

UPCOMING MARCH EVENTS

April Slovo Due Date

March 1

Board of Directors Meeting

March 12, 7 p.m.

Literary Ventures

March 28, 10 a.m. to noon

Czech/Slovak Century meeting

March 29, 3:30 p.m.

Flavors of Slovakia Dinner

Sunday, March 22
12:30 p.m.

Reservations due by March
15

Call: 651-290-0542



FLAVORS of



SLOVAKIA DINNER

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, March 22

20
20

Reserved Seating 12:30 p.m.

\$18 adult, \$9 child under 9

*Prepaid reservations
are required by
March 15*



Limited seating

To reserve call: 651-290-0542



Adult dinner includes:

Cabbage roll (plnená kapusta), dilled green beans (kôprová zelená fazuška),
pickled beets (nakladaná repa), filled dumplings (pirohy), dumplings with cabbage
(halušky s kapustou), caraway rye bread (rascový ražný chlieb), dessert, and coffee.

Plenty of good beer and wine for sale at the bar.

Prepaid takeout is also available by reservation • Public welcome

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Dave Stepan

Pozdrav,

It is truly daunting to get everything done that needs to be done in everyday life and to help keep our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota an active and vibrant organization. As a volunteer, you only have so much time to donate, but for that time, whatever that amount of time is, all I can say is "Thank you!" because without you, our C.S.P.S. Hall would not be the organization we are today.

In the 1970s there was a time that we could have lost the Hall except for the volunteer efforts of the Andrles, Dolejsis, Haselbauers, Hubals, Jansens, Sedlaceks, Sladeks, Vanyos, Verners, Wybergs, and many others (I am sorry if I missed anyone) that gave their time and talents, and worked with the neighborhood, particularly Joe Landsberger, to get the Hall listed on the National Register of Historic Places to prevent demolition. We are not now in a position of losing the Hall, but we continue to rely on volunteers to make our Sokol a vibrant community of members, willing to step up to the plate when and where needed. I thank you, our volunteers, for being good stewards of Sokol.

Speaking of volunteers, I am looking for a volunteer to represent Sokol Minnesota at monthly West 7th Business Association meetings (w7ba.org) and the Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association meetings (www.littlebohemiastpaul.org). If you would like more information, please contact me at president@sokolmn.org

This summer we would like to replace our heating system. The cost of the boiler replacement has not yet been determined, but will most likely take a fundraising effort.

One of our planned fundraising efforts will be this fall. One of our newer members, Patrick Dewane, will be reprising his one-man play around the story of his grandfather, Matt Konop, whose division was part of the Allies liberation of Czechoslovakia at the end of 1945. The first town liberated happened to be the same town where Konop's mother grew up! This summer will be the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Pilsen (Plzeň) and the surrounding area.

Some of our upcoming events include (bring your friends): Flavors of Slovakia Dinner, Spring Breakfast with *Koláče* and Craft Sales, Czech-Slovak Family Event to celebrate *Velikonoce* (Easter) with a potluck luncheon and a puppet show, Festival of Nations, 23rd Annual Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp, and our annual Czech and Slovak Festival this fall. For more information, visit www.sokolmn.org/upcoming-events. Do not forget to follow us on Instagram @Sokolminnesota and Facebook at SokolMinnesota.

Our website group has been working to improve the ability for event reservations and membership renewals or applications to be paid via Paypal.

This summer we plan to have a *houby* (mushroom) foraging event; we will advertise this once we have the date(s).

This October, you will have an opportunity to hear Joan Sedlacek speak at the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International quarterly webinar/symposium on fraternal organizations. Sokol member and CGSI Vice President Mark Dillon, also has mentioned that CGSI will be displaying original framed charter documents and photos of Slovak fraternal organizations in both Minneapolis and Columbia Heights. We will let you know the exact date once it is scheduled. I hope to see you all soon!



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2020 BOD (Board of Directors)

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Denise Stibal

Corresponding Secretary
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Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

Members and Volunteers Holiday Party



Bottom Middle: Delicious dinner prepared by Michaela Giancarlo-Kotek and Marketa Resong, assisted by Dawn Bulera. First course: Italian Bread with Oregano Butter Swirls and Caesar Salad. Second course: Rich Butternut Squash, Turkey and Spinach Lasagna. Third course: Cheesecake with Fresh Raspberries, Whipped Cream, and from scratch Hot Fudge.

