

CZECH AND SLOVAK

SOKOL



MINNESOTA

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

SLOVO

August 2020
vol. 43 no. 7

SATURDAY
September 26 2020

10a-1p

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

Send your food order by **SEPTEMBER 7**
food@sokolmn.org

Curbside
CUISINE

HOSTED by CZECH and SLOVAK SOKOL MINNESOTA
651 - 290 - 0542

Curbside Cuisine

MENU

Segedínský guláš (pork sauerkraut gulas) \$12. quart
Kuřecí paprikáš (creamy paprika sauce with chicken) \$12. quart
Buřtguláš (kettle sausage and potato gulas) \$8. quart
Halušky (cabbage bacon with mini dumplings) \$10. quart
Houskový knedlík (raised bread dumpling) \$5. loaf
Bublanina (fruit coffee cake either blueberries or strawberries) \$10.
Koláč (poppy, apricot, prune, cream cheese, or raspberry) \$1 each

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Dave Stepan

Here we go again! Do your living situation and social engagements seem to be stuck on repeat?

Have you gotten a bit more comfortable with online meeting software such as Zoom, House Party, FaceTime, Teams, or Meet? Have you been spending too much time on Facebook? Will this be the new norm? For some of you I would not bet against it. For those of us who are more comfortable with face-to-face discussion, we have been forced to adapt.

Just like you, your C.S.P.S. Hall continues to adapt and move forward. For the past 133 years your building has changed with the times. From its beginning, the Hall has been home to the *Česko-Slovenský Podporující Spolek*" (Czech-Slovak Protective Society, or CSPS), the local Czechoslovak Society of America (CSA), and the *Západní Česko-Bratrská Jednota* (ZCJB), that has been known as Western Fraternal Life Association (WFLA). Now the Hall is home to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. I am not an expert on the Hall's history, but I'm hoping to get better informed. Immigrants built our Hall and with the work of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors, and your generous support, your Hall will remain a beacon to immigrants old and new. I hope the next time you are able to come to your Hall, you will see the work we have been doing. One of the projects was the sanding and re-sealing of the main floor and first floor. I think they look great! Thank you to the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers for contributing to our shiny new floor—it will be fun to get back dancing on it! If anyone of you would like to help offset the cost, we would be happy to accept your donation.

Sokol Minnesota membership and supporters have changed over the years with the varying waves of immigrants. We have a great mix of recent arrivals, members brought up in Sokol, and those whose ancestors were from the "old country" (as my grandpa Albert used to say) but knew nothing of Sokol. We are all in this as a way to stay connected, reconnect, or re-discover our heritage. In my opinion, each wave of new immigrants brings a vitality that makes the United States unique. With the leadership of our new Czech and Slovak Americans, the C.S.P.S. Hall has become home to the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities. These recent arrivals have also helped expand the participants in the *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens* dance groups and the Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp. I would not be surprised if many of these children are also tumbling their way in our gymnastics programs. The adults are frequently the "cooks in the kitchen" whom I wish I could understand as they converse in Czech or Slovak. They are also the teachers teaching us Czech and Slovak.

We were able to install the plaque for our new Linden Tree of Liberty; thank you to all who were involved (see page 4).

This year we worked to recognize our youth members for their activity participation, leadership, and volunteer efforts here at Sokol Minnesota. We solicited applications from members whose children were juniors or seniors in high school. We had four applicants and were able to award three \$300 awards, and one \$100 award for best essay. You will see their profiles and friendly faces in the next issue of *Slovo*. I would like to specifically thank our Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera and *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens* Director Louise Wessinger, who assisted the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors in funding these awards.

If you are not already aware, we have decided to cancel our Czech and Slovak Festival, originally scheduled for September, and add a new event called "Curbside Cuisine." More information is in this issue on page 5 and at www.sokolmn.org We are also planning a Virtual Open House of our activities and facilities.

I wish you a healthy summer and I hope to see you in person in the not too distant future.
Nazdar!



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Past issues of *Slovo* and
Hall Calendar of Events:
www.sokolmn.org

**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

Linden Tree Plaque is installed

By Dave Stepan



The new Linden tree and kámen with plaque

On May 20, the plaque for our new Linden tree was set in stone, literally! From now until we are no longer around, this tree and plaque will stand steadfast and true. See a close up of the plaque on page 12.

The idea of adding a second Linden tree originated with the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities and was furthered, including the provision of the plaque, by the efforts and support of Blank Brichta, Mark Dillon, John and Filip Gerlach, Marit Lee Kucera, Martin Marko, Johnny and the late Yvonne Palka, and Joyce Tesarek. Thank you all for your patience in getting the plaque installed. A special *děkujeme* goes out to the uncommon *kámen* (stone) man, Rick Palma, who secured the plaque to the *kámen* and transported it to its final resting spot.

