



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

September Slovo articles due August 1

Sokol Camp Booya Picnic
Sunday, August 13
(info on page 12)

Dvořák Visit Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, September 17
(info on page 12)

34th Czech & Slovak Festival
Sunday, September 24
11 a.m.-5 p.m.
(info on page 1)

Kolo Sokol Bike Group
Third Sunday of the month May-October
10 a.m. C.S.P.S. Hall
sokolmn.org/bike/

Sokol Gift Shop
Visit during Sokol events or by appointment

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



34th annual CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL
Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, September 24 2023
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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



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

FREE Admission • Public Welcome • Accessible Facility

Become a Volunteer: festival@sokolmn.org

Komentáře prezidentky a členů rady Sokol Minnesota Comments from the President and BOD Member's Notes

In this month's featured article, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Educational Director Sally Lieberman tells us how she became associated with Sokol Minnesota through language classes. It reminds me that every opportunity is what you make it, and Sally has turned her involvement in language classes into becoming a member of the Board of Directors and creating an Education committee. With the remainder of the summer, I will keep my eyes open for how I might also turn opportunities into more than meets the eye.



Cinnamon Whaley



Sally Lieberman

Hi *Slovo* readers! My name is Sally Lieberman and I began serving as Sokol Minnesota's Education Director in January 2023. If you had told me when I was younger that I would one day be on the Board of Directors of a Czech and Slovak organization, I would never have believed you! All my life I have been drawn to the languages and cultures of East Asia, especially the Chinese language, which I studied and taught for many years. But life would not be much fun if it did not take some surprising turns. Mine took one of those turns about ten years ago when our son Mike headed off to a city we had never heard of, Brno, to work on a research project for a few months. My husband Jay and I decided to take the opportunity to visit him and see the Czech Republic. In hopes of learning a few useful phrases ahead of our trip, I signed up for Blanka Brichta's beginning Czech class at Sokol Minnesota.

So here we are, a decade later. Mike is now a permanent resident of the Czech Republic and married to Stanka, a Czech citizen. Both teachers, they work in Brno and live in a nearby village. As for me, I found the Czech language so intriguing that I have been taking language classes at Sokol Minnesota all this time. This year I took the advanced class taught by Renáta Tichá, as well as an intermediate class offered by the T.G. Masaryk Czech School in Chicago. Our daughter Hannah is also studying Czech. Learning Czech and participating in Sokol Minnesota activities are two of the ways that help us to feel close to Mike and Stanka despite the distance between us.

Jay, Hannah, and I have made several trips to the Czech Republic, and we will visit there again this summer. Because of our interest in Jewish culture and history, we visit synagogues and other Jewish sites wherever we travel. We have been especially impressed by the effort on the part of South Moravia's small Jewish community, as well as by the Czech nation and international organizations like UNESCO, to preserve and maintain so many Jewish sites. Among those we have toured are the large Jewish cemetery in Brno and the old Jewish Quarters of Třebíč and Mikulov. Prague's Old-New Synagogue is also a fascinating place.

Being Sokol Minnesota's Education Director has been exciting so far. I love volunteering my time in ways that build community, connect people through common interests, and enable us to learn. I appreciate everyone's patience and helpfulness as I have had a lot to learn these past few months. I also appreciate the advice and help of our recently formed Education Committee members Kelly Meyer, Maria Neuzil, and Pat Slaber.

We are now planning Czech and Slovak language classes and other educational/cultural activities for 2023-24. I would love to hear from Sokol Minnesota members and friends who have a Czech- or Slovak-related interest or skill you would like to share! You can reach me at education@sokolmn.org

Nazdar!

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

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



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

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2023 BOD (Board of Directors)

President

Cinnamon Whaley

Vice President

Lucy Brudnak Rose

Recording Secretary

Theresa Hudachek

Corresponding Secretary

Bonnie Simon

Treasurer

Don Haselbauer

Sergeant at Arms

Open

Members at Large

Markéta Pálková
Fred Simon

Membership Director

Steve Ernest

Budget and Finance Committee

Joyce Tesarek, Chair

Activities Director

Jean Draheim

Educational Director

Sally Lieberman

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

Celebrating 25 Years of Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp

By Co-Directors Doreen McKenney and Louise Wessinger



Campers and Volunteers at the 25th Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp.
Not pictured: Doreen McKenney (taking photo)

Twenty-seven years ago, Judy Aubrecht and Louise Wessinger started the Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp at Sokol Minnesota. Over the years, the camp has only been canceled twice: once in 2012 when Sokols went to the Czech Republic, and in 2020 during the pandemic. This year's camp celebrated 25 years of camp favorites. We also celebrated the anniversary of Czech musician, composer, and conductor Antonín Dvořák's visit to the C.S.P.S. Hall in 1893. In honor of his visit, campers made some of Dvořák's favorite pub foods in cooking class and were educated and entertained by several guest speakers. Additional activities celebrating Dvořák's visit will be held the week of September 17 (see the article on page 8).



Cookbook with 25 years of Cultural Day Camp recipes, compiled by Doreen McKenney.

As campers arrived each morning, they were given an activity at their group table. One of the activities was to draw a picture in their Children's Cultural Day Camp Coloring Cookbook of the food next to the recipe they made the day before in class. Doreen McKenney compiled 64 recipes from all 25 years of camp cooking for the limited-edition cookbook.

Junior Leaders accompanied campers throughout the day, first by rotating through the four morning activities of cooking, crafts, gymnastics, and language.



Kristýna Horáčková leading language class with Elise, Martina, Henry, and Elliot.

Cooking class was led by Anne Jans. She taught food science, knife skills, and basic math while preparing a recipe. Recipes made were Goulash Soup, *Hamantaschen* (Haman Pastries), Thumbprint Sugar Cookies, Creamy Potato Soup, and Fruit Filled Dumplings.

Crafts designed by Doreen, and led by Doreen and Jeannie Draheim, included decorating tote bags with the Sokol Minnesota logo, goose-feather pastry brush weaving, cornhusk birds, painted fireflies on mason jar tealights, and decorated beehives inspired by the open-air museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm in the Zlín region of the Czech Republic. The beehive branch slabs came from trees downed by a storm.



Keely, Claire, Sylvie, Lucas, and Leo with beehives they constructed and decorated.



