



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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April Slovo articles  
due March 1

Friendly Friday  
Evenings Social  
Friday, March 10

Flavors of Slovakia  
Dinner  
Sunday, March 12  
(info adjacent)

Czech and Slovak  
Language Classes  
for Adults  
Classes begin the week  
of March 20  
(See page 5)

Spring Pancake  
Breakfast, Craft and  
Koláče Sale  
Sunday, April 2  
(info adjacent)

Sokol Minnesota  
Singers  
First and third Tuesdays  
10 a.m.-noon  
(See page 6)

Sokol Gift Shop  
Visit during Sokol events  
or by appointment

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



## SPECIAL NOTICE

### Flavors of Slovakia Dinner offered curbside ONLY



Sunday, March 12 20  
23

Curbside parking lot pick-up  
from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$25. per person  
C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul

### RESERVE

Prepaid curbside dinners must be received  
by Thursday, March 9

Prepay: credit/debit card or PayPal at [www.sokolmn.org/cc/](http://www.sokolmn.org/cc/)  
If paying by check at curbside pick-up call/text 952-941-0426 to reserve.

### MENU

Cabbage roll (*plněná kapusta*) dilled green beans (*kóprová zelená fazuška*), dumplings w/cabbage (*halušky s kapustou*),  
pickled beets (*nakladaná repa*), filled dumplings (*pirohy*), caraway rye bread (*rascový ražný chleba*), and dessert.

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

## Spring Pancake Breakfast Craft and Koláče Bake Sale

Sunday, April 2 20  
23  
9 - 1 p.m.

\$10 Adult; \$6 child under 9; \$30/family of 4  
No reservations needed.



### Ordering koláče

Apricot, cream cheese, poppy, prune, or raspberry koláč \$1.50 each  
Prepaid koláče orders must be received by Wednesday, March 29  
Prepay: credit/debit card or PayPal at [www.sokolmn.org/cc/](http://www.sokolmn.org/cc/)  
If prepaying your koláč order by check through the mail,  
or to reserve vendor space, call/text: 651-210-0401

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota • C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan St., St. Paul

## **Komentáře prezidentky a členů rady Sokol Minnesota** **Comments from the President and Vice President**

*In 2023, please look to page 2, not only for my (Cinnamon Whaley) President's Notes, but also for notes from members of our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota boards and committees. There are many hard-working members behind the scenes (many more than we can feature) who deserve recognition and the opportunity to share with our membership about themselves and their Sokol Minnesota involvement.*



Lucy  
Brudnak Rose

**Greetings fellow Sokol Minnesota members!** As the new vice president of Sokol Minnesota, I (Lucy Brudnak Rose) am happy to have this opportunity to introduce myself to you and tell you a little bit about my involvement with our organization. I thank Sokol Minnesota President Cinnamon Whaley for the opportunity to use this month's President's Notes section of the *Slovo* to reach out to all of you.

I am a relatively new member of Sokol Minnesota. I have been active in folk dancing for about twenty years, but for most of that time I was learning English, Irish, and Scottish folk dances. After watching the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers perform at the Sokol Minnesota Czech & Slovak Festival in 2018, I was eager to join the group and try my hand at those dances as well. I joined the Folk Dancers in late 2018 and I became a member of Sokol Minnesota shortly thereafter in 2019. Learning the traditional dances and music of our Czech and Slovak heritage has been a wonderful entry point for me into Sokol Minnesota, and I am so thankful to our dance director Louise Wessinger for her dedication to the adult and children's dance groups. My daughter Sylvie echoes this sentiment, as she previously enjoyed dancing with the younger children's *Taneční Mládež* group and has now moved into the *Taneční* Teens group. I try my best to help Louise with the teen dance group on Saturday mornings. It is wonderful to see so many young people express an interest in learning Czech and Slovak group dances.

In addition to dancing, two of my other favorite hobbies are gardening and homebrewing. As with dancing, my involvement with Sokol Minnesota has created opportunities to celebrate our shared Czech and Slovak heritage through these hobbies. Last summer, fellow Sokol Minnesota members Dave Stepan and Rick Palma helped me clear out an area along the western side of our C.S.P.S. Hall. We planted three Saaz hops vines. This variety of Czech hops is used in the brewing of Czech pilsner. Rick and Dave did a wonderful job installing the trellises that will support the vines as they grow a little higher each year up the side of the Hall. Although the plants are still young, I look forward to one day offering a homebrewing class to interested Sokol Minnesota members, in which we can use our own homegrown Saaz hops to brew a delicious Czech pilsner together!

Last year I also enjoyed tending to the flowers in the window planters and the small flower garden along the western side of the Hall. As soon as the snow melts this year and the soil has thawed just enough, I will be back at the Hall turning over the soil and sowing the seeds for a flower garden that I hope will highlight even more of our Czech and Slovak heritage. I have ordered bachelor's button, cosmos, daisy, calendula, and coneflower. But the two flowers I am most excited about are the Blue Breadseed Poppy and the Elka White Poppy, which originates from Chrenovec, Slovakia. Poppies have a strong connection to Czech and Slovak culture, especially baking. I remember eating slices of homemade poppy seed roll as a child and poppy seed *koláč* are one of my favorite varieties (although I will never turn down any flavor of *koláč*).

