

**UPCOMING EVENTS  
December 2015 -  
January 2016**

**February Slovo Deadline**  
January 1

**Sokol Children's Holiday Party**  
December 4, 3:30 p.m.

**Czech Honorary Consul Installation**  
December 5, 10 a.m. - noon

**Family Night Holiday Party**  
December 5, 3:30 p.m.

**Board of Trustees**  
December 9, January 13, 7 p.m.

**Board of Directors**  
December 17, January 21, 7 p.m.

**Sokol Members' Party**  
January 3, 3 p.m.

**Sokol Minnesota Singers**  
January 5 and 19, 10 a.m.

**Membership Meeting**  
January 22, 7 p.m.

**13th Annual Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner**  
January 23, 5 p.m.

**Family Night**  
January 24, 4 p.m.

## Sokol Children's Holiday Party

Friday, December 4

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Performance by  
Sokol Minnesota  
Boys and Girls  
Gymnastics Program



Participants of the program  
need to arrive by 6:30 p.m.  
Reception  
to follow the program.

Children's and teens' dance director  
and instructor, Louise Wessinger.

Men's physical director, Megan Cahill;  
Boys' instructor, Jason Brozovich;

Women's physical director, Mary Cahill;  
Girls' instructor, Courtney Benson;

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

Performance by  
Sokol Minnesota  
Mlada Skupina, Taneční Mladež,  
and the Taneční Teen Dancers



Special visit from  
St. Nicholas (Svatý Mikulas),  
the Angel (Anđel),  
and the Devil (Cet).

**The volunteer staff  
of the Slovo  
wishes everyone  
Veselé vánoce  
a št'astný nový rok!**



**Sokol  
Membership Party  
Sunday  
January 3, 2016  
3p.m.**

Reservations by December 20  
651-290-0542  
**\$10.00 per person**

Lasagna, salad, bread, coffee and beverages.  
Bring hors d'oeuvres or dessert to share!

13th Annual  
**Roast  
Duck Dinner**

Saturday  
January 23, 2016

5:00 p.m. - \$22.00 per person

Prepaid reservations are required by January 19  
To reserve call: 952-941-0426

Soup, 1/2 roast duck, potato dumplings, gravy, sweet and sour red cabbage, applesauce, caraway rye bread, coffee, and dessert.  
Beer, wine, and pop will be available for sale.

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

**Czech and Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota**

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(Board of Directors)**

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Past issues of *Slovo* and  
Hall Calendar of events:  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

**Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Judy Aubrecht**

**Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters**

Recently activities at the C.S.P.S. Hall reaffirmed for me the Sokol philosophies of "Providing fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, and social programs" and "Sound mind and sound body." The League of Women's Voters and the West Seventh Street Business Association held a candidates' forum for the Saint Paul's Ward Two City Council at the C.S.P.S. Hall. People arrived early at the Hall and a lot of networking took place before the event began. Over one hundred people came to the forum, including some who had never seen the inside of the Hall before. Some people stayed after the forum to have a guided tour of the historic third floor meeting room. As the six candidates expressed their views on a wide variety of topics from not installing a light rail system on West Seventh Street to having quality libraries and recreation centers that are open for more hours, I felt very proud that Sokol Minnesota could host an event to help neighbors and people in Ward Two have the opportunity to hear the ideas and beliefs of the candidates. It occurred to me that this event fit very well with the ideal of a "Sound Mind." The following evening, more than thirty girls, from about five years old to teenagers, did stretching exercises together, under the direction of their gymnastic instructors, before they moved onto their floor activities. The girls were actively developing "Sound Bodies."

The holiday season at the C.S.P.S. Hall will have special activities that you may like to attend. These include a lively *Svatý Mikuláš* Children's Holiday Party on Friday, December 4, at 7 p.m. Boys and girls from the Sokol gymnastics program will perform and the *Taneční Mládež* and Teen Folk Dancers will dance. Children write their names in "The Good Book," and holiday refreshments will be served.

