CZECH AND SLOVAK



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

SLOVO

June/July 2022 vol. 45 no. 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

August Slovo articles due July 1

Sokol Gift Shop open by appointment

Kolo Sokol Bike Group

Every 2nd Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. at the C.S.P.S. Hall See sokolmn.org/bike

Children's Cultural Day Camp

June 13 - 17

(info on page 12)

Mushroom Hunt

Sunday, June 26, 1-4 p.m.

(info on page 9)

Members/Volunteers Picnic

Saturday, July 17 1 - 4 p.m. (info on page 12 & adjacent)

Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

Sunday, August 14 (info on page 9)

33rd Czech & Slovak Festival

Sunday, Sept 25 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

(info on page 8)



Sokol is providing lemonade, root beer, hot dogs, kielbasa, paper products, and family-friendly games.

Bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert to share.

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Dave Stepan

In the Czech Republic, Sokol is more than a location, a building for gymnastics, or a dance site. I saw Sokol halls being used by schools for gym classes and for after-school programs. After watching a Sokol soccer team on Czech TV, I understood that Czech Sokols might have a team in a league or participate in city, school district, or state programs for education and/or athletics. Sokols here have activities in a variety of additional sports,



including crew, badminton, floor hockey, greco-roman wrestling, and volleyball. In Křelov (outside of Olomouc) I witnessed the installation of a new automated ping pong serving unit intended to improve their chances at tournaments. While I understand Sokol in the United States is unique relative to Sokol in the Czech Republic, perhaps there are some opportunities or partnerships we have yet to discover.

My wife Darnell and I have had great experiences touring the Czech Republic for three months. Darnell and I have been fortunate to re-acquaint ourselves with old friends and meet new friends via friends of friends. All have generously shared their hospitality and allowed us to learn about and join in a little bit of their life. Most of our time has been in Prague. We have become more familiar with its streets and passageways that lead to another unexplored park or square. We have conquered the crutch of the paper transit map. The art museums and parks are found without effort, all that is needed is time to relax and enjoy them. We were fortunate to have traveled to Moravia, South Bohemia, and North Bohemia, and with the help of the apps Mapy and Pubtran, we are able to easily find our way throughout the country. Our memories and the friendships we made will be with us the rest of our lives.

I typically learn the hard way. For example, as a guest in a Czech household, to finish one's dinner plate only leads to more food being added, and drinking all of one's beer only causes another beer to be placed in front of you. Many years ago in Slovakia, I learned this same lesson, but failed to remember it this year until I pushed myself away from the table. Another tip, do not jump ON the train when EVERYONE is exiting; this typically means the train is at its last or next to last stop, and it is not the train you believe it to be! Asking a question in Czech will most likely create a response in Czech; that is where the challenge begins, but in attempting to understand the response, they will often disclose that they speak English.

I personally would like to thank all the board members and committees that have functioned so well while I was on sabbatical. Thank you to Vice President Cinnamon Whaley, who was instrumental in running the board meetings.

At Sokol Minnesota, we are continuing with our activities at the C.S.P.S Hall. Our gymnasts and dancing groups are back in form. The Sokol Singers continue to meet and always accept new vocalists. Kolo Sokol has plans to get back on their bikes. Our upcoming events include the Children's Cultural Day Camp from June 13 to 17, our annual Mushroom Hunt on June 26, the Members and Volunteers Picnic on July 17, and the Youth Leadership Awards on September 1. I look forward to seeing each of you there! *Nazdar!*

The Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Award Applications are due July 1, 2022.

Additional information and application forms are at www.sokolmn.org/youth-leadership-award/

Award recipients will be announced by September 1 and will be presented at the annual Czech and Slovak Festival on September 25.

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

Koláče and caramel corn available for walk-up sales.



Markéta Pálková is one of several master

Spring Koláče Curbside Bake Sale Was a Success By Co-chairs Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, and Joyce Tesarek

The Spring *Koláče* Bake Sale was successfully held curbside, Saturday, April 9. Sokol Minnesota volunteer koláče bakers for the fundraiser were Adam and Denisa Acs, Mary Cahill, Roger Green, Glynis Grostephan, Don and Katie Haselbauer (provided lunch and sweets), Doreen McKenney, Jean Hall Sykora (provided sweets), Joan Sedlacek, and Joyce Tesarek.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer and website administrator Richard Sargent provided assistance.

Bob Kostichka donated 14 bags of his delicious caramel corn for the bake sale.

Doreen, Glynis, and Joan handed out pre-orders curbside on the crisp and sunny morning.

Left: Glynis Grostephan assisted Kate Sammons and daughter Althea as they selected some extra koláče to take home. Althea had just finished Czech and Slovak folk dance practice.



Denisa and Adam Acs added cukrová drobenka (sugar crumbs) topping to the koláče before baking.

Chef Markéta Pálková

cooks in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's most recent Czech-born generation. Markéta learned cooking initially from her mom. Ludmila Pálková, who joins her in the Sokol Minnesota kitchen at the C.S.P.S. Hall on her numerous visits to Minnesota. They are from Moravská Nová Ves in South Moravia, where kitchen skills are frequently highlighted at festivals, such as *Hody*, organized by whole villages. Markéta was encouraged by late Sokol Minnesota member Hana Matoušek to lead cooking and baking on a large scale for certain Sokol Minnesota events and has done so since 2013. Some of the main events Markéta and Hana cooked together for were Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka's

visit in 2016, celebrations of Sokol and

Czech Republic anniversaries, our Czech &

Nations café. Hana and Markéta, together

participated through the years in almost all

with Markéta's sister Ludmila (Lidka),

Easter and Thanksgiving bake sales,

selling baked goods and canned items.

