

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

MARCH EVENTS

April Slovo Deadline
 March 1

Literary Ventures
 March 9, 10 a.m.

Family Night
 March 10, 4 p.m.

Board of Trustees
 March 13, 7 p.m.

Board of Directors
 March 21, 7 p.m.

**Flavors of Slovakia
 Dinner**
 March 31, 12:30 p.m.

FLAVORS of SLOVAKIA DINNER

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota



Sunday, March 31



Limited reserved seating 12:30 p.m.

\$16 adult, \$8 child under 9

Prepaid reservations and takeout are required by **March 23**
 To reserve call: **651-290-0542**

Dinner includes:

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

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

Spring Breakfast with Koláče and Craft Sales

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, April 14
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\$8. adult, \$6. children under 9,
 \$26. family of four (two adults and two children).

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

Koláče for your Easter table. To pre-order *koláče* call 651-290-0542.

Variety of exquisite hand-crafted items for sale. To reserve a vendor table rental call 651-433-2008.

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

SAVE THE DATE - BAND BLAST Sokol Fundraiser

Saturday, April 27 at 7 p.m. New bands, silent auction, door prizes, homemade *guláš*.

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes

by Dave Stepan

Pozdrav!

At our Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors annual retreat at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Saturday, February 2, we got to know each other better and planned for the upcoming year. With facilitation by former president Judy Aubrecht, we broke into small group discussions focusing on three areas: teen and young adult engagement and participation, publicity and website, and finances. I am excited that we are looking forward as an organization and that we have a strong active membership and leadership team.

January's Roast Duck Dinner was a sellout, as will be the Flavors of Slovakia dinner on March 31. For more information about these and upcoming events, you can go to our Facebook site www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota or to our website www.sokolmn.org

Last year I was lucky enough to be selected for a scholarship to the Czech Language Course sponsored by the Czech Foreign Ministry. I was in Dobruška with my wife Darnell for a month during the summer. This year's program has moved to Poděbrady and the dates this year are July 19 to August 16. For more information, see:

www.dzs.cz/cz/program-podpory-ceskeho-kulturniho-dedictvi-v-zahranici/kurz-cestiny/

Applications are due at a Czech embassy or consul general office by March 15. If you are interested in attending, please contact me at president@sokolmn and I will do my best to help.

We have been in conversation with the National Czech and Slovak Library and Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, about loaning us its exhibit "Leaving Czechoslovakia" for our annual Czech and Slovak Festival this fall. This is an exhibit with 300 oral history interviews. The project is an effort to collect and preserve the stories of twentieth century immigrants who fled communist Czechoslovakia. This exhibit ties in with what I heard on a radio program on the Martin Luther King holiday: the best thing the United States can give you is opportunity.

When I look at our membership here at Sokol Minnesota, I see different waves of immigrants. From the second generation of Czech or Slovak immigrants like myself, to the late Joe Mestenhauser's generation of 48'rs, to those who left after the 1968 events, and the latest wave of immigrants who are active members of the *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities / Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities*. The United States' immigrants are its strength and we are all part of this heritage.

So where do we go from here? Where does this organization come into your life? Only you know. The history of the C.S.P.S. Hall itself is only part of the story...the real history is with the lives of those that came before us. As members of Sokol Minnesota, you are adding your history to this organization. I hope you are proud of your history and your part in this organization. Whether you are a committee chair or a supporter by joining us at our upcoming events, we need you. I ask that you share your talents and interests, and that the next time you come for an event, bring a friend. Of course, they do not need to be Czech or Slovak.

Nazdar!



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

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Denise Stibal

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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, gift shop, E-Addresses for our board, program directors, volunteer staff, and the Czech Honorary Consul, and *Slovo* past issues are available at www.sokolmn.org or www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota, or call 651-290-0542.

Members and Volunteers Holiday Party

By Judy Aubrecht, chair for the Holiday Party

About 70 guests attended the Sokol Minnesota Members and Volunteers Holiday Party on Sunday, January 6. As they entered, each wrote down "My favorite way to volunteer in 2018 was..." for use in later door prize drawings. Guests brought appetizers and desserts to share and the main course of *hovězí maso s omáčkou*, or beef and vegetable sauce with pasta, prepared by Markéta Resong, was delicious.

