

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

UPCOMING SEPTEMBER EVENTS

October Slovo Due Date
 September 1

**Czech Slovak Festival
 Koláče Baking**
 September 10 and 11,
 8:30 a.m.

Board of Directors
 September 19, 7 p.m.

Family Day
 September 29, 10 a.m.

30th annual CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

September 15, 2019 | 11a.m. - 5p.m.
 C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN

**FREE
 Admission!
 Public
 Welcome.**

- Live Music
- Dance Performances
- Ethnic Food
- Czech Beer
- Special Guests
- Children's Games
- Sokol Gift Shop
- Street Vendors
- Exhibits
- Silent Auction
- Accessible Facility

We will have two special exhibits on loan from the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The *Leaving Czechoslovakia* exhibit will feature stories of 20th century immigrants who fled communist Czechoslovakia. The exhibit *Sokol Through the Years* discusses the creation of Sokol, which started in the mid 19th-century in Prague and soon afterwards came to the United States, the stifling of Sokol and development of Spartakiad during the communist years, and the return to Sokol in 1989. Plus, we will have an exhibit of campers' graffiti artwork from the 2019 Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp.



Join us for Food and Fun at the Czech & Slovak Festival!

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Dave Stepan

My Sokol brothers and sisters, Pozdrav!

My wife Darnell and I are fresh off the Colorado Trail, having just completed 42.3 miles of the 486 miles of the trail. My bucket list includes completing the entire trail, doing segment(s) at a time. Do you have a bucket list? As I mentioned in my last President's letter, I am continually learning, and this hike was a good learning experience in leadership. My eldest brother, Joe, was the leader of our six-person hike. He researched the sections that might fit the composition of our hikers and attempted to keep it reasonable.



Leadership includes planning the route, organizing the group, coordinating the event, and resupply. Leadership includes supporting those activities providing experience on how to do things.

What does our leadership here at the C.S.P.S. Hall look like? Even though I was elected President, I don't feel that I lead. I am more of a support person who wants the organization to strengthen itself and thrive for the next generation of members and supporters of all things Czech and Slovak. The true leaders are all around me. I know this because it's time to sign up for gymnastics, language, and dance. See www.sokolmn.org (click the Classes tab to register). Leadership includes trying something new, like the newly formed Kolo Sokol bicycle group. The leaders at Sokol are always in need of your support: your time and your talents. You have leaders on the Board of Trustees and on the Planning Committee that are working to take care of your Hall. Our *Česká a Slovenská Škola Twin Cities* (Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities) is working to preserve language and traditions. Our Board of Directors leads with tasks, such as improvements to our website, and work to keep your organization alive. Our Rental Committee works to support our hall manager when renting the Hall to the public or members.

Past and current leadership includes those in the Haselbauer family. We are celebrating Don Haselbauer's 70th birthday this year and in honor of this momentous occasion, a member has offered to match donations to Sokol up to \$7,000.

There are too many leaders for me to mention and, because of my limited facilities, I assuredly would leave someone out and I don't wish to offend, but to all of you LEADERS, thank you!

Summer is coming to a close and fall events are around the corner. Please mark your calendar for the 30th Annual Czech & Slovak Festival on September 15. You can support this event by, most importantly, attending, as well as sharing your heritage with others; don't forget to invite your friends. If you want to be involved with this event (like donating a Silent Auction item or volunteering) please contact events@sokolmn.org

Nazdar!

Going away this winter?

Forwarding your mail? Don't forget about the Slovo! We mail at bulk mail rates. The post office does not forward bulk mail. We pay an added 55 cents (or more) each time the post office returns an issue. Let us know your winter address, or ask us to hold an issue (or two or more) for you. We think our volunteers produce a great newsletter. We want to be sure you receive it!



Sokol now has Instagram and looking for an Admin., DM us if you are interested!

