



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

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

September Slovo articles due August 1

Sokol Gift Shop open by appointment

Kolo Sokol Bike Group Every second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. at the C.S.P.S. Hall. sokolmn.org/bike

Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Sunday, August 14 (info on page 12)

33rd Czech & Slovak Festival Sunday, September 25 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (more info on page 12)

Czech and Slovak Language Lessons Start in September (info on page 3)

Sokol Gymnasts Next sessions are in the fall



33rd annual CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL
Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

FREE Admission • Public Welcome • Accessible Facility



Sunday, September 25 20
22
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN

Ethnic Food • Czech Beer • Live Music • Dance Performances
Children's Games • Sokol Gift Shop • Street Vendors
Exhibits • Special Guests

Online Auction, September 16 - 23
www.32auctions.com/sokolminnesota2022
Auction winning bids pick up on September 25

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Dave Stepan

Recently, while on my trip to the Czech Republic, I heard stories of various Sokols. At the Sokol Křelov near Olomouc, I was told (with a wink of an eye and a nod) how, during World War II, the Sokol building “accidentally” burned down just before it was to be turned into a hospital for the Gestapo and “no one could figure out how it happened.” At all the Sokols I visited in the Czech Republic, there was a memorial of October 8, 1941, the day Sokol leaders and members were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Few of those arrested survived the war. On May 27, 1942, the Sokol movement was critical in repaying that event by assisting Czech Jan Kubiš and Slovak Jozef Gabčík in the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich (the “Butcher of Prague” and architect of the “Final Solution”) by providing safe houses for members of their operation “Anthropoid.”



May 27, 2022, marked the 80th anniversary of both Heydrich's assassination, as well as the Nazi reprisal with the massacres in Lidice and Ležáky in Czechoslovakia.

In mid-June the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers danced in Phillips, Wisconsin, for their 37th Czech-Slovak Festival, which annually commemorates the massacre and annihilation of Lidice. Chicago-based Czech Consul General Jaroslav Kantůrek and wife Olga attended. I hope the Saint Paul Summit IPA beer offered was not an offense to his lager sensibilities.

The Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for the Upper Midwest represents Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa. The late University of Minnesota Distinguished International Professor Emeritus, Dr. Josef Mestenhauer, was the first post-World War II Honorary Consul for the Upper Midwest, serving ten years, 1998-2008. Former Minnesota State Speaker of the House Bob Vanasek succeeded Dr. Mestenhauer. Since 2015, Marit Lee Kucera has held the position. Sokol Minnesota is privileged to have the Czech Honorary Consul office at our C.S.P.S. Hall in space created during the remodeling of the first floor of the Hall in 2000. Kucera is an outstanding facilitator for the enhanced working relationships among Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, other Czech organizations, the Czech communities, and their events in Minnesota and in the Upper Midwest. She is a vital member of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota as well as the American Sokol Organization, sitting on the ASO Foundation Committee. She represents us and her Honorary Consul position marvelously, balancing her time and talents among many organizations and festivals. She was in Tabor, South Dakota, recently for its 73rd Annual Czech Days festival and also at the 17th Annual International Festival in Faribault, Minnesota.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota has been fortunate to have a good working relationship with the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Czech Consulate in Chicago, and our own very good Sokol Minnesota grant writers, including Joyce Tesarek. Recently the Czech Foreign Ministry awarded us approximately \$6,000 for third floor furnishings!

In the Czech Republic, Sokol is the fourth largest civic organization, 180,000 members strong. Their recent marketing includes the phrase “modern for the past 160 years.” They have created a symbol of SOKOL to mean

not just *Sport* (sport), but also

Občanství, (citizenship),

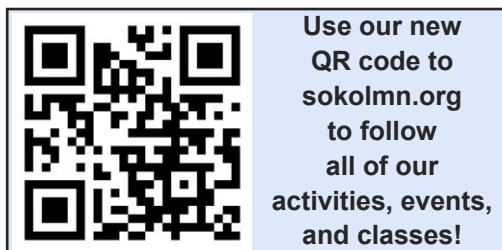
Komunita (community),

Osobnost (personality), and

Laskavost (kindness)

Isn't this the type of organization we want?

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

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2022 BOD (Board of Directors)

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

Slavic Music Roots Concert By Jitka Sebek

What do you picture when someone says “Sokol Minnesota”? Many of you might think of the Czech & Slovak Fall Festival, the Roast Duck Dinner, the Taste of Slovakia Dinner, or the Czech Roast Pork Dinner, and others may think of gymnastics, dance, or singing practices. After the Slavic Music Roots Concert on May 15, the C.S.P.S. Hall might again evoke memories of energetic music with delicious food, drinks, and good times.

The concert came about through leaders of World Jazz Collegium and SlovCzech expressing their wish to perform for their Czech and Slovak community. Financial support was then secured from the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, M. L. Kucera. The volunteer team prepared the menu and cooked, and they gathered items for the auction. Initially not knowing how many visitors would come, the work crew kept rolling tables and chairs outside until the audience filled the parking lot.

Pavel Jany and World Jazz Collegium performed his original work with a few samples of Czech and Slovak jazz-rock era legends. Spectators then danced to SlovCzech songs from their new album inspired by traditional Moravian and Slovak folk music. For the last song, aspiring young musicians joined the band.

We raised over a thousand dollars for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, but primarily we created an event that brought back many Sokol Minnesota supporters after COVID-related restrictions reduced the indoor dinners, dances, and Band Blasts at the Hall. Thank you all for your help and thank you for coming. Enjoy your good memories of an afternoon full of great music!



SlovCzech performing with young musicians

Free Chamber Music Concert

A free chamber music concert will be presented at Saint Wenceslaus Church, Spillville, Iowa on Saturday, August 13, at 3 p.m.

The concert is presented by students of the Artaria String Quartet (www.artariaquartet.com), Artaria Chamber Music School (www.artaria-cms.org), and the Stringwood Chamber Music Festival (www.stringwood.com). The Festival runs August 7-21 at multiple locations. The August 10 performance in Lanesboro includes four songs from Dvorak's *Cypresses*.

A Mainstay of Adult Language Classes at Sokol Minnesota, Blanka Brichta, is Retiring

By Pat Slaber

The adult language program at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota has existed for almost twenty years. After several people expressed interest in wanting to learn Czech, Louise Wessinger, Education Director at the time, organized the first class. From that beginning, the program has grown to about 40 students eager to learn Czech and Slovak.