Anna Hester, Colin Hester, and Kate Aubrecht served the food. Glynis Grostephan organized a Czech and Slovak trivia bingo game that was very popular. Later, as the slips with the written favorite volunteer activities were drawn and read, the lucky person selected a door prize. Many slips listed volunteering at major events as a favorite volunteer activity, such as the Festival of Nations, the Czech & Slovak Festival, the Czech Roast Pork Dinner, Flavors of Slovakia, Roast Duck Dinner, the Pancake Breakfasts, and the Children's Cultural Day Camp. Markéta Resong, Sharon Aaman, Anna Hester, and Katie Haselbauer liked cooking and baking. Chuck Wessinger enjoyed serving at the bar, and Mark Dillon and Val Norman listed setting up and taking down chairs and tables for events. Jean Draheim favored greeting people as they arrived for events. Dennis Cahill and Ed Hamernik valued the volunteer time that they spent working with the Board of Trustees to keep the building working efficiently. Joan Sedlacek listed ten different ways that she volunteered around the C.S.P.S. Hall, including setting up and taking down gymnastics equipment for the gym classes. Thank you Sokol Minnesota volunteers for each of the many ways that you fulfill the needs of our organization!



Above: Kate Aubrecht, Anna Hester, and Colin Hester serving Gabrielle Gerbaud, Andy Johnson, Darnell Stepan, Dave Stepan, and Dennis Novak

Top right: Radmilla Rasmussen and Markéta Resong

Bottom right: Anyone remember the Sokol Xmas Party of 1979? This is the placemat designed by Larry Hlavsa for that event. The coordinator for the party was Joyce Tesarek.

Sokol Minnesota Gymnasts Attend Central District Skills Clinic

By Sokol Minnesota Gym Instructors

On Friday, January 18, thirteen Sokol Minnesota gymnasts packed up for a road trip to the annual American Sokol Central District Skills and Progressions Clinic, held at Sokol Tabor in Berwyn, Illinois. This was the second largest turnout in the event's history, with 64 gymnasts attending from 10 Sokol units across the country. The theme for the clinic was "Beach Party." Gymnasts and instructors were encouraged to bring clothing and items to fit the theme.

A group of eleven gymnasts, two instructors, and one parent rode the MegaBus, and parents drove two gymnasts to the event. After the long drive, the gymnasts were excited to arrive at the gym and meet gymnasts from around the country. Participants were divided into teams and they came up with creative team names. Friday night was a time for ice breaker activities, scooter races, and games in the gym.

Saturday began with warm-ups and tumbling. Gymnasts were then divided into groups based on ability. Groups rotated to work on the various apparatus. After lunch, gymnasts learned marching and pyramid skills, and teams choreographed calisthenics performances to an instrumental song by the Beach Boys. The groups performed routines complete with marching, pyramids, costumes, and props, and the coaches put together their own routine. Performances were judged by instructors and the winning teams received awards during the graduation ceremony. The gymnasts finished off the night with vaulting and a special endurance training session called "burn out," during which instructors dressed up and led beach-themed conditioning stations.

Gymnasts had the opportunity to showcase their skills on various apparatus, and teams performed calisthenics routines during the graduation ceremony. Erin Armstrong received an individual award, "Best Burn Out Survivor", for best performance during the endurance training. Ella Pratt received an individual award for "Most Enthusiastic". Every Sokol Minnesota gymnast received a group award.



Back row: Zoe, Erin, Claire, Isabelle, Lily, Ella, Avery
Front row: Carissa, Jackson, Chania, Ainsley, Story, Kylah, Charley, Courtney



Instructors in beach party outfits pose at the endurance training challenge



Jackson and Ainsley in a pyramid with gymnasts from other units

22nd Annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp

Children six to fourteen years of age
Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

C.S.P.S. Hall from June 17 to 21, 2019
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Theme: Art Through the Centuries and Sports

Morning activities include ethnic crafts, cooking, snack, singing, language, gymnastics, and folk dancing.
After lunch activities continue with sports history, games, all camp play performance, choice of lego castle building, baking fun, or art and handcrafts.

Reduced-rate, early-bird registration is due by May 15, 2019
Register at the Sokol Minnesota website www.sokolmn.org under **Classes**, click on **Culture Camp 2019**.

Parents, grandparents, or family friends can volunteer at the camp, which allows the camper to attend at a reduced rate. Youth leaders ages 15-20 are invited to volunteer. Limit 6-8.
Contact Louise Wessinger with any questions at 651-452-6240.



