

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

**UPCOMING
 FEBRUARY EVENTS**

March Slovo articles due
 February 1

**Board of Directors Meeting
 and Retreat**
 February 9, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Literary Ventures
 February 22, 10 a.m. to noon

In This Issue:



Chef Jason Brozovich prepares french toast for the bi-annual Pancake Breakfast and Craft Sale. *For full story, see page 3.*



Betlém (Nativity Scene) at the Sokol Children's Holiday Party. *For full story, see page 4.*



FLAVORS of



SLOVAKIA DINNER

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, March 22



Reserved Seating 12:30 p.m.

\$18 adult, \$9 child under 9

*Prepaid reservations
 are required by
 March 15*

Limited seating

To reserve call: 651-290-0542



Adult dinner includes:

Cabbage roll (plnená kapusta), dilled green beans (kôprová zelená fazuľka), pickled beets (nakladaná repa), filled dumplings (pirohy), dumplings with cabbage (halušky s kapustou), caraway rye bread (rascový ražný chlieb), dessert, and coffee. Plenty of good beer and wine for sale at the bar.

Prepaid takeout is also available by reservation • Public welcome

Prezidentův komentář/ President's Notes

By Dave Stepan

Fellow Sokol Sisters and Brothers,



I'd like to take five minutes of your time this evening (November 22, the date of the Annual Meeting) to give you a State of the Organization for your Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota at the end of 2019. **What is the condition of your organization, what has been accomplished in the past year, and what does the future hold for us?**

Our relationships are one measure of the strength of Sokol Minnesota.

- I want to first thank my fellow Board of Directors members. Without their support, I would not be accepting the second year of my two-year presidency and this organization would not be in the condition it is.

- I also want to acknowledge the support I have had in the past year from our Honorary Czech Consul Marit Lee Kucera. She has been the pivot point for Czechs, Slovaks, and Rusyns here in Minnesota. We have strengthened our bonds with other organizations by her assisting to coordinate events and being our link to the Czech Government.

- I believe that we are a stronger Sokol through the support we receive from such groups as the Rusin Society of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, and the Czech Heritage Club (New Prague).

- Locally, Sokol Minnesota continues to be a member of the West 7th Street Business Association.

- Our membership is currently hovering around 300 members and we have the support of many more friends.

- With the commitment of a fairly small number of volunteers, your Sokol organization stays strong.

One measure of our condition is the list of the events we had this past year.

- Flavors of Slovakia Dinner, Roast Duck Dinner, Spring and Holiday Breakfasts, Czech Roast Pork Dinner, 30th Annual Czech and Slovak Festival, Festival of Nations, Band Blast. Behind the scenes support by our kitchen chefs, including Jason and Megan Brozovich, Michaela Giancarlo Kotek, Doreen McKenney, Markéta Palkova-Resong, Joan Sedlacek, and all of our many volunteers.

- Two visits by Consul General Jaroslav Kantůrek; assisting with Al Milgrom receiving a grant for his *Singin' in the Grain—A Minnesota Czech Story film*; Czech that Film co-sponsorship; a visit by Czech director Jakub Šmíd (*Nakrátko/Short Cut*); and a visit by Czech photographer Karel Cudlín.

- 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, 75th Anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising, an event at which Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, along with many of the affiliated groups noted above, received the Prize of Milan Hodža.

Our condition includes our on-going activities.

- The lovely and exuberant dance groups, the *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens*, both directed by Louise Wessinger.

- The youth gymnastics program is as vibrant as I can recall. With the direction of Women's Physical Director Mary Cahill, Men's Physical Director Jason Brozovich, and their dedicated lead instructors Courtney Benson and Carissa Skrivanek, they have continued the traditions of Miroslav Tyrš and Jindřich Fügner, founders of Sokol in 1862, who promoted the idea of "a strong mind in a sound body". Gymnastics is, and always has been, an integral part of Sokol and will continue to be so.

- The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers call the C.S.P.S. Hall 'home' and dance at many of our events.

- Sokol Minnesota Singers led by Don Haselbauer.

- Education classes, including Czech language classes taught by Blanka Brichta and Renáta Tichá, Slovak language classes taught by Barbara Carlson, and cooking classes.

- Your Sokol is home to *Česká a slovenská Škola* Twin Cities / Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, with its Saturday morning classes and additional events or outings, including a visit from Czech author and illustrator Renáta Fučíková.

- The 22nd Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp led by co-directors Louise Wessinger and Judy Aubrecht.

- Host of Literary Ventures, concerts, and other literary and cultural events.

- The *Slovo* newsletter transition was one concern I had when coming into this

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

2020 BOD (Board of Directors)

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First Vice President

Ed Hamernik

Second Vice President

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Recording Secretary

Denise Stibal

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

position, but with the support of co-managing editors Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, and Joyce Tesarek, copy editor Tom Aubrecht, production layout managers Amanda Tesarek and Lucas DeBono, and all of our regular and periodic contributors, the only thing I've had to worry about is to get my president's letter turned in on time.

