



90th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic!

Sunday, August 15, 2021

Noon until 5 p.m. (rain or shine)

19201 Woodland Acres South, Pine City, Minnesota 55063



Please join all Sokol Brothers and Sisters and friends at the Sokol Camp Booya Picnic!

This fun-filled event for all ages will be held at our beloved Sokol Camp.

We will serve many fine ethnic foods, including *kolačé*, *jiternice*, bratwurst, and booya!

Revived this year is a 1939 booya recipe that will be prepared alongside the traditional camp recipe.

On the entertainment front, we proudly feature the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers and the musical talents of Dave Carlson, concertina/vocalist.

Kids' games/prizes and a photo booth are also part of the picnic fun!

Don't forget to enjoy your favorite beverage as you try your luck at our bingo table or 50-50 board.

This annual event, which dates back to the 1930s, is the Camp's main fundraiser. All of the proceeds are used directly for the upkeep and maintenance of the buildings, which were built in 1926 or after.

Interested in volunteering? Help set-up on Sunday, August 8, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Or set-up or take-down on the day of the event, Sunday, August 15 from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Please contact Scott or Kari Muyres at 763-226-0313.

All are welcome at the Booya Picnic! We hope to see you at Sokol Camp!



Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Dave Stepan

The big exhale! I'm not sure if you feel surreal when you are back out in our community, or if it is already the new normal? Was this past year a bad dream? I am praying we are all coming out of dark woods and into a bright meadow of flowers we can pick and, most importantly, share with one another. I look forward to the next few months. It will be interesting to see if my self-awareness of how this past year affected me continues, or if I just set it aside.



Our adult Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers are back practicing and dancing. I am looking forward to performing with my wife Darnell and daughters Brittany and Michelle. For those of us vaccinated, dancing and working out without a mask has been a freeing experience. I just hope my dancing legs are ready for all we have planned including Bechyn Czech Festival on August 8, the Sokol Camp Booya Picnic in Pine City on August 15, and the LeSeur County Fair in Le Center on August 21. We will have already participated in Kolačky Days in Montgomery on July 25 by the time this issue of *Slovo* is published.

If you have never been to our Sokol Camp Booya Picnic, I would like to ask that you highlight August 15 on your calendar. It's a truly unique camp and, for those that live in the Twin Cities, it is only an hour away. The festival raises money to support the camp. If you have never tried booya, this is your chance!

Planning is taking place for our 32nd Czech & Slovak Festival on September 26. I hope you all come to share in the festivities. It will showcase the best we have to offer in the Czech and Slovak Community in Minnesota and I think it will be a truly exciting event.

There are lots of opportunities for you to join us in our activities. We will announce our Youth Leadership Award Winners in the next issue and will introduce the winners at our Czech & Slovak Festival in September (unless the winners are off to college out of the metro area). We are moving forward with our new Sokol Minnesota Youth Group where our younger members will participate in activities that they would like to plan and do. We definitely appreciate having them with us.

I am planning several new activities this fall: another *Houby* (Mushroom) Hunt, a beer brewing class, and teaching curling. Stay tuned for more information.

You probably have heard about the tornado that ripped through towns in South Moravia on June 24. Our Board of Directors member Markéta Pálková has family living in Moravská Nová Ves, one of the towns devastated. Much of her town is in ruins, including the Sokol Culture House. Markéta will be in Moravská Nová Ves by the time you read this. From what I understand, for many, homeowner's insurance is an uncommon or underfunded purchase and many will be left to their own resources to rebuild.

If you have the ability to help in the relief efforts, there are a number of ways to help including:

- Via the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids' fundraising site: tinyurl.com/6p8b9ptu
- Direct to individuals via the Czech version of "go fund me": www.donio.cz on the Together for Moravia page (right click to translate to English if needed). Select the More Collections button for the full list. Markéta mentioned a family with four children by the name of *rodina Barbořáková* (family Barbořák) as one worthy recipient. Their city governmental agency is also coordinating relief efforts.
- Or, let me (president@sokolmn.org) or our Czech Honorary Consul, M. L. Kucera (minneapolis@honorary.mzv.cz) know and we will coordinate with Markéta.

Nazdar!

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

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

Tornado Wreaks Havoc to Home Town of a Sokol Minnesota Member

A freak tornado devastated several small towns in southern Moravia on Thursday, June 24. While tornadoes are relatively common in the United States, they are almost unknown in the Czech Republic. According to BBC news, at least five people died in the Břeclav and Hodonín districts, more than 150 were injured, and over 1,000 homes were destroyed or damaged.

Moravská Nová Ves, the hometown of Sokol member Markéta Pálková, was one of the towns severely damaged. Markéta is on the Board of Directors of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota as a Member-at-Large, and she is also one of the mainstays of the Twin Cities Czech-Slovak community and the *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities/Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities*. Markéta reported all of her family members are fine; the tornado missed them by approximately 100 meters (328 feet). However, there was damage to their house, including a broken fence gate, plus broken car glass. Key damage directly affecting her family was to their wine cellar in the adjacent town of Mikulčice.



