



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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June/July Slovo articles**  
due May 1

**Czech That Film**  
festival is online via  
Instagram @czechthatfilm

**Literary Ventures**  
May 23, 10 a.m. to noon  
C.S.P.S. Hall

Check [www.cs-center.org](http://www.cs-center.org)  
for event status

## CANCELLED OR POSTPONED EVENTS

The events below have been  
cancelled or postponed to  
reduce the risk of COVID-19

**International Institute of  
Minnesota's 88th Annual  
Festival of Nations**

Original dates:  
April 30 and May 1 – 3  
Saint Paul RiverCentre,  
**Status: Cancelled**

**Czech that Film**  
screenings hosted by  
Minneapolis-Saint Paul  
Film Society

Original dates: late May.  
**Status: Cancelled**

**Flea Market**

Original date:  
Saturday, May 30  
C.S.P.S. Hall

**Status: Postponed**

For status of events scheduled  
for the C.S.P.S. Hall,  
check our calendar at  
[www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/](http://www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/)

# 23rd Annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp

Sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

# Medieval "Castles and Kings"

June 15-19 <sup>20</sup>/<sub>20</sub>

Ages: 6 to 14 years old

Info: 651-452-6240 | [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org)



**Register by May 15 to qualify for the Early-Bird discount.**

All camp registration materials must be received by June 6.  
Registration materials for campers ages 6 to 14, adult volunteers,  
and junior leaders ages 15 to 21 are available for download at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

In early May, the Minnesota Department of Health restrictions to reduce COVID-19  
will be reviewed by the camp directors to determine whether the camp can take  
place. See: [www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html)

**For the status of Culture Camp, check our calendar at  
[www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/](http://www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/)**

## Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes

by Dave Stepan

My Sokol brothers and sisters, at the time you read this, we will most likely be in a continued state of social distancing and staying at home because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope and pray that you are staying physically and mentally healthy by following those practices, and that, by the time summer arrives, we will all have come through this with a minimum of harm. I know I've said it before, but I will say it again, please continue to keep alive the Sokol motto of "**a sound mind in a sound body,**" and you will get through this! Sokol has been through challenges before. Sokol members in Europe experienced World War I (during which Sokol in the Austro-Hungarian area was officially disbanded), the Spanish flu, and the hijacking of the *Slets* into Spartakiads in the communist era. Sokol Minnesota has thrived for 138 years. We have experienced epidemics and pandemics before and survived. I am confident that we will come through this event and will have learned something from it. What that is, is yet to be determined, but a few things that we may learn come to mind: be safe and stay healthy, be prepared for the unexpected, and have an emergency plan. Be financially solvent and avoid debt as much as is possible. Ask for help when needed, don't be afraid of admitting that assistance is sometimes needed.

I am lucky enough to have a job that allows me to work from home. I also have volunteered through work to assist relocating our Hennepin county elderly and homeless. When I see these individuals with everything they own in plastic garbage bags, I realize how lucky I am and how much I have. If there is a silver lining to this, it is that free time at home (because of reduced commuting time) has allowed me to work on some house projects that I didn't have time to do pre-COVID-19.

As you know, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota canceled our Flavors of Slovakia Dinner in March and the Spring Breakfast, *Koláče* Sale, Craft Sale in April, as well as all other April and, most likely, May events. **For event status, check our calendar at [www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/](http://www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/)**

We have reached out to the owners of our tenant restaurant, Pajarito, and waived their April rent and may need to do the same for May. We feel the need to support Pajarito because they are not open. We look on this as shared short-term pain. Not collecting rent during this time is the right thing to do and you should be proud that your organization is doing what it can to help out. Whatever short term financial loss we suffer will (I hope) pay off in the long term. For those who are interested in supporting Pajarito, they are offering a special promotion during this time. By purchasing a \$100 gift card, you will receive an additional \$20 bonus voucher. To order, call 651-340-9545 or email [info@pajaritostp.com](mailto:info@pajaritostp.com). You could mention that you are a Sokol member.

We are taking this opportunity of inactivity at the C.S.P.S. Hall to carry out several key maintenance projects that were previously identified as being needed. I hope you agree we have an obligation to pass our Hall to the next generation in even better shape than we found it. Without your generous support to our Legacy Fund, which can only be used for maintaining the building, we would not be in the financial condition to continue work on our Hall. I am humbled by the support you have shown to this organization and can only say Thank You! We continue to look for opportunities for income, including grants, charitable gaming, fundraising events, and Hall rental.

We have and will continue to survive as an organization with your support, energy, time, and talents. I look forward to celebrating with all of you, in person and not just virtually, the conclusion of the disruption of our lives because of the necessary COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. Our late former Sokol Minnesota President Georgiana Dolejsi always gave hugs to new members after they were voted to be a Sokol member. I look forward to continuing that tradition, new member or not!

