

CZECH AND SLOVAK



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

SLOVO

December 2021-January 2022
vol. 45 no. 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

February *Slovo* articles
due January 2

Sokol Gift Shop
open by appointment

Sokol Gymnasts
Ongoing. See website:
sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/sokol_fitness

Curbside
Roast Duck Dinner
Saturday, January 22

Wishing you a

Merry
Christmas
and
Happy
New Year!

from your
Sokol Minnesota
Board of Directors

January 22 20
22

19th Annual ROAST DUCK DINNER

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Curbside

Saturday pick-up

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

Please place your Curbside order by contacting:
food@sokolmn.org or call/text: 952-941-0426

MENU

Half-a-roast duck, potato dumplings, sweet and sour red cabbage,
caraway rye bread, applesauce, and dessert \$25

Payment and Deadline

Limited number of Roast Duck Dinners available.
Place your prepaid order early via: PayPal: www.sokolmn.org/cc/
or *check: payable and mailed to
Sokol Minnesota 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

**Call to reserve your dinner first before mailing in your check!*

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Dave Stepan

With 2021 soon to be in the rear-view mirror, and 2022 in front of you, please include in your New Year's resolutions to follow the Sokol principle of "sound mind in a sound body."

This was brought to mind again recently after attending a Rolling Stones concert and witnessing Mick Jagger (at 78 years old) perform gyrations that I can only call his version of a *prostná* (calisthenic drill). I came away in awe of his moves and energy. If you have not found a healthy routine, think of those things you do in your everyday life and see if there is a way to incorporate exercise into those activities. Start simply, as when you go to the grocery: do not battle for the close-up parking spot, but park away from the other cars, so you will be forced to walk a few more steps while saving a car door ding or two. If you live close to the store, walk or bike. I do not expect you to have "moves like Jagger," but I do hope you plan to "move" more!

I had planned this to be my last official letter as President, having dreams of living in Europe in 2022, which would seem to necessitate giving up the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Presidency. That dream of living in Europe was dashed after discovering that the Czech "citizen by descent" rule stipulates arrival to the United States of your direct ancestor must be post-1910. My grandfather arrived in the United States in 1907. So, my time in Europe will be limited to a few months and I will continue as President via staying connected electronically.

I am excited for 2022 and hope you are too. Our Sokol Minnesota will continue to be in good hands with the support of the Board of Directors, Building and Properties Trustees Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Treasurer, Gaming Committee, Membership, Financial Secretary, and all the many individuals that make our Sokol Minnesota a vibrant and progressive organization. Our Education and Activity Committees help perpetuate our motto of the "Sound Mind." Gymnastics and the youth and teen dance groups are great examples of our efforts toward a "Sound Body."

As I get older, I value the importance of the "sound mind in a strong body" maxim by keeping my mind as sharp as possible through the mental memory of dancing with the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers and the cardio that comes with that effort, and by learning songs with the Sokol Singers. We continue to work toward a lively community of individuals who want to promote their heritage, whether Czech, Slovak, Rusyn, or who just like belonging to, or being affiliated with, a forward-thinking organization.

Sokol Minnesota strives to be inclusive and
I hope we can be an integral part of your life in 2022. *Nazdar!*



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Past issues of *Slovo* and
Hall Calendar of Events:
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Contact: slovo@sokolmn.org

We think our volunteers produce a great newsletter.

We want to be sure you receive it!

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

Busy Fall Season for the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers

By Louise Wessinger

After 16 months without any practices or performances, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers were anxious to get back on the dance floor. After a zoom meeting to set COVID expectations, we began to resume our usual Monday night practices on July 12 with vaccinated dancers. We were delighted to welcome three new members to our group. They are Michelle Stepan (former member of the children's and teen dance groups), Anthony Kaczor, and John Mitchell. All three are doing a wonderful job of learning dances that, of course, are new to them, but mostly involve review for other group members.

We were pleasantly surprised to have several additional organizations ask us to perform for their events. Our first event was *Kolacky Day* in Montgomery, Minnesota on Sunday, July 25. It was a beautiful day, not too hot. In the parade, we were greeted by enthusiastic crowds as we wound through Montgomery on our picnic table float. Thank you, Rick Palma! Using careful planning and muscle memory, we were able to do our first performance since early in February of 2020. We put together a program of Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak dances that did not require us to change partners (for safety) but still showed a nice variety of dance styles. It was great to get back into *kroje* again (and have them fit!) and do a half-hour performance for a happy audience.

Our second outing was to Bechyn, Minnesota, for its Czech Heritage Festival on August 8. Our group had performed for Bechyn's first two festivals, in 1992 and 1993. It was great to be performing again for their 30th Festival, which supports the preservation of Saint Mary's Church in Bechyn and its Czech heritage. We enjoyed the beautiful sunshine, a great meal, some Czech beer, and lots of wonderful live music. Thank you, Tim Kojetin, for inviting us!