Our own Sokol Minnesota member Marit Lee Kucera will be installed as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for the Upper Midwest. Sokols and friends from the Czech and Slovak community are invited to the ceremony on Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to noon. Jaroslav Zajíček, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C., will attend the induction, as will Bořek Lizec, Czech Consul General of Chicago. Reserve by November 30 to <installation@sokolmn.org>. Marit has been preparing to accept this position and is eager to serve the Czech constituents in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Congratulations, Marit!

Be sure to get your reservation in for the Sokol Minnesota holiday party to be held on January 3, 2016, beginning at 3 p.m. This will be a good opportunity to visit, sing, and enjoy a homemade lasagna dinner. At the end of January, we will host our 13th Annual Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner on January 23, 5 p.m. *Nazdar! Veselé vánoce a šťastný nový rok!*

**Americans know Sv. Štěpán (St. Stephen's Day)** mostly from the Christmas Carol "Good King Wenceslaus" (Bohemia's king and patron saint, *Svatý Václav*). To Czechs and Slovaks, December 26 is "The Second Christmas Day." In the past, children, school groups, and the poor went door-to-door singing carols and receiving holiday cheer in thanks. Today, people relax at home.

**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

Sunshine Committee: open

Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney

Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson

Kitchen Coordinator: open

Website: Joe Landsberger

Volunteer Coordinator: open

*Taneční Mládež* and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger

Hall Contacts: Dan Bednar, Ed Hamernik, Joan Sedlacek

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

**E-Addresses:** President: [president@sokolmn.org](mailto:president@sokolmn.org) | Board of Directors: [board@sokolmn.org](mailto:board@sokolmn.org) |

Education/Language Programs: [education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org) | Events: [events@sokolmn.org](mailto:events@sokolmn.org) |

Czech/Slovak Festival: [festival@sokolmn.org](mailto:festival@sokolmn.org) | Finance/Fund Raising/Legacy Fund:

[finance@sokolmn.org](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org) | Fitness Programming: [fitness@sokolmn.org](mailto:fitness@sokolmn.org) | Folk Dancing:

[folkdancing@sokolmn.org](mailto:folkdancing@sokolmn.org) | Gaming: [gaming@sokolmn.org](mailto:gaming@sokolmn.org) | Gift Shop: [giftshop@sokolmn.org](mailto:giftshop@sokolmn.org) |

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## As you plan your year-end giving, please add Sokol Minnesota to your list of important organizations to support

By Joyce Tesark

With the help of our generous supporters, this past year Sokol has been able to maintain our historic Hall and complete installation of a fire protection system. Central air conditioning should be complete by year-end.

We hope that you had a chance to enjoy a delicious Duck, Roast Pork, or Slovak dinner, attend a class (gym, language, dance, cooking), sing with the Senior Singers (open to all ages!), and gather with family and friends. Maybe you enjoyed shopping at the Gift Shop or the bazaars and bake sales after a tasty plate of pancakes and French toast. And hundreds of you gathered at the Hall to volunteer or attend our annual Fall Festival in late September, where we shared our culture and traditions with the community. Even if you aren't here to enjoy these events, our *Slovo* newsletter keeps us all informed on what's happening. We also are pleased to provide an office for the newly installed Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota, our own Marit Lee Kucera. Sokol Minnesota also provides space for use by Girl Scouts and the others in the neighborhood for meetings and events.

It takes many helpers and serious financial support to continue Sokol's 125+ years as stewards of the Hall, and to continue to provide all the activities that are important to us and the community. Here are two ways you can donate:

- online at our website <[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)>
- fill out this donations form and send with a check to the Hall

If you have questions or would like to be a sustaining member, contact Joyce at 612-822-6147 or email <[finance@sokolmn.org](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org)>.

Thank you for your interest, attendance, and support!

## 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 128th year in 2015.

Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-822-6147 or <[finance@sokolmn.org](mailto: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**  
**383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102**  
Or donate online [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) Thank You!



## Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

At the October 15 Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors meeting, two couples and one individual were accepted as members in Sokol Minnesota: Olga Šplíchalová Espinosa and Mario Espinosa from Saint Paul, with interests in gymnastics, history, language, festivals, films, literature, music, and theater; Eric and Betsy Peterson, from Saint Croix Falls, Wisconsin, with interests in cooking, genealogy, and history; and Kathy Miller from Bloomington, with interests in language, cooking, dance, history, genealogy, and events. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

**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](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)>.

**The deadline for the February 2015 issue is January 1.**

This December 2015/January 2016 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by mid-December: <[www.sokolmn.org](http://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 (January 15 for March issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (February 1 for March issue).

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through January 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](mailto: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!

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Email us: <[slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto: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 Gurgle, photographers; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, mailing production; Joan Sedlacek, mailing; with Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, Pam Snopl, advisors. Photographs: Doreen McKenney, Joyce Tesarek, Tímea Takács, Dan Washick, Cinnamon Whaley.

## 2016 CZECH and SLOVAK SOKOL MINNESOTA MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all current Sokol Minnesota members and welcome to all prospective members! Your support of the activities of Sokol Minnesota is vital. Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

**Current Members:** December 31, 2015, is the Due Date for renewing your membership. Please renew your membership before the Due Date in order to maintain your membership and to continue receiving our *Slovo* newsletter.

If you have **changed your address or email address, please inform us:** < membership@sokolmn.org > or call 651-290-0542.

**New Members:** Please print and send to the address below the **membership application:** < sokolmn.org/membership >

### 2016 Dues Rates:

**Renewals:** Individual \$50; Couple \$90.

Senior \$40 (over age 65); Senior couple \$80.

**There is an additional \$5 one-time fee for new members.**

This includes a one-time registration fee with our national organization, American Sokol Organization.

Please pay your membership dues by **credit card** via PayPal through < sokolmn.org >

**or** send a **check payable to**

*Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota* to:

**Membership, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota,  
2106 Berkeley Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105.**

*Děkuji!*

## 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: \$100 - \$499: Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities** (Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities)

For 2016, the Czech Republic Foreign Ministry Department has awarded Sokol Minnesota a grant of 20,000 CZK (\$820) to support our work maintaining the Hall.  
We are very grateful for this recognition and gift.

**Legacy Fund: \$100 - \$499: Darlene Sitko**

**In-Kind Donations:** James Chlebecek, hand-blown glass pumpkin used as a door prize at the Pork Dinner on October 25; Kathy Haley, three cupboards used for storage; Doreen McKenney, supplies for baking *koláče* for the Pork Dinner; Alena Youngberg, a Moravian vest donated to the *Kroje* Closet which is used by the *Taneční Mládež* Folk Dancers and teen dancers.

**General Fund: \$1,045 Legacy Fund: \$100**

### **Kolik jazyků znáš, tolikrát jsi člověkem**

"The more languages you know, the greater your humanity" or "you have as many lives as the number of languages you speak"

*Original quote from the German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, translated by and a favorite of Tomáš Masaryk.*

## *Broučci (The Fireflies)*

By Lenka Bragg

*Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities* (Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities) is excited to announce the reconstruction of the children's play *Broučci (The Fireflies)* as it was performed in Terezín concentration camp during World War II.

Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities' children together with *Taneční Mládež* (Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's children's folk dance group) and many others from the Czech community will participate in this project.

*Broučci* is a classic Czech children's book by Jan Karafiát published in 1876. While the play was originally performed under dire circumstances, the theme is one of hope. Like fireflies bringing light into the world and expectantly awaiting the spring to come, the original performance brought a sense of enlightenment, joy, and hope for better times to come to the Jewish occupants at Terezín.

In our reconstruction of the play, we will build on this metaphor of hope since the Czech and Slovak nations experienced "spring" after forty dark years of communism; we extend the metaphor to bring awareness to the thousands of unwanted migrants flooding Europe in the present time as they await their "spring" to come.

