



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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

December/January *Slovo* articles due November 1

Sokol Minnesota Online Virtual Auction  
November 14-19  
See page 12

Curbside Holiday Bake Sale  
November 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
See pages 1, 3

Veselé Vánoce Signs  
See page 3

Straw Ornament Class  
See page 3

Roast Duck Dinner  
January 23  
See page 3

**SAVE THE DATE**

Join Patricia Hampel Saturday, November 7 at 10 a.m. for her presentation and discussion on Zoom:

*Writing Your Memoir: How the Private Story becomes Public History*  
<https://tinyurl.com/HampelZoom>

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/)

**HOLIDAY**  
koláče bake sale  
November 21 20  
20  
Please place your Curbside reservation by contacting: [food@sokolmn.org](mailto:food@sokolmn.org) or call/text: 952-941-0426

**Curbside**  
Pick-up **10a-2p**  
C.S.P.S. Hall  
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN  
Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

**MENU** Koláč: poppy, apricot, prune, cream cheese, or apple \$1

**Payment** Orders must be prepaid and received by November 14 via: PayPal: [www.sokolmn.org/curbside-cuisine/order-selection/](http://www.sokolmn.org/curbside-cuisine/order-selection/) or check: payable and mailed to Sokol Minnesota (address above)

**Going away this winter? Forwarding your mail?**  
Do not forget about the *Slovo*! We mail at bulk mail rates. The post office does not forward bulk mail and we pay an additional amount for each issue returned, so do let us know your winter address.  
Or, you can change to receive the *Slovo* in color via email; contact [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)  
We think our volunteers produce a great newsletter. We want to be sure you receive it!

## Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Dave Stepan

I have always loved fall. As a boy in Duluth, the hillside would glow fire red. There was no more swimming at Park Point and a crust of ice on puddles was not uncommon in the morning. As an adult, fall is the season that I pray lasts long enough so I have time to finish those not yet completed summer projects. How times have changed!



Did you enjoy the Czech Slovak Curbside Cuisine on September 26 and the Roast Pork Dinner Curbside Cuisine on October 24? The curbside Holiday *Koláče* Bake Sale will be on November 21; pre-order your *koláče* by November 14 at [food@sokolmn.org](mailto:food@sokolmn.org).

From November 14 to 19, we will try our hand at a Virtual Auction. If you have something special to donate, please email Glynis Grostephan at [ggrostephan@earthlink.net](mailto:ggrostephan@earthlink.net). We are working hard to stay viable in your life with these events. Please help us by participating.

Our youth gymnastics classes are carefully exploring their options for meeting. Unfortunately, our dance group practices and performances must still be postponed.

On October 15, the Board of Directors approved changes to our bylaws, which have been updated to reflect our actual operating procedures, officer roles, and committee structure. As an example of a procedure change, previously, when you joined Sokol Minnesota, members voted on new members; this was fine when we had monthly Friday night member meetings. Late Honor Member Georgiana Dolejsi would give you a big hug when you were accepted. Currently we vote on members at our monthly Board of Directors meetings and there are no hugs (at least for now). Many thanks to Steve Ernest and the bylaws committee for their work on the changes.

I am cordially inviting all of you to our Annual Meeting Friday, November 20, at 7 p.m. It will be different this year as we will meet via Zoom. See below for how to attend our Zoom meetings. I invite all of you to join us. At this meeting, we will hear reports on the activities and financial condition of the organization and elect our 2021/2022 officers, directors, and committee members.

I also would like to invite you all to attend any of our monthly Board of Directors meetings so you can see the issues we handle. The schedule is on our website [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) under the C.S.P.S Hall tab, select 'Hall Calendar'. Typically these meetings are the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Currently we have been using Zoom and are limited to 100 people. However, the online November Board meeting will be Friday, November 20 at 6 p.m.

If you want to attend the Annual Meeting or a monthly Board of Directors meeting via Zoom, please send me an email to get the link. I can be reached at [president@sokolmn.org](mailto:president@sokolmn.org)

We hope to have a new awning up by the time the snow flies; the current canvas has seen better days and it is my hope that I can get a few of you to help by donating toward the \$1,300 cost. Thank you to Doreen McKenny for designing lettering and graphics that will be attractive for our C.S.P.S Hall. Structural repair work continues, with reinforcing of the cross members in the attic over the main Hall to ensure we do not have roof or ceiling issues. We also are working on the heating system. We realized one reason the radiators during the heating season are dangerously hot to the touch is some of them were installed incorrectly. Rehabbing the radiator valves will enable us to moderate the heat, making for a more comfortable Hall. We hope the old boiler lasts another year. Again, all these projects are investments in the Hall's future. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