Next up was a trip to Pine City and the annual *Booya* Picnic on August 15 on another beautiful Minnesota day. The camp was in great shape and the *booya* pots were full. We enjoyed seeing many old friends and helping to celebrate 90th Annual Sokol Camp *Booya* Picnic.

The very next Saturday brought a trip to Le Center, Minnesota, for the Le Sueur County Fair. Thanks to the hospitality of Susie and John Smisek, we were able to change into our *kroje* at their home and walk to the fairgrounds a short block away. It was fun to be at a fair again and enjoy corn dogs and milkshakes with a nice crowd who asked good questions at our performances.

On September 18, we were in New Prague, Minnesota, for *Dožínky*. We did a performance in the Beer Garden and then another in the Czech Heritage area. For these performances, we added a few more dances to the program and a brief talk



Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers by partners in Bechyn, Minnesota, L-R: Lenka Hester and Dave Cammack, Darnell and Dave Stepan, Diane Imbrone and John Topic, Pam Langworthy and Richard Sargent, Director Louise Wessinger, Teresa Pojar and Anthony Kaczor, Dawn Bulera and Jason Brozovich, Jyni Koschak and Michael Topic, Sandy Prochaska and Rick Palma.

about our variety of *kroje*, each representing a particular village.

At the end of September came Sokol Minnesota's 32nd Annual Czech & Slovak Festival outside our C.S.P.S. Hall. It was another sunny day; we were lucky to have so many nice days to perform! Our performance was the finale of the program and it was watched by an enthusiastic audience. Almost our entire dance group participated in this performance. We honored Bobbie Jo Chandler for her 50 years of dancing with the group. We also made a donation to Sokol Minnesota to thank the organization for its continuing support of our group.

The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers was founded in 1962 to promote Czech, Moravian, and Slovak music and dance. Next year will be the 60th Anniversary of the beginning of our group. We plan to have an event to honor this milestone. We hope to see you all at performances soon.



Performance in Bechyn.

Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest a Success

It was a sunny afternoon on Saturday, October 23 when the Sokol Minnesota Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest was held in the C.S.P.S. Hall parking lot. The event was hosted by the Sokol Minnesota Youth Link (SMYL) along with its advisors, Sokol Minnesota President Dave Stepan, and Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera. More than 35 children enjoyed interactive stories, games, art, candy, and a photo booth. You could walk the plank of a pirate ship, fish for gummy worms, get your fortune read, play witch-hat ring toss, spin the wheel, bean bag toss or coin drop, listen to a story, and win prizes for all of it!

At the very end, you could remember your fun time by taking a picture with a colorful background, characters, and

Juna Bea Krikava is a member of the Sokol Minnesota Youth Link and the Czech and Slovak teens dance group.

By Juna Bea Krikava

props. Halloween costumes were encouraged, and kids showed up with an array of different garments spanning from superheroes to slices of pizza! Several adorable pets made guest appearances as well, including a pair of well-trained tabby kittens.

Many wonderful people volunteered to make Trunks with Treats happen; Lily Callanan, Dave Grostephan, Glynis Grostephan, Colin Hester, Lenka Hester, Marlene Hinshaw, Juna Bea Krikava, M.L. Kucera, Jane Kutz, Doreen McKenney, Jesse Metcalf, Judy Metcalf, Jitka Sebek, Dave Stepan, Joyce Tesarek, and Clair Wickiser.



1. Fierce and friendly costumes. 2. Lily and Clair welcoming a trick or treater. 3. Dave and Glynis Grostephan. 4. Lively trick or treaters. 5. Marlene Hinshaw with Adam, Matej, Nella, Josef, Eva, and Adam. Marlene handed out Treat Bags put together by Glynis Grostephan, which included everything from candy, crayons, wooden ornament to color, to stickers, a note pad, and more. 6. Fishing guide Dave Stepan in his waders taught the kids how to cast; all those who caught a plastic fish won a bag of gummy night crawler worms. The next week, all the children in the dance and gymnastic classes also received Trolli Sour Brite Mystery Night Crawlers, courtesy of SMYL. 7. Matthew, Markéta, and a friendly cat.

More photos from Trunks with Treats Harvest Festival



8



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8. Princess Sara. 9. Two big smiles. 10. A fierce but friendly cat. 11. John, John Topic, friendly skeleton, and pleased cat. 12. A little pumpkin, a peaceful kitten, and a friendly witch.

