

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

## UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

**May Slovo Deadline**  
 April 1

**Board of Trustees**  
 April 10, 7 p.m.

**Literary Ventures**  
 April 13, 10 a.m.

**Spring Breakfast, Koláče  
 and Craft Sale**  
 April 14, 9 a.m. to 1p.m.

**Board of Directors**  
 April 18, 7 p.m.

**Family Morning**  
 April 20, 10 a.m.

**Band Blast**  
 April 27, 7 p.m.

# Spring Breakfast

with **Koláče and Craft Sales**

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

**Sunday, April 14**  
**9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

\$8. adult, \$6. children under 9,  
 \$26. family of four (two adults and two children).

Breakfast includes: French toast, pancakes, fruit cup,  
 sausage, juice, milk, and coffee.

**Koláče for your Easter table. To pre-order koláče call 651-290-0542.**

**Variety of exquisite hand-crafted items for sale. To reserve a vendor table rental call 651-433-2008.**

C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55122 | [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

Exterior Wall Repair  
**FUNDRAISER**  
 for the C.S.P.S. Hall

**Saturday, April 27**  
**7p.m.**  
 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN

Live music by  
 •BRASS MESSENGERS.  
 •BAD COMPANIONS.  
 •TALKING STRINGS.  
 •JIM STEINWORTH.

3rd Annual **BAND  
 BLAST**

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities

**\$10 suggested admission**

For more info or to reserve your seat email  
[bandblast2019@gmail.com](mailto:bandblast2019@gmail.com)

- Rockabilly and HOT jazz bands
- Dance
- Sing-a-long
- Silent Auction
- Cash bar
- Food and desserts

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

*Pozdrav!*

For those of us stuck in the depths of winter, I can only hope that by the time you read this we will have broken through the freezing mark.

Louise Wessinger gave me an article to read regarding the Serbian Hall in South Saint Paul. Just as for us, their hall was a bridge from past generations to new generations. While the Serbian Hall is working to reopen, we are lucky to have had Sokol members before us (and current members with us) working to ensure that our C.S.P.S. Hall will stand for another 132 years. Recently, I was given a personal tour of the basement of the Hall by Board of Trustees chair Dan Bednar and Board of Directors member Ed Hamernik. We observed a few of the structural concerns that we need to be aware of. As with any old building, we need to be vigilant.

Built in 1887, our C.S.P.S. Hall is the longest serving national hall in Minnesota, as well as the longest serving Czech-Slovak hall in continuous use in the United States. The Hall was declared a National and State Historic Site in 1977. How many Sokol units can claim to have had Antonín Dvořák visit their hall? Dvořák's visit was arranged through the efforts of Reverend Jan Rynda of Saint Stanislaus (the church behind the Hall). According to Josef J. Kovařík, prior to Dvořák's visit to the Hall, he was at Minnehaha Falls, where he wrote down the "Minnehaha" melody in rough form on the starched cuff of his shirt because he had no paper at that moment. The following November, in New York, he used the melody in the slow movement of his *Sonatina in G Major*, opus 100, for violin and piano.



*Dvořák's "Minnehaha" melody*



Like Dvořák, for us to stay pertinent in this 21st century, Sokol Minnesota needs to be creative. How do we attract an **active membership** while staying true to the "strong mind in a sound body" core values of Sokol founders Miroslav Tyrš and Jindřich Fügner 157 years ago? No matter our age or ability, we need to do our best to promote this mission. How are we doing that here at your Sokol? Here are a few activities that are going on NOW:

- A strong gymnastics program;
- Children and teen dance groups that must be among the largest in the state;
- A Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp that is in its 22nd year;
- Czech and Slovak Language classes from beginners to advanced;
- Family nights for Czech and Slovak speaking families; and
- Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities.

In the next couple of months, our cultural programming includes:

- March 31, Flavors of Slovakia dinner;
- April 14, Pancake Breakfast with *koláče* and Craft Sales; and
- April 27, Band Blast (and if it's anything like last year, it truly is a "blast").

Overall, I would say we are doing pretty well, but we need YOU—your time and talents so that together we will leave the organization in a better place for the next generation. If you have an interest in helping, please contact me at [president@sokolmn.org](mailto:president@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, gift shop, E-Addresses for our board, program directors, volunteer staff, and the Czech Honorary Consul, and *Slovo* past issues are available at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) or [www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](http://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota), or call 651-290-0542.