There are other themes we intend to bring forth through the play's four acts. When the main character *Brouček*, a little firefly, disobeys his parents, he breaks a wing. Even though the family is disappointed in his disobedience, they love him and do all they can to nurse him back to health. In another act, *Brouček* experiences what it is like to be different and unaccepted. His family once again guides him to figure out who he is. In the final act, life ends for the fireflies but it is transformed into great beauty in the cycle of life.

These themes will be interwoven throughout the play through Czechoslovak folk songs, dance, movement, and some spoken language.

The play's text, rehearsals and performance itself will be conducted under the direction of Judith Brin Ingber, an internationally known dance historian and a local dancer and choreographer who has done extensive research on the archival documentation of the play in Terezín and has given lectures on the subject.

The play performance will take place on Sunday afternoon, May 15, 2016. Save the date. See you there!

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## A Fairytale on Christmas Eve By Vanda Kofroňová, columnist from Prague

Do you know what typical Czechs do on Christmas Eve? We watch TV! And do you know what we watch? Fairytales! Every year Czech TV stations produce new ones, but we love our classics. The most famous one is *Tři oříšky pro Popelku* (*Three Wishes for Cinderella*) made in 1973. But forget about pumpkin or rats. This is a Czech version. In our version, a poor orphan named Cinderella has a cruel stepmother and stepsister. When they go to a ball held by the royal family, they force her to sort ash and peas that they mixed just to give her something to do when they are gone. What they do not know is that Cinderella has powerful friends, the pigeons who help her with this annoying work. The other important secret of Cinderella is that she owns three hazelnuts that happen to be magical. When one of them accidentally falls, it reveals a beautiful dress hidden inside. In the first hazelnut there is a hunting dress. Wearing this she meets the prince in the forest. She charms him by her shooting skills. The other hazelnut has a dress ideal for a ball inside. In this dress she sneaks into the

castle, pretending to be a foreign princess, and she dances with the prince, who falls in love with her on a first sight. (All this is watched by jealous relatives of Cinderella.) When she disappears it is not because of the pumpkin carriage, but because the prince did not recognize her from the forest. In that moment she loses her shoe, due to which she is a few hours later recognized and married to the prince, living happily ever after. The last hazelnut obviously contains a wedding dress.

Even though I have seen the movie at least 30 times, this is a part of Christmas tradition and it would not be complete without watching it. Of course, not only this film. During the long winter eves and cold winter days, I will try to see as many fairytales as possible. There is never enough charm in our lives. When was the last time you saw or read such a story? Why not try watching a Czech fairytale this year?

Take care, and I am looking forward to writing for you in 2016.

### MEMBERS NEWS

#### *Krásne dárky* Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop at CGSI Conference

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *krásne dárky* (gift shop) took in \$1,006 over the three-day weekend in the sales room during the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Symposium in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, October 21 to 24.

Former member Dottie Speidel

(Dolores Kokes Speidel) (Left) purchased several items.

Sokol Minnesota members Doris McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, and Doreen McKenney (photographer) took an array of items from our gift shop to Cedar Rapids. Dottie moved from the Twin Cities a few years ago to California to be close to her family. She no longer is a Sokol Minnesota member, but continues to stay in contact by subscribing to the Slovo. Joan, Doris, and Doreen generously donated their travel and lodging expenses for this sales trip opportunity for Sokol Minnesota.



On October 15, the University of Minnesota "M" club announced a 14-member group of inductees to its Hall of Fame class. Sokol Minnesota member **Olga Šplíchalová Espinosa** is one of the honored athletes. Already a member of the U of M Aquatics Hall of Fame, Olga earned seven All American titles during her time at the University, including five individual honors. She captured three Big Ten titles during her college career, winning both the 500 free and 1650 free in 1996 and repeating as 500 champion in 1997. During her college years, she lived with Sharon and the late Dennis Shonka, also Sokol members. Olga, a native of Znojmo, Moravia, was an 11-year member of the Czech National team competing in the 1992 and 1996 Olympics. Olga is married to Mario Espinosa and has two children, Isabel and Lucien, who dance with the

*Taneční Mládež*. Olga coaches swimming for the Saint Croix Swim Club. Congratulations Olga, on this well-deserved honor! (Submitted by Louise Wessinger.)