Thank you to Board of Trustees chair, Bob Kotek, for providing the mulch as the finishing touch.



Rick Palma installing the kámen

See the video of Rick in action installing the *kámen* with the plaque:
www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota/videos/1121859101528109

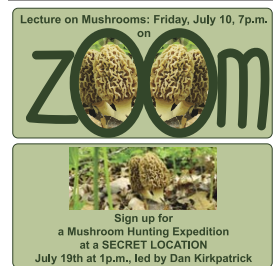
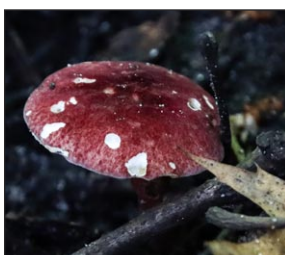
The November 2018 *Slovo* has a photo collage of the dedication of the Linden tree: www.sokolmn.org/slovo-newsletter/

Mushroom Presentation and Hunt are Successes

By Pat Slaber



Dan Kirkpatrick (mojomushroom.com) (pictured left) shared his knowledge of mushrooms in an engaging presentation on July 10th via Zoom. The following weekend the fearless hunters foraged in the woods at a secret location in Eagan. We found chanterelles, hedgehogs, and a lot of LBMs. LBMs, in the mushroom world are “little black mushrooms,” nice to look at, but not good to eat.



Pictured here are the mushroom participants from the July 19 hunt along with photos of the LBMs except for the bottom right photo showing two young enthusiasts holding the prized chanterelles, which were turned into a tasty meal.



Song to the Moon Podcast by Susan Janda

Our string quartet, *The Four Voices*, recently collaborated remotely with soprano Danielle Beckvermit and additional members of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra to produce a video of the aria, "Song to the Moon," from Antonín Dvořák's *Rusalka*. Please enjoy this one-of-a-kind, socially distanced performance at: <https://tinyurl.com/y2ra5oko>

About the aria: The deeply-in-love water sprite Rusalka cannot leave her home. Sound familiar? Stuck on the shore of the lakes she inhabits, Rusalka sings her "Song to the Moon," asking the moon to tell her beloved she is thinking of him.

Danielle Beckvermit (www.daniellebeckvermit.com) is a Minnesota Opera resident artist. The Four Voices String Quartet (www.4VSQ.com) is composed of members



Susan Janda and *The Four Voices* string quartet arriving for the video performance.



Song to the Moon performance by Minnesota Opera members L-R. Top row: Michele Frisch, Danielle Beckvermit, Karrin Meffert-Nelson. Bottom row: Allison Ostrander, Laurie Petruconis, Susan Janda, Rebecca Arons.

Allison Ostrander, Concertmaster; Laurie Petruconis, Principal Second Violin; Susan Janda, Viola; and Rebecca Arons, Cello (www.mnopera.org). They were joined by Minnesota Opera players Michele Frisch, Principal Flute and Karrin Meffert-Nelson, Principal Clarinet.

The video was produced by STRINGenius (www.stringenius.com), the production company of Rebecca Arons and arranger Adi Yeshaya. Yeshaya wrote this arrangement for "Song to the Moon" for Arons' wedding.

The video was made at Creation Audio in Minneapolis. The owner, Steve Wiese, generously worked to create a COVID-19 compliant situation, getting permission from State Health Department and donating use of the studio and engineer Miles Hanson's time.

4 August 2020 *Slovo*

The string players recorded with headphones and masks on, 15 feet apart from each other. Danielle sang in a neighboring isolation booth room where we could see her through a glass door. Video was taken of her as she sang. Flute and clarinet came on a different day, recording to our string and vocal tracks, each of them in their own room, looking at each other through glass. Then video of each player was taken with us trying to play along with the audio recording we had made. The final video is a collage of these play-alongs and other scenes from the day. It was bittersweet to finally play together again in this remote way such poignant music. We were all so grateful for the opportunity.

Susan Janda is the daughter of Sokol Minnesota members Ken and Anne Janda.

Aria Code Podcasts by WQXR and the Metropolitan Opera By Tom Aubrecht

For more about "The magic of opera revealed, one aria at a time," check out the twenty outstanding *Aria Code podcasts* produced by New York Public Radio's WQXR in partnership with The Metropolitan Opera. "Hosted by Grammy Award-winner and MacArthur 'Genius' Fellow Rhiannon Giddens, each episode dives into one aria...and explores how and why these brief musical moments have imprinted themselves in our collective consciousness and what it takes to stand on the Met stage and sing them. World-renowned opera stars...offer insight into the motivations of their characters and, in turn, our own. A wealth of guests...join Giddens and the Met Opera's singers to understand why these arias touch us at such a human level.... Each episode ends with the aria, uninterrupted and in full, recorded from the Met Opera stage." The Met also has free *Nightly Opera Streams* (donation requested) at www.metopera.org

This article excerpts information from www.wnystudios.org/podcasts/aria-code/ For a review of the *Aria Code podcasts*, see *A night at the podcast* by Chris Hewitt in the Minneapolis *StarTribune*, Sunday, July 28, 2020.