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

### 2019 BOD (Board of Directors)

#### President

Dave Stepan

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Ed Hamernik

#### Second Vice President

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#### Recording Secretary

Denise Stibal

#### Corresponding Secretary

Glynis Grostephan

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Don Haselbauer

#### Financial Secretary

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Markéta Resong  
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#### Membership Director

Norm Petrik

#### Board of Budget and Finance

Joyce Tesarek, Chair

#### Educational Director

Patricia Slaber

#### Publicity Director

Judy Aubrecht

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Mary Cahill,  
Women's Physical Director

Jason Brozovich,  
Men's Physical Director

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Dan Bednar

#### Gaming Manager

Ed Hamernik, Chair

## 2018 Sokol Minnesota Honor Award Recipients by Judy Aubrecht and the Honorees

*It has been many years since Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota has selected members to receive special recognition for outstanding contributions to our unit. Honor Award recipients have generously shared their time and talents by helping to advance the goals and mission of our unit through their volunteer work. The most recent previous Honor Award recipient was Joan Sedlacek, who received this award more than ten years ago and had been the only surviving Honor Award recipient. At a recent Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, it was agreed that it was time to "catch up," which is reflected in the number of awards made. The BOD also agreed that the award was not dependent on length of membership in the unit. Seven members were selected, by unanimous BOD vote, to become the Honor Award members for 2018. The new Honor Members include Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, Don Haselbauer, Ed Hamernik, Doreen McKenney, Joyce Tesarek, and Louise Wessinger. The Honor Awards were presented at the January 6, 2019, Member's Holiday Party.*

*Each Honor Award recipient was asked to write 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.*

### **Judy Aubrecht**

Judy Aubrecht's husband, Tom Aubrecht, is 50% Czech. In 1990 Tom read about a *koláče* baking class in their local Saint Paul paper, *The Highland Villager*. Tom had just basic knowledge of his Czech heritage, so he enrolled in the Saturday morning class, which was led by Georgiana Dolejsi and Florence Haselbauer. He returned home with *koláče* that he had made and let Judy know that the dough "should be as soft as a baby's bottom." A year later, Judy and Tom decided to enroll their two daughters in Sokol Minnesota's outstanding gymnastics program. This was Judy's first exposure to the C.S.P.S. Hall, since Judy has Irish, German, and Dutch heritage. When the girls attended a combined children's gymnastics and folk dance spring awards program and saw the folk dancers, their older daughter announced "That's what I want to do!" Saturday morning folk dancing classes soon became an important family activity, which continued until high school graduation. Tom and Judy joined the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers in 2004 and continue to dance with the group. Over the years, Judy has served on the Sokol Minnesota's Board of Directors as recording secretary, member-at-large, and president for five years through December 2018. Judy also served for nine years on the Sokol Minnesota's Board of Trustees, which oversees the maintenance of the C.S.P.S. Hall, including chairing the kitchen committee during the renovation. Judy's brother once asked her "Aren't you going to be Irish anymore?"

An additional highlight for Judy is organizing and co-directing, for 21 years, the Sokol Minnesota Children's Cultural Day Camp with Louise Wessinger. Children learn the Czech language, gymnastics, folk dancing, singing, ethnic cooking and crafts, folktales, and are inspired by special guests. Other special events include accompanying her younger teen-aged daughter and the *Taneční Mládež* folk dancers to Washington D.C in 2001, helping to organize the 2016 visit to the C.S.P.S. Hall by the Czech Prime Minister and other dignitaries, and chairing the recent *Slavnost* 100 years of Czechoslovakia celebration and remembrance party.

Judy grew up in Rochester, Minnesota and worked for 37 years as a social worker, mainly in elementary schools. Sokol Minnesota has been a center of the Czech and Slovak community for well over 100 years. As a volunteer, nonprofit organization, members have a common cause to work together to raise funds to continue our cultural programming and maintain and enhance the C.S.P.S. Hall. The many dedicated Sokols inspire Judy to participate in activities and to help provide leadership for the group.



Judy Aubrecht at Children's Holiday Party,  
December, 2016

## Mary Cahill

Mary Cahill is a third generation member of Sokol, following in the footsteps of her maternal grandmother and mother, both of Czech descent. She began her involvement with Sokol Minnesota with the children's folk dance group at age seven and as a participant in the gymnastics classes at age ten. Mary enjoyed participating in many American Sokol Western District and National *Slets*. Her involvement with Sokol fundraising activities started after college when she also became more involved with the unit's leadership positions. Mary has served as recording secretary, treasurer, women's physical director, and on various committees, including the annual Saint Paul Festival of Nations, spring and fall ethnic dinners, and others.

The whole premise of Sokol is an inspiration for Mary. Sokol's credo "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body" and its mission statement "to provide fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs" make it an organization that promotes societal values and community. The organization has a feeling of "family" once a person experiences the organization through volunteering and attending functions such as District or National *Slets*.

Mary remains involved in Sokol because of its focus on cultural preservation and physical fitness. The gymnastics classes are available to all abilities. That means that kids can come and participate and be the best they can be – they don't have to be THE BEST to participate. It is an organization that is run largely by volunteers and volunteers are critical to the organization's viability. Because of its active volunteer base, Sokol Minnesota is able to offer quality classes and events at very affordable prices.

Mary's dream for Sokol is that it continues to further its mission and finds ways to be a vibrant organization for the next 100 plus years.



Mary Cahill assisting a gymnast, March 2019



Ed Hamernik serving, October, 2012

## Ed Hamernik

In the early 1900s, Ed Hamernik's parents immigrated to the United States from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Their home areas are now in the Czech Republic about 60 km southeast of Prague. Ed's father purchased land near Ulen, Minnesota. After meeting Ed's mother, they settled on that farm and raised a family of nine children. Fortunately, in the midst of this land of Norwegians, there was a Czech and Slovak ZCBJ fraternal lodge and hall in Voss, Minnesota, about five miles from the farm, and they became very active members. Ed's early memories include the ZCBJ dances, holiday parties, and card parties. Unfortunately, as of the late 1960s, the town of Voss and the hall no longer exist.