*Nazdar!*



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

### President

Dave Stepan

### First Vice President

Ed Hamernik

### Second Vice President

Jean Draheim

### Recording Secretary

Denise Stibal

### Corresponding Secretary

Glynis Grostephan

### Treasurer

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### Financial Secretary

Steve Ernest

### Sergeant at Arms

Tom Aubrecht

### Members at Large

Markéta Resong

Blanka Brichta

### Membership Director

Norm Petrik

### Board of Budget and Finance

Joyce Tesarek, Chair

### Educational Director

Patricia Slaber

### Publicity Director

Judy Aubrecht

### Board of Instructors

Mary Cahill,

Women's Physical Director

Jason Brozovich,

Men's Physical Director

### Board of Trustees

Bob Kotek, Chair

### Gaming Manager

Ed Hamernik, Chair

Telephone: 651-290-0542

Past issues of *Slovo* and  
Hall Calendar of Events:

[www.sokolmn.org](http://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](http://www.sokolmn.org) or [www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](https://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)

## COVID-19 Impacts on Sokol Minnesota Activities and Finances

by Joyce Tesarek

As you can imagine, Sokol Minnesota is struggling with the consequences of COVID-19, as we all are. We have several strong sources of revenue, but unfortunately all of them are on hold.

Our tenant restaurant, Pajarito, has been closed; to support them and help them through this time, we have waived their rent. Keenan's bar, which hosts our charitable gaming, is also closed.

Following state health department guidelines, our important spring fundraising events, the Flavors of Slovakia Dinner, the Spring Breakfast, *Koláče*, and Craft Sale, and the Festival of Nations, where we operate our Café for four days, are canceled. We have closed the C.S.P.S. Hall to gymnastic and dance activities, classes, meetings, and rentals. And of course, we cannot know at this time how long these mitigation measures will need to continue.

While our income has come to a stop, our expenses for operating and maintaining our Hall have not. On average, each year it costs us over \$60,000 to operate the Hall. These expenses need to be covered. Fortunately, we have been conservative with our funds and do have a reserve, but the reserve will be quickly depleted if activities do not resume. Also, our Board of Trustees would like to move ahead with Hall repair projects while the Hall is vacant and our contractor is available. High priority projects include structural support of all stairs and the attic trusses, resurfacing the second-floor wood floors, and creating separate water meters for Sokol and the restaurant. These projects are estimated to cost \$42,000. The Board of Directors approved completion of the necessary structural work.

I know we are all dealing with lost wages and additional expenses from social distancing, but if you are in the fortunate position of being

financially able to help, we would greatly appreciate a donation to Sokol Minnesota. Our goal is to raise at least \$9,800 to cover refinishing the second-floor wood floors. If funded, we would include the first floor as well, which has not been refinished since 2000.

As always, 100% of your tax-deductible contribution or pledge will go to support Sokol activities and the Hall.

If you have a company match, or would like information on legacy giving or on becoming a monthly Sustaining

Member, contact Joyce Tesarek, Fundraising Chair, at 612-232-2993, or [fundraising@sokolmn.org](mailto:fundraising@sokolmn.org). Checks can be sent to Sokol Minnesota at 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55102, or donate securely online at [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org)



### Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Award

The Youth Leadership Award is designed to encourage and reward the outstanding participation of youth members of Sokol Minnesota and to foster a future generation of leaders and members for our organization. Applicants must actively participate in Sokol Minnesota youth activities and volunteer at Sokol Minnesota fundraising events. Up to three youth leaders are eligible to receive this award annually. This year, each award includes a \$300 honorarium (\$200 from Sokol Minnesota, supplemented this year by donations). The full announcement, application criteria, and forms are at [www.sokolmn.org/youth-leadership-award/](http://www.sokolmn.org/youth-leadership-award/)



## Dancer Anna Hester Graduates

by Louise Wessinger

Anna Hester, daughter of Sokol Minnesota member Lenka Hester and Eric Hester, will graduate from Bloomington Jefferson High School on May 27. Anna has participated in French Club and Science Olympiad. She says she was always a “band nerd,” playing the saxophone in both marching band and pep band. She especially enjoyed band during her junior and senior years, when she played for football games and the indoor marching band concerts. Anna took many Advanced Placement and honors classes and will graduate with honors, including letters in both Academics and Band.

Anna has been a member of the Sokol Minnesota *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens* for the past 14 years. Anna, whose mother was born in Czechoslovakia, inherited her mother’s love of dance. She started dancing in our children’s group when she was four years old. One of her favorite performances every year is the Festival of Nations. She has always loved the excitement of dancing on the big stage with the bright lights and huge audiences. She has two favorite dances. One of her favorite choreographies was taught by our guest instructor Jaroslav Švach from Breclav, Moravia. Another favorite is the women’s dance, *Hore Hronske*, which is performed by both the teens and adults. Anna advises younger dancers to have fun and enjoy dancing because, as you get older, you will have more stress in your life and dancing is a good way to “take the pressure off.”