Bottom Left: Arlene Hamernik assisting at the check-in table.

Top Left: Teen volunteers and friends. Front: Zephyr, Julian. Middle: Tanah, Emma. Back: Anna, Colin. Not shown: Dominik.

Top Right: Marit Lee Kucera and Dennis Novak with prizes for the January 5 Holiday Party's post-dinner mixer activity, Sokol Minnesota Member Scavenger Hunt. The

mixer, prepared by Glynis Grostephan, involved working backward from a 'bingo' card with the 25 squares pre-filled with a Sokol-related activity, and finding among the attendees a member who has participated in that activity. There were more than enough attendees for a 'coverall' without duplicates.

Bottom Right: Shannon Duffy and Darla Kolb with their Member Scavenger Hunt prizes.



2020 Festival of Nations by Joyce Tesarek

The 88th Festival of Nations will be held Thursday, April 30 to Friday, May 3 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. Each year, Sokol Minnesota represents the Czechs and Slovaks, joining over 100 other ethnic groups in introducing thousands of visitors to ethnic food, music, dance, colorful folk dress, crafts, artwork, and cultural exhibits from around the world. Besides offering great food in our Czech and Slovak Café, we again will have a display in the Cultural Exhibit area, and our youth, teen, and adult dancers will perform.

Each year during the day on the Thursday and Friday, thousands of school children and teens visit. The students are bused to this cultural event from around the region. Beginning on Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, the event is open for all.

The Festival is organized by the International Institute of Minnesota. For more information, visit www.festivalofnations.com and iimn.org

As you can imagine, preparing for and covering four days of Festival activities requires literally hundreds of volunteers. It is great fun and we would love your help. To volunteer with prep, Wednesday set up, working in the Café or the Cultural booth, and/or Sunday take down, contact festival@sokolmn.org or call Joyce at 612-822-6147.

Once again, we have free tickets for all our Sokol Cafe and Cultural Exhibit volunteers. Come before, or stay after your shift, and enjoy the dance and music performances, cultural exhibits, shopping, and food! Volunteering or not, stop by our Exhibit and Café booths and watch our youth, teen, and adult dancers share our folk dress, music, and dance.



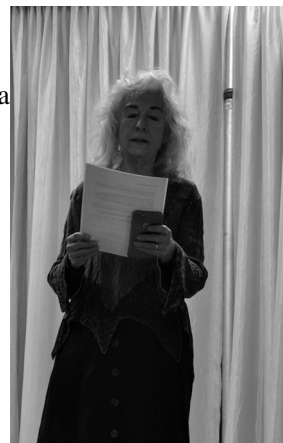
Concert by renowned Czech Guitarist Vladislav Bláha *By Renáta Tichá*



An inspiring performance was given on January 26 at the C.S.P.S. Hall by a renowned Czech guitarist Vladislav Bláha and his wife Tatiana Drobysh, who played the unique instrument, but well known in many Eastern European countries, the domra.

The concert included classical pieces as well as pieces from international composers. Their music was not only very technically superior, but took us to many different places around the world, in addition to the Czech Republic, including Argentina, Spain, and Belarus.

The audience in Minnesota was very lucky to enjoy Vlád'a's virtuosity, as he is very busy at home in his positions as a professor of guitar at the Conservatoire and a docent of Janáček Academy of Music in Brno. It means a lot to the Czech and Slovak community in Minnesota to be able to experience music and art of leading performers and artists from their Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Bea Fleming of the Czech & Slovak Cultural Center, has brought many Czech musicians to Minnesota over the years. Thanks to her, the modern Czech music scene is well represented here.



Bea Fleming introducing Vladislav Bláha and Tatiana Drobysh



Top: Vladislav Bláha
Bottom: Attentive audience



Vladislav Bláha and Tatiana Drobysh

The concert was hosted by the Czech & Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the Minnesota Guitar Society. It was part of a United States tour that also took Vlád'a and Tatiana to Cedar Rapids, Chicago, and Washington, DC.

Four Czech/Slovak Films confirmed for International Film Festival: April 9-25

The 39th Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF) begins on Thursday, April 9 and runs through Saturday, April 25. It is Minnesota's largest film festival and one of the longest-running film festivals in the country. Each year, MSPIFF showcases the latest films by both emerging and veteran filmmakers from around the globe, totaling more than 250 exciting films representing 100+ countries and cultures.