Ed and his wife Arlene have lived in Minneapolis since 1959. In the early 1980s, they began attending Sokol Minnesota events such as the Fall Festivals and Harvest Dances. Ed became actively involved with Sokol Minnesota in early 2000 after deciding to attend language classes to improve his Czech, the language he grew up speaking at home. He enjoyed the classes immensely and has used his language skills to connect with family in the Czech Republic. This past October he was grateful to make his fourth journey to visit relatives of both parents.

Ed has participated in Sokol Minnesota in several capacities: fundraising, organizing breakfasts, the *Šibrinky* dance, festivals, building renovation, and more. He was elected to various officer positions on the Board of Directors. Keeping up his Czech heritage and keeping in contact with all the wonderful people Ed and Arlene have met and worked with the past 18 years are good reasons for wanting to see Sokol Minnesota prosper and grow. Ed is thankful for early Sokol friends, the late Don and Jeanette Pafko, who were a great help in learning about Sokol. Ed is humbled and grateful to be chosen for a Sokol Minnesota Honor Award. Ed and Arlene wish the best for Sokol Minnesota and to all their friends and associates there.

## Don Haselbauer

Don Haselbauer first became involved with Sokol Minnesota when his parents, Frank and Florence Haselbauer, brought his sister Carol and him to the C.S.P.S. Hall for events and gym classes. Don has been involved in many *slets* and programs through the years. He remembers many bus rides to events with his parents and their friends, singing Czech songs on the way. Don and his wife Katie led the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers for a number of years and also chaired a Czech and Slovak Festival and a few pork dinners. Don is currently the Treasurer on the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors. He has previously served on the Board of Trustees.

Don also plays the piano for the Sokol Singers and each year his cousin Louise Wessinger calls on him to play for the Sokol Minnesota Children's Cultural Day Camp. He remembers his first public performance on the accordion playing the *Dzulajda Polka* for a Sokol program at the Hall.

Being involved in Sokol gym classes, volleyball games, folk dancing, participating in the Festival of Nations, going to *Slet* competitions, and serving on the Board has been an adventure, but most important for Don are the friendships made over the years.

## Doreen McKenney

Doreen McKenney's association with the Sokol organization started at a young age in 1964, when, by sheer coincidence, her family purchased the cottage next door to the Sokol Camp in Pine City, Minnesota.

As a non-member, and just starting college, her mother, Doris Richtarik McKenney, got Doreen involved with her projects at "the Hall", by helping her make ads for the *Slovo* newsletter (pre-digital), paint and post festival signs, set up the Festival of Nations bazaar booth, and eventually manage the Sokol gift shop with her. Many years later Doreen became a member of Sokol Minnesota. Soon after, she joined the Sokol Board of Directors, first as sergeant-of-arms, then second-vice president, and somewhere over that span, signed up for a ten-year commitment with the first long range planning committee. Part of the second-vice president's job description is to find and support event chairs. That is when Doreen found that she enjoyed chairing and co-chairing annual Sokol Minnesota events, such as the Roast Duck Dinner, *Šibřinky*, Spring and Fall Pancake Breakfasts, Flavors of Slovakia dinner, Festival of Nations bazaar and culture booths, Czech and Slovak Festival, Harvest dance, Pork dinner, and a few one-time events, like the *Dudy* band and *Kroje* Style Show. Doreen enjoyed, as a scout leader, bringing three teen scouts to the 2006 *Slet* in Prague.

Lifetime member Georgiana Dolejsi made it her mission to pass on her Sokol kitchen knowledge to Doreen by sharing traditional Czech recipes from her generation and the generation before her, who cooked and baked at the C.S.P.S. Hall. This led Doreen to putting together a manual to guide current and future event chairs.



Prague *Slet* Parade, July 2006

Back Row: Dennis Cahill, Norm Petrik, Doreen McKenney, Joyce Tesarek  
Front Row: Scouts Carolyn Cahill, Doreen's nephew Quint Larson and niece Shae McKenney,



Don Haselbauer performing at the Czech Slovak Festival, September, 2016

For Doreen, when a person is born with a natural artistic talent, it is a continuous need to share everything learned, turn around, and pass it on. So, collaborating with the education chair to teach classes like corn husk doll making, pastry brush weaving, split wheat straw snowflakes, cooking, baking, and even teaching a few calisthenics, is a perfect fit for Doreen.

With the continuous fundraising events Sokol hosts, Doreen is busy with creating event advertisements for the *Slovo*. It was an honor when Doreen was asked to design the Vaclav Havel Civil Society logo. Children's Culture Day Camp became a joyous outlet to pass on her skills by teaching new and traditional folk art crafts and by, hopefully, inspiring the many creative campers to someday have the same passion to pass on their artistic Czech heritage.

## Joyce Tesarek

Joyce Tesarek grew up in a large, extended Czech family. Her mother moved to Minnesota from Czechoslovakia, with parents, aunts, and uncles. Her dad had first and second generation Czech parents, so family parties were large, multi-generational affairs, with Czech as the language for the adults. Joining Sokol Minnesota felt like a continuation of that community.