**Daniel A. Washick** enjoyed his first trip to the Czech Republic in August.

Dan, who is an avid bicyclist, did not have time on his trip to take an actual bike ride (maybe next time!), but he found this mountain bike at the Blue House Hotel in Karlovy Vary to pose for a picture. He encourages everyone who has not yet been to the Czech Republic to make the trip. He had a fantastic time!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Cuddle up with your favorite beverage and enjoy the spirited music of **SlovCzech** when they perform at the Driftwood Bar at 7 p.m. on December 2. Located at 4415 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis.

**6th Annual European Christmas Event**, Sunday, December 6, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at the American Legion Park Ballroom, New Prague, sponsored by The Czech Heritage Club of New Prague. Free to the public. Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Coronation starts at 11 a.m. Six youths will be selected as the 2016 Jr. Ambassadors and Little Ambassadors, representing their heritage and Minnesota Czech Country. Entertainment follows with the New Prague Czech Singers and the *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers, SG Edelweiss St. Paul (Bavarian Dancers), and the *Videki* Hungarian Folk. Elizabeth Kaliska, the 2015 - 2016 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen and a Sokol Minnesota member, along with David Milne will present and demonstrate the *fujara*, a traditional Slovak wind instrument. For more information on this event: <[www.CzechHeritageClub.com](http://www.CzechHeritageClub.com)> or call Deb: 952-652-2677.

## Roast Pork Dinner Was A Great Success! By Mary Cahill and Joyce Tesarek, Co-chairs



The 2015 Roast Pork Dinner on Sunday, October 15, was a great success with 165 happy diners. We had an income of \$2,721. Special thanks to chefs Hana Matousek and Marketa Resong, and to Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek for leading the *koláče* baking team. This year our bread dumplings were made by the women of our sister Unit, Sokol Cedar Rapids.

Our volunteer team also included Don Andrlle, Pat Andrlle, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Rosemary Baisden, Jason Brozovich, Mary Cahill, Dennis Cahill, Megan Cahill, Bobbi Jo Chandler, George Chlebecek, Jim Chlebecek, Mary Jo Chlebecek, Cindy Coulter, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Sandy Fritzen, Jean Hall, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Elizabeth Kaliska, Pam Kotval, Sue Martin, Doris McKenney, Denis Novak, Norm Petrik, Gina Roers-Liemandt, Ann Siefert, Joyce Tesarek, Shirley Verner, and Rhonie Waldron with Girl Scout Troop #553998.

Left: Pam Kotval and Hana Matousek prepared take-out dinners.

Below left: Ed Hamernik and 2016 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen Elizabeth Kaliska greeted our guests.

Below right: Rosemary Whaley-Baisden directed two of our Girl Scouts on parsley prep.



## 25th Anniversary of German Unity and the Fall of Communism



**25 Years German Unity:** Christa Tiefenbacher-Hudson, Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany (MN), hosted a celebration for the 25th Anniversary of German Unity on October 3, at the Germanic American Institute, Saint Paul. Attending the celebration of unity were (L-R) Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul Designate of the Czech Republic (MN, IA, ND, SD), Csilla Grauzer Honorary Consul of Hungary (MN), Christa Tiefenbacher-Hudson, and Tímea Takács, Consular Assistant to the Honorary Consulate of Hungary (MN).

Tierenbacher-Hudson stated, "Germany is proud of the humanitarian principles enshrined in its constitution, which provides for the right of the asylum to anyone fleeing political persecution or war. It is a lesson we have learned from the periods of the Nazi dictatorship. Chancellor Merkel has said the refugee crisis is a 'task for the nation as a whole.' Only by working together in a spirit of solidarity and in keeping with our shared values of universal civil rights and human dignity, will we, Europe and America, be able to overcome this terrible tragedy."

## MOVIE REVIEW: Czech Animation Brings *Fantastic Planet* to Life By Cinnamon Whaley

*The Fantastic Planet* (French: *La Planète sauvage*, Czech: *Divoká planeta*, 1973) is a collaborative film between French screenwriters and artists and the Jiří Trnka Studio in Prague, where the animation was created and captured on film. The animation is done in cutout stop motion, where each character, setting, prop, and their movements are created with separate paper cutouts interacting under the camera.

