

UPCOMING EVENTS

February Slovo articles
 due January 2

Sokol Gift Shop open
 Saturday, November 28
 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Remember to Pre-order
 Bakery Treats and Mini-
 Camp Kits by November 29**
 for Curbside Pick-up
 on December 6, 1 - 3 p.m.
 See page 3

**Curbside Pick-up for
 Holiday Bake Sale and
 Children's Mini-Camp Kits**
 Sunday, December 6
 1 - 3 p.m. See page 3

Live Holiday Tableau
 Sunday, December 6
 1 - 3 p.m. with *Svatý Mikuláš,*
čert, and *anděl.* See page 3

Language Classes start the
 week of January 4. See page 6

Gymnastics Update
 See page 8

SAVE THE DATE

Join Joe Landsberger
Thursday, January 7
at 7 p.m. on Zoom

A Hall in Saint Paul
 a CSGI Seminar
 See page 8 for details



SATURDAY
January 23 20
21

PICK UP 10a-2p
C.S.P.S. Hall
 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN
 55102

Please place your Curbside reservation
 by contacting: food@sokolmn.org
 or call/text: 952-941-0426

Curbside
ROAST DUCK DINNER

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

MENU 1/2 roast duck, potato dumplings, gravy, sweet and sour red
 cabbage, applesauce, caraway rye bread, and dessert \$25

Payment Orders must be prepaid and received by January 16, 2021 via:
 PayPal: www.sokolmn.org/curbside-cuisine/order-selection/
 or check: payable and mailed to Sokol Minnesota (address above)



On some days during the COVID-19 pandemic, I feel I am the main character in the movie *Groundhog Day*, where every day is the same as the last. If you feel as I do, do not fret, you are not alone. I am thankful though that I have opportunities to get out and connect with friends and stay active. I am back curling and I had a fun fall mountain biking on trails in my hometown of Duluth. It is not easy, but I am doing my best to stay safe, stay distant, and always remember to wear a mask. The next couple months will be a big challenge, as the unusual confluence of the flu season and COVID-19 viruses will test our health and our country's determination to get through this. I ask all of you to be diligent, careful, and optimistic. Stay active, get plenty of fresh air, eat right, and get eight hours of sleep.

On a lighter note, I am extremely thankful for the support I have had from you these past two years as your president. I am overjoyed that all but one of the Board of Trustees members will continue this next year. I want to especially thank Terry Shima, who is stepping down after serving 25 years on the board while he recovers from knee surgery. Terry has faithfully attended monthly meetings and worked on Hall projects and repairs, as well as volunteering at other Sokol events. A huge thank you, Terry! I would like to welcome Rick Palma to the Trustees; he has already been instrumental to the success of several projects. I would like you to be aware that one of the updates to the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota bylaws in November changed the name of the Board of Trustees to the Building and Property Trustees Committee. I was at the C.S.P.S. Hall recently and ran into our dedicated Trustees Committee Chair Bob Kotek, Fred Simon, and Ed Hamernik working on the basement air flow and Hall drainage to the alley. Bob and Ed's dedication has been a dream come true for our Hall and they have been instrumental in many efforts these past two years.

Miša Giancarlo Kotek is ready to pass on her Sokol Minnesota Facebook administration duties. If you are or will be a member, and you are interested in running our Facebook site, please let me know at president@sokolmn.org. Thank you, Miša, for your great work these past couple of years!

Although some of you may not have any Czech or Slovak heritage, I have heard you can tell who you are by the food you eat. In keeping with that thought, we have continued this past year, with your assistance and participation, the Members and Volunteers Holiday Party last January, Czech Roast Pork Dinner, *koláče* sales, Roast Duck Dinner, Flavors of Slovakia Dinner, and other ethnic events. This Holiday season's members and volunteers appreciation event is postponed; it will possibly be a summer picnic. We will continue to gastronomically entice you into supporting us through the efforts of our fine chefs and through other events, as best we can, to continue the proud traditions of the American Sokols.

Our gymnastics program is planning to reopen in the winter with both in-person and virtual options, and hopefully by the time you read this it will have become a reality. We received a \$325 grant from our parent American Sokol Organization to help pay for COVID-19 related sanitizing and disinfecting items needed to keep our gymnasts and teachers safe. For more information, see the article in this issue on page 8.

Did any of you hear former Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota President Joe Landsberger speak at the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International's symposium in October? It was an interesting history of the C.S.P.S. Hall, Sokol Minnesota, and the several organizations that have made the Hall their home. Joe will repeat his presentation on January 7 (see page 8). Find out how our Hall got its name!

