

**UPCOMING EVENTS
APRIL 2016**

May Slovo Deadline
April 1

**Reception for the
Prime Minister
of the Czech Republic**
April 2, 1 p.m.

Sokol Minnesota Singers
April 5 and 19, 10 a.m.

Board of Trustees
April 13, 7 p.m.

Šibřinky
April 16, 4 p.m.

Family Night
April 17, 4 p.m.

Board of Directors
April 21, 7 p.m.

**Featured Friday:
Potluck and Keepsakes**
April 22, 7 p.m.

Festival of Nations
May 5 - 8



Šibřinky

Come for Supper and Stay for the Dance.

Masked Ball.
Costumes optional.

April 16
Live Music
6 - 10 p.m.
by the
Dale Pexa
Band

4 - 7:30 p.m.
Ethnic Czech and Slovak
food for sale.
Cash bar.
Menu:
Dinner \$7.00
(pork schnitzel-vepřový řízek,
potato salad, pickled beets,
and bread)
Hotdog \$2.00
Dessert \$1.50
Cookie \$1.00

Public Welcome
\$12.00
Admission
at the door.

\$10.00 Prepaid ticket
Cut off by April 11
Mail to Louise
3704 Denmark Ave.
Eagan, MN 55123
651-452-6240
Check to: Sokol MN

Folkdance
Performance
at 5:15 p.m. by
Taneční Mládež
and Teen Dancers.

Intermission Performance by the
St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folkdancers.

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN
www.sokolmn.org

What's Inside:

President's Notes	2	Festival of Nations	6, 10	Contacts	10
Donor Opportunities	3	Member News	7	Membership	10
Honorary Consul Notes	4	Movies	8	Slovo Information	11
Broučci	5	Sokol Camp News	9	Book Review	11
Multilingual Seminar	6	Columnist from Praha	10	April Featured Friday	12

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

2016 BOD (Board of Directors)

President

Judy Aubrecht

First Vice President

Denis Novak

Second Vice President

Ed Hamernik

Recording Secretary

Cindy Coulter

Corresponding Secretary

Arlene Hamernik

Treasurer

Don Haselbauer

Financial Secretary

Tom Aubrecht

Sergeant at Arms

Michael Sebek

Members at Large

Steve Ernest
Marketa Resong

Membership Director

Norm Petrik

Board of Budget and Finance

Joyce Tesarek, Chair

Educational Director

Jean Draheim

Board of Instructors

Mary Cahill,

Women's Physical Director

Jason Brozovich,

Men's Physical Director

Publicity Director

Jyni Koschak

Board of Trustees

Dan Bednar,

Temporary Chair

Gaming Manager

Ed Hamernik, Chair

Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

www.sokolmn.org

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Judy Aubrecht

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters

April will be another exciting month for Sokol Minnesota. We are extremely honored that the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Bohuslav Sobotka is coming to the C.S.P.S. Hall on Saturday, April 2, in the afternoon. The Prime Minister is eager to know more about Czech-Americans and to learn about the programs and activities that take place in Minnesota related to Czech culture and education, as well as to promote business and trade opportunities. He served as chairman of the Czech Social Democratic Party beginning in 2011 and was appointed Prime Minister of the Czech Republic in 2014. The Prime Minister and his wife Olga Sobotková have two school-aged sons. The family lives in the official residence of the prime minister, Kramářova vila, located in the Hradčany area of Prague.

During the Prime Minister's visit to the C.S.P.S. Hall, the program will include brief remarks and entertainment, followed by a reception. Members of the Czech community have been busy preparing for this event. Many people are expected to attend this event to show support for the Czech community and to enjoy this wonderful opportunity to meet Prime Minister Sobotka and the group traveling with him. For more information, contact <PublicRelations@sokolmn.org>.

Czech films are again being presented at the Trylon Microcinema. *Alice and Invention for Destruction* will be shown there on April 1, 2, and 3. The Trylon is the Twin Cities first microcinema and has only 50 seats. Additional Czech films can be seen later in April at the International Film Festival at the Saint Anthony Main Theatre in Minneapolis. Sokol Minnesota is a sponsor of both of these film series. (See details on page 8)

Sokol Minnesota's *Šibřinky* party will be a chance for dancing and savoring ethnic food on Saturday, April 16, beginning at 4 p.m. The Featured Friday on April 22 at 7 p.m. will include a potluck dinner followed by "Czech and Slovak Show and Tell." This was a very interesting evening last year and is back by popular request. Bring a dish for the potluck dinner and share a special book, keepsake, or any other Czech or Slovak item, and tell us about why it is meaningful to you.