As a side (or way back) note, my wife Judy and I had the opportunity in the mid-1970's, while living in New Jersey, to hear the Metropolitan Opera perform *Carmen* in New York; we had standing room seats at the very top of the Metropolitan Opera House.

Curbside Cuisine

The Sokol Minnesota Czech and Slovak Fall Festival planners needed to be especially creative this year. Everyone understood that to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, our traditional festival could not take place, even if the event were only held outside. The committee members agreed that, instead of the festival, “Czech and Slovak Curbside Cuisine” would be a good way to celebrate part of our heritage by selling ethnic foods; a tasty menu was developed. Cooks and bakers are ready to safely prepare your favorite foods in our C.S.P.S. Hall’s commercial kitchen.

Please be sure to study the menu in the ad on page 1. Then, send an email to food@sokolmn.org to place your order by September 7. Pickup and payment is curbside on Saturday, September 26 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Future “Curbside Cuisine” events are planned for the October Czech Roast Pork Dinner and the November Sweet Shoppe and Bake Sale.

Curbside Cuisine Ordering and Pickup Directions

- ◆ Orders will be prepared and packaged prior to pickup.
- ◆ Pickup will be outside the C.S.P.S. Hall (383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul). Please do not carpool with anyone outside of your household.
- ◆ Staff should not prepare food or bring food out, and patrons should not do the pickup, if they or someone in their household are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- ◆ All staff and patrons must wear masks.
- ◆ All patrons need to stay in their cars.
- ◆ When paying, use hand sanitizer if possible, and bring exact change or a check made out to Sokol Minnesota.
- ◆ Practice social distancing (stay at least 6 feet from people from other households).

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Virtual Open House

To help members and friends of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota stay in touch with our Sokol Minnesota unit, an on-line “Virtual Open House” is being developed.

Sokol Minnesota members have volunteered to prepare videos highlighting the activities, events, and traditions that are important to us.

We hope to have the “Virtual Open House” ready for your viewing in August.

Fall Language Classes Online!

By Pat Slaber

Adult evening classes in the Czech and Slovak languages will be online this fall.

The schedule and registration form are at www.sokolmn.org

Questions?

Please contact Pat at education@sokolmn.org

Come join the fun!

Member News

Graduate Andrea Atcheson Marries Sam German

Andrea Atcheson graduated Saint Catherine’s University in Saint Paul in two and a half years, with honors. She danced with the *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens* for 12 years. Andrea is the granddaughter of Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancer Jyni Koschak. On June 5, Andrea married Sam German. Elisa Swartz, Andrea’s dear friend from many years together in the dance groups, was her maid of honor.



Elisa Swartz, maid of honor, with bride, Andrea (Atcheson) German

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

At the May Board of Directors meeting, three new members were accepted: Becky (Petrik) and Bill Olson, with interests in festivals and volunteering at fundraising activities; and Clarence Bina, who has an interest in films.

At the June Board of Directors meeting, Anna Hester was accepted for membership. Her Sokol interests include youth dance, youth singing, music (Anna plays the saxophone), Children’s Cultural Day Camp Junior Leader, and volunteering at fundraising activities.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Love, Marriage, and Divorce in the Austrian-Hungarian Empire with Kate Challis of Iowa, CGSI Board Member and Marketing Director

A look at the Civil Codes that Czechs, Slovaks, and Carpatho-Rusyns had to live with and why it matters for genealogy researchers.

From the time of Empress Maria Theresa to Emperor Franz Josef, divorces were generally not velvet. How did our ancestors cope when marriages went bad?

What was legally involved when people got

together or decided to move on?

This webinar is part of CGSI's quarterly webinar series and an expanded presentation of a CGSI talk first given in October 2019 at the 17th Genealogical and Cultural conference in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Register at cgsi.org or contact Mark Dillon, CGSI 1st VP, at mdillon@cgsi.org



Donation Helps CGSI Library Expand History Offerings

Advance, North Carolina, and Mendota Heights, Minnesota

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International is pleased to announce the addition of a collection of 30 research volumes and books related to 20th century Slovak, Czechoslovak, and Polish history to its CGSI Library.

Dr. Thaddeus Gromada, Professor Emeritus of European History at New Jersey City University and Past President, Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America, has donated a unique collection of works that reflect his scholarship in the area of Slovak-Polish-Czechoslovak history, diplomacy, and political relations.

