka Sebek, Sally Sebek, and Elsa Youngberg**

Organizational Representatives:

Czech and Slovak Culture Center President: **Renáta Ticha.**

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Vice President: **Mark Dillon.**

Rusin Association of Minnesota President: **Karen Varian.**

Very special thanks go to our guest royalty, musicians, and dancers, noted below, who graced our indoor and outdoor stages at our festival with their talent. We are very grateful to them for enhancing our programs and making the day enjoyable for all of our audiences.

Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant: Directors **Anne Smisek Jans and Ashley Vlasak Zimanske,** Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota, Autumn Gare and Princess, Meghan Domonoske; and the Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Junior Ambassadors Alenka Jans, Megan Marek, Mikayla Marek, Grace Tumasmith, and Kristin Siebsen.

Montgomery Kolacky Day Royalty: Kolacky Queen Josephine Hatlevig, First Princess Victoria Soukup, and Second Princess & Miss Congeniality Sophie Franek.

Lipa Slovak Dancers from Minneapolis: Director Kristen Chepp, Lara Ciganko, Michaela Dojcinovic, Paul Knuth, Silvia Magana, and Jared Braaten.

6 November 2019 *Slovo*



12. *Taneční Teens*. 13. *Koláče* eating contest. 14. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Junior Ambassadors and Royalty. 15. Childrens' bouncy castle and slide. 16. *Taneční Teens*. 17. Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities: Sally Sebek, Jitka Sebek, Elsa Youngberg. 18. *Taneční Mládež*. 19. *Taneční Teens*. 20. *Taneční Mládež*.

Ethnic Dance Theatre of Minnesota: Artistic Director Donald LaCourse, Renee LaCourse, costumer, James Metcalf, Matthew LaCourse, Jarek Luiken, Kostya and Kathryn Korchak, Dunja Sher, Kjersti Velve, Frances Olson, Anastasia Verdoljak, Rachel Hames, Tiffany Senkow, and Alina Jambor.
George Palma's Concertina Band: George Palma, Clarence and Delores

Salaba, and Gail Sheike.
Colton Tupy and the Sand Creek Connection with Arnie Ziskovsky.
SlovCzech Band, Director Petr Bachan, Svea Drentlaw, Sara Jeddelloh, Emily Judge Becker, Dave Drentlaw, and Jozeph Klobusnik.
Strolling Concertina: Jake Minar Bastyr.
Dancing Lessons for All: Christopher Yeager, Instructor.



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21. George Palma's Concertina Band. 22. Sokol Minnesota Welcomes You. 23. Jake Minar Bastyr. 24. Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers: Sandy Prochaska and Richard Palma. 25. Ethnic Dance Theater: Dunja Sher and James Metcalf. 26. Ethnic Dance Theater: Kathryn and Kostiantyn Korchak. 27. Lenka Hester and Dave Cammack. 28. Lipa Slovak Dancers. 29. SlovCzech Band. 30. Brittany Stepan and Stefan Heyn, 31. Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.

Highlights of the September Board of Director Meeting

By Denise Stibal

The September 19 Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors meeting was held in our newly furnished and re-decorated classroom, with food provided by Pat Slaber and Blanka Brichta. Happy 70th Birthday was sung to Don Haselbauer (*Živijó, Živijó, Živijó!*).

We will have a visit from Czech Author Renáta Fučíková, with a program at the C.S.P.S. Hall on September 29. The Czech Consul General in Chicago, Jaroslav Kantůrek, and the head of the Chicago Trade and Economics Section, Consul Tomáš Trnka, will visit, with a reception on October 22 at the American Swedish Institute.

Ed Hamernik reported that most of our planned exterior work is completed and all scheduled interior structural repair projects should be completed by mid-November.

Mary Cahill reported that the new gymnastics equipment has arrived and class enrollment is at capacity. The Western District gymnastics competition will be April 18, 2020, in Cedar Rapids, along with the annual meeting. Planning for the 2021 Slet in Chicago is underway.

Pat Slaber reported on the classroom updates, with language classes beginning this week and a *Koláče* making class on November 9. Thank you to Blanka Brichta, Pat Slaber, Gary Zweber, and everyone else who volunteered for the updates on the classroom, including new tables, chairs, cabinets, shelves, and painting.

Ed Hamernik submitted the August and October gaming budgets, which were approved, and Don Haselbauer submitted the monthly treasurer's report.

Joyce Tesarek reported that our STAR Grant Match is complete for the amount of \$86,979. The Czech and Slovak Festival on September 15 was a success, with an estimated net of approximately \$7,275.

The Sokol Minnesota Annual Meeting will be held on November 22.

The Annual Member and Volunteers Holiday Party will be January 6, 2020; it is free to all attendees.

The next BOD meeting is October 17 at 7 p.m.

Concert by Lukáš Sommer



Join us on Sunday, November 10, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. for a concert by renowned Czech guitarist and composer Lukáš Sommer.