MEMBER NEWS

Chromy Tractors at *Dožinky* in New Prague By Marit Lee Kucera

At *Dožinky* 2021 in New Prague on September 18, Vi Chromy divided her day between the Czech Heritage Club booth, riding in the Parade of Farm Pride, and greeting *Dožinky* goers in front of the Toy Tractor Display on this trailer parked on Main Street. The trailer held over 140 toy tractors that her late husband Stan (1935-2020) began collecting in the 1980s. Stan started to display his tractors on a table in the 1990s. As his collection grew, it went to a hay wagon, then it finally was affixed to carpeted shelves on this trailer, which resided in the family garage when it was not on public display. Stan's initial collection had models of only red tractor brands.

Later, he added others brands. The oldest toy tractor model represented a Twin City (brand) from 1928. In addition to all those on this trailer, Vi said there were at least another 50 in the Chromy garage. *Dožinky* 2021 was the last showing of Stan's collection. Since mid-September, each of the Chromy's nine children and 26 grandchildren have chosen a favorite as a keepsake of their father and grandfather. "I will have room in the garage now," Vi said. "The grandchildren remember him as loyal to Red Tractors. It was a hobby that kept him occupied. He especially loved sharing stories with everyone who had the same interest in tractors and farming. The secret to our marriage was that he was in the garage and I was in the house, but we always ate meals together." Vi and Stan were the Grand Marshalls of the *Dožinky* parade in 2017.



Vi Chromy at *Dožinky* 2021

Studying Czech in Poděbrady and Touring the Czech Republic

By Sam Simmons

All my life, I have been interested in things Czech, as my mother was of Czech descent, and grew up in the Bohemian neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio. Until I reached second grade, my grandmother lived with us, too. Grandma Rose, or “Nanna” as I called her, was a very loving and nurturing person, but while I do not know if Nanna was fluent in Czech, she sure could throw around a few choice words when the situation warranted it. It is probably for the best that I never found out what those juicy-sounding words actually meant!

As an undergraduate in 1974, I was fortunate to participate in a summer program of study in the former nation of Czechoslovakia. This program, offered through the Student Project for Amity among Nations (SPAN) Association at the University of Minnesota, turned out to be a life changing experience for me. We studied Czech language and culture for the preceding academic year and designed independent research projects which would be the focus of our study while in Czechoslovakia. My project was on the Hussite Revolution. When I got to Czechoslovakia I studied and did research on this topic, but also furthered my study of Czech language and made many friends.

Fast forward to 2019 ... An article appeared in the *Slovo* about a meeting to explain details of a program to study Czech language in the city of Poděbrady in the Czech Republic for July of 2020. The meeting was offered by two Sokol Minnesota members, Ally Grym and Austin Palma, who had won scholarships to participate in the program the previous year. I attended this meeting and applied. Unfortunately, COVID came along and the 2020 program was cancelled. I was encouraged to apply the next year.

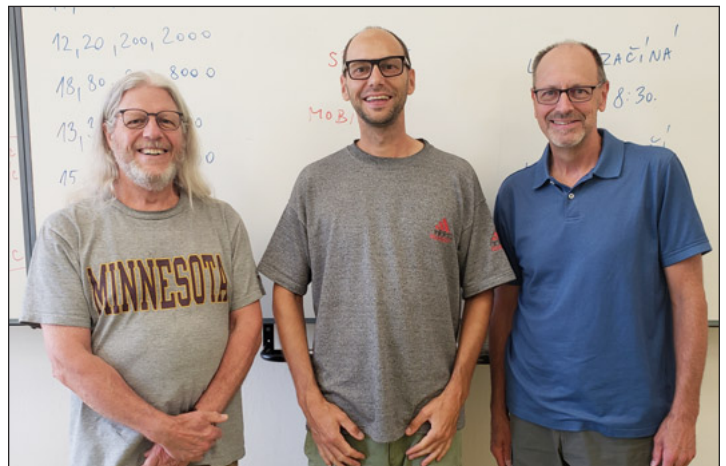
So, in March of this year I sent in my revised application, only to get word in April that due to COVID the program was, once again, cancelled. Just as I began coming to terms with this disappointment, though, I got an email that sent my life in a new direction.

This email was from the director of the Czech language program in Poděbrady informing me that they were working to resurrect the program for the summer, and wondering if I were still interested in going there on a scholarship. Well, it didn't take me long to say, “Yes!” The timeline was short and travel restrictions were in constant flux, but on June 29, for the first time in 47 years, I found myself, once again, landing at the Prague airport.

Returning to Prague after all this time was a very moving experience for me. My best friend from my first trip there, František (Frank), insisted on meeting me at the airport and escorting me on the bus and metro to my hotel in Old Town. We took a short walk to the Charles Bridge, and it finally hit me that it was no longer just a dream ... I had really, really made it back to Prague!

I spent the next few days reorienting myself to the new, improved Prague. While always a beautiful city, today's Prague absolutely glimmers. Gone were the many smokestacks and the dull communistic grays and browns of most all the buildings. All the facia had been restored and everything seemed spruced up in joyful pastel hues of pink,

yellow, and sea green. The most striking differences, though, were the vast upward swing of the Czechs' standard of living, and the newly free interchange of communication. How refreshing!