As of March *Slovo* press time, at least four Czech and/or Slovak films are included in the line-up.

Forman vs. Forman, Czech Republic, Directors Jakub Hejna and Helena Trestíková.

Let There Be Light, Slovak Republic and Czech Republic, Director Marko Škop.

Amundsen, Norway, Sweden, Czech Republic, Director Espen Sandberg; mainly a Norwegian film, but a co-production with Czech Republic.

Son-Mother, Iran and Czech Republic, Director Mahnaz Mohammadi; mainly an Iranian film, but a co-production with Czech Republic.

MSPIFF screenings are concentrated at the Saint Anthony Main Theatre in Minneapolis, taking over all five screens for the full run of the festival. MSPIFF continues to expand the festival's footprint with the addition this year of the Landmark Center in downtown Saint Paul. Screenings and special events will also be held at the Walker Art Center, Parkway Theater in south Minneapolis, Film Space at Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul, and the Marcus Rochester Cinema in Rochester.

MSP Film Society is pleased to announce the MSPIFF 2020 Luminary Tribute honors Italian filmmaking master Federico Fellini to mark the 100th anniversary since his birth (1/20/1920).

Watch for details in the April *Slovo* for information about the Czech and Slovak films being screened at this year's festival.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, along with its local sister organizations, is proud to be a Festival sponsor.

More info: mspfilm.org | info@mspfilm.org | 612.331.7563 | [@mspfilm](https://twitter.com/mspfilm) | [#mspiff](https://hashtage.com/mspiff)

2020 Roast Duck Dinner



1. It's just coffee. Don and Katie Haselbauer 2. Austin Palma, Jyni Koschak, Steve Shimer, Amanda Tesarek, Rachel Olson, Tom Aubrecht serving dinners. 3. Roast Duck Dinner guests with servers in action 4. Joan Sedlacek applying the finishing touches 5. Bob Kotek serving the Waldman Pilsner 6. Roast Duck Dinner 7. Actual coffee serving. Steve Shimer and coordinator Joyce Tesarek 8. Martha and Mike Krikova greeting guests.

17th Annual Roast Duck Dinner

by Co-chair Doreen McKenney

Tom Schroeder, from Waldmann Brewery and Wustery in the West Seventh neighborhood, inquired whether we were interested in trying out their brewed-in-house Czech Pilsner for the Roast Duck Dinner. Because we like to support local businesses, but not knowing anything about beer personally, Tom

recommended that their lite Waldmann pilsner would pair nicely with duck, and, from what I heard from the duck dinner guests, they strongly agreed. Tom's connection to the C.S.P.S. Hall is through the gymnastics program at Sokol, with one of his daughters becoming an instructor. Waldmann's lager saloon was originally established in 1857. The Brewery and Wurstery re-opened in 2017, serving European cuisine and, of course, a variety of beers from their brew master, Adam. If you did not get a chance to attend the

duck dinner and sample the Waldmann pilsner, Sokol will be serving it again at the up-coming Flavors of Slovakia dinner. Many thanks to all who volunteered at the sold-out Roast Duck Dinner; Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, Ed Hamernik, Don and Katie Haselbauer, Chad Holliday, Martha and Mike Krikova, Jyni Koschak, Marit Lee Kucera, Val Norman, Austin Palma, Co-chair Joan Sedlacek, Steve Shimer, Amanda Tesarek, Joyce Tesarek, Rachel Olson, Kathy Weiss, and Louise Wessinger.

Turner Gymnast Russ Goodman at 85

By Laura Goodman

As I look at my photos from the American Turners National Festival held in July 2019, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, it brings me great joy, which I will continue to reflect upon for years to come. The photos remind me of just how important this event is to me personally, to my relationship with my father, and clearly to the connectedness of relationships nationally with the American Turners and with our friends at Sokol. The Turners and Sokol share the belief of A Sound Mind in a Sound Body. This connectedness seems even more important now when our nation seems so polarized. Yet, I saw none of that divisiveness at the Fort Wayne Turners and surely not at Sokol Minnesota where my dad, Russ Goodman, Connie Kuperschmidt, and I trained for the Turnfest with the help and guidance of Jason Brozovich.