Sommer is a leading personality in the current generation of young guitarists and composers. His compositions are performed at concerts and music festivals in the Czech Republic, Europe, and around the world. Sommer is the 2017 winner of the Krzysztof Penderecki Composer Competition Award. He has performed at the Kennedy Center and next year he will be performing at Carnegie Hall.

The concert is sponsored by the Czech & Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, the Minnesota Guitar Society, and Sokol MN. Location: The C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 W Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Tickets are \$10.

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..

Summer *Taneční* Lessons

by Sally Sebek



Taneční (dance) lessons in the area of the Czech Republic have evolved over the years, but the idea has stayed the same: learning to dance. In the 1800s, upper-class parents followed the tradition of the nobility by having their children learn dance, as well as etiquette, from professional teachers. The demand for teaching the new polka dance and rigorous tests of all other dances supplied the Czech lands with highly qualified teachers. The tradition of dance and etiquette lessons continued throughout the centuries and is just as strong as when it first started.

For me, the dance lessons were a really special experience. I arrived at the dance hall in my grandparents' town knowing my two friends only, but they introduced me to their school friends, making it very easy for me to blend right in with the group. The dance lessons were an ideal opportunity to make more friends. Not only was the actual dancing a great time for bonding and socializing, but so were the promenades in between and the regular late evening gatherings afterwards. Once we became acquainted, I was automatically welcomed, making it the most amusing and enjoyable month of the summer.

Every dance lesson was different—from learning waltz, foxtrot, or jive, to socializing in Czech, but there was always a routine that went like this. Starting at 6 p.m., 40 girls in summer dresses and 40 boys in suits and white gloves lined up on either side of the community dance hall, waiting for the dance teachers to show up. The live band announced and welcomed the teachers with their familiar tune. The teachers gave a quick warmup speech and started the lesson. The music was fun, prompting us to dance a *valčík* (waltz variation) to the Beatles! Every class we learned new dances (15 dances in all) or enhanced the easy ones, adding new spins and hand gestures. Every two dances, the boys returned the girls, thanked them, and found a new girl to dance with. Occasionally it was “girls’ choice”. The dance classes took place three times a week for the entire month.

On Tuesdays, special lessons took place. These were extended lessons in which dance alumni could come and practice their dancing, as could the parents. During these lessons, we did not learn anything new, we just polished the steps we had previously learned and enjoyed the time dancing with our parents and friends. These lessons were my favorite, partly because we had the chance to dress up and win prizes for the most creative costumes.

To culminate our dance lesson series, we had a final dance. The boys asked out the girls, bought them bouquets of flowers, and all the girls wore beautiful white gowns. It was truly a magical experience. We danced all night, showed off our new dancing skills, posed for photos, gave each other presents, exchanged phone numbers, and created connections and unforgettable memories.

JOIN US for
30th Anniversary
of the Velvet Revolution
Commemoration Outdoor Event

C.S.P.S. Hall, Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN

November 17, 2019
1 - 5 p.m.

Program:

- 1 p.m.
Welcome address
- 1:30 p.m.
Reading of *Čertovo kolo* (short theatrical play)
- 2 p.m.
Symbolic ringing of keys, set up and takedown of the "Iron Curtain"
- 2:30 p.m.
Live music by SlovCzech, sing-along, food, kids games
- 4 p.m.
Screening of a documentary *Náš Vašek* followed by a discussion

In case of rain the outdoor event will move indoors

Sponsored by

Obituary: Hana Matousek

Hana Matousek, age 76, of Prior Lake, passed away on September 19, 2019, after a short illness.

Born in Czechoslovakia, Hana's journey to America began when she met our father, Paul Matousek. They wanted a better life for themselves as well as their children. After several attempts to leave the then communist Czechoslovakia, in 1971 they finally made it to Austria. After living on the east coast and in Ohio, they moved to Minnesota in the late 1970s. Hana and Paul were Sokol Minnesota members and very active in all of the C.S.P.S.Hall activities. Hana lent her talents as an authentic chef/baker to many Sokol functions through the years, as well as to their own businesses. She also continued to support her love for her homeland through sharing that with others. In the 1990s, Hana and Paul began taking travelers to the Czech Republic and showing them the beautiful sites that the country has to offer. She continued to lead the tours after Paul's passing. She loved telling stories of times gone by and singing all the songs of the country. The Czech community has lost a great advocate and talent. However, her modesty would want us all to remember all the joint accomplishments, as well as her great love for country, family, and friends.

Hana was preceded in death by her husband, Pavel, and is survived by children, Radmila Rasmussen, Joseph Matousek, granddaughters Pavlina Clark, Natalie and Sofie Matouskova; siblings, Ivan Straka and Jitka Knopova. Hana's memorial service was held on September 26, 2019, at the Klecatsky & Sons West Chapel in West Saint Paul. Hana's resting place will be with Pavel in Pacov, Czech Republic.

Thank you all for your support.

Radmila (Matousek) Rasmussen, Joe Matousek, and our families



Obituary: Vera Hawkinson

Vera Ludmila Verner Hawkinson, 84, of Phoenix, Arizona, passed on to heaven on September 11, 2019, in Munds Park, Arizona. Vera was born on November 21, 1934, in Saint Paul, Minnesota, to Frank and Ludmila Verner. Vera, who was a first-generation Czech-American, along with her brothers, Miroslav and Jaroslav, were raised in a strong Czech-American community. Vera was a student of the world and a self-made entrepreneur. Vera loved to travel and in her twenties she cycled across Europe.

