



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

December *Slovo*
articles due November 1

**Friendly Friday
Evening Social Event**
Friday, November 11
(more info on page 3)

**Saint Paul Czech and
Slovak Folk Dancers
60th Anniversary
Celebration**
Saturday, November 12
(more info on page 3)

**Annual Membership
Meeting and Sokol
Anniversary Celebration**
Friday, November 18
(more info on page 2)

**Curbside Holiday
Breakfast, Craft, and
Koláče Bake Sale,**
Saturday, November 20
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(info adjacent)

Sokol Gift Shop
open during events;
by appointment; and on
Small Business Saturday
Saturday, November 26
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Use our new QR code
to sokolmn.org to follow
all of our activities,
events, and classes!

- Dinners
- Czech and Slovak
Language Lessons
- Sokol Gymnasts



HOLIDAY

Breakfast, Craft,
and Koláče Sale



Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday
November 20 20
22

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

PUBLIC WELCOME • NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED

Breakfast menu and price

Pancakes, sausage,
Juice, and coffee
\$8 adult; \$6 children under 9;
\$26/family of four

Koláče flavors

Apricot, cream cheese,
poppy seed, prune,
or raspberry koláč \$1.50 each

Prepaid Koláče orders online

Order and prepay
by November 12:
credit/debit card or PayPal at
www.sokolmn.org/cc/

Prepaid Koláče orders phone

Order and prepay
by November 12:
Contact: 651-210-0401
voice/text

Craft vendors

To reserve a craft table:
activities@sokolmn.org

Sokol Children's Holiday Party 20 22

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

7 p.m. Friday

December 2

C.S.P.S. Hall

Sokol friends and families are invited to
a special program of song and dance by
the Taneční Mládež and Taneční Teens,
Louise Wessinger, Director

Activities for the whole family with a visit
from Svatý Mikuláš (St. Nicholas),
anděl (angel), and čert (devil).
Sokol Czech and Slovak Singers
performance, Don Haselbauer, Director

Ethnic holiday goodies available for sale

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Dave Stepan

The whirlwind of preparation for and the activities of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual Czech and Slovak Day are over. Having caught my breath, I can only reflect on that day with a big smile. Thank you for coming out and supporting our Sokol Minnesota. To all of you who volunteered, thank you! To those who came out simply to enjoy the comradery and food, I cannot stress enough how important it is to celebrate your culture with your fellow Czechs and Slovaks. The day's wind caused a few mishaps, but it was a great event. Kudos to Event Chair Joyce Tesarek, Program Chair Louise Wessinger, and all the volunteers!



I want to personally thank our outgoing Corresponding Secretary Glynis Grostephan, who has been in this position the past four years and did a wonderful job. You will be missed. In the same breath, I want to thank one of our newer members, Mia Grignon, for stepping up to fill this position.

The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers are celebrating 60 years as a group with a party on November 12. I hope you can join us as we dance to George's Concertina Band followed by SloVczech. I expect the night to be full of fun, food, and dance!



For those who were at the C.S.P.S Hall recently, did you notice that in the front of the Hall we have three Saaz Hops plants growing up the building? Lucy Rose planted them this spring with the assistance of Rick Palma. The plants did well for their first year and we are optimistic that next year there may be enough flowers to plan a beer brewing event.

Recent activities included a weekend symposium around Czech humanist and 17th-century philosopher Jan Amos Komenský, also known by his Latin name Ioannes Amos Comenius. The event was organized by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota and partner organizations. Komenský emulated the idea of a Civil Society, as did the late Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauer, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in our area from 1999 to 2008, Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota, and recipient of a Comenius Medallion from the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. To be honest, I do not know much about Komenský, but the symposium has sparked my interest in him.

We plan to have a series of Friendly Friday Evenings this fall in the hope that trying something new will bring members together to get to know each other better. Our plan is to learn some card games, including *mariáš* and *euchre*. Friendly Friday Evenings will take place on the second Friday of the month.

Finally, I would like for you to attend the Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, November 18, at 7 p.m. at the C.S.P.S. Hall. The meeting will also be broadcast live via Zoom. I hope you can come and stay afterwards for conversation and a bite to eat.

Nazdar!

Mark your calendar! FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 • 7 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting and Sokol Anniversary Celebration

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors would like members to join us for important anniversary celebrations and our annual membership meeting on Friday, November 18 at 7 p.m. Our anniversaries include the celebration that Sokols around the world are celebrating this year, **the founding of Sokol 160 years ago** while part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Miroslav Tyrš and Jindřich Fügner founded the organization in 1862 based upon the principle of "a strong mind in a sound body." Lectures, discussions, and group outings provided what Tyrš viewed as physical, moral, and intellectual training for the nation.

Sokol Minnesota is celebrating our founding 140 years ago, in 1882, under the name Sokol Saint Paul and the **135th anniversary of the current C.S.P.S Hall**, built in 1887.

We will use the third-floor meeting space for the annual meeting, while broadcasting the meeting both live and to the first floor for those who choose to meet in that space. The anniversary celebrations and a light snack will follow the meeting.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs for children, teens, and adults.

Information on our programs, calendar of events, membership, C.S.P.S. Hall rentals, and gift shop, plus e-addresses for our board, program directors, volunteer staff, and the Czech Honorary Consul, as well as *Slovo* past issues, are available at www.sokolmn.org or www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota



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Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers Celebrate 60 Years By Louise Wessinger

The history of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers begins with friends and dance group founders Dorothy Mulko and Vera Verner, who bonded over their shared Czechoslovak heritage through Sokol. Vera grew up in the West 7th Street area of Saint Paul. Her family were active members of Sokol Saint Paul (later Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota). Vera and her brothers were involved in Sokol gym classes and activities. Dorothy grew up outside of Winnipeg, Canada. Her parents came from the village of Ratiškovice in Southern Moravia. Dorothy came to live in Minneapolis because of her job with Pan Am Airlines. With both Dorothy and Vera active in Sokol Saint Paul, they got the idea in 1962 of starting a group devoted to Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak folk dances. At the time, the C.S.P.S. Hall was owned by the fraternal insurance lodge Czechoslovak Society of America (CSA) and a plan was developed for the dance group to practice on Monday evenings. So began the Saint Paul Czechoslovak Folk Dancers. Of course, there is a lot more to the story and I will continue the story in the next *Slovo*. For now, we want to invite you to celebrate our 60th anniversary with us at our *Tancuj, Tancuj* dance party on

Saturday, November 12 at the C.S.P.S. Hall. We invite you to come and dance the night away with us. The doors will open at 4 p.m. with food and drink available to purchase. There will be a Silent Auction to browse and lots of pictures to bring back memories, as well as some surprises. George's Concertina Band will have the stage from 5 to 7 p.m. playing lots of great music for you to test your dancing skills. From 7 to 8 p.m. there will be fun dance mixers, games, memories. SloVCzech will take over the stage from 8 to 10 p.m. to provide a grand finish to the celebration.