Left: Duck dinner scene

Right: Theresa Pojar with duck dinners

Below: Lukas Debono and Amanda Tesarek with desserts



The 16th Annual Roast Duck Dinner

By Doreen McKenney

The 16th annual Roast Duck Dinner, hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, was held on January 26 at the C.S.P.S. Hall. The Czech cuisine on that chilly January evening included noodle soup, half of a roast duck, sweet and sour red cabbage, potato dumplings and gravy, caraway rye bread, and dessert.

Volunteers who made this year's sold out dinner a pleasant evening for the guests included co-chairs Doreen and Joan, Don and Pat Andrle, Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, Lucas Debono, Don and Katie Haselbauer, M.L. Kucera, Pam Langworthy, Teresa Pojar, Richard Sargent, Steve Shimer, Joyce Tesarek and Amanda Tesarek. Michaela Giancarlo and Cinnamon Whaley prepared the social media posts. Many thanks to the numerous guests who pitched in at the end of the evening to help with cleanup.



Presentation on Andy Warhol's Mother at Rusin Association Celebration

Several Sokol Minnesota members enjoyed Dr. Elaine Rusinko's presentation about Andy Warhol's Mother: the Carpatho-Rusyn Immigrant behind the American Artist at the 33rd annual Rusin Association's Duchnovich Day celebration on February 2 at Saint Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Parish Center, Minneapolis. Pittsburgh-born pop art icon Andy Warhol (1928-1967) is perhaps the most famous Slovak-American. Julia Warhola, Andy's artistic mother (1891-1972), spent 20 years (1951-1971) with him in New York City. Rusinko's insightful lecture described how she collaborated on his commercial artwork, signed his canvases, entertained his friends, and prayed for his soul. The Andy Warhol Museum (1993) in Pittsburgh is the largest museum in North America dedicated to a single artist. In far eastern Slovakia, in the town of Medzilaborce, the Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art (1991) is even larger and two years older.

The Rusin Association is devoted to the promotion of the cultural heritage of the Rusin/Carpatho-Rusyn/Rusnak people whose homeland is northeastern Slovakia, western Ukraine, and southeastern Poland.



(L-R) Karen Varian (president of the Rusin Association), Elaine Rusinko, Lucy Rose, M.L. Kucera, Pamela Langworthy, and Richard Sargent. Also attending: Jyni Koschak

The Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival presents Czech and Slovak Films

The Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF) is coming soon, April 4-20. One of the most prestigious regional film events in the country, the 38th annual festival features more than 200 entries this year from some 50 countries. The Czech film *Dukla 61* and the Slovak film *The Interpreter* will be screened. The MSPIFF, initiated in 1983, evolved from the University of Minnesota Film Society, founded in 1962 by Al Milgrom. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota joins the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, and the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic to help sponsor the Czech and Slovak films.

Dukla 61

One of the most remarkable Czech television productions of recent times focuses on the largest mine disaster of the latter 20th century. Unmet standards, the pressure to produce results, and an avalanche of critical errors caused a fire on July 7, 1961, during which 108 men suffocated in a Dukla mineshaft. Director David Ondříček turns the half-forgotten tragedy into a family drama that ultimately morphs into a catastrophic thriller. The work, which was shot in a former mine in Rakovnik, Czech Republic, is thus transformed into an emotive take on the period that pays tribute to the mining profession. Those brave men regarded their work as a mission, even though they risked their lives each and every day.

The Interpreter (in Slovak and German, with English Subtitles)

An 80-year-old translator, Ali Ungár, comes across a book written by a former SS officer recounting his war experiences in Slovakia. Ali realizes that one of the chapters may well describe his own parents' execution. Armed with a pistol, he sets off to Vienna to look for the SS man and take his revenge. But once there, the only person he encounters is the man's 70-year-old son Georg, a former teacher who has spent his whole life avoiding his father and suffering from an addiction to alcohol. The translator's visit arouses Georg's curiosity and he decides to invite Ali on a trip through Slovakia. But while Georg is basically out to have a good time, Ali is hoping to find out how his parents really died. Gradually, these two very different men begin to warm to each other and together, they discover a country that would prefer to forget about its past.

Oscillating between comedy and tragedy, Director Martin Šulík's road movie focuses on two old men, weighed down by the unresolved conflicts that have plagued their lives, who are now trying to free themselves from their oppressive burdens. Jiří Menzel (Academy Award Winner, *Closely Watched Trains*) plays the role of the gloomy and worldly-wise Ali, and Peter Simonischek is the maverick Georg.