The film is a futuristic glimpse of a race of towering blue humanesque beings with large red eyes and fish-scale ears. They are “Traags” and they keep humans (“Oms”) as tame pets. The story follows Terr, an Om who is kept by a Traag until he is a young man. Over time he is taught the language of Traags and listens to his Traag’s lessons, learning about their history and culture through her headset. Terr eventually runs away to join a wild Om tribe, bringing the headset containing the Traag lessons with him.

The wild Oms are weary of Terr and his headset but he proves that being knowledgeable about the Traags can be beneficial to the Oms. The Traag government continually attempts to

exterminate wild Om tribes, but with Terr’s help the Om’s are able to advance their civilization and rise to meet their oppressors.



*Fantastic Planet* is a visually stunning film which took five years to create. Its psychedelic world reminds me of Dali, Edward Gorey, Dr. Seuss, and Brian Froud all wrapped up together in a not-uncommon plot, that is presented in a completely original way. The film is available via Netflix DVD. Even if you’re not a science fiction fan, this short film (70 minutes) is worth watching, if only to appreciate the work the artists put into creating this world.



### Sokol Minnesota’s Donations to 150th Anniversary

American Sokol celebrated its 150th Anniversary in the United States on November 13 to 15 in Chicago. Sokol Minnesota donated two baskets. The Raffle Basket for the Anniversary Party at the Hilton in Lisle, Illinois, contained an apron, a magnet, a dessert plate, two packages of Czech-themed greeting cards (featuring mushrooms and koláče), two cookbooks (*Quality Czech Mushroom Recipes* and *Czech & Slovak Kolaces & Sweet Treats*). Items were selected from our Sokol Minnesota gift shop, purchased by contributions from Marit Lee Kucera and Doreen McKenney.

Sokol Minnesota donated a hand-blown Czech glass vase for the silent auction at the Gala Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday night, November 14, at the Women’s Athletic Club in downtown Chicago.

Representing Sokol Minnesota at this important Sokol anniversary weekend celebration were Mary Cahill, Marit Lee Kucera, and Joan Sedlacek.

### 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 the Hall.

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

### Slovo Seeks New Copy and Managing Editors

Christy Banks and Marit Lee Kucera want to pass on their red pens to a new *Slovo* Team.

*We have committed ourselves for more than five years to making the Slovo the best Sokol newsletter possible.*

*Now it is time for a new Slovo Team.*

Please volunteer for these challenging, but highly rewarding, Sokol Minnesota positions.

Contact: [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)

**EVENTS AT C.S.P.S. HALL  
ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!  
Sokol Minnesota 2015 Events**

**Sokol Children's Holiday Party**

December 4, Friday, 7 p.m.

**Czech Honorary Consul Installation**

December 5, Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon

R.S.V.P.: [installation@sokolmn.org](mailto:installation@sokolmn.org)

**Family Night Holiday Party**

December 5, Saturday, 3:30 p.m.

**Sokol Members' Party**

January 3, Sunday, 3 p.m., meal and entertainment

Reserve by December 20: 651-290-0542

**13th Annual Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner**

Saturday, January 23, 5 p.m.

Reserve by January 19: 952-941-0426

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook:

[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* December 2015/January 2016**

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Czech and Slovak Cultural Center along with WFLA Hopkins Lodge 11, *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities*, American Sokol Western District, WFLA Minnesota, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers, and Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers are the major sponsors of the

**Installation of and Reception for Marit Lee Kucera  
as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic  
for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota  
December 5, Saturday, 10 a.m. at C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall  
383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul 55102**

Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C., will be represented by Jaroslav Zajíček, Deputy Chief of Mission, and Bořek Lizec, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago

If you wish to attend, please R.S.V.P. by November 30 to [<installation@sokolmn.org>](mailto:installation@sokolmn.org)