The celebration will double as a fundraiser to help with the expenses of the group's trip to dance for a festival in Moravia next August.

Advance tickets/reservations for the celebration are available on the group website Tancuj.org through PayPal, or they can be purchased from group members for \$8 each or two for \$15, or by check made out to Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers sent to Diane Bell, 1802 Beechwood Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$10.

For questions, contact Diane Bell at 612-804-1975 or Louise Wessinger at 651-271-3601.

First Friendly Friday Evening

At Sokol Minnesota's first Friendly Friday Evening on October 14 at the C.S.P.S. Hall, Ondřej Veselý taught the fundamental of *mariaš*, one of the most popular card games in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Mark your calendar to attend the next Friendly Friday Evening on November 11.



Fast learners were (L-R) Ondřej Veselý, Jean Draheim, Fred Simon, Dave Stepan, and Cinnamon Whaley. They played with their cards down on the table to learn the game. Also attending were M. L. Kucera and John Topic.

Let's Dance! St. Paul *We're 60!*
Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers

60th Anniversary Dance Party Celebration

Saturday, November 12, 2022
4 pm - 10 pm
C.S.P.S. Hall
363 Michigan St.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Tancuj!



featuring two great ethnic bands
George's Concertina Band and SloVCzech
wonderful ethnic food • Cash bar: beer, wine, soft drinks
\$8 per person or \$15 per couple
reserve your tickets at tancuj.org

33rd Annual Czech & Slovak Festival was Exceptional

By Joyce Tesarek

After months of preparation, our 33rd Annual Czech & Slovak Festival is past. What an exceptional festival it was; I think the best yet! September 25 was a lovely day, sunny and crisp, but with occasional gale-force gusts of wind. In true Sokol style, all the challenges were cheerfully handled: the blown-out grill pilot light was patiently relit and relit again, flying papers were controlled with dumbbell weights and rocks, and volunteers held down the tents when necessary. This year we added 12 new tents to our collection. Having a covered beer garden and performance seating area for the first time, in addition to our second-floor performance area, helped keep our visitors staying and happy. See Louise Wessinger's article on program and performance highlights on page 6.



Once again, we offered delicious food prepared by Sokol Minnesota's great cooking and baking teams. Besides grilled *jitrnice* (Czech sausage, donated by Cynthia Forster of Sausage By Cynthia) and hot dogs, we had additional authentic ethnic entrees: *halušky a kapusta* (bacon, dumplings, and cabbage), *guláš*, chicken *paprikáš*, a vegetarian soup, and the popular frybread *langoš*. We had a variety of sweets including *koláče* and *perníčky* (honey spice cookies). Special thanks to Martina Gurgel and Jan Roers for their donated treats. Ed Hamernik, Dan Bednar, and Dave Stepan arranged for Utepils beer to round out the menu.



1. Bob Kotek and John Tesarek grilling *jitrnice* and hot dogs. 2. Happy food servers. (L-R): Theresa Pojar, Anthony Kaczor, Kateřina Svensson, Sally Simon, MaryJo Kacvinsky, Mia Grignon, and Cheri Tesarek. 3. Lloyd Krocak pulling a tap of Utepils beer. 4. Alena Youngberg preparing takeout *guláš*. 5. Rosemary Baisden, Cinnamon Whaley, Jan Roers, and Jennifer Iverson at the Sweet Shoppe.

33rd Annual Czech & Slovak Festival

Jitka Sebek and team made sure the children had lots to do, too.

A much larger section of Michigan Street in front of the C.S.P.S. Hall was blocked off for the kid's games, to the happiness of the many little visitors. Some lucky ones jumped in an inflatable Tiger attraction until it deflated because of the high winds. Children just put their shoes back on and ran to try all the newly arrived yard games and toys that were brought by the Franson family who represent Phillips Children's Museum. They came all the way from Wisconsin to surprise us with new entertainment; we hope to welcome them back next year.

Glynis Grostephan led another fine Online Auction which earned \$1,761. (see Glynis' article on page 7). The Youth Link book sale earned over \$300. Gift Shop purchases totaled \$1,643.85.

Special thanks to Bob Kotek and his team who did the hours of set-up and take-down of all the tents, tables, and chairs, and to **Richard Sargent** who handled sound and did Square set-up and training so we could do credit card payments.

Of course, the festival is primarily about sharing our Slovak and Czech traditions and foods, making and meeting friends, offering a real sense of community to our neighbors, volunteers, guests, and just having fun.

The festival is also an important fundraiser for Sokol Minnesota.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer announced we made \$13,216!

With no cover charge to the public, all this income came from the wonderful food, beer, gift shop, kids' games, Online Auction, Youth Link book sale, and our sponsors.

A big thank you to Cheryl Nelson for her sponsorship and to our additional generous sponsors: **Czech and Nordic Greeting Cards, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Coopers Foods, Ethnic Dance Theater, Keenan's 620 Club, Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera, Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers, Metrotek MN., Mirwood Cottage and Unicycle Arts, Mondo Juggling, Muddy Paws Cheesecake, and the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.**

Thanks also to our publicity team: Martina Gurgel, Doreen McKenney, Brittany Stepan, Michelle Stepan, and Richard Sargent.



A wide variety of children's games was provided by the Franson family.

None of this could happen without the wonderful help of our volunteers.