Festival locales, screening dates (not yet set), and tickets can be found on the MSPIFF 2019 website:

mspfilm.org/festivals/mspiff/

6 March 2019 Slovo

Czech and Slovak Heritage Documentary scheduled for Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival



Eddie Shimota, Jr., on Stradivarius accordion at age 10 on farm near Veseli, Minnesota

Singin' in the Grain—Minnesota's Czech Story: Al Milgrom's feature-length documentary celebrating the Czechoslovak heritage in Minnesota, 40-plus years in the making, is due to be screened at the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF) this April 4-20.

A rounded portrait of local Czech and Slovak culture, also aimed at non-Czechoslovak audiences, the film features country polka bands, harvest festivals, and annual events at the C.S.P.S. Hall as well as in "Czech Country": New Prague, Veseli, Lonsdale, and Montgomery. The film is photographed and produced by Milgrom (*The Dinkytown Uprising*, 2015), with partial funding by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the Minnesota State Arts Board under a Minnesota Legacy Grant.

The film showcases the Eddie Shimota Polka band, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, New Prague's *Dožínky* Days (harvest festival), Montgomery's Kolacky Days, and folk events both at the C.S.P.S. Hall and in southern Minnesota, topped by the recent 100th anniversary celebrations of Czechoslovakia becoming a nation in 1918 after World War I, and after nearly 400 years of domination by the Austro-Hungarian empire.

From the mid-19th century, when settlers established roots both in Saint Paul and in Czech Country, to the post-1989 new arrivals, the film celebrates the survival of Czech and Slovak dance, food, music, family, and cultural traditions into the 21st Century. Spirited dancing from local Czech and Slovak groups throughout the film enlivens it with Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovakian atmosphere.

Shooting footage for the film began in 1974, spurred by colorful Veseli ho-downs and the Eddie Shimota, Sr., Polka Band. Filming continued, recalls Milgrom, "off and on, between my daytime job" as director and artistic director of the University of Minnesota Film Society from its founding in 1962 and continued with the MSPIFF until 2012. In remaking his career as a documentary filmmaker, he says, the Czech project continued up to the present, with editor Dan Geiger saddled with many hours of festival footage to be given shape.

Band Blast

By Blanka Brichta

Mark your calendars now for Band Blast, our third annual musical fundraiser sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities. Come to hear amazing local bands and musicians, as we help raise money for the C.S.P.S. Hall exterior repair fund. Our event at the Hall on Saturday, April 27, starts at 7 p.m. There will be something for every age and every taste.

As usual, the opening band will have Czech-Slovak ties. We are inviting Pavel Jany, a native Czech, with Talking Strings to open the evening. The trio, who play earthy and groovy sounds and anything from East European tunes to popular hot club jazz, is a regular at the Loring Pasta Bar.

Jim Steinworth will follow. Jim is a member of the River Rats, masters of interactive rock-n-roll comedy. River Rats are the longest running dueling pianos act in Minnesota and the first team to bring dueling pianos to Las Vegas. Be ready to get involved, request songs, clap along, and sing along. And laugh!

If you're not out of your seat yet, then you will want to dust off your dance shoes for the next group. The Bad Companions is a long-standing Minneapolis-based, roots-rock band with a set list as long as your arm, drawn from the swingin' heyday of American rock-a-billy, r&b, country, and blues. They have been featured on NPR's "Prairie Home Companion" and have made a couple of national television appearances.

Once again, the Brass Messengers will close out the night. Do you remember how much fun we had last year? Well, we must have been really a fun group to play for, because they agreed to return and play for us again! We are thrilled and humbled. This Twin Cities band of ten musicians plays with gusto anything that fits into twisted brass tubing, from inspired originals to covers from around the globe.

We have more: a silent auction, trivia, and surprise door prizes. Christopher Yeager will emcee the evening and teach us a dance or two during breaks. Come hungry and thirsty. We will have for purchase the best goulash you can find in town, as well as other refreshments, plus a cash bar with Czech beer and wine. Suggested admission donation: \$10. If you would like more information or want to reserve a seat, email us at bandblast2019@gmail.com. Let's have fun and fundraise for our Hall!

Kick-off to 19th Annual

MASOPUST

THE CZECH MARDI GRAS

March 3, 2019

American Legion

Montgomery, MN

12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Adults - \$5 Children under Age 15 Free

Music by: The Charlie Sticha Band

COSTUME BALL (COSTUMES ENCOURAGED) PRIZES AWARDED

Silent Auction : 12:30-4:30

Also during the afternoon:

King Coronation Costume Contest

Czech Food Available all day including Pork & Dumplings

ST. PAUL CZECH AND SLOVAK FOLK DANCERS

Thank you Sponsors!