We have been most fortunate with having many good teachers over the years. One of them, Blanka Brichta, has been teaching Czech at Sokol Minnesota since 2005. She is retiring from teaching and will be dearly missed. Blanka loved meeting the new students and asking them why they wanted to learn Czech. Some of her favorite memories of teaching are the Student of the Week and the potlucks. In the Student of the Week activity, one student takes over leading the class for 10-15 minutes. They are free to share

in Czech (primarily) whatever they want, be it a song, poem, game, vacation, or recipe. Blanka always enjoyed getting to know her students better, and this was a great way for her to do it. We wish you well, Blanka!

Here are selected highlights of the timeline of language instruction over the years.

- 2002 A Czech beginner's class and Czech conversational group began.
- 2006 Czech language program expanded to three classes: beginners, advanced beginners, and conversational! A Slovak language interest group was formed.
- 2007 Four Czech classes! Two beginners, one advanced beginner, and one intermediate.
- 2008 Slovak class began.
- 2009 Czech program now had four levels. There were also some specific interest classes like Czech for Travelers.
- 2010 Two levels of Slovak! Czech classes have walking field trips to grocery stores and farmer's market.
- 2012 Slovak condensed to one room school of all levels.
- 2020 COVID! Within a week, we were on Zoom with online classes. Participation grew past Minnesota and we now had a few students from other states.
- 2022 For the past two years, we have been online. We now have the capability for hybrid classes: in class and on Zoom. Stay tuned for how these classes progress.

Czech and Slovak Language Lessons at Sokol Minnesota

Máš pivo (do you have beer)?

Oh, it looks like you already know some Czech!

Come join us to learn more.

Classes start in September.

Check the website www.sokolmn.org for the schedule as well as for online and in person options.

Email Pat to get on the email list for the class schedule: education@sokol.org

Gymnastics Class End-of-Year Celebrations

Rebounding the Sokol Minnesota gymnastics classes in the fall of 2021, after shuttering the gym because of COVID, was a slow and careful process following Minnesota Department of Health and federal guidance. We kept our class numbers lower than previously in order to maintain distancing and follow occupancy guidance. Parents, instructors, and students all cooperated to help keep everyone healthy. We are proud of a successful season with no COVID-related outbreaks related to classes.

In keeping with our COVID planning,

our end-of-year celebrations were smaller and single-class focused, but that did not mean they were any less fun and meaningful for the gymnasts! Courtney Benson, Assistant Women's Physical Director, Program Coordinator, and Head Women's Coach, planned single-class performances by the girl gymnasts for parents and families, which enabled each gymnast to have more opportunities to shine as an individual. The competition team dazzled all in attendance with floor and beam performances, as well as two special numbers written by the gymnasts and

By Sokol Minnesota Board of Instructors

performed in two groups. Farewell remarks were shared about our graduating seniors (please see below). For the boys, Jason Brozovich, Men's Physical Director and Head Men's Coach, ran the gymnasts through the final scoring of this year's American Sokol National Skills Test, followed by a pizza party with families, and shared remarks about good times in class.

Sokol Minnesota is grateful for the support of our gymnastics program and we look forward to another successful year, hopefully allowing for increased enrollment numbers so everyone who wants to participate can.

Congratulations to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's Graduating High School Gymnasts

By Sokol Minnesota Board of Instructors

This year, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota has three graduating high school senior gymnasts. Our hope is all three graduates will visit our Unit on their school breaks and stay connected to our Sokol Minnesota community. We know they will continue to grow the leadership skills they have gained through their Sokol experiences in other aspects of their lives.



Zoe Hoiland

Zoe Hoiland has been enrolled in gym classes for the past eight years and she has worked as a Junior Instructor for the past six years, including with tots, 7 to 8 year-old girls, 9 years-and-older girls, and the boys 7 years-and-older class. She has been an active participant in Western District competitions as well as the 2017 National American Sokol Slet, attended Chicago area Skills Clinics and one National Instructor School,

taught gymnastics for several years at Sokol Minnesota Children's Cultural Day Camp, is a leader with Sokol Minnesota Youth Link, a recipient of a 2021 Sokol Minnesota Youth Award for leadership, and a 2022 American Sokol National Merit Award recipient (see page 5). An honor student at Nova Classical Academy in Saint Paul, Minnesota, she was a National Honor Society leader, varsity track and field participant, and chemistry tutor. Of special note is Zoe's topic choice to fulfill her thesis requirement for graduation. Zoe chose to examine Sokol's historical roots and how the organization has evolved over time. Her paper, "Sokol and the Evolution of Nationalism in Culturally-Centered Groups," received top honors; read her paper at www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/sokol_fitness. Zoe will attend Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, where she plans to study Engineering. Always a positive presence in the gym, an exemplary role model, and responsible instructor, Zoe will be missed in our gym and community but will undoubtedly be a great contributor to the campus community at Vassar.

Claire Wickiser enrolled in Sokol Minnesota as a 7-year-old, based on a recommendation from a friend, and has been in our gymnastics program since. She has attended two National Instructor Schools and, as a Junior Instructor for the past five years, has taught tots, 7 to 8-year-old girls, 9-years-and-older girls, gymnastics class at our Children's Cultural Day Camp, substituted for boys 7-years-and-older class, and has written several special numbers for gymnastic classes. She has competed in Western District competitions and the 2017 National American Sokol Slet, attended Chicago area Skills Clinics, was a featured American Sokol Rising Star, a 2021 recipient of a Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Award, a 2022 National American Sokol Merit Award recipient (see page 5), a leader with Sokol Minnesota Youth Link, and assisted with class registration materials and other administrative functions. An honor student at Saint Paul Central High School, Claire also participated in track and field, and volunteered for Meals on Wheels. Claire will attend Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. A valued leader at Sokol Minnesota, an organized, committed, outstanding instructor, and a natural teacher, Claire will be missed in our gym and community, but will immerse herself in and be a terrific contributor to the Winona State University community.