What is coming up at the Hall?

The gift shop will be open on Small Business Saturday, November 28.

December 6 will feature pickup of Holiday Bakery Treats and Mini-Camp Kits (orders for both are due by November 29), as well as a Live Holiday Tableau with *Svatý Mikuláš* (Saint Nicholas), *anděl* (angel), and that rotten *čert* (devil). See the Holiday article on page 3. Our Roast Duck Dinner Curbside is on January 23 (see page 1).

Nazdar!

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs for children, teens, and adults.

Information on our programs, calendar of events, membership, C.S.P.S. Hall rentals, and gift shop, plus e-addresses for our board, program directors, volunteer staff, and the Czech Honorary Consul, as well as *Slovo* past issues, are available at www.sokolmn.org or www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

**Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota
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(Board of Directors)**

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

Sokol Minnesota Holiday Bakery Treats and Mini-Camp

By Louise Wessinger

On December 6 we will honor the traditions of the holiday season with all our Sokol Minnesota families and young people. COVID-19 has forced us to rethink our usual festivities. Safety is our first concern, so plans have been made that will allow us to celebrate while being safe. There are a variety of events being prepared for your participation.

Holiday Bakery Treats

The Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (*Škola*) bakers will offer traditional bakery treats for your holiday celebrations. Freshly made *vánočka* (braided Christmas sweet bread) will be available at \$12 per loaf and *makovka* (poppy seed filled rolled bread) will be \$15 per loaf.

Bakery orders must be placed by November 29

at food@sokolmn.org Orders must be prepaid via PayPal at www.sokolmn.org or by check made-out-to, and sent to, Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

Please schedule a time for picking up bakery items at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, December 6, between 1 and 3 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Sokol Minnesota.

Children's Holiday Mini-Camp Kits

The pre-ordered Holiday Mini-Camp Kits will include activities similar to those for our summer culture camp, but with holiday themes. An online element will be included. This kit will be most suitable for Sokol youngsters ages 6 to 14, including dancers, gymnasts, *Škola* students, and cultural day campers.

The Holiday Mini-Camp Kits will include:

- a 12-page Czech and Slovak Holiday Traditions Coloring Book
- five holiday themed crafts with instructions and all supplies including crayons, markers, glue, and scissors
- five holiday recipes for your family to make, including the Moravian Sugar Cake recipe in this issue
- a baked gingerbread cookie with icing to decorate
- puzzles, games (including Sokol bingo), songs
- other special surprises

The online Mini-Camp will include:

- sample photos of crafts and recipes
- a candy cane dance, two folk dances
- a holiday story
- *koledy* or Christmas carols
- a tumbling challenge is also planned

A link to the online mini-camp will be provided with the kits.

Pre-ordering by November 29 is required for the Holiday Mini-Camp Kits. The kits must be picked up at the C.S.P.S. Hall, on Sunday, December 6, from 1-3 p.m. Order your kits early because we will make only a limited number and expect them to sell out quickly.

Order forms are available at:

www.sokolmn.org/holiday-mini-camp/ Holiday

Mini-Camp Kits are \$15 for one or \$25 for two. Orders must be prepaid via PayPal or credit card online or by check made out to, and sent to: Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Pickup Location for Holiday Bakery Treats and Holiday Mini-Camp Kits: Pickup Holiday Bakery treats or Holiday Mini-Camp kits on December 6 from 1-3 p.m. at: C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Live Holiday Tableau

On Sunday, December 6, all Sokol Minnesota youngsters will have a chance to see *Svatý Mikuláš* (Saint Nicholas) along with *čert* (devil) and *anděl* (angel).

Viewing a live tableau will be available curbside at the C.S.P.S. Hall from 1-3 p.m. Children will be able to sign the "Good Book" safely in their car via a special label (which will be placed in the Good Book) and each child will receive a Holiday Treat Bag.

Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota's
20
20
Children's
Holiday Mini-Camp
Sunday, December 6
Curbside
Pickup 1-3p.m.
C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Registration required by November 29 at
events@sokolmn.org

For Questions, Contact

Louise Wessinger:
651-452-6240 or louisewessinger@msn.com
Judy Aubrecht:
651-699-5148 or tjaubrecht@comcast.net
Jitka Sebek:
jitka@sebekmn.net



Curbside Czech Roast Pork Dinner on October 24 was a Great Success

By Joyce Tesarek

With the help of our Sokol Minnesota volunteers and loyal supporters, we again hosted our annual Czech Roast Pork Dinner on October 24, but this year “curbside.” Although we all missed the camaraderie of a dinner at the C.S.P.S. Hall and a lively program of music and folk dance, we enjoyed the meal prepared by cooks Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek. The dinner was sold out, with 172 takeouts, which was more sales than last year’s sit-down dinner!