Montgomery's 19th Annual Masopust Celebration

by Jean Keogh

The 19th annual *Masopust* celebration is on Sunday, March 3 from noon to 5 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Montgomery. It is a Czech Mardi Gras costume ball (costumes are encouraged and prizes are awarded).

The program is as follows: music by the Charlie Sticha Band, dancing, *Masopust* Skit, a performance by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, the introduction of visiting royalty, past *Masopust* royalty, and other dignitaries, as well as crowning of the 2019-2020 Masopust King.

The menu includes a pork dinner and chicken dumpling soup, plus plenty of pivo (beer). Baked goods such as *koláče* and bread, are also available.

The silent auction features craft items, Czech heritage items, new items, and baskets.

For more information:

www.montgomerymn.org/masopust/

Chili with a Czech and Slovak Accent

by Cinnamon Whaley

Meatless Monday Chili

6 servings, 1 hour prep/cook time
3 tablespoons vegetable oil
1/2 medium white onion, diced
3 cloves garlic
1 diced green pepper, diced
1 jalapeño (to taste), diced
2 16 oz cans kidney beans
2 16 oz cans chili beans
1 8 oz can tomato sauce
1 16 oz can diced tomato
chili powder, smoked paprika, and cumin, to taste
cheese, sour cream, or sauerkraut

Do you have a favorite chili recipe? While I enjoy trying other people's chili, I always go back to my stand-by, the kind of recipe you know well enough that you don't measure anything as you are going along. However, measurements are provided for this recipe.

Are you familiar with the Meatless Monday movement? Perhaps your doctor has suggested that you cut down on red meat, or you are starting to pay more attention to your food's journey to your plate? This chili can be made either with ground beef, with no meat product at all, or if you're feeling adventurous, I will list a few great alternatives within the recipe. Last night we made this recipe at my house with only beans and we did not realize it was missing meat until we were halfway done eating it!

To begin cooking this chili, start your vegetable oil on low heat, prep your onion, green pepper, and jalapeño into the size you prefer to eat. Pour in your onions, bring your heat to medium, and let the onions get translucent to oh-so-slightly brown. Add your green and jalapeño peppers.

Do you like garlic? I use a microplane rasp to make what is essentially a garlic paste. I microplane right into the pot and give it a stir. Let that sit a minute while you open all of your canned products; then add them, saving half of the tomato sauce to see how thick your chili is; you can add more sauce as you go.

We use quite a bit of chili powder, smoked paprika, and cumin in our house; those three spices are very versatile and inexpensive! Smoked paprika in and of itself will give the chili a different flavor. Give the smoked paprika a try by adding it first, tasting before and after the paprika is added. Then, add the chili powder and cumin.

Here you can choose to add your ground beef, one of the alternatives below, or just skip the additions all together. With four cans of beans, you'll get enough protein! A flavorful chili is a great way to try new alternatives. Additional alternatives to beans include:

Trader Joe's® Soy Chorizo (soy sausage);

Beyond Meat® Beyond Beef Crumbles (made with Non-GMO Pea Protein); or

Morning Star Farm's Grillers® Crumbles™ (vegetarian).

Let your chili cook for a half hour or more to mingle all the flavors, then serve. Add a side of cheese, sour cream; try sauerkraut for a Czech or Slovak accent.



89th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

Mark your calendars now for the 89th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic! The date is set for Sunday, August 11 from noon until 5 p.m. The historic Sokol camp on Cross Lake in Pine City will once again host this memorable event. We will feature live entertainment, including the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, bingo, and a raffle as you enjoy a piping hot bowl of booya, jitrnice, home-made meatloaf sandwich, or cabbage roll. Come early! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kari or Scott Mures at 763-226-0313 / 612-387-9274.

Paper Shoes by Pavel Šrut, translated by Ema Katrovas. Carnegie Mellon University Press: Pittsburgh. 2009. Published in Czech by Mlada fronta: Prague, 2001. 136 pages.

BOOK REVIEW

Pavel Šrut was a Multitalented Czech Poet and Children's Story Writer By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

Acclaimed Czech writer Pavel Šrut died in April 2018 at the age of 78, leaving behind a legacy of dozens of collections of poems, children's stories, fiction, song lyrics, translations, and feuilletons (short, light, entertaining articles, essays, and sketches).