Campers and Volunteers doing a gym routine



One of the dances learned by the campers

Gymnastics instruction was led by Sokol Minnesota gymnastic coaches Mary Cahill, Lily Callanan, and Claire Wickiser. A variety of techniques were introduced to the campers that are a regular part of the gym classes held in the evening at the C.S.P.S. Hall during the school season.

Czech language class was taught by Kristýna Horáčková from T. G. Masaryk Czech School in Chicago. She was invited to teach as part of the special 25th year celebration. Special thanks to Diane Bell for hosting Kristýna. Teaching tools like coloring sheets and games made the language lessons fun and interesting. Although the American Sokol by-laws state that the spoken language is English, anytime Czech and Slovak can be spoken and heard during our classes and singing, it is done so.

Each music class began with a flag ceremony honoring our country plus the nations of our ancestors. Sokol Minnesota's pianist, Don Haselbauer, played the piano while Louise Wessinger taught Czech and Slovak songs and folk dances each day. On Tuesday, the Sokol Minnesota Singers were invited to join the campers and to teach a new song called *Bejvavlalo, a kánon* (a round).

After lunch each day, the all-time requested favorite game of "Czechs and Slovaks" was played, which involved chasing one another back and forth across the gym floor.



Sybil and Callista practicing juggling in a session led by Penny and Tom Tesarek.



Campers signed up for a Choice Group in the afternoon.

Penny and Tom Tesarek (Mondo Jugglers) taught juggling. LEGO castle building was guided by Junior Leader Lucien. Decorative Surprises was led by Anne Jans, Doreen McKenney, and Jeannie Draheim. The all-camp play *Fireflies*, presented on Friday, was rehearsed throughout the week and directed by a seasoned performing artist, Linda Nicoli, sister of Louise Wessinger.

Afternoon guests brought exciting and interactive learning to all. Joan Sedlacek, who is one of Sokol's historians, gave a tour of the third floor, where stately photos hang and formal meetings were once held. Joan carefully handed the flags down over the third-floor balcony banister, and later led the oldest camper group as they participated in the flag ceremony.

Leo 1 flying, with assistance, at a *Fireflies* rehearsal led by Linda Nicoli.



Annabel and Elsa performing *Humoresque* from Dvořák's *Serenade for Strings*.

Blanka Brichta presented the life journey of Dvořák, from an orchestral musician playing the violin and viola to conductor and composer. He wrote many orchestral pieces including operas. Blanka gave an example of how his music contained traditional rhythmic patterns of Bohemian folk music. She demonstrated this by teaching campers to clap the music of the *Furiant*, a Slavonic dance. A fun fact shared was that Dvořák's *Symphony No. 9* is actually the music behind the hit song "Baby Shark." Annabel Grindheim on violin and Elsa Klaas on cello, granddaughters of Pam Langworthy and Richard Sargent, beautifully performed *Humoresque* from Dvořák's *Serenade for Strings*, during the presentation.

John Allen, from American Kung Fu, demonstrated self-defense techniques, allowing campers to practice in pairs.

In the middle of the week, the gym was cleared from any shiny or

distracting decor in order for a visit with some feathered friends from The Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota. Scarlet, who handled the raptors, presented a red-tailed hawk, a kestrel (in the same family as the falcon, which is the symbol for Sokol), an owl, and (to our surprise) a three-year-old female American eagle which was just starting to show a slight trace of the iconic yellow beak. After many great questions, Scarlet reminded everyone that they can arrange a tour at <https://raptor.umn.edu/visit/visit-us> or visit @theraptorcenter on Instagram for many great photos!



Leo 2 and John practicing self-defense in John Allen's session.



The Raptor Center: Clockwise from upper left: Red-tailed hawk, kestrel (falcon), owl, eagle.

On Thursday, the story of the Golem was told by Sokol Minnesota's Education Director, Sally Lieberman. After the story, campers were given clay to shape into a Golem. One Golem stood out as it was given a *pupek* (navel). While the clay started to dry, M. L. Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, guided the campers down the Hall's grand staircase out the 383 Michigan Street door, and right into the adjacent 385 door for a tour of her office. See the *Czech Honorary Consul News* on page 15 for more details.

Fridays have turned into Celebration Day the past few years. Campers left their packed lunches home and feasted on food they had made during the week. Anne Jans and Dawn Bulera lined up the banquet tables and served campers and volunteers a tasty lunch of Dvořák's favorites, including Creamy Potato Soup and yummy Strawberry Fruit Dumplings. After lunch, Miss Czech and Slovak Minnesota Queen Ellaina Novak and Junior Ambassador Alenka Jans, both dressed in *kroje* (folk dress), explained their royalty duties and campers had fun trying on their crowns. Parents and guests came to the Hall at 2 p.m. for a juggling demonstration, singing, folk dancing, the stage performance of *Fireflies*, and the closing flag ceremony.

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers! It is truly amazing that, even after 25 years, volunteers sometimes out-number campers.

Once campers themselves and now Junior Leaders: Lucien Espinosa, Kris Gurgel, Jules Harris, Alenka Jans, Fiona Nicoli, and Vicki Schousek.

Adult volunteers: Dawn Bulera, Mary Cahill, Lily Callanan, Jeannie Draheim, Don Haselbauer, Kristýna Horáčková, Anne Jans, Linda Nicoli, Penny and Tom Tesarek, John Topic, Michael Topic, and Claire Wickiser.

Presenters: John Allen, Blanka Brichta, Annabel Grindheim, Alenka Jans, Elsa Klaas, M. L. Kucera, Sally Lieberman, Ellaina Novak, Scarlet from The Raptor Center, and Joan Sedlacek.

Visit Sokol Minnesota's IG page @sokolminnesota to see more photos from the week plus video of the play, juggling, and dancing.

See you next year the third week of June for our 26th year!

With immense joy, numerous Czech-Slovak-American families eagerly gathered for this year's Memorial Day weekend camp in Pine City, Minnesota. The weather was pleasantly amiable, and everyone enjoyed the shining sun and the vast opportunities the beautiful outdoor setting of the Sokol camp provides.

It is safe to say the local mosquitoes were equally thrilled by our arrival, judging by the number of bites they bestowed upon us.