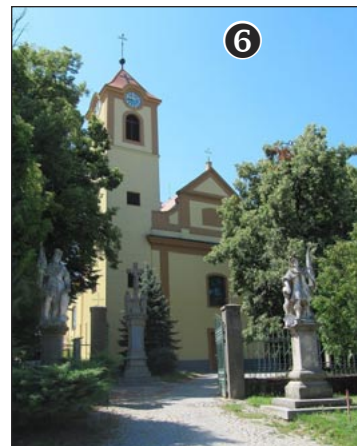
Markéta emailed, “Within two weeks of the tornado, Moravská was pretty much cleaned of the debris. Work is being done on houses now. It is extremely sad to see the town without anything green! It looks more like an army base in the desert.”



The municipalities of Moravská Nová Ves and Mikulčice, in the Hodonín District in the South Moravian Region, are both adjacent to the Slovak border, very near where the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, and Austrian borders meet. The distance between the two towns is 16 km (10 miles).



If you want to donate to the relief efforts, both the President’s column on page 2 and the Honorary Consul’s column on page 15 list reputable websites that are accepting donations.



1. Volunteers immediately arrived to help protect houses and make repairs. Many blue and green tarps are now temporarily in place. The government is providing relief, but Markéta pointed out that insurance to cover cars and even homes is not as common as it is here in the United States. **2.** *Sokolovna*, the community center, sustained significant damage. **3.** Markéta’s brother Jan Pálka’s 45-tree apricot orchard had one-third of the trees completely destroyed; hail damaged the rest, leaving fruit badly damaged and rotting. This orchard was an important part of his income. **4.** Of great loss to everyone, the cemetery was completely destroyed. Markéta was especially saddened by the destruction of her family’s grave. **5.** Many people lost their houses completely; other houses were partially, but severely damaged. **6. - 7.** The Roman Catholic church in Moravská, *Kostel Svatého Jakuba* (Church of St. James the Elder), lost the roofs over the bell tower and also over the main part of the church, along with the trees, as seen here in before and after pictures of the church.

Cultural Day Camp Ruled by “Kings and Castles”

by Doreen McKenney and Louise Wessinger, Co-Directors



“Kings and Castles” volunteers and campers with their handmade swords and their own coat-of-arms on their shields

Huzzah! to our 23rd Annual Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp sponsored by Sokol Minnesota! On June 14-18, our C.S.P.S. Hall took a step back into the Middle Ages. Learning about Europe during medieval times means learning about the feudal system and the life of people long ago. We learned how often castles were started by a leader who built a wooden fort to protect his tribe or villagers, how that led to the building of a stone “keep,” and eventually led to a second protective wall from which to defend an entire city. Campers learned about two special “kings.” One was Václav, Duke of Bohemia in the tenth century, and the second was Charles IV, who was not only King of Bohemia, but also Holy Roman Emperor in the fourteenth century.

Guest Speakers and Performers

During the week, we had several guests who helped us understand those ancient times. On Monday, Tom and Penny Tesarek introduced us to the art of juggling, which was a common form of after-dinner entertainment. Tuesday, Czech Honorary Consul Marit Lee Kucera, who is also a textile artist, told us about medieval clothing, including wearing of tunics and cloaks. She even made a cloak for campers to try on.

Wednesday, Blanka Brichta presented the making of the Charles Bridge and briefed us on Thursday’s special guest, Jan Kubišta, the Deputy Consul General in Chicago for the last four years. Jan was visiting Minnesota and South Dakota before he moves to his new post in Berlin. In 2007, Jan was a contestant



Penny and Tom Tesarek

on a Czech TV show about castle trivia. We saw part of his appearance on the show and videos about the construction of the Charles Bridge, including an animated one that showed exactly how it was built. On Thursday we greeted Jan with bread and salt when he arrived to take part in our flag ceremony, to see our morning rotations, and to stay for singing (he even danced with us!). He showed pictures of Czech Castles and told us about his favorite ones. Jan



Blanka Brichta



Jan Kubišta, Deputy Consul General in Chicago

also brought presents for Sokol Minnesota and for our campers. Thursday after-noon, we had a visit from Frank Trnka and Jason Brozovich, Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipers, who played for us and showed how their *dudy* (bagpipes) were constructed and played.



Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera



Frank Trnka and Jason Brozovich, Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipers



L to R: Junior Leaders: Jacob, Julian, Juna, and Izzy



Language class with Izzy



Gym instructors: Claire, Anna, and Lily

We were so happy to have Junior Leaders Kate Castillon, Izzy Espinoza, Julian Harris, Juna Krikava, and Jacob Olson, who did an excellent job of helping lead campers through our many activities and making the experience fun!

Each morning we had our usual rotations. Gymnastics was taught by our Sokol Minnesota instructors, headed by Coach Claire and assisted by Coaches Anna and Lily. Doreen McKenney, our head craft leader, assisted by Jean Draheim, helped campers make projects that Doreen planned to match the theme.