While looking for a Czech language class after college graduation, Joyce was introduced to Sokol Minnesota. Many years later, she looks back happily on all the wonderful people she has met, fun times, and opportunities to learn new skills. She is a long-time Board of Directors member, serving in different roles from Financial Secretary, Secretary, President, to her current roles as chair of the Finance committee, and on the Planning and Fundraising committees. She especially enjoys working with all the great volunteers making *koláče*, organizing and helping at dinners, Festival of Nations, and the Czech and Slovak Festival. A special honor for Joyce was when she received the 2006 "Černín Palace Memorial Bronze Medal and Diploma awarded for great and significant contribution to the progress of Czech-American relations" by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A key life event for Joyce was meeting her husband, Norm Petrik, who is also 100% Czech, at the C.S.P.S. Hall. The couple lives in South Minneapolis. Joyce is a veterinarian and owner of Minnehaha Animal Hospital and the Pet Doctors Animal Clinic, which are both located in Minneapolis.

Important Sokol memories for Joyce include making *koláče* and volunteering at events with friends. She also appreciates Sokol Minnesota's connection to Sokol units in the United States and in Prague. Groups of Sokols have attended *slets*, or Sokol "Olympic" competitions, around the country and in the Czech Republic, and performed in the closing ceremonies. What a thrill it was for Joyce to march out onto the field in Prague with hundreds of Sokols from around the world. Sokol Minnesota also helps host visiting artists, musicians, and dignitaries from the Slovak Republic and Czech Republic. We have had visits at the Hall from ambassadors, members of the Consulate, and in 2016, the Czech Prime Minister. All guests were modest, intelligent, personable, and a pleasure to meet. Another favorite memory was taking their granddaughter Rachel, to Washington, DC, to dance with the children's dance group at the dedication of the Masaryk statue.



2016 Festival of Nations Cafe kitchen and counter volunteers.  
Back row: Norm Petrik, Tom Tesarek, Joan Sedlacek, Jason Brozovich  
Front row: Penny Tesarek, Joyce Tesarek, Dawn Bulera.



## Louise Wessinger

Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers director Louise Wessinger and dance partner Dave Stepan at the Czech Slovak Festival, September, 2016

Louise Jansen Wessinger grew up in Sokol Minnesota. Her father had Czech and German heritage. After his father died, his mother remarried a Czech man. His stepfather brought her dad to Sokol gymnastics classes at age 7. He loved gymnastics and was good at it too. He met Louise's mother at a gym meet. They attended the 1938 Sokol *Slet* in Prague, Czechoslovakia, with her dad a member of the American Sokol team. Their family and social life revolved around Sokol and the C.S.P.S. Hall. Louise attended Sokol gym classes with her sister Linda and her cousins. Her family was one of the founding families of the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Louise graduated St. Catherine's College with degrees in elementary education and sociology. She taught at St. Therese and Highland Catholic schools in St. Paul. She married Chuck Wessinger in 1973 and has two married sons and three wonderful grandchildren. When her family had young boys, they lived out of state for four years. Upon returning to Minnesota, Louise became active in Sokol Minnesota again. In 1990, she founded the *Taneční Mládež* children's folk dance group, and added a teen group in 2005. Over 200 children have danced in these groups over the last 28 years. Louise returned to dancing with the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers in 1992, and danced with Dave Stepan for 22 years, until retiring from performing in the fall of 2017. She is currently the program director for the group.

Over the years, Louise has held several offices with Sokol Minnesota, including Education Director and member of the Board of Directors for 14 years. She and Judy Aubrecht co-founded the Sokol Minnesota Children's Cultural Day Camp, which held its 21st session in the summer of 2018. She has also chaired the program committee for the Sokol Minnesota Czech and Slovak Festival for many years and has worked with the Saint Paul Festival of Nations program committee for the last 15 years. Louise has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center and the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International. In 2000 she received the first scholarship in the Upper Midwest area to attend the Czech Language Program in Dobruška, Czech Republic. Very proud of her Bohemian heritage, Louise created a multi-media presentation called "Great Grandmother's Trunk from Bohemia," which she has presented over 100 times to schools and community groups.

## Attend or Volunteer at the 2019 Festival of Nations



The 87th Festival of Nations will be Thursday, May 2 to Sunday, May 5 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. Each year, Sokol Minnesota represents the Czechs and Slovaks, joining over 100 ethnic groups in introducing thousands of visitors to ethnic food, music and dance, cultural exhibits, shopping in the Bazaar, and colorful folk dress from around the world. Each year during the day on the Thursday and Friday, thousands of school children and teens visit who are bused in from around the state. Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, the event is open for all. Besides offering great food in our Czech and Slovak Café booth, we again will have a cultural display in the Exhibit area, and our youth, teen, and adult dancers perform. The Festival is organized by the International Institute of Minnesota. For more information: [www.festivalofnations.com](http://www.festivalofnations.com) and [iimn.org](http://iimn.org)

As you can imagine, preparing for and covering four days of the Festival Café and Cultural Exhibit requires literally hundreds of volunteers. It is great fun and we'd love your help. Once again we have free tickets for all of our volunteers. Come before or stay after your shift and enjoy the activities, cultural exhibits, shopping, and food!