Another Sokol activity Anna has enjoyed is the annual Czech and Slovak Children’s Cultural Day Camp. After

being a camper every year since she was seven, she has been a junior leader for the last several years, helping the younger campers with their projects and planning events such as the “treasure hunt.”

Anna also honors her father’s ethnic heritage through dancing for

13 years with O’Shea Irish dancers. She has appeared in multiple professional productions and competed many times in the United States and also in Ireland.

This fall Anna will attend the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She plans to major in Chemistry or Biology. She is interested in attending medical school.

Anna said: “I would like to thank Louise for being like an aunt to me. The time and dedication she puts into the dance programs is tremendous and it would not be the same without her.”

I want to thank Anna for being such an inspiring member of the dance group. She has always been a shining star, a great helper, and a friend to everyone. I will miss her.



Anna Hester

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## Dancers performed in Protivin and Montgomery *Masopust* Celebrations By Louise Wessinger

The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers were featured performers at two *Masopust* celebrations. *Masopust* is the equivalent of Czech Mardi Gras. The name literally means “the end of meat” for the Lenten season.

This year the adult dance group was invited to Protivin, Iowa, for the Czech Heritage Partnership’s 14<sup>th</sup> annual celebration at the Protivin Community Center on



Standing: Director Louise Wessinger, Dave Stepan, three of our Czech Heritage Partnership hosts, Jason Brozovich, John Topic, Teresa Pojar, Diane Bell, Darnell Stepan, Sandy Prochaska, Rick Palma. Front: Stefan Heyn, Brittany Stepan.

at the Protivin Community Center on Saturday, February 22. It was a lot of fun. Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen performed several times during the afternoon. There were also a silent auction, a live auction, and a wonderful Czech buffet dinner. Each year Protivin descendants from a particular ancestral village are honored. This year the village was Neplachov, Bohemia. Our group did two half-hour performances, which were very well received. In fact, the group was given a standing ovation at the end of the performance, a rare thrill for all of us. See us in a video at: [www.facebook.com/pg/czechmasopust/posts/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/czechmasopust/posts/)

After staying overnight in two guest houses in Protivin, we proceeded to Montgomery, Minnesota, for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Masopust Celebration at the American Legion Hall. This very enjoyable event featured the Charlie Sticha Band, a silent auction, a Masopust skit, and of course more great food. Our dancers did a half-hour program, again very well received, that included having the audience participate in some of the dances. Bobbie Chandler joined us for this performance.

## Two Teen Dancers are Actresses

By Louise Wessinger



Elizabeth Wentz

Two members of the *Taneční Teens* starred in theatre productions this spring. Elizabeth Wentz played Jasmine in the musical *Aladdin* in the Nativity of Our Lord Catholic School's seventh and eighth grade show. In the play, Elizabeth's character is a princess who falls in love with Aladdin, who is a street beggar. Of course, her father, the Sultan, wants his daughter to wed a prince. With the help of a hilarious genie, Princess Jasmine marries Aladdin. Elizabeth looked like a princess and sang beautifully. The whole impressive production was very professionally done, with beautiful sets and wonderful music. I felt very proud of Elizabeth, who is the daughter of Sokol Minnesota member Michaela Makarianova Wentz.

Our second teen actress is Isabella Spiess. Isabella, a junior in high school, has been taking acting lessons for many years. She has been in our *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens* dance groups since she was four. For the last few years, she has been



On the left: Isabella Spiess

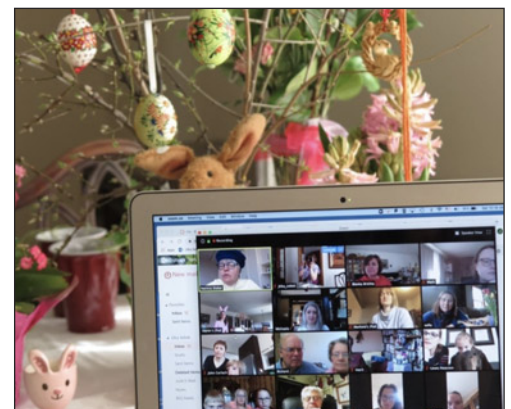
associated with the Children's Theatre Company ([www.childrenstheatre.org](http://www.childrenstheatre.org)) in Minneapolis. This year she had one of the lead roles in *Spamtown, USA*, a new play by Philip Dawkins. It is a story from the children's point of view of the 1985 strike at the Hormel Meat Processing Plant in Austin, Minnesota. Isabella plays one of the children affected by the strike. She is described as a tennis-playing powder keg, most likely to blow as the strikers' family life becomes nearly impossible. The young people in the play show us characters coming of age in a time of crisis. Isabella received very positive reviews for her performance. The play was to run from mid-March to April 5, but the schedule was reduced by the COVID-19 restrictions. Isabella is the daughter of Sokol Minnesota member Audrey Spiess and Paul Weig.