As you may know, the Glockenspiel Restaurant closed in November 2016. Since that time negotiations have taken place between an exciting new tenant and Sokol Minnesota. The goal is to sign a lease later this spring. After that, construction and decorating will take place before the new restaurant can open. *Nazdar!*



Czech Consul General Bořek Lizec from Chicago came to St. Paul in late February to make arrangements for the upcoming visit by the Czech Prime Minister on April 2. Sokol members showed the Consul General the giant 25' by 14.5' Czech flag that was used at the University of St. Thomas when Václav Havel visited Minnesota in 1999. The flag was later given to Sokol Minnesota. The Prime Minister's visit will include a reception at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall. Alas, there is no place to display this giant flag, but our giant puppets Jitka and Jarďa will welcome the Czech delegation. (L-R:) Renata Ticha, Consul General Lizec, Louise Wessinger, Judy Aubrecht, and Joan Sedlacek. Holding the flag at the other corners, but not seen here: Dan Bednar and M.L. Kucera.

C.S.P.S. Hall Restoration Fire Escape Project Needs Your Help

By Joyce Tesarek, Finance Chair

The latest restoration project that we are addressing is the fire escape from the main hall (second floor). The fire inspector has determined that the wooden portion of the current stairs has deteriorated and must be replaced. We have contacted city departments and worked out the following process:

1. Obtain structural analysis of steel portion of stairs.
2. Select temporary scaffold stairs to rent and install immediately for safe egress during rebuild.
3. Develop preliminary plans for permanent egress which will include rework of existing shed (also deteriorated) for basement steps enclosures.

With city departments approval of these steps, we can then contact architects/designers to complete the plans and begin the rebuild.

This is an extensive and expensive project. Estimates for the first phase are around \$5,000. You can support this project with a donation in one of the following ways:

- Online at our website <www.sokolmn.org>,
- Donation form on this page can be mailed with a check or credit card information to the address below.

One hundred percent of all donations go directly to fund the project and are tax deductible. Please help to get these stairs restored and improved. *Thank you!*

Sokol Minnesota
Attn: Treasurer
383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102



On February 20, Czech Consul General Bořek Lizec from Chicago shook Jarda's hand, masterfully handled by puppeteer Joan Sedlacek. While at C.S.P.S. Hall on April 2, Bohuslav Sobotka, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, will tour the 19th century Sokol meeting room on the third floor (seen in the background here), visit with the students of *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities* (Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities), and meet with Minnesotans of Czech heritage.

C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

We ask for your support of renovations to C.S.P.S. Hall as we celebrate the Hall's 129th year in 2016.



Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-822-6147 or <finance@sokolmn.org>

Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

To help Restore, Renovate, and Refurbish the C.S.P.S. Hall, I make a tax-deductible

donation of \$ _____

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

Make checks payable to **Sokol MN**
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** *Thank You!*

April 30: The Burning of the Witches

This Czech custom, which says a final farewell to winter, can still be witnessed in many Czech villages.

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Arlene Hamernik,
Corresponding Secretary

Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates your donations supporting Sokol programs and the refurbishing of our historic C.S.P.S. Hall.

General Fund: under \$99:

Jan Gadzo, Andrej's European Pastry, Inc.;
Judy Metcalf.

\$100 - \$499:

Rose Funk, in memory of **Bessie "Del" Anna (Delastraeda)**; **Gary Novak**,
Darlene Sitko.

Legacy Fund: \$100 – \$499:

Mary Kodada, **Cheryl Nelson Theunick.**

Louise Loss Cameron and **Vera Hawkinson** each donated a variety of items to the *Kroje* Closet which is used by the *Taneční Mládež Folk Dancers* and Teen Dancers and for the Festival of Nations attire for the food and culture booths.

General Fund: \$360 Legacy Fund: \$210

Greetings from Your Czech Honorary Consul..... Marit Lee Kucera

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is unique among all Sokol units in the United States. It has two honorary consuls, one representing the Czech Republic and one representing the Slovak Republic. This April issue inaugurates my first column in *Slovo* as the Honorary Czech Consul. My colleague Don Pafko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic in Minnesota, and I plan to write monthly columns.

Last month, the March *Slovo* had a two-page picture essay, expertly assembled by Martina Gurgel, of the Installation Ceremony on December 5, 2015, for the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The official title is Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The office is located in the C.S.P.S. Sokol building in Saint Paul. Currently the office is open by appointment. My phone number is 651-238-0447.

This month I want to thank all those who participated in and attended the ceremony and reception. Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Bořek Lizec, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago.

Jaroslav Zajíček, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C., gave the official presentation of the Consular Commission. He also spoke about the role of honorary consuls and the services performed by the 24 Czech Honorary Consuls of the Czech Republic here in the United States.