If you'd like to volunteer for a shift in the Café kitchen or counter, or if you would like to assist with Sunday evening takedown, you can choose your day and time by signing up at [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org) or [tinyurl.com/FON2019CSCafeSignUp](http://tinyurl.com/FON2019CSCafeSignUp). Or, you can call Jean at 651-433-2008.

Volunteers are still needed for our Cultural Exhibit booth on Saturday, May 4. Shifts open are: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 to 4 p.m., and 7 to 10 p.m. Our booth will feature the Handmade Holidays display that was presented in December and January at the American Swedish Institute. If you are interested in presenting this display to Festival attendees, please contact Blanka Brichta at [brichta.blanka@gmail.com](mailto:brichta.blanka@gmail.com). To volunteer with Wednesday set up, contact [festival@sokolmn.org](mailto:festival@sokolmn.org) or call Jean at the number above.



### From Us to Us, with Love by Jitka Sebek

You are not dreaming if it seems to you that almost every event at the C.S.P.S. Hall is in some way a fundraiser. There is nothing wrong in creating a gathering with multiple layers of reasons, for instance to bring people to the Hall, to socialize, to talk in Czech or Slovak, to get creative, and to offer the product as a fundraiser.

The Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities (*Škola*) has had several of its members or friends lead such artistic activities: just remember Kleenex houses, flower pots, placemats, or *sumi-e* cards with linden leaves.

During the Roast Duck dinner fundraising, seeing the *sumi-e* cards with linden leaves inspired Yvonne Palka, a second very skilled *sumi-e* painter, to offer her teaching expertise and to lead the next round of *Škola* fundraising efforts.

Yvonne and her husband, John, twice generously shared their teaching and support at the C.S.P.S. Hall. First, they delivered all artistic supplies and presented an introductory lesson on a recent Saturday morning to *Škola* children and *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční* Teens dancers, along with their parents. The dining room turned swiftly into a busy studio full of white paper and black ink designs. This color scheme was enhanced by the bright jacket of one of the books that Yvonne had published and showed to us. The day after, on Sunday, the painting lesson continued during the monthly Family Night, when the artistic opportunity awakened the curiosity of most, yielding a fine collection of *sumi-e* birds, pandas, and bunnies. Browse through the *Škola's* Facebook photo album ([www.facebook.com/CzechandSlovakSchoolTwinCities](http://www.facebook.com/CzechandSlovakSchoolTwinCities)) and enjoy looking at the happy artists encircling Yvonne.

We are very thankful to Yvonne for this artistically soothing experience and for all of her donated supplies. We were proud to create beautiful artwork in support of Sokol Minnesota projects. No, you won't be able to purchase any of the *sumi-e* cards. Why? Everything was sold within one morning among *Škola* members or Sokol Minnesota members, including the Board of Directors at their annual retreat. You may be able to find these books by Yvonne at upcoming Sokol Minnesota events: *Dragon Fire: Ocean Mist* or *Super Simple Sumi-e: Easy Asian Brush Painting for All Ages*.

We came, we drew, we bought. *Veni, vidi, vici* the Sokol way. Thank you for your purchasing support, Judy and Tom Aubrecht, Katarina Bila, Blanka Brichta, Glynis Grostephan, Martina Gurgel, Cloe Holiday, M. L. Kucera, Joyce and Norm Petrik, Renata Scholtz, Jitka Sebek, Dave Stepan, Paula Vukovich, and Louise Wessinger!

## 2019 Children's Czech and Slovak Culture Camp: Art Through the Centuries and Sports

By Louise Wessinger and Judy Aubrecht, co-directors

The 22nd Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp will take place from Monday, June 17, to Friday, June 21, 2019, at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Exciting plans are being made for camp and some changes will be tried, which we hope will make camp even more fun.

The theme for our 2019 camp will be *Art Through the Centuries and Sports*, including various artists and popular Czech and Slovak sports, like hockey, soccer, tennis, and swimming. The modern sculpture work of the famous glass artist Dale Chihuly will be featured, along with many other Czech and Slovak artists.

Camp will start at 8:30 a.m. this year and finish at 3:30 p.m. The longer camp day will allow more time for activities and for practicing our new, all-camp play. With the longer day and additional supply costs, the fee for camp has gone up a little, but is still very affordable compared to other day camps. Be sure to register by May 16 to qualify for the early-bird, reduced camp rate. All registration materials must be received by June 7 in order to have time to have supplies and helpers for all our campers. Materials to register your child for the 22nd Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp are available for download at [www.sokolmn.org/culture-camp-2019/](http://www.sokolmn.org/culture-camp-2019/)

Adult volunteers are a key part of our camp. Adults use their talents to lead or help with crafts, cooking, music, and other responsibilities. Up to six Junior Leaders, between the ages of 15 and 21, are encouraged to volunteer for camp. They assist the group leaders, help with special projects and lead activities, like kickball and after-lunch games, or develop a treasure hunt. Certificates for volunteer hours for school and church-related volunteering will be available.