I hope we are graced with an early spring in Minnesota this year because I am eager to sow the flower seeds, plant fresh flowers in the window boxes, and watch the Saaz hops vines wind their way ever upward. I hope when you visit our Hall for the many events we have planned this year, you will find yourself surrounded by colorful flowers, thriving hops vines, and good friends. I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months and years and hearing about what Sokol Minnesota means to you and what you would like to see from our organization moving forward. *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](http://www.sokolmn.org) or [www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](https://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)



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

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#### **Vice President**

Lucy Brudnak Rose

#### **Recording Secretary**

Theresa Hudachek

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

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Ed Hamernik, Chair

Telephone: 651-290-0542

Past issues of *Slovo* and  
Hall Calendar of Events:  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)



# Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner

By Doreen McKenney

January once was the month that Sokol Minnesota cooks hosted an annual *Jitnice* Dinner. The cooks made the sausages themselves in their own living room (back when that was OK). The dinner, while initially very popular, was discontinued, leaving the month open to the possibility of a new dinner.

The Annual Roast Duck Dinner, co-chaired by Joan Sedlacek and myself, came about after Joan attended a hospitality show featuring a variety of vendors, including a local duck distributor. Thinking that serving duck would be a nice dinner to replace the *Jitnice* Dinner, Joan approached me with her idea.

First, we had to ask the senior Sokol Minnesota cooks if they would consider letting the two of us plan and cook the dinner. Hesitant, and skeptical at first of our capabilities, they finally give us the go-ahead.

We made our own potato dumplings, sweet and sour red cabbage, and lemon poppy seed cakes after trying several recipes. We purchased the ducks from a commercial distributor and ordered caraway rye bread from Sokol Minnesota's go-to bakery, Cecil's in Saint Paul.

We knew the dinner would be a risk because we were not sure whether people would attend, not because of the menu, or that it would be in the evening, but because the price of duck was spendy and we would have to charge a lot more than the other Sokol Minnesota dinner fundraisers. But members and friends came, and the first year was a sell out at 144 ducks. We learned that first year that we did not have the oven space at that time to cook that many ducks for one seating. For the next year, we limited the reservations and moved the time to five p.m. to attract theatre and concert goers to have dinner with us before a performance.



Over the twenty years, we had more than a few mishaps that stand out. During the first year, the building's heat went out and everyone wore coats as they ate. Other challenges that stand out include no hot water at a dinner, a table collapsing in the middle of serving, discovering that ducks could not touch each other while cooking because their skins would stick together, several nights with heavy snowfall, an emergency room visit after one dinner, a few scars from 500° oven racks, a bad weather year for cabbage, and a burnt gravy incident.

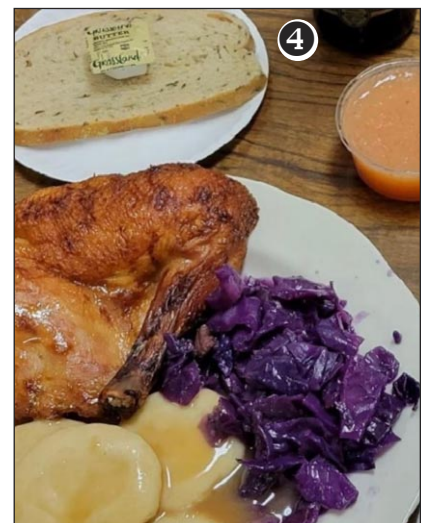
The Roast Duck Dinner was never interrupted by COVID because we pivoted, just like the other Sokol Minnesota dinners, by offering curbside pickup. This year we served 51 curbside/takeout dinners and 55 sit-down dinners.

Seniors ourselves now, and after a great twenty-year run, Joan and I decided this would be our last candlelight Roast Duck Dinner as co-chairs and cooks. Joan says she "wants to focus on being old," but will continue serving as the American Sokol (ASO) Western District Educational Director, as well as on the ASO Executive Board, ASO Educational Committee,

and ASO Library board, and will soon learn the calisthenic drill for the 2024 *Slet* in Prague. As for me, planning for the *Flavors of Slovakia Dinner* is already under way, I will continue co-chairing Sokol Minnesota's Children's Cultural Day Camp, and I will spend more time as an advisor with the Sokol Minnesota Youth Link.

Many thanks to this year's volunteers: Denisa Acs, Dennis Cahill, Roger Green, Katie and Don Haselbauer, Theresa Hudachek, Jyni Koschak, M.L. Kucera, Lucy Rose, Richard Sargent, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, and SMYL (Sokol Minnesota Youth Link) teens Adam, Savanna, and Silvie.

1. Florence Haselbauer and Clarence Fishbach using a casing machine to make *jitnice*.
2. Tillie and Joe Dolejsi in their living room surrounded by *jitnice*.
3. Dumplings for the Roast Duck Dinner ready for boiling.
4. Roast Duck Dinner plate close-up.





## Sokol Minnesota Youth Link Teens Make Valentines for Vets By Leo Krikava

At Sokol Minnesota C.S.P.S. Hall on January 19, 2023, Sokol Minnesota Youth Link teens and adult volunteers designed, created, and handmade Valentines for Veterans. In all, we created 35 unique valentines. It was a very cold day outside, but getting together and making the cards felt like the right thing to do for the people who sacrificed so much for our country.