Madison Jerde, Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Princess 2015 – 2016, sang the anthem of the Czech Republic. Her sister Corbin Jerde, Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen 2014 – 2015, sang the anthem of United States of America.

Presenting greetings were Sharon Valasek, Honorary Consul, Czech Republic in Kansas City; Don Pafko, Honorary Consul, Slovak Republic in Minnesota; and Chuck Nickolay, Mayor of New Prague, Minnesota.

The St. Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Ensemble provided music before the ceremony. Band members were Frank Trnka, dudy (Czech bagpipe); Jason Brozovich, dudy; Sue Martin, E-flat clarinet; Emma Martin, B-flat clarinet; Dawn Bulera, violin; Dave Martin, *vozembouch*, *fanfrnoch*, and *hrábě* (Czech rhythmic folk instruments), and John Topic, vocals and *hrábě*.

I want to thank the generous sponsors of the Installation: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Western Fraternal Life Association Minnesota, WFLA Hopkins Lodge 11, *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities*, American Sokol Western District, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers, and Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.

I extend special thanks to all the ceremony participants, plus Christina Banks, Dan Bednar, Cindy Coulter, Chuck Draheim, Bea Fleming, Martina Gurgel, Ed Hamernik, Mary Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Joy Peterson, Matt Peterson, Signe Peterson, Theodore J. Polashek, Jitka Sebek, and Joan Sedlacek. Special acknowledgement goes to Jerry Patzwald from Milwaukee who provided Staropramen, a premium beer from Prague, and Staropramen coasters, plus souvenir bottle openers for all the guests.




In January, Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky presented Marit Lee Kucera with a decorated egg commemorating her Honorary Consul Installation on December 5. Czech-born artist Daniela Mahoney, egg decorator and cultural educator from Portland, Oregon, created the one-of-a-kind design.

Dawn Bulera and Markéta Resong catered the refreshments, which included Czech favorites with a Minnesota 'accent': *chlebičky* with a Spam®-cheese spread, and meatballs made from turkey with wild rice and a cranberry sauce.

I extend my ongoing gratitude to the Installation Committee, chaired by Mary Cahill with countless hours of planning and work also provided by Judy Aubrecht, Arlene Hamernik, Libuse Imbrone, Pamela Kotval, Renata Ticha, and Phyllis Vosejka. *Thank you!*

MASHER
TAILORS & CLEANERS
"Keeping You in Stitches Since 1913"
916 MAIN STREET HOPKINS, MINNESOTA 55343 • 952-938-8052



*Based on a classic Czech children's book by Jan Karafiát (1876)
and inspired by the original actors of Broučci in 1943, the imprisoned
Jewish children of Barracks L410, Terezín concentration camp*

Broučci (The Fireflies)

performed by children of

**Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities
and Sokol Minnesota Taneční Mládež**

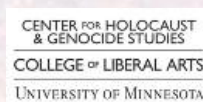
***Sunday, May 15, 2016
3 pm or 4:30 pm***

C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul

*Judith Brin Ingber, choreography and direction
from the original Terezín play by **Kamila Rosebaumová**
in collaboration with **Craig Harris**, piano,
music arranged from original score by **Karel Švenk***

Suggested donations: Adults \$10, Children \$5

Reservations and more information: 2016fireflies@gmail.com



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

*Border image: from the original 1943 Broučci performance in the Terezín Ghetto,
from the collection of the Jewish Museum, Prague, Czech Republic*



Multilingual Seminar, Session #2

Keeping our Heritage Alive: Perspectives from Ethnic Language Schools in Minnesota

Sunday, April 17: 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at C.S.P.S. Hall

The purpose of this panel presentation and a following discussion is to provide a platform for teachers and program directors of ethnic schools in Minnesota to share their successes and challenges teaching their native language to children and youth in the area.

American society is inter-woven from many different nationalities, cultures, and languages. Even though English is the language of everyday communication and business among most of us, there are many families and individuals whose native language is not English or who speak another language, apart from English in certain situations.

There are many ethnic organizations in Minnesota trying to preserve the language of their culture. This platform will provide an opportunity for the ethnic language initiatives to share their motivation and perseverance in their language teaching and preservation efforts.

Moderator: Renata Ticha. Panelists: Agnieszka Kemerley (Polish School), Jitka Sebek (Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities), and Dana Voller (Romanian School).

Multilingual Seminar, Session #3; Sunday, May 22, 2:30 p.m.

First Robotic Competition in Minneapolis, April 7 to 10 in Williams Arena, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Team R.U.R. #5996 was founded by Czech students at the PORG gymnasium in Prague in 2015. In their rookie year, they will compete in Minneapolis. This is the first team from Czech Republic in the history of this competition. Everyone is invited to come and support them! See <https://twitter.com/rur_5996>.