- We continue to have a Facebook presence administered by Michaela Giancarlo Kotek with the assistance of Blanka Brichta and Martina Gurgel. Our SokolMN.org website is administered by Cinnamon Whaley.

Our condition also includes our new activities.

- Steve Ernest began the Kolo Sokol Bike Club.
- The Stage & Performance Committee, led by Chuck and Jean Draheim, began meeting.
- We have a new Instagram account, administered by Doreen McKenney and assisted by Blanka Brichta, which hopes to reach a new generation of members.

A measure of our condition is our finances:

- With support from you as members, we were able to match the Saint Paul STAR Grant in 2019, which helps to ensure that this building will be around

for at least another 134 years. I'd like to acknowledge all of you who assisted in grant writing, but especially Joyce Tesarek.

- Your C.S.P.S. Hall also was a recipient of a BizRecycling Grant, with assistance from Glynis Grostephan and Dawn Bulera.
- We have a great tenant in the Pajarito restaurant; that strong relationship is managed by Joyce Tesarek and Don Haselbauer.
- You have a paid Hall manager, Dawn Bulera, who has created a professional venue for renters.
- Our Charitable Gaming program under diligent stewards Ed Hamernik and Steve Shimer contributed over \$40,000 to Sokol Minnesota plus significant donations to the youth of Saint Paul.

One measure of our organization's condition is the condition of the C.S.P.S. Hall and what has been accomplished for it in 2019. Here is a short list of accomplishments.

- Completion of tuckpointing key areas, roof repair, parapet work, and north wall brickwork.
- A completed professional structural evaluation leading to these structural repairs:

- Sidewalk support parallel to Michigan Street;
- Basement headers and posts; and
- 2nd floor bar area ceiling.
- First floor classroom remodel thanks to *PAT a MAT*, I mean Pat Slaber and Blanka Brichta.
- Air conditioner repairs for the first floor just in time for the unveiling of the classroom.
- Improvement in our wireless and technical needs with the support of Richard Sargent.

I may have missed a few events and individual's names, so let me apologize in advance, but you need to know that you are each valuable to this volunteer organization.

What does the future hold? Only time will tell? If what I have listed gives you an idea of the condition of our organization, I leave the answer with you to ponder. If what was accomplished in one year is a recipe for 2020, **I personally think there are no bounds--your participation will direct our path.**

Pancake Breakfast with *Koláče* and Craft Sale

A steady stream of hungry breakfast-goers filled our historic C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, November 24, at the bi-annual Pancake Breakfast with *koláče* and Craft Sale. The record crowd of nearly 200 enjoyed pancakes, French toast, sausages, fruit, orange juice, and coffee, without having to run and watch a Vikings game! This Hall fundraiser, as always, would not have happened without all of our great volunteers: Dawn Bulera, Colleen Cahill, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Ed Hamernik, Bob Kostichka, Julie Lindner, Scott Lindner, Denis Novak, Teresa Pojar, Joan Sedlacek, Dave Stepan, Cinnamon Whaley, Rosemary Whaley-Baisden, and Girl Scout Troop 55398. Their efforts helped net over \$1,000 from breakfast ticket sales alone!

Koláče were again a very popular item. The *koláče* were prepared on a baking day by Jean Draheim, Katie Haselbauer, Don Haselbauer, Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, Joyce Tesarek, and Kathy Weese. In addition to the *koláče*, we sold caramel corn, donated by Bob Kostichka, and beautifully decorated honey-gingerbread holiday cookies baked and decorated by the parents of students in the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities and the Sokol children dancers. Assisting in sales were Bruce Chuchel, Shannon Duffy, Dave Grostephan, Heidi Grostephan, Darla Kolb, and Pat Slaber, as well as Glynis Grostephan and Arlene Hamernik, who organized the *koláče* sale. Total *koláče* sales were \$1,057.00.



Ludmila Pálková, Markéta Pálková-Resong, Louise Wessinger



(L-R) Joseph, Sierra, Joseph, Yazmine, Sue Martin, Julian, Dawn Bulera, Dave Martin

Along with the tasty breakfast and *koláče* sales, guests shopped our vendors' market. As always, there was a wide variety of original, imported, and handcrafted gifts to choose from for early holiday shopping. This year, we had vendors of travel photography, jewelry, crocheted and knit items, baked goods and cookbooks, blankets and purses, jams and pickled vegetables, Czech and Scandinavian greeting cards and postcards, goose feather pastry brushes, magnets, books and coloring books, Nordic themed gifts, clothing, and "previously loved" treasures. Thank you to all our vendors: Jean and Chuck Draheim, Pam Kotval, Debra LaValle, Doreen McKenney, Aneta Janouskova, Deanna Miller, Ludmila Pálková, Markéta Pálková-Resong, Ted Schaffer and Camela, and Louise Wessinger. Join us April 5, 2020, for our annual Spring Pancake Breakfast with *Koláče* and Craft Sale. Thank you for everyone's support of the Hall!