L-R: Sam Simmons, Czech Instructor Jan Bednář, and Jerry Karel at the 2021 Poděbrady Language Camp.

After a few days, Frank and his wife, Eva, dropped me off at my dorm in Poděbrady, reminiscent of the day my parents dropped me off at my dorm at Saint Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, so many years ago. I met the program director, Helena, and thanked her profusely for all the work she had put in to get the program up and running. Classes started the next day.

The students were divided into three levels based on skill. I tried joining the intermediate group, but found I could not keep up, so I moved into the beginner's level. We started with about ten students in my class, representing seven different countries. Jerry Karel, also from Sokol Minnesota, was in this class, and it was great working with him and getting to know him. We became frequent dinner partners. Our teacher, Jan, was a highly experienced and highly skilled educator. We studied Czech language in the morning, broke for lunch on our own, then came back for lessons in Czech culture in the afternoon. It was an intensive, immersive experience.

Poděbrady is a charming little town with its many spas, its castle in which our classes were held, and the Elbe River. Every weekend, there seemed to be a different event going on, usually on the town's Colonnade, a wide walking avenue lined with spas, restaurants, shops, and hotels that went from the train station to the town square. It was a great place to mill about, relax, and study.

After our program ended, I spent a few more weeks in the Czech Republic. My wife, Kristi, joined me in early August. We stayed in a hotel in Malá Strana, near Prague Castle (Hradčany). Besides seeing the sites in Prague, we made side trips to Tábor, Brno, and Moravský Krumlov. On two of those trips, we met up with friends I had made in the 1970s. How wonderful to reconnect with people from times past. In all, it was a great trip and a great experience. One thing is for certain: I'm not going to wait another 47 years to make it back!

Summer Czech Language Programs in the Czech Republic:

Informational Zoom Meeting on Thursday, January 27, 7 p.m.

This past summer, Sokol Minnesota members Sam Simmons and Jerry Karel attended the Czech language program through Charles University in Poděbrady, Czech Republic.

Over the years, Sokol Minnesota has been fortunate to have had a number of its members granted scholarships to attend the month-long summer programs previously held in Dobruška.

Besides expert instruction in Czech language, these programs also include field trips to castles, cultural lessons in music and dance, films, and much more.

On Thursday, January 27 at 7 p.m., Sam and Jerry will host a Zoom meeting in which they will share highlights about their 2020 study abroad experience in Poděbrady.

They will also explain how to apply for a scholarship to attend one of these fantastic programs for this coming summer.

Please check the Sokol Minnesota website at <https://www.sokolmn.org/czech-language-institute-in-podebrady/>

for updated information about this presentation, including the Zoom meeting link.

Hope to see you there!

Voting in the 2021 Czech Parliamentary Elections as a Czech Citizen Living Abroad

By Pavlína Tesch

My Friday, October 8, started as a usual day. But unlike on other days, I didn't run my usual errands. Instead, I took a trip to the Consulate General of The Czech Republic in Chicago, where I voted in the Czech Parliamentary Elections 2021.

Flying from Minneapolis to Chicago made me think about the voting rights of us Czechs living abroad. The supreme law in this regard is granted by the Constitution of the Czech Republic. Article 18, Chapter 2 states that every citizen of the Czech Republic who has reached the age of 18 has the right to vote in the Parliamentary Elections. In other words, the right to vote is granted regardless of whether a Czech citizen lives in the Czech Republic or abroad.

The complications arise with the execution of this law. According to the currently valid electoral law, Czech citizens living abroad who want to vote in the Parliamentary elections must come in person to one of the Czech consulates or embassies. In the United States, Czech citizens can vote at the Consulates General of the Czech Republic in Chicago, New York, or Los Angeles, or at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C. There is no option to vote absentee.

The need to vote in person creates a real logistical challenge for many Czech citizens who do not live near one of the consulates or the embassy. Not everyone has the option to take a day off and take a trip to Chicago, New York, Los Angeles or Washington, D.C. As a result of that, only a fraction of Czech citizens living abroad vote in the Parliamentary elections. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic estimates there are about 200,000 to 250,000 Czech citizens (holders of a Czech passport) living abroad. According to the data from the Czech Statistical Office, only 13,236 votes were collected abroad during the last Parliamentary elections. The electoral participation for citizens abroad is extremely low compared to the average numbers in the Czech Republic (5 to 6% vs. 70%).

How can we move forward and give all Czech citizens the right to vote, regardless of where they live? The absentee ballot is the answer. In the context of the European Union, 24 out of 28 EU states grant their citizens living abroad the right to vote absentee. The Czech Republic is one of the last four countries that does not allow this option for their citizens.