Let me start with Jason. Who does this? Jason took time out of his day, away from his family and friends, to open Sokol up so we could practice for an hour. In previous years, Jason and Mary would let us come early while they were setting up for the boys' gymnastic class. Even though they had to be there anyway, I'm pretty sure they did not need to be there that early and it was an awesome gift to us. This past summer, the gift was enhanced because there were no boys' classes and Jason opened the facility for us anyway because he wanted to help us condition for our upcoming gymnastic meet. He took time out of his day to set up the gym, stay with us, and even coach us a little. Simply amazing!

So, we did it. We went to Sokol and practiced. As usual, our starts (to be kind) were comical! My dad could barely lift his weight on the horse or the parallel bars. I, being 20 years younger, was not far ahead of my dad. But we improved! It is amazing how the muscle memories of our bodies remember a place they once knew. Well, not all the way back, but hey, we tried. As we laughed at our attempts at gymnastic perfection, we repeated the motto of Leo Buscaglia's, that "we would rather die falling out of a tree than rolling off the sofa." It felt good. It feels good to participate in gymnastics or any sport really. It



Russ Goodman

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Russ Goodman

feels good: reduces depression, imparts energy, prevents or reduces the risk of osteoporosis, and most importantly, it's fun!

Still, during our practice, I was a little worried about my dad. He did not seem to be working out hard enough. I kept pushing him, because I could not understand why he was so frail compared to four years ago. Never mind that he is 85 years old. Hey, four years ago he still did his planche (body held parallel to the floor, while being supported by straight arms) on the parallel bars! Dad seemed disappointed in his efforts too. Finally, it occurred to me that he was still recovering from a fall the year before, when he broke his back in two places. He just always appears so strong that I had to keep reminding myself and him of that reality. We decided eventually that he would just do the minimum requirements. For example, he would mount the parallel bars from a springboard, hold his weight (a feat men half his age can not do), swing his legs a couple of times and dismount back to the springboard. In practice, he never once swung his legs up to straddle the bars! But in the competition, with his adrenaline boosted, Dad mounted, swung a couple of times, straddled the P-bars, brought his left leg over to meet the right bar, posed, lifted himself up, and (continued on pg.7)

(continued from pg. 6) dismounted with a twist to the floor! I could hardly believe it! He was a superstar! Even more important were the men and boys in the background, watching him in awe. They too were impressed with his efforts. In the United States, elderly people are often discounted and disregarded, but not at the American Turners and not at Sokol. In these special organizations, there is respect for people of all ages: from birth to death. I love that!

My dad competed in four gymnastic events: the parallel bars, the rings, the vault, and the pommel horse. Dad also competed in track and field doing the standing long jump and the shot put. Since he had no competition in gymnastics in his age group, Dad took first place in each event and in gymnastics all around. Now, some would say, "so what?" He did not have any competition. Well, here is the "so what?" answer. He did it. At 85 years of age, Dad set out to compete. He practiced, and he did the best he could.

In fact, on the P-bars and pommel horse, he did better than he thought he would. He set an example to younger people that life is not over at 85, and as he always does, he generated a spirit of kindness, curiosity, and genuine interest in the performance and lives of others. He was motivational, which was confirmed everywhere we went at the Turnfest, when young men came up to him, shook his hand, and told him he was an inspiration to them.

I am so proud of my dad and his continuing quest to live life to its fullest. I am so grateful to share these times with Dad, the other people that we meet and know at these events, and those who help us meet our goals. Dad and I always say when we leave the Turnfest, that the muscles that got the greatest workout were our laughing muscles. We do not take ourselves too seriously. We just have fun!



Connie Kuperschmidt, Laura Goodman, Russ Goodman

Easter Celebration and Puppet Show

plus a puppetry presentation by Seth Eberle

Saturday, April 11

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

Join us for this exciting day of crafts,
potluck, puppet show, and presentation!

10:00 a.m. Easter Crafts

11:30 a.m. Easter Potluck

12:00 p.m. Puppet Show: *With Stars Above*



A puppet show for the young and the young-at-heart

In the Winter when the sun sets early, it is easy to feel down. Elvis Otter is lonely and sad. His friends try to help, showing him the ways in which Winter is wonderful and how to find joy, even in the darkest of seasons.

