



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

October *Slovo* articles
due September 1

Sokol Minnesota Singers

First and third Tuesdays
10 a.m.-noon

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 1,3,6)

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 • Sokol Gift Shop
Silent Auction • Exhibits • Special Guests
Children's Games • Street Vendors and more
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

This month we are getting to know better Jason Brozovich, our Sokol Minnesota Men's Physical Director and Head Gymnastics Coach! I have worked plenty of Pancake Breakfasts with Jason and can attest to his cheerfulness and ability to whip up French toast! This month, our American Sokol President Adam Wilt's quarterly President's Note talks passionately about coaching and the impact volunteering with young people can have. Read his Note at <https://tinyurl.com/ASOPresNote>



Cinnamon Whaley

We have many different volunteer roles at Sokol Minnesota and are always looking for new people and ideas. If you are curious about involvement in any of our programs, reach out for more information; we would love to hear from you! Visit www.sokolmn.org/vitejte-welcome/contacts/



Jason Brozovich

Hello! My name is Jason Brozovich and I've been involved with Sokol Minnesota for almost 15 years. Having not grown up a "Sokol," I did the next best thing and married into it! I'm sure many of you share this experience. I met my wife, Megan Cahill, in 2006 playing softball. It turns out we were both going to St. Catherine University in Saint Paul; myself for my nursing degree and Megan for her doctorate in Physical Therapy. It also turns out that not only Megan grew up in Sokol, but so did her mother, Mary, and her grandmother, Valeria...my fate was sealed!

I started volunteering at Sokol Minnesota events, attended activities and dances, assisted at our food booth at the International Institute of Minnesota's Festival of Nations, helped run the Pancake Breakfast, and eventually was invited to sit on the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors as a Member at Large. Along the way, I realized just how many good people are involved with Sokol and have made many new friends. Today, I serve on the Board as Sokol Minnesota's Men's Physical Director and as head Gymnastics Coach. My background as a gymnast naturally led me to coaching and I really enjoy working with children that are learning the sport. Our gymnastics season begins the week of September 11 this year and there are spots still available if your child is interested. See pages 3 and 6.

Outside of Sokol, I enjoy dancing with the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, and I play a Czech bagpipe called a *dudy* in the St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble. Our three-year-old son, Eddie, keeps Megan and me busy and on our toes! We enjoy car trips, lake and cabin time, and time with extended family and friends.

I hope this article gives you some insight into Sokol Minnesota, encourages you to get to know more members, and inspires you to participate in Sokol Minnesota however you can. See you at the C.S.P.S. Hall!

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

Sokol Minnesota is affiliated with, and shares the values of, American Sokol (www.american-sokol.org) and the World Sokol Federation (<https://world-sokol.eu/en>).



Use our new 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

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Open,
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

Dvořák Visit Anniversary Celebration

In September 1893, Antonín Dvořák and his family visited C.S.P.S. Hall in Saint Paul, as part of their summer vacation spent in the Czech-speaking town of Spillville, Iowa, which provided a welcomed respite from his work at the National Conservatory of Music in New York City. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, whose home is the same 1887 C.S.P.S. Hall, celebrates the 130th anniversary of Antonín Dvořák's visit with a Sunday afternoon filled with music by the world-famous maestro on Sunday, September 17.



Dvořák's New World at 130, Minnesota Commemorates His 1893 Visit Sunday, September 17, 2 p.m.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's C.S.P.S. Hall,

PERFORMERS

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

REMARKS

Daniel Freeman, historian and musicologist: historical facts about Dvořák.
Patricia Hampl, author: Dvořák's ties to C.S.P.S. Hall and related history.

**Tickets: \$25 in reserved section in the Hall;
\$20 general admission. Limited seating available!
Reserve your seat now!**

<https://www.sokolmn.org/dvoraks-new-world-at-130/>

After the concert: complimentary *chlebičky*, *koláče*, and non-alcoholic beverages; cash bar available with wine and beer (Pilsner Urquell and Hamm's)

CO-CHAIRS
Dave Stepan and Denise Stibal

SPONSORS

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis

LECTURE

Wednesday, September 20 at 7 p.m.