What are Sokol Minnesota's and the Hall's future? You can help control that. I have a 1955 book "Energy: A Dictionary of Electronic Terms. I looked up the definition of 'energy'. It reads: "*Capacity for performing work. Motional energy is called kinetic energy. Positional energy is called potential energy.*" What 'energy' type are you? *Nazdar!*

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

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

## 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

Don Haselbauer

### Financial Secretary

Steve Ernest

### Sergeant at Arms

Tom Aubrecht

### Members at Large

Markéta Pálková

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)



## Koláče, Christmas Crafts Sale, and Online Ornament Classes Join us curbside on November 21 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

In addition to having delicious homemade *koláče* by our own Sokol bakers, we will also be selling handmade wooden *Veselé Vánoce* (Merry Christmas) signs and pre-selling kits for the straw ornament online classes.

Orders must be prepaid and received by November 14 for *koláče*, *Veselé Vánoce* signs, and the straw ornaments kits.

Prepayment by PayPal is preferred (see the links below). Checks are payable and mailed to: Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55102.

Pick up *koláče*, signs, and straw ornaments kits on Saturday, November 21, at the Curbside Cuisine event.

**Holiday Koláče Bake Sale:** Selection and ordering information on page 1.  
Pre-order and pay for *koláče* via PayPal by Saturday, November 14  
[www.sokolmn.org/curbside-cuisine/#kolac](http://www.sokolmn.org/curbside-cuisine/#kolac)

### Straw Ornament Class

We are also selling kits to make Czech straw ornaments. These kits will be used during Zoom instruction classes taught by Doreen McKenney. The online classes are Thursday, December 10, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 12, at 10 a.m. Class size is limited to six students per class. **Register for an online class, pre-order, and pay for straw ornament kits via PayPal by Saturday, November 14**  
[www.sokolmn.org/straw-ornament-class/](http://www.sokolmn.org/straw-ornament-class/)



### Veselé Vánoce Signs

Festive *Veselé Vánoce* (Merry Christmas) signs are one of the newest fundraising projects at Sokol Minnesota. Our Sokol Minnesota Facebook manager, Míša Giancarlo Kotek, has designed decorative signs with a holiday greeting in Czech or English in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors (red and green). The largest background size of the signs is 22 x 10.5 inches at a price of \$30.

To order your sign for pickup, contact Míša at [michaelagiancarlo@gmail.com](mailto:michaelagiancarlo@gmail.com)

**January 23** 20  
21

PICK UP **10a-1p**  
**C.S.P.S. Hall**  
383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN

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

**Curbside**

**ROAST DUCK DINNER**

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

**MENU** 1/2 roast duck, potato dumplings, gravy, sweet and sour red cabbage, applesauce, and dessert \$23

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

**SOCIAL DISTANCE**

**PLEASE KEEP 6 FEET APART**

2020

Sokol Minnesota

Online Virtual Auction

Complete information on page 12

Pick up winning items on  
Saturday, November 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
during the Curbside Holiday Bake Sale

## 2020 Czech and Slovak Festival, COVID-19 Style

By Joyce Tesarek

Sokol Minnesota's festival committee met this spring to plan our 31st Annual Czech and Slovak Festival, held each September as a celebration of our heritage. It is a time when we open our C.S.P.S. Hall, set up in the parking lot and Michigan Street, and enjoy folk dancers, gymnasts, jugglers, music, a silent auction, children's games, and of course our wonderful Czech and Slovak food and beer. Although it was early spring when we met, even then, with the pandemic, we could not see a way to safely offer the festival to the crowds who come each year to celebrate with us. The creative team decided we could still have something to share.

In May, Míša Giancarlo Kotek knew the Hall was closed, but noticed restaurants were preparing food for pickup. Along with Markéta Pálková and their team, they decided to cook *guláš* for what became an extremely successful Drive Up Sale on May 30, earning \$3,093. The 80 dozen *koláč* that were made for the pancake breakfast were also sold on that day.

The festival team decided that this year we would celebrate with food as Czech and Slovak Curbside Cuisine. The fourth Saturday in September was set for pickup in the Hall parking

lot. We also decided to continue that curbside theme with all of our upcoming events.

Míša Giancarlo Kotek, Markéta Pálková, and Radmila Rasmussen, our chefs from past years, and their team of helpers prepared three delicious entrees: *Segedín guláš* (goulash); *Kuřecí paprikáš* (chicken with a creamy paprika sauce); *buřtguláš* (a kettle sausage and potato goulash soup) with *kynutý knedlík* (raised dough dumplings). They also prepared *bublanina* (a blueberry or strawberry coffee cake).



The Festival provided wonderful food for our guests, an opportunity to work and visit together, and over \$6,000 profit for Sokol Minnesota.