The non-existence of the absentee voting for the Czech Republic has been challenged many times since the Velvet Revolution in 1989. In 2018, Jitka Sebek and Renáta Tichá from Sokol Minnesota joined forces with Marta McCabe, a Czech community organizer in North Carolina, and called for a petition promoting postal voting for Czechs living abroad. A year later, Marta McCabe and Dagmar Straková (a Czech community organizer in Europe), created an independent and impartial initiative called: *Chceme volit distančně*, in English: "We want to vote absentee," that unified existing activities and petitions promoting absentee voting for Czechs living abroad. Leaders of this initiative organize meetings and exchanges between Czech communities all around the world and key political figures in the Czech Republic. The key goal of this initiative is the existence of a law granting Czech citizens living abroad the right to vote by post.

Despite the number of efforts of Czechs abroad, the political support for the absentee voting at a larger scale was missing until recently. The good news is that the recent parliamentary elections do give us some hope. Most seats in the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament are now held by political parties that actively support absentee voting for Czechs living abroad. Hopefully, their plans will turn into real action and for the next election we will only need to mail a vote instead of planning a trip to Chicago.

For those interested in learning more about the current situation with the absentee voting in the Czech Republic, please visit: <https://www.chceme-volit-distancne.cz/> (this website is available in Czech only).



Pavlína Tesch

New Appliances for the C.S.P.S. Hall!

By Joyce Tesarek

As you consider your year-end charitable giving, consider adding Sokol Minnesota to your list. We have had another great year, with strong support from our members and friends not only financially, but by attending and volunteering at events, and participating and enjoying Sokol classes and activities.



Arturo of TriMark, Bob Kotek, and Joyce Tesarek during a break at the Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest.

This year, there were some unexpected expenses. This summer, one of our freezers “died.” Our building Trustees, led by Bob Kotek with help from president Dave Stepan, spent much time and effort tracking down an available replacement freezer. After the September Czech & Slovak Festival, our cooler also died. Because of the loss of these appliances, and no place to store the boxed meals, we had to cancel our annual Czech Roast Pork Dinner.

A new available commercial Traulsen double energy-efficient freezer and a double cooler were located through TriMark! The cost for both units is \$11,294. If you would like to help with this cost, a donation would be appreciated.



Bob Kotek with new freezer.

The best news: with these new appliances, the curbside January Roast Duck Dinner is on!

Thank you all for all of your support. Donations can be made on our website www.sokolmn.org, or make checks payable to Sokol Minnesota, and send to 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102.



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Education Update: Czech and Slovak Language Classes

By Pat Slaber

This fall, 39 students studied the Czech and Slovak languages through Sokol Minnesota. Because of COVID concerns, the classes were still held via Zoom only. We had five classes of Czech and one of Slovak.

We invite you to join us this January for the new semester. Details can be found on the Sokol Minnesota website at www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/language-classes/ We plan to be online for one more semester.

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.

GENERAL FUND:

Under \$99: Anonymous donations (two), and Brenda Rodgers.

\$100 - \$499: Mary Kucera.

\$1000 - \$4999: Sue and Dave Martin.

In-Kind Donations: Czech & Slovak Festival Beer Sponsors Banner: Doreen McKenney.

Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest: Glynis Grostephan, M. L. Kucera, Lois Johnson, Doreen McKenney, and Claire Wickiser.

Svatý Mikuláš goody bags: Glynis Grostephan and M. L. Kucera.

TOTAL: \$1,136.70

Happy Holidays from Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics!

By Sokol Minnesota Gym Team

We are currently in our second of three 10-week sessions, with our third session starting the week of February 21, 2022. Classes have been at or near capacity, but please contact us at fitness@sokolmn.org for information and class availability. See you in 2022!

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

By Steve Ernest

Two new members were accepted at the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota October Board of Directors meeting:

Anne Makepeace of Saint Peter with interests in history and genealogy, language classes, and cooking classes.

Brenda Rodgers of Savage with interests in music and dances, history and genealogy, event help: setup, language classes, cooking classes, and craft classes.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

The Čechs (Bohemians) in America: A Study of their National, Cultural, Political, Social, Economic and Religious Life by Thomas Čapek. Houghton Mifflin Company: Boston and New York, 1920, 278 pages. Available at libraries and bookstores.

Published in 1920, Thomas Čapek's book is a fine snapshot of Czechoslovakian immigration to the United States from the seventeenth century to early twentieth century.

The Čechs (Bohemians) in America serves as a helpful index for genealogists, as well as a broader audience interested in Czech history. The book is enhanced with description, profiles, an introduction, list of illustrations, notes on pronunciation, multitudes of photographs (mostly of prominent men), appendix, and index.