A special thanks to all those who helped before, during, and after the event (leadership team in bold)

Pat Andrle, Tom Aubrecht, Rosemary Baisden, Christy Banks, **Dan Bednar**, Diane Bell, Barb Benne, Courtney Benson, Mark Bigaouette, **Blanka Brichta**, Jason Brozovich, **Mary Cahill**, Jana Castillon, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Bruce Chuchel, Betty Danielson, Lucas DeBono Tesarek, **Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim**, Bea Flaming, John, Stáňa and Phillip Gerlach, Emma Giancarlo, Darren Giese, Eva Giese with Nicole and Natálka, Roger Green, Mia Grignon, Dave Grostephan, **Glynis Grostephan**, Kristina Gurgel, **Martina Gurgel**, Arlene Hamernik, **Ed Hamernik**, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Lída Havlová, Colin Hester, Lenka Hester, Theresa Hudachek, Jen Iverson, Robert (Jake) Jacobson, Ken Janda, Ann Janda, Lucie Jasek, Michal Jasek, Lisa Johnson, MaryJo Kacvinsky, Anthony Kaczor, Darla Kolb, Jyni Koschak, Bob Kostichka, **Bob Kotek**, Mark Kotek, **Míša Kotek**, Pam Kotval, Andy Kozak, Lloyd Krocak, **Marit Lee Kucera**, Pam Langworthy, Ann Leland, Sally Lieberman, Jessica Lourey, Marko family, **Doreen McKenney**, Brad Narr, Terry Narr, **Cheryl Nelson**, Gary Novak, Becky Olson, Rick Palma, Teresa Pojar, **Markéta Palkova**, Petra Riedel, Gina Roers-Liemandt, Jan Roers, Mike Roers, Lucy Rose, **Richard Sargent**, Paul Schroeder, **Jitka Sebek, Joan Sedlacek**, Terry Shima, Steve Shimer, Fred Simon, Jeff Simon, Ron Simon, Sally Simon, Brittany Stepan, Dave Stepan, Michelle Stepan, Denise Stibal, Kateřina Svensson, Jean Hall Sykora, *Taneční* Teen Folk Dancers and families, Amanda Tesarek, Cheri Tesarek, John Tesarek, **Joyce Tesarek**, Penny Tesarek, Tom Tesarek, Pavlína Tesch, Renáta Tichá, John Topic, Tereza Treanor, Karen Varian, Michaela Wentz, Chuck Wessinger, **Louise Wessinger, Cinnamon Whaley**, Gwen Willems, Alena Youngberg with Elsa, Gary Zweber.

We want to thank all of you who attended and helped make this event such a great success.

It was a great day for our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota community, friends, and the West 7th Street area.

We look forward to next year's festival. Save September 24, 2023 on your calendar!

Program and Performance Highlights from the Czech & Slovak Festival

By Louise Wessinger

What a beautiful and windy day we had to dance and sing and show our beautiful Czech and Slovak heritage! This year we were able to open our doors and offer two programs to entertain our festival guests. One program was outdoors and one was in our gym on the second floor of our Sokol Minnesota C.S.P.S. Hall. We were also privileged to have the traveling Czech Scientists Exhibit on our third floor.

On our outdoor stage, we began with our traditional flag ceremony. Former Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Autumn Gare (2019-2021) sang our National Anthem and the Sokol Singers led the Czech and Slovak National Anthems. Sokol Minnesota President and Program Emcee Dave Stepan introduced our special guest, Jaroslav Kantůrek, Czech Consul General/Chicago, who warmly greeted the audience. Dave next introduced M. L. Kucera, Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic, who thanked the Consul General for attending our festival before she introduced Mrs. Olga Kantůrková and Vice Consul Monika Bokšová, head of the Trade and Economics Section in Chicago, who were presented bouquets of flowers by two of our youth, Adam Acs and Adela Bragg. Kucera also welcomed other special guests, including New Prague Mayor Duane Jirik and visiting-Czech Fulbright Scholar Jan Šiška. Emcee Stepan next asked Cheryl Nelson Theuninck to give a greeting as our Slovak representative. The Sokol Singers entertained with a selection of Sokol marches, polkas, and waltzes. Jitka Sebek of the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities presented Palacký University Diplomas and Seal of Bilingualism awards to language students. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota, Marisa Winget along with her First Princess Sarah Holicky and Junior Ambassador Evelyn Winget told us about their travels as representatives of our history and culture.

Two of our teen dancers, Adam Acs and Adela Bragg, told about the Sokol Minnesota Youth Link group and the activities planned for the fall. Dave Stepan presented Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Awards and scholarships to Adela Bragg and Sally Sebek (See Jitka Sebek’s Youth Award article and Adela’s and Sally’s Youth Award application essays on page 10.



1. Flag Ceremony Participants: Chuck Draheim, Dawn Bulera, Michael Topic, Lucy Rose, Richard Palma, and Jason Brozovich. 2. L-R: Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera, New Prague Mayor Wayne Jirik, Mrs. Olga Kantůrková, Vice Consul for Trade and Economics/Chicago Monika Bokšová, and Czech Consul General/Chicago Jaroslav Kantůrek. 3. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Royalty 2022-2023: (L-R) Junior Ambassador Evelyn Winget, First Princess Sarah Holicky, and Queen Marisa Winget were introduced by 2018-2019 Queen Heather Vikla, representing the Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant Board. 4. Sandy Prochaska (standing) and Monika Bokšová (front row center) join Sokol Singers (Front row, L-R): Louise Wessinger, Pam Langworthy, Ann Janda, Marlene Hinshaw; (Back Row, L-R): Dave Stepan, Ken Janda, Ed Hamernik, Bob Kosticka, Richard Sargent. Not in photo: Don Haselbauer, Director. 5. Jitka Sebek presenting certificates to Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities participants.

Entertainment Participants at the 33rd Annual Czech & Slovak Festival

Sokol Minnesota is grateful for all of the presenters and fabulous and talented performers who help make our festival a great success.

We wish to express our thanks to all of our entertainers including those who are Sokol Minnesota members or practice at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Emcee: Dave Stepan.

Technical/Audio: Richard Sargent, Rick Palma, Sandy Prochaska, Matt Weathers.

Flag Ceremony: Chuck Draheim, Jason Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, Rick Palma, Sandy Prochaska, and Lucy Rose.

Sokol Minnesota Gymnasts: Jason Brozovich and Courtney Benson, Lead Instructors.

Sokol Singers: Don Haselbauer, Director, Marlene Hinshaw, Ann and Ken Janda, Bob Kosticka, Pam Langworthy, Richard Sargent, Dave Stepan, and Louise Wessinger.

Sokol Minnesota *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens*: Louise Wessinger, Director. Karin Fisher and Lucy Rose, Assistants. Adam Acs, Adela Bragg, Izabela Carlson, Isabel and Lucien Espinosa, Luna Fisher, Yazmine Gerges, Seanna and Keely Kluzak, Juna and Leo Krikava, Adam, Liliana, and Adela Peterson, Matthew Resong, Sylvie Rose, Sara Rosenthal, and Sophia Wenberg.

Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger, Director. By Partners: Dawn Bulera and Jason Brozovich, Dave Cammack and Lenka Hester, Stefan Heyn and Brittany Stepan, Richard Sargent and Pam Langworthy, Judy Metcalf and James Metcalf, John Topic and Diane Bell, Sandy Prochaska and Richard Palma, Teresa Pojar and Anthony Kaczor, Dave and Darnell Stepan, Michael Topic and Jyni Koschak, Scott and Julie Lindner, and Lucy Rose.

