



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

May Slovo articles
due April 2

Sokol Gift Shop
open by appointment

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

Bake Sale
April 9
(See adjacent)

Easter celebration
April 16
(See page 12)

Craft and Flea Market
May 14
(See page 7)

Outdoor Fundraiser
Concert
May 15
(See page 6)

Children's Cultural
Day Camp
June 13-17
(See page 5)

Annual Members and
Volunteers Picnic
June 26

Spring Koláče Bake Sale

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Saturday April 9 20
22

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Curbside
C.S.P.S. Hall parking lot

383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

Place your Curbside order by contacting: call/text: 952-941-0426*

Payment

Prepaid orders must be
received by March 30, 2022 via:
PayPal: www.sokolmn.org/cc/
or **check: payable and mailed to
Sokol Minnesota (attn: Bake sale)
383 Michigan St.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Available flavors

Apricot, cream cheese,
poppy, prune,
or raspberry koláč
\$1 each

*Call/text to reserve your order first before mailing in your check. **Allow 2 weeks for check delivery.

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Dave Stepan

We lost one of our own this past February with the passing of our Membership Director, Brother Dr. Norm Petrik. Even though I was new on the job, he always greeted me with a friendly “pane prezidente” making me feel welcome while reminding me of my position. I will miss Norm. My condolences go out to his wife Dr. Joyce Tesarek and each of Norm’s children and grandchildren.



On my recent flight to Prague, I reread Dr. Joseph Mestenhauser’s collection of essays, *Shifting Landscapes in Central Europe*. Dr. Mestenhauser was a founding member of the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center (Minnesota), Minnesota’s first Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic post World War II, and Sokol member whenever it was allowed. I found many of his articles important histories of the politics of Czechoslovakia at the time of the fall of communism, as well as of the Honorary Consul’s office. There were many suggestions that bear reviewing regarding how we Czechs and Slovaks might work together for our common interest. Dr. Mestenhauser’s concern with the expansion of NATO relates directly with the current Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has galvanized many people and countries against this aggression. The invasion has created solidarity in Europe and the NATO response has been cohesive. I thought large-scale military actions against countries in Europe were a thing of the past, but was I wrong! I believe disregarding a country’s history and geographical boundaries, claiming Ukrainians are Russians, or that the Ukrainians do not have the right to choose if they want to be part of the ‘West’ or not, defies logic. This invasion reminds me of the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia’s Sudetenland in 1938. The fact there are Russians living in Ukraine is the same analogy Hitler used when he invaded the Sudetenland, which at the time had German-speaking Czechs. I hope we have learned that appeasement just emboldens a bully. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is supporting humanitarian relief efforts for the war in Ukraine through a donation to our sister 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Ukrainian American Community Center of Minnesota. I will look for opportunities while in Prague to explore options first-hand and try to identify one or two additional opportunities we can use to provide aid. How are you supporting our Ukrainian brothers and sisters? See the information in the article on the next page, *Relief Efforts for the War in Ukraine*.

I am planning to connect with Palacký University representatives while I am in the Czech Republic to help do what I can to coordinate and support our new partnership.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is but one organization in the Czech and Slovak community of Minnesota. There are many groups that we partner with. The C.S.P.S. Hall is home to the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, M. L. Kucera, who continues her work to keep Czech as well as Slovak organizations connected through quarterly Czech and Slovak Roundtable Minnesota Zoom sessions. The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers Director Louise Wessinger leads the dance group with strength and grace. Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (Škola), led by Jitka Sebek, continues to use the Hall weekly on Saturdays. The Hall is also the founding location of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International; under the direction of Kevin Hurbanis, it continues to promote programs that impress and inform people worldwide with ties to the Czech Republic or the Slovak Republic. The Czech and Slovak Cultural Center Minnesota, led by Renata Ticha, and Literary Ventures, coordinated by Gwen Willems, continue to educate at the Hall through reading, discussing, and sharing. For links to these partner organizations, see www.sokolmn.org/partnerships

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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 2021 BOD (Board of Directors)

President

Dave Stepan

Vice President

Cinnamon Whaley

Recording Secretary

Denise Stibal

Corresponding Secretary

Glynis Grostephan

Treasurer

Don Haselbauer

Financial Secretary

Steve Ernest

Sergeant at Arms

Blanka Brichta

Members at Large

Markéta Pálková

Fred Simon

Membership Director

-

Budget and Finance Committee

Joyce Tesarek, Chair

Activities Director

Jean Draheim

Educational Director

Patricia Slaber

Publicity Director

Brittany Stepan

Board of Instructors

Mary Cahill,
Women’s Physical Director
Jason Brozovich,
Men’s Physical Director

Building and Property Trustees Committee

Bob Kotek, Chair

Gaming Manager

Ed Hamernik, Chair

Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

President's Notes continued from page 2

Our Sokol Camp President, Ray Vanyo, is leading a resurgence at the Pine City camp and we hope to make progress to improve on this shared asset.