The subtitle of *The Čechs (Bohemians) in America: A Study of their National, Cultural, Political, Social, Economic and Religious Life* gives an overview of all the topics covered. The titling of the chapters makes for easy specific reference. Examples of the nineteen chapter titles are "Nineteenth-Century Immigration," "The Čech as a Soldier," "Journalism and Literature," and "The Churches."

These are a few of the topics I found especially interesting:

Waves of immigration. The defeat of Protestants at the Battle of White Mountain marked the downfall of Bohemia's independence and was responsible for the collapse of Protestantism in Bohemia. Protestants were pushed out in three stages by the Catholics in the seventeenth century. The first stage began in 1621, wrote Čapek, when teachers and ministers were banished. Next came the seizure of Protestants' property. And the third was the July 1627 imperial patent that no longer allowed non-Catholics to live in the country.

Significant immigration followed the 1840 drought and failure of the potato crop, economic crises in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the 1848 revolutionary political changes in Austria. Other enticements were avoiding the military draft and population growth.

Immigration patterns and settlements overall, by state, and by town. The author uses statistics from the 1910 Census to tally foreign-born people living in the United States. Bohemia and Moravia had the most overall with 228,738 people, and Austria second with 219,214. The states with highest numbers of Bohemian and Moravian immigrants and descendants (539,392), were Illinois (124,225), Nebraska (50,680), Ohio (50,004), New York (47,400), Wisconsin (45,336), Texas (41,080), and Minnesota (33,247). Highest Bohemian/Moravian settlement was in the cities of Chicago (110,736), New York (40,988), and Cleveland (39,296).



Thomas Čapek

Careers and trades. According to the 1900 U.S. Census, more than 35 percent of all male breadwinners of Bohemian origin (first and second generation) were agriculturists. These 22,857 agriculturists were concentrated in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Texas. In addition to unspecified laborers (9,996), other interesting high categories of occupations were tailors (4,931), building trades (3,749), tobacco and cigar factory (2,266), and merchants and dealers (2,130).

Groups living together. Čapek wrote that, "Two and a half centuries ago, Augustine Herman, lord of Bohemia Manor, visualized a New Bohemia which should shelter exiles of his faith and race, as New England, New Sweden, New Holland, and New France had been planned..." Czech-Americans' dreams of such separate communities in the United States rose to relative prominence for Chicago, Cleveland, Oregon, and Texas. However, "No parish school, no church congregation, no foreign-language community," Čapek noted, "can long withstand the *force majeure* of Americanization."

Fraternal groups. Czech fraternal organizations in the United States were abundant, with probably more than 2,500 lodges and clubs nationwide and Chicago alone hosting more than 500. There were benevolent or confraternal organizations that paid a benefit for sickness or death, and non-benefit associations, including the Sokols, amateur theatrical clubs, and choral societies. The oldest fraternal organization was the Čzech Slavic Benevolent Society, or Č.S.P.S., established in 1854 in Saint Louis.

The author of this book and many others, Thomas Čapek was an accomplished man. He received a law degree from the University of Michigan. *The Michigan Alumnus* wrote that "he came to America in 1879 at the age of 18, became an American citizen, and subsequently took his place in American life as a journalist, lawyer, legislator, banker, and author."

Gwen is coordinator of the Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures 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 of the Czech Republic. For more information, go to www.cs-center.org or contact gwen@cs-center.org

Join us for a discussion of *A Brief History of the Czech Lands to 2004* by Petr Čornej and Jiří Pokorný at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 18, and participants' reading of *Leopoldstadt* by Tom Stoppard at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 15.

Highlights of the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota October Board Meeting

By Louise Wessinger for Denise Stibal

The Board of Directors virtual meeting was called to order on October 21 at 7:08 p.m. by President Dave Stepan.

Member at Large Blanka Brichta gave the report of the nominating committee. Newly nominated for the BOD were: Vice President: Cinnamon Whaley; Sargent at Arms: Blanka Brichta (office will have new duties to reflect virtual meetings); Publicity: Brittany Stepan; and Member at Large: Fred Simon. As Fred was present, we were able to meet him and he told us of events in the New Prague / Montgomery Area.

Rental Committee: When there is a late Thursday gym class and a large Friday night rental, Rental Coordinator Dawn Bulera needs to hire extra help for setup or take down. The method of paying for the extra help was discussed. Mary Cahill was also concerned about weekend rental equipment still being up on Monday night that made it impossible to set up some gymnastics equipment for classes. Both of these issues were tabled and sent back to the rental committee.

Corresponding Secretary Glynis Grostephan reported on a low amount of donations this month. The need for additional fundraising was discussed. Glynis also noted she sent a card to Arlene Hamernik, who had emergency hernia surgery. Glynis said the SMYL (Sokol Minnesota Youth Link) will be having the Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest in the C.S.P.S. Hall parking lot on Saturday, October 23 from 1-2 p.m.