St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble: Frank Trnka, Director. Jason Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, and John Topic.

Mondo Jugglers: Tom and Penny Tesarek.

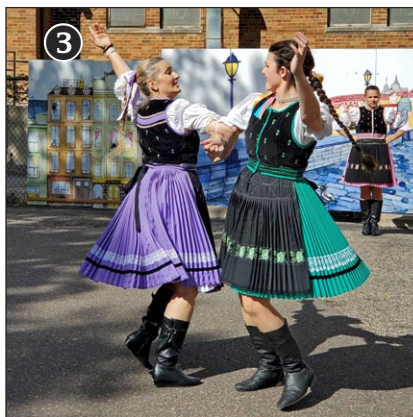
We also wish to thank our guest royalty, dancers, and musicians who graced our outdoor and indoor stages with their talent.

Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Organization: Anne Jans, Coordinator.
Lipa Slovak Dancers of Minneapolis: Lara Ciganko, Director.

Ethnic Dance Theatre of Minnesota: Don LaCourse, Director.

George's Concertina Band: George Palma, Leader.

SlovCzech: Petr Bachan, Director.



1. Mondo Jugglers Penny and Tom Tesarek showing their teamwork. 2. St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Band members Frank Trnka and Jason Brozovich performing on the *Dudy*. 3.- 5. The *Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers* lively performance inspired fans of all ages. 6. Sokol Minnesota President Dave Stepan encouraging *Koláče* Eating Contest participants. 7. The *Ethnic Dance Theatre's* sparkling performance was highlighted by flying and lifts.



Our Sokol Minnesota children and teen dancers presented a variety of Czech and Slovak dances in their colorful *kroje* (folk dress). The entertaining Mondo Jugglers, Sokol Minnesota members Tom and Penny Tesarek, astounded us once again with their fancy juggling. St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Band members Frank Trnka and Jason Brozovich gave an interesting demonstration of their musical skills playing the *dudy*, the Czech bagpipe. The Lipa Slovak Dancers of Minneapolis gave a beautiful performance of their authentic Slovak folk dance. Next was the ever-popular *koláče* eating contest; there were three winners in each category: children, teens, and adults. The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers yet again provided a beautiful display of Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovakian folk dances. The Ethnic Dance Theatre showcased a new dance from the Black Forest area of Germany; as always, these talented young people lifted our spirits. As a grand finale, SloVczech's music provided a fitting closing to our day and inspired many dancers to fill the stage with impromptu dances.



(Above) The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers performed Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovakian folk dances; a highlight was James Metcalf solo dance finale of jumping over his cane.

(Below) George's Concertina Band performed spirited dance music on the stage inside the C.S.P.S. Hall.



Inside our historic C.S.P.S. Hall, the program began with demonstrations by our Sokol Minnesota gymnastic programs (see page 11). The St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble presented an entertaining variety of Bohemian music and song. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota representatives and their Czech Slovak Junior Ambassadors gave a talent demonstration and a presentation of their *kroje* . To round out the indoor stage schedule George's Concertina Band performed for dancing from 2 to 4 p.m.



1. Guest and Blanka Brichta enjoying the Czech Scientists Exhibit.
2. The SlovCzech performance had people out of their seats dancing.
3. The SlovCzech closed the day.

We thank Blanka Brichta for putting together the third-floor presentation of twenty Czech Scientists posters, an exhibition by the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, part of the Open Science Project, which first hung at the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C., in 2017, then traveled to several other places in the United States, including the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids.

These posters were brought (and returned) to Minnesota from NSCML by Joan Sedlacek and were photographed by Doreen McKenney with the help of Blanka Brichta and Marit Lee Kucera in March 2022.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's Third Online Auction was a Success

By Glynis Grostephan

We had 100 donated items for our Online Auction, 42 participants, and sold 71 items.

With online donations and add-on donations, we raised a total of \$1,761, exceeding our goal of \$1,500. All proceeds will be used to ensure future programs at Sokol Minnesota and for the ongoing preservation of our C.S.P.S. Hall.

We asked for and received a myriad of auction items donated to Sokol Minnesota. The items included gift cards, event tickets, handmade items, Czech and Slovak treasures, books, and other extraordinary items. Many individuals and businesses donated to make this event a success.

Online Auction business **donations** were from the American Swedish Institute, The Czech Baker, Can Can Wonderland, Leann Chin, Leitner's Garden Center, Minnesota Marine Art Museum, R. Jelinek Midwest, Minnesota Vikings, Mississippi Market, North Shore Scenic Railroad, Raising Canes, Stages Theatre Company, and Utepils Brewing Company.

Online Auction donations from Sokol Minnesota members and friends were by Glynis Grostephan, Katie Grostephan, Michael Grostephan, Michal and Lucie Jasek, Miša and Bob Kotek, Marit Lee Kucera, Sally Lieberman, Jessica Lourey, Jitka Sebek, Dave Stepan, Joyce Tesarek, Susan and Steve Vnoucek, and Louise and Chuck Wessinger.

Books were donated by Diane Bell, Mary Cahill, Glynis Grostephan, The Family of Dr. Rev. Milo and Mila Horak, Marit Lee Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Lenka Marečková, Susan and Steve Vnoucek, and Louise Wessinger.

When people came to pick up their auction items during the 33rd Annual Czech and Slovak Festival, they were **greeted by members of the Sokol Minnesota Youth Link (Glynis Grostephan and Adam Acs).**

The SMYL was selling books and leftover Online Auction items to raise money for SMYL activities. SMYL raised about \$300; some of which was used for the Trunks with Treats Harvest Festival on October 15.

For the Online Auction, we used the website 32auctions.com. To participate in the auction, all you had to do was register with your name and e-mail information.

Thank you to the following Sokol Minnesota members who volunteered to make the Online Auction a success: Dave and Glynis Grostephan, Bruce Chuchel, and Doreen McKenney.



Youth Leadership Award Duo

By Jitka Sebek

Adela Bragg and Sally Sebek are the happy recipients of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Awards for 2022. They split the Best Essay award as a bonus. Only two applicants reached out for the Award this year, and both received it; it was meant to be.

The Youth Leadership Award is intended to encourage and reward the outstanding participation of youth members of Sokol Minnesota and to foster a future generation of leaders and members for the organization. The applicants chronicle their ongoing Sokol Minnesota participation and volunteering, and provide letters of recommendation. The awarding committee's cheery task is to reward teens, catch them doing good, and help them celebrate their long K-12 ascension. Every year, gracious donors supply the committee with funds for up to three Award recipients, each receives \$300.