We enjoyed the meeting with Fulbright Scholar Jan Šiška in which he shared his knowledge related to the Vltava River.

The Czech Heritage Club's Fred Simon, a new Sokol Minnesota Board member, helped organize the annual Norm Sladek Euchre tournament in New Prague. Years ago, the C.S.P.S. Hall was home to this event. Perhaps one day we will again hold a Euchre event.

Now to the lighter side of life. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota had its first-ever curling event February 25. See the article on page 6. I hope everyone that came enjoyed themselves. This was our initial outing and I hope it is not the last time we do this. Upcoming Curbside events include the Spring *Koláče* Bake Sale on April 9, and the Czech-Slovak Easter Family Event on April 16. In May, the C.S.P.S. Hall will be the site for the Outdoor Craft and Flea Market on May 14 and the *Slavic Music Roots* outdoor concert on May 15 that will help celebrate spring. I wish I could be there for it. See the ads in this issue for each of these upcoming events.

Bechyn, Lonsdale, Montgomery, New Prague, and Veseli are well into planning for the return of their full-scale summer Czech festivals, after two years of scaled-back celebrations because of the pandemic. More information will be provided as we get closer.

While we have a very strong base of active members, increasing the participation of additional members continues to be challenging. Getting even more of you to share your talents and experience is always one of my goals. If interested, please contact me at president@sokolmn.org *Nazdar!*

Relief Efforts for the War in Ukraine

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's purpose, as outlined in our Articles of Incorporation, includes preserving Czech and Slovak cultural values and awareness, as well as promoting positive ideals and values. In keeping with the principles of democratic self-determination and the preservation of human life, your donations to local or international charitable groups directly assisting with relief efforts for the war in Ukraine are encouraged.

Local organizations that are coordinating donations

Ukrainian American Community Center of Minnesota:



The Ukrainian flag colors of blue over yellow symbolize blue skies over golden wheat fields.

Donations can be directed toward assisting refugees, wounded civilians, or wounded soldiers.

<https://uaccmn.org/>

Polish-American Cultural Institute of Minnesota:

Donations assist the efforts of Caritas inoland. Donations can be specified to be for the group's work in Ukraine or to assist refugees.

www.Pacim.org



American Sokol Face-book page (facebook.com/americansokol) has this logo variation with the colors of the Ukrainian flag.

Established International relief groups providing relief aid to Ukraine or assisting refugees of the war

This list included groups recommended by the Czech Republic Consulate in Chicago and the Slovak Honorary Consul in Kansas City.

Red Cross:

International: www.icrc.org/en/donate/ukraine

Ukraine: <https://redcross.org.ua/en/donate/>

Slovak Republic: <https://redcross.sk/ukrajina/>

Czech Republic: www.cervenkykriz.eu/aktuality/ukrajina-prevzata-dalsi-pomoc

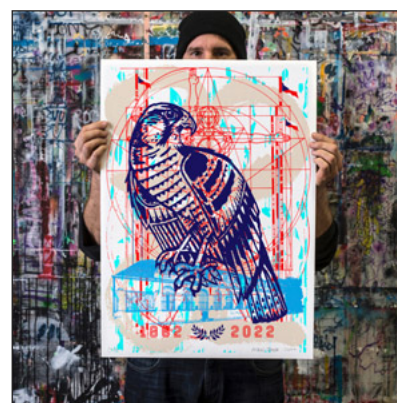
continued on page 8

International Sokol Celebrates 160 Years

By Tom Aubrecht

Sokol celebrated its 160th Anniversary on February 16. Mary Kucera and Czech Honorary Consul Marit Lee Kucera called our attention to this Sokol milestone when they read this article from [expats.cz](https://www.expats.cz), which highlights a few of the key events in Sokol history: <https://www.expats.cz/czech-news/article/sokol-fitness-movement-celebrates-160-years>

As the article notes, several buildings in the Czech Republic were illuminated in the Sokol colors of red and white on the evening of February 16. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbqPu34KeMkI



Michael Skapa with *Nazdar!* graphic

International Sokol commissioned renowned street artist Michal Škapa to design a commemorative graphic. The graphic *Nazdar!* incorporates a falcon, the symbol of Sokol, and Leonardo da Vinci's drawing *Vitruvian Man*. 160 signed copies are on sale to support Sokol.

Here are key links for following, supporting, and participating in Sokol internationally, in the United States, and in Minnesota.

International Sokol: sokol.eu/
www.facebook.com/ceskaobecsokolska
www.instagram.com/ceskaobecsokolska/

Commemorative video:
youtu.be/4cx-jE2thE8

160 years of Sokol history magazine: Sokol 160 let a časopis ABC. See: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4976e8Cc554

American Sokol:
<https://american-sokol.org/>

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota:
www.sokolmn.org
www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota
www.instagram.com/sokolminnesota

Announcing the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Award for 2022

By Louise Wessinger

The Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Award was started as a way to encourage and recognize outstanding participation of youth members and to foster a future generation of members and leaders for our organization.