The Socio-Economic and Political Contexts of Dvořák'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. Dvořák'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 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
resume on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
evenings, starting the week of September 11.
No experience necessary!**

https://www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/sokol_fitness/
for information on session dates and class fees.

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

CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL

The Czech & Slovak Festival offers businesses, programs, organizations, and well wishers space to place an ad each year in the program handout.

If interested contact:
ads4sokolmn@earthlink.net

Place your \$20 camera ready
ad here.

1" x 3"

Place your \$20
camera ready
ad here.

2" x 1.5"

Place your \$10
well wisher ad here.

1" x 1.125"

Language Program News By Sally Lieberman

Sokol Minnesota's Czech and Slovak language classes for adults start the week of September 25. Anyone with an interest in learning one of these languages is encouraged to register for a class. We are excited this year to welcome two new teachers, Michael Trittipio and Luboš Mareš, and to announce the return of some in-person options.

Classes in Beginning and Advanced Beginning Czech will meet in-person at our historic C.S.P.S. Hall.

Several popular on-line courses will continue to be offered via Zoom, including two levels each of Czech and Slovak.

Full information and registration can be found at www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/language-classes/

Questions? Please contact education@sokolmn.org

As Education Director, I feel fortunate to work with our smart and dedicated teachers, and I am proud to introduce them!

Meet Our Teachers



Tess Dajc
(online Advanced Beginning Czech)
was born in Kolín, Czech Republic. She has been teaching Czech for ten years. In her spare time, she likes to write poetry and was recently published in several literary journals.

George Hoffman
(online Slovak)

has studied Slovak for about 12 years, and has taught it for two years. He has a Ph.D. in Classical Languages and taught Ancient Greek and Latin in college in the 1970's, after which he went to work for the Minnesota Department of Human Services. George's maternal grandparents were both Slovaks from the Námestovo area, who immigrated to the United States in 1903 and lived in Chicago. He has been to Slovakia twice, in 2015 and 2017, and visited Námestovo.



Luboš Mareš
(in-person Advanced Beginning Czech)
was born in the Czech Republic in the small town of Milevsko. He studied at the Central School of Engineering (SPSS) in Tabor and ended his educational journey in Prague at Czech Technical University (CVUT). He has been living in Minnesota for 23 years. Luboš is a teacher of Kung Fu, Tai Chi, Qigong, and Mindfulness. Teaching Czech language gives Luboš the opportunity to bring the Czech Republic closer to our hearts.

Renáta Tichá, PhD
(online Advanced Czech)

has been teaching advanced Czech at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota for the last eight years. She is originally from the Czech Republic and enjoys supporting Czech learners in Minnesota on their Czech language journeys, including for preserving their Czech heritage, speaking Czech with their family, or wanting to study or work in the Czech Republic. She is a research faculty in special education and disability services at the University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration.



Michael Trittipio
(in-person Beginning Czech)

studied second-language teaching theory and methods at the University of Minnesota (for teaching English as a Second Language) and the Defense Language Institute (DLI, where he taught French 2019-2020). The DLI is where he first learned Czech as a soldier during the Cold War, with zero background. (You can learn it as an adult, too!) He maintains it with reading and listening, and occasional months at one of the Czech "summer schools," where he follows a "no-English" rule. He looks forward to helping you begin to learn this wonderful language.



Learn Czech or Slovak with Sokol Minnesota!

Adult language classes, online and in person!

Friendly and supportive learning atmosphere.

Many levels, including complete beginner.

High school students may enroll with permission.

Three 10-week trimesters per year.
\$125 per trimester for Sokol members.
\$150 per trimester for non-members.
Register soon! Fall classes will begin the week of September 25, 2023.



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

For full information and registration: sokolmn.org

Email questions to: education@sokolmn.org

Pre-school, Children,
and Teen Folk Dancing
Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - noon
begins September 11
folkdancing@sokolmn.org

Tai Chi and Kung Fu at Czech and Slovak 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.