1. Raised bread dumplings.
2. Joyce Tesarek with a Curbside Czech Roast Pork Dinner.
3. Dinner team Joan Sedlacek, Joyce Tesarek, Roger Green, and Doreen McKenney.
4. Preparing the Roast Pork Dinner takeout boxes Joan Sedlacek, Doreen McKenney, and Roger Green.
5. Long-time Czech Roast Pork Dinner volunteers Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek receiving their home-delivered dinner.
6. Curbside pickup with Roger Green, Doreen McKenney, and dinner guest.



Pajarito's Fourth Anniversary By Joyce Tesarek

Congratulations and happy anniversary to Pajarito! The very popular, modern Mexican bistro opened four years ago this November in leased renovated space in our C.S.P.S. Hall.

When conceiving the restaurant, chef/owners Stephan Hesse and Tyge Nelson hoped to create a casual neighborhood bistro that showcased their unique twist on Mexican food and craft cocktails.

“Think great neighborhood hangout with superb Mexican food,” explains Hesse. “We wanted to push the envelope on Mexican food with modern



Tyge Nelson and Stephan Hesse in front of Pajarito's Day of the Dead mural, a José Guadalupe Posada-inspired artwork of *La Calavera Catrina*, the iconic skeleton woman of the lively Day of the Dead celebrations. The Day of the Dead, associated with the Catholic All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, celebrates deceased family and friends and it is the second biggest Holiday in Mexico.

touches and fresh, vibrant flavors. With Pajarito, Tyge and I have been able to build on our individual passions and strengths. I get to play up my skills in butchery and charcuterie, while Tyge delves into his extensive knowledge of the differences and subtleties between various Latin American and Mexican regional cuisines in his use of chiles and seasonings.”

The restaurant has been so successful it opened an outpost in Edina earlier this year! Just in time for the holidays, Pajarito is offering a special gift card promotion. Buy \$100 and get a \$20 bonus card, or buy \$50 and get a \$10 bonus.

Pajarito is currently open Tuesday through Saturday from 4-9 p.m., and offers both dine-in and carryout options that are safe and socially distanced. To order online or to make reservations, visit: www.pajaritorestuarant.com



Pajarito Saint Paul at the C.S.P.S. Hall.



Carnitas tacos made with slow-simmered pork and topped with avocado-serrano sauce, onion, and cilantro.



Gift Shop Open Saturday, November 28 on Small Business Saturday

By Doreen McKenney

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota gift shop will be open on Saturday, November 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for holiday shopping.

Please follow Covid-19 precautions while in the shop.

Upon entering the 385 Michigan Street door, please sign in on the COVID-19 tracing log.

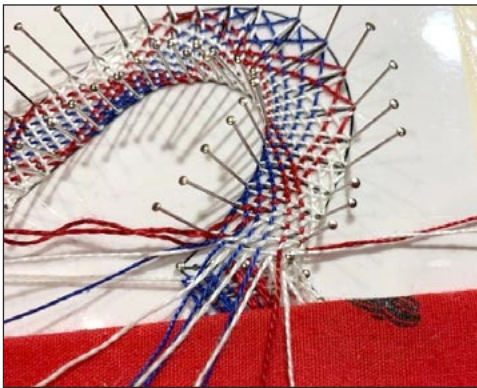
Masks are required at all times.

Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the door.

Maximum of two people in the shop at a time.

Check out all the wonderful holiday gifts and stocking stuffers available.

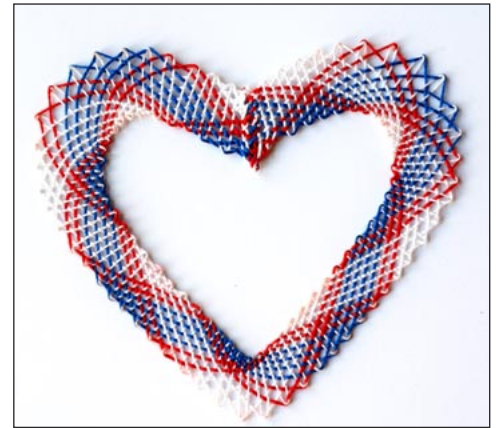
SUPPORT OUR SOKOL GIFT SHOP!