We had the pleasure of welcoming over 50 participants this year, with more than 25 energetic kids aged from 1 to 16. Half of the attendees arrived on Friday night. While most families came from the Twin Cities area, one adventurous father embarked on a five-hour journey from Warroad near the Canadian border.

After the Friday arrival, families set up their tents and gathered at the fire pit for some *špekáčky* and *klobásy* (sausages). The kids were in their element, running around and delighting in the camp's space.

Saturday brought the arrival of the remaining participants, and we were thrilled to also welcome these families. After a hearty communal breakfast, most of us relished the chance to take a stroll. We met again for lunch and were thankful for all of the cooks who prepared the delicious *goulash*! The beautiful afternoon allowed us (and kids in particular) to enjoy playing around the campsite, swimming, exercising on the rings, riding bikes, drawing with chalk, and more. The adults were thankful for having the opportunity to see each other and enjoyed the conversations and little gatherings around the campsite. As twilight descended, the community united around the fire pit. Laughter and singing filled the air, led by talented singers accompanied by many accomplished musicians.



Czech-Slovak-American families at the Minnesota Sokol Camp on Memorial Day weekend

Sunday we were greeted with a rich breakfast of pancakes, eggs, fresh fruit, and other delectable treats. After breakfast, it was time to clean up the campsite, pack up our tents, and exchange heartfelt farewells.

This beloved annual camp weekend serves as the grand finale of the school year for the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities. Both children and adults were happy to see the familiar faces from their Saturday morning school sessions. However, even those not enrolled in the school found the camp a remarkable opportunity to forge connections with other Czech-Slovak-American families and immerse themselves in Czech and Slovak traditions.

We are delighted to witness the tremendous ongoing interest in our camp, with children of all ages eagerly joining us each Memorial weekend. With great pleasure, we look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2024, filled with excitement and anticipation for another memorable experience!

CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



on September 24
at the C.S.P.S. Hall!

There will be ethnic food and beer, live music, performances by Sokol Minnesota gymnasts, and children, teen, and adult folk dancers, plus children's games, online auction, open gift shop, vendors, exhibits, and more.

Save the date and come!

If you would like to help with preparing or serving food, selling beverages, selling tickets, help with setup or takedown, please contact festival@sokolmn.org, or call Joyce Tesarek at 612-232-2993.

Two Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities Parents Recommend the School By Silvie

I am Czech and my husband Chad is an American. We have two children, Lucas and Claire. I used to think they would naturally speak both English and Czech. When Lucas was born, I spoke mostly Czech to him and it was going well. Claire was born two years later and I somehow shifted more to English. Over the years I made attempts to teach them Czech; they learned colors, numbers, fruits, vegetables, animals, and some basic sentences. We watched Czech fairy tales and listened to Czech songs. Since they did not hear anyone else speaking Czech, they were not as interested in speaking the language. I noticed though that they were motivated to learn more when we were visiting the Czech Republic, but the interest soon faded away after we returned to Minnesota.

Most of my family and friends were surprised that Lucas and Claire did not speak Czech. I have to admit, I used to think the same prior to having my own kids, "How could anyone married to someone from a different country not speak their own language with their kids? I would never do that." Never say never? I felt bad and thought that it was too late, until we all decided to take Czech lessons at *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities (škola)* at Sokol Minnesota's C.S.P.S. Hall. I did not know what to expect about the lessons and Lucas and Claire were also worried what it would be like. I still remember the Saturday morning when we were about to leave for our first lesson. Lucas did not want to go because he had seasonal allergies and he did not feel well. Claire did not want to go without him. It was not a fun drive; "you could cut the tension with a knife." Luckily, everything changed as soon as we entered the beautifully decorated room at the Hall where the lessons take place. There were other kids sitting at a table and we were greeted by Jitka Sebek, the Czech teacher, with a big smile. The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly. Jitka had everything set up for decorating *perníky* (ginger bread). We learned words connected to the process. It was a hands-on lesson and I could see the big relief in my children's faces. Afterwards they said, "It was so much fun! I can't wait to go back!" I was grateful that their attitude shifted.

At home, I wrote down the new Czech words we were learning into their new notebooks. I added pictures we brought home with different kinds of *perníky* and a picture of our group from our first lesson to make it more memorable. As the lessons went by, they used these notebooks on their own and I added more words and pictures after every lesson. We repeated these words during the week and during our drives to *škola*. Words quickly added up. We finally had a routine and Claire and Lucas were motivated to go back. Every lesson was fun, creative, and hands on. For example, we learned about Czech and Slovak foods and treats (with samples), Czech traditions, and Josef Lada (Czech painter, illustrator).

One of my kids' favorite lessons was about *hospoda* (pub), during which we tasted typical Czech soft drinks, played the card game *Prší*, sang the Czech song *Co jste hasiči* (a song about firemen), and enjoyed the feeling of *pohoda* (a state of contentment). After returning home, Lucas said he wanted to memorize the song. I looked up some videos and we practiced together. He made a comment, "Maminko, I haven't seen you this happy for a long time." I was surprised he noticed that the song somehow took me back to my carefree childhood, and my feeling of joy and inner peace was sensed by his empathetic personality. A thought came to me, "Do you think that you could play this song on your trumpet?" "I'd have to see the notes," he replied. He was able to play part of the song and it sounded awesome. "Now I want to go and play hockey with daddy." I knew I had to let him go but I was thankful for the special moment we shared.

I am grateful that the Czech lessons at *škola* are so creative and there are many fun tools to keep the students engaged, like playing cards, playing different themes of *Pexeso* (a memory game), Spot It, and having access to Czech books and movies. On top of it, coming to *škola* has brought new *kamarádství* (comradeship) with the Czech community. I would like Lucas and Claire to be proud of their Czech heritage and to be able to communicate in Czech with me and my family and friends in the Czech Republic. I see students at *škola* who are fluent in Czech



Back: Chad, Silvie. Front: Lucas, Claire
See Lucas and Claire's testimonials on the *Škola* in the June/July *Slovo* on pages six and seven.

and I truly admire their moms/dads for their effort. Lucas and Claire are far from being fluent but they are excited to learn. It was the piece that was missing. I realized it is not too late for them to learn. I am also proud of Chad for coming with us from Day One. Not only coming, but actively learning with all the students. It was an unexpected bonus. There are times we drive to *škola* and I test Lucas and Claire on some of the Czech words; while they are thinking my husband provides an answer. They look at each other in disbelief and say, "What? How did he know that?!" It makes me laugh.