Slovak Festival, Šibřinky, and the Festival of group. Photo from 2015.



Three generations of the Pálková family enjoy participating at Sokol Minnesota. Markéta, her mother dances with the children's dance

By Joyce Tesarek

After Hana could no longer help with cooking in the summer of 2019, Markéta was joined by Michaela (Míša) Giancarlo Kotek. (Míša was featured in "The Czech Baker" article in the March 2022 Slovo on page 3.) Markéta and Míša started cooking together for the Czech and Slovak Festival at the Hall and currently cook for certain Sokol Minnesota events. Markéta served her famous guláš at the Slavic Music Roots Concert at the Hall on May 15.

Our master cooks who carry on skills passed down from earlier-arriving generations continue to cook and bake for special and regular events at the Hall. Markéta and Lidka have a Facebook page, "Czech Sis Kitchen," www.facebook.com/Czech-Sis-Kitchen-

Ludmila, and son Matthew, who They will also sell their homemade baked or pickled treats on Saturdays from June 11 to September 24, 2022, at the Stillwater Farmer's Market.

See: www.facebook.com/StillwaterMNFarmersMarket/

103086308258610.

Two years ago, we were pushed by COVID to make our Easter celebration a remote one. This year we were able to meet in person at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Saturday, April 16. Seeing friends again and sharing food for lunch was a much-welcomed spring activity. The event was presented through the joint efforts of Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, and Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.







The morning was filled with many hands-on activities. Decorating eggs and braiding whips (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_whip) were the most popular. Seth Eberle, Minneapolis-based puppet artist, then enjoyed our full attention during his 45-minute play using Czechstyle marionettes. (See Gwen Willems' article *Czech-style Marionettes* on page 6.)

After a delicious potluck lunch, Dr. Martin Nekola, a Czech researcher and historian, presented a lecture on *History of Czech Communities in the U.S.* He also offered tips on preserving Sokol Minnesota archives and signed his newest book, a gift to us.

Both of our guests expressed their gratitude and wrote us heartfelt messages.

"Thank you so much for having me! I appreciate all the care and attention you took in planning. It was amazing to have such a beautiful painted drop behind us while we performed. Thank you! Your programs are amazing and the connections you are forming between families are so excellent. It is great to see how you are continuing to pass on Czech culture and language. I hope that bringing me in was an enriching experience and some good exposure to Czech style rod marionettes! It was a pleasure to talk to folks after the show and to have children play with some of the puppets."

Seth Eberle (www.setheberle.com)

"My dear Czech and Slovak friends in the Twin Cities, I was truly amazed by the C.S.P.S. Hall. You are very lucky you have such a nice place to meet: a community center, school, office of the Honorary Consul under one roof, really a pulsing heart of the Minnesota "Czechness." Please, do protect it for the upcoming

generations. I have visited many cities around the United States with a strong Czech presence. It happened quite often that the local Bohemian Hall or Sokol building was torn down, sold, or left. With no appropriate place where cultural, social,



Martin Nekola, Ph.D., and Renáta Tichá, Ph.D.

and educational events could take place, the Czech community always withered and disappeared soon after. Don't make the same mistake. Benefit from the great building you possess, where the past meets the present and the future of Czech life is assured. Some of you may not be aware of the rich archive of Sokol Minnesota in numerous boxes on the third floor. The archive contains unique historical material, including old photographs, chronicles, and newspapers. The papers are very fragile and will not last forever. Try to digitize as many of these as possible; look for funding and do not hesitate to ask the Czech government for help. It is worthwhile, believe me. Live long Sokol Minnesota!" Martin Nekola, Ph.D.

Martin is currently a coordinator of a project titled *The Czechoslovak Talks* (www.czechoslovaktalks.com/en) collecting interesting life stories of Czechs and Slovaks living abroad.









Page 4: 1.Many enjoyed decorating Easter eggs with hot colored wax. 2. While the Puppet Show held the attention of the crowd, Jitka Sebek and friends cleaned up after the egg decorating. Jitka is holding a carton of partially decorated eggs. 3. Nella, Evička, Honza with his red dogwood whip, and Monička enjoyed the day. Page 5: 4. Kallie Melvin and Seth Ebele performed *The Box King* 5. Young puppeteers tried their hand with a puppet. 6. Everyone enjoyed the potluck lunch. 7. Making braided whips was a very popular activity.



Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities Completes Another Successful Year By Jitka Sebek

We blinked twice, and the 2021 - 2022 school year for Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities was over. Nearly 40 children enjoyed learning, and the teachers enjoyed presenting in-person Czech lessons at the preschool, kindergarten, elementary, and junior high levels, along with a Slovak class and an online high school class.

All the teachers, under the watchful eye of T. G. Masaryk from a portrait on the wall, signed the school certificates and sent the students off to a summer break hopefully filled with happy travels and bilingual chatting.

Ten of our students also learned Czech online this spring from Palacký University students; we hope this partnership continues next year.