Virtual Lace Making

By Aneta Janoušková

As an artist who has been participating at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota with my bead crochet jewelry, I really enjoyed the Zoom class on lacemaking presented by Dagmar Beckel Machyčková on October 11 and 18, 2020. While it can be challenging to teach a craft in an online environment, I think Dagmar did an excellent job. My grandmother was a lacemaker, so I grew up surrounded by beautiful lace ornaments and pictures, but never actually had a strong desire to learn the technique. I think I was intimidated by what I thought was an extremely complex artform. However, Dagmar presented the technique in such a simplified and creative way that it was easy to follow and learn the basics. We used low-cost tools, such as a Styrofoam board, pins, and pens, and it worked! I got good use out of the "million" pens that we have at home (my husband and I like to collect them)! I am very thankful to Sokol Minnesota and Dagmar for organizing this great event and the opportunity to learn something new. It definitely broadened my artistic horizons and brought new inspiration and motivation for my beaded projects.



Sokol Minnesota's 1957 Children's Christmas Party

This sketch of the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Children's Christmas Party at the C.S.P.S. Hall on December 23, 1957, was done by Louise Wessinger's grandfather Ferdinand Uebel, an artist. Louise recalls, "The huge tree went to the ceiling and it was covered with lights and tinsel. I remember as a child seeing the men carry it up the stairs. It is a very fond memory."

6 December 2020-January 2021 *Slovo*

Online Language Classes Czech and Slovak

By Pat Slaber

Winter Classes start the week of January 4, 2021

Why might you want to study Czech or Slovak? Are you 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 the reason, we have a class to meet your needs!

Classes meet weekly online for twelve weeks

Class Fee: \$125 (Sokol Minnesota members) / \$150 (non-members)

Class fees do not include books, which are additional

Beginning Czech

(A1) Mondays, beginning January 4 at 5:30 p.m.

(A2) Wednesdays, beginning January 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Instructor is Blanka Brichta

Intermediate Czech (B1)

Wednesdays, beginning January 6 at 7 p.m.

Instructor is Blanka Brichta

Advanced Czech (B2)

Tuesdays, beginning January 5 at 7 p.m.

Instructor is Renáta Tichá

Beginning Slovak (A1)

Mondays, beginning January 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Instructor is Barbora Carlson

For more information: www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/language-classes/
or email education@sokolmn.org

2021 Sokol Minnesota Membership

Thank You, Sokol Minnesota members, for being part of our community!

Your membership dollars not only support activities at our historic C.S.P.S. Hall, but also connect us with national and international programs. Your participation in our events and activities, in person or in spirit, is invaluable.

Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31

Sokol membership is for the calendar year, meaning renewal time is coming up soon! Renewal letters are sent around Thanksgiving. Please renew your membership by December 31 to continue your support, maintain your active membership, continue receiving the *Slovo* newsletter, and avoid the added expense of having additional renewal reminder letters sent.

Member renewal rates for 2021 remain at:

\$50 per individual; \$90 per couple

Renewal rates for members over age 65:

\$40 per individual; \$80 per couple

Would you like to join us?

Rates for new members or those with a break in membership are \$55 per individual; \$95 per couple. New/returning rates for those over age 65 are \$45 per individual; \$85 per couple.

Send membership renewal checks made out to:

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

send to: **Membership, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota**
4716 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407

Online: sokolmn.org/membership

or e-mail membership@sokolmn.org for information.

Moravian Sugar Cake

By Judy Aubrecht

Adapted from *Cook's Country Eats Local* (2015).

Moravian Sugar Cake is a classic coffee cake made with yeast that is popular during the Christmas holiday season. Historically, 30,000 Hessian soldiers were hired by the British to assist them during the American Revolution. Most of the Hessians were from the German state of Hesse-Cassel, but others were from Moravia. After the war, Hessian families settled in mid-Atlantic states, including in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The Winkler Bakery, which is located at the Old Salem Museums and Gardens, began making Moravian Sugar Cake in 1808 and continues to bake traditional recipes today.

This recipe was tested and reviewed by Doreen McKenney

Moravian Sugar Cake is known for its crater-filled crunchy caramelized brown sugar topping. The dense texture of the cake is moist because mashed potato or instant potato flakes are included in the dough.

After Doreen baked three trials of the recipe, she found reducing the brown sugar by half, keeping the trademark craters in the topping, was the most tasty while not being overly sweet.