My dad passed away a few years ago. He also wanted his American grandchildren to learn Czech. I remember that he gave me a *slabikář* (a Czech textbook for kids starting school). It was the *slabikář* that used to belong to me, I had no idea he kept it. He handed it over to me during one of our last visits with him and said, "You know, it might help you when you teach them Czech". I was thinking of him when I was observing the room where the Czech lessons are held. The giant puppets Jarda and Jitka caught my eye. They were holding a heart that said, *Jarda miluje Jitku* (Jarda loves Jitka). Jarda was my dad's name. I wondered, "Is he giving me a sign from above that he's happy that his grandkids are learning Czech? That Jitka has opened a door to new possibilities of learning? The door that almost seemed closed to me?"

continued on page 13

Dvořák Visit Anniversary Celebration

By Denise Stibal and Renáta Tichá

Save the dates for the Dvořák Visit Anniversary Festivities the week of September 17.

We will celebrate the 130th anniversary of the visit of Antonín and Anna Dvořák and his multi-faceted aide, Josef Kovařík to Sokol Minnesota's C.S.P.S. Hall. This visit was an extension of Dvořák's family's vacation in the summer of 1893 in Spillville, Iowa, from his work in New York at the National Conservatory of Music.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Sokol Minnesota's C.S.P.S. Hall,
383 W. Michigan Street, Saint Paul

PERFORMANCES:

Artaria String Quartet: *American Quartet*.
Twin Cities Horn Club: works by Dvořák.
Dan Chinuward, pianist, and Maria Jette, Soprano:
Aria from Dvořák's *Rusalka*.
Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers:
two dances set to Dvořák's music.

COMMENTARIES:

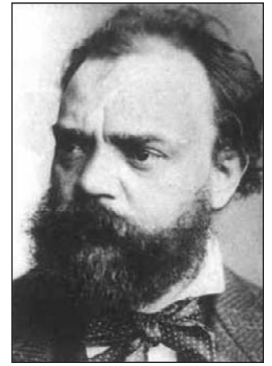
Dan Freeman, historian: historical facts about Dvořák.
Patricia Hampl, author: Dvořák's ties to Sokol
and additional history.

Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$10.

Tickets for preferred seating will be available in advance for those who desire seating closer to the performers.

A sandwich tray, *koláče*, and non-alcoholic beverages will be available.

A cash bar will be available for wine and beer (*Czechvar* and Hamms).



For more details on Dvořák's visit to Minnesota in 1893, including his visit to our neighbor St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, see the Minnesota Historical Society article (the source of the historical information provided here) *When Minnehaha Falls Inspired Dvořák* at <https://tinyurl.com/DvorakCSPS>

LECTURE:

Wednesday, September 20 at 7 p.m.

The Socio-Economic and Political Contexts of Dvorak's Contributions to Emerging Czech and Slovak Identities

This illustrated lecture by J.P. "Paddy" Dale, Associate Professor Emeritus, St. Olaf College, will examine the changing economic and political contexts of the Czech and Slovak lands in the fragmenting Hapsburg Empire towards the end of the nineteenth century. Dvorak's music was both shaped by and contributed to emerging national identities.

Location:

University of Minnesota Masonic Institute
for the Developing Brain Community Room
2025 East River Parkway, Minneapolis
(former Shriners Children's Hospital location)



Sokol Run of the Republic October 28, 2023

Sokol Minnesota is in the planning stages for a local fun run to join in the annual world-wide commemoration of the anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic on October 28, 1918.

See www.behrepubliky.cz/en/

More information will follow. To help plan the local event, or to get your name on the contact list e-mail: membership@sokolmn.org.

Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics Classes will be back this fall!

As the summer break nears its end and the start of the school year approaches, Sokol Minnesota is preparing for another season of gymnastics!

Classes for boys and girls ages 4 to 18 will resume on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings, starting in mid-September. No experience necessary!

Please refer to the Fitness section at sokolmn.org for information on session dates and class fees.

Looking forward to seeing you at the C.S.P.S. Hall!

Annual Conference of Czech Schools in North America: Cultural Exchange, Educational Methods, and Connections

By Hana Pletichová, Jitka Sebek, and Pavlína Tesch



Pavlína Tesch, Jitka Sebek, and
Hana Pletichová

For the second consecutive year, a team from the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities eagerly participated in the 11th Annual Conference of Czech Schools in North America. This year's conference took place at the esteemed National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

With fervor, we embarked on a spirited journey, driving south to join nearly 100 fellow passionate teachers, directors, and educators from the United States and Canada in a thrilling and inspiring atmosphere. The thoughtfully-designed conference program addressed promoting Czech history, language, culture, and traditions to the younger generations, as well as explored educational methods.

One key element of Czech history that we examined was the legacy of Lidice, a village near Prague destroyed by the Nazis in 1942. The conference presented a unique opportunity to meet Dr. Martin Palouš, a renowned Czech dissident and Director of the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Democracy at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Florida International University.

Over the past two decades, it has been truly delightful to witness the growing significance of Czech schools abroad. The support and resources dedicated to these schools have increased substantially. The Conference received support from the Senate of the Czech Republic, with the presence of several Senators emphasizing the importance of these schools and the government's ongoing dedication to their success. The Czech government's commitment extends beyond financial support, as it actively sends teachers to Czech schools abroad. This backing is also reflected in the wealth of resources available for Czech schools and educators globally.

As an additional type of support, Czech pupils now have the opportunity to study abroad while still receiving the Czech *vysvědčení* (end of the school year report). The conference also addressed opportunities such as remote studies at Czech universities for Sokol members aged 50+. We were also excited to hear Tomas Czernin's encouraging words regarding his support for remote voting for Czechs living abroad.

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to Klára Moldová, the Vice President of the T. G. Masaryk Czech School in Chicago and the Head of the Annual Conferences of Czech Schools in North America (czechschoolsamerica.org), as well as Cecilia Rokusek, the President and CEO of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. Their unwavering enthusiasm, utmost dedication, exceptional organizational skills, and delightful senses of humor were truly inspiring.