Luboš Mareš, 1st degree black sash, instructor level, American Kung Fu. Mareš started Karate when he was 12. It was the 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. Mareš 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



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

Traditional Czech Schnitzel Dinner

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
C.S.P.S.Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN

Sunday, October 29 20
23

Price:

\$25 per person.

Menu:

Traditional
Czech schnitzel
and potato salad
(řízek s bramborovým salátem).
dessert, coffee,
and cash bar.



Payment:

Prepay online orders:
credit/debit card
or PayPal go to
www.sokolmn.org/cc/

Voice/text: 651-210-0401
if paying by check.

Prepaid orders
must be received
by Sunday, October 22

CZECH AND SLOVAK



GYMNASTICS 2023 – 2024



**CLASSES START
WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 11**

https://www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/sokol_fitness/

34th annual CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**September 24
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
at the C.S.P.S. Hall!**

There will be ethnic food and beer, live music, performances by children, teen, and adult folk dancers, plus children's games, vendors, exhibits, the Sokol Gift Shop is open, 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.

3rd
annual

Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest

Saturday

October 28 2023

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Outdoors at the C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul

Trunks with Treats

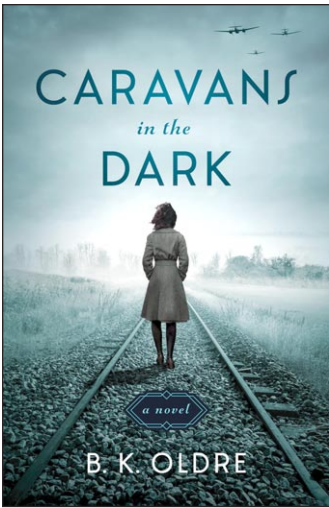
family friendly Harvest Fest.

Parking lot walk-through

with games, treats, and a photo op for Sokol kids 12 and under!

Hosted by
Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota
and





Caravans in the Dark Book Launch and Literary Ventures Discussion

By Pam Langworthy and Bonnie Oldre

A book launch party for *Caravans in the Dark*, a World War II historical novel by Bonnie Oldre, was held at Open Book in Minneapolis on July 16, 2023. Bonnie is a retired librarian and a member of Literary Ventures, a book club cosponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis. Bonnie was congratulated by fellow Literary Ventures members, members of her large Czech heritage family, and other friends and relatives. Ken Janda, another member of Literary Ventures and author of *The Emperor and the Peasant*, spoke first about events that led up to the creation of Czechoslovakia and some of the ethnic rivalries that shaped the time period that is the setting of Bonnie's novel. Bonnie recounted her years researching and writing the book, as well as the themes in the book, and read selections.

Caravans in the Dark is set in Czechoslovakia in 1938-1939,

during the Nazi invasion and occupation. The book's events are seen through the eyes of Jana, a 15-year-old Romani girl, who becomes a freedom fighter after she gets a job at Prague castle, where she smuggles out secret messages, which are hidden inside of clocks, to the Resistance.

Author Peter Geye says this book is "...everything historical fiction ought to be. At once fascinating in its detail, epic in scope, and impossibly rich... a novel fairly bursting with characters to fall in love with." Author Linda Kass states it is "Deeply researched and tenderly rendered."

As Literary Ventures' first book of the 2023/2024 season, Bonnie will discuss *Caravans in the Dark* on Saturday, September 30 from 10 a.m. to noon at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

This is a hybrid gathering that can be joined in-person or online through Meet (request the link from literaryventures@sokolmn.org). All are welcome to join, either in-person or virtually. Having read the book in advance, bring your questions and comments and get to know Bonnie and all of us at Literary Ventures.

Caravans in the Dark is available as a paperback and eBook wherever books are sold online, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble, and in paperback in some bookstores and libraries.



Literary Ventures attendees for the book launch party for *Caravans in the Dark* were, L-R: Jake Jacobson, Ken Janda, Sam Simmons, Bonnie Oldre (seated), Pam Langworthy, Richard Sargent, Kristi Simmons, and Ann Janda.



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.

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](#) or Info: 507-383-1340

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.