Tereza Darwin signed a Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities certificate.

During the Easter celebration at the C.S.P.S. Hall on April 17, a crowd of children and adults were delighted to see Seth Ebele and Kallie Melvin perform one of the puppet shows in their repertoire, *The Box King*, with Philip Simondet providing musical accompaniment.

Seth is a teaching and performing artist who has worked in the region under the name Seth Eberle Puppets since 2009. He uses puppetry and visual arts to teach about the environment and Minnesota's natural resources in elementary and high schools, and through the Three Rivers Park District.

Learn more about Seth's work, including additional themes he addresses, at www.setheberle.com

He has a deep appreciation for his art. "I love that you can always learn something new and incorporate it into puppetry. Every bit of knowledge from any field can become something important for a later show. I enjoy how puppetry can convey a complicated message into very simple terms that can be understood differently by adults in the audience and still speak to children. The Bread and Puppet Theater did this very well for adults when I worked with them, and I continue to strive to convey complex ideas through simple puppet action in the work that I do, usually for family audiences. I also love that there are parts of puppetry that are incredibly collaborative."

Thanks to an artistic residency in Prague during August 2016, Seth is an expert in Czech-style puppetry. He told me, "The biggest thing that distinguishes Czech-style marionettes is the center rod that goes through the head of the puppet, and the fact that they are made out of wood, usually European Linden in traditional puppets. Many marionettes are made entirely with strings, which can give their movement a little more fluidity. Czech-style marionettes can be a little

choppier with their movement, and since they are made out of wood, can also be used to hit each other or make noise on the stage. The other part of Czech rod puppets that distinguish them is the way they are constructed to allow easy manipulation for walking." The way the puppets are jointed is also a bit particular to Czech marionettes: they often have tongue-in-groove joints on their legs and, rather than carving an upper arm with a joint, a tube of cloth is connected from the shoulder to the elbow and sometimes filled with a wooden piece to fill out the body.



Seth Eberle at the C.S.P.S. Hall, holding a Czech-style puppet he made.

In contrast, contemporary puppets in the United States are often cast out of paper mache or rubber. They are manipulated entirely with strings, and the control is usually called an "airplane" control because it is horizontal instead of more upright like the rod of Czech-style marionettes.

The year of Seth's residency in Prague was also marked by UNESCO's declaring the puppet traditions of Czechia and Slovakia to be on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The UNESCO citation affirmed: "Puppet theatre for communities in

Slovakia and Czechia is not only a popular form of traditional entertainment but also a way of conveying a vision of the world and an educational tool with messages on moral values."

See: https://ich.unesco.org/en/ RL/puppetry-in-Slovakia-and-Czechia-01202

In Prague, Seth trained with Miroslav (Mirek) Trejtnar, the lead artist at Puppets in Prague. Mirek is a marionette maker/carver and toy maker, and his wife Leah helps coordinate educational outings to see performances and historical

collections. Mirek has samples of many different joints and techniques in boxes all over his studio and beautiful marionettes are hanging everywhere. He also will occasionally make other kinds of puppets for productions. The summer Seth was there, Mirek ended up making two giant political-figure puppets. He also restores historical puppets and teaches carving and puppetmaking classes out of his studio.

For Seth, it was "an incredible experience to focus on puppet creation and lead up to a culminating performance. It was also simply amazing to carve all day, see castles in the evening, and go to theatre productions and music throughout my time there."

If you are interested in training with Puppets in Prague, which Seth highly recommends, visit: https://puppetsinprague.eu

Puppets in Prague offers carving classes in person, as well as online. You can create a design in Minnesota, send it electronically; Puppets in Prague will ship parts and teach you how to carve and get set up. Just say Seth sent you!

Sokol Gymnasts

Next sessions are in the fall

For updated information see: sokolmn.org/at-ourhall/sokol_fitness Believe in People: The Essential Karel Čapek selected and translated by Šárka Tobrmanová-Kühnová. Faber and Faber Ltd.: London, 2010, 358 pages. Available at libraries and bookstores.

I remain an ardent admirer, along with many others, of Karel Čapek's writing and was delighted to find a contemporary publication (2010) of his journalistic and personal pieces not previously translated into English. Translator Šárka Tobrmanová-Kühnová wrote in her introduction to *Believe in People: The Essential Karel*

Čapek, "Čapek is among the greatest of Czech writers, and the most loved. To many Czech readers he is not only a master of the word, but a moral example."

A contemporary reader like me is struck by Čapek's story-telling skills, breadth of interests and knowledge, delightful wit, wisdom, facility with language, and prolific output. Tobrmanová-Kühnová notes that he became a master of the newspaper column, "Virtually created this 'new literary form ... shorter than a feuilleton and longer than a comment.""

Karel Čapek was born in Malé Svatoňovice in 1890, studied at Charles University and the Sorbonne, and received a Ph.D. in philosophy in 1915. He became a columnist, playwright, essayist, reviewer, art critic, storywriter, and novelist. He campaigned in favor of free expression and strongly opposed the rise of both fascism and communism

in Europe. Much of his writing in the 1930s focused on the threat of brutal national socialist and fascist dictatorships. Although nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature seven times, Čapek never received it. In 1935, he married his long-time girlfriend, actress Olga Scheinpflugová. Although the Gestapo had named him "public enemy number two," he refused to accept asylum in England.