@sokolminnesota

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs for children, teens, and adults. Information on our programs, calendar of events, membership, C.S.P.S. Hall rentals, and gift shop, plus E-Addresses for our board, program directors, volunteer staff, and the Czech Honorary Consul, as well as *Slovo* past issues, are available at www.sokolmn.org or www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2019 BOD (Board of Directors)

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

30th Annual Czech and Slovak Festival on September 15

On Sunday, September 15, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sokol Minnesota will celebrate its 30th annual Czech and Slovak Festival. It will again be a gala event, with ethnic food and beer, music, folk dance performances by the children, teen, and adult groups, a gymnastic exhibition, vendors and exhibitors, jugglers, kids' games and activities, and our annual fabulous silent auction fundraiser. Performances will be on both the indoor and outdoor stages.

On the menu are *jitrnice* (Czech sausage), *vepřový karbanátek* (pork burger), *párky* (hot dogs), and three entrees: *halušky a kapusta* (Slovak dumpling-cabbage-bacon dish), *Szegedin guláš* (pork and sauerkraut stew), and *kuře na paprice* (chicken paprikáš). There will also be a Czech salad for a tasty vegan side. All food this year will be outside in the Grill area. The Sweet Shoppe will offer *koláče* with poppyseed, prune, apricot, cream cheese, and raspberry fillings to choose from, as well as assorted pastries. Beer, pop, and water will be available. Inside, in addition to the bar, there will be Cold Stone Creamery ice cream!

Don't forget to check out our Gift Shop inside on the first floor!

This event takes lots of happy volunteers to make it happen. If you would like to help at the festival or getting things set up and organized, call Joyce at 612-822-6147 or email Festival@sokolmn.org. We also welcome items for the silent auction, such as tickets to a concert or event, a week at your cabin, or cooking a Czech or Slovak meal. Everything welcome!

Come and check us out on September 15!

Silent Auction Items Needed For Czech and Slovak Festival

Our Silent Auction fundraiser is a popular part of our annual Czech and Slovak Fall Festival.

If you have special items (especially if they are Czech or Slovak), tickets to events, or gift cards to donate, please bring them to the C.S.P.S. Hall by September 10.

Items may be left in the first floor classroom or on the third floor landing.

Please box and label donations "Silent Auction" and include your name and address so a donation receipt can be sent to you.

Contact Glynis Grostephan
ggrostephan@earthlink.net
or call 612-724-0923 if you have questions
or need to arrange a drop off.

Thank you for your generosity!

International Festival of Burnsville by Blanka Brichta

Sokol Minnesota's puppets Jarada and Jitka headlined the art exhibit *Our Many Faces* at the Ames Center, Burnsville, Minnesota from June 27 to August 1, 2019. Many artists



participated in this exhibit, including Slovak-born Silvia Purdy, whose artwork *Liptovsky Kroj* won the honor to be the promotional poster for the event. This exhibit was part of the 11th annual International Festival of Burnsville. The festival itself took place outdoors on July 20 and, despite the rain earlier in the day, it was well attended, especially as the day progressed. Our crew of volunteers representing our Czech and Slovak community at the cultural display were Blanka Brichta, Marit Lee Kucera, Doreen McKenney, and Pat Slaber. The display arranged by Doreen included several *kroj* pieces, history and culture books, and a photo chronicle of how the puppets were made. A very special treat was the invitation to our group



from Elizabeth Kautz, the mayor of Burnsville, to attend the mayor's reception as a thank you for our Czech and Slovak community's contribution.

Donald Haselbauer is turning 70. Help Match a Donation in his Name!

In honor of Don Haselbauer's 70th birthday, an anonymous donor has agreed to match all donations to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota made between now and December 31, up to \$7,000. Don, a second generation Sokol (his parents Frank and Florence were also life-long members) and his wife Katie are an important part of the Sokol Minnesota family. Don is an Honor Award recipient (see the April 2019 *Slovo*), and has served as Sokol Minnesota treasurer for seven years. Don has supported the C.S.P.S. Hall in many ways and these donations will help enable us to continue the Hall's renovation and restoration. Help celebrate Don's birthday with a donation that will be matched 100%. Send along your wishes with a check to the Legacy Fund, or donate online at www.sokolmn.org

Seal of Success by Jitka Sebek

After another restful and inspiring summer, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities enters the 2019 - 2020 school year with new level of energy thanks to an affirmed goal – Seal of Bilinguality.