Claire Wickiser

(continued on page 5)

(continued Sokol Minnesota's Graduating Gymnasts)



Theresa Williams

Theresa Williams started her gymnastics classes at Sokol Minnesota at age 12 and she quickly took to the sport with her dedication and hard work, resulting in beautiful artistry and execution in all her skills. Theresa attended two National Instructor Schools, and as a Junior Instructor assisted with tots, 7 to 8-year-old girls, 9 years-and-older girls, and Children's Cultural Day Camp gymnastics class. She is a recipient of a 2021

Sokol Minnesota Youth Award for Best Essay. Theresa consistently exhibited kindness, offered encouragement to all class participants and teammates, and championed trying something new and not giving up. For Theresa, Sokol was not just a gym, and she shared her love of gymnastics and gentle spirit with all. Theresa offered this quote from John Denver, "the future of life on earth depends on our ability to see the sacred where others see only the common," and noted that "Sokol became a family to me, it was a safe place given to me by God, in which I found a loving community." Theresa is a graduate of Saint Agnes High School, where she participated in National Honor Society, math club, concert chorale, track and field, and several faith clubs. She will attend the University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, Minnesota, to pursue course work in Catholic Studies and Physics. Theresa will be missed in our gym and community, and she will definitely contribute in many tremendous ways to the University of St. Thomas community.

Congratulations to 2022 American Sokol National Merit Award Winners Zoe Hoiland and Claire Wickiser By Sokol Minnesota Board of Instructors

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is proud to recognize Zoe Hoiland and Claire Wickiser, both long-time gymnasts and Junior Instructors with our gymnastics program, and the two applicants from our Unit, as recipients of a 2022 American Sokol National Merit Award. The award includes a \$1,000 scholarship. The American Sokol National Merit Award has been offered to members since 1975 and it is funded by the American Sokol Future Leaders Fund.

The Merit Award is based on a variety of criteria and qualifications, such as participation in cultural, educational, fitness activities at Unit, District, and National levels. The Award is designed to assist American Sokol Members pursuing higher education full time at an accredited two-year or four-year college, trade school, or university.

Applicants for this award need not be limited to those who just recently graduated from high school. This award can be applied for an unlimited number of times but can be received only once. This program is a function of the American Sokol National Education Committee. Both Claire and Zoe are 2022 high school graduating seniors. Read their National Merit Award Application essays at www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/sokol_fitness.

Who Wants to Be Tested?

The number of mandatory tests at any school might seem overwhelming, but there definitely is one that students of the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (*Škola*) want to take: a battery of tests that could lead to the Seal of Bilinguality.

Seventeen years ago, the beginning of our *Škola* also marked a decade of searching for a language test. Every

good school program should have a test to document acquired skills and to reward hard work. No testing business will create tests just for you unless you promise to supply the raters with enough students. For Czech language tests, we had two choices: to make a promise or to create the tests. We did both! To the private company Avant, we promised plenty of students nationwide, and to the Minnesota

Department of Education, we offered our time and skills in creating tests in the Czech and Slovak languages. The Seal of Bilinguality proves students' perseverance in learning, focuses on communicative skills, and is recognized in the entire United States. The Seal of Bilinguality looks remarkable on a high school diploma and the Global Seal impresses

By Jitka Sebek

those who review college applications.

We teach our students with the immersion method in class and our children acquire the languages through reading and writing; at home learning is mostly through listening and speaking. We encourage reading and movie watching in both languages, as well as spending time speaking the languages with friends from *Škola*. We support their every cultural activity at the C.S.P.S. Hall and cheer for them before their summer trips to Europe, where they use their language skills.

Škola's first student received the Platinum Seal of Bilinguality in 2018 and the co-founding students of our school passed the test on June 9, 2022, all with Gold Seal of Bilinguality. Congratulations, students, on receiving your language award! All the best to you who are still walking the path of learning languages. Come to our school in the fall of 2022, have fun, and do not give up. The Seal will be yours too!



L to R: Jitka Sebek with new Seal of Bilinguality honorees Sally Sebek, Adela Bragg, and Elsa Youngberg.

Dashing to a Conference of North American Czech Schools

By Jitka Sebek

When people share the same passion, they ought to meet regularly to recharge, to energize each other, and to share knowledge and experience that are both an inevitable part of a common activity. Our dear friends and teachers at T.G. Masaryk Czech School in Cicero, Illinois, not only prepared their school's 100 year's celebration, but also a Conference of Czech Schools of



The teachers and presenters paused on a walk through the Pilsen neighborhood.

North America. When the most enthusiastic teacher from our Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Hana Pletichová, pulled up to my house with her husband's brand new Dodge, who could say 'no' to a long weekend filled with lots of talking, laughing, some high-speed driving, and participating in workshops, presentations, discussions, brainstorming, and envisioning.

neighborhood of Chicago, a boat cruise, a visit to the Czech Consulate, and two theater plays by Švanda Theater.

Attendance by teachers from the United States and Canada was exceptional. We were joined by Czech political and governmental representatives led by Miloš Vystrčil, President of the Senate of the Czech Republic.

The highlights from the teaching standpoint were



Jitka Sebek and Hana Pletichová in Chicago with (L to R) Joy Peyton, president of the Coalition for Community-Based Heritage Language Schools; Eva Mikulášková, Post Bellum; Linda Egnatz, Executive Director of the Global Seal of Biliteracy

interactions among the teachers and presentations by many who came from the Czech Republic. The presentation topics included creative writing, new resources for teaching Czech, and digitalized grammar rules.

Most appreciated was personally



A hand-created map showing all participating schools at the 10th Conference of Czech Schools of North America.

It was the 10th national conference and the teachers in Chicago outdid themselves: presentations were held at both the University of Chicago and at the Czech School. Special events included a tour of the Pilsen

meeting those whom we knew only from emails or online meetings. We are all teaching volunteers, we are parents, we are friends. We all co-lead Czech schools in a very similar way and together we appreciate rising interest and support from our homeland. Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities was one of the first established and received much respect for its longevity, abundance of students, activities, and originating the tests for the Seal of Biliteracy (see page 5).

Someday, what we do at our heritage schools will be a part of a regular education: official, naturally included into the school system, and fully paid. Until then, we can be proud of our volunteer work, knowing we are a part of something meaningful, important, and fun.

Thank you all for being with us.

Wishing everyone a happy new school year in 2022-2023!

American Sokol National Convention June 9-12

The American Sokol Organization (ASO) National Convention was held June 9-12 in Ennis, Texas.

The ASO conventions are held every four years and bring together elected delegates from the 30 city-or-metro-area based Units from across the country divided into six Districts. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota can be very proud to have one of the largest Unit memberships; only the Greater Cleveland Unit is larger.

A highlight of the convention was the sharing of Unit “success stories.” One strategy discussed to enhance the organization as a whole is to create a way to share these “success stories” more regularly. To that end, it was suggested that the ASO website include links to all Units’ newsletters.

Much of the time at the convention was devoted to updating the National Bylaws. The Western District will host the 2026 convention at Sokol Minnesota.