Education Committee Chair Pat Slaber noted there are 39 adult students in language classes (virtual), including some in other states and countries.

Steve Ernest noted two new members applied online and their applications were approved. Steve said that brings membership to 309. We are the second largest Sokol unit in the country. Sokol Greater Cleveland is the largest.

Activities Director Jean Draheim sent out a chart for calendar activities for 2022 and 2023. She asked everyone to get back to her with any upcoming events. Announcement has been made that there will be no Festival of Nations in 2022. Jean reported that due to lack of interest at this time, the curling and brewing activities were postponed. Dave added that he hopes to have a curling event at Frogtown Curling on Western and Minnehaha in January. Next year will be the 140th Anniversary of Sokol Minnesota (1882). The questions of how we should celebrate the anniversary and who will lead it were raised. 2022 is also the 60th Anniversary of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, which is also working on celebration plans. The 130th anniversary of Dvorak's visit (1893) will be in 2023.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer reported the account balances. The draft of the taxes reporting Form 990 was reviewed and the list of Officers and Directors was corrected. The taxes are due by November 15.

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Joyce Tesarek reported that Sokol Minnesota chose not to proceed with the Legacy Grant application, but did submit a Minnesota Mainstreet Grant for \$10,000. Also, after financial review with Cherokee Bank, the Committee recommended that our line of credit be renewed and increased; this was approved by the BOD. Our COVID Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan of \$7,807 has been forgiven. A grant of \$4,700 from American Sokol has been received and will be used to pay for the water bottle filling station near the gym and the three C.S.P.S. Hall bike

stands. The water filling station was \$1,600.00 and will need a licensed plumber to install. Dave is working on this. Joyce also noted a new credit card scanner had been purchased. It worked well for the Czech & Slovak Festival but there were some breakdowns in service. Steve reported most of our guests favor using credit cards and that shortly before our next festival Richard Sargent will hold a class to train ticket sellers.

Building and Properties Trustees Committee Chair Bob Kotek noted the completion of insulating of the primary hot water steam pipes in the basement on both the Sokol Minnesota and Pajarito sides. After receiving a bid of \$10,000, Lloyd Krocak and Dave Stepan were able to do it for \$770. Funding was provided by a J.A. Wedum Foundation Grant.

Elevator repair was completed after reports of running very slowly on October 6. The repair entailed installing new infrared emitters and detectors on the doors. These prevent the doors closing on people or things.

A fire and security system replacement proposal was presented. This proposal would replace the outdated current alarm system and update the sprinkler system, including providing new sprinkler heads. Bob moved that we move forward with this proposal so it could be completed by the first quarter of 2022. Joyce asked that a limit of \$25,000 be added to the motion; the motion passed.

Ed Hamernik presented for Gaming motions to approve the September Actuals and the November Budget; the motions were approved.

Mary Cahill noted for the Board of Instructors that boys and girls classes are being held and a more detailed report would follow.

Old Business

Ed Hamernik noted that the Holiday *Koláče* Bake Sale and Breakfast will be held on November 20, with curbside pickup from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Orders for breakfast and *koláče* must be made by November 12. Baking will be on November 15.

New Business

The Sokol Minnesota Annual meeting will be held on November 19 at 7 p.m. The regular monthly meeting of BOD will be at 6 p.m. Both meetings will be virtual. Dave asked how to best inform membership. Steve will check on the email list of members.

The American Sokol National Convention will be held June 10-12, 2022, in Ennis, Texas. Mary and Joan would go as Western District Officers. Sokol Minnesota will be entitled to 31 votes and allowed three delegates. Marit Kucera offered to go as a delegate. Others will check availability.

Our large single door freezer and cooler both quit working in the past month. Because these are needed for rentals as well as Sokol Minnesota events, they must be replaced ASAP.

Dave reported that, after research, he is proposing we purchase a double-door freezer and a double-door cooler to meet our growing needs. He recommended well made, top of the line Traulsen appliances. The two appliances would total \$11,294. There would be a delivery and setup charge. Installation in the first-floor ramp area vs. basement was discussed. It was decided to see how large they were, to fit through doorways, etc. and how much heat they would give off. The motion to purchase one freezer and one cooler, at a cost not to exceed \$14,000, was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Czech Honorary Consul News

December 2021
January 2022

October 28 is the National Day of the Czech Republic. The Consulate of the Czech Republic in Chicago celebrated on Tuesday, October 26, with an evening reception, which included awarding Medals of Merit for Diplomacy 2020-2021 and presenting *Planting Roots: The Story of Czech America*, six portable display panels created by the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (Cedar Rapids) especially for the Consulate.

Sharon Valasek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Kansas City and M. L. Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis attended the reception and also met with Consulate staff to discuss their honorary consul duties both that Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning.