Among the projects, they personalized their own corn hole game bags with initials and a “guild “ symbol that represented themselves, designed a coat-of-arms for their shield and sword, cut out and made an illuminated castle tower complete with a drawbridge, made medieval market carts out of popsicle sticks which held a small plant (donated and planted by Joan Sedlacek), and designed finger puppets with backdrops to color and cut. On Friday they adorned goblets and crowns with jewels to wear for the noon-time banquet.



Mixing dough for Artisan Stone Ground Wheat Bread

Czech Language was taught by junior leaders Kate Castillon on Monday and Izzy Espinoza the rest of the week. Lorraine Olson helped as adult supervisor. Izzy prepared the students with the vocabulary words used for Czech Sokol Bingo, a Friday camp tradition.



Gymnastics class

For cooking class, Doreen had researched foods and taste-tested recipes from medieval times that would have been made by our European ancestors. Monday saw a lot of carrot peeling to make the popular Carrot Marmalade. Each camper took home a jar for their family to taste. Tuesday, the campers baked Artisan Stone Ground Wheat Bread. It was delicious! Wednesday, they made two savory and two sweet flavors of Slovak Easter Cheese. Pork Goulash was Thursday’s project. Friday, they made Czech Bread Pudding for the guests to sample at our family program/reception.



Carrot Marmalade

At noon on Friday, our craft tables became banquet tables. Led by our “King” (Alenka), who quipped that our banquet meal had gotten five stars on Yelp!) and “Queen” (Seanna). We were all served the food the campers had created during the week. It was so good that many campers were in the “clean plate” club. Thank you to our cooking instructors Anne Jans (lead), Linda Nicoli, Colleen Kluzak, and Dawn Bulera, who helped a lot in the hot kitchen and provided all-around help where needed.

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continued from page 5: Cultural Day Camp Ruled by “Kings and Castles”

Before lunch each day, campers, although masked, sang and danced with gusto, led by Louise Wessinger and Don Haselbauer.

After lunch, the campers played wooden lawn games we had invested in, including corn hole toss, bowling, horseshoes, ladder golf, and giant dice. The leaders and junior leaders led by Penny and Dawn helped the campers learn the rules as they rotated through each game.



Jayden making a catapult with K'NEX™



Sewing project



Jan Kubišta dancing with campers and Louise Wessinger.

After lunch and guest visits each day, we had two 45-minute choice classes for campers. They were able to choose from the following classes (instructors are in parentheses): Beginners Bobbin Lace (Doreen), K'NEX™ building (Glynis Grostephan), Juggling (Penny), Stage Show and Puppets (Linda and Colleen), Embroidery (Diane Bell), Legos™ (Lorraine), Gems and Jewels (Jean), and Chess (Glynis). It was a tough decision for campers to pick just two activities! Several activities were offered for the first time this year.

On Friday after our banquet, it was time for campers to pack up all of their projects and memories. As a reward, the Junior Leaders led campers on a Treasure Hunt that they planned. After the treasure box filled with candy that the Junior leaders donated was found, it was time for Czech Sokol Bingo. Bingo was led by Izzy and Glynis.

Parents and guests arrived at 2 p.m. for the closing program. After the opening flag ceremony, guests were welcomed by Sokol Minnesota President Dave Stepan. Next, campers showed off their singing and dancing skills. Julian introduced Ms. Penny's Jugglers, who amazed us with their skills. We were all entertained by the play *The Clever Princess* and the stick puppet show *Red Riding Hood*, each performed by campers. Last on the program was to recognize all the wonderful volunteer leaders who spend many hours preparing camp for our children, and to thank these dedicated and highly talented Sokol Minnesota volunteers. As an added benefit, the volunteers are an important reason we can keep camp fees low.

Because of COVID concerns, everyone at camp wore masks throughout the week and was extra careful about washing hands. Each camper had their own supplies (crayons, pencils, markers, scissors, and folder), which they carried around in a tote bag. Campers had their own designated sit-upon and spot on the floor, plus they stayed mostly with their group for the week.

We look forward to seeing you for our 24th camp next summer, June 13 to 17, 2022!



Singing national anthems with Don Haselbauer on piano



The Clever Princess play

Auction Items Needed

Extraordinary items are needed by September 10
for Sokol Minnesota's Czech & Slovak Festival Online Virtual Auction
If you have suitable donations, please contact Glynis Grostephan:
ggrostephan@earthlink.net

Congratulations to Isabelle Callanan, America Sokol Organization National Merit Award Winner

By Courtney Benson

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota has been proud to honor Isabelle Callanan over the many years she has been part of the organization, even though she is just 18 years old. From celebrations as a gymnast for winning various competitions, including Western District and National Slets, to successes as a coach, attending National Instructors School and leading various classes, ages, and abilities, to her accomplishments as a student, including graduating from high school at the top of her class, Isabelle has been outstanding. However, her most recent achievement, being recognized as winner of the American Sokol Organization National Merit Award, surpasses even those accolades.