This year these two high school seniors submitted their applications after having looked back at their Sokol Minnesota involvement; it felt like a merry ride. Their births marked the beginning of Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (*Škola*). They were soon joined by more children and their parents, first in homes, then at the C.S.P.S. Hall for *Mikuláš* (Nicholas) parties, followed by weekly Saturday morning language classes, and Sunday Family Nights once a month. Both students participated in Czech lessons and in the *Škola* plays and band. Both joined the dance groups *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens* and benefited from finding their best friends there. They each not only volunteered for Sokol Minnesota either at the International Institutes of Minnesota's Festival of Nations or as Sokol Minnesota Youth Link member, but also modeled tenacity and grit to their younger friends. It is not surprising that both tested for and received the Gold Seal of Bilingualism in Czech.

Both Adela and Sally have been involved with *Škola* for their entire lives and proved that we can learn our heritage language, enjoy our cultural identity, and enrich the world around us by our diverse perspectives. Congratulations and good luck to you both on your multicultural life journeys!

Youth Leadership Award Personal Essay

By Adela Bragg

I have danced with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's *Taneční Mládež* group since I was three years old, participated in the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (*Škola*) since its founding in 2011, attended monthly Family Nights, performed in several theatrical productions including *Fireflies* in 2016, enjoyed multiple Culture Camps, spent several weekend *Škola* retreats at the Sokol Camp in Pine City, played traditional music with the SloVczech band, been a member of the Youth Link and council, and visited many festivals over the past fourteen years.

As a volunteer, I have been able to pass on many fond memories to the next generation, which has been very rewarding. I have helped distribute presents from *Mikuláš* (Nicholas) at multiple Holiday Parties and monitored activities at the annual Czech and Slovak Festivals, which I enjoyed as a young child. I had the privilege of sharing my love for folk dancing when I wrote an article in the *Slovo* newsletter in 2020. Additionally, I helped to sell books and organize kroje during the Spring Garage Sale, which allowed me to see more of the business side of Sokol Minnesota.

Overall, the time that I have spent at Sokol Minnesota has given me incredible chances to celebrate my heritage and connect with my Czech culture. The Czech school, family nights, and plays that I have participated in have allowed me to improve my ability to speak Czech. Dancing, culture camps, and other interactions with music have allowed me to explore the history and culture of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, and the Youth Link and festivals that I have attended have allowed me to share my enthusiasm with others. As I have grown older, I have realized that not many people are able to appreciate their heritage, and I am forever grateful to Sokol Minnesota for providing such an opportunity.

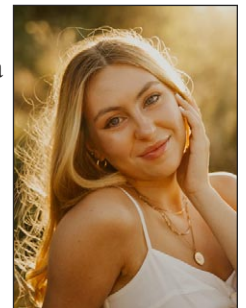
By Sally Sebek

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's C.S.P.S. Hall played a big role in my childhood as soon as I began dancing with *Taneční Mládež* and taking Czech lessons every Saturday. Once a month we had family nights furthering our knowledge of the cultural nuances as we practiced varying plays. I was able to perform at the Festival of Nations each year along with other festivals, where I also had a fun time volunteering at the food booth, and at other stations allowing me to develop skills such as responsibility and handling money. I am grateful for meeting inspiring adults such as Ms. Louise and the "Czech moms" who taught me, along with the many lifelong friendships created with kids around me.

Being at school with kids from different ethnicities, I always admired how close they were with their traditions and how they celebrated their unique customs; due to activities at the Hall, I have been able to celebrate my own as well. A few traditions that I cherish are, for Christmas, making *linecké cukroví* and *perníky*, and for Easter, making whips and using wax to create designs on eggs.

Through the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, I was given the opportunity to pursue a Seal of Bilingualism, a privilege that has not been offered to many, allowing me to enrich my education and continue my language seeking. Visiting the Czech Republic each year is much more rewarding with the knowledge I have gained at the Hall as I get to utilize the language to speak with relatives and relate to a culture that I live so far away from. I recently passed the test for the Czech language and I hope to use the Seal when applying to colleges this year and then for future jobs.

Thank you so much for considering my application for the Youth Leadership Award.



Gymnastics Continues to be Extremely Popular By the Sokol Minnesota Board of Instructors

Our first 10-week session ends on November 17. Openings are limited for the second 10-week session, which begins November 28 and ends February 16. For more information, email us at fitness@sokolmn.org

Photos below are from the Czech & Slovak Festival on September 25.



Gym pyramid: Bottom row (L-R): Anna, Aaron, Lily. Top row (L-R): Norah, Maeve



(Left) Mitchell climbing the pole with Jason Brozovich spotting.
 (Above) Jas doing a flip with Jason Brozovich spotting.
 (Above right) (Back Row): Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera, Anna, Lily, Czech Consul General/Chicago Jaroslav Kantůrek, Aaron, Mitchell, Jas, and Men's Physical Director and Lead Boys Instructor Jason Brozovich. (Front Row) (L-R): Lead Girls Instructor Courtney Benson, Maeve, and Norah.

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members By Steve Ernest

Eight new members were accepted at the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota September Board of Directors meeting.

MaryJo Kacvinsky of Eagan, with interests in the literature group, films and theater, history and genealogy, event help staffing booths and serving meals, language classes, cooking classes, and crafting classes.

Chantelle and Joshua Kley of Saint Paul, with interests in youth gymnastics, youth dance, youth culture camp, adult dance, the literature group, history and genealogy, event help staffing booths, serving meals, and cleanup, language classes, cooking classes, and crafting classes.

Michelle Klechefski of Roberts, Wisconsin, with interests in the literature group, films and theater, music and dances, history and genealogy, language classes, cooking classes, and crafting classes.

Karin Fisher of Edina, with interests in youth gymnastics, the bicycle group, event help organizing, setting up, kitchen, staffing booths, serving meals and cleaning up, publicity and marketing, fundraising and finances, and language classes.

Beth Kacvinsky of Palm City, Florida, with interests in the literature group, language classes, and cooking classes.

Maria Neuzil of Saint Paul, returning with interests in the literature group, films and theater, language classes, and cooking classes.