In both 2020 and 2021, three Sokol Minnesota youths received the award and a \$300 cash prize. A separate award and \$100 prize were given for the Best Essay. Applications for the 2022 Youth Leadership Awards open on April 1.

The criteria for this award are as follows:

Applicants must be in their junior or senior year of high school and they and their parent(s) need to be paid members of Sokol Minnesota for at least the current and preceding calendar year (2021 and 2022).

Applicants must actively participate in one or more Sokol Minnesota youth activities, such as *Taneční* Teen dancers, Sokol gymnastics, Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp, or Sokol Minnesota Youth Link; or actively participate in Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities activities; and be a regular volunteer at Sokol Minnesota events. Of course, over the last few years, because of COVID, some activities and events have not been held, so prior activity involvement and volunteer help with curbside or other events will be considered.

Slovak Republic Extends Citizenship to Third Generation Immigrants By Tom Aubrecht

The Slovak Republic parliament passed the Slovak Citizenship Act on February 16, 2022. The law allows Slovak nationals living abroad to hold dual citizenship; they will no longer lose their Slovak citizenship after receiving foreign citizenship. Descendants (up to the third generation) of former Czechoslovak citizens born in the former territory of Slovakia can also apply for citizenship. The law takes effect April 1, 2022.

The passing of the Act was brought to our attention through a Global Slovakia press release dated February 16 from Gabriela Bereghazyova, Director of Global Slovakia and cofounder, along with Zuzana Palovic. Sokol Minnesota member John Palka is on the Board of Global Slovakia. As noted in the press release, this is a huge victory for the One Slovak Family movement, an international movement that seeks to unite the Slovak diaspora abroad with the home country. The press release has this link to a video with people expressing thanks and interest: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2czxhBzGWs

Global Slovakia links:

www.globalslovakia.com

www.facebook.com/globalslovakia

Global Slovakia Academy:

<https://global-slovakia.teachable.com>

One Slovak Family:

<https://oneslovakfamily.com>

Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York

(this office covers Minnesota):

<https://www.mzv.sk/web/cgnewyork-en>

The information above about Slovak nationals living abroad is from this site: www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/slovaks-living-abroad-soon-to-be-able-to-hold-dual-citizenship/

Applicants will be expected to complete the Youth Leadership Award application form outlining their activity participation, write a 300-word-maximum essay about how their participation in Sokol Minnesota activities has impacted their life, have a participation verification form signed by an adult director of their youth activity, a letter of recommendation from adult director, and forms signed by adult leaders of Sokol Minnesota events where the applicant was a volunteer.

Applications must be submitted by July 1, 2022.

All forms and further details can be found after April 1 on our website, www.sokolmn.org/

Applicants can apply multiple times, but may receive the award only once. Up to three awards with \$300 prizes each will be given this year and there will be an award with a \$100 prize given for the Best Essay. Award recipients will be announced by September 1 and awards will be presented at the annual Sokol Minnesota Czech and Slovak Festival on September 25.

Questions?

Contact Blanka Brichta at brichta.blanka@gmail.com or Louise Wessinger at louisewessinger@msn.com

Sokol Teens

Grades 6 and up can sign up to volunteer at Sokol Minnesota sponsored events!

Teens can volunteer at Sokol Minnesota's Spring sponsored events and earn points towards the Youth Leadership Award application.

To sign up for April 3, April 9 and May 7, events

contact: youths@sokolmn.org

Koláče bakers and baggers

Sunday, April 3, 2022

9 - 11:30 a.m. (2 teen volunteers needed)

11a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (2 volunteers needed)



Curbside Spring Koláče Bake (handing out orders)

Saturday, April 9, 2022

9 - 11 a.m. (2 teen volunteers needed)

Hall Clean up

Saturday, May 7, 2022

8a.m. - 12 p.m. (2 hr shifts) (4 teen volunteers needed)

24th annual Czech and Slovak Children's Day Camp 2022

June 13-17, 2022

Youth leader or teacher age 15-21 (8 teen volunteers needed; please sign up with Louise Wessinger (651-271-3601))

24th Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp By Louise Wessinger and Doreen McKenney

The 24th Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp will take place at the C.S.P.S. Hall
Monday, June 13, to Friday, June 17, 2022.

The camp theme this year is *Folklore through the Seasons*.

Small groups will make ethnic foods, create wonderful crafts, and have Czech language lessons. These activities will be based on traditional ethnic celebrations held throughout the seasons of the year. We also will enjoy learning gymnastics and have many choice and group activities in the afternoons, including singing, dancing, and sports.