On November 11, both Mr. Pometlo and Dr. Bokšová took part in the Czech and Slovak Roundtable of Minnesota, at which the many Czech and Slovak organizations met via Zoom for their quarterly informational meeting, hosted this time by Dr. Cheryl Nelson, vice president of Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota.



(L-R) Ondřej Pometlo, Deputy Consul General; M. L. Kucera; Jaroslav Kantůrek, Consul General; Sharon Valasek; and Monika Bokšová, Head of Trade and Economic Section, Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago.



(L-R) Vi Chromy, Gary Pikal, James Simon, Dolly Kabes, George Mikiska, M.L. Kucera, and Father Michael Skluzacek.

Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church in New Prague on October 31 held a memorial mass for the Czech Catholic Bishop Peter Esterka (1935-2021), who had helped to celebrate the Czechoslovak Centennial in 2018 in New Prague. Wearing *kroje* was encouraged. After the services, members of the Czech Heritage Club served coffee with *koláče* baked by Vi Chromy, Doris Coghill, and M. L. Kucera.

Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera participated in *Trunk with Treats* at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall on Sunday, October 23 (see pages 4 & 5). She had two Czech cemetery candle holders which she used to tell the important part that caring for family cemetery plots is in the lives of Czechs. At this trunk, Trick or Treaters had to select a button to discover what their treat would be. Each oversized vintage button was attached to a long yarn onto which a “money or eats” treat was attached.

(Photo left) The children from the Pleticha and Bukartyk families joined Honorary Consul Kucera.

Several panels of *A Kaleidoscope of Czech History*, from the Czech Heritage Club (New Prague) are on display through the end of February 2022 at the Scott County Historical Society, Stans Museum, 235 South Fuller Street, Shakopee.

Contact: 952-445-0378 or info@scottcountyhistory.org



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

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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.

To receive your *Slovo* in color via email instead of the black and white mail version, contact slovo@sokolmn.org.

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.

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Additional photographs or illustrations this issue (not already noted)

provided by: M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Jitka Sebek, Sam Simmons, Joyce Tesarek, Pavlína Tesch, and Louise Wessinger.

More information at www.sokolmn.org

2022 Sokol Minnesota Membership Renewal

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

Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

Renewal letters are sent around Thanksgiving. Please renew your membership by December 31 to continue your support, maintain your active membership, continue receiving the *Slovo* newsletter, and avoid additional renewal reminder letters sent.

Member renewal rates for 2022 remain at \$50 per individual or \$90 per couple.

Renewal rates for members over age 65: \$40 per individual or \$80 per couple.

Would you like to join us?

Rates for new members (or those returning after a break in membership) are: \$55 per individual; \$95 per couple. For those over age 65 are \$45 per individual; \$85 per couple.

Send membership renewal checks made out to **Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.**

Mail to **Membership, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 4716 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407**

Online: sokolmn.org/membership or e-mail membership@sokolmn.org for information



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For Sokol's Latest News!

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Send your email address to publicity@sokolmn.org

For status of events scheduled for the C.S.P.S. Hall, check our calendar at www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* December 2021-January 2022

Your Christmas English-Czech-Slovak Vocabulary

By Pavlína Tesch and the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities

We hope you enjoy this little overview of Christmas related vocabulary in Czech and Slovak. Veselé Vánoce! Veselé Vianoce!

English	Czech	Slovak
Merry Christmas	Veselé Vánoce	Veselé Vianoce
Happy New Year	Šťastný nový rok	Šťastlivý nový rok
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year	Veselé Vánoce a šťastný nový rok	Veselé Vianoce a šťastlivý nový rok
Christmas Eve (Dec 24)	Štědrý večer	Štedrý večer
Christmas carols	koledy	koledy
Christmas tree	vánoční stromeček	vianočný stromček
Baby Jesus (Baby Jesus brings presents during Christmas Eve)	Ježíšek	Ježiško
Christmas presents	vánoční dárky	vianočné darčeky
Midnight Mass	půlnoční mše	polnočná omša
fried carp with potato salad	smažený kapr s bramborovým salátem	vyprážený kapor so zemiakovým šalátom
fish soup	rybí polévka	rybacia polievka
sauerkraut soup	zelňačka	kapustnica
Christmas cookies	vánoční cukroví	vianočné pečivo
braided sweet bread	vánočka	vianočka
mulled wine	svažené víno	varené víno
Christmas Day (Dec 25)	Boží hod vánoční / 1. svátek vánoční	1. sviatok vianočný
roasted goose with sauerkraut and dumplings	pečená husa se zelím a knedlíkem	pečená hus s kapustou a knedlou
Boxing Day (Dec 26)	Svátek sv. Štěpána	Na Štefana
New Year's Eve (Dec 31)	Silvestr	Silvester