Mária Robbins of Stillwater, with interests in youth gymnastics, youth singing, youth culture camp, adult singing, the bicycle group, music and dances, history and genealogy, event help serving meals, fundraising and finances, language classes, and cooking classes.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Monthly Czech Language Conversation

The Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota will be holding its monthly Czech language conversation every third Saturday of the month from 4 to 5 p.m. at Kramarczuk's, 215 East Hennepin Avenue Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

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

\$100 - \$499: John and Anita McKeowan in honor of Libby Imbrone and Diane Bell. **Terry Shima.**

GENERAL FUND

Under \$99: Anonymous, Kathryn DePenning, Glynis Grostephan, and Maryann Tumasmith.

\$100 - \$499: M. L. Kucera in support of the Czech & Slovak Festival; **Chuck and Louise Wessinger** for Youth Leadership Award Best Essay; and **Wayne Zbytovsky.**

\$500 - \$999: Saint Paul Czech & Slovak Folk Dancers.

TOTALS

Legacy Fund	\$ 500
General Fund	\$ 893
TOTAL	\$ 1,393

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Martina Gurgel (*perničky* ingredients for the Czech & Slovak Festival); **Doreen McKenney** (materials for signage for the Czech & Slovak Festival); **Joyce Tesarek** (Sokol Minnesota Youth Link book sale donation).

Highlights of the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors September 2022 Meeting By Denise Stibal

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors online meeting was called to order on September 15 at 7 p.m. by President Dave Stepan.

Discussion was held on amending the Sokol Minnesota bylaws to remove the position of Financial Secretary, which handles membership records, and combine the role with that of the Membership Director. A suggestion to move the Treasurer out of the Executive Branch was also discussed. Financial Secretary Steve Ernest suggested that proposals be written and placed for a vote at the October BOD meeting.

Board of Director elections will be held at the Sokol Minnesota Annual Meeting on November 18. Please contact Joyce Tesarek if you would like to be on the nominating committee.

Finance Chair Joyce Tesarek noted we should discuss raising dues for 2023 since we have not done so in many years. Motion carried to raise dues for non-senior Individual Memberships by \$10 to \$55. The membership rate is \$50 for both couples and seniors. All plans for the Czech & Slovak Festival are ready for placement, counting, and storage of cash and electronic transactions via Square.

Don Haselbauer gave the monthly Treasurer's report. Also noted was the change in refuse haulers by Parajito to Republic Services. Don will sign the contract on behalf of Sokol Minnesota.

Financial Secretary Steve Ernest noted we have eight new membership applications; motion carried to accept.

Gaming Committee Chair Ed Hamernik presented the October gaming budget; motion carried to approve. The August summary was also presented and approved. The committee will meet on September 20 and discuss transferring of a portion of the gaming funds to the General Fund.

Board of Instructors Directors Mary Cahill and Jason Brozovich noted that fall gymnastics classes have started and we have three Junior Instructors. There will possibly be a competition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; more information to follow.

Building and Properties Trustee Committee Chair (BPTC) Chair Bob Kotek noted the C.S.P.S. Hall sign restoration will be completed by October 31. The parking lot will be repaved in 2023; Bob is awaiting a second bid in order to choose a contractor.

Corresponding Secretary Chair Glynis Grostephan has resigned from the position. Dave Stepan will help Don Haselbauer and Ed Hamernik in the interim.

Activities Director Jean Draheim noted we are ready for the Czech & Slovak Festival and will be selling advance tickets for the Czech Roast Pork Dinner. The historic flag found at the Hall was taken to Treasured Garments, with options to repair, restore, or make a replica using huge pieces of embroidery. Jean will report when they have gotten back to us with the costs. Dave took the phonograph to a shop in Minneapolis to see if it is repairable; it is, but the owner cannot get to the project until 2024.

Denise Stibal reported on Rental Committee activity. We have four weddings booked in October and have November 12 booked for the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers 60th Anniversary Celebration.

Education Chair Pat Slaber met with the T. G. Masaryk School in Chicago to discuss the school providing Czech language classes online that were formerly taught by Blanka Brichta. The school has a DZS person from the Czech Republic.

We are also finalizing online advanced beginner classes with Palacký University. The schedule for fall includes two Slovak classes and two Czech classes with Sokol Minnesota teachers.

Other items: Discussion on social media presentation for the Friendly Friday Evening on October 14. For the Czech Roast Pork Dinner on October 16, Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera offered to fund \$5 of the cost for the first 50 non-members to register during the Czech & Slovak Festival. The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers will be performing at their November 12 Anniversary Celebration. Motion carried to allow the group to use the Hall with no rental charge. A light dinner will be served at the Celebration.

Slovo Publication Information and Committee

The *Slovo* is published ten times per year by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 W. 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, 3, 12).

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: Adela Bragg, Glynis Grostephan, Gymnastics Team, Jitka Sebek, Sally Sebek, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, Gwen Willems.

Additional photographs, ads, or illustrations in this issue (not already noted) provided by: Cheryl Armstrong, Tom Aubrecht, Adela Bragg, Karen Fisher, Abra Gillman, Martina Gurgel, Kaja Jost, M. L. Kucera, Sally Sebek, Dave Stepan, and Joyce Tesarek.

More information at www.sokolmn.org

2022 American Sokol Convention Highlights

By Allison Gerber, President of Western District (WD) of American Sokol

I would like to give you the major highlights from the American Sokol Convention, held June 9-12, 2022, at Sokol KHB in Ennis, Texas.

The proposal to merge the Board of Governors and the Executive Board did not get approved. This means that the three Members at Large Board positions remain. Congratulations to Joan Sedlacek and Shelley Cairns, both from Western District, for being elected to these positions for the first time. Also, the merging of the Financial Secretary and the Membership Director positions did not get approved; Sokol Minnesota and all of Western District voted for this merger.

Approved items: Adult dues will be \$35 per year for the next four years. The New Member Registration Fee was set at \$0 for the next four years (formerly \$5). The convention fee was raised to \$10 year for the next four years due to high convention costs and dwindling membership numbers in some units.

Youth dues will be \$10 per year for the next four years. All youths are encouraged to become Youth Members. Youth Members enrolled in a Board of Instructors (BOI) gymnastics program need to have a parent or guardian as a Sokol Member. (Note: Western District will accept a family member as the Sokol Member.) The Youth Director position has been moved to the BOI.

The Sokol Audit Committee will do an internal audit of the books for three years, with the fourth year being done by an external service. Seven members are needed to start a new Sokol unit. There is a \$100 application fee. There are currently 31 Sokol units in the United States. The ASO database has two new categories (Expelled and Transferred) added to the Membership Status selection. Adding of Non-Binary as a selection in the gender selection was approved at the Executive Board (EB) meeting.

The Bylaws Chairman position will remain an elected position, but it will not be considered an Executive Board position; attendance at the EB meeting is not mandatory and it has no vote.