The works, which are in Slovak, Polish, Czech, English, and German, include a rare 1937 work on Slovak history and culture published in Polish in Krakow, *Słowacja I Slowacy (Slovakia and Slovaks)* by noted Polish historian Władysław Semkowic and a 1927 volume on Polish history published in Slovak in Trnava, Slovakia, *Cestou Po Polsku (On the Way to Poland)* by Karol Sidor.

Semkowic was a leading scholar of medieval history and Central European genealogy at Jagiellonian University in Krakow and Lviv prior to World War II. He was imprisoned in Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Germany during the Nazi occupation of Poland.

Sidor was a Slovak political leader who opposed ties to Nazi Germany, but nonetheless served in the fascist regime of Jozef Tiso. He moved to Canada after World War II to avoid a 20-year prison sentence imposed by Czechoslovakia's Communist regime.

In making the donation, Dr. Gromada, a North Carolina resident, said "I am certain the books will enrich the Society's library and will encourage friendly relations among the three Slavic nations."

"The opportunity for greater understanding of shared culture, history, and varied perspectives of persons of Polish, Slovak, and Czech ancestry is exceptional here in the Midwest," added Mark Dillon, 1st Vice President of CGSI.

The works will be catalogued and housed as reference works at the Minnesota Genealogy Society (MGS, mngs.org), where CGSI has its offices and conference center. CGSI is an affiliate of MGS, which includes genealogy groups of European and North American heritage.

Among the English language works in the collection is a work authored by Czech researchers Jaroslav Krejci and Pavel Machonin entitled *Czechoslovakia 1918-1992: A Laboratory for Social Change*, published in Great Britain in 1996.

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (cgsi.org) has approximately 2,300 members globally and it is one of the world's leading genealogy research resources for Czech, Slovak, Moravian, Bohemian, Carpatho-Rusyn, and Silesian regional heritage.

Contacts: Kevin Hurbanis, President, khurbanis@cgsi.com

Mark Dillon, 1st Vice President, mdillon@cgsi.com 952-473-2765

Millie Grealish Obituary By Marlene Hinshaw

Mildred Grealish, a long-time Sokol Minnesota member and friend, died peacefully on May 11 at age 99. I met Millie when I joined Sokol. She was a great volunteer and I enjoyed working with her; she was kind, positive, and fun. Millie



graduated the University of Minnesota and worked as a Public Health Nurse until her marriage to John (Jack) Grealish.

It was years before I learned she was a veteran of World War II. She served as a captain in the United States Army Nurse Corps during World War II in the China-Burma-India Theater. When I asked questions about her service, she would only say, "Oh, that was

long ago," so typical of The Greatest Generation.

We sang together with the Sokol Minnesota Senior Singers for many years. A highlight was performing for Czech President Václav Havel during his visit to Saint Paul. She was an all-around Sokol member, attending dinners, festivals, and more. She loved Sokol Minnesota for many years and read the *Slovo* faithfully.

Millie and Jack raised one son, William (Bill) Grealish.

Millie was preceded in death by Jack and son Bill. She is survived by sister Esther Terrell, daughter-in-law Christine Grealish, three grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, many beloved nieces and nephews and their families.

Millie will also be remembered for her selfless service, deep faith, and love of life.

I treasure my memories of Millie.

This article includes information from the Minneapolis *StarTribune* of May 22.

Member News

Happy 94th Birthday to Libby Imbrone

By Diane Bell

Happy 94th birthday (celebrated on June 9) to our dynamic, generous, and devoted mother Libuše (Libby) Imbrone! She is a true Czech princess, who personifies the Czech culture with the same enthusiasm, love, and spirit as the legendary Czech Princess Libuše, who envisioned the city of Prague from her castle on the hill.



To this day, our mother, Libby, is constantly learning and growing and she remains in contact with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren via Facetime, Zoom, and email.

As many know, for decades our mother brought her energy and spirit to Sokol Minnesota in a wide range of activities. As a former outreach coordinator for Sokol, she connected with local media and community members to promote Sokol events. Libby was instrumental in organizing the Civil Society Symposium in 1999, welcoming Czech president Vaclav Havel to Saint Paul. She received a Černín Palace Award from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs for promoting United States and Czech Republic relations. She loved to sing with the Czech singers and participate in the Sokol exercise routines with her many friends in Sokol. With an eye for beautiful color combinations and exquisite details, she skillfully rendered beautiful *kroje* for her family. Libby also brought her energy to Sokol's next generation, volunteering to teach needlework and *koláče* baking at the Sokol Minnesota Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp.

Anyone who knows Libby knows her superpower; she is a "Czech Magnet." She can find a Czech, or a connection to Czechs, in almost any setting, and she continues to maintain friendships with many young Czech immigrants in Minnesota, as well as with her cousins in Czechia.