Sokol Children's Holiday Party *by Louise Wessinger*

It is always a magical night when the Sokol Children's Holiday Party takes place. This year's party was held on Friday evening, December 6. The Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Band joined our musical presentation this year, offering beautiful carols to begin the program. The band consists of director Frank Trnka on bagpipe, Jason Brozovich on bagpipe, Dawn Bulera on violin, and John Topic on vocals and percussion. Also making the evening delightful and intergenerational were the Sokol Minnesota Singers, directed by Don Haselbauer. We thank the band and singers for being a special part of the program. They were joined by the children and teens to sing several cherished Czech



Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Band



Director Louise Wessinger leading the Candy Cane Dance Medley

and Slovak carols, accompanied by the band, Don, and Everett Swartz on piano.

Next, the *Taneční Mládež* (Dancing Youth) and *Taneční Teens*, led by dance director Louise Wessinger, performed several of their dances including a revival of a women's dance by the teen girls and the "sword dance" by the teen boys. While the children and teens changed out of *kroje* into their "1918" red and blue tee shirts, Glynis Grostephen read a story about Saint Nicholas and how he helped a village learn to work together through the cold winter. The children and teens performed a group favorite, the *Candy Cane Dance Medley*. The children next did the annual *Svatý Mikuláš* (Saint Nicholas) pantomime. Then, as if by magic, *Svatý Mikuláš*, an *anděl* (angel), and the *čert* (devil) appeared. The children all promised to be good for the whole new year, so they were

gifted with a bag of goodies and an apple or orange.

Everyone enjoyed the beautiful array of healthy treats assembled by Dawn Bulera. Special thanks to Dawn and to Matthew Weathers for helping with setup and cleanup of the program and reception. Thank you to Richard Sargent for coordinating our lyrics projection so everyone could join in the singing. Thanks to Glynis Grostephan and her daughter Heidi for assembling our gift bags. Special thanks to the Czech and Slovak moms

who made and sold ethnic holiday cookies and baked goods to raise money for Sokol, as well as to the dance parents and others who made the beautiful ribbon and braid stars that were also sold to benefit Sokol. A big thank you to Jason Brozovich and Dave and Darnell Stepan for their roles in the program, and as always to our dance helpers, Dawn Bulera, Lucy Rose, and John Topic (children dancers), and to Lenka Hester, Michaela Wentz, and Romana Pulkrabek (teen dancers).



Angel with Good Book candidates



Taneční Teens boys' dance



Taneční Teens girls' dance



On Stage in front: *Taneční Mládež*, rear: *Taneční Teens*, Sokol Minnesota Singers, Dance Director Louise Wessinger

Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers Summer and Fall 2019

By Louise Wessinger

The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers kept their feet moving this summer and fall. Our summer started with a return trip to the festive Tabor Czech Days. Our busy summer continued with Kolacky Days in Montgomery, Minnesota. This year for the parade, Rick Palma, one of our dancers, attached two picnic tables to a long trailer and a float for the dancers became a reality. We also had the joy of listening to the concertina of Jake Bastyr, who rode with us along the parade route.

Next on the schedule was the always-enjoyable Booya picnic at Sokol Camp in Pine City.

A new venue this year was the Le Seuer County Fair in Le Centre. We had a great time there. John and Susie Smisek opened their home for us to use as headquarters and they showed us their massive collection of Czech pottery. Before we danced, we witnessed the tractor pull, which was a new experience for most of us.

(Continued on page 5)

Pop-uP Arts and Crafts Sale

November 30, 2019, marked the first-ever Pop-uP arts and craft sales event sponsored by Sokol Minnesota. The event, chaired by Jean Draheim and Doreen McKenney, attracted several new artisans to the C.S.P.S. Hall, and was held on Small Business Saturday, designed to encourage people to “shop locally” with independent sellers. The Sokol Gift Shop has been open the Saturday after Thanksgiving in the past, but this year it was decided to expand the day and make the Hall a shopping destination.

Vendors for the day were Gail Jensen, jewelry; Michaela Giancarlo Kotek, The Czech Baker; Girl Scout Troop, specialty knit items; Doreen McKenney, Czech and Scandinavian cards; Pam Pirtle, jewelry; Steve Shimer, holiday decorations; Johanna Welsch, handmade Nordic gnomes; Louise Wessinger, ethnic coloring books and holiday decor; and Mike Wilke, cartoon books and gifts. Jean and Chuck Draheim had Nordic-themed gifts, original-design jewelry, and lefsa cozies at the event, but were unable to attend in person due to the weather. Sokol also offered a table of previously enjoyed items for sale. Dawn Bulera was on hand to show guests what the C.S.P.S. Hall has to offer renters for their events.

As with any good Slovak or Czech gathering, food was offered. Doreen and Joan Sedlacek made goulash from scratch. It was served with dumplings and bread. Hot cider, coffee, and doughnuts were also available. The warm, hearty food was welcome and sold out, as the day was cold, snowy, and blustery.