Vera was active in the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota in Saint Paul and at Sokol Camp in Pine City, Minnesota. She co-founded and participated in the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. She even managed to corral her Swedish/Norwegian husband, Wayne Hawkinson, into donning the traditional Czech folk dress and joining the group.

Vera and Wayne married on October 3, 1964 and enjoyed 50 years of marriage before Wayne's passing on November 6, 2014. Together they had 4 children: Dorothy Belanger (husband, Mark) of Sylmar, California; Karen Hawkinson of Phoenix, Arizona; Glen Hawkinson (wife, Erin) of Chandler, Arizona; and Linda Wilson of Cave Creek, Arizona, and 6 grandchildren.

Vera and Wayne moved to Arizona in 1972. Together, they launched a plumbing shop and service called "Tiger Plumbing". Later, Vera opened a laundromat called "The Scrub Tub". Together, they built a business center named Tiger Plaza to which they relocated Tiger Plumbing. Vera made sure Wayne kept his word to someday put her name in lights, and they subsequently opened a second laundromat named "Vera's Laundromat".

After the sale of their businesses, Vera traveled extensively with Wayne around the country and the world, including Europe and Australia. Vera spent her summers at her cabin in Munds Park, enjoying the friendly neighbors, cool weather, birds, and squirrels. Vera was a kind, generous and loving wife, mother, and "Babi" and will be greatly missed.



Obituary: Carole Gonsowski

Carole (Bulera) Gonsowski of Cottage Grove passed away on September 20, 2019, at the age of 85.

Carole was part of a multi-generational family of Sokols and she was a life-long member of Sokol Minnesota. She was an original member of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, which began in 1962. She also enjoyed working with the children's dance groups for their performances for the Festival of Nations. Carole's artistic talent was evident in the beautiful folk costumes she sewed for her children. Carole loved all things Czech.

Preceded in death by husband Roy F. Gonsowski; parents Marion and Cecilia Bulera; sisters Mickey, Babe Vanyo; brother Tom Bulera, great-grandson Tristan.

Survived by brother Wally Bulera, children Gerald (Ann), Michael, Cindy (Darryl) Marsh, Joel (Kelly), Roy E. Gonsowski; 10 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren.

10 November 2019 *Slovo*



Czech Honorary Consul News



At the 30th Annual Czech & Slovak Festival, September 15, at C.S.P.S. Hall, M. L. Kucera, Czech Honorary Consul presented Jitka Sebek, leader of Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, with three 2018 commemorative 20 Czech *koruna* coins that honor the Founding Fathers of Czechoslovakia: Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (1850-1937), Edvard Beneš (1884-1948), and Milan Rastislav Štefánik (1881-1919), plus three 2019 coins that commemorate Czechoslovak Economists: Alois Rašín (1867-1923), Vilém Pospíšil (1873-1942), and Karel Engliš (1889-1961).



The Czech National Bank released these limited edition coins to mark the 100th anniversary of the foundation of Czechoslovakia and the 100th anniversary of the introduction of the Czechoslovak currency, the *koruna*. Thanks to Lenka Misíková, a Prague friend of Jitka's and Marit's, for procuring these special commemorative coins.

Famous Czech book author and illustrator Renáta Fučíková spent Sunday, September 29 at our Sokol Minnesota hall, talking about her books, many available in English, which have been used extensively over the years at Sokol's Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp. Renáta joined Marit in the Honorary Consul office to pose with Václav Havel's photograph and the Czech flag. She proudly received and wore the 100 button. Renáta then spent two days touring the Twin Cities with several guides, all Sokol Minnesota members. At Minnehaha Falls, she sang words to Antonín Dvořák's musical homage to Minnehaha Falls, which he wrote after his visit here in 1893. (Info: <http://collections.mnhs.org/MNHHistoryMagazine/articles/41/v41i03p128-136.pdf>)

Photos by Martina Gurgel, Jitka Sebek, M.L. Kucera.



30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution

Mark your calendar to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution on Sunday, November 17, 1-5 p.m., sponsored by Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, with singing, jingling keys, potluck dinner, kids' games, theatre, photos, music, and a film. All are welcome.



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul

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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: Blanka Brichta, Mark Dillon, Jean Draheim, Joe Matousek, Radmila (Matousek) Rasmussen, Sally Sebek, Pat Slaber, Joyce Tesarek, Jean Verner, and Louise Wessinger. Additional photographers in this issue: M.L. Kucera, Jitka Sebek, and Doreen McKenney. October mailing: Mary Cahill, Joan Sedlacek.

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

Children's Holiday Party

Friday, December 6, 7 p.m.

Members and Volunteers Holiday Party

Sunday, January 5, 2020, 12:30 p.m.

Reservations due by December 27

Call: 651-290-0542

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



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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