That afternoon we had pizza and treats. As Adam walked out, he said "this was fun!" The valentines were delivered to the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and were well-received.



Volunteers were Adam, Juna, and myself, joined by Advisor Glynis Grostephan, Emily Krikava, Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera, and Advisor Doreen McKenney. Special thanks to Glynis for donating the art supplies and pizza, and to Louise Wessinger for donating some delicious cookies!



Above: Adam, Juna, Emily Krikava, Leo, M. L. Kucera, and Glynis Grostephan.

Not shown: Doreen McKenney (photographer).

Left: The completed Valentines for Vets.

## Building Relationships While Studying Czech By Kelly Meyer

I began taking Czech language lessons at Sokol Minnesota in the fall of 2021 and I have been studying Czech through Duolingo for 738 consecutive days. I am a recent Sokol Minnesota member and I am an Education Committee member. In January, I traveled to Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, for a symposium entitled *Improving Teaching and Learning Together: Sharing Educational Initiatives and Student Experiences*. Through my work as a partnerships coordinator in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota, I focus on the importance of partnering with schools in preparing new teachers. At the symposium, I presented a session on the importance of relationships.



Lenka Nosková, Kelly Meyer, and Jana Odevzdaná in Olomouc.

During my time in Olomouc, I was able to visit with my Advanced Beginning Czech teachers, Lenka Nosková and Jana Odevzdaná from Palacký University (See the December/January *Slovo* Language Program News on page 7).

In Olomouc and Prague, I used the Czech language to greet hotel clerks, order *smažený sýr* (fried cheese) at Lokál, and talk with a local hiking guide. I enjoyed answering the often-asked question, "You are an American. Why are

you learning Czech?" I responded "because I wanted to learn something new that was a challenge" and that was always enough to bring forth a smile. The more complete reason is that, while having to take a break from my usual sports activities in 2021, I chose to learn the language of a country that I had planned to visit some day, the Czech Republic.

I do not have family history there and I did not know anyone from there. But I have fallen in love with the language, culture, and people and I have now been to Czechia twice.

### Czech and Slovak Language Classes for Adults

From Educational Director Sally Lieberman  
**Adult Language Class spring trimester registration opens March 1.**

**Classes begin the week of March 20 and end the week of May 22.**

We offer Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Czech, and Beginning Slovak.

All classes meet online via Zoom.

Visit the website for the schedule and registration form:

[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

Questions? Email: [education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org)

## Czech Family Tradition of Music By Pam Langworthy

Love of music, a Czech tradition, is often passed down through generations of Czech families. This is true for myself and my family. My partner, Richard Sargent, and I are members of Sokol Minnesota, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, and the Sokol Minnesota Singers.

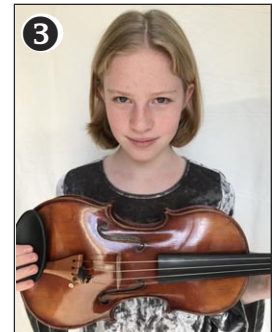
My daughter, Jocelyn, a clarinetist, and son-in-law, Georg, principal clarinetist, perform with the Toledo Symphony.

My oldest granddaughter, Annabel, here in the Twin Cities, is not only a violinist, but also is becoming a luthier. She made



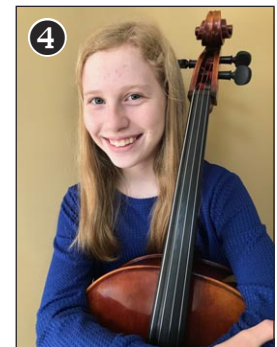
the violin which she plays and is working on her second viola. Annabel's dad, Nate, is working on his third violin and Annabel's mom, Jennifer, has played violin and piano. Ben, Annabel's brother, plays drums in the school jazz band.

My 14-year-old granddaughter, Freya, is an accomplished violinist. She was featured in the January 20 Toledo, Ohio, ABC news segment *Feel Good Friday* announcing that Freya would be performing *Spring* from Vivaldi's Four Seasons with the Firelands Symphony Orchestra in Huron, Ohio on February 4. Here is the link to the two-minute segment: [www.13abc.com/2023/01/21/feel-good-friday-local-violin-soloist-takes-bow/](http://www.13abc.com/2023/01/21/feel-good-friday-local-violin-soloist-takes-bow/) Last year Freya performed the *Kabelevsky Violin Concerto Op. 48, 1st Movement* with the Toledo Symphony. Freya has stated that it is fun for her to share her love of music with others by playing the violin.



My granddaughter, Elsa, is an accomplished pianist and cellist. Elsa and Freya are twins. Elsa performed Saint-Saëns' *The Swan* on cello last year in a ballet program.

Freya began playing the violin at age three and practices two hours a day on the weekends. Practice for Freya and Elsa on school days is about 45 minutes, as both run cross country and track at their high school.



We delight in family gatherings at our home. Jocelyn and Georg play clarinet. The grandchildren always perform their current pieces, and Georg regularly accompanies the girls on piano. Elsa leads the singing of carols at Christmas from the piano. Often the girls play together, but we haven't figured out how to include Ben on the drums with two violins and a cello. This year our program included a video that Ben created of himself playing the drums, which we all watched on the big screen TV.