Offered to members since 1975, the ASO National Merit Award is designed to assist youth in the pursuit of higher education and is based on a variety of criteria and qualifications, such as participation in cultural and educational activities at both the District and National level, in addition to a commitment to attend a two-year or four-year trade school, college, or university. With her scholarship money, Isabelle plans to attend Colby College in Maine to study Biology and Neuroscience. She is beyond disappointed there are no Sokol units in Maine; her allegiance will forever remain to Sokol Minnesota.

We hope she visits home often and remembers her community at Sokol Minnesota!



Isabelle Callanan

We Miss All Of Our Sokol Minnesota Gymnasts So Much! By Courtney Benson With much anticipation, we are planning to follow our traditional gymnastics schedule in the fall, starting on Monday, September 13!

Although health and safety protocols may change between now and then, we are planning to adhere to federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines.

We will upload a new 2021- 22 brochure, registration form, and gymnastics calendar once available.

Continue to check our website for updates: www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/sokol_fitness



The Sokol Minnesota gymnastics instructors are excited to resume classes. Junior girls instructors counter-clockwise from top: Claire, Isabelle, Ella, Zoe, and Theresa.

Looking forward to being together again:

#SAFETY1STSOKOLSECOND!

Contact fitness@sokolmn.org
for questions or to reserve a spot today!

Sokol Minnesota Youth Group will Launch Fall 2021

Are you in grade 6 - 12?

Are you ready to meet others
in Sokol Minnesota and become
involved in youth-planned activities?

**IF SO, THE SOKOL MINNESOTA
YOUTH GROUP IS FOR YOU!**

We may choose Sports, Fundraisers,
Cultural Events, Service-Learning Projects,
Baking or Ice Cream Parties, Create Art,
or just Hang-Out and Play Games.

**Watch for e-blasts and articles
in the Slovo for upcoming events.**

Interested in taking on a leadership role
in this group?

Please contact louisewessinger@msn.com
or your adult leader of group activities.

Members and Volunteers Picnic By Dave Stepan

Our Members and Volunteers Picnic was held June 6 at White Bear Lake's Lakewood Hills Park. It was a hot and windy afternoon, but that did not deter the 50 or so attendees from enjoying the comradery and Kramarczuk's sausage. Delicious food was in abundance, including watermelon! We were treated to a friendly atmosphere, good conversations, as well as dancing and games. Thanks so much to Jean Draheim for organizing the event and to Glynis Grostephan for keeping us supplied with festivities and games. I hope we have this event again next year!



Chef Dave Stepan



Bottoms-up! Root beer drinking contest from baby bottles



Eddie staying cool



Miša Giancarlo Kotek's sandwich cake, pre- and post-cutting

MEMBER NEWS

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

By Steve Ernest

Seven new members were accepted at the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota May and June Board of Directors meetings:
Mary Garvie and David Means of Minneapolis, with interests in history and genealogy, and language classes.

Eva Giese of Shakopee.

Anita Imbrone McKeown of Hugo.

Bonnie and Ron Simon of Lonsdale, with interests in history and genealogy, language classes, and cooking classes.

Barbara Skrivanek of Minneapolis, with interests in history and genealogy, language classes, and cooking classes.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!



Nicole, Brittany, and Darnell Stepan preparing hors d'oeuvres



Mushroom hunters showing some of their finds

Mushroom Hunt in May Enjoyed By All

By Dave Stepan

Houby Houby Houby ‘wherefore art thou?’ was a phrase I used often on our second spring mushroom forage. Although it was a lovely, sunny day in May, the elusive Morels were difficult to find, even with the expert assistance of Dan Kirkpatrick of Mojomushrooms < <https://mojomushroom.com/> >

About 30 mushroom hunters ventured out to a park in the East Metro to search for edible spring fungi. Although we found many dead elms, there were few morels. Some foragers got skunked, some found a few morels, others found a few ‘pheasant back’ mushrooms, aka Dryad’s Saddle, but several found many wonderful specimens.

Even those who didn’t have success in the hunt enjoyed the afternoon.

The event’s goal was to make us more comfortable to forage in the woods to identify mushrooms that are safe to eat.

We kept in mind the old adage:

*There are many old mushroom hunters,
and a few bold mushroom hunters,
but there are NO old, bold mushroom hunters.*

We hope to continue with mushroom foraging in the fall. At this time, we do not have specific plans, but we will announce future foraging opportunities in the *Slovo* and on the web site < www.sokolmn.org >



L-R: Joan Sedlacek, Tom Tesarek, John Topic, and Penny Tesarek



L-R: Pam Langworthy and Richard Sargent



Happy mushroom hunters

Learning Czech at Sokol Minnesota

In 2020, the Czech Intermediate class at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota was invited to submit an article to *Ahoj* magazine. This is a magazine in Czech for students of the Czech language. The article was published in its January 2021 issue. The article is translated below, with the kind permission of *Ahoj* magazine.

In the world, 1.5 billion people speak English and 1.3 billion people speak Chinese. But only 10 million people speak Czech. Why would anyone want to study Czech? It is a very hard language. In the book *401 Czech Verbs* (Davies a Hejdouková, 2006), the Czech language is referred to as part of the national defense system!