Libby has a wide-ranging knowledge of United States and world history and she watches the news daily. She continues to be outspoken about injustice in society and in politics, often voicing her frustrations at current events. Libby has truly embodied the Sokol precepts of active mind and active body!

At the Wellington assisted living community, she is known for taking a sincere interest in everyone, from fellow residents to the care workers and administrative staff, and we often find her inquiring about their family or encouraging the younger staff to continue their studies. As she faces not-always-joyful aspects of aging, she does so with both humility and humor. She continues to model for us how to truly age gracefully.

Happy 94th Birthday, Mom! We love you!

Happy 98th Birthday

Elsie Roepke celebrated her 98th birthday on July 18. Elsie enjoys attending events at Sokol Minnesota, especially the Slovak Dinner. She is the aunt of Sokol Minnesota member and previous co-chairperson of the Slovak Dinner, Sharon Wyberg.



Happy 90th Birthday

Olga "Ollie" Wiegel celebrated her 90th birthday on February 6. Ollie lived in the Twin Cities and worked here as a teacher; she was a member of Sokol Minnesota. Ollie moved to Yuma, Arizona, after she retired.



Member News: College Graduates

Paul and Peter Brichta

By Blanka Brichta

I am the proud mother of two sons, **Paul Brichta**, who graduated from MNSCU with a B.S. in Math/Physics, and **Peter Brichta**, who graduated from the University of Minnesota, Duluth with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering/Math. Paul is already employed by a global company in Minnetonka. Peter will start his graduate studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in the Electrical and Computer Engineering program this fall.



Both Paul and Peter have fond memories of the Sokol Minnesota Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp they attended. One of the most prized possessions in our house is a painted stained glass of *Karlštejn* castle in the Czech Republic that they created as a camp craft activity!

Karlštejn castle, founded in 1348 by Charles IV

Austin Palma

Congratulations to Sokol Minnesota member Austin Palma on his graduation from Hamline University! Austin is on the Finance Committee and he is one of our webmasters. He takes Czech language lessons at Sokol and he participated in the 2019 Czech language camp in Poděbrady in the Czech Republic.

Kenneth McCormick Obituary

Sokol Minnesota member Kenneth McCormick, age 74, died peacefully in his home surrounded by his family on Tuesday, October 22, 2019. He leaves his wife Maxine of 53 years, his daughter Melicca (Errol Sequira), son Leben (Julie), son Kalin (Erin), and seven grandchildren. Leben was involved in Sokol Minnesota gymnastics and danced at the Festival of Nations.



Maxine sewed *kroje* for Leben for his Festival of Nations performances. Leben and Julie had their wedding reception at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Ken is survived by his siblings: Keith (Barb), Judy (Kenneth) Flint, Tim (Jinny), Kevin (Gina), and David (Lisa). He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Nadine McCormick and brother Robert McCormick. Maxine noted that the Hall was a wonderful venue for Kenneth's Celebration of Life.

Ken was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on November 14, 1944. He graduated from Ryan High School, Omaha, in 1963. He earned a B.A. in English and Economics from Omaha University in 1967 and a M.S. Administration and Urban Planning from Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, in 1973. He married Maxine Lea Nebuda on June 4, 1966, in West Point, Nebraska. He served in the United States Air Force (Vietnam War) for five years, from December 1967, and retired as Captain in May 1973. He worked as Senior Administrative Manager of Economic Assistance for Hennepin County in Minneapolis for over 30 years. In the fall of 1978 they moved to Saint Paul, where they raised their family and, over 40 years, restored their historic home in Irvine Park.

Highlights of the May Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors Meeting

By Denise Stibal

The "virtual" meeting was called to order on May 21 at 7:10 p.m. by President Dave Stepan.

Czech Honorary Consul Marit Lee Kucera joined the meeting to talk about the fundraiser for the Hall on October 11, 2020. Patrick Dewane will do a performance of his play, "The Accidental Hero."

President Dave Stepan report. Minutes from last month were approved with corrections (the Personal Protective Equipment grant was \$7,700). The Sokol Camp Booya is unsure of being scheduled since the Pine County Fair has been cancelled.

Charitable gaming: Ed Hamernik reported gaming is on hold until Keenan's is allowed to re-open.

Board of Trustees: Bob Kotek reported the separate water meter for the Pajarito restaurant was installed on May 14. The gym floor refinishing is near completion and the first floor refinishing is scheduled for the week of June 8. The Linden Tree Plaque has been installed. First floor remodeling related to structural repairs: finishing sheetrock, taping, and painting. Railing for the new basement stairs is being built on site. The new office space is created from part of the Gift Shop space.

An ice dam problem was discovered in the spring and will be researched. Also will research a basement dehumidification system.