Believe in People adds nuance to my view of Čapek, his life, and his writing. Other Čapek books I read gave me the impression he was cheerful and optimistic, but pieces in this book make it clear he wasn't always an optimist. He was often in physical pain from spondyloarthritis in his back, and the book's section on letters to Olga demonstrates how he was psychologically tormented with what he referred to as neurasthenia—an ill-defined medical condition characterized by lassitude, fatigue, headache, and irritability.

Since Čapek wrote these pieces from 1914 to 1938, readers also get a sense of his changes and concerns over time. One especially poignant essay in this collection, "A Letter from Czechoslovakia," was written in late October 1938, never finished, never published, and came shortly before his death on Christmas Day 1938. The letter rails against the dubious response to the so-called Sudetenland question,

with about a million Czech nationals to fall under German rule. The author was deeply disappointed that "the Berlin conference with the participation of Great Britain and France, dealt with Czechoslovakia as if it were a defeated enemy state. No one has yet explained to us why—what the reasons were why this radical change of the British and French stance on Czechoslovakia occurred."

Čapek had an uncanny ability to mine everyday activities and words for humor and exposition that shows how much some things have not changed in a century. My favorite topics in this category include the wireless, the Swedish

> vacuum cleaner, bicycling, Christmas gifts and New Year's resolutions, a tooth ache, a broken water pipe, and the superior comfort of English chairs compared to Czech chairs. His essay "Against Little Goose Eggs" focuses on the negative implications of putting single quotation marks around words such as 'humanity', 'socialists', and 'pacifism'. He thought goose eggs were overused, added a denial or devaluing to the thing written about, and by lending suspicions, indicated authors' avoidance of the work of plausible criticism. An example is "If I write that Mr. Novotný or Mr. Kratochvíl is a 'butcher', presumably it means something indefinite yet incriminating: that he may not really be a butcher, or that he's a bad butcher, or that his butchery is suffused with a shameful overtone...."



Karel Čapek

In another gem of an essay, "About the Word Robot," Čapek clarified the nonchalant birth of the word robot for his play *RUR*. Karel told his artist brother Josef about his new idea for a play and said, "But I don't know what to call those artificial workers. I'd call them laborators, but it seems to me somewhat stilted." Josef murmured, paint brush in his mouth, "Call them robots then," and proceeded with his painting. "And that was it," wrote Karel.

Šárka Tobrmanová-Kühnová did an outstanding translation (she has a huge vocabulary to match his) and included an informative introduction, notes section, and index. From my experience, I recommend that the dense, thought-provoking nature of *Believe in People* lends itself to focusing on one or two pieces per day rather than reading it straight through.

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.

Literary Ventures is on summer break until September.



Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

www.sokolmn.org





Sunday, September 25 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



FREE Admission • Public Welcome • Accessible Facility



Sokol Singers

Sokol Singers gathered around director and pianist, Don Haselbauer, on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

The Sokol Singers meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 10 a.m. September to May. Singing resumes on September 6. Everyone is welcome to sing!

Contact Don Haselbauer for more information: dhaselbauer@msn.com

Front row; Louise Wessinger, Jean Draheim, Ann Janda, Marlene Hinshaw, and Pam Langworthy.

Back row; Ken Janda, Richard Sargent, Glynis Grostephan, and Bob Kostichka.

Not pictured: Doreen McKenney, who took this photograph. Regulars not singing were Dave Stepan and John Topic.

Mojo Mushroom Foraging on June 26 By Dan Kirkpatrick

June is often the month in which more species and numbers of wild mushrooms start popping up, so it is time to put on your *houby* (mushroom) boots! The season for many wild mushrooms has been delayed this year due to the weather, but they will be out eventually.

Join us for the Sokol Minnesota Mushroom Hunt on June 26 at 1 p.m.

The location will be announced at a later date.

Register by June 20 by calling or texting Jean at 651-210-0401,

or by email to: activities@sokolmn.org

Chanterelle is one of the most popular summer mushrooms and is definitely a frequent target of mine. Look around; where you find one, you will find more! Here are key characteristics of chanterelles:

Pale to dark yellow color (see the color photo on line at: www.sokolmn.org/slovo-newsletter/)

Forked ridges ("false gills") that are continuous into stalk.

Strong, somewhat "fruity" aroma often likened to apricots.

Mycorrhizal, which means they have a symbiotic relationship with trees, will only grow around living trees. Grows only on the ground near oaks or pines, do not even bother looking around any other trees as you will not find any. You may be surprised at how well these bright yellow mushrooms can hide, so move undergrowth out of the way and squat down.

The Black Trumpet is a close relative, so where you find chanterelles, you may stumble on some trumpets as well. For more *houby* information, please feel free to check out my website www.mojomushroom.com



Chanterelle (Cantharellus Cibarius)



Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Sunday, August 14

Please mark your calendars for the 91st Annual Booya Picnic at the historic Sokol Camp in Pine City, Minnesota. 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.

Please consider assisting with the preparation or serving of Booya, table or tent set-up, or other intriguing and fun-to-do tasks. You won't want to miss it! Nazdar!

When: Sunday, August 14, 2022. Noon until 5 p.m.