Throughout the centuries, Czech or Slovak languages among immigrants were passed onto the next generation individually. In a largely monolingual society such as the United States, learning a heritage language wasn't an easy task. While using the language within the family provides the basis for proficiency, it is actually the community-based school and ethnic organizations that aspire to broaden and improve education of their children.

When many of us "Mom and Dads" came in the 1990s and later to the Twin Cities, we gathered together and gradually evolved into a school. Not only Europe, but then also North America, witnessed the creation of Czech and Slovak heritage schools that aim to provide a language education comparable to the curriculum of native public schools. The Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities gave shape to our ethnic, educational, cultural, and social activities but we also desired a tangible, final goal. In Minnesota, no high schools or colleges offered tests in Czech or Slovak, but that was soon to be changed: Minnesota Department of Education with the state's very large English as a Second Language student population (Hmong, Spanish, and Somali) adopted a newly created language statute for Seal of Bilinguality.

The Seal is awarded to high school graduates who either prove their language proficiency using a test offered at the high school or use tests created under the guidance of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) that are approved by each state's Department of Education. As soon as the regulations were clear, Czech & Slovak School, together with the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, hosted at the C.S.P.S. Hall a series of three linguistic conferences, securing the most knowledgeable, supportive, and motivated presenters and audience. The linguistic ball got rolling and became unstoppable: within a couple of years of an encouraging collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Education, the first student, Thomas Sebek, was successfully tested in Czech (in speaking, reading, writing, and listening) and received a Seal of Bilinguality.

The benefits of the Seal of Bilinguality (Multilinguality) are numerous. First, the certificate becomes part of the student's high school diploma and thus can be used in college applications. Second, it allows students to receive high school credit for their Czech or Slovak language proficiency. Third, it validates these two "underdog" languages in the eyes of public school teachers, administrators, students, and the broader society. Finally, the exam and award can provide a largely-missing motivation for middle- and high-school students to continue their study of these two heritage languages. Knowing that they can receive a U.S.-based certificate for Czech or Slovak language skills that are recognized by both colleges and employers, students may have a stronger incentive not to give up their native language.

We have a window of opportunity that is presently open very wide, so teaching our children Czech or Slovak both at home and at Saturday Czech & Slovak School classes for an additional support and systematic Seal preparation is an opportunity not to be missed. We are ready and so are the tests! *Přidejte se k nám (Join us)!*



The Seal testing session, L to R: Barбора Carlson (Slovak teacher), Jitka Sebek (Czech teacher), Thomas Sebek (tested student), and Ursula Lentz (World Language and English Learner Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education).

Czech and Slovak Language Classes start the Week of September 15

Why might you want to study Czech or Slovak? Planning a trip to the homeland and want to order a beer? Did you marry into the family and want to be able to understand what your mother-in-law is really saying about you? Do you want to surprise *babička* (grandma) with learning a few words? Already know some Czech or Slovak, but want to improve? Whatever your reason, we've got a class to meet your needs.

Classes meet weekly for twelve weeks at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Czech Classes

Beginning Czech (A1), Monday evenings at 5:30 p.m., beginning September 16

Beginning Czech (A2), Monday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning September 16

Intermediate Czech (B1), Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning September 18

Instructor for A1, A2, and B1: Blanka Brichta

Advanced Czech (B2), Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning September 17

Instructor for B2: Renáta Tichá

Slovak Classes

All Levels, Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m., beginning September 17

Instructor for Slovak: Barбора Carlson

Class Fee: \$120 (Sokol members); \$145 (non-members).

Class fees do not include books, which are additional.

For more information, visit www.sokolmn.org or email education@sokolmn.org



RISING STAR

CARISSA SKRIVANEK

submitted by Todd Yatchyshyn
Sokol USA Co-Director of Sports Fitness & Wellness

Congratulations to Carissa Skrivanek, American Sokol's Rising Star for the month of May.

Since 1997 Carissa Skrivanek's involvement in Sokol has evolved from a Junior Class participant to Sokol Minnesota's Youth Ambassador and Class Registration Coordinator. Along the way Carissa has established an amazingly impressive resume and has returned to her roots as a class instructor.