Here are some comments from our students:

Kim R.

I am a Czech American third generation. I am learning Czech because it is my heritage, and I am preparing to visit the Czech Republic. I also think it's something my grandmother would appreciate. I do it partly in her memory.

Cynthia M.

I don't have Czech blood, but due to a unique meeting with a Czech woman in 1975, I visited her. I met her friends and family and traveled all over the Czech Republic almost every year. I started learning Czech because I thought it would be fun. It's hard, but all the students I met in class and at Sokol Minnesota are fantastic and this keeps me going.

Richard S.

I don't have a Czech family, but my girlfriend has a Czech family. Due to her Czech family, we participate in many pleasant activities in Sokol Minnesota.

For students of Czech at Sokol Minnesota, there exist many reasons to study Czech. Some have Czech parents and grandparents. Some have Czech partners. Some have relatives in the Czech Republic and want to talk to them. Some study genealogy. There is also a strong group of expatriates in the Twin Cities.

I've heard that dancing and learning a foreign language are good for preventing the decline in brain function that comes with age. If this is true, I would be in really bad shape if I had not danced in the last few years and had not learned Czech.

Mia R.

I study Czech because my partner is Czech. I like the sound of the Czech language and also the culture of the Czech land. One day I would like to watch a Czech comedy and laugh together with my partner and his mother.

Tricia B.

I study Czech because I complained all my life that my father never taught me his language when I was young. Now I suddenly am entitled to Czech citizenship, and I realized that complaining will never help me learn this language. The only way to learn it is to jump in and persevere. I would have loved these lessons to exist when my father was still alive to help me with that.

Rose B.

My husband is partly Czech. We spent three weeks in the Czech Republic a few years ago. We would love to go back there again and again. But we want to communicate better this time.

Sandy P.

I study Czech because I grew up around this language, but I didn't learn much. The emphasis was on English. It breaks my heart that I didn't learn it when I was young. I would also like to be able to read my books about Krtek! Did you know that I love Krtek?

Sarah M.

I study Czech because my grandmother is Czech (born in the United States to parents of immigrants). As a child, she spoke Czech at home, but then she stopped when her parents and siblings died decades ago. She is now ninety and has started speaking Czech again. It is all coming back to her. So, I'm studying Czech so I can share everything with her in Czech.



"Laughter Yoga." Top row: Blanka Brichta, Pat Slaber, Ally Grym. Middle row: Carolyn Trachtova, Maria Neuzil, Sara Votruba. Bottom Row: Richard Sargent.

We read *Ahoj* magazine together. We try to read several articles every month. Earlier this year, we read an article in *Ahoj* about "Laughter Yoga." The week we read the article, we watched a Youtube video about "Laughter Yoga." Laughter is the same in every language!

10 August 2021 *Slovo*

Czech and Slovak Language Lessons at Sokol Minnesota

Want to join the fun?!

Classes start the week of September 27.

We will be online and in person.

Check the website for the schedule
< www.sokol.org >

Email Pat to get the email list for the class schedule
< education@sokolmn.org >

How We Study the Czech Language at Czech and Sovak Sokol Minnesota

Grammar: First and foremost, we study grammar. It is the basis for language learning. But we have other ways to study.

Online: During COVID, we have been studying online. We miss the potlucks, and the teachers would rather be in person. But with the cold weather in Minnesota, Zoom will be easier this winter.

Games: We like to study by playing games. Our favorite game is 20 questions. One person has to come up with something and the other has to ask questions that are answered yes or no in Czech. Our favorite question is, "Is it bigger than a bread box?"

Student of the Week: Each week, one student is selected to present to the class. They have ten minutes to show a song, a magazine article, a video, or a recipe.

Songs: Some of our members like to sing. One of our favorite songs (for at least one member) is *Komari se Zenili* (the *Mosquito Song*). We even dressed in mosquito costumes.



Singing the *Mosquito Song*. L-R: Paul Pavek, Lydia Jaros, Pat Slaber, Pam Langworthy, Richard Sargent, Sara Votruba, Christina Banks, and Michal Dejko

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: Arlene Drabek in memory of Florence and Albert Drabek.

\$100 - \$499: Terry Shima for new boiler; Philothea Sweet for floor refinishing.

GENERAL FUND:

Under \$99: C.E. Heritage Tours, Inc. (Mark Bigaouette), Czech Baker (Michaela Giancarlo Kotek), Ted Skluzacek, Maryann Tumasmith.

\$100 - \$499: Anthony Kaczor in honor of Jyni Koschak for the pussy willows; M. L. Kucera in honor of the visit to Sokol Minnesota by Jan Kubista, Deputy Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago on June 16-17; Anita McKeown in memory of Albert Imbrone Sr., in his 100th birthday year; Marjorie Norling, Eleanor Watson in memory of Judy Aubrecht.