Volunteers for these events include Judy Aubrecht, Blanka Brichta, Mary Cahill, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Glynis Grostephan, Martina Gurgel, Jean Hall, Ed and Arlene Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Petr Hoffmann with Klara and Althea, Lisa Johnson, Míša Giancarlo Kotek with Dominik and Emma, Katarina Marko, Doreen McKenney, Cheryl Nelson, Austin Palma, Radmila Rasmussen, Markéta Pálková with Matthew, Linda Maxey, Petra Riedel, Richard Sargent, Dave Stepan, Katerina Swensson, Penny Tesarek, Joyce Tesarek, John Topic, Louise Wessinger, and Alena Youngberg.

Clockwise from top left: *buřtguláš*; Markéta Pálková, Radmila Rasmussen, and Míša Giancarlo Kotek; blueberries atop *bublanina*; Blanka Brichta; *buřtguláš*

September 26 was the day to pick up the delicious selection of foods at the Hall parking lot. Efficient organization and following health safety protocols made the pickup safe. Special thanks to Cheryl Nelson and Mary Cahill for their public health COVID-19 research and their recommendations to make this event safe for our volunteers and guests. (photos on page 5)



1. Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, and team prepared 110 quarts of *halušky* (a cabbage/bacon dish with mini dumplings). Pictured: Katie Haselbauer, Jean Draheim, Doreen McKenney, and Joan Sedlacek. 2. L-R: Cutting and rolling dough: Jean Draheim, Lisa Johnson, Austin Palma, John Topic, Joan Sedlacek, Jean Hall, Doreen McKenney. 3. & 6. 160 dozen of our traditional fruit-filled *koláče* in five flavors were baked to fill the many orders. 4. Austin Palma with prebaked cream cheese tray. 5. Joyce Tesarek. 7. *Koláče* ready for pickup: Festival customer, Klára, Matthew, Markéta Pálková, Althea, Miša Giancarlo Kotek, Jana Castillon. 8. Michelle Stepan, Dave Stepan, Nicole Stepan, Cole Simonson, Klára, Miša Giancarlo Kotek. 9. Chefs Markéta Pálková, Radmila Rasmussen, and Miša Giancarlo Kotek. 10. Pickup queue and volunteers. 11. Radmila Rasmussen, Klára, and Matthew.

## 2020 Sokol Minnesota Honor Award Recipients

by Judy Aubrecht

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota periodically awards special recognition to selected members for outstanding contributions to our unit. Honor Award recipients have generously shared their time and talents by helping to collaboratively advance the goals and mission of our unit through their outstanding leadership work over a significant period of time.

Past living Honor Award recipients include Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, Don Haselbauer, Ed Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, Joyce Tesarek, and Louise Wessinger.

Three long-time Sokol Minnesota members were selected on June 18, 2020, by unanimous Board of Directors vote, to be Honor Award recipients: Don Andrlé, Libby Imbrone, and Ken Wyberg. The award celebration will take place in the late spring, if it is safe to gather at that time.

Each Honor Award recipient was either interviewed for or provided a profile explaining his/her involvement in Sokol Minnesota and how their volunteer work and commitment to Sokol has served our unit in an outstanding way. Sokol Minnesota thanks each of you for your many years of service and leadership to our organization!

### Don Andrlé

By Louise Wessinger

Don Andrlé grew up in north Minneapolis with his twin brother Ron and his sister Shirley (Verner). His parents, Edward and Millie, were active members of Sokol Minneapolis, so Don and Ron were enrolled in the gymnastics program and were helpers at many Sokol events. One of their favorite activities was attending kids' week at Sokol Camp in Pine City. There they met campers from Sokol Saint Paul and lifelong friendships began.

When Don moved to the east side of the Mississippi River, he became a member of Sokol Saint Paul. Later this led to the unique experience of having Don as President of Sokol Saint Paul and his father Ed as Sokol Minneapolis President. Don also served as Vice President in Saint Paul for many years. Don and his wife Pat have been willing helpers at numerous Sokol events. They planned the *Šibřinky* dance for many years, helped to serve meals at dinners, sold food and cashiered at the Festival of Nations café, and were always there to help set up or take down at many Sokol events.

Don and Pat were long time members of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Don joined in 1964, with Pat joining in 1967. They retired from the dance group in 2016, but continue to wear their beautiful Moravian *kroje* to Sokol events.

Don and Pat have always been strong supporters of the Sokol Camp in Pine City. Don served as Sokol Camp Association treasurer and Booya Picnic chair for 40 years. Pat ran the Country Store at the picnic. Both have been instrumental in

the upkeep of the camp and now their grown children, Mark and Renee, are helping to keep the tradition going.

A secret not everyone knows yet is that, beginning in 1995, Don appeared as *Svatý Mikuláš* (Saint Nicholas) at the Sokol Minnesota Christmas parties for Sokol children. Pat became part of the holiday trio as the *anděl* (angel)

along with a mystery person as the *čert* (devil). Don and Pat retired from these roles in 2017.