## Virtual Easter Celebration

By Pat Slaber

The Sokol Minnesota Education Committee and *Česká a Slovenská Škola Twin Cities* (Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities) joined together to celebrate an online Easter on Saturday, April 11. It was such a special morning, and a huge shout out goes to all the *Škola* moms that shared how they celebrate Easter. We had a parade of decorated eggs, *beránek / baranček* (lamb cakes), *mazanec* (sweet bread), and *pomlázka* (braided willow whips). There was lot of great discussion on how people decorated their lamb cakes, including frosted vs sprinkled with powdered sugar. Various ways of coloring eggs were described, from Czech to Slovak to Ukrainian, including a presentation by Jitka Sebek on the Czech method. There was much laughter as people shared their memories of Easter Monday (*Vel'konočný pondelok / velikonoční pondělí*). What was said in the Zoom Room regarding Easter Monday traditions stays in the Zoom Room! Blanka Brichta and Barbora Carlson gave us a language lesson on Easter-related words. We ended the session with a virtual bunny hop.

For me, a second-generation child of Czech and Slovak immigrants, it was a truly memorable occasion that helped me to embrace even more closely my Czech and Slovak roots. Thank you to everyone that joined in.



Clockwise from top right: L-R: Adam, Karolina, Adela, Liliana; Easter egg tree, online participants; heating colored wax over candles; Jitka Sebek; and Renata Scholtz.

## Walking the Language Bridge to My Family

By Elsa Youngberg

Speaking another language is an advantage that not everyone has. Growing up speaking two languages was one of the best things my parents did for me. Being able to speak Czech has enabled some of the opportunities in my life that I am most grateful for. Being able to communicate with people from other countries is such a gift and through speaking Czech at home, learning through Saturday morning classes, and speaking Czech on trips to visit my grandparents in the Czech Republic, I continue to be able to do just that.

As I grow up and spend more time at school and on other things in my life, I have noticed my Czech fluency slowly slipping away during the school year. Typically with learning languages, if you aren't studying or practicing enough, you may be losing your skills without even noticing. Thankfully, the one way that I keep learning and growing my skills and knowledge of the Czech language throughout the school year are the *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities* (Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities) Saturday morning classes at the C.S.P.S. Hall. We work on skills that we do not learn by speaking Czech at home like grammar, spelling, and writing. Each group works on similar topics, but at different levels. For example, in our first hour of

class, we work on speaking and reading from various Czech books. During the second hour of class, my group works mainly on grammar in practice books. My mom, Alena, also teaches a group and they recently each did an interview on growing up in Czechia and immigrating to the United States. This interview helped them practice speaking in a conversation and asking informational questions.

The highlight of my summer has always been visiting my grandparents and other family members in the Czech Republic. Having one full month of interacting with people, speaking the Czech language, and enjoying the food helps keep life in perspective.

After practicing throughout the year, it's great to go back during the summer and be able to communicate well and pick up my fluency again.

I know my grandparents love hearing from me in Czech throughout the year, whether it's through email, phone calls, or letters. This leads me to our most recent *škola* project. Over several recent weeks, we have been writing letters to our grandparents and ultimately using the letters to both



The first set of letters to Czech grandparents sent on February 8, 2020.

communicate and practice skills. My family members in the Czech Republic were so happy to receive a letter in Czech and they immediately wrote back. No matter how far along in the process of learning a language you are, it is important to stay motivated, keep learning, and stay connected. Czech & Slovak School at the C.S.P.S. Hall is one way that myself and other students can do all of those things at once.



### Education Update

By Pat Slaber

#### Czech and Slovak Spring Language Classes

The C.S.P.S. Hall closed due to COVID-19 before the spring Czech and Slovak language classes ended. This did not stop the intrepid language students! Classes were held via online Zoom meetings.

Many thanks to our teachers, Blanka Brichta, Silvia Purdy, and Renata Ticha, for their flexibility and making the classes work.

L-R Top Row: Pam Langworthy, Richard Sargent, Pat Slaber,  
Middle Row: Sally Lieberman, Blanka Brichta,  
Bottom Row: Austin Palma, Sara Pogi.

#### Czech and Slovak Conversation Groups Online

Online conversation groups are being created for those who want to practice their Czech and Slovak.

For details, visit [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

## Education Update

## Mushroom Hunting

Join us on July 19 at 1 p.m.  
for a lecture on *houby* (mushrooms)



Dave Stepan shows off his  
Black Pearl Oyster Mushroom

Dan Kirkpatrick ([www.mojomushroom.com](http://www.mojomushroom.com)) will share his knowledge of mushrooms. Depending on COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, we will go mushroom hunting afterward. According to Dan, in July we will likely be on the hunt for chanterelles, black trumpets, hedgehogs, oysters, chicken of the woods, and hopefully lobster and coral club mushrooms. In the event that we cannot be together in person, we will have the lecture portion on Zoom. Check the combined June/July *Slovo* and [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) for updates.