Attendees of the 11th Annual Conference
of Czech Schools in North America

Representing Minnesota and the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities at this distinguished event filled us with joy. Our anticipation for next year's gathering in Toronto, Canada, is already building. We eagerly await the chance to continue fostering connections, sharing knowledge, and celebrating the rich heritage of Czech education and culture with fellow enthusiasts from across North America.

Learn Czech or Slovak with Sokol Minnesota!

ďž

Adult language classes, online and in person! Friendly and supportive learning atmosphere.
Many levels, including complete beginner. High school students may enroll with permission.

ôó

Three 10-week trimesters per year.
\$125 per trimester for Sokol members.
\$150 per trimester for non-members.

řř

Register soon! Fall classes will begin
the week of September 25, 2023.

ůů

For full information and registration: sokolmn.org
Email questions to: education@sokolmn.org

Fall Classes in person:

- Beginning Czech, Wednesdays 6:30-8 p.m.
- Advanced Beginning Czech, Thursdays 6-7:30 p.m.

Fall Classes online:

- Advanced Beginning Czech, Tuesdays 5:30-7 p.m.
- Advanced Czech, Tuesdays 7-8:30 p.m.
- Beginning Slovak, Tuesdays 7-8:30 p.m.
- Advanced Beginning Slovak, Thursdays 7-8:30

ch

ěě

ď

ůů



Mitchell and Abra Gillman at UMA

Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop Traveled to Upper Mississippi Academy's International Marketplace By Doreen McKenney

ROMP Around the World International Marketplace at the Upper Mississippi Academy's (UMA), a public charter school in downtown Saint Paul, on June 19 was an opportunity to experience ethnic music, food, entertainment, demonstrations, and an art fair. The ROMP was open to the 200 UMA students grades 6-12, families, and community.

Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney staffed the Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop table in the International Marketplace room. They found the event was a great opportunity to make and also re-new connections. UMA student Mitchell and his mother, Sokol Minnesota member Abra Gillman visited our table. One of the school advisors shared his story of his wedding reception at the C.S.P.S. Hall twenty years ago. They also connected with a student's family whose dad was the cousin of two Sokol Minnesota members who have a child in the children's dance group at Sokol Minnesota. It's a wonderful small world, filled with connections!

Also participating in the ROMP: Alliance Française Minneapolis/Saint Paul; Blue Hummingbird Woman, a "heart medicine indigenous gift shop"; and Mirwood Cottage with Scandinavian gifts.

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members By Steve Ernest

New members were accepted at the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors May meeting.

Ellaina Novak of Montgomery. Ellaina is the 2023-24 Czech-Slovak Minnesota Queen.

Alexia Wentworth of New Prague. Alexia is the 2023-24 Czech-Slovak Minnesota First Princess.

Their first-year membership fees were donated by M.L. Kucera, Czech Honorary Consul.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

GIFT SHOP

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota gift shop is open during Sokol dinners, breakfasts, Czech & Slovak Festival, and Small Business Saturday.

Contact: giftshop@sokolmn.org and a volunteer will schedule an appointment with you if you cannot make one of the above events.



CZECH 32nd Year! HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Sunday, August 13 Bechyn, MN

Polka Mass 10 a.m. | Czech Dinner 11a.m.-1:30p.m. | Raffle Drawing & Festival Ends 4:30 p.m.

Stop by Sokol Minnesota's Gift Shop's Sales Booth!

Entertainment: Mollie B & SqueezeBox with Ted Lange • George's Concertina Band
Sleepy Eye Area Concertina Club • Bechyn Czech Folk Dancers

Beer Garden • Dancing • Kid's Games & Activities • Bingo • Cash Raffle • Farmer's Market

Food: Polish Sausage, Kolache, Jiternice Sausage, Dumplings, Sauerkraut • FREE Admission • Held rain or shine
www.BechynCzechFest.org | [Facebook.com/BechynMinnesotaWorld](https://www.facebook.com/BechynMinnesotaWorld) | Located 10 miles NE of Redwood Falls, MN

Tai Chi is Joining Kung Fu at Sokol Minnesota

Kung Fu: Wednesdays 6-7 p.m.

Tai Chi: Wednesdays 7-8 p.m.

The classes at Sokol Minnesota's C.S.P.S. Hall are continuous, so you can join at any time!
Fee: \$40/month. Family discounts are available.

What is Tai Chi?

Tai Chi is famous for its slow, meditative movements and health benefits, including reducing stress, increasing balance, and strengthening legs and core. This is an ideal class for adults and seniors.

What is Kung Fu?

Kung fu is a blanket term for martial arts originating in China. If you have seen movies starring Jacky Chan, Jet Li, Donnie Yen, or Michelle Yeoh, then you have seen kung fu. This is a more active class than Tai Chi, with more vigorous movements. The class is ideal for children (6 and up) and adults.

Who will be teaching?

John Allen, 5th degree black sash, master level, American Kung Fu. Sifu (master) Allen's interest in kung fu started in watching the television show in the 70's. He started classes in college, first in Tae Kwan Do, but later studied Ho Chin Po, Mitzon Lohan, and Yang style Tai Chi before joining American Kung Fu in December of 1999. Mr. Allen is a research scientist at Honeywell.

Lubos Mares, 1st degree black sash, instructor level, American Kung Fu. Mares started Karate when he was 12. It was only martial arts available in his home town of Milevsko, Czech Republic. After a couple of years, he started exploring different styles of martial arts including Ninjutsu, Kickboxing, Thai boxing, judo, and finally Kung Fu. Mr. Mares has been with American Kung Fu for over eight years. He has been a mechanical engineer at Promet Optics for 23 years.

Send questions on class dates and other questions to:
AmericanKungFuNorth@gmail.com

C.S.P.S. Hall Parking Lot and Lighting Upgrades

By Bob Kotek

The Sokol Minnesota Building and Property Trustees Committee has been busy this summer. It focused on replacing the C.S.P.S. Hall parking lot asphalt and upgrading the lighting of the parking lot and Hall exterior.



Resurfaced C.S.P.S. Hall parking lot and new striping.

Striping volunteers Dan Bednar, John Topic, and Dave Stepan.

Many thanks to our generous donors who made these projects possible!

Many volunteer hours have gone into these efforts, including those of Gary Novak and Dan Bednar leading the lighting project, with Dave Stepan, Dan Bednar, and John Topic marking and striping the new asphalt.