Each unit will receive at least one printed copy of the revised bylaws approved at the 2022 American Sokol Convention. Digital copies will be available soon on the ASO website: <https://american-sokol.org>

It is exciting and an honor that Western District was voted to host the 2026 ASO Convention at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Central District will host the 2025 National Slet. The next International Slet will be in 2024 in Prague

ASO Officers elected for 2022-2026: District and Unit name listed: Central District (CD), Eastern District (ED), Southern District (SD), Western District (WD).

President: Adam Wilt, CD/Spirit

First Vice President: Marla Breidenbach, CD/St. Louis

Second Vice President: Nancy Hellegers, ED/New York

Treasurer: Bob Barcal, CD/Spirit

Secretary: Andrea Scheirer, CD/Chicagoland

Financial Secretary: Allison Gerber, WD/Cedar Rapids

Board of Instructors: Mary Cushing, CD/Spirit

Education Director: Anna Cookova, CD/Milwaukee

Foundation Director: Meribeth Tooke, CD/Spirit

Membership Director: Kathy Barcal, CD/Spirit

PR/Marketing: Matt Carlozzi, CD/Tabor

Board Members at Large: Joan Sedlacek, WD/Minnesota; Shelley Cairns, WD/Cedar Rapids; Dagmar Merkova, ED/Washington DC

Bylaws Chair: Rhonda Liska, SD/KHB

Attending the 2022 American Sokol Convention from Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota were Mary Cahill, WD Men's and also Women's Director and WD Bylaws representative; Joan Sedlacek, WD Educational Director and new American Sokol Member at Large; M. L. Kucera, WD American Sokol Foundation representative; Dave Stepan; and Cinnamon Whaley. The other Western District Representatives were Allison Gerber, Cedar Rapids. WD President, WD Membership, and American Sokol National Financial Secretary; Shelley Cairns, Cedar Rapids, represented Wilber, Nebraska, in Ennis and new American Sokol Member at Large; Bradley Hess, Cedar Rapids; Buddy Benak, South Omaha; and Janet Raddish, Omaha. (See August 2022 Sokol Minnesota Slovo, page 7, for pictures of all the Western District representatives.)

Keep Sokol Minnesota in Mind for Your Year-End Charitable Giving

Dear Sokol Minnesota members and friends,

If you are starting to consider your year-end charitable giving, please add Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and the C.S.P.S. Hall to your list. Hopefully you have enjoyed reading our *Slovo* newsletter and been able to enjoy some of the many classes, lectures, dinners, activities, and gatherings that are constantly happening in our historic Hall. It takes many volunteers and financial support to make all this possible.

Impressive repairs and improvements were made to the Hall in just this past year. An updated fire/security alarm system was installed, Wi-Fi equipment was updated, new IT equipment for classes and meetings was purchased, and we added 12 new tents for our outdoor events. Successful grants and generous donations were received to make these possible.

Our current need is to resurface the Hall parking lot. Over the years we have done many spot repairs, but it is necessary to finally do a complete asphalt paving of the

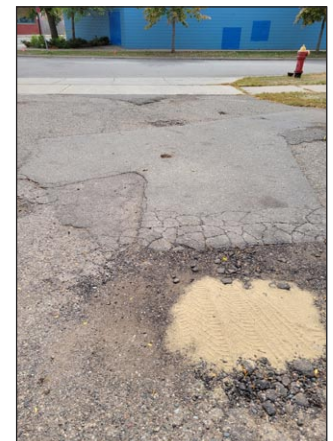
entire parking lot. The estimated cost for this is \$35,000. Your donation would help make this possible.

We have had another great year, with strong support from our members and friends not only financially, but also by attending and volunteering at events and participating in and enjoying Sokol Minnesota classes and activities. Thank you for all of your support!

Donations can be made on our website www.SokolMn.org or make checks payable to Sokol Minnesota and send to 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102.

Joyce Tesarek

Chair, Board of Budget and Finance



I Had a Dog and a Cat by Karel Čapek, translated by M. & R. Weatherall, illustrated by Josef and Karel Čapek. Pook Press: Alcester, England, 2015, 160 pages. Previously published by Allen & Unwin, 1940. Available at libraries and bookstores.

Karel Čapek is perhaps the best-known literary figure in Czech history. One of the most impressive aspects of his writing is the large variety of types of literature he mastered. Čapek is renowned for his books of science fiction, such as *R.U.R.* about robots, other serious fiction and nonfiction, such as *Talks with T.G. Masaryk*, and light reading, such as *The Gardener's Year*. He even wrote children's books, including *Nine Fairy Tales: And One More Thrown in for Good Measure*, and the popular *Dashenka – Or, the Life of a Puppy: Written, Drawn, Photographed, and Endured by Karel Čapek*.

Among his fun, light, charming, and informative books is *I Had a Dog and a Cat*. It is technically a children's book, but at 160 pages fits today's young-adult category, and is more about dogs than cats. The book would serve well as an interesting and instructive book for an adult to help a child learn about taking care of a dog or cat, identifying various breeds, breeding, dog shows, the changes in what's considered appropriate behavior then and now (drowning then vs. spaying, neutering, and euthanasia now). On the other hand, Čapek's exaggeration is merely fun, as when he described a little pure-blooded, long-tailed terrier called Foxy: "... he knew how to whip his tail round so quick that he could chop tulips' heads off with it."

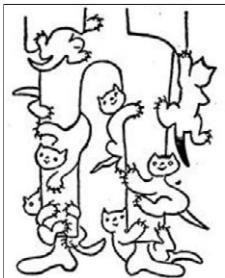


Illustration by
Karel Čapek

I especially enjoy Čapek's humorous take on everyday events, as in how we feel like our pets have trained us well, which is how I often think of our cat Coco. He wrote that cats never have anything to say to each other, "But with you, man, a cat converses; she coos to you, looks into your eyes and says: Open, man, this door for me; give me, you much-eating one, from what you are partaking of; stroke me; say something; let me come onto my chair. Towards you she is no wild, solitary shadow; for you she is simply a domestic puss, because she has faith in you."

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Volunteers Wanted

- ★ Do you want to help at the November 20 Holiday Pancake Breakfast? Contact activities@sokolmn.org
- ★ Do you want to help oversee our charitable gaming? Contact the committee at gaming@sokolmn.org
- ★ Do you know Quickbooks and want to assist the Treasurer? Or do you want to help fundraise? To apply, email Finance@sokolmn.org

Pets can also help our exercise regime when a dog gets away from you on a walk, "... you find that rearing a dog is in fact a field sport, involving you in an obstacle race of a thousand yards, short sprints, cross-country runs, swerves, various jumps, while catching the dog is a superb finish."