We look forward to seeing campers and families from previous years and to welcoming new campers. It will be a lively week that will include activities such as gymnastics, language, cooking, crafts, and the new play. Remember, you don't have to be Czech or Slovak to come to camp, but you must be willing to have fun learning. See you in June at camp!

Nazdar, Louise Wessinger and Judy Aubrecht, co-directors

### Sokolfest 2019 June 26-30, Buffalo, New York by Sokol Minnesota Board of Instructors Staff

Please consider joining a small group of Sokol Minnesota adult enthusiasts who are about to start learning the Senior Calisthenics 2 routine to perform at the XXVIII Sokol USA Slet this summer.

There is something for everyone at this event.

Opening Ceremonies with dinner are at Fantasy Island Amusement Park, Wednesday afternoon and evening, June 26; gymnastics competitions are on Thursday; bowling and a Brew Tour of five Buffalo breweries are on Friday (along with *Slet* rehearsals); a Friday evening reception and polka dance; Saturday *Slet* program performances with a celebration dance that evening, and more.

We are scheduled to learn the Senior Cal routine at the C.S.P.S. Hall on these Sundays:

April 7, 7-9 p.m.; May 12, 1-3 p.m.; June 2, 1-3 p.m.; June 9, 1-3 p.m. (The schedule is subject to change.)

Lodging arrangement should be made immediately if you are planning to attend the *Slet*. The *Slet* hotel accommodations have filled and the host unit has been pursuing additional area accommodations. Come, learn, exercise, and have fun.

8 April 2019 Slovo

## Join Us for the 2019 Sokolfest in New York!



See ALL the Details Here:

[www.sokolusa.org/  
Sokolfest\\_2019\\_menu.html](http://www.sokolusa.org/Sokolfest_2019_menu.html)

### SOKOLFEST 2019: XXVIII Sokol USA Slet, June 26-30, Buffalo, NY

Sweet Home High School will host the Volleyball Tournament and Fitness Challenge in the gym, and Slet performances in the stadium field. [sweethomeschools.org](http://sweethomeschools.org)

AAU Sanctioned Gymnastics Competitions will be at Greater Buffalo Gymnastics. [www.greaterbuffalogymnastics.com](http://www.greaterbuffalogymnastics.com)

To learn the Senior Calisthenic 2 for the Saturday, June 29 Slet performance. [fitness@sokolmn.org](mailto:fitness@sokolmn.org)

Make your hotel reservations at the Slet headquarters Buffalo Marriott Niagara. [www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bufny-buffalo-marriott-niagara](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bufny-buffalo-marriott-niagara)



**Prague Saints and Heroes of the Charles Bridge: The Lives of Extraordinary People** by Pat Martin.  
Penfield Books: Iowa City, IA, 2003. 112 pages.  
Available at libraries and bookstores

## BOOK REVIEW

### The Iconic Charles Bridge

By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

The Charles Bridge (*Karlův most*), which connects the Old Town (*Staré Město*) and the Lesser Quarter (*Malá Strana*) on the High Castle (*Vyšehrad*) side of the river, is an important symbol of Prague, a delight to see in person and in photographs. During my initial visit to the Czech Republic, on an educational tour with Dr. Josef Mestenhauser, he took our group to the bridge on our first,

jet-lagged evening. He told us he always went there first when he came back to Prague. It offers a charming view across the darkened Vltava River of the city lights, buildings, and strolling people.

During the day, I've walked across the pedestrian-only bridge many times, admiring the statues and rubbing the bronze likeness of St. John Nepomuk for good luck and to ensure my return to Prague, but not learning much more about the other depictions. Pat Martin's book, *Prague Saints and Heroes of the Charles Bridge: The Lives of Extraordinary People*, presents photos of the bridge and statues and lively descriptions of the individuals immortalized on the bridge.

Stories about the bridge are a fascinating mix of myth, legend, and history. For example, did royal astrologers actually pick the most auspicious time and date for placement of the bridge's foundation stone? The construction of Charles Bridge took forty-seven years and was completed in 1406 as part of King Charles' program of civic improvements. It replaced the stone bridge built between 1158 and 1172 by King Vladislav I and named after his wife, Judith of Thuringia. The Judith Bridge was damaged by a flood in 1342. For many years the new bridge was known as the Stone Bridge or Prague Bridge. As part of the Czech National Revival, this medieval engineering marvel was named for its patron in 1870.

The Charles Bridge is thirty-three feet across, wide enough for four carriages abreast, and sturdy enough for 600 years of wheeled vehicle traffic, supposedly due to eggs mixed in the mortar. Today the bridge serves mostly commercial and social functions, but in the past it has also been the scene of executions and public chastisements.

Thirty-seven saints, representing twelve countries and sixteen centuries, are shown on thirty Baroque sculptures that line the bridge. Many depict more than one person, and a few combine saints from different time periods. Some of the history and legends, including one about the devil appearing as a dragon, are especially interesting. The first statue added to the bridge was of St. John Nepomuk in 1683, who was drowned in the Vltava River in 1393 because he refused to reveal to King Wenceslaus IV what the queen had said confidentially in confession. The statue of St. Cyril and St. Methodius, fathers of the Slavonic literary culture, are grouped with three allegorical figures representing the three Czech regions of Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia.