However, as soon as his friends leave, the goblins come and gobble up his happiness. How can Elvis chase away the darkness and convince his friends that the goblins are real?

1:00 p.m. Presentation about Puppets and Puppet Making

Seth Eberle talks about Czech-style marionettes from his experience apprenticing for one month with puppet maker Mirek Trejtnar in Prague and working with director Peter Varga to stage *Popelka* with puppets, including a brief history of puppetry in the Czech Republic. Presentation: \$5 suggested donation

For more information contact: 651-587-9621 or info@cs-center.org

Save the Date for the Sokol Camp Booya Picnic:

The 90th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic will be held on Sunday afternoon, August 9, in Pine City. Join Sokol friends or family for food, live music, and a performance by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Additional information will be provided as we get closer to the date. Volunteers, please contact Kari or Scott Mures at 763-226-0313. We look forward to seeing you there!



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

Highlights of the January Board of Directors Meeting

The Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, January 16 was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Dave Stepan.

Dave Stepan will attend the Minnesota Sokol Camp Association's annual meeting on January 26 as the representative for Sokol Minnesota, the Camp's largest share-holder. There was discussion about the Camp Association's organizational structure.

Ed Hamernik reported for the Board of Trustees. The boiler will need replacement. It is hoped that it will last through this heating season. The basement structural repair is almost done. The steel beams still need to be rust-proofed. The structural engineer has recommended that the ceiling of the first floor be re-enforced.

Mary Cahill reported for the Board of Instructors. There will be a group of instructors going to Chicago this weekend for training. Safe Sports training is complete. The Western District gymnastics competition will be April 18, 2020.

Ed Hamernik reported on Gaming. \$8,000 will be transferred from gaming to the general fund. Glynis Grostephan reported donations received as of December 31: General Fund: \$1,530. Steve Ernest reported on membership renewals to date. He noted that donations totaling \$2,920 have come in so far with membership renewals. He also reported on membership by type.

Blanka Brichta and a group, including board members, will be exploring recognizing or rewarding youth for their involvement with, and contributions to, Sokol Minnesota. Judy Aubrecht reported for the rental committee. Sokol purchased a six-month subscription to the Eventective lead service. Referrals have increased.

23rd Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp

By Judy Aubrecht and Louise Wessinger



The 23rd Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp, for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14 years old, will take place at the C.S.P.S. Hall from Monday to Friday, June 15-19, 2020.

The camp theme this year is Medieval Castles and Kings. Activities will include small groups creating their own castle, flag, and other designs, as well as ethnic foods, language lessons, crafts, and games. Campers arrive by 8:30 a.m. and are picked up at 3:30 p.m.

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

Be sure to register by April 15 to qualify for the Early-Bird discount. All camp registration materials must be received by June 6. Our cultural day camp was totally filled last year, and it is expected that registration will close early again this year. Registration materials for campers, adult volunteers, and junior leaders ages 15 to 21, are available to be downloaded at www.sokolmn.org

It will be a lively week filled with activities such as gymnastics, folk dancing, crafts, Czech language lessons, singing, ethnic and cooking. See you in June at camp!

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Sokol Minnesota Thanks

Donors *By Glynis Grostephan*

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

LEGACY FUND:

Under \$99: **Marit Lee Kucera** in memory of **Dorothy Sladek**. **Marit Lee Kucera** in honor of **Joan Sedlacek** for all she does for Sokol Minnesota and its members.

GENERAL FUND:

Under \$99: **Geneva Adams, Pat and Don Andrlle, Diane Cina, Winona Havir, Darla Kolb, Josephine Parvey, Jan Roers, Karen Varian, Agnes Zeman.**

\$100 - \$499: **Geraldine Dooley, Kay Edquist, Vince Jirik, Penny and Tom Tesarek, Rose Vesely. Glynis Grostephan** in memory of **Hana Matousek**. In memory of **Yvonne Palka: Glynis Grostephan. Ann and Ken Janda.**

\$500 - \$4999: **John Palka.**

IN-KIND DONATIONS:

In-Kind Donations: Ken Jenda, 25 copies of his book, *The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire*; **Mary Leisman**, eight books and seven CD's; **Joan Sedlacek**, dumplings donated for Pop uP Sale.