We are very proud of Freya for performing "the music in her soul, and in her genes," just as we are proud of each of the musicians in our family. We look forward to continuing to share our family's Czech heritage in our love of music.

1. Annabel playing violin. 2. Ben playing drums. 3. Freya with violin. 4. Elsa with cello.

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## 25th Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp, June 19-23

By Louise Wessinger and Doreen McKenney

Sokol Minnesota's 25th Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp will take place at the C.S.P.S. Hall from Monday, June 19, to Friday, June 23, 2023. The camp theme this year is *Celebrating 25 Years of Camp Favorites*. Small groups will make ethnic foods, have Czech language lessons, create wonderful crafts, and enjoy learning gymnastics, dancing, and singing. We also will have many small group choice activities and large group activities in the afternoons, including special guests and large group presentations. Because this is a year of celebration, we have gone through past years' activities and chosen favorites to include in this year's programs. We also will have special activities to celebrate this milestone year.



The camp is for children ages 6 to 14 years old. Campers arrive by 8:30 a.m. and are picked up at 3:30 p.m.

Be sure to register by May 1, 2023 to qualify for the Early-bird discount. All camp registration materials must be received by June 1, 2023. Our culture camp has always 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 teen volunteers are a key part of camp. They use their talents to lead or help with crafts, cooking, music, and other responsibilities. Teen volunteer junior leaders will receive service hours; only eight will be selected.

See the ad on page 12 for registration information.



## Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members By Steve Ernest

Nine new members were accepted at the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors October, 2022 meeting.

**Gibson Batch** of Saint Paul is a member of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers and has additional interests in adult calisthenics, the literature group, films and theater, music and dance, language classes, and cooking classes.

**Zuzana Bracknell** of Minneapolis, a returning member, with interest in youth dance.

**Diane Halvorson** of Brooklyn Park, with interests in event setup, cooking classes, and crafting classes.

**Leslie Kobza** of White Bear Lake, with interests in films and theater, being involved with events setup, kitchen work, serving, and cleanup, and in building upkeep, cooking classes, crafting classes, and the bike group.

**Kelly Meyer** of Minneapolis, with interests in language classes and the bike group.

**Frank Milnar** of Saint Paul.

**Rick and Kris Palma** with a new couple membership. Rick has been a long-time individual member who is very active with building upkeep and improvements. He is a member of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.

**Ryan Pulkrabek** of Minneapolis, a returning member, with interests in films and theater, staffing booths at events, and the bike group.

**Claire Wickiser** of Saint Paul, a new adult member. Claire has been a youth member since 2003 and has interests in youth gymnastics and the Children's Cultural Day Camp.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

## Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics Classes

Looking for a fun way  
for your child to be active  
while increasing strength,  
flexibility, and coordination?

If so, check out  
Sokol Minnesota gymnastics!

We offer classes for boys and girls  
from 4 to 18 years of age;  
no experience is required.

For more information,  
visit our Sokol Minnesota website:  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

and/or contact  
Courtney or Jason at [fitness@sokolmn.org](mailto:fitness@sokolmn.org)

## Renew your Sokol Minnesota Membership!

By Steve Ernest

Thank you, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota members, for being part of our community! Your membership dollars not only support our activities and the maintenance of our historic C.S.P.S. Hall, but also connect us with the national and international Sokol programs. Your participation in our events and activities, in person or in spirit, is invaluable. We are looking forward to another exciting year in 2023!

Sokol Minnesota Membership renewal/update letters were sent in December for the 2023 calendar year. Please contact us at [membership@sokolmn.org](mailto:membership@sokolmn.org) or the address below if you did not receive yours.

If you have not yet renewed for 2023, please do so now to stay connected to all our activities and events and to keep receiving the *Slovo* newsletter.

Regular membership rates are \$60 for one person, \$100 for a couple/two adults at the same address. Senior membership rates are \$50 for one person, \$90 for a couple/two seniors at the same address. (Seniors are individuals who are 65 and older.)

You may renew your membership in one of two ways. The first way to renew is online, where you can both update your contact information and pay your dues via PayPal. To renew online, go to [sokolmn.org/membership](http://sokolmn.org/membership). The second way to renew is by mail. Send a check made out to "Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota" to this address:  
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota  
4716 17th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

Again, members, thanks for all you do for 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](mailto:giftshop@sokolmn.org)  
and a volunteer will schedule an appointment with you if you cannot make one of the above events.

The shop's latest items for sale are decks of *mariáš* double-headed playing cards.





Ryan Pulkrabek with new Pivo Riverplace sign

## Pivo Riverplace Opens By John Topic

A new era dawned for Czech beer in the Twin Cities on February 1 with the opening of the Pivo Riverplace with restaurant and taproom ([pivoriverplace.com](http://pivoriverplace.com)).

In September, Ryan Pulkrabek, the co-owner and a Sokol Minnesota member, purchased the establishment formerly known as Wilde Cafe and Spirits at 65 Southeast Main Street in Minneapolis.

Ryan brings personal knowledge to this new endeavor. He grew up in Crookston, not far from Tabor, Minnesota. In the early 90's, he lived in Tanvald in the Czech Republic, taught English for a year, and sampled varieties of Czech beer.