Paper Shoes is a collection of mostly sober, short poems full of allusions, symbolism, and metaphors. The book is named after the eastern European custom of burying bodies in cardboard shoes, not wasting valuable, real shoes. It is enhanced as a bilingual edition, with Czech and English versions of the poems side by side, as well as translator's notes and an author biography. However, I would have appreciated a more transparent and informative introduction. Here are two of the clearer, short entries in *Paper Shoes*.

Stalin's Monument: Snapshot from 1956

A limestone eagle lands on a pedestal

Day after day

It watches over Prague so that not a pebble

From the statue should soak in the next rain

And under Him

Chained to his bed

In the Frantisek City Hospital

With a pecked liver Dad

Reads through my report card

Žižkov Evenings

(for my Father)

Still, those evenings will never return

Dad, you in the armchair, with reins

You hold your family and a slipper

As you shake your foot

Hangs only by your toe

Childhood is long and suddenly ends

Brother talks of college then goes to learn a trade

Few will clap for the slipper act

Mother rarely meets a Fortune

In a line for T-shirts

And night in night out

the radio gets jammed

Pavel Šrut was born in Prague in 1940, graduated in 1967 from Charles University, where he studied English and Spanish, and started his literary career as an editor in a publishing house. Like many authors of his generation, he was not allowed by the communists to publish books of poems, although collections of verses, fairy tales, translated stories, and rhymes for children were sanctioned and won him celebrity. With the thaw in the 1960s, he was able to start publishing his poems in magazines and books. After the Soviet crackdown in

1968, he took to translating books and lyrics from English into Czech and Spanish, including works by Leonard Cohen, Robert Graves, D. H. Lawrence, Salman Rushdie, William Shakespeare, Dylan Thomas, and John Updike.

Martin Pšenička wrote in his portrait of Šrut that you can't strictly differentiate between Šrut as a poet and as an author of children's books because each has significantly influenced the other, with elements such as comic use of homonyms and inventive, playful rhymes appearing in both. This makes it difficult to know how well Ema Katrovas, who was nineteen or twenty at the time, translated *Paper Shoes*, whether she went beyond the literal and captured the heart or spirit of the original. This translation involves no rhyming and most poems are highly open to interpretation.

In the introduction to *Paper Shoes*, Richard Katrovas, who is the translator's father, an English professor, and writer, describes Šrut, in a way I agree with, as "a lyric poet of abundant humanity, abundant compassion, but it is compassion leavened by a pervasive irony, a quintessentially Czech irony." In his writing, Šrut uses an Everyman named Novak, a common Czech name; he is similar to Jaroslav Hašek's *Good Soldier Švejk* and some of Franz Kafka's characters.

Šrut had the opportunity to immigrate to the United States. Former U.S. Ambassador William Luers helped him come to the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa. Šrut traveled coast to coast in the States, but chose not to stay in this country. Back in Czechoslovakia, the author was active in the dissident movement, distributed his writing through underground samizdat channels, and was a major player in the Velvet Revolution. Among his awards are the IBBY Honour List, Golden Ribbon Award, Magnesia Litera (for the popular trilogy, *The Oddsockeaters*), Karel Čapek Prize, Jaroslav Seifert Prize, Most Beautiful Czech Book, and the Czech State Prize for Literature.

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 Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures members to discuss *Lay Down Your Arms: The Autobiography of Martha von Tilling* by Bertha von Suttner on Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m. to noon, in the first-floor classroom at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Join Us for the 2019 Sokolfest!

XXVIII Sokol USA Slet, June 26-30, Buffalo, New York

Calisthenic and folk dance performances, volleyball tournament, and Fitness Challenge at Sweet Home High School:

www.sweethomeschools.org

AAU sanctioned gymnastics competition at Greater Buffalo Gymnastics:

www.greaterbuffalogymnastics.com

Headquarters, reception, polka dance and dinner, and celebration dance at Buffalo Marriott Niagara:

www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bufny-buffalo-marriott-niagara