Board of Instructors, Mary Cahill and Jason Brozovich reported there is no guidance yet from the State of Minnesota regarding re-opening gymnastic classes.

Budget and Finance: Joyce Tesarek reported the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) forgivable loan from the State of Minnesota was \$7,700. Of that, we need 75% in Payroll and 25% in utilities for the loan to be forgiven. Suggested the payroll amount ties in with Dawn Bulera's work cleaning in the kitchen and 2nd floor area. We forgave the rent for Parajito in April and May, however, they also got a PPP loan, therefore they recommended we cash the rent check for May. We received a refund of \$700 from the Festival of Nations and a refund of \$2,998.75 in American Sokol (ASO) dues.

Treasurer Don Haselbauer reported on current fund balances.

Motion to send \$5,000 to ASO, motion carried.

We received \$2,500 from ASO for the Fall Festival, but the event may be cancelled. Another Czech Republic grant can be written by August 1.

Financial Secretary Steve Ernest gave an update on membership renewals and new members so far this year, and membership by type. Membership applications for Becky and Bill Olson, and Clarence Bina were approved. Education Committee: Pat Slaber reported language classes moved to online for April through June.

The mushroom hunting class on July 19 will be either live or Zoom depending on COVID rules.

Archives on 3rd floor: Joe Landsberger has offered to supervise an intern, Andrea Monolov, who is getting her Master's in Public Heritage Studies and plans to be an archivist after graduation. She is a Sokol language student. Planning to apply for a Legacy Grant for the archiving; deadline is July 10. Funding would start October 1 if approved; need to coordinate grant writing with Andrea and Joe.

Corresponding Secretary Glynis Grostephan reported on month-to-date donations received: Legacy: \$1,550. General: \$140. Total: \$1,690.

Arlene Hamernik sent a birthday card to Milan Sebek for his 90th birthday and a card to Jason Brozovich and Megan Cahill Brozovich in honor of baby Edmond.

Publicity: Judy Aubrecht reported the May Eblast was sent regarding cancellation of events and the adding of video events.

Rentals: Judy Aubrecht reported Dawn Bulera has been working at the Hall cleaning and organizing. Still have one event in June and a July 25 wedding. Dawn has also been getting inquiries about smaller events; she suggested an hourly rate because some rentals do not need the usual 10 hours for an event.

Member at Large Blanka Brichta asked if we could get the traveling exhibit from the Cedar Rapids museum for the Fall Festival, if it is held. Motion carried. Pat Slaber will ask the Czech Slovak Genealogical Society if we can borrow their exhibit as well.

May Highlights continued from page 8

The application deadline for the new Youth Award is June 1. Need to finalize the selection committee.

New Business: Potential use of tents for Parajito to facilitate outdoor dining. Dave Stepan felt we should let them use the parking lot; he will discuss with the restaurant.

New Slavic Experience event, August 8-9: Decided to participate on Saturday only.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Highlights of the June Sokol Board of Directors Meeting

By Judy Aubrecht

The on-line meeting took place at 7 p.m. on June 18.

Motion approved for Leadership and Service Honor Members for three long-standing members for later this year.

Motion carried to approve a grant application for 2021 to the Czech government requesting funds to purchase light-blocking window blinds for the third floor of the C.S.P.S. Hall.

The State of Minnesota's Legal Gaming Programs have been permitted to re-open. There was no charitable gaming income for the month of May and some expenses continued. May to July profit and expenditure amounts were approved.

Board of Trustees: Bob Kotek reported building repairs and improvements have continued, including a new office space for the unit. Office furnishing options were reviewed. Work on the building has added significantly to its safety and attractiveness. Plywood was installed to cover the front windows during the civic unrest at the end of May. This protection will be removed in the near future.

Three Youth Service and Leadership award winners will be selected from applications submitted by current high school juniors and seniors. Awards for the winners will be made later in the summer and may need to be presented creatively, due to social distancing guidelines.

Rentals: Current Minnesota Department of Health guidelines allow gatherings of 25% of available space for seated events. Currently 41 people, using recommended social distancing, are allowed to meet in the main hall of the building for seated events and meetings. Cleaning both during and after events will be essential.

The Pajarito Restaurant is open for take-out business.

Board of Instructors: Mary Cahill and Jason Brozovich stated that sporting events, including gymnastics instruction, are considered to be medium risk activities. Limited enrollment in classes is being considered and a specific cleaning plan will be developed for the fall.

Joyce Tesarek announced, with regret, that the 31st Annual Czech and Slovak Festival has been postponed to 2021. Our accomplished cooks have designed a "Curbside Cuisine" ethnic menu. Customers can pre-order ethnic foods and pick them up at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Saturday, September 26.