In mid-afternoon on February 1, a fellow researcher and I made an unscheduled visit to Pivo Riverplace to get a firsthand experience. The staff is welcoming and engaging, and

the ambiance is cozy, comfortable, and charming, with an appealing vista of the park along the Mississippi River and downtown Minneapolis. The decor features attractive prints by Alphonse Mucha, the Czech Art Nouveau master. Ryan graciously met with us and noted the beer selections highlight pilsners. I had the Utepil Pils from a Minneapolis brewery. It was quite good and I'm not easily pleased. My compatriot enjoyed his classic Pilsner Urquell. Overall, a lovely environment to savor a tasty pilsner, and just a block from The Main Cinema. All the best to Pivo Riverplace!



The Pivo Riverplace décor features Alphonse Mucha prints



### Join the E-blast List

Receive emails with all of Sokol's Latest News!

Send your email address to [publicity@sokolmn.org](mailto:publicity@sokolmn.org)

## Friendly Friday Evenings Continue!

Come join the fun at the C.S.P.S. Hall on second Fridays of the month at 7 p.m.

Mark your calendar to attend the next Friendly Friday Evening on March 10 at 7 p.m.

The Hall is open for members and friends to gather, visit, and enjoy snacks and games. A group is learning *mariáš*, a Czech card game (similar to pinochle but with fun Czech cards). Beginners are welcome. Join us and bring some friends to learn the game, or bring a favorite game.

## 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

**Under \$99:** Geneva Adams, Libuse Imbrone (in memory of Mary Jo Clebecek), Darla Kolb,

Doreen McKenney (in memory of Mary Jo Chlebecek), Mike and Cheryl Theuninck, Richard Verner, Louise Wessinger.

**\$100 - \$499:** Roger and Nancy Green, Vince Jirik, Robert Kostichka, M. L. Kucera (in memory of Mary Jo Chlebecek), Pamela Langworthy, Sally and Jay Lieberman, Silvie and Chad Nemes, Lucy and Stephen Rose, Richard Sargent, Michael and Jitka Sebek, Fred Simon, Tom and Penny Tesarek (in memory of Norm Petrik), Rose Vesely.

**\$500 - \$999:** Tom Aubrecht, Lillian Bednar, Cynthia Coulter.

### GENERAL FUND

**Under \$99:** Pat Andrl, Diane Bell (in memory of Mary Jo Chlebecek), Geraldine Dooley.

### TOTALS

Legacy Fund	\$ 3,760
General Fund	\$ 175
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,935</b>

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Volunteer Opportunities

- ★ Sokol Minnesota is looking to redesign our website, [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org), to take it to the next level and rebuild it with new technology, while emphasizing ease of both making content updates and doing maintenance. If you are a professional web developer / designer working in Wordpress and are looking for a volunteer opportunity, please reach out to [finance@sokolmn.org](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org) to apply.
- ★ Do you want to serve on the Board of Directors as Corresponding Secretary? The position acknowledges donations, reports donation activity in the *Slovo* newsletter, and works with the Sunshine Committee. To apply, contact: [finance@sokolmn.org](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org)
- ★ Do you want to help serve the Flavors of Slovakia Dinner on March 12? Contact: [activities@sokolmn.org](mailto:activities@sokolmn.org)
- ★ Do you want to help oversee our charitable gaming through quarterly meetings? Contact the Gaming Committee: [gaming@sokolmn.org](mailto:gaming@sokolmn.org)



## MEMBER NEWS



### Milan Sebek Obituary

Milan Sebek, age 92, was born May, 1930 in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and passed away peacefully in his sleep in Bloomington on January 13, 2023. Milan resided most of his life in Minneapolis and Edina with his wife and two children.

Milan was educated first in Czechoslovakia with an engineering degree. He grew up loving outdoor activities, including Boy Scouts camping and especially winter skiing. He escaped to West Berlin via East Berlin in 1950 and received an additional degree in Economics

from Illinois Wesleyan University after arriving in the United States.

Milan was an active member in the Ullr Ski Club, where he met his wife, Joanne Johnson, of Saint Paul; they were married for over 40 years. The ski club friendships and love for the sport of skiing lasted the rest of his life.

Milan enjoyed travel for business and pleasure, creating memories for his wife and family. He valued tradition and ceremony for family gatherings, family history study with his brother, financial education and planning, history and politics, and a good Sunday football game.

The Černín Palace Award for promoting and leading positive Czech-American relations was presented to him in 2009 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. His nomination cited leadership in the development of the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, as well as membership in Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota since 1999. Additionally, the award noted his leadership and presentations representing the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU), determined to counter communism influence in Czechoslovakia.

Milan is survived by his brother, Dr. Vlastimil Šebek, and nephew Jan Šebek of Pardubice, Czech Republic, and Milan's children Michael (Jitka) with grandchildren Thomas and Sally Sebek, and daughter Minna (Patrick) with granddaughters Meghan Gallagher, Kate (Axel) Torbenson, and Anne Gallagher.

For Milan's full obituary, see [www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000448031/?fullname=milan-ladislav-sebek#8](http://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000448031/?fullname=milan-ladislav-sebek#8)

## Mary Jo Chlebecek



Mary Jo Chlebecek, age 87, of Hugo (formerly of Bloomington), passed away peacefully January 21, 2023, after a long and wonderful life. Her loving kindness to all she met will be sorely missed.