Festival of Nations:

Folklore and Fairytales

The 2016 Festival of Nations runs from May 5 - 8, and features food, music, dance, shopping, and exhibits representing countries from around the world.

Again this year the Czechs and Slovaks will be well represented. Come see lively dance performances by our adult and children folk dancers, sample delicious ethnic dishes in the Café, and visit the Culture Exhibit Booth, this year featuring the festival theme of "Folklore and Fairytales."

Volunteers are needed in the Café and Exhibit Booth.

Volunteers need to wear *kroje* (folk dress will be provided).

If you volunteer with us at the Festival of Nations, you will get a free admission ticket!

To volunteer for a shift at the Culture Exhibit Booth: email both <cherylnt@earthlink.net> and <tich0018@umn.edu>.

To volunteer for the Café, go online to: <<http://bit.ly/1U7c7Yw>> to use the sign-up sheet.



Vintage Czech Beads and Buttons



The Textile Center, a national center for fiber arts in Minneapolis, held a "Vintage Camp" in mid-February. One of the items appraised by bead expert Diane Fitzgerald (Upper Midwest Bead Society) was a Nineteen-teens gown with Czech beads (top photo), owned by Joy Peterson, who has volunteered for Sokol. The dress is probably not worth restoring, but parts of it can be used to make a belt, a Boho evening bag, or panels in a vest or jacket. Merry Jo Thoele (Minnesota State Button Society) had hand-painted Czech glass buttons on the original card for sale. Several of the presenters talked about the popularity and use of Czech glass beads and buttons in fashion and home decorating in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Member News

Annual *Flavors of Slovakia Dinner* at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall was Enjoyed by All



Don Pafko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, played his accordion for the listening pleasure of over 160 guests. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the annual *Flavors of Slovakia Dinner* at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall on Sunday, March 6. The May issue of *Slovo* will have full details about the great dinner (and fundraiser) for Sokol Minnesota.



Madison Jerde was a Saint Paul Winter Carnival Contestant.

On January 29, Madison Jerde, a contestant in the Saint Paul Winter Carnival Queen Pageant, had supporters from Sokol Minnesota on Coronation night, Kailey Mach (2015 Junior Czech Royalty Ambassador from New Prague) with Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky (Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Directors). It was an exciting evening watching the pageantry of the "coolest celebration on earth" with its wintery lore and traditions, plus the scores of visiting royalty wearing their sparkling crowns to celebrate 130 years of the Winter Carnival. Madison is the 2015-2016 Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Princess.

April 9: The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant, American Legion Club, Montgomery, Minnesota, features ethnic foods served at 5 p.m. with the pageant beginning at 7 p.m. A reception and dance follow the coronation.

Dinner and pageant tickets are available from Jerry or Lorraine David 507-364-9370 or at Montgomery Oil Company.

The pageant website is
<www.missczechslovakmnpageant.org>

Upcoming Events

Czech Animation Series at Trylon Microcinema

Friday, April 1 - Sunday, April 3,

3258 Minnehaha Avenue, Minneapolis 55406; 612-424-5468.

The Trylon accepts cash only at the door, advance tickets can be purchased online at <www.trylon.org>.

These screenings are made possible by support from the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, with additional support from Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Minneapolis, Minnesota (Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul, with office in Saint Paul), Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities*, the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, and Cinnamon Whaley.

Invention for Destruction

(1958, DCP, 83 minutes, Czech with English subtitles),

April 1 - 2, Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.;

April 3, Sunday, 5 p.m.

director Karel Zeman with actors Lubor Tokoš and Arnošt Navrátil.

The illustrations of Jules Verne novels come alive in a dazzling admixture of black-and-white animation and live action. Behold steampunk submarines, crazy squid fights, and bicycle zeppelins! This gorgeous, clever, and touching film has been beautifully restored by The Karel Zeman Museum.



Alice (1988, DCP, 86 minutes, Czech with English subtitles),

April 1 - 2, Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m.;

April 3, Sunday, 7 p.m.

director Jan Švankmajer with actress Kristýna Kohoutová. Švankmajer's creepy and disturbing hybrid

of live action and stop-motion animation (often involving taxidermy, meat, or broken dolls) is probably not a good idea for young children (who want to sleep well) to attend.



April 7 to 23: 35th Annual Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival Features Czech Film

Saint Anthony Main Theatre, 115 SE Main Street, Minneapolis. 612-331-4724. <www.mspfilm.org>. MSPIFF 2016 sponsors include Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Czech and Slovak Schools Twin Cities (*Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities*), and the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Minneapolis.