IN KIND DONATIONS: Diane Bell, Jean Draheim, Glynis Grostephan, Katie Haselbauer, M.L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, Penny Tesarek, Louise Wessinger: Supplies for the 2021 Sokol Minnesota Children's Cultural Day Camp; Czech Baker (Michaela Giancarlo Kotek) supplies for Sokol Minnesota Flea Market.

Legacy Fund:	\$ 550
General Fund:	\$ 811
TOTAL:	\$ 1,361

30th
Year!

CZECH HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Sun., Aug. 8
Bechyn, MN

FREE ADMISSION
—Held rain or shine—

Bechyn is located 10 miles northeast of Redwood Falls, MN.



Mollie B

Entertainment

- * Mollie B & the Jim Busta Band
- * Ted Lange
- * Colton Tupy & the Sand Creek Connection
- * Sleepy Eye Area Concertina Club
- * Bechyn Czech Folk Daners
- * St. Paul Czech & Slovak Folk Dancers

Polka Mass — 10 a.m.

Pork Roast Dinner — 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

- Beer Garden • Dancing • Kid's Games & Activities •
- Kolache, Jiternice Sausage, Dumplings, Sauerkraut •

www.BechynCzechFest.org

Facebook.com/BechynMinnesotaWorld

Visit by the Deputy Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago

Jan Kubišta, Deputy Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago, spent three and a half fast-paced days in Minnesota and South Dakota, June 16-19, to meet with the leaders and grant writers of local Czech organizations in order to learn more about their programs that promote Czech events and preserve Czech heritage, plus how they use the generous grants from the Czech Foreign Ministry. Arrangements for Jan to meet with the organizations were made by M. L. Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis.

Upon Jan's arrival in the Twin Cities on Wednesday, Dave Stepan, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota president, and Joan Sedlacek, Sokol historian, gave him a tour of C.S.P.S. Hall, starting with the "dungeon" (basement) and ending on the third floor with the century-old picture gallery of the local Czech fraternal organizations' founders and members. Kevin Hurbanis, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International president, with Suzette Steppe and Kathy Jorgenson (both CGSI past presidents), discussed CGSI projects while they gave Jan a fast tour of Saint Paul from the Capitol, along Summit Avenue, to the dinner at Caspian Bistro and Market on University Avenue in Minneapolis. Renáta Tichá, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of

Minnesota (CSCC), president, arranged the dinner; several attendees enjoyed Persian cuisine and perused the food market for the first time.

Thursday morning, Jan spent 90 minutes with the children at the 23rd Annual Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp, starting with the flag ceremony, which Jan found impressive. Jan talked about his favorite castles in Czech Republic, and ended his stay at Camp by dancing with the kids. (See pages 4-6 for Camp details).



Gateway (*brana*) to New Prague: New Prague Mayor Duane Jirik, Vi Chromy, George Mikiska, Jan Kubišta, M.L. Kucera, Jim Simon, and Fred Simon. Photo by Patrick Fisher, *New Prague Times*.

At the Gateway (*brana*) to New Prague, Jan met Czech Heritage Club (CHC) members, New Prague Mayor Duane Jirik, and reporter Patrick Fisher from the *New Prague Times*. CHC members then gave Jan a tour of New Prague.

Before the luncheon at the historic Rustic Farmer, Jean Keogh, CHC president and former mayor of Montgomery, showed Montgomery to Jan. Jan's ended his time in Czech Country Minnesota with a tour of one of the earliest Czech churches and cemeteries in Minnesota: Saint John's (1868) in Budejovice (1862); the town moved 2.5 miles west to Montgomery when the railroad bypassed it (1877).

Jan had the opportunity to talk with everyone at both dinner and lunch; halfway through the meal; he and the Honorary Consul picked up their plates and exchanged places at the long tables.



Dinner with Jan Kubišta at the Caspian Bistro: (Back L-R) Paul Makousky (CGSI), Dave Stepan (Sokol Minnesota), Kevin Hurbanis (CGSI). (Middle) Kathy Jorgenson (CGSI), Joyce Tesarek (Sokol), Darnell Stepan (Sokol), M.L. Kucera (Honorary Consul), Cheryl Nelson (CSCC), Suzette Steppe (CGSI), and Jan Kubišta (DCG/Chicago). (Front) Renáta Tichá (CSCC) and Jitka Sebek (Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities). Missing from the picture: Tim and Christine Kojetin (Saint Mary's Preservation Association, Bechyn, Minnesota). Photo taken by Chad Golish.

Sokol Minnesota's Czech & Slovak Festival Online Virtual Auction September 18-23

www.32auctions.com/sokolminnesota2021

Auction items are needed by September 10, to donate
please contact Glynis Grostephan: ggrostephan@earthlink.net



Luncheon at The Rustic Farmer in Montgomery (Back, L-R) Duane Jirik (New Prague Mayor), George Mikiska (CHC), Doris and Bruce Coghill (CHC), Fred Simon (CHC), Jim Simon (CHC), Anne Jans (Miss Czech and Slovak Minnesota Pageant Committee). (Front) Rachel Rynda (Kolacky Queen, Montgomery), Jan Kubišta (DCG/Chicago), Vi Chromy (CHC), Jean Keogh (CHC president), M.L. Kucera (H.C./Minneapolis). Photo taken by Wade Young, *Montgomery Messenger* editor.