GENERAL FUND

Susan Lindoo and Michael Wolesky

Sokol Minnesota New Members By Steve Ernest

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

Patricia Arntz of Savage

Lynette O'Leary from Saint Paul

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Highlights of the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors July 2023 Meeting By Theresa Hudachek

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors July 2023 meeting was called to order by President Cinnamon Whaley on July 20 at 7 p.m.

Discussion:

The possibility of a *Vit Hořejš* Czech Marionette performance of "Czech & Slovak Fairy Tales With Strings" in early- or mid-September was discussed. Because we already have many events scheduled in September, information on this will be passed on to Jitka Sebek with Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities.

The Slovak-centered dance group *Holubica* is requesting a meeting with the Board in August or September. Lucy Rose will reach out to Karin from the dance group to get more specific details about their hope for a formal relationship with Sokol Minnesota.

Savanna Larson emailed asking if we are open to implementing a music program alongside the dance program. She may be interested in joining Sokol Minnesota and collaborating on projects to promote Czech and Slovak music. Steve Ernest is going to reach out to Savanna to learn more about her interest in a music program.

A local "Run of the Republic" 5K Fun Run in support of the annual Sokol world-wide commemoration of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic on October 28, 1918, has generated minimal interest in response to ads, so it may not happen here this year. See the ad on page 7.

Reports:

Education: The complete class schedule and a "Meet Our Teachers" page should be on the website by August 1. Registration will open in late August.

Rental Committee: Denise Stibal noted there are two bookings for July, three bookings for August, and two bookings for September.

Plans for the Dvořák Visit Anniversary Celebration on September 17 were reviewed.

A \$250 donation was received from Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International.

The possibility of distributing the metal folding chairs (that have been replaced) to three interested Sokol Minnesota members was discussed. The rental committee was asked to report back to the Board regarding any possible use or need for keeping the metal chairs.

The idea was discussed of not selling bottled spring water at events, and instead, promoting using the water refill station to refill personal bottles; a decision was not made.

Finance Committee: Chair Joyce Tesarek led discussion regarding a possible Sokol Minnesota credit card for use for Sokol Minnesota purchases.

Membership: Director Steve Ernest presented the Sokol Minnesota Membership Report for July 2023.

New member applications for Patti Arntz of Savage and Lynette O'Leary of Saint Paul were approved. The current membership is 298.

Board of Instructors: Directors Mary Cahill and Jason Brozovich reported Courtney Benson is unable to continue as head female instructor. They are working with her on a transition period to allow time to find a new instructor. Gymnastics classes to resume September 11. No increase in class fees from last year; hoping to increase class sizes. Working on updating the Fitness page on website. We appreciate Mary Kucera's and Richard Sargent's help with this. We are trying to think "outside the box" with mat storage and easy setup/removal; may enlist the help of Building and Property Trustees Committee for ideas. Decided on mats that can be removed/relocated from stage closet to allow for more space for dance and rental items.

Kung Fu teachers are combining age groups for Kung Fu and adding a Tai Chi class; classes on Wednesday evenings.

Building and Property Trustees Committee: Chair Bob Kotek noted the parking lot repaving and lighting projects have been completed. The beer cooler will be picked up and installed next Monday.

Sound-proofing materials for the first floor classroom are estimated to cost \$1800. Looking for a contractor to do this work in a timely manner.

Pursuing bids to install a fence between the parking lot and the building to the west.

A motion was approved to pursue a grant for more building planning.

Gaming Chair Ed Hamernik. The expense budget for August 2023 and the actual operation summary for June were approved.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer's report noted the account balances.

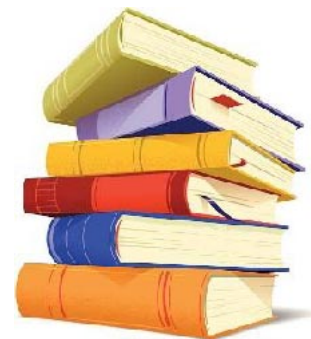
Meeting adjourned.

Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures 2023-2024

Join us for small-group informal discussions
of Czech and Slovak books in English translation.
Everyone is welcome. Please read the books in advance.