Home Care (Domáci péče)

(2015, 92 minutes, Czech with subtitles), with Director Slávek Horák in attendance.

Saturday, April 16, 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 17, 4:15 p.m.

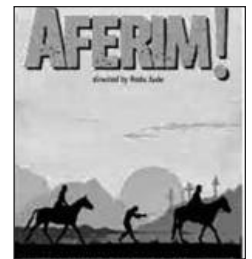
Dedicated home-care nurse Vlasta attends her capricious patients in the Czech wine country, and lives for her husband Láďa and daughter, giving them more than they are asking for. Then, one day, things change and Vlasta is forced to step outside of her comfort zone. Drama and humor intertwine as Vlasta realizes, for the first time in her life, that she might need some care, too.



Aferim! (2015. 106 minutes, Romanian with subtitles), directed by Radu Jude. Saturday, April 9, 9:20 p.m. and

Thursday, April 21, 4:44 p.m. Two riders cross a barren landscape in the middle of Wallachia, Eastern Europe,

1835. Gendarme Costandin and his son are searching for a Gypsy slave who has run away from his nobleman master and is suspected of having an affair with the noble's wife. On their odyssey they encounter people of different nationalities and beliefs: Turks and Russians, Christians and Jews, Romanians and Hungarians. Each harbors prejudices against the others. When the slave Carfin is found, the adventure is far from over. A harsh history lesson leavened by bawdy humor and classic Wild West elements, *Aferim!* dramatizes the formerly taboo subject of gypsy slavery that flourished in Romania for centuries, and was only finally abolished in 1856. (Romania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic)



MOVIE REVIEW: *I Served The King of England* By Cinnamon Whaley

Available via Netflix, Rated R

Jan Dítě has just gotten out of prison after 15 years. As he walks away from the prison, we are quickly brought into Jan's past through a series of flashbacks, visiting him when he was young and starting his career as an apprentice server in a hotel bar. We learn that he had dreams of being rich, of owning his own hotel one day. We follow him through his career full of comical luck, to more and more fantastic hotels, until Jan finds himself at the best hotel in Prague, the Hotel Paris, where he is promoted to Front Waiter and serves the emperor of Ethiopia, even coming away with a royal sash.

It is while he is at the Hotel Paris that, soon after Hitler has come to power, he meets a lovely German girl who convinces him to look into his genealogical past as she is sure there is good German blood in him. He fibs a bit, passes an intense physical exam, and they're married. A Czech and a German, in German-controlled Czechoslovakia. Jan does come to own a hotel, but after the end of the war, his luck runs out.

I Served The King of England was a joy to watch. Jan's nuances, such as the joy he gets from watching well-off people leap at pocket change on the floor, and the fact that he always gets the girl even though he's quite petite and often ignored in crowds. There are reoccurring scenes such as the pocket change trick and some characters who return again and again at key moments, these gems really tie the movie together for me. There is a scene with roughly 60 waiters all moving in unison with beautiful choreography. Watcher beware, there is a good deal of nudity, mostly in surreal, unexpected scenes.

There is so much in this film to laugh about and look at, that the underlying story of a Czech who falls in love with a German who is completely dedicated to Hitler surfaces more after the movie is over and there is time to reflect on what that must have been like at the time. It's somewhat uncomfortable looking back, but as it was happening, as it surely was for some people, what was it like? Through Jan's eyes we simply see a man in love.

Sokol Camp 2016 Season Is Here!

By Julie Andrie

The 2016 rental season for our beloved Sokol Camp on beautiful Cross Lake in Pine City, Minnesota, is now underway.

Volunteers are welcome to attend our annual Sokol Camp opening on Saturday, April 23

as we prepare the camp for the rental season that begins any time after opening date.

Sokol Camp is a great summer vacation destination that offers boating, fishing, swimming, lounging, resting, and relaxation. Several golf courses and parks are nearby.

There is a main lodge with indoor plumbing and ten rooms for rent at very reasonable rates. There is also plenty of space to camp in tents or trailers (sorry, no hook ups available). Your family will love it!

Just 1½ hours north of the Twin Cities, Sokol Camp makes a great starting point for day trips to Duluth, Grand Casino Hinckley, Hinckley Fire Museum, or western Wisconsin.

Robinson Park in downtown Pine City is home to the "Art in the Park" concert series every Friday evening throughout the summer.

Room Rental Rates:
Weekly (seven nights)
Members: \$160 - \$195.
Non-members: \$195 - \$230.

Nightly:
Members: \$25 - \$30.
Non-members: \$30 - \$35.