Carissa Skrivanek is pictured far right

At roughly the age of 12, Carissa and her younger sister joined Sokol Minnesota's Gymnastics Program and children's folk dance group, Taneční Mládež. With an approximately 50 percent Czech background and a last name that translates to Skylark, Carissa's Sokol career quickly took flight. Under the guidance and tutelage of Sister Mary Cahill, Carissa was encouraged and inspired to take on a leadership role after two years in the gym and she began assisting with class instruction when she was in 9th grade. By the following year, Carissa took over as the head instructor, while also excelling in her high school track and cross-country career.

When asked about her early years in the gym, Carissa spoke effusively about Sister Cahill's role as a mentor in her life, stating that, "she believed in me and empowered me to step up as a leader in the gym." My experience as an instructor in the gym gave me confidence to dream big." Those dreams, in addition to her dedication, earned Carissa a Division I Track Scholarship to Davidson College where she ran cross country in addition to the 3k Steeplechase and the 1500 meter during the spring track season.

Following graduation from Davidson College, Carissa taught high school English until she entered the Air Force to become an Arabic Language Analyst. At the conclusion of a 63-week language training school at the Defense Language Institute, Carissa was the top graduate, earning the Commandant's Award for her work in the classroom as well as her role as Team Captain of the Women's Air Force Run Team.

In 2016, nearly 20 years from the time she began her life as a Sokol, Carissa returned to the gym to assist with the Advanced Girls classes and take on many administrative tasks in the gym. Carissa could not be more complimentary of Courtney Benson, the current head instructor at Sokol Minnesota, describing her as "an individual who inspires others. She promotes a positive atmosphere in the gym, challenging gymnasts to push their limits while encouraging each other."

In addition to all of the achievements Carissa has attained along the way, she is a graduate of three Sokol Instructor Schools, 1999-2001, she participated in the 2000 Slet in the Czech Republic, and attended a World Sokol Federation International Camp. Recently, Carissa also attended the Sokol Development Conference and chaperoned 12 gymnasts while attending the Central District Skills Clinic.

Congratulations to a truly remarkable Sokol, Carissa Skrivanek of Sokol Minnesota, the American Sokol Rising Star for the month of May.

The American Sokol provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural and social programs.

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Highlights of Sokolfest 2019 in Buffalo, New York

by Sokol Minnesota Participants

From Wednesday, June 26, through Saturday evening, June 30, Sokol Minnesota members Mary Cahill, Norm Petrik, Joyce Tesarek and Joan Sedlacek, enjoyed the camaraderie of Sokol national organizations: Sokol USA, American Sokol, DA Sokol, and Sokol Canada, as well as members, participants, and spectators at Sokolfest 2019, hosted by Sokol USA in Buffalo, New York. From the opening night kick-off picnic social through the final Saturday evening dance, Sokols of all ages reminisced with long-time friends, renewed contacts of long ago, and made new friends through the variety of scheduled activities and events.

Every two years, our national organization, American Sokol, alternates with Sokol USA to host a *slet*, or gymnastics gathering. There are several days of competition for all age groups, a tug of war, volleyball games, and track and field races. For the closing ceremony, children to senior adult members from units around the country perform calisthenic routines outdoors.

It was a memorable event. The selection of Buffalo as a host city and the proximity of the host hotel to the many attractions in the area was an added bonus. Our Minnesota contingent visited Niagara Falls, Lockport, New York's Erie Canal Discovery Center (plus an incredible ice cream shop that sold creative flavors in an Ice Cream Flight in a nod to the famous Erie Canal five-step lock system), and toured Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House Complex. Prior to arriving in Buffalo, the foursome did a little sightseeing in



Senior Calisthenic routine



Joyce Tesarek, Norm Petrik, Mary Cahill, Joan Sedlacek



Mary, Joyce, Norm, and Joan below Niagara Falls

Ithaca, New York, and the beautiful Finger Lakes area.