## Mushroom Recipes

In anticipation of the mushroom hunt, send us your favorite mushroom recipes. Also send photos of the finished product. We will feature recipe(s) in the June/July *Slovo*, if space permits, or share the recipes with the respondents. Send recipes and photos to [education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org)



Dave dehydrates and stores his mushrooms so that he can use them in recipes throughout the year.



Czechoslovak Genealogical  
Society International

## Presentations coming this Spring and Summer at Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI)

### Saturday, May 23: Pride, Prague & Provisions:

#### Post-World War I Famine and Health Care in Czechoslovakia

#### How American and British aid helped a newly formed nation from 1919 to 1922

- **Personalities and Projects** - Obstacles faced by the American Relief Administration as told by Lincoln Hutchinson, the agency's manager in Prague at the time.
- **An Angel of Mercy** – How the leadership of Britain's Lady Muriel Paget made a difference in Slovak villages and built the Slovak Red Cross.
- **Trade Wars 1920** - A regional fight over potatoes, sugar and coal.

Visit [www.CGSI.org](http://www.CGSI.org) after May 1 to register for this online-only webinar.

Photo at right: Alice Masaryk, founder of the Czechoslovak Red Cross and daughter of Tomáš Masaryk, meets with orphaned children in Korna near Žilina in 1919. Through the efforts of the American Relief Administration and British Red Cross, children in a newly minted Czechoslovakia were fed and cared for. Czechoslovakia was the third largest recipient of grain aid

(294,473 tons) of any country in Central Europe in the aftermath of World War I. Overall food and material assistance amounted to \$85.5 million, or \$1.87 billion measured in 2020 dollars. (Photo courtesy of British Red Cross and CGSI).

*Dr. Alica Masaryková -  
chairman of the Czecho-  
slovak Red Cross on her  
visit in the branch station  
of help mission in Korna  
-among youth which re-  
ceived social and health  
aid from this mission.*



Photo at left: Dietician nurse Dorothy Gerberding of Minnesota at work for the Red Cross in France during World War I. Gerberding would later co-author a report for Herbert Hoover on the challenges of feeding as many as half a million Czechoslovak children a day between 1919 and 1922.

### Saturday, August 29: Love, Marriage, and Divorce in the Austria-Hungarian Empire

- The differing Civil Codes that Czechs and Slovaks had to live with and why it matters for genealogy research.
- An expanded presentation of a CGSI talk first given at last October's 17<sup>th</sup> Genealogical and Cultural conference in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Minnesota Genealogy Center, 1385 Mendota Heights Road #100, Mendota Heights, Minnesota  
Each event starts at 10 a.m. Speaker lineup and webinar signup details for both events are coming soon.  
For more information, contact Mark Dillon, 1st VP, CGSI, [mdillon@cgsi.org](mailto:mdillon@cgsi.org) or 952-473-2765

## Member News

### Sokol Minnesota welcomes New Members

At the March 12 Board of Directors meeting, three new members were accepted: Michael and Martha Krikava; and Jean Hall Sykora (returning member), with interests in cultural events, film, literature, music, theater, dinners, dances, language, history, genealogy, and festivals. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

### Highlights of the March Board of Directors Meeting

By Denise Stibal

The meeting was called to order on March 12 at 7 p.m. by President Dave Stepan.

Motions carried to donate \$200 to the MSP Film Festival and \$200 to *Czech that Film*.

It was also decided to purchase an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) unit for \$2,500 or less. Bob Kotek from the Board of Trustees will check options.

Ed Hamernik reported on building repairs and safety issues. The priorities are repairing the trusses in the attic and additional repairs for the staircase and door. Motion carried to approve projects with a cost not to exceed \$30,000. Ed also reported on Gaming. January to March profit and expenditures were approved.

Jean Draheim will research the cost for a track to hang a gold drape on the stage to make the Hall more attractive for events and to protect the backdrops.

A Flea Market is set for May 30.

Bob Kotek, Board of Trustees, reported that the furnace boiler is estimated to last another two to three years. Martens Company will be our new HVAC contractor and maintain our heating and cooling system. Marsden will continue to be our cleaning company.

Mary Cahill from the Board of Instructors is waiting on recommendations from the State of Minnesota regarding continuing gymnastics classes.

Joyce Tesarek, Budget and Finance, proposed the purchase of a new laptop to be used only for Finance; motion carried. Contract signing and review was discussed, and it was approved to require two signatures for Legal and Construction contracts. Joyce also announced that we paid off a loan of \$62,500, initiated July 2016, that was used to overhaul the restaurant space prior to rental.