Where: Sokol Camp, 19201 Woodland Acres South, Pine City, Minnesota

Who to contact: Kari and Scott Muyres,

Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Co-chairpersons at 763-226-0313

Slavic Music Roots Concert

A large audience enjoyed delicious food and the music of *World Jazz Collegium* and *SlovCzech* at the *Slavic Music Roots Concert* on Sunday, May 15, at the C.S.P.S. Hall. It was a beautiful spring day (except for a few brief showers).

A full article will be in the August Slovo.



41st International Film Festival

Open House for Refurbished and Renamed Theatre

The MSP Film Society held a special open house on April 30 to introduce the refurbished and renamed theatre, now called MSP Film at The Main. The Society received financial support from several Czech and Slovak organizations for the 41st International Film Festival (MSPIFF) held May 5 through 19, including Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, and Czech cinema fans Marshall and Gretchen Toman. These combined contributions, totaling \$1000, were matched by a special grant for the 2022 MSPIFF.

MSP Film at The Main is located at 115 Main Street in Minneapolis. https://mspfilm.org

Zátopek Enjoyed by Czechs and Running Enthusiasts

Zátopek was chosen among the Best of the Fest for MSPIFF41. MSPIFF's description of Zátopek stated "The perils and perks of being an elite athlete in "socialist" Czechoslovakia provide the backdrop to this engaging biopic of Emil Zátopek (1922 – 2000), perhaps his country's greatest

one of the greatest love stories in sports."

Zátopek's triple of gold medals in the 5k, 10k, and marathon at the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games has never been equaled. Older generations know

his stories from news or

Zátopek (How Zátopek

Ran Then) by Ota Pavel.

Jak to tenkrát běžel

from sports novels such as

Starfishung KNOCK

May 18 screening: (L-R) Jake Jacobson,
M. L. Kucera, Pam Langworthy, Tom Aubrecht,
Richard Sargent. Marshall Toman,
Joyce Tesarek, and Roger Green.



May 21 screening: (L-R) Jan Košťál and son, Michael and Milan Sebek, Jake Jakobson, M. L. Kucera, Rosina Bianco and daughter.



Czech Honorary Consul M.L. Kucera (far right) presented the donation checks to the MSP Film Society to (L-R) Jesse Bishop, Programming Director; Tanner Deml, Ticketing and Membership Manager; and Susan Smoluchowski, Executive Director. In appreciation of our support of Czech and Slovak films, MSPIFF gives members of our organizations a discount on ticket prices.



May 14 screening: (L-R) Blanka Cleveland, Michaela Wentz, John Mitchel, Jana Castillon, Jake Jakobson, Peter Kessler, Alena and Elsa Youngberg, Lenka Hester, Michael, Thomas and Jitka Sebek, Radmila Rasmussen. Not pictured: Bob Cleveland, Adam, Ben, and Petr Bachan, and Jožo Klobušník.

The younger generation enjoys Zátopek's famous quote used in a popular song by Mirai, *Když nemůžeš*, *přidej víc* (If You Cannot Go, Step It Up). The movie charmed its viewers with beautiful running scenes, brought to life Emil's unusual running style and training methods, and took us back to the dark times of communism. Like one of the scenes in the movie, attendee Jan Košťál remembers as a 10-year-old when Emil Zátopek, with his socialist "handlers," visited his primary school classroom and encouraged the students to achieve greatness for the glory of the state. Dana Zátopková, Emil's wife and a multiple gold medalist in javelin, was an adviser for the movie, including approving the main actor for Zatopek's role, until her death in 2020 at age 98. Attendance at *Zátopek*, a Czech film, was over 120 for three screenings; 48 viewed 107 Mothers, an Ukraine-Slovak film, at its two screenings.

Highlights of the April 2022 Sokol Minnesota Board Meeting

By Jean Draheim

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors online meeting was called to order on April 21 at 7 p.m. by Vice President Cinnamon Whaley.

Budget and Finance Chair Joyce Tesarek moved that the Organizational Resolution form be updated to list Don Haselbauer, Joyce Tesarek, and Richard Sargent. Don will make any changes, with financial transfers to be approved by Finance and BOD. Motion carried.

A motion was made to reimburse President Dave Stepan for costs (\$381.32) incurred while meeting with members of Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, on Sokol Minnesota business. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Steve Ernest noted there are two applications for membership: Shay Downey-Forsythe and Dan Kirkpatrick. Both applications were accepted. We now have 284 members. Some of the non-renewals may still renew. Treasurer Don Haselbauer provided an update on the Sokol Minnesota accounts.

Gaming Chair Ed Hamernik noted work has begun on the audit. The actual expenses for March and the May budget of \$15,975 were approved.

Jason Brozovich reported for the Board of Instructors there were a good number of participants this year and no COVID interruptions. Gym classes will end the week of April 25. Each class will have its own end-of-year celebration.

Building and Property Trustees Chair Bob Kotek noted work on the alarm system is continuing, with a mid-May completion/activation goal. The inventory of keys and assigning of PIN codes are completed. Bob will meet with key holders to instruct on the alarm system.