Meetings are held both in-person at the C.S.P.S. Hall,
and virtually (request link from literaryventures@sokolmn.org)

Discussions are cosponsored by the
Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota,
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota,
and the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis.



2023 – Book discussions

Saturday, September 30, 10 a.m. - noon
Caravans in the Dark by B. K. Oldre

Saturday, October 21, 10 a.m. - noon
*Infamous Lady: The True Story of Countess Erzsébet
Báthory (Second Edition)* by Kimberly L. Craft

Saturday, November 18, 10 a.m. - noon
*Freedom to Win: A Cold War Story of the Courageous
Hockey Team That Fought the Soviets for the Soul
of Its People—and Olympic Gold* by Ethan Scheiner

Saturday, December 16, 10 a.m. - noon
Prague Spring by Simon Mawer

Questions? Contact gwen@cs-center.org

2024 – Book discussions

Saturday, January 27, 10 a.m. - noon
*The Mighty and the Almighty: Reflections on America,
God, and World Affairs* by Madeleine Albright

Saturday, February 24, 10 a.m. - noon
*Seven Czech Women: Portraits of Courage, Humanism,
and Enlightenment* by Josette Baer

Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. - noon
So Many Heroes by Alan Levy

Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. - noon
A Brief History of Living Forever: A Novel
by Jaroslav Kalfař

Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. - noon
*My Dear Boy: A World War II Story of Escape, Exile,
and Revelation* by Joanie Holzer Schirm

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, 4.5.6).

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: Jason Brozovich, Mary Cahill, Pam Langworthy, Sally Lieberman, Bonnie Oldre, Luboš Mareš, Doreen McKenney, Jitka Sebek, Denise Stibal, Joyce Tesarek, Renata Ticha, and Gwen Willems.

Additional photographs, ads, or illustrations in this issue (not already noted) provided by: Steve Ernest, Pam Langworthy, and Sally Lieberman.

More information at www.sokolmn.org

The Conference of the Birds by Peter Sís. Penguin Press: New York, 2013, 160 pages. Available at libraries and bookstores.

The Conference of the Birds is the first book for adults by Peter Sís, the Czech-American, world-renowned children's book author and illustrator.

As long as he can remember, Sís loved to draw pictures of flying—which symbolized freedom—and birds. This includes all kinds of birds: human-face birds, fish birds, snake birds. Illustrating “The story of Simorgh” in Jorge Luis Borges’s *Book of Imaginary Things* led him to read the translation of the original *The Conference of the Birds*. Dating to 1177, the original was written by the Persian Sufi poet Farid ud-Din Attar, who was educated as a theologian and traveled widely to Egypt, Damascus, Mecca, Turkestan, and more. After reading Sís’ shorter adaptation of the storyline, you might be inspired to enhance your experience by reading a full translation of the original.

Sís’ rendition of the story begins with all the birds of the world getting together for a conference. Each of them represents a human fault which prevents humankind from attaining enlightenment. The hoopoe bird, a symbol of virtue in Persia, tells them of concerns similar to those in today’s world: “Birds! Look at the troubles happening in our world! Anarchy-discontent-upheaval! Desperate fights over territory, water, and food! Poisoned air! Unhappiness! I fear we are lost. We must do something! I’ve seen the world. I know many secrets. Listen to me: I know of a king who has all the answers. We must go and find him.” The birds begin an epic and perilous journey over deserts, mountains, oceans, and seven valleys (of quest, love, understanding, detachment, unity, amazement, and death).



Illustration by Peter Sís.

In the Valley of Detachment, the philosophical and lyrically poetic nature of the work comes through. Sís wrote, “The astrologer bird traces all the constellations and planets on his tablet of sand. Then the wind picks up . . . and scatters his design to dust. How solid is our world . . . and yet it is nothing but grains of sand.”

After a long and dangerous quest, the birds have dwindled. “A band of thirty battered, beaten, beleaguered companions . . . hardly able to fly” come to the Mountain of Kaf. They reach their king at last, finding that they are Simorgh the King, for Simorgh means thirty birds in Persian. Simorgh the King is each of them and all of them. In this story, Sís has shown us the beauty and the pain of the human journey.



By looking within, we find guidance, sustenance, and wisdom.