Campers, ages 6 to 14 years old, arrive by 8:30 a.m. and are picked up at 3:30 p.m.

Be sure to register by May 1, 2022, to qualify for the Early-bird Discount.

All camp registration materials must be received by June 1, 2022.

Our culture camp has been a very popular activity. The program is limited to 32 campers, so get registrations sent in so your campers will not be disappointed.

Adult and youth volunteers are a key part of camp. They use their talents to lead or help with crafts, cooking, music, and other responsibilities. Teen volunteers earn service hours.

Registration forms for campers, junior leaders (ages 15-21), and adult volunteers can be downloaded at www.sokolmn.org/culture-camp-2022-forms

It will be a lively week filled with lots of great activities. During camp, we will abide by COVID restrictions that are in place at that time.



Gymnastics class



Don Haselbauer leading the singing of the national anthems of the United States, Czech Republic, and Slovak Republic.

Hope to see you in June at camp!

If you have questions, please call Louise Wessinger at 651-271-3601.



A toast at the camp feast



Language class

Festivals, Celebrations

**24th Annual Children's
Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp**

Sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Folklore
through the
Seasons

June 13-17 20
22

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

Ages: 6 to 14 years old

Crafts, Gymnastics, Language,

Singing, Cooking, Dancing,

Legends, Fairy Tales, Folk Tales,

Sokol Minnesota Curling Event a Success By Dave Stepan

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's first-ever curling event was held on February 25 in Saint Paul at the Frogtown Curling Club: <https://frogtowncurling.org>

Following the 2022 Winter Olympics, there has been a noticeable uptick in the number of curlers interested in this challenging sport. We had 16 curlers, a few friendly fans, and two sheets of ice.

Nearly all of the participants were new to curling and learned it is not as easy as it appeared during the Olympics.



Bob Kotek guarding the house



Curling participants and fans

Although there were a few tumbles and falls, thankfully, no one was hurt. There were even some excellent shots from several quick learners; see Bob Kotek's rock at <https://youtu.be/eL-gp4068IA> (This same link leads to clips of a different group's attempts.)

One of the fans on the 25th noted that each curler coming off the ice was smiling. After the curling, we shared food and celebrated the camaraderie of the night. It was a boisterous group of curlers, perhaps partly thanks to an appearance by Jan Becher* (although he did encourage that all IDs be checked). I am hoping we can do this event again later this year.

*Jan Becher is a Czech liqueur company headquartered in Karlovy Vary. The most famous product of Becher is Becherovka.

Slavic Music Roots

OUTDOOR CONCERT FUNDRAISER

FEATURED BANDS

World Jazz Collegium

AND

SlovCzech

Listen to music by *World Jazz Collegium* performing Pavel Jany's original works with a few samples of music by Jan Hammer, Marián Varga, František Griglák, and other legends of Czech and Slovak jazz-rock era.
Dance to *SlovCzech* songs from their new album inspired by traditional Moravian and Slovak folk music.

**Sunday
May 15**

2022


C.S.P.S. Hall
Parking lot
383 Michigan St.
St. Paul, MN
55102


**Refreshments
start at 3:30 p.m.**

Guláš, grilled bratwursts,
locally brewed pilsner beer,
and home-made desserts available for sale.


MUSIC

4-6:30 p.m.









The 91st Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 14

Dear Sokol Minnesota Brothers and Sisters,

The winter months have become long and cold, let's face it. It is time to turn our thoughts to much-needed warmth and summer fun! Please mark your calendars now for summer 2022, when we host the 91st Annual Booya Picnic at 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. Perhaps you have stayed at the Camp or participated in a cultural event or retreat there in the past?

Please consider assisting with the preparation or serving of Booya, table or tent set-up, or other intriguing and fun-to-do tasks. Feel free to contact us to be a part of this festive event. You won't want to miss it!

What: Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

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

**Where: Sokol Camp, 19201 Woodland Acres South,
Pine City, Minnesota 55063**

**Why: Fraternalize with Sokol Minnesota friends and
neighbors while raising money for Sokol Camp!**



Nazdar!

Kari and Scott Muyres,
Sokol Camp
Booya Picnic Co-chairpersons
763-226-0313

Thank You for Your Membership!

By Steve Ernest

Renewed Memberships

Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota for 2022.

The end of March is the close of the renewal season and we are happy to announce that we expect our membership to remain at over 275 members, keeping us one of the larger Sokol units in the United States.

Continuing your membership through this past year has given us the support needed to make some additional much-needed repairs to the C.S.P.S. Hall while indoor events have been curtailed.

Reinstated or New Memberships

If you were not able to renew before now and would like to reinstate your membership, or if you know someone who would like to become a member, **the member application form is at www.sokolmn.org/membership**

Membership Rates

\$50 for individuals/\$90 for couples
\$40 for senior individuals/\$80 for senior couples

Please let us know if you have any questions about membership by e-mail at memberships@sokolmn.org

O U T D O O R

CRAFT

AND

FLEA
MARKET

SHOP LOCAL and SHOP SMALL

Saturday

MAY 14 20
22

10a.m. - 4p.m.