Campgrounds:
Overnight campers, trailers or tents: \$10/person per night.
Children under 10 are free. RV hook-ups are not permitted

Grounds use: Members \$10/family per day.
Non-members \$15/family per day.

Persons using the grounds for the day have bathroom and kitchen privileges.

Rental is open to all Sokol members.
There are private rentals available.
Use is by reservation only.

To make a reservation or request additional information, call Cecilia Yingling at 612-747-9573.

Sunday, October 2, Sokol Camp closes for the 2016 season.
Any help that day is greatly appreciated!

► Special Request ◀

Any pictures with a historical past involving the Sokol Camp are wanted for displays. Please include names of the people in the photo, dates and any details to share.

Send photos to: <juliecolin123@gmail.com>

Show-and-Tell with Potluck Supper FEATURED FRIDAY on April 22

You are invited to bring your favorite Czech or Slovak keepsake for Show-and-Tell

Potluck Supper starts at 7 p.m.
Program at 7:30 p.m.

C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul
More information on page 12

Sokol Camp Booya on August 14

By Kari Muyres

*Nazdar! Greetings Sokol Brothers and Sisters.
We can now see the end of winter, with warmer temperatures and depleting snow cover. This surely is a sign of spring followed by a beautiful Minnesota summer which is coming sooner than we think!*

With the changing seasons, you are probably getting that summer calendar ready for vacations, picnics, and parties. As you take inventory of those summer activities, be sure to mark Sunday, August 14, noon until 5 p.m. for the 86th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic. Our historic Sokol Camp is located at 19201 Woodland Acres in Pine City, just an hour's drive north of the Twin Cities. This year, our picnic will feature many homemade ethnic foods along with fun festivities for kids and adults alike. Come and be sure to enjoy a bowl of Booya as you listen to the concertina and folk singers, or try your luck at Bingo, pull-tabs, and other games. Of course, the Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers will entertain their fans of all ages too.

As always, your attendance and participation is much appreciated! If interested in assisting with setup, clean up, or serving, please contact Kari Muyres 763-226-0313 or Don Andrie at 651 484 6360.

Thanks, and we'll see you in August!

Mark your calendars now for the 2016 Booya Picnic

held at Sokol Camp
19201 Woodland Acres
in Pine City, Minnesota.

The picnic will be
Sunday, August 14,
noon until 5 p.m.,
rain or shine.

RECRUITS ARE NEEDED

The Sokol Minnesota Singers need additional voices to carry on an important part of our Czech and Slovak culture: singing and remembering our folk songs.

You do not need to know the language; most of us don't.

Those who do help the rest of us with pronunciation. No doubt you're already familiar with some of the melodies from childhood.

If not, they're short, simple, and easy to remember. None of us are professional singers. We just like to sing and don't want to lose our heritage. You do not have to be Czech or Slovak to sing with us. All you need is a desire to sing.

Don Haselbauer is our director.

We meet at 10 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of most months at our C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall.

Come join us! Your heart will rejoice.
Call 612-859-8321 for more information.

The Cross of Číhošť By Vanda Kofroňová, columnist from Prague

Josef Toufar was a Roman Catholic priest tortured to death by communist agents during the government investigation of so-called *Číhošť* miracle. Let me introduce his story to you today, as those terrible things happened exactly 65 years ago.

At that time, the independent Catholic Church was considered a danger for the newly-established communist state.

During a church service in December 1949 in the village of Číhošť, the parishioners saw a huge iron cross standing on the main altar bend several times on its own, and afterwards they told Father Toufar, who had been facing the parishioners and had not seen the cross move.

Soon after that SNB (Czechoslovak National Security Corps) officers came to the village and examined the church. Toufar was immediately suspicious – it was illegal to cause or even witness a miracle at that time, as the Soviets said people did not need miracles. However, the citizens did not agree. The news spread quickly. The church became a popular place for visitors and many people came there to talk to the priest. A photographer who was present and said he saw no evidence of fraud was later sentenced to 13 years in prison.

Although Toufar never claimed a miracle had occurred, instead deferring to the church to investigate, he was arrested and subjected to severe beatings. The SNB demanded that he confess to having faked the miracle by installing a mechanical device that moved the cross, but he refused. He was so severely injured that he could barely talk or move his limbs. He was again brutally tortured and police finally made him sign a confession. Only then was he admitted to a hospital, where he soon died from his injuries and was buried in a mass grave. The government used the incident to accuse and try other priests in an effort to discourage faith in religion.

Fr. Toufar was fully rehabilitated by the Czech government only in 1998. In 2013, the Czech Bishops' Conference announced the start of the process for his beatification. This year a new book about his life was published.

On February 22, more than 500 people from around the Czech Republic gathered in Číhošť to commemorate the 65th anniversary of his murder.