Moravian Sugar Cake

Serves 12

Cake Ingredients

- ¾ c. warm whole milk to 110° F**
- 1 ½ tsp. instant or rapid-rise yeast**
- ⅓ c. granulated sugar**
- ¼ c. instant potato flakes**
or one small potato, cooked, peeled, and finely mashed
- ½ tsp. salt**
- 4 Tbsp. butter, softened**
- 1 large egg**
- 2 c. all-purpose flour**

Topping Ingredients

- ¾ c. brown sugar**
- 3 tsp. cold butter cut and cubed**
- ½ Tbsp. ground cinnamon**

Directions

1. Place oven rack in the middle position and heat oven to 200° for 10 minutes. Grease with butter an 8x11" glass baking dish and a medium sized bowl.
2. In a small mixing bowl, stir warm milk and yeast together until the yeast is dissolved.
3. Using an electric mixer, add to the yeast mixture, granulated sugar, potato flakes or mashed potato, salt, softened butter, and egg on medium speed. Add flour and mix for about two minutes until the dough turns smooth and shiny. Transfer the dough into the greased, medium-sized bowl, cover with plastic wrap, turn the oven off and place the dough in the warm oven. Let double in size for 30 minutes to one hour.
4. Press the risen dough into an even layer into the greased baking dish. Cover the dish with plastic wrap, reheat the oven to 200°. Turn the oven off again and place the dough in the warm oven for a second rise for about 30 minutes.
5. In a medium bowl, mix together brown sugar, chilled butter, and cinnamon until it resembles coarse meal.
6. Remove baking dish from the oven. Heat oven to 375°. Lightly flour fingertips, make shallow indentations in the surface of the dough for craters. Sprinkle the brown sugar mixture over the top. Bake until topping is bubbling and golden brown, about 22 minutes. Place on a cooling rack for 30 minutes before serving.
7. Optional: replace the brown sugar topping with apricot fruit topping such as canned Solo® or Wilderness®.



Pour yourself a glass of milk
and sample your Moravian
sugar cake while warm.

The Return of Gymnastics

We are back! Well, almost... COVID-19 has definitely thrown the gymnastics program (and everyone else) a curveball this year. With that being said, we are finalizing a plan to safely return to the C.S.P.S. Hall. We recently sent out a survey to families who participated in our program during late Winter 2020. The goal was to gauge current interest for in-person and/or virtual gymnastics classes. Responses varied, but many felt comfortable with in-person classes while adhering to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, as well as recommendations published by the Minnesota Department of Health. Others were interested in a virtual platform. The survey results guided our current program plans to include both in-person and virtual options.

For in-person classes, new processes and procedures will be enforced. Masks will be required at all times, temperatures will be taken upon entry, social distancing will be adhered to (as feasible), and a complete cleaning program will be initiated. Classes will also be limited in size based on first-come, first-serve basis.

For virtual classes, the focus will be less on specific skills and more on general fitness with elements of cardio, strength, and flexibility designed for small spaces. Virtual classes will also serve as our contingency model if we are required to pivot to entirely virtual.

Our entire COVID-19 plan for returning to gymnastics will soon be presented to the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors for approval, and, following that, will be available for review online at www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/sokol_fitness/ We also plan to host virtual information sessions with families in order to clearly outline expectations prior to starting. Needless to say, we are excited to provide gymnastics classes to the community very soon. As gymnastics instructors, we certainly appreciate the grace and flexibility offered by all during these times. We can't thank you enough!

By Courtney Benson and Jason Brozovich



The Sokol Minnesota gymnastics instructors are excited to resume classes. Junior girls instructors counter-clockwise from top: Claire, Isabelle, Ella, Zoe, and Theresa.



**Czechoslovak Genealogical
Society International**

A Hall in Saint Paul CGSI Seminar

By Pat Slaber

Join us on Thursday, January 7,
at 7 p.m. via Zoom
when Joe Landsberger reprises his talk
from the fall Czechoslovak Genealogical
Society International Symposium.

A Hall in Saint Paul tells the history of the Czech and Slovak fraternal organizations in Saint Paul associated with the C.S.P.S. Hall.

The video from the symposium will be shown. Afterwards, Joe will be available to answer questions.

See the photo of the C.S.P.S. Hall circa 1890 on page 12.

This event is free, but registration is required. Go to the Sokol Minnesota website at: www.sokolmn.org/upcoming-events/
Questions: contact Pat at education@sokolmn.org

Joe, a past president of Sokol Minnesota, is an exceptional historian. More information about Joe can be found on his website: www.josfland.com

Sokol Minnesota Membership Five-Year Milestones in 2020

At the 2020 Annual Membership Meeting in November, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota recognized these members for their years of continuous membership.