A lifelong Sokol Minnesota member along with her husband Jim, she was active in all facets of Sokol. Starting as a gymnastics instructor, she was a Minnesota Sokol Camp counselor, and a *koláče* and dumpling maker for Sokol events. Mary Jo and Jim were early members of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Later in life, they were enthusiastic members of the Sokol Minnesota Singers.

Survived by her husband of 66 years, James; children, Jim (Erin) and Jodi (Brian); six grandchildren, one great-granddaughter; as well as extended family and friends.

Mary Jo's obituary will be in the April *Slovo*.

## 93rd Annual Minnesota Sokol Camp Booya Picnic on August 13



Sokol Minnesota brothers and sisters and friends, it's not too early to plan for upcoming summer events! Please mark your calendars now for the 93rd annual Minnesota Sokol Camp Booya Picnic on Sunday, August 13, 2023. There are plenty of opportunities to enjoy a beautiful day or weekend up at the camp, including fellowship with others in volunteer positions. We are always in need of volunteers for set-up, food/beverage serving, and tear-down and clean-up.

### Mark your calendar!

What: **93rd Annual Minnesota Sokol Camp Booya Picnic**

When: **Sunday, August 13, 2023, noon-5 p.m.**,  
food and beverage service ends at 4 p.m.

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

Why: To participate in Sokol Minnesota fellowship. Profits help maintain the Sokol Camp's buildings for recreational use and fellowship for all our members!

**Please contact Kari or Scott Muyres at 763-226-0313 if interested, text preferred.**

Waylon and Samuel taking a break from cleaning the booya serving hut for the 2022 picnic.



*How Little Mole Got His Trousers* by Zdeněk Miler.  
Albatros: Prague, 2012 and earlier, 64 pages.  
Available at libraries and bookstores.

The Little Mole, Krtek in Czech, is a favorite cartoon character in Czech lands. Krtek was created by artist and writer Zdeněk Miler in 1956 after being directed by the Communist Party bosses to make a children's story of how flax is produced. The colorful, short animation, *How Little Mole Got His Trousers*, begins with Krtek popping out of his mole hill. He proceeds to work with other animals to make trousers: they grow flax, a frog helps him to drench it, a stork breaks it, a hedgehog combs it, spiders weave it into cloth, a crab cuts it, and a bird sews the pieces into a pair of trousers. Thanks to Little Mole's creative ideas, persistence, and friendliness, he gains friends and achieves his goals, themes that run through all his later stories. The first Krtek film premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 1957, was awarded two Golden Lions, and became a popular hit.

"When I draw Krtek," said Miler (*New York Times*, December 2, 2011), "I am drawing myself. What I mean is that Krtek is the ideal that should be me, but I can't meet that ideal."

Miler was born in 1921 in Kladno. He joined the national graphic school in Prague in 1942 and graduated from the College of Arts and Crafts in Prague. In 1948, Miler started work at the cartoon studio Bat'a in Zlín, where he learned film production skills. After World War Two, he worked at the cartoon company Bratři v triku, beginning as a draftsman and working his way up to head of the company. With Eduard Hofman, Jiří Trnka, and Josef Kábrt, he was part of the Golden Age of Animation (1945-1989). Miler died at the age of 90 and was interred in Prague's Vyšehrad Cemetery.

Krtek came about when Miler was working at Bratři v triku. He found the communist-assigned subject—how trousers were made—boring. Miler was heavily influenced by Walt Disney, but wanted to use an animal and not do anything too similar to Disney characters at a time when Mickey Mouse was banned by the communists. Walking one night, he tripped over a mole's burrow. That inspired him to create the red-nosed, big-eyed mole who was cheerful and gentle.

More than seventy Krtek films were made, many of which are available on YouTube, which you can search for "Little Mole." The first film was narrated, but Miler wanted an international audience, so decided to use his two daughters as voice actors, reducing the dialog to short exclamations, interjections, and peals of laughter that relayed Krtek's thoughts and feelings. Miler's daughters also became his first testers, letting him know whether messages in the films were getting through to children. From 1974-1994, most Little Mole cartoons were enhanced with beautiful

music by Czech composer Vadim Petrov.

Miler's films became popular in more than eighty countries. Five million copies of Little Mole books, translated into twenty languages, sold, along with other Little Mole products.

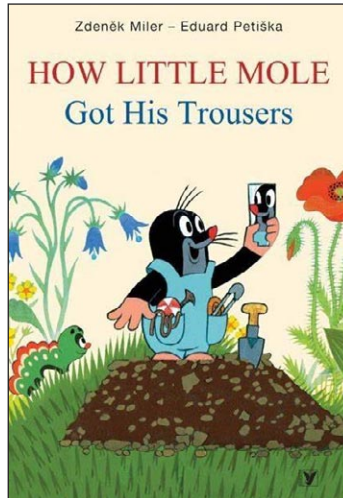
Among the most charming stories are *The Little Mole as a Gardener* (1969), in which Krtek does battle with a ruptured and snaking watering hose, reminiscent of scenes from Karel Čapek's book *The Gardener's Year*. Krtek's last resort is to successfully dig a channel from the hose and encircle the clump of flowers he wants to rescue.