Activities Chair Jean Draheim highlighted date changes for the Mushroom Hunt to June 26 and the Members and Volunteers Picnic to July 17. Jean reminded the board that this year is the 140th anniversary of our unit, the 135th anniversary of the C.S.P.S. Hall, and the 60th anniversary of our affiliated group, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. We need to start planning soon to establish celebration dates. Blanka Brichta may be able to include the anniversaries in the exhibits for the 33rd Czech & Slovak Festival. It was mentioned that the 2018 *Slavnost* celebration was a great success, with a huge thank you to the late Judy Aubrecht. Rentals: There was a lengthy discussion regarding Sokol's use of the Hall for our own sponsored events. The

use of the Hall for our own sponsored events. The consensus is that Sokol Minnesota events will honor non-Sokol rentals, and rentals will honor the days reserved by Sokol Minnesota for our events. Mary Cahill will bring the results to the rental committee meeting on April 29.

Community: Jason Brozovich noted a letter of support was sent to the Ukrainian American Cultural Center offering space at our events for their representatives to have a table for donations. Neither Jason nor Jean has heard if the UACC will be joining us for the May 14 Craft and Flea Market. American Sokol Convention: Mary Cahill noted American Sokol (ASO) holds conventions every four years. ASO is soliciting interest from the districts concerning hosting the convention, and Western District is considering hosting. The convention is usually attended by approximately 95 delegates and is planned and paid for by ASO, so there is no financial commitment from the hosting unit/district.

If Western District is chosen, and Sokol Minnesota is the host, there would not be anything at the Hall, with the exception of a reception/party. The Board gave its consent for Mary to move forward with exploring this opportunity. Old business: *Koláče* prices were discussed. We have been charging \$1.00 for many years. The consensus is that the price needs to be increased to \$1.50 for slightly larger items. Joyce will take the discussion to the bakers.

Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera reported she and Ed Hamernik have an appointment on May 4 to meet with three Czech Trade Diplomats who will be in Minneapolis for a national craft brewing convention. Steve Ernest also expressed interest to attend. Vice President Cinnamon Whaley is registered to attend the convention; she will see if she can locate extra tickets.

Announcements by Member-at-Large Fred Simon: The Czech Heritage Club in New Prague will have a program by a local herbalist on Tuesday, April 26, at the Giesenbrau Brewery. The May Day celebration in Montgomery is from noon to 5 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members By Steve Ernest

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

Shay Downey-Forsythe from St. Paul, with interests in the adult dance group, adult singing group, bicycle group, films and theater, music and dance, history and genealogy, language classes, cooking classes, and crafting classes. Shay notes that she would like to learn more about cultural practices and folklore, loves kayaking and climbing, and would absolutely love to go hiking in the Tatras someday.

Dan Kirkpatrick from Hanover. See Dan's article "Mojo Mushroom Foraging" on page 7.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

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: M. L. Kucera for Spring *Koláče* Bake Sale; Agnes Zeman.

In memory of **Don Andrle** and **Norm Petrik: Charles Rusnacko.**

In memory of Norm Petrik: Patricia Andrle, and Jean Hall Sykora.

\$100 - \$499: M. L. Kucera for the *Slavic Music Roots Concert.*

In-kind donations: Bob Kostichka: bags of caramel corn for Spring *Koláče* Bake Sale.

TOTALS:

General Fund: \$271 TOTAL: \$271

MEMBER NEWS

Annual Members and Volunteers Picnic

Mark your calendars for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's Annual Members and Volunteers Picnic.

Our members and volunteers keep Sokol Minnesota strong. This will be a time that all can gather in person and catch up with or get to know each other.

We will take this time to celebrate, in person, our accomplishments and recognize membership milestones: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 55, 60, and even 70 years!

Please join us for camaraderie, conversation, and food.

Date: Sunday, July 17 Time: 1-4 p.m.

Location: Lakewood Hills Park in White Bear Lake

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Membership Five-Year Anniversaries

By Steve Ernest

	J. T.	
5 years	15 years	35 years
(continuous since 2017)	Cynthia Coulter	David Stepan
Julie Bifano	Pamela Kotval	
Stacey Bulera	Judy Metcalf	40 years
Abra Gillman	Denis Novak	Lillian Bednar
Linda Havir	John Palka	Kenneth Wyberg
Alexander Ivaskovic	Penny Tesarek	Sharon Wyberg
Michaela Giancarlo Kotek	Tom Tesarek	
Robert Kotek	Cheryl Nelson Theuninck	45 years
Richard Palma	Mike Theuninck	Lorraine Olson
Amy Patella	Richard Sargent	Joyce Tesarek
Sandy Prochaska	Paula Vukonich	
Diane Riveraå		55 years
Scott Stasney	20 years	Susan Marabella
Roger Wencl	Diane Cina	
Denise Wickiser	Pamela Langworthy	60 years
Gary Zweber	Gary Novak	Dorothy Kucera
		Gary Pavlicek
10 years	25 years	
John Adan	Molly Chandler	70 years
Dan Bednar		Agnes Zeman
Violet Chromy	30 years	
Barbora Carlson	Ted Skluzacek	
George Hoffman		
Gwen Willems		

Slovo Publication Information and Committee

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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.

Photographers: Joyce Tesarek.

Sokol Minnesota Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney (pages 1, 8, 16).

Mailing and email Lists: Penny and Tom Tesarek.

Congratulations on your anniversary!

Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

Advisors: Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, M. L. Kucera, and Jitka Sebek. Additional contributors to this issue: Jean Draheim, Steve Ernest, Dan Kirkpatrick, M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Kari Muyres, Jitka Sebek, Joan Sedlacek, Dave Stepan, Joyce Tesarek, and Gwen Willems.