**Congratulations and Thank You
for your commitment to the Sokol community!**

5 years (joined in 2015): Jana Castillon, Alex Cho, Colin Clancy, Joseph Gall, Colleen Gengler, Benjamin Krikava, Emily Krikava, Alton Krikava, Cynthia McArthur, Ann Vanyo Miller, Scott Miller, Theresa Schousek, Michael Sebek, and Denise Stibal

10 years (joined in 2010): Ruth Ahrens, Pat Slaber, James Sturm, Rose Vesely, Arnie Ziskovsky, and Deb Ziskovsky

15 years (joined in 2005): Bea Flaming, Richard Pavlicek, Frank Petruska, Kari Swartz, and Phyllis Vosejpka

20 years (joined in 2000): Colleen Cahill, Megan Cahill, and Marit Lee Kucera

25 years (joined in 1995): Charles Kalvoda

30 years (joined in 1990): Libuse Imbrone, Donn Linscheid, Therese Linscheid, Terry Shima, and Raymond Vanyo

40 years (joined in 1980): Allen Sladek

45 years (joined in 1975): Jean Marie Draheim and Louise Gilson

55 years (joined in 1965): Donald Andrie

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:

Up to \$99: Lucie Jašek

GENERAL FUND:

Up to \$99: Mary Jo and Jim Chlebecek

\$100 - \$499: For the new Sokol Minnesota awning:

Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Mary and Dennis Cahill,
Louise and Chuck Wessinger.

\$500 - \$999: Sue and Dave Martin.

\$5000 - \$9999: Donald Haselbauer.

TOTAL: \$ 5,845

New Awning Fundraising

By Joyce Tesarek

Czech & Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Work continues on the C.S.P.S. Hall by the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Trustees and other volunteers, even as we have closed the building to our usual activities.

As part of the work to have a fresh look for the front of the C.S.P.S. Hall, the awning over the 385 Michigan Street entrance and window is being replaced at a cost of \$1,300.

To date, we have eight \$100 donors. Of course, all sizes of donations are welcome. We would like to finalize the fundraising and installation before winter.

**If you would like to help, please donate online
at www.SokolMN.org/fundraising
or send a check made out to Sokol Minnesota
at 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102.**

Thank you for all of your interest and support!

Automated External Defibrillator

Funding Assistance Request By Bob Kotek

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Trustees work to provide a safe and functional environment for all to enjoy at the C.S.P.S. Hall. In keeping with this goal, we would like to add an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) by Phillips for \$1,500 to be placed at the Hall to be available for all our guests in case of a medical emergency. AEDs have proven invaluable in public spaces. We request additional donations from our membership, to supplement \$400 previously donated, to facilitate the purchase of an AED in the near future.

Member News

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

By Norm Petrik

At the October Board of Directors meeting, three new members were accepted. Andrew Evans and Ana Lorvick (couple membership) of Minneapolis are interested in Slovakian heritage. Casey Merkwan of Minneapolis is interested in the Czech language. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Highlights of the Sokol Minnesota October Board Meeting Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Dave Stepan.

Judy Aubrecht reported on Rentals and Publicity. We have purchased thermometers for use by rental groups. Ads in local papers were placed for the Czech Roast Pork Dinner.

Corresponding Secretary Glynis Grostephan reported that a card was sent to Don Andrlle for his 80th birthday.

Education Chair Pat Slaber reported that the archives project is temporarily on hold since Andrea is busy at school, but plans are being made to continue the project. All materials will be sorted and boxed by year end to make the third floor space available for use.

Financial Secretary Steve Ernest reported that we are currently at 283 members.

Don Haselbauer submitted the treasurer's report and a motion was carried to add a 'Donation' option to PayPal. A rough draft of the 2019 tax report is completed.

Joyce Tesarek reported on the Finance Committee. The STAR grant applications are on hold; those approved will receive \$5,000. Bob Kotek's motion that the next large project for a grant request would be the boiler replacement, estimated at \$30,000-\$40,000 was approved.

Mary Cahill and Jason Brozevich reported on gymnastics classes. In-person classes will begin in November, virtual classes are also being planned. A Zoom meeting will be

held for parents. An ASO grant will be requested for safety expenses.

Bob Kotek reported for the Board of Trustees. Motion approved for \$5,000 to cover radiator repair expenses. Motion approved to proceed with water mitigation between the Hall and Parajito and repair the drainage at the Pajarito north side exit at a cost not to exceed \$9,000.