Volunteer and get a **FREE** admission ticket at the 2016

FESTIVAL of NATIONS®

May 5 - 8, The Festival Presents: *Folklore and Fairytales*

Volunteer for a shift at the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Café or exhibit booth, and stay for the day if you wish.

Set up, take down and festival shifts are needed in both areas.

During the festival hours

volunteers need to be dressed in Folkdress.

Appropriate clothing can be provided if needed.

Café Chairs: Jason Brozovich,

Dawn Bulera, and Joyce Tesarek.

Children and Teen Dancers Chair: Louise Wessinger.

Culture Exhibit Booth Chairs: Cheryl Nelson Theuninck and Renáta Tichá.

To volunteer for a shift at the Culture Exhibit Booth, contact both co-chairs by email:

<cherylnt@earthlink.net> and <tich0018@umn.edu>

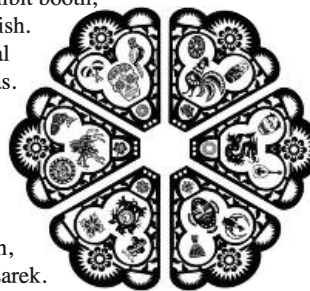
To volunteer at the Café, sign-up online: <<http://bit.ly/1U7c7Yw>>

Student Hours:

- Thursday, May 5
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 6
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

General Public Hours:

- Friday, May 6
4:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 7
10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 8
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

Renewals: Individual \$50; Couple \$90. Senior \$40 (over age 65); Senior couple \$80. **New memberships:** Individual \$55; Couple \$95.

This includes a one-time \$5 registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol Organization. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Dues are reduced for members joining after June 30.

Membership applications: <www.sokolmn.org> or by request from Norm Petrik (612-822-6147). Please send your completed membership application and check to

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Attn: Membership, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Honorary Consuls, plus Sokol Minnesota Committee Chairs (not seated on the BOD)

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko

Honorary Czech Consul: Marit Lee Kucera

Past Honorary Czech Consul: Robert Vanasek

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson

Kitchen Coordinator: open

Sunshine Committee: open

Website: Cinnamon Whaley

Volunteer Coordinator: open

Hall Contacts: Dan Bednar, Ed Hamernik, Joan Sedlacek

Taneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Slovo newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks, Deb Ziskovsky, Mary Kucera

Board of Trustees: Dan Bednar, Dennis Cahill, Jake Jacobson, John Liemandt, Lloyd Krocak, John Liemandt, Terry Shima, Arnie Ziskovsky

E-Addresses: ▪ President: president@sokolmn.org ▪ Board of Directors: board@sokolmn.org ▪ Education/Language Programs: education@sokolmn.org ▪ Events: events@sokolmn.org ▪ Czech/Slovak Festival: festival@sokolmn.org ▪ Finance/Fund Raising/Legacy Fund: finance@sokolmn.org ▪ Fitness Programming: fitness@sokolmn.org ▪ Folk Dancing: folkdancing@sokolmn.org ▪ Gaming: gaming@sokolmn.org ▪ Gift Shop: giftshop@sokolmn.org ▪ Hall Rentals: rentals@sokolmn.org ▪ Hall Contacts: hallcontacts@sokolmn.org ▪ Housekeeping: housekeeping@sokolmn.org ▪ Membership: membership@sokolmn.org ▪ Newsletter: slovo@sokolmn.org ▪ Planning: planning@sokolmn.org ▪ Publicity: publicity@sokolmn.org ▪ Public Relations: publicrelations@sokolmn.org ▪ Treasurer: treasurer@sokolmn.org ▪ Board of Trustees: trustees@sokolmn.org ▪ Webmaster: webmaster@sokolmn.org

BOOK REVIEW: *Václav Havel's Extraordinary Life* By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

Havel: A Life. Michael Žantovský.
New York: Grove Press. 2014, 543 pages.
Available in bookstores and libraries.

As a former press secretary, advisor, political director, and long-time close friend of Václav Havel's, author Michael Žantovský gives us an up-close and detailed view of Havel from his privileged youth through his days as playwright, political activist, and Charter 77 dissident, to president of Czechoslovakia and then the Czech Republic.

The author includes information gathered through his first-hand experiences, access to private letters, and many interviews. Although other books might focus more on criticism of Havel's political actions, it is hard to imagine a more superbly comprehensive book. While several biographies were published during Havel's life, this book was released in 2014, three years after Havel's death, and has the advantage of examining the entirety of his life.

I consider Havel one of the most significant thinkers, writers, and politicians of our time, an imperfect man who was internationally admired and beloved for his courageous stances and attempts to bring human rights and democracy to Czech lands.