During Sokolfest we attended socials (a favorite was the bus tour of five local breweries), observed gymnastics competition, and performed in the Senior Calisthenic number during Saturday night's final program.

Sokol USA did a great job in planning Sokolfest. There was something for everyone. Events were affordably priced, there was enough free time to take in the local attractions, and the host hotel provided wonderful accommodations and amenities. One significant bonus was the outdoor enclosed pool area. This was a great spot to interact with Sokols from all over: Canada, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and other states. A special part of Sokol affiliation is that you are treated like one of the family. Almost everyone made an effort to talk with others and be as inclusive as possible.

The next National Slet will be in June of 2021 in the Chicago area. The Central District of American Sokol is hosting this Slet. It is our hope that Minnesota will have a strong presence at, and participation in, this event. Watch the Slovo for more information about this event as it becomes available. We are looking ahead to this not-to-be-missed 2021 event, including the fun to be had, the memories to be made, and the shared experience of the Sokol ideals in action.

You Too Can Rent the C.S.P.S. Hall

by Judy Aubrecht

"I love this ethnic hall. It has such a warm and friendly feeling. I remember being a kid and attending my uncle's wedding at the C.S.P.S. Hall, along with my whole extended family. Now my daughter is getting married next year. Please tell me how many guests can come and when the hall is available on a Saturday in the spring of 2020."



Roast Duck Dinner at C.S.P.S. Hall

This comment is a frequently expressed memory and request from those interested in renting the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Popular rental occasions for the Hall, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, include weddings, receptions, memorial services, dance and music events, and special parties, such as anniversaries, birthdays, and quinceañera celebrations.

The 2,500 square foot main hall can accommodate 160 seated dinner guests or 300 guests for a standing reception. It is an accessible building, with an elevator to the second floor. Included in the competitively priced rental fee are setup and takedown services, a kitchen for heating only, bar, a gathering or serving area, and coatroom. Affordably priced linen, buffet, and beverage service equipment are available to rent for your event, so that you do not have to work with outside vendors. The elevated stage is popular for DJs and live bands.

Did you know that people who have been members of Sokol Minnesota for five years or more are eligible for a significant discount for their event? These long-term members are also eligible to have a memorial service or funeral luncheon at the hall for no rental cost.

Sokol Minnesota is committed to minimizing its carbon footprint. Washable china, glasses, and tableware, or complete compostable table service, are available and are used at most events. Licensed commercial catering services can be negotiated and bar service can be arranged.

The Hall is located on the very popular West Seventh Street, one mile from downtown Saint Paul, Minnesota and just three miles from the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Airport.

Our helpful staff is available to assist you with planning your special event. For more information, contact Dawn Bulera, Event Coordinator, at hallrental@sokolmn.org, or call the C.S.P.S. Hall at 651-290-0542.

Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics 2019-2020 Classes Start September 16

Sokol Minnesota Gym Team

It's back to school time, and that means the start-up of the 2019-2020 gymnastics classes for youth ages four years and over. Sokol Minnesota gymnastics provides a safe and fun learning environment, all while challenging each gymnast to master exciting new skills. Our program boasts small class sizes, allowing each gymnast plenty of attention. We accommodate all abilities from beginner to advanced and offer an optional competition class and experience. Our program is led by experienced and qualified instructors. For more information contact us at fitness@sokolmn.org or 651-290-0542.

Member News

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota was well represented in the 2019 Kolacky Days Grand Parade in



Montgomery on July 28. The Czech 100 Celebration in late October 2018 was the successful weekend commemoration in Czech Country Minnesota of 100 years since the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918. As a lasting memorial, the committee donated linden trees, known as the Tree of Freedom, to the four Czech-heritage communities of Montgomery, New Prague, Veseli, and Lonsdale. Jean Keogh (second from left), Stanley Chromy, Fred Simon, and M. L. Kucera, who are all Sokol Minnesota members, were with the linden tree parade float. On the far left is George Mikiska.