Don's hope for Sokol Minnesota is it will continue to grow and welcome more new and active members.



### New Awning for the C.S.P.S. Hall

By Joyce Tesarek



Work continues on the Hall, even as we have closed the building to our usual activities. A note from Bob Kotek, our Board of Trustees chair: "It has been a busy summer and fall at the Sokol Hall! With generous donations of time and materials, we have repainted the front of the building and made much needed repairs to the canopy leading to the grand

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staircase. To complete the 'facelift' of the front of the building, we are in the process of finalizing the design for a new awning over the 385 Michigan Street entrance and window.

We anticipate installation of the new awning by early to mid-November."

The estimates for removal and installation of the new canvas awning and necessary painting runs around \$1,300.

If we can get just 13 people to donate \$100 each, we would cover the entire cost. To date, we have four \$100 donors. Of course, all donations are welcome to get this project financed.



As always, you can donate online at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) or send a check made out to Sokol Minnesota at 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, MN 55102. Thanks for all of your interest and support!

## 2020 Sokol Minnesota Honor Award Recipients continued

### Libuše “Libby” Rybniček Imbrone

By Anita McKeown and Judy Aubrecht

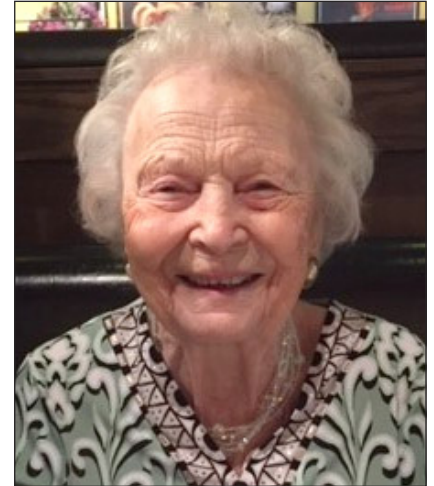
Libuše Imbrone grew up in a Czech speaking family in North Dakota. She and her husband Al moved to Saint Paul and raised their family in the Como Park neighborhood.

Libby has been a member of Sokol Minnesota for 30 years. Her organizational skills and knowledge of the Czech language have been very beneficial for both Sokol Minnesota and Libby. You will notice Libby’s energy by the engaging sparkle in her eyes. Libby served as the Sokol Minnesota’s Outreach Chair, working with other organizations to host receptions and events for foreign dignitaries, artists, musicians, and visiting guests. She served as a lead organizer of the Civil Society Symposium during the visit of President Václav Havel in 1997. She worked closely with the late Czech Honorary Consul Dr. Joseph Mestenhauer on this and many other significant events. Libby was awarded the Czech Republic’s Černín Palace Memorial Bronze Medal for her significant contributions to fostering Czech-United States relations and promoting the Czech Republic and Czech culture. Libby felt highly honored to receive this award. Libby organized the visit to the C.S.P.S. Hall of the Terežín children’s art exhibit.

Libby’s work experience with the State of Minnesota’s Attorney General’s office in the 1990s helped to guide our Sokol Minnesota organization to move from a member-run group to a more streamlined organization. By-laws and the Articles of Incorporation were updated, which helped with

organizational planning, grant applications, and tax exemption options.

Libby and Al were long-time members of the Sokol Singers. Libby enjoyed the opportunity to sing in Czech with friends and to perform at events related to Czech culture or at funeral services for other Sokol Minnesota members. Libby was a regular volunteer at Sokol



Minnesota’s Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp, including teaching children huck toweling embroidery. In 2019, her daughter, Diane Bell, also helped with the sewing class.

Libby applauds all that Sokol Minnesota does and hopes we continue the efforts to preserve our historic building and provide cultural programs, family activities, and Czech language classes. She believes these endeavors help preserve and promote the Czech culture along with the heritage, character, and vitality of Saint Paul, our historic capitol city.

### Ken Wyberg

By Bryan Wyberg



Ken Wyberg has been a member and active volunteer of Sokol Minnesota since 1982. During those 38 years, he was instrumental in organizing our Charitable Gaming operation and was Gaming Manager, running the operation for many years. This program has earned thousands of dollars for our Sokol Minnesota unit, which are used for

many improvements of the C.S.P.S. Hall. Ken served as chairman of the Board of Trustees for many years and oversaw the 2000 re-construction of the current first floor space, the elevator addition, replacement of the gym floor and new boiler installation, remodeling of the rest rooms, and many other renovations. Ken managed our C.S.P.S. Hall rentals, located and worked with C.S.P.S. Hall tenants, and was on-call for all Hall emergencies. For many years, Ken and his wife Sharon were leaders for Sokol Minnesota events: chairing and staffing the Festival of Nations café booth, the Slovak Dinner, New Year’s Eve Party, and Pancake Breakfast. Sharon was *Slovo* editor for nearly 20 years and together she and Ken did the printing and mailing of the *Slovo* out of their home. They were involved in the revival of the Czech and

Slovak Festival. Ken was a member of the Long-Range Planning Committee and was active on the Board of Directors. Ken currently serves on the Gaming Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee. He continues to attend and volunteer at Sokol Minnesota events.