See additional events and all of the details here:

http://www.sokolusa.org/Sokolfest_2019_menu.html

New Sokol Members accepted at January 17th Board of Directors Meeting

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

There were 10 individuals and three couples accepted at the January 17 Board of Directors meeting, for a total of 16 new members! The individuals are: **Andy Bobrytzke** from Mankato, with interests in cultural events, genealogy, dinners, and history; **Daren Carlson**, the husband of current member Barbora Carlson; **Mary Carson** from Lonsdale, the current Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota First Princess; **Jason Cook**, from West Saint Paul, a gymnastics dad with interests in film, music, theater; **Madison Fox-Christensen**, who enjoys new languages, gardening, hiking, walking, and taking care of animals; **Annette Roth** from Robbinsdale, with interests in cooking, events, and history/genealogy; **Kelly Rynda** from Minneapolis with interests in language and culture; **Steven Shimer** from Saint Paul with interests in serving dinners; **Darnell Stepan**, wife of Sokol Minnesota president Dave Stepan. Darnell and Dave are in the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers; and **Deb Vlasak** from Montgomery, with interests in culture camp, dinners/dances, and history/genealogy. The 3 couples are: **Lucy Brudnak** and **Stephen Rose** from Saint Paul, Lucy is also in the folk dance group; **Darlene Sholtis** and **Heino Beckmann** from Edina, with interests in cooking, dinners/dances, and history/genealogy; and **John Tesarek** and **Cheri Tesarek** from Superior Wisconsin, with interests in cooking, festivals, and theater. John is a brother of board member Joyce Tesarek. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

STAR Grant for C.S.P.S. Hall Double Match Update

By Joyce Tesarek, Finance Chair

In July of 2017, Sokol Minnesota was awarded an \$85,979 Saint Paul STAR grant to use for roof and masonry repairs to our C.S.P.S. Hall. Because it is a matching grant, we need to raise our own \$85,979 for our Legacy Fund to fully receive the grant funds. In December 2018, to help meet this goal, a group of Sokol members offered to match future donations for this grant.

Through December 31, 2018, the Sokol team matched \$9,849 of new donations, which brings our total Legacy Fund donations to \$55,913! Only \$30,066 more is needed to complete the match: \$15,033 from our supporters and \$15,033 from the internal match. This is really remarkable support for our project, and we want to thank you all for your help.

Be sure to continue to come to our historic Hall and enjoy all the events, classes, and activities the Hall makes possible.

Highlights of January 17 Board of Directors Meeting

by Mary Cahill

New President Dave Stepan presided over his first official Board of Directors (BOD) meeting and introduced a new tradition of singing Živijó, a popular Happy Birthday song in

the Czech Republic, to Board members whose birthday occurs in the meeting month. A BOD retreat is planned for Saturday, February 2. President Dave wants to see young people and students more involved in Sokol events, as one goal for the upcoming year.

Status of repairs to the building was reviewed. The necessary roof repair was completed. Brickwork and tuck pointing contractors have been selected and the work will start when weather permits. The Board of Trustees reported that a deep C.S.P.S. Hall cleaning, as well as space and storage issues, are also on this year's project list.

Sixteen new members were accepted to the organization, bringing current membership to 303. BOD members stressed the importance of welcoming new members and making connections with them based on their stated areas of interest on the membership application form.

We have seen substantial response to the donation request letter sent with the Membership Renewal Request form and are appreciative of those donations. There is \$30,066 needed to complete the required match for the \$85,979 City of Saint Paul STAR grant. Recent gaming proceeds of \$5,000 transferred to Sokol Minnesota will be directed to the STAR Grant match.

A standardized infrastructure for electronically stored materials is being developed on Sokol's new computer. This will be a repository for committee reports, event instructions, photos of events, etc. The computer and additional electronic equipment were purchased with a grant from the Czech government.

A new Theater and Performing Arts sub-committee is being established. Call 651-290-0542 for more information.

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Glynis Grostephan, Corresponding Secretary

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

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

Under \$99: **Zuzana and Keith Bracknell, Louise Cameron** in memory of Val Kuisle, **Beatrice Flaming, Cecilie and Emanuel Gaziano, Colleen Gengler, Ann and Ken Janda, Ted Skluzacek, Barbara Tuzinski.**

\$100 - \$499: **John Adan, George Hoffman, Robert Kotek, Cheryl Nelson Theuninck.**

\$500 - \$999: **Cynthia Coulter.** Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities.

\$5000 - \$9999: **Joan Sedlacek.**

GENERAL FUND:

Under \$99: **Kathleen Philipp** in honor of Taneční Mládež Dancers.

\$100 - \$499: **American Academy of Neurology** in memory of Val Kuisle.

TOTALS:

Legacy Fund: \$ 6,884

General Fund: \$ 125

TOTAL: \$ 7,009

Czech Honorary Consul News

2019 marks 30 years since the **Velvet Revolution**, which toppled the 40-year communist regime and reinstated a democratic government. It was one of the most defining moments in recent Czech history.