Many thanks to those who volunteered to do everything from set-up to take down, cooking, greeting, and serving: Dawn Bulera, Chuck Draheim, Michaela Giancarlo Kotek, Marit Lee Kucera, Joe Landsberger, Joan Sedlacek, Ann Seifert, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, Joyce Tesarek, and Louise Wessinger.

Images on right: Craft sale vendors, shoppers, and products,



Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers at Dožínky in New Prague
 Front: Stefan Heyn, Row 1 L-R: Richard Sargent, Director Louise Wessinger, Theresa Pojar, Pam Langworthy, Lenka Hester, Megan Brozovich, Darnell Stepan, Brittany Stepan, Michaela Wentz. Row 2: John Topic, Dave Stepan, Jason Brozovich, Dave Cammack, Michael Topic, Sandy Prochaska, Rick Palma.

(Continued from page 4) Our fall programs began with another new location, Taco Daze in Scandia. It rained for a lot of the day, but mostly drizzled, as our fearless dancers performed. It was a fun event with lots of vendors, so we hope to be invited again and have sunnier weather.

Next was our Czech and Slovak Festival at the C.S.P.S. Hall. We had a beautiful day, even a little warm, and enjoyed performing for the always-great audience. The next weekend, it was on to Dožínky in New Prague. A rainstorm just as we arrived gave way to a nice day with two fun performances.

We enjoyed our performance at the Roast Pork Dinner at the Hall in October. On December 1, we performed at the Annual Christmas Around the World event at the Ukrainian Hall in Minneapolis. This is one of our favorites, as we see many groups of friends from other dance groups and it opens the holiday season for us.

This winter, we look forward to performing at *Masopust* in Protivin, Iowa on Saturday, February 22, and at *Masopust* in Montgomery, on Sunday, February 23. Barefoot Becky and her band will play in Protivin and the Charlie Sticha Band will play in Montgomery.

2019 Podebrady Language Camp

By Ally Grym

Last summer I received a scholarship through the Czech Republic's Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports and Charles University to participate in the *Letní škola slovanských studií Poděbrady*, or the Summer School of Slavic Studies in Poděbrady, CZ. My scholarship covered my tuition, room, and board during the program. From July 1 to 26, I had daily Czech language classes with eight fellow students from six other countries. The opportunity to practice Czech in the Czech Republic with students from around the world was invaluable. The summer school provided weekly Czech movie outings with studies on the Czech film industry, as well as trips to Prague, Kutna Hora, Prachovské skály, and Terezin. After only four weeks of classes, I feel that my understanding of Czech language and culture was greatly enhanced, and I look forward to continuing my studies here at Sokol. I

encourage anyone who is interested in immersing themselves in the Czech language to apply for these scholarships. Additional information can be found at SokolMN.org as scholarship information is released.



2019 Podebrady Language Camp Participants from Sokol Minnesota: On Left: Ally Grym, 3rd from left: Austin Palma

Scholarships for 2020 Czech Language Courses in the Czech Republic

Two scholarship opportunities are available for courses to study the Czech language this summer in Poděbrady in the Central Bohemian Region of the Czech Republic. Teachers of the Czech language may apply for a scholarship for a two-week course this summer. Fluent Czech speakers may apply for scholarships for one or two semesters of study at Czech universities. More information on each of these programs is below.

The deadline for applications for all courses is March 15, 2020.

The first scholarship opportunity is for the Summer School of Slavonic Studies in Poděbrady, Czech Republic, which takes place from July 6 to 31, 2020. This school is designed for the general public, from beginners to more advanced students. The course is intensive, with focus on the **Czech language and area studies**. The optional afternoon program consists of lectures held in Czech and English, Czech films, cultural and sport activities, as well as field trips and excursions.

The Consulate General of the Czech
6 February 2020 Slovo

Republic in Chicago can nominate one candidate and two substitute candidates for the final decision by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) of the Czech Republic. Applications have to be sent only in paper version to Jan Kubišta, Deputy Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago, at the address below. In addition to the application, also required are a resume, passport copy, motivation letter, and a **recommendation letter** from a Czech compatriot organization in the United States, a US school or university, or the Czech Honorary Consul for Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota (M.L. Kucera, maritleekucera@comcast.net). You can find more information and a link to the application on the Consulate General's website: www.mzv.cz/chicago/en/culture_events/education/scholarship_for_summer_school_of.html

The second scholarship opportunity is for the Czech language course in Poděbrady from July 17 to August 14, 2020, organized by the Charles University in Prague and the House for International Cooperation under MEYS. This course is intended for those who would like to learn their

predecessors' language or improve their existing Czech language skills. The course gives students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with Czech culture and to get to know part of the Czech Republic. A generous extracurricular program (forums, excursions, lectures, weekend day trips, etc.) is prepared for course participants. The Consulate General of the Czech Republic only reviews the received applications and sends them for decision by a special commission from various Czech institutions to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Applicants have to first complete the online application on this website: www.databaze-krajane.cz/modules/krajane/?h=langcourse

Then, print the application and send it signed and dated to Jan Kubišta, Deputy Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago, at the address below, together with a passport copy and a recommendation letter from a Czech compatriot organization in the USA, a US school or university, or the Czech Honorary Consul for Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota (M.L. Kucera, maritleekucera@comcast.net).