Since heavy rains were forecast (but did not fall until two hours after the parade), these tree branches with large paper linden leaves were wrapped in plastic to protect them. This unit was #14 in the 90-minute parade. It followed the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, most of whom are also proud Sokol Minnesota members, all dressed in colorful kroje; their float also had live concertina music. Other Sokol members in the Kolacky Day Parade included current and past members of the Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant royalty and the new junior ambassadors.

This linden tree float will be part of the Dožiinky® parade in New Prague on Saturday, September 21. Doreen McKenney designed these paper leaves, which were attached to real wood branches.

Slovak-American Radio Online: “Notes of Slovakia” *By Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.*

Slovak Radio is one of the best methods to reach the Slovak-American audience and those interested in Slovakia and its culture. One of the problems many people encounter is that they are not always available to listen when a program is being broadcast. A new online radio show entitled “Notes of Slovakia” has attempted to solve that problem by offering an online recording. One can listen to it anytime, even in short segments. And it is easy to find on the web, with a simple Google search. Or one may go straight to the website and click on “Listen Now”: <https://notesofslovakia.com>. There also is a Facebook site with links:

<https://www.facebook.com/NotesOfSlovakia/>.

Every “Notes of Slovakia” program is broadcast in both English and Slovak, so everyone will understand. In the words of the announcers, they “play music from the past, the present, and everything in between.” In other words, the show offers a great variety which should appeal to listeners. The program also offers an array of short talks about Slovak culture, history, and the language. And if one wishes to watch while listening, there are pictures of the speakers, the subject matter, and for the music.

Mike Wojtila (Vojtilla) of USA and Slavomír Vojtilla of Slovakia cohost the program. They are not related, though they met because of their name similarities. A mail carrier by trade, Mike Wojtila is an accomplished keyboard player and accordionist, who specializes in vocals.

The other host, Slavomír Vojtilla studied ecology and landscape engineering when attending college. He currently does Environmental impact assessment, and in addition, has worked in Electrical Engineering as his firm manages and develops hydropower plants and solar systems (photovoltaic Slovak-American Radio Online: “Notes of Slovakia” Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D. roof system). Slavomír does his program out of sheer love for Slovak culture and a desire to share it with the world. And yours truly, Dr. Michael Kopanic, has done several features in Slovak Spotlight part of the program since early March 2019.

To hear Slovak radio programming in English directly from Slovakia, visit the RTVS radio site: <http://enrsi.rtvs.sk>. The show features news of the day and special features about Slovakia and its culture.

Other USA Slovak Radio Online

Do not forget to listen to other online Slovak radio programs broadcast in the USA.

The Cleveland Slovak program on WERE 1490AM hosted by Milan Kobulský airs on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m.; the website is: <https://newstalkcleveland.com/listen-live/>

Another Slovak program airs on WPIT 730 AM in Pittsburgh, hosted by Rudy and Sue Ondrejco; it may be heard at 3-4 p.m. on Sundays at <http://player.listenlive.co/57381>

In the Youngstown, Ohio area, Dennis Spisak runs the Slovak Radio Program, broadcast from WKTL FM 90.7. The show now offers a listening site on the internet, and it can be heard on live radio as far away as the outer suburbs of Akron and Pittsburgh: <http://wktl.caster.fm>

Finally, Chicago offers Krajanské Rádio/Centrum Chicago (Countryman Radio / Downtown Chicago) offers mainly modern Slovak and Czech music: <http://www.krajanskeradio.com>

Conclusion

All of these Slovak programs are well worth listening to, and for the American Slovak programs, I would recommend that listeners send a donation, so they can continue in the future as we try to preserve our Slovak heritage. Notes of Slovakia is the newest program of all the above mentioned, and hopefully, all our readers will try listening to this excellent presentation which is available to listen to anytime at your convenience at this website: <https://notesofslovakia.com/listen-now>



Notes of Slovakia homepage photo

Editor's Note: This article was submitted by Sokol Minnesota member Denis Novak. Reprinted with permission from First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association's *Fraternally Yours Magazine*, Vol. 105, No. 9, June 2019. Visit www.fcsla.org



Czech and Slovak Literature Ventures 2019-2020

Join us for literary presentations and small-group informal discussions of Czech and Slovak books in English translation. Everyone is welcome.

Discussions are 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.