SUBTOTALS:

Legacy Fund	\$188.00
General Fund:	\$1,930.00
TOTAL:	\$2,118.00

Gauntlet: Five Friends, 20,000 Enemy Troops, and the Secret That Could Have Changed the Course of the Cold War by Barbara Mašín. Naval Institute Press: Annapolis, MD, 2006. 384 pages. Originally published in Czech, 2005. Available at libraries and bookstores.

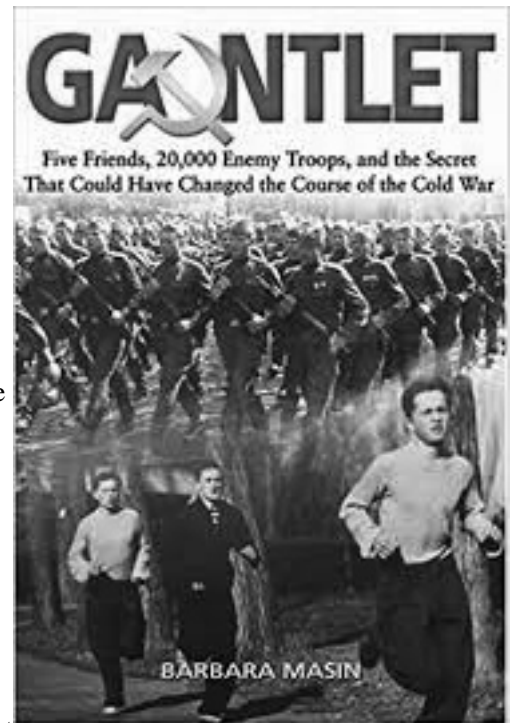
BOOK REVIEW

Escaping Communist Czechoslovakia in the 1950s

By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

Gauntlet: Five Friends, 20,000 Enemy Troops, and the Secret That Could Have Changed the Course of the Cold War tells the dramatic story of the escape of five young Czechs into the American zone of West Berlin in 1953. The author, Barbara Mašín, is the daughter of one of the escapees and granddaughter of general Josef Mašín Sr., who was a hero of both world wars, member of the Czechoslovak Legion in WWI, and an underground resister against the Nazis. Barbara's father, Josef Mašín Jr. and his younger brother Ctirad, made the trip with friends Milan Paumer, Zbyněk Janata, and Václav Švéda.

Before fleeing Czechoslovakia, the five men committed small acts of sabotage locally, by burning fields and defacing posters of Stalin. To obtain submachine guns and pistols for the trip, they raided two police stations, killing a policeman at each site. Soon after, they attacked a payroll transport, stealing about \$140,000 and killing a cashier.



Amazon.com

At the time, the cold war was going strong and Czechoslovakia was under brutal and repressive communism which had replaced the Nazi regime. Voice of America and Radio Free Europe raised hopes for massive resistance with the West's assistance. The two Mašín brothers carried a message to U.S. authorities from resistance forces who could help liberate Czechoslovakia, if the United States invaded.

It took the team four weeks for a trip they thought would be five days long, covering 200 miles, risking starvation, frostbite, bullet wounds, and a massive manhunt by about 24,000 Soviet soldiers and East German police. Only three made it. Janata was caught first; he and Švéda, who was captured about 62 miles from Berlin, were later executed in Czechoslovakia.

I appreciate how detailed the book is and that it is unusual in showing us realities of an escape and Czech life under communism in the 1950s. The author gathered information from a trip along the escape route with her father, through interviews, and by using her knowledge of English, German, Spanish, and Czech to do archival research in several countries.

Mašín's detailed narrative makes me wonder how much the dialog, which sometimes sounds contemporary, was reconstructed, making the book less believable "creative nonfiction" or "fictionalized history." But dialog does make a more engaging story. Controversy surrounds the group. Were they brave freedom fighters or reckless murderers? They shot to death six people before and during their trip.

The surviving three came to the United States and joined the U.S. Army. At the end of the book, we find out that the author's father did not support Havel, who he considered spineless. He did not return to Czechoslovakia and told a *New York Times* reporter (June 1, 2008), "I'm proud to be an American. It was the Czechs who let me down." He continued, "They never do anything for themselves. The older generation should be ashamed they collaborated with the communists. They always have some damn excuse." Josef Mašín Jr. seemed to lack appropriate empathy for the Czechs who were targeted because of his team's escape, including his mother, and for all those who continued to live under communism and not rebel because of the likely retaliations.

Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak 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 for the Czech Republic. For more information, go to www.cs-center.org or contact gwen@cs-center.org

Join Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures members to discuss *Mighty by Sacrifice: The Destruction of the American Bomber Squadron* by James L. Noles Sr. and James L. Nowls Jr. on Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. to noon, in the first-floor classroom at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Member News

Lois Cahill Obituary



Lois Cahill, age 90, of Saint Paul, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2020.

Lois is survived by three sons, including Sokol Minnesota member Dennis (Mary) Cahill; 10 grandchildren, including Carolyn and Sokol members Colleen Cahill (Alex Cho) and Megan (Jason) Brozovich; and five great-grandchildren.

Lois loved to dance and she enjoyed music, playing bingo, and watching Shirley Temple movies. She was devoted to her family.

Dorothy Sladek Obituary

Dorothy Ann Sladek, age 88 of Dundas and formerly of New Trier and Bloomington, died peacefully following a brief illness on January 12, 2020, in Rochester.

Dorothy was born in 1931 in Kramer, North Dakota, the daughter of Helmer and Mathilda (Schepp) Schultz. At a young age, her family moved to Cannon Falls, Minnesota.

She married William "Bill" Otto in 1951 at Saint Mary's Catholic Church, New Trier. They raised 11 children in New Trier and were members at Saint Mary's, where she was a teacher's aide at the school. She was known for her delicious baked bread, which she would sell to area families for \$.25/loaf. Bill died in 1975.

She married Allen Sladek in 1980 at Saint Mary's, and they moved to Bloomington. She managed the cafeteria at 2 Apple Tree Square for many years. She also worked at numerous schools in the Bloomington area, in their cafeterias. She was also active with Sokol Minnesota in Saint Paul for 30 years. Dorothy and Allen moved to Dundas in 2005 and were members of the Church of Saint Dominic in Northfield, where she helped with funeral luncheons.

Dorothy enjoyed crocheting, baking, dancing and reading. She had a green thumb when it came to flowers or gardening. She loved her North Dakota trips to see family, and especially loved to be a book buddy at the Cannon Falls Schools for her great-grandchildren.

Her legacy of love continues now in the hearts of her family--her husband of nearly 40 years, Allen; nine children; 30 grandchildren; 72 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-granddaughter; sister, Marilyn Naylor of Cottage Grove; and many nieces, nephews, and loving relatives.



Chairs "Made in Czechoslovakia"

by Louise Wessinger

Several years ago, a cousin of my dad died, leaving, among other items, a dozen wooden folding chairs. These chairs were stamped under the seat "Made in Czechoslovakia" (the "w" is not a typo, that is the actual spelling.) My cousin's daughter donated the chairs to the C.S.P.S. Hall, where they have been in storage. Sokol Minnesota would like to know if anyone knows any history of this type of wooden folding chair. We know they were imported after 1921, when a law was passed to require that the country of manufacture be stamped on each product. If you can help us unlock this mystery, please call or email Louise Jansen Wessinger, 651-452-6240 or louisewessinger@msn.com

Sokol Minnesota welcomes New Members

By Norm Petrik

At the January 16 Board of Directors meeting, five new members were accepted: Ron Campbell from Ellsworth, Wisconsin, with interest in genealogy; George Mikiska from New Prague; Brittany Stepan from Minneapolis; Jan Knudtson from Eagan, with interest in language; and Rebecca Penfold Murray from Saint Paul, with interest in gymnastics. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

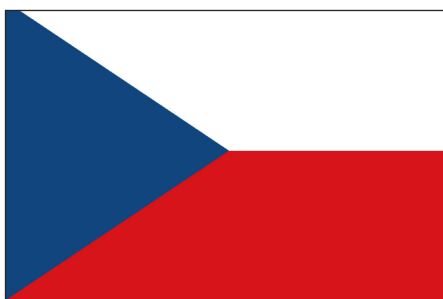
Czech Honorary Consul News

March 2020

(Right) Czech classical guitarist Vladislav Bláha's and his wife Tatiana Drobysch on a domra performed at Sokol Hall on Sunday, January 26, to an audience of nearly 50, including members and friends of Czech and Slovak Minnesota, the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota (CSCC), and the Minnesota Guitar Society. New to many in the audience was the domra; it is a long-necked Russian folk string instrument of the lute family with a round body and three or four metal strings. (L-R) Dave Stepan, president, Sokol Minnesota; M.L. Kucera, Honorary Czech Consul; Vladislav Bláha; Tatiana Drobysch; Bea Flaming, concert organizer, CSCC; and Renáta Tichá, president, CSCC.