Contestants sought for Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant *By Lorraine David*

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant is looking for young women of Czech, Slovak, or Moravian heritage to compete for the state title. The 31st Annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant will be held on April 18, 2020, at the American Legion Club in Montgomery, Minnesota.

The competition is for women between the ages of 16 and 26. The pageant winners receive cash awards and crowns and they will have a year of memorable appearances throughout the state of Minnesota. This unique pageant focuses on the heritage of the Czech, Slovak, or Moravian candidates. The new Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota queen travels to the national Miss Czech Slovak US Pageant in Wilber, Nebraska, in early August.

There was an informational pageant meeting on Sunday, January 12 at Montgomery Oil Company and David's Diner, Montgomery, Minnesota. A light lunch was served. The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant Committee extended a warm welcome to all interested contestants, parents, and family members in attendance.

The application deadline is March 1, 2020. For information and a registration form, contact Lorraine David at 507-364-9370 or 507-364-5384, or email davidsdiner@hotmail.com or missczechslovakmn@hotmail.com. The pageant website is www.missczechslovakmnpageant.org

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant on April 18 will feature ethnic foods served at 5 p.m., with the pageant beginning at 7 p.m. A reception and dance will follow the coronation. Dinner and pageant tickets are available from Jerry or Lorraine David: 507-364-9370 or at Montgomery Oil Company, 200 Fourth Street NW.

The reigning Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen is Autumn Gare of Montgomery, daughter of Joshua and Linda Gare. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota First Princess is Megan Domonoske, daughter of David and Amy Domonoske of Waterville.

20th Annual Masopust in Montgomery

By Jean Keogh

All are invited to join Montgomery in celebrating its 20th annual *Masopust* (Czech Mardi Gras) celebration on Sunday, February 23, at the American Legion Club, 102 Elm Avenue SW in Montgomery. In the *Masopust* tradition, ethnic costumes are encouraged, but not required, with prizes awarded.

There will be plenty of Czech foods and beverages available, including pork & dumplings, from 11:30 to 4:15. A silent auction will take place from 12:30 to 4:15 p.m. Music will be provided by the Charlie Sticha Band beginning at 1 p.m. At 2 p.m. a *Masopust* skit, in which permission to party is granted as the villagers say "good-bye to meat" for the Lenten season, will be featured, followed by a Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers performance. Coronation of the 2020 *Masopust* King will take place at 3:00 p.m., followed by the Montgomery Lion's scholarship presentation to the outgoing King. A special guest anticipated to attend is Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

You do not have to be Czech to enjoy the party! For more information, please contact Jim Mladek at 507-364-5659.

Kick-off to 20th Annual

MASOPUST
The Czech Mardi Gras

February 23, 2020

**American Legion
Montgomery, MN
12:00 PM to 5:00 PM**
Doors Open at 11:30 AM
Adults - \$5 Children under Age 15 Free

Costume Ball (Costumes encouraged) Prizes Awarded

Silent Auction 12:30-4:15

Also during the afternoon:

King Coronation Costume Contest

Czech Food Available 11:30 AM to 4:15 p.m
including Pork & Dumplings

St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers

Thank you Sponsors!



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: **Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Joyce Ehmke, Renae Faunce, Joseph Gall, Linda Havir, Robert Kostichka, Mary Ann and Gary Novak, Elsie Roepke, Pamela Snopl, Richard Verner.**

Network for Good: **Anonymous (3).**

Give to the Max: **Keith Bracknell, Jirina Pospisil, Debra Rigel-Bell, Lenka Seferovic, Kim Tasky-Frost, Cheryl Nelson Theuninck, Anonymous (2). Libby Imbrone** in honor of **Don Haselbauer's** 70th Birthday. **Marit Lee Kucera** in memory of **Yvonne Palka**. **Mary Tuma-Smith** in memory of **Robert Tuma**.

\$100 - \$499: **Lillian Bednar, Roger Green, George Hoffman, Michael Giancarlo Kotek and Robert Kotek, Philothea T. Sweet.**

Give to the Max: **Marjorie L. Norling, Richard Rieck, Terry Shima, Wayne Zbytovsky, Anonymous (1).** Attendees at the 30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution Event on November 17.

\$500 - \$4,999: **Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities**

\$5000 - \$9,999: **Patricia Slaber and Richard Vogel, and Anonymous (2)** in honor of **Don Haselbauer's** 70th Birthday.

GENERAL FUND:

Under \$99: **Joseph Gall, Louise and Chuck Wessinger Pamela Langworthy and Richard Sargent** in memory of **Yvonne Palka**. **Czech Heritage Club** in memory of **Hana Matousek**.

\$100 - \$499: **Susan Lindoo and Michael Wolesky, Kenneth Mowll, Katie and Don Haselbauer** in memory of **Yvonne Palka**.