Ed Hamernik, First Vice President and Gaming Manager, reported that the gaming audit has been submitted to the State of Minnesota.

President Dave Stepan reported that Honor Awards will be presented to three recipients in November.

New Business: Steve Ernest and his committee have been working on a revision of the bylaws. Motion carried to implement changes effective January 1, 2021.

Brittany Stepan will assist with a new window display to feature more information about Sokol Minnesota. Austin Palma and Richard Sargent are working on the website, please submit any new information to them.

Old Business: We have \$400 in place for the purchase of an AED unit. Another \$1,000 is needed. Austin Palma will be the new Publicity Director. Ed Hamernik will resign as First Vice President. Terry Shima is retiring from the Board of Trustees and Rick Palma will join the BOT.

Our November Board Meeting and the Annual Meeting will be on Friday, November 20.

Martina by Martina Navratilova with George Vecsey. Alfred A. Knopf: New York, 1985. 301 pages. Available at libraries and bookstores.

Martina Navratilova was born October 18, 1956, in Prague, and grew up mainly in Řevnice, where her mother's family owned land before communism. She became one of the world's premier tennis players, winning an unprecedented 59 Grand Slam titles during a career spanning four decades.

"I was three years old when my mother and father divorced," Martina wrote. "We left the ski lodge in the Krkonoše Mountains and moved into a single room in my mother's childhood home, the room overlooking the tennis court." Martina came by athletics and tennis naturally. Her father was head of a lodge's ski patrol, her mother worked as a ski instructor at the Martinovka Lodge, and her mother's mother, Agnes Semanská, had been an accomplished tennis player. Her mother gave her skiing lessons starting when she was two. By the time she was four-and-a-half, she was using the regulation-size wooden tennis racket she inherited from her grandmother to hit balls against a cement wall. At about six, she was playing on a red-clay court with a net. During the first years, her stepfather coached her. At nine years old, she started lessons with George Parma. She dreamt of winning Wimbledon. "By the time I was ten," she wrote, "I was so committed to tennis, played it every day, that I had a totally different identity from everybody around me."

The book *Martina*, co-authored with sports writer George Vecsey, is an enjoyable snapshot in time and interesting to read, even if you do not know much about tennis. Martina offers a candid look into the first 28 years of her professional and personal life and fellow players and friends, including Chris Evert, Evonne Goolagong, Billie Jean King, Pam Shriver, and Nancy Lieberman. Martina became good friends with and a frequent tennis opponent of Chris Evert, who "... stood for everything I admired in this country: poise, ability, sportsmanship, money, style."

After winning tournaments in Czechoslovakia, Martina was allowed to leave the country for the first time in 1969 to play in West Germany. That led to tournaments in other communist countries. In 1973, she came to the United States for the first time. In Fort Lauderdale, she had what she considers her first experience with American capitalism: a 7-Eleven store where she and her Czech chaperone bought food and magazines for \$5, "which seemed like an amazingly small amount of money for so much."

Even defecting seemed relatively easy for her compared to so many others' life-threatening experiences. She began to think seriously about emigrating in fall 1974. By the next year, she was accused by Czech tennis federation authorities of being "too Americanized" and her travel outside the Soviet bloc was threatened. In August 1975, when she was 18, she was playing in New York and decided to defect. "This can't go on," she told herself. "Every time you go home, you're going to wonder if they'll ever let you out again."

She called her financial advisor, and he contacted a lawyer and arranged a meeting with the Immigration and Naturalization Service to begin filing papers. Her green card came through in 30 days, the second fastest time on record, and her U.S. passport took six years.

Martina, who was labelled a "bisexual defector," wrote frankly about her sexuality. At 17, she began her first serious relationship with a young man in Prague. Martina's parents and younger sister Jana came to visit Martina in Houston in December 1979 intending to emigrate, but changed their minds. Her stepfather had trouble adjusting to U.S. life and considered her lesbian relationship with the writer Rita Mae Brown to be a "sickness."

"... I honestly believe I was born to be American," wrote Martina. "With all due respect to my homeland, things never really felt right until the day I got off the plane in Florida to play in my first tournament..." U.S. citizenship gave her freedom, opportunity, friends, the right food, and much more.

Martina lived a rarified life in the United States, spending huge amounts of money she earned from tournament wins. At one point, she had a stable of seven expensive cars. One of the many houses she bought had 20 rooms, six baths, a swimming pool, five-car garage, and tennis court. I had to remind myself how young she was and how hard she worked.