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

CZECH FEST

Friends of the
Bohemian Brick Hall

**** Music by ****
BAREFOOT BECKY
& the **IVANHOE DUTCHMEN**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

Hayward, MN Noon - 6 p.m.

17509 850th Ave (county road 30) Glenville, MN (1/2 Mile south of bohemian national cemetery)
Bake sale with kolache, Food, Beverages, Silent Auction, Czech Heritage display, Raffle, Kids games and Activites, Dance floor, FREE ADMISSION (bring a chair).
Full flyer and schedule: [f Bohemian Brick Hall](https://www.facebook.com/BohemianBrickHall) or Info: 507-383-1340

Highlights of the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors May 2023 Meeting

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors May 2023 meeting was called to order by President Cinnamon Whaley on May 18 at 7:04 p.m

Discussion:

Dave Stepan gave an update on the Dvořák Visit Anniversary Celebration (see the article on page 8).

Lucy Rose led discussion on the wheelchair donation.

Reports were given by the following:

Membership Director Steve Ernest: motion passed to approve new members (See the article on page 10).

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Joyce Tesarek: Cash management update; Gary White will be joining Sokol Minnesota and the finance committee; reminder that incorrectly composting incurs fees.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer: presented Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss statement.

Building and Trustee Committee Chair Bob Kotek: update on parking lot trees, C.S.P.S. sign, chimney, parking lot project, and beer fridge replacement. Replacement beer fridge funds approved.

Gaming Manager Ed Hamernik: update on new Falling Knife Brewery gaming site and the state charitable e-tabs bill. June 2023 Expense Budget and April 2023 Actual Expenditure were approved.

Board of Instructors Directors Mary Cahill and Jason Brozevich: gym classes are on summer break. Kung fu classes have started.

Educational Director Sally Lieberman: Language Class update, including lowering the minimum enrollment for next term from 6 to 4 for in-person classes. MSP International Film Festival update.

Correspondence: Joyce Tesarek delivered a vase of flowers to the Good Samaritan Church in Edina for Milan Sebek's funeral that was held May 13.

Activities Director Jeanie Draheim: All copy for the Fall Postcard is due by the end of June. The replacement dinners for the October Czech Roast Pork Dinner and January Roast Duck Dinner were discussed. Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek left a wonderful legacy of cooking for those dinners.

Rental Committee head Gary Zweber: the replacement chairs arrived; there is a storage issue because the racks do not hold as many as anticipated. Bookings are going well. Recommend using our china and linen for events, when possible, to reduce costs. Reminder that event staff are efficient and effective; Sokol Minnesota members and friends are encouraged to use their services.

Other Items:

Richard Sargent purchased and set up a new Dell laptop on the media cart. Multiple groups have already used it and appreciated the upgraded technology!

Updates from Fred Simon: a great Czech May Day was held on May 7 in Montgomery. Next Czech Heritage Club event: June 13, 7 p.m., Doris Coghill presents *Ghost Tales in Prague* in New Prague. 89th Annual Kolacky Days in Montgomery is July 28-30. The Czech Heritage Club is working on the cemetery/headstone cleaning project.

Website: Folks who head fundraising, fitness, rentals: please send Cinnamon updated pictures you would like used on the website, such as any photos from in-person classes or photos of the Hall through the years that can be used throughout the site?

Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera: 2024 Ministry of Foreign Affairs grant applications are due July 31, 2024. ASO grant requests are due April 1, 2024.

Joyce Tesarek: Motion passed to have the Finance Committee to meet with the Planning Committee regarding possible purchase of vacant neighbor property on West Michigan.

Highlights of the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors June 2023 meeting

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors June 2023 meeting was called to order by President Cinnamon Whaley on June 14 at 7:03 p.m.

Discussion:

Allison Gerber, Western District President, on the Zoom from Cedar Rapids, spoke about the 2026 ASO Convention, which will take place in Saint Paul.

Corresponding Secretary update: Bonnie Simon would like to fill the Corresponding Secretary position; motion approved.

Joyce Tesarek gave an update concerning the neighboring property.

Denise Stibal sent an update on the Dvořák Visit Anniversary Celebration September 17 event. All entertainment is booked. The committee is feeling good about the program and planning status!

Archival assistance proposal from Dr. Martin Nekola in the Czech Republic was discussed. Cinnamon will follow up via email.

Reports:

Membership Director Steve Ernest: No new members, one renewal.

Finance Report, Joyce Tesarek: FYI being created for ways to donate. Joyce will be sending everyone conflict of interest forms to sign and return to her.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer: Account balances presented.

Building and Trustee Committee Chair Bob Kotek update via email: parking lot repaving project status, C.S.P.S. Hall sign, door hardware replaced, reminder to lock interior doors, beer fridge replacement.

Gaming Chair Ed Hamernik: The expense budget for July 2023 and the actual operation summary for May were approved. Board approved transfer of \$5000 to the General Fund.

Board of Instructors Chairs Mary Cahill and Jason Brozevich: No Sokol Minnesota students are attending the 2023 National Instructor School. Equipment storage issues discussed. Updated gymnastics brochure and online registration coming for 2023-2024 season. Information is coming out about the 2024 *Slet* in Prague; Joan Sedlacek will be the contact person for the 2024 Prague *Slet* communication with ASO/Western District.

Exploring the possibility of having a Seniors Class for Sokol Minnesota members as a perk of membership.

Education Director Sally Lieberman: Update on Michael Trittipó's attendance at the Conference of Czech Schools in

continued on page 13

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 TOTAL: \$ 290

Under \$99: Becky Green.

\$100 - \$499: Janna Steidl.

GENERAL FUND TOTAL: \$ 340

In honor of **Marlene Hinshaw's 90th** birthday:

Under \$99: Chuck and Jean Draheim;

Don and Katie Haselbauer.

\$100 - \$499: Suzi Johnson and Debbie La Chapelle;

M.L. Kucera (to Sokol Minnesota Youth Link)

GRAND TOTAL: \$ 630

IN-KIND DONATIONS

For the Children's Cultural Day Camp:

Glynis Grostephan, Anne Jans, Doreen McKenney,

Linda Nicoli, and Louise Wessinger.

continued from page 12: **Highlights of June Meeting**

America in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. BOD members encouraged to attend conversation with Michael on Sunday, June 25, 2-3 p.m. Kristýna Horačková will teach language at Children's Cultural Day Camp. Social hour to meet her is June 20 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Hall.