There's an outdoor cat in our neighborhood who likes to lie down in the middle of one of my pots of soft flowers, leaving an indentation, as did Čapek's favorite dog, Dashenka. He wrote that "... she has to find out on what she sleeps best, (on dish-cloths particularly, in human arms, in the middle of a flower bed, on the broom, on freshly ironed linen, in the basket, on the shopping bag, on the goat skin, on my slippers, on the hotbed, on the dust-bin, on the mat, even on the floor). Some things help to amuse her; the stairs, for example, down which she can roll headlong (this is real high jinks thinks Dashenka as she falls on her nose); there are dangerous and incalculable objects; like the door, perhaps, which bangs her head, or nips her paw, or her tail, when she least expects it."

Puppies grow fast. Within a few days, "Dashenka is no longer a helpless bundle, with a quivering tail, but very much an independent, hairy, inquisitive, restless, voracious, and destructive creature, with

teeth and claws. In a zoological sense she has developed into a Vertebrate (she doesn't lack backbone); order—Ravenous Beasts; tribe Restless; family Ubiquitous; genus Jaunty; species Black-eared Tumult."

New copies of the delightful *I Had a Dog and a Cat* are available today thanks to reprinting by Pook Press. It is republishing classic children's books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, that are extremely rare. *I Had a Dog and a Cat* contains numerous line drawings by both brothers, Karel and Josef Čapek.

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 *Memory Speaks: On Losing and Reclaiming Language and Self* by Julie Sedivy at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 19.

Going away this winter? Forwarding your mail?

Do not forget about the *Slovo*! We mail at bulk mail rates. The post office does not forward bulk mail and we pay an additional amount for each issue returned, so let us know your winter address.

Or, you can change your subscription to receive the *Slovo* in color via email; Contact: slovo@sokolmn.org

We think our volunteers produce a great newsletter. We want to be sure you receive it!

Czech Honorary Consul News

November 2022

Monika Bokšová, Vice Consul for Trade and Economics/Czech Consulate/Chicago, came to Minnesota in late September. With the help of Mykola Megits from the Minnesota Trade Office (MTO) and Laurence Reszetar, the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), she and I met on September 22 with Kille Jordan and Filip Kosta at the Medical Alley Association, which has over 700 members; it is based in Golden Valley.

We visited **Premier Industries** in Blaine, a precision engineering and manufacturing firm owned by Sokol member **Ed Hamernik** and his business partner Bill Harrod. Before a tour of the plant, we learned the history of Premier and viewed the display of the many precision gauges that Premier manufactures for worldwide distribution. As we toured the machining area, Ed explained to the Honorary Consul how the machines function to manufacture the complex parts. Photo by Monika Bokšová



No visit to **New Prague** is complete without a photo at the **Brahna** (gate in Czech: brána), which is typical of entrances to towns in the Czech Republic. Photo by Fred Simon

We had a short downtown visit with (left) **New Prague Mayor Duane Jirik, M.L. Kucera, Monika Bokšová, and Fred Simon.**



Fred Simon arranged a tour at **Chart Industries** in New Prague. Chart manufactures double-walled vacuum tanks holding liquids in excess of -300F. Chart also has a facility called Chart Ferox in Děčín, Czech Republic. In full safety dress to tour the plant: (L-R) M. L. Kucera, Fred Simon, Monika Bokšová, with Dan Chrusciel, a Chart production supervisor.

Minnesota was honored to have a visit not only from the Vice Consul/Chicago, but also the **Consul General Jaroslav Kantůrek** and Mrs. Olga Kantůrková who attended the John Amos Comenius Symposium on September 23-24, coordinated by Renáta Tichá, president of the Czech and Slovak Culture Center. The Consul General gave the toast to open the Symposium on Friday evening. The Symposium took place both on the University of Minnesota and on the University of St. Thomas campuses. On Saturday morning, Vice Consul Bokšová gave the Symposium's keynote address on the role of the Czech Republic as it holds the presidency of the European Union this second half of 2022.



A panel of five Fulbright scholars discussed their experiences as recipients of this prestigious award at the Comenius Symposium on Saturday afternoon, September 24 at St. Thomas. Panelists and guests posed afterwards: (L-R) M. L. Kucera, Ken Janda*, Jan Šiška*, Vice Consul Martina Bokšová, Mark Neuzil*, Pavel Škrobánek*, Consul General Jaroslav Kantůrek, Olga Kantůrková, Dave Stepan, and Renáta Tichá**. Ande Nesmith* participated via Zoom. [* panelists, ** moderator] Photo by Cheryl Nelson

At the **Sokol Czech & Slovak Festival** on Sunday, September 25, Consul General Jaroslav and Olga Kantůrková enjoyed the festivities and met many Sokol Minnesotans, the Sokol gymnasts, New Prague Mayor D. Jirik, and many more. Vice Consul Bokšová made more business connections. Pavel Škrobánek, M.D., who arrived from Prague just 10 days before being part of the Fulbright scholars' panel, and his family networked with the Czech/Slovak Family group. Sokol Gymnasts posed with Consul General Kantůrek, Instructors Jason Brozovich and Courtney Benson, and Czech Honorary Consul Kucera. Photo by Olga Kantůrková



Tricia Mestenhauser Bergh sent this information about her father's final book. "At the time of his death in 2015, Josef Mestenhauser was working on what turned out to be his final book on International Education. When he entered hospice, knowing the book would not be finished, he gathered a group of colleagues together in his living room and turned over his unpublished manuscripts to them, in hopes that one day they would be published. That day finally arrived in July



2022 in the form of a new book, **Mestenhauser and the Possibilities of International Education: Illuminating Pathways for Inquiry and Future Practice**. The book also includes chapters from his colleagues in international education from around the globe." It is available, in both hard and soft covers, on several book sites online. Dr. Mestenhauser was the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis from 1999-2008.



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

We ask for your support for maintenance and renovation to C.S.P.S. Hall as we celebrate the Hall's 135th year in 2022.



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 West Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Or donate online: www.sokolmn.org *Thank You!*

CZECH AND SLOVAK



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For Sokol's
Latest News!

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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* November 2022

January 21 20
23

20th Annual
**ROAST
DUCK
DINNER**

C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan St.,
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

For more information: www.sokolmn.org
or www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

**Friendly
Evenings**

for Members, Families, and Friends
at the C.S.P.S. Hall
Second Friday of the Month 7p.m.-?

Cards
Board games
and Surprises

Questions: activities@sokolmn.org