Unless noted, discussions will be from 10 a.m. to noon at the C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, 55102.

Saturday, September 14, 10 a.m. to noon, Unity Church – Unitarian, Robbins Parlor, 733 Portland Avenue, Saint Paul, 55104

Prague Noir edited by Pavel Mandys and translated by Miriam Margolis– Book discussion

Saturday, October 26

The Velvet Revolution: Czechoslovakia, 1988-1991 by Bernard Wheaton and Zdeněk Kavan – Book discussion

Saturday, November 23

Kafka's Last Trial: The Case of a Literary Legacy by Benjamin Balint– Book discussion

Saturday, December 28

Gauntlet: Five Friends, 20,000 Enemy Troops, and the Secret That Could Have Changed the Course of the Cold War by Barbara Masin – Book discussion

Saturday, January 25

Selected poetry in English by Milan Rúfus. Poetry reading by all attendees

Saturday, February 22

The Last Palace: Europe's Turbulent Century in Five Lives and One Legendary House by Norman Eisen – Book discussion

Saturday, March 28

Mighty by Sacrifice: The Destruction of the American Bomber Squadron by James L. Nowls, Sr., and James L. Nowls, Jr. – Book discussion

Saturday, April 25,

11 a.m. to noon, C.S.P.S. Hall first floor meeting room

Encounter in Prague by Jarda Cervenka – Book discussion

12:15-1:30 p.m., C.S.P.S. Hall second floor dining room

Talk by Jarda Cervenka on *The Importance of Reading Nonfiction Today*

Saturday, May 23

Fleeting Snow written by Pavel Vilikovský and translated by Julia Sherwood – Book discussion

Questions? Contact gwen@cs-center.org

Highlights of the July Board of Directors Meeting

By Denise Stibal

The July 18 meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Dave Stepan, who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by singing "Happy Birthday" to Joyce Tesarek (Czech version). Dave will explore options for the Linden Tree Plaque. He gave an update on the Slovak National Uprising 75th Anniversary Memorial Weekend, August 24- 25.

Jean Draheim distributed the Hall Calendar for 2020. She also shared information about an opportunity for Sokol to participate in the Festival in Scandia on September 7.

Glynis Grostephan reported on donations for July, which totaled \$11,996.

Norm Petrik presented two new members: Kathy Weese and Helen Bond of Saint Paul.

Don Haselbauer presented the Treasurer's Report, with a motion to transfer \$20,000 from the Operating Fund to the Legacy Fund, which was approved.

Ed Hamernik reported on Charitable Gaming. The expense budget for July was approved.

Joyce Tesarek is working on the Czech Government grant with funds to have protective window coverings on the third floor, floor refinishing for the main hall and dining room, and first floor classroom furniture upgrade; bids are being obtained for these projects.

For the Czech & Slovak Festival on September 15, all food vendors will be outside. There will be two exhibits: *Leaving Czechoslovakia 1918-Present*, and *History of Sokol*.

Mary Cahill reported that the Sokolfest in Buffalo, New York, went well. The fall gymnastics classes will begin on September 9.

Ed Hamernik reported for the Board of Trustees that structural repairs are needed. The Board decided to prioritize three structural repair projects: fix the ceiling in the buildout, install supports in the opening to the basement, and repair the post in the bar area. The approximate cost for this work is \$37,100. Work on the roof parapets and tuckpointing near the roof will be completed soon.

Pat Slaber from the Education Committee will research options on updating the website to include PDF documents.

The Board also approved the purchase of shelving for the first floor ramp and a lock for the beverage cooler.

The next Board meeting is Thursday, August 15 at 7 p.m.

Obituary

Longtime Sokol member Dan Washick, age 85, died July 18. He was an exceptional member; first to volunteer and totally dependable. He was big, strong and sweet, with a heart of gold. A few years ago, Dan and his son Gator were all set to go fishing when Dan got a call that help was needed to help move a heavy booya kettle for Sokol Minnesota. Dan told his son, "We can go fishing anytime, but we are needed right now to help out at Sokol. Helping comes before fishing."