Ken’s maternal grandparents both immigrated from Slovakia. Born in 1935, Ken grew up in a multi-generational household where Slovak and English were spoken equally. In 1964 Ken married Sharon Dooley, who also had Slovak immigrant grandparents. In the early 1980s, they began coming to Sokol Minnesota events at the urging of Sharon’s aunt and uncle, Elsie and Jim Roepke. They were impressed by the friendliness of the members and their acceptance of newcomers. They began to volunteer at many events and soon were asked to take on leadership roles for various activities. Sokol Minnesota brought many good people into their lives, along with the good times that come through involvement in enjoyable and worthwhile activities.

Ken worked in the Honeywell Aerospace Division doing layout and design work on guidance and control equipment for airplane and space applications, and later with integrated circuits and setup of early computer assisted design (CAD) systems. Ken retired in 1988 after 34 years at Honeywell.

Ken has valued his involvement in projects at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Sokol Minnesota has been a big part of his retirement years. Ken and Sharon are happy to see the continuing dedication and efforts by the Sokol Minnesota membership that ensure a vibrant Sokol Minnesota organization and C.S.P.S. Hall far into the future.

## Sokol Minnesota Children's Holiday Weekend

By Louise Wessinger and Jitka Sebek

The weekend of December 5 and 6 will be very special at the C.S.P.S. Hall. During that weekend, we will honor the traditions of the holiday season with all our Sokol Minnesota families and young people. Covid-19 has forced us to rethink our usual festivities. Safety is our first concern, so plans have been made that will allow us to celebrate while being safe. Here are a variety of events that you are invited to participate in.

### Holiday Bakery Treats

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

Bakery orders must be placed by November 29 at [food@sokolmn.org](mailto:food@sokolmn.org). Orders must be prepaid via PayPal at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) or by check made-out-to, and sent to, Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Please schedule a time for picking up bakery items at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Saturday or Sunday, December 5 or 6, between 1 and 3 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Sokol Minnesota.

### Mikulášská besídka

The Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities will celebrate their traditional *Mikulášská besídka* on Saturday, December 5, at the C.S.P.S. Hall. We all are preparing a memorable day for our children. Details will be included in the online registration.

### Live Holiday Tableau

On Sunday, December 6, all Sokol Minnesota youngsters will have a chance to see *Svatý Mikuláš* (Saint Nicholas), along with the *čert* (devil) and *anděl* (angel). Viewing a live tableau will be available curbside at the C.S.P.S. Hall from 1-3 p.m. Children will be able to sign the "Good Book" safely in their car via a special label (which will be placed in the Good Book) and receive a Holiday treat bag.

### Sokol Minnesota Children's Holiday Mini-Camp

The Holiday Mini-Camp will not be able to be held in person inside the Hall. Instead, a Holiday Mini-Camp Kit can be pre-ordered by November 29 and picked up at the C.S.P.S. Hall, also on Sunday, December 6, from 1-3 p.m., with an online element included.

The Holiday Mini-Camp Kit will be like our summer camp but with holiday themes. This kit will be most suitable for Sokol youngsters ages 6 to 14, including dancers, gymnasts, *Škola* students, and cultural day campers.

The Holiday Mini-Camp Kits will include: a 12-page Czech and Slovak Holiday Traditions Coloring Book, five holiday themed crafts with instructions and all supplies including crayons, markers, glue, and scissors, five holiday recipes for your family to make, a baked gingerbread cookie with icing to decorate, puzzles, games (including Sokol bingo), songs and other special surprises.

The online mini-camp will include: videos of craft demonstrations, a candy cane dance, two folk dances, a holiday story, and *koledy* or Christmas carols, plus a tumbling challenge. A link to the online mini-camp will be provided with the kits.