The book ends in 1984, when Martina loses the Australian Open, but has an amazing record of winning six straight Grand Slam events (Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and U.S. Open) and 74 matches in a row.

Gwen is coordinator of the Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures book discussion group. Literary Ventures is cosponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the Office of the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic.

For more information, go to www.cs-center.org or contact gwen@cs-center.org



Martina Navratilova

Join us for a discussion of *Into the Spotlight: New Writings from Slovakia* edited and translated by Magdalena Mullek and Julia Sherwood on January 2 and a members' reading of poetry by Milan Rufus on January 23.

Check our website, www.cs-center.org, for updates to Literary Ventures scheduling.

Obituary: Photographer Michal Daniel

Renowned photographer Michal "Misha" Daniel, 64, died of natural causes on September 25, 2020, in Prague. The author of 13 books, including one of Guthrie Theater shows, he also photographed shows at the Theatre de la Jeune Lune, the Minnesota Opera, and New York's Public Theatre, among other venues. His "Czechoslovakia in Transition" photos, exhibited at the C.S.P.S. Hall, included photos of workers in coal mine.

See his obituary in the StarTribune of October 10, 2020, at tinyurl.com/MichalDanielObituary

See how Daniel worked on Twin Cities PBS's Minnesota Original series, Season 2, Episode 24 (original air date February 23, 2011): www.tpt.org/mn-original/video/Michal-Daniel-577472H-1/

Czech Honorary Consul News

December 2020
January 2021

I am writing this column on October 28, the Czech Republic's National Day, the day the independent Czechoslovak state was created in 1918. October 28 is now one of the most important Czech national holidays. Jaroslav Kantůrek, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago, extends to all this invitation to take a virtual trip through the Czech countryside while listening to *The Moldau* by Bedřich Smetana (1824-1884).
[youtube.com/watch?v=DQMhG_sptQk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQMhG_sptQk)

Photo: M. Kucera



Bořek Lizec, who visited Minnesota several times during his five years as Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago, is now the Czech Ambassador to Canada. He created an online interactive celebration of the Czech National Day 2020 honoring Canadians and Czech-Canadians who helped save Czechoslovakia during World War II. Even though the program primarily focuses on Canada, the story also mentions Czech-Americans and the Midwest as well. In addition to greetings from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, many other distinguished guests and Czech music stars make appearances. [TogetherToVictory2020.com](https://www.together2020.com)

To keep up with news and events in the Czech Republic, go to:

<https://english.radio.cz> <http://praguemonitor.com> <https://news.expats.cz/>

Minnesota Orchestra Music Director Osmo Vänskä and the Orchestra present an Antonín Dvořák festival, January 2021, with virtual concerts on January 8/9, January 10, and January 14/15, including *Symphony No. 9, From the New World*. [MinnesotaOrchestra.org](https://www.minnesotaorchestra.org)



Ross P. Marine, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to the Midwest USA/Kansas City, is the first recipient in the United States of the Memorial Medal of Tree of Peace award by Servare et Manere, a Slovak civic association founded in 2010 to promote knowledge, protection, and renovation of the cultural heritage of Slovakia. The name of the association is two Latin words *servare* (to save) and *manere* (to preserve). Marine was recognized for his efforts to have a Tree of Peace (*lipa/linden*) planted in June 2019 on the north lawn of The National WWI Museum and Library, Kansas City, Missouri; this took place under the auspices of the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic/New York. The presentation of the award was September 28, 2020, on the second anniversary of the Tree of Peace initiative. tofp.eu/category/aktuality/

Photo: R. Marine



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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Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership.

To receive your *Slovo* in color via email instead of the black and white mail version, contact slovo@sokolmn.org.

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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.

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Additional photographs or illustrations this issue provided by: Courtney Benson (Page 8), Stephan Hesse (5:Pajarito), Aneta Janoušková (6:lace), Doreen McKenney (5:gift shop,7), Joyce Tesarek (4), Louise Wessinger (6: 1957 party), Gwen Willems.

November 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: _____

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

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Attn: Treasurer

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
Or donate online: www.sokolmn.org *Thank You!*

CZECH AND SLOVAK



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* December 2020 - January 2021



C.S.P.S. Hall Circa 1890

Sokol Minnesota's 1887 C.S.P.S. Hall circa 1890, prior to the third story being added. The first two Saint Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Churches are in the background. See the article: **A Hall in Saint Paul CGSI Seminar** on page 8.