Jan rang the bell at Saint John's in old Budejovice. Dale Ruhland from the Montgomery Historical Society detailed the church's history. Photo M.L. Kucera



Jan with Cecilia Rokusek, the only couple who both wore *kroje*, won second place in the polka contest. Prize: a dozen *koláče*. Photo M.L.Kucera

Friday and Saturday highlights for Jan at the 72nd Czech Days in Tabor, South Dakota, included riding in a '72 Mercury convertible in the 100-unit parade, greeting the hundreds of festival-goers from the stage in Sokol Park, meeting scores of heritage Czechs, winning second place in the polka contest with Cecilia Rokusek (National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library president and Tabor native), visiting Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church and cemetery (his second Saint Wenceslaus in two days, also in New Prague), keeping the beat with many polka bands, eating Czech food, relishing several *koláče*, being mistaken for a politician because he was wearing a suit (the South Dakota governor attended Czech Days), touring the Vancura Memorial Park Mini Czech Village and the fascinating folk-art Blachnik Museum, plus receiving wonderful Tabor Czech hospitality (with special thanks to Dennis and Sherry Povandra).



Jan at the entrance gate to Tabor, South Dakota Photo taken by M.L. Kucera

Call for *Slovo* Articles of Czech or Slovak Interest By Mary Cahill

Do you have an article or suggested topic for an article, that may be of interest to *Slovo* readers about Czech or Slovak culture or history, Sokol history, or an upcoming entertainment, event, or celebration that you would like to share with the *Slovo*? The *Slovo* Managing Editors welcome readers submitting information for possible publication in the *Slovo*. We hope to hear from you.

***Slovo* Article Contribution Guidelines:** Copy deadline for each issue is the first of the previous month (use Word format; please don't use Pages or PDF). Attach any photos to an email (do not embed in the article or email) and provide the caption/cutline and photographer's name. As with all submitted articles, *Slovo* reserves the right to edit as needed for length or clarity. Please submit articles for publication consideration to *Slovo* Managing Editor Tom Aubrecht at tjaubrecht@comcast.net

Member News Articles Request By Joyce Tesarek

The *Slovo* Managing Editors would like your help with our Member News section. If a member or their immediate family has a wedding, birth, graduation, obituary, or any special news to share, please send a paragraph or short summary and photo. For memorials, please include a link to an obituary where we can send readers for more information.

Highlights of the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board Meetings By Denise Stibal

May: The Board of Directors meeting was called to order on May 20 at 7 p.m. by President Dave Stepan.

Member at Large Blanka Brichta reported that a Selection Committee will be named for the Youth Leadership Award. Corresponding Secretary Glynis Grostephan reported donations of \$280 for the General Fund.

Education Director Pat Slaber shared photos of the progress of the Archives Project, with a huge amount of materials sorted and boxed; she thanked Blanka Brichta for her help with the project. We have unwanted books that we may give away at our Czech & Slovak Festival in September or include in the Silent Auction.

Financial Secretary Steve Ernest noted our membership is at 291 as of May 1.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer reported our total balance. The Federal Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loan will be removed from the books.

Finance Committee Chair Joyce Tesarek reported that a new member, Bonnie Simon, has joined the committee. Motion approved to open a Vanguard Index Fund, per the recommendation of Richard Sargent, for the Youth Leadership Award Endowment Fund. There was a discussion regarding class fees and instructor compensation. Motion approved for instructors to ask for up to \$100/class (except for language and gymnastics)

June: The meeting was called to order on June 17 at 7 p.m. by President Dave Stepan.

Dave reported on the Youth Leadership Award Selection Committee. Members include Doreen McKenney, Dave Stepan, Glynis Grostephan, Jitka Sebek, Judy Metcalf, and Blanka Brichta.

Candidates must be a junior or senior in high school. Deadline for applications is July 1.

Denise Stibal reported on the Rental Committee. The "Eventective" rental lead generation service has been renewed for another year. It has been extremely beneficial in receipt of Hall Rental Inquiries.

The Sunshine Committee sent a 89th birthday card to Marlene Hinshaw. Two graduation cards were sent to students in the Czech School.

Activities Director Jean Draheim noted the Mushroom unit had 30 people participating. The June Members and Volunteers Picnic was attended by 40-45 people. Having additional social activities was promoted. We may have another Flea Market at the Czech & Slovak Festival in September; Jean will send information to the vendors.

Financial Secretary Steve Ernest noted we are currently at 291 members.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer reported our total balance.

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Joyce Tesarek introduced the purchase of tents for the annual Czech & Slovak Festival; the American Sokol grant will cover the cost. Motion approved for purchase of tents with a total cost of \$1,633. Any purchases for the C.S.P.S. Hall should use form "ST3, Certificate of Exemption from Sales Tax" at the time of purchase.