**Pre-ordering** is required for the Holiday Mini-Camp Kits. Order your kits early because we will make only a limited number and expect them to sell out quickly. Order forms are available at [www.sokolmn.org/holiday-mini-camp/](http://www.sokolmn.org/holiday-mini-camp/). Holiday Mini-Camp kits will be \$25 for Sokol Minnesota members and \$40 for non-members. Deadline for ordering will be Sunday, November 29. Orders must be prepaid via PayPal or credit card online or by check made out to, and sent to, Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

**Junior Leaders:** We will need seven or eight high school students to be runners on Sunday, December 6, from 12:30-3:30. They will help with gathering the Good Book signatures and delivery of the *Svatý Mikuláš* treat bags, bakery orders, and kits for Mini-Camp. This is a chance to earn three volunteer hours toward the Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Award. Apply on-line by November 29 at [www.sokolmn.org/holiday-mini-camp/](http://www.sokolmn.org/holiday-mini-camp/)

**Pickup of Holiday Bakery Treats or Holiday Mini-Camp Kits:** Pickup Holiday Bakery treats or Holiday Mini-Camp kits at the dates and times specified above at: C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102



**For Questions Contact:**

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



## Highlights of the September Sokol Board of Directors Meeting

By Denise Stibal

The Zoom meeting was called to order on September 17 at 7 p.m. by President Dave Stepan.

Rentals/Publicity: Judy Aubrecht reported the kitchen passed the health inspection. We can double the capacity at the Hall to 50%, pending confirmation from the State of Minnesota Health Department.

Corresponding Secretary: Glynis Grostephan noted donations for August were \$195. Special Items are needed for the Silent Auction. Motion carried to donate \$100 to Saint Stanislaus church in honor of Father Clay, who passed away this month.

Education: Pat Slaber stated we currently have 27 students signed up for online Czech or Slovak classes, including people from out of state. The archives team is working on sorting materials and working on a grant for October.

Membership: Norm Petrik. One new individual was accepted for membership: Grace Tumasmith of Lonsdale, Minnesota.

Financial Secretary: Steve Ernest reported current membership is 282, with 15 new members this year and one deceased member.

Board of Finance: Joyce Tesarek noted the Paycheck Protection Program loan was extended to 26 weeks, bringing us into the middle of October, but it not necessary yet to act on requesting forgiveness of the loan. The scheduled Pajarito rent increase will be postponed.

Board of Instructors: Mary Cahill and Jason Brozovich reported the gymnastics coaches will send out a survey to parents regarding COVID safety concerns. Jason and Mary are working on a plan for classes to resume in early October.

Board of Trustees: Bob Kotek stated three dehumidifiers have been installed in the basement. Additional truss supports were installed in the attic. Fire alarm sensors were cleaned by Dan Bednar. Upcoming Projects include elevator pit repair to address drainage and basement drainpipe reopening, along with replacing sand with river rock for better drainage. A plan to rehab the radiator valves was discussed and approved at a cost up to \$5,000. A motion was approved to have Harris Mechanical reprogram the HVAC control unit at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.

Stage Committee: Motion carried to install drapery hardware and drapes onstage for rentals at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

Charitable Gaming: Ed Hamernik reported a net profit of \$8,349 for August.

President's Report: Dave Stepan noted the canopy repairs are nearly done. The outdoor canvas awning needs to be replaced at an approximate cost of \$1,200-\$1,300. The By-laws committee will bring proposed updates to the October Board of Directors meeting; this will be in time for use at the online November 20 Annual Meeting and election of BOD officers and committee members. (See the President's Note on page 2 for information on how to attend online meetings.)

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**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/)**

## Member News

### Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Member By Norm Petrik

At the September Board of Directors meeting, Grace Tumasmith of Lonsdale was accepted as a member to Sokol Minnesota. She has interests in genealogy, music/dances, films, and language and cooking classes. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

### 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:** Joan Sedlecek for Sokol Minnesota's Czech Roast Pork Dinner, **Pavlina Tesch.**

**\$100 - \$499:** Miša Giancarlo Kotek made and sold *langoše* (Hungarian fried bread) to Czech and Slovak families at their August weekend in Pine City.

**M. L. Kucera** to thank **Dan Bednar** for purchasing and installing a mail box for the Honorary Consul.

**Penelope Zastrow** in memory of **Adelaide Aubrecht Adams.**

#### GENERAL FUND:

**Under \$99:** Joyce Ehmke, Theresa Goddard, Roger Green.

**\$100 - \$499:** For the new Sokol Minnesota awning: Glynis and Dave Grostephan, Miša Giancarlo Kotek and Bob Kotek.

**\$500 - \$999:** Virginia R. and William R. Simok.

**IN-KIND DONATION:** Barb Schaller, donations to Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop, *Kroje* Collection, Library, and Online Virtual Auction.

**Legacy Fund: \$ 737.44**

**General Fund \$ 795.00**

**TOTAL: \$ 1,532.44**

## Online Virtual Auction Items Needed

**Extraordinary items  
are needed for Sokol Minnesota's  
Online Virtual Auction to be held  
November 14-19.**

**If you have suitable donations,  
please contact by November 8:  
Glynis Grostephan at  
[ggrostephan@earthlink.net](mailto:ggrostephan@earthlink.net)**



## Stan Chromy Obituary

Stan Chromy, age 85, passed away peacefully with his wife at his side on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Stan was born on March 18, 1935, near New Prague to Stanley W. and Mary (Horejsi) Chromy. He was the eldest of nine children growing up on the family farm. While at a dance at the Lonsdale dance hall, Stan met the love of his life, Violet Nerud. He offered her a ride home and they were together ever since.