(Above) Global Minnesota, in partnership with the Honorary Consulate of Switzerland in Minneapolis and members of the Swiss community in Minnesota, presented *Culture Through Cuisine: Swiss Fondue* on January 27, at the Food Building in Northeast Minneapolis. (L-R) Stephan Kistler, the Twin Cities Swiss American Society; Mark Ritchie, president of Global Minnesota; M.L. Kucera, Honorary Czech Consul; and Thelma Quintana, diplomat with the Consulate of Mexico in Saint Paul.



On March 30, 2020, the Czech flag will be 100 years old. In the 2020 New Year's card sent by Miloš Zeman, President of the Czech Republic, to Czech Honorary Consuls, it is noted that the citizens welcomed the establishment of the new nation in October 1918 with white and red flags. A blue

triangle at the hoist was added to the national Czechoslovak flag in accordance with Jaroslav Kursa's design and made official in 1920. This same flag became the Czech Republic's official flag on January 1, 1993.



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

Slovo Publication Information and Committee

The *Slovo* is published ten times per year by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Phone: 651-290-0542.

Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership. A subscription to the *Slovo* is available for \$15 annually. For a subscription, please include name, address, phone number, email address and a \$15 check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and mail to *Slovo* at the above address.

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

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

Moving or temporarily away: Please notify us via email or USPS mail of your change of address to make sure you continue to receive the *Slovo*. The *Slovo* is bulk mailed and non-deliverable copies are not forwarded or held by the Post Office. Non-delivered copies are returned to Sokol Minnesota and they are billed to us at the first class mail rate. For this

reason, we will not send additional issues until we have a current, correct mailing address on record for you.

Member volunteer *Slovo* staff: Co-Managing Editors (interim): Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, and Joyce Tesarek. Copy Editor: Tom Aubrecht. Production Layout Managers: Amanda Tesarek and Lucas DeBono. Regular Contributors: Glynis Grostephan, M.L. Kucera, Dave Stepan, Denise Stibal, Norm Petrik, and Jean Draheim. Photographers: Martina Gurgel and Joyce Tesarek. Collages: Martina Gurgel. Sokol Minnesota Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney. Mailing List: Penny Tesarek. Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek. Advisors: Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, M.L. Kucera, Norm Petrik, and Jitka Sebek.

Additional contributors this issue: Judy Aubrecht, Jean Draheim, Laura Goodman, M.L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Kari and Scott Muyres, Joyce Tesarek, Renáta Tichá, Gwen Willems, Louise Wessinger

Additional photographers this issue: Judy Aubrecht, Blank Brichta, Laura Goodman, Doreen McKenney, Renáta Tichá, Louise Wessinger.

February mailing: Mary Cahill, Joan Sedlacek.

**SOKOL MINNESOTA
MARCH EVENTS
ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!**

Pancake Breakfast with *Koláče* and Craft Sale

April 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., C.S.P.S Hall

No reservations needed.

Pre-order *kolace* by April 1: 651-290-0542

Reserve a craft table: 651-433-2008

Czech-Slovak Family Event

Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

C.S.P.S. Hall

Celebrate *Velikonoce* (Easter) with
Crafts, potluck luncheon, and puppet show.

88th Annual Festival of Nations

April 30-May 3, Saint Paul RiverCentre

Enjoy Czech and Slovak food and culture,
plus children, teen, and adult folk dancers.

Over 100 ethnic groups participating.

Info: www.festivalofnations.com

Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

CZECH AND SLOVAK



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO MARCH 2020

Spring Breakfast

with
***Koláče* and Craft Sales**

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, April 5

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\$8 adult

\$6 children under 9

**\$26 family of four
(two adults and two children)**

2020 Breakfast includes:
French toast, pancakes,
fruit cup, sausage,
juice, milk, and coffee.

Variety
of exquisite
hand-crafted
items for sale.
To rent a
vendor table call
651-433-2008.

Public
Welcome.

To pre-order
koláče call
651-290-0542
by April 1