Anna Hester's membership application was approved. Anna participates in the *Taneční Teen* dance group and the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities; she graduated this spring from Bloomington Jefferson High School with honors. She recently was awarded an American Sokol

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: Richard Erickson in memory of **Cliff Kucera**.

\$100 - \$499: Joseph Gindele, Eleanor Watson (Give MN),
Terry Shima (Give MN).

\$500 - \$999: Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers for refinishing of the C.S.P.S. floors.
Grant from the **Clifford C. and Virginia G. Sorensen Charitable Trust**.

GENERAL FUND:

Under \$99: Mary and Dennis Cahill, G. Jerre Richter, Richard Smith, Anonymous (2).

Jean and Chuck Draheim in memory of **Vera Hawkinson**.

Jean and Chuck Draheim in memory of **Jarka Verner**.

Katie and Don Haselbauer in honor of **Rich and Linda Nicoli's** 50th wedding anniversary.

Sharon Karas in memory of her maternal grandmother, **Julia Rosum Karas**, who died June 18, 1989.

Sharon and Ken Wyberg in memory of **Mildred Grealish**.

\$100 - \$499: Marit Lee Kucera and Louise Wessinger donations to the **2020 Czech and Slovak Youth Leadership Awards**.

\$500 - \$999: Sally and Jay Lieberman, Grant from the Lieberman Family Fund in honor of the marriage of **Michael Lieberman and Stanka Jannokovar**.

Legacy Fund: \$ 1,650

General Fund: \$ 1,104

TOTAL: \$ 2,754

Sincere apologies to **John Palka** for an omission in the March 2020 *Slovo*. His donation was in memory of his late wife, **Yvonne Palka**.

Merit Award.

Don Haselbauer presented the Treasurer's report. Building repair bills of around \$34,000 will be paid upon completion of the work projects.

Blanka Brichta reported that fall language class presentation is being reviewed to determine whether classes can take place in the classroom, or if on-line learning is needed. Registrations are still being accepted for an on-line mushroom hunting class and live field trip to a "secret" park.

Glynis Grostephan reported that donations of \$624 have been received month-to-date.

New Business included a decision to order a supply of paper masks to have available at the hall for those who arrive without a mask.

New Bohemian Resort

By Ken Janda

All of my paternal and maternal grandparents emigrated from Bohemia to the United States in 1891. Born in Chicago in 1935 as a third-generation Czech, I spent every summer of my boyhood in a Czech community in Illinois called Rest Haven Beach, located on the Kankakee River sixty miles southwest of the Chicago and three miles south of Wilmington.

As a boy, I thought it natural that almost every family in Rest Haven was Czech. As an adult, I wondered, how did that happen? Why had so many Czechs bought land there in the 1920s? What legal consequences did they suffer when the Great Depression kept them from building on their property and even from paying back taxes?



grandparents) who bought lots before the stock market crash in October, 1929.

Part II, *After the Crash*, tells what happened to the property sellers and buyers after the Great Depression hit the nation in the 1930s. The primary seller did very well, moving to Beverly Hills, California. While numerous buyers lost their original investments, many others (including my grandparents and my parents) eventually built cottages and enjoyed summer vacations in the “New Bohemian Resort” on the Kankakee River. A photo in the late 1930s shows my mother and sister enjoying the Rest Haven beach.

Back issues of *Naše rodina* are available to CGSI members at cgsi.org

Telling that story involves telling a personal story, which the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) published in *Naše rodina* (*Our family*) in two parts in March and June of this year.

Part I, *Before the Crash*, tells how Bohemians in the Chicago area were induced to buy vacation property in Rest Haven Beach during the prosperous 1920s. See the July, 1928 Rest Haven Beach advertising flyer (in Czech and Slovak) from the Cicero, Illinois *Suburban Leader*. Part I describes the newspaper’s role in promoting sales, including listing the names and addresses of those (including my

Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Cancelled

By Kari and Scott Muryes

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the Sokol Camp Board of Directors has cancelled the 2020 Booya Picnic.

This was a difficult decision, as the picnic, held annually at Sokol Camp in Pine City, is the camp’s main fundraiser. Profits from the picnic help maintain the camp’s structural integrity as well as pay taxes and utilities.

Thank you to all who have attended and assisted in this fun-filled Sokol Minnesota tradition. This year would have been our 90th annual Booya Picnic.

If you are able, please consider a donation to Sokol Camp to assist in replacing lost revenue. Make checks payable to: Minnesota Sokol Camp Association. Send to: Rich Vanyo, Treasurer, 69 West Sandra Lee Drive, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55119

Thank you for your patience and generosity!

Czech Honorary Consul News

August 2020

Coronavirus 19 has become a central part of everyone's lives, causing us to look at startling new and different realities as we try to understand and grapple with the rapidly changing world around us.