He was a member of the Czech Heritage Club, a past grand knight for the 4th degree Knights of Columbus, and saw his children through 4-H as an adult leader. His greatest joy, especially in the last decade, was the time spent with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; they had the ability to light up his face and his heart.

Stan and Violet were frequent volunteers at Sokol Minnesota events.

Stan is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Violet; nine children, 28 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and his siblings.

This article is based on information from the *New Prague Times*.

## BOOK REVIEW **Holland Inspired Čapek with Quality Ideals for Small Nations** By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

*Letters from Holland* by Karel Čapek, translated from the Czech by Paul Selver. G. P. Putnam's Sons: New York, 1933. First written in Czech in 1932. 104 pages. Available at libraries and bookstores.

Again, I am amazed by the breadth and depth of outstanding writing that Karel Čapek did in his 38 years. Research led me to find that his travel writing collection alone includes five books: *Letters from Italy* (1923), *Letters from England* (1924; see my review in the May 2020 issue of *Slovo*), *Letters from Spain* (1930), *Letters from Holland* (1932), and *Travels in the North* (1936).

Written during his visit to a literary conference in The Hague in 1931, *Letters from Holland* is a short set of mostly light and amusing essays but ends with serious philosophical commentary on being small nations such as Holland and Czechoslovakia.

On the uncomplicated side, Čapek wrote about Dutch bicycles, tulips, artists, cheese, clogs, small houses with gables, dykes, dogs, and sheep, accompanied by delightful line drawings by his brother Josef Čapek. His gentle humor shone through: "As regards national music, it consists mostly of the concertina. This is a most healthy instrument, because it tremendously promotes the broadening of the shoulders."

Those charming scenes that impressed me when I first visited Holland were adeptly described by Čapek: the singular rural views across flat land and water that include windmills, fields, sailboats, and cows, all in one. And Holland's water was mesmerizing to him: "... where we have streets between the

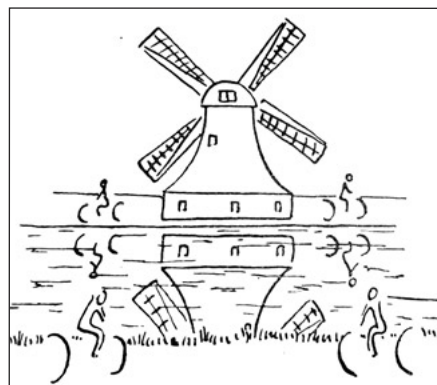


Illustration by Josef Čapek

houses [in Czechoslovakia], in Holland there is merely water; this is known as a *gracht*, and when the water flows from town to town it is a canal. And this restful water is not bordered with an embankment and a parapet, but with tall, restful trees and restful frontages of houses with shiny

windows; and all of it is restfully mirrored in the water."

At the time he wrote this book, Čapek, an ardent advocate of democracy, was also concerned about changes in Europe, the place of a small country, and a political order better than the League of Nations. In offering advice to Czechs, he wrote of Holland, "Its strength is in its quality... If you had to say on the spur of the moment, what the Dutch are distinguished for, you would not think of anything huge, but of the fine, unusual and almost perfect quality of most things which they produce for themselves and also for the world at large. This applies not only to butter, but also to scholarship... would it not be best for small nations to replace quantity by quality, where ideals are concerned?"

With foreshadowing of something akin to the European Union, Čapek wrote, "Of course, it is no longer dynasties or Holy Roman crowns that will shape nations and states into a higher organization and world order; it will be economic realities, it will be social and humane solidarity, that will one day confer some sort of joint regime upon the mule-drivers of Bisagra, the bulb growers of the polders and those of us who are Czechs to the backbone. It will not be an eagle [of the Habsburg dynasty], but something both more immaterial and more substantial that will give all of us some badge in common."

I agree with *The New York Times* review of *Letters from Holland* (June 4, 1933) about the author's discernment: "Karel Čapek says that he does not like to go traveling. Nevertheless, he is the kind of person who should travel a great deal and always write books about his journeys. For he can see a great deal, see it with insight and understanding, and write about it edifyingly with very few words, whereas most travelers see very little that is of consequence and write about it with words in vast numbers."

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

Check the website, [www.cs-center.org](http://www.cs-center.org), for updates to Literary Ventures scheduling and the impact of COVID-19.