Subtotals:

Legacy Fund: \$16,009

General Fund: \$550

Total: \$16,559

Fundraising: Congratulations to us all!

By Joyce Tesarek

We can all be proud of the dedication and support shown to help our Sokol Minnesota organization and C.S.P.S.Hall continue into the future. In 2019 we not only completed the match for our \$86,979 Saint Paul STAR grant, we matched the generous anonymous \$7,000 donation pledged in honor of Don Haselbauer's 70th birthday. Don would like to personally thank all of you who donated to make the full \$7,000 match. These funds made possible the work on our roof and masonry, and will be used to upgrade our antiquated heating system.

Thank you all. Now on to our 2020 projects!

8 February 2020 Slovo

BizRecycling Grant Update

By Glynis Grostephan

Sokol Minnesota members Glynis Grostephan and Dawn Bulera have completed the BizRecycling Post Grant Report. The post-grant activity included a final visit, to ensure that recycling/composting activities are occurring, with Elizabeth Walsh, a Sustainability Specialist from the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation.

Elizabeth noted that our story will be on the BizRecycling website at www.bizrecycling.com/category/local-stories/ It will read: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota BizRecycling Grant Success Story

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is a cultural organization seeking to preserve Czech and Slovak heritage through social activities and educational programs.

In 2018, Czech and Slovak Sokol members reached out to Ramsey County for help in obtaining infrastructure to reduce waste at their organization. After working closely with a Waste Wise recycling expert, they applied for and received a \$10,000 BizRecycling Grant. Sokol Minnesota member Glynis Grostephan noted that she appreciated "the recycling expert's helpfulness and the ease of the grant process".

Sokol Minnesota primarily used the grant funding to replace their disposable food service ware with reusable dishes. Now, the organization is on track to keep at least a minimum of 700 paper plates, 700 disposable cups, and 1,200 plastic utensils out of the trash each month. Glynis believes that the dishes have been great for the organization and that "visitors love them".

Sokol Minnesota also used grant funding to start an organics recycling program; this involved placing color-coded and clearly labeled organics collection bins throughout the C.S.P.S. Hall. Consequently, the organization now diverts about 8,550 pounds of compostable material from the trash per year! Overall, staff and volunteers appreciate the grant for how it has allowed the organization to manage their waste in a more sustainable manner.

American Sokol Library and Archives Matching Challenge Fundraiser

American Sokol has a significant collection of books, flags, posters, sheet music, photos, letters, Slet memorabilia, and other historical artifacts. The collection is being digitized and it is searchable and browsable. To view items that have been posted, visit <https://americansokol.pastperfectonline.com>

The American Sokol Library and Archives Matching Challenge Fundraiser is being held to continue the archiving process. You can double your donation dollars by supporting the Matching Fundraising Challenge. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, each dollar donated will be matched up to fifty thousand dollars. This fundraiser will continue through April 15, 2020. You can donate at: <https://american-sokol.org/donate>

Highlights of the November Board of Directors Meeting by Denise Stibal

The meeting was called to order on November 22 at 6 p.m.

President Dave Stepan reported that we are working on an outdoor vestibule enclosure with Parijto. Motion approved to assist in the cost of either 35% or \$5,000, whichever is less.

Ed Hamernik reported that the bar area structural repair will be completed soon.

Jean Draheim reported that 14 vendors have registered for the Pop uP Sale on November 30. The Vladislav Bláha concert is scheduled for January 26, co-sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center.

Mary Cahill reported on the Board of Instructors' goals for 2020. These included planning for the Western District Competition in April 2021, and to have a strong presence at the National Slet in Chicago in 2021.

Ed Hamernik presented the Gaming budget which was approved. Electronic gaming and pulltab sales at Keenan's have been very successful for 2019.

Steve Ernest reported that our total Sokol Membership is at 307.

Pat Slaber reported on Education: Our *Koláče* Making class was a huge success. Silvia Purdy will be our new Slovak language instructor.

Glynis Grostephan reported on donations and our Biz Recycling Grant. Elizabeth Walsh from the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation paid a visit to the Hall and approved a \$250.00 reward check. She also offered to lead a training class to help us understand the benefits of recycling and help us understand the correct way to recycle.

Judy Aubrecht reported on Publicity. A motion was approved to allocate \$600 to use a lead service (eventective.com), to begin in January, to facilitate more outside rental activity.

Don Haselbauer distributed the Annual Tax return which was reviewed by all members of the board.

Joyce Tesarek reported on our STAR Grant. The match of \$85,979 has been completed; the balance remaining to collect is \$10,806.50, which will be done in December. GiveMN Donations totaled \$855. Meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Highlights of the December Board of Directors Meeting By Joyce Tesarek

The meeting was called to order on December 19 at 7 p.m. by First Vice President Ed Hamernik.