Havel was many things, including doubtful and self-critical. In his autobiography, *To the Castle and Back*, Havel describes his "insignificance: as a bourgeois child, a laboratory assistant, a soldier, a stagehand, a playwright, a dissident, a prisoner, a president, a pensioner, a public phenomenon, and a hermit, an alleged hero but secretly a bundle of nerves ..." He was also engaging, a man described by Žantovský as "thriving on company, the heart and soul of the party, winning friendship easily and returning it in abundance."

He was a consummate moral and political leader of the twentieth century, a man of high ideals and great vision. His frequent discussion of moral philosophies focused on three concepts—belief in the power of the powerless, living in truth, and responsibility. By the age 10, he already felt ambition and responsibility to "repair the world" when he envisaged a factory that manufactured "good" rather than goods. When he was 12, his family was blacklisted following the communist coup of 1948. Havel wrote poetry in his youth and later social commentary in essays and absurdist plays. As a leading participant in the Prague Spring, his work was censored, and his dissident activities led to several prison stints, totaling about five years.

The clear writing of *Havel: A Life* is enhanced with a long bibliography, extensive index, and numerous photographs of Havel with family, friends, political dignitaries, musicians, and other notable people. The book was chosen as a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and a *Guardian* Best Book of the Year.

Although Havel and Žantovský remained friends until Havel's death, Žantovský left the president's office in 1992 at the end of Havel's second term because of differing views on the presidency. Žantovský thought Havel needed to organize large numbers of his supporters and admirers into an effective political force to have real impact on the political and social development of the country. Žantovský went on to serve as Czech Ambassador to Washington and Tel Aviv, and currently is Czech Ambassador to the Court of Saint James and president of the Aspen Institute Prague.

Join Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures members to discuss *All This Belongs to Me: A Novel* by Petra Hulová on Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m.–noon, at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

PUBLICATIONS 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. Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership. The *Slovo* Advisory Committee welcomes submissions. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to <slovo@sokolmn.org>. **The deadline for the May 2016 issue is April 1.**

This April 2016 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by April 30: <www.sokolmn.org>

Slovo accepts business card-size ads (3.5"x2"), paid in advance: one-time insertion \$25; 3 consecutive issues: \$65; 10 consecutive issues: \$175. Ad reservation deadline is 6 weeks before publication (April 15 for June/July issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (April 1 for May issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through April 2017.) Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new/renewing non-member subscription.

Make your check to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Send to: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *Slovo* Subscriptions, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Extra copies of *Slovo* are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts.

Please contact us for a **change of address**, for problems with *Slovo* subscriptions, if you missed an issue, or if you received notice of payment due when a payment has already been made.

If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. If you wish to have this newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know. After one returned issue, we hold all future issues until you notify us. We pay 49¢ for each returned issue.

Email us: <slovo@sokolmn.org>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. *Thank you!*

Member Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor; Mary Kucera, production assistant; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Joyce Tesarek and Martina Gurgel, photographers; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, mailing production; Joan Sedlacek, mailing; with Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, advisors. Photographs: Kathy Jerde, M.L.Kucera, and Deb Ziskovsky. Images: Trylon Microcinema and MSP Film Society.

**EVENTS AT C.S.P.S. HALL
ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!
Sokol Minnesota 2016 Events**

**Reception for Bohuslav Sobotka,
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic**

Saturday, April 2, 1 p.m.

<PublicRelations@SokolMn.org>

Šibřinky Sokol Costume Dance

Saturday, April 16, 4 - 10 p.m.

Dance \$10 prepaid (651-452-6240), \$12 at the door

Special ethnic food and beer for sale

Folk dancers perform. Dance to the Dale Pexa Band.

Keepsake Show-and-Tell with Potluck Supper

April 22 Featured Friday, 7 p.m.

Festival of Nations, May 5 - 8

Saint Paul RiverCenter

Volunteer and Attend Free!

See pages 6 and 10 to volunteer.

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

Check for event updates: **www.sokolmn.org**



NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO. 5744

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* April 2016

**April 22 Show-and-Tell with Potluck Supper
at the next Sokol Minnesota *Featured Friday***

You are invited to bring your favorite Czech or Slovak keepsake for Show-and-Tell

• glass • textiles • hats • toys • books • cups • art • music • tools

Potluck Supper starts at 7 p.m.

Program at 7:30 p.m.

A-F: Salads or vegetables or fruit

G-K: Dessert

L-N: Main course or entree

O-Z: Breads or chips/dip/appetizers

Donation jar for pop, bottled water, and beer.

Sokol provides coffee and tap water, plus paper products.

C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul • www.sokolmn.org