## Czech Honorary Consul News

November  
2020

In the Czech Republic, the ministries of foreign affairs and culture are working together to develop a vibrant “cultural diplomacy.” Both Minister of Foreign Affairs Tomáš Petříček and Minister of Culture Lubomír Zaorálek believe culture is the Czech Republic’s first ambassador. Both ministers agreed to publicize the Czech Republic as a “film friendly” destination, back the presentation of Czech artists at major international fairs, support the translation of Czech literature, promote traditional arts and crafts, as well as foster cultural activities of expatriate associations abroad.

icd  
Institute  
for Cultural  
Diplomacy

Have you ever wondered what became of all those towns and villages in the Czech Republic that had German names? In the Middle Ages, Bohemian and Moravian nobles invited colonists, people from the west who were German speaking, into the less-populated regions where many continued to live for centuries until shortly after

World War II. Plus, until 1866, the official language of the Empire of Austria administration was German. Many of the places in Czech Lands had bilingual names. The German names for places were replaced after WWII in Czechoslovakia with their Czech names. According to Wikipedia, today these German names are considered exonyms (known only externally or outside the country), but many used to be endonyms (used internally). For a full listing: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_German\\_exonyms\\_for\\_places\\_in\\_the\\_Czech\\_Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_German_exonyms_for_places_in_the_Czech_Republic).



(Map: <http://czechgenealogy.nase-koreny.cz/2011/10/german-and-czech-names-of-places-towns.html>)

Renée Fleming, the renowned American operatic soprano, has Czech roots. Her great-grandparents were born in Prague. On September 26, she held her first live performance since spring, *Time to Sing*, with Vanessa Williams, at the Kennedy Center Opera House in Washington, D.C. She delighted her audience with many pieces, including *Song to the Moon* by Antonín Dvořák from his opera *Rusalka*. This Kennedy Center performance is available on-demand through the rest of 2020 (\$15). <https://www.kennedy-center.org/whats-on/on-stage/on-stage-a-time-to-sing/>



Czech immigrants founded St. Stanislaus Parish in Saint Paul in 1872. For nearly 150 years, St. Stanislaus Church, located on Superior Street adjacent to C.S.P.S. Hall, has played an important part in the lives of many Czech immigrants, Czech-Americans, and now to all nationalities in the neighborhood still known as Little Bohemia. It is with great sadness that the entire West End community bids farewell to the beloved Father John C. Clay, age 94, who served St. Stans for 45 years, starting in June 1975. He was the first non-Czech priest at St. Stans. He died September 13, 2020. Father Clay became an institution of kindness and inclusion to all in the neighborhood. For a fascinating history of this originally Bohemian congregation, read *Our History*: <https://www.ststans.org> (Photo: M.L. Kucera)



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic  
in Minneapolis, MN

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### Slovo Publication Information and Committee

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

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

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Additional photographs or illustrations this issue provided by: Diane Bell (page 7), Glynis Grostephan (3), Martina Gurgel (6), Don Haselbauer (5:1), Miša Giancarlo Kotek (4: collage), Doreen McKenney (5: 4, 5, 6), Joyce Tesarek (5:2,3,7-10), Bryan Wyberg (7).

October mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

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

## C.S.P.S. HALL LEGACY FUND

To keep us all safe from COVID-19, all our income-generating events are on hold.

If you can help, we would greatly appreciate a donation to Sokol.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Attn: Treasurer

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Or donate online: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) *Thank You!*



CZECH AND SLOVAK



383 Michigan Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

651-290-0542

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* November 2020

Bidding begins:  
Saturday  
November 14  
9 a.m.

20  
20  
Sokol  
Minnesota  
Online  
Virtual  
Auction

online virtual  
Auction

[www.32auctions.com/sokolminnesota](http://www.32auctions.com/sokolminnesota)

Bidding ends:  
Thursday  
November 19  
9 p.m.

BID BID BID BID BID

### Welcome to our 2020 Sokol Minnesota Online Virtual Auction!

Because of Covid-19, many of our income-generating events have been cancelled or modified to keep our members, volunteers, and guests safe.

The 31st annual Czech & Slovak Festival was cancelled so we hope to raise money with this 2020 Sokol Minnesota Online Virtual Auction to replace our annual Festival's Silent Auction.

**Be sure to register for this auction. You need only provide your name and e-mail information.**

You can pick up your winning item at the **Curbside Holiday Bake Sale** (see page 3) **Saturday, November 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** or arrange pick-up with Glynis Grostephan at [ggrostephan@earthlink.net](mailto:ggrostephan@earthlink.net)

### Have you seen the Sokol Minnesota Virtual Open House Video?

An online Virtual Open House Video, produced by members, highlights activities, events, and traditions that are important to Sokol Minnesota.

You can access the video at [www.sokolmn.org/sokol-video](http://www.sokolmn.org/sokol-video)