Don Haselbauer presented the Treasurer's report, our total balance is \$247,129. Motion carried to transfer \$30,000 from the Legacy Fund to Checking to cover repairs agreed to by the Board of Trustees.

Steve Ernest reported that we currently have 266 paid members.

8 May 2020 Slovo



Pat Slaber reported the Education Committee will sponsor a mushroom hunting class on Sunday, July 19 in Egan; suggested fee is \$10.

Glynis Grostephan reported that total donations from March 1 to present were \$977.

Judy Aubrecht reported on Publicity. The *Pioneer Press* article regarding non-profits on the state blacklist was mentioned. Judy expressed the need to clarify that Sokol Minnesota is separate from the Czech Slovak Cultural Center, which was listed in the article.

Judy also reported on the Rental Committee meeting. The \$600 investment in advertising with the Eventective lead service is very successful; inquiries and rentals have increased significantly. We will start an annual contract with Eventective at the end of June. We will also look at new padded chairs for events; Pat Slaber will assist in procuring.

Blanka Brichta, Member at Large, reported on the Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Award. The announcement and application form were reviewed and motion approved to raise the award from \$100 to \$200 and accept the final criteria.

New Business: Motions approved to cancel the Spring Breakfast, *Koláče* Sale, and Craft Sale in April and postpone the Flavors of Slovakia Dinner until later this year.

**Note: Certain events referred to in the above Highlights have since been postponed or cancelled because of COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. For event status, check [www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/](http://www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/)**

### 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:

#### GENERAL FUND:

**Under \$99:** Barbara Tuzinski, Minnesota  
Sokol Camp Association, Roger Wencil,  
Ken and Sharon Wyberg in memory of  
Dorothy Sladek.

**\$100 - \$499:** Paul Garding.

#### IN-KIND DONATION:

Czech Tea Set from Carol Thomsen.

Legacy Fund:	\$	0.00
General Fund:	\$	370.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>370.00</b>



## Member Updates



Cutting the wedding cake (behind the flowers!)

### Jennifer Aubrecht marries David Yeaton Massey

Sokol Minnesota member Jennifer Aubrecht married David Yeaton Massey on February 29, 2020. The joyous occasion took place in the San Francisco area. After the wedding, the couple took a ten-day honeymoon tour of Iceland, where they were delighted to see the Northern Lights, try out the geothermal pools and a zipline, and take tours to see a national park and other natural sights. It was a relief to all that they were able to return just before the COVID-19 restrictions went into full effect.

Jen danced with the Sokol Minnesota *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens* dance groups for 12 years and with the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers for one year. She was a dance and English major at the University of Minnesota and earned a PhD in Dance. Jen and David, who has a PhD in physics, will continue to live in the San Francisco Bay area, where they each work in a technology start-up business.

### Edmond Ray Brozovich joins us

Sokol Minnesota welcomes the arrival of Edmond (Eddie) Ray Brozovich on March 9, 2020. Future gymnast and/or dancer Eddie is the first child of Sokol members Jason and Megan Brozovich. Jason is the unit's Men's Physical Director and Head Boys' Gymnastics Instructor. Megan and Jason perform with the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Proud grandparents are Sokol members Mary and Dennis Cahill.



Newborn Edmond Brozovich

## The Bohemian Settlement of the Upper Levee

By Joe Landsberger

The first “Bohemian” immigrants to Saint Paul came in 1860, led by Michael Kartak. As with other immigrant groups, they first settled on the Upper Levee in a primarily German and Polish community. As commerce shifted to the Lower Landing in the 1870s, the Upper Landing became the de facto immigrant center, Saint Paul’s unofficial Ellis Island, with immigrants disembarking from steamboats.



Saint Paul River Flats in 1880

In the upper levee area toward the High Bridge over the Mississippi River, an insular community of immigrants formed that came to be known as the “Bohemian Settlement”. According to 1880 newspaper accounts, the community was located on the river flats and split by the railroad at the High Bridge.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bohemian	103	100	Henka Jacob	70	11	59			1				Laborer	
			Anna	70	4	59	Wife						Keeping House	
	104	101	Wicka Frank	70	11	52			1				Laborer	
			Mary	70	3	54	Wife		1				Keeping House	
Bohemian			Mady	71	5	14	Daughter						At Home	
			John	70	11	11	Son		1				At School	
			Josephine	70	4	8	Daughter							
			Anna	70	4	6	Daughter							
Bohemian			Christina	70	4	0	Daughter							
	105	102	Masch John	70	11	47							Laborer	
			Anna	70	4	43	Wife		1				Keeping House	
		Anna	70	4	10	Daughter						At Home		

1880 census page excerpt

In the 1880 Census, twenty-four families (23 Bohemian and one Prussian, with 47 adults and 65 children) were officially listed as residing in the settlement. The Census detailed the men’s occupations: laborer (8), stone mason (4), tailor (3), shoemaker (2), and one each: policeman, saddler, horse collar maker, harness maker, and carpenter. Unlike the rest of the census for that year, there were no streets or house numbers. 1880 was a significant year, since newspapers of the time refer to the inhabitants being evicted for the railroad right-of-way.