*The Little Mole in the City* (1975) begins with Krtek living a bucolic life in a big woods with two animal friends. Then the trees are all chopped down, the roots bulldozed up, and thanks to a piece of paper signed by an officious dignitary, Krtek's tree trunk is hauled into a skyscraper in the big city. An inflatable tree scenario is brought into the room, along with food baskets. Of course, the inflatable is accidentally punctured. Krtek ends up throwing away the important paper and he and his friends catch a ride out of town with birds.

*The Little Mole as a Painter* (1972) is chased about by a fox until he is covered with a spilled can of red paint and is able to scare the fox. Next the fox threatens the bird nest, but the red-covered Krtek paints his mouse friend orange and together they scare off the fox. Then the two paint their animal friends and environment, too, which lasts until the rain washes it all out.

In *The Little Mole and the Rocket* (1965), Krtek meanders into a spaceship, which takes off and lands on an island full of sand, shells, and crabs. With the help of the crab, fish, and other sea life, Krtek finds pieces of his rocket ship and reassembles them so he can fly home again.

Krtek really did go to space in 2011 when American astronaut Andrew Feustel took a stuffed version of the mole on Space Shuttle Endeavor's mission STS-134. Feustel's wife, who is of Czech descent, introduced him to Krtek. As intrepid as his host, Krtek underwent tests before being allowed to fly into space.



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](http://cs-center.org) or contact [gwen@cs-center.org](mailto:gwen@cs-center.org).

Join Literary Ventures for the discussion of *Today We Die a Little: Emil Zátopek, Olympic Legend to Cold War Hero* by Richard Askwith at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 25.

## Highlights of the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors January 2023 Meeting

By Theresa Hudachek and Tom Aubrecht

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors meeting was called to order on January 19, 2023, at 7 p.m.

The American Sokol meeting on Units' Fitness Programs was discussed. The next meeting will be January 30.

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Joyce Tesarek referred to the committee's report. Motions to increase Rental Coordinator Dawn Bulera's and Juan Marquez's pay were approved.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer reported on the Balance Sheet and on the account totals.

Membership Director Steve Ernest noted the membership renewal rate in his report (renewals were due January 1) and will be reaching out. Renewal reminders are published in the *Slovo*. Nine new members were presented and approved.

Gaming Manager Ed Hamernik referred to the committee's report. The February 2023 Expense Budget was approved, as were the December 2022 Actual Expenditures. The possibility of again having a second pull-tab site was discussed. Adding bingo is still under discussion.

Board of Instructors Co-Directors Mary Cahill and Jason Brozovich reported class sizes are on the smaller side. There will be a Western District Gymnastics Competition, the first in three years because of COVID, on April 15 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Building and Properties Trustee Committee Chair Bob Kotek reported committee member Lloyd Krocak's son passed away.

Painting of the west elevator lobby is planned, possibly in February. Bids are being received for parking lot repaving and for exterior power/lighting upgrade. There is a \$7,500 Wedum Grant to go towards these initiatives. Replacement doors have arrived at the supplier. After painting, they can be installed, hopefully in February. The new alarm system has been operating well. Options were discussed for addressing three false fire alarms from Pajarito bathrooms.

The Corresponding Secretary position is open and recommendations for the position are needed.

Sunshine Report: A get-well card had been sent to Mary Jo Chlebeczek for her broken hip before she passed away on January 21.

A sympathy card was sent to Michael and Jitka Sebek on the death of Michael's father, Milan Sebek, who was 92 years old and a long-time Sokol member. Note: see the Obituaries for Mary Jo and Milan in this issue.

Activities Director Jeanie Draheim presented the draft activity spreadsheet. Work is proceeding on the Spring Postcard. A kitchen lead is needed for the Spring Breakfast, Craft, and *Koláče* Bake Sale on April 2. The Members and Volunteers Picnic is proposed for July 16 in the C.S.P.S. Hall parking lot. Contact Jeannie Draheim, Dave Stepan, or Denise Stibal at [events@sokolmn.org](mailto:events@sokolmn.org) if you want to help with the Dvořák Celebration on September 17. We will host a Sokol Run this year. The Czech Roast Pork Dinner in October needs leads. A proposal was discussed to change the Holiday Breakfast/Craft and *Koláče* Sale from November to a goulash lunch in early December, possibly with a Christmas market.

Denise Stibal noted the Rental Committee will be meeting this month. Educational Director Sally Lieberman noted the Czech and Slovak language classes now total 30 weeks instead of 24. Spring trimester registration will open March 1 and classes will begin March 21. A new Education Committee has been formed, including Sally Lieberman, Pat Slaber, Maria Neuzil, and Kelly Meyer. The goal of the committee is to develop and improve our language classes as well as generate ideas for educational programs on cultural and historical topics.

An informational session will be held via Zoom on February 6 on summer language study opportunities in the Czech Republic and scholarships to support such study. Details are in the most recent E-Blast. Steve Ernest is one of the presenters. A funding request of \$200 was approved to host a workshop on teaching Czech and Slovak to adult learners during March, led by Kristýna Horáčková of the T. G. Masaryk Czech School in Chicago.

Other Items: Minnesota Sokol Camp is holding their annual meeting on Sunday, January 22, at 2 p.m. and Sokol members are welcome to attend and to visit the camp.