Corresponding Secretary: Birthday cards were sent to Marlene Hinshaw and Lloyd Krocak for their significant birthdays. A Congratulations card was sent to Mary Cahill for being presented with the *Vojmir "Bud" Benak Outstanding Sokol Instructor Award* for 2023 at the Western District Gymnastic competition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on April 15, 2023. Sympathy cards were sent to Michaela (Míša) and Bob Kotek on the death of Míša's mother, and to Glynis and Dave Grostephan for the unexpected death of Glynis' older brother. High school graduation cards were sent to Adam Acs, Anna Bracknell, and Adela Bragg; all of them have been dance group members since they were 4 years old (see the article in the June/July *Slovo* on page 5).

Activities Director Jeannie Draheim update via email: Planning still needed for Member/Volunteer Picnic on Sunday, July 16. Reminder to send event information regarding events for the Fall Postcard.

Updates from Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera: The next Czech and Slovak Roundtable Minnesota is July 19. Renáta Tichá, president of Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, is host for the Zoom meeting.

Other Items:

Sally Liberman: idea to form an informal "Sokol Ambassadors" group of members who would enjoy introducing visitors to our area, taking them sightseeing, possibly even housing them or having them over for a meal. Sally will write a notice for an upcoming *Slovo*.

Website update: We're getting closer to launching our redesign, but pictures are needed to add to our new site. Please take a few minutes over the next week to forward Cinnamon photos of our unit doing the things we do!

Steve Ernest: Considerations/discussion needed for proposed edition of the international Sokol Run of the Republic on October 28. (See the ad in this issue on page 8 for more information.)

continued from page 7: **Parents Recommend Škola By Chad**

Saturdays during the school year have a routine that I have come to appreciate and enjoy. After breakfast at home, my wife Silvie and I and our children Lucas and Claire drive to Sokol Minnesota's C.S.P.S. Hall at West 7th Street and Michigan Avenue, with the high-rises of downtown St. Paul just beyond. We ride the elevator, skirt the main hall where kids are learning to dance and their parents are quietly talking and laughing, and take our last few steps up the stairs to a special world of Czech language, Czech culture, and shared Czech roots. We are again ready to participate in Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities.

At the beginning, when Claire and Lucas signed up for the Czech language classes, my intention was to go along and sit in just for the first few weeks; to see what the class was like and to help them get comfortable and settled. Those first few weeks were enough, though, to spark my interest. I was amazed by this group of students, seated around a table, speaking and reading and learning a language that I have heard many times but do not know. I was impressed by how some weeks we learned words and phrases that seemed sometimes random or without context. But then, a week or two later, we found ourselves working on a craft project, or in the kitchen making *kysané zelí* (sauerkraut) or turning our classroom into a kid-friendly *hospoda* (pub) that used these fun hands-on activities to bring together previous weeks of learning. So yes, I wanted to be there too, week after week and month after month. I wanted to learn new words, I wanted to hear interesting stories of past and present, and I wanted to taste all of those yummy Czech treats that seem to find their way to our classroom each week.

I am sure that Lucas and Claire will learn much more than me and at a much faster pace, and I am OK with that. Our family has started a journey together that shows us a wider world, a journey that has been interesting and fun. I will keep making that drive on Saturdays because I enjoy being there, and if I get a Mila bar at the end of class for doing a good job, well that just makes the journey a little bit sweeter.

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. The copy deadline for each issue is the first day of the prior month. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to slovo@sokolmn.org

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, Corresponding Secretary (open), Steve Ernest, Theresa Hudachek, M. L. Kucera, and Cinnamon Whaley. Photographer: Joyce Tesarek.

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

Mailing and email Lists: Penny and Tom Tesarek.

Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

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

Additional contributors to this issue: Courtney Benson, Jason Brozovich, Chad, Steve Ernest, Bob Kotek, Sally Lieberman, Lubos Mares, Doreen McKenney, Kari Muyres, Hana Pletichová, Jitka Sebek, Silvie, Denise Stibal, Joyce Tesarek, Pavlína Tesch, Louise Wessinger, Gwen Willems.

Additional photographs, ads, or illustrations in this issue (not already noted) provided by: Steve Ernest, Theresa Hudachek, Tim Kojetin, Joan Krikava, Sally Lieberman, Doreen McKenney, Kari Muyres, Jitka Sebek, Silvie, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger.

More information at www.sokolmn.org

Helga's Diary: A Young Girl's Account of Life in a Concentration Camp by Helga Weiss, translated by Neil Bermel. W. W. Norton & Company: New York, first English edition 2023, 208 pages. Available at libraries and bookstores.

Helga's Diary: A Young Girl's Account of Life in a Concentration Camp is a collection of entries made in two notebooks and numerous loose-leaf papers by a courageous young Czechoslovakian girl. Her detailed essays and drawings take the reader from 1938, when she was an almost-nine-year-old Jewish schoolgirl in Prague dealing with an increasingly restricted life, to the age of fourteen when she was sent from the internment camp at Terezín to the concentration camp at Auschwitz.

Transports were announced, and Helga described packing in 1941 according to the precise rules given by the Nazis. Jews were led to believe that, "We are supposedly off to a new land to avoid persecution, so that we can start a new life. We will be taken care of, things will go well for us. We may be thankful that we are among the first and can help to build the ghetto and prepare it for the others who will soon follow us."



Arrival at Terezín (1942). Illustration by Helga Weiss.

Of course, Terezín was not like they expected. One morning early in her days at Terezín, they were told to close the windows. Some peeked out and saw nine young men about to be executed for sending news to their mothers. "I can't even write, my hand is trembling so much just from thinking about it," Helga put in her diary. "If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I would not have believed that today, in the twentieth century, something like this could happen." Despite the horrors of Terezín, Helga had school, books, plays, and concerts.

Helga's endurance was remarkable. She was one of only 100 survivors among the 15,000 children at Terezín who were deported to Auschwitz. Her diaries survived thanks to her uncle, who worked in the Terezín records department. He hid her writings and drawings and other documents by

bricking them into a wall before she was sent to Auschwitz in 1944. Helga's uncle returned to Terezín and recovered the diary after their release in 1945.