Ed Hamernik reported that the bar area structural repair just needs final woodwork. The structural engineer will come Monday to check the attic beams and one in the basement. Pelco Construction will also be there. The Board of Trustees is working on a plan for heating. Lloyd Krocak has HVAC experience and will make a proposal. We will need to upgrade the fire alarm system as there have been a number of false alarms. BOT will make a priorities list of building needs at their next meeting.

Jean Draheim reported that the Pop uP Sale on November 30 was a snow day so attendance was reduced, but it was enjoyed by the vendors and shoppers.

Ed Hamernik reported on Gaming. Last month transferred \$12,000 to general fund. Glynis Grostephan reported donations received as of December 19: Legacy: \$9,422, General Fund: \$100. Dawn Bulera and Glynis completed the BizRecycling grant program and we will receive the final \$250 reward check.

Joyce Tesarek gave a grants update. The closing paperwork was completed for the STAR grant match. We will receive the balance remaining of \$10,806.50. The \$7,000 anonymous donation in honor of Don Haselbauer's 70th birthday was matched. Doreen McKenney's request for \$200 for the Festival of Nations Exhibit booth supplies was approved.

Board of Instructors: Mary Cahill and Jason Brozovich recommended, and the BOD approved, nominating Allison Gerber for the Western District Bud Benak award.

Sokol Minnesota 2019 Annual Meeting

The Sokol Minnesota Annual Meeting was held on November 22 at 7 p.m.

Dave Stepan led off the evening with his State of the Organization presentation. The committee chairs then gave brief presentations on accomplishments in their areas in 2019. See page two for Dave's presentation that includes highlights of the year for each area.

The nominating committee (Blanka Brichta, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger) presented the slate for 2020 leadership positions. The committee praised the strong, diverse, well-functioning board and noted that there were no resignations or term limits reached. The incumbent candidates for the positions that were up for reelection are listed.

Board of Directors

Officers with 2 two-year terms:

Second Vice President: Jean Draheim

Recording Secretary: Denise Stibal

Corresponding Secretary: Glynis Grostephan

Sergeant at Arms: Tom Aubrecht

Treasurer: Don Haselbauer

Member at Large 2: Blanka Brichta

Publicity Director : Judy Aubrecht

Membership Director: Norm Petrik

Men's Physical Director: Jason Brozovich

Board Positions- chairs serve on BOD

Board of Budget and Finance: Four members, two-year terms. Treasurer is an additional member.

1. Richard Sargent

2. Joyce Tesarek

3. Dave Stepan

Board of Trustees: Seven-member board, three-year terms

1. Dennis Cahill

2. Bob Kotek

Board of Gaming: Five-member board, three-year terms

1. Joyce Tesarek

Delegates and Alternates to the Western District Meetings

(Mary Cahill and Jason Brozovich are automatic delegates as Men's and Women's Physical Directors)

1. Courtney Benson

2. Marit Lee Kucera

3. Megan Cahill

4. Joan Sedlacek

The nominees were all elected by a white ballot vote.

Member News

Ken Janda Lecture

On December 4, 2019, Ken Janda presented a brown-bag lecture “The Anatomy of Two Biographies: Emperor Franz Josef and Peasant Samuel Mozolak,” for the Center of Austrian Studies (CAS), University of Minnesota. The lecture was well-attended by students, faculty, and Middle-European history buffs. Ken’s lecture was based on his book, *The Emperor and the Peasant: Two Men at the Start of the Great War and the End of the Habsburg Empire*.



(L-R) Igor Tchoukarine, (History and Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature and Editor, *Austrian Studies Newsmagazine*), M.L. Kucera (Honorary Czech Consul), David Good (History, former CAS director), Gary Cohen (History, former CAS director), Howard Louthan (History, current CAS director), Kenneth Janda, Raymond D. Duvall (Political Science), and William P. Shiveley (Political Science). As a fundraiser for Sokol Minnesota, Ken has donated 25 copies of his book, which are for sale in the Sokol gift shop. Photo: Jennifer Hammer

George Mikiska Birthday



Row 1, (L-R): Evelyn Durban, Vi Chromy*, George Mikiska*, M. L. Kucera*, Jean Keogh*. Row 2: John Durban, Ed Keogh, Chuck Nikolay, Fred Simon*. (*Sokol Members)

Friends in Czech Country Minnesota gave a surprise birthday party for George Mikiska in New Prague on December 12. Among his gifts was a first-time Sokol Minnesota membership. What a great way to share your Czech heritage!

Our sincere sympathy to Sokol Member Kathy Jorgenson on the death of her brother, Thomas, who was killed in a car accident on December 21 in Florida.

Thomas grew up in the Hopkins/Chanhassen area and was a civil engineer in the Twin Cities.

Yvonne Palka Obituary



Yvonne Schaelchlin Palka died on November 30, 2019, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at the age of 81.

Yvonne was born in Pittsburgh, PA. She graduated from Swarthmore College

with Highest Honors in Biology in 1960 and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1960, Yvonne and her classmate Johnny Palka, a Slovak immigrant, were married at the Quaker International Centre in Delhi, India. Upon returning to the United States, Yvonne and Johnny obtained doctorates in neuroendocrinology and neurophysiology at UCLA.