Fred Simon will give a presentation on January 25 on the Bohemian Triangle (three counties in Minnesota with the highest concentration of Bohemian immigrants by the late 1800's).

Montgomery's *Masopust* will be held on February 19, noon-5 p.m. at Revival on Main.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

### *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](mailto: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](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)

Advertising in the *Slovo* is available. Please email [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto: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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Additional photographs, ads, or illustrations in this issue (not already noted) provided by: Tom Aubrecht, Jim Chlebeczek, Steve Ernest, Pam Langworthy, Doreen McKenney, Kelly Meyer, Kari Muyres, Lucy Brudnak Rose, Jitka Sebek, Joyce Tesarek, and Louise Wessinger.

**More information at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**



## Czech Honorary Consul News

March 2023

**General Petr Pavel**, age 61, was elected the fourth president of the Czech Republic, beating Andrej Babiš, the Slovak-born billionaire and former Czech Prime Minister, in a runoff election in late January. A career soldier, Pavel served as Chief of the Czech Army's General Staff and later as Chair of NATO's Military Committee. He retired in 2018. Petr Pavel is set to assume office in March, replacing the current head of state Miloš Zeman.

<https://english.radio.cz/petr-pavel-retired-army-general-set-become-czechias-next-president-8773357>

After a two-year period without an **American Ambassador in Prague**, **Bijan Sabet** was sworn in as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Czech Republic on December 16, 2022; he arrived in Prague in early February.

<https://english.radio.cz/petr-pavel-retired-army-general-set-become-czechias-next-president-8773357>

The Honorary Consul accepted the invitation to join **SMYL (Sokol Minnesota Youth Link)** to make Valentine cards for veterans at the Veterans Hospital in Minneapolis.

(L-R) Glynis Grostephan, Emily Krikava with Leo and Juna, M.L.Kucera, and Adam. Glynis and Doreen McKenney (who took this photo) are the SMYL advisors.



John Righetti, a founding member and the current president of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society, based in Munhall, Pennsylvania, spoke on February 5 at C.S.P.S. Hall about **Carpatho-Rusyns and Their Neighbors: Czechs, Slovaks, Hungarians, Poles, Russians, and Ukrainians**. He captivated his audience as he untangled the web of the complex Carpatho-Rusyn history. As a stateless people, Carpatho-Rusyns have had relationships with all of these nationalities, some that wanted to help them, some that wanted to rule them, and some that



them, some that wanted to claim them. John told the incredible stories of these various East Europeans, mostly Slavic, and the role they have played in the development of both the Carpatho-Rusyn diaspora and its contemporary communities.

Presidents of three Czech and Slovak organizations joined John for this photo: (L-R) Cinnamon Whaley, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; Karen Varian, Rusin Association of Minnesota; John Righetti; Kevin Hurbanis, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International; and M.L. Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic.

**Mark your calendars now for these special March events!**

**March 10-12, Friday through Sunday, Trylon Theatre**, 2820 East 33rd Street, Minneapolis. A very rare Czech film, **The Cremator**, (1969, DCP, 95 minutes, Czech with English subtitles). Director is Juraj Herz with Rudolf Hrusínský, Vlasta Chramostová, and Jana Stehnová. Bleak does not begin to describe this long-banned tale of a Czech crematorium director who's obsessed with order and seduced by Nazi ideology. This restoration brings to life Herz's fabulous camerawork and impressionistic set designs. Friday/Saturday: 7 and 9 pm.; Sunday: 3 and 5 p.m.

Order tickets: [www.trylon.org/film/the-cremator/2023-03-10/](http://www.trylon.org/film/the-cremator/2023-03-10/)

**March 21, Tuesday, 2:30 – 5 p.m.**, Crusadar Center/Civic Center, 202 Alabama Street South East, Lonsdale. **Fred Simon talks about the “Bohemian Triangle,”** the three Minnesota counties of Scott, Rice, and Le Sueur, which had the largest concentration of Bohemian immigrants in the state by the late 1800's. [www.czechheritageclub.com](http://www.czechheritageclub.com)

**March 26, Sunday, 3 p.m.** 1215 Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville. **Czech-mate! Music from the Czech-Slovak Region, performed by Saint Paul Civic Symphony.** Free to the public. Music by Suk: *Fantastic Scherz*; Kaprálová: *Military Sinfonietta*; Martinů: *Memorial to Lidice*; Mahler: *Blumine*; and Smetana: *The Moldau* from *Má vlast*. The Saint Paul Civic Symphony, founded in 1945, provides free concerts throughout Saint Paul and the surrounding community. The orchestra is an autonomous, nonprofit organization made up of volunteers from a variety of backgrounds. It is funded by membership contributions, audience donations, grants, and fundraising activities. <https://spcsmusic.org>



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### 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](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org) *Thank you!*



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Or donate online: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) *Thank You!*

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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/](http://www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/)

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* March 2023

## Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp



Years of

# CAMP FAVORITES

June 19-23 2023

25th annual  
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June 19-23, 2023  
C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul

Register by May 1 to qualify  
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All camp registration materials  
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Registration materials  
can be downloaded at  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)  
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Questions? Contact:  
Louise Wessinger 651-271-3601