The Czech Republic instituted strict precautions starting in March which limited the number of those who became infected and those who died of Covid-19. Last month a new postal stamp for domestic use was issued to commemorate essential workers in The Czech Republic.

A red cross: healthcare professionals; a bugle; postal workers; camouflage;

military; blue and yellow stripes; police: fire outline: the fire brigade; and polka dots: volunteers, delivery people, and everyone else who helped others. The stamps also state *děkujeme* (we thank you).

Starting at the end of March, Czech Post offered an additional service; it delivered face masks free of charge. People could make fabric masks and send them without having to go to the post office, wait in a line, and risk contact with infected people. Over 160,000 packages of masks were sent without postage in early April alone.

In late May, Mark Ritchie, president of Global Minnesota, informed members of a project to assist community groups working to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

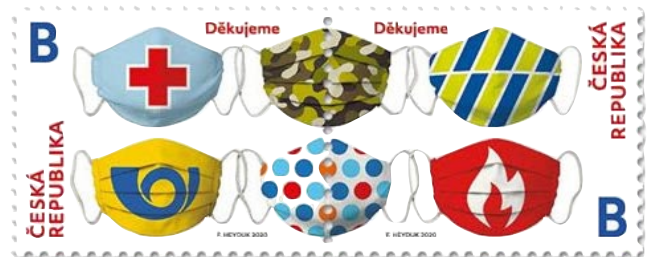
A group of employees at Ecolab created the 10K Mask Project with two goals: to produce and distribute 10,000 masks to



organizations and individuals in our Minnesota community and to create masks that reflected the great diversity of our community by soliciting contributions of cotton fabric from every country represented in our community. My contribution as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic was to donate 97 spools of thread.

Honorary Consuls of the Czech Republic lost a good friend, a superb role model, and a one of the finest well-rounded honorary consuls (and the Czechs have several superb H.C.s) when George Novak, Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic in Atlanta, died at age 88 on June 27. I met George at the first Honorary Consul conclave I attended in 2014 in Los Angeles. As a Czech native, George's great pride in the country of his birth, his varied interests, his myriad contacts on both sides of the Atlantic, and his sincere and welcoming presence made him an extraordinary Czech Honorary Consul.

George's story is one of exceptional conviction and bravery, starting from when he drove out of Czechoslovakia from his hometown of Brno into Austria the night that the Russians invaded on August 20, 1968. His engineering skills were quickly welcomed in Georgia, USA, where he made his home starting in late 1968, promoting Czech and American business and cultural relations for five decades. He became Honorary Consul in 1994 and was elevated to Honorary Consul General in 2002. Among his many other interests were opera, jazz, skiing, and basketball. <https://www.globalatlanta.com/longtime-czech-honorary-consul-george-novak-dies-leaving-multifaceted-legacy-of-engagement/>



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul

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Slovo Publication Information and Committee

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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. 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: Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, and Joyce Tesarek. Copy Editor: Tom Aubrecht.

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Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney. Mailing and Email Lists: Penny Tesarek and Tom Tesarek. Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

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

Additional contributors this issue: Judy Aubrecht, Diane Bell, Blanka Brichta, Mark Dillon, Marlene Hinshaw, Kevin Hurbanis, Ken Janda, Susan Janda, M.L. Kucera, Kari Muyres, Jitka Sebek, Pat Slaber, Dave Stepan, and Louise Wessinger.

Additional photographs this issue: Diane Bell (page 7), Blanka Brichta (7), Ken Janda (4, 10), Jyni Koschak (5), M.L. Kucera (11), Maxine McCormick (8), Doreen McKenney (3), Austin Palma (3), Pat Slaber (3), Dave Stepan (3, 12), Louise Wessinger (5), Western Fraternal Life Association (7), and Brian Wyberg (7).

June/July mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

More information at: www.sokolmn.org

C.S.P.S. HALL LEGACY FUND

To keep us all safe from COVID-19, all our income-generating events are on hold. If you can help, we would greatly appreciate a donation to Sokol.



Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-822-6147 or email: finance@sokolmn.org *Thank you!*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

To help refinish the C.S.P.S. Hall floors, I make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

I would like my gift designated: in memory or in honor of:

Make checks payable to **Sokol Minnesota**
Write **Legacy Fund** in the memo line
Mail to **C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund**
Attn: Treasurer

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Or donate online: www.sokolmn.org *Thank You!*

CZECH AND SLOVAK



383 Michigan Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

651-290-0542

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* August 2020

**This Linden *Tree of Liberty*,
planted in autumn 2018,
honors a century of
perseverance by Czechs
and Slovaks to build
freedom in our homelands
and worldwide.**

This Linden *Tree of Liberty* plaque was installed on May 20. See the article on page 3.