This article was researched and written for the West End Neighbors Garden (and History) Tour that has been tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, September 12. The history document covers the area from Jefferson Avenue to Rice Park along the Mississippi River and it will be available free on the day of the tour, supported by advertising of local businesses and organizations. Ten of the 110 pages cover Czech-Slovak history in the West End; ten pages will include a comprehensive directory of West End businesses.

To check event status because of COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, or for more information, visit [www.fortroadfederation.org/west-end-garden-tour.html](http://www.fortroadfederation.org/west-end-garden-tour.html)

*Letters from England* by Karel Čapek with illustrations by the author, translated by Geoffrey Newsome. Continuum/Claridge Press: London, 2001. First published in Prague in 1924. 192 pages. Available at libraries and bookstores.

*Letters from England* was a delightful, charming read for me. Karel Čapek is a favorite Czechoslovakian author of mine and of many Czechs and Slovaks, but this book is quite different from all the literary, political, and science fiction works of his that I've read with the book club, such as the play *R.U.R.*, in which he coined the term robot, and *Tales from Two Pockets*, *Hordubal*, *Meteor*, *An Ordinary Life*, *War with the Newts*, and *Talks with T.G. Masaryk*. He was an astoundingly prolific journalist, playwright, novelist, travel writer, essayist, translator, children's writer, poet, and short story writer.

In *Letters from England*, Čapek refers to himself as a pilgrim. In a "gosh, shucks" voice that reminds me of Mark Twain, he gives impressions of his journey around Britain in exquisitely articulate and humorous sketches, especially of the people, environment, and values, rather than producing dry historical and political facts. He was self-effacing, too, as in the exaggerated, "Once I had set foot on land I found to my surprise that I didn't speak or understand a single word of English."

"... the English swallow half of every word and the other half they somehow squash," perhaps from reticence, he wrote. "Sharing an understanding with them is difficult too. Every day I travelled to the bus stop at Ladbroke Grove. The conductor comes and I say, 'Ledbrrook Gerv.' '...?? Eh?' 'Ledbhoo Gerv!' 'Eh?' 'Hevhoov Hev!' 'Ah, Hevhoov Hov,' the conductor rejoices and gives me a ticket to Ladbroke Grove. I will never learn this as long as I live."

Čapek wrote of Madame Tussaud's, "I stopped next to one particularly effective figure of a gentleman in a top hat and looked in my catalogue to see who it was. Suddenly the gentlemen with the top hat moved and left. It was ghastly. After a while two young ladies looked in their catalogue to see who I represented."

Although occasionally critical of Brits, Čapek clearly admired their empire and people, whom he compared to his home and fellow Czechs. As Roger Scruton wrote in the foreword, "Čapek discerned in the English something of the shared resignation and wily self-irony of the Czechs." Observing the British led him to serious observations of Czechoslovakia, "My homeland which doesn't have a sea, isn't your horizon somewhat narrow and don't you lack the murmur of distant places? Yes, yes, but here can be humming areas around our heads; if it isn't possible to sail, it is at least possible to think, to furrow the wide and high world with wings of the spirit. I tell you, there is still enough space for expeditions and great ships. Yes, it is

necessary to put out to sea continuously; the sea is everywhere where there is courage."

It's hard to believe Čapek wrote all these detailed pieces and drew accompanying illustrations while in Britain for just two months in the summer of 1924. When I intend to even keep a journal on my travels, I find it difficult to set aside the time needed for writing. As he wrote these sketches, the Czech lands were enjoying their democratic First Republic, an optimistic time. The pieces were first serialized in the Czechoslovakian national newspaper *Lidove noviny* while he was still traveling, then published as a Czech-language book in later 1924, serialized in English in the *Manchester Guardian*, and published as a book in Britain in 1925. The 2001 edition includes an introduction by the translator, a chronology of the author's life, and extensive explanatory notes.

Gwen is coordinator of the *Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group*. *Literary Ventures* is cosponsored by the *Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota*, *Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota*, and the *Office of the Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic*. For more information, go to [www.cs-center.org](http://www.cs-center.org) or contact [gwen@cs-center.org](mailto:gwen@cs-center.org)

**Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures is tentatively scheduled to discuss *Fleeting Snow* by Pavel Vilikovský on Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m. to noon, in the first-floor classroom at the C.S.P.S. Hall.**

**Check our website, [www.cs-center.org](http://www.cs-center.org), for updates and cancellations due to COVID-19.**

### ***Slovo* Production Layout Manager Transition**

The *Slovo* Managing Editors and staff extend their sincere appreciation to Production Layout Manager Amanda Tesarek, assisted by Lucas DeBono, for their outstanding work on the *Slovo* for the past year. Their skill with the Quark layout software, as well as their practical layout methods and design approach, were most valuable to Sokol Minnesota. They will be focusing on postgraduate school, work, and preparing for their wedding.