Sís’ intricate and detailed illustrations are outstanding. He does delightful things with groups of birds, one large bird formed of many, patterns and shading composed of numerous birds, sometimes birds in one color and other times in full color. There are mazes throughout the book, to be solved if and when the reader chooses. Textured paper underlying the remarkable watercolor and pin-point illustrations adds to the reader’s sensory experience.

Peter Sís is the author/illustrator of more than twenty books. I especially enjoyed his books set in the Czech lands—*The Three Golden Keys* (1994); *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain* (2007); *Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued* (2021); and his *Madlenka* titles. Sís also produced several books focused on influential men: Christopher Columbus, Charles Darwin, Galileo Galilei, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

His honors are numerous. Sís is the first children's book artist to be named a MacArthur Fellow. He won the Hans Christian Andersen Award, The New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Book of the Year award seven times, the American Library Association's Caldecott Honor three times, the Boston Globe–Horn Book Award four times, and the Robert Silbert Medal. He was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia in 1949, grew up in Prague, and studied painting and filmmaking at the Academy of Applied Arts in Prague and the Royal College of Art in London. He came to the United States in 1982.

The winning combination of art and story that Sís presents in *The Conference of the Birds* makes me hope he’ll offer more books for adults in the future.

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 Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis. 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

September
2023

Jakub Utěšený is the new Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago as of August 1, 2023, with jurisdiction over the eleven mid-western states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. He works with three Honorary Consuls: Sharon Valasek in Kansas City, Missouri; Miluše Šašková-Pierce in Lincoln, Nebraska; and myself, M. L. Kucera in Saint Paul/Minneapolis. He replaced Jaroslav Kantůrek, who served as Consul General from March 2019 through July 2023. Before coming to Chicago, Mr. Utěšený was in charge of the Department of Preparation and Coordination for the Czech Presidency of the European Union (EU) Council at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague. He's also held different positions at Czech diplomatic missions in Norway and EU offices in Brussels.



https://www.mzv.cz/chicago/en/about_the_consulate_general/consul_general/index.html

Consul General Utěšený has accepted the invitation by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota to attend the Czech & Slovak Festival on September 24.

As a farewell gift to Consul General Jaroslav Kantůrek, Honorary Consul Valasek/Kansas City coordinated the production of a Shutterfly picture book (left) thanking him for the many visits he made to each of our territories.



Summertime is filled with many Czech festivals in Minnesota. I attend several and often share a table to display Czech tourism booklets and to answer questions.

At the **Kolacky Days parade on July 30**, I rode in the Czech Heritage Club car with Violet Chromy, George Mikiska, and Fred Simon (driver). We waved small Czech flags along the parade route, with applause and cheers from parade watchers (some of whom had staked out their viewing stations with chairs and blankets along the main street before 8 p.m. the previous night). Photo by Bob Janovsky



Czech out New Prague on August 3, sponsored by the New Prague Chamber of Commerce and the New Prague Area Arts Council, is a fun family-friendly outdoor event, featuring local businesses and organizations with give-aways; dance, gymnastic, and musical performances; Kids Firefighter challenge; demonstrations; food trucks; and the two early Czech settler's cabins in Memorial Park staffed by local historical society members. (L-R) Jim Simon, Doris Coghill, Doug Coghill, M. L. Kucera, George Mikiska.

700 let města Bechyně/ 700 Years of the City of Bechyně. Created by *Městské muzeum Bechyně*, ten panels tell the 700-year history of Bechyně, Czech Republic, 1323-2023. Bechyn, Minnesota, settled in 1867, is mentioned on the fourth panel. Tim Kojetin worked with Mgr. Jana Janáčková at the museum to make copies of the panels for display inside the Church of St. Mary at the **32nd annual Bechyn Czech Heritage Festival, August 13, 2023**. The festival supports the preservation of the church and promotes the heritage of the Bohemian and Moravian settlers (including Tim's family) who founded this parish in 1879. My Great Aunt Marie Kucera Trochlil (1868-1963) is buried in the Church of St. Mary's cemetery.