Despite the Nazi cruelty she endured—forced labor, starvation, cold, sickness, frostbite, and cramped and filthy living conditions—she remained remarkably optimistic. In October 1941, before deportation, she wrote about walking with a friend in Prague: "We talk gaily and laugh loudly. Let the Germans see that we're not bothered. We deliberately put on cheerful faces and make ourselves laugh. Deliberately, to make them angry." This optimism seems innate, but later was probably aided by the security of being with her mother in the camps. She held out hope for her father, not knowing he had died, probably gassed.

From Terezín, Helga was sent to Auschwitz, Freiburg, and Mauthausen. At Freiburg, she helped manufacture planes for the German air force. As Russian troops approached Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945, the Nazis acted chaotically, sending prisoners including Helga and her mother on train rides and marches. The Germans planned to kill the prisoners but did not follow through. Life in camps and on marches weakened and confused Helga, who was almost ready to give up. She wrote, "I never knew how much I loved this world. How much of it have I experienced? Fifteen years; of those, three and a half in the camp. And now, when I've made so many plans, now, when my life can really begin..." She thought that even if the war ended soon, she would not survive.

Helga and her mother returned as free people to Prague from Mauthausen in May 1945. They found their apartment occupied by a German man, who quickly fled. Helga and her mother got the apartment back that summer, when they were in a convalescent center. They lived in the apartment through the Russian occupation and cold war. It was also there that Helga later lived with the musician she married when she was in art school and raised two children who became musicians.

A fascinating 2011 interview with Helga is included. In it, she explains how she revised and expanded parts of her diary. The drawback is the reader does not know exactly which writing is original and which revised or added. In any case, it does not diminish my belief that Helga was a remarkable and precocious child.

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 Czechia.

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

Join Literary Ventures for the discussion of *Caravans in the Dark* by B. K. Oldre at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 30.

Czech Honorary Consul News

August 2023

Schubert Club Mix presented *Writing My Way into Music* by Patricia Hampl with Ema Katrovas, soprano, and Dan Chouinard, piano and accordion, May 16, to a sold-out audience at Summit Brewery Company's Beer Hall in Saint Paul. Hampl revisited her lifelong passion for Czech music with works by Dvořák, Janáček, and others. (L-R) Bea Flamming, Dan Chouinard, Ema Katrovas, Patricia Hampl, Tricia Mestenhauer Bergh, M.L. Kucera.



Photo by Bryan Bergh



Sokol Member Ed Hamernik's (left) first cousin/thrice removed, Vašek Hamernik (middle) from Jitko, Czech Republic, along with Ed's daughter Marcia Oltrogge from Colorado Springs, visited Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and the office of the Czech Honorary Consul, M.L. Kucera (right), on June 14. 15-year-old Vašek was impressed with the vibrancy of Sokol Minnesota. Ed and Vašek's great-grandfather were first cousins. Photo by Marcia Oltrogge

The campers from the 25th Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural



Day Camp at C.S.P.S. Hall, June 19 to 23, visited the office of the Czech Honorary Consul on Thursday, June 22. They learned about the duties of the Czech honorary consul. Accompanying the campers in the back row left were Ellaina Novak, 2023-2024 Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota, and Alenka Jans, Pageant Junior Ambassador (and also a camp junior leader). Photo by Anne Jans



At ROMP Around the World, May 19, at the Upper Mississippi Academy (UMA), a public charter school in Saint Paul, eighth-grader Elsa Meier researched the Czech Republic, the country of her paternal ancestors. She created the poster with maps, time-line, and graphs. Her display also included favorite candies from the Czech Republic. (See ROMP article, page 10.)

One of many coincidental stories from that day was finding the perfect beehive picture for the 25th annual Sokol Culture Camp Cookbook compiled by Doreen McKenney. On the wall outside the room, which was the home-for-the-day of the

International Marketplace, was a spring paper collage that included a beehive. Sandy Saline, one of the Marketplace liaisons, asked other teachers and found out that it was Elsa's artwork. Elsa gave permission to use it with the *No Bake Beehive Cookies* (2017). As Honorary Consul, I want to commend both our UMA liaisons, Sandy and also Andreas Jurewitsch, and the UMA principal, JoEllen Park, for the support they provided all afternoon for the four markets (Czech, French, Native American, and Scandinavian) in room 1107 at the Academy. Photos by M. L. Kucera

<p>No Bake Beehive Cookies (2017)</p> <p>Cookie dough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 c. almonds or vanilla wafers, finely ground 1 c. vanilla wafers, finely ground 1-½ c. confectioners' sugar 2 Tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder ½ c. butter, softened ¾ Tbsp. fruit juice <p>Cookie filling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 c. confectioners' sugar 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter, softened 1 to 1-½ Tbsp. fruit juice <p>Cookie assembly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 c. confectioners' sugar or cocoa 36 whole vanilla wafer cookies 	
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--



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 136th year in 2023.

Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-232-2993 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



383 Michigan Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

651-290-0542



For Sokol's Latest News!

Join the E-blast List

Send your email address to publicity@sokolmn.org

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

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* August 2023

Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Sunday, August 13, Noon-5 p.m. 19201 Woodland Acres South, Pine City, Minnesota

93rd Annual Booya Picnic at the historic Sokol Camp

Food and beverages from Noon – 4 p.m.

Bingo and raffle conclude at 5 p.m.

Mark your calendar!



Happy volunteers ready to ride the Sokol Camp float to advertise the Booya Picnic in the Pine County parade. Check the slogans on the back of the t-shirts!

SOKOL VOLUNTEERS

Help with set-up, tear down, serving food and beverages, tending to the kids' games and bingo tables.

Call Kari or Scott 763-226-0313 or skdlmuyres@yahoo.com

Come for the great food, entertainment, and the enjoyment of Sokol Camp with family and friends. We feature homemade piping-hot booya, cabbage rolls, meatloaf, and a variety of Czech favorites, including koláče. Try your luck at live bingo, pull tabs, or raffle games. There are kids' games for the young ones, as well.

Live musical entertainment by Dave Carlson begins at 12:30

The Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers will perform at 3 p.m.

Answers to the Booya Picnic Trivia questions in the June/July *Slovo* are 1) not in Booya : red onions. 2) first held in 1926. 3) 130 gallons of Booya . 4) qualifications to be a volunteer: always have fun.