Dan, a Korean army veteran, supported his family as a Ford Motor mechanic. He also kept the Zamboni machine at the Wakota Ice Arena in tip top shape.

In his retirement years, Dan became an avid cyclist, completing several MS 150 Rides across MN, raising money for this good cause. Because of recent health issues, he had to give up his bike. About two weeks ago I spoke with Dan. He said he bought a three wheel bike and was determined to get back on his two wheeler. I'm betting on Dan. Rest in peace our dear brother and friend. Marlene Hinshaw

10 September 2019 Slovo

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 **Ron Andrie**.
Marit Lee Kucera, in honor of **Don Haselbauer's** 70th birthday.

GENERAL FUND:

Under \$99: **Judy and Tom Aubrecht**, in memory of **Ron Andrie**.
Sharon and Ken Wyberg, in memory of **Wally Oliva**.

IN-KIND DONATIONS:

American Swedish Institute (ASI), wall mural panels of the city of Prague.
Louise Cameron, box of dolls.
Ed Gross, Slovak Kroj.
Sister Anita Smisek, OP, **Dominican Sisters**, 150 new CD's of Czech and Slovak music.
Steve and Susan Vnoucek, 63 recordings of Czech music.

SUBTOTALS:

Legacy Fund	\$148
General Fund:	\$35
TOTAL:	\$183



Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Dan Washick, and Hana Matousek singing with the Sokol Minnesota Singers at the 2018 Czech & Slovak Festival.

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

By Norm Petrik

Kathy Weese and Helen Bond from Saint Paul were accepted as members of Sokol Minnesota at the July 18 Board of Directors meeting. They have interests in cultural events, history, genealogy, and cooking. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Czech Honorary Consul News

Trylon Cinema screened *Ikarie XB-1*, July 14-16, during its summer-long celebration of the moon landing's 50th anniversary. This 1963 stylish Czech thriller, about interstellar space travel, influenced both *2001* and *Star Trek*. Over 220 film fans attended. On opening night, M. L. Kucera, Czech Honorary Consul, who helped provide promotion support for this film's screening, stood with Barry Kryshka, Trylon Director, and Nikki Weispfenning, Cinema Manager, in Trylon's lobby at 2820 East 33rd Street, Minneapolis. <www.Trylon.org>



(Left) Volunteering for the *11th Annual International Festival* at the Ames Center, 12600 Nicollet Avenue, Burnsville, on July 20, Honorary Consul M.L. Kucera (R) stood with Blanka Brichta and the Czech flag, which Blanka carried in the parade of national flags to open the Festival (see page 3).

(Right) On August 1, Marit joined George Mikiska, Doris Coghill, and Vi Chromy in the Czech Heritage Club booth for *Czech out New Prague*, the annual community and business event in the city park showcasing what New Prague has to offer.



Marit rode on the *Czech 100 Celebration* float (see page 7)

in the *Kolacky Days Grand Day Parade* in Montgomery on July 28.

She will ride on the same float for the *Dožinky® Parade* in New Prague on Saturday, September 21.

Marit will be at the 30th annual Czech & Slovak Festival at C.S.P.S. Hall on September 15. Stop by to say hello!

30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, which ended communism in Czechoslovakia. On Sunday, November 17, 1-5 p.m., Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities plans a day of commemoration at C.S.P.S. Hall with singing, jingling keys, food, kids' games, theatre, displays, and celebrating with music and a film.



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul

651-238-0447

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Slovo Publication Information and Committee

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

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

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

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

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SOKOL MINNESOTA
OCTOBER EVENTS AT C.S.P.S. HALL
ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!

Family Night
October 13, 4 p.m.

Czech Roast Pork Dinner
October 20, 12:30 p.m.

Check for more events and updates:
www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/
www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO SEPTEMBER 2019

Czech Roast Pork Dinner

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, October 20, 12:30 p.m.

Menu: Roast pork, raised-bread dumplings, sauerkraut, rye bread, dessert, and coffee.

Beer and wine cash bar.

\$18 adult, \$9 child under 9

**Prepaid reservations
required by October 14**

To reserve call: 651-290-0542



C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102