UPCOMING FESTIVALS: Dožínky in New Prague on September 16, where as Honorary Consul, I will share a table with the Czech Heritage Club. <https://newprague.com/news-and-events/dozinky-for-visitors/>

On **September 17** at C.S.P.S./Sokol Hall in Saint Paul, **Deputy Consul General Ondřej Pometlo/Chicago** will attend **Dvořák's New World at 130, Minnesota Commemorates his 1893 Visit**, commemorating Antonín Dvořák's visit to the C.S.P.S. Hall 130 years ago. (See page 3 for more information.) For tickets: <https://www.sokolmn.org/dvoraks-new-world-at-130/>

Czech & Slovak Festival is on Sunday, September 24, at C.S.P.S. Hall, where as the Honorary Czech Consul, I share a table with Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota and Rusin Association of Minnesota.



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: _____

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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

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

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* September 2023

Fall 2023 Events at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 • 651-290-0542

For the most current information, go to the Sokol Minnesota website: sokolmn.org
Instagram: [@sokolminnesota](https://www.instagram.com/sokolminnesota) or Facebook: [facebook.com/sokolminnesota](https://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)

Sokol Minnesota Friendly Evenings

Friday: November 10, and December 1, 7-10 p.m.**

Card and board games, fun, food, friends, and a few surprises!

Dvořák's New World at 130,

Minnesota Commemorates his 1893 Visit

Sunday, September 17, 2 p.m. Doors open: 1:30 p.m.

Artaria String Quartet; Twin Cities Horn Club; Dan Chouinard, pianist and Maria Jette, soloist; St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Remarks by Daniel Freeman and Patricia Hampl.

Tickets: \$20 or \$25 special reserved section.

Reserve/pre-pay by September 9*: events@sokolmn.org

34th Annual Czech & Slovak Festival

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

• Free Admission • Public Welcome • Accessible Facility

Ethnic food, beer/beverages, live music, dance performances, children's games, street vendors, exhibits, information booths, SMYL book sale, Sokol Gift Shop, and special guests.

Volunteer: 612-232-2993 or events@sokolmn.org

Vendors: 651-210-0401 or activities@sokolmn.org

Third Annual Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest

Saturday, October 28, 10 a.m.-Noon. C.S.P.S. Hall parking lot

Family-friendly games, treats, photo booth for Sokol kids, 12 and under. Hosted by Sokol Minnesota Youth Link

*To prepay your orders: credit/debit cards or PayPal at www.sokolmn.org/cc/

When prepaying by check, first call/text: 651-210-0401 (2 weeks before deadline) or email: food@sokolmn.org.

**Information at Sokolmn.org or email: activities@sokolmn.org or text/call: 651-210-0401

Traditional Czech Pork Schnitzel Dinner

Řízek s bramborovým salátem

Sunday, October 29. Doors open: Noon

Sit-down dinner served: 12:30 p.m.

Pork schnitzel, Czech potato salad, coffee, and dessert. Cash bar: beer, wine, soft drinks.

(Pre-arranged take-out available upon request).

Prepaid reservation by Wednesday, October 18. \$25*

Annual Sokol Membership Meeting

Friday, November 17, 7 p.m.

Annual meeting and social time. Door prizes!

Holiday Breakfast/Craft and Koláče Sale

Sunday, November 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

• Public Welcome • No Reservations Needed

\$10 adult; \$6 children under 9; \$30/family of four

Pancake breakfast with all the fixings.

Koláče (Order & pay by Saturday, November 11*) \$2 each

(apricot, cream cheese, poppy seed, prune, or raspberry)

To reserve a craft table: activities@sokolmn.org

Children's Holiday Party

Friday, December 8, 7 p.m.

Performances by the children and teen dancers,

plus Sokol Singers. Special visits from Saint Nicolas,

the angel, and the devil.

2024 New Year's Dinner *Svíčková s knedlíkem*

Saturday, January 20, 2024. Doors open: 4 p.m.

Sit-down dinner served: 5 p.m.

Beef in cream sauce with bread dumplings, coffee,

and dessert. Cash bar: beer, wine, soft drinks.

Place your prepaid order early. \$30*