The statues were installed between 1683 and 1938, with most added between 1706 and 1714. All but two, the bronze of St. John Nepomuk and the marble of St. Philip Benitius, were made of Bohemian limestone, which is susceptible to deterioration from air pollution. Most of the statues have been replaced by copies, with the originals residing at Gorlice, the *Vyšehrad*, and the National Museum.

The author's Catholic faith contributed to her interest in the saints on Charles Bridge. She served as a music ministry member and cantor at All Saints Parish in Cedar Rapids, and was coordinator of the Czech Village Association in 1978-1986. She has written several travel books about Czech lands.

*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).*



Charles Bridge painting on display at the C.S.P.S. Hall

### Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival

The three Czech- or Slovak-oriented films below were previewed in the March *Slovo*. Screenings are at St. Anthony Main Theatres, Minneapolis, but certain films will also be shown in Rochester. For more information, visit [mspfilm.org](http://mspfilm.org)

*Dukla 61*, David Ondříček, director  
Tuesday, April 9, 6:40 p.m.

*The Interpreter*, Martin Šulík, director  
Thursday, April 10, 2:10 p.m.  
Monday, April 15, 7:10 p.m.

*Singing in the Grain — Minnesota's Czech Story*, Al Milgrom and Daniel Geiger, directors  
Saturday, April 6, 2 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 17, 4:15 p.m.

Join Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures members to discuss *The Long Night of the Watchman: Essays by Václav Benda, 1977-1989, edited by F. Flagg Taylor, on Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m. to noon, in the first-floor classroom at the C.S.P.S. Hall.*

## Sokol Minnesota Board of Director's February Meeting and Retreat Highlights

By *Judy Aubrecht*

The annual Sokol Minnesota Board of Director's (BOD) retreat was held at the C.S.P.S Hall on Saturday, February 2, 2019. The purpose of the retreat was to allow extra time for the BOD members to set goals in key areas for the coming year and, with several new members, to get to know each other better.

A brief Board meeting was first held to review charitable gaming receipts and approve the upcoming gaming budget. Updates about the anticipated spring masonry work on roof parapets and brick tuckpointing repair were presented. The possibility of bringing to the Hall two traveling exhibits related to leaving the former Czechoslovakia and immigration was discussed.

For the retreat, small groups were formed to discuss important upcoming issues for Sokol Minnesota. Group 1 focused on engaging youth and young adults so that they become more involved in our organization and can develop leadership skills. Ideas included recreational activities, sponsoring classes like CPR, offering scholarships, learning through service projects, and interesting volunteer work. Group 2 discussed publicity and how to coordinate information sharing with the Sokol Minnesota website, *Slovo* newsletter, and social media resources. The importance of a more user friendly website, and possibly a new website, were emphasized. Group 3 looked at the financial status of the organization and how to make things like prices and programming, and profit/loss ratios, consistent across fundraising events.

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### Member News

*Thank you to colleagues* Retiring Sokol Minnesota President Judy Aubrecht (after five years) and retiring *Slovo* Managing Editor M. L. Kucera (after eight years) thanked their Board of Directors and *Slovo* newsletter colleagues at a bowling party on February 10 at the Park Tavern in St. Louis Park. It was an only mildly cold, but very snowy, day. Those who bowled tried fun-style bowling: backwards, between your legs, your other hand, waltzing, etc. The truth is that many bowled higher scores with the crazy bowling than with regular bowling. Mike Sebek was the best overall bowler, but he had great competition from a dozen other bowlers, plus we had another half dozen Sokols who cheered them on. Prizes were awarded for such accomplishments as most years as a Sokol gymnast, Czech-born and lived the longest in the USA, naming the five most popular beers in the Czech Republic, youngest age to bake your first *koláč*, whose relatives had been longest in Minnesota, and more. Both Judy and Marit were thanked by their guests for their years as steadfast Sokol Minnesota volunteers.

*Obituary* Our sincere condolences to Norm Petrik and Joyce Tesarek on the recent death of Norm's sister, Maxine Kinsley. Maxine lived in South Dakota and was Norm's last sibling.

*Slovo* The *Slovo* Managing Editors and staff extend their sincere appreciation to Interim Production Layout Manager Larry Hlavsa for stepping into the breach (see Key *Slovo* Volunteer Staff Pass on the Baton in 2019 in the February *Slovo*) and for his outstanding work on the February and March *Slovo*s. Larry will be continuing his genealogy research and writing.

10 April 2019 *Slovo*

## Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By *Glynis Grostephan, Corresponding Secretary*

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 (includes Saint Paul STAR Grant matching donations):

Under \$99: **Charles Rusnacko** in honor of Emma Martin and Eric LaPlant's wedding.

\$100 - \$499: **Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities** from Sumi-e artwork, **Roger Green, Vera Hawkinson** in memory of George Chlebecek, **Penelope Zastrow** in memory of Adelaide Aubrecht Adams.

\$500 - \$999: **Sokol Minnesota Camp Association.**

GENERAL FUND:

Under \$99: **Judy and Tom Aubrecht** for purchase of silent auction prizes for Band Blast, **Sokol Minnesota Camp Association** to *Slovo*.