Yvonne conducted research at Baylor Medical School Houston, TX. Later the family moved to Seattle, Washington, where both Yvonne and Johnny gained positions at the University of Washington. During the 1970s, Yvonne helped to pioneer the UW’s Women’s Studies

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Program, which later evolved into the Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies. She contributed her biological expertise to this program, and also later at Antioch University Seattle, where she taught in the Psychology Program. In addition, at Antioch she developed a new program in Ecopsychology that explored the role of the love of nature in personal development. This full and fruitful career in higher education is a testament to Yvonne’s insight and verve as a teacher.

After her retirement, when she and Johnny moved to Whidbey Island, WA, Yvonne continued her engagement with the natural world in many ways.

Expanding on a love of art from her childhood, Yvonne took up a serious study of Asian sumi-e brush painting, delighting in the challenge of conveying the essence of both landscapes and living creatures. She joined the Sumi-e Society of America and was an active member of its Ming Chiao Chapter in

Minnesota. Yvonne extended her love of storytelling into writing and illustrating two award-winning children’s books, *Dragon Fire*, *Ocean Mist* and *Super Simple Sumi-e*. She was working on a

third book, *Sami the Snow Dragon*, that was inspired by Minnesota school children. Yvonne enjoyed visiting classrooms and teaching workshops in local elementary schools and art studios, making lighthearted and beautiful

art accessible to all.

“There was a quality of joyfulness that was flowering in recent times, really just in the past six months to a year,” Johnny Palka said recently. “We had times when we would just have to look at each other and we’d start to giggle.”

Yvonne had many diverse passions in her life, and wherever her gentle attention rested, she would offer nourishment and support. *This article includes information from the December 11, 2019 Star Tribune.*



Autumn Joy

Czech Honorary Consul News

(Right) At the end of the 2019 Consular Corps College symposium, November 13-15, Washington, D.C., Marit Lee Kucera received her participation certificate from Louis Vella, Dean of the Consular Corps College and Honorary Consul General of Malta/San Francisco. With Kathleen Blakley, Honorary Consul General of Japan/Las Vegas and a Chancellor of the Consular Corps College, Marit presented "The Secrets of Putting on Successful Cultural Events: Two Case Studies." Marit talked about the many 100/50/25 events in 2018 in Minnesota commemorating the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918, as well as the Prague Spring reform movement in 1968 and the creation of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic in 1993.



(Above) The Czech and Slovak 2018 Centennial Committee met on December 5 to continue coordination and support for events of each other's Czech and Slovak organizations. Groups represented were Sokol Minnesota, St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, and the Czech Honorary Consulate/Minneapolis. Committee members gladly took advantage of the advance sale of freshly baked *vánočka*/Czech Christmas bread by parents of the Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities, for the *Svatý Mikuláš* parties the next weekend, December 6 and 7. This annual bake sale is always a successful fundraiser for Sokol Minnesota.

(L-R) Austin Palma, Louise Wessinger, Jean Draheim, Renáta Tichá, Suzette Steppe, and Ken Jarda. Next Meeting is March 29.

(Below) M. L. Kucera and Patricia Hampf, Minnesota-based, renowned American author and educator, tried to open the gate before the wall fell down at the well-attended, jubilant Velvet Revolution 30th anniversary celebration produced by the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities at C.S.P.S. Hall on November 17.



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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they are billed to us at the first-class mail rate. For this reason, we will not send additional issues until we have a current, correct mailing address on record for you. Member volunteer Slovo staff: Co-Managing Editors (interim): Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, and Joyce Tesarek. Copy Editor: Tom Aubrecht. Production Layout Managers: Amanda Tesarek and Lucas DeBono. Regular Contributors: Glynis Grostephan, M.L. Kucera, Dave Stepan, Denise Stibal, Norm Petrik, and Jean Draheim. Photographers: Martina Gurgel and Joyce Tesarek. Collages: Martina Gurgel. Sokol Minnesota Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney. Mailing List: Penny Tesarek. Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek. Advisors: Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, M.L. Kucera, Norm Petrik, and Jitka Sebek. Additional contributors to this issue: Jason Brozovich, Megan Cahill, Lorraine David, Jean Draheim, Glynis Grostephan, Ally Grym, Jean Keogh, John Palka, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger. Additional photographers in this issue: Martina Gurgel, Jennifer Hammer, Doreen McKenney. December/January issue mailing: Mary Cahill, Joan Sedlacek.

**EVENTS AT C.S.P.S. HALL
ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!
Sokol Minnesota Events**

Flavors of Slovakia Dinner •

Sunday March 22, 2020, 12:30 p.m.

Reservations due by March 13

Call: 651-290-0542

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota
Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO February 2020

Spring Breakfast

with
Koláče and Craft Sales

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

**Sunday, April 5
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

\$8 adult

\$6 children under 9

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

**2020 Breakfast includes:
French toast, pancakes,
fruit cup, sausage,
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