For this anniversary, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C., invites individuals here in the United States to submit photos and/or a brief description (80 words maximum) depicting where you were on November 17, 1989, the day the Velvet Revolution began in Czechoslovakia (and/or the moment you learned about the Velvet Revolution). Find the guidelines at <www.mzv.cz/washington/en/culture_events/news/where_were_you.html> For more information, please contact Andrea Pohl, J.D., Public Relations Specialist, Embassy of the Czech Republic, 202-274-9129.

Watch for information in upcoming *Slovo*s for local events to commemorate the Velvet Revolution.



Czech citizens must apply for **new passports** at a Czech Consulate (Chicago, New York, or Los Angeles) or the Embassy (Washington, D.C.), but they can pick them up at the nearest Honorary Consul office. Vladan and Kateřina picked up their new Czech passports in late January at the office of the Honorary Czech Consul office in C.S.P.S. Hall. Their two sons proudly waved Czech flags.



At **Global Minnesota's** members party on February 11, Hungarian Honorary Consul Csilla Grauzer (left) and Czech Honorary Consul M.L. Kucera (right) talked with

Mark Ritchie, the new president of Global Minnesota, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing international understanding and engagement. <globalminnesota.org>

Czech Honorary Consul coordinates several Czech/Slovak organizations in Minnesota to help sponsor **Czech and Slovak films** at the 38th annual Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival, April 4-20 (details on page 6).

Czech that Film! comes to the Twin Cities the first week of June. We hope a Czech director or actor will join us for this cinematic weekend at the Film Society. Read details in the April *Slovo*. St. Anthony Main Theatre, 125 NE Main Street, Minneapolis.

The current exhibit at the American Swedish Institute, "Imagine: Surreal Photography by Erik Johansson" (through April 28), has a **Czech connection**. Johansson lives in Prague. Imagine a place where fish are islands or landscapes become waterfalls. Using his own photographs, Johansson digitally knits together clever and complex montages of nature to create unbelievable dream-like realities. 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis.

Member News

Obituary. Our sincere sympathy to Sokol Minnesota members Gary Zweber and Denise Stibal on the death of Gary's mother, Loretta Zweber. Her funeral was Friday, February 1, 2019, in Prior lake.

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.

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 (interim): Tom Aubrecht; Production Layout Manager (interim): Larry Hlavsa; Photographers: Martina Gurgel and Joyce Tesarek; Collages: Martina Gurgel; Sokol Minnesota Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney;

Regular Contributors: Glynis Grostephan, Dave Stepan, Denise Stibal, Norm Petrik, and Jean Draheim; Mailing Lists: Penny Tesarek; Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek; Advisors: Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, Marit Kucera, Norm Petrik, and Jitka Sebek.

Additional contributors this issue: Blanka Brichta, Jean Keogh, M.L. Kucera, Al Milgrom, Sokol Minnesota Gym Instructors, Cinnamon Whaley, Gwen Willems.

Additional photos this issue: M.L. Kucera, Al Milgrom, Sokol Minnesota Gym Instructors, Cinnamon Whaley.

February Mailing Party volunteers: Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, Larry Hlavsa, Joanne Sipe, Jason Brozovich, M.L. Kucera, Joan Sedlacek, Joyce Tesarek, Penny Tesarek, Deb Ziskovsky.

Sokol Minnesota Events

Attend or Volunteer at these Upcoming Events!

Spring Pancake Breakfast with Koláče and Craft Sales

Sunday April 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., C.S.P.S. Hall

No reservations needed.

Pre-order Koláče: 651-290-0542

Reserve a craft table: 651-433-2008

Festival of Nations

www.festivalofnations.com

Saint Paul RiverCentre

www.rivercentre.org

Thursday May 2 to Sunday May 5

Cafe kitchen food preparation and plating;

Cafe food server (folk dress provided); and/or

Cultural booth representative.

Four hour shifts.

Signup information available in April

Check for event updates:

www.sokolmn.org

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

CZECH AND SLOVAK



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* March 2019

Exterior Wall Repair
FUNDRAISER
for the C.S.P.S. Hall

Saturday, April 27
7p.m.

383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN

Live music by

- BRASS MESSENGERS.
- BAD COMPANIONS.
- TALKING STRINGS.
- JIM STEINWORTH.

3rd Annual

BAND BLAST

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities

\$10 suggested admission

For more info or to reserve your seat email
bandblast2019@gmail.com

- Rockabilly and HOT jazz bands
- Dance
- Sing-a-long
- Silent Auction
- Cash bar
- Food and desserts