\$100 - \$499: **Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities** for rental of traveling exhibits from National Czech and Slovak Museum.

TOTALS:

Legacy Fund: \$ 1130

General Fund: \$ 260

TOTAL: \$ 1490

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### Join the new Sokol Minnesota Fundraising Team! By *Joyce Tesarek*

As we finalize matching our City of Saint Paul STAR Grant and complete our roof and masonry work, our Board of Trustees has updated its list of important C.S.P.S. Hall projects needed to maintain our historic Hall. The Planning Committee and the Board of Directors are prioritizing the list and will identify our next critical project. We will let you know that decision!

We want to thank all of you who have volunteered time and money to match the STAR Grant. There is still a ways to go, but to nearly match almost \$86,000 in three years is a significant accomplishment.

To help fund our next project, we would like to broaden our donor base with new grants and ideas for fundraising. Would you like to be a part of the team to explore fundraising for 2019? Experience with grant writing would be helpful but not necessary. Contact [finance@sokolmn.org](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org), or call Joyce at 612-822-6147 or Glynis at 612-724-0923.

## Czech Honorary Consul News



Allyson Grym (center) is applying for a Czech Language School Scholarship in the Czech Republic this summer. Blanka Brichta (left), her Czech language teacher at Sokol Minnesota, and M.L. Kucera (right) both wrote recommendations for her.

Sokol Minnesota has had more than a dozen members participate since the Czech government started the program two decades ago.



Above: Honorary Consul Kucera visited with mothers of members of the Sokol children's folk dance class, directed by Louise Wessinger, on March 2. (L-R) Katarína Bila, Alena Youngberg, Martina Gurgel, Adriana Wenberg, M. L. Kucera, Dáša Rosenthal, Markéta Uhlířová, Markéta Resong, Jana Castillon.

Left: Honorary Consul Kucera (center) connected Austin Palma (left) with genealogist George Mikiska (right) at Masopust (the Czech Mardi Gras) in Montgomery on March 3. Austin learned he is sixth generation Czech-American and that his family started to arrive in the United States from South Bohemia in the 1860s. Austin is applying for a scholarship to study Czech language and culture in the Czech Republic this summer.



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic  
in Minneapolis, MN

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul

651-238-0447

minneapolis@honorary.mzv.cz OR mlkucera@outlook.com

### **Slovo Publication Information and Committee**

The *Slovo* is published ten times per year by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Email: slovo@sokolmn.org.

Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership. A subscription to the *Slovo* is available for \$15 annually. For a subscription, please include name, address, phone number, email address and a \$15 check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and mail to *Slovo* at the above address.

The *Slovo* staff welcomes submissions. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to slovo@sokolmn.org. The copy deadline for each issue is the first day of the prior month.

Advertising in the *Slovo* is available. Please email us 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 (interim): Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, and Joyce Tesarek, Copy Editor: Tom Aubrecht. Production Layout Managers: Amanda Tesarek and Lucas DeBono. Regular Contributors: Glynis Grostephan, M.L. Kucera, Dave Stepan, Denise Stibal, Norm Petrik, and Jean Draheim. Photographers: Martina Gurgel and Joyce Tesarek. Collages: Martina Gurgel. Sokol Minnesota Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney. Mailing List: Penny Tesarek. Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek. Advisors: Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, M.L. Kucera, Norm Petrik, and Jitka Sebek.

Additional contributors this issue: Judy Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Doreen McKenney, Jitka Sebek, Sokol Minnesota Gym Instructors, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, Gwen Willems.

Additional photos this issue: Mark Neuzil, Doreen McKenney, Rick Palma, Jeff Wenberg, Gwen Willems.

**ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!**  
**Sokol Minnesota May Events**

**Festival of Nations**  
at Saint Paul RiverCentre  
Thursday, May 2 to Sunday, May 5  
[www.festivalofnations.com](http://www.festivalofnations.com)  
[www.rivercentre.org](http://www.rivercentre.org)

**Events at C.S.P.S. Hall**

**Literary Ventures**  
Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.

**Board of Trustees' Spring Clean-up**  
May 18, 8 a.m.

[www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](http://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)  
Check for event updates: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)



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**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO April 2019**

**22nd Annual Children's Czech and Slovak  
Cultural Day Camp**

Children six to fourteen years of age

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

**C.S.P.S. Hall from June 17 to 21, 2019**

**8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Theme: Art Through the Centuries and Sports**

Morning activities include ethnic crafts, cooking, snack,  
singing, language, gymnastics, and folk dancing.

After lunch activities continue with sports history, games, all camp play performance,  
choice of lego castle building, baking fun, or art and handcrafts.

**Reduced-rate, early-bird registration is due by May 15, 2019**

Register at the Sokol Minnesota website [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)  
under **Classes**, click on **Culture Camp 2019**.

Parents, grandparents, or family friends can volunteer at the camp, which allows the camper  
to attend at a reduced rate. Youth leaders ages 15- 20 are invited to volunteer. Limit 6-8.

Contact Louise Wessinger with any questions at **651-452-6240**.