Sokol Minnesota welcomes Mary Kucera back to the Production Layout Manager position. Her many years of experience in that role for the *Slovo*, as well as her professional experience in publishing, will again be of huge benefit to our organization.

**Czech  
Honorary  
Consul  
News**

**May 2020**

Friday, April 3, was to have been the presentation of the **2020 Mestenhauser Student Awards for Excellence in Campus Internationalization at the University of Minnesota**. Due to the COVID-19, there was not an awards ceremony this year.

The 2020 Mestenhauser Student Award recipients are:

**Nfamara K. Dampha** is a doctoral student in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resources Sciences at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

**Antony B. Maikuri** is a graduate student in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, pursuing a Ph.D in Evaluation.

**Amanda Sames** is a graduate student in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, pursuing a Ph.D. in Conservation Science.

**Kimie Shiozawa** is a junior undergraduate student studying Natural Resources - Wildlife Management at the University of Minnesota, Crookston.

Since becoming Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in late 2015, I have had the privilege and honor to attend the past four of these prestigious events at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota. As stated on the website for the Global Programs and Strategy Alliance (the central international office for the UofM system), "The Josef Mestenhauser Student Award for Excellence in Campus Internationalization recognizes outstanding student contributions to international education. This award acknowledges important work being done by students at the University of Minnesota to internationalize the curriculum and campus. The Mestenhauser Student Award honors Dr. Josef Mestenhauser, Distinguished International Emeritus Professor, recognizing his long career of advocacy for and commitment to students." <[global.umn.edu/icc/awards/index](http://global.umn.edu/icc/awards/index)>



2020 marks the fifth year since Dr. Josef Mestenhauser's passing (1925-2015). Appointed by Czechoslovak President Václav Havel, he was Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota from 1999-2008. He first joined Sokol as a youth in Czechoslovakia. He was a charter co-founder of Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota.

Klára Moldová, vice president of the T. G. Masaryk Czech School in Chicago, is looking for memories and pictures to help celebrate the school's centennial in 2021. <[czechschoolchicago.org](http://czechschoolchicago.org)> or <[info@czechschoolchicago.org](mailto:info@czechschoolchicago.org)>

**Here is a shout-out to praise the fine Czech and Slovak language teachers at C.S.P.S. Hall in Saint Paul:**  
(for adults) Blanka Brichta, Silvia Purdy, Renáta Tichá;  
(for children) Lenka Bragg, Barbara Carlson, Stanislava Gerlach, Karolina Peterson, Romana Pulkrabek, Renata Scholtz, Jitka Sebek, Renáta Tichá, Ondřej Veselý, and Alena Youngberg.



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic  
in Minneapolis, MN

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul

651-238-0447

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**Slovo Publication Information and Committee**

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

**To receive your Slovo via email instead of mail, contact [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Production Layout: Mary Kucera. Regular Contributors: Steve Ernest, 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 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.

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April mailing: Mary Cahill, Joan Sedlacek.

**More information at: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**

**Sokol Minnesota June/July Events  
ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!**

**Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp**

June 15-19

C.S.P.S. Hall

*See ad on page 1 of this issue.*

**For the status of Culture Camp relative to  
COVID-19 social distancing restrictions,  
check our calendar at**

**[www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/](http://www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/)**

**[www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](https://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)**

**Check for event updates: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**

CZECH AND SLOVAK



383 Michigan Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

651-290-0542

**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* May 2020**

**90th Annual  
Sokol Camp *Booya* Picnic**

The 90<sup>th</sup> annual Sokol Camp *Booya* Picnic is currently scheduled for Sunday, August 9, 2020, from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. rain or shine. Sokol Camp is located at 19201 Woodland Acres South, Pine City, Minnesota 55063.

It's the perfect country setting to gather with Sokol friends or family to enjoy a bowl of *booya*, *jitrnice* (sausage), or a homemade cabbage roll. Remember to stay for the live music and entertainment provided by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers later in the afternoon. Built in 1926, the Camp has a rich tradition of hosting gymnastics, cultural, and children's camps. The

proceeds from the picnic go directly to the operations and upkeep of the camp for future generations to enjoy. Anyone interested in volunteering with the picnic, please feel free to contact Kari or Scott Muyres at 763-226-0313.

There are opportunities to assist in set-up, serving, or clean-up. In advance, thank-you for saving the date for the Sokol Camp *Booya* Picnic. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Check the August *Slovo* for event status in connection with Minnesota Department of Health social distancing restrictions to reduce the risk of COVID-19.**



Sokol Camp Lodge in Pine City