A new Board of Directors was elected at the ASO Convention at Sokol KHB Hall in Ennis, Texas. The new President is Adam Wilt, Sokol Spirit, Chicago, (back row, fourth from left), From Western District are Financial Secretary Allison Gerber, Cedar Rapids (second from left); Member at Large Joan Sedlacek, Minnesota (third from right), and Member at Large Shelley Cairns, Cedar Rapids (far right).

Western District (WD) Representatives at the ASO Convention

(Front) Shelley Cairns, Cedar Rapids, representing Wilber, Nebraska; Bradley Hess, Cedar Rapids; Buddy Benak, South Omaha; Mary Cahill, WD Men’s and also Women’s Director and WD Bylaws representative, Minnesota; Cinnamon Whaley, Minnesota; and Janet Raddish, Omaha.

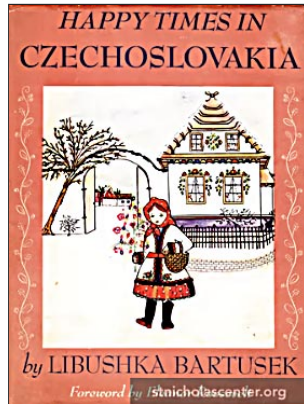
(Back) Allison Gerber, WD President, WD Membership, and ASO National Financial Secretary, Cedar Rapids; Joan Sedlacek, WD Educational Director and new ASO Member at Large, Minnesota; Dave Stepan, Minnesota; M.L. Kucera, WD ASO Foundation representative.

Folklore through the Seasons

24th Annual Sokol Minnesota Children's Cultural Day Camp

By Camp Co-Chairs Louise Wessinger and Doreen McKenney

Using the beautiful children's book *Happy Times in Czechoslovakia* by Czechoslovak-American Libushka Bartusek as inspiration, our campers celebrated the traditions of the year with the book's Horak family, who lived in a small Moravian village in the early 20th century. Each camp day highlighted a different season, beginning with *jaro* (spring) on Monday (with spring/Easter traditions) and concluded with *zima* (winter) on Thursday (with a surprise visit from *Svatý Mikuláš, anděl, and čert*).



On Friday, we held a 430th birthday party for Jan Amos Komenský, who was the founder of modern educational systems and practices.

Although we had varying attendance by day, we had 25 campers registered. Our four groups of campers were led by our wonderful Junior Leaders: Adam Acs, Kris Gurgel, Julian Harris, Alenka Jans, Juna Krikava, and Vicki Schousek. They led their groups through the morning rotations of Czech Language (instructed by Junior Leaders Izabel Espinosa and Elsa Youngberg), gymnastics (taught by Sokol Minnesota coaches Lily Callanan, Anna Nowaczewski, and Claire Wickiser), cooking (taught by Dawn Bulera and Anne Jans), and crafts (instructed by Jean Draheim, Glynis Grostephan, and Doreen McKenney).

Among the cooking projects were noodle soup with homemade noodles, handmade butter (one group expanded their churning into marching around the dining room tables and singing "shake, shake, shake, shake your butter"). There were also hand-

battered fried cheese and yummy (*keřirová buchta*) buttermilk cake and cupcakes for Friday's birthday party. In addition, open-faced sandwiches (*obložené chlebičky*) and fruit salad were made for the elegant party.

Beautiful stenciled white on navy blue wall hangings were a favorite craft. Children also learned to make straw angels, beaded glass ornaments, painted glass ball ornaments (with marbles and paint), and made a lovely brown immigrant trunk folder with their family name and date of arrival in the United States.

Campers could keep their beautiful 2023 coloring book calendar made by Doreen, featuring illustrations by Yarka Bures, and several from Doreen.

Each day Don Haselbauer came before lunch to play piano for our flag ceremony and for singing and dancing time led by Louise Wessinger and her sister Linda Nicoli.

On Tuesday we were joined by many of the Sokol Singers, who lent their voices to our singing for the day. After lunch and some game time, we had special guests.

On Tuesday, Sokol Minnesota President Dave Stepan came to tell us about and show us some of his photos from his and his wife Darnell's three-month stay in Prague this spring. Dave showed us his favorite places and gave the children a booklet telling about some of the many special places in the Czech Republic's capital.

On Thursday Joan Sedlacek came to talk about Sokol and take the campers on a quick tour of the C.S.P.S. Hall, including Czech Honorary Consul M.L. Kucera's office.

On Friday, Elsa Youngberg spoke about Komenský at the birthday party in his honor.

Afternoons were filled with choice group activities, including holiday cooking, special Easter décor, juggling lessons with Penny and Tom Tesarek, Lego castle building, making greeting cards using recycled materials, constructing marionettes and putting on a puppet show with Diane Bell, making *Ride of the Kings* hobby horses, and putting together the camp play *Marushka and the 12 Month Brothers* directed by Cocoa Beach Florida Community Theatre member Linda Nicoli (Louise's sister) and assisted by Colleen Kluzak.



Marushka and the 12 Month Brothers

Many thanks to the Junior Leaders and adult volunteers, as well as to Michal Novosad, who helped with special projects on Friday, and to Richard Sargent, who helped with technical support for camp.

Despite the ongoing shadow of COVID, camp was a very fun and safe week for the campers, junior leaders, and leaders alike. The campers all were enthusiastic, sang with all their heart, and were helpful to each other and all their volunteer leaders.

We look forward to our 25th Annual Cultural Day Camp next June. Because of the anniversary year, we plan to do the 'best of the best of camp.' Look for announcements beginning in January.

- Page 9 photos:** 1. All-camp photo 2. Junior Leaders (Front) Alenka Jans, Adam Acs. Middle: Vicki Schousek, Julian Harris, and Elsa Youngberg. (Back) Juna Krikava, Kris Gurgel. Not shown: Izabel Espinosa 3. Student-created marionettes 4. Immigrant trunks craft activity 5. Gymnastic coaches Claire Wickiser, Lily Callanan, and Anna Nowaczewski 6. *Vanočka* prepared by students 7. Louise Wessinger and Doreen McKenney presenting certificates to the adult volunteers 8. Decorating *perníčky* 9. Dancing *Aj Lučka, Lučka* 10. Tablecloth stencil project 11. Students watching the marionette show *Three Czech Friends*



Sokol Minnesota Youth Link Receives Funds from American Sokol

Recruitment of Sokol Minnesota Youth Link (SMYL) members began at the fall 2021 Sokol Minnesota Czech & Slovak Festival and is ongoing at Sokol Minnesota and SMYL events and activities throughout the year.

The SMYL mission is: The Sokol Minnesota Youth Link will work with advisors to plan events and activities to encourage youth participation and involvement, and to foster future Sokol Minnesota leaders and members.

When students in grades 6-12 sign up for SMYL, they receive a free daisy yellow or jade green t-shirt with the SMYL logo. In May, 2022, the Lead Advisors of SMYL, Glynis Grostephan and Doreen McKenney, submitted a request to the American Sokol Organization (ASO) for funds to promote activities and recruit new youth members to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. The request to ASO consisted of funds for supplies (t-shirt transfers, printer ink, and blank t-shirts) to make the promotional t-shirts. SMYL is grateful for the \$188.62 in funds received.

ASO Membership Director Joe Placek sent an e-mail congratulating SMYL on our success in recruiting new youth members and adding activities. Brother Placek wrote, "This was exactly what we intended with the program to financially help Sokols advertise their youth-related efforts."

The SMYL members and advisors have worn their t-shirts at

recruiting events, Sokol Minnesota's Children's Cultural Day Camp, and even at the ASO National Convention in Texas! SMYL members have also volunteered at many Sokol Minnesota events and have earned hours towards the Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Award.

For more information on SMYL, contact youths@sokolmn.org and watch for e-blasts and articles in the *Slovo* for upcoming events.



The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota delegation at the American Sokol Convention. L-R: Czech Honorary Consul M.L. Kucera, Cinnamon Whaley, Mary Cahill, Joan Sedlacek, and Dave Stepan. Several wore their SMYL t-shirts; Joan wore a Kolo Sokol Bike Club shirt.

Second Annual Craft and Flea Market

May 14 was a lovely day for the Second Annual Craft and Flea Market outside at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Vendors sold hand-crafted wood products, fresh-baked and canned goods, books, music, and household items. The Sokol Minnesota Youth Link (SYML) sold books, music, and treats that were donated for their fundraising efforts.

SYML volunteers were Adela Bragg, Glynis Grostephan, Heidi Grostephan, Doreen McKenney, and Louise Wessinger.

Thank you to those who donated books to the SMYL sale: Mary Cahill, Glynis Grostephan, Jitka Sebek, Joyce Tesarek, Marshall Toman, and Louise Wessinger.

Plans are being made for a fall flea market, date to be determined, so assemble your previously-loved treasures and get ready for a day of community sales. If you are interested in joining the fall sale, please email Jean at activities@sokolmn.org

Photo: Heidi Grostephan, SMYL Advisor Glynis Grostephan, and SMYL member Adela Bragg organizing books for the sale. Glynis and Adela wore their new SMYL t-shirts. Not shown: SMYL Advisor Doreen McKenney.



A Musical and Family Adventure in the Czech Republic

By Denise Stibal

I had the wonderful experience in June of joining the *Women of Song* Choir (www.womenofsongchoir.com) from Plymouth, Minnesota, on a tour of the Czech Republic and Austria. Our tour began on June 12 with a concert in Prague at Saint Nicholas church in Old Town.

The next day, I was very thankful to visit my Stibal family connections in Prague. Tomáš and Markéta were newlyweds when we first met in 2015, but they now have three-year old son Lukáš and newborn son Tadeáš, whom we visited in the hospital.

enjoyed a traditional Czech dinner at the U Sadlu restaurant.

Next we traveled to Kutná Hora and did an impromptu song at the Church of Saint Barbara. This was followed by a scheduled outdoor concert at the Gask Gardens. That evening, I joined a few of our other singers for an amazing dinner in Old Town Prague. We finished in time to see the Astronomical Clock strike at 10 p.m. and enjoy a beautiful evening in Prague.

We next headed to Austria, with our first stop at the Melk Abbey and then on to Vienna. Our final concert was at



Women of Song performing at Českobratrská Církev Evangelická in Prague

In the evening, we had our second concert, at Českobratrská Církev Evangelická with the Prague Mixed Choir. Prior to the trip, I taught our choir *Šla Nanyňka do zelí* (*Annie in the Cabbage Patch*). I was also asked to read three of our song introductions in Czech. As I started speaking, the audience looked surprised and pleased. We only learned the first verse of *Annie*, but decided to repeat it and asked the crowd to join in. They loved it and started singing and clapping along! This was the highlight of the trip for me. We also performed the song *Homeland* by Gustave Holst, which I dedicated to my great grandfather who immigrated from Bohemia in 1875. Our final song *Ave Verum Corpus* by Mozart, was sung together with the Prague Mixed Choir; it was truly beautiful. Afterward we

beautiful Saint Peter's Catholic Church, coincidentally on the feast of Corpus Christi, which is still celebrated as a Holiday, with stores closed and small altars with flowers in front of the churches. More Austrian experiences followed, with dinner at a winery and hearing a Mozart String Quartet concert.

I would like to thank my friends at Sokol Minnesota for helping me introduce Czech culture to the choir and for assisting with my language skills: Míša Kotek for making a delicious assortment of *koláče* and a poppyseed roll for our pre-trip meeting, Don Haselbauer for providing the music for the Czech song, and Blanka Brichta for translating the song introductions into Czech. *Dekuji!*

Highlights of the May 2022 Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors Meeting

By Denise Stibal

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors online meeting was called to order on May 19 at 7 p.m. by Vice President Cinnamon Whaley.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer reported on all balances in our checking/savings, legacy, and Vanguard accounts.

Joyce Tesarek, Budget and Finance Committee Chair, reported there is a recommendation to transfer some funds from checking to an interest-bearing checking account; motion carried to approve. There was also discussion on moving not more than 40% of our cash balance to money market and Vanguard mutual funds. No decision was made by the Board at this time. American Sokol Foundation grants: \$2,495 was awarded for virtual language class sustainment. A second grant request for \$1,080 was approved to purchase tents for the Czech & Slovak Festival. Next month the board will review the budget and the lease for Pajarito.

Financial Secretary Steve Ernest noted we have three new members, all who are part of the Miss Czech Minnesota Royalty: Sarah Holicky, Hailie Wentworth Timmerman, and Marisa Winget. Their first-year membership fees are provided by M.L. Kucera, the Czech Honorary Consul.

Gaming Chair Ed Hamernik asked for approval of the June budget; motion carried. The annual Gaming Audit was submitted to the State of Minnesota. We are in need of one additional Gaming Committee member; please contact Ed if you are interested.

Board Of Instructors: Jason Brozevich noted there are no gymnastics classes until fall.

Building and Property Trustees Committee Chair Bob Kotek noted the Fire and Security System is almost done and the new internet service in the building is active and is working well. The annual Cleanup Day on May 7 was a success. Repair of the C.S.P.S. Hall sign on the corner of the building was discussed. Joyce Tesarek will look into the possibility of using a grant to fund this project, which should not exceed a cost of \$5,000.

Corresponding Secretary Glynis Grostephan reported donations to date in May are \$150. (continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11)

May Board Meeting

Arlene Hamernik requests a list of any Sokol Minnesota members turning 90 this year in order to send a birthday card.

Glynis also reported on the Sokol Minnesota Youth Link (SMYL). Since fall 2021, we have recruited thirteen student members and thirteen adult advisers.

Activities Director Jean Draheim reported on the May 14 outdoor craft and flea market, which had four vendors. More publicity for next year was discussed.

The 33rd Annual Czech & Slovak Festival is September 25. Dates were established for the Czech Roast Pork Dinner (October 16) and Fall Breakfast, Bake, and Craft Sale (November 20). We still need to establish dates for the anniversary celebrations of the founding of Sokol (1862) and Sokol Minnesota (1882).

Education Chair Pat Slaber noted that Blanka Brichta has decided to retire as Czech language instructor this spring. We are searching for a Czech teacher for at least three classes. Pat is working on ideas, including an application to the Czech Ministry of Education's National Agency for International Education (DZS) program for a teacher, working in conjunction with Palacký University.

Mary Cahill noted the Rental Committee met on June 6 with Dawn Bulera. Bookings continue to come in via Eventective. Dawn suggested the purchase of new chairs for rental events; further research will be done on this, plus on the use of the current chairs.

New Business: Steve Ernest has been accepted for the Czech Language Program in Poděbrady. Congratulations!

Celebration of Life Events for Don Anderle and Norm Petrik are scheduled for June at the Hall. Please check the Hall Calendar for dates and times.

Highlights of the June 2022 BOD Meeting By Dave Stepan

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors online meeting was called to order on June 16 at 7:05 p.m. by President Dave Stepan.

Dave Stepan noted that on his spring visit to the Czech Republic he made personal connections with Sokols in Krelov (Olomouc), Reckovice (Brno) and Tyrsuv Dum (Tyrs House, the Sokol headquarters in Prague). He also met with Palacký University staff in Olomouc and described the need for teachers for our adult Czech language students. Palacký staff have offered assistance in a temporary manner for the fall classes and they will be coming to Minnesota in July to discuss further details.

The archive project is starting in August with Dr. Lukáš Petruška's planned visit. Details are yet to be received, but it is understood that he plans to look at our archives to see how they might be best digitized. We will need to ensure that we are ready to provide him with all the records we have.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer reported on our current balances.

Financial Secretary Steve Earnest presented for acceptance two new members: Lindsey Drozd and Susanne Lavelle.

Discussion on whether we want to look at admitting non-voting members was tabled.

Gaming Manager Ed Hamernik requested and received approval of May's actual expenses of \$16,927.13. Joyce Tesarek moved to approve July's gaming budget of \$ 20,975; motion passed.

Mary Cahill reported for the Board of Instructors that each gym class held a small end-of-year celebration with performances by the gymnasts. Instructors Zoe Hoiland and Claire Wickiser won American Sokol National Merit Awards.

The BOI will be asking the BOD for some financial assistance with partially offsetting the cost of airfare for one student to attend the National Instructor School. The BOI will work on equipment storage issues over the summer.

Building and Properties Trustee Committee Chair Bob Kotek noted the fire security system has been completed and training will take place prior to going live. Bids for the C.S.P.S Hall sign restoration have been gathered, but using a grant to pay for this expense is preferred. Joyce Tesarek is going to look into potential grants. The doorbell for the Hall requested by some members needs additional input and research into details to find the right product to meet our needs.

Ed Hamernik reported for Correspondence Secretary Glynis Grostephan that Arlene Hamernik sent birthday cards to Libby Imbrone for her 96th birthday and Marlene

Hinshaw on her 89th birthday.

Activities Director Jean Draheim noted the June 26 Mushroom Hunt has 23 signed up and there is room for more.

The Volunteer and Membership Picnic is July 17 from 1-4; if people are interested, they should email Jean by July 10 at Activities@sokol.mn.org

Education Director Pat Slaber noted Jitka Sebek and the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities will be applying for a grant from the Czech Foreign Ministry, and if anyone has ideas, send them to Jitka or Pat. Blanka Brichta has officially retired from teaching Czech language and we plan to celebrate her retirement at the Volunteer and Membership Picnic.

The application for a Czech language instructor through the Czech Ministry of Education's National Agency for International Education (DZS) has been sent to the Consulate of the Czech Republic in Chicago; this would be effective for January, 2023 and we have not yet heard the results. Local Czech language teachers have been directed to Míša Kotek to be advertised on the Sokol Minnesota Facebook account. The James J Hill house historic site has asked for assistance in updating their Slovak language pamphlets; Pat will ask Barbara Carlsonova to assist. It was suggested that the Facebook 'moms' might also offer some assistance and Blanka Brichta is going to reach out to them. Other items include:

Jason Brozovich noted a fundraiser for the Ukraine will take place on June 28 at the Ukrainian Event Center and the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers will perform.

Fred Simon noted that for the Czech Heritage Club program on Tuesday, June 28, Míša Kotek will be at Revival in Montgomery talking about growing up in the Czech Republic. On July 9, Faribault will hold an International Festival. The 88th Annual Montgomery Kolacky Festival will on July 23.

Honorary Czech Consul Marit Lee Kucera asked for and received permission to invite Deputy Head of Mission and Head of the Consular Department in Chicago, Onřej Pometlo, to both our Czech & Slovak Festival in September and the Czech Roast Pork Dinner in October.

Blanka Brichta noted the closing date for the Youth Leadership Award applications is July 1 and if anyone knows of an eligible youth, they need to apply soon.

Jean Draheim noted she has signed Sokol Minnesota up for the Buy Nothing Project and that would be an avenue to distribute the desks on the third floor.

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members By Steve Ernest

Three new members were accepted at the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota May Board of Directors Meeting; each is one of the new Miss Czech Minnesota royalty.

Sarah Holicky (First Princess) from Woodbury, with interests in music, dances, and cooking classes.

Hailie Wentworth Timmerman (Second Princess), from Mankato, with interests in Czech culture and traditions.

Marisa Winget (Queen) from Northfield, with interests in youth dance group, Children's Cultural Day Camp, music and dances, history and genealogy.

Two new members were accepted at the June BOD meeting:

Lindsey Drozd of Hudson Wisconsin, with interests in the adult dance group, adult singing group, films and theater, music and dances, history and genealogy, event help, publicity and marketing, language classes, cooking and crafting classes.

Susan LaVelle of Mounds View, with interests in films and theater, music and dances.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Volunteers Wanted

★ **Volunteer for the Czech & Slovak Festival**
at the C.S.P.S. Hall on September 25
email: festival@sokolmn.org

★ **Do you know Quickbooks
and want to assist the Treasurer?**

★ **Do you want to help fundraise?**
To apply, email Finance@sokolmn.org

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: Diane Bell, Libby Imbrone.

In memory of **Norm Petrik: Diane Bell.**

\$100 - \$499: Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (Škola)
from the Czech-Slovak Easter Family Event.

\$1000 - \$9999: Škola from the **Slavic Music Roots Outdoor Fundraiser Concert.**

GENERAL FUND

Under \$99: MaryAnn Tumasmith, Ondrej Vesely.

In memory of **Don Andrie: Jean and Chuck Draheim, Arlene and Ed Hamernik, and Linda and Rich Nicoli,**

In memory of **Norm Petrik: Roberta and Greg Chandler, Jan Knudtson, Kathleen and Robert Kostichka, Joseph Landsberger, Susan and Robert Marabella, and Linda and Rich Nicoli.**

M. L. Kucera for Sokol Minnesota Youth Link (SMYL)

t-shirt promotion.

\$100 - \$499: Michael Wolesky.

In memory of **Norm Petrik: Patricia and James Dolejsi, and Ramona Hanes.**

To Taneční Mládež Dancers: Tim Kojetin, Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.

Sokol Minnesota Youth Link from SMYL Book Sale.

\$1000 - \$9999: Pat Slaber and Dick Vogel in memory of **Norm Petrik.**

In-kind donations: Supplies for the 2022 Sokol Minnesota Children's Cultural Day Camp: **Diane Bell, Jean Draheim, Glynis Grostephan, Anne Jans, Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, Louise Wessinger, Marshall Toman:** 25 books for SMYL Book Sale.

TOTALS:

Legacy Fund	\$ 2,310
General Fund:	\$ 2163.75
TOTAL:	\$ 4,473.75

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.

Member volunteer *Slovo* staff: Co-Managing Editors: Tom Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, and Joyce Tesarek. Copy Editor: Tom Aubrecht.

Production Layout: Mary Kucera.

Regular Contributors: Jean Draheim, Steve Ernest, Glynis Grostephan, M. L. Kucera, Dave Stepan, and Denise Stibal.

Photographer: Joyce Tesarek.

Sokol Minnesota Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney (pages 1, 10).

Mailing and email Lists: Penny and Tom Tesarek.

Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

Advisors: Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, M. L. Kucera, and Jitka Sebek.

Additional contributors to this issue: Jean Draheim, Glynis Grostephan, Doreen McKenney, Kari Muyres, Jitka Sebek, Pat Slaber, Denise Stibal, Sokol Minnesota Board of Instructors, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, and Gwen Willems.

Additional photographs, ads, or illustrations in this issue (not already noted) provided by: Glynis Grostephan, Martina Gurgle, M. L. Kucera, and University of Wisconsin Green Bay Education Department.

More information at www.sokolmn.org

Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued by Peter Sís. W.W. Norton & Company: New York, 2021, 64 pages. Available at libraries and bookstores.

Renowned artist, author, and filmmaker Peter Sís has published another excellent children's book, *Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued*. It tells the true story of how a young man, Nicholas Winton, helped save 669 children from the Nazis during World War II by arranging transport on trains from occupied Prague. Sís first learned about Winton and the rescued children when he visited Prague with his fifteen-year-old son Matěj in 2009. At the National Museum, they saw an exhibit celebrating Winton's one-hundredth birthday.

Winton, who was born in England to German Jews who had moved to London two years earlier and converted to Christianity, planned to go on a Swiss skiing vacation in late 1938. Instead, he replied to a call from Marie Schmolka and Doreen Warriner to help Martin Blake, who was in Prague working with the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia. Trevor Chadwick and Beatrice Wellington were other foreign volunteers working there to aid Jewish families. Several of them set up an office in a hotel in Wenceslaus Square. In October Germany occupied the Sudetenland. In November Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues in Germany and Austria were attacked by Nazis during *Kristallnacht* (German for "crystal night," named for the broken glass left behind). Later that month, Britain approved entry of refugees younger than seventeen, if they had foster families, arranged travel, and enough money to return home later. By December, when Winton was in Prague, the city had about 250,000 Czech and Jewish refugees living in poor circumstances.

Kindertransports (German for "children's transport") had evacuated children from Germany and Austria, but not Czechoslovakia. Winton saw that there was too little time to wade through the bureaucracy in Prague, so out of the hotel room he began to organize notes and photographs of children who were in danger. Other rescuers continued to work in Prague, and Winton returned to London, where he placed newspaper advertisements to find host families, raised money, and applied for entry permits. When permits came too slowly, he forged them.

The first children left Prague on March 14, 1939, and were followed by seven more trains filled with children. Germany invaded Poland on September 1, and borders were closed. Another train with 250 children could not leave. Only two of those 250 children are known to have survived the war.

One of the many saved children was Vera Gissing (née Věra Diamantová), who became an author and translator. She wrote a book, *Pearls of Childhood*, about her experience leaving

Czechoslovak on one of Winton's trains. As Sís writes about cat-loving Vera, "When the war was over, Vera went back to her town. Her family was gone. Her father and mother had died in the Nazi camps. Her cousins too." She only found an aunt and the daughter of one of her old cats. After four years, she returned to England.

Winton went on to serve as an ambulance driver during the war and in 1940 was evacuated with other British soldiers from the shores of Dunkirk in France. After the war, he worked for the International Committee on Refugees, raising money for Jewish organizations, the disabled, and elderly. When he was with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Paris, he met a Danish woman, Grete Gjelstrup. They married and raised three children.

Winton was a humble man, who didn't tell his wife about his role in the transports until Grete discovered paperwork in their attic a half century later. Winston suggested throwing it away, but Grete recognized the documents' importance and contacted researchers to track down the children. In 1988, a local television show invited Winton to tell his story. Unbeknownst to him, the studio was filled with grown survivors and their families. When asked, "Is there anyone here who owes their life to Nicholas Winton?" dozens stood up. Winton received many honors, including British knighthood and the Czech Order of the

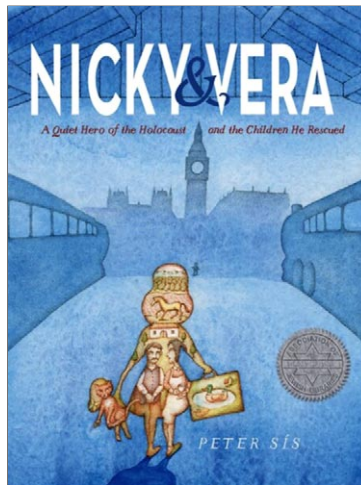
White Lion. He died in 2015 at the age of 106.

Peter Sís both wrote and illustrated *Nicky & Vera*. The large-format book is targeted to ages six-eight, but as with Sís' other books, his exquisitely detailed drawings and compelling subject matter make it interesting for older children and adults. Sís also includes a fuller, adult version of the story. *Nicky & Vera* is a nice addition to information already available, including three movies, Vera's book, and *Nicholas Winton's Lottery of Life* by Matej Mináč, which Literary Ventures' members read in 2009.

Peter Sís was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, attended college in Prague and London, and came to the United States in 1982. He won the Golden Bear Award, Grand Prix Toronto, Caldecott Honor, Robert Silbert Medal, MacArthur Fellowship, Hans Christian Andersen Award, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, and The New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Book of the Year Award.

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. Find information and updates at cs-center.org or contact gwen@cs-center.org.

Join Literary Ventures for a discussion of *Ivan Lendl: The Man Who Made Murray* by Mark Hodgkinson at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 17.



Czech Honorary Consul News

August 2022



Meeting with other Czech Honorary Consuls: At the American Sokol Organization Convention in Ennis, Texas, June 9 to 12, I had the opportunity to meet with **Brian A. Vanicek** (left), the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Texas, when he attended the Friday night banquet and the ASO presentation of a special award to his long-time friend Jerry Milan

(middle) of Fort Worth, Texas, for his lifelong dedication, involvement, and support of Sokol. Also in June, I met with **Sharon Valasek** (photo right), Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Kansas and Missouri, at her Kansas City home office where the flags of the United States and the Czech Republic are flown 24-7. Sharon's new German Shorthair Retriever Poppy, short for Poppysed, joined her for this picture.



At the **73rd annual Czech Fest in Tabor, South Dakota**, June 17, I rode in the 80+unit parade with Andrey Mikelson, 2022 Miss Czech Slovak Iowa, in a restored 1942 U.S. Army vehicle,



owned by David Nelson from Yankton, South Dakota. Dodge WC52 units were sometimes referred to as Beeps or Big Jeep because they were both a little heavier and larger than Jeeps, built by Willys. After World War II in Europe, the United States left most of the war equipment behind; this particular Big Jeep was used by the post-war Norwegian Army. In the mid-1990s a collector in Arizona purchased and brought it and five others like it back to the States. David purchased it sight unseen in 2012 and restored it. His son Fred and daughter Mary drove it for the first time in the 2022

Czech Fest parade. David has a collection of old military vehicles, which he "uses to drive to town and get ice cream." Photo courtesy Brenda Beran, (Royalty Chair, Tabor Czech Fest Parade).

Minnesota Consular Corps members were invited to meet Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, the Prime Minister of Latvia (left) and members of his delegation at a special morning breakfast at the Minnesota State Capitol, hosted by **Minnesota Governor Tim Walz** (right) and Minnesota's first lady Gwen Walz on June 29.



For the opening of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union (CZ PRES 2022) on July 1, 2022, Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago Jaroslav Kantůrek introduced the motto and the political priorities of the Czech Presidency:

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has brought the necessity of a fundamental reassessment of the EU priorities and significantly influenced the preparation of the Czech Presidency's priorities. The CZ PRES 2022 will address the urgent security issues while carrying on with the originally identified files such as the green and digital transition of the EU economy.



Motto of the Czech Presidency: "Europe as a Task - Rethink, Rebuild, Repower" was inspired by legacy of Václav Havel's reflection about Europe's role in global world at a historical moment of a reshuffled world order and a reminder that Europe is a matter of constant work of every citizen. Havel's slogan also calls for responsibility and proactive decisions based on values and conscience.

CZ PRES Priorities: Five flagship areas are 1) Managing refugees' crisis and post-war recovery of Ukraine; 2) Energy security; 3) European defense capacities and cyberspace security; 4) Strategic resilience of the European economy; 5) Resilience of democratic institutions.



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul
651-238-0447
minneapolis@honorary.mzv.cz
OR mlkucera@outlook.com



**WANTED: Online Auction Items
for the 33rd Annual Czech & Slovak Festival!**

The Online Auction will run from September 16 to September 23.



Winning items will be available to pick up on September 25 during the Festival. This Auction is a fundraiser to ensure future Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota programs and for the on-going preservation of our C.S.P.S. Hall, which is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

A myriad of auction items are needed, including:

- * Gift Certificates or Gift Cards
 - * Event Tickets
 - * Books (new or like-new)
 - * Handmade Items
 - * Baskets of Related Items
 - * Extraordinary Items
- and especially Czech or Slovak Treasures*

Items are needed by September 9.

They can be dropped off at the Hall and placed in the classroom (please label your donation with "Online Auction" and print your name and address on the item or box).

Donors will be acknowledged in the *Slovo* and receive a tax receipt.

For more information, please contact Glynis Grostephan at 612-724-0923 or at ggrostephan@earthlink.net

Thank You!

CZECH AND SLOVAK



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



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**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* August 2022

**Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Sunday, August 14, Noon-5 p.m.
19201 Woodland Acres South, Pine City, Minnesota**

**91st Annual
Booya Picnic at the
historic Sokol Camp**

The Camp has been a part of our beloved organization for nearly 100 years!

The proceeds from the Booya Picnic go directly back to the maintenance and upkeep of the camp buildings.



Sokol volunteers are appreciated and welcome to join in.

Tent set-up assistance is needed on Sunday, August 7 at 11 a.m.

Food servers are needed at the picnic
Shifts are
11:30-2:30,
or 2:30-5

**Live musical entertainment by Dave Carlson from noon to 3 p.m.
The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers will perform at 3:30 p.m.**

Kari, Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Co-chair, 763-226-0313

Mark your calendar! You won't want to miss it! Nazdar!