Additional photographs, ads, or illustrations to this issue (not already noted) provided by: Ann Jans, Kája Jost, Dan Kirkpatrick, M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Kari Muyres, Jitka Sebek, Joyce Tesarek, and Gwen Willems.

More information at www.sokolmn.org

33rd Annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant crowned three royalty and six junior ambassadors on April 9 in Montgomery.

Queen Marissa Winget and her sister
Evelyn are from Northfield; First Princess
Sarah Holicky is from Montgomery; and
Second Princess Hailie Wentworth and her
sister Alexia are from Saint Peter.
Georgianna Bell is from Le Center and
Hayden Hayden is from New Prague.
Two JAs this year have ties to Czech and
Slovak Sokol Minnesota: Alenka Jans of
Waterville and Alexandra Kojetin of Eden
Prairie; their parents are Sokol Minnesota
members. The Honorary Consul of the
Czech Republic provides Sokol Minnesota
memberships for the three royalty members
for the year of their reign.



(L-R) Georgianna Bell (JA), Hayden Dietz (JA), Evelyn Winget (JA), Queen Marisa Winget, First Princess Sarah Holicky, Second Princess Hailie Wentworth, Alexia Wentworth (JA), Alenka Jans (JA), Alexandra Kojetin (JA).

Meeting with Trade and Economic Officials from the Czech Republic

By M. L. Kucera

On May 4, representatives of the Czech Embassy in Washington D.C., the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in Prague, and the Czech Ministry of Agriculture in Prague were in Minneapolis for the Craft Brewers Conference. They met with three Sokol Minnesota members who had both information and questions about trade for the Czech officials.



(L-R), Ed Hamernik, Minnesota businessman and Sokol Minnesota member; Marek Svoboda Director of Economic Diplomacy Department at MFA; Petr Kuba, Economic Section, Embassy; Petr Ježek, Economic Section, Agriculture, Embassy; Radek Holomčík, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; M. L. Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic and Sokol Minnesota member; Karolina I Bartošová, Director, Trade and International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Agriculture; Steve Ernest, Minnesota State (with 30 colleges and seven universities; including a brewing program the Dakota County Technical College) and Sokol Minnesota member; Jana Vitková, Protocol Officer, Ministry of Agriculture.

2022 Mestenhauser Student Awards Broaden International Understanding

The Mestenhauser Student Awards support the University of Minnesota's efforts to broaden international understanding through innovative programs and scholarship. The awards recognize outstanding student contributions to international education and acknowledge the important work being done by students to internationalize the curriculum and campus. The awards are made possible by the Mestenhauser Legacy Fund, to which several Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota members are donors. For more information on the fund, see global.umn.edu/icc/legacy/fund.html

Josef A. Mestenhauser (1925-2015), our Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic from 1998-2008, was Distinguished International Emeritus Professor in the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development at the University of Minnesota. His more than fifty-year career included serving as teacher, researcher, administrator, counselor, and consultant.

On April 1, Elizabeth Schwartz, director of the University of Minnesota's Internationalizing the Curriculum and Campus Global Programs and Strategy Alliance, presented the 2022 awards to three students who each attend the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus.

Rawan Ibrahim Algahtani is an undergraduate student from Saudi Arabia studying Human Resources Development. Nisma Elias, from Pakistan, is pursuing a doctorate in Comparative and International Development Education. Bassel M. El Mrawed, a Fulbright Scholar from Lebanon and Venezuela, is pursuing a Master of Human Rights. Each recipient presented a short digital story about their engagement with campus internationalization. For pictures, bios, and to watch their digital stories, visit: https://global.umn.edu/icc/awards/index.html#/0

This information is from the Central International Office for the University of Minnesota System, Global Programs and Strategy Alliance.

Honorary Consuls of the Czech Republic Meet in Washington, D.C. By M. L. Kucera

For the first time since 2019, the Honorary Consuls of the Czech Republic met together in person at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C., May 5 to 7. Topics discussed by the Honorary Consuls this year included elections

and voting, visas, passport applications, travel and tourism, areas of Czech and United States cooperation, Czech language and other educational programs, European Union presidency to be held by the Czech Republic from July through December 2022, preservation of Czech Culture, mapping and support of local Czech communities, and relations with authorities at the state level for trade and export opportunities.



At every conference, a "family" picture is taken of all who attend the annual meetings including the Ambassador H.E. Hynek Knoníček (center front), Embassy staff, Consul Generals (Chicago, New York, Los Angeles) and spouses, members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague, CzechTrade Chicago, CzechTourism (New York), CzechInvest New York, Czech Center New York, and Honorary Consuls and spouses.

Honorary Consuls who attended were (Front L-R) Jitka Putra, Czech Connect/Miami; Stanislav Janšta, Miami; Jaroslav Jelínek, Calgary (Alberta, Canada); Jonathon Tichy, Salt Lake City; Myrna Božena Murdoch, Honolulu; Olga Martin Las Vegas; Alexander Montanaro, Philadelphia; Martin P Pospíšil, New Orleans. (Back L-R) M. L. Kucera, Minneapolis; Sharon Valasek, Kansas City; Monika Vintrlíková, Atlanta; Lenka Hořáková, Little Rock. (Missing from this group

photo): Igor Lukeš, Boston, and Robin Zoufalik, Pittsburgh. Not attending were the Honorary Consuls from Anchorage, Boulder (CO), Charlotte (S.C.), Houston, Lincoln (NE), Livingston (MT), Orlando, Phoenix, Portland, San Juan (PR), San Francisco, Seattle. The newest Czech Honorary Consul is Myrna Božena Murdoch representing Hawaii.