Payment for Classroom teachers was again discussed with

without board approval. We received the Wedum Grant for \$10,000 to be used for C.S.P.S. Hall repair and programming. Joyce is working on additional grants to be used for Hall improvement.

Building and Property Committee Chair Bob Kotek reported that the Cleanup Day on April 24 was successful. Purchasing new tents for the Czech & Slovak Festival was discussed; a document will be sent to the Board for approval, approximate cost \$1,715. The entrance rugs need to be replaced and Bob is gathering information on rugs with a Sokol logo.

Activities Director Jean Draheim noted that the Flea Market went well. Upcoming events include the mushroom hunt and volunteer appreciation picnic. No other group events until the fall Czech & Slovak Festival.

Gaming Chair Ed Hamernik reported that \$10,000 was donated to Sokol Minnesota in April. The Fiscal Year end is June 30 and the gaming board will meet in the near future to discuss another donation to Sokol Minnesota before then. President Dave Stepan noted that Deputy Consul General in Chicago, Jan Kubišta, will visit the hall for a tour on June 16 and greet the Children's Cultural Day Camp on the 17th. Discussion on participation in the Slavic Experience event this summer. More information will be shared in order for us to make a decision. The bike racks will be installed in July.

the agreement to pay instructors (with the exception of language and gymnastics) up to \$100/class if they request. A CPA was consulted and advised that instructors can be paid as contract employees, instead of salaried. Any amount over \$600 would require a Federal form 1099. Purchase of the third floor IT equipment and whiteboard was previously approved.

Board of Instructors Men's Physical Director Jason Brozovich reported that he is working to confirm gymnastics class offerings and instructor availability. There was discussion as to whether a Youth Membership should also require having a family member with a Sokol Membership. There will be further discussion on this at the next meeting.

Building and Property Trustees Committee Chair Bob Kotek reported that the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) unit is installed on the second floor in the dining room. A video on its use was sent to the board and instructions are also posted near the unit. The Pajarito restaurant is repairing the kitchen vent system that had the fire and has hired a new contractor for its maintenance, which will be scheduled four times per year to ensure safety for the restaurant and the Hall.

Gaming Chair Ed Hamernik reported on the July budget and actual expenditures for May. The BOD approved a transfer of \$20,000 from Gaming to the General Fund prior to the end of the fiscal year on July 1.

President Dave Stepan will write a grant proposal for water bottle filling stations on the second floor. Discussion on what donations should be accepted and be worthwhile to Sokol Minnesota; there will be more discussion next month. Participation in the new Slavic Experience event was discussed. Because of the change in location from Minneapolis to South Saint Paul, it was agreed that it would not be beneficial enough for Sokol to participate.

Czech Honorary Consul News

August 2021



(left) Jan Kubišta, Deputy Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago, inspected the office of the Honorary Consul Office/Saint Paul of M. L. Kucera on June 17 during his trip to Minnesota and South Dakota.

(right) Kubišta and Kucera rode in a '72 Mercury convertible, in hot 90°F (32°C) on June 18 in the 72nd Annual Czech Fest parade in Tabor, South Dakota.



(left) At the Czech Fest in Tabor, it was my great pleasure to meet Anna Sophia Tombazzi, the 2019 Miss Czech-Slovak US, who is a rocket science engineer in California. Due to the pandemic, she has had an unprecedented two-year reign. When Anna was crowned in 2019, local members of the Rusin Association of Minnesota were ecstatic, especially Karen Varian who has worked tirelessly for years to give recognition and visibility to Rusyns, a nationality without its own country, found today primarily in Slovakia, Poland, and Ukraine.

(right) On Saturday, June 12, Duncan, Iowa, celebrated the 120th anniversary of Czech settlement. Marit helped George Mikiska with Czech Heritage Club information and items for sale, including cookbooks, Czech music CDs, buttons, ornaments, and flags.

As the Honorary Consul, I displayed Czech tourism booklets and posters/flyers of upcoming Czech celebrations in Minnesota.



Again this year, the Honorary Consul spoke at Sokol Minnesota's Annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp. I spoke to the campers about clothing during medieval times. Bright colors were popular even among the peasantry, but the mordants used to set the natural dyes were not as permanent as those the medieval kings could afford so colors quickly faded; plus garments were patched and worn until patches covered patches. Several of the campers delighted in trying on the brown cloak with a hood, which I had made for the class. (See camp article on pages 4-6.)

The evening of Thursday, June 24, 2021, a F3-F4 tornado struck several villages in the Hodonín and Břeclav districts of the South Moravian Region of the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic were among the first to send aid to support the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, during the 2008 flood. NCSML now is asking for your help to aid these Moravian districts during this difficult time.

<https://ncsml.org/support/donate/>



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

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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*.

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For this reason, we will not send additional issues until we have a current, correct mailing address on record for you.

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June/July issue mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

More information at www.sokolmn.org

C.S.P.S. HALL LEGACY FUND

To keep us all safe from COVID-19, many income-generating events are on hold. If you can help, we would greatly appreciate a donation to Sokol.



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

Name: _____

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To help refinish the C.S.P.S. Hall floors, I make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

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