- new and gently used treasures
- food
- handmade items

C.S.P.S. Hall
PARKING LOT

383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102
Sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

To reserve a space, call or text Jean at: 651-210-0401 or email activities@sokolmn.org

Don Andrlé Obituary



Don Andrlé

Donald Andrlé, 81, passed away peacefully on January 15, 2022. Don was known for his gregarious personality and generous nature. He loved his family, his Czech heritage, and all kinds of sports, but especially Minnesota Gopher football.

Don and his wife, Pat, met through the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers and danced together for over 40 years.

Don was a Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

member for over 50 years. He was generous with his time with Sokol Minnesota, including serving as a past president and volunteering in many roles at events. Don and Pat planned the *Šibrinky* Dance for many years. Don was voted a Sokol Minnesota Honor Member (see the November, 2020 *Slovo* Honor Award article at www.sokolmn.org/slovo-newsletter).

Don volunteered extensively with the Minnesota Sokol Camp. He enjoyed attending the camp as a child and made lifelong friends there. Don was a strong supporter of the Sokol Camp in Pine City, serving as Sokol Camp Association treasurer and Booya Picnic chair for 40 years.

Don volunteered extensively for his church and for countless youth sports teams.

A Celebration of Life for Don will be held at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, May 22 (time to follow).

See www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/twincities/name/donald-andrle-obituary?id=32546626

Norm Petrik Obituary



Norm Petrik

Dr. Norman D. Petrik died on February 10, 2022. He was happy and content with life to the very end. Norm was born into the Czech community of Tyndall, South Dakota, on January 16, 1935.

Norm was the youngest of six children. He left life on the farm for service in the United States Army, where he learned Czech, the language of his parents, and interviewed Czech refugees. He subsequently earned a PhD in psychology at the University of Nebraska and spent most of his career as a psychologist at the Saint Cloud, Minnesota, Veterans Administration Hospital. Proud of his Czech heritage, Norm took each of his children individually to the Czech Republic to meet family and learn about the country. He also traveled there with his wife, Joyce Tesarek, for family visits and to participate in cultural events in Prague.

Norm was very active in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, attending and volunteering at festivals, dinners, dances, events, classes, and Sokol Singers. He served for many years in several roles on the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors, including Membership Director. Norm was a pilot, loved to cross country-, downhill-, and water-ski, and was a champion pinochle player.

Besides Sokol Minnesota, Norm volunteered and served on the boards of: the Twin Cities Men's Center, where he also led a retirement group; Mended Hearts; the American Legion; National Active and Retired Federal Employees; Common Cause; and Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church.

A Celebration of Life for Norm will take place at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, June 12 (time to follow).

See www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000417048/

Relief Efforts for the War in Ukraine continued from page 3

Adra (Adventist Agency for Aid and Development):
www.adra.sk/

Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE):
<https://care.cz/>

Slovak Catholic Charity:
<https://charita.darujme.sk/ukrajina/>

Czech Catholic Charity: <https://svet.charita.cz/podporte-nas-hprs/charita-pro-ukrajinu/>

Czech Brethren Evangelical Church Humanitarian Center:
www.diakoniespolu.cz

Doctors Without Borders: www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/countries/ukraine

Magna (medical aid here and now):
<https://donate.magna.org/sk/ukrajina/>

People in Need: <https://www.clovekvtisni.cz/clovek-v-tisni-pomuze-ukrajine-8549gp>

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF):

Czech Republic: www.unicef.cz/
Slovak Republic: www.unicef.sk/ukrajina/
Ukraine: www.unicef.org/ukraine/en

2022 marks the 140th anniversary of the founding of our Sokol Unit, the 135th anniversary of the C.S.P.S. Hall, and the 60th anniversary of the founding of our sister organization, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.

For information that celebrates these important events, check the *Slovo*, Facebook, Instagram, and our E-blasts.

Highlights of the February 2022 Sokol Minnesota Board Meeting

By Denise Stibal

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors online meeting was called to order on February 17 at 7 p.m. A moment of silence was held to acknowledge the passing of Norm Petrik, our long-time Membership Director.

Member at Large Markéta Resong discussed the May 15 music concert sponsored by the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (*Škola*), which should provide an entertaining afternoon.

Denise Stibal presented the Rental Committee report. Events Coordinator Dawn Bulera has requested the purchase of new chairs and rechargeable candles; it was agreed that a project request form should be submitted, and this could possibly be funded through a Czech government grant.

Glynis Grostephan, Corresponding Secretary, noted that sympathy cards were sent to Pat Andrlé on the loss of Don, and to Joyce Tesarek on the loss of Norm.

Donations for January: Legacy Fund \$10, General Fund \$720. Glynis also reported on the Youth Link Committee; Spring/Summer volunteer sign-up sheets will be sent out.

Pat Slaber, Education Chair, noted that large-screen monitors have been installed in the main-floor classroom and third-floor meeting room. One use is for the *Škola* online classes that Palacký University is putting together. Next fall the monitors can be also used for hybrid language classes. Palacký University is sending us the application to the Czech Foreign Ministry to have someone teach classes at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Expenses for the teacher would be covered by the Foreign Ministry, but we would provide housing. Further discussion to be held by the committee.

Financial Secretary Steve Ernest noted that we are currently at 253 members. Six past members rejoined in February.

Jean Draheim, Activities Director, reported on upcoming activities including Curbside Flavors of Slovakia Dinner, Curbside Spring *Koláče* and Bake Sale, Czech-Slovak Family Easter Event, Outdoor Craft and Flea Market, the *Škola*-sponsored concert in May, and the Spring Mushroom Hunt. The Children's Cultural Day Camp will be held in June. We are researching venues for the annual Member/Volunteer Picnic in June.

Don Haselbauer presented the Treasurer's report.

Joyce Tesarek, Finance Committee Chair, reported that we have hired a new accounting firm, Johnson, Lewis, and Mount, LLC in Edina, to prepare our taxes and our gaming audit. The formation of a Fundraising Committee was suggested. Contact Steve Ernest regarding a fundraising form. Motion was carried to pay off the loan from the City of Saint Paul in the amount of \$48,300. It was determined that our accounting firm should handle our payroll reports. To support hybrid language classes, we will need to purchase two iPads and a camera. No action taken at this time.

Board of Instructors Physical Directors Mary Cahill and Jason Brozevich reported that Sokol Minnesota gymnasts will not participate in the Western District competition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, because of COVID concerns, but will hold an inhouse gathering instead at the Hall.

Building and Properties Committee Chair Bob Kotek reported that the new refrigerator in the kitchen has been installed and the fire and security alarm system upgrade should be done this spring. We will be using Century Link DSL for our Internet service. The restaurant exhaust fan will be inspected for safety. It was also discovered that the chimney will need additional repair.

Gaming Chair Ed Hamernik reported on the March budget, which was approved. Motion approved to transfer \$15,000 from the Gaming Fund to the General Fund in February. Steve Shimer's salary was reviewed and it was agreed to increase it effective January 1, 2022. This year we will have a gaming audit, prepared by our accountant.

Vice President Cinnamon Whaley will review the bylaws and get project financial request forms into a standard template. Cinnamon will be leading our Board of Directors meetings in March, April, and May. President Dave Stepan and his wife Darnell will be in the Czech Republic for those three months. He will include meeting with Palacký University representatives in his activities while there.

The annual Norm Sladek Euchre Tournament will take place in New Prague. Contact Fred Simon for more information.

New Business: The Minneapolis/Saint Paul International Film Festival will be held May 5-19. Motion carried to donate \$250 as a co-sponsor, per a request from Czech Honorary Consul M.L. Kucera.



Kolo Sokol Bike Club

Kolo means bike in Czech and Slovak. The goal of Kolo Sokol is to organize safe, family-friendly outings that help strengthen the physical and social health of our community.
sokolmn.org/bike

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Glynis Grostephan

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates your donations supporting Sokol programs and the maintenance of our historic C.S.P.S. Hall.

LEGACY FUND:

Under \$99: Cinnamon Whaley for the Freezer Fund.

\$100 - \$499: Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities from sale of sauerkraut.

GENERAL FUND:

Under \$99: Pam Kotval, Ted Skluzacek, Sokol Minnesota Camp Association.

In memory of **Don Andrlé:** Mary and Dennis Cahill, Pamela Langworthy, Richard Sargent, Joan Sedlacek, Louise and Chuck Wessinger.

In memory of **Norm Petrik:** William Runco.

\$100 - \$499: Janet Balej, Blackbaud Giving Fund Grant.

In memory of **Don Andrlé:** Patricia Andrlé, Katie and Don Haselbauer.

In memory of **Norm Petrik:** Erin and Kevin Berg, Linda Hoolihan, Mary Kucera, M. L. Kucera, Diane Palan.

\$1000 - \$9999: In memory of **Norm Petrik:** Katie and Don Haselbauer.

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| Legacy Fund: | \$ | 280 |
| General Fund: | \$ | 2,280 |
| TOTAL: | \$ | 2,560 |

Stop Dubček! The Story of a Man who Defied Power: A Documentary Novel by Jozef Banáš, translated by James Sutherland-Smith. Global Slovakia/Hybrid Global Publishing: Bratislava, 2020 English Edition, 391 pages. Published in Slovak by Ikar, 2009. Available at libraries and bookstores.

Stop Dubček! The Story of a Man who Defied Power: A Documentary Novel chronologically follows the life of Alexander Dubček (1921-1992) from his parents' days through his career. He was a communist leader unusually popular with citizens. Dubček's name remains intertwined with the Prague Spring and the slogan "socialism with a human face."

As John Palka, professor emeritus and grandson of Czechoslovak Prime Minister Milan Hodža, wrote in his foreword: "It is important to remember that history does not consist of disconnected events associated with the names of disembodied people. History is an uninterrupted stream, and it is lived and led by real people with visions and feelings, with flaws but also often with real nobility. The story of Alexander Dubček is a great example of this truth."

In 1912, Alexander's father, Stefan Dubček, migrated to the United States, where he met his future wife, and after they returned home, their son Alexander was born in Uhrovec (now in Slovakia).

During World War II, young Alexander Dubček joined the resistance against the pro-German Slovak state. In 1944 he fought for the Slovak National Uprising and was wounded twice. After the war, he assumed his political career, rising steadily as a communist functionary, ultimately becoming First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia from January 1968 to April 1969. During the Prague Spring, he attempted to reform the communist government, partially decentralizing the economy and administrative authority, allowing some democratization with the possibility of a multiparty government, and loosening restrictions on the media, freedom of speech, and travel.

However, Soviet leaders, fearing that Czechoslovakia would lose ties to the Soviet Union and become more westernized, ordered a military response. On the night of August 20-21, 1968, Eastern Bloc armies from the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Poland, and Hungary invaded Czechoslovakia, took Dubček and other Central Committee reformers into custody, and flew them to Moscow. The reformers were forced to comply with Soviet demands and to sign the Moscow Protocol, which ended the Prague Spring.

Today, as we hear of the phenomenal bravery of President Zelensky and Ukrainian citizens in the face of Russian aggression, it is hard to not make comparisons to the bravery of Dubček in pushing reforms and Czech citizens in fighting the Warsaw Pact invasion.

Dubček resigned in April 1969, was expelled from the Communist Party in 1970, and lived as an outsider, although still popular with citizens. At a rally in Bratislava on November 23, 1989, Dubček spoke: "I speak to you for the first time after many long years. I turn to everybody with an

urgent challenge to regenerate our society. I support civic initiatives that seek to uplift our society, our country to a higher level to its material, spiritual, cultural, humane, and democratic development. As you know after more than twenty years, I lift my voice as part of the popular movement for a new revival of socialism..."

His career took an upswing again, with Dubček elected chairman of the Federal Assembly (the Czechoslovak Parliament) in December 1989, and re-elected in 1990 and 1992. In 1992, he also became leader of the Social Democratic Party of Slovakia. In September 1992, on his way to give testimony regarding the criminal nature of historical Communist Party activities in the Soviet Union, Dubček received fatal injuries in a car accident. His testimony in the Constitutional Court in Moscow on September 5 never happened. Suspicions surround this accident, since two others scheduled to testify were murdered.

It was refreshing to read Czech history from a Slovak perspective. I learned, beyond details of Dubček's life, about history not widely known in the West, such as the many others who self-immolated after Jan Palach did; this information was deliberately kept from the Western press.

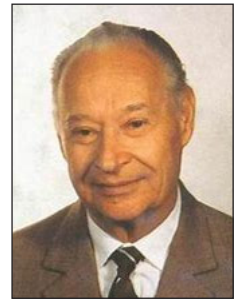
The author of *Stop Dubček!* joined the Communist Party in 1976 at the age of 28. Jozef Banáš is one of the most popular Slovak authors, has thirteen books published in Slovak, and received many literary awards.

The book was written in amazing detail, but the "documentary novel" characteristic means Banáš made up dialog. This makes the book a richer, more engaging, and quicker read that helps us get to know his personal and political life, but leaves me wondering if Banáš, a great admirer of Dubček, is a reliable narrator, what he embellished, and what is confirmed history. *Stop Dubček!* would make a fitting accompaniment to his autobiography (published in English in 1993).

Despite three drafts of the translation, the book contains numerous misspellings, grammatical errors, small sans serif type, and odd layout. The cover depicts an undesired clownish drawing of Dubček. I hope the original book published in Slovak had better production values. The book includes three forewords, a translator's note with a list of acronyms used in the book, an extensive bibliography, and selected sources for further reading.

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 us for a discussion of *The Back of Beyond: Travels with Benjamin* by Marin Vopěnka, translated by Anna Bryson, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 16.



Alexander Dubček

Correction: In the March *Slovo* on page 10, the caption for the photo of the cover for the book review of Leopoldstadt was missing text. Here is the full text of the caption:

The strings of the child's game Cat's Cradle can be seen as a metaphor for the fixed links that cannot be broken in a family tree and among Jewish people, and the contact points as places, recognizing "each state comes from the previous state."

Czech Honorary Consul News

April 2022

I had the opportunity at *Masopust* in Montgomery on 27 February to hand over a new passport to a Czech citizen at this traditional Czech festival. *Masopust* is the Czech equivalent of Mardi Gras with a skit, crowning of the king with a bowler hat and vest, costumes, dancing, music, traditional food, and plenty of good beer. This year's celebration, the best attended in several years, was held at Revival on Main in downtown Montgomery.

Centuries ago, the celebration bid farewell to winter and celebrated the fertility of spring. Today it is a time for feasting and merry-making before the beginning of the Lenten season with its 40 days of fasting before Easter. *Masopust* literally means 'meat fast.'

Eva Kubrová, a resident at Mayo Clinics in Rochester, took the opportunity to pick up her new passport and at the same time, to attend a *Masopust* celebration, plus meet many heritage Czechs who are keeping Czech traditions alive.



Compatriots: Jan Šiška, Eva Kubrová, Renáta Tichá, and Lenka Hester.



The effort to bring the **Czech Scientist exhibit to Minnesota** began in 2018, but due to the pandemic, it never happened. Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague now wants to have the exhibit of 20 posters returned. Blanka Brichta coordinated with the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, the last exhibit location, and the Czech Academy of Sciences, plus the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C., to allow us to photograph the posters for use of the images here in Minnesota. We photographed the posters on March 5.

Holding a poster: Joan Sedlacek, M.L. Kucera, and Blanka Brichta.

Missing: Doreen McKenney, photographer of this image and all 20 posters.

Jaroslav Kantůrek, Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago, recently sent information about Czech-American TV. CATVUSA is a Czech compatriot non-profit organization based in Florida, broadcasting free cultural-educational shows in English on cable networks. It also can be viewed over the Internet from anywhere in the world. It is dedicated to offering Czech culture, traditions, folklore, genealogy, travel, cuisine, and information related to Czech heritage from Bohemia, Moravia, and Moravian-Silesia. Český Honza is its mascot.

According to Michaela Kohoutová, public relations manager at CATV, "The main objective is to spread the reputation of the Czech Republic abroad, in a completely non-profit way. We do this with pure patriotism and enthusiasm for making the Czech Republic better known; volunteers help us do so without any reward." CATV regularly cooperates with students from several Czech universities, including University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Technical University in Prague, Silesian University in Opava, University of Hradec Králové, Palacký University in Olomouc, and more. Visit www.CATVusa.com



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

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OR mlkucera@outlook.com



Slovo Publication Information and Committee

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The *Slovo* staff welcomes submissions. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to slovo@sokolmn.org

The copy deadline for each issue is the first day of the prior month.

Advertising in the *Slovo* is available. Please email slovo@sokolmn.org for information on due dates and rates.

Moving or temporarily away: Please notify us via email or USPS mail of your change of address to make sure you continue to receive the *Slovo*.

The *Slovo* is bulk mailed and non-deliverable copies are not forwarded or held by the Post Office. Non-delivered copies are returned to Sokol Minnesota and they are billed to us at the first-class mail rate. For this reason, we will not send additional issues until we have a current, correct mailing address on record for you.

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Sokol Minnesota Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney (pages 1, 4, 5, 6, 7).

Mailing and email Lists: Penny Tesarek and Tom Tesarek.

Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

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Additional photographs, ads, or illustrations this issue (not already noted) provided by: Pat Andrie, M. L. Kucera, Jitka Sebek, Dave Stepan, Joyce Tesarek, and Louise Wessinger.

More information at www.sokolmn.org

C.S.P.S. HALL LEGACY FUND

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

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



Name: _____

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!*

CZECH AND SLOVAK



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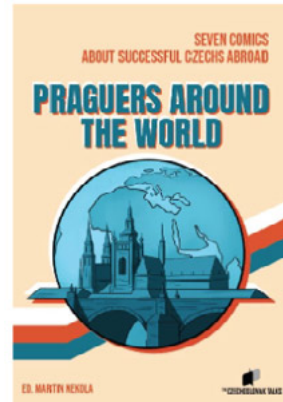
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For status of events scheduled for the C.S.P.S. Hall, check our calendar at
www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* April 2022

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On Saturday,
April 16, 2022,
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
at the C.S.P.S. Hall,
join us please for
hands-on Easter
traditions, puppet
play, potluck lunch,
and a presentation
about Czech
immigrants
in the U.S.



Czech-Slovak Family Event *Velikonoc/* *Vel'ká noc* (Easter)

Saturday, April 16
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Celebrate *Velikonoc/*
Vel'ká noc (Easter)

- several hands-on spring traditions (10-11 a.m.)
 - a puppet play (11 a.m.-noon)
 - potluck lunch (12-1 p.m.)
- Czech immigrants presentation (1-2 p.m.)

*Presentations funded by
Czech and Slovak
Cultural Center.*

All are welcome!
Presentations will
be in English.