Bright Yellow T-shirts Promote the Youth Link

Contact youths@sokolmn.org



The Sokol Minnesota members going to the National American Sokol Convention in Ennis, Texas, June 9-12, will wear these t-shirts to promote the new Minnesota program for youth.



The Embassy had a special exhibit of the *George T. Drost Collection of The Art of Joža Uprka*, Czech and Moravian-Slovak painter (1861-1940). The exhibit first hung at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 2018. Uprka paintings and sketches added since that first exhibition are

included in the Embassy Edition of

of Joža Uprka from the George T.

the Czech Embassy in Paris.

Drost Collection. It will next hang in

the book. National Treasure: The Art

Kolo Sokol Bike Club

Family-friendly 2-3 hour bike rides
Second Saturday of the month: May-October
Leaving the C.S.P.S. Hall at 9 a.m.
For weather cancellations and information on additional rides with other locations see:
sokolmn.org/bike

Czech Honorary Consul News

June/July 2022

On April 7, Mary Lou Sabin and Andrew Scheiber, Ph.D., presented four Velvet Revolution posters to the Honorary Consul office. These posters will eventually become part of the collection of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Mary Lou taught high school English and history in Grand Ledge, Michigan, where one of her colleagues was Margaret Rosier. Margaret's son Dr.

Louis Rosier, a member of the International Faculty for the University of Texas/Austin, had been teaching in Prague during the Velvet Revolution. He gave these pieces to his mother, who gave them to Mary Lou and Andrew, because she knew of their great interest in mid-20th century Czech literature. These posters hung in their home and in Andrew's



office at St. Thomas University where he taught English until his recent retirement. Mary Lou noted, "The plays of Václav Havel and Josef Škvorecký were our gateway to this rich literary tradition. These works probably resonated with us, at least partly, because our experience of teaching for a year in China in 1982-83, where the pressures of a Communist and authoritarian government on literary expression could be observed first hand." Andrew added, "We both were privileged to hear Václav Havel and to shake his hand when he came to Macalester College in Saint Paul in 1999 to give an address at the Civil Society Symposium that was founded there in his honor."



After a two-year absence of **Consular Corps license plates** for members of the Minnesota Consular Corps, the Minnesota State Legislature again approved issuing them. CZE1 is for the first plate (1) issued for the Czech Republic (CZE). Prior to 2020, my plate number had been 5. Preceeding me as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, Dr. Josef Mestenhauser had 1 and 2; Bob Vanasek had 3 and 4; I had 5. After slight changes in the design of the plates, the numbering started again at 1.

On April 23, the town of Tabor, South celebrated the 150th Dakota. anniversary of its founding by Czech settlers. The large Beseda Hall, formerly a Sokol Hall, was filled to capacity. (L-R) Cecilia Rokusek, a Tabor native and President/CEO of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; M. L. Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota; Olga Kanturek; Dennis Povondra, chairman of Tabor's 150th Anniversary; Camille Sykora, 2021-2022 Tabor's Czech Days



Queen and Miss Czech South Dakota (she is proud to be sixth generation Czech American with 100% Czech heritage); Sharon Valasek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Kansas and Missouri, and Jaroslav Kanturek, Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago. The 73rd Czech Days in Tabor is June 17-18.



When I attend events as the Czech Honorary Consul, I often have a table to display promotional information about organizations and their upcoming events and programs, as well as tourist brochures for the Czech Republic and general information about Czech culture. This table was part of the May Day celebration at the Revival on Main in Montgomery on May 1. May Day events included live polka music, folk dancing in *kroje*, Czech food, and ribbon dancing around the Maypole, erected indoors due to the cold and rain outdoors.

Renáta Ticha, president of Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, shared this website about Czech lore, fact, and fiction: https://www.czechology.com/

Two Minnesota applicants (both Sokol Minnesota members) received **scholarships to the 2022 Czech language summer school in Poděbrady,** provided by the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports of the Czech Republic. Congratulations to **Steve Ernest** and **Andrea Manolov.**



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



C.S.P.S. HALL LEGACY FUND To keep us all safe from COVID-19, all our income-generating events are on hold. If you can help, we would greatly appreciate a donation to Sokol. Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-822-6147 or email: finance@sokolmn.org Thank you! Name: Address: City: State, Zip: Phone: Email: To help refinish the C.S.P.S. Hall floors, I make a tax-deductible donation of \$ I would like my gift designated: in memory or in honor of:

Make checks payable to Sokol Minnesota
Write Legacy Fund in the memo line
Mail to C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund
Attn: Treasurer

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
Or donate online: www.sokolmn.org Thank You!



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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 June/July 2022



The 24th annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp is scheduled for June 13-17, 2022

Register by May 1 to qualify for the Early-Bird discount.

All camp registration materials must be received by June 1.

Registration materials for campers ages 6 to 14 and adult volunteers, can be downloaded at www.sokolmn.org

Full refund if camp needs to be postponed.

Questions? Contact